



The Blue Grass Trust  
for Historic Preservation

January 22, 2013

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Ms. Jackie Couture  
President  
Madison County Historical Society  
P.O. Box 397  
Richmond, KY 40476

Dear Ms. Couture,

The Blue Grass Trust for Historic Preservation has learned of the fiscal court's intention to demolish the Miller Building and Old Creamery. We want to express our strong support for the Madison County Historical Society's effort to preserve, protect and adaptively reuse these buildings for current and future generations.

The National Trust for Historic Preservation reports that these kinds of restoration efforts are an important component of any effort to promote sustainable development. The conservation and improvement of our existing built resources, including re-use of historic and older buildings (rather than demolishing the structures and filling our limited open spaces with construction debris) is crucial to combating climate change.

Central Kentucky has witnessed a lot of short-sighted decisions that resulted in the demolition of well-constructed, perfectly usable structures. Many times, what has been left behind is a non-productive asphalt parking lot or other unused space. But, there have also been a lot of intelligent, forward-thinking individuals who understand the importance of history, of community, of time and place and have taken structures that others have written off and turned them into beautiful and productive residences, offices and thriving businesses.

The Blue Grass Trust will do its part to educate and inform the members of the fiscal court about the benefits of adaptive reuse. It brings energy and vitality and economic development to communities in unimaginable ways. You can look to Lexington's Loudon Ave/North Limestone corridor, Cincinnati's Over-the-Rhine neighborhood, or Louisville's Glass Factory as examples of what the creative class can initiate, build upon and thrive within as a new use emerges. The Madison County Historical Society is on the right track. Stand strong, carefully evaluate funding mechanisms on both sides and keep the conversation alive within the community.

On behalf of the Blue Grass Trust, I want to apologize for not being with you in person tonight. Lexington's Urban County Council will be voting on the 15th Historic District tonight, the addition of Ashland Park. It is important for our members and staff to be in the Council Chamber for this important meeting.

Please feel free to give us an update on your progress and know we will be happy to join the discussion with the fiscal court members.

Sincerely,

Sheila Omer Ferrell  
Executive Director

253 Market Street, Lexington, KY 40507  
Tel 859-253-0362 Fax 859-259-9210  
www.bluegrasstrust.org

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