

WELCOME TO DAVIDSONVILLE

On the banks of the Black River between the Arkansas Delta and the Ozarks, Davidsonville Historic State Park holds one of Arkansas's treasures. From 1815 to 1830, this was the first seat of Lawrence County and had Arkansas's first post office, land office, brick courthouse, and was Arkansas's first planned community. The forest here, paired with its location near the the junction of the Black, Spring, and Eleven Point rivers, made this area a perfect place for settlement and commerce. By the end of the 1820's the movement of settlers, roads, politics, and other factors caused the county seat to be moved to Jackson and Davidsonville to fall into the pages of history. Today Arkansas State Parks preserves, protects, and interprets the story and artifacts of Davidsonville, as well as the natural surroundings that brought people here so long ago.

The Trails

Historic Townsite Trail

Length: 1/3 mile-loop

Trailhead: Pull off on the right just past the entrance to the pavilions.

Trail end: Trail loops back to beginning point.

Difficulty: Easy

- From 1815 to 1830, Davidsonville was a vibrant town with store-lined streets and people going about their daily lives on the frontier. Although no remnants of Davidsonville are visible above ground, stories are emerging from beneath the surface. This trail takes you around Davidsonville's once bustling town square. Exhibits on the trail explain more about this historic town and its historical significance to Arkansas. The panels also give you a glimpse of the people who once called Davidsonville home and the archeology that helped fill in the details about life at Davidsonville.

Scott Cemetery Trail

Length: 1/2 mile

Trailhead: Pull off on the left just past the entrance to the pavilions.

Trail end: Campground or Townsite Trail

Difficulty: Easy to moderate

- Named for the family buried here, this is a short hike to a post-Civil War cemetery. The Scott family owned and ran the Black River ferry even after Davidsonville was just a ghost of the town it had been. Today, tombstones mark the graves of Mr. and Mrs. Scott and several of their children.

Trapper Lake Trail

Length: 1-mile loop

Trailhead: Just north of the visitor center behind the playground

Trail end: Trail loops back to beginning point or junctions with Black River Trail.

