


12-2002

Landmark Report (Vol. 21, no. 5)

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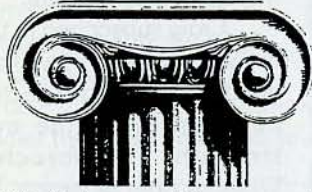
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"A future with a past"

LANDMARK REPORT

VOLUME XXI, NUMBER 5

LANDMARK ASSOCIATION OF BG/WC

DECEMBER 2002

The Landmark Association and Meyer Mortgage present a

Christmas Tour of Homes

Saturday, December 7, 2002

2:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Tickets: \$10

Can be purchased at the door of any tour home

Or in advance by calling 782-0037

John & Alisa Carmichael 1310 College Street
Jeff & Susan Stevens 628 East Main Avenue
George & Kim Gleitz 918 Elm Street
Mark Hood & Cathleen Munisteri 633 East Main Avenue
James & Floydine Adams 561 East Main Avenue
Greg Willis & Steve Scott 1046 Elm Street
Rudloff & Rudloff Law Offices 553 East Main Avenue
Lisa Leachman 1022 U.S. 31-W By-Pass

Landmark Store & Silent Auction at 1046 Elm Street

Signed copies of *Bowling Green in Vintage Postcards* available

Silent auction items include:

Glass hobnail bonbon dish

Framed limited edition print (1 of 5) of tobacco leaves by Terry Caturano

Footed Nippon bowl and saucer with grape motif

Nantucket Basket by Bill Stamps

College Hill Historic District sign

Special Edition of the Daily Edition, 1911 full of biographies and business histories

Irene Moss Sumpter's *Early Warren County Landmarks* (out of print)

See details about our Christmas Tea on page seven.

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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The Landmark Association of Bowling Green - Warren County P.O. Box 1812
Bowling Green, KY 42101
(270) 782-0037

Landmark Report encourages unsolicited articles or suggestions for articles and will consider all for publication.

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The "Write" Stuff

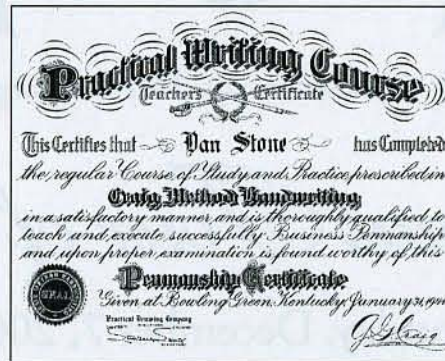
By Lynn Neidermeier

For decades prior to his death in 1976, the mail delivery to "G.G. Craig, Beech Bend Road" brought envelopes inscribed with the carefully practiced handwriting of both gradeschoolers and teachers. Craig's name and address might appear in one of several styles of



135 lessons in Craig's own writing course manual.

Craig subscribed to the commonly held view that good handwriting reflected personal discipline and strength of character. Whether right or wrong, he insisted, "people are judged by their penmanship." He departed, however, from the



The head instructor of penmanship at Western Kentucky State College from 1922 to 1965, Gavin Grundy Craig was the author of several textbooks on the subject and in the 1950s served as president of the International Association of Master Penmen and Teachers of Handwriting. During his long career at Western, he taught more than 22,000 students. The creator of Craig's Advanced Handwriting Scale, he also offered to evaluate by mail any sample of penmanship according to minute criteria such as "form, movement, neatness, alignment, slant, size, quality of line, arrangement, spacing, and relative height of parts and crossings of letters." Correspondents who received a passing grade became eligible, upon payment of fifty cents, for a hand-colored, engrossed certificate appropriate to their level of expertise. To reach the summit of achievement, the Professional Penmanship Certificate, required no less than completion of all

popular theory that children should be taught how to print before learning script. With proper instruction that emphasized rhythmic movement and arm motion, Craig believed, even first-graders could write in longhand. Craig himself was a study in the effects of rigorous training and practice. Letters written when he was 29 and 65 years of age are identical in their neat and legible script.

Such an apparently fastidious man did, however, have a whimsical side. Craig made his offer to award penmanship certificates in a little booklet called "Craig's Circus Alphabet," published in 1932 and followed by a 1952 edition called "Owl-phabet's Circus." The booklets featured each letter of the alphabet, embellished step-by-step until it resembled an animal; thus, a few flourishes of the pen turned an "a" into a squirrel, an "e" into an owl, a "j" into a pigeon and an "x" into a horse and rider. Perhaps mindful of



the drearier aspects of handwriting instruction in schools (of which he advocated at least 30 minutes a day for grades 1 through 8), Craig promised teachers that the Circus Alphabet would motivate students to improve their penmanship. To a man like Craig, for whom immaculate writing had become

second nature, it was a small step to discern in letters of the alphabet the curve of a bird's wing, the bend of a horse's neck or the loop of a snake's coils. "The process is easy," he declared. "Simply make the letter and dress it up."



Preservation KY Reception

Landmark hosted 90 individuals for the regional preservation reception held at Boxwood on Friday, November 8th. The weather was perfect, the house lovely, the food good, and the company congenial. It was a stunning evening. We have several people to thank for this success: Dr. James Skaggs for being our host, Matt Baker for providing the wine, Jonathan Jeffrey for providing the cheese, Jeannie Snodgrass for the lovely floral centerpiece, Dorian & Elaine Walker for opening up the offices of Peridot Pictures, Laura Southard for serving as master of ceremonies, Duncan McKenzie for explaining the work gone on at the Barr House, and the reception committee composed of Joey Powell, Jeannie Snodgrass, Betsy Horn, Jonathan Jeffrey and Sally van de Water.

Several people asked for information about joining Preservation Kentucky, but they did not get one of the membership forms at the reception on November 8th. Membership forms can be found on Preservation Kentucky's website: www.preservationkentucky.org



Gathering in the Boxwood dining room.

Zeigler Hired as HPB Administrator

The Historic Preservation Board recently selected Robin Zeigler, a native of Nashville, Tennessee, as the Historic Preservation Planner from more than twenty highly qualified candidates. The nationwide search was conducted to replace Dr. Dee McEntire, who had served in that position for almost three years. Zeigler is working with the board now to establish a five-year plan for preservation in Bowling Green and Warren County. Her immediate goals are to create a series of simple publications and directories that will be useful to owners of old homes, will promote the cause of preservation in the city and county, and that will assist neighborhoods with local historic designation.

Robin is a second generation preservationist. She grew up in historic homes restored by her father, and her mom was a volunteer with the Williamson County Heritage Foundation. She and her mom used summer days to saunter around the area going through old abandoned homes. When asked if she could identify a favorite historic site, she couldn't noting that "there are too many to choose one." After high school, Robin earned a bachelors degree in Mass Communications and has completed all but her thesis in a Masters degree in Public History from Middle Tennessee State University.

At MTSU Robin studied under nationally recognized preservation educator, Dr. Carroll Van West, who is director of the Center for Historic Preservation. Her immediate supervisor at the Center was Anne Leslie Owens, who has family in Bowling Green. One of her most memorable work-related experiences was a joint project of the Cumberland Region Tomorrow and the Land Trust for Tennessee. The project's goal was to survey all the historic sites in the middle Tennessee area. The information will be combined with other resources of the area, including roads, housing, agriculture, etc to provide an idea of where the area's greatest assets are. "I think," Robin notes, "this will be an invaluable project to help planners with smart growth and give a picture of



those historic pockets that may still be somewhat intact."

Zeigler has supplemented her education with course work and workshops through Rutgers University, the National Trust for Historic Preservation and the Nashville Civic Design Center. She has also worked with preservation consultant and Bowling Green native, Phil Thomason, The Land Trust for Tennessee, Travellers Rest Historic Plantation, and The Center for Historic Preservation at MTSU.

Because of her past experience with old structures and her education, Robin has a profound sense of place. She defines it "as a connection with ones past and the natural environment thereby providing a deep and grounded individual and group identity. It is a factor that helps to create a collective experience among human beings. Physical, emotional and spiritual bonds to our built environment and the natural landscape is a key component to providing a sense of place." Zeigler has already begun to develop her bond with Bowling Green, deciding to live in a historic building on Fountain Square and exploring the beauty and challenges of Warren County. "I love living on the square and hearing the fountain at night." She was intrigued by Bowling Green's size, believing "I can truly come in and make a difference as opposed to being one small cog in a very large machine."

The Landmark Association welcomes Robin Zeigler to Bowling Green, Kentucky!

Postcard Book Now Available

Bowling Green in Vintage Postcards is available just in time for the gift giving season. We had a successful book signing on November 10th, allowing Landmark to make the maximum amount on sales. The book uses 240 vintage postcards to trace Bowling Green's history during the twentieth century, as most of the cards date from 1900 to 1960. The Association would like to especially thank Laura & Ray Buckberry and the Kentucky Library & Museum for allowing their collections to be used for this publication.

The book retails for \$19.99 and is available at the following vendors: Bowling Green Warren County Tourism Commission; Lost River Cave; Midtown Plaza Cards & Gifts; Barbara Stewart Interiors; Werner-Lowe LTD; Book Rack; WKU Bookstore; Riverview at Hobson Grove; Out of the Ordinary; Kentucky Library & Museum; Walden Books; Barnes & Noble. Landmark will also mail a signed book to individuals for \$22.50. During the holiday season, we will place a Christmas card in the package acknowledging who sent the gift. To do this, members should send the check to Landmark and include the recipient's name and complete mailing address. If you wish to send a signed copy, please provide the exact text you would like to appear on the title page.



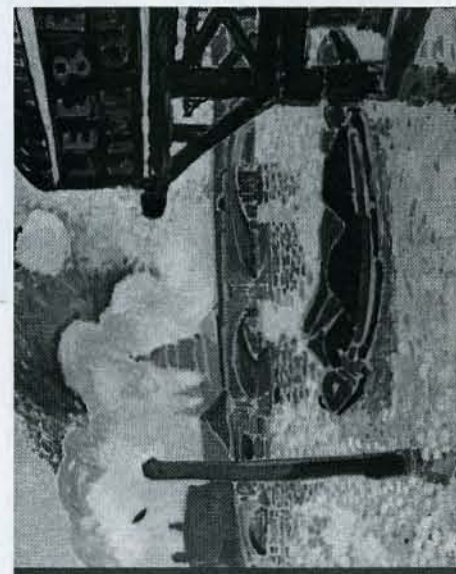
Speed Trip

This unusual headline has nothing to do with drugs, but it does have everything to do with having a good time and learning. The Landmark Association will host a trip to Louisville's Speed Art Museum on January 25th. We will leave at 8:30 a.m. from the BGMU parking lot across the street from the William H. Natcher Federal Courthouse, and we should return around 7:00 p.m. Anyone who needs a ride home should let us know when registering.

We'll begin our day with a tour of the Conrad-Caldwell House at 1402 St. James Court. Also known as Conrad's Castle, this Richardsonian mansion is one of the most stunning of Old Louisville's homes. The house was built for Theophilus Conrad, a Frenchman who made his fortune in the tanning business. The original construction price was \$35,000. Walk around it and enjoy its gargoyles, swags, massive arches and fleur-de-lis. The Cladwell family purchased it in 1905, and they lived there for 35 years. It next served as the Rose Anna Hughes Presbyterian Retirement Home for 40 years. The St. James Court Historic Foundation purchased the home in 1987, restored it, and now operate it as a house museum. Inside you will find breathtaking woodwork, stained glass and fixtures.

We'll then eat lunch at Third Avenue Café. Afterwards we'll travel to the Speed Art Museum to visit the "Millet to Matisse" exhibit. This important exhibition features 64 paintings from the Kelvingrove Art Gallery in Glasgow, Scotland. It includes Impressionistic landscapes by Camille Pissarro, Claude Monet and Pierre-Auguste Renoir, along with two early works by Vincent van Gogh and Paul Gauguin that demonstrate how these two revolutionary artists developed their own unique styles. Other artists represented include Pablo Picasso, Henri Vuillard and Henri Matisse. Dating from approximately 1830 to 1930, the paintings in the exhibition include landscapes, townscapes, seascapes, portraits, interiors, and still lifes that offer a comprehensive view of developments

The Speed Art Museum



MILLET TO MATISSE

in French painting during that important era. Many of the artists who are represented challenged conventional modes of art making and played crucial roles in shaping the history of French painting.

While at the Speed you will also have an opportunity to view "Corot to Picasso: French Painting and Drawings" and a wonderful exhibit entitled "Ed Hamilton From the Other Side." Born in Cincinnati in 1947, Hamilton moved to the west end of Louisville soon afterwards. In 1969 he graduated from the The Louisville School of Art. He studied under Barney Bright of Louisville, and in 1978 Hamilton established his own studio. Today he is known as one of the country's most important public sculptors. He is best known as the designer of the Booker T. Washington Memorial at Hampton Institute in Virginia, the Armistad Memorial in New Haven, Connecticut, and his African-American Civil War Memorial in Washington, D.C. While the eloquent realism and expressive surfaces of these works reveal Hamilton's admiration for both Augustus Saint-Gaudens and Auguste Rodin, it is his personal commitment to his subject matter that gives Hamilton's monuments their unique depth of feeling. This exhibit

consists of 14 pieces, chiefly mixed media.

Afterwards we'll take a brief look at Glassworks, a renovated warehouse that now houses one of the country's premier glassblowing facilities. The fee includes all admissions, transportation and your lunch. The fee is \$40 for Landmark Association members and \$45 for non-members. Only a check will hold your reservation, so mail it early to reserve one of the twenty-eight seats available. This is not a fundraising event, so we have tried to keep the costs to a minimum. **Remember to mail in the reservation form quickly.**

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

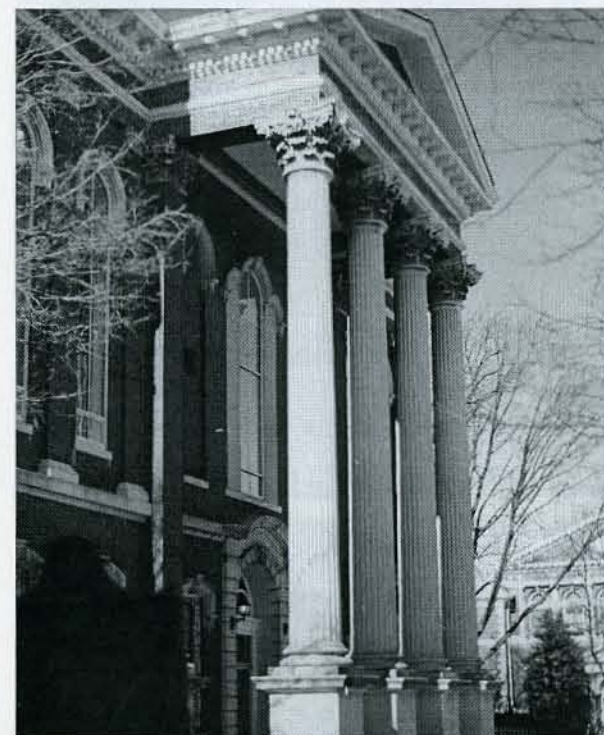
Phone Number: _____

e-mail: _____

_____ people @\$40 member rate

_____ people @\$45 non-member rate

Total enclosed: \$ _____



Harry Erskine, the son of Landmark members Dr. John & Sebrina Erskine, took this photo of the Warren County courthouse. Erskine, a student at Bowling Green High School, won 3rd place in the 2002 "Preserving the Spirit of Place", an essay and photo competition sponsored by Preservation Kentucky. In his essay Erskine noted: "Bowling Green has built a new courthouse, but the charm of the old courthouse will always remain standing on Tenth Street."

Landmark to Sponsor Mural Exhibit

In cooperation with the Kentucky Library & Museum, Landmark will sponsor an exhibit entitled "New Deal Murals in Kentucky Post Offices." The exhibit will open in early June, and the Landmark Annual Dinner Meeting will help kick off the exhibit on June 7th at the Kentucky Building. This photographic exhibit features thirty-three images of murals executed by artists working for the U.S. Treasury's Section of Fine Arts program



Edward Laning painted this mural on canvas for Bowling Green's post office in 1942. It is featured in the exhibit "New Deal Murals in Kentucky Post Offices." Notice the ubiquitous spittoon at the lower right. Courtesy of Kentucky Library, WKU.

during the Depression. President Roosevelt was encouraged to support this work by a friend, who had noticed the popularity of murals that had been sponsored by the Mexican government.

Most of the Depression-era arts programs were created to simply provide jobs for artists. The exception to this rule was the U.S. Treasury's Section of Fine Arts program which was responsible for the post office murals across the nation. The emphasis of this program was to provide tasteful art of good quality to those who had no experience of art thus raising cultural standards. This is the reason the murals, for the most part, were placed in small rural post offices. Edward Bruce, head of the Section of Fine Arts, soon found that, however excellent a mural might be, it had to be acceptable to the townspeople who received it. Their demands were often a problem for the artists. Townspeople generally chose a familiar, local scene. When artists did not comply, they were often criticized by word and in print. More than one mural was damaged or painted over in red by dissatisfied citizens.

In addition to providing public art, the murals are credited with boosting local pride, patriotism and optimism during the Depression. Many of the Depression-era murals are now gone, including several in Kentucky. One of the Bowling Green murals painted by Edward Laning at the present William H. Natcher Federal Courthouse has been missing since the new post office was built on 11th Street in the early-1960s. The mural that remains is quite spectacular. It is an oil on canvas mural entitled "The Long Hunters Discover Daniel Boone." When the post office was moved, the mural was restored by a group of local artists including Lou Toomey and Ruth Hines Temple.

Dario A. Covi with the University of Louisville's Allen R. Hite Art Institute curated the exhibit with the assistance of graduate student Eileen Toutant. The exhibit will be located in the Kentucky Building's Garden Gallery during the month of June.

A Love-Hate Relationship By Rachel Flynn

Recently our small city in central Virginia went through a bitter battle deciding whether to create a local historic district along one of our oldest and grandest avenues.

The area in contention was Rivermont Avenue, a three mile long "neighborhood" initiated in 1890 by the Rivermont Company. Following the natural ridge above the James River, the Rivermont Company planned a formal and gracious boulevard, selling building lots with uniform setbacks and minimum housing cost requirements. The result was one of the finest and largest collections of Victorian, Queen Anne and Colonial Revival architecture in Virginia. While 80 to 90 percent of the original structures remain, we have witnessed enough demolitions and unworthy new construction to conclude that government intervention was necessary. One mansion, demolished nearly 30 years ago, was replaced with cinderblock apartment houses. Citizens still talk about it as if it was yesterday, wondering how it was allowed to happen. They never forgot and it prompted their action.

Our city's public debate was long and difficult. Lines were drawn, threats and personal attacks were made and attorneys were hired. We debated the merits of legally protecting our historic collection of architecture versus allowing property owners to manage their property as they saw fit. While one side bemoaned losses of irreplaceable homes for parking lots and touted the economic development potential of preservation, the other side complained about the loss of property rights and claimed preservation downgraded economic development potential. As a community, we needed to find the right balance between government's role in protecting our local heritage and its role in protecting private property rights.

Fortunately, many American communities before us helped to shape preservation laws. Charleston, South Carolina created the first local historic district in 1935, leading the way for thousands of other districts and landmarks to follow. The United States Congress enacted the National Preservation Act in 1966 and the U.S. Supreme Court has

supported preservation in such landmark cases as *Berman v. Parker* (1954) and *Penn Central Transportation v. New York City* (1978). When both legislative and judicial branches of government support preservation, that is indicative of prevailing civic values.

I believe that most Americans are willing to place historic preservation above unregulated private property rights for the common good. They understand that it goes beyond the protection of individual structures. It is the protection of communities, neighborhoods and the remembrance of another time in history. That was certainly the case in our community, which ultimately decided it had a responsibility to future generations to make sure Rivermont survived us.

Noted art historian and architectural critic Vincent Scully says, "We build in relation to those who have lived before us, and our buildings are a legacy to those who come after. Therefore, human life is extended beyond its own individual span." Our struggle was about more than individual rights—it was about passing on a great gift that had been give to us. Reprinted from *Victorian Homes* (August 2002)



October 26th tour of Fairview Cemetery, Bowling Green's alabaster "city of the dead."



Special thanks to a ll those who helped with the annual picnic. We owe a special debt of gratitude to Jeff and Tammy Adams for opening the Ennis Farmstead for touring, but also for the "indoor" picnic when the weather became rough.



Architectural Details

• We now have \$1585 toward our challenge grant of \$2000. We must collect the full \$2000 by December 31st to receive matching funds from our generous donor. All gifts are important and are tax deductible. The money will be placed in the Irene Moss Sumpter Historic Preservation Endowment.

• In December members will be given an opportunity to pre-purchase copies of Irene Moss Sumpter's *Our Heritage: An Album of Early Bowling Green Kentucky Landmarks*. The book was first printed in 1978 and soon went out of print. Although Mrs. Sumpter's Warren County book was reprinted five times, the Bowling Green book has never been re-published. With special arrangements with the copyright owner, National City Bank, the Landmark Association will re-publish this important work in 2003. The pre-publication price will be \$25; afterwards the book will retail for \$30. Pre-purchasing will be necessary for us to raise the funds necessary to publish the book. The book features black and white photos of many of Bowling Green's most important structures. Unfortunately some of the buildings included are now gone. The new book will be hardback like the original, and have glossy enamel paper and Smythe sewing for strength. Pre-purchased books will be distributed in late-March; the book will not be made available to the public until the Southern Kentucky Festival of Books on April 12th.

• Special thanks to all those who attended the November 18th meeting of the Historic Preservation Board. The chief agenda item for the evening was the review of changes made to the design of Park Row, a senior housing facility to be built at the corner of Park Row and College streets. David Jones, a restoration architect from Hopkinsville, was hired by the architect of record, Thomas E. Fielder, to handle the changes. The revised plans were substantial, including more brick surfaces, removing the stairstepping of finishes which helped with the building's vertical rhythm, adding attractive panels to brick piers and pilasters, enhancing the profile of the cornice and the beltcourse above the first floor, centering the balcony and making its balustrade flush with the building, and providing a 10th street facade which was not available earlier. The Board did grant a certificate of appropriateness for the project. Kudos to the Board for bringing out these salient points and thanks to the developers for listening. Ironwood Development which is supervising the project is also purchasing the old Bowling Green High School on Center Street for a multi-family housing development.

• In cooperation with the Southern Kentucky Festival of Books we have arranged for Michael Dolan to make a presentation at a Landmark sponsored luncheon on Friday, April 11th. The place has not yet been determined. Mr. Dolan has written an engaging book entitled *The American Porch: An Informal History of an Informal Place*. Like the pivotal clue in a Conan Doyle story, the American porch hides itself in plain sight. In careful, spirited prose, Dolan relates the colorful and surprising history of the porch, starting with the ancient Greeks. Dolan shows how the porch evolved into an icon of Americana, from plantation days to the new urbanism. The inspiration for Dolan's book came from his restoration of the porch on his 1926 bungalow. Dolan has written for *The New Yorker*, *The New York Times Magazine*, *The Washington Post* and other publications. His documentary script and production credits include many television programs aired by National Geographic Explorer and the Discovery Channel. He lives in Washington, D.C.



Celebrate the
Holiday Season
with Landmark
Association

at a
Victorian Christmas Tea
to be held at
Elm Grove
the home of Steve &
Jeannie Snodgrass
1006 South Park Drive

Music by Margaret Saxton

Menu

Finger Sandwiches
Holiday Cookies
Gingerbread
Assorted Tarts
Scones w/
Devonshire Cream &
Preserves

Hot tea, Coffee or Holiday
Punch

December 7, 2002

3:00 & 4:30 seatings

\$10 per person

Reserved seating only

For tickets contact

Jonathan Jeffrey

270/781-2873

270/745-5083

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

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

Name _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____ E-mail _____

----- Levels of Membership -----

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

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

Checks should be payable to:

Landmark Association
P.O. Box 1812
Bowling Green, KY 42102-1812

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