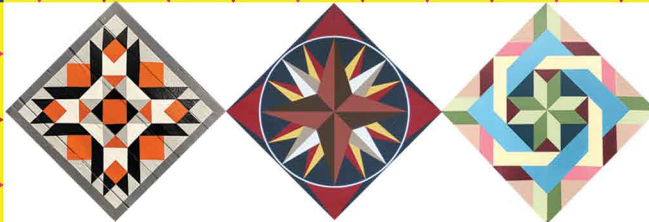




## THE HIGHLAND COUNTY BARN QUILT TRAIL

Discover 80 unique and colorful wooden quilt blocks and their stories on Virginia's first barn quilt trail!



### CAN YOU SPOT THEM ALL?

Travel Highland County, Virginia's beautiful mountain roads for a self-guided tour of its barn quilt trail. Discover the locations and unique stories behind these colorful works of art!

#### Helpful tips!

Highland County lacks cell phone coverage in many places, and GPS can often point you the wrong way, so plan accordingly. Binoculars are highly recommended for viewing barn quilts that may be farther off the road. Please respect private property, obey all traffic laws, and be cautious on winding country roads. Please keep in mind that some barn quilts are easier to spot than others and summer foliage may block full views of the barn quilts. Do not be surprised to see that some of the barn quilts are faded and chipped, with some being weathered for over 10 years. Creators appreciate the durability of modern paint products but must allow for a "gracious patina" to develop over time. At the time of printing, all listed barn quilts were visible, so keep searching! All the barn quilts on this trail are at least 3' x 3'. You'll likely even spot smaller barn quilts and others that are not on this list. Happy trails!

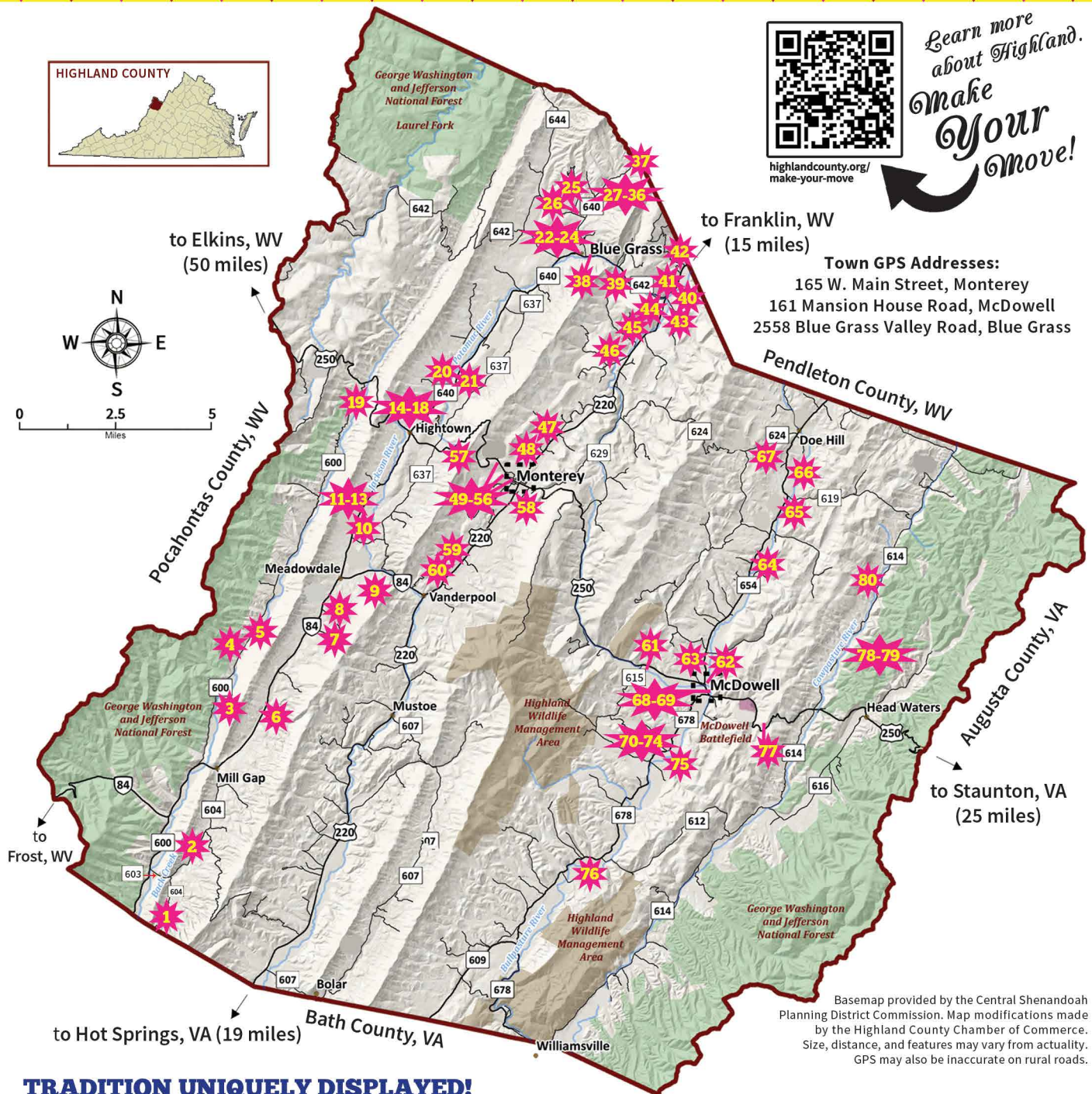
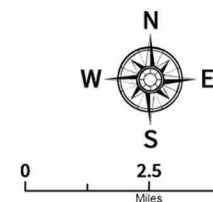


highlandcounty.org



virginia.org

Photos courtesy Margie Boesch, David Cockerham, Carolyn Kenee, Mark Swecker, Madge and Paul Vosteen, the Highland County Chamber of Commerce, and owners of multiple barn quilts. Special thanks to the barn quilt owners, Margie Boesch, Carolyn Pohowsky, Mark and Cindy Swecker, Karen Sweeney, Madge Vosteen, Mid Valley Press, and the Virginia Tourism Corporation. Paid for by the Highland Tourism Council. © 2024



Learn more about Highland. Make Your Move!

Town GPS Addresses:  
165 W. Main Street, Monterey  
161 Mansion House Road, McDowell  
2558 Blue Grass Valley Road, Blue Grass

### TRADITION UNIQUELY DISPLAYED!

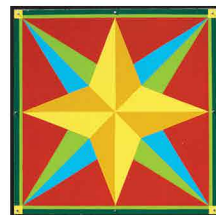
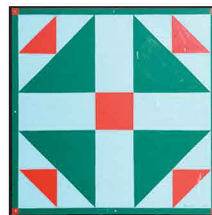
Barn quilts are colorful painted wooden squares and diamonds that adorn buildings all across Highland County. These works of art are the merger of traditional roles on the farm, blending the customs of quilting bees together with outdoor barn work into a beautiful combination. Barn quilt trails have sprung up since the 2000s, having begun in Adams County, Ohio. The Highland County Barn Quilt Trail is the first in Virginia and has been highlighted in the book, "Following the Barn Quilt Trail", by Suzi Parron, the authority on the subject. Highland's trail began in 2011 when Carolyn Pohowsky, the Chamber of Commerce Executive Director, saw several barn quilts that local artist Margie Boesch had painted. Recognizing the importance of highlighting our rural heritage, the significance of the local barns, and the stories of the people who live here, Carolyn put together a brochure that contained 13 barn quilts. Since then, the trail has grown! Enjoy a leisurely country ride to find them all!



#### 1. Five Reds

Located at 1240 Little Egypt Rd. (Rt. 604), 1.2 miles south of Valley Center Rd. (Rt. 604) on a gravel road. This barn quilt received its name because there are five redheads in the family. The farm is also named "Five Reds." Barn quilt by Margie Boesch, 2014

2028 Valley Center Rd. (west side of Rt. 604), 2 miles south of Rt. 84 intersection "Birds in the Air" is a traditional pattern. Its triangles represent birds flying home, and it was chosen to honor George Bird. Barn quilt by Margie Boesch, 2011



#### 3. Blazing Star

Located at 9581 Upper Back Creek Rd. (east side of Rt. 600), 2.1 miles north of the intersection with Rt. 84 "Blazing Star" is a traditional pattern, and this quilt was a Valentine's gift. Barn quilt by Margie Boesch, 2011

Located at 8056 Upper Back Creek Rd. (west side of Rt. 600), 3.7 miles north of the intersection with Rt. 84 The barn quilt reminds the owners of their family saying about the wisps of fog rising from the mountain hollows: "The foxes must be making tea." Barn quilt by Madge Hall Vosteen, 2024



#### 5. Back Creek Farms

Located at 7781 Upper Back Creek Rd. (east side of Rt. 600), 3.8 miles north of the intersection with Rt. 84 Barn quilt designed by Christina Kerns, painted by Margie Boesch, and maple leaf painted by Pat and Valerie Lowry, 2012

Located at 6423 Mill Gap Rd. (eastern side of Rt. 84) This barn quilt is made from a recycled antique inlaid wooden card table. The design mimics the pattern of the inlaid top of the table. The owner and her students helped start the recycling program in Highland County. Barn quilt by Marty Leech, 2024



#### 7. Tree of Paradise

Located at 42 Dove Lane (southeast side of Rt. 84) "Tree of Paradise" is a variation of a traditional pattern, and it has Biblical significance important to the owners. Barn quilt by Margie Boesch, 2011



#### 8. Ethiopian Cross

Located at 3607 Mill Gap Rd. (southeast side of Rt. 84 next to Dove Lane) The owners have a close relationship with SW Ethiopians, and inspiration came from Ethiopian embroidery. Barn quilt inspired by Mary Lou Cox and designed and painted by Margie Boesch, 2017

Located at a home on the hill at 1823 Mill Gap Rd. (southeast side of Rt. 84) at the top peak over the detached garage. Please do not drive up the private lane for a closer view. Barn quilt designed by Somers Stephenson and painted by Margie Boesch, 2019



#### 10. Turkey Tracks

Located on the east side of Meadowdale Rd. (Rt. 640), 1.2 miles from the intersection with Rt. 84 Margie's husband Mike looks for wildlife on the farm, hence this traditional pattern. Barn quilt by Margie Boesch, 2015

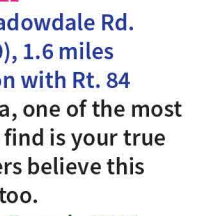
Located at 2806 Meadowdale Rd. (west side of Rt. 640), 1.6 miles from the intersection with Rt. 84 Adorned at Margie Boesch's Highland Barn Quilts Studio, this design came about as Margie was looking at an unusual maple leaf. Maple syrup used to be made in the current studio, and sugar maple trees still reside nearby. The old "Maple Leaf" design was replaced in 2020 with "Autumn Splendor", a loving tribute to the maple trees that provide shade, syrup, and beauty to the land in Highland County. Barn quilt by Margie Boesch, 2017



Located at 2806 Meadowdale Rd. (west side of Rt. 640), 1.6 miles from the intersection with Rt. 84 For navigators at sea, one of the most important things to find is your true direction. The owners believe this is important in life, too. Barn quilt by Margie Boesch, 2024



Located on the west side of Meadowdale Rd. (Rt. 640), 1.6 miles from the intersection with Rt. 84 The title is very appropriate for an old Highland hay barn. Barn quilt by Margie Boesch, 2023

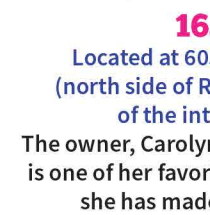


Located at 5573 Mountain Turnpike (north side of Rt. 250), 0.1 miles west of the intersection with Rt. 640 This pattern was chosen in honor of the late Jacob Hevener, owner of Dividing Waters Farm, a Hightown landmark. The traditional pattern refers to Jacob in the Bible who dreamed of angels ascending and descending on a ladder to heaven in Genesis 28. Barn quilt by Margie Boesch, 2011



#### 15. Clay's Choice

Located at 5948 Mountain Turnpike (north side of Rt. 250), 0.3 miles west of the intersection with Rt. 640 "Clay's Choice" is a historical pattern, also known as "Henry's Star" and "Star of the West". Women in the 1800s often wove stories of unrest into their quilt patterns. In 1832, in an effort to maintain the unity of the United States, Henry Clay offered a compromise bill to soothe both sections. Rather than any political statement, the previous owners chose the pattern for one of their names: Clay. Barn quilt by Margie Boesch, 2011



#### 16. Virginia Reel

Located at 6054 Mountain Turnpike (north side of Rt. 250), 0.5 miles west of the intersection with Rt. 640 The owner, Carolyn, says "Virginia Reel" is one of her favorite quilt patterns, and she has made many quilts using it. Barn quilt by Margie Boesch, 2011



#### 17. Bohdi Bee

Located on the north side of Mountain Turnpike (Rt. 250), 0.6 miles west of the intersection with Rt. 640 This honey bee pattern is on a bee house protecting hives from predators. Summer leaves may block full visibility. Barn quilt by Margie Boesch, 2015



#### 18. Flying Geese

Located on the north side of Mountain Turnpike (Rt. 250), 1 mile west of the intersection with Rt. 640 Barn quilt by Margie Boesch, 2011



#### 19. Back Creek Sunflower

Located at 535 Upper Back Creek Rd. (Rt. 600), .5 miles south of Rt. 250 This barn quilt was a Christmas gift from the family to their mother in 2021, designed by daughter Julia Budzinski for her mother's love of sunflowers. Barn quilt by Margie Boesch, 2022



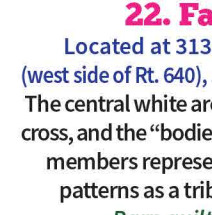
#### 20. California Poppy

Located at 8668 Blue Grass Valley Rd. (west side of Rt. 640), 1 mile north of Rt. 250 This barn quilt at South Branch Farm represents the transplanted family of Jim and Vanessa Hevener who live in California but whose roots have grown deep in Highland County soil for 10 generations. Barn quilt by Margie Boesch, 2021



#### 21. American Eagle

Located on the east side of 8575 Blue Grass Valley Rd. (Rt. 640), 1.2 miles north of the intersection with Rt. 250 High Haven Farm was home to the owner's parents for over 30 years, and she wanted to pay tribute to her late father, who was very patriotic and loved everything American, particularly the iconic bald eagle. Barn quilt by Margie Boesch, 2014



#### 22. Faith and Family

Located at 3132 Blue Grass Valley Rd. (west side of Rt. 640), .5 miles west of Blue Grass The central white areas showcase a Christian cross, and the "bodies" of the individual family members represent traditional maple leaf patterns as a tribute to Highland County. Barn quilt by Chris Swecker, 2024



#### 23. The Cardinal

Located at 2862 Blue Grass Valley Rd. (west side of Rt. 640), .3 miles west of Blue Grass The owner is from North Carolina, where the cardinal is the state bird. She then married a man from Virginia, which has the same state bird. Two became one. Barn quilt by Krista Miller



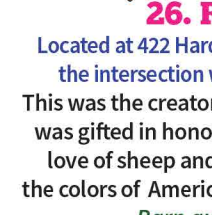
#### 24. Blue Grass Ruritan Star

Located on the northwest side of Blue Grass Valley Rd. (Rt. 640) at the Blue Grass Ruritan Club's pavilion behind their building, just southwest of the intersection with Wimer Mountain Rd. Barn quilt by Margie Boesch, 2014



#### 25. UVA

Located at 204 Hardscrabble Rd. just west of the intersection with Wimer Mountain Rd. The property owner is a big fan of the University of Virginia, and this barn quilt was a gift from her granddaughter-in-law. Barn quilt by Courtney Ralston



#### 26. Ralston Rustics

Located at 422 Hardscrabble Rd. just west of the intersection with Wimer Mountain Rd. This was the creator's first barn quilt, and it was gifted in honor of her mother-in-law's love of sheep and chickens, painted with the colors of America's red, white, and blue. Barn quilt by Courtney Ralston

