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A Historic Tour Of Homes
Saturday, December 16 from 4pm–7pm

The Landmark Association will hold a tour of homes on Saturday December 16 from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. The tour is our chief fund-raiser for this year and will feature five residences in the College Hill Historic District. All the tour homes are located in the 1300 blocks of College and State Streets. This arrangement will allow guests to park their automobiles and walk to the homes. Tickets can be purchased at each house for $5, which will allow a tour of all five homes. Any individual home may be toured for $2. Tickets are also available for sale from the Landmark Office or Landmark Board members or you may use the enclosed flyer to purchase your tickets in advance. Refreshments will be served at the Voakes house.

The homes included on the tour are beautifully maintained by folks who recognize they are stewards of local treasures. The David and Nancy Ham home at 1338 College Street is traditionally known as the Wilson or McKenzie home. It is an eclectic blend of Greek Revival, Italianate and Queen Anne styles. One of its outstanding features is a magnificent Greek Revival portico. Double-bracketed eaves and decorative corner details with dropped pendants make this a home to treasure. Next door at 1340 College Street is the Dr. Jeffrey Adams and Dr. Tammy Willis home also known as the Ella Potter Kirtley House. This frame T-plan house was built in the mid-1870s and features elongated windows with gracefully arched heads, a projecting bay window, and an unpainted rough cut stone foundation. The last tour home on College Street is also next door to the Hams at 1328; it belongs to our Landmark President and his wife, Dr. Rick and Sylvia Voakes. This late-Victorian two-story frame house boasts beautiful

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**Office Changes**

Cheryl Mendenhall, who was executive director of the Downtown Business Association for ten years, resigned her post on September 30. Landmark and DBA have had a long association, sharing an office since DBA was founded in the mid-1980s. Although in a different building, DBA and Landmark still share an office and office expenses, an efficient arrangement for both organizations. Landmark salutes Cheryl for her dedication to the economic development and enhancement of our downtown area. Her efforts speak for themselves and everyone who knows Cheryl recognizes her commitment to historic preservation as a means of creating a unique commercial area and as a means of enhancing tourism in our area. A reception for Cheryl, sponsored by DBA and Landmark, was held at the home of Landmark members Matt and Margaret Baker, where she was given several gifts by both organizations.

Prior to leaving, Cheryl was replaced by Cheryl Stiltsman who has capably overseen a major fund-raiser for DBA and is learning the importance of her organization’s role in Bowling Green’s present and future. Julie Troyer has also been hired as a part-time secretary, shared by DBA and Landmark. Next time you have reason to call the Landmark Office, let these ladies know that you appreciate the way they represent our organization to the public.

**A 19th Century Warren County Farmstead**

**BY JANET L. JOHNSTON**

The Mitchell-Estes Farmstead, or the Old Jack White Homestead, is the first Warren County property to be nominated to the National Register of Historic Places as a “rural historic landscape.” The National Register defines a rural historic landscape as “a geographical area that historically has been used by people, or shaped or modified by human activity, occupancy, or intervention, and that possesses a significant concentration, linkage, or continuity of areas of land use, vegetation, buildings and structures, roads, and waterways, and natural features. Unlike National Register nominations for an individual structure, this nomination includes the residence, outbuildings, silo, graveyard, and the farm acreage.

The Mitchell-Estes Farmstead historically has and continues to contribute to the development of Warren County agriculture. It represents the average, 19th century farm and family owned and operated farmsteads. Its spatial organization, location, materials, and setting represent Warren County farms during the years 1892 and 1945. The farm is located approximately 1 1/4 miles north of Smiths Grove, Kentucky on the Upper Smiths Grove Road and is currently owned and operated by Earl and Jeanette Estes.

The earliest documented owner of the Mitchell-Estes Farmstead was John (“Jack”) White (1774-1848). After moving from Manassas, Virginia, to Warren County in the 1790s, Jack White became a wealthy landowner and slave holder. His land acquisitions included several thousand acres in Warren, Edmonson, and Barren Counties and stretched from Dripping Springs in Edmonson County to Merry Oaks in Barren County. A minute portion of his land holdings included the Mitchell-Estes Farmstead. Upon this tract, Mr. White constructed a two-story brick home, many outbuildings, gardens, and a graveyard.

After the death of Jack White in 1848, his adopted daughter Nancy White Cooke inherited the brick residence and adjoining acreage. Nancy Cooke died in 1852 and bequeathed 2,391 acres to her three sons, Peyton A., William H., and John White Cooke. Upon the attainment of legal age, this large land holding was divided among the three sons. Peyton A. Cooke received two tracts of land. The first tract consisted of 265.5 acres, including the Mitchell-Estes Farmstead; the second adjacent tract consisted of 411.5 acres.

On October 22, 1886, Peyton A. and Mattie Cooke sold the 265.5 acres to I. S. and Alonso G. Mitchell, father and son, for $10,620. In 1892, the Mitchells destroyed the two-story brick home, except for the kitchen

Continued on page 4
and storage areas. They constructed the existing two-story, Queen Anne style farmhouse in front of the remaining White dwelling. In 1894, the Mitchells purchased an adjoining 122.95 acre farm known as the "L. A. Hawks Farm." By 1894, the Mitchell farm included 388.45 acres and was one of forty percent of Warren County farms containing 100 to 499 acres. In 1894, the Mitchells purchased an adjoining 122.95 acre farm known as the "L. A. Hawks Farm." By 1894, the Mitchell farm included 388.45 acres and was one of forty percent of Warren County farms containing 100 to 499 acres. In 1901, J. S. Mitchell died and willed the farm to his son, Alonso G. Mitchell. In a December 19, 1907 special edition of The Times-Journal and Warren County Courier, Alonso G. Mitchell's farm was described as follows: "All of his farm is in a high state of cultivation, and he is one of the largest producers of farm products in these counties. Besides being a grower of fine crops, he is a large dealer in cattle and mules. He now has 120 head of cattle which he will winter and feed for the spring market, and he has at present some fifty or more head of mules."

After the death of A. G. Mitchell, his sons, Jesse and Joe Mitchell, acquired the property. During their ownership, the Mitchell Brothers farm became a successful dairy and agricultural complex and became synonymous with Warren County dairy and livestock operations. The Mitchell Brothers Farm exceeded county, Mammoth Cave subregional, and state averages in size and value of farms, number of livestock, and production. According to Billy Joe Mitchell, his father and uncle were general farmers but concentrated on dairy farming. Joe and Jesse Mitchell were the first Warren County farmers to raise Holstein dairy cattle in this area. By the 1950s, the farm included 50 dairy cattle, 200 beef cattle, and 2,000 hogs. The Mitchell Brothers also cultivated crops for livestock feed. The only cash crop for the Mitchell farm consisted of 5,000 to 6,000 pounds of tobacco.

After the 1950s, the Mitchell-Estes Farmstead continued as an above-average farmstead, and its owners and operators have been leaders in the agricultural industry. Today the farmstead continues to be a family-owned and -operated farm. Earl and Jeanette Estes are committed to livestock farming and the agricultural development of Warren County. In 1983, the Estes purchased three of the five tracts originally associated with the Mitchell farm. In 1991, they undertook a major restoration project on the 1892 frame residence and outbuildings. They now live in the homeplace, raise beef cattle and horses, and cultivate crops of alfalfa hay and corn on the 93.64 acre Mitchell-Estes Farmstead. On adjacent property, their sons and families live and cultivate crops and raise dairy cattle. (Editor's note: The Mitchell-Estes Farmstead and the Bartlett Walton House featured in the last Landmark Report were added to the National Register of Historic Places in October. The house on the Mitchell-Estes Farmstead will be featured in our next issue.)

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FEATURE ARTICLE:

BARN ON THE MITCHELL-ESTES FARMSTEAD:

Visit five of Bowling Green's Historic Homes on the LANDMARK ASSOCIATION'S CHRISTMAS TOUR OF HOMES

Saturday, December 16, 1995
4:00 - 7:00 p.m.

David & Nancy Ham
1338 College Street
Dr. Rick & Sylvia Voakes
1328 College Street

Dr. John & Nancy Parker
Greystone Apartments
1357 State Street
1334 State Street

Dr. Jeffrey Adams & Dr. Tammy Willis
1340 College Street

$5 per person
You may begin the tour at any house
Refreshments will be served at the Voakes' House

Name: ___________________________  Address: ___________________________

Phone: ___________________________  Number of tickets ______  Amount enclosed $______

Please make checks payable to: Landmark Association
Fires Damage Important Landmarks

In early September, a fire destroyed a good portion of the old Hardcastle House on Kentucky 101 near Smiths Grove. This frame home, built in the mid-nineteenth century, featured heavily bracketed eaves, decorative hoodmolds, a hipped roof with a widow's walk, elongated windows, and a portico with decorative double columns. It was a fine example of an Italianate cottage. Landmark members will also recognize it as the first property on the Warren County historical resources survey, bearing the number WA-1.

All of Warren County mourned as the Mariah Moore house, believed to be the oldest brick building in the city (built c. 1818), burned in October. The house, which had been converted to a restaurant, displayed Federal styling particularly on its interior. Landmark salutes those who played an instrumental role in restoring the house in the late 1970s and hopes that much like the phoenix, the house will rise from its ashes.
**DECEMBER 1995**

**ACTIVITIES & EVENTS:**

**Come to the Church In the Wildwood**

The Mount Olivet Cumberland Presbyterian Church is the oldest Cumberland Presbyterian organization in Warren County. The church was organized in 1813, the outgrowth of the revival of the 1800s and the brush arbor meetings that were held on the church’s present property. Prior to the building of the present sanctuary in 1845, a log structure housed the congregation. The Mount Olivet Cemetery, which surrounds the church, dates from the late 1700s. The church is located at the intersection of Plum Springs Road (Highway 957) and the Mount Olivet Road (Highway 526).

In the early 1800s the present site was used for camp meetings. Persons came from near and far, traveling horseback or in ox- or horse-drawn wagons loaded with provisions and bedding. The stock was placed in the pasture while the revival continued from two to four weeks. Some families, or portions of them, would return to their homes after ten days or two weeks in order that others could come.

Represented in the congregation were Presbyterians, Baptists, and Methodists. With the growth of the camp meetings came the desire for a church building, and a log church was constructed by the three denominations. Services were held year round. In 1813, the church was named the Mount Olivet Cumberland Presbyterian Church as the Cumberland Presbyterians in the congregation outnumbered the other denominations.

The property of Henry Ewing, the land on which the camp meetings were held, was sold to William “Billy” Simpson who later deeded it to John H. “Jack” White. In 1844, Mr. White deeded the church ground to the trustees of Mt. Olivet Church and the congregation voted to erect a brick structure. Bricks were made less than 200 yards from the church site, and the stone foundation was constructed by John Vance, Mr. Mitchell and other early members. The brick and mortar were applied by O.A. Carter and a Mr. Patillo, while the stone curbing (which is still in place in front of the church) was donated by Mr. Vance. The church was constructed for a little over $1000.

Approximately one-third of the space in the rear of the building was reserved for the black brethren. At one time the slave membership reached 30 members, and it is believed that a section of the cemetery was used for slave burials. The church’s first recorded pastor was the Reverend Jesse G. Grider, who resigned after serving the church for 14 years to become the organizing pastor of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church in Bowling Green.

In 1880 the doors in the rear of the building were closed and the pulpit moved from the front to the rear. In 1904 the church was remodeled as it appears today, at a cost of $1,625.00. This remodeling included the removal of the two separate front doors (one for the men and one for the women) and installing a centered double front door.

In 1955 the educational annex was constructed with four Sunday School rooms, a kitchen, fellowship hall, and restrooms, at a cost of $20,000. Another classroom was added in 1978. In 1958 the manse was constructed at a cost of $6,500 with most of the labor being done by volunteers. The manse was appraised at $12,000 at that time. A master bedroom and bath was added in 1987 and central heat and air was installed at a cost of $17,800. The church was originally lighted by five kerosene lamp chandeliers with five lights on each chandelier and a light at each window. In the late 1930s the church installed electric lighting.

In 1994 and 1995 several improvements have been made to the church. A covered walkway from the parking lot to the fellowship hall has been installed, a canopy placed over the front doors, and the front doors have been refinished. Mr. Olivet is very proud of its 150 year history and its fine facility.

(Editor’s note: This article was compiled from notes submitted by Mr. Olivet member Mary Ann Cole. It is a part of Landmark’s Warren County Bicentennial Project; other church building histories will be presented in future issues. If you have information about a rural church outside Bowling Green’s city limits, please call me.)

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**HISTORIC PROPERTIES ADVERTISING**

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**ONE OF A KIND**

LOG CABIN BUILT IN THE 40'S as a retreat on 2.8 acres. Now in the city and updated but original charm still there. Four fireplaces, screened porch, swimming pool. Second residence on property can be connected to log cabin. Call Brenda Simpson at 782-2250.

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**OLD FASHIONED VALUE**

YESTER YEAR CHARM graces this updated older 3 BR home which has been improved with age by the caring owners. It has 2 baths, central heat and air, garage and a lovely yard. Call Peggy Hunt at 781-6000 to see this nostalgic home priced at $78,500.

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**640 EAST 10TH AVENUE**

THIS OLD HOUSE IS NOT FOR SALE!

It is our office. Both listings we had planned to advertise in this issue are already on contract. We invite you to come by to see us and let us help you find a great old house. We enjoy working with older properties so please call us.

David Sims
912-7919

Sims Real Estate

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**AFRAID OF GRACE**

THE GREAT AMERICAN HOUSES and Squares of our Past, which will protect the beauty of our natural environment, which will preserve the great old American houses and squares and parks of our national past, and which will build handsome and balanced cities for our future.

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**LANDMARK REPORT**

"I LOOK FORWARD TO AN AMERICA WHICH WILL NOT BE AFRAID OF GRACE AND BEAUTY, WHICH WILL PROTECT THE BEAUTY OF OUR NATURAL ENVIRONMENT, WHICH WILL PRESERVE THE GREAT OLD AMERICAN HOUSES AND SQUARES AND PARKS OF OUR NATIONAL PAST, AND WHICH WILL BUILD HANDSOME AND BALANCED CITIES FOR OUR FUTURE."

—JOHN F. KENNEDY

OCTOBER 26, 1963

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**RE/MAX**

Real Estate Executives Independently Owned and Operated

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OCTOBER 26, 1963

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—JOHN F. KENNEDY

OCTOBER 26, 1963
Special Thanks To:
Matt and Margaret Baker for hosting the going away party for Cheryl Mendenhall
Mr./Mrs. Dan Rudloff for hosting our House Ghost party in October
Romanza Johnson for rustling up goodies for the above and all those who got rustled to bring goodies

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LANDMARK REPORT

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