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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 eavantast@baj.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.
The Landmark Association
Bowling Green–Warren County

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“Future with a past”

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 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 performers including the Dixie Highway to come to Bowling Green.

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In 2001 the Kentucky African American Heritage Commission awarded the City of Oakland, KY a grant to complete a study of the historical unincorporated community of Sunnyside in Warren County. Gregory Pope, Inc. of Cincinnati contracted with the City of Oakland to prepare the study with the Principal Investigator, Lena Sweton.

The report documents 53 significant, tangible resources. Bowling Green is a comprehensive view of historic resources. Bowling Green is a 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 resources are available covering the history.

As the community grew, it fanned out in an east/west direction along both Loving Road and Glasgow Road and ultimately merged into the white-owned section of the Sunnyside community.

Edna Annalene 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 on 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. Some had windows, some had a hut, some had windows. You know, where the lights had broken out. The post office was in the store. Lorena Hendricks managed both the post office and store for a number of years. 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. Some had windows, some had a hut, some had windows. You know, where the lights had broken out. The post office was in the store. Lorena Hendricks managed both the post office and store for a number of years. She and her husband lived on various farms for about ten years, then bought a house from a relative in the early 1940s.

Edna recalls that the main commercial building in Sunnyside was a converted post office and store. It also included a waiting room for the train. Lorenà Hendricks managed both the post office and store for a number of years. The building was located on the same property as the farm Lorenà 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.
Loving CME Church continued

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 Oversey during harvest time. Ruth recollects 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 organized in December 1870. At that time, a group of White-controlled African Methodist and members of the Capers Memorial CME Church in Nashville met in Jackson, Tennessee. Their purpose was to: (1) keep away from the White-controlled Methodist Episcopal Church, and South and create an independent church that was more reflective of issues important to the black community. The original name for the convention was the Colorless 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 Colored Church. In 1870, the Methodist Episcopal Church, South turned over to the CME church the "Colorless Church property," making the denomination of white and black Methodists official while still maintaining a sense of cordiality between the two races.

Although many northern African American church leaders detested 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 church eschewed the 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, Mississippi, and Georgia, with a comparatively much smaller number in Kentucky. By the 1920’s, however, as the Great Migration took place and evidence of African Americans to northern states, the CME denomination began increasingly to politically by providing meeting sites and voter registration centers, social activity needs of members. CME members were especially the African Americans who moved to northern states, the CME denomination grew rapidly, claiming by the CME convention, to oversee the church’s construction. A dedication stone that stands next to the church’s front entrance bears the inscription: “Loving Union CME Church (Rebuilt 1948) / By Rev. J. J. Mann / Pastor/Trustee / Tom Sharpe J. / Davidson/ N. Oldham/ Clara Shobe/ Myrtle White/ B. Martin/ M. Haynes.” The church itself is unpretentious, concrete block building with a eave 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 Sharpe, Grundy Hobbitt, Tom Haynes, Luther Johnson, John Haynes, Ed Shobe, and Ellis Patterson. The CME convention typically rotates pastors to different congregations on a regular basis.

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

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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, or 118 million, are considering historic/cultural travelers. These travelers included historical or cultural activities on almost 217 million person-trips, or 81 percent of the total travel experience. This is a market to which 50 million, are considered historic/cultural trips.

These travelers also spend more money on historic/cultural activities 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, this year’s travel 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 days to their trip specifically because of a historic

cultural activity.

Travelers within the U.S. are able to choose from a tremendous 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%).

A select group feels that a leisure or vacation trip away from home is not complete without some historical significance (38%). A select group feels that a leisure or vacation trip away from home is not complete without some historical influence (38%).

Last year the HPB began an

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 stabilizing 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 or Local Historic Designation, 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 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 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 date of 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 newsletter. If you would like to receive this newsletter, please email zeigl01@bgky.org. You will also be able to find information and a registration form at www.bg-wc-preservation.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 (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 on 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, lime-stone 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 Florren’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 windows with jewel glass insets, a tin ceiling in the dining room and a pair of the most unusual newel posts to be found in southern Kentucky.

A Mr. M.A. Moyes 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 McElwan (1872-1959) in 1916. Mr. McElwan, originally from Rockfield, owned the home until 1927, but he moved to Tampa in 1923 to participate in real estate transactions. From 1929-1936, Charles and Browning Walton stayed here when he came to Bowling Green on tobacco buying trips. They brought with them their pre-school daughter, Barbora. She married Charles Stewart, and we know her today as the inimitable Barbara Stewart. The McElwans sold the house to Rhea G. (1879-1950) 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 1935.

The house eventually became the property of Harry R. Lazarus, Jr. (1899-1962) and Christine (Price) Lazarus (1903-2000). 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, and hogs, and some of the most prized mules in the United States.

The Walkers lived in the home until deceased. Barbara Stewart discusses her early years at the Walker-Lazarus house with daughter Susan looking on. Photo by Dana Tishener.
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 ____________________________

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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

PO. BOX 1812

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