

# Historic Preservation in Kentucky's 5th Congressional District

Rep. Harold "Hal" Rogers

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**5<sup>th</sup> District Counties:** Bath (pt), Bell, Breathitt, Clay, Floyd, Harlan, Jackson, Johnson, Knott, Knox, Laurel, Lawrence, Lee, Leslie, Letcher, Magoffin, Martin, McCreary, Menifee, Morgan, Owsley, Perry, Pike, Pulaski, Rockcastle, Rowan, Wayne, Whitley & Wolfe

**National Historic Landmarks:** Kentucky has 30 National Historic Landmarks. National Historic Landmarks **in the 5<sup>th</sup> District** are **Middle Creek National Battlefield, Mill Springs Battlefield, Pine Mountain Settlement School and Wendover, the Frontier Nursing Service Headquarters.** Other sites with national significance include the **Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area, Cumberland Gap and Daniel Boone National Forest.**



**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 5<sup>th</sup> District, one project was awarded \$4,926 in tax credits from \$20,153 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 **5<sup>th</sup> District ALONE** this represents:

- **376 net jobs** in Main Street districts
- **38 new businesses** created
- **38 downtown buildings** rehabilitated

This investment includes:

- \$49,938,000 in public improvements, such as streetscape projects
- \$1,734,393 in private investment
- 9,892 volunteer hours committed by board members and community supporters!

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

**5<sup>th</sup> District** cities with participating Main Street programs are **Barbourville, Beattyville, Benham, Corbin, Cumberland, Harlan, Hyden, London, Lynch, Middlesboro, Mt. Vernon, Paintsville, Pikeville, Pineville, Prestonsburg, Salyersville and Williamsburg.**



**Preserve America Communities:** With a total of 73, Kentucky has more designated *Preserve America Communities* than any other state. Designated communities in the **5<sup>th</sup> District** are **Barbourville, Benham, Cumberland, Harlan, Letcher County, London, Lynch, Mount Vernon, Pikeville and Pineville.** 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.**

**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. In the **5<sup>th</sup> District, Pine Mountain Settlement School received an SAT grant of \$138,575 in 2008 and Appalshop received \$135,000 in 2002.**

**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 **5<sup>th</sup> District** include **Middlesboro** and **Pikeville**.

**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 **5<sup>th</sup> District** include **Cumberland Gap National Historical Park** in Bell County, **Middle Creek National Battlefield** in Johnson County, **Battle of Ivy Mountain** in Floyd County, **Mill Springs Battlefield** in Pulaski County, and the **Battle of Wildcat Mountain** in Laurel County. As part of the Lincoln Bicentennial, the Kentucky Heritage Council spearheaded redevelopment of the Kentucky Lincoln Heritage Trail, [www.kylincolntrail.com](http://www.kylincolntrail.com).

**Most Endangered:** The statewide, non-profit organization Preservation Kentucky 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. Specific sites identified in the **5<sup>th</sup> District** have included **historic features in the Red River Gorge**.

**Ida Lee Willis Memorial Foundation Preservation Awards:** Presented annually to recognize excellence in historic preservation projects and efforts, projects recognized from the **5<sup>th</sup> District** in recent years include the **Coal Miner's Memorial Theater** in Benham and **Pine Mountain Settlement School** in Harlan County.

The Kentucky Heritage Council / Preservation Kentucky **Annual Student Photo-Essay Competition** is currently underway and in its 12<sup>th</sup> year. Winning entries in recent years from the **5<sup>th</sup> District** have highlighted the **Harlan County Courthouse, Stearns Company Office Building** in McCreary County, **Isom Post Office** in Letcher County, **First Presbyterian Church** in Somerset, the **West Metcalf House** in Wayne County and **stone houses** in Pike County.

Frankfort will host the **14<sup>th</sup> 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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