



Breckinridge County Fiscal Court and partners working to preserve the Holt House are honored to be involved in this project recognizing the legacy of Judge Joseph Holt, a notable Breckinridge County native, through preserving this historic and architecturally significant site. These include the Kentucky Heritage Council / State Historic Preservation Office, Kentucky Historical Society, Preservation Kentucky, Kentucky Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission, local leaders and elected officials, and many community volunteers and advocates now working under the umbrella of Friends of the Holt House to assist fiscal court in developing a long-term rehabilitation and reuse strategy.

For more information:
 Call 270-756-0268 or email chamber@breckinridgecounty.com
 270-756-2573 or email dyersl@bhc.com
www.breckinridgecounty.com

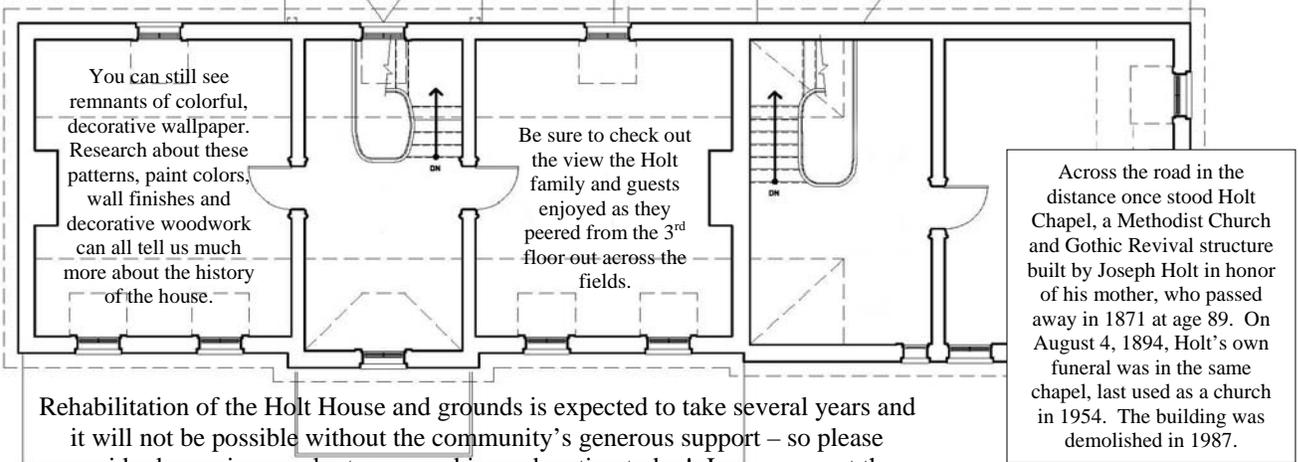
2nd Annual Judge Joseph Holt House Community Day Self-Guided Walking Tour

The land where the Holt House sits originally belonged to Richard Stephens, Holt's maternal grandfather, who earned a land grant following his service in the Revolutionary War and eventually amassed 93,000 acres along the Ohio River stretching from Louisville westward. Stephens was the youngest captain of George Washington's army, and at the time of his death was the wealthiest landowner in Breckinridge County. The town of Stephensport east of the Holt property was named in his honor, once a thriving community that served as one of two major shipping hubs in the region.

The Holt farmstead was settled in 1811 after Stephens gave 10,000 acres of his holdings to his daughter, Eleanor, and her husband, John Holt, a successful attorney who also served as surveyor of roads for Breckinridge County. He and Eleanor constructed a log home that burned in the late 1840s and was replaced by the three-story brick residence that stands today.

Stabilization of the exterior of the Judge Joseph Holt House is a critical first step in beginning the long-term restoration of the site and grounds. Repairing the roof, gutters and windows to halt and prevent further water damage is essential and should happen before other work proceeds.

The house has been vacant since the late 1960s. Neglect and vandalism have taken a toll and the home's interior has been stripped of many architectural details including fireplace mantels and trim. Even so, both the exterior and interior of the home are in good condition.



Rehabilitation of the Holt House and grounds is expected to take several years and it will not be possible without the community's generous support – so please consider becoming a volunteer or making a donation today! Learn more at the registration table, where you can also sign up to receive project updates.

THIRD FLOOR PLAN
 JOSEPH HOLT HOUSE - BRECKINRIDGE COUNTY
 SCALE 0 4' 8' 16'

The Judge Joseph Holt House was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1976 based on its significance in national history, politics and architecture. Both the unique design of the home and the history associated with the life of Joseph Holt tell important stories about this site.

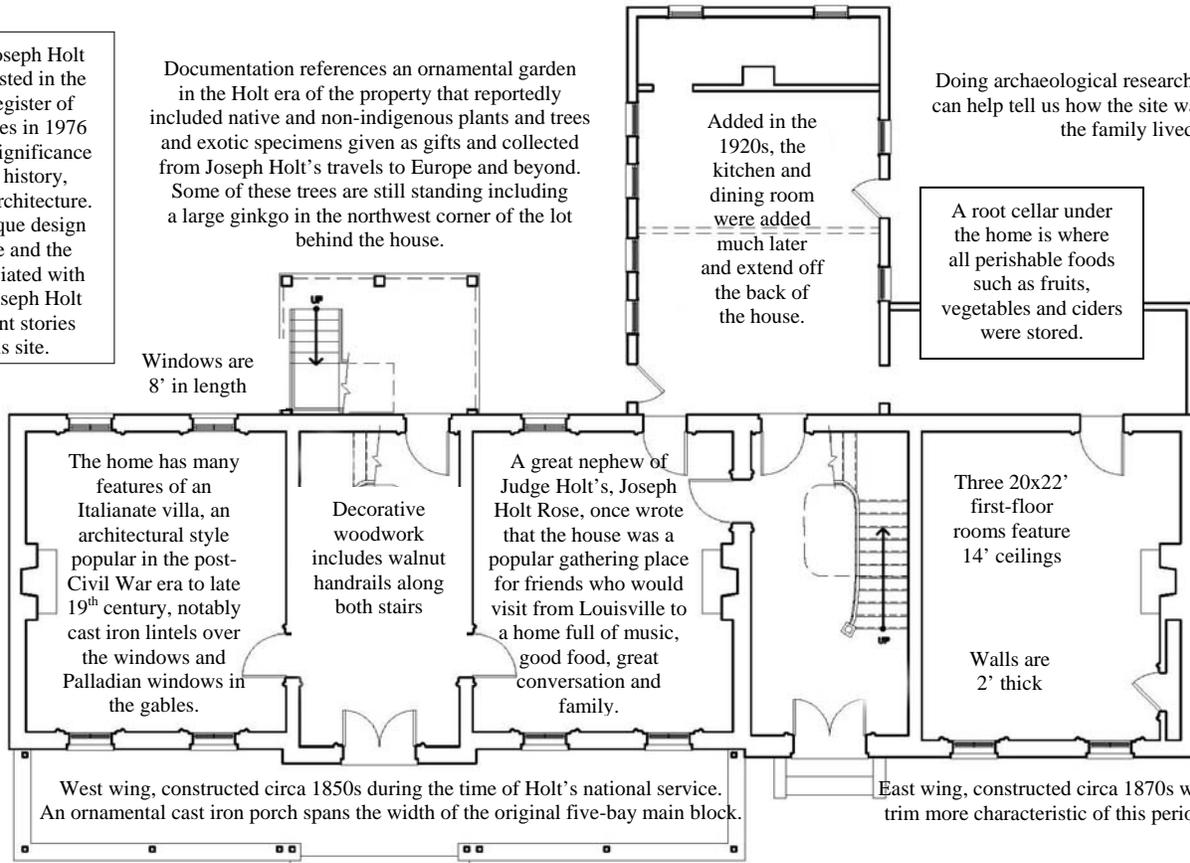
Documentation references an ornamental garden in the Holt era of the property that reportedly included native and non-indigenous plants and trees and exotic specimens given as gifts and collected from Joseph Holt's travels to Europe and beyond. Some of these trees are still standing including a large ginkgo in the northwest corner of the lot behind the house.

Doing archaeological research on the grounds can help tell us how the site was used and how the family lived.

Added in the 1920s, the kitchen and dining room were added much later and extend off the back of the house.

A root cellar under the home is where all perishable foods such as fruits, vegetables and ciders were stored.

Windows are 8' in length



The home has many features of an Italianate villa, an architectural style popular in the post-Civil War era to late 19th century, notably cast iron lintels over the windows and Palladian windows in the gables.

Decorative woodwork includes walnut handrails along both stairs

A great nephew of Judge Holt's, Joseph Holt Rose, once wrote that the house was a popular gathering place for friends who would visit from Louisville to a home full of music, good food, great conversation and family.

Three 20x22' first-floor rooms feature 14' ceilings

Walls are 2' thick

Following Judge Holt's death in 1894, his body was returned to Breckinridge County and he is buried along with his parents and other relatives in the cemetery to the east.

The grounds immediately around the house include such improvements as a wrought iron fence and brick pathways.

West wing, constructed circa 1850s during the time of Holt's national service. An ornamental cast iron porch spans the width of the original five-bay main block.

East wing, constructed circa 1870s with trim more characteristic of this period.

In the front yard were two soft metal Grecian Goddess statues, one holding a cluster of grapes in one hand and the other holding a bouquet of flowers, reportedly gifts presented to Judge Holt.

GROUND FLOOR PLAN
JOSEPH HOLT HOUSE - BRECKINRIDGE COUNTY
SCALE 0 4' 8' 16'

The home is located on the banks of the Ohio River, a rare placement at the time of its construction. At one point, the property (still known today as Holt Bottoms) grew to include a chapel, school, store, servant quarters, barns and outbuildings. Imagine if you will how this home looked during Judge Holt's time, surrounded by formal gardens and a gazebo. Today the Holt House is the only remaining structure of this era and it remains an imposing sight to drivers along KY144.

Rehabilitation of the Holt House is a community-based project that will support local jobs in construction and contracting, generate revenues at local businesses and bring tourists to the community. Heritage tourism is all about promoting the things that make Kentucky special and give us a unique identity, just as the Holt House does for Breckinridge County.

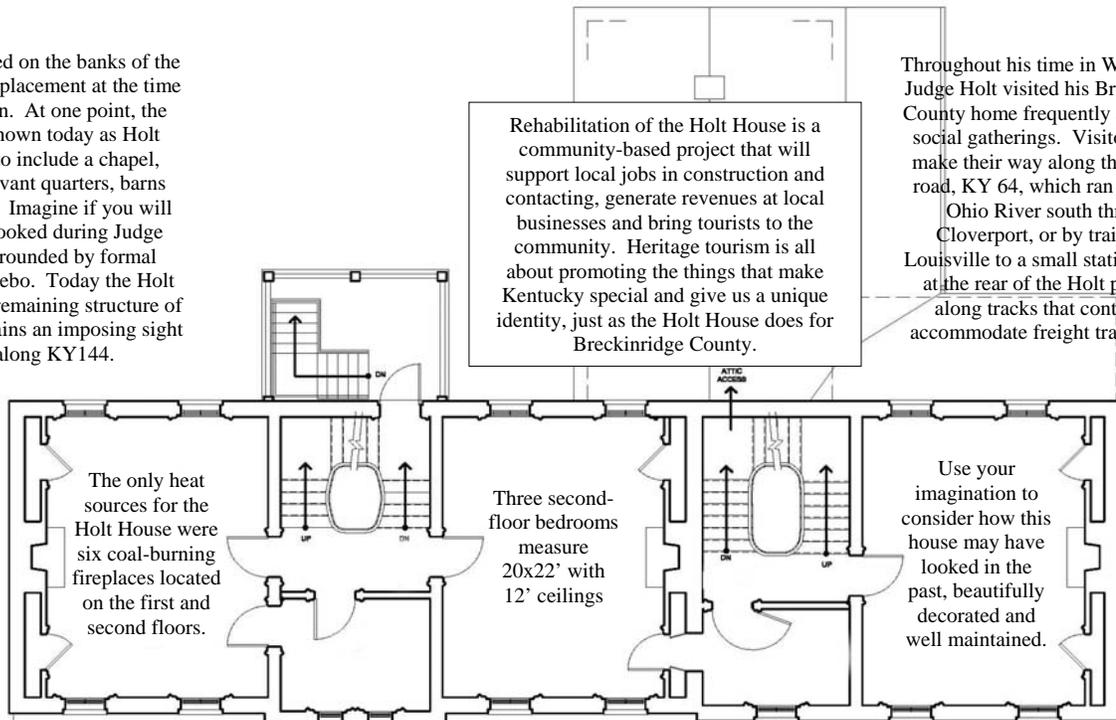
Throughout his time in Washington, Judge Holt visited his Breckinridge County home frequently and hosted social gatherings. Visitors would make their way along the original road, KY 64, which ran along the Ohio River south through Cloverport, or by train from Louisville to a small station located at the rear of the Holt property, along tracks that continue to accommodate freight trains today.

Restoration of the Holt House was named a Legacy Project by the Kentucky Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission.

The only heat sources for the Holt House were six coal-burning fireplaces located on the first and second floors.

Three second-floor bedrooms measure 20x22' with 12' ceilings

Use your imagination to consider how this house may have looked in the past, beautifully decorated and well maintained.



While no definite plans for use of the Holt House and grounds have yet been determined, the citizens of Breckinridge County will be invited to public meetings to voice their opinions as the project moves forward. Clearly there is broad support for the home's preservation and restoration and a wide range of organizations and individuals who are committed to ensuring a successful outcome. If you would like to learn more or get involved, contact the Breckinridge County Chamber of Commerce.

As you exit the house, be sure to walk over to the family cemetery, which is about 100 yards to your left as you exit. You will see an impressive headstone with an eagle (symbolic of the Union) on top of Judge Holt's grave. Today the cemetery is maintained with funds from a trust fund established by the family.

SECOND FLOOR PLAN
JOSEPH HOLT HOUSE - BRECKINRIDGE COUNTY
SCALE 0 4' 8' 16'