

# Historic Preservation in Kentucky's 4th Congressional District

Rep. Geoff Davis

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**4th District Counties:** Bath (pt), Boone, Boyd, Bracken, Campbell, Carroll, Carter, Elliott, Fleming, Gallatin, Grant, Greenup, Harrison, Henry, Kenton, Lewis, Mason, Nicholas, Oldham, Owen, Pendleton, Robertson, Scott (pt) & Trimble

**National Historic Landmarks:** Kentucky has 30 National Historic Landmarks. National Historic Landmarks **in the 4<sup>th</sup> District** are the **Daniel C. Beard Boyhood Home** and **Roebling Suspension Bridge**. Other sites with national significance include the Goddard and Johnson Creek covered bridges.



**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 8<sup>th</sup> 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 7<sup>th</sup> in

approved project proposals. **In the 4<sup>th</sup> District**, from fiscal year 2008 through 2010, **36 projects** utilizing the federal rehabilitation tax credit have **generated an estimated capital investment of \$32,274,715.**

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 4<sup>th</sup> District, 77 projects have been awarded \$1,866,491 in Kentucky historic rehabilitation tax credits** since the program began, **from \$35,084,897 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!**



**4th District** cities with participating Main Street programs are **Ashland, Augusta, Bellevue, Carrollton, Covington, Dayton, Falmouth, Flemingsburg, Ft. Thomas, LaGrange, Maysville, Morehead, New Castle, Olive Hill, Vanceburg** and **Warsaw**.



**Preserve America Communities:** With a total of 73, Kentucky has more designated *Preserve America Communities* than any other state. Designated communities in the **4<sup>th</sup> District** are **Ashland, Bellevue, Boone County, Carrollton, Covington, Dayton, Erlanger, Flemingsburg, Fort Thomas, LaGrange, Maysville, Morehead, New Castle, Newport, Rabbit Hash** and **Warsaw**. 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 **4<sup>th</sup> District**, two Preserve America grants totaling **\$152,500** are being used to create a cultural heritage tour program in Covington and pay for informational signage and wayfinding in the Burlington Historic District.

**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 **4<sup>th</sup> District**, the **Behringer-Crawford Museum in Covington received an SAT grant in 2005 totaling \$98,611.**

**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 **4<sup>th</sup> District** include **Bellevue, Boone County, Covington, LaGrange, Maysville and Newport.** In 2010, nine CLGs were awarded grants which will **generate \$134,500 of federal and local investment**, including, in the **4<sup>th</sup> District**, **Bellevue, Covington and Newport**, which will invest **\$57,000** in local historic preservation projects.

**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 **4<sup>th</sup> District**, a project at **Yew Dell Gardens in Oldham County received a \$5,000 grant** to survey the historic buildings of Yew Dell Botanical Gardens, evaluate which structures meet National Register eligibility criteria, then nominate qualifying areas to the National Register.

**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 **4<sup>th</sup> District** Newport Courthouse Square Historic District, the Callaway-Goodridge-Robertson Farm in Henry County, Fourth District Elementary School in Kenton County and Helena United Methodist Church in Mason County. 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. Highlights of the survey forms received this year include 159 from Bath County. 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 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 **4<sup>th</sup> District** in recent years include the **Carnegie Visual and Performing Arts Center** and **Odd Fellows Hall** in Covington, the **John Dale House** in Shelby County and **Johnson Creek Covered Bridge**.

The Kentucky Heritage Council / Preservation Kentucky **Annual Student Photo-Essay Competition** is currently underway and in its 13<sup>th</sup> year. Winning entries in recent years from the **4<sup>th</sup> District** have highlighted **Rabbit Hash**, the **Himes General Store** in Tollesboro, **Midway Café**, **Ft. Thomas Armory**, **Westwood Gymnasium** in Newport and the **Marianne Theater** in Bellevue.



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