Historic Preservation Commission

Regular Meeting

~ Agenda ~

,
http://www.townofboone.net/

Jane Shook
828-268-6960

Tuesday, February 11, 2025 **3:00 PMPlanning and Inspections Conference Room**

The public may attend the meeting in-person at the Planning and Inspections Conference Room at 680 West King Street, Suite C, or online via WebEx (a video conferencing software).

To participate using WebEx, either online or by phone, please email Planning and Inspections at planning@townofboone.net or call 828-268-6960, and you will be provided with an email invitation to the meeting. All requests for an invitation must be submitted no later than one hour before the meeting is scheduled to begin.

I. Call to Order

II. Adoption of Agenda

III. Approval of Meeting Minutes

January 7, 2025 HPC Advisory Meeting Minutes

IV. Public Comment

V. Stoneman's Raid Interpretative Panel

Revised Draft Text (Version 1) - Presented in Required CWT Document Format

Revised Draft Text (Version 2) - Presented in Required CWT Document Format

Draft Text Suggestions from Drew Gruber (Civil War Trails) Following HPC Advisory January 7, 2025 Meeting

For Reference - Previosly Presented Revised Draft Text (December 2024)

Revised Sketch Map

Image for CWT Required Media Piece - Maj. Myles Keogh

VI. Staff Updates

Statement of Conformity (SoC) Report:

No new SoC issued within the last month (30 days) as of January 30, 2025.

VII. HPC Member Updates

VIII. Other Discussion

IX. Adjournment

TOWN OF BOONE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
ADVISORY MEETING MINUTES
January 7, 2025, 3:00 p.m.
Planning & Inspections Department & WebEx Video Conferencing

Historic Preservation Commission Members in Attendance: Vardell Smyth-Chair, Bettie Bond-Vice-Chair, and Ayden Basinger

Council Liaison: Virginia Roseman (via WebEx)

Town Staff in Attendance: Jessica Mitchell-Advanced Planning Specialist, Alyson Wuagneux-Customer Service Specialist, and Brenda Henson-Board Clerk

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Call to Order

Chair Smyth called the Boone Historic Preservation Commission meeting held in the Planning & Inspections Conference Room at 680 West King Street and via WebEx to order at 3:03 p.m.

Adoption of Agenda

Chair Smyth suggested that the discussion with Drew Gruber regarding the Stoneman's Raid Interpretative Panel be moved up on the agenda before the Approval of Minutes and Approval of Written Decision.

Commission Member Basinger made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chair Bond, to adopt the agenda as amended.

Vote: Aye – 3
Nay – 0
The motion passed.

Stoneman's Raid Interpretative Panel Discussion with Drew Gruber (Civil War Trails)

Ms. Mitchell introduced Drew Gruber with the Civil War Trails marker program.

Mr. Gruber complimented the HPC for making a difference in the community. He explained that Civil War Trails was a multi-state travel and tourism initiative. Mr. Gruber noted that while consumers often viewed them as being public history or educational, their goal was economic development. Civil War Trails (CWT) aimed to provide a snack bite of history while people spent money in the community.

Mr. Gruber stated that he reported to a board of 26, 25 of which were in the tourism industry. He noted that they had just over 1,525 sites across six states, and he dealt with 520 municipal partners. Mr. Gruber stated that CWT signs should fuel people's imaginations in bite-sized bits and have active language that would cause someone to imagine the space around them and maybe even empathize with the people who were there. He explained that each sign was marketed internationally and was built to be edited, updated, moved, and changed. Mr. Gruber stated that the understanding of history changed and the consumer's appetite for word choices changed, so signs should not be put in concrete or built-in materials that could not be edited.

Mr. Gruber noted that the HPC had been extremely thorough, to the point where he had received too much information from them. He stated that he had a nice photo showing the sign's proposed location looking up at the Councill house. He had the property owner's permission forms and the membership form. Step two was the draft content creation. Mr. Gruber explained that the draft needed to be a one-page Word document in active voice containing the proposed text of the sign, including any quotes, as well as captions or citations associated with the map and the image of Major Myles Keogh. The word count should not exceed a total of

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275 words. Mr. Gruber stated that once the one-page document and the two proposed media pieces (map and image) were submitted to him, he would put the submittal in front of his board members, editor, and a blind review panel that was made up of people from all walks of life, ages, colors, and creeds. The blind review process would determine if the content made someone want to stand on the site and want to know more, if it was just a data dump, or if there was too much information. Mr. Gruber felt that HPC's text was very close to what he would call perfect. Mr. Gruber stated that all the citations documenting the soldiers did not need to be submitted. He noted that a quote by someone who experienced the occupation in Boone should be included as part of the 275 words, whether in the text's main body or pulled out as an inset quote.

Mr. Gruber noted that the blind review panel would not like the big overview map of the campaign path through Boone. He stated that multiple other Civil War Trail sites used that map showing the route of Stoneman's Raid. He suggested that the HPC create a sketch map of how the engagement happened in Boone.

Mr. Gruber stated that the line of text regarding the three soldiers who died from disease and are buried at the Boone Cemetery should be cut from the text. He suggested that if the cemetery was within the confines of the street fighting of downtown, a little dot on the map indicating the Boone Cemetery could be inserted as an added location for the public to visit. Mr. Gruber said that creating a map showing how the battle flowed through town could allow for incorporating other signs or sites in town that the public could visit.

Mr. Gruber stated that the minute the sign was erected and went live, they would start recording visitor feedback and making edits to the sign. Because the sign was editable, Mr. Gruber suggested that the HPC not vote on the exact language to allow for the fluidity of language changes to the sign.

Ms. Mitchell stated that the Town Council requested the proposed text mentioning the Boone Cemetery and that Town Council members wanted the reference to the Cemetery to be in the text.

Mr. Gruber suggested the following possible edits to the text:

In the early morning hours of March 25, 1865, 6,000 Union troopers rode into town from your (left or right), led by Major Myles Keogh of the 12th Kentucky Calvary. They more than tripled the town's population in a matter of minutes. Later that spring, on April 2, Colonel Kirk's 2nd and 3rd mounted infantry would arrive in occupied Boone for several weeks. Three of those soldiers who died from disease are buried at the nearby Boone Cemetery. While here, they had orders to blockade in port and mountain passes.

Mr. Gruber stated that the map would do a large amount of work on wayfinding and orienting.

Council Liaison Roseman stated that removing any reference to the Boone Cemetery from the text would not be an option from the Town Council's perspective. She felt that Mr. Gruber's suggestion to include a map dot for the Cemetery was a good idea and appreciated the connection between Stoneman's Raid and the Boone Cemetery. Mr. Gruber responded that they always wanted the Civil War Trail signs to direct people to other amenities in town, even if they were not Civil War amenities, so long as they were history-oriented amenities.

Council Liaison Roseman asked if Vice-Chair Bond was able to find any information from the owners of the Blair Farm since Stoneman's Raid occurred near the current Blair Farm property. Vice-Chair Bond replied that she talked with Sharon Tolbert, who told her no stories or documentation about Stoneman's Raid had been passed down from ancestors. Vice-Chair Bond added that the Blair Farm, State Farm area, the Greenway, and the dams along the river were all locations that could potentially be flagged on the location map. She stated that she also spoke with Jim Lewis, whose ancestors were Blackburns, and she felt he might be able to offer some historical knowledge of Stoneman's Raid to the HPC.

Chair Smyth stated he would work to revise the map and text to incorporate Mr. Gruber's suggestions for discussion at the next HPC advisory meeting.

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Vice-Chair Bond stated that when the sign was erected, Mr. Gruber should attend the unveiling. Mr. Gruber replied that he had been doing this job for 9 ½ years and had only been invited to two ribbon cuttings.

Mr. Gruber stated that once a final draft was approved, they would design the sign and select a date for installation. During the installation, they would take photos of the sign going in and create a draft press release. The Town could edit the press release and include a ribbon-cutting date. He added that after installation, CWT would monitor visitor comments and maintain the sign.

With nothing further, Mr. Gruber left the meeting.

Approval of Minutes

Commission Member Basinger made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chair Bond, to approve the December 3, 2024, advisory meeting minutes and the December 10, 2024, quasi-judicial meeting minutes as written.

Vote: Aye – 3
Nay – 0

The motion passed.

Approval of Written Decision

Commission Member Basinger made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chair Bond, to approve the Written Decision for Case A24-0698 Professional Office Group – Certificate of Appropriateness as written.

Vote: Aye – 3
Nay – 0

The motion passed.

HPC Work Plan

Ms. Mitchell explained that the HPC Work Plan was created yearly to present to the Town Council at the annual Planning Retreat. The document would provide the Council with an overview of the accomplishments of the HPC during the past fiscal year and any future budgeting needs and allow them to give direction on tasks for the upcoming fiscal year. Ms. Mitchell stated that Staff would request the HPC be allowed to focus on completing the current in-progress tasks before engaging in any additional tasks as Staff continues the comprehensive plan update process, with the Work Plan to be revisited when those tasks are complete.

Ongoing tasks include Stoneman's Raid, the Jones House Local Historic Landmark Designation report, the Boone Cemetery Interpretative Panels, and UDO Appendix D revisions.

Chair Smyth noted that Public Works had cleared brush and trees from the Boone Cemetery, which looked great.

Staff Updates

Statement of Conformity Report

Ms. Mitchell stated there was one new application for a Statement of Conformity for the former M-Prints building. The request was to repaint the façade.

Ms. Mitchell stated that the next HPC meeting was scheduled for February 4, 2025. She noted that there were no cases for the February 11 quasi-judicial meeting. Chair Smyth stated he would be out of town soon and would let Staff know if his trip would coincide with any HPC meeting dates.

Council Liaison Roseman asked about the stipend for HPC members who attended quasi-judicial meetings. Ms. Mitchell replied that members had submitted the required information and that stipends had been dispersed for the third quarter. Council Liaison Roseman asked that budgeting for HPC member stipends be included in the Work Plan and presented to the Town Council at the Planning Retreat and the Budget Retreat.

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HPC Member Updates

Vice-Chair Bond invited everyone to the Watauga County Public Library on January 16, 2025, at 5:30 p.m. for a presentation by the Watauga Historical Society. She also noted that January 29 was the Chinese New Year.

Adjournment

Commission Member Basinger made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chair Bond, to adjourn the meeting at 4:05 p.m.

Vote: Aye – 3
Nay – 0
The motion passed.

_____ _____

Vardell Smyth, Chair **Brenda Henson, Board Clerk**

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Communication: January 7, 2025 HPC Advisory Meeting Minutes (Approval of Meeting Minutes)

Word Count: 243

TITLE NEEDED

On March 23rd, 1865 almost 6,000 of Union General Stoneman's Cavalry left Tennessee, bound for central North Carolina, with orders to avoid battles, and "dismantle the country", destroying rail lines and materials that could be used by the then retreating Confederate Army.

Riding from your left on the morning of March 28th, the vanguard of General Stoneman's Union Cavalry, led by Maj Myles Keogh, included at least 13 Union loyalists from Watauga and surrounding counties, entered Boone (population under 1000), surprising about 100 Confederate Home Guard members, who had gathered to drill at the courthouse (1000 feet to your left).

Shots were fired, with some Home Guard falling back to the home of James W. Councill, which stood directly in front of you. The Union Cavalry returned fire and charged, quickly ending the skirmish and sending the defenders fleeing up the slopes of Howards Knob, in front of you.

"We arrived this a.m. with the Twelfth Kentucky in the Advance, captured the place, killing 9, capturing 62 home guards…" Maj Gen. Stoneman. The union reported no Casualties.

Union Cavalry continued to pour into town for the rest of the day, with Gen Stoneman requisitioning the Councill house for his headquarters. Stoneman and most of his Forces left Boone the next day.

On April 6th, Col. Kirk's NC Mounted Infantry arrived and occupied Boone for several weeks, blocking major routes through the mountains. Both Union and Confederate soldiers are interred in the Boone cemetery.

Media:

Maj. Myles Keogh. Courtesy, Amon Carter Museum of American Art.

Staff Note: Please see citation credit information provided by the Amon Carter Museum.

Sketch Map of the skirmish in Boone on March 28, 1865, Courtesy, Boone Historic Preservation Commission.

Pull Quote:

Embedded in text. Courtesy, United States. *The War of the Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies (Published Under the Direction of the Secretary of War); Series I, Volume 49, Part 2 – Correspondence, Etc.* Washington: Government Printing Office, 1880-1901. Page 112.

Staff Note: To review team, please revise credit citation for quote as necessary.

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Communication: Revised Draft Text (Version 1) - Presented in Required CWT Document Format (Stoneman's Raid Interpretative Panel)

Word Count: 245

TITLE NEEDED

Riding from your left on the morning of March 28th, 1865, the vanguard of General Stoneman's 6000 Union Cavalry led by Maj Myles Keogh, included at least 13 Union loyalists from Watauga and surrounding counties, entered Boone (population under 1000), surprising about 100 Confederate Home Guard members, who had gathered to drill at the courthouse (1000 feet to your left).

Shots were fired, with some Home Guard falling back to the home of James W. Councill, which stood directly in front of you. The Union Cavalry returned fire and charged, quickly ending the skirmish and sending the defenders fleeing up the slopes of Howards Knob, in front of you.

"We arrived this a.m. with the Twelfth Kentucky in the Advance, captured the place, killing 9, capturing 62 home guards…" Maj Gen. Stoneman. The union reported no Casualties.

Union Cavalry continued to pour into town for the rest of the day, with Gen Stoneman requisitioning the Councill house for his headquarters. Stoneman and most of his Forces left Boone the next day, with orders to avoid battles, and "dismantle the country", destroying rail lines and materials that could be used by the then retreating Confederate Army.

On April 6th, Col. Kirk's NC Mounted Infantry arrive and occupied Boone for several weeks, blockading major routes through the mountains. Both the former Jail and Courthouse were burned. Three Union soldiers of the 3rd NC Mounted Infantry and a few Confederate soldiers are buried in the nearby Boone Cemetery.

Media:

Maj. Myles Keogh. Courtesy, Amon Carter Museum of American Art.

Staff Note: Please see citation credit information provided by the Amon Carter Museum.

Sketch Map of the skirmish in Boone on March 28, 1865, Courtesy, Boone Historic Preservation Commission.

Pull Quote:

Embedded in text. Courtesy, United States. *The War of the Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies (Published Under the Direction of the Secretary of War); Series I, Volume 49, Part 2 – Correspondence, Etc.* Washington: Government Printing Office, 1880-1901. Page 112.

Staff Note: To review team, please revise credit citation for quote as necessary.

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Communication: Revised Draft Text (Version 2) - Presented in Required CWT Document Format (Stoneman's Raid Interpretative Panel)

Jessica Mitchell - EXTERNAL EMAIL - Unsolited Thoughts...

From: Drew Gruber <executivedirector@civilwartrails.org>
To: Jessica Mitchell <Jessica.Mitchell@townofboone.net>
Date: 1/7/2025 3:52 PM
Subject: EXTERNAL EMAIL - Unsolited Thoughts...

Cause yall inspired me...
Word Count: 255- I still think a quote from a lady or resident of town who was a noncombatant would really round this out nicely.

The Battle of Boone
"Dismantle the Country"
Stoneman's Raid - Campaign Banner

On the morning of March 28th, 1865 nearly 6,000 Union troopers charged into town from your left/right. Led by Maj. Myles Keogh the 12th Kentucky Cavalry surprised the Confederate Home guard which assembled (how if they were surprised?) here at the James W. Councill House.

The Home Guard hurriedly/haphazardly (?) returned fire and within (minutes? hours?) fled towards nearby Howard's Knob ending the battle of Boone. Union Gen. Stoneman, who commanded Keogh's regiment including at least 13 Union loyalists from the region reported no casualties during the sharp streeting fighting here in town.

The town's population of less than 1,000 were quickly overwhelmed by the Union soldiers who poured into town for the rest of the day with Stoneman requisitioning the Councill house here for his headquarters. With order to avoid battles and "dismantle the country," most of the Union forces quickly left the area moving onto other objectives in what would become known as Stoneman's Raid. However, just a few days later on April 6th, Union Col. George Kirk's 2nd and 3rd NC Mounted Infantry regiments arrived. During their occupation of Boone which last for several weeks they blockaded mountain passes and patrolled the countryside. Three soldiers from the 3rd NC who died during the occupation are buried in nearby Boone Cemetery.

Media
Maj. Myles Keogh. Courtesy, Library of Congress

Sketch map of the skirmish in Boone on March 28, 1865, Courtesy, Boone Historic Preservation Commission.

Pull Quote
We arrived here this a.m., the Twelfth Kentucky in the advance, captured the place, killing 9, capturing 62 home guards…Maj. Gen. Stoneman

Communication: Draft Text Suggestions from Drew Gruber (Civil War Trails) Following HPC Advisory January 7, 2025 Meeting (Stoneman's

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Drew A. Gruber, TMP
Executive Director
Civil War Trails ®
P.O. Box 1862
Williamsburg, Virginia 23187
Donate to Trails today!

Links contained in this email have been replaced by AT-NET's Cloud Email Security. If you click on a link in the email above, the link will be analyzed for known threats. If a known threat is found, you will not be able to proceed to the destination. If suspicious content is detected, you will see a warning.

Communication: Draft Text Suggestions from Drew Gruber (Civil War Trails) Following HPC Advisory January 7, 2025 Meeting (Stoneman's

Revised Final Draft (HPC Revisions 12/3/24, TC Revisions 8/14/24, HPC Revisions 7/9/24):
241 words + Quote Text 28 Words = 269 Word Count (not including citation for image) (275 Max Word Limit)

Staff Note: Please note this version shows the suggested revisions by the HPC on 12/3/24. The following page shows a clean version of the revised final draft text. The revision for removing the text is to reduce any potential redundancy by using a quote that contains similar information.

STONEMAN'S RAID

Riding from the west on the morning of March 28th, 1865, the first of almost 6,000 of General Stoneman's Union forces, led by Major Myles Keogh's 12th Kentucky Union Volunteer Cavalry, entered the town of Boone, which had a population of less than 1,000.

The Union forces surprised the Confederate Home Guard assembled at the James W. Councill House, which stood directly in front of you. The Home Guard fired on the advancing Union forces, who returned fire. Many Home Guard fled toward Howard's Knob and the conflict ended quickly. ~~Two Home Guard were killed, five injured, and 68 taken prisoner.~~ General Stoneman's forces, including at least 13 Union loyalists from Watauga and surrounding counties, reported no casualties.

Union troops continued to pour into town for the rest of the day, with General Stoneman requisitioning the Councill house for his headquarters.

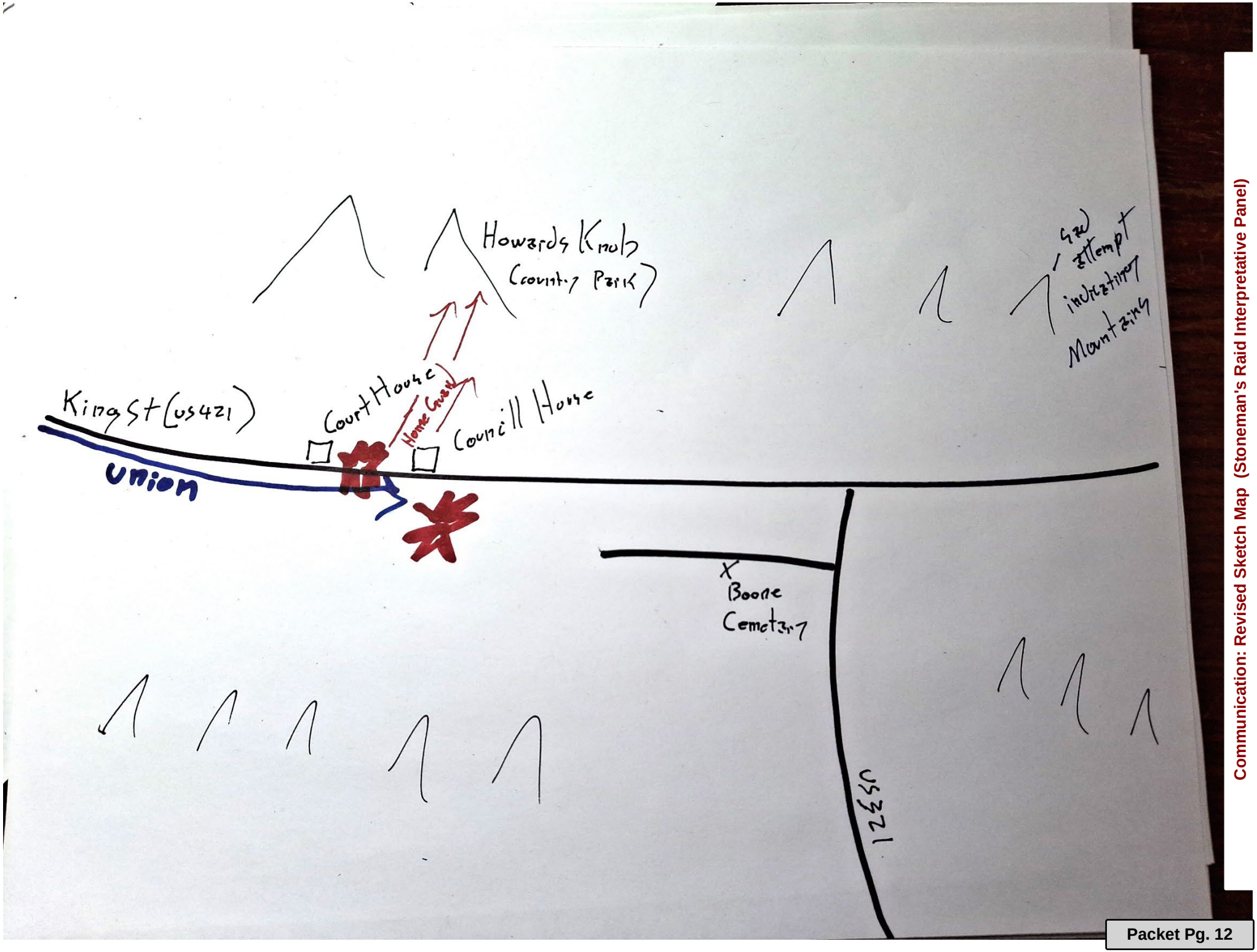
With orders to avoid battles and "dismantle the country," most of General Stoneman's forces quickly left the area and moved on to destroy rail lines and materials that could be used by the then retreating Confederate Army and to liberate Union prisoners held in the Confederate prison in Salisbury, NC.

On April 6th, Colonel George W. Kirk's 2nd and 3rd NC Mounted Infantry Union forces arrived and occupied Boone for several weeks, with orders to blockade Deep, Sampson, and Watauga Gaps to control major routes through the mountains.

Three Union soldiers of the 3rd NC Mounted Infantry who died from disease are buried at the Boone Cemetery, half a mile southeast.

Staff Note: Please note for the paragraph above, the HPC expressed concerns that the item above did not relate to the events of Stoneman's Raid. However, the Town Council showed interest in having the text included to show a connection between this panel and an existing panel (to be installed) at a local historic cemetery.

Communication: For Reference - Previosly Presented Revised Draft Text (December 2024) (Stoneman's Raid Interpretative Panel)



Communication: Revised Sketch Map (Stoneman's Raid Interpretative Panel)



Image(s) Requested



Ebenezer E. Henry (1826–1917)
Captain Myles Keogh
1868-1870
Collodion wet plate negative
4 1/4 x 3 1/16 in.
Amon Carter Museum of American Art, Fort Worth, Texas
P1978.122.1.241

Communication: Image for CWT Required Media Piece - Maj. Myles Keogh (Stoneman's Raid Interpretative Panel)