01 / ORIGINS & PEOPLE

A spring. A site. A new chapter.



HOLLADAY DISTILLERY · WESTON, MISSOURI

At Holladay, the past is built into the working site. Limestone masonry, a spring and old warehouses give the Weston distillery a physical memory. The modern bourbon has a different clock: production returned after a thirty-year pause, and the first new mature release arrived in 2022. Its most revealing feature may be the detail on each batch. A floor chart turns the warehouse from scenery into part of the explanation. [1-3,8]

Ben and David Holladay anchor the founding story. The house celebrates 1856; the historic nomination records construction and still activity in 1857, followed by sales in 1858. David’s ledger supplies the practical details behind the anniversary. These are different milestones in the same developing enterprise. [1-3]

Kyle Merklein joined in 2016 before becoming master distiller. His background in engineering and fermentation suits a business whose decisions take years to mature. Holladay operates within McCormick Distilling Company, whose wider spirits business continued through the bourbon hiatus. [2,4,5]

02 / HISTORY & PLACES

The old site keeps changing.

1856-1858
Founding tradition, then documented building and sales. [1,3]

1894-1950
Family succession, new owners and names; Prohibition closes the operation from 1919 to 1933. [1-3]

1985-1993
Bourbon production pauses; private investors acquire the company in 1993. [2,5]

2015-2016
The restart project is followed by the Spring 2016 stock later bottled. [5,8]

2022-2023
Six-year bourbon returns; Soft Red Wheat, wider Rickhouse Proof distribution and a seven-year batch follow. [8,12,15,16]

2025-2026
Rickhouse D is announced; the current range reaches ten years of maturation. [5,19]



Weston and the spring
A limestone spring and stone industrial building connect the property to its early working history. Tours now interpret a functioning Missouri distillery. [3,20]

Rickhouses and floors
Batch journals reveal actual selections. May 2022 drew 79% from floor five and 21% from floor one of Rickhouse C. September reversed the emphasis. [8,9]

Read history with care
Current brand history and the historic nomination differ on the McCormick naming sequence. The full profile preserves that conflict and all fifteen illustrated milestones. [1-3]

03 / WHISKEY & STORIES

Read the grain. Read the batch.

Two foundations

Both core recipes use 73% corn and 12% barley. The remaining 15% is rye in Original and wheat in Soft Red Wheat. Age, proof and barrel selection also shape a comparison. [6,7]



Time is a production choice

The November 2023 journal explains why a group of barrels stayed in oak to seven years instead of moving to steel. Ancient Cave experiments add a separate chapter of secondary wood treatment after primary aging. [16,18]

Follow the label

Bottled-in-Bond is presented at 100 proof. Rickhouse Proof varies by batch; it does not mean single barrel. The current ten-year expression belongs to the modern revival, not uninterrupted production since 1856. [6,17,19]

Linked research · Checked October 17, 2026. Full qualifications accompany the profile. Watercolors are interpretive.

1. Holladay: the founders and ownership
2. Holladay Distillery: site history
3. National Register nomination: McCormick Distillery
4. Kyle Merklein: engineering and fermentation
5. 2025 producer announcement: Rickhouse D and revival
6. Ben Holladay: 1856 Original specifications
7. Holladay Soft Red Wheat: recipe and identity
8. May 2022: first modern batch
9. September 2022: reversing the floor balance
10. October 2022: seasons and a personal barrel
11. March 2023: exploring the middle floors
12. March 2023: Soft Red Wheat launch event
13. March 2023: changing the flavor grain
14. May 2023: six floors in one blend
15. August 2023: Rickhouse Proof reaches beyond the gate
16. November 2023: the seven-year exception
17. Rickhouse Proof: strength follows the batch
18. Ancient Cave Collection: secondary maturation
19. Ben Holladay 10 Year: the modern decade
20. Tours: a working Missouri distillery
21. McCormick: wider spirits portfolio
22. Distillery-exclusive releases: dated specifications