



## Historic Preservation in Kentucky's 1<sup>st</sup> Congressional District

Programs of the Kentucky Heritage Council – [www.heritage.ky.gov](http://www.heritage.ky.gov)

Rep. Ed Whitfield – February 2013

**1<sup>st</sup> District Counties:** Adair, Allen, Ballard, Caldwell, Calloway, Carlisle, Casey, Christian, Clinton, Crittenden, Cumberland, Fulton, Graves, Henderson, Hickman, Hopkins, Livingston, Logan, Lyon, Marion, Marshall, McCracken, McLean, Metcalfe, Monroe, Muhlenberg, Ohio, Russell, Simpson, Taylor, Todd, Trigg, Union, Washington (part) and Webster

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 4<sup>th</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> District, Benton, Cadiz, Campbellsville, Dawson Springs, Guthrie, Henderson, Hopkinsville, Lebanon, Marion, Murray, Paducah, Princeton, Russellville and Scottsville.** In 2010, the National Trust for Historic Preservation named Paducah a Great American Main Street, and in 2011 it was named one of the National Trust's Dozen Distinctive Destinations.

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

This compares with **\$38,393,471 total investment** reported by **1<sup>st</sup> District** KYMS communities, including **\$34,359,643** invested from all sources, matched by **\$4,033,834 in private investment**, and representing:

- 150 net jobs in Main Street districts
- 85 new businesses created
- 14 new housing units in downtowns
- 109 downtown buildings rehabilitated
- 37,766 volunteer hours

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

During presentation of the biennial 2012 Kentucky Main Street Program Awards, **1<sup>st</sup> District** KYMS communities recognized were **Heart of Scottsville**, for Best of Promotion – Marketing, for a Facebook campaign to increase the program's fan base and raise public awareness of its work; and **Main Street Russellville**, Best of Economic Restructuring, for creating alliances to facilitate opening of Kentucky Artisans at the Saddle Factory, a business showcasing the work of local and regional artists.



**1<sup>st</sup> District Highlight:** Nearly 200 people from across the state converged on the small town of Princeton Sept. 20-22 for the biennial **Kentucky State Historic Preservation Conference**, hosted by the Kentucky Heritage Council in partnership with Preservation Kentucky Inc., a membership-based nonprofit. Activities included a full schedule of tours, workshops, educational sessions including nationally known speakers, and meetings of affiliate organizations.



Princeton

The decision was made to present the conference in the Western Kentucky Lakes Region following a proposal submitted by a consortium of sponsoring organizations to showcase historic and scenic resources of **Princeton, Dawson Springs, Eddyville and Kuttawa**. Presenting co-sponsors were the city of Princeton, Princeton Main Street/Renaissance on Main, Princeton Tourism Commission, Lyon County Tourism, and the Dawson Springs Main Street and Preservation Program, with assistance from many other local organizations. The conference theme, "Our Towns: Partnering Regionally, Preserving Locally," emphasized the need to focus local efforts in neighborhoods and communities while seeking opportunities to work together regionally for the economic benefit of all. 2012 was the first conference to take place away from a major metropolitan region since the conference was first staged in 1986.

**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 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 1<sup>st</sup> District**, two Paducah sites were listed in 2012, the **Wallace Park Neighborhood District** and **Jefferson Street-Fountain Avenue Historic District** expansion.



Dawson Springs

**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 23 participating communities including, **in the 1<sup>st</sup> District, Campbellsville, Dawson Springs, Hopkinsville and Paducah**. Statewide, for FY 2012-13, eight CLGs were awarded grants totaling \$81,410 with a local match of \$54,273, for \$135,683 of combined investment. In **Campbellsville**, a grant of \$6,466 will be matched locally with \$4,311 to resurvey and document properties within the local and National Register historic districts; and in **Dawson**

**Springs**, a grant of \$9,166, matched locally with \$6,111, will go toward surveying historic properties and preparing a National Register nomination for the West Dawson Historic District.

**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 1<sup>st</sup> District** in recent years include the **Murray Main Street Program, River Heritage Museum** in Paducah, **St. Stephen Catholic Church** in Lyon County and **Cadiz City Hall**.

**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 1<sup>st</sup> District**, National Historic Landmarks are **Burke's Distillery** in Loretto, **Indian Knoll** in Ohio County, and **Green River Shell Middens Archaeological District** in Henderson, McClean, Muhlenberg and Ohio counties.