



Historic Preservation in Kentucky's 6th Congressional District

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

Rep. Andy Barr – February 2013

6th District Counties: Anderson, Bath, Bourbon, Clark, Estill, Fayette, Fleming, Franklin, Harrison (part), Jessamine (part), Madison, Menifee, Montgomery, Nicholas, Powell, Robertson, Scott, Wolfe and Woodford

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 6th District, Flemingsburg, Frankfort, Georgetown, Mount Sterling, Nicholasville, Paris, Sadieville and Winchester.**

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 **\$8,417,076 total investment** reported by **6th District** KYMS communities, including **\$4,305,799** invested from all sources, matched by **\$4,111,283 in private investment**, and representing:

- 28 net jobs in Main Street districts
- 44 new businesses created
- 7 new housing units in downtowns
- 53 downtown buildings rehabilitated
- 7,126 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, the **Paris Main Street Program** in the **6th District** was recognized in the Design (subcategory), Best Downtown Public Improvement Project for creating a two-mile Downtown Paris Walking Trail encouraging fitness while showcasing local businesses.

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 6th District**, four sites were listed in the National Register in 2012, **Spindletop Farm** and **Springview Farm** in Fayette County, the **Raccoon John Smith House** in Fleming County, and **Elmwood** in Madison County.



Archaeology at Ashland

6th District Highlight: Presentations and discussions of past accomplishments and future directions in Kentucky archaeology will be the focus of the **30th Annual Kentucky Heritage Council Archaeology Conference** March 15-17 at the Crowne Plaza/Campbell House Inn in Lexington, coordinated by KHC's Site Protection Program. The conference is the primary opportunity for professional archaeologists working in Kentucky to share research, project updates and important findings from their investigations of historic and prehistoric archaeological sites across the state. To mark the anniversary, a panel of leading professionals will discuss key contributions of Kentucky archaeology over the last three decades with regard to legislation, methods, and regional studies including prehistoric and early historic chronology, settlement, subsistence and material culture studies. Trends will also be explored in public- and education-oriented archaeology, technological advances in the discipline, and cultural resource management. Activities will include

a public archaeological tour of **Ashland: The Henry Clay Estate** and one of the **Mount Horeb Earthworks**. The conference is co-sponsored by the Kentucky Archaeological Survey, a joint program of KHC and the University of Kentucky Department of Anthropology; Preservation Kentucky Inc.; the Blue Grass Trust; the Kentucky Organization of Professional Archaeologists; and several private consulting firms.

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 6th District**, **Frankfort** and **Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government**. 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 **Frankfort**, a grant of \$13,200 will be matched locally with \$8,800 to complete the South Frankfort survey project, and to prepare a National Register nomination and update and expand the existing South Frankfort Historic District National Register listing.

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 6th District** in recent years include 2011 Ida Lee Willis Memorial Award recipient **Robert M. "Bob" Polsgrove**, the **Grand Theatre, Old State National Bank and Cemetery Chapel** in Frankfort; the **Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government Division of Historic Preservation** and **Lemon Hill Mansion** in Fayette County; **Sullivan Slave Quarters** and the **W.E. Pullen Building** in Georgetown; **St. Joseph Catholic Church** in Winchester; the **White House at Camp Nelson** in Jessamine County; and **Johnson Creek Covered Bridge** in Robertson 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 6th District**, National Historic Landmarks are **Ashland/The Henry Clay Estate** and **Keeneland** in Lexington; **Fort Boonesborough** in Madison County; **Labrot & Graham Distillery** in Woodford County; **Liberty Hall, Orlando Brown House** and the **Old State Capitol** in Frankfort; **Lincoln Hall** at Berea College; and **Old Morrison** at Transylvania College.