8-2003

Landmark Report (Vol. 23, no. 1)

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The Landmark Association invites you to its Annual Picnic Home of Dr. Gary & Dianne Howerton 2011 Nashville Road Sunday, September 14, 2003 $5.00 per person

Home Tour 4:30 p.m.
Dinner 5:30 p.m.

Landmark furnishes chicken, drinks and paper goods. You bring those summer salads, vegetable dishes and desserts.
**Architectural Details**

- Our new secretary, Melanie G. Smith, will be in the Landmark office from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on Tuesdays. Phone messages and other office matters will be handled at that time. Melanie is the daughter of Earline and Cynthia Smith and also works as a manuscript assistant at the Kentucky Library & Museum. She is currently arranging the papers of Kentucky poet and WUK German professor, Jim Wayne Miller.

- At the Landmark annual meeting the owner of the Roemer Planning Mill was unintentionally misidentified. The owner is actually Douglas Tarrance; he will accept the award at the Landmark picnic on Sept. 4th. We apologize for this mistake.

- Landmark board member, Julia Tarrant, has some old wood molding for sale. She has agreed to donate the proceeds to the Irene Mass Sampier Historic Preservation Endowment. If anyone is interested in the lengths and type of wood, contact Julie at 746-6682.

- Check out the Landmark website (www.bglandmark.com) for a listing of the opening and closing dates of all Warren County post offices since the early 1800's. We've also included photographs of the nine that are still open. Also, we will begin featuring a story from each Landmark Report on the website. Donna Parker's story on the Rosewood Schools in Warren County has been posted. Our thanks to Landmark member Mike Wilson for being webmaster for the site.

- Legislation is currently being considered that would allow states discretion in the spending of transportation appropriations. At stake are the important transportation enhancement projects that have been learned so far across the United States. The $40 million LANP Depot was restored with major funding from enhancement appropriations. If given the opportunity it is feared that most State Departments of Transportation will opt to spend dollars on road building rather than historic preservation projects. Interested parties should contact their House members and ask them to vote yes on the John Oliver (D-MA) amendment to the Transportation and Treasury Appropriations bill. The amendment removes discretionary wording from the legislation and restores mandatory spending on enhancements, which can also include biking and hiking trails.

- Riverview at Hobson Grove has received a Museum Assessment Program grant from the Institute of Museum & Library Services. The two-year grant provides a self-study and implementation follow-up report.

- Kentucky recognized its past with several presentations to the Recent Past Preservation Network's (RPPN) "Windshield Survey," Amber Ridington, a graduate of WKU and independent folklorist working in British Columbia, Canada, posted her research about the Quonset hut on the RPPN website. The process allowed for featured sites for the month of May and the first Kentucky building to be listed on the survey. Another Bowling Green structure, the Mildred B. Hively House, was added to the listing.

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The Higher Road (continued from last issue) by Nancy Marshall

Southerners, brewed and steeped in the atmosphere of condensation for those of the block race. She evolved as time passed and she gained wisdom to change these attitudes. However, it was not an easy task. A glaring example burned its way into her young son's mind and changed the three of us rode in high style to Ewing's, a place for swimming on Drake's Creek, located a couple of miles from Bowling Green. We took sandwiches and, of course, our bathing suits. What a great time we had in the water—an experience I had thought, up then only the rich boys could have. I remember taking that horse buggy cost $2.50, and the entrance to Ewing's was 10 cents each. It was only a simple and homely "good time," but at that point in my life, it was a highlight—one not to be forgotten.

Chester wrote, "Will Gooch and I did not always agree with what she said or did, but we rarely argued with her about anything. For two reasons: we were actually afraid to oppose her, and we must have sensed that she was doing the best for all of us, in her struggle to survive." The sons would never forget the many good times with their young mother. She was, as all human beings, not perfect. She could be willful, demanding, and she did not always think of her own needs before the needs of others. She must have sensed that she was doing the best for all of us, in her struggle to survive.

NGT wrote that boys would never forget the many good times with their young mother. She was, as all human beings, not perfect. She could be willful, demanding, and she did not always think of her own needs before the needs of others. She must have sensed that she was doing the best for all of us, in her struggle to survive.

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His mother would grow, change, and develop in her views. They had a young, black boy who worked for them and for whom they provided a place to live. He lived in the basement of their home on Barren River and cleaned the house, washed clothes, painted, built walls, and pulled out rocks and leaves and debris. He took his meals in the kitchen, alone, or on the back porch. Orlando Donan was his name, and he would be associated with the family for over fifty years.

He did not show bitterness, or resentment but instead tolerance, loyalty, patience, and goodwill at all times.

It was this attitude that softened and at last won the heart of Miss Tiller, who described that NGT exhibited. She would, in later years, invite Orlando and his wife to tea with her in the living room of that same home. "They came and were greeted cordially at the front door by this woman who had come a long way in her inner struggle against racism."

Orlando Donan would go on to graduate from University of Kentucky, and in the famed "Wings Over Jordan," choir, and serve several years in the Army. He would be Supervisor of Philadelphia's Water and Sewer Systems for several years before retiring. Chester Travelested wrote "Upon my insistence many years ago, Orlando no longer calls me "Mr. Chester." But, it was very difficult for him to break the habit of calling me by deference and subservience to whites. My respect and affection are deep for Orlando Donan.

As stated previously, NGT's highest priorities in her life was rearing children and teaching. However, as her children matured and her interest turn to reach out more and more to the larger community. She held many leadership roles in Bowling Green United Methodist Church, County charities, clubs, organizations and functions. While her roles, awards and duties could fill a small book, only a few shall be mentioned below.

NGT organized the Warren County Women's Variety Club, which served lunches, sandwiches, fruit, and cookies to passing servicemen who stopped in Bowling Green or who were on the incoming hospital trains. Invited guests would keep all club attendees informed of the living conditions and events of the seemingly for over 40 years. The club, under NGT, would boast the largest enrollment in Kentucky, and would later push for the erection of a war memorial for Bowling Green's soldiers. NGT would also organize a Boys Club for the poorest residents of Bowling Green. She was recognized as the first woman in the nation to start such a club. She also served on the board for the Salvation Army and the Women's Tuberculosis Association.

In 1942, she initiated the "Feeding Project." It was a program created to feed the community's unattended children. President Roosevelt had issued a protest against the large number of draft-age men who were physically unfit for service because of poor nutrition. NGT quickly garnered support from the Nutrition Council, the Red Cross, the Homemakers' Clubs, and the Bowling Green Women's Defense Council to fund the program. The group provided a hot noon meal to needy school children in the Warren County System. In addition, the children were provided with lessons on cleanliness, manners, and good citizenship. The project in its entirety was privately funded and completely under the headship of NGT.

She was very involved in activities which promoted her love of music and educational opportunity for all. She was elected President of the local chapter of American Association of University Women in 1957. The group had a local membership of over fifty women who were graduates from schools of education, liberal arts schools, and English. Guest speakers were invited each month to highlight a variety of current topics including those with an international theme.

Her students and peers alike knew NGT as the "Music Lady of South Kentucky." She was honored posthumously by a nomination to the Music Educators National Conference Roll of Honor, which recognized the outstanding service she had given to music education in Kentucky. This award was one that would have been most prized by NGT. In the introductory speech at the award ceremonies, she was characterized as being firm, fair and completely dedicated to her music profession. "One cannot recount in a few minutes the contribution to music education of this dedicated teacher. Of her, we can follow her timeless example of devotion to her work, Music Education will be on a higher plane in Kentucky."

NGT was described as tireless in all her efforts. She served in the U.S. Civilian Conservation, Women's Music Club, 20th Century Literary Club, Cedar Grove Homemakers Club, Women's Glee Club, League of Women Voters, and Petworth and Chorus, and as a teacher of the Women's Bible Class at the First Christian Church.

NGT seemed superhuman at times with all the activities that she participated in and many times organized and led. What enabled her to do all that she accomplished? The answer may be found in her life philosophy. One of her favorite sayings was, "I guess nobody ever amounted to anything without having a strong will, and some pretty strong wants." She would write in her diary that each morning's resolve for her would be:

I will this day try to live a simple, sincere and serene life,1 repelling all the evil that would cloy, or cloy my life, or destroy my peace, by my actions, or misbehaving to the world, or to myself; and further, by following my conscience, doing what I know is right, and not pretending to do anything without having a strong will, and some pretty strong wants."

NGT was involved in numerous civic activities. Here she poses with some young ladies who are helping raise money for the Service Men's Canteen downtown. NGT is under the "U" of "Continent" in the center sign. The store front was in the Gettys Buildings in the 400 Block of Main Street, currently the location of the 440 Main Restaurant. Courtesy of Manuscripts, WKU.

NGT raised two fine men. Will Gootho Travelested became an engineer and businessman who owned Travestol Construction Company in Baltimore, Maryland. He would be involved in the construction of many fine projects such as the World Trade Center building. He also was the subcontractor for the construction of Cape Kennedy. After retiring in 1975, he returned to Bowling Green and lived in a vacation home until he could complete renovation of the old family home, Travelsng. He died in 1981. He and his first wife would be the parents of two children: G. Wore Travestol and Malcolm Travestol.

Chester Coleman Travestol seemingly outlived his mother. He became Provost of the University of New Mexico at Albuquerque, and a leader in the areas of education and social equality. His lists of awards, accomplishments and leadership roles are too numerous to list. He and his late wife are the parents of two children: Jimmie Travestol and Coleman Travestol.

NGT's life light ceased to shine on June 19, 1974. She left her children with these parting thoughts:

Let not external circumstances too much affect you, nor external cares and duties enslave you. Remember you have an inner life which deserves development and increasing and of far more importance than this material one in your home. Let your thoughts be pure, your words frank, and then neither sickness, sorrow or death can have dominion over you. Remember always that you may be in possession of that peace which is above earthly understanding. Speak together of me often, not in tones of mournful sadness but when the smile is on your lip and happiness is in your heart. Do not allow this to be a sacred theme for lonely hours and darkened spirits, but let me live with you in the bright sunshine of your happiness. Vain thoughts are sometimes, but when you do so, think not of the lifeless clay beneath the sod, but look above and think of the spirit immortal looking down on you, or better still at your side, watching over you and seeking ever to raise your hearts to the throne above.

This was Nelle Gooch Travelested as remembered by my father—her nephew and not a former student. Will G. Travestol, Chester, and Coleman published a Western memorial article for NGT with this fitting tribute: "In remembering Mrs. Travestol, as teacher or as personal friend, we recall the same vivid image of her personality—of her wisdom, and knowledge, mixed with understanding. Here was a magnetism which drew you with fortitude from all of us to push forward toward the goals of our lives. Imprinted now as we will remain, with the indelible stamp of those initials, NGT."

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Calendar

August 22-23
Duncan Hines Festival, L&N Depot

August 23
"Brother Against Brother—Kentucky During the Civil War" Living History Day at the Courthouse parking lot, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. ($5 adults, $2.50 students; free for those under 6; $10.00 Call Phil Rivera for more information: 843-5561)

September 14
Landmark Annual Picnic at the home of Dr. Gary & Diane Howarton (211 Nashville Road), 4:30 House Tour; 5:30 Dinner. Patuck, chicken, paper goods and drinks furnished by Landmark.

October 4
Tour of the older buildings at Western Kentucky University, 2:00 p.m. Depart from the Kentucky Building. One and a half hours, weather permitting.

October 23
Kentucky Poet Laureate, Joe Survant, discusses his newest book of poetry, Rathing Ray, at the Feels Log House on the Kentucky Building Grounds at 6:00 p.m.

October 25
Tour of St. Joseph Cemetery, 10:00 a.m. $5.00 per person

November 11
Laura Harper Lee leads a discussion about Site's House's newest book, A Patchament of Leaves, winner of the 2002 Kentucky Literary Award for fiction.

December
Christmas Tea

December 7
Celebration of Our Silver Anniversary of the House Tour of Homes

January 7
Dr. Carol Crowe Carrado leads a discussion on Bobbie Ann Mason's novel, A Tree to Kiss with Laura Harper Lee. The 2002 Kentucky Literary Award for fiction. Will feature a Hillbilly Tea of Pepsi and Moon Pies.
News from the Historic Preservation Board
By: Robin Zeigler

Interested College Hill residents are exploring the possibility of a Local Historic Designation for their neighborhood. In order to inform property owners about their options for local designation, the Historic Preservation Board (HPB) recently scheduled "coffee hours" and invited their immediate neighbors as well as the community, with the field can be a little confusing ... even-curious individuals, and this approach is a very effective way to come may benefit from them.

The HPB in their continued quest to make the Certificate of Appropriateness (COA) process as user-friendly as possible has initiated a new policy regarding the application process and fee. From now on, "minor alternations" will be decided by staff and carry NO application fee. This means that property owners with Local Historic Designations may receive an immediate answer on most applications. Applications for "major alternations" must be approved by the Board and carry an application fee of $75. Major alterations include: new construction (including additions), reconstruction of major elements such as a porch, and the addition of buildings on a property, demolition, moves, and any alteration that radically changes the look of the building. All other projects are considered "minor alternations." HPB staff and Board members reserve the right to deny the applications for minor projects come before the Board. In those cases, the application fee of $75 may need to be assessed.

Even for preservation professionals, the tools and terms associated with the field can be a little confusing...

In this article from The Rambler (Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation; Nov./Dec. 2002) the author attempts to clarify some of these terms.

Historic Preservation. Historic preservation is the practice of recognizing, protecting, using and appreciating our nation's diverse cultural resources so that generations to come may benefit from them. Encouraging a wide range of resources—including house, neighborhoods, commercial buildings, downtowns, bridges, churches, schools and battlefields—historic preservation is also an economic development tool that has proven to be an effective way to revitalize neighborhoods and downtowns.

Restoration vs. Rehabilitation. Restoration and rehabilitation are two options available when preserving a property. During a restoration, the goal is to accurately depict the form, features and character of a property as it appeared at a particular point in time. To stay true to an era, features added during other periods in the structure's history must be removed and missing features from the restoration period are reconstructed using all available evidence. Typically restoration is used only for museums. This approach often removes authentic, though not original, historic fabric and replaces it with new material that often includes guesswork on details.

On the other hand, rehabilitation makes possible a modern or contemporary use through repair, alterations or additions to a historic structure. This type of project preserves the significant features of the structure, which convey its historical, cultural, or architectural values and features, including historic changes. This approach is generally preferred by preservationists because it preserves historic fabric from the course of the building's history. Because it is allowed for contemporary or adaptive use, it is the most prevalent preservation treatment.

National Register of Historic Places vs. National Historic District. These terms are often confused, but each holds a different level of significance. The National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 assigned the National Register of Historic Places the central role in recognizing buildings, sites, districts, structures and objects significant in American history and culture. Listing on the National Register does not guarantee full protection from demolition, but any development project using federal money or requiring a federal permit must undergo Section 106 review, required by the Historic Preservation Act to consider the impact the project might have on nearby sites that are on or eligible for the National Register. Nominations to the National Register are submitted to and approved by the National Park Service, but the vast majority of the buildings on the list are privately owned.

Individual structures are listed on the National Register, but some neighborhoods or areas can also be designated as a National Historic District. To qualify, the area must retain architectural integrity and reflect an aspect of the area's history. A historical overview of the entire district is needed. The purpose of the overview is to provide a basic background history of the area and to justify the significance of the district. District resources survey documentation is required for all proposed districts, which include completion of the district mapping all buildings in the district, recording their architectural characteristics, assessing whether or not they contribute to the historic character of the district.

The highest level of designation is a National Historic Landmark, and therefore specific criteria are used to determine a site's eligibility. National Historic Landmarks are properties that are deemed significant to all Americans because of their exceptional values or qualities.
The Landmark Association's Heritage Award is given to an individual or couple for outstanding contributions to local historic preservation efforts. Last year's recipient, Elaine Walker, made this year's presentation.

"Many of us are aware of David Garvin's business acumen and his legendary success with Camping World. David's service to the community extends beyond the financial; he has served on several different boards. Tonight we are going to address another aspect of his character, his profound interest in Bowling Green and the state's history. David is an avid historian who enjoys doing research. He is a visionary; in 1989 he wrote a plan for BG entitled "2020 Vision." Included in that plan was a section on historic preservation. He wrote, "It is generally accepted in the community that preservation is not only for historic value, but is also of great economic value to the entire community and essential in maintaining the community's chosen image."

"David Garvin's interest in history and development of a positive image for Bowling Green translated into the restoration and preservation of historic structures and motivated him to preserve two historic Warren County bridges. The Old Richardsville Road Bridge, for the civil engineers & bridge aficionados in the audience, consists of a triple span bowstring arch truss with a light thru truss added to each span-a fantastic bridge in a beautiful location. He is also responsible for preserving the College Street walking bridge that is an essential component of our new riverfront development project here. David and his wife Charlotte are responsible for the extensive restoration of Senator Joseph Underwood's house, Ironwood, constructed during the 1850s. For these reasons and due to his profound and continuing commitment to historic preservation, David Garvin is the Landmark Association's 2003 Heritage Award winner."

tools and terms continued

which help illustrate or interpret the heritage of the United States. If a property is named a National Historic Landmark, it is also listed on the National Register of Historic Places and able to obtain federal historic preservation funding, when available. Only three percent of properties on the National Register are also Landmarks, and they are usually owned by private individuals or groups; others are owned by private individuals or groups; others are owned by private individuals or groups; others are owned by private individuals or groups; others are owned by private individuals or groups; others are owned by local, state, tribal or federal government agencies.

Local Landmarks or Historic Districts.

A local landmark or historic district is designated under city ordinance that seeks to retain the character of the building or area. (Bowling Green currently has two zoned local historic districts: Downtown Commercial District and the Upper East Main Historic District. Local historic districts do not always follow the same boundaries as national historic districts. It is always good to check with the BG/WC Historic Preservation Board when a property is in question or whether it is eligible for grants or tax credits.) To receive local designation, a building or district must be historically, architecturally or culturally significant and retain most of its character. The BG/WC HPB reviews and comments on projects affecting designated buildings. Under most local laws, property owners of designated properties cannot demolish, move or change facade features without applying for a Certificate of Appropriateness.
Endangered Louisville Landmark

Since 1988, the National Trust for Historic Preservation has issued a list entitled "The 11 Most Endangered Places." The Trust considers it one of the organization's most effective tools in the fight to save America's irreplaceable architectural, cultural, and natural heritage. The 11 sites chosen each year are threatened by neglect, insufficient funds, inappropriate development or insensitive public policy. Each site raises awareness about the dangers to specific parts of America's heritage and about preservation generally.

The 2002 list includes one Kentucky site, Louisville's U.S. Marine Hospital. Constructed in 1851 by an act of Congress, Louisville's Marine Hospital served the community and the nation faithfully for more than a century. Designed by famed architect Robert Mills, America's first native-born professional architect, the 3-story Greek Revival structure addressed the pressing health needs of seamen on the Western inland waterways; later, it was used as a military hospital during the Civil War. This National Historic Landmark recounts a significant chapter in U.S. maritime history and in the development of Louisville as an important river port—but its significance has not protected it from serious deterioration. Now owned by the Louisville Jefferson County Health Department, the hospital has been vacant since 1975. Its ceiling and original plaster walls are falling, and the entire structure is suffering from extensive moisture and termite damage.

According to the Trust the Marine Hospital is the best surviving example of such hospitals built before the Civil War, and the only surviving example of an inland marine hospital in the country. The building has been vacant since 1975 and is in critical condition. The dignified building remains structurally sound, and local preservationists would like to see it rehabilitated as a museum or visitor's center that would foster economic revitalization in Louisville's history Portland neighborhood.

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