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PRESS RELEASE

Katy O'Ferrell's in Cape Girardeau, MO awarded \$50,000.00 from Missouri Main Street Connection's Paul Bruhn Historic Revitalization Subgrant Program

Cape Girardeau, MO. – Katy O'Ferrell's is one of thirteen properties in Missouri to receive a Paul Bruhn Historic Revitalization Subgrant from Missouri Main Street Connection (MMSC) and the National Park Service.

Christopher and Randi Dirnberger were awarded \$50,000.00 to restore the upper story of this 1868 property. In addition, to the \$50,000.00 provided by this grant, Christopher and Randi Dirnberger will invest a minimum of ten percent of the grant amount toward the final project as a match.

In its current state, the Irish Pub and Restaurant, Katy O'Ferrell's, currently occupies the first floor. Over its lifetime this property has been home to many great businesses including an Opera House on the second floor and a fine dining place on the first floor named Royal N'Orleans from 1954-2009. Because of consistent occupancy the property is in good shape structurally. Due to a small fire in 1990 the building is underutilized as its second story was stripped following that fire.

The rehabilitation project that was approved by MMSC focuses on the first phase of the rehabilitation of the upper story of this property through updating and repairing the upstairs windows and initiating a rear egress entrance. The Dirnberger's have diligently worked on the building through new gutters, tuck-pointing, painting, and other exterior work. Upon completion of exterior work at Katy O'Ferrell's the interior work can begin to add more commercial space and the option for housing. The Dirnberger's shared,

"Initiating this renovation can signal the importance of continuing to revitalize and repurpose these historic places in order to contribute continuously to the heartbeat of our downtown district. This would open the door to increased foot traffic, increased tax revenue, and continue the momentum our downtown is offering to our local economy."

By the end of this grant this property will be individually listed on the National Register for Historic Places.

If you are a banking institution who would like to partner with MMSC to provide construction, commercial, and/or bridge loans for this project and/or any of the projects that have been awarded see what this looks like with MMSC's [information sheet](#).



EMPOWERING *Community Revitalization*

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About National Park Service

Since 1916, the National Park Service (NPS) has directed the management and implementation of programming for the national parks across the country.

For over 100 years they have led the preservation of America's natural and cultural resources for current and future generations. The NPS in partnership and cooperation with partners has taken care of the national parks and helping Americans take care of their communities. One way that this is accomplished is through appropriations authorized by Congress for the Historic Preservation Fund (HPF). The HPF, authorized through 2023, uses revenue from federal oil and gas leases on the Outer Continental Shelf, providing assistance for a broad range of preservation projects without expending tax dollars.

These grants mark the fifth year of funding for the program honoring the late Paul Bruhn, executive director of the Preservation Trust of Vermont for nearly 40 years. For more information about the grants and the Paul Bruhn Historic Revitalization Grants program, please visit nps.gov.

About Missouri Main Street Connection

Missouri Main Street Connection is the leading statewide nonprofit organization devoted to preservation-based economic development. Through the Main Street America™ movement and our partners, we empower community revitalization by celebrating, supporting, and sustaining Missouri historic commercial districts in both rural and urban settings. Since 2005, Missouri Main Street communities have seen \$1 billion in public and private investment and MMSC has worked in over 180 communities. These Missouri Main Street communities and districts are thriving and vibrant by engaging the community members in revitalization strategies to create experiences that preserve their history and culture. Follow Missouri Main Street Connection on Facebook @MissouriMainStreetConnection and Instagram @MOmainstreet.

For additional information, contact State Director Gayla Roten at 417-334-3014. Mailing address for inquiries: PO Box 1066, Branson, MO 65615.