AN IMPORTANT MISSION

Whether strolling Market Square, attending a performance at the Tennessee Theater, or walking the streets of the Fourth & Gill neighborhood, the power of historic preservation to transform our community is evident all around us. Knox Heritage was established in 1974 as a result of community efforts to save the historic Bijou Theater from demolition (and another parking lot). Since then, our organization has grown to national prominence and is involved with preservation efforts across a 16-county region.

Our mission is simple, Knox Heritage preserves structures and places of historic or cultural significance for our community. Our tagline, Preserve. Restore. Transform., sums up how we accomplish this:

❖ **Preserve.** Knox Heritage actively preserves through its stewardship of two landmark properties listed on the National Register of Historic Places, **Historic Westwood and the Airplane Filling Station.** Our organization is proudly headquartered at Westwood which is also one of the city’s premier historic house museums. Knox Heritage also actively preserves by managing **preservation easements** currently protecting historic structures in Anderson, Jefferson, Knox, Loudon, and Washington Counties. In addition, our staff assists local developers and property owners with **federal rehabilitation tax credits** and **national register nominations.**

❖ **Restore.** Knox Heritage restores blighted properties and assists with neighborhood stabilization and revitalization through its impactful **Historic Properties Fund.** Since 1999, our organization has restored homes in areas such as Fort Sanders, Parkridge, Old North, Chilhowee Park, Fourth & Gill, and Edgewood Park. Restoration work has included a residence designed by George Barber, a LEED certified home, and the last remaining structure affiliated with artist Lloyd Branson. The Historic Properties Fund is a traditional “revolving” fund that is restricted specifically to the preservation of endangered properties and is designed to replenish itself after properties are restored and sold to new owners. Knox Heritage combines financial resources from the Fund with grants and donations to make such projects feasible.

❖ **Transform.** Knox Heritage works to transform how people think about, relate to, and interact with historic places through education, advocacy, and community engagement.

Our educational programming includes a free monthly **Preservation Network** series, special classes for Realtors, an annual **preservation conference,** the popular **Downtown Walking Tour** brochure, other neighborhood tours, teaching resources, and an **online preservation resource center.**

Advocacy work has included lobbying for federal funding to repair historic sites to establishing a state rehabilitation tax credit in Tennessee. We also lead the **East Tennessee Preservation Alliance,** a preservation network connecting sixteen counties in the region around Knoxville.
Our popular annual **Summer Suppers** along with special **Behind the Scenes Tours** for our members engage the community with historic places in unique, fun and memorable ways.

Knox Heritage can only accomplish this extraordinary scope of work thanks to support from many members, volunteers, and donors. We have a small, but dedicated and highly-skilled staff. Your support as a Preservation Partner sponsoring a program or event is more important than ever for continuing the work we are so proud of. Join with us and make a difference today!

Sincerely,

Todd Morgan
Executive Director

P.S. – Our website has so much more information to explore. Please visit www.knoxheritage.org.