


10-1998

Landmark Report (Vol. 18, no. 1)

Kentucky Library Research Collections
Western Kentucky University, spcol@wku.edu

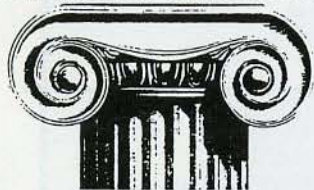
Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.wku.edu/landmark_report

 Part of the [Cultural Resource Management and Policy Analysis Commons](#), [Historic Preservation and Conservation Commons](#), and the [Public History Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Kentucky Library Research Collections, "Landmark Report (Vol. 18, no. 1)" (1998). *Landmark Report*. Paper 70.
https://digitalcommons.wku.edu/landmark_report/70

This Newsletter is brought to you for free and open access by TopSCHOLAR®. It has been accepted for inclusion in Landmark Report by an authorized administrator of TopSCHOLAR®. For more information, please contact topscholar@wku.edu.



"A future with a past"

LANDMARK REPORT

VOLUME XVIII, NUMBER 1

LANDMARK ASSOCIATION OF BG/WC

OCTOBER 1998

FARNSWORTH FANTASY by Stephanie Britt

*"Mother said she wanted a pretty house and they made her one."
Louise Farnsworth, March 1998*

The residence at the intersection of Chestnut Street and 13th Avenue (1302 Chestnut) has been the home of the Farnsworth family since its completion in 1908, a fact few houses in the area can boast. The current resident of the home, Louise Farnsworth is ninety-eight years old and remembers coming to the house for the first time in late January 1908, only a few days after her eight birthday. Louise arrived at the house with her grandmother in a horse-drawn taxi during a heavy snowfall. Her grandmother asked her what she thought of her new home and she replied it looked like Cinderella's palace.

The Farnsworth family consisted of Mr./Mrs. Joseph M. Farnsworth and their four children Bland, Corilla, Aubrey and Louise. Mrs. Joseph Farnsworth had the house built from an inheritance she received. Louise recalls her mother being very involved in the construction of the home, traveling to the site almost daily to supervise the progress. Mrs. Farnsworth purchased the land upon which the house was built at a public auction in 1906, the lot being a part of Chestnut Street that was referred to as "The Smallhouse Lawn" after the previous owner. The Farnsworths chose their lot on the east side of Chestnut Street and the southeast corner of Thirteenth Avenue for its vantage point. From the front porch of the home, one can see up and down Chestnut Street and down Thirteenth Avenue. At the time of the home's construction, Thirteenth Avenue connecting Park and Chestnut Streets was not yet cut through. This did not occur until 1913.



When Louise Farnsworth first saw her family's new home in 1908, she said "it looked like Cinderella's palace."

Courtesy of Jonathan Jeffrey

(continued on page 4)

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.

Board of Directors—

Ward Begley, President

J. David Bryant, Vice-President

Jonathan Jeffrey, Treasurer/Editor

Dawn Slaughter, Secretary

Lynwood Montell

Joyce Rasdall

George Morris

Rick Voakes

Susan McCue

Russell Morgan

Julie Nottmeier

John Perkins

John Baker

Jean Thomason, Emeritus

Cheryl Blaine, Ex-officio

Paul Trafton, Ex-officio

Julie Troyer, Staff Secretary

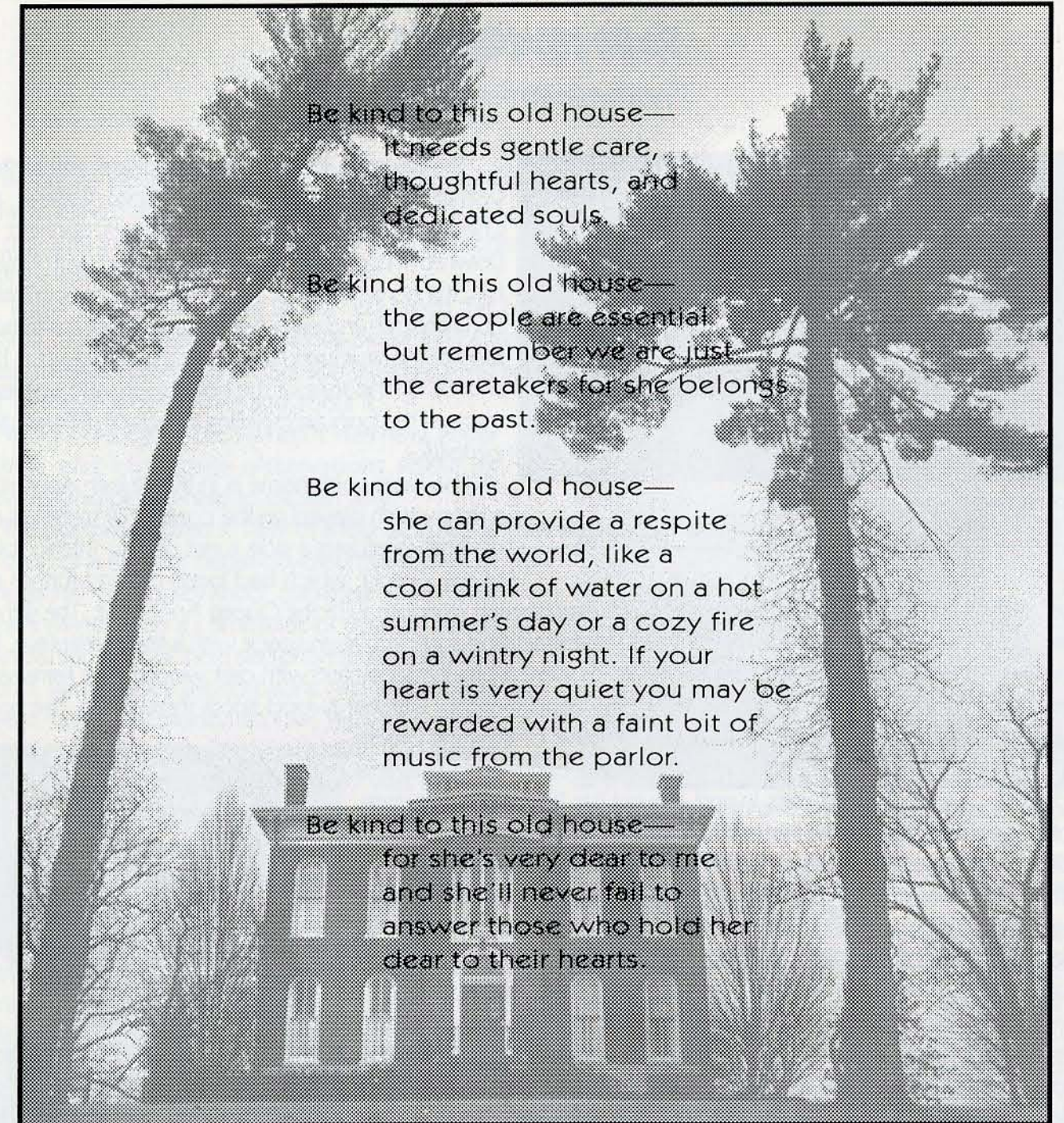
Landmark Report is published three times a year by The Landmark Association of Bowling Green - Warren County P.O. Box 1812 Bowling Green, KY 42101 (502) 782-0037

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



Architectural Details

- Watch your mailbox for information related to a tour of Talbott Tavern in Transition that is being organized by vice-president J. David Bryant, who is the architect for the restoration project.
- Our kudos to David Garvin, Jr. for his preservation work on the Underwood-McElroy house at the corner of 13th and State Streets.
- We appreciate WKU for allowing us to remove some architectural salvage from a property they will be razing soon. Also thanks to board member George Morris for removing the items.
- The Bowling Green Historic Preservation Board is in the final stages of polling citizens in the Magnolia and Nutwood Streets area to see if that neighborhood should be designated as a zoned historic district. Two neighborhood meetings have already been held. Landmark board member and neighborhood resident, Dawn Slaughter, has rallied the preservation forces in the area.
- Mark December 12th on your calendar for Landmark's Christmas Open House Tour. The tour is being referred to as the ABC Tour (for A Bungalow Christmas Tour). This year's tour is being sponsored by our friends at Meyer Mortgage. We will have five homes in the Magnolia and Nutwood Streets area on the tour. Tour hours will be from 4:00 to 8:00 p.m.
- Start saving your fleas now for our fifth bi-annual Flea Market. After the new year rolls around, contact Flea Market chairmen, Rick Voakes (843-3433) and George Morris (782-7724), about picking up your fleas for the sale. Remember we do not accept clothing. We have found that the best selling items include toys, small pieces of furniture, collectibles, kitchen ware, utensils, china, glassware, silverware, tools, lawn equipment and Christmas decorations. Still, it never ceases to amaze us what another person will buy.



Be kind to this old house—
it needs gentle care,
thoughtful hearts, and
dedicated souls.

Be kind to this old house—
the people are essential
but remember we are just
the caretakers for she belongs
to the past.

Be kind to this old house—
she can provide a respite
from the world, like a
cool drink of water on a hot
summer's day or a cozy fire
on a wintry night. If your
heart is very quiet you may be
rewarded with a faint bit of
music from the parlor.

Be kind to this old house—
for she's very dear to me
and she'll never fail to
answer those who hold her
dear to their hearts.

(Courtesy of Kentucky Library, WKU)

Terry Leaves Riverview

Sam Terry, director of Historic Riverview at Hobson Grove for nine years and a Landmark member, resigned September 1, 1998. Landmark member Ruth Jerd has accepted the responsibility of interim director. We salute Terry for his important work at Riverview; many of us saw only a glimpse of how hard he worked to improve the property and the interpretation of it. Others know all too well the extent of his labor and how much he will be missed. Arriving on her first day, Jerd found the above poem written by Terry.

FARNSWORTH

(Continued from cover page)



One of the home's exquisite light fixtures

Courtesy of the Stephanie Britt

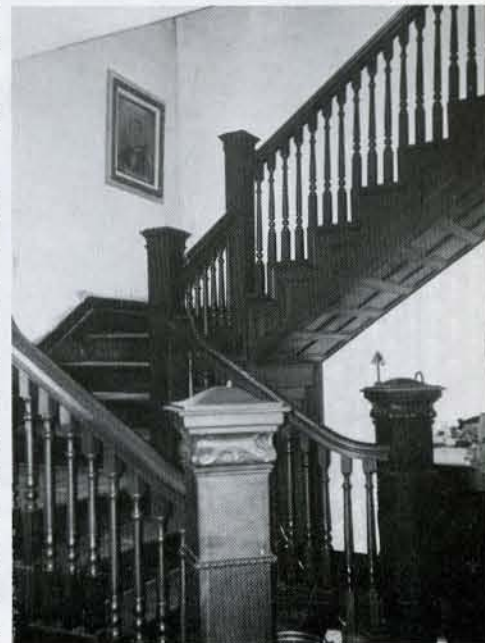
The house is located in the College Hill Historic District, which consists chiefly of State, College, and Chestnut Streets. These thoroughfares connect the Downtown Commercial Historic District with College Hill, the home of WKU. The district is a concentration of nineteenth and early-twentieth century residences, most of the structures having been built between 1840 and 1930. The style of the homes vary and represent many of the popular building trends of different time periods.

The Farnsworth home is in the Queen Anne style, a style which played on the contrast of materials and generally featured a side turret or bay. Interior plans of the period, which had been moving further and

further away from classical symmetry, were given even greater freedom with the Queen Anne style. The general Queen Anne house plan featured the living hall, a central living and circulation space with a grand staircase. This space flowed freely into other ample rooms which were typically decorated with dark woods. The Farnsworth home is a two-story brick structure with common-bond masonry with hardwood floors throughout. The house was built by the contractor Charles H. Smith, a native of Bowling Green. Until his death in 1939, Mr. Smith ran a successful contracting business which built several of the homes in and around the Bowling Green area. His offices were located in the Neale Building (later known as the Davenport Building, which was located behind the old Woolworth's Store).

The house was built on a limestone foundation and features a corner octagonal bay with rough ashlar stone lintels. The home contains the original leaded glass front doors with a Palladian window over the main entrance. Louise Farnsworth said her mother was especially fond of the door and did not allow the family to use it on a daily basis. The family used a side entrance to the home, reserving the front door for visitors, a typical Victorian custom. The house also has its original front porch, repairs having been made in the fall of 1997 to stabilize the structure. The porch features nine Corinthian columns, a feature replicated in the home's large foyer. A striking feature of the house is its double-landing oak staircase. The staircase served as the nerve center in Victorian homes from which all life flowed and was generally situated in the foyer, serving as a focal point for visitors. Popular to the period, rooms in the house are alternately finished in oak and mahogany.

Another unusual feature of the home is a service elevator on the screened-in rear porch. The elevator was purchased in the late 1930s from



The home's oak staircase. "The staircase served as the nerve center in Victorian homes..."

Courtesy of the Stephanie Britt

(Continued on page 9)

OLD POTTER

by Lynn Niedermeier

Before its demolition in 1936 to make way for Cherry Hall, Western students crowded into Recitation Hall, home to eleven academic departments. Few could have failed to notice that theirs was not the first institution to occupy this location atop the Hill, for on the arched portal above the building's entrance was inscribed its original name: "Pleasant J. Potter College."

"Potter College for Young Ladies" educated the better-off daughters of Bowling Green and the South from 1889 to 1909. It attracted sentimental praise long after its relatively short life. As Recitation Hall was being razed, Western English professor Dr. Gordon Wilson eulogized a landmark which, though less than fifty years old, always had "something of the long ago about it."

Wilson was right. Even when it was new, Potter College was old. Some observations about its founding and design help to explain why.

The purchase in March 1889 of a four-acre site at the crest of a rugged, cedar-covered rise known as "Vinegar Hill" or "Copley Knob" culminated more than a year's planning by a committee of Bowling Green businessmen. One of them also provided its founding legend. Public stock subscriptions had initiated the project, but when money ran low, Pleasant J. Potter contributed five thousand dollars to insure completion of the building. Not only was a stock company incorporated and the school chartered with the name of the sixty-eight-year-old banker, but young ladies in attendance soon began referring to their *alma mater* as "old Potter."

Although an elevated, well-drained site was practical for health reasons, the school's location on high ground at what was then the edge of town had been characteristic of women's colleges, particularly in the South, since the early nineteenth century. Ideally, wrote one educator, such schools were "a little retired from busy marts of commerce . . . embosomed in Sylvan Bowers, protected by Shady Avenues," and thereby "in harmony with the modesty and delicacy which are always associated with the gentler sex." Building design was meant to convey a similar message. After 1837, when Mary Lyon founded Mount Holyoke Seminary in Massachusetts, many female colleges adopted her "seminary" or "congregate" system in which classrooms, living and eating quarters, library and public rooms were under one roof. This home-like arrangement ensured constant protection, supervision, and the development of a girl's intellect in the context of enhancing her fitness in the domestic sphere.

Prominent Louisville architect Harry P. McDonald (who, with his two brothers, designed numerous university buildings, asylums and jails) accordingly conceived a structure that projected both the delicacy of its occupants and the physical mass necessary to control them. An asymmetrical three-story facade with tall, narrow windows, a square, four-story tower, and a low-pitched, hipped roof followed the Italianate style familiar to Kentuckians for almost forty years. Modest detailing substituted decorative brickwork under the eaves for the usual wide roof



An exterior view of Potter College's main building. It housed all the College's classrooms, library, gym, dining facilities, and dorm rooms. Potter's only other building was President Cabell's home, which was eventually moved by Western to build the library (now Gordon Wilson Hall).

Courtesy of University Archives, WKU.

(Continued on page 10)

Benefactor (\$500+)

JBK Network Consulting
Meyer Mortgage Corporation
Medical Center at BG

Patron (\$150-\$250)

Bowling Green Bank
BGMU
Harlin, Parker, Alcott & Chaudoin, PSC
Pappagallo
Trans Financial Bank

Sustaining (\$100)

Baird Kurtz & Dobson
Jerry E Baker
Bell South
Beltone Hearing Aid Service
Blake Hart Taylor & Wiseman
BG/WC Chamber of Commerce
BG/WC Tourist Convention Comm
Dr Jane Bramham & Dr Camilla Collins
Broderick Thornton & Pierce
Browning Oil Company
English Lucas Priest & Owsley
First American
Hill-Motley Lumber Co Inc
Houchens Industries
IMCON Services
Merrill Lynch
Bill Moore Ins Agency
Charles M Moore Ins Agency
National City Bank
Parrish Auto Parts
Planning Commission
Quality Personnel
Service One Credit Union
Steve & Jeannie Snodgrass
Barbara Stewart Interiors
Jean & Max Thomason
Wendys of BG
Gregory Willis

Supporting (\$50)

James & Floydine Adams
Gilbert & Covella Biggers

LANDMARK ASSOCIATION MEMBERS 1998-1999

Jimmy & Evelyn Bohannon
Mr David Coffey
Mr & Mrs J David Cole
Mrs Thomas R Curran
Daily News
John & Jerre Fitts
Mr & Mrs John Grider
Mr & Mrs T B Hagerman
Jonathan Jeffrey
Mrs Agatha Layson Johnson
Nicholas & Patricia Kafoglis
David & Laura Harper Lee
Elinor Markle
Mr & Mrs Larry McCoy
Mr & Mrs William McKenzie
John C & Emily Perkins
Dr Jay & Patsy Sloan
William & Rosalyn Stamps
Mrs. L O Toomey
Rick & Sylvia Voakes
Drs Arvin & Corrie Vos
Mr & Mrs Ralph Wakeland
Mrs M S Wallace
Charles & Elaine Walker

Family (\$95)

Dr Kathy Kalab & Mr Kaz Abe
Dr Jeffrey Adams & Dr Tammy Willis
Judge & Mrs William E Allender
Tom & Madge Bailey
Dr & Mrs Thomas Baird
John & Sandra Baker
Mr & Mrs Matthew Baker
Sara & Jim Bennett
Seymour & Gerda Blau
Jim & Gwen Breece
Carroll & Peggy Brooks
J David & Frederica Bryant
Donna & Charles Bussey
Dr & Mrs Randy Capps
Buddy & Joy Cate
E Daniel Cherry
Mr & Mrs H P Clagett
Richard & Gretchen Collins

Raymond & Ann Cravens
Kathie Curtis
Rick & Carol DuBose
Robert & Sandy Franklin
Dr & Mrs Jack Glasser
Dr & Mrs Richard Grise
Terry & Brenda Hale
David & Nancy Ham
Maxey B. & Nancy Harlin
Norman & Carole Harned
Mr & Mrs James D Harris
Robert & Martha Haynes
Hollis & Sally Hinton
Mr & Mrs James H Holland
Stephen & Elizabeth Horn
Gary & Margaret Huff
Bill & Shirley Jackson
John & Marie Jacobsen
Mr & Mrs Rolla R Jefferson
Harvey & Sarah Johnston
Zach & Kim Kafoglis
Clarence & Barbara Keith
Ltc & Mrs Jack Keyser
Greg & Paula Lyons
John & Betty Matheny
Rick & Susan McCue
Rod & Marsha McCurry
Mr & Mrs James McGuirk
Larry & Cheryl Mendenhall
W Currie Milliken
Michael & Patricia Minter
Dr Lynwood & Linda Montell
Mr & Mrs Russell Morgan Jr
George & Jane Morris
Laura & Ken Mullins
Mr & Mrs Gary Murphy
Mr & Mrs Henry L Olyniec
Mr & Mrs Jo T Orendorf
Michael & Bunny Owsley
Dr & Mrs Larry Pack
Mr & Mrs William J Parker
Mr & Mrs D A Pearson
H C & Jean Peart
George & Janice Peterson, Jr
Bill & Joey Powell

David E & Charlene Rabold
Mr & Mrs Jody Richards
Dan & Melissa Rudloff
Ray & Margaret Saxton
Mr & Mrs Don Schardein
Emmett & Jean Secrest
Delane & Brenda Simpson
James & Dawn Slaughter
Mr & Mrs Steve Smith
Frank & Peggy Steele
Bobby & Sid Steen
Mr & Mrs Charles Stewart
Rev Howard & Linda Surface
Pearl M Taylor
Carroll & Doris Tichenor
Becky & Ben Tomblinson
Michael Trapasso
Neal & Judy Turner
Miss Sara Tyler
Mr & Mrs Charles Webb
Johnny & Glenda Webb
Richard & Judy Webber
Roland & Mary Frances Willock
David & Michelle Wiseman

Individual (\$15)

Miss Gertrude Bale
Mr Bruce Barrick
Ward Begley
Valerie C Brown
Nellie W Brown
Noble Burford
Carol Burton
Georgia Love Cargile
Dr Faye Carroll
Lloyd & Mary Jane Cassady
Rebecca Dawson
Mrs Dorothy Dobson
Diana Edwards
N B Edwards
Lena C Ellis
Martha Alice Evans
David Faxon, Jr
Ms Frieda Friedli

Jean Fulkerson
Barbara Gary
Theresa Gerard
Cara Haggerty
Mildred Hawkins
Lisa Hite
Mrs J P Hines
Mrs Duncan L Hines
Lee Huddleston
Ann P Huskey
Ruth B Hyden
Ruth Jerd
Ralph & Romanza Johnson
Louise S Jolly
Mrs Ras Jones
Mary Lee Kelley
Mrs Elizabeth Layson Kirby
Angela Kuprion
Susie Likes
Mrs Edith Lucas
Mary Hart Lyle
Maj Edward T Martin
Mrs Joseph Mayfield
Harold McGuffey
Dickie McKinney
Mrs Charles Moore
Marjorie Nahm
Virginia Neel
Alex Nottmeier
Jim Owen
Mrs Roger Parrish
Faye Patton
Dr Albert Petersen
Mrs Betty G Pfannerstill
Miriam B Ramirez
Dr Joyce Rasdall
Dr Charles Ray
Lloyd M Raymer
Susan Redick
Mike Reynolds
Judith Roberts
Sheryl Ruiz
Iris Runner
Ms Janet Schwarzkopf
Alice Siewert

Alice Simon
Ms Imogene Simpson
Barbara Smith
Mrs Virginia Spalding
Cora Jane Spiller
Wilbur Sprouse
Dan Stone
Sue Lynn Stone
Rita M Story
Barbara Stroube
Meredith Ann Thessen
Linda S Todd
Jennifer Turner
Mrs Robert G Wallace
Vernon White
Hilda Willoughby
Brenda M Willoughby

This list was compiled on October 12, 1998. Any questions about your membership may be directed to the Landmark office, 782-0037.

Membership Matters!

New members since June 19, include:

Frieda Friedli
Ann Huskey
Susie Likes
Meyer Mortgage Corporation
Linda Todd

Sumpter Fund donations since June 19, include:

John & Jerre Fitts
Jonathan Jeffrey
Rod & Marsha McCurry
Raymond & Ann Cravens
Mr & Mrs Michael Owsley
Mrs L O Toomey

PICNIC PAPARAZZI



Dorian and Elaine Walker (foreground) receive a framed invitation from the movie "200" in appreciation for all their efforts in preserving a glimpse of Warren County's 200 years of history.



President Ward Begley and immediate-past president Dawn Slaughter present to Jim Meyer (right) of Meyer Mortgage a framed invitation to the movie "200" in appreciation for his underwriting the premier night reception.

Landmark members Steve and Jeannie Snodgrass hosted the Landmark picnic on a sultry Sunday in August. As Romanza Johnson would say "a good time was had by all." We appreciate everyone's participation, particularly the Picnic Committee: Dawn Slaughter, Ward Begley, Jean Thomason, Jonathan Jeffrey and the Snodgrasses. All photos are courtesy of Ward and Susan Begley.



A high-stepping Elvis enlivened the affair.



The next generation of Landmark members enjoy the picnic also.



Steve Snodgrass (left) accepts a home plaque for his home which served as the site for the picnic.

FARNSWORTH

(Continued from page 4)

Woolworth's located downtown on the square. The elevator works with a series of weights and ropes. Woolworth's was replacing the elevator with a more modern electric model. Louise's mother, suffering from an advanced heart condition and unable to climb the staircase to the second floor, bought the elevator for \$148, including installation.

The light fixtures in the house are all original 1908 models with the exception of two chandeliers and a hanging glass fixture over the dining room table. The two chandeliers, one in the living room and the other in the library, were removed from the previous Farnsworth home at 713 State Street. These chandeliers originally contained gas jets but were converted to electric for the new home. Louise Farnsworth estimates the chandeliers are roughly 145 years old, as the previous house from which they were removed was built prior to the Civil War. The hanging glass fixture, purchased from Farnsworth Electrical, was added to the house about 1911.

The Farnsworth residence, built in 1908, is an important component of the College Hill Historic District. Architecturally this structure represents the period and character of the houses found in the district. Historically, the residents of the house reflect the background of the property owners once living in the area. The house's history also forms a link between the College Hill Historic District and the Downtown Commercial Historic District.

Residents of the house were associated with various businesses and occupations in and around the downtown area. Joseph M. Farnsworth, husband to the builder of the home and father to the current resident, owned a prosperous drugstore on the corner of Main and Adams Streets. A city directory of Bowling Green from 1905-6 lists the drugstore as Farnsworth and Stout Drugs, dealing in drugs, paints, oils, sundries, etc. Aubrey Farnsworth, son of Joseph, was a dentist whose offices were located on State Street across from the Woolworth's building. Bland Farnsworth, also the son of Joseph, was an electrician and proprietor of Farnsworth Electrical. Herschel Mitchell, husband to Corilla, daughter of Joseph, owned a music shop located on Eighth Street just off the square, dealing primarily in the sale of pianos. The store was an early competitor of Royal Music company on State Street.

Louise Farnsworth spent her career teaching 4th, 5th, and 6th grades at the Eleventh Street School. Louise contributed to the education of several generations of elementary school children. Upon retirement in 1970, she had taught for 43 years in the Bowling Green public school system. Two of Joseph Farnsworth's children, Louise and Corilla, attended school on College Hill. When Louise attended WKU, it was known as Western Kentucky State Normal College. Her sister Corilla attended Potter College. Louise recalls in the late 1920s and 1930s before WKU had dormitories, local Bowling Green residents rented rooms to college students. The Farnsworth family took two boarders each semester, alternating from girls one semester to boys the next. Louise remembers the girls fondly, spending evenings after homework was completed chatting in the older girls rooms. Louise didn't enjoy the male boarders as much, her mother being strict about her steering clear of them.

The Farnsworth home is a significant structure in the College Hill Historic District. Few homes can boast single family ownership for over 90 years. On a pleasant day you can still catch a glimpse of Louise keeping vigil on the porch at 1302 Chestnut.

OLD POTTER

(Continued from page 5)

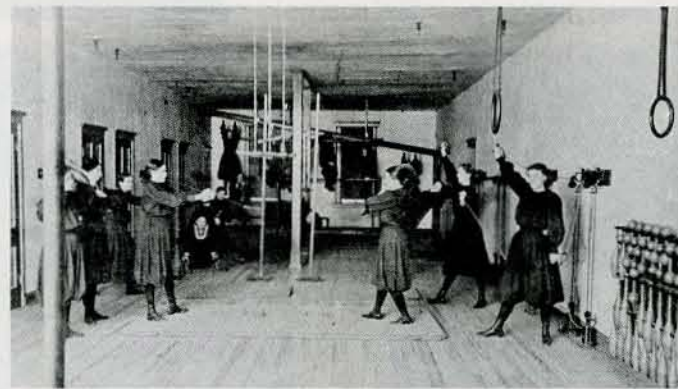
overhang and bracketing, and a prominent string course offset the verticality of the tower and windows. Two large wings extended back 104 feet (a third wing was added to the west side in 1890), but flanked another home-like feature: a massive, three-tiered porch with spindlework supports adorning the rear facade.

Although Otis Wood, a master builder from Evansville, is said to have supervised the construction, much labor and material was provided locally, sometimes in exchange for stock. Owing possibly to a dispute with tradesman George Collett over the speed and quality of his brickwork, the one-hundred-room building was not opened until December 1889 but was, insisted the college catalog, "constructed after the most improved and modern methods of architecture." Following the mandatory Victorian separation of public and private spheres, elegant reception rooms, a dining room, kitchen, library and classrooms occupied the first floor, while two-occupant dormitory rooms shared the second and third floors with a music room, gymnasium and nine bathrooms. After "room bell" sent the girls upstairs to bed, locked lattice gates closed off access to the first floor. Potter College's president, Benjamin F. Cabell, his wife, and a watchful cadre of female teachers also resided in the building.

Though a source of pride to its alumnae and their parents, Potter College was born too late, for it was soon overtaken by new attitudes toward women's higher education. Students wrote of their dreams of being teachers, doctors, writers and artists while chafing at a succession of rules, bells, and institutional constraints. In their 1898 yearbook, one called herself a "Potter Prisoner." Some of the faculty light-heartedly "petitioned for relief" from the burden of their roles as chaperones and surrogate mothers. As early as 1875, in fact, planners of new women's colleges regarded the seminary style as out of date, favoring instead smaller, more specialized structures that gave students greater freedom to regulate their own conduct. More liberal views were not confined to larger colleges or cities. In 1901, after a sensational midnight episode during which President Cabell exchanged gunfire with local swains spiriting five students down a ladder from their second-story rooms, the *Bowling Green News* mocked the double standard that prompted Cabell to expel the girls while seeking leniency for the boys.

In 1907, Cabell built his own home next to the college. Whether or not he too had tired of the congregate life, his health began to fail and in May 1909 he closed Potter College and sold its hilltop campus to the Western Kentucky State Normal School. Potter's last graduates seemed less stricken than many of their elders, who pro-

tested the "destruction" of public school invasion from (lit-the hill. In an affectionate ment," the Class of 1909 bid building's ants, mice, "cel-and hot water shortages. Grise was not so good-hu-the Normal School threat-overcrowded Recitation Company," he grumbled, the highest type material." years, "Old Potter" was near



Potter College ladies in the gym. Calisthenics and creative movement were considered important parts of the curriculum. Courtesy of University Archives, WKU.

the college by a pub-erally) the bottom of "Last Will and Testa-farewell to the ebrated lattice door," Western Dean Finley moved in 1934, when ended to burst out of Hall. "Built by a Stock "and naturally not of After less than fifty death.

Good News From WKU

The Kentucky Building

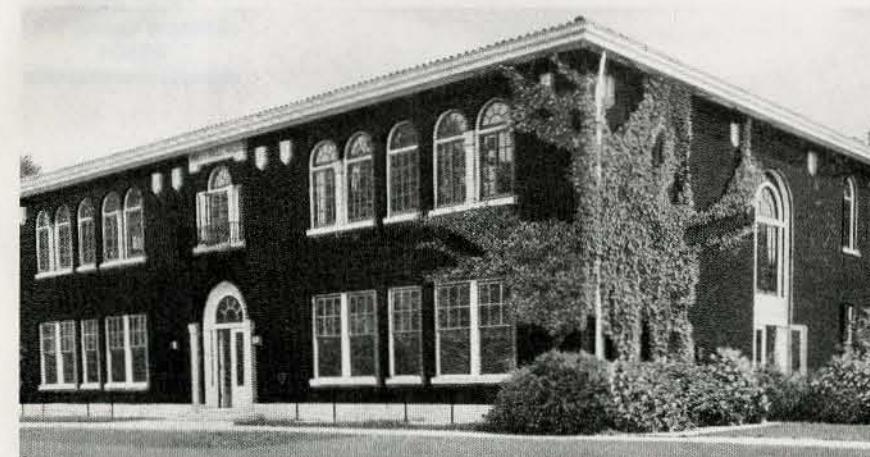
[Editor's note: We give dozens of tours of the Kentucky Building every year for students. One insightful student wrote these cogent remarks. I can only add: "Preach it brother!"]

I completely enjoyed my trip to the Kentucky Building. It was the first time I have ever been there and I was very impressed with their exhibits. In particular, I enjoyed the section on historic downtown Bowling Green. Before I started [at] Western I was a manager for a local heating and air conditioning company, and had the opportunity to work on several of these old buildings. Looking back I remember admiring the architecture of these buildings, the tall ceilings with stamped metal panels, the oak tongue and groove floors, the solid brick walls, all traits of an old building. Unfortunately I viewed the work on these buildings from a contractor's perspective and didn't give much thought to preserving the historic aspects. To me these jobs were always the hardest to do, because of the solid brick walls two feet thick and the oak flooring which required a chain saw to cut through. I really dreaded doing work on these buildings because of the difficulties involved, it was almost like the buildings were trying to say, "If you're going to change me, then you are in for a fight." But if these buildings are to survive I believe they must remain occupied by a business, which means modernized electrical, hvac and data systems, something the buildings were not originally designed for. Hopefully in the future more thought will go into preserving the historic aspects of these buildings compared to today. Once these buildings are lost they can never be brought back.



Courtesy of Jonathan Jeffrey

Snell Hall



Courtesy of Kentucky Library, WKU

We also have good news about Snell Hall on WKU's campus. At this year's Opening Faculty and Staff Meeting held on August 18th, President Gary Ransdell listed roof replacement for Snell Hall as the number four item on his "Deferred Maintenance and Campus Improvements List." He had the renovation of Snell Hall, the Hardin Planetarium, and the Thompson Science Complex listed as his number one priority under "Building Renovations Priorities." This is good news! Snell Hall is Bowling Green's only Italian Renaissance structure that is a public building; the others are residences. It is also listed on the National Register of

Historic Places under the Brinton B. Davis Thematic Scheme at WKU. Davis was a fine Louisville architect who designed a number of Western's buildings, including Van Meter, Gordon Wilson, Cherry Hall, the Old Stadium, Helm Library, the Kentucky Building, the Heating Plant, and the Industrial Arts Building.

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* -----

Regular

Corporate

- | | | | |
|--|---|---------------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual \$15 | <input type="checkbox"/> Family \$25 | <input type="checkbox"/> Active \$100 | <input type="checkbox"/> Patron \$250 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Supporting \$50 | <input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining \$100 | <input type="checkbox"/> Donor \$500 | <input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor \$1,000 |

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

LANDMARK ASSOCIATION

P.O. BOX 1812
BOWLING GREEN, KY 42102-1812

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

**NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT #683
BOWLING GREEN, KY
42101**