



Historic Preservation in Kentucky's 4th Congressional District

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

Rep. Geoff Davis – March 2012

4th District Counties: Boone, Boyd (part), Bracken, Campbell, Carroll, Gallatin, Grant, Greenup, Harrison, Henry, Jefferson (part), Kenton, Lewis, Mason, Oldham, Owen, Pendleton, Shelby, Spencer (part) and Trimble

HISTORIC PRESERVATION TAX CREDITS: Kentucky has been a national leader in the use of historic rehabilitation tax credits, for historic commercial and residential buildings listed in or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. In 2011, Kentucky ranked 7th nationally utilizing Federal Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credits, **with 28 successfully completed projects generating investment of \$19,637,125**. For the same time period, Kentucky also ranked 7th in approved project proposals.



Since the Kentucky Historic Preservation Tax Credit was implemented in 2005, to date, **530 historic rehabilitation projects** have been reviewed **representing private investment of \$447,185,207** statewide. This includes 165 commercial projects completed plus another 142 proposed, 149 owner-occupied residential projects completed with another 48 proposed, and 21 non-profit projects completed with another 13 proposed. **In the 4th District, 102 projects have been awarded \$2,602,484** in Kentucky historic rehabilitation tax credits since 2005, from **\$41,223,508 invested** in rehabilitation.

KENTUCKY MAIN STREET PROGRAM: Established in 1979, the Kentucky Main Street Program is the oldest statewide downtown revitalization program in the nation, focusing on historic preservation as a means to support economic development by leveraging local historic, cultural and architectural assets in the central business district. More than 70 communities actively participate, including, **in the 4th District, Ashland, Augusta, Bellevue, Carrollton, Covington, Dayton, Flemingsburg, Fort Thomas, LaGrange, Maysville, New Castle, Shelbyville, Taylorsville and Vanceburg.**

In 2011, Kentucky Main Street programs **reported more than \$177 million invested in downtowns**, representing:

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| • 481 net jobs in Main Street districts | 4th District: |
| • 311 new businesses created | 68 new businesses created |
| • 107 new housing units in downtowns | 28 new housing units in downtowns |
| • 314 downtown buildings rehabilitated | 77 downtown buildings rehabilitated |

Totalling \$177,605,154, this includes:

- \$120,649,724 in public investment, and \$56,955,430 in private investment
- 88,594 volunteer hours committed by board members and community supporters!

Over three decades, **Kentucky can document \$3.6 billion in public-private investment** throughout the Commonwealth through the Kentucky Main Street and Renaissance on Main programs.



4th District Highlight: Covington is Kentucky's fifth largest city and the most densely populated in northern Kentucky. A spiraling pattern of neglect in the city's east end led to the disrepair and eventual abandonment of a number of significant historic properties. With the assistance of federal funds, the city purchased about 70 of these properties and then worked with the Housing Authority of Covington (HAC) to develop a plan for reuse. The Model Group, along with its architect, CityStudios, responded with an interesting solution – apply for Low Income Housing Tax Credits, as well as historic tax credits, to complete a phased redevelopment project, which would require long-term partnerships between Model Group, the city, HAC, the Kentucky Housing Corporation, the Kentucky Heritage Council, multiple investors and lenders, and the community. Now referred to as the **Eastside Revitalization Project**, this project includes over 40 rehabilitated historic properties and about 114 housing units. It has transformed vacant historic buildings into safe, affordable housing, while retaining the integrity of the historic neighborhoods.

SITE IDENTIFICATION: The **Kentucky Historic Resources Inventory** is the permanent written and photographic record of Kentucky's historic places – including houses, barns, outbuildings, commercial buildings and landscape features such as rock fences – documented through extensive research and fieldwork. **In 2011, this registry topped 90,000 entries.** Data collected provides the foundation for many Kentucky Heritage Council programs including the National Register and Kentucky Main Street Program, as well as for communities in the development of preservation plans and for publication of local architectural and cultural histories.



Yew Dell Farm

The **National Register of Historic Places** is the nation's official list of historic and archaeological resources deemed worthy of preservation. **Kentucky has the 4th highest number** of listings in the nation – more than 3,200 districts, sites and structures incorporating 42,000 historic features. Sites listed in or eligible for the National Register can qualify for tax credits and other state and federal incentives for historic rehabilitation.

In the 4th District: 9,351 sites have been surveyed, 2,355 archaeological sites have been identified, and 5,462 properties are listed in the National Register including 71 districts. A 2011 survey highlight was 168 forms submitted for the Mutter Gottes Historic Preservation Overlay in the city of Covington through a Certified Local Government grant from the Kentucky Heritage Council. Also in 2011, three National Register sites were added: the Cox Building in Maysville, LaSalette Academy in Kenton County and Yew Dell Farm in Oldham County.

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 4th District**, National Historic Landmarks are the **Daniel C. Beard Boyhood Home** and **Roebling Suspension Bridge** in Covington, and the **Whitney M. Young Birthplace and Boyhood Home** in Shelby County.

SAVE AMERICA'S TREASURES: Kentucky has received more than \$6 million in SAT funds for 26 projects, generating an additional \$6.3 million in matching funds and a **total investment of \$12.4 million.** Of these, it has been quantified that 17 projects created 171 jobs for a total investment of \$21,536 per job, compared with statistics showing that jobs generated in Kentucky in 2010 through federal stimulus funds averaged \$233,839 per job created. **In the 4th District**, \$197,000 has been invested through this public-private partnership in Behringer-Crawford Museum.

PRESERVE AMERICA: With a total of 74, **Kentucky has more Preserve America designations than any other state.** **In the 4th District**, these include Ashland, Augusta, Bellevue, Boone County, Carrollton, Covington, Cynthiana, Dayton, Erlanger, Fort Thomas, LaGrange, Maysville, New Castle, Newport, Rabbit Hash, Shelbyville and Warsaw. Since 2006, 11 Kentucky Preserve America projects have received \$735,770 in grants that require at least a dollar-for-dollar match, a **total investment of more than \$1.7 million statewide.** This includes, **in the 4th District**, \$360,000 public-private investment for the Discover Landmark Covington Cultural Heritage Tourism Program and \$69,000 toward information kiosks and wayfinding signage for the Burlington Business District.



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 4th District**, **Bellevue, Boone County, Covington, LaGrange, Maysville, Newport** and **Shelbyville.** For FY 2011-12, eight CLGs (including Bellevue and Covington) 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 to recognize excellence in historic preservation projects and individual efforts, projects recognized **from the 4th District** in recent years include the **Eastside Revitalization Project, Carnegie Visual and Performing Arts Center** and **Odd Fellows Hall** in Covington, and the **John Dale House** in Shelby County.