

**The Physical Setting**

**Location:**

Mason County is located in the northeastern part of the state on the Ohio River. It has a strategic location in that it is situated within an hours drive of three metropolitan areas: Cincinnati/Northern KY, Lexington, and Ashland/Huntington (Figure 2). In addition, it contains the largest city (Maysville) serving a seven county area that is largely rural/agricultural in its characteristics. Location played an important part in its early settlement and thereby its rich historical heritage. Location is one of the most valuable assets that Mason County has to offer.

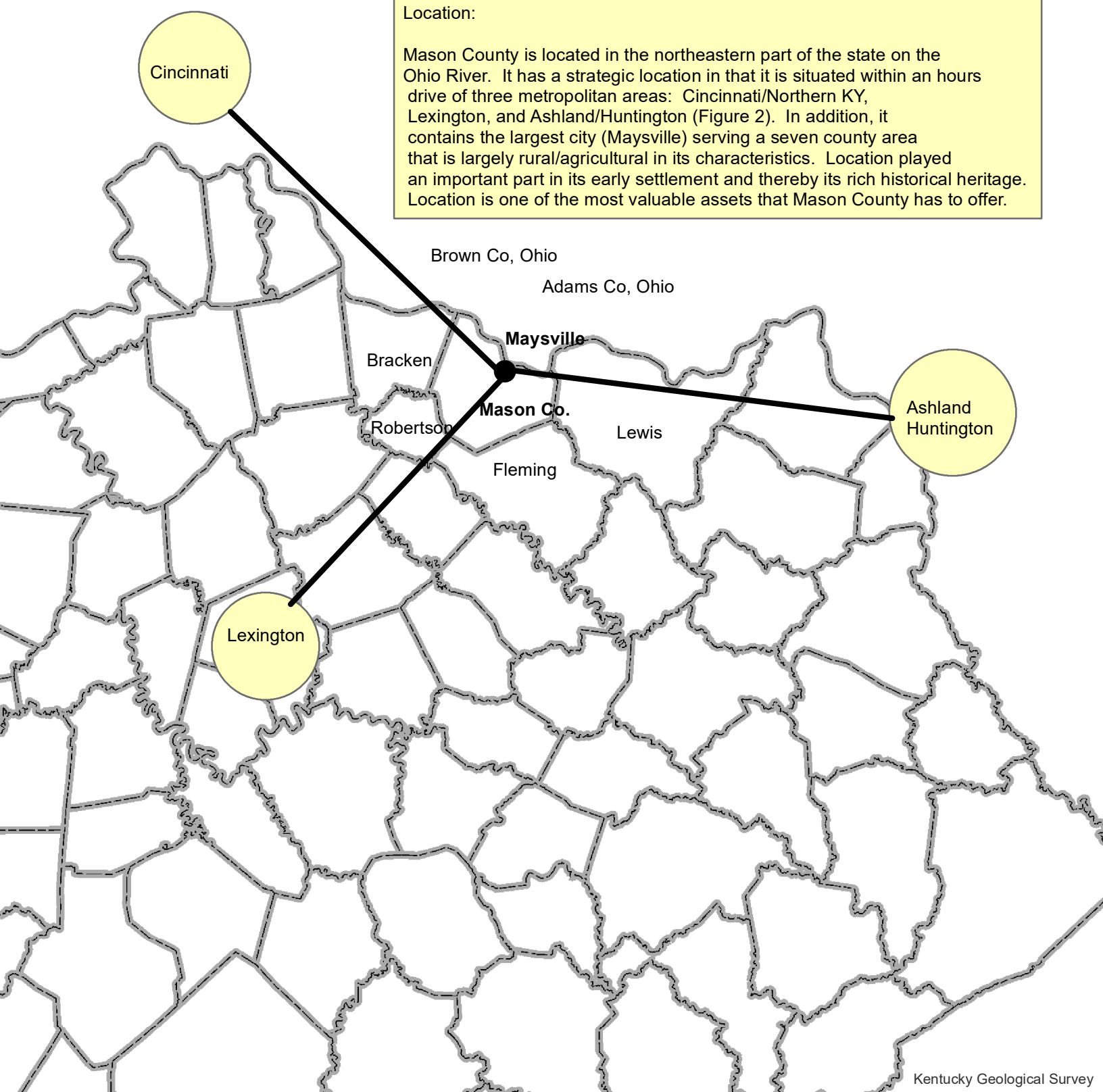


Figure 2. Mason County's Relative Location