



Historic Preservation in Kentucky's 2nd Congressional District

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

Rep. Brett Guthrie – February 2013

2nd District Counties: Barren, Boyle, Breckinridge, Bullitt, Butler, Daviess, Edmonson, Garrard, Grayson, Green, Hancock, Hardin, Hart, Jessamine (part), Larue, Marion, Meade, Mercer, Nelson, Spencer (part), Warren and Washington.

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 2nd District, Bardstown, Bowling Green, Cloverport, Danville, Elizabethtown, Glasgow, Greensburg, Harrodsburg, Irvington, Mt. Washington, Munfordville, Perryville, Springfield and Wilmore.**

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 **\$16,572,226 total investment** reported by **2nd District** KYMS communities, including **\$706,284** invested from all sources, matched by **\$15,865,949 in private investment**, and representing:

- 132 net jobs in Main Street districts
- 49 new businesses created
- 20 new housing units in downtowns
- 53 downtown buildings rehabilitated
- 25,664 volunteer hours

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

2nd District Highlight: Heart of Danville was the big winner during presentation of the biennial 2012 Kentucky Main Street Program Awards. In addition to established categories, the Award for Excellence in the Main Street Four-Point Approach® was created by the awards committee specifically for Danville to recognize successful implementation and integration of each of these revitalization strategies – promotion, organization, design and economic restructuring. The Heart of Danville board was also honored for strategic planning with the Best of Organization Award.





Springfield

The Best of Design Award went to **Springfield Main Street/Renaissance** and owners Ed and Kris O’Daniel, for rehabilitation of the 1879 Louisville Store Building, located on a prominent downtown corner. Former Kentucky Heritage Council Executive Director David Morgan was also on hand to present an award named in his honor, the David L. Morgan Outstanding Main Street Partner Award, which went to the **Springfield** program for its downtown marketing partnership with St. Catharine College. Morgan retired in 2006 after 22 years as state historic preservation officer.

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 2nd District, two sites were added to the National Register in 2012, the **Forsythe-Shewmaker House** in Mercer County and **Bybee House** in Barren County.



Bybee House

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 2nd District**, **Bardstown, Bowling Green, Danville, Horse Cave** and **Owensboro**. 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 **Bardstown**, a grant of \$16,208 will be matched locally with \$10,805 to create a GIS database of historic properties, present a public preservation workshop and print the revised Bardstown Historic District Review Manual; and in **Horse Cave**, a grant of \$5,785, matched with \$3,857, will be used to design and produce a Horse Cave Historic Sites booklet.

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 2nd District** in recent years include the **Landmark Association of Bowling Green and Warren County**; the **Hardin County Museum, Helm Cemetery** and **Sarah Bush Lincoln Memorial** in Hardin County; the **Lincoln Museum, Lincoln Square, Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site** and **Lincoln Boyhood Home** in Larue County; the **Historic Washington County Courthouse, Lincoln Homestead State Park** and **Mordecai Lincoln House** in Washington County; buildings at **120, 225 and 227 South Main Street** in Harrodsburg; and **Alberta Moynahan of Danville**, assistant director of the McDowell House Museum.

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 2nd District**, National Historic Landmarks are the **Green River Shell Middens Archaeological District** in Butler County, **Jacobs Hall** at the Kentucky School for the Deaf, **Dr. Ephraim McDowell House** in Danville, **Perryville Battlefield** and **Shaker Village** at Pleasant Hill. Other sites with national significance include the Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site and Mammoth Cave National Park.