12-2002

Landmark Report (Vol. 21, no. 5)

Kentucky Library Research Collections
Western Kentucky University, spcol@wku.edu

Follow this and additional works at: http://digitalcommons.wku.edu/landmark_report

Part of the Cultural Resource Management and Policy Analysis Commons, Historic Preservation and Conservation Commons, and the Public History Commons

Recommended Citation
http://digitalcommons.wku.edu/landmark_report/94

This Newsletter is brought to you for free and open access by TopSCHOLAR®. It has been accepted for inclusion in Landmark Report by an authorized administrator of TopSCHOLAR®. For more information, please contact topscholar@wku.edu.
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

Irene Moss Sumpter’s *Early Warren County Landmarks* (out of print)
See details about our Christmas Tea on page seven.
The “Write” Stuff

By Lynn Neidermeier

For decades prior to his death in 1976, the mall delivery to “G.G. Craig, Beech Bend Road” brought envelopes inscribed with the carefully practiced handwriting of both grade-schoolers and teachers. Craig’s name and address might appear in one of several styles of penmanship—ornate Spencerian, Old English or clean, rounded Palmerian—but the brief form letter enclosed was an “examination” intended to show the writer’s proficiency in rendering the characters of the National Standard Script Alphabet.

The head instructor of penmanship at Western Kentucky State College from 1922 to 1965, Gavlyn (G.G.) 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 biographical sketch 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 letters. Correspondents who received a passing grade became eligible, upon payment of fifty cents, for a certificate, engraved certificate appropriate to their level of expertise. To reach the summit of achievement, the Professional Penmanship Certificate, required no less than completion of all 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 popular theory that children should be taught how to print before learning script. With proper instruction, Craig emphasized rhythmic movement and arm motion. Craig believed, even first-graders could write in longhand. Craig himself was a study in the effectiveness 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 astoundingly consistent vision 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-palooza Circus.” The booklet featured each letter of the alphabet, embellished step-by-step until it resembled an animal; thus, a few flourishes of the pen turned an “o” 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 made sure that the Circus Alphabet would motivate students to improve their penmanship.

In 1922 to 1965, Gavin Grundy Craig was an educator, Dr. James Skaggs for being our host, Matt Baker for providing the wine, Jonathan Jeffrey for being our host, Matt Baker for providing the wine, and group identity.

Zeigler was a native of Bowling Green, Kentucky, and Bowling Green-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 houses. 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 bachelor’s 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 Lenz Brown, owner of who has family in Bowling Green. One of her most memorable work-related experiences is a project of the Cumberland Region Conservancy for 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 treasures are. "I think," Robin notes, "this will be an invaluable project to help planners with smart growth and a picture of those historic pockets that may still be somewhat..."
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 10, allowing Landmark to make the maximum amount on sales. The book, a 240-page collection of old postcards to trace Bowling Green's history during the twentieth century, is available. The book is available for $19.99. Thank you to those of you who purchased a signed copy. For a complete address, phone number, and buyer's name, we will mail it in a home address envelope. The book is available for $19.99 and is available at the following locations: Barnes & Noble, Bowling Green; The Book Rack, Bowling Green; Landmark; Waldo's Books, Bowling Green; and Walmart, Bowling Green. The book is also available from the Kentucky Library and Museum for $24.99.

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 Speed and return by 4:30 p.m. 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.

Landmark to Sponsor Mural Exhibit
In cooperation with the University of Louisville's Allen R. Hite Art Institute, 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 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.

Landmark has created a self-guided tour of the Louisville area with a focus on public art, the murals are credited with boosting local pride, patriotism and optimism during the Depression. Many of the Depression-era arts programs were closed in the 1930s, including the Federal Art Project. However, some of the murals are still visible, and this exhibit provides an opportunity to see a comprehensive collection of the murals that were created.

Address:
City/State/Zip:
Phone Number:
Email:

Total enclosed: $
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 Riverview Avenue, a three mile long "neighborhood" initiated in 1890 by the Riverview Company. Following the natural ridge above the James River, the Riverview Company planned a formal and gracious neighborhood along one of our oldest and Virginia went through a bitter battle Avenue, a three mile long H neighborhood downgraded economic development. The deod. 90 percent of the original structures 1890 of Fairview Cemetery, one of our oldest and Economic Development which is supervising the project is also purchasing the street facade which was not available earlier. The Board did raise the funds necessary to prepare a certificate of appropriateness for the project. Kudos to the Board. The book was reprinted five times, the visit 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 given to us. Reprinted from Victorian Homes (August 2002)

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

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. Our place has not yet been determined. Mr. Dolan, through 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 it was yesterday, wondering how it was allowed to happen. They never forgot and it prompted their action.

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 Sumpner Historic Preservation Endowment.

In December members will be given an opportunity to pre-purchase copies of Irene Moss Sumpner'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. Sumpner'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. Fields 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 belcastre 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 good mystery, the American porch hides itself in plain sight. In careful, spirited prose, Dolan relates the colorfull and surprising history of the porch, starting with the ancient Greeks. Dolan shows how the porch evolved into an icon of America's, 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.

December 2002 Landmark Report 7

December 2002 Landmark Report 6
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 ---------------------------

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Regular</th>
<th>Corporate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>[ ] Individual $15</td>
<td>[ ] Active $100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[ ] Supporting $50</td>
<td>[ ] Patron $250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[ ] Sustaining $100</td>
<td>[ ] Donor $500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[ ] Sustaining $100</td>
<td>[ ] Benefactor $1,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

LANDMARK ASSOCIATION

P.O. BOX 1812

BOWLING GREEN, KY 42102-1812

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED