



Historic Preservation in Kentucky's 3rd Congressional District

Programs of the Kentucky Heritage Council – www.heritage.ky.gov

Rep. John Yarmuth – February 2013

3rd District: Jefferson County

An agency of the Kentucky Tourism, Arts and Heritage Cabinet, the Kentucky Heritage Council/State Historic Preservation Office (KHC) is responsible for the identification, protection and preservation of prehistoric resources and historic buildings, sites and cultural resources throughout the Commonwealth, in partnership with other state and federal agencies, local communities and interested citizens.

KHC administers the Kentucky Historic Preservation Tax Credit in partnership with the Kentucky Department of Revenue, and the Federal Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit in partnership with the National Park Service, both utilized as important incentives for private investment in historic buildings. The agency also administers the National Register of Historic Places in Kentucky, which has the 4th highest number of National Register listings in the U.S. following New York, Massachusetts and Ohio, with more than 3,200 districts, sites and structures incorporating 42,000 historic features. Kentucky works proactively to list National Register sites, as being listed in or eligible for the National Register is required to qualify for state or federal rehab tax credits.

The Kentucky Main Street Program (KYMS) was created by KHC in 1979 as a way to help communities focus on historic preservation as a means to support economic development and infrastructure investment in downtowns by leveraging local historic, cultural and architectural assets. Based on the National Trust Main Street Center Four-Point Approach®, KYMS is the oldest statewide downtown revitalization program in the nation.

KENTUCKY MAIN STREET PROGRAM: KYMS currently serves 71 communities, including, **in the 3rd District, Downtown Louisville.**

In 2012, Kentucky Main Street programs **reported \$129,512,869 total investment**, representing, cumulatively, **\$86,935,584 in public investment** from all sources, matched by **\$42,577,291 in private investment**, and supported by **104,985 volunteer hours** committed by KYMS board members and community supporters! These statewide figures represent:

- 1,234 net jobs in Main Street districts
- 279 new businesses created
- 111 new housing units in downtowns
- 321 downtown buildings rehabilitated

Over three decades, **Kentucky can document \$3.73 billion in public-private investment** throughout the Commonwealth through the Kentucky Main Street programs.



3rd District Highlight: Adjacent to the new KFC Yum! Center, CITY Properties Group, Valle Jones and Stephen Jones have completed development of a mixed commercial/residential project – Whiskey Row Lofts – amid the Whiskey Row Historic District. Both state and federal preservation tax credits contributed to the financial feasibility of this project. Rehabilitation of five of the remaining seven buildings along the same block – also utilizing both state and federal rehabilitation credits – is well underway, and once complete will greatly enhance the vitality of this Main Street corridor. As calculated by the Preservation Economic Impact Model (PEIM) developed by Rutgers University, Center for Urban Policy Research, the overall economic impact of the developed block will

translate to an estimated \$1.9 million in tax revenue for the Commonwealth and \$1.4 million in local tax revenue.

SITE IDENTIFICATION: The **Kentucky Historic Resources Inventory** is the written and photographic record of all known historic buildings, structures and sites in the state and includes individual listings of houses, barns, outbuildings, commercial buildings, and landscape features such as rock fences and bridges. KHC has utilized fieldwork to conduct an ongoing survey of historic sites in all 120 Kentucky counties, and **today the database lists more than 90,000 entries.** Data collected and recorded through the survey provides the foundation for many KHC programs including the National Register and Kentucky Main Street Program, and is also used for publication of local architectural and cultural histories, comparison in evaluating National Register eligibility, and development of preservation plans.

Listing in the **National Register of Historic Places** can be applied to buildings, objects, structures, districts and archaeological sites, and proposed sites must be significant in architecture, engineering, American history or culture, or possess a special role in the development of our country. For



Lustron House

FY2011-12, 27 sites were listed, including 19 individual properties with 67 contributing features, and

eight National Register historic districts with 575 contributing features.

In the 3rd District, three sites were added to the National Register in 2012, **Charles D. Jacob Elementary School, Jefferson Jacob Rosenwald School and a Lustron House.**



Jefferson Jacob School

CERTIFIED LOCAL GOVERNMENTS (CLGs): Coordinated by the National Park Service, the Certified Local Government program designates local city and county governments that enact local historic preservation ordinances, recognizing **that these Kentucky communities are dedicated to historic preservation as a public policy** and actively protect their historic places. Kentucky currently has 22 participating communities including, **in the 3rd District, Anchorage, Louisville Metro Government and Middletown.** Statewide, for FY 2011-12, eight CLGs were awarded grants totaling \$80,520 with a local match of \$53,680, generating an additional \$134,200 of investment.

IDA LEE WILLIS MEMORIAL FOUNDATION

PRESERVATION AWARDS: Presented annually in partnership with KHC to recognize excellence in historic preservation projects and individual efforts, those recognized **from the 3rd District** in recent years include the **Louisville Water Company Pump Station 1** and owner **Louisville Water Company, Henry Clay Hotel, Howard-Hardy House, Old Heywood School, Louisville Glassworks Lofts, St. Cecilia Senior Apartments, and Whiskey Row Lofts: Trademart Building and Hamilton Brothers Warehouse.** The 2012 Ida Lee Willis Memorial Award went to **Richard T. Jett,** retiring Metro Louisville Historic Preservation Officer.



Richard Jett

NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS: Kentucky has **30 National Historic Landmarks,** which are nationally significant historic places designated by the Secretary of the Interior because they possess exceptional value or quality illustrating or interpreting the heritage of the United States. Today, fewer than 2,500 historic places bear this national distinction. **In the 3rd District,** National Historic Landmarks are the **Belle of Louisville, Churchill Downs, Locust Grove, Louisville Water Company Tower and Pumping Station, Mayor Andrew Broaddus, Old Bank of Louisville, Zachary Taylor House and the U.S. Marine Hospital.**