

# PRESERVING BARDSTOWN

Spring 2014

## May is Preservation Month!

Established in 1973 by the National Trust for Historic Preservation, National Preservation Month is co-sponsored by local preservation groups, State historical societies, and businesses and civic organizations across the country. During Preservation Month, many events are planned to promote historic places for the purpose of instilling national and community pride, promoting heritage tourism, and showing the social and economic benefits of historic preservation. Thousands of people participate annually in Preservation Month celebrations. Visit the National Park Service's Preservation Month Feature, your State Historic Preservation Office Web site, or the National Trust's calendar for a list of activities in your area.

(<http://www.nps.gov/nr/feature/presmonth/>)

In Bardstown, there are many activities planned for National Preservation Month, There will be two walking tours, one covering the 18th-19th Centuries, and another covering the 20th Century through structures and their histories. Dates and times for the tours will be announced soon.

We will also be holding a landscaping demonstration at Wickland: Home of Three Governors. MVP Garden Center will be planting trees, shrubs, and flowers, as well as, mulching around the entrance and Bloomfield Road side of the building. The event will occur rain or shine.

### Historic Landscaping Demonstration

At Wickland: Home of Three Governors

Date: May 10, 2014 (Rain or Shine)

Time: 10:00 am EST

Location:

550 Bloomfield Rd.  
Bardstown, KY



Learn technique from a professional landscaper. From planting trees to mulching beds, MVP Garden Center will demonstrate the right way to landscape your historic home.



## Spring in Bardstown

Spring is the time of year when home renovations and improvements begin. The weather is right to complete all types of projects. Painting, siding, new gutters, and landscaping are just a few that are commonly started in Spring.

It is a time of year to start fresh and renew, in nature and in life. I can only imagine the hundreds of projects on the 'to do lists' of homeowners. Keep in mind during all these renovations that Certificates of Appropriateness are required for most exterior alterations. Always call the Preservation Administrator for information on the Design Review Guidelines and about the approval process.

Your Preservation Administrator is also here to help you with rehabilitation questions, including tax incentives available to those undertaking projects.

**The Old Opera House** (Excerpt from Historic Nelson County, Its Towns and People by Sarah B. Smith, 2008.)

The words of Mr. J. Robert Crume on February 26, 1967 were as follows: "The building at Second and Broadway was called the Town Hall and sometime called the old Wathen House. This building was owned by Mr. Tom Wathen, who later gave it to C.R. Barnes Sr. The story goes that Mr. Wathen and Mr. Barnes put a new floor in the building. The new floor cost \$600.00. When Mr. Wathen realized the bill was so high, he deeded the property to Mr. Barnes. Mr. Barnes put it up at public auction in 1900. Mr. David Wood Sr., who operated the drugstore at Third and Flaget, purchased the building for \$800.00. I was working for Mr. Wood at the time. He put me in charge of it. We operated the Town House and had large crowds. This was the only amusement place in Bardstown at that time.

The Williams Comedy Company with all their family came once a year and performed. Admission was 25¢. We had a packed house each night, The name of one show was "Moonshiner's Daughter." (continued on page 4).

# Preservation and Pizza:

## Bardstown Historic Review Board Neighborhood Outreach Initiative

As part of the City of Bardstown's Certified Local Government grant, the Bardstown Historic Review Board has developed a neighborhood outreach initiative to enhance public awareness of preservation. The HRB has divided the historic district into eight smaller neighborhoods and will host "Preservation and Pizza" meetings to allow those living and working in those neighborhoods to learn more about historic preservation and offer any concerns or issues about the historic district. To encourage participation in these meetings, each meeting will be held within the neighborhood. Being more involved with the community is one of the most important goals for the HRB, and the HRB hopes to enhance public participation and support for historic preservation.

All meetings will be held on **Monday night at 5:30 pm EST**. Pizza and drinks will be served to all those attending.

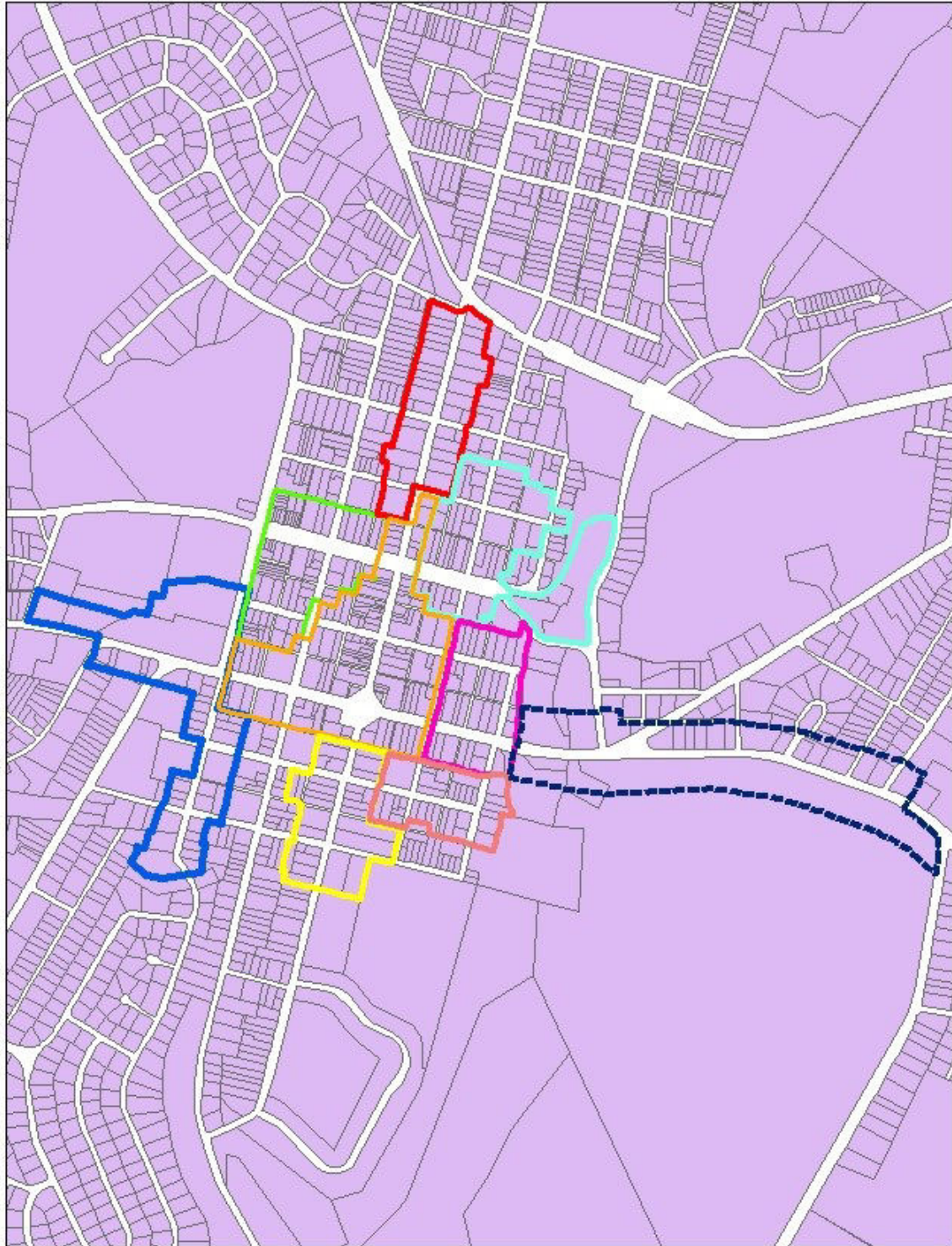
<b>Date:</b>	<b>Location:</b>	<b>Neighborhood</b> (see map on pg. 3):
April 21, 2014	Nelson County Public Library RSVP by: April 18, 2014	South Fifth Neighborhood
April 28, 2014	City of Bardstown Education Complex RSVP by: April 24, 2014	East John Fitch Neighborhood
May 5, 2014	Bardstown Methodist Church RSVP by: May 1, 2014	East Flaget Neighborhood
May 12, 2014	Bardstown Baptist Church RSVP by: May 8, 2014	Upper Third Neighborhood
May 19, 2014	American Legion RSVP by: May 15, 2014	W Broadway-Flaget Neighborhood
May 26, 2014	Civic Center RSVP by: May 22, 2014	South Third Street Neighborhood
June 2, 2014	St. John AME Zion Church RSVP by: May 29, 2014	Upper Second Street Neighborhood
June 9, 2014	TBD RSVP by: June 5, 2014	East 150-Stephen Foster Corridor
June 16, 2014	Old Courthouse RSVP by: June 12, 2014	Central Business District

### COA Update:

As of April 15, 2014, the HRB has reviewed 24 Certificate of Appropriateness applications. All have been approved.

TYPE	NUMBER
Signs	11
Awnings	2
Exterior Alterations	9
New Construction	2

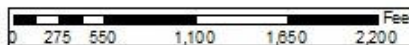
# Historic District Neighborhoods Bardstown, Kentucky



**Legend**

- Upper Second Street
- Upper Third Street
- West Broadway-Flaget
- South Fifth Street
- East 150/Stephen Foster
- East John Fitch
- South Third Street
- East Flaget
- Central Business District

1:12,500



NAD83  
StatePlaneKentucky  
FIPS1600Feet



Map by: Hope B. Hawkins, M.A.  
April 11, 2014

(continued from page 1)

At New Years, Christmas, Easter and any other occasion, dances were held here in the building. Admission was five cents.

Business was so good they thought they should build a new opera house. The old building that stands now at Second and Broadway was built in 1908. The fellow that built St. Catherine's near Springfield, Kentucky, came here and built the opera house. It was called Broadway Grand. This carpenter was also the architect of the building.

He built the building on the same site using most of the old foundation. The dimensions were 50 by 54, and the new one was 50 by 70. He employed the help, paying \$5.00 per day for their services. A large Negro was paid \$2.50 a day. We paid all the bills and payroll. Fry Planing mill from Louisville, Kentucky, built the interior part including the stage. The joists are large, 18 feet high, 2 by 8 inches and the balcony was added. The bricks cost \$9.00 per thousand and the timber was \$10.00 per thousand. Total cost of the building was \$7,000.00.

The building has a skating rink at one side, and an inventory of 150 skates. Amos Anshutz was a famous skater here.



During the construction, movies were shown in the dining room of the Bardstown Hotels (now the location of Farmers Bank and Trust Company). During the same period the late Chales Edelen and late Reginald Grigsby operated a movie house for two years (located between Crume Drug Store and Grigsby and Company).

In 1922 competition closed the Opera House, but it was reopened in 1924 as a colored theatre, and then it closed in 1926.

In 1912, Crystal Hall was operated by Sisco and Mann until 1928, when it was purchaesd by C.D. Arnold and Pope Sisco. It was operated here until 1938 when the theatre moved to where Hall Electric is located. They had two theatres here, the Melody and Arco. These theatres closed in 1965.

I also had charge of selling the Chautauqua tickets when the Chautauqua was held here. To our younger readers, a Chautauqua was a traveling tent show that used some local talent. They were held near the Bardstown Independent School."

## **Historic Home For Sale**

### **210 North Fourth Street:**

A Beautiful remodeled three bedroom, two and a half bath located in the "Most Beautiful Small Town in America", in the downtown area of Bardstown. Home features original poplar wood floors, gas fireplace, spacious living room and separate den area that is excellent for entertaining or possible mother-in-law suite. Appliances remain with the property which is an added bonus. Great fenced patio area and conveniently located near shipping, schools and restaurants. Excellent location to all city events including crafts fair, Bourbon Festival and street concerts. Perfect place to call home in , "The Bourbon Capitol of the World". Contact Melissa Johnson, Area One Realty, at 502-349-9363



### *Acknowledgement:*

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