The Bowling Green - Warren County
Bicentennial Film
Presented by The Landmark Association and Peridot Pictures

As part of its commitment to preserve our heritage for future generations, the Landmark Association is playing a key role in bringing our community's history to life in the Bicentennial Film. The one-hour docu-drama, created by Dorian and Elaine Walker of Peridot Pictures, blends interviews with historians, diaries and journals, rare archival photos and prints and dramatic reenactments to create a lasting legacy of our 200 year history. Filming is taking place through the Fall and Winter of 1997 in preparation for the Spring 1998 World Premier.

In the same tradition as Beauty of the Southland, the docu-drama that chronicled the birth and life of the historic L&N Depot, the Bicentennial Film is drawing on the talent and support of myriad sectors of Bowling Green and Warren County. Dorian and Elaine Walker, whose credits include feature films, documentaries, and television programs (most recently, America's Castles and The Grand Tour on the A&E network) are writing, producing and editing the film. Local historians, such as Nancy Baird, Carol Crowe-Carraco, Ray Buckberry, and Jonathan Jeffrey, are resources for factual data and documents from which the stories are drawn. To date, financial support has been received from Transfinancial Bank, Fruit of the Loom, The Bicentennial Commission and Hops, and additional funding is still being sought.

Through public casting calls, members of the community will participate in reenacting our 200 year history, including the Confederate occupation of Bowling...
Landmark Assists with Fountain Square Evening

Landmark helped the Downtown Business Association celebrate Fountain Square Evening this year by sponsoring the showing of Beauty of the Southland at the Capitol Arts Theater, arranging for the antique automobiles to be on display, providing a walking tour of the square, coordinating several buildings to be open for touring, and hosting a reception for participants of the Kentucky Historic Preservation Conference.

No event like this can be coordinated without the assistance of many individuals. The Landmark Association would like to thank:

Southern Kentucky Antique Autos
Ward Begley
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Julie Troyer

Landmark members (left to right): George and Jane Morris and Rick Voakes show the apartment in the rear of the Younglove Building.

Landmark report image.png

The Landmark Association of Bowling Green - Warren County

A non-profit organization established in 1976 as a community advocate for preservation, protection and maintenance of architectural, cultural and archaeological resources in Bowling Green and Warren County.

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Landmark Report encourages unsolicited articles or suggestions for articles and will consider all for publication. Advertising rates are available upon request.

Green, 1880s Courthouse Days, William Jennings Bryan’s speech on Fountain Square in 1911 and a 1960’s basketball game played by a young Clem “the Gem” Haskins at Western Kentucky University. (Complete list attached) In short, the film will be a community effort that promises to create a high caliber product with a “homegrown” flavor...and a lot of fun.

The Landmark Association will host a Premier for the film at the Capitol Arts Theatre on March 6, 1998, the official anniversary date of Bowling Green’s founding. Early plans for this event, which will kick off a weekend of grand finale bicentennial celebrations, include several notable guests such as Governor Paul Patton, Lt. Governor Steve Henry, and other state and local officials. There are also plans to invite someone from the ABC network to be an honorary emcee. Continual showings of the film throughout the weekend will provide a great opportunity for public viewing.

Dramatic Reenactments

Long Hunters at Dawn (1775)
Prince Louis Phillippe of France’s Visit (1790s)
President Jackson visits Bowling Green, (1828)
Meeting with Major Bill Stewart (1846)
Rise and Fall of Steamboat Transportation (1850)
Arrival of Confederate Troops (1861)
Fountain Square Park Dedication (1872)
Courthouse Days (1880s)
Importance of the Church in the Black Community (1900-1960s)
Prohibition March (1907)
William Jennings Bryan Speech (1911)
Duncan Hines Story (1920s)
Lost River Cave Big Band Dances (1930s)
Coeds Move Out; Pilots Move In at Western (1940s)
Aerials of Bowling Green (1997)

Periodic Pictures, “Makers of Fine Television and Motion Picture Programming”, is owned and operated by Landmark members Dorian and Elaine Walker. The Walkers moved their company from Los Angeles to Bowling Green in 1993. “I had to come to Bowling Green with America’s Funniest People,” reports Mr. Walker, “and I just fell in love with the people and the place.” Besides two local projects, “Spirit of Flight” and “Beauty of the Southland,” the Walkers have produced several segments of the America’s Castles series and are at work on a variety of other projects including the Bowling Green Warren County Bicentennial Film.
Landmark Association Members 1997-1998

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This list was compiled on September 17, 1997. Any questions about your membership may be directed to the Landmark office, 780-2533.

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Paul Deemer
Jonathan Jeffrey in honor of Bill & Rosalyn Stamp's 50th Wedding Anniversary

October 1997
Landmark Report 5
Woolworth's: A Passing Institution

Jonathan Jeffrey

In July 1997 Woolworth Corporation announced the closing of its remaining 400 stores, which included two stores in Louisville and one in Lexington. Bowling Green's Woolworth store closed in 1987. Faced with seemingly unbeatable competition from big discount stores, particularly merchandising goliath Wal-Mart, Woolworth stores could not survive as shoppers abandoned downtown America for suburban malls and strip shopping centers. Last year alone the company reported a loss of $37 million.

Woolworth's started 117 years ago under the capable leadership of Frank Winfield Woolworth, whose Lancaster, Pennsylvania store was the prototype of a chain that at its height boasted nearly 2000 stores. Initially every item in the store was five or ten cents or lower, which led to the sobriquet "five and dime" and eventually "dime" stores. This concept was copied by other mercantile operators such as McCrory Corporation and Ben Franklin, but these behemoths have also fallen into bankruptcy. The dime store is dead.

Bowling Green's Woolworth store opened in 1912 at 443 Park Row with six employees. A fire caused extensive damage to that building in February 1917; while fighting this fire one fireman remarkably escaped harm after being trapped under a fallen section of flooring. The building was rebuilt, only to be destroyed by fire again in November 1929. The fire also caused slight damage to the Palace Confectionary in the old Green River Hotel and the Neale Building (most recently known as the Davenport Building). M.C. Hines who was manager of the store at the time had the store back in operation within three weeks, serving customers from makeshift wooden counters.

Hines, a native of Cedar Grove, Tennessee, came to the Bowling Green store in 1927 and served as its manager until his retirement in 1960, making him a local institution. He had served stores in Louisville, Birmingham, Gulfport, and Selma, Alabama, prior to assuming the helm of the Bowling Green store. While here he was an active Mason, a member of the Lions Club and the American Legion, worked for the March of Dimes, and was a member of the First Church of Christ Science. When Hines first came to the city, the local store was still operating on the basis of nothing costing more than ten cents. The most popular item in 1927, according to Hines, was women's hose at ten cents a pair.

Under Hines' capable management, the local Woolworth's store thrived. Its continued success called for expansion of the store in the early 1950s. In 1951 rumors began floating around town of an imminent
expansion, but corporate headquarters issued a statement in January 1959 which said expansion was not possible at the time due to a "shortage of essential materials." Yet, in June of the same year, the company presented an architectural rendering, executed by company architects, of a grand new structure.

Construction of the structure commenced in early July. It actually began with the demolition of one of Bowling Green's oldest structures, the Green River Hotel. A considerable amount of debate revolves around whether the hotel was constructed in 1833 or 1837, but it does hold the claim to being Bowling Green's first three story brick building. If it had been constructed in 1833, the building could also claim to have been the oldest structure on Fountain Square in 1952 (the Quigley Younglove Building was built in 1837). James Rumsey Skiles erected the building, which for many years was operated by Julia Ann Fox Hess who later managed the Morehead House. During the Civil War the hotel served as a hospital, and in later years housed the Palace Confectionary Shop, the Kirby Store, the Warren Liquor Corporation, and a host of offices. The last owner of the building was Dr. G.Y. Graves, and most people referred to it as the Yarborough Building.

The company razed the structure while it continued to operate its store at 443 Park Row. The store did not close throughout the building project. The new structure and the adjoining building were unified with a facade of large yellow baked enamel tiles. The State Street side was faced with buff colored brick. A flat awning on the building's facade featured free-standing, cut out letters spelling out "F.W. Woolworth & Co.", and a vertical marquee was attached to the State Street side with Woolworth's name prominently displayed. Dimars, Dickman & Pickens of Muskogee, Oklahoma served as the project's general contractor.

A three-hour open house was held on July 29, 1953, with the Mayor Elvis Campbell and County Judge J. David Francis taking part in the opening festivities. One of the building's most inviting attractions was its air-conditioning. In addition, tile flooring, slim-line fluorescent lighting,

(continued on Landmark Report 9)
Valleyview Missionary Baptist Church
Lorna Thigpen

Valleyview Missionary Baptist Church is situated on a small rise at 2154 Garrett Hollow Road, which is located off Kentucky Highway 560 in the northeastern quadrant of Warren County. The front gabled sanctuary contains shipslap siding with local yellow poplar studs and boxing (boards) underneath and features a single front entry and three elongated windows on both sides. Piers of local sandstone support the church. These stones were originally mortared, but the mortar has long since disappeared. Although built in 1931, the structure shares the form of many of the nineteenth century vernacular style churches built in the region.

Originally Garrett Hollow Road went behind the church, so the church was oriented toward that route. When the new road was put down, the church did away with the original door and built the present door. In other words, the rear of the present church was at one time the front entrance. This helps explain the odd orientation toward the present road.

The land where the church is located was originally owned by James Edward Garrett, a community leader. Garrett deeded over about two acres of land for the church to be built in 1931. Prior to the church's construction, the congregation held brush altar meetings in the vicinity. The meetings began in the early 1920s. The first church trustees, elders, and Mr. Garrett named the church Valleyview for its siting on a natural rise which provides a soothing view of the surrounding valley.

Valleyview has always been considered a family or community church. Mr. Garrett not only gave the land for the church, he helped build the structure and was its first pastor. He preached on and off here from 1931 until his death in 1964. According to Richard Lay, a grandson of J.E. Garrett, the church has always been a Missionary Baptist Church. Lay lives in the Garrett Hollow community and is the church's present pastor. He considers himself an interim pastor until the church finds someone to take his place. Lay was ordained at Valleyview around 1960 and pastored there for ten years. After he moved away, the church closed its doors for close to 25 years.

Lay was raised in the community and he calls the “hollow.” His parents and grandparents are buried in the small, well manicured cemetery that sits to the proper right of the church. He decided to start commuting from his home in Southern Kentucky to Valleyview on Garrett Hollow Road. He decided to start commuting from his home in Southern Kentucky to Valleyview on Garrett Hollow Road.

Valleyview Missionary Baptist Church (continued from Landmark Report 8)

God Lives in Kentucky

God is good to Indiana. As a father to his child But He made our old Kentucky And just looked at her and smiled. Then He made the broad Ohio Circle round this land so fair. As a mother hugs her baby To her heart with tender care. Yes, God went to Indiana And He blessed each hill and glade; But He came down to Kentucky And just sat down here and stayed. He made our old Kentucky Strong. Quiet. Impressive. For a rural community today! The church's old pews are made of slatted wood and are not cushioned, but the original pews were 1 x 12 inch poplar boards that sat on two blocks of wood and probably were considerably less comfortable. The church hymnals remain on the seats until the next church service, which is every other Sunday. The church uses a portable electric keyboard to assist in song services. There is no Sunday School being held at present.

Valleyview's baptisms are held at Beaver Dam Creek near Brownsville on Brownsville Road. Numerous other churches use the facilities. There are ten rows of concrete seats where the congregation sits to watch baptisms. A large set of concrete steps lead down into the creek.

Woolworth’s: A Passing Institution

Woolworth’s: A Passing Institution (continued from Landmark Report 7)

and new walnut trim greeted customers. The store opened on July 30 with large crowds swarming around sales counters. They came to snap up baby dolls at 89 cents, fountain pens for 98 cents, goldfish for a dime, women’s rayon panties at three for a dollar, towels for 69 cents, African violets at 98 cents, and “tasty Spanish peanuts...cooked at our own counter” for 21 cents a half pound.

If you got tired or hungry during your visit you could retire to the 49-seat lunch counter which stretched for 98 feet along one entire side of the store. For sixty cents you could order dinner no. 1 which consisted of “roast young Texas Tom Turkey with toast crumb dressing, fluffy whipped potatoes, rice glibet gravy, chilled cranberry sauce, garden fresh green beans, hot cloverleaf rolls and butter.” Yum, yum! If you just needed a treat, how about a nineteen cent banana split or a big orangeade for a dime. Advertisements boasted “all the food served...is prepared in a spotless kitchen under the most exacting recipes.” To ensure sanitary conditions the store boasted “the largest single unit sterilizing dishwasher in Southern Kentucky.”

Woolworth’s continued a booming business until the emergence of strip shopping malls in Bowling Green in the late 1960s and 1970s. The opening of the old Bowling Green mall hurt the business further. The store declined to the point that it employed only ten people when it closed in 1987; it had kept 150 employees busy in 1963. The store shut its doors for good on April 1, 1987. This came about six months after Sears had announced that it would be leaving downtown to relocate in Greenwood Mall. After the store was abandoned it was used for storage. It was razed along with the Davenport Building and the old Citizen's National Bank facade in 1999. The Courier-Journal recently summarized many people's feelings well: "Few of us would want to exchange the range of products and prices available today at the big stores. But those who are old enough to recall a pleasant Saturday afternoon of browsing in a classic Woolworth's must lament the passing of an American Institution."
History Preservation Pays

Kentucky cares about its economic future. Kentucky cares about the rich heritage of its past. Today Kentucky is building its foundation for progress in the twenty-first century on the bedrock of its historic resources.

Historic preservation is a proven economic development strategy for Kentucky’s communities interested in creating jobs, attracting investors and visitors, revitalizing their downtowns, and providing affordable housing. On the pages that follow, you will find the multitude of ways that Kentucky and its citizens are using historic preservation as an incomparably effective tool to invest in its future generations.

Historic preservation is job creation. The certified rehabilitation of 1,370 historic structures in Kentucky over the last fifteen years represents private sector investment in Kentucky’s heritage of nearly $430,000,000. In the process, this created 19,000 good jobs for Kentuckians. Projects have ranged from the $90,000 rehabilitation of a commercial building in Fayette County to a $5,000,000 project in downtown Louisville. As a result of this investment, jobs have been created throughout the Commonwealth.

Historic preservation is providing decent, safe, and affordable housing. Covington, Owensboro, Mt. Sterling, and other Kentucky cities have received national attention for providing quality housing in historic structures. Thirty percent of our low-income citizens live in houses built before World War II. To replace that housing today would cost the taxpayers of Kentucky $4.5 billion.

Historic preservation is diversified economic development. From the one-person craft shop in Berea to a landmark bank in Paris, Kentucky entrepreneurs are choosing historic structures to attract customers, to reflect the quality of the goods and services being sold, and to be the central part of their business’s long-term assets.

Historic preservation is maximizing public investments. State government in Kentucky has demonstrated the importance of historic preservation as a tool of fiscal responsibility. The Kentucky Cabinets for Transportation, Tourism Development and Economic Development, the Departments for Travel, Parks, and Local Government, and the Kentucky Heritage Council have all committed scarce public resources to historic preservation projects recognizing the cost-effectiveness of preservation for Kentucky’s communities.

Historic preservation is building the infrastructure to provide quality of life for Kentucky’s citizens. To prosper as communities of tomorrow, Kentucky’s towns and cities need to be well connected—to each other and to the world. The infrastructure that connects them also needs to enhance the local quality of life. Kentucky leads the nation in the portion of its ISTEA (Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act) enhancement funds committed to preservation-related projects. From the restoration of six historic buildings in Paducah to stabilization of Kentucky’s oldest rail depots, the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet is building the next century’s infrastructure while preserving the last century’s cultural treasures.

Historic preservation brings visitors and their dollars to Kentucky. More people choose to visit Kentucky to see historic sites over any other reason. But, even more importantly, historic resources are a part of virtually every aspect of Kentucky’s $7 billion tourism industry. Two-thirds of all visitor sites in Kentucky have historic significance; 50 percent of the state parks include historic buildings; 90 percent of the bed and breakfasts are in historic buildings; and Kentucky’s best know visitor attraction—the Kentucky Derby—is held at the world’s most legendary racetrack—Churchill Downs, a National Historic Landmark.

Historic preservation is revitalizing Main Street. For over 15 years the Kentucky Heritage Council has administered a Main Street program to accomplish economic revitalization within the context of historic preservation. Over than period Kentucky’s Main Street communities—Henderson, Lancaster, Ashland, Madisonville and 36 others—have seen 760 building renovations, attracted 1,683 net new businesses and 8,092 net new jobs. Those who believe that downtowns are dead or that historic preservation cannot be an effective economic development strategy have never visited a Kentucky Main Street town.

Historic preservation is part of Kentucky’s entry into the global marketplace. The Brown-Forman Corporation is a model of what competing in the global marketplace is all about. This Louisville-based company is best know as the maker of premium bourbons, but is also a diversified concern manufacturing such well-known products as Lenox China and Hartmann Luggage. International sales account for nearly one dollar in five of Brown-Forman’s revenues. Their newest product—the premium Woodford Reserve—will be bottled and sold internationally from the restored Labrot & Graham Distillery in Woodford County. Brown-Forman is investing $7 million in the nineteenth century facility that will symbolize quality for the company’s twenty-first century markets. Other smaller scale businesses throughout Kentucky, especially in downtowns, are also participating in the global marketplace.

The preservation of Kentucky’s past is key to building the prosperous and sustainable economy of Kentucky’s future.

Calendar

October 15: American Bungalow will publish an article with photographs dealing with Bowling Green’s Magnolia Street Historic District. Barnes and Noble will be stocking extra issues.

October 24: Harvest party at Matthew and Margaret Baker’s new/old home on Beech Bend Road. Costumes highly encouraged. See enclosed flier.

November 16: “Come to the Church in the Wildwood” program by Jonathan Jeffrey. See enclosed flier.

December 14: Last day to view “Come to Church in the Wildwood: Warren County’s Rural Churches” in the Kentucky Museum’s Jackson Gallery, 745-8592.

December 14: Christmas Tour of Homes, 4:00-8:00 p.m.

March 6-8: Premier of Bowling Green - Warren County Bicentennial Film

October 1997 Landmark Report 10
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 ____________
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