Landmark Report (Vol. 19, no. 1)

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AN ENDANGERED BUILDING

by Jonathan Jeffrey

RECENTLY you received a mailing from the Association providing information about the planned razing of Snell Hall which is situated on the old Ogden Campus of Western Kentucky University. It is imperative that we unite our voices in letting Dr. Ransdell and others know that this building represents an important component of the campus’s diminishing architectural heritage. Razing it destroys one more link to our past, and in this case an important link.

Snell Hall is significant for several reasons:

- It represents the last tangible vestige of Ogden College, an institution founded in 1877 for the education of local men. This is Ogden College’s legacy.
- It was erected as a gift of C. Perry Snell and local Ogden graduates who matched his monetary donation. It represents a trust placed in the institution.
- It is the only Italian Renaissance Revival structure in Bowling Green open to the public.
- It was designed by one of Kentucky’s best known twentieth-century architects, Brinton B. Davis.
- It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, along with twelve of Brinton B. Davis’ other campus buildings.
- It has not deteriorated to the point that it cannot be restored. It is still structurally sound.
- It would be foolish not to also admit that it’s a darn pretty building, utilizing restrained limestone ornamentation, a rhythmic fenestration with gracefully arched windows and doors.

Restoring old buildings was once thought to be less cost effective than new construction. A recent study by the

See ENDANGERED, Page 10
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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- Mattie Daughtry, who married Charles Daughtry, inherited the farm.
- She lived there until December 1917 when he went to Peewee Valley as Commandant of the Confederate Veterans Home. He died there in 1923; fifty or more inmates of the Home accompanied the body to Bowling Green where his funeral was conducted by his grandson, Reverend Samuel S. Daughtry of Harrodsburg. It was largely through Daughtry’s efforts that the Confederate Home was constructed. He drew up the original bill that was passed by the General Assembly authorizing funds for the institution.
- The Louisville Road home was most recently owned by the Goodman family.

ARCHITECTURAL DETAILS

- The Historic Preservation Office, located with the Planning Commission at 1141 State Street, is compiling a library of preservation-related books. You may be interested in the following titles: Lawrence Schnirn’s Old House Colors: An Expert’s Guide to Painting Your Old (Or Not So Old) House; Judith L. Kircher’s Caring for Your Old House; and Jane C. Nylander’s Fabrics for Historic Buildings: A Guide to Selecting Reproduction Fabrics. Contact Paula Trafton at 842-1953 for more titles. The listed titles are also available at WKU’s Kentucky Library. The Board welcomes two new members: Kristen Scott and former Landmark president and Heritage Award recipient Dawn Slaughter.

- Congratulations to our president David Bryne for restoring and opening his office, Architectural Services of Kentucky, in the old Home Telephone Building on College Street.

- The historic homeownership provision was included in the tax bill recently vetoed by President Clinton. Five years of lobbying efforts by preservation advocates had led to the passage of a modified version of the Historic Homeownership Act as part of a $292 billion tax cut passed by Congress. Despite the president’s veto, the historic homeowner’s rehabilitation incentive is in an excellent position for the upcoming fall debate on the next tax bill that will be negotiated between Congress and the President.

- Our Christmas tour of homes will take place on December 11 on State Street. It has been dubbed “Seasons Greetings from State Street.” The following people have agreed to have their homes on the tour: Rick & Susan McGuire, Van & Mary Lyn Wallace, Dan & Melissa Rudloff, Lori & Shelly Shrewsbury, Peridot Pictures (Dorian & Elaine Walker), David & Laura Lee, John & Nancy Parker, and Jim Slaggo. The ticket price will be $8 per person and entertainment will be provided in two homes.

- Our next issue will feature the Fletcher House at 1129 College Street. Because of the necessity of including information about Stodd Hall in this issue, the story of this lovely structure has been bumped to the February Landmark Report. Most of you are aware that this house recently sold at auction and is a candidate for an adaptive re-use project.

- New members since our last newsletter include: Bullington Consulting (Jim Bullington), Tim Evans & Eileen Starr, Laura McGuire Jackson, George & Gretchen Niva, David & Laura Southard, and Snopp Brothers Bridge & Iron. Sumpter Fund donors since our last newsletter include: Nancy Disher Baird, Covella Bigger, Mrs. Joe Davenport, Mrs. J P. Hines, Laura McGuire Jackson, Jonathan Jeffrey, Larry & Cheryl Mendenhall, Cora Jane Spiller, and Barbara Stroble.

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Veteran’s Village

by Lynn Neidermeyer

By late 1945, college and university administrators were nervous. A tide of servicemen, armed with benefits guaranteed under the G.I. Bill, were clamoring to begin or resume their education. At Western Kentucky State Teachers College, President Paul Garrett received letters from young men still thinking like soldiers. What date do I report, to whom, & where? Alas, what papers must I bring? asked a pre-dentistry hopeful. A former Bowling Green and almost no dormitory had one option: join in the scramble to complete them. Also what plan you have asked a president hopeful. A former Bowling Green and almost no dormitory had one option: join in the scramble to complete them. Also what plan you have asked a president hopeful.

Baracks, trailers and rather flimsy prefabricated dwellings were needed. President Garrett nevertheless needed some of them badly. In October 1945 he wrote the Federal Public Housing Agency (FPHA) asking for fifty ‘‘knockdown’’ houses but the agency, overwhelmed with applications, managed to deliver only thirty-three 13’ x 30’ structures from a defense plant in Charlestown, Indiana.

Garrett persisted, procuring nine double trailers from a war housing project in Willow Run, Michigan and thirty single trailers from the nuclear facility in Oak Ridge, Tennessee. They arrived at the expanding site on 17th Street (now Regens Avenue) between Russellville Road (now Big Red Way) and Normal Drive. Still, Western needed more. For the 1946 spring quarter, only 535 a year earlier, had rocketed to 966 of which 40 percent were ex-servicemen, a third of them married.

Expecting 1,275 students in the fall, Garrett stepped up competition with other colleges not only for housing but for furnishings, bedding and appliances – the allocation of which, he complained to Congressman Earl Clements, depended not upon enrollment figures but upon ‘‘who howles [sic] the loudest.’’ That summer, thirteen prefabricated structures from Mississippi’s Camp McCain arrived at Veteran’s Village, where they were divided into fifty-one and two-bedroom apartments. Ten 20 X 40’ army barracks arrived from Marion, Ohio to house sixteen veterans apiece. In the fall, an enrollment topped 1,430 Garrett applied for ten more ‘‘quicker huts’’ and, despite his appeal to the FPHA to ‘‘squeeze out a few more,’’ got only three from California.

Working through an array of federal project reports, bailment contracts and regulations, Garrett strove to provide bearable living conditions for veterans and their families. Letters and wires flew between Western and the FPHA when the new apartment roofs leaked, only forty-five of fifty ice boxes arrived, and a shipment of 1,245 blankets was short. Accommodation in the thirty single trailers, which arrived in considerable disrepair, lacked adequate heat and relied upon communal laundry, hot water and toilet facilities, proved so dismal that Garrett was reluctant to charge the FPHA a mandated rent of $26 per month. He created small study halls in five barracks and converted the other five into apartments for married veterans, an improvisation requiring explanation to the FPHA. When Mrs. Garrett and Western’s Faculty Wives Club opened a day care center in one of the barracks the FPHA complained of the ‘‘unauthorized use.’’ With over one hundred children now living in Veteran’s Village, Garrett edgily replied that it was better to deprive two families of a place to live in order to make living conditions somewhat better for those who are here. The need for a place for the numerous babies to be kept during the day with resultant increased freedom for the mothers in turn is self-evident.

Garrett must have prevailed, for in November 1945 the College Heights Herald reported on the Veteran’s Village Council, a governing body of residents which met each month at the nursery. Western’s enrollment that fall peaked at just over two thousand students, and the Village had shed its temporary character to become a campus fixture. Garrett quickly took advantage of a federal law enacted in June 1948 to acquire outright ownership of the prefabricated houses, barracks, trailers and apartments. Although the barracks fell to the auctioneer in 1957, Veteran’s Village, originally created to house World War II’s style ‘‘non-traditional’’ students, remained the principal housing facility for married students and did not disappear completely until 1976.

From parking lots to computer labs, from intramural sports facilities to telephone registration, Western’s campus has changed to serve the character of its student body. In its scope and urgency, however, the establishment of Veteran’s Village was perhaps the greatest effort to accommodate a unique community—one striving to make up time lost from youth but also bearing adult responsibilities. For these students, life there could be nagged, cramped, chilly and lacking in privacy—but Veteran’s Village was a microcosm of the postwar ‘‘return to normalcy’’ where one resident declared he had found “160 square feet of heaven.”

The Commissary

VETERAN’S VILLAGE was not a year old in October 1946 when residents began expressing their desire for a ‘‘commissary.’’ The nearest grocery store was down Russellville Road was a long walk away, and the size of the Village had become large enough to reward a merchant willing to locate near it. Former Leathernecker, a veteran preparing to graduate in the spring and whose father owned a grocery at Fourteenth and Indiana Streets, wrote the Village Council that this was his idea of a service to veterans and their families. In 1953 the Market was gone, but Reeves went on to build a chain of Reeves Food Centers and Jr. Food Stores in south central Kentucky; the latter merged with Houchens Industries in 1998. In 1979 Reeves’ wife Dorothy remembered the Village Market with a painting now housed in the Kentucky Museum.
CITY HOSPITAL

GARDEN A MEMORIAL

TO SON

By Jonathan Jeffery

LATE IN THE EVENING on October 16, 1928, Richard F. Gloede of Evanston, Illinois (a suburb of Chicago) received a phone call every parent dreads: "Mr. Gloede, your son is dying." The call was made even more devastating by the fact that Gloede's son, Randolph, was only 18 years old. Randolph had been traveling with his brother, Raymond and a friend, Frank Garthe, to Florida to find work. The local paper reported that the trio was en route to Florida when they met an acquaintance in Nashville who said that Florida was dead and that there was no work to be had. They were returning to Evanston when the accident occurred near the Scottsville Road Bridge at Sweeney's Mill. As they approached the bridge, the car had a blowout causing it to run into the ditch and flip over several times.

Charles Enochs, a Bowling Green undertaker, arrived with his ambulance. There he met Sheriff Lee Kelley and Dr. Moss and Dr. Francis, who had come to assist the injured. Because the car was full of tools, the local paper summed that the trio were mechanics. The paper also noted that "a chicken which had its feet tied was in the car at the time of the accident [and] was found...uninjured." Enochs delivered the injured to the new City Hospital on Reservoir Hill. The Hospital had been completed only three months earlier. Designed by local architect, R.E. Turbeville, the hospital held a commanding view of the surrounding city and countryside. Both Gloede brothers were seriously injured, while Garthe escaped physical harm. Randolph's head injuries were particularly severe, and local physicians held little hope that he would recover.

His parents, Richard and Ada (Plessler) Gloede, arrived the next day to be with their son. But Gloede wanted to erect some memorial to honor his son and the hospital's nurses - one by one. Gloede spoke to the opportunity to stroll and observe the grounds and note features worthy of preservation. Of particular interest to Gloede were the Civil War fortifications built on the hill. He wanted to incorporate what was left of these deteriorating stone works. By October 1928 Gloede had planted trees, erected stone retaining walls, completed the parking area, installed a gazing globe and bird bath on the Eight Street entrance, put in lighting, and planted a large number of ferns and other perennials. He made extensive use of the limestone on the property and constructed a serene twelve-foot tall waterfall that trickled over native limestone into a large pool.

The gardens were formally dedicated on Randolph's birthday, November 8, 1928. Richard Gloede presented Mayor A.S. Hines with a photograph album that documented the gardens progress. This important piece of Bowling Green history was eventually given to the Kentucky Library at WKU. Near the front of the album, Gloede wrote:

"You're my garden, fairest treasure, Given of your beauty store; Freely, gladly, without measure, All I ask of you, and more. Traces of God's hand I see.

Kind hearts are the gardens, Kind thoughts are the roots, Kind words are the blossoms, Kind deeds are the fruits, These are our treasures most highly prized.

Although the gardens have long been removed, this album continues to memorialize not just a son but also his father's love.

Gloede continued to remember the hospital even after the grounds were completed. On his son's birthday in 1929, he sent the hospital's staff large flower bouquets. Randolph's memory; the hospital staff placed some of the flowers in the room which he occupied during his stay. At Christmas the same year, Gloede sent the hospital a balsam Christmas tree and a number of wreaths. The Evanston horticulturist enjoyed an international reputation for his hybridization of del...
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1999-2000

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Miss Sani Tyler
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David & Michelle Wittman

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This list was compiled on October 11, 1999.
Any questions about your membership may be directed to the Landmark office, 782-9037.
ENDANGERED
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General Services Administration has found just the opposite is true. In a recent survey, GSA found that the per-rentable square foot increases with the more recent the construction date. The highest costs came from buildings constructed in the 1970s. The survey also found that overall operating costs per rentable square foot for historic buildings were 10 percent less than for non-historic buildings; cleaning costs were 9 percent less, maintenance costs were 10 percent less, and utility costs were 27 percent less.

The GSA provides over 355 million square feet of work space to more than one million federal employees. Its purpose is to provide work space, furnishings, services, supplies, and procurement support for federal civilian agencies efficiently and economically enabling federal workers to do their jobs and to save taxpayers money. (Trum News, Sept./Oct. 1999) In addition to the dollar savings, GSA found that most people who work in older buildings are more satisfied with their work environment than those who work in newer facilities.

Besides the monetary issue, preservationists believe that universities should model the preservation ethic to the community that surrounds and supports them. Richard Moe, president of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, recently lamented that many universities display toward their older structures. He noted: "Such situations are particularly unfortunate not only for those who care about the preservation of our heritage but also for the students who go to a university in search of lessons about life and responsibility. A university experience isn't just about calculus and chemistry. It's about making a contribution to the community, about increasing one's potential to make a difference. And preservation isn't just about bricks and mortar. It's about human values as well, about connections among people and connections between people and their environment." (Preservtion, Nov./Dec. 1997)

Please take your pen and paper and boot up your computer and express your concern about this issue. You should write to:

Dr. Gary Ranseille
Office of the President
Western Kentucky University
One Big Red Way
Bowling Green, KY 42101-3576

Landmark Offers Reward

THE ACCOMPANYING photo needs little explanation. Many of you have heard that on September 17th or 18th vandals intentionally knocked over one of the Four Seasons statues that had stood sentinel outside WKU's Snell Hall since 1931. Aristses Saratano executed the Carrara marble statues for an exposition celebrating the 50th anniversary of the re-unification of Italy held in Trium, Italy, in 1911. Commodore Perry Snell purchased the statue and gave it to the university in 1929.

Police suspect that more than one culprit was involved. Lt. Mike Dowell, of the WKU Police, said, "Just the sheer weight of the statue—the head alone weighed around 200 pounds—would have made it very hard for one person to push over." The Landmark Association has offered Crime Stoppers $1,000 to assist them in locating the vandals. The Western Alumni Association has also offered a $250 reward. If you have a tip, contact Crime Stoppers at 270-781-2583.

Landmark members may remember that the Association documented these statues and other outdoor sculpture in Warren County as part of a national effort sponsored by Save Outdoor Sculpture.

These letters need to also reach other important decision makers, i.e. the WKU Board of Regents and the Ogden Foundation Regents and Trustees. In order to make this as easy as possible for our members we are asking that you send your letter directly to Landmark and we will copy and post the letters. A generous board member has donated the funds to make this possible. You certainly may call Dr. Ranseille at 270-745-4346 or e-mail him at gary.ranseille@wku.edu, but a letter is the most effective venue.

Our goal is not to stifle progress or to hamper Dr. Ranseille's efforts in ushering Western into the next century. We simply believe, as our motto states, in a future with a past.

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Picnic Scrapbook

We had sixty people attend our annual picnic held at the home of Jim and Janette Meyer in Mt. Ayr. Nancy Baird gave an outstanding presentation about the area during the Civil War. We would like to thank our picnic sponsors Lewis, King, Krieg, Waldeck & Catron. The committee also deserves kudos: Dawn Slaughter, Jack Montgomery, Jean Thomason, David Bryant, George Morris, and Susan McCue.

Clockwise from Upper Left: President David Bryant presents the Joe Mormann Award of Merit to Jeff and Susan Streeter for their recent work on the Carl Herdman House at 628 East Main Bryant presents a gift to Jim and Janette Meyer for hosting the picnic. Kentucky History Specialist Nancy Rind delivers the evening's address at Mt. Ayr.

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DUNCAN HINES

"Egg"ceIellent Recipes

YOUR EDITOR recently purchased Duncan Hines Favorite Recipes, a 48-page booklet which originally sold for a quarter. Published in 1954 by the Duncan Hines Institute of Ithaca, New York, the booklet is a collection of some distinctive recipes personally selected by Duncan Hines. Besides a number of recipes from Mrs. Duncan Hines, Bowling Green is also represented by recipes from Mrs. Roy Farnsworth-Alsatian and Mrs. A. Scott Hines—lamb roast, and Mrs. Bland Farnsworth—Alsatian Pudding.

More interesting than many of the recipes are Mr. Hines's remarks. After giving a recipe for cornbread, Hines notes: "Of all the many crayfish pies I have seen, I have never seen one as fine as this one. It is a dish that will appeal to all ages. I think it is the most delicious pie I have ever eaten."

Perhaps the most interesting recipe in the booklet is number 60 in which Hines outlines the best method of preparing fried eggs: "This is the way I cook eggs. Take a sauce pan and into it put butter or bacon drippings so that when melted they will be about a quarter of an inch of fat in the bottom. Heat the fat, but not hot. Break into the sauce pan as many eggs as it will hold, two or more, or whatever your requirements will be. When the eggs are in the pan, baste the yolks constantly with the warm fat until a film forms over them. The reason for the low heat is so that the whites will not become frizzled and tough before the yolks are done. When they are done, they look like poached eggs, and are they good! If you dare put sugar in them at all, sprinkle a little paprika over them."

If you are fortunate enough to have real country ham steaks to fry cook the pieces so that the fat will brown the bottom of the frying pan. If you want to you can put in extra bits of fat and let them frizzle to a crisp. This will aid in making your fat brown. Now break your eggs into the skillett but be sure that it is not too hot. Cook for a few minutes until whites solidly underneath, and then turn them over with a spatula and let cook a few more minutes. Here, too, the fat should not be so hot as to frizzle the whites before the yolks are done. The result will be beautifully brown eggs, with a flavor that you will never forget.

'Of course, if you do not have butter, bacon drippings, or fried ham fat, then you will have to make with just any kind of fat, but they just won't be the same, I warn you.'

As you can tell most of the recipes do not conform to our health conscious standards, but don't those eggs sound good?!
Bingham Receives National Honor

by Diane Helferman

EDITH BINGHAM of Jefferson County is one of 20 recipients of a national award honoring excellence in preservation work from the National Trust for Historic Preservation. The National Preservation Awards, which were announced yesterday in Washington, will be presented at the National Trust's 50th anniversary celebration October 22 in Washington.

"We feel it's long overdue," said Barbara Hulette of Lexington. She and Ann Early Sutherland of Bardstown, who are the two Kentucky members of the National Trust Board of Advisors, nominated Bingham. Other groups and people, including the Kentucky Heritage Council, sent letters of support. Bingham is married to Barry Bingham Junior, whose family's media holdings once included the Courier-Journal.

Edith Bingham was nominated for her more than 30 years in preservation efforts, Hulette said. She met Bingham 12 years ago, Hulette said, when they both became involved with saving the Pope Villa in Lexington, an 1811 house designed by architect Benjamin Latrobe, who redesigned Washington in 1815 after it was burned by the British in the War of 1812.

Bingham has been instrumental in restoring the Shaker community buildings at South Union, west of Bowling Green. She is working now to prevent development along Kentucky 68, which leads to Shaker Village at Pleasure Hill, near Harrodsburg. "She has worked so hard behind the scenes with so many issues," Hulette said. "She is not one to sit down and write a check."

"Edie is not afraid to roll up her sleeves," said David Morgan of the Kentucky Heritage Council, praising her leadership role. In Louisville, Bingham has been involved with issues ranging from efforts to block the closing of Louisville's Third Street for the expansion of Commonwealth Convention Center to incorporating the old Will Sales Optical Building façade in the Louisville Galleria. She helped preserve Louisville's Bannam House and Christ Church Cathedral and recently helped establish the University of Kentucky College of Architecture historic preservation master's degree program.

Other Kentuckians who have received National Trust awards include Helen Abell of Louisville, who received the rep honor of the Louise Dupont Crownshield Award in 1982, the Junior League of Louisville in 1976, and the Brown family of the Brown-Forman Corporation in 1998. (Reprinted Courier Journal, 8 October 1999)

MEMORIAL

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Although a brick wall separated the Coombs building from the Settle Building, the fire ate its way through a break in the wall, and before the firemen succeeded in conquering the enemy with chemicals and a flood of water, J.W. Campbell's jewelry store and John F. Hopkins' living apartments upstairs were almost totally gutted.

But for substantial fire walls in the handsome three-story Sable building, the fire would undoubtedly have worked its way to the corner. However, after doing immense damage as it was, and after a gallant and hard fight on the part of the efficient fire ladders, against great odds, the fire was gotten under control, and the damage is confined principally to the two buildings above named.

M. Sabel's building was completely filled with smoke and the family were forced to get out to keep from suffocating. His loss will be small as a result of the fire, conducted by Messrs. C.W. Jones & Co. and located in the building owned by Mrs. S.W. Coombs.

The alarm was turned in and the fire company was on hand in a short while thereafter. Owing to the extreme cold the firemen experienced much trouble in the water freezing, and were otherwise inconvenienced, but by hard work they succeeded in getting control of the fire which for a while seemed destined to consume nearly the whole block.

The flames rapidly increased in heat and fierceness from the beginning, and quickly worked their way to offices of the City of Bowling Green, which were located on the second floor of the same building.

LAST NIGHT about 1:30 o'clock the fire demon again laid to waste thousands of dollars of valuable property in the heart of the business portion of our city, and today two substantial business blocks are almost completely gutted as a result of the flames, and the several tenements have lost almost their entire stocks and property. At about the hour above named the fire was discovered in the rear of the grocery conducted by Messrs. C.W. Jones & Co. and located in the building owned by Mrs. S.W. Coombs.

The flames increased in heat, and the men, women and children, who were returning from the hop given last night at Ackerman's Hall. They turned in the alarm at once from the box at the Morehead House. When discovered the fire was burning fiercely near the center of Jones & Co.'s grocery.

Some people are of the opinion that the fire originated in the Council Chamber, over Jones & Co.'s grocery. All that is known, however, is that it started in the rear of the building. Whether upstairs or down, no one will ever know.
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 ________________________________

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<td>Patron $250</td>
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<tr>
<td>Supporting $50</td>
<td>Donor $500</td>
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<td>Sustaining $100</td>
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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