

Historic Preservation in Kentucky's 5th Congressional District

Rep. Harold "Hal" Rogers

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5th District Counties: Bath (pt), Bell, Breathitt, Clay, Floyd, Harlan, Jackson, Johnson, Knott, Knox, Laurel, Lawrence, Lee, Leslie, Letcher, Magoffin, Martin, McCreary, Menifee, Morgan, Owsley, Perry, Pike, Pulaski, Rockcastle, Rowan, Wayne, Whitley & Wolfe

National Historic Landmarks: Kentucky has 30 National Historic Landmarks. National Historic Landmarks **in the 5th District** are **Middle Creek National Battlefield, Mill Springs Battlefield, Pine Mountain Settlement School** and **Wendover, the Frontier Nursing Service Headquarters**. Other sites with national significance include the **Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area, Cumberland Gap** and **Daniel Boone National Forest**.



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. For fiscal year 2010, **Kentucky ranked 8th nationally utilizing Federal Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credits, with 27 successfully completed projects generating investment of**

\$18,223,755. For the same time period, Kentucky also ranked 7th in approved project proposals.

Since the Kentucky Historic Preservation Tax Credit was implemented in 2005, **425 historic rehabilitation projects** have been reviewed representing a **private investment \$341,614,364** in historic rehabilitation in Kentucky. This includes 128 commercial projects completed plus another 130 proposed, and 129 owner-occupied residential projects completed with another 38 proposed.

Kentucky Main Street Program: Established in 1979, the Kentucky Main Street Program is the oldest statewide downtown revitalization program in the nation. More than 100 Kentucky communities have participated in the program. In 2009, Kentucky Main Street and Renaissance on Main programs **reported more than \$335 million invested in downtowns through these programs and combined public-private investment** representing:

- **1,047 net jobs** in Main Street districts
- **341 new businesses** created
- **398 downtown buildings** rehabilitated

This investment includes:

- \$113,113,955 in public improvements, such as streetscape projects
- \$222,378,904 in private investment
- 61,878 volunteer hours committed by board members and community supporters!

Since the program began, **more than \$3.5 billion has been reinvested in Kentucky!**



5th District cities with participating Main Street programs are **Barbourville, Beattyville, Benham, Corbin, Cumberland, Harlan, Hyden, London, Lynch, Middlesboro, Morehead, Paintsville, Pikeville, Pineville, Salyersville** and **Williamsburg**.



Preserve America Communities: With a total of 73, Kentucky has more designated *Preserve America Communities* than any other state. Designated communities in the **5th District** are **Barbourville, Benham, Cumberland, Harlan, Letcher County, London, Lynch, Mount Vernon, Pikeville** and **Pineville**. Since 2006, **11 Kentucky Preserve America projects** have received **\$735,770** in grants that require a dollar-for-dollar match, a **total investment of more than \$1.4 million**.

Save America's Treasures: Kentucky has received **\$6.3 million in SAT funds for 24 projects, generating an additional \$7.8 million in matching funds and a total investment of \$14 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 through federal stimulus funds have averaged \$233,839 per job created. In the **5th District, Pine Mountain Settlement School received an SAT grant of \$138,575 in 2008 and Appalshop received \$135,000 in 2002.**

Certified Local Governments (CLGs): This program, coordinated by the National Park Service, designates local governments (cities and counties) that enact local historic preservation ordinances. CLG designation recognizes that these Kentucky communities are dedicated to historic preservation as a public policy and are actively protecting their historic places. CLGs in the **5th District** include **Middlesboro** and **Pikeville.**

2010-11 Federal Survey and Planning Grants: In 2010, the Kentucky Heritage Council accepted applications for Federal Survey and Planning Grants, through which \$90,000 in federal money from the National Historic Preservation Fund was made available as subgrants to local governments, universities and nonprofit organizations. Grants were offered for priority activities meeting goals outlined in the 2010-14 Kentucky State Historic Preservation Plan. Thirty-one applications were received with requests totaling \$252,000. In the **5th District, London received a grant for \$4,500** to survey remaining 19th and early 20th century buildings in the commercial core and use these to prepare a National Register nomination and help owners qualify for state and federal tax credits.

Site Identification: In 2010, the Site Identification Program assisted with **adding 27 Kentucky sites and historic districts to the National Register of Historic Places,** including in the **5th District** Morris Fork Presbyterian Church and Community Center, the J.J. Nesbitt House in Owingville and the Christian Church of West Liberty. The National Park Service is currently reviewing listing of Jenkins School in Letcher County. 2010 has also been a productive year for the survey section, with 2,215 sites entered into the database, 224 site checks completed, 27 Landmark Certificates issued and 2,459 survey forms reviewed and logged. Since its inception, the Heritage Council has utilized field work to conduct an ongoing survey of historic sites in all 120 Kentucky counties, and today the database consists of more than 85,000 entries.

Key Civil War Sites: On February 12, 2010, Kentucky officially transitioned from a two-year celebration of the bicentennial of Abraham Lincoln's birth in Kentucky to the beginning of planning a Civil War Sesquicentennial commemoration. Key sites that will be highlighted in the **5th District** include **Cumberland Gap National Historical Park** in Bell County, **Middle Creek National Battlefield** in Johnson County, **Battle of Ivy Mountain** in Floyd County, **Mill Springs Battlefield** in Pulaski County, and the **Battle of Wildcat Mountain** in Laurel County.

Ida Lee Willis Memorial Foundation Preservation Awards: Presented annually to recognize excellence in historic preservation, projects recognized from the **5th District** in recent years include the **Coal Miner's Memorial Theater** in Benham and **Pine Mountain Settlement School** in Harlan County.

The Kentucky Heritage Council / Preservation Kentucky **Annual Student Photo-Essay Competition** is currently underway and in its 13th year. Winning entries in recent years from the **5th District** have highlighted the **Kate York Campbell House** in Pikeville, **Samuel May House** in Prestonsburg, **Harlan County Courthouse** in Harlan, **Portal 31** in Harlan County, **Stearns Company Office Building** in McCreary County, **Isom Post Office** in Letcher County, **First Presbyterian Church** in Somerset, the **West Metcalf House** in Wayne County and **stone houses** in Pike County.



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