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## Landmark Report (Vol. 5, no. 7)

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# LANDMARK REPORT

Vol. 5 No. 7

## of Bowling Green & Warren County

JAN. 1985

### HISTORY OF WESTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY

Western Kentucky University, having a history reaching back to the late 19th century, has played an important role in Warren County. Dr. Lowell Harrison, with the Department of History at Western Kentucky University, has spent the past several years researching Western's history utilizing materials from the university archives.

Dr. Harrison will be featured as guest speaker for Landmark's January meeting to be held at the Bowling Green Public Library on

Wednesday, January 23, 1985 at 7:30 p.m. His presentation will cover Western Kentucky University's early years under the administration of Henry H. Cherry, Western's first president. A specialist in Kentucky history, Dr. Harrison has authored numerous articles and books including John Breckinridge: Jeffersonian Republican, George Rogers Clark and the War in the West, The Antislavery Movement in Kentucky, and The Civil War in Kentucky.

### CIVIL WAR SITES ADDED TO NATIONAL REGISTER

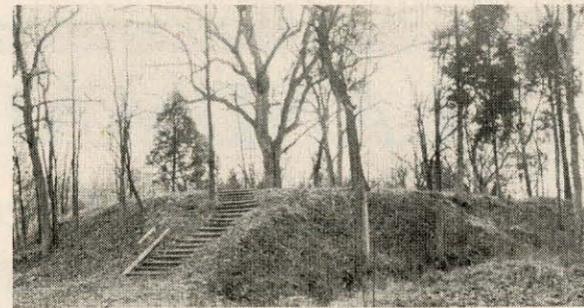
The Landmark Association of Bowling Green and Warren County is pleased to announce that three Civil War sites in Warren County have been placed on the National Register of Historic Places. Listed in the National Register as of December 5, 1984 are Fort Webb, Fort Lytle and Fort C.F. Smith.

During the Civil War, Bowling Green became an important military, as well as political center. As a result, several fortifications were constructed on the hills surrounding Bowling Green by the Confederate Army. These fortifications were later captured and improved by the Union Army. Today, portions of Forts Webb, Lytle and Smith are the only surviving visual reminders of Bowling Green's once extensive system of Civil War fortifications. Fort Webb, located off Beech Bend Road, was named by Federal forces and was locally known as Webb's Hill.



CHERRY HALL 1937  
WESTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY

This property was donated to the City of Bowling Green in 1972 and is now part of the city's park system. Fort Webb is the most complete of the three surviving sites and comprises 90-100% of the original construction. Fort Lytle, located on Western Kentucky University's campus, was named for Union General William H. Lytle and was known locally as Vinegar Hill. Fort Lytle's surviving walls and trenches represent 30-40% of the original construction. Fort C.F. Smith, located in Reservoir Hill Park, was named by Federal forces and was locally known as College Hill. This property was purchased by the City of Bowling Green in 1869 for use as a park and reservoir. Surviving remnants of Fort C.F. Smith, once the largest in the series of fortifications, represent 5-10% of the original construction.

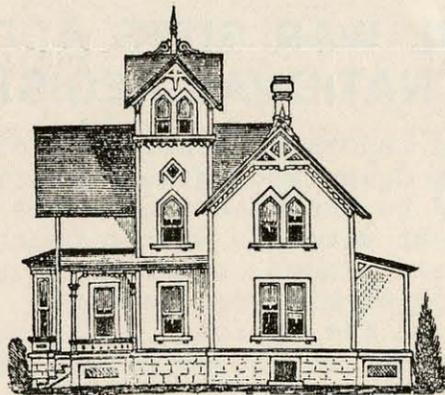


FORT WEBB  
BEECH BEND ROAD



FORT LYTLE  
WESTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY

## TAX MORATORIUM



A new revitalization incentive in the form of a tax abatement was recently approved by the Bowling Green City Commission. The Commission also approved designation of the Landmark Association to administer the program. This tax moratorium was passed to encourage the stabilization, repair or rehabilitation of property within the city limits. The ordinance provides a five year moratorium on city real estate tax of the rehabilitated portion of the property.

\* Any 50 year old or greater residential or commercial property within the city limits is eligible.

- \* Application must be made through the Landmark Association no less than 30 days prior to any rehabilitation work.
- \* Property will be assessed by the Property Valuation Administrator prior to revitalization work.
- \* Property owners have two years to complete rehabilitation plans.
- \* After expiration of moratorium, the property will be reassessed at full value.
- \* Previously rehabilitated buildings or those currently under revitalization are not eligible.
- \* For further information, contact the Landmark office at 781-8106.

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A property valued at \$40,000 would be taxed \$96.80 each year at \$2.42 per \$1,000 in assessed value.

\$60,000 in rehabilitation costs add \$145.20 per year in tax.

\$726.00 in tax would be saved over the five year moratorium period.

## JESSEE BUILDING

Revitalization of the Jessee Building was completed this past December by James D. Bryant, Jerry A. Burns, Max B. Harlin III, James D. Harris, William J. Parker and William J. Rudloff. Now utilized as professional offices, the structure appears as it did when constructed in 1912. Steve Hixson and Steve Downey were responsible for revitalization of their first floor offices.



JESSEE BUILDING 1912  
511-517 EAST 10TH AVENUE

## MEMBERSHIP

Landmark's addition of 13 new memberships brings our total new memberships for the year to 43. These new members along with our recent renewals expand Landmark membership to 490 people. We appreciate everyone's support and participation.

### New Members

Ms. Diane Alpert  
Mrs. Bettie Anderson  
Mrs. Marie Carter  
Mrs. Donna Chatman  
Mr. Robert W. Eston  
Mrs. Beatrice C. Grissom  
Mrs. Patricia H. Keller  
Mr. Kevin Kirby  
Ms. Lou Lazarus  
Dr. and Mrs. David Livingston  
Ms. Mary Alice Oliver  
Mr. and Mrs. Mark Rogers  
Mr. Asher L. Young

### Membership Renewals

Mr. and Mrs. Terry Hale  
Dr. and Mrs. John S. Herrick  
Mr. Alan Palmer

## OUT-OF-COUNTY MEMBERS

Because the Landmark Association is a county-wide historic preservation organization, we receive most of our membership support from residents of Warren County. However, some of our support comes from outside the county. This month, we would like to recognize those Landmark members who live outside Warren County, yet maintain an interest in Landmark activities.

Mr. William Cowles - Dearborn, MI  
Ms. Ida Denes - Scottsville, KY  
Mr. and Mrs. Henry L. Durham - Greensburg, KY  
Mr. and Mrs. Stephen P. Smith - Alexandria, VA  
Ms. Delorse Ann Woods - Glasgow, KY  
Mr. Asher L. Young - Nashville, TN  
Mrs. Peter D. Young - Greenville, MS

## Next Month...

Landmark's February 27th meeting will feature the traveling exhibit, "Vito Girone: the Beaux-Arts Education of an Architect," at the Kentucky Museum. Dr. William Morgan from the University of Louisville Department of Fine Arts will be the guest lecturer.

## DOWNTOWN APARTMENT FOR RENT

Overlooking Fountain Square Park, downtown's largest apartment with 2,000 square feet is currently available for rent. This \$500 per month apartment is protected with a sprinkler system and has two bedrooms, two baths, all kitchen appliances, W/D hook-up and an average electric bill of only \$20. For further information, call 843-3258.

Mr. & Mrs. W. Winkenhofner  
2138 Cemetery Road  
Bowling Green, KY 42101



Non Profit  
Organization  
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Bowling Green, KY  
42101

LANDMARK ASSOCIATION  
914 1/2 State Street P.O. Box 1812  
Bowling Green, Kentucky 42101  
502/781-8106

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## HISTORICAL MARKERS

In 1949, the Kentucky Department of Transportation began the Historical Marker Program. Under this program (assigned to the Kentucky Historical Society in 1962) over 1,400 historic sites along Kentucky highways have been identified. Approximately twenty of these markers have been placed in Warren County. Beginning with this issue, Landmark Report will periodically introduce the various historical markers found in Warren County.

### Warren County (Warren County Courthouse)

Established by Legislature, 1796, as the 24th county of Kentucky. Formed from part of Logan County. Parts of Barren, Allen, Edmonson, and Simpson counties later taken from original Warren boundaries. Named for Maj. Gen. Joseph Warren who died at Bunker Hill in 1775. Two earlier courthouses, the first log and second brick, 1812, were built in present Fountain Square.

**LANDMARK REPORT** is a publication of the Landmark Association of Bowling Green and Warren County, Inc., a non-profit corporation organized to promote historic preservation/economic development. Landmark, a participating agency in the Kentucky Main Street Program, is supported by the membership of concerned citizens.

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