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Landmark Report (Vol. 22, no. 2)

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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 (2nd Floor) ....................... 427 Park Row
BBT Bank (2nd 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
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 PO. 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.


- 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 Corraco 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 Bamboy, 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 in 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 1899 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.

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 McLloskey of Louisville. At least one grave apparently predates the cemetery’s founding. The stone for C.T. and Mary Hylton 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 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 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' sense of design. We judge them only on their appearance. 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 performers, jazz, and Dixie Highway to come to Bowling Green to historic homes.

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 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.

A future with a past

The community 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.

LANDMARK ASSOCIATION
Bowling Green-Warren County

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 containing history. As the community grew, the 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 grew up 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 twenty houses along Loving Road when Edna and her husband bought their property in the early 1940s. Edna described them as “little.” Some had windows that had rots in the 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 tore down the buildings when the road was paved to “not 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 recalled that the main commercial building in Sunnyside was a converted 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, salt, corn, and beans, as well as bolts of fabric for making clothes, ready made 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 U&S trains went through Sunnyside on a daily basis, the Numbers 4, 5, and 6. The Number 5 could be seen at Bowling Green, with train service provided on the Number 6. Each morning, a mail sack would be place 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. Lori Hendricks would sort the mail and John Haynes, who was the postman for many years, delivered it.

Ruth Mae Ellisor Whoby 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. Currently, the site is a parcel of land owned by the city of Bowling Green and the school district. It was once the site of the Sunnyside Christian Church, located where the post office was located.

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by Eileen Starr

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The President Speaks

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The congregation and surrounding community were established during the antebellum period comprised of virtually all the African American families who lived along Loving and Glasgow roads. The private owner Porte 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 Sunday to services.

Churches historically have been the center of rural African American communities, a tradition 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, the present location of 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 Sunnyside's children during the early to mid-twentieth century. No high school existed in Warren County, and no buses 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.

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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 (118 million) are considered historic-cultural travelers. These travelers included historical or cultural activities on almost 217 million million visits, or 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 in 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,” 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 year-end 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 fulfills cultural yearnings,” said Amy Williams, 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 nights to their trip specifically because of a historic cultural activity.

Travelers within the U.S. are able to choose from a tremendous diversity 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 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’s Preservation Ordinances, the HPB will be working on four main projects: a cemetery survey, updating the Design Guidelines for properties with Historic Designation and Historic District, making the process of creating a new Local Historic District and promoting the annual Mr. & 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 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 related to local cemeteries. In the Fall of 2003 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 Ziegler 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 Fleenor, a student at Western Kentucky University, has taken photographs that will be included in the Design Guidelines to help create 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 for the plan 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 Commissions.

Last year the HPB began an educational series called “Mr. & 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 newsletter. If you would like to receive this newsletter, please email sieglr1@bgky.org. You will also be able to find information and a registration form at www.bg-wcp.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 juncture 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, oversided 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 Credmore Floren’s work, including some of the corners of the Old First Baptist Church and Henry Hardin Cherry’s College Street home (now razed). Floren 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, pewter bowls to be found in southern Kentucky.

A Mr. M.A. Mozes owned the house briefly in 1903 before selling it to Pat L. (1872-1954) and Louise Patterson (1887-1973), 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. Frank Turner, a retailer, and his wife, 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. (1879-1962) and Katherine (Cox) Price (1881-1969) in 1927. Mr. Price was a highway contractor from Bowling Kentucky. He moved 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 1915.

The house eventually became the property of Harry R. Lazarus, Jr. (1899-1962) and Christine (Price) Lazarus (1903-1986). 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 milks in the United States. Harry took over the farm 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 Dan Tichenor.
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 -----------------

**Regular**                                                                 **Corporate**

[ ] Individual $15      [ ] Family $25                  [ ] Active $100      [ ] Patron $250

[ ] Supporting $50     [ ] Sustaining $100              [ ] Donor $500       [ ] 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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LANDMARK ASSOCIATION

PO. BOX 1812

BOWLING GREEN, KY 42102-1812

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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