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Church is saved!

BY JONATHAN JEFFREY

On November 1st over 30 Landmark Association members toured the new facilities of the Barren River Area Child Advocacy Center at the corner of 12th and Adams Streets. This is the former location of the Kerr Memorial United Methodist Church. The Center renovated and customized the interior for their own good work, but they kept the historical integrity of the building’s exterior. In historic preservation circles this is known as “adaptive re-use.” The Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for Rehabilitation, the Bible for historic preservationists, notes in its first standard: “The property shall be used for its historic purpose or be placed in a new use that requires minimal change to the defining characteristics.” In her comments to the group, Eileen Starr, local historic preservation professional and Landmark board member, commended the Center for preserving the structure’s exterior fabric (massing, windows and rooflines) and for their sensitivity to the structure’s original use. “Finding an appropriate use for sacred places, and particularly a sanctuary,” she noted, “can be a particularly challenging issue.” To honor this important adaptive re-use project, the Association presented the Center with one of its Landmark Building Awards in May 2001; we congratulate them on this fine restoration project.

The early history of this church has been produced from material donated to the Kentucky Building by Sara Kerr Cornwell, whose grandfather, Daniel F. Kerr was the church’s first pastor. The church’s founding is inseparable from this man. Born in White County, Tennessee in 1847, Kerr came from Scottish ancestry. He served in the Union Army during the Civil War, and afterwards ran a sawmill. He married Mary Davis of Grayson County, Kentucky in 1867. Unfortunately she died in 1872 leaving him with two children, a son Robert and a daughter who died the next year. Kerr married Margaret Quisenberry of Grayson County in August 1873. In 1874 he traveled to Kansas as a temperance lecturer, and while there was licensed to preach in the Methodist church. He was ordained in 1880 in Cattlesburg, Kentucky, and served in the Bowling Green circuit from 1885 to 1890, when he was appointed to organize a society of the Methodist Episcopal church in Bowling Green and to erect a building suitable for holding religious services. After serving here three years, Kerr served in several other Kentucky churches, was chaplain of the Eddyville Penitentiary for three years, and organized a church in Owensboro. He retired from his last pastorate in Graves County in 1903. He moved to Florida and engaged in private business until 1914. He returned to Bowling Green in 1922 and died here on July 10, 1923 and

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was interred at Fairview Cemetery. In October 1890, the Bowling Green Methodist Society was organized with 12 members. Kerr kept a small notebook in which he recorded the names of the members of the church and whether they were single, married, or widowed. He kept the list until the church had reached 75 regular members; 10 members holding letters from other churches; and 5 probationers. The fledgling congregation held Sunday morning and evening services at the Warren County courthouse. Later a vacant storeroom on lower Main Street was acquired from J.W. White. The original Sunday School and preaching services were held there until the present church building was completed.

On January 1, 1891, a lot was purchased from B.F. Proctor on the corner of Adams and 12th Streets. Fannie Speed of Louisville, the widow of the late Joshua Speed who was a member of President Lincoln's cabinet, donated the $1,100 necessary to purchase the lot. Kerr met Mrs. Speed while attending denominational meetings in Louisville. Following the example of Benjamin Franklin, civic minded individuals of the day who believed churches were moral influences in the community, made donations to church building funds. Kerr donors included such notable Bowling Green families as the Youngloves, the Smallhouses, the Holson, and the Gerards; none of these families attended the new Methodist church. Also in the summer of 1891 on ice cream social brought in $80 for the building fund. The church building was completed in early 1892 at a cost of $6,000.

The church benefited from other donors, including Amos M. Shinkle, manufacturer of the Lash and Company store in Bowling Green, Kentucky, who was a very liberal contributor to the building of the church and donated the three pulpits chairs. On the day of dedication $1500 was still owed on the building.

Shinkle agreed to match any money the congregation collected to pay toward this debt. The $1500 was collected that day, and the church dedicated.

The church's original name was "First Methodist Episcopal Church", but in 1937 at the time of Methodist unification, the church voted to change the name to "Kerr Memorial Methodist Church, in memory of its organizer and first pastor."

In 1929 Mrs. Mary Cohran Belcher, one of the charter members, bequeathed her residence at 1202 Adams Street to the church to be used as a parsonage. This was later sold and a parsonage purchased at 1245 Center.

In 1935, under the ministry of Rev. Granville Jagger, an additional classroom was added to the church, the Nora Kerr Classroom. In 1942 under the ministry of Rev. G.R. Ireland, a house and lot adjoining the church property was purchased and made into Sunday School classrooms. During the early 1940s, the church's first pipe organ was installed. The church experienced its greatest growth during the late 1930s and early 1940s. During a two-week revival conducted in 1937, 71 members were added to the congregation. Church membership grew from less than 200 in 1937 to 500 in 1944. In 1950 a modern educational building was erected to better accommodate the growing congregation at a cost of $22,000. In 1955 the sanctuary was renovated and a Baldwin electronic organ installed; it was removed in 1979 and replaced with a new Baldwin organ costing $6900.

In the late 1940s and early 1950s the Kerr Memorial congregation was concerned about establishing a new Methodist church in the growing area northwest of Bowling Green. No definite plans were executed until Brother Owen came to Kerr in 1951. The first cottage prayer meetings for the new church were held in a sixth room on Westside. Many church members labored with Owen until Westside United Methodist Church was organized on February 17, 1953. In the mid-1960s the property adjacent to the church on 12th Street was purchased. Two small homes on the property were rented until 1970, when they were razed to make room for parking. At that time membership stood at 556.

In October 1995, Westside Methodist Church asked to join in Sunday School and worship times at Kerr Memorial, as they had sold their older building and their new church was about to begin construction. The mother church welcomed this younger congregation with open arms. The two congregations united as the Westside United Methodist Church, Kerr Memorial Church, and the Jate 1940s and early 1950s property was rented until the church building was completed in early 1992 at a cost of $6,000.

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Color Me-History!!

Thinking of painting your house this year? Launched in April, homeowners across the country have now had 140 documented historic colors from which to choose in the new American Tradition line of paints developed by The Valspar Corporation, based on National Trust historic sites. 

The process of creating the paints required the skills of an anthropologist, the know-how of a chemist, and the savvy of a modern designer. Valspar experts visited 11 National Trust historic sites across the country and two historic hotels, pulling up floorboards and unearthing colors covered by switch plates to find the original shades. In its laboratory, Valspar then analyzed and documented the colors in the munsell notation—a color system recognized by the U.S. National Park Service.

The result is an array of beautiful paint colors, certified by the National Trust, which provide homeowners with a wide spectrum of uniquely American historic hues such as Lyndhurst Duchess Blue, Woodlawn Promised Land, and Wood Wilson Presidential White.

"It was interesting to lift the veil off these colors and see how vibrant they were," said Randy Schwartz, national marketing manager for Valspar. "When we researched, we took the time to analyze what the color was when it was applied, not the dusty muted colors that we see today. These are fresh colors."

"With the National Trust's help, we have been able to provide homeowners with a timeless palette that they can use over and over. These colors have been around for a long time and they won't go out of style. It's very easy to translate them into contemporary homes."

The American Tradition paints are distributed exclusively through 655 Lowe's Home Improvement Warehouse stores in 40 states. The points come with a lifetime warranty.

Although the colors were chosen from a wide span of history, today's homeowners need not worry about colors seeming out of place in a contemporary home. "If you can display the colors on the Woodrow Wilson House, they are sure to be right," said Schwartz. "The colors were chosen from a wide range of points developed by The Valspar Corporation, based on National Trust historic sites."

Today's homeowners can use the American Tradition paints perfect match, as well as fine quality, the National Trust this spring will use it to give historic sites a fresh coat of paint, beginning with the Woodrow Wilson House.

Smart Growth Task Forces Completing Task

After a busy summer of public forums, site visits, and committee meetings, Governor Paul Patton's Smart Growth Task Force has spent this fall considering committee recommendations and drafting the final Smart Growth Task Force Report, which was presented to the Governor during the Shakertown Roundtable November 13.

The Kentucky Heritage Council has continued to play a crucial role in support of this process, according to David L. Morgan, Executive Director and State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO). "We have been incredibly fortunate to have been able to assist the governor's office with something as important to the state, and to Governor Patton's agenda, as the Smart Growth initiative," Morgan said. "Not surprisingly, preservation issues have been central to these discussions, and key among them has been a recommendation to offer tax credits for homeowners and businesses restoring an historic property."

Morgan served as administrative liaison to the task force for the Community Development and Design Committee along with Bowling Green Mayor Sandy Jones, committee chair, task force member, and Landmark Association member. The Community Development and Design Committee was one of five work groups asked to study specific issues as part of the task force, a bi-artisan, 35-member panel appointed by the governor May 17.

The Smart Growth Task Force has been charged with studying how a more strategic approach to growth management can enhance Kentucky's prosperity, improve our quality of life and preserve our rich heritage. During the Shakertown Roundtable, the report was discussed in detail by a group of influential leaders from around the state, who meet annually at Shakertown to consider a topic of importance to the future of Kentucky.

For preparation of the final task force meeting October 25, the Governor's office sponsored a Best Practices Symposium October 10 at the University of Louisville. Guest speakers discussed historic tax credits, urban issues, and the economic benefits of historic preservation.

"The importance of preserving not only our buildings but the landscapes that make Kentucky special, including our downtowns, prime farm land, waterways and environmental resources, was emphasized by every committee and is a central theme in the final report," Morgan said. "This is extremely rewarding for those of us in the preservation field and demonstrates continued interest in and support of preservation at the local, regional and statewide level."

The governor will announce recommendations from the Smart Growth Task Force Report at the public some time in December. More information about the task force is available at their website, http://smartgrowth.state.ky.us.

A Grave Topic

On October 17th several Landmark members and congregants from the Presbyterian Church met with grave restorationist Graham Reed at Pioneer Cemetery to watch him clean and repair the boxed grave of Joseph Laspay, the first minister of the Presbyterian Church. An interesting surprise occurred when the limestone top was removed from the crypt. Inside were the remains of the small tombstone of Joseph Underwood, the child of U.S. Senator Joseph Rodgers Underwood and his first wife Eliza McCowes Trotter. This broken stone may have been placed in the crypt during an earlier clean-up. Landmark would like to thank fellow member Jerre Pitts for inviting us to view this very interesting and important restoration.
The House That ‘Aunt Jane’ Bought

LYNN E. NIEDERMEIER

Houses, gardens, quilts, well-worn furniture—from such ordinary belongings emerged the stories of rural life, family and neighbors that made Aunt Jane of Kentucky a popular work of regional fiction at the turn of the twentieth century. “Aunt Jane” was the best-known literary creation of Eliza Calvert Hall, who lived for ten years at 1353 Chestnut Street in Bowling Green. This house, too, told a story of its owner—her talent, her pride, and the values she held as a young woman, wife, mother, author and widow.

The one-third-acre lot at the corner of Chestnut and 14th Streets was purchased in 1884 for $350 by William A. Obenchain, the mathematics teacher and president of Ogden College, a small private school for young men. Two days after the deed was recorded, forty-four-year-old Eliza Calvert Hall, known to all as “Lida,” she had been born only a few blocks away in the State Street home of her uncle, Joseph Younglove. The eldest of five children, Lida had helped to support her family after her father, bankrupt and charged with embezzlement, fled the state when she was fourteen years old. A teacher in local schools, she had also published several poems in nationally circulated magazines, appending to her own name her grandmother’s maiden name, Hall.

In light of the economic straits of her childhood, her new legal status as a wife must have held special irony for Lida. Her husband’s lot on Chestnut Street exemplified the unequal treatment of male and female spouses sanctioned by the law until 1894. Had Lida owned the lot, marriage would have given her husband the right to its use, with power to rent it out, for example, for three years at a time. As long as their marriage produced a child, Lida’s death would entitle her husband to the use of all her land for the rest of his life. Upon his death, however, she could have claimed interest in only one-third of his land. Unless the terms by which she gained ownership of real property empowered her to dispose of it by sale or will, she could not have done so without her husband’s consent and, in some cases, permission of a court. If their men were stingy or profligate, other attempts by Kentucky wives to accumulate wealth could be futile.

Before 1894 all of a woman’s personal property became her husband’s at marriage, and before 1890 her wages could also be paid directly to him. While Eliza Calvert Obenchain wrote in support of suffrage and equal property rights in *The New York Times* and in feminist publications such as *The Woman’s Journal*, she explored the same issues as Eliza Calvert Hall, author of fiction. The July 1898 issue of Cosmopolitan published her story “Sally Ann’s Experience,” which dramatized a wife’s anger at the enforced penury of the women of her church congregation in Little Goshen, Kentucky. Though told through the eyes of "Aunt Jane," the story reflected Lida’s own frustration over her unpaid work in the home—her "lack of a separate purse"—and the difficulties of raising four children on her husband’s "very, very moderate means."

In spring 1904, with the family residing near Park and 14th Streets, William Obenchain sold the Chestnut Street lot. Later that year, the new owner sold the lot to Nettie Kimberlin Harmon, whose husband, J. Lewie Harmon, was a teacher at the Bowling Green Business University. Lida, meanwhile, continued to write. Several more of her stories appeared in Cosmopolitan and other leading magazines, and in early 1907 she published a collection under the title *Aunt Jane of Kentucky*. Reviewers praised her home spun tales of ordinary, plain-spoken folk and President Theodore Roosevelt urged her fellow men to take heed of "Sally Ann’s Experience."

In fall 1907, with Aunt Jane of Kentucky completed next page

The House...

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Kentucky in its sixth edition, Lida purchased for $2,950 the same Chestnut Street property that her husband had sold less than four years earlier. The House That Eliza Calvert Hall had built a house on the lot, a frame dwelling in the Dutch Colonial Revival style with a gambrel roof, second-story dormers and a front porch supported by paired Doric columns. Lida’s payments on the house were to begin March 1, 1908, the month after her next installment of royalties from Aunt Jane fell due. Although it put her into debt, she was anxious to settle into the “little cottage,” finding it “a marvel of convenience” that would give a home to her children and, she hoped, afford her more time for writing. It did. Over the next decade “Eliza Calvert Hall” produced two more collections of stories, *The Land of Long Ago and Clover and Blue Grass*, a novel, *To Love and To Cherish,* and *Hand-Woven Coverlets,* an illustrated history of women’s spinning and weaving arts in Kentucky, Tennessee, North Carolina and Virginia.

Lida became a widow when William Obenchain died in August 1916. Four months earlier she had sold the rear fifty feet of the Chestnut Street lot and in spring 1917 Lida put the rest of the property, including the house, up for sale. With some sadness but needing the call of maternal duty, she moved to Dallas, Texas to be near her daughter, then awaiting the birth of her second child. “Maybe I shall someday drift back to Bowling Green and take possession of my old house,” she daydreamed in a letter to her mother, but she finally sold 1353 Chestnut Street in 1919 and never again lived in Kentucky. For the rest of her life, however, “Eliza Calvert Hall” fondly remembered the people of Bowling Green and the house where she had spent her most productive years as a writer.

Landmark Publishes History of Potter College

You are invited to a book signing for our newest publication *That Mighty Band of Maidens: A History of Potter College for Young Ladies* by Nancy Disher Baird, Jonathan Jeffrey, the Potter College Board of Trustees, and the Kentucky Historical Society. As they grant them the outlook, *Aunt Jane* promotes the traditions of antebellum southern female academies and seminaries.

There was 1899, near the close of a century of gains for women’s higher education and the beginning of two power waves of rapid change in American culture and society. As they awakened intellectually and developed their own group identity within the confining routines of the school, many of Potter College’s students cast a spectral eye upon the conventional female roles bequeathed to them by the Victorian South. In a climate of ambivalence and even hostility toward the changing status of women, the young ladies faced the challenge of balancing their cultural inheritance with their prospects as educated women in the modern world. At the same time Potter College’s president, Reverend Benjamin F. Casbell, struggled to maintain his exclusive, unenlightened, liberal arts institution against the encroachments of relaxed social mores, Northern models of women’s colleges, and state-supported coeducational schools.

Using surviving Potter College catalogues and student publications as well as newspapers, deed records, course lists, photographs, letters and reminiscences, *That Mighty Band of Maidens* offers the first comprehensive history of this school, part of the heritage of Bowling Green and a chapter in the story of women’s higher education in Kentucky. This publication would not have been possible without the generosity of: Warren County Historical Society, the Irene Mass Sampter Historic Preservation Endowment Fund, Cora Jane Spiller, Nancy Dishier Baird, Jonathan Jeffrey, the Potter College of Humanities Arts and Social Studies at WKU, and the Kentucky Historical Society Local History Grants Program.
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• Don’t forget that our membership drive ends December 31st. If you assist us in recruiting a new member your name will be placed in a drawing for a gift certificate to 440 Main preceded by hors “doeuvres at a historic Bowling Green home. Two of these prize packets will be given away, so get ready now. If you sign up a new member prior to December 10th, your new members will also receive a complimentary pass to our Christmas Tour of Homes. One ticket will be sent for individual memberships, and two tickets for each family membership. If you are unsure if someone is already a member, contact our office (782-0037) and leave a query on the answering machine. Someone will get back with you soon.

• The Landmark Association, the Southern Kentucky Genealogical Society, and the Kentucky Library will co-sponsor an appearance by Irishman Billy Kennedy on March 10, 2002 at 2:00 at the Kentucky Building. Mr. Kennedy has written extensively on the Scotch-Irish influence in the United States. He currently has over seven books in print related to the topic, including The Scots-Irish in Pennsylvania & Kentucky. We are also planning a short bagpipe concert in conjunction with our speaker.

• Steve & Jeannie Snodgrass who own the old Smith Farmstead (Elm Grove Dairy) at 1106 South Park Drive are looking for any photos or information related to the old Smith home that stood on the same location prior to a devastating fire in the mid-1930s. Also if you have any pictures of the old Elm Grove Dairy region they would be interested in getting copies.

• The Downtown Redevelopment Authority would like to invite everyone interested in historic preservation to attend a public meeting on Tuesday, November 27, at 6:30 p.m. on the third floor Jury Assembly Room of the Warren County Justice Center at 1001 Center Street. At the meeting DRA & RKG will unveil the Master Plan for downtown Bowling Green. It will serve as a blueprint for future economic and structural development and encompasses nearly a year of design and planning, with special emphasis on public input and support from all facets of the community. Coinciding with the event, the DRA is also continuing a discussion of the use of grant funds available to the District through the Renaissance Kentucky program. For more information, contact DRA Executive Director Cheryl Blaine at 782-0222.

• Landmark will host another book signing in January for the new biography of Duncan Hines, entitled Duncan Hines: The Man Behind the Cake Mix (320 pages) by Louis B. Hatchett, Jr. The author wrote a biography of Hines as his Masters thesis at WKU, and has adapted it now as a book. This is the only full-length biography of Hines in print. His name is undoubtedly the most recognized one that Bowling Green has ever produced. His work went well beyond the cake mix that we know today, as Hines was probably the most recognized expert in the hospitality industry in the mid-twentieth century. He was as the book proclaims the “quality food crusader who transformed the American restaurant and packaged food industries.” The book is published by Mercer University Press.

• Speaking of books, a catalog has been produced for the Kentucky Women Artists, 1850-1970 exhibit at the Kentucky Building. The catalog is entitled Kentucky Women Artists, 1850-2000. It includes biographies of the artist included in the Kentucky Building exhibit as well as the additional artists that appear in a corollary exhibit at the Owensboro Museum of Fine Art, covering the period from 1970-2000. The 108-page book features color illustrations of a variety of the pieces and an index of some 3700 Kentucky women artists, curated by the curators: John Warren & Elizabeth Oakes and Donna Parker. The exhibit, which was recently lauded in the Courier-Journal, will run at the Kentucky Building until December 9th; it will then move to Owensboro and remain through March 15, 2002. The catalog is available at both locations for $25.

• Landmark members Jonathan Jeffrey and Mike Wilson are currently compiling a survey and other historical data about Mt. Moriah Cemetery to be published by Landmark for Black History Month in February 2002. We are interested in knowing if the first African-American was buried in Fairview Cemetery. We know of at least one African-American servant buried with a family, but we are interested in the first one after the Civil Rights movement. Please contact us at 745-5083.

• Georgeanna Hogarman submitted this interesting little tidbit. Although not from Bowling Green, I thought this minister’s little faux pas amusing. “The Free Methodists of Ewing, Pennsylvania, are in a state of the wildest perturbation. They locked the door against the preacher and a riot occurred in which there was a general knock down. It was all occasioned by the minister wearing a pair of tailor-made pants to church. This was a breach of church regulations that was unreasonable in the eyes of the congregation and feeling still runs high and more problems are expected.”

• New members since our last newsletter include: Gary West, Bev Rossette, Lynn Niedermeyer, Ruth Compton, Kelly & Elizabeth Woodrum, Mortho Kingade, Steve Harlan of Harlan Construction, and Mike Wilson. Contributors to the Irene Sumpter Historic Preservation Endowment since our last newsletter includes: Hugh & Jean Thomas in memory of Sara Tyler and Ruth Hines Temple; Jonathan Jeffrey in memory of Ruth Hines Temple.

• The Landmark Association will accept public nominations for its awards this year. We hope you’ll keep your eyes open for deserving projects and people. The Awards Committee will distribute a letter and nomination form in the new year. The Association gives awards for outstanding restoration projects (the Landmark Building Awards), one award for outstanding maintenance of a restored building (the Jane Morninstar Award of Merit), one award for an outstanding home restoration project (the Jean H. Thomason Historic Home Award), and one award to an individual who has made significant contributions to historic preservation in Bowling Green and Warren County (the Heritage Award).

• The Federal Transportation Enhancement program is 10 years old and the Kentucky Heritage Council is celebrating by publishing a report entitled Kentucky Takes the Road Less Traveled: Historical Preservation and the Transportation Enhancement Program. For many years, it seemed as though transportation and preservation were on opposite sides of the road. Today, the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet and the Kentucky Heritage Council have taken the road less traveled and brought transportation professionals and preservationists together on common ground. Through Transportation Enhancements, they are able to preserve and protect Kentucky’s historic resources and still meet the needs of today’s modern transportation system. Kentucky Takes The Road Less Traveled: Historical Preservation and the Transportation Enhancement Program is available for download at KentuckyHeritageCouncil.org.

• Since its inception, Transportation Enhancements have played a significant role in preserving historic resources while still meeting the needs of today’s modern transportation system. Kentucky Takes The Road Less Traveled: Historical Preservation and the Transportation Enhancement Program is available for download at KentuckyHeritageCouncil.org.

• In Kentucky, Transportation Enhancements have been an important tool to help communities preserve, restore, and revitalize their city’s core. To date, $15 million of Transportation Enhancement funds have been distributed specifically for these communities. This program is a catalyst for cities to preserve historic resources and help maintain the special character of each town. TEA funds assisted Kentucky communities in a variety of ways, such as restoring facades of downtown buildings through matching grants, creating pedestrian friendly streetscapes, preserving historic sites, protecting scenic byways and revitalizing historic districts. TEA funds also supported projects that enhanced Kentucky’s tourism industry.

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• Please contact Bech Nyroth at the Kentucky Heritage Council, 502-564-7005 ext. 146.

• Transportation Enhancement grants administered through a joint committee of Heritage Council and Department of Transportation personnel and citizens made up the majority of funds used in restoring Bowling Green’s L&N depot.

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Celebrate the Benefits of TEA

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CPA Initiates Tax Credit Legislation

Commonwealth Preservation Advocates (CPA), has employed Harry Schwartz to draft legislation for a historic commercial and residential tax credit for Kentucky's historic preservation assistance. Schwartz was the architect of the federal Historic Preservation Assistance Act, is the former Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, and is an expert on historic tax credits. He will utilize the best of other state's legislation to develop Kentucky's legislation. This fall, interested organizations and citizens will review the draft legislation, secure sponsors, and submit the legislation to the Legislative Research Commission for its review. Upon LRC review, necessary amendments will be made to ensure original intent, and the proposed legislation will be submitted for the General Assembly's consideration during its 2002 Session.

Following are 24 reasons why a historic tax credit would be good for Kentucky.

- Job creation: Historic preservation creates more jobs than the same amount of new construction.
- Downtown revitalization: Every sustainable and successful downtown revitalization has historic preservation as a key element.
- Small scale and large scale. Every size project could utilize the credit—not just the big ones.
- Quality work. Because the work would have to be consistent with the Secretary of Interior's Standards, a level of quality is assured.
- Protection of agricultural land. No new land is consumed when a historic building is rehabilitated.
- Stabilize neighborhoods. Historic preservation is a demonstrably effective means of stabilizing declining neighborhoods.
- Encourage reinvestment. Private capital is directed through incentives to a form of investment that is an advancement of a range of public policies.
- Spur private sector investment. Private dollars must be invested by tax paying entities to take advantage of the credit.
- Encourage homeownership. Since the credit is available for residences, homeownership is encouraged.
- Increases local tax base. Rehabilitation projects increase the assessed value of properties subject to local property taxes.
- State sales and income taxes. Materials incorporated into the project and profits of contracting companies would generate state sales and income taxes.
- Available across economic spectrum. Because nearly every sized project is eligible the credit could be utilized by the broadest imaginable range of income levels.
- Rural/small town/midsized city/large city. Since historic resources are available in virtually every area of Kentucky, every size of jurisdiction could benefit from its implementation.
- Reinforcement of public policy. A range of public policies would be advanced through the tax credit including: environmental, neighborhood schools, smart growth, transportation.
- Reduces solid waste disposal. Approximately 24% of solid waste facilities is consumed by construction debris. When properties are rehabilitated instead of demolished demolition waste is reduced.
- Counter cyclical. Because of the range of the size of projects rehabilitation can often take place at times when the economy is in recession and large scale new projects are not feasible.
- Builds on Federal Tax Credit already in use. A state level tax credit becomes even more effective when it can be combined with an existing federal program.
- Promotes more intensive use of infrastructure. In virtually every instance existing historic resources are located where taxed or funded infrastructure is in place. When buildings are vacant or underutilized that infrastructure is also underutilized. Rehabilitation increases the use, and therefore the cost benefit of that infrastructure.
- Strengthens physical character of community. Historic buildings are generally the most significant monomole assets for defining and differentiating a community.
- Not zero sum game. Unlike economic development programs that for community X to gain, community Y has to lose, the use of tax credit in one location in no way reduces the opportunity for another community to use it.
- Small enterprises benefit. The rehabilitation construction industry is largely made up of small-scale contractors and tradesmen. Further it is often in older and historic buildings where new, innovative start-up operations can afford to rent or buy.
- Most dollars stay in Kentucky. Because of the labor intensity of rehabilitation, the vast majority of expenditures made under a state tax credit would remain in Kentucky households and businesses.
- Many projects would not happen without it. Many projects today in Kentucky—both residential and commercial—simply are not economically feasible without a state level tax credit.
- It works. Experience in other states demonstrates that a state level tax credit for historic rehabilitation does exactly what it is designed to do—attracts the investment of private capital into the inventory of historic properties.

(Distributed from Commonwealth, Oct/Nov 2001)

Landmark Report 10

November 2001

Landmark Report 11

November 2001
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

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I have enclosed $__________ to support the Irene Moss Sumpter Preservation Endowment Fund.
Checks should be payable to: Landmark Association
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