



Programs of the Kentucky Heritage Council

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Who We Are

An agency of the Kentucky Tourism, Arts and Heritage Cabinet, the Kentucky Heritage Council (KHC) serves as the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), responsible for the identification, protection and preservation of prehistoric resources and historic buildings, sites and cultural resources throughout the Commonwealth. This mission is integral to making communities more livable and has a far-ranging impact on issues as diverse as economic development, jobs creation, heritage tourism, affordable housing, community revitalization, environmental conservation and quality of life.

In partnership with the federal government, the Kentucky Heritage Council carries out the primary functions of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). These include finding and documenting America's historic places, making nominations to the National Register, providing assistance on rehabilitation tax credit projects, reviewing impacts of federal projects as mandated through Section 106 of the NHPA, working with local governments and preservation commissions, and conducting preservation education and planning.



Historic Preservation Tax Credits

Kentucky has been a national leader in the use of historic rehabilitation tax credits for commercial and residential buildings. In addition to administering the Federal Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit program (36 CFR Part 67), 2015 marks the 10th year since the Kentucky Historic Preservation Tax Credit was implemented, and the ability to pair both programs has been a substantial benefit for building owners. To be eligible for these incentives, buildings must be listed in the National Register.

According to "The Federal Historic Tax Credit: Transforming Communities," a report prepared for the National Trust for Historic Preservation by PlaceEconomics, from 2001 through 2013, **Kentucky logged a total of 244 completed projects utilizing the federal credit, leveraging \$390,349,973 in total development investment from \$64,798,096 in credits.**

In 2013, Kentucky ranked 12th nationally utilizing federal tax credits, with **23 successfully completed projects generating investment of \$28,117,278**, and for the same period, also ranked 12th in approved project proposals.

Since 2005, statewide, 856 historic rehabilitation projects have been reviewed representing private investment of \$647,260,922. This includes 250 commercial projects completed plus another 180 proposed, 239 owner-occupied residential projects completed with another 106 proposed, and 59 non-profit projects completed with another 22 proposed.



Tax credit highlight: 14 East 2nd Street, Maysville

A press conference in 2013 drove home the huge impact rehabilitation tax credits are having in Kentucky Main Street Program communities and historic commercial districts. This building is located in the Maysville National Register Downtown Historic District. Building owners Carl and Patti North have rehabilitated it to house their salon and other retail on the first floor and living space above, and they are in the process of launching a second phase of work. In 2013, using federal and state historic preservation tax credits, rehabilitation of a single downtown commercial building located in a Kentucky Main Street community generated average private investment of \$360,793.

Historic Preservation Fund

Without utilizing a single taxpayer dollar, the Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) makes up 60% of funding for the agency, matched by 40% of general funds from state. Federal funding supports salaries and agency activities, and 10% of the total appropriation is required to be earmarked for Certified Local Government grants. Any reduction in federal funds also means a reduction in state support – and this impacts agency programs across the board.

Core programs supported by the HPF provide base data for all KHC historic preservation activities and services as well as federal and state agency project planning. These federal mandates include the survey of historic structures and archaeological sites (16USC470), nomination of properties to the National Register of Historic Places (36 CFR 60), and the Certified Local Government Program (16USC470), which provides a structure for partnering with local governments to accomplish preservation projects throughout the state.

Site Identification and National Register: The Kentucky Historic Resources Inventory is the written and photographic record of all known historic buildings, structures and sites in the state. KHC has utilized fieldwork to conduct ongoing survey work in all 120 counties, and for FY 2013-14, KHC **staff reviewed 2,312 forms. The database currently has more than 95,000 entries.** Data collected provides the foundation for National Register research, publication of local architectural and cultural histories, and development of Kentucky's five-year State Historic Preservation Plan, required by the National Park Service (due again in September for 2015-2020).

For FY2013-14, KHC **added 22 National Register listings for sites in 15 counties**, including two multiple property nominations: **John Hunt Morgan's Raid**, including 12 counties in Kentucky, 10 in Indiana and 29 in Ohio; and, **Crossroads Communities in the Bluegrass Cultural Landscape Region**, including four communities in **Marion** and **Washington** counties, three of which were listed as historic districts (**Gravel Switch, Mackville and Willisburg**) and one determined eligible (**Loretto**). The nomination was funded by a federal Preserve America grant.

Certified Local Governments: Coordinated by NPS, the Certified Local Government (CLG) program designates city and county governments that enact local historic preservation ordinances. Kentucky currently has 19 CLG communities including **Bardstown, Bellevue, Boone County, Bowling Green, Campbellsville, Covington, Danville, Dawson Springs, Frankfort, Hopkinsville, Horse Cave, LaGrange, Maysville, Middlesboro, Newport, Owensboro, Paducah, Pikeville** and **Shelbyville**. Statewide, for FY 2013-14, nine CLGs were awarded grants from KHC's HPF allocation totaling \$80,000, with a local match required of at least 40 percent, which will generate \$133,333 of combined investment in these communities.

In February 2015, a new round of grants was announced, with applications due in March. The agency CLG coordinator has been actively working with Kentucky Main Street programs across the state to encourage their participation.

Kentucky Main Street Program

The Kentucky Main Street Program (KYMS) assists communities in strengthening their economic core by preserving their historic structures. Kentucky has the oldest statewide Main Street program in the nation, established in 1979 to provide technical assistance based on the National Trust Main Street Center's successful Four-Point Approach® of organization, promotion, design and economic restructuring. KYMS currently serves 48 communities.



Since 1979, **Kentucky can document \$3.86 billion in public-private investment** throughout the Commonwealth through the Kentucky Main Street Program.

In 2014, Kentucky Main Street programs reported **\$57,096,704 of total investment** representing, cumulatively, **\$30,983,829 of private investment** matched by **\$26,112,876 in public improvements**. Additionally, statewide, the program generated:

- **1,151 new jobs** created in Main Street districts
- **252 new businesses** created
- **113 new housing units** in downtowns
- **157** building rehabilitation projects completed
- **12** historic rehabilitation tax credit projects