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Landmark Report (Vol. 22, no. 2)

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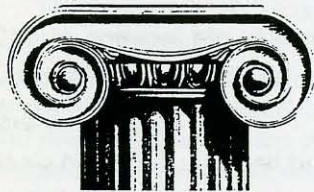
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"A future with a past"

LANDMARK REPORT

VOLUME XXII, NUMBER 2

LANDMARK ASSOCIATION OF BG/WC

DECEMBER 2003

The Landmark Association and Meyer Mortgage present a

Christmas Tour of Homes

Saturday, December 6, 2003

2:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Tickets: \$10

Can be purchased on the day of tour at Lot 916 at 916 State Street (Fountain Square)

Or in advance by calling 782-0037

John & Nancy Parker	1341 State Street
Kinchel & Mina Doerner	1340 State Street
Gary & Deborah West	1302 Chestnut Street
Robert & Kathy Mosley	1340 Chestnut Street
Architectural Services of Kentucky	810 College Street
Odd Fellows Building (2 nd Floor)	427 Park Row
BBT Bank (2 nd Floor)	901 College Street

Landmark Store & Silent Auction at Lot 916

Signed copies of *Images of America: Bowling Green*; Irene Sumpter's

Album of Early Bowling Green Kentucky Landmarks; Bowling Green in Vintage Postcards; A Stroll Around Fountain Square; Birdseye View of Bowling Green; Notecards, etc.

Silent auction items include:

Framed Charles Smith print of Downtown Bowling Green

Piano Skirt

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

College Hill Historic District sign

Wilton Armetale Cast Pewter Ice Bucket, Small Platter & Wine Holder

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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Architectural Details

- ♦ The Landmark Association has moved up State Street from its old location at 912 to 1267 State. The office is in a side portion of the headquarters for Peridot Pictures. Our new landlords are Dorian & Elaine Walker, the 2001 Heritage Award winners. Former Landmark Board member, Cheryl Mendenhall, had been our landlord since 1991. We appreciate our stay at 912 State Street. Our secretary, Melanie G. Smith, is in the office on Tuesdays from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. All mail should continue to go to P.O. Box 1812 and our phone number remains 270/782-0037.
- ♦ As of November 20, 2003 we have collected approximately \$1700 toward our goal to endow the Jean H. Thomason Historic Home Award. Because we surpassed our goal of \$1500, an anonymous donor has endowed the Heritage Award for \$1500. We will take all gifts over the \$1500 and apply them to endowing our last named award, the Jane Morningstar Award of Merit. We appreciate everyone's generosity.
- ♦ The Landmark Association annually gives several different awards to property owners who have sensitively rehabilitated their historic buildings. We want property owners to know that we appreciate their efforts and want to acknowledge them at our annual meeting. If you see a property that you think deserves recognition, please contact Eileen Starr or Ann Wyatt who are members of the Awards Committee. Both Eileen and Ann are on the Board of Directors. Suggestions for awards can be sent to evanstar86@aol.com or leave a phone message at the Landmark Office, 782-0037. Official Landmark awards forms for both buildings and potential Heritage Award nominees will be available from Landmark after the first of the year. PLEASE help us by keeping your eyes open!
- ♦ An entertaining new PBS series called *History Detectives* illustrates the challenges of doing historic research, its successes and failures. President Eileen Starr recommends it to anyone for a perspective on American culture; it makes researchers seem both exotic and mundane.
- ♦ Look for Jim Gaines' interesting columns on local architecture in the Monday edition of the *Daily News*.
- ♦ A new history of the *Bowling Green Public Library* entitled *Standing Strong: A History of the Bowling Green Public Library, 1938-2003* has been published. The library will hold a book signing on December 4th from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m.
- ♦ The last in our fall/winter series of book discussions takes place at the Kentucky Building on Wednesday, January 7th at 3:30 p.m. Carol Crowe Carraco will discuss Bobbie Ann Mason's *Elvis Presley*, which won the 2002 Kentucky Literary Award for non-fiction.

St. Joseph Cemetery Tour

The Landmark Association sponsored a tour of St. Joseph Catholic Cemetery on October 25. Jonathan Jeffrey led the general part of the tour and discussed some of the prominent people buried there and some of the tombstone iconography. His tour was abetted by two costumed interpreters who represented Maggie Fitzpatrick and Sister Constantia Robinson. The Catholic church in Bowling Green dates back to the mid-1850s, when work on the L&N railroad attracted a large number of immigrants, chiefly Catholics, to work on the line (preparing roadbeds, laying line, and constructing bridges). The first congregants were led by Father Patrick Bambury, and they met in the home of Daniel O'Sullivan. In 1856 Reverend

Joseph DeVries, then an assistant at St. Catherine's Church in New Haven was assigned to the new mission. DeVries had come to Kentucky in 1853 from a seminary in Holland. He was ordained a priest by Bishop Spalding on July 15, 1855. In 1859 a small frame church was built here. Father DeVries spent the rest of his life with this congregation and established St. Ann's Catholic Church in Franklin. Three months after the current church was completed in 1889 Father DeVries died. As DeVries wished, his congregation placed his remains in a vault

on the Gospel side of the altar at St. Joseph. A modest marble slab marks his resting place there.

The St. Joseph Catholic Cemetery was established in May 1869, when a deed from Warner

Lewis Underwood for six acres of land and an access road was signed over to Bishop McKloskey of Louisville. At least one grave apparently predates the cemetery's founding. The stone for C.T. and Mary Hylant shows that both of them were born in Ireland and both died in 1860. They had probably been buried in Pioneer Cemetery and moved here after the cemetery was established. Fairview Cemetery had been purchased by the City of Bowling Green in 1862 when the Pioneer Cemetery downtown had been filled during the Civil War. The land was suitable, because of its location outside the city and because the selection committee "found no rock



Landmark president Eileen Starr dressed in her Victorian finery as she portrays Maggie Fitzpatrick at St. Joseph Cemetery.



Landmark vice-president Joey Powell portrayed Sister Constantia Robinson, the first principal of St. Columba Academy. Her stone reads: "In Memory of Sister Constantia Robinson, deceased May 23, 1879, aged 58. By her friends and pupils at St. Columba Academy, R.I.P." The scroll reads: "I have found Him whom my soul loveth. Paul III."

within five feet of the surface." The adjacent Mt. Moriah Cemetery was actually deeded to an independent cemetery association in 1878, although people had been buried there since 1870.

St. Joseph Cemetery is the resting place for many members of St. Joseph Catholic Church and Holy Spirit Catholic Church. It is administered by the interparochial St. Joseph Cemetery Foundation. The new section at the southern end of the cemetery was opened in 1971. Both Catholics and non-Catholics can be buried in the cemetery. The stone wall was built before the turn of the century by stonemasons who fitted it together without mortar. It was restored and preserved by Norman Simon Masonry in 1990. Ornate wrought iron gates were installed at the entrance during the 1920s oil boom, but they were removed for scrap-iron during World War II.

The President Speaks

by Eileen Starr

The Landmark Association began in 1976 when sixty people attended a meeting at the library to discuss Bowling Green's historic buildings and what threatened them. An impressive amount of preservation activity has taken place in the last twenty-seven years since that first meeting. Photographs illustrate dramatic improvement to historic buildings around Fountain Square, in various neighborhoods and to resources throughout the county. The work continues on major public buildings such as Bowling Green High School on Center Street and to historic homes.

Much of the initial preservation activity involved some of the area's most attractive architecture, such as the Victorian commercial buildings around the square and the homes on East Main Street and College Hill near Western. Some people, like me, tend to have an aesthetic response to historic architecture, the "Wow that's a great building" reaction to a Queen Anne house or an Italianate commercial building. We may stand and gaze at a building and appreciate the intricate craftsmanship or the use of construction materials that are no longer available. And after looking at a building, many of us will leave with a smile on our face, somehow connected to the past, intrigued by the building's sense of design.

It is easy to relate to some buildings based upon their appearance. Others are a little more challenging to appreciate if we judge them only on their aesthetic qualities. The quonset hut, once called the Quonset Auditorium located on the old Dixie Highway, recently received

substantial media attention as people discussed its past and future potential. Some were irate when the structure was demolished; others wondered what all the fuss was about. Rust and decay were visible on the 1947 structure. The ribbed aluminum structure and the glass blocks didn't arouse an aesthetic response in people.

While the Quonset may not have been pretty in the classic sense of the term, it was important for historic reasons. As we all know, it was a venue for a variety of noted musicians from gospel singers to blues artists. People traveled the Dixie Highway to come to Bowling

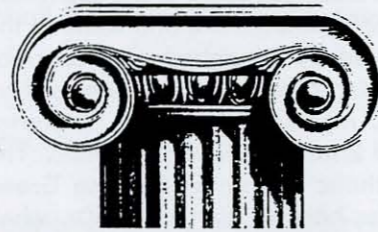
***It is a familiar tale:
the effort to save
historic resources
generates controversy.***

Green to listen to music or attend wrestling matches. What received less attention was the building's social history, its role in an era of segregation as a place where both white and black musicians were welcome to play and where mixed-race audiences listened.

Saving something from the recent past, a factory-produced building assembled on-site in 1947, evokes even further community discussion. There are many variables that determine whether a structure can or will be preserved; each historic resource has to be evaluated individually and there are no blanket solutions that are applicable. I am not

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Bowling Green—Warren County



"A future with a past"

familiar with the Quonset's condition, so I won't comment on its preservation potential. Bowling Green Municipal Utilities is working with local groups in an effort to commemorate the structure.

Over the years, preservationists have developed a more comprehensive view of historic resources. Bowling Green is a microcosm of American society in 2003; it is a diverse place. Preservationists place resources in a larger context and tend to look at them as pieces of a cultural landscape puzzle that includes history, architecture, archeology and historic landscapes. Although attractive individual buildings still catch our eyes, we try to evaluate all aspects of American culture to determine what is significant and what deserves our preservation efforts since money for historic preservation is perennially short.

It is a familiar tale: the effort to save historic resources generates controversy. That controversy allows preservationists the opportunity to listen to different opinions and to plan for the future. In addition it gives Bowling Green and Warren County citizens the chance to air their views and let everyone know what they think of our local history.

Loving CME Church

In 2001 the Kentucky African American Heritage Commission awarded the City of Oakland a grant to complete a study of the historical unincorporated community of Sunnyside in Warren County. Gray & Pape, Inc. of Cincinnati contracted with the City of Oakland to prepare the study with the Principal Investigator, Lena Sweeten, donating her services on a pro bono basis. Sweeten, who has a Bachelor's degree in history from WKU and a Master's degree in Historic Preservation from Middle Tennessee State University, is a native of Warren County. The product of her work was compiled into a report entitled *Writ Upon the Landscape: An Architectural Survey of the Sunnyside Community*. In the study she acknowledged that "the Loving Union CME Church has been the heart of Sunnyside's African American community." Using text from the report, this article attempts to put the church in its historical landscape and then provides information about its cultural significance.

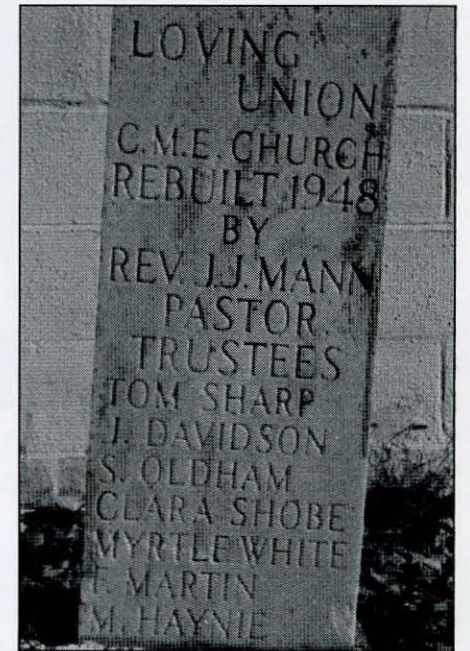
The unincorporated Sunnyside community is one of only three historic African American communities in Warren County that have been documented with archival investigations or architectural surveys. The community is a historically significant, tangible link from the post-Civil War period to the present, and is illustrative of the development and evolution of African American life in Warren County during the twentieth century. The report documented 53 buildings in the Sunnyside community and recommended that the Loving Union CME Church and its adjacent cemetery be nominated for listing on National Register of Historic Places.

Sunnyside, consists of approximately 53 residences and a church, strung along Loving, Sunnyside-Gott, and Glasgow (US68/SR80) roads in northern Warren County. It is approximately five miles southwest of the Freeport community. Like Freeport, Sunnyside is a historically African American community that was

established by freed slaves shortly after the Civil War. The source of the community's name, Sunnyside, is unknown. The settlement has not been previously documented and few written records are available concerning its history. As the community grew, it fanned out in an east/west direction along both Loving Road and Glasgow Road and ultimately merged with the white-owned section of the Sunnyside community.

Edna Annalee Davidson, who moved to the Sunnyside community around 1927, recalled in oral interviews several interesting tidbits about the town's growing years. She graduated from the eighth grade from the Sunnyside schoolhouse and married at the age of eighteen. She and her husband lived on various farms for about ten years, then bought a house from a relative in the early 1940s. There were only about ten houses along Loving Road when Edna and her husband bought their property in the early 1940s. Edna described them as "little huts. Some had windows, you know, where the lights had broken out [and there wasn't] siding on them...just plain wood-framed houses." Most of these modest dwellings are no longer extant; families moved away or property owners died and the buildings were left to "rot to the ground." The newer ranch houses and trailers that currently exist along Loving Road were added after the road was paved sometime in the 1960s.

Edna recalls that the main commercial building in Sunnyside was a combined post office and store that also included a waiting room for the train. Lorena Hendricks managed both the post office and store for a number of years. The building was located on the same property as the farm Lorena owned with her husband, Virgil, at 296 Sunnyside-Gott Road. The store offered groceries, including bacon, canned goods, flour, cornmeal, sugar, lard, corn, and beans, as well as bolts of fabric for making clothes, ready made



A commemorative stone erected at the entrance to the church.

pants, underwear, socks, and a "little of everything." A gas pump was located just outside the store. After Virgil died, Lorena sold the store and moved to Bowling Green. Another Hendricks ran the store for a while, but it soon closed. The store was torn down in the 1970s.

During Edna's youth, as least three L&N trains went through Sunnyside on a daily basis, the Numbers 4, 5 and 6. The Number 5 could be taken to Bowling Green, with return service provided on the Number 6. Each morning, a mail sack would be placed on a hook adjacent to the railroad tracks and the train could pick up the mail without stopping. Each evening, another mail sack would be tossed from the passing train. Lorena Hendricks would sort the mail and John Haynes, who was the postman for many years, delivered it.

Ruth Mae Ellison Whobry Simpson, who was raised by the Hendricks from the age of nine, took over running the post office after Lorena moved to Bowling Green. Ruth came to Sunnyside in the early 1930s, at which time she recalls that there were only about seven houses along Sunnyside-

continued next page

Gott Road, including the Hendricks' farm. Virgil Hendricks raised tobacco and also owned a threshing machine, which he took with a work crew to different farms to thresh wheat and barley during harvest time. Ruth recalls that Sunnyside's white families attended church at the Mizpah Church on Mizpah Road. White children attended the public school at Bristow on Louisville Road. After Lorena Hendricks retired, Ruth operated the post office from her house instead of Lorena's old store. Ruth served as postmistress for only 9 years; mail service in Sunnyside ceased when a large postal distribution facility was constructed in Bowling Green.

One of the most important structures in the heart of Sunnyside's



This is the second church erected on this property. This cinder block building was constructed in 1948.

African American community is the Loving Union CME Church. It is located on the east side of Loving Road, just north of 1295 Loving Road. On historic maps, this church is identified simply as Union Church. An associated cemetery includes tombstones that date to the early 1870s, suggesting that the congregation and surrounding community were established during the Reconstruction period, if not earlier. If so, this church ranks among the oldest of the churches affiliated with the Christian Methodist Episcopal (CME) denomination, which was formally

organized in December 1870. At that time, a group of approximately 40 African American Methodists and members of the Capers Memorial CME Church in Nashville met in Jackson, Tennessee. Their purpose was to break away from the white-controlled Methodist Episcopal Church, South and create an independent denomination that was more reflective of issues important to the black community. The original name for the convention was the Colored Methodist Episcopal church, a moniker that was not changed until 1954. Two preachers, William Henry Miles of Kentucky and Richard H. Vanderhorst of Georgia, were elected to serve as the denomination's first bishops.

Compared to other African American denominations, especially the African Methodist Episcopal (AME) and African Methodist Episcopal Zion (AMEZ), the CME convention was somewhat conservative. Segregated Methodist churches from the antebellum period were somewhat conservative. Segregated

Methodist churches from the antebellum period comprised most of its initial members. White conservatives within the Methodist Episcopal church, South had encouraged their black brethren not to join the AME or AMEZ movements, but rather to establish a separate denomination. According to scholars, their strategy served several purposes: it separated the races during a period of increasing racial prejudice; it ended white responsibility for financial support of black Methodists' activities; and it maintained informal ties with former slaves in a relationship designed

to assure their continued social subservience to the white-controlled denomination. In 1870, the Methodist Episcopal Church, South turned over to the CME all titles to "colored church property," making the separation of white and black Methodists official while still maintaining a sense of cordiality between the two groups.

Although many northern African American church leaders derided the CME denomination as the "old slave church," the organization served the needs of its Southern constituents quite well. Most of the CME's first leaders were themselves former slaves, with whom CME members could identify more readily than with the educated, more prosperous leaders of northern churches. The CME churches eschewed the more overt political and social activity needs of members. CME congregations grew rapidly, claiming 78,000 members by 1880, and 103,000 by 1890. The vast majority of these members resided in Tennessee, Alabama, Georgia, and Mississippi, with a comparatively much smaller number in Kentucky. By the 1920's, however, as the Great Migration took an unprecedented number of African Americans to northern states, the CME denomination began increasingly politically by providing meetings sites and voter registration centers and supporting activist ministers. This was the same period that the CME convention changed its name to the Christian Methodist Episcopal church.

Presently, the CME church has more than 3,000 congregations with over 800,000 members in the United States, the Caribbean, and Africa. The convention operates missions and relief agencies in Ghana, Nigeria, and Liberia. In the United States, the CME denomination supports scholastic endeavors, particularly the operation of four colleges, Lane College (Jackson, TN), Paine College (Augusta, GA), Texas College (Tyler, TX), and Miles College (Birmingham, AL).

The land for the Loving Union CME Church and cemetery reportedly was

given to Sunnyside's African American residents by the Cole family, who lived on nearby Mizpah Road. They also donated a pulpit, benches, three chairs, a set of oil lamps, and a communion table that had been used at a white-owned church on Mizpah Road. The extant church replaced an earlier frame building that was in roughly the same location, although it was oriented on a north/south axis. This church building dated to at least 1927, when Edna Davidson arrived in Sunnyside, but the exact date of construction is unknown. Documentary information concerning the early history of the church is scanty, as most of the church records were destroyed in a fire at the residence of Tom and Clara Sharp. Mrs. Davidson speculated that the frame church had been in place for many years by the time she moved to Sunnyside, "I don't know exactly how long it was, but all I know, the Coles that gave them their land to build a church was old people, so it must have been there a lot of years before I come down here."

The current church building was erected in 1948, during the tenure of Reverend J. J. Mann. He reportedly brought in a contractor, who was paid by the CME convention, to oversee the church's construction. A dedication stone that stands next to the church's front door bears the following inscription: "Loving /Union /CME Church /Rebuilt 1948 / By/ Rev. J. J. Mann/ Pastor/ Trustees/ Tom Sharp/ J. Davidson/ N. Oldham/ Clara Shobe/ Myrtle White/ B. Martin/ M. Haynes". The church itself is an unpretentious concrete clock building with a corner tower and tall, rectangular windows. A wing on the south side houses a dining room and kitchen, which were added by the congregation after the sanctuary was constructed.

Many local families were church members for several generations, including the families of Tom Sharp, Grundy Hibbitt, Tom Hayes, Luther Hayes, John Hayes, Ed Shobe, and Ellis Patterson. The CME convention typically rotates pastors to different

congregations on a regular basis. Other ministers Edna Davidson recalls serving at the church included Reverends Crenshaw, Johnson, Brown, and Dinwiddie. At seven years,

Reverend Dinwiddie's term was the longest that Edna recalls. Presently, Greg Bonner, who lives in Lexington, is the pastor for the church. During the early to mid-twentieth

century, the congregation was comprised of virtually all the African American families who lived along Loving and Glasgow roads. The privately owned Porter Lane often was used by church members who lived on Glasgow Road as a shortcut to reach the church. Presently, the congregation consists of around thirty members who attend on a regular basis. Many drive from Bowling Green each week to go to services.

Churches historically have been the center of rural African American communities, a tendency that is evident in the histories of the Stony Point and Freeport settlements. The same is true for the Sunnyside community. In the early twentieth century, a one-room schoolhouse for Sunnyside's African American children was located on the same grounds as the Loving Union CME Church on Loving Road. It is not known when this school was established. The school offered first through eighth grades, which represented the full extent of public education available to most of Sunnyside's children during the early to mid-twentieth century. No high schools for African American children existed in Warren County, and no busses ran to the racially segregated high schools in Bowling Green. If a child had no family friends or relatives to stay with in Bowling Green during the school year, they were unable to continue their schooling. According to Edna Davidson, after the Freeport



In some parts of the cemetery only stones mark the graves of the deceased.

school was constructed in 1937, Sunnyside students started attending school there. Kenneth Fant, an African American resident of Freeport, drove the school bus for the children. The Sunnyside school was torn down in 1948, when the current church was constructed.

Other activities that have taken place on a regular basis at the church over the years have included weddings, funerals, Bible meetings, and Christmas programs. One of the most important events has been a homecoming that has taken place annually for decades. Traditionally held in August (but now taking place on the fourth Sunday in May), the homecoming also has functioned as a de facto family reunion for many families, with multiple generations attending from as far away as Michigan, Tennessee, Indiana, and Ohio. According to Edna, during the homecoming, the "church is full and people are standing outside for the service. Sometimes a Greyhound bus brings in a load of people from out of town. The dining room and the chapel are full." After services, everyone sits down to enjoy a potluck dinner wherever space is available to spread out a blanket. Although the size of the church congregation has diminished over the years, the Loving Union CME Church clearly retains a significant place in the life of the Sunnyside community.

Historic Sites are Crowd Pleasers

A new study from the Travel Industry Association of America (TIA) and Smithsonian Magazine shows continued and growing interest in travelers' desire to experience cultural, arts, historic, and heritage activities. Study results show that a remarkable 81 percent of U.S. adults who traveled in the past year, or 118 million, are considered historic/cultural travelers. These travelers included historical or cultural activities on almost 217 million person-trips last year, up 13 percent from 192 million in 1996. (a person-trip is one person on one trip traveling 50 miles or more from home, one way.)

"The sheer volume of travelers interested in arts and history, as well as their spending habits, their travel patterns, and demographics leaves no doubt that history and culture continue to be a significant and growing part of the U.S. travel experience. This is a market to which the travel industry needs to pay close attention in the future," said William S. Norman, president of TIA.

These travelers also spend more money on historic/cultural trips compared to the average U.S. trip (average \$623 vs. \$457, excluding cost of transportation), making historic/cultural travelers a lucrative market for destinations and attractions. In fact, for 30 percent of historic/cultural travelers, their destination choice was influenced by a specific historic or cultural event or activity.

"This survey confirms that travel is one of the most satisfying ways to fulfill cultural yearnings," said Amy Wilkins, Publisher, Smithsonian Magazine. "We know that our readers are hungry for new experiences and rely on our magazine to be inspired."

Compared to the average trip in the U.S., historic/cultural trips are more likely to be seven nights or longer and include air travel, a rental car, and a hotel stay. Historic/cultural travelers are also more likely to extend their stay to experience history and culture at their destination. In fact, four in ten added extra time to their trip specifically because of a historic/

cultural activity.

Travelers within the U.S. are able to choose from a tremendously diverse number of historic and cultural activities, an important note as historic/cultural travelers want to enrich their lives with new travel experiences. Most agree that trips where they can learn something new are more memorable to them. Over half say that they have hobbies and interests that have an influence on where they choose to travel.

Many historic/cultural travelers agree that trips that include cultural, arts, historic, or heritage activities or events are more enjoyable to them (39%) and that they prefer to visit destinations that have some historical significance (38%). Three in ten (29%) agree that it is important that the trips they take for vacation or leisure provide cultural experiences. A select group feels that a leisure or vacation trip away from home is not complete without visiting a museum, historic site or landmark (26%), or attending a cultural event or arts performance (17%).

News from the Historic Preservation Board

by Robin Ziegler

Recently, the Bowling Green-Warren County Historic Preservation Board (HPB) finalized their goals for the year 2004. In addition to stewarding the City-County Preservation Ordinance, the HPB will be working on four main projects: a cemetery survey, updating the

Design Guidelines for properties with Historic Designation, continuing the process of creating a new Local Historic District and promoting the annual *Me & My Old House* educational series.

The Bowling Green-Warren County Historic Resources Inventory began in 1978. The project was part of an ongoing survey of historic sites in Kentucky which serves as a permanent written and photographic record of all known historic buildings, structures and sites in the state. The HPB's goal for 2004 is to update this project by documenting and surveying all cemeteries in the city and county. Because there are no funds available, this project will rely heavily on volunteers. Presently, the HPB is looking for a volunteer to

conduct a literature research of works relating to local cemeteries. In the Fall of 2004, the HPB will begin the process of recruiting and training volunteers to document cemeteries county wide. If you are interested in being a part of this project, please contact Robin Zeigler at 842-1953.

Another project the HPB will focus on in 2004 is making the *Design Guidelines* for properties with Local Historic Designation more user-friendly. Lauren Cohen, a student at Western Kentucky University, has taken photographs that will be included in the *Design Guidelines* to help illustrate many of the "rules." At this time, out of date information will be corrected but there will be no changes made to the regulations themselves. The HPB will hold a public hearing to unveil the changes and obtain public feedback.

Over the past few months, the HPB has been working towards designation of a new Local Historic District in the College Hill Neighborhood. There have been three

public meetings to discuss what designation means and to hear from property owners. So far, the support has been almost unanimous. In January or February, the HPB will decide on the boundaries of the district and submit an application for Local Historic Designation to the Planning Commission. If the Planning Commission approves the application it will then receive two hearings with the City Commissioners.

Last year the HPB began an educational series called "Me & My Old House" that included lectures in the winter months and hands-on workshops in the summer. Because of the success of the program, the HPB will continue the series in January. The schedule of sessions will be given in the HPB's monthly emailed newsletter. If you would like to receive this newsletter, please email

zeigr91@bgky.org. You will also be able to find information and a registration form at www.bgwc-commed.org.

The Walker-Lazarus House

Dr. Gary and Dianne Howerton hosted Landmark's annual picnic at the Walker-Lazarus house at 2011 Nashville Road on September 19th. The following is a brief history of the house and its occupants.

Samuel A. (1847-1921) and Elizabeth V. (Smith) Walker (1845-1913) built this house in 1895. He worked for a number of years as an agent for the American Express Company in Denver, Colorado, before returning to Bowling Green, the city of his birth. He was considered one of Bowling Green's leading businessmen, serving as a director of the Bowling Green Trust Company from its incorporation in 1911 until his death. He also served as a deacon at the Presbyterian Church. When Elizabeth died in 1913, her husband had the Main Street limestone arch at Fountain Square Park erected. Samuel suffered a stroke when walking downtown one day. He and his wife are buried in Fairview Cemetery.

Those who have thoroughly examined the house believe that the parlor to the east was probably an addition. This conclusion is based on the difference in foundation material

and the extremely unusual angle created at the juxtaposition of the two walls. The current kitchen wing was added by the Howertons, but an area adjacent to it (now the office area) was obviously a kitchen at one time. The house features masonry construction throughout, limestone sills and lintels, oversized windows on the front facade with lovely stained wood surrounds. Another unusual exterior feature is a large protruding bay with rounded corners on the west side. This protruding bay is reminiscent of architect Creedmore Fleenor's work, including some of the corners of the old First Baptist Church and Henry Hardin Cherry's College Street home (now razed). Fleenor was certainly designing buildings at the time Mr. Walker constructed his home. The porte cochere is original to the house. Exciting interior features include paneled pocket doors, the stained glass transoms with jewel glass insets, a tin ceiling in the dining room and a pair of the most unusual newel posts to be found in southcentral Kentucky.

A Mr. M.A. Mayes owned the house briefly in 1903 before selling it to Pat L. (1872-1954) and Louise

Patterson (1887-1933), who lived here until 1908. They eventually sold the house to Joseph L. (1869-1939) and Louelle McElwain (1872-1959) in 1916. Mr. McElwain, originally from Rockfield, owned the home until 1927, but he moved to Tampa in 1923 to participate in real estate transactions. From 1926 to 1928 Charles and Browning Walton stayed here when he came to Bowling Green on tobacco buying trips. They brought with them their pre-school daughter, Barbara. She married Charles Stewart, and we know her today as the inimitable Barbara Stewart. The McElwains sold the house to Rhea G. (1879-1960) and Katherine (Cox) Price (1881-1969) in 1927. Mr. Price was a highway contractor from Auburn, Kentucky. He paved many of Bowling Green's streets in the 1920s and for several years was superintendent and vice-president of the Kentucky Rock Asphalt Company. He later owned the Price Building (currently occupied by United Furniture at 1008 State Street) and the Cooke Building that once stood between the courthouse and the Presbyterian Church on Tenth Street. Mr. The Prices owned the home until 1935.

The house eventually became the property of Harry R. Lazarus, Jr. (1899-1962) and Christine (Price) Lazarus (1903-1981), in the mid-1930s. Harry, a native of Horse Cave, was a tall, lanky man who enjoyed hunting and baseball. He matriculated at Ogden College and eventually obtained his bachelor's degree from Yale University, where he played on the varsity baseball team. Upon his return to Bowling Green, Harry played semi-pro baseball and eventually farmed and ran a beer distributorship. His father, Harry, Sr., had been one of Warren County's most capable farmers, raising forage and grain crops, hogs, and some of the most prized mules in the United States. In 1962 a portion of the Lazarus farm on Scottsville Road sold



Barbara Stewart discusses her early years at the Walker-Lazarus house with daughter Susan looking on. Photo by Doris Tichenor.

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

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