2-1998

Landmark Report (Vol. 17, no. 2)

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The Landmark Association will host a premier of the Bowling Green/Warren County Bicentennial film on March 6th at 6:30 p.m. Invitations will be mailed soon. The $50 tickets will be available at the Capitol Arts Center or by responding to the invitation. All Bowling Green and Warren County citizens are invited, but tickets are only available on a first-come basis. The Capitol Theater has 800 seats available. Peridot Pictures, project producers, have entitled the film "200", in honor of the bicentennial celebration. The film will include re-enactments, interviews with local historians, excerpts from diaries and journals, and rare archival photographs and prints. Besides the gala premier event, Landmark will have additional showings on March 7th and 8th.

On Saturday, March 7th, the Bicentennial Commission will sponsor a number of activities throughout the day, including showings of other films related to the county's heritage, singing events, tours of historic buildings in the downtown area, and the dedication of a time capsule.

Film vignettes from "200" include a scene of the Longhunters entering the verdant hills of Warren County, and re-enactments from the Civil War, Lost River Cave's big band era, and court days. The film also features stories of famous people who have visited the area: Prince Louis Phillippe of France, Andrew Jackson, and William Jennings Bryan. No film about the area would be complete without telling the story of our most recognized public name, Duncan Hines.

We'll see you at the Capitol!
February 1998

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 is published three times a year by The Landmark Association of Bowling Green - Warren County P.O. Box 1819 Bowling Green, KY 42101 (502) 782-0037

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

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Architectural Details

- The city hall grapevine indicates that the Paxton House will be spared demolition for a proposed parking structure in that area. The Association Board was gratified by your support on this issue. We will alert you if any changes and subsequent lobbying is necessary.

- A directory of local contractors who undertake historic preservation projects has been compiled with the help of the Bowling Green Historic Preservation Board, the Landmark Association, and the local contractors licensing board. The directory provides names, contact information, and the types of projects the contractor will undertake.

Copies of the directory are located at the Preservation Board's office at the Planning Commission, the Landmark Association office, and the Kentucky Library, W.K.U.

- Local historian, Lloyd Raymer, has published *A History of Anna, Kentucky, 1796-1986*. The softcover, 91-page booklet with index is available from Mr. Raymer (502) 777-3731. Copies are also available at Clothes Plus in Sugar Maple Square. Mr. Raymer sold all of the first printing and is having the booklet re-printed; he is also one of our newest landmark members.

- A local survey conducted by Stephen L. King has resulted in another much needed publication, The Confederate Dead at Bowling Green, Kentucky. This 140-page register lists hundreds of documented Confederate soldiers who were buried in Bowling Green. Despite the fact that no battle occurred in Bowling Green, hundreds of Confederates, chiefly the casualties of disease, are buried here. King spent several years researching Civil War service records in order to compile this work. He is now at work on a history of Rich Pond. The Bowling Green-Warren County Bicentennial Commission and the Warren County Historical Society helped provide funding for this project. Copies can be acquired through Mr. King for $15 (softcover) $25 (hardcover) (502) 781-4625.

- The new Bowling Green Magazine available at the Chamber of Commerce celebrates the county's bicentennial and features articles about the history of transportation, industry, education, religion, recreation, and a number of other topics about Warren County.

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Landmark Report 3

Always Learning

Every time we tour a home or sponsor a program, Association members learn something new. On the eve of the Christmas tour, we learned that we had printed some erroneous information about one of our tour homes, the Graham house (pictured here). Several Graham family members, who saw the article in the paper, wrote or called to set the record straight. To prevent further dissemination of this information, we have included some portions of a letter sent to the Association by L.H. Graham, grandson of H.D. Graham who built the house.

Mr. Graham wrote that this house "was built by Hubert Donovan Graham. His wife was named Tranquilia (Buchanan). At the time of construction, the lot at the corner of 13th and Chestnut extended 13th Street approximately 500 feet and there was a large flower garden behind the house and a detached garage toward the back of the lot which fronted on 13th Street. That frontage was split off in the late thirties or early forties and another house built on it. Hubert (H.D.) Graham was a Bowling Green merchant, owned a farm (where I now reside) in Warren County, and was President of the Independent Strawberry Growers Assn. He died in 1929 and his wife continued to live in the house and carried on a small florist business from that location for a few years until it was sold at auction in (about) 1937. I don't know who bought it at that time."

He continues, "Subsequently the house was purchased by Dr. V. Graham who was a successful Bowling Green dentist. He was not related to the H.D. Graham family. They just shared the same last name. Dr. V. Graham and his family lived in the house for many years. The house has gone thru various owners since that time apparently. 'Incidentally,' Graham adds, 'H.D. Graham had two children, Lawrence and Caldwell. Caldwell died of Rheumatoid Arthritis as a young man in an upstairs apartment [at 1326 Chestnut]. He was married at his time of death but had no children. Lawrence, the oldest son, met his wife (Margaret Beaird) while she was a student at Potter College and rented a room from the H.D. Graham family and lived in the house. Lawrence had five children (4 girls and 1 boy) all of who are living today (4 in Warren Co[unty]). The H.D. Graham family tree can be traced to the founders of Bowling Green and the Charter Members of the Presbyterian Church here. Probably the best known member that I can recall offhand is Judge Asher Graham who was a Circuit Judge in Warren Co[unty] for many years."

The Association thanks Mr. Graham for taking the time to contact us. We appreciate this valuable information about one of our city's finest and most unique residences.

Successful Christmas Tour

Our Bicentennial Christmas Tour of Homes was a resounding success. Close to 200 individuals visited the five homes on the tour. The houses were dressed in their holiday finery, and their owners proudly showed them off. Funds made from the tour will be used to continue our preservation advocacy activities in the Bowling Green and Warren County areas.

We especially thank the homeowners who opened their doors: Mike & Patty Minter; Chuck & Dawn Bolton; Hugh (Max) & Jean Thomason; John & Sandra Baker (and who could leave out Isaac), and Nancy Jones. A big thanks also to the Bowling Green-Warren County Bicentennial Commission for providing funding for the exhibits. We are also extended to WKU's Kentucky Library for assisting with the exhibits. Linda Todd, an instructor with the Bowling Green Community College, and her two students, Loretta McEwen and Laurie Cooks, were instrumental in preparing the tickets, program, flyers, and ads for the event. The tour would not have been possible without the assistance of our fine Board of Directors, who served as FOAs and hosts at each of the different homes. Jonathan Jeffrey and Dr. Rick Voakes served as co-chairs of this year's tour.

We continue to refine the Christmas tour; this being its third consecutive year after a long hiatus. Your Board was listened to your roared on a 1995 survey that you wanted more tours. Thanks for making this tour one of our best.
Rehabilitation Committee Survey

YES NO
1. Have you been involved in a restoration in the last ten years?
2. Are you about to begin a restoration?
3. Would you attend workshops on different aspects of restoration work?
4. Would you utilize a database consisting of contractors lists, "how to" manuals, etc.?
5. Do you have supplier catalogs, manuals, articles about restorations, magazines, etc. that you would be willing to donate to the database?
6. Would you like to see a column in the newsletter by guest contributors dealing with such subjects as: How to pick and deal with contractors; tax relief available to restorers; style elements and their incorporation...
7. Would you like to see restoration techniques demonstrated in a hands-on fashion or in written articles? Comments:
8. Would you be willing to serve on the rehab committee?
9. Could you be a guest contributor to a column?

If you answered yes to questions 6 or 7, please contact Rick Voakes (843-3433) or George Morris (782-7724) for further information. We would also welcome your comments or suggestions for the rehab committee even if you can't serve. Please mail survey to: Landmark Association, P.O. Box 1812, Bowling Green, KY 42102-1812.

Preservation Pearls

Rick Voakes

The original moldings and baseboards from a Victorian-era home are a treasure that must be preserved if at all possible. When your restoration project is finished, the rich wooden trim will make your home an exceptional example of preservation stewardship. Before working on walls and floors in your home, carefully remove the baseboards and other trim pieces by prying a little at a time with several prybars of various sizes. These prybars are available at most hardware or building supply stores. Try not to splinter or break the old dry wood. If the trim has been removed by previous owners, similar antique moldings can be carefully removed from buildings that are about to be razed.

When you have removed the trim, it will be full of old rusty nails. If you try to remove them by pounding them out, the submerged nailheads will splinter your beautiful wooden surfaces. Instead, use heavy pliers to pull the pointed end of the nail, and draw the small nail head right through the wood and out the back side (which won't show when you put it back on). Grab the nail tightly close to the wood surface, and bend to the side. This will provide enough leverage to pull the whole nail on through.

Depot Capped With Ludowici Tile

One of the more interesting aspects of the exterior restoration of Bowling Green's L&N depot is the wonderful terra cotta tile roof. Upon close examination of the tile, it was found that it had been manufactured by one of America's best known tile manufacturers, the Ludowici Tile Company of New Lexington, Ohio. Tile removed from the roof revealed the following information, "Ludowici Celadon Company, Chicago, Imperial Tile, Pat(ented) Apr. 8, 1924." The tiles also bear the date of manufacture, most of the tiles on the depot were made in May 1925.

The company still makes the "Spanish Tile" that was used in 1925, and it was ordered for the roofing phase of the restoration project. Ludowici claims this is their most popular line of tile. It's promotional literature magnificently states: "Like a Matador's cape embellished with embroidery or a single, long stemmed rose, Spanish Tile is as bold and vibrant as its name suggests." This line is prized for its simple, one-piece barrel design which provides a pattern of distinctive ripples across the roof.

Today an American-based company in continuous production since 1888, Ludowici remains synonymous with the finest clay roof tile available. By combining hand-crafted artistry with high-technology firing procedures, Ludowici produces a tile that often last over a century. The original beauty of these tile roofs is enhanced by the effects of time, giving them a pleasing pastel patina.

Ludowici tiles are backed by a seventy-five year limited warranty. Notable buildings that feature Ludowici tile include: Colonial Williamsburg, New York Life Building, Emory University, AT&T World Headquarters, Colorado University, Empire State Building, Union Station in St. Louis, and Soldiers Field. To that impressive list, we can now add the L&N Depot, Bowling Green, Kentucky.
Checking In
(continued from Landmark Report 7)

In Bowling Green, motor courts such as the Horse Shoe Court and Lost River Court supplanted the old campgrounds and downtown hotels such as the Helm and the Mansard. These same motor courts were equally supplanted when the 31W Bypass was completed around Bowling Green. The city then saw a second generation of court-type hotels, such as the Kentucky Hotel, the Country Ham Hotel, the Cardinal Inn, and the Hilltopper Inn.

In an endless line of updating, these hotels were supplanted by chain motels beginning with Holiday Inn. Today, chain hotels do much more than provide comfortable rooms for guests off the Interstate, they also furnish funding for tourist initiatives under the aegis of the Bowling Green Warren County Tourism Commission.

John Margolies, who has studied roadside architecture in America for three decades and is charmed by Barren County's Wigwam 'nllage, says, "There's something to be said for the chains and what they've offered. Unfortunately vandals have pushed portions of the fence down and have abscended with some of the fence's larger stones. They have also desecrated a number of the cemetery's tombstones. Despite the guard of several substantial cedars, the cemetery has suffered extensive pillaging.

It would not be unusual in a rural cemetery of this vintage to find two foot to four foot high markers cut from local limestone quarries and skillfully carved by local stonemasons. This cemetery, whose oldest stone dates from 1829, features approximately twenty-one markers in this height range. However, almost in the yard's center is a seventeen foot granite marker which dwarfs all the other tombstones and vies with some of the yard's trees for highest honors. This marker is for Tom (Thomas) Jeff [Jefferson] Sweeney. One side of a gray granite pedestal reads, "Tom Jeff Sweeney, Begun Life As A Hired Hand, By Industry and Sober Habits; He Accumulated A Small Fortune, He Was Honest And True; He Died On The 23rd Day of Sept. 1907, Age 75 Years 1 Month 12 Days." This was too good a story to pass up. Who was Tom Jeff Sweeney?

Tom Jeff was the son of Noel (1798-1883) and Jane (Moorman) Sweeney; they died less than seven months apart and are buried near their son. The couple married on 12 August 1829 and had five other children: George Ann, Jesse, Mary Jane and Nancy Ermine. They lived in a commodious house, once located near the graveyard. The home was a two-story log house, which had been rebuilt after it fell during a tremendous wind storm in 1841. Noel Sweeney enlarged the house when he moved his family there from the county's Pea Ridge section. The house was razed in the mid-1970s to make way for the Green River Parkway (now the William Natcher Parkway).

Tom Jeff's teenage years he began working in the milling business of John L. Row. Later he partnered with David Kirby and then with C.W. Potter in other milling concerns. His obituary states: He had been singularly successful in all his business ventures and had built up a fortune, being one of the county's largest owners of farm lands. He was accounted among the county's wealthiest men. Personally he was a man who was popular with all who knew him. He was noted for his honesty and integrity of character and was an unassuming man of good qualities, who commanded the highest respect from all who knew him. In his death the county loses one its best and most substantial citizens.

Besides his milling concerns and extensive land holdings, Sweeney also operated a large stone quarry on the Morgantown Road property. The operation, which was organized on 9 January 1901, was known as the Morgantown Quarry. The quarry, which had been in operation since 1901, was the largest stone quarry in the state of Kentucky.
An obituary diagnosed his malady as Bright's Disease, a chronic inflammation of the kidneys. Sweeney's funeral was held at his home on June 6, 1907. His executor, B.W. Bradburn, made sure that his story was not only lasting, but ornamental and there has grown up a big fence for them. Few of these fences survive today, except the one at the St. Joseph's Catholic Church, but the lattice porch balustrades still adorn many of Bowling Green's early twentieth century homes. Some socially conscious townsfolk added verandahs to their nineteenth century homes to keep up pretensions and to add outdoor living areas to their outdated houses.

Sweeney, who never married, left a considerable estate. His executor, B.W. Bradburn, had an attractive broadside printed for the auction of Sweeney's land. The poster measures 15x20 inches, and is cataloged as Kentucky library broadside number 145. Twelve individual tracts of "fine farming land"--situated in fine neighborhoods, and in one of the finest sections of the state" are listed. In some instances the farms are mentioned by name of previous owners: "Bates Farm...Hess Farm...Carr Farm...Goodwin Farm...Watts and Penn land...Noel Sweeney Farm." All of these land tracts were highly productive farms. The "T.J. Sweeney Home Place" tract contained "a fine dwelling house, a fine barn and 10 acres of orchard, 3 tenant houses and out houses, stock scales, etc. All of this tract is in a high state of cultivation, 70 acres of this tract is bottom land on Drake's creek and as fine as any land within the State."

Two of the tracts included flour mills. Tract number five was located near the T.J. Sweeney Home Place and came "equipped with good machinery, good engine, boiler, etc. as well as a natural gas well." Tract number twelve featured one of Warren County's oldest millsites, the old Ennis Mill. The tract included twenty acres "upon which is situated a two-story mill house equipped with corn machinery with stone dam in perfect condition, ten foot water fall; one good barn, cattle shed, stock scales, buggy house and out houses, one five room dwelling house, good orchard, 200 trees, peach and apple, good fencing with block stone fence around the yard."

Sweeney was "taken sick in June" 1907. His obituary diagnosed his malady as Bright's Disease, a chronic inflammation of the kidneys. Sweeney's funeral was held at his home on Drake's Creek, and his body was moved halfway across the county and buried with his forebears on the Morgantown Road. B.W. Bradburn, his executor, made sure that his "unassuming" friend was properly recognized with a pretentious, seventeen foot, gray granite obelisk.
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.

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------------------- Levels of Membership -------------------

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

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

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