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Landmark Report (Vol. 15, no. 3)

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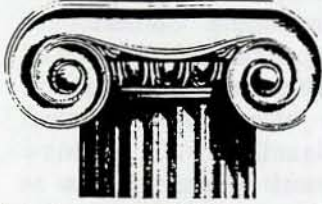
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LANDMARK ASSOCIATION

Bowling Green—Warren County



"A future with a past"

LANDMARK REPORT

vol. 15, no. 3

August 1996

Another Landmark Year

President Rick Voakes delivered these annals at Landmark's Annual Meeting on May 31.

Our first big project for the year was the Christmas Tour of Homes. This was an important priority for me, in getting the spotlight on some of our fabulous Bowling Green architectural treasures. I am greatly indebted to John/Nancy Parker, David/Nancy Ham, Jeff Adams and Tammy Willis, and Jonathan Jeffrey for opening their homes for the tour. Special thanks also to Sylvia for service beyond the call of duty in preparing our own house for the tour. Over 150 guests toured the College Hill Historic District visiting these architectural beauties.

We had some reorganization of the Landmark office, hiring our first Landmark dedicated secretary, Julie Troyer, who also works part-time for the Downtown Business Association (DBA). Cheryl Mendenhall stepped down as executive director of DBA and liaison board member for Landmark. She was a great asset for our organization. However, the new director of DBA, Cheryl Blaine, has done a great job and has also been quite valuable to Landmark. It was her sharp eye and keen business sense that snagged us a new state-of-the-art computer system, which has been donated to Landmark by IBM. I also want to thank our new board member, George Peterson, for his assistance in getting the new computer. This system will allow us much more accurate record-keeping, ability to generate our own publications, such as the newsletter, and increase the communication with our membership.

Sam Terry and Joyce Rasdall have been working on the publication of a children's book about historic sites and architecture in Bowling Green. The book uses architectural drawings made by Joyce's students at Western. The students were rewarded with a renewed appreciation of our architectural heritage, and a sense of pride in their contributions. One goal of Landmark is to instill this pride and appreciation in the future generations of children who will one day assume the responsibility of preservation that we now hold.

I also want to give special thanks to Joyce for her excellent programs this year. The ghost stories of Lynwood Montell by candlelight on Halloween at Melissa and Dan Rudloff's house will long be remembered. And Jonathan Jeffrey's excellent history of Woodburn was an outstanding education for us as well as for the Woodburn residents.

Our vice president, Matt Baker, has been working with Elaine and Dorian Walker of Peridot Pictures to embark on our major bicentennial project: the production of a documentary movie with scenes from the history of Bowling Green. This will premier at the Capitol next summer. Peridot Pictures is the company that produced *Beauty of the Southland*, the documentary about the L&N Depot.

I want to thank all the Board members who worked so hard on their respective committees, especially Jonathan Jeffrey for the newsletter, and Jan Johnston for keeping us up to date

about the Historic Preservation Board activities. I would also like to thank all of you who took the time to fill out the survey which came in your last newsletter. This information will be a big help in guiding the board during the next year.

One of my goals for this year was to spotlight more of the residential historic properties of this area. The Christmas tour was an important start, but we also instituted the Jean Thomason Historic Home Award to recognize outstanding historic preservation of private homes. This award brought the added benefit of the application process, which standardized out data in evaluating the nominees for the award, and gave us a database describing several historic properties. This database will grow each year as more homes are nominated, allowing us to learn all we can about the history and architecture of residential Bowling Green and Warren County.

Finally, the Landmark accomplishment of which I am most proud is the willingness of the membership to make their voices heard, and stand up for what we believe. When historic properties were destroyed last fall in the St. Joseph's Historic District, several Landmark board members were willing to write letters to the Kentucky Heritage Council and to City Hall, showing that the community is mindful of these properties and cares about them as part of our heritage. This action resulted in some hurt feelings, but ultimately established a new level of respect for both Landmark and the Historic Preservation Board.

Landmark Gives New Awards

In the past most Landmark Awards were presented to business owners who had restored buildings for commercial purposes. The work of honorees over the last 18 years has resulted in the wonderful transformation of downtown Bowling Green. During this same period of time, the same restoration concepts have carried over to the residential parts of historic Bowling Green and Warren

County. Fortunately many of these homes have been included on Landmark home tours. These courageous home owners have set an outstanding example for others to follow. They have also assisted in teaching others the basic principles of historic preservation.

This year Landmark began a new tradition. An award was created to honor those intrepid individuals who have worked on restoring historic homes. "There is one person responsible for more homes being restored than you can imagine," reported President Rick Voakes at the annual meeting "and we are proud to honor her by calling this award the Jean Thomason Historic Home Award."

The recipient of this year's Jean Thomason Historic Home Award was former Landmark president Richard Wisemann and his wife, Rosie. The Wisemanns came to Bowling Green in 1980, wanting to restore an old house. They restored a historic home in Richmond, Virginia, and were itching to do this in their new hometown. They happened to meet the right person--Jean Thomason--who helped them locate the perfect historic house. They bought the Moses Potter House on Fred Lively Road, and went right to work. Extra care was taken to preserve as much as possible, for example: original pegged beams in the roof were saved, six fireplaces were restored to working condition, all original woodwork was repaired, stripped, put back and painted in historic colors. The house contains a wood-burning stove in the kitchen, and THEIRS actually works! Even the cistern under the patio was preserved.

The Wisemanns worked very hard at this project, and were willing to share their triumph and the knowledge they gained from the task. The paint was barely dry when they opened their home to Landmark members for our Christmas Open House back in 1982. This was one of the very first complete historic home restoration projects Landmark members (as a group) had seen. This was an example for many to follow, and many did!

Another new award given this year is the Lamplighter Award. It will be

presented each year at the annual meeting. The recipient is chosen by the association's president, and honors a Landmark board member who has exhibited outstanding service to the organization in the past year. This year's award went to Dawn Slaughter, who has served as our secretary this year. She also co-chaired the annual meeting planning committee, served on the awards committee, assisted the program committee, and acted as one of the hostesses for the Christmas home tour.

1996 Heritage Award

These notes were prepared by President Voakes and were delivered by 1995 Heritage Award winner, Ron Shrewsbury.

This year's Heritage Award recipient [Jonathan Jeffrey] stands out among all Heritage Award recipients, for outstanding service, long hours of volunteer work for Landmark, exceptional leadership qualities, and a rare sense of duty and integrity that has resulted in bold, "even risky" but ultimately positive actions within the local preservation community. He is a man of words, as well as actions, in his many roles as author, letter writer, editor, lecturer, surveyor of rural churches, and even tour guide for graveyards.

His leadership abilities were evident during his term as president of Landmark. He was also honored by the Mayor of Bowling Green in his appointment to the Historic Preservation Board. He has also been a valuable resource for Landmark, with his vast knowledge of local history and architecture, and information finding skills that are integral to his profession as Special Collections Librarian at the Kentucky Library.

This accomplished preservationist has authored many articles and booklets, including *Riverview: Savoring the Past*, a history of the Riverview. This book, published by Landmark, was awarded as Outstanding Publication for 1995 by the Historical Confederation of Kentucky.

Other publications include a history of the Bowling Green Public Library, a treatise on Shaker textiles, and *A Stroll Around Fountain Square*.

Our Heritage Award recipient was elected to the Board of Directors of Landmark in 1991, and is always on the lookout for opportunities for the Landmark Association. He was instrumental in our first watchdog effort in responding to inappropriate destruction of historic property in the St. Joseph Historic District this past year.

The Annual Meeting Planning Committee would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who helped with the Lost River Dinner/Dance. While there were a few glitches (including the unfortunate destruction of two portable toilets by fire, which you probably read about in the *Daily News*), it seems that most people think all went well. It was undoubtedly an experience we will not forget for a long time.

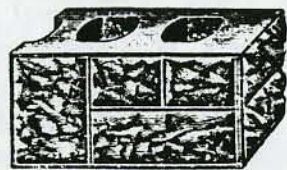
In particular the Committee would like to thank Shutterbug Photo, Pip Printing, Cambridge Market, and the Phi Delta Theta Fraternity. Also, thanks to David Sears and Ken Marshall for use of their golf carts. The greatest thanks goes to the adventuresome members of Landmark who were brave enough to join us for a lovely evening in raw nature. For some it recalled fond memories of yesteryear. After taking a brief twirl around the area behind the tent, Bill Stamps remarked: "Now I can say I danced here in the 1940s and the 1990s." Thanks for the memories.

*Dawn Slaughter & Jonathan Ray
Co-Chairs*

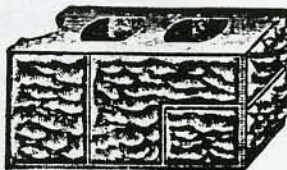


Hugh Graham House

Patricia H. Minter



Broken Ashler Face, Style B.



Broken Ashler Face, Style C.

Built in 1907 by Bowling Green mayor Hugh Graham, the house is located at 1262 Chestnut Street, on the corner of 13th Avenue. Currently owned by Michael and Patricia Minter, it is the only historic home in Bowling Green constructed entirely from ornamental concrete block. The house is also unusual for the College Hill area because it has never been subdivided for apartments or used as a boarding-house; in fact the house has only had five owners since it was built, and was owned by the Graham family for most of the century. It has the distinction of being one of the first homes in the city to be wired for electricity at the time of construction.

Although the Graham house is unique in the Warren County area, it is representative of a popular post-Victorian architectural style. Ornamental concrete block houses are excellent examples of the transitional phase in American architecture from the building traditions of the Victorian era to those of the modern era.

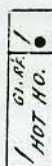
Ornamental concrete block was one of several building materials popularized in the Victorian and late-Victorian era;

two other new materials, asphalt shingles and ceramic tiles, were also used in the Graham house. Concrete was certainly not new to the building trade; it was widely used by the Romans, most prominently in the Pantheon. After the Romans, however, concrete was not used again for centuries, possibly for aesthetic reasons. Its revival began in the nineteenth century when manufacturing innovations made mass production of concrete blocks practical.

The French became leaders in concrete production and construction (known as "beton"). Although concrete was manufactured in America as early as the 1830s, the widespread use of cornet block for buildings did not begin until the 1860s; several patents for hollow-core blocks were issued in 1866. By 1870 several companies were mass-producing block, with the major production concentrated in Chicago and San Francisco. Soon afterward, relatively inexpensive cast-iron block-making machines became available to the general public, thus clearing the path for mass consumption of this new building material by the rapidly growing

American middle-class. By the turn of the century, concrete block machines could be purchased from nearby Cincinnati.

The Graham house, built in 1907, was completed just before the mainstream popularity of concrete block construction began. During the early twentieth century, Sears, Roebuck, and Company began selling significant numbers of block machines, making this material available to many Americans for the first time. In 1908, Sears devoted eight pages of the spring catalogue to concrete block machines and



A detail map of the Graham house from the 1914 Sanborn map. The "(C.B.," indicates that the building was constructed of concrete block. Mrs. Graham was a florist; notice her hot house in the backyard. "Gl. Rf." indicates a glass roof.

related hardware. As described in their advertisements, this was the perfect building material for middle-class homebuilders. It was cheap, quick, and practical, characteristics with great appeal for Americans, particularly those in smaller cities who relied heavily on catalogues and other mail-order sources for materials.

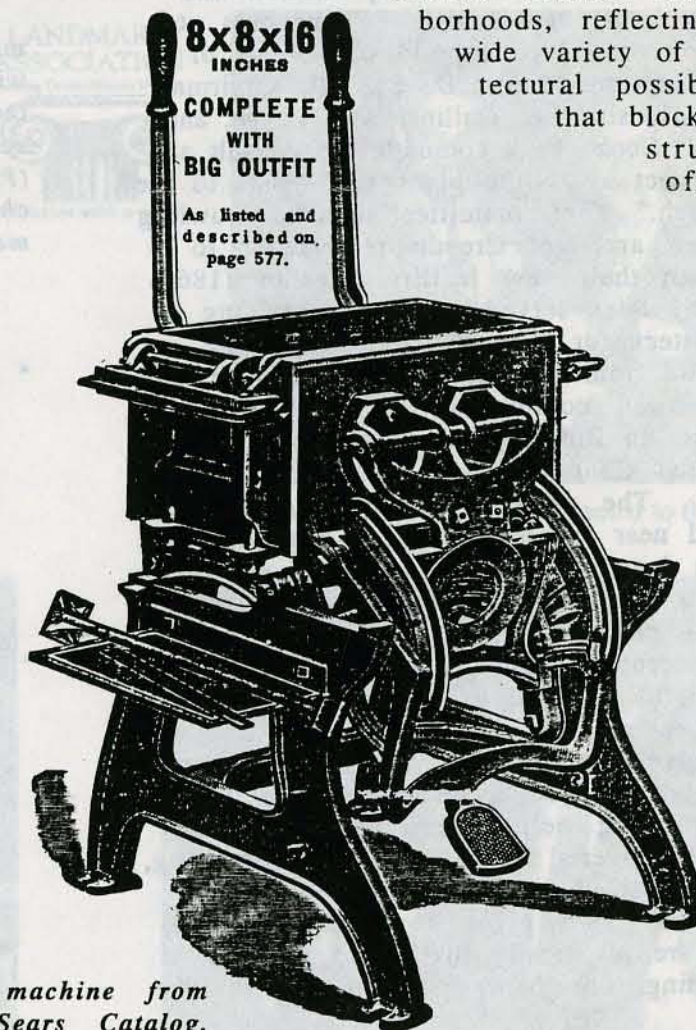
Ornamental block had its heyday from the late 1800s through the 1930s. The blocks were almost always finished with a decorative face, frequently an imitation of rough-cut or faced stone, but sometimes they were ornamented with lively designs. Generally, the material could be used anywhere stone or brick traditionally was used. Block was very popular for house foundations because it was cheaper than stone and lasted longer than brick. After the advent of the automobile, the biggest use of block was for garage construction. It was the ideal building material in cities where building codes limited wood construction within a certain distance of the property line. For people with small yards and a new car, blocks created cheap and fire-proof storage areas.

The Graham house is entirely built from cast block, described in one preservation newsletter as the "most interesting" use of concrete for homes. Although many block

houses were constructed during the Victorian era, the greatest use of blocks came in the post-Victorian period. Frank Lloyd Wright embraced the use of concrete block, although his block homes featured elaborately ornamented material that bore little resemblance to popular designs. Block houses were built in Bungalow, Colonial Revival, and Foursquare styles, as well as farmhouse and Homestead types. "The uniform, rectangular dimensions of block made it an ideal material for the boxy,

foursquare houses of the period." Frequently two-story houses were decorative block on the first floor and topped with a shingled upper floor. The Graham house, by contrast, is block on both floors.

Porches were frequently constructed from decorative block; in 1908 Sears offered a complete porch block kit for \$57.25 that included a choice of "Ionic or Gothic moulds." The Graham house features a block porch, and many other porches survive in Bowling Green's historic neighborhoods, reflecting the wide variety of architectural possibilities that block construction offered.



Block machine from 1908 Sears Catalog.

Smith's Grove Baptist Church

The Smiths Grove Baptist Church was constituted in 1812 and is now worshipping in its third building. Early church minutes, housed in the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary Archives in Louisville, reveal that the first church was a log building with a frame addition added later. It burned in 1859. During the Civil War, regular services were curtailed although not altogether abandoned. In September 1861, "Rebels came...and the church never met any more until March 1862." The second building was built soon thereafter, and it served as a Union Church with the Presbyterians for 17 years. Some of the building materials from that building, including some brick, were used in the present structure.

The March 1893 minutes of the church indicate that "...by motion and second, all agreed that the members at once proceed to...rebuild our house of worship and that L.D. Rasdall, Chairman; T.J. Hudson, J.C. Cullins, W.T. Payne, and W.H. Cooke be a committee to consult an architect as to the plans and report to the church." The committee selected Bowling Green architect Creedmore Fleenor to design their new facility. Fleenor (1860-1925) later served as the supervising architect for the new Kentucky state capitol from 1904 to 1910. He also designed numerous commercial buildings and homes in Bowling Green, as well as First Baptist Church (1913) and Pushins (1920).

The present building is strategically sited near the main road in Smiths Grove. This location gives it a greater vertical thrust and makes it appear more like a town church, hugging the street rather than centered on a large lot. The building is Gothic Revival in styling and boasts 32 stained glass windows, including a massive window with the church's completion date, 1898, incorporated in it. The functioning bell tower features beautifully louvered vents, limestone detailing, a castellated roofline, and buttressed corners. Two other functioning entrances are artistically juxtaposed to the building, one being octagon shaped. The

main axis of the building feature corbeled brick at the cornice line and each gable features twin wooden louvered vents. The large stained glass windows in the gable ends are tri-partite Gothic arched windows topped with a circular window; these windows are outlined with a thin limestone lintel set in the masonry. This same limestone detailing is used above entryways. The whole artistic effect of the building is enhanced by the beautiful standing seam roof with copper finials on the towers and the pleasing yet functional course of limestone forming the watertable at the basement level.

The interior features curved, and tapered oak Gothic pews ornamented with applied scroll work. A C-scroll pulpit rail with newel posts is found at the front of the sanctuary. The stained glass windows create a spectacular vision when contrasted with the wooden ceiling.

This building has been beautifully maintained by the congregation and is without a doubt one of the most architecturally pretentious rural churches in southcentral Kentucky.

(Prepared from notes supplied by church member and Landmark board member Joyce Rasdall)

Architectural Details

- Cheers to Bowling Green Municipal Utilities for incorporating some of the salvaged materials from the razed Main Street buildings in their new facility. The bulwarks, window hoods and some new applied ornaments enhance the appearance of the new facility.
- Cheers to City Hall for approaching Landmark prior to installing new lighting in front of the 1907 City Hall. The two lamp posts flanking the front entrance had to be replaced. Landmark made several suggestions regarding height, size, and color of the new lamp posts. The new lamps are similar to the old posts and help protect the integrity of this city landmark. They are also much easier to maintain.

Annual Meeting Souvenir



Corrie and Arvin Voss accept a Landmark Award from President Voakes for restoration of the Mercer House at 1215 High Street.



Richard and Rosie Wiesemann were recipients of the first Jean Thomason Award for their restoration of the Moses Potter Home on Fred Lively Road.



Jonathan Jeffrey accepts the Heritage Award from President Voakes.



One Landmark Award was presented to the Fairview Methodist Church.



The first recipient of the new Landmark Lamplighter Award is Dawn Slaughter. Isn't it attractive?



Dawn Slaughter, co-chair of the annual event, talks with 1995 Heritage Award winner, Ron Shrewsbury and his wife Sallie.



President Voakes thanks three departing Board members (1 to r) Cooper Smith, Ann Smith, and Mary Lou Parrish.



President Voakes thanks Ann Smith.



President Voakes thanks Mary Lou Parrish.



Mingling before the big event in the mouth of Lost River Cave. The Friends of Lost River were given a Landmark Award in honor of their work in restoring the cave.

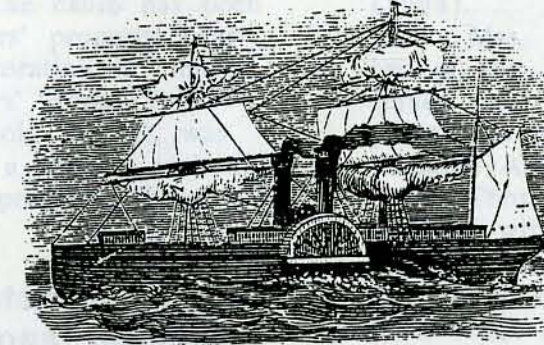


Under the big tent.



Incoming president, Matthew Baker and his wife Margaret.

THE LANDMARK ASSOCIATION Invites You To CARSON'S STEAMBOAT LANDING Logansport, Ky.



Steam-ship.

We will tour the Green River homes of Landmark members Doris A. and Carroll Tichenor. The house was completed in 1854 and was built by Tom Carson. The Carsons were prominent pioneers and entrepreneurs in Morgantown. The site is the location of an old ferry which ceased operation in 1931. The property, which has sustained three major floods, was purchased by the Annis family in 1904 and have been in continuous family ownership since that time.

Savor some Kentucky watermelon by the river while our hosts share their 20 years of restoration experiences while maintaining professional/administrative positions at the University of Kentucky and the University of Florida.

We will caravan and carpool to the properties. Meet at the back of Diddle Arena (the side near the railroad tracks) at 1:30 p.m. on **Sunday afternoon, August 25**. If you plan to attend please call the Landmark Office at 782-0037 and leave an RSVP message or call Joyce Rasdall at 563-3831. Directions will be available on the 25th; if you would like them prior to that date please indicate that in your phone message with your mailing address.

- Cheers to architect David Bryant of Branscom Construction for his sensitive rendering of the Mariah Moore House. The front elevation will remain very similar to the original, but the restaurant will boast an innovative and attractive interior.
- Cheers to Col. Robert and Cora Jane Spiller for saving the Bratton Cabin, which was originally located near the Mt. Olivet Church. The cabin has been moved to the Spillers' property near Oakland, and its restoration is almost complete. The Spillers' Home, Forest Home [the Peyton Cooke House], was recently included as a off-site visit for the public library's program "Eden of the West."

Endowment Established to Honor Irene Moss Sumpter

The Landmark Association was saddened upon the death of charter member, Irene Moss Sumpter, on June 20, 1996. For some time the Board has discussed the possibility of an endowment fund to be used for educational programming and publication of materials related to the cultural heritage of Bowling Green and Warren County. Fortunately the endowment was made possible prior to Mrs. Sumpter's death, so she was aware of our wishes to name the endowment in her honor.

Irene Moss was born on July 6, 1902 in Warren County, the daughter of Mabelle Andrew and Morton MeTyeire Moss. She attended public schools in Bowling Green, and then matriculated at Southern College in Petersburg, Virginia, and later the New England Conservatory in Boston. She received her A.B. degree from WKU in 1926.

She married Ward Cullin Sumpter in Bowling Green on September 16, 1927. They have one child, Reta Moss Sumpter who married Leslie Aaron Morgan in 1952. The Morgans have three children: Linda, John and William.

Besides her popular An Album of Early Warren County, Kentucky Landmarks (1976, 1991), Mrs. Sumpter also published Our Heritage: An Album of Early Bowling Green, Kentucky Landmarks (1978) In addition she collaborated with Dr. Lawrence O. Toomey on the book, Medical Doctors of Bowling Green and Warren County, Kentucky, 1796-1985 (1985). After moving to Florida, she authored The First Twenty Years: A History of Winter Park Towers and Village (1988).

Mrs. Sumpter was a charter member of the Landmark Association and served on its Board of Directors for many years. She received its prestigious Heritage Award in 1984.

Those wishing to honor Mrs. Sumpter with a donation to the endowment, should make their checks payable to Landmark Association and should indicate in the memo "Sumpter Endowment Fund." All gifts are tax deductible and will be acknowledged. The family will also be notified that a gift has been made.

Those already making contributions through July 15, include:

- Clovella Biggers
- Elizabeth Ellis Curran
- Henrietta Durham
- Mrs. Donald Jung
- Louise Woodman
- Mr./Mrs. S. J. Larkins
- Jonathan Jeffrey
- Ms. Warrenne Cannon
- Mildred Horn
- Mayme Brent Emrick
- Sara E. Tyler
- Dorothy Loudermilk
- Mrs. Joe Davenport
- Dr. Hugh/Jean Thomason
- Dr. Rick/Sylvia Voakes
- Dr./Mrs. Charles George
- Mr./Mrs. Robert Greninger
- Dr. Ralph/Romanza Johnson
- Mr./Mrs. Robert D. Hostetter

Memorial or honorary gifts may be made to this fund at any time. For example, a gift was recently made to honor the 50th wedding anniversary of Dr. Robert N. and Lillian Pace. A letter recognizing the contribution will be sent to the one being honored. When memorial gifts are made, a similar letter will be sent to the family of the deceased.

We appreciate your support of this worthwhile project.

Landmark Association Members

1996 - 1997

Benefactor (\$500 - \$1000)

Medical Center of Bowling Green
National City Bank

Patron (\$250)

Harlin and Parker
Trans Financial Bank

Active (\$150 - \$200)

Bowling Green Bank
Pappagallo

Sustaining (\$100)

Baird Kurtz and Dobson
Matthew Baker

Bell South
BGMU

BG/WC Chamber of Commerce
BG/WC Tourist & Convention Commission

Blake Hart Taylor & Wiseman
Broderick Thornton & Pierce

Browning Oil Company
City-County Planning Commission

Dr Camilla Collins & Dr Jane Bramham
Mr & Mrs Richard Dowse

English Lucas Priest & Owsley
First American Bank

Hill-Motley Lumber Co Inc
Houchens Industries Inc

IMCON Services
Kerrick Grise & Stivers

Merrill Lynch

Bill Moore Insurance Agency
Charles M Moore Insurance Agency

Parrish Auto Parts
Sims Real Estate

Dr & Mrs J J Sloan
Steve & Jeannie Snodgrass

Barbara Stewart Interiors
Jean & Max Thomason

Wendys of Bowling Green

Supporting (\$50)

Mr & Mrs James R Adams
Beltone Hearing Aids

Mr & Mrs Seymour Blau
Mrs Thomas R Curran

Daily News
Deemer Floral Company

Mr & Mrs T B Hagerman
Steven & Bonnie Kavanaugh

Mr & Mrs Larry McCoy
Mr & Mrs William McKenzie

Mr & Mrs Henry L Olyniec
Operation PRIDE

Mr & Mrs John C Perkins

W Samuel Terry, IV
Mrs L O Toomey

Dr & Mrs Rick Voakes

Family (\$25)

Dr Kathy Kalab & Mr Kaz Abe
Dr Tammy Willis & Dr Jeffrey Adams

Judge & Mrs William E Allender
Tom & Madge Bailey

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Mr & Mrs W P Stamps
Frank & Peggy Steele

Mr & Mrs Bobby Steen
Jeff Stevens

Mr & Mrs Charles Stewart
Irene M Sumpter

Rev Howard & Linda Surface
Pearl M Taylor

Carroll & Doris Tichenor
Becky & Ben Tomblinson

Miss Sara Tyler
Drs Arvin & Corrie Vos

Mr & Mrs Ralph Wakeland
Mr & Mrs Johnny Webb

Richard & Judy Webber
Dr & Mrs Richard Wiesemann

Mr & Mrs John Wigodsky
Gregory Willis

Mr & Mrs Roland Willock

Individual (\$15)

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Mr Bruce Barrick

Sara & Jim Bennett
Mr & Mrs Harold Brantley

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Mr Noble Burford

Mrs W T Cargile
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Gerald & Ann Smith
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Cora Jane Spiller
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Dan Stone
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Barbara Stroube
Miss Ruth Hines Temple

Meredith Ann Thessen
Vernon White

Marla Williams
Brenda M Willoughby

Hilda Willoughby
Ms Betty Yambrek

BG Historic Preservation Board Update

In 1990, the City of Bowling Green and Warren County Fiscal Court approved Article 13B of the Zoning Ordinance. This provision established a 5-member Preservation Board and provided for the designation of local historic districts and landmarks. These designations are designed to protect and preserve areas and structures in the City of Bowling Green that possess unique historic and architectural characteristics. A local historic district is a geographically definable area with a significant concentration of buildings, structures, sites, spaces, or objects unified by past events, physical development, design, setting, materials, workmanship, sense of cohesiveness, or related historical and aesthetic associations. A landmark is an individual building, structure, object, or site identified as a historic resource of particular significance.

The landmark and local historic district designations require property owners to apply for a Certificate of Appropriateness (COA) for any proposed exterior facade alterations visible to the public from a public street, relocation, demolition, or new construction. A COA is not required for exterior painting, landscaping, use of a property, or interior changes and alterations. After submission of the COA application, the Preservation Board will then review the application and hold one public hearing to approve, approve with conditions, or disapprove the COA application. The purpose of the Board's review and public hearing is to insure that proposed work will maintain the historic character of the structure and/or district, to prevent inappropriate alterations, and to provide property owners with assistance and advice on methods and materials.

While many Bowling Green structures and districts are listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the National Register designation is a "recognition based" designation. The National Register is a national listing of

buildings, sites, districts, structures, and objects of local, state, and national significance. Listing on the National Register recognizes the buildings for their importance but offers limited protection. Unless federal licensing, permitting, or funding is involved, exterior alterations, new construction, demolition, or relocation are neither prohibited nor monitored.

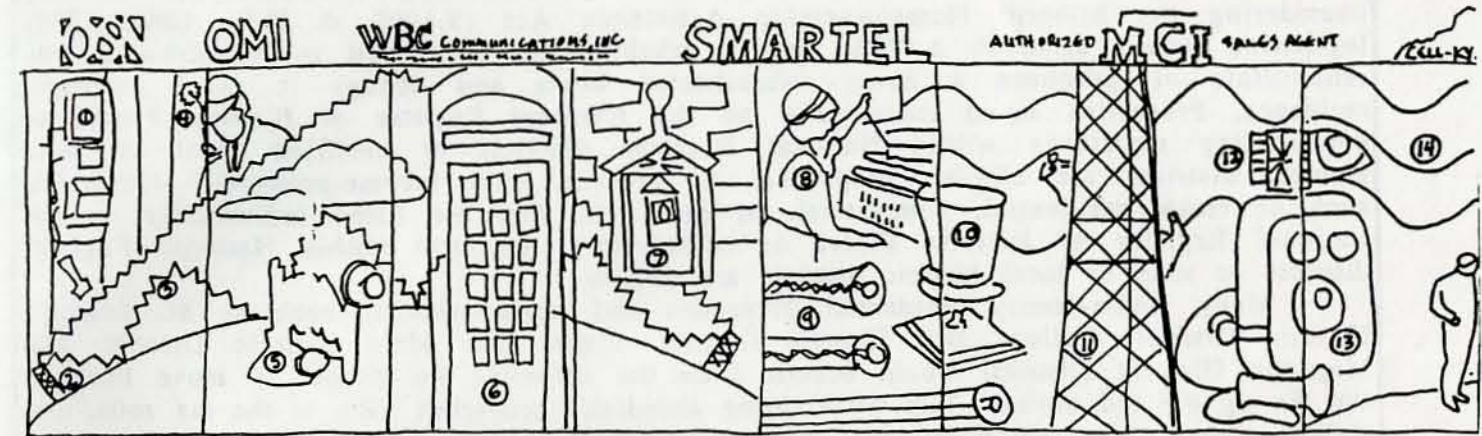
In January 1995, the Upper East Main Historic District was designated as Bowling Green's first local historic district. This local historic district is a historic residential area and includes 27 structures.

The BGHPB is currently considering the designation of the downtown commercial area as a local historic district and the designation of the downtown commercial area as a local historic district and the designation of three individual buildings as landmarks. The proposed local historic district will include 79 commercial structures. The proposed landmarks will include Mariah's, Parakeet, and the Armory. After many working sessions on the proposed designations, the Board distributed a survey and held two informal meetings with property owners. Because of the support for the designations, the Preservation Board will conduct a public hearing on the local historic designation and landmark designations Monday, August 26, 1996 at 7:00 p.m. at the City Commission Chambers, City Hall. If approved by the BGHPB, the City-County Commission and City Commission will consider the designations.

The BGHPB would like to invite all Landmark members to attend the public hearings to show community support for the local historic district and landmark designations.

For more information regarding local historic districts and landmarks, please contact Janet Johnston (Preservation Administrator) at 842-1953.

Submitted by Janet Johnston



Telecommunications Mural

Artist Delaire Rowe of Delaire Rowe Art Studio has provided this explanation of the mural on the United Furniture Building. Reprinted from the Downtown News

One day during the spring of 1996, Jim Nowicki, owner of Operator Service Net-work, stopped me in the lobby in front of my studio and asked me if I painted signs. I told him I didn't, but how would he feel about a mural! Jim looked surprised and said he would think about it.

Previously I had become involved with the Capitol Arts Alliance program, Public Arts Initiative. Mr. Bill Moats had organized the program, and I was eager to participate. During the summer of 1994, I had worked with an artist on a mural located on Ragland Avenue, and was really excited about the prospect of painting another.

The next time I saw Jim he expressed interest in the idea of a mural; I offered to prepare a proposal for the project. Once the proposal was written and approved by the sponsors, I sat down with Jim and Ali Mullen to discuss the theme for the mural and "brainstorm" the subject. Once I had a good idea about the kinds of images that would complement their concept, I went to work and did some research. It was decided that the mural would be a montage of images representing the history of telecommunications.

After gathering information, the next step was to create a sketch, a design for the mural. I showed the design

to Jim, and after a few additions, it was submitted to Bluegrass Cellular and MCI for approval. Finally I was given the "OK", and the process of making the mural a reality began. It took several steps: preparing the wall, projecting the drawing and then painting.

The mural is approximately 16 feet high and 80 feet long. John Mandile, Glen Boling, and Andee Rudloff are the artists who helped me realize the goal. We worked through the hottest part of the summer. Most of the time we worked at night to avoid the heat of the day. Luckily, there were street lights to work by, as well as some lighting provided by the Capitol.

By September the mural was finished, and we added the signage giving the sponsors located in the building and all those they represent credit for their support and participation in the Public Art Initiative.

The mural's composition is broken up into panels that change in color and tone across the length of the wall. The images are not in chronological order, but fit together in unexpected ways like a puzzle. The colors are generally light and change with the time of day and weather conditions. It was a challenging experience, as well as a lot of fun.

Be an advocate for the Historic Homeowner Tax Credit!!

The U.S. Senate Finance Committee and House Ways and Means Committee are currently considering the historic Homeownership Assistance Act (S.1002 & H.R. 1662). This legislation would establish a 20% historic rehabilitation tax credit to homeowners who rehabilitate or purchase a newly rehabilitated home and occupy it as a principal residence. Properties listed individually on the National Register of Historic Places or contributing structures within National Register districts or certified local or state historic districts are eligible properties. At present, only income-producing properties, such as rental residential, commercial, or industrial, that are listed individually on the National Register of Historic Places or contributing structures within National Register districts or state or local historic districts are eligible.

Many single-family residential properties and neighborhoods, such as St. Joseph's Historic District, College Hill Historic District, Upper East Main Historic District, and Magnolia Historic District, would benefit from the incentive for people to move back in and fix up the old houses. This would bring abandoned properties back to the tax rolls, and stabilize our older neighborhoods. Also, developers could rehabilitate properties, sell them, and pass the credit on to the home buyers.

Write our U.S. Congressional representatives and ask that they support the Historic Homeownership Assistance Act (S.1002 and H.R. 1662).

U.S. Senator Wendell H. Ford
Room 173A Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
202-224-4343

U.S. Senator A.M. McConnell
Ste. 361A Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
202-224-2541

U.S. Representative Ron Lewis
Room 412 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
202-225-3501

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