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## Landmark Report (Vol. 21 , no. 4)

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"A future with a past"

# LANDMARK REPORT

VOLUME XXI, NUMBER 4

LANDMARK ASSOCIATION OF BG/WC

SEPTEMBER 2002

The Landmark Association  
invites you to  
The Annual Picnic  
at The Ennis Farmstead, home of Drs. Jeff & Tammy Adams



*Aunt Aunt Tammy Grandma Dad (w/3e)  
In Sell*

956 Glen Lily Road (east of Veterans Memorial Blvd.)

Sunday, September 15th

4:00 House Tour • 5:00 Picnic • 6:00 Brief Remarks • \$5.00 per person

POTLUCK, Landmark furnishes chicken, drinks, paper items, cutlery

We will include a silent auction of vintage items.

Underwriting provided by:

**WYATT**

WYATT, TARRANT & COMBS, LLP

& Jonathan Jeffrey



## 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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# Growing Up On State Street

By Sara Tyler



## Introduction written in August 2000

Soon after I moved to Village Manor in November 1995, Jean Thomason asked me to write about the house at 1353 State Street. This had been my home for some fifty years, and after my mother's death in 1963, I had sold the house to Max and Jean Thomason, who had come to Bowling Green when Max joined the faculty at Western Kentucky University. When they first came in 1961, Max and Jean rented from me the house next door at 1349 State Street. Jean was a realtor and an avid preservationist with a special interest in old houses.

As I struggled to recall events, impressions, and history, putting them into words with the help of my portable electric typewriter, I soon realized I was really remembering my childhood and "growing up on State Street." After all, I had lived in four different houses in the 1300 block of this truly historic street, in what came to be called "The College Hill Historic District."

I completed the nostalgic review and set it aside. Later as I reread it, I decided it needed much revision and polish, but even with the acquisition of my computer, I could not bring myself either to rewrite it or to try to make it a better piece of composition, for fear I would lose some of the spontaneity or childlike enthusiasm I thought some parts of it had.

So now, nearly five years later, I write this introduction as an explanation as to why I think it is an imperfect piece of writing!

I do wish to add information about the four houses. My parents moved to Bowling Green in early 1910. Daddy had bought a drug store at 426 Main Street, and they rented a cottage at 1334 State Street, where I was born in December. Sometime later—I don't know just when—they moved next door up the street (1340 State) and lived there until 1914. These cottages, and several others in the block had been built for, or by, the children of Pleasant J. Potter, who was a prominent businessman and who owned the land in this area of Bowling Green.



Sara as a young child. Courtesy of Jean Thomason.

My parents acquired the one hundred foot lot across the street in 1914: one-half was sold to my aunt, Mrs. Birdie Read Ellis, sister of my mother, and the two houses, designated as 1353 and 1349, were built. The architect for both was Creedmore Fleenor, and many years later both were designated as historic structures for this reason. Incidentally, the original cottage on the lot was moved to College Street—just across the alley—and became 1340 College Street.

As I indicated, I lived at 1353 State for some fifty years, and after my parents' death, I spent time with a realtor searching for a smaller house to move into. Suddenly, one day after returning home, I realized that I really did not want to leave State Street. The Thomasons were renting from me the house which had been Aunt Bird Ellis' house next door and since I thought that house would lend itself to being made into two apartments we agreed that they would buy my home at 1353 and I would move into 1349 State. We then exchanged houses. It was then I undertook the project to convert my aunt's house into two apartments. I would live downstairs

and rent the other unit. This arrangement served me well for thirty-odd years. However, the time came when I no longer wanted to cope with home ownership or with tenants. I awaited eagerly the construction of a retirement facility in Bowling Green by The Christian Church Homes of Kentucky. They had campuses in other Kentucky cities, but I could no more bring myself to leave Bowling Green than I could be comfortable so many years with the thought of moving from State Street.

However, advancing years demand changes, and I was happy to move in 1995, finding my new home at Village Manor, Apartment 1103, 1800 Westen Street, a joy in every way.

## Written January 1996

I was four years old when we moved to 1353 State Street. There are no memories of events at 1334 State, where I was born, or at 1340 State, our second home: so for me, life began in the house I loved and called home until 1963.

The upstairs back room facing south was my playroom, where with my family of dolls and their furniture, I entertained my friends with Mother's assurance we were not disturbing the orderliness and cleanliness of her new house.

The hall fireplace and mantle (on first floor) contained the wonderful chimney that Santa Claus descended at Christmas, while the alcoves with side seats were perfect for Santa's gifts to delight a small child on Christmas morning.

Change of any kind was abhorrent to my Mother, so she never aspired to remodel, add to, or improve on her house. Despite mine and others' falls on the stairs, they were never carpeted. Mother was only a little over five feet in height, slight of build, and very agile, so she tripped up and down the stairs with no exertion at all.

When the sewer line was laid, (circa 1932-1935), in Judge Rodes' term as Mayor, we no longer had to employ Hubert, husband of our cook Addie, to use his divining witch to locate another

sinkhole in the back yard. And it was then, I think, that the outside privy/kindling house at the rear of the property was razed to construct an outside flush toilet for the servants in the corner of our house and back porch to serve both 1349 and 1353. My aunt, Mother's sister, lived there having built her home at the same time as Mother in 1914. This was at a time still waiting for the Civil Rights movement!

The downstairs lavatory I had installed around 1959-1960 in the second pantry off the kitchen, as Daddy with progressive emphysema found steps difficult. In the beginning this pantry housed the refrigerator, for which the ice company (Topmiller's for many years) delivered each day whatever quantity a household needed and designated on a card displayed somewhere visible out front on the porch. We children loved the ice trucks, hopping on the back step and gathering slivers chipped off the large blocks as the ice man used his pick to divide the right size for a household, carried by large tongs for placing in the icebox in the kitchen. This was also an era for home milk delivery from a dairy, and groceries ordered by telephone early in the morning arrived in time for the cook to prepare for the noon meal.

Most property was fenced across the back along the alley; these were picket, plank, or wire, usually whitewashed—an annual spring event. Many lots had servants' rooms at the rear, and I believe there is still one remaining at 1319 State. Some had a carriage house at the rear, or a small chicken house. The rental unit at 1357 had its beginning as the latter.

We children loved to walk the fences from the top of the hill to the end of the block, climbing across whatever outbuilding presented itself. Those of us who attended the Training School (more later about this) annoyed exceedingly the R.C.P. Thomas family because we walked the front stone wall/fence that fronted the Evans, Thomas, and vacant lot before one came to Fifteenth Street, jumping the width of the steps,

Also as we grew in our capabilities for pleasure and sometimes hazardous activities, we had skates, velocipedes, plus a wonderful three-wheeled vehicle (mine) that transported us from the top of the hill to the bottom in an exhilarating train accompanied by shrieks of glee. I never had a broken bone nor recall anyone else suffering one.

On summer nights we played hide-and-seek, or other games up and down the street and through the yards. All the neighbors I recall as long-suffering: they never chided us for running out of bounds. Later when there were young children in the neighborhood, they and their dogs felt at home on our front porch where my parents, aunt and I sat on summer evenings until bedtime. Front porches were the gathering places. Now there are patios, outdoor grills, and private swimming pools at the rear of homes, frequently fenced for privacy.

State Street had its resident bad boy for a few years. Some of his meanness was truly horrible, such as putting Ella Smith's cat in a box and setting fire to it. The incident concerning me could have had a tragic outcome. Reed Potter's niece, Mary Reynolds, was visiting from Chattanooga and spending a day with me. We were playing in the back yard and no doubt told Morgan we did not want him around. So he picked up a rock and threw it at me. The rock struck me in the temple. It evidently hit a blood vessel as I bled profusely. Mother called Daddy to come home, had to put Mary Reynolds to bed, and doctored me. Daddy was furious, calling Mr. Hughes, and having words!!! One other time, many years later, Daddy, normally placid and even-tempered, lost his cool and had words on a Sunday morning outside the Post Office (now the Federal Building) with a person of importance who Daddy thought had discriminated against his daughter.

When we moved to 1353, Mother moved the old coal range also. Whether she did not trust her new Tappan gas stove, or whether sentimental fondness

*continued next page*



## Let's Read and Discuss

Reading and discussing good books brings a community together. The Landmark Association, the Kentucky Humanities Council, and the Kentucky Library & Museum invite you to participate in the following book discussions:

Monday, Sept. 16: Joe Survant's *Anne and Alpheus, 1842-1882* (A narrative poem about the hardship on a pioneer farmstead, told from male and female perspectives). Discussion will be led by Survant in the Felts Log House near the Kentucky Building at 6:00 p.m. No air conditioning, but plenty of shade; dress accordingly.

Wednesday, Sept. 25: Janice Holt Giles's *Hannah Fowler* (The story of pioneering in eighteenth century Kentucky from a woman's perspective). Kentucky Museum education curator, Laura Harper Lee, will lead the discussion at 3:00 p.m. at the Kentucky Library & Museum. Co-sponsored with the XX Literary Club.

Monday, Sept. 30: Silas House's *Clay's Quilt* (A tale of an orphan's life set in the hills of Kentucky, filled with strong family values and haunting flashbacks). Jonathan Jeffrey, Special Collections Librarian, will facilitate this discussion at 7:00 p.m. at the Kentucky Library & Museum.

All books are available at the Bowling Green Public Library & WKU Helm Library. All books are also available in paperback at Barnes & Noble.

**"You scratch the supposedly dead past anywhere and what you find is life."**

**David McCullough  
Humanities  
(May/June 2002)**

## Growing Up On State Street (cont'd)

was the real reason, the range stayed in the kitchen, useful as a table adjunct and storage facility, until we acquired a Kelvinator electric refrigerator. I have high praise for the Kelvinator: it moved with me in 1963, then served the upstairs apartment for a time, and was still working when I sold it for all of five dollars.

Only a preservationist would be interested in the way the thirteen hundred block of State Street appeared in 1914, but since I have moved in late 1995 (not only off State, but into another world) will anyone else remember?

The hundred-foot lot, now 1349 and 1353, was owned by Ella Potter Kirtley. It had one cottage on it, rented by the Rigsby family. Mr. P.J. Potter owned land from College to State and 13<sup>th</sup> south. He had built homes on certain lots for his children. (Refer to Irene Sumpter's book on Bowling Green homes, which also includes genealogical information). My mother bought the hundred-foot lot, then sold one half to her sister. The cottage on the lot was moved to 1340 College Street and was lived in by the Wiley Gilbreth family, later owned by Joe and Jack Siddens, then June Rose Garrett, and presently by the Jeff Adams family. (Ed. Note: now owned by Mark and Lee Alcott)

Two houses of interest—at 1333 and 1341 State were one razed (1333) and one moved (1341) to Cabell Drive. The latter, a cottage, had a second story added to it, which, of course, changed its appearance. For information on the 1333 residence, refer to Sumpter's book, page 179, which tells about the T.J. Smith home, interesting with its mansard roof and porch across the front curving with the facade. The Smith sisters enjoyed sitting on the porch during the summer months.

The Galloway cottage at 1341 State was moved when C.W. Lampkin bought both lots, building his English Tudor style home and the four-unit apartment next to 1349 State. The lot at 1407, vacant for all my childhood years with many trees on it, was finally sold to the Sam Cuthbertsons who built the red brick one story home now owned by Ms. Elizabeth

Volkman.

The R.C.P. Thomas house, a stately home in its prime, was damaged by fire in the 1980's. The ensuing repair changed what had been a mansard roof style; the present building (housing apartments) has none of its original elegance.



Miss Tyler with her home looming in the background. Courtesy of Jean Thomason.

The lot at the corner of State and Fifteenth, vacant for all my childhood years, was finally purchased by Warren Association of Baptists in the 1960's who erected the present structure, now owned by Western Kentucky University.

On the opposite side of the street at 1310 was an imposing and elegant three-story brick and carved stone residence (see Sumpter, page 69), that passed through several ownerships until purchased by C.W. Lampkin who razed it and built an eight-unit apartment—an eyesore and problem property to the present. Mr. Lampkin was considered a civic leader, served as mayor, and is commemorated by the arch in Fountain Square Park. This former resident of State Street does not remember him with any special admiration, for his actions seem more mercenary than philanthropic.

As I think of the houses on State from Thirteenth to Fifteenth Streets as they were in 1914, all originally were family residences, but through the years, all but two have converted to duplexes or multifamily dwellings, serving as

rental units often. However, as of this writing, 1995, nine have been restored to one-family occupancy. Of course Ogden College was the only building on that campus at the time I am remembering. When Robert W. Ogden died in 1873, he left the sum of fifty thousand dollars for the establishment of a college (for young men). "His executors opened Ogden College for white males in 1877 on a campus bounded by State and Chestnut Streets on the eastward slope of Vinegar Hill. An addition to the Calvert home already on the property. . ." it was the only building until Snell Hall (gift of the wealthy alumnus Perry Snell) was completed in 1924. Then Ogden was leased to Western, the merger effective January 1, 1928. Old Ogden Hall was razed to make way for the Thompson Science Hall dedicated in 1964,(?) and so another historic building fell victim to the wrecking ball. From time to time, rumors surface that Snell Hall may be sacrificed. A bit of history about Ogden College—new students had to run the gauntlet, from the gate down the hill to the corner of State and Thirteenth, the stone fence on their right and the older boys on the street side with their belts in hand to flog the newcomers as they tried to run like the wind to escape as many blows as possible. It was a rare sight! Growing up on State Street included going to the Training School, a part of Western Normal School, and housed in the right wing of old Potter College (later renamed Recitation Hall). I was introduced to summer school when I was six, to be seven the following December, but not allowed to enroll the previous fall because I was only five years of age. Consequently, I was advanced enough to skip a half-grade twice before the sixth grade. Looking back, I expect I was mischievous and restless if not challenged with work. A highlight of the second grade was being invited to return to read to the first grade the story of Little Black Sambo, a title probably banned now as discriminatory.

The playground back of Potter was a paradise of rocks and boulders surrounding the old Civil War Fort, with



Sara as a young professional working for WKU Libraries. Courtesy of Jean Thomason.

wooded area beyond, plus an old rock quarry to tempt climbers as we grew older. The quarry, years later, became the stadium, with its colonnade, and in the wooded area Cherryton blossomed during the late teens oil boom and it created a housing shortage for students. There were no dormitories until 1921 when Potter was built. Even when young ladies were being trained in the mental skills and social graces at Potter College for Young Ladies, the chapel and some other rooms were uncomfortably cold in bitter cold weather. The girls would gather in the parlors on the floor in front of the grate fires, but we (7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders) soon learned to convince authority how miserable we were so that school would be dismissed for the remainder of the day. The many Palladian style windows, ill-fitting and therefore drafty, were not conducive to a warm room. Since many of us lived in the immediate vicinity, we would gather at one house or another for a day of games and fun.

Miss Mattie Hatcher was principal when I was in lower grades; she was a handsome woman, a strict disciplinarian, who did not balk at whipping Morgan, the bad boy whom I've described earlier.

Practice teachers during the later grade school years were just that with no supervisors at the rear of the rooms, so some of us were not shining examples of exemplary behavior. Elizabeth Cherry, younger daughter of Dr. H. H. Cherry, Chester Travelstead, younger son of Nelle Gooch Travelstead, and others, plus me, must have been a sore trial to all. The day the teacher, an older woman, shook Chester, ripping his coat sleeve at the armhole, provoked much glee on our part, and I am sure "shook" the teacher also.

Another time, in the spring, we asked permission to go to the College Library, at that time housed in the Cedar House while the original new library building was being constructed (now Gordon Wilson Hall). Instead, we went to the woods for the joy of being outside on one of the first balmy days of the season. Being reported, our punishment was staying in several afternoons, writing, working arithmetic exercises, or other exercises. I've always commended the teacher for the punishment that demanded mental utilization of our minds.

Van Meter Auditorium, having been built in 1912, was available for concerts and lectures. Dr. Cherry with his assistants endeavored to have great artists/speakers for performances to enhance the cultural level of young men and women pursuing teacher education and also the residents of Bowling Green. And the boys and girls of the Training School attended the afternoon programs sitting in the balcony under the watchful eye of a teacher. As I recall, these were free for the children. I know, many years later, when I helped organize Western's archival material, we had several boxes of brochures, etc., saved by Miss Mattie Mclean, secretary to Dr. Cherry, evidence of his interest in this type of enrichment for students.

The Potter Opera House, earlier known as Odeon Hall, at that time would offer performances such as "Abby's Irish Rose." If my parents attended, they took me, so early on I was introduced to the pleasures of live theatre and cultural

*continued next page*



## Growing Up On State Street (cont'd)

events. This was an era of the Chautauqua Circuit as well—these often being held in tents. And oh, yes, the Warren County Fair—horse shows and carnival; and let's not forget the circuses that came to town—to Hobson Grove Park—but with a morning parade around Fountain Square, the music of the calliope drawing us with its lilting music.

The observance of Halloween was far different from the trick or treat style of today. Pranks were the order of the night; porch furniture—in fact, any movable object—was moved into the house or it might be found on top of a

kindling or chicken house. We dressed in costume, went to town, and paraded around the square to see and be seen. Masks were permitted with old and young enjoying the fun-filled evening.

In my growing-up days we attended Mrs. Washer's classes to learn to dance. Located on Tenth Street between Kentucky and Adams Streets, it was operated by Mrs. Washer, the teacher, assisted in other ways by her husband who was a midget. Year-end programs were presented, sometimes at the Opera House mentioned earlier. So we received instruction in both ballroom and interpretative dancing.

With the gift of a bicycle, which I received at age twelve, my horizons were greatly extended. A new friend Gertrude Raymond (her family had moved to Bowling Green when her father, a contractor, was awarded the contract to build Pushin's Department Store, corner of Main and College) and I explored Bowling Green, often engaging in hazardous endeavors, such as hanging on to small trucks to save ourselves pedaling. On occasion, concerned friends reported us to our parents.

Childhood was passing and growing up on State Street was becoming a memory.

## Postcard Book Proceeds to Benefit Landmark

The Landmark Association will be the beneficiary of sales from a new book entitled *Bowling Green in Vintage Postcards*. Arcadia Publishing of Charleston, South Carolina, is producing the book with an expected delivery date in early November. The book will feature 240 historic postcards from Bowling Green, including multiple views of local favorites such as Fountain Square Park, Reservoir Hill, Beech Bend, and Lost River Cave. A whole chapter is devoted to vintage postcards of Western Kentucky University. The postcards used in the book came from the collections of Laura & Ray Buckberry and the Kentucky Library & Museum.

Landmark treasurer, Jonathan Jeffrey, wrote the captions for the postcards. He admits: "Sometimes it's easier to write a two-page article than it is to write a 60-word caption. When it's that short, it's almost like writing poetry." The author has asked that royalties from the book be donated to Landmark's Irene Moss Sumpter Historic Preservation Endowment. "The

Association has used this endowment to print maps, books, cards, and other publications related to our cultural heritage," Jeffrey said. "I think it is important to try to create sustainable income for projects such as this."

The book will include twenty-four real photo postcards (such as the ones of the snow scenes featured on this

page). These cards were photos taken by individuals and then printed with a postcard format on the back. Photography studios offered this service to customers. Cards such as this were not produced in mass quantities and represent some of the rarest cards in the book.



**Winter Wonderland.** These real photo postcards were taken on one of the coldest days in Bowling Green history, February 2, 1951. The newspaper reported that a record low had been recorded the night before of 20 degrees below zero which "eclipsed by three degrees the previous record minimum set on February 3, 1899." Cold temperature perpetuated the nine inches of sleet and snow for several weeks. Repair crews for local utilities and communication companies were kept busy working on downed and snapped power lines. The paper also noted that the trees in Fountain Square Park "sparkled in a nightmarish kind of brilliance."

*"Good restoration is a two-way street; the object being mended in turn mends the worker. As important as a restored building may be, the real value lies in how this work restores and awakens us. When preservationists talk on about technique and tax codes and architectural history, they have often lost sight of why we save old things. They have lost touch with the animating spirit that called them to the old ways. We save these old things to save ourselves."*

Howard Mansfield  
Author of *The Same Ax, Twice*

## Landmark Association 2002 Annual Meeting Scrapbook



Susie Likes accepted a Landmark Home Award for Greg Willis and Steve Scott for the work they did in restoring the Old Methodist Manse at 1403 State Street



Dr. Jim Skaggs received a Landmark Home Award for the work done on the M.O. Morgan house at 1405 State Street, now State Street



Jody Kary proudly displays her Landmark Home Award which was given for careful preservation of her residence at 1032 Magnolia in the Bungalow District.



Gary West and Deborah Fisher received a Landmark Home Award for their work on the Browder Home at 727 E. 11<sup>th</sup> Street.



# Landmark Association Annual Meeting Scrapbook



Covella Biggers accepted the Jane Morningstar Award of Merit for the continued restoration and maintenance of the Eloise B. Houchens Center for Women at 1115 Adams Street.



Joyce Rasdall, a former Landmark Board member, accepted a Landmark Building Award for the recent interior and exterior work done at Smiths Grove Baptist Church. Tom and Judy Cook, who were not able to attend the meeting, were also given a Building Award for the extensive work done at the Rockfield School.



Kelly and Elizabeth Woodrum received the Jean Thomason Historic Home Award for their restoration of the Kister House at 418 State Street.



President Matt Baker presented the Lamplighter Award to Eileen Starr for her outstanding service on the Landmark Board.

## Heritage Award

The 2002 Landmark Association Heritage Award went to Dorian and Elaine Walker, a couple who has lived in Bowling Green for less than a decade, but they have already made an indelible stamp on our city's historic preservation efforts. They moved here with their film and television production company in 1994 from Los Angeles. Although their productions are often seen on national television, we know them best for their local efforts to preserve our heritage through film, including a documentary entitled "Beauty of the Southland" related to the history of the railroad here, and "Spirit of Flight" which records the history of local aviators. Landmark members will remember them best for the film that their company produced in cooperation with

# Landmark Association Annual Meeting Scrapbook



2001 Heritage Award winner Chuck Coates presents the Heritage Award, Landmark's highest honor, to Dorian and Elaine Walker. Mr. Walker was unable to attend.



Some of our members—Sue Lynn Stone, Ralph Johnson, and Eileen Starr—dressed up in their Victorian finery for the occasion.



Actors from the Kentucky History Center who portrayed a vignette from the life of Carrie Burnam Taylor.



The Kentucky Building courtyard made a fine reception spot.

Landmark, "200: A Historic Documentary."

Besides their preservation of history through film, this couple has invested heavily in the historic preservation efforts in our community, including serving on the Friends of Riverview Board, the Hobson House Commission, the Depot Development Authority, the Bowling Green Historic Preservation Board, the Downtown Redevelopment Authority, and the Landmark Association Board. They have purchased four historic homes on State Street; one is restored and one is in the restoration process. The Walkers join a prestigious list of preservationists who have received the Heritage Award since 1980.





## Architectural Details

- A generous Landmark member has issued a challenge grant to the Association in the amount of \$2,000 for the Irene Moss Sumpter Historic Preservation Endowment. The Association must match the donation dollar for dollar by December 31, 2002 to receive the funds. The silent auction items at the picnic will be our initial effort at raising this match. Let our generosity match that of our magnanimous friend.
- Jane Morris is looking for a copy of *Architecture of Warren County, Kentucky, 1790-1940*, published by the Landmark Association in 1984. If you have a copy you want to give away or sale, please contact Jane at 782-7724.
- Notice on the front cover that Landmark's website address is now [www.bglandmark.com](http://www.bglandmark.com). Mike Wilson graciously serves as our webmaster. He has updated the rural church database with captions. This area will continue to be added to until we have photos and brief histories of all the rural (outside the city limits of Bowling Green) churches in the county. He has also added photos of our 2001-2002 award winners. We will continue to add previous year winners.
- If any of you attended the Lois-Glynn Beauty College here in Bowling Green, I would like to talk with you about a story I'm working on. Call Jonathan Jeffrey at 745-5083 (O) or 781-2873 (H).
- Wabuk Development purchased the old 12<sup>th</sup> Street Church of Christ property for senior housing. Site preparation and initial construction of 32 residential units has already begun in the church's former parking lot. Plans for the large parking lot are still uncertain at this time.
- Ironwood Development, the same group that has an option on the old Junior High School, and FielderGroup Architects have purchased the vacant lot at College Street and Park Row. Plans include the construction of a mixed-use building that will include 4,000 square feet of ground floor retail space and 40 units of one-bedroom affordable senior apartments. The development will include covered and enclosed parking for 22. Although initial reaction to the proposed plans were less than receptive, the architects have listened to the concern of area merchants and the Historic Preservation Board.
- The Downtown Redevelopment Authority now has a website. Check it out at [www.downtownbg.org](http://www.downtownbg.org).
- Riverview will host a Civil War re-enactment on Saturday, September 28. For further information contact Riverview at 843-5565.
- A tour of Fairview Cemetery will be hosted by the Association on Saturday, October 26<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m. The tour will cost \$5. Anyone joining the Association that day can take the tour for free.
- The Southern Kentucky Genealogical Society and the Kentucky Library will host a genealogy workshop on October 5<sup>th</sup> at Downing University Center. The program features certified genealogists Pamela Boyer Porter, Gail Jackson Miller, and Mark Lowe. For more information contact the society at 615-384-8178 or [skygen2002@kytnresearch.com](mailto:skygen2002@kytnresearch.com)
- The Association will sponsor a reception for our members and the members of Preservation Kentucky on November 8<sup>th</sup>. You will receive an invitation in the mail.
- The Landmark Christmas tour has been set for Saturday, December 7<sup>th</sup>.
- During Kentucky State Archives Week, the Kentucky Library & Museum will sponsor two lunchtime learning sessions. The first entitled "Treasure in Our Archives" will be conducted on October 7 by Sue Lynn Stone, University Archivist for WKU. On October 10 Nancy Baird, Kentucky History Specialist, will present "Photo Treasures in the Kentucky Library." Both session will be held at 11:30 a.m. in the Kentucky Building's Orientation Room.

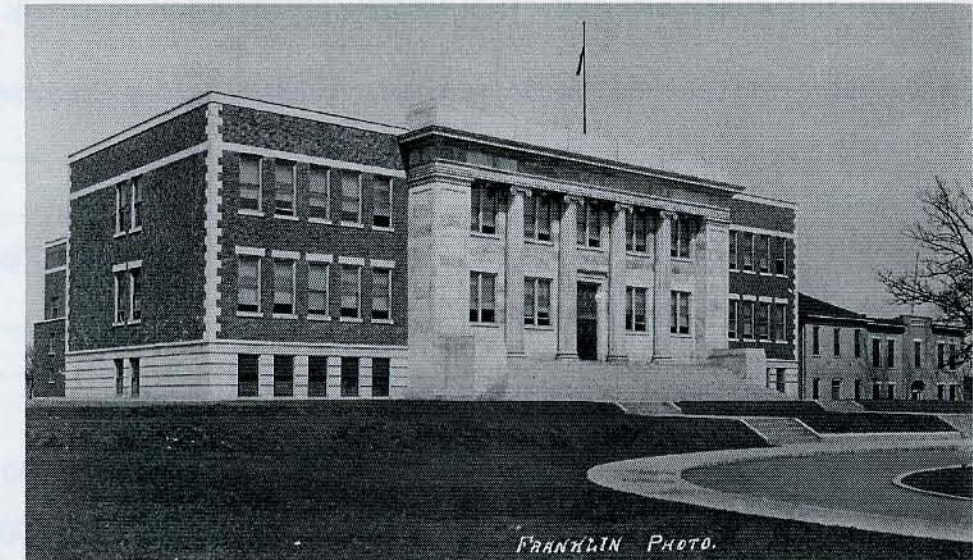
## Bowling Green High School Saved!

Ironwood Development, based in Roswell, Georgia, has entered into a contract with the Bowling Green Board of Education to purchase the old Bowling Green High School for \$800,000. The contract is contingent on Ironwood being approved for tax credits and other financing, as well as appropriate zoning changes. This project relieves the minds of many local preservationists who feared the building might be razed. A good portion of the building is currently being utilized as offices for WKU sports, which are awaiting the renovation of Diddle Arena.

Ironwood plans to spend approximately \$9 million to create 110 one-, two- and three-bedroom units that will range in size from 650 to 1100 square feet. Seventy-five percent of the apartments will be subsidized, and the rest will be rented at local market rates.

Ironwood was attracted to Bowling Green, because of the tax credits available for rehabilitation of historic structures through the Renaissance Kentucky program. Tax credits are an important economic development tool for Renaissance cities. The Renaissance program in Bowling Green is administered by the Downtown Redevelopment Authority. The effort to locate a purchaser for the high school building was spearheaded by Landmark members, including Mayor Sandy Jones, DRA administrator Cheryl Blaine, and local realtor Alex Nottmeier. Also involved was 1<sup>st</sup> District Magistrate Terri Stahl.

Ironwood has an impressive list of properties in several states, chiefly Arizona, Georgia, and Texas. It is working on other projects in Kentucky at Hopkinsville, Princeton, and Nicholasville. Most of the company's properties are senior and "affordable housing complexes." To this point Ironwood has not worked with rehabbing historic structures; it has been involved in new construction only. One of the company's principals, Robert McMaster, was involved in the rehab of a historic hotel for housing in



Bowling Green High School soon after completion in 1923. To the right is the old Saint Columbia School, which was razed in the late 1920s. Courtesy of Kentucky Library, WKU.

Albany, Georgia. This project was lauded by the Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation.

The company's promotional literature states: "At Ironwood, we believe success is in the details! From complex financial arrangements to the traffic flow of our properties, our signature attention to every detail results in PRACTICAL solutions, where others find obstacles. We are committed to long-term ownership of our properties." The historical integrity of the Bowling Green High School's facade must be a priority for this project. The company, the Bowling Green City Schools, and the Landmark Association seem to all agree on this point.

Adaptive re-use of old schools has been a growing trend since the mid-1980s. These buildings are traditionally well built and serve as anchors for historic neighborhoods. Developers, as well as public and nonprofit agencies, have found former school buildings to be adaptable and flexible. The quality of the building materials and craftsmanship is hard to match, and they can be renovated at far less than the cost of new construction. Some states, such as North Carolina and Maryland, are even promoting renovated school buildings as sites for

schools. Imagine that! Studies indicate that children do better in smaller schools, which led Maryland to develop a Public School Construction Program that emphasized renovation of existing buildings. By 1998, 84 percent of Maryland's funds for school construction was being used for improvements to existing facilities. This preservation ethic has drastically reduced "school sprawl"—smaller schools being consolidated into larger facilities—in that state.

Bowling Green High School first occupied this property in 1914, when the city school system purchased the old St. Columba's School. This school was the former residence of John Q. Burnam, a successful businessman and the Treasurer for Kentucky's Confederate state government. Clifford Shopbell and Company of Evansville designed the current Classical Revival building in 1923. Erected for \$100,000, the building housed the high school until a new complex was completed on Rockingham Avenue in 1970. The junior high then occupied the building, until its new facility was completed on Campbell Lane in 2001. The rambling complex includes the main building, a cafeteria, a gymnasium, and an older gym at the rear of the property.



**Perhaps you could pass this newsletter along to someone you think would be interested in supporting Landmark's efforts in historic preservation advocacy.**

I (we) want to support the Historic Preservation efforts in Bowling Green and Warren County.

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

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