LANDMARK REPORT
of Bowling Green & Warren County WINTER 1986

SPRING MEMBERSHIP MEETING
March 6, 1986

Landmark's Spring Membership meeting will be held on Thursday, March 6, 1986 at 7:30 p.m. We will meet at the Bowling Green Board of Realtors, on the second floor above Western Auto, at 440 East Main Street.

Our guest speakers will be Dennis Griffin and Jim Holton from the Chamber of Commerce. They will discuss the role of the Chamber in economic development and the opportunities and potential of development activities in Bowling Green and Warren County.

Following the program, we will tour the recently completed Barclay Building at 426 East Main Street, the home of Landmark Travel. Mary Ruth Drescher will be our tour host of Bowling Green's second oldest commercial building in the Downtown Historic District.

Members and guests are encouraged to attend this informative program and tour.
DECORATOR SHOW HOUSE '86

Decorator's Show House '86 will again combine the talents of the Landmark Association and the Arts Alliance and showcase many local and regional interior design firms. This year's co-chairmen are Jean and Jim Harris, Nancy and John Parker, and Jean and Hugh Thomason.

The dates for the second annual Show House project are set for May 12-18, 1986, in the Italianate home of Gerri and Jim Combs located at 1267 State Street. This house was built circa 1877 for J. Huit Potter and is within the College Hills Historic District. Potter was an influential Bowling Green banker and later served as President of American National Bank.

AGAIN this year, many special events and activities are being planned for the community including the opening preview party, several demonstrations, lectures, and musical entertainment. In addition, several local community and civic organizations are planning special events or meetings at the Show House.

Watch for further details as the plans progress on this exciting project. Many volunteers are needed during the opening of the Show House. Please call Landmark at 781-8106 or the Capitol at 782-2787 to become involved.

ANNUAL MEETING

Plans are well underway for Landmark's Annual Meeting to be held on Monday, May 12, 1986. Co-chairmen, Jane Morningstar and Cora Jane Spiller and their committee are making the final arrangements and have an interesting evening planned.

We will begin with a reception at the Decorator's Show House '86 at 1267 State Street and travel down the block for dinner at Christ Episcopal Church prepared by the Church Guild.

We are pleased to announce that our keynote speaker for the Annual Meeting is Mr. Hugh Miller from Evansville, Indiana. Mr. Miller is President of Curran Miller Auction and Realty, Inc. and is currently serving as President of the National Auctioneers Association. He is a real estate broker and licensed auctioneer and has specialized for many years in the sale of historic properties and fine antiques.

Make your plans now for this annual event. Cost again this year will be $10.00 per person and guests are welcome. Invitations to all Landmark members will be mailed in mid-April.

NEW MEMBER UPDATE

Mr. Charles L. Allen American National Bank
Mr. and Mrs. Paul Blackburn Blake, Hart, Taylor, Wiseman Insurance Agency, Inc.
Mr. and Mrs. William T. Carter Elizabeth Alden Cary
Mac Cherry and Christine Platt
Della Mae Daniel
Ms. Ann Duncan
Mrs. Christyne M. Gilbert
Mr. Joe Jordan
Larry and Cheryl Mendenhall
Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth R. Webb

FROM THE PRESIDENT

...Romanza O. Johnson

I am looking forward to seeing the members of the Landmark Association at the March 6th meeting. Do come and hear about all the exciting activities that are taking place. We were pleased to host guests from the National Trust and the Kentucky Heritage Council recently to develop a preservation ordinance for our community - now we are anxious to hear their reports.

Your Board of Directors is very dedicated; month after month (even in February with 6" of snow) they meet at 6:45 a.m. for their board meeting.

As a member, do take the time to call and give suggestions or ideas that you would like for us to try. Remember it is YOUR organization, we must all work together to preserve our heritage!!!

DOWNTOWN UPDATE

The Turpin Building at 914-916 State Street pictured above is the latest project completed in the Downtown Historic District. This building constructed in 1872 is the home of Landmark Association. The building sports a new paint scheme, new signage, and colorful blue awnings.

The Durbin Building, circa 1870, and located at 923 College Street is nearing completion for occupancy in the Spring 1986. The facade and the interior have been rehabilitated to accommodate professional office use on all three floors.
**TAX REFORM UPDATE**

The House of Representatives voted December 17 to retain the rehabilitation tax credits as part of its sweeping tax reform legislation. If approved by the Senate and signed by the President in its present form, the bill (H.R. 3383) would change dramatically the way every American pays taxes. It would also affect investment in historic buildings and activities of preservation organizations in a number of ways.

The House bill drops the current 25 percent tax credit for rehabilitation of historic buildings to 20 percent. The bill proposes combining the current 20 and 15 percent credits for rehabilitation of older buildings (pre-1936) that are not historic in to a single 10 percent credit.

Taxpayers would also face reduced benefits from depreciation which would change to a 30 year depreciation schedule in contrast to the current 19 years. The transition rules allow for projects caught by these changes to benefit from the current depreciation period of 19 years but not the 25 percent tax credit.

The Senate Finance Committee is scheduled to consider this 1300 page tax reform package early this year.

**KENTUCKY MAIN STREET**

In keeping with her economic development theme in the budget submitted to the General Assembly on January 21, Governor Martha Layne Collins is providing over $450,000 in her proposed budget over the next biennium to fund a program through the Kentucky Heritage Council. This program will be an expansion of the Kentucky Main Street Program and will address the needs of small towns in Kentucky faced with declining businesses in their central commercial areas. The Kentucky Main Street Program has provided assistance to Main Street communities which has generated considerable local investment and the revitalization of these historic commercial districts. This expansion of the Main Street Program will enable more towns to receive matching grants and technical assistance to address their downtown needs.

Additionally, a Resource Center and Workshops will be developed to assist small towns in planning and by providing necessary information.

Approval by the General Assembly currently in session is required for this program to be effected at the beginning of the State’s 1986-87 Fiscal Year. The expansion of this program by Governor Collins will continue Kentucky’s role as a national leader in downtown revitalization efforts.

**PRESERVATION IN PERSPECTIVE**

How do I find out when my house was built? How can we work with city hall to save the historic buildings in our neighborhoods? What is the best way to remove the many coats of paint from my brick house? What is unique to save the historic buildings in our neighborhood? These are a some of the questions which will be addressed during Kentucky’s first statewide preservation conference. This two-day conference is scheduled for May 9-10, 1986, at the Brown Hotel in Louisville. The conference will include several technical workshops on various preservation issues: A) The Preservation of Old Houses B) The Preservation of the Neighborhood C) The Preservation of Community D) Kentucky Images, Gateways and Thresholds.

Keynote speakers at two luncheons will address the past, present and future of the historic preservation movement in Kentucky and in the United States. This conference marks of the twentieth anniversary of the 1966 National Historic Preservation Act and the creation of the Kentucky Heritage Commission in 1966. This conference will provide a good opportunity to reflect on past accomplishments and plan for the future of this effort in Kentucky. Contact the Landmark office at 781-8106 for further information.

**JOIN HISTORIC LANDMARK**

**Become a Part of Our History**

**GUIDED TOURS** Consistently guided walking tours of P. T. Barnum’s Down Town Historic District and Smiths Grove.

**SPECIAL EVENTS** Seasonal meetings (Christmas, Easter, Picnic, Annual Meeting, Art, Train Fair) relate to historic preservation and to historical history, and other activities dealing with the rich cultural heritage of Bowling Green and Warren County.

**CONSULTING SERVICE** Technical and design assistance with the submission of historic buildings, plus planning and advice or training for available tax incentives. Assistance with National Register nominations and site listing in the Kentucky Register.

**VOLUNTEER PROJECTS** Join our volunteers in helping with many activities, including tours, exhibition booths, special events and survivals.

**NEWSLETTER** Our bi-monthly Landmark Report which reports on Preservation issues, current local events and the organizations activities.

**ANNUAL CONFERENCE** An opportunity to support the efforts of renewed vitality in Bowling Green and to help us to continue to foster our position of leadership.

**MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY**

- Individual: $15.00 (Supporting) $50.00 (Sustaining)
- Family: $25.00 (Sustaining) $100.00 (Sponsoring)

All contributions are tax deductible.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**BUSINESS RECRUITMENT COMMITTEE** (Herb Smith, Jr., Chairman) Devising marketing/advertising strategy to promote downtown as a viable business location for new retailers, services, and office tenants.

**TOUR COMMITTEE** (Lee Martin, Chairman) Conducting a four-day trip to Mobile, Alabama March 8-11. Two full days will be spent touring the city and surrounding area including visits to Bellinger Gardens, Fort Conde, Oakleigh, Dauphin Island, and Fort Morgan.

**HISTORICAL MARKER COMMITTEE** (Rick Voakes, Chairman) Investigating ways to designate, with the appropriate signage, the five historic districts in Bowling Green and Warren County.

The committee is also looking at ways to recognize the historic houses of Bowling Green and Warren County. A small ceramic plaque similar to the LANDMARK AWARD given to the rehabilitation projects is being considered. More details on both projects will follow.

**NATIONAL REGISTER**: An amended nomination to expand the Smiths Grove Historic District was submitted to the State Review Board and approved at the meeting on January 28, 1986. Final approval from the National Park Service in Washington is expected in the next several months. Added to the district are the buildings on the east side of Main Street between American National Bank and Second Street.
MARCH 6
Landmark Membership Meeting - Board of Realtors - 7:30PM

MARCH 8-11
Mobile Trip

MAY 2-18
Decorator Show House

MAY 12
Landmark Annual Meeting Christ Episcopal Church

MAY 11-17
National Preservation Week "Celebrate Our Historic Places, Our Past For Our Future"

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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