01 / ORIGINS & PEOPLE

Green River

The Owensboro revival, in three distinct chapters.

Green River returned in stages. Distilling resumed in 2016, the historic name returned in 2020, and the revived bourbon reached shelves in 2022. The horseshoe bottle links a nineteenth-century identity with a working Western Kentucky distillery and a modern whiskey family. [1-3]



At a glance
Founded: 1885, J.W. McCulloch
Home: Owensboro, Kentucky
Modern production restart: 2016
Parent: Lofted Spirits [1, 2, 6]

A name, a site and a family

McCulloch made Green River visible through exhibitions and advertising. Fire, ownership changes and dormancy later interrupted the story. His great-grandson Rob worked with then-CEO Simon Burch to restore the name. That family connection helped recover the identity; it was not proof of continuous family ownership. [1-3]

The people behind the return

Jacob Call led distilling during the revival. Aaron Harris joined in fall 2022 and is identified by the current company FAQ as head distiller. Dan Callaway shapes selection and blending; artist Aaron Kizer drew on the archives for the revived site and its launch. Their contributions belong to different parts of the craft. [2, 3, 7, 10, 17]

Original watercolor interpretations are symbolic, not historical photographs or exact architectural reconstructions.

02 / HISTORY & PLACES

Returning takes time.



1885 to the early 1900s McCulloch founds Green River in Owensboro. Company history remembers international exhibitions and extensive advertising. [1, 3]

1918 to the mid-century Fire devastates the site. Rebuilding, a brand transfer and later ownership changes follow. Brand distribution ends in 1955; that does not date every site operation. [1, 2]

2014 / 2016 / 2020 Restoration begins, distilling resumes as O.Z. Tyler, and the Green River name returns. These are three separate milestones. [2]

2022 to 2024 The revived flagship reaches shelves, followed by wheated bourbon, single barrels, rye and a multi-barrel Full Proof Bourbon. [3, 7-10]

2025 Lofted Spirits names the parent group. A commemorative Army edition and a Louisville tasting room add distinct chapters. [5, 11, 12]

2026 Wheated Full Proof, Honey and Toasted Double Oak explore strength, ingredients and wood in different ways. [13-16, 24]

Two visitor doors. Different jobs.

Owensboro is the distilling and maturation home. The clay-tile rickhouses play a role in selection. Louisville, at 714 West Main Street, is a tasting room and hospitality space. Its presence does not relocate production or make Bardstown a second address for this whiskey. [6, 10, 12, 18]

03 / WHISKEY & STORIES

Recipe, barrel, strength, finish.

The flagship bourbon uses 70% corn, 21% rye and 9% malted barley. The wheated recipe replaces rye with wheat. The rye release uses 95% rye and 5% malted barley. Single barrels and multi-barrel Full Proof blends are different selections, even when proofs are close. [7-10, 19-21, 23]



Honey adds real honey to a four-year bourbon base. Toasted Double Oak adds six months in a second barrel after eight years. The 1885 expression is a four-year whiskey whose name refers to heritage. Historical gold-mine and medicinal-whiskey accounts stay attributed stories, not verified price records or health assurances. [1, 2, 14-16, 22]

Linked research sources

Checked October 20, 2026. Numbers match the citations above.

1. Official historical timeline
2. Company: 2020 name revival
3. Company: 2022 bourbon launch
4. 2022 acquisition agreement
5. 2025 Lofted Spirits announcement
6. Lofted: current ownership
7. 2023 wheated bourbon launch
8. 2023 public single-barrel release
9. 2024 rye launch
10. 2024 Full Proof introduction
11. 2025 Army anniversary edition
12. 2025 Louisville tasting room
13. 2026 Wheated Full Proof
14. 2026 Honey introduction
15. 2026 Distillery Select introduction
16. Toasted Double Oak specification
17. Current team and facility FAQ
18. Owensboro and Louisville visits
19. Flagship bourbon specification
20. Wheated bourbon specification
21. Single Barrel Program
22. 1885 Bourbon specification
23. Producer: mash bills
24. 2026 release and medal account