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15 December 2020

Louisville Metro Historic Landmark  
and Preservation District Commission  
444 South Fifth Street, Third Floor  
Louisville, Kentucky 40202

Re: Nelson Distillery Warehouse Local Landmark Designation

Dear Commissioners:

I am writing on behalf of Preservation Kentucky in support of a local landmark designation for the historic Nelson Distillery Warehouse at 100 Distillery Commons in Louisville's historic Irish Hill Neighborhood.

The historic Nelson Distillery Warehouse anchors the intersection of Lexington and Payne Streets and is an important building in Louisville's distilling history and the Irish Hill community. This 1895 three-story brick warehouse sits on a native limestone foundation. It is an architecturally significant example of early whisky aging and one of the last remaining buildings of what was once the oldest and largest distillery complex in Louisville. During Prohibition, Nelson Distillery was used by American Medicinal Spirits Co. as a concentration warehouse.

The historic Nelson Distillery Warehouse was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 2014 for its national architectural and historical significance. It qualifies for Federal and Kentucky Historic Preservation Tax Credit incentives, and its massing and open space interior make it an attractive prospect for a variety of uses.

We respectfully ask that you affirm a local landmark designation for the historic Nelson Distillery Warehouse. Landmark designation acknowledges the importance of and respect for Louisville's heritage. Keeping Louisvillians connected to their heritage is critical to the identify, continuity and community of the city, and preserving historic architecture is paramount to the integrity of Louisville's history.

People want to experience the interesting places that we preserve, but you cannot recreate the places created by historic buildings. Once they are lost, so is the connective fabric of our heritage and the sites that distinguishes Louisville from other cities. Through historic preservation, a community expresses its diversity, identity, individuality and the elements that make it different and separates it from others.

Louisville has lost far too many historic buildings—most of which could have been preserved and repurposed for new uses. Please do not contribute to the disappearance of Louisville's heritage and deprive residents, tourists and visitors the opportunity to experience the treasures, assets and places that we value and that define us.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth A. "Betsy" Hatfield  
Executive Director