



Historic Preservation in Kentucky's 4th Congressional District

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

Rep. Thomas Massie – February 2013

4th District Counties: Boone, Boyd (part), Bracken, Campbell, Carroll, Gallatin, Grant, Greenup, Harrison, Henry, Jefferson (part), Kenton, Lewis, Mason, Oldham, Owen, Pendleton, Shelby, Spencer (part) and Trimble

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 4th District, Ashland, Augusta, Bellevue, Carrollton, Covington, Dayton, Falmouth, Fort Thomas, LaGrange, Maysville, New Castle, Shelbyville and Taylorsville.**

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 **\$25,152,335 total investment** reported by **4th District** KYMS communities, including **\$20,779,875** invested from all sources, matched by **\$4,372,466 in private investment**, and representing:

- 312 net jobs in Main Street districts
- 57 new businesses created
- 15 new housing units in downtowns
- 77 downtown buildings rehabilitated
- 12,537 volunteer hours

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

During presentation of the biennial 2012 Kentucky Main Street Program Awards, **Bellevue Renaissance** in the **4th District** was recognized in the Best of Promotion – Retail/Event category for creating two consecutive, fun events to attract shoppers to Main Street over the July Fourth weekend, a typically slow retail sales period.

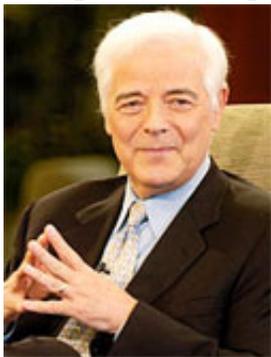


SITE IDENTIFICATION: The **Kentucky Historic Resources Inventory** is the written and photographic record of all known historic buildings, structures and sites in the state and includes individual listings of houses, barns, outbuildings, commercial buildings, and landscape features such as rock fences 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 4th District**, three sites were added to the National Register in 2012, the **Thomas Zane Roberts House and Workshop** and **John J. Walton House**, both in Boone County, and **C&O Railway Depot** in Catlettsburg.

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 4th District, Bellevue, Boone County, Covington, LaGrange, Maysville, Newport and Shelbyville**. 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 **Bellevue**, a grant of \$9,660 will be matched locally with \$6,440 to fund preservation commission training and a second preservation education video, and to present the annual NKY Restoration Weekend, a free event geared to owners of historic properties; a grant to **Covington** for \$17,740, matched locally by \$11,827, will be used for additional phases of the Peaselburg Neighborhood survey project and to support the video and restoration weekend; and a grant to **Newport** for \$3,185, matched locally by \$2,123, will also support restoration weekend as well as fund professional development for city preservation staff.

4th District Highlight: Disappointed in a lack of public awareness and a negative perception about historic preservation in their communities, preservation staff for the cities of Bellevue and Covington decided to collaborate on creating a public education video that could be disseminated to a broad audience, to educate residents, business owners and others about preservation's proven economic and social benefits. To defray expenses, Bellevue preservation staff took advantage of the annual Certified Local Government matching grant, submitting a successful application in 2010-11. City staff, elected officials, preservation commissioners and property owners worked together to create the framework, and local citizens also found a narrator to donate his time: Long-time northern Kentucky television personality Nick Clooney. **Historic Preservation: Saving Place** encompasses a short history of northern Kentucky river cities, and the benefits of historic preservation such as retention of cultural identity, an increase in property values, local job creation, and environmental and economic sustainability. The video was posted on the Web to reach the most extensive audience possible, and it continues to be viewed daily. According to KHC staff, the video has become one of the most effective historic preservation educational tools ever created using CLG grant funding, and it received a 2012 Ida Lee Willis Memorial Foundation Preservation Award, among other honors. Watch it at <http://vimeo.com/35608673>



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 4th District** in recent years include the **Eastside Revitalization Project, Carnegie Visual and Performing Arts Center, Odd Fellows Hall and Thomas Edison School Apartments** in Covington; the **John Dale House** in Shelby County; and the **Cropper Family** of South Portsmouth, for preservation of their late 1700s Forest Home Farm.

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 4th District**, National Historic Landmarks are the **Daniel C. Beard Boyhood Home** and **Roebling Suspension Bridge** in Covington, and the **Whitney M. Young Birthplace and Boyhood Home** in Shelby County.