




## Blue Ridge National Heritage Area PRIORITY INITIATIVE WORKSHEET

<b>Initiative Title:</b>	<b>Historic Henderson County Courthouse</b>
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<b>Project Narrative:</b>	<p>The Historic Henderson County Courthouse, located in the heart of Historic Downtown Hendersonville on Main Street, is the oldest significant architectural structure in Downtown Hendersonville. The Courthouse was listed on the National Register of Historic Places as a place of statewide significance on May 10, 1979. It was closed when the new Courthouse located on Grove Street was dedicated on April 29, 1995, and has remained unoccupied since that time.</p> <div style="display: flex; align-items: flex-start;">  <div> <p>The Classical Revival architectural style building, with its copper dome displaying a figure of "Lady Justice," remains a well recognized landmark representing the character of Henderson County. The courthouse was built in 1904 by the Asheville firm of English architect Richard Sharp Smith, who supervised construction of the Biltmore Estate.</p> </div> </div> <p>This year is the Centennial for the historic building. Plans are under way to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Henderson County Historic with a series of events beginning July 15 and running through to Thanksgiving or early December. Plans call for a courthouse anniversary celebration in downtown Hendersonville in late August or early September to allow participation by people attending the N.C. Apple Festival. Another significant event is planned for Oct. 2 that would mirror the date in 1905 that the courthouse was officially dedicated.</p> <p>Downtown Hendersonville, Inc. is planning to set up a tent in front of the historic courthouse displaying renovation plans for the courthouse along with docents in period costume as a "living history" exhibit during the NC Apple Festival.</p> <p><b>Renovation Plans</b></p> <p>At the direction of the Henderson County Board of Commissioners, a committee composed of private citizens representing the public, as well as business and civic organizations, was appointed in 2004 to study possible uses, occupants and means of financing the rehabilitation of this building. The Historic Henderson County Courthouse Committee developed the requested information and recommended restoring the structure.</p> <p>In early 2005 the county Board of Commissioners agreed to preserve the</p>
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historic structure and renovate the facility for use by government and private entities, such as the Henderson County Genealogical & Historical Society. The Henderson County Strategic Plan, approved February, 2005, contained a strategic goal to “Complete the renovation of the Historic Courthouse. This initiative is a direct fulfillment of this strategy.

At its April 2005 meeting, the Henderson County Board of Commissioners agreed to pay for interior and exterior renovations on the historic courthouse building with an estimated cost of \$8 million. The renovation plan includes:

- Immediate demolition of the jail.
- Demolition of all annexes except one on the southwest corner on First Street that houses the county's finance department.
- The construction of a new annex on the west, or Church Street side, that complies with handicapped access rules and provides a historically appropriate rear entrance.
- The creation of a green space and parking on the west side.
- Cooperation with Hendersonville to expand the front lawn.

**Goal:** To preserve a well recognized and loved historic site vital to the appearance and appeal of the Historic Downtown District while establishing a sound operations plan to fund the continued use of the facility.

Person/Organization Responsible:	Cost to Implement:	Estimated Time to Complete:
Henderson County	\$8 mil	3 Years

Action Items:	Resources Required:	Who's Responsible:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Complete planning phase</li> <li>- Obtain construction bids for renovations</li> <li>- Obtain financing</li> <li>- Renovation construction</li> <li>- Complete Construction</li> <li>- County administration moves to Historic Courthouse</li> </ul>		Henderson County and Historic Henderson County Courthouse Renovation Corp.

**Performance Measures:** Strategic plan completed; construction bids and financing obtained; construction completed; occupancy of fully renovated building by County Administration

**Status:** Final Planning Stages