

# **Blind Boone Home Walking Tour Guide**

## **Start Here: 10 N. 4th Street, Columbia, MO**

Begin your walking tour at the historic Blind Boone Home, located at the corner of 4th and Broadway. This beautifully restored Victorian house was the residence of John William 'Blind' Boone - a musical prodigy, ragtime composer, and cultural icon.

## **Front of the House**

Admire the Queen Anne-style architecture. Note the decorative trim, wide front porch, and original woodwork. Imagine Boone welcoming guests, friends, and musicians from all over the country.

## **Step Inside (If Open for Tours)**

Look for the original pocket doors, woodwork, and ornate fireplace. Some tours display Boone's personal memorabilia and recreations of the pianos he played - sometimes up to seven at once!

## **Walk Around the Block**

Stroll through downtown Columbia's historic district. You're walking through one of the few remaining sites of a once-thriving African-American community from the late 1800s.

## **Nearby Stops (Optional Add-Ons)**

- University of Missouri Columns (10 min walk)
- Chinese Stone Lions outside Neff Hall
- Blind Boone Piano Sculpture at the Columbia Public Library
- Coffee spots nearby: Shortwave Coffee or Lakota Coffee Co.

## **Fun Facts About Blind Boone**

- Boone gave over 7,000 concerts in his lifetime.
- He was blind from infancy but could play full symphonies by ear.
- His famous piece 'The Marshfield Tornado' musically depicted a real storm.
- Boone fused classical and African-American folk music - helping shape early jazz.

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- He often donated concert proceeds to local causes.
- He toured with multiple pianos to create dramatic sound effects.