

Historic Preservation in Kentucky's 2nd Congressional District

Rep. Brett Guthrie

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2nd District Counties: Barren, Breckinridge, Bullitt, Daviess, Edmonson, Grayson, Green, Hancock, Hardin, Hart, Jefferson (pt), Larue, Marion, Meade, Nelson, Ohio (pt), Shelby, Spencer, Taylor, Warren & Washington

National Historic Landmarks: Kentucky has 30 National Historic Landmarks. National Historic Landmarks **in the 2nd District** are **Burks' Distillery** in Marion County and the **Whitney M. Young Birthplace and Boyhood Home** in Shelby County. Other sites with national significance include the **Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site** and **Mammoth Cave National Park**.



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 2nd District, 25 projects have been awarded \$819,783 in tax credits from \$7,366,366 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 2nd District ALONE this represents:

- **128 net jobs** in Main Street districts
- **74 new businesses** created
- **61 downtown buildings** rehabilitated

This investment includes:

- \$18,829,496 in public improvements, such as streetscape projects
- \$4,336,805 in private investment
- 18,665 volunteer hours committed by board members and community supporters!

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

2nd District cities with participating Main Street programs are **Bardstown, Bowling Green, Bradfordsville, Campbellsville, Cloverport, Elizabethtown, Glasgow, Greensburg, Hodgenville, Irvington, Lebanon, Mt. Washington, Munfordville, Owensboro, Shelbyville, Springfield and Taylorsville.**



Preserve America Communities: With a total of 73, Kentucky has more designated Preserve America Communities than any other state. Designated communities in the **2nd District** are **Bardstown, Bowling Green, Campbellsville, Cloverport, Elizabethtown, Glasgow, Greensburg, Hodgenville, Horse Cave, Lebanon, Liberty, Munfordville, Shelbyville, Springfield and West Point.** 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. Five Preserve America grants** have been awarded in the **2nd District totaling \$271,925.**

The Kentucky Heritage Council / Preservation Kentucky **Annual Student Photo-Essay Competition** is currently underway and in its 12th year. Winning entries in recent years from the **2nd District** have highlighted **the Dodd House** in Casey County **and Midway Caf ** in Horse Cave.

Ida Lee Willis Memorial Foundation Preservation Awards: Presented annually to recognize excellence in historic preservation projects and efforts, projects recognized from the **2nd District** in recent years include the **Historic Bardstown Preservation Commission**, the **BRIDGES Student Team** in Greensburg (*Building Renewed Interest in Downtown Greensburg through Excellence and Service*), and the **Standard Oil Filling Station in Bowling Green**.

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 **2nd District** include **Bardstown, Bowling Green, Campbellsville, Owensboro** and **Shelbyville**.

The Holt House: An estimated 1,500 people toured the Judge Joseph Holt House in Breckinridge County during a community day and open house August 15, 2009, when the house was officially welcomed as a site along the Kentucky Lincoln Heritage Trail. As part of the festivities, special guest **Congressman Brett Guthrie announced a \$150,000 earmark through Save America's Treasures** for restoration of the structure, purchased in December 2008 by Breckinridge County Fiscal Court through a \$158,000 grant from the Kentucky Heritage Council and Kentucky Lincoln Bicentennial Commission, which named the restoration an official Legacy Project of the Kentucky Lincoln Bicentennial celebration. Judge Holt is most remembered for his role in presiding over the trial of President Lincoln's assassination conspirators.



The **Rural Heritage Development Initiative**, a demonstration program of the National Trust for Historic Preservation in collaboration with Preservation Kentucky and the Kentucky Heritage Council, has wrapped up its three-year goal to help develop and implement preservation-based economic development strategies in

the central Kentucky counties of **Boyle, Green, LaRue, Marion, Mercer, Nelson, Taylor** and **Washington**. Among other achievements, the RHDl has **surveyed more than 2,000 rural sites in Marion and Washington counties, made possible by a \$120,000 Preserve America grant**; conducted educational seminars including a Farmland Preservation Symposium with nationally known speakers; co-sponsored preservation training workshops; presented model barn projects, conducted barn tours and created a barn and outbuilding preservation toolbox; and worked extensively to develop or participate in regional heritage tourism projects. Most recently the RHDl program successfully spearheaded efforts to **designate the region a National Scenic Byway**.

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. As part of the Lincoln Bicentennial, the Kentucky Heritage Council spearheaded redevelopment of the Kentucky Lincoln Heritage Trail, www.kylincolntrail.com. Key sites highlighted in the **2nd District** include 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; and the **Historic Washington County Courthouse, Lincoln Homestead State Park and Mordecai Lincoln House** in Washington County. Civil War sites to be featured during the Civil War commemoration include **Fort Williams** in Glasgow, **Tebbs Bend Battlefield** in Taylor County; the **Civil War Museum** in Bardstown, and **Riverview at Hobson Grove** in Bowling Green.

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 **2nd District** include **West Point Rosenwald School**.



300 Washington Street
Frankfort, KY 40601
502-564-7005
www.heritage.ky.gov