


**STATE OF MISSISSIPPI  
SECRETARY OF STATE'S OFFICE  
MICHAEL WATSON  
SECRETARY OF STATE  
JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI**

**RE: IN THE MATTER OF THE DESIGNATION OF BELLEFONTAINE AS  
A HISTORICAL HAMLET**



**State of Mississippi**  
Recorded in this office in the Record of  
Incorporation Book No. PB 417  
Filed July 15, 2024  
  
*Michael Watson*  
Secretary of State



Type LD Book 2024 Page 337  
Filed/Recorded 07/15/2024 01:36 P  
16 Pages Recorded  
Michael Kolb – Chancery Clerk  
Webster County Mississippi

---

**PETITIONERS:**

**Margaret Wilson**  
13376 MS Highway 404  
Bellefontaine, Mississippi 39737

**Jennifer DeAn Roberts**  
13385 MS Highway 404  
Bellefontaine, Mississippi 39737  
(281) 798-1542

**Donna C. Skelton**  
10050 MS Highway 9N  
Bellefontaine, Mississippi 39737

**Indexing Instructions:**

SW/4 of Section 25 and NW/4 of Section 36, T21N, R9E;  
Webster County, Mississippi

**THIS INSTRUMENT WAS PREPARED BY  
AND AFTER RECORDING RETURN TO:**

Brunini, Grantham, Grower & Hewes, PLLC  
190 East Capitol Street, Suite 100  
Jackson, Mississippi 39201  
Telephone: 601-948-3101  
Attn: Lynne K. Green (MSB #4994)

---

**PETITION FOR CREATION OF  
THE HISTORICAL HAMLET OF BELLEFONTAINE**

**A RESOLUTION DECLARING THE INTENTION OF THE BOARD OF  
SUPERVISORS OF WEBSTER COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI TO SPREAD UPON THEIR  
MINUTES AND APPROVE A PETITION RECOGNIZING THE HISTORICAL  
HAMLET OF BELLEFONTAINE, MISSISSIPPI**

The Board took up for consideration the matter of approving the former town and later village of Bellefontaine, Mississippi as a hamlet under the Municipal Historical Hamlet Act as found in Miss. Code Ann. §§17-27-1 through 17-27-11.

Supervisor Crowley formally presented the Motion for Acceptance by the Board. A copy of the Petition and attachment of all matters relative to the filing that would recognize Bellefontaine as a Historical Hamlet were found to be in order. The Webster County Courthouse is the official meeting place of the hamlet. The hamlet may apply for any grant to promote economic development within the area, and no specific fees or taxes may be imposed upon the hamlet area.

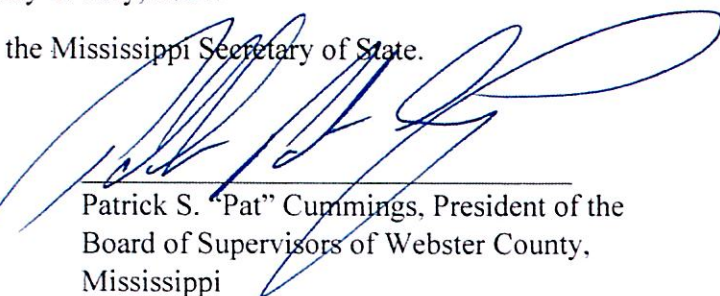
Supervisor Rico seconded the Motion to Adopt the foregoing Motion after a review of the documents, and all having been reviewed by the Board, upon being put to a roll call, the results were as follows:

Supervisor Curtis C. Morris	FOR
Supervisor Patrick S. Cummings	FOR
Supervisor Randy Rico	FOR
Supervisor Paul Crowley	FOR
Supervisor Doug Burgess	FOR

The Motion having received the affirmation vote of a Majority of the Board of Supervisors, the President declared the Motion for Petition for Creation of the Historical Hamlet of Bellefontaine, Mississippi as a Historical Hamlet passed and as such was spread upon the minutes of the Board relative to statutory authority on this the 31st day of May, 2024.

A copy of such Resolution to be forwarded to the Mississippi Secretary of State.



  
Patrick S. "Pat" Cummings, President of the  
Board of Supervisors of Webster County,  
Mississippi



**BEFORE THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF WEBSTER  
STATE OF MISSISSIPPI**

**IN THE MATTER OF THE DESIGNATION OF  
BELLEFONTAINE AS A HISTORICAL HAMLET  
PURSUANT TO MISS. CODE ANN. §§17-27-1 THROUGH 17-27-11**

**MARGARET WILSON, JENNIFER DEAN  
ROBERTS, AND DONNA C. SKELTON,  
PETITIONERS**

**PETITION FOR CREATION OF  
THE HISTORICAL HAMLET OF BELLEFONTAINE**

COME NOW, Margaret Wilson, Jennifer DeAn Roberts, and Donna C. Skelton, adult resident inhabitants of the formerly incorporated Village of Bellefontaine in Webster County, Mississippi, and bring this Petition pursuant to the Municipal Historical Hamlet Act as found in Miss. Code Ann. §§17-27-1 through 17-27-11 to create a municipal historical hamlet for the formerly incorporated Village of Bellefontaine, and would respectfully submit the following facts, to-wit:

1. That the Village of Bellefontaine, located in Webster County, Mississippi, was incorporated as a town by Act of the Legislature of the State of Mississippi on January 25, 1888, Chapter 367 of the Laws of the State of Mississippi (the "Act"), a copy of which Act is attached hereto as Exhibit "A". By Proclamation of J. M. Stone, Governor of the State of Mississippi, dated May 31, 1893, a copy of which Proclamation is attached hereto as Exhibit "B", Bellefontaine's status changed from a town to a village.

2. That pursuant to the Act the corporate limits of the Village of Bellefontaine were as follows: one-half mile north, one-half mile south, one-half mile, east, one-half mile west from Bellefontaine school building. That it is believed that the Bellefontaine School building in 1888 was located on or near the site of the former Bellefontaine School, now the site of tennis courts adjacent to Fellowship Baptist Church in Bellefontaine. That two maps of this territory are attached hereto as Exhibits "C1" and "C2"; and a map of the entire 39737 postal zip code which

includes Bellefontaine is attached hereto as Exhibit "D". That said maps were prepared by the GIS and Remote Sensing Program, Golden Triangle Planning and Development District, Inc. ("the "Golden Triangle District").

3. That the said Village of Bellefontaine was listed as a municipality in the 1935-1937 Mississippi Blue Book (Mississippi. Secretary of State, "Mississippi Blue Book. Biennial report of the Secretary of State to the Legislature of Mississippi. [1935-1937]" (1937). Mississippi Blue Books. 4. [https://egrove.olemiss.edu/sta\\_msblubk](https://egrove.olemiss.edu/sta_msblubk)). The 1935-1937 Blue Book, page 133, states that Bellefontaine had the following elected officials: H. C. Spencer, Mayor; D. E. Neel, Marshal; and J. M. Talley, N. C. Pittman and J. S. Hardy, Aldermen. Page 213 of the 1935-1937 Blue Book lists the population of Incorporated Places for 1930 and 1920. Bellefontaine's population in 1920 was shown as 155 and in 1930, it had dropped to 129.

4. That the said Village of Bellefontaine was listed as a municipality in the 1937-1939 Mississippi Blue Book (Mississippi. Secretary of State, "Mississippi Blue Book. Biennial report of the Secretary of State to the Legislature of Mississippi. [1937-1939]" (1939). Mississippi Blue Books. 5. [https://egrove.olemiss.edu/sta\\_msblubk/5](https://egrove.olemiss.edu/sta_msblubk/5)). However, Bellefontaine is not included in the List of Municipal Officers in Mississippi Cities, Towns and Village as of November 1, 1939, for Webster County on page 154 of the 1937-1939 Mississippi Blue Book.

5. That the said Village of Bellefontaine is not listed as a municipality in the 1939-1941 Mississippi Blue Book (Mississippi. Secretary of State, "Mississippi Blue Book. Biennial report of the Secretary of State to the Legislature of Mississippi. [1939-1941]" (1941). Mississippi Blue Books. 6. [https://egrove.olemiss.edu/sta\\_msblubk/6](https://egrove.olemiss.edu/sta_msblubk/6)). That for the first time, the 1939-1941 Mississippi Blue Book published a list of incorporated villages, towns, and cities in Mississippi, and that Bellefontaine is not included as an incorporated village, town, or city. The 1939-1941 Mississippi Blue Book on page 204 states that "The following places have been abolished, surrendered charter, or have not functioned in many years..... Bellefontaine...."

6. Based on the foregoing, Bellefontaine lost its charter sometime during the period between January 1, 1937 and November 1, 1939.



7. That the Municipal Historical Hamlet Act as found in Miss. Code Ann. §§17-27-1 through 17-27-11 authorizes the creation of a municipal historical hamlet for any former village with a current population of less than six hundred inhabitants that lost its charter before 1945.

8. That it is desired that the formerly incorporated Village of Bellefontaine be designated a municipal historical hamlet pursuant to provisions of Miss. Code Ann. §§17-27-1 through 17-27-11, to be known as "The Historical Hamlet of Bellefontaine".

9. That the Bellefontaine area (also believed to be formerly known as "Berryhill Town") has a rich history, being established about 1825, and over the years had churches, stores, a post office, an open saloon, a beauty salon, a hotel, artesian wells and mineral springs, a gambling den, horse racing, a male and female high school (which was incorporated on February 21, 1890 by Act of the Legislature of the State of Mississippi, Chapter 398 of the Laws of the State of Mississippi), one or more elementary schools, the "Monte Vista and Bellefontaine Phone Company", a sawmill, a doctor's office, a leather company, Masonic Adelpian Lodge #174 chartered January 17, 1853, Order of the Eastern Star, and other enterprises.

10. That during its years as an incorporated town or village, Bellefontaine had a number of its citizens serve as mayor, marshal, treasurer, and aldermen.

11. That prior to its incorporation, the Bellefontaine area was home to Native Americans, including the Choctaw and Chocchuma Indians. After the Treaty of Dancing Rabbit Creek in 1832, land grants were issued to settlers, and Bellefontaine became a thriving village. That Bellefontaine was a part of Choctaw County (now referred to as "Old Choctaw County") until the establishment of Sumner County in 1874. In 1882 the name of the county was changed to "Webster" in honor of Daniel Webster. That in its early days, there was an open saloon, and at the road junction in Bellefontaine leading to Grenada, there was a huge bell placed high in the air and rung every hour as a guide for travelers.

12. That there are conflicting legends on the origin of the name "Bellefontaine", with one being that Bellefontaine is named for the beautiful waters from its artesian wells and mineral

springs. Another legend is that the name "Bellefontaine" is "Belle" in remembrance of the guide bell, and "Fontaine" for the open saloon.

13. That Bellefontaine is one of the oldest villages in Webster County, Mississippi, being the only village in the county shown on the 1840 map of Mississippi, other than Greensboro.

14. That the number of inhabitants in the formerly incorporated Village of Bellefontaine as compiled by the Golden Triangle District is 53. That this number of inhabitants is based on the 2020 Census, which is the most recent decennial census. See attached "Exhibit E."

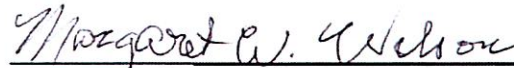
15. That Bellefontaine meets all of the requirements to be designated a municipal historical hamlet as set forth in Miss. Code Ann. §17-27-7.

WHEREFORE, PREMISES CONSIDERED, Petitioners respectfully request that this Petition be received and:


1. That upon delivery of a certified copy of this petition to the President of the Webster County Board of Supervisors, this petition be spread upon the minutes of the Webster County Board of Supervisors for recognition as a historical hamlet, and at that time the existence of The Historical Hamlet of Bellefontaine become effective.

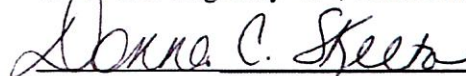
2. That the Board of Supervisors of Webster County will enter an order that the formerly incorporated Village of Bellefontaine is designated a municipal historical hamlet pursuant to provisions of Miss. Code Ann. §§17-27-1 through 17-27-11, to be known as "The Historical Hamlet of Bellefontaine."

Respectfully submitted,



Margaret Wilson, Petitioner  
13376 MS Highway 404, Bellefontaine, Mississippi

  
Jennifer DeAn Roberts, Petitioner  
13385 MS Highway 404, Bellefontaine, Mississippi



Donna C. Skelton, Petitioner  
10050 MS Highway 9N, Bellefontaine, Mississippi



STATE OF MISSISSIPPI  
COUNTY OF WEBSTER

PERSONALLY appeared before me, the undersigned authority in and for the jurisdiction above, the within named Margaret Wilson, who, after being by me first duly sworn on oath, deposes and states that he/she has read the above and foregoing Petition, and that the matters and things therein stated are true and correct.

Margaret W. Wilson  
Margaret Wilson

SWORN to and subscribed before me this the 4<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2024.

Lynne Knight Green  
NOTARY PUBLIC

My Commission Expires:



STATE OF MISSISSIPPI  
COUNTY OF WEBSTER

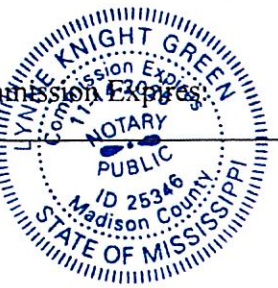
PERSONALLY appeared before me, the undersigned authority in and for the jurisdiction above, the within named DeAn Latham Roberts, who, after being by me first duly sworn on oath, deposes and states that he/she has read the above and foregoing Petition, and that the matters and things therein stated are true and correct.

Jennifer DeAn Roberts  
Jennifer DeAn Roberts

SWORN to and subscribed before me this the 4<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2024.

Lynne Knight Green  
NOTARY PUBLIC

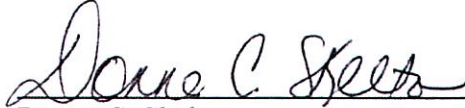
My Commission Expires:





STATE OF MISSISSIPPI  
COUNTY OF WEBSTER

PERSONALLY appeared before me, the undersigned authority in and for the jurisdiction above, the within named Donna C. Skelton, who, after being by me first duly sworn on oath, deposes and states that he/she has read the above and foregoing Petition, and that the matters and things therein stated are true and correct.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Donna C. Skelton

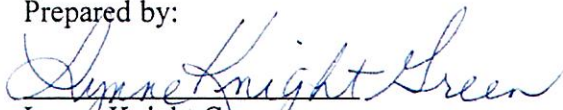
SWORN to and subscribed before me this the 4<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2024.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
NOTARY PUBLIC

My Commission Expires:



Prepared by:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Lynne Knight Green

MS STATE BAR NO. 4994  
BRUNINI, GRANTHAM, GROWER & HEWES, PLLC  
190 East Capitol Street  
Post Office Drawer 119  
Jackson, Mississippi 39205  
Telephone: (601) 948-3101  
lgreen@brunini.com

# EXHIBIT A

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI.

453

## Chapter 367.

CHAP. 367

AN ACT to incorporate the town of Bellefontaine in the county of Webster.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Mississippi,* That the town of Bellefontaine, in the county of Webster, be and the same is hereby incorporated under the said name of Bellefontaine, and that the corporate limits of said town shall be as follows, to-wit: one-half mile north, one-half mile south, one-half mile east, one-half mile west from Bellefontaine school building.

Corporation boundaries.

SEC. 2. Be it further enacted, That A. B. Hicks, J. S. Lalley and S. J. Cook shall be, and they are hereby appointed commissioners to conduct the first election for officers of said town, and that any two of them may act. Said commissioners shall proceed immediately after the passage of this act to hold an election, ten days notice of which shall be posted conspicuously in said town of Bellefontaine; and at said election there shall be voted for, one mayor and three aldermen, who shall be citizens of the State and residing in the corporate limits, and the persons so elected at said election shall be called the mayor and aldermen of the town of Bellefontaine; and by that name they may sue and be sued, plead and be impleaded in law and equity, and may exercise the powers incident to towns incorporated in this State, and may make such rules, regulations and by-laws for the government of said corporation as they may deem expedient, not inconsistent with the laws of the State and the United States.

Election commissioners.

Notice of election.

Gen'l powers.

SEC. 3. Be it further enacted, That the said mayor and aldermen shall be elected annually on the first Monday in January, and shall continue in office until their successors are elected and qualified according to the requirements of the present constitution; the said mayor and aldermen shall be citizens of said State, residents within said corporate limits of said town, and shall take an oath, which shall be administered by any justice of the peace of the county, or by the mayor in office, to the mayor and aldermen elect, faithfully to discharge their duties as mayor and aldermen.

Election annually.

Oath of office.

SEC. 4. Be it further enacted, That at the election herein provided for, and at all subsequent annual elections, there shall be voted for and elected, one marshal who shall be a resident of the town, and shall possess the qualifications prescribed by law for constables, and shall give bond in the sum of two hundred dollars with security, to be approved by the mayor for the faithful

Town marshal.



CHAP. 367

performance of such duties as are prescribed by law for constables in this State, and such other duties as may be prescribed by the mayor and aldermen.

Conservators  
of the peace.

The mayor.

Jurisdiction  
of mayor.

Levy taxes on  
property.

To call spe-  
cial meeting.

License  
shows.

Apoin<sup>t</sup> secre-  
tary and  
mayor pro  
tem.

SEC. 5. Be it further enacted, That said mayor and aldermen shall be ex-officio conservators of the peace, and may arrest without warrant any person within the limits of said town, who may be breaking the peace or violating any ordinance of said town or law of this State in their presence, and take such person before the mayor for examination. The mayor shall preside at all meetings of the board and shall have a casting vote in case of a tie, on all questions that come up for decision in the board, and his name shall be affixed to all official publications.

SEC. 6. Be it further enacted, That the said mayor shall be ex-officio a justice of the peace of said county, and said marshal shall be ex-officio a constable of said county, and both shall have the like jurisdiction with, and be amenable to all laws regulating justices of the peace and constables of said county.

SEC. 7. Be it further enacted, That the mayor and aldermen may pass such ordinances as may be necessary for the government of the town, may levy taxes on all the property of the town, real and personal, that may be subject to taxation under the general revenue laws of this State, not exceeding 25 per cent. of the amount of the State tax, to be expended for municipal purposes, as may from time to time be ordered by the mayor and aldermen.

SEC. 8. Be it further enacted, That the meetings of the mayor and aldermen shall not be less than once a month. They may adjourn from day to day, or to any day, and they may at such meetings transact any business appertaining to their office and duties; the mayor or any two aldermen may call a special meeting as may be provided in the by-laws of said town.

SEC. 9. Be it further enacted, That the mayor and board of aldermen may issue license for public exhibitions of circuses, shows and public performances within the corporate limits of the town, provided this privilege shall not interfere with the general laws of this State.

SEC. 10. Be it further enacted, That the mayor and aldermen shall keep a record of their proceedings; may appoint one of their own number secretary, and in the absence of the mayor the aldermen may appoint a mayor "pro tem.," and may also appoint one of their own number treasurer, and the board may prescribe the duties of secretary and treasurer.



CHAP. 368

SEC. 11. Be it further enacted, That the mayor and aldermen shall have power to make provision from time for assessing tax valuation of property subject to taxation within said town, that the taxes so assessed under this act may be collected in the mode in which State and county taxes are collected, except that the town marshal shall be the collector of taxes for the town only, and shall have all the powers of the sheriff for that purpose, and the board of mayor and aldermen shall fix the compensation of the town marshal for collecting the taxes and may require of him bond, payable to the mayor for the use of said town in such penalty as the mayor and aldermen may designate, conditioned faithfully to discharge his duty as collector and to pay over any money collected by him to the treasurer of the corporation, the mayor and aldermen may also require bond of the treasurer in such penalty as they may prescribe, conditioned safely to keep an account for any money belonging to said corporation which may come into his hands.

Make provision for assessing prop'ty

Require bond

SEC. 12. Be it further enacted, That it shall be unlawful to give away or sell vinous or spirituous liquors, wine or beer, ale or porter, in any quantity whatever, within the corporate limits of said town, and any person violating this section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and on conviction thereof shall be confined in the court district jail not more than three months or fined not more than two hundred dollars for each offence, at the discretion of the court trying the same, provided this section shall not apply to any practicing physician in said corporation, selling or giving away vinous or spirituous liquors for medical, culinary or sacramental purposes.

Sale of liquor prohibited.

SEC. 13. Be it further enacted, That all the fines collected by the mayor for violations of the by-laws and ordinances of the corporation of said town, shall be expended, if necessary, in keeping in repair the public roads and streets running through the corporation, and that all persons living in the limits of said corporation subject to road duty are hereby exempt from working on the public roads outside the corporation.

Keep streets in repair.

Approved January 25, 1888.

EXHIBIT B

# State of Mississippi,

Executive Department.

To Whom These Presents Shall Come... Greeting:

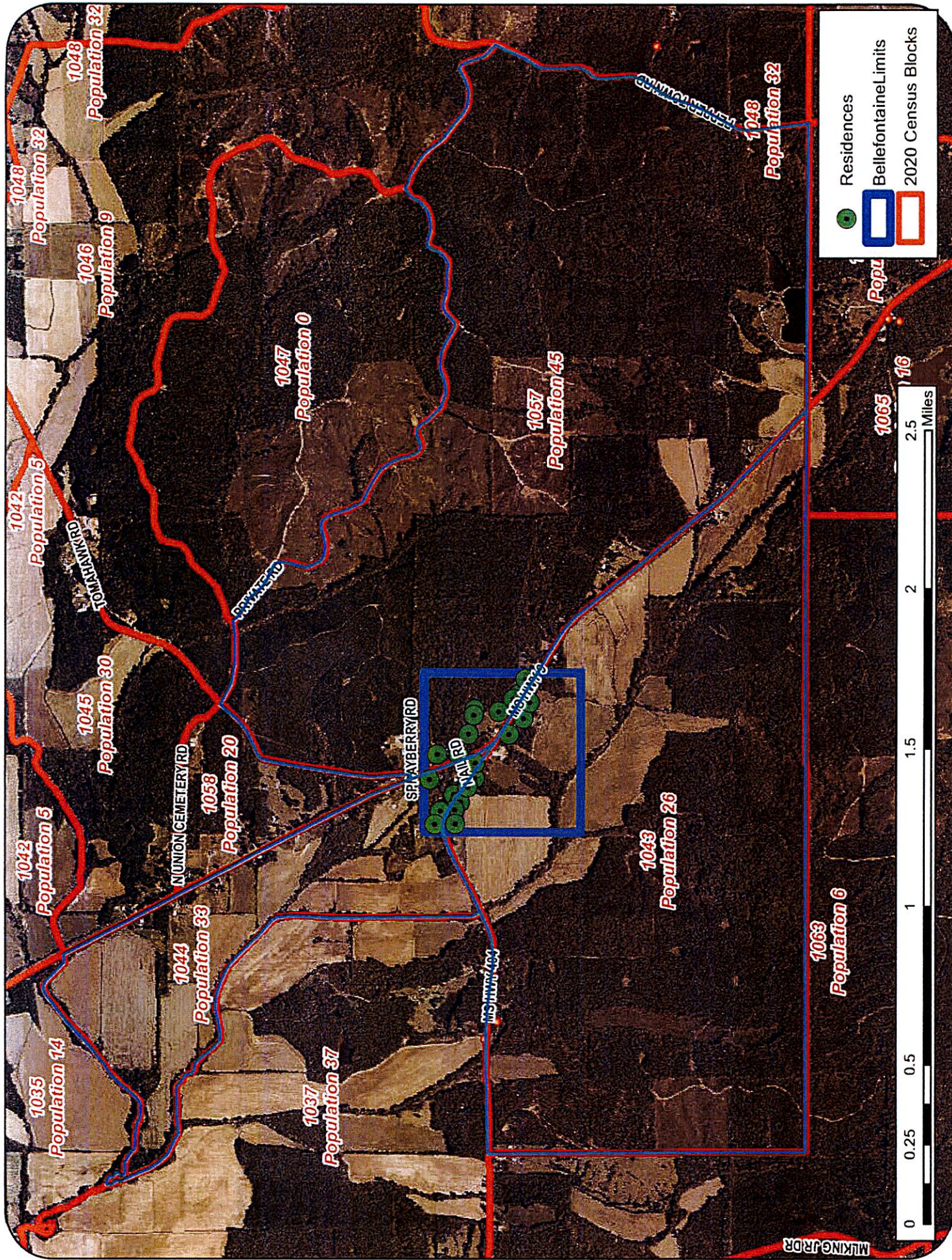
Whereas, the authorities of the Municipality of Bellefontaine in the county of Webster did not, by resolution, within twelve months after Chapter 93 of the Annotated Code of 1892 became operative, elect not to come under the provisions of said Chapter 93, as provided by section 3035 of said Code:

Now therefore, I, J. M. STONE, Governor of the State of Mississippi, in accordance with section 3037 of said Annotated Code of 1892, do issue this my proclamation assigning the Municipality of Bellefontaine in the County of Webster to the Third Class, and it shall hereafter be known and designated as the Village of Bellefontaine, with its limits and boundaries as already established by law, and said municipality shall from and after this date exercise the powers conferred by said Chapter 93 of the Annotated Code of 1892, and be governed by the provisions thereof

In Testimony Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State to be affixed. Done at the City of Jackson, this the 31<sup>st</sup> day of May in the year of our Lord 1895.

J. M. STONE.





Legend

- Residences (Green circle)
- Bellefontaine Limits (Blue outline)
- 2020 Census Blocks (Red outline)



MRKING RD

MSUMMERS RD

SPRAYBERRY RD

TAIL RD

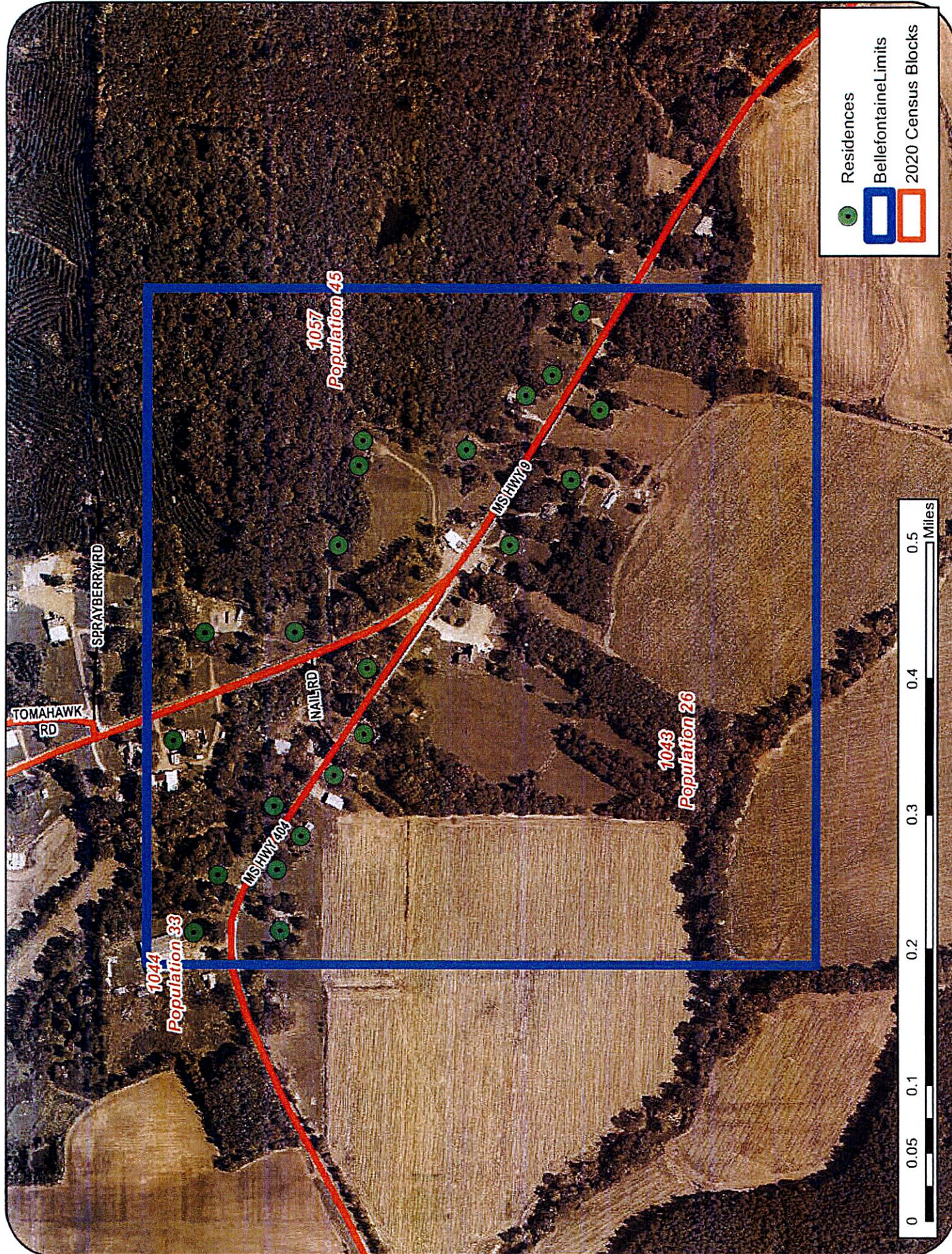
UNION CEMETERY RD

TOLKNER RD

COMMONWEALTH CEMETERY RD



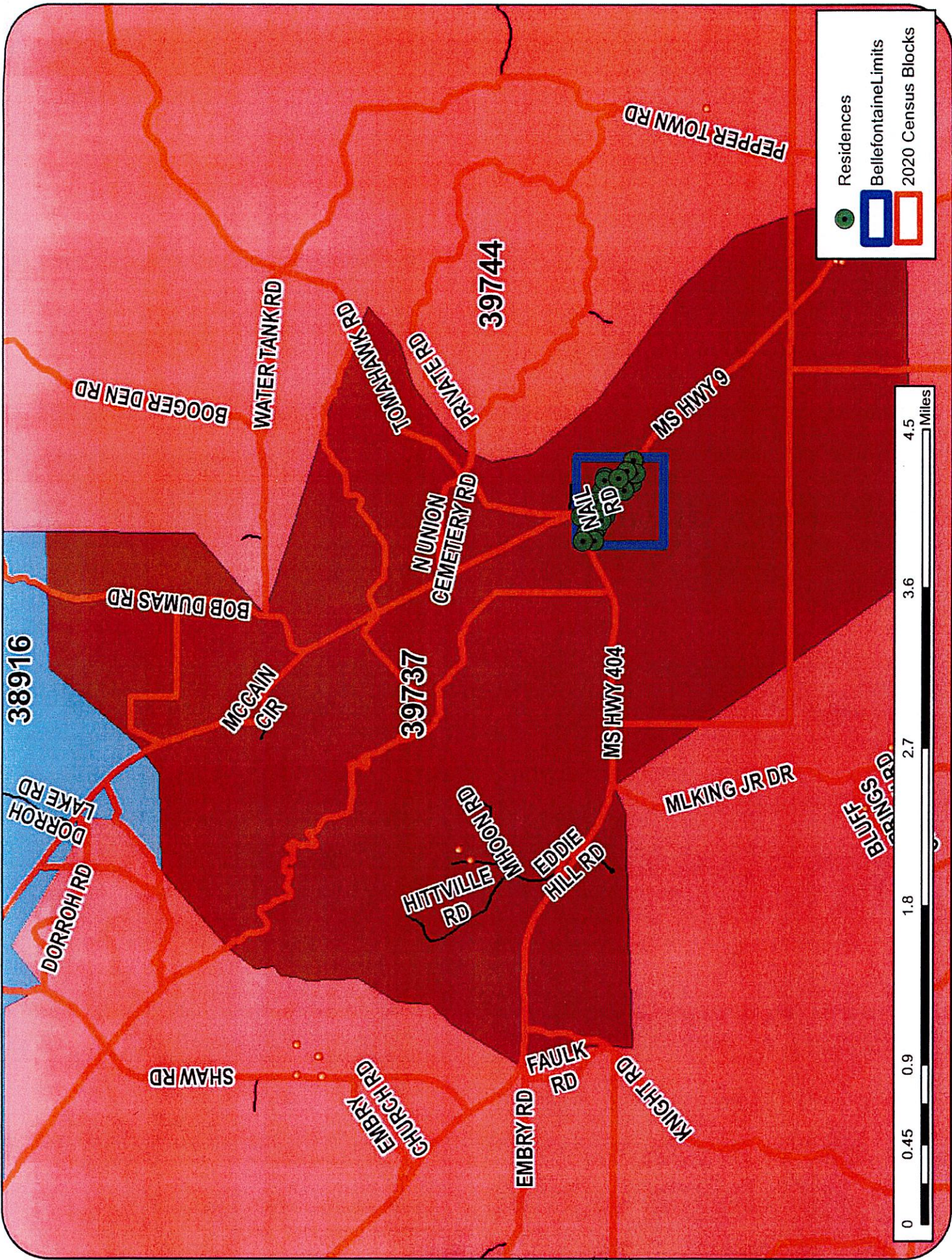
EXHIBIT 2



- Residences
- Bellefontaine Limits
- 2020 Census Blocks







Residences   
 Bellefontaine Limits   
 2020 Census Blocks 



F X T I R I I



# EXHIBIT E

2020 Census Data

Bellefontaine Population Estimate

Population\* 104 People

\*This is an Estimate, Census Blocks and the described Limits of Bellefontaine 1/2 Mile X 1/2 Mile do not follow each other and splits census blocks, Block 1044, 1043, and 1057 for a total of 104 people.

Of that 104 people, some will be outside the 1/2 Mile X 1/2 Mile.

House Count of Bellefontaine is 22 Residences

US Census 2018-2022 persons per household for Webster County is 2.42 people

$22 * 2.42 = 53.24$  or 53 people within the Area of Interest.

The most accurate way would be to survey what's in site the 1/2 Mile by 1/2 Mile and create your own census and have 100% data.

Roughly 366 people live in the Bellefontaine Zip Code