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ANNUAL DINNER TO BE HELD AT BOWLING GREEN LANDMARK

Thursday, May 19 Revisit the L&N Train Depot

The L&N Depot is the site of Landmark's 1994 Annual Dinner, Thursday, May 19 at 6:30 PM.

David Morgan, Kentucky Heritage Council Executive Director, will be the Guest Speaker.

For 54 years the L&N Depot at Bowling Green, Kentucky served the people of Warren County and the surrounding region as a gateway to the world at large and as a homing beacon. Built in 1925, the facility aided in the sending and receiving of goods and commodities for the area. The Depot stood watch as service men and women left for duty in World War II, and when the war ended, the Depot welcomed them home. Over the years, college students and basketball teams coming and going from Western Kentucky University relied on the Depot. Also, it was where fun-filled excursions on exotically named trains began and ended.

By 1979 automobiles, trucks, and airplanes were the preferred means of transportation, and the Depot permanently closed its doors. Since that time several attempts have been made to restore the Depot both physically and symbolically to its former glory. None of the projects were successful, and it appeared that the Depot was without hope of rehabilitation. However, in 1993 Operation PRIDE accepted the challenge to save the Depot by purchasing the property and met with resounding community support. The public recognized that the restored structure offered the city an opportunity to reuse an endangered historic landmark and to pursue additional economic development options for the area.

The L&N Railroad had a long association with Bowling Green and Warren County prior to building the depot on Kentucky Street. The line connecting Louisville and Nashville opened on August 10, 1859 just in time for the Civil War to put an end to the prosperity enjoyed by Bowling Green as a primary agricultural center. During the war both Confederate and Union forces occupied and pillaged the town and countryside, and as Confederate forces prepared to withdraw in February of 1862, they burned the railroad depot. Bowling Green's first train station was a brick structure built in 1860 and was located at the corner of Adams and Main Streets in the
In 1925 the L&N built a new depot in Bowling Green and at the dedication on October 7, 1929 the last passenger train passed through town and the Depot closed after fifty four years of service.

The decades between 1920 and 1950 saw considerable growth for the railroad in Bowling Green. The L&N provided the residents of Warren County with employment, commercial markets, mail service, and opportunities to see other parts of the southeastern United States. The decline of rail shipment and travel can be matched to and Warren style, the imposing structure was located at Limestone which was widely used for the shipment of agricultural products like tobacco, corn, and especially strawberries. During the 1950s, 60s, and 70s, thousands of railroad cars filled with strawberries left the L&N station at Bowling Green, and Warren County, Kentucky was known as the "Strawberry Capital of the World." In the first quarter of the 20th century dressmaking, logging, and limestone quarries were other very prosperous industries that reached far beyond the Warren County line.

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Save Outdoor Sculpture! Survey

On March 4, 1994, a Save Outdoor Sculpture! (SOS) volunteer training session was held at the Kentucky Library, led by Lori Meadows, Kentucky Arts Council SOS Coordinator. Mrs. Meadows explained state and national SOS goals, critical issues in the area of public art, definition of outdoor sculpture and the role of volunteer in documenting outdoor sculpture. Thomas Podnar, sculpture conservator with McKay Lodge Fine Arts Conservation Lab in Oberlin, Ohio, gave instruction to staff members of the Kentucky Library and volunteers in identifying sculpture materials, condition problems and some possible solutions. The training session focused on Bowling Green outdoor sculptures.

Kentucky Save Outdoor Sculpture! is part of a national campaign to locate and inventory publicly accessible outdoor sculpture and to increase public awareness of the value of outdoor sculpture and the need for responsible long-range plans to care for these works. The project includes works ranging from contemporary sculpture to historic statues, folk art and liturgical statues.

Information gathered by Kentucky SOS! will be forwarded to the National Museum of American Art for addition to their inventory of American Sculpture, which is accessible to scholars, conservators, and others interested in sculpture.

The Kentucky Arts Council, in collaboration with the University of Kentucky Art Museum, is the sponsoring organization in the Commonwealth. More volunteers are still needed to complete the work in Warren and surrounding counties. For more information on volunteering for this project, or to report a sculpture, please contact: Lori Meadows, Kentucky SOS!, Kentucky Arts Council, 31 Fountain Place, Frankfort, KY 40604 (606-466-5070) or Jonathan Jeffrey, WKU Kentucky Libraries Coordinator.

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Coming Events

NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION WEEK ........................................ May 9–15

LANDMARK ANNUAL DINNER ..................................................... May 19
L&N Depot, Kentucky Street. 6:30 Reception, Dinner Follows
Tickets: $17.00 Make Reservations by May 10

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LANDMARK
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