Landmark Report (Vol. 16, no. 2)

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Flea Market Set for April 19
7:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Landmark’s fourth bi-annual Flea Market will be held on Saturday, April 19 from 7:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the L&N Depot on Louisville Road. The Board has always taken an active role in helping with this event, but we always call on our membership to help fill in the gaps. “We want to put all our members on the alert,” Dawn Slaughter, co-chair of the event said, “because we will definitely need their help on that day.” Slaughter goes on to say, “As a matter of fact we need their help now. We need donations of items to sell. Some things have been trickling in, but we need an avalanche of things in the next three weeks.” The Association is collecting just about anything, but we really are not in the market for really large items like major appliances.” Previous experience has taught us that small collectible items, costume jewelry, household items, glassware, good hardback books, small appliances that work, toys, gardening items and utensils, tools, decorative items in good condition, and furniture sell well. As always, we do not accept clothing.

Some things have been trickling in, but we need an avalanche of things in the next three weeks.
Dawn Slaughter

We appreciate the PRIDE board allowing us to use the back shed of the building. The depot will not be open for public viewing, because work continues on the interior of the building. Landmark looks forward to the day when we will be able to tour a fully restored and occupied depot.

Besides donating to and working at the Flea Market, we encourage our members to invite friends to this successful and fun fund raiser. Everyone can walk away with a bargain. Two years ago two ladies purchased all the transoms we had for an art project they were working on; Dawn Slaughter walked away with an enameled topped kitchen table that was made for a Mennonite woman and was reminiscent of the Arts & Crafts style, Sheryl Ruiz was proud of an oak veneered library table she purchased, Jonathan Jeffrey has proudly displayed his pressed tin bracket off a Main Street building in his home, and dozens of eager shoppers left with unexpected treasures. One of the few things we didn’t sell two years ago was an ugly lampshade that got Jean Thomason in so much trouble she had to employ a lawyer to get out of it. As matter of fact that ugly shade has become the coveted “Lamplighter Award” given annually to our outstanding board member.

The Flea Market began as a fundraiser for Landmark in 1990. We appreciate your support in the past, and know you’ll make this a successful event.

See you there on April 19!
Landmark Report

Kentucky's Historic Preservation Conference to be in Bowling Green
By Becky Shipp

Bowling Green will host Kentucky's seventh statewide historic preservation conference on September 11-13, 1997. The conference will use the university Plaza Hotel and Convention Center as headquarters but will also highlight historic places in this community. A local advisory committee has been meeting with the staff of the Kentucky Heritage Council over the last few months to assist in planning for this event.

The theme selected is "Preserving Community and the logo was created by Sheila Flener, a senior in the Interior Design program at Western Kentucky University. The opening reception on Thursday evening will feature Bowling Green's Fountain Square and the historic downtown which has been the focus of a successful revitalization since the early 1980s. The restoration of the L&N depot will likely be featured on Friday evening for a reception hosted by the Commonwealth Preservation Advocates. Take plans now to participate in this conference which will include dozens of speakers on various preservation issues including downtown revitalization, owning and maintaining a historic home, financial incentives and assistance, presentations on Kentucky's unique architecture and much more. The opportunity to learn from professionals and to meet and interact with other Kentuckians interested and involved in local preservation efforts will be invaluable. Attendance is expected to exceed 400 over the 3-day conference.

For more information on how you can assist and participate in this effort, contact any of these folks:

Jonathan Jeffrey with the Landmark Association 742-5081
James Johnson with the Planning Commission 842-1382
Katie Carter with Operation PRIDE 745-5000
Cheryl Blaine with the Downtown Business Assoc. 782-0037
Becky Shipp with Ky. Heritage Council, Frankfort 502-554-7005

Logo created by Sheila Flener

Membership Notes

New Members

Jimmy & Evelyn Bohannon
J. David Bryant
Arthur & Margaret Bush
John & Jana Glotzer
Mary Hart Lyle
Ray & Sue Lynn McGuire
Mrs. Pat Motley
Sheryl Ruiz

Sumpter Endowment Contributions

Frieda Friedli
Jonathan Jeffrey
Cori Jane Spiller
Inell Watson

Contributions for Victory Baptist Church Windows

Jonathan Jeffrey
Ray & Sue Lynn McGuire
Ken & Laura Mullins
Bob & Rosalyn Stamps
Linda Todd
Rick Vokes

This list covers the period from November 12, 1996 to March 13, 1997. Any questions about your membership should be directed to the Landmark Office, 782-0037.

Landmark Report

The Development of a Development by Jonathan Jeffrey

Like the proverbial calm in the midst of the storm, the bucolic Magnolia Street Historic District in Bowling Green, Kentucky, has thrived near two of the growing city's busiest thoroughfares. Just a stone's throw from ubiquitous fast food outlets and strip shopping malls is nestled a quiet bungalow neighborhood developed in the mid-1920s as a satellite community removed from the city's hectic heart yet easily accessible.

Because many original home owners stayed in this neighborhood for extended periods, the assortment of bungalows, four squares, and cottages have been well maintained. Little infill housing has been necessary or desired, helping the area retain its historic integrity. In 1991, the Landmark Association initiated a proposal to nominate the 1000 and 1100 blocks of Magnolia Avenue as a National Register historic district, recognizing the architectural continuity and neighborhood pride which has made this area one of the city's most coveted residential locations. The designation was granted that year by the Kentucky Heritage Council.

By 1920, the social and aesthetic influence of the bungalow movement infiltrated Bowling Green, as the city grew from a primarily agricultural center to a regional hub of socioeconomic growth. Until 1910 there was little concern about where housing development would occur in the city, but with the advent of a significant oil boom at the end of the decade city officials encouraged expansion beyond previously accepted parameters. A sagacious real estate salesman, Carl Herdmann--who audaciously used an owl as his business logo--had envisioned the development of the abandoned Warren County Fair Grounds into a residential area a decade prior to the oil boom.

In 1905 Herdmann formed the South Side Realty Company, which had the land surveyed and platted. Seven years later Herdmann began advertising the sale of 100 58'x183' lots along Magnolia and Nutwood Avenues. The first sale in May 1911 offered buyers easy purchase terms via the installment plan with down payments of $20 with $10 monthly installments; most lots sold for $200. "Never in the history of the city," reported the local newspaper, "has the general public had an opportunity of considering the proposition of owning a home on an industrial payment plan... until the one now advertised...It is indeed a thing to be appreciated by all classes of sound-thinking people who have an aim in life, and feel an obligation upon themselves to provide a home for their families." Neighborhood amenities included access by automobile, concrete walks, graded streets, beautiful shade, no interest, no taxes, no losses, no regrets.

South Side also emphasized the investment hook: "Lots have more than doubled in value in many instances, and a buy here cannot fail to make money. You will be able to own a home in the best section of Bowling Green."

Sales went well, but to heighten interest South Side offered an opportunity to win a "brand new Ford touring car" to those who purchased lots. Displayed in a downtown furniture store's show window, the car was the perfect pitch for homemakers considering a neighborhood just outside the city limits. Hesitant buyers were reminded that "under this plan everybody has a chance!" Well, not everybody, because most of the deeds carried a restriction stipulating that homeowners could "sell only to whites." This segregation policy was common in early twentieth century
subdivisions in the South. Most lost sold by May 1912 with the Bowling Green Home Builders' Company purchasing a significant number.

The contracting firm eventually built fifteen of the forty-three houses in the historic district and a number of others on surrounding streets. Most of the Magnolia Street lots remained empty until the mid-1920s, when several company-built homes were erected and sold. Two were offered at public auction in 1924: one brought $5,900 and another $5,250. Six empty lots auctioned that day sold for from $300 to $1,225. Houses built in the neighborhood displayed those features commonly associated with bungalow construction: single story and story and a half height, large front porches, simplicistic forms, contiguous sets of casement windows, functional floor plans, quality craftsmanship, and the use of natural materials.

Because Bowling Green winters can be harsh and because these homes were marketed to middle class buyers, the bungalows in this neighborhood are typically large and many were constructed of brick. Most feature cross-gable massing, but several do demonstrate the more common side gable with large dormers. A large porch supported by solid brick piers topped by short, battered, wooden columns graces almost every home. The brick houses feature brick parapets on the porches, although some now boast wrought iron railings. A distinctive feature of the brick bungalows is the rough ashlars limestone basement walls topped with a cut limestone water table. Until the mid-1930s, Bowling Green boasted a renowned stone cutting operation that shaped a native limestone with unusual strength and cosmetic properties known as Bowling Green limestone in trade circles.

The variety of roof lines, porch designs, gable Decisions, and dormer size and placement, highlight the individuality of each home, despite the fact that the same contractor constructed a significant number of them. Alterations consist primarily of replacement siding (which is minor, since many of the homes are chiefly brick) and unobtrusive rear additions. Because parking was relegated to the back of the lot with alley access and because of heavy foliage and fences, garages and rear additions are generally not visible from the street.

Carefully manicured lawns peppered with large shade trees complement the homes' natural building materials and subdued hues.

Fortunately the area has remained a single family residential area. Until the early 1980s, many of the homeowners had occupied their dwellings for periods from 30 to 60 years. Neighbors depend on home ownership pride to maintain the area's integrity. One long term homeowner in the area, said "This is not a pretentious neighborhood, just a comfortable one with good people. They take pride in their property; they're not wealthy people but they're high class." Landmark salutes those who have contributed to a neighborhood pride that permeates this "high class" residential area.

Student Project Benefits All by Dr. Joyce Rasdall

The valuable architectural resources in Warren and surrounding counties are an opportunity for interior design instruction. As a professor in the interior design program at WKU, I have been fortunate enough to include a number of real-world design projects in several courses which I teach. Most recently, Advanced Design Synthesis, Interior Design Graphics, and Design Concepts students have participated in wonderfully challenging design assignments.

A number of significant advantages emanate from these efforts:

- As an educator, I am committed to moving design education from simple recognition and recall levels of learning to more credible and higher forms in the taxonomy of learning, e.g. analysis, synthesis, application, and evaluation of knowledge and skills already developed;
One of the significant advantages of this is that interior design graduates are more competent, versatile, and competitive in the market place in the short run; later, student career potential can be realized earlier and more successfully; a partnership of faculty and local resource persons is a team building strategy sorely needed in our society if quality of life is to be enhanced in the home, workplace, and community; time deadlines and constrained budgets are often crucial. Thus, collaborative efforts support optimizing resources (time, economic, and expertise) on both sides of the partnerships; real-world projects typically are more meaningful to students and faculty than hypothetical projects; leading-edge projects enable students to focus on critical issues which have enabled our WKU interior design students to successfully enter and exhibit at juried competitions regionally, statewide, and nationally in major cities including New York, Washington, D.C., San Antonio, and Nashville. In fact, three of our graduates have captured or won runner-up in three design contests; other benefits of collaborative projects involve raising sensitivity to community needs and issues, enhancing awareness and progress with historic preservation across a wider spectrum of the area population, indeed, a younger generation.

(continues on next page)

This illustration was executed by Ashley Peden, one of Dr. Rasdall's students.

A particular joy for me during the Spring 1996 semester involved a project with the Landmark Association to create over 100 site formats of historic sites in the Bowling Green area. Sites were evaluated and selected on the basis of historic significance and diversity of style, scale, ethnicity, and role in local economy and geography. Eventually I hope to add more renderings with another group of students in order to more fully represent the county.

Each student in my Spring 1996 Advanced Design Synthesis class used individual strengths to generate a variety of renderings of some of Bowling Green's exciting architectural heritage. While some of the drawings feature the most unique feature(s) of a building, e.g. window, gable, column, or doorway; others capture the entire front and/or side facade. The outstanding productivity from the students supports the development of a visual archive of Warren County's architectural legacy and is worthy of recognition through the Landmark Association's use of them in our newsletter and other creative publications being planned. Dr. Carl Hall, Head of the Department of Consumer and Family Sciences, has indicated this project illustrates how faculty, students, and community can come together for mutual interests. The mission of the CFS Department embraces enhancement and appropriate use of historic resources which support viable families and communities.

Students in this project were able to see an expansion of their career options as well as how their knowledge and skills could benefit a variety of populations on behalf of preservation of historic architecture. Several commented on the caliber of historic resources so near to campus and downtown. This learning laboratory was so very accessible for our class's sidewalk tour and photo shots. So many of the students were pleased with their output for this project that I encouraged them to make copies/slides for their design portfolio. Students enrolled and completing this project from the county were Natasha Clark Smith, a Warren East graduate; Melanie Fortunato, Glasgow; Sophia Z. Holland, Hartford; Marla Williams, Louisville; Jenny Crabtree and Penny Goins, Owensboro; Tina Oser, Georgetown; T. Kelley Smock, Danville; and Jilly Bridges and Ashley Peden from the Nashville, Tennessee area. Two addition students, Jean Yewell from Owensboro and R. Jarrett Much from Varney participated as volunteer individual topics students.

Several of Dr. Rasdall's students indicated they would be willing to prepare sketches on a fee basis for Landmark members:

Jill Bridges
6339 Gun Station Road
Springfield, TN 37172
615-643-0629

Ashley Peden
110 Due West Dr.
Mt. Juliet, TN 37122

Sophia Z. Holland
P.O. Box 233
Hartford, KY 42347
502-298-9180
502-781-5972

Natasha Clark Smith
4295 Barren River Road
Bowling Green, KY 42101
502-842-7481

Melanie Fortunato
1990 Moutardier Lane
Leitchfield, KY 42754
502-286-8121

Jennifer Crabtree Warren
4132 Settlers Point
Owensboro, KY 42301
502-771-4477
In January the Bowling Green Historic Preservation Board approved two Bowling Green Civil War Monuments as part of a statewide nomination entitled "Civil War Monuments, 1861-1935." The monuments are now listed on the National Register of Historic Places as part of a multiple property nomination that includes Civil War monuments across the Commonwealth. Both of the Bowling Green monuments are in Fairview Cemetery. They include the Confederate Monument and the tombstone of William F. Perry.

The following comes from the nomination form and will be of interest to Landmark members:

"The building of Civil War monuments in the South had two distinct periods: the memorialization of the Lost Cause and the celebration of the Confederacy. Gaines Foster identifies three phases: one of the 'ceremonial bereavement' period which lasts from approximately 1865-1885; phase two the 'celebration of the Confederacy' which is from 1883-1907 and phase three the 'waning power of the Confederate tradition' from 1898 to 1913. Kentucky, however, does not fit well into the model outlined by Foster. For purposes of this study the monumentization process has simply been divided into the 19th and 20th centuries."

"The first phase, the time of 'ceremonial bereavement' as Gaines M. Foster puts it, was a period of mourning, a time for remembering those who sacrificed their lives on the battlefield. The soldiers, especially those who died, were honored and remembered by speeches, parades, and the laying of wreaths."

"In the latter stages of the 19th century as the Civil War veterans organizations were gathering steam, the 'Lost Cause' became the driving force behind the United Confederate Veterans and the United Daughters of the Confederacy. The Lost Cause referred to the Confederacy and the principles for which the soldiers fought. It conveyed a longing for the lost Old South, with its sense of honor, and its way of life. The celebration did not include an embracing of slavery, but states' rights and constitutional rights as defined by Jefferson Davis and others in the Post-War period."

"The annual annual of the Confederate soldiers' graves took place Friday afternoon at the cemetery, and the services were pretty and impressive. The large Confederate monument was prettily draped with yards of red, white and blue bunting, and the Confederate flag stood half-furled at the base."

Several songs were rendered by Misses Nannie and Ne ll Cole, Messrs. Frank Garrison and Sterling Dobson. Mrs. T.C. Cherry delivered a very touching recital on Memorial Day. After this, Rev. Dr. Binkley, principal of a high school in Talladega, read from the Bible, which was eloquent and able and did well to the heart and moved the heart of the Cemetery. The celebration of the Confederate and the embracing of the Lost Cause by the public helped ease the sense of dishonor that many of the veterans, and indeed Southerners felt, as a result of the war. The celebration offered a memory of personal sacrifice and a model of social order that met the needs of a society experiencing rapid change and disorder."

[Editor's note: To fully explore this nomination, Landmark Report will publish information about Civil War monuments in Kentucky in the next issue of the report. You will find information about the Perry monument in this issue: Bowling Green Confederate Monument will be discussed in the next issue.]

Decoration Day

As mentioned in the above article, Confederate Memorial Day was a legal holiday in most southern states, including Kentucky. Following is a description of 'Decoration Day' taken from the Bowling Green Messenger of 8 June 1910:

"The annual decoration of the Confederate soldiers' graves took place Friday afternoon at the cemetery, and the services were pretty and impressive. The large Confederate monument was prettily draped with yards of red, white and blue bunting, and the Confederate flag stood half-furled at the base."

Several songs were rendered by Misses Nannie and Ne ll Cole, Messrs. Frank Garrison and Sterling Dobson. Mrs. T.C. Cherry delivered a very touching recital on Memorial Day. After this, Rev. Dr. Binkley, principal of a high school in Talladega, read from the Bible, which was eloquent and able and did well to the heart and moved the heart of the Cemetery. The celebration of the Confederate and the embracing of the Lost Cause by the public helped ease the sense of dishonor that many of the veterans, and indeed Southerners felt, as a result of the war. The celebration offered a memory of personal sacrifice and a model of social order that met the needs of a society experiencing rapid change and disorder."

The Lost Cause was not an effort on the part of Southerners to escape their current social problems by living in the past, but it became a mechanism that helped them embrace the New South and the change wrought by the war. It became a part of the mythology of the Civil War and the men who fought and died in it."
enlist as a private in Company K of the 44th Alabama Infantry, C.S.A. In May of 1862, a few weeks after his enlistment he was elected major of his regiment. Perry was engaged in the Second Battle of Manassas (Bull Run), Virginia, 29 and 30 August 1862, and was promoted to a lieutenant colonel on 1 September. After the Battle of Sharpsburg (Antietam), Maryland, on 17 September he was promoted to a lieutenant colonel on 1 September. After the Battle of Manassas (Bull Run), Virginia, on 17 August 1862, and was promoted to a lieutenant colonel on 1 September. After the Battle of William F. Perry, C.S.A. Mar. 12th, 1823 -- Dec. 7th, 1901
Born in Georgia, Superintendent of Education for Alabama, Col. of the 44th. Ala. Reg. A, Brigadier Gen. in the Army of Virginia. Conspicuous on many bloody fields, the South had no braver, more faithful son. He spent forty years in the professor’s chair, where his kindness, firmness, wide learning, rare eloquence and the beauty of his Christian character stirred many youths to high resolve and noble purposes. Erected by his Ogden College Students
"And as the greatest only are, in his simplicity sublime."

At the stone's dedication in June 1914, Dr. F.M. Thomas ended his eloquent eulogy with this paragraph:

"And so we have come here today, not merely to dedicate this stone to him and his loved ones who sleep with him in this fair spot, kindly contributed by the authorities of Bowling Green, but to renew our memory of him, to imagine once more that noble form and face which used through the long days to look so kindly upon to hear once more that eloquent voice whispering words of instruction and courage, to renew our fealty to Old Ogden, our first and deeply beloved Alma Mater, pause a moment ere we turn back into the great strife of the twentieth century and stand beside the dust that once entombed the heroic and sublime soul of General William F. Perry, lay on his the immortelles of precious thoughts, sweet with the fragrance of the undying affection of his old students."

Bicentennial Morrel
Fountain Square Park was designed by John Cox Underwood, Bowling Green's second mayor.
Perhaps you could pass this newsletter along to someone you think would be interested in supporting Landmark's efforts in historic preservation advocacy.

I (we) want to support the Historic Preservation efforts in Bowling Green and Warren County.

Name ________________________________________________________________
Mailing Address ________________________________________________________
City ___________________________ State _______ Zip __________
Telephone _________________________________

Levels of Membership

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I have also enclosed $________ to support the Irene Moss Sumpter Preservation Endowment Fund.

Checks should be made payable to: Landmark Association
P.O. Box 1812
Bowling Green, KY 42102-1812

LANDMARK ASSOCIATION
P.O. Box 1812
Bowling Green, KY 42102-1812

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED