

Historic Preservation in Kentucky's 1st Congressional District

Rep. Ed Whitfield

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1st District Counties: Adair, Allen, Ballard, Butler, Caldwell, Calloway, Carlisle, Casey, Christian, Clinton, Crittenden, Cumberland, Fulton, Graves, Henderson, Hickman, Hopkins, Lincoln (part), Livingston, Logan, Lyon, Marshall, McCracken, McLean, Metcalfe, Monroe, Muhlenberg, Ohio (pt), Russell, Simpson, Todd, Trigg, Union & Webster

National Historic Landmarks: Kentucky has 30 National Historic Landmarks. National Historic Landmarks **in the 1st District** are **Green River Shell Middens Archaeological District** and **Indian Knoll**.

Cherokee State Resort Park: Cherokee State Resort Park is a historic recreational area located along Kentucky Lake in western Kentucky – the first in Kentucky built exclusively for African Americans during segregation and only the third such park in the nation. Closed following integration in the 1960s, the Kentucky Tourism, Arts and Heritage Cabinet is leading efforts to preserve remaining buildings.



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. Since the Kentucky Historic Preservation Tax Credit was implemented in 2005, **214 projects have been awarded \$9,270,604 in tax credits from \$141,906,256 invested** in rehabilitation projects throughout the

Commonwealth. **In the 1st District, eight projects have been awarded \$178,428 in tax credits from \$1,751,713 invested** in rehabilitation. For the same time period, 99 projects across the state that utilized Federal Tax Incentives for Rehabilitating Historic Structures were **awarded \$31,455,018 in federal tax credits from \$157,275,091 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. Nearly 100 Kentucky communities currently participate. 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**.

For the 1st District ALONE this represents:

- **238 net jobs** in Main Street districts
- **75 new businesses** created
- **88 downtown buildings** rehabilitated

This investment includes:

- \$11,020,078 in public improvements, such as streetscape projects
- \$12,467,947 in private investment
- 16,823 volunteer hours committed by board members and community supporters!



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

1st District cities with participating Main Street programs are **Benton, Cadiz, Dawson Springs, Franklin, Guthrie, Henderson, Hopkinsville, LaCenter, Madisonville, Marion, Morganfield, Murray, Paducah, Princeton, Russellville, Scottsville, Trenton and Wickliffe**.



Preserve America Communities: With a total of 73, Kentucky has more designated *Preserve America Communities* than any other state. Designated communities in the **1st District** are **Cadiz, Dawson Springs, Franklin, Henderson, Hopkinsville, Madisonville, Murray, Paducah, Princeton, Russellville and Scottsville**. Since 2006, **10 Kentucky Preserve America projects have received \$705,350 in grants** that require a dollar-for-dollar match, a total investment of more than \$1.4 million. In the **1st District, a Preserve America grant to Paducah for \$75,000** is being used to create a Renaissance Area Master Plan that will assist in the continuing development of arts-oriented neighborhoods throughout downtown.

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. Over the last 10 years, **four grants have been awarded to 1st District projects totaling over a million dollars,** which through matching dollars has resulted in **additional investment of one million dollars in community projects.**

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 **1st District** include **Dawson Springs, Hanson, Hopkinsville and Paducah.**

African American Heritage Sites: The Kentucky African American Heritage Commission works to identify and preserve sites that tell the story of slavery, the Underground Railroad, the Civil War, education and civil rights. Many architecturally significant buildings and museums in the **1st District** preserve and promote local African American heritage, including the **George Mahin House** in Franklin, **Cherokee State Resort Park** in Marshall County, **Hotel Metropolitan** in Paducah, **Halleck's Chapel and Cemetery** in Princeton, and the **Knights of Pythias Hall** in Russellville.



Lincoln Bicentennial and 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 **1st District** include **Columbus- Belmont State Park** in Hickman County, the **Battle of Sacramento** in McLean County and **Jefferson Davis Memorial Site** in Fairview. As part of the Lincoln Bicentennial, the Kentucky Heritage Council spearheaded redevelopment of the Kentucky Lincoln Heritage Trail, www.kylincolntrail.com.

Most Endangered: The statewide, non-profit organization Preservation Kentucky, Inc. issues an annual *Most Endangered List*, which spotlights irreplaceable historic architectural, cultural and archeological resources in Kentucky that are in imminent danger of being damaged or destroyed. In recent years this list has included **metal truss bridges, tobacco barns, WPA schools, rural cemeteries, and historic downtowns** located throughout the state.

Ida Lee Willis Memorial Foundation Preservation Awards: Presented annually to recognize excellence in historic preservation projects and efforts, projects recognized from the **1st 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.**

The Kentucky Heritage Council / Preservation Kentucky **Annual Student Photo-Essay Competition** is currently underway and in its 12th year. Winning entries in recent years from the **1st District** have highlighted the **Coca Cola Plant** and **Columbia Theater** in Paducah, **Newsom's Old Mill Store** in Princeton and **The Octagon House** in Scottsville.

Frankfort will host the **14th Annual International Preservation Trades Workshop** October 21-23, presented in partnership with the Kentucky Heritage Council, Frankfort/Franklin County Tourist and Convention Commission and the Frankfort Department of Parks, Recreation and Historic Sites. The meeting is expected to draw several hundred participants for workshops and demonstrations in traditional preservation crafts such as masonry, woodworking and log construction. The **2010 Statewide Preservation Conference will meet concurrently** in Frankfort so those interested in hands-on training can participate in IPTW activities and events.



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