

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. 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. **In the 1st District, 10 projects have been awarded \$206,482 in Kentucky historic rehabilitation tax credits** since the program began, **from \$1,922,108 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. 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!**



1st District cities with participating Main Street programs are **Benton, Cadiz, Dawson Springs, Guthrie, Henderson, Hopkinsville, Madisonville, Marion, Murray, Paducah, Princeton, Russellville, Scottsville, Trenton** and **Wickliffe**. In 2010, the National Trust for Historic Preservation **honored Paducah with a Great American Main Street Award®** for distinguishing itself by focusing on preservation, incentives and the arts as a downtown revitalization strategy, and last month **Paducah was named one of the National Trust's 2011 Dozen Distinctive Destinations**.



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, **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. 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. In 2010, nine CLGs were awarded grants which will generate \$134,500 of federal and local investment, including, in the **1st District**, Hopkinsville and Paducah, which will invest \$14,500 in the local community.

2010-11 Federal Survey and Planning Grants: In 2010, the 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 **1st District**, projects in Guthrie, Paducah, and Casey, Crittenden and Livingston counties received grants totaling \$30,270.

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 **1st District** Franklin Grade and High School in Simpson County and Woodstock in Todd County. The National Park Service is currently reviewing listing of the J. Hawkins Hart House in Henderson. 2010 has also been a productive year for the survey section, with 2,215 sites entered into the database and 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.

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 13th year. Winning entries in recent years from the **1st District** have highlighted Roxy Theater in Franklin, the Coca Cola Plant and Columbia Theater in Paducah, Newsom's Old Mill Store in Princeton and The Octagon House in Scottsville.



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