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Landmark Report (Vol. 22, no. 3)

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This Newsletter is brought to you for free and open access by TopSCHOLAR®. It has been accepted for inclusion in Landmark Report by an authorized administrator of TopSCHOLAR®. For more information, please contact topscholar@wku.edu.
The Landmark Association of Bowling Green-Warren County is a non-profit organization established in 1976 as a community advocate for preservation, protection, and maintenance of architectural, cultural, and archeological resources in Bowling Green and Warren County. maze of buildings whose rich past may not be fully known; and 3) you can have your name called upon once funding is secured. (2 yrs.), Robin Zeigler (3 yrs.), Sherrill Poe (2 yrs.), Dave Young (1 yr.), Jesse Verner (1 yr.).

- The HPB is undertaking a county-wide cemetery survey. Currently, the Board is in the research phase and waiting to find out if they will receive a grant that will pay for subsequent phases. You can be a part of this exciting and extensive project that will be of use to genealogists, historians, and planners. Here are ways you can help: 1) provide location information about small or unmarked cemeteries that may not have been identified, 2) your organization or church can volunteer to survey a cemetery and cover associated costs, which includes topography and a few inexpensive supplies; or 3) you can have your name listed as a potential survey volunteer and will be called upon once funding is secured. For more information contact Robin Zeigler at 270-842-1953 or zeigrl1@bgky.org.

- PBS’s “History Detectives” is back for a second season of investigating history’s mysteries and are looking for stories all over the USA. Their team of experts will set out to answer questions about artifacts recently discovered whose history is unclear; historic buildings whose rich past may not be fully known; and unmarked cemeteries that may not have been identified. Visit http://pbs.org/uhistory/histdetectives/ for story submissions.

- Historic Preservation Week takes place May 3-8, 2004. The National Trust created Preservation Week in 1971 to spotlight grassroots preservation efforts around the country. Each Preservation Week highlights a different aspect of historic preservation. This year’s theme is “New Frontiers in Preservation.” The Italianate house at 1252 State Street is currently for sale. The house was probably built in the late-1870s or early 1880s. Owner Walter York is willing to sell the house for $150,000. The house most recently has been used as student housing and has been split into nine apartments. Dorian Walker is looking for a group of investors to purchase and bring the house back into single-family housing. Would you be willing to invest $10,000, or do you know someone who would be interested in investing $10,000? Or, do you know someone who would be interested in purchasing the house themselves and restoring it? For more information about Dorian’s plan, please contact him at 793-9055.

We Shared In Its History: 1123 State Street

Mission activities in the Cumberland Presbyterian Church, serving as a editor of two publications and president of the Women’s Board of Missions from 1916-1926. Under her leadership the Colegio Americana was begun in Colombia and the building was named in her honor. In 1941, the body of Josephine Belle Goodrum, one of my grandmothers, and widow of Cumberland Presbyterian minister J. Wood Stone, was transported from City-County Hospital to her brother’s home for visitation and funeral. In their lives, Mrs. Clay and Mr. Goodrum approached my grandmother and her bachelor son about purchasing the house for rental property with the understanding that they could remain in Apartment 1 for the remainder of their lives. Financing the transaction themselves, Aunt Hattie and Aunt Jack sold the Goodrum Apartments to Nelle & Dan Stone on August 1, 1952. Soon they found themselves in the midst of a growing extended family. Before I have memories, the only other grandchild in the family would hardly live in Bowling Green; in 1959, Aunt Clay and Aunt Jack by “tolling dead” upstairs in #3 and making the parlor chandeliers back in #1. (You see, a small child reared on a concrete slab house will learn to do the things that does.) On one visit, the grandson witnessed the front upstairs window a parade and the ambulance carrying out a former resident from his residence across the street. Turning to his parents, he said: “I wish we lived in Bowling Green. Nothing ever happens in Louisville.” In November 1953, my father married Frankie Boudin, one of the occupants of Apartment 4, and I arrived at 1123 State Street in November 1959, newly birthed at City-County Hospital. By then, the house contained 5 apartments, #1 occupied by Aunt Hattie and Aunt Jack, #2 by my parents; #3 by my grandmother and her sister Cylce Cecil Brownfield, #4 by a bachelor working in Bowling Green, and #5 by Hattie Fowler, longtime tenant. The interior entrance was decorated for Christmas in the late 1960s. The front entrance was decorated for Christmas in the late 1960s.
Me and My Old House Schedule

Me and My Old House is an education series about the restoration, rehabilitation, preservation and maintenance of old buildings. It is a collaborative effort of the Bowling Green Warren County Historic Preservation Board, Bowling Green Warren County Community Education with the City of Bowling Green, Neighborhood University and The Home Builders Association. Classes counted towards continuing education credit for members of the Builder's Association.

3/9: Participant listings with the rehabilitation, preservation and Green Warren listing, Home Neighborhood University and The Me and My Builder's Register is important. She and learned caulking techniques of the Register Nominations, effort of the Old a property on the restoration, Historic Bowling.....,.,...------ 

3/15: Symphony of the Mountains will be performed by the Louisville Orchestra. The concert will take place in the Foreman Theater at the Warren County Community Center beginning at 8 p.m. The program will feature the works of Beethoven, Schubert and Dvorak.

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Tiny Item Has Interesting Past

by Jonathan Jeffrey

Connie Mills, the Kentucky Library coordinator at WKU, recently accessioned a new item into the Kentucky Library collection. The small ticket from the Bowling Green Expansion Campaign (pictured here) has an interesting history. Dating the piece took some investigation work. Librarians discovered that what city officials thought we had for the 1920s and 1930s to see when the Richeson Motor Company had a facility here. The earliest that the company was mentioned was 1927 and the latest 1934. Staff then combed through the Park City Daily News for the July 5 ending date of the Campaign. At that time we had no idea what the Expansion Campaign was, but we figured it had to be something. The ticket was being given away. Eventually we were able to locate information about the campaign's final date in 1932. Only one other ticket was found to document the event.

It appears that the campaign was coordinated by the Venard Service of St. Louis, a marketing company that downtown merchants had hired to drum up business in the community. Venard, president of the campaign, came to Bowling Green to initiate and close the campaign. He spent the last week in Bowling Green promoting the event and giving presentations "on salesmanship and stressing the latest methods being used throughout the country." Arrangements were coordinated by a local committee consisting of Sam Pushin (chairman), Olive Young, Zach A. Ness, Frank R. Moore and H.W. Sublett. The cooperation between the downtown merchants was exemplary. The local paper noted: "Seldom has such a spirit of cooperation and team work been shown by the merchants of the city as has been evidenced during the past five weeks when fifty-nine business firms banded together to work for more business in Bowling Green and to attract people to the city from surrounding territory." Campaign managers also issued a broadside "containing the advertisements of the specials used by the cooperating merchants." Unfortunately a copy of this broadside has never shown up at the Kentucky Building.

Store owners donated merchandise to be given away on July 1, 1932, and the Richeson Motor Company donated the Ford Sedan stool would be given away on July 5th. Tickets, such as the one shown, were given for each fifty cents that a person spent in one of the participating merchants. At 7:30 p.m. on July 1st, 56 items were given away at a large open-air meeting held in Fountain Square Park. A sales meeting for local store personnel held afterwards in the courthouse. The meeting was to discuss the campaign's success and of methods that could be used to promote the sale of more merchandise and concurrently the issuing of more tickets for the automobile drawing.

Store clerks were encouraged to sell "I am a Bowling Green Booster" buttons which allowed admission to the final drawing. The paper reported that both events on the 1st drew "large crowds."

Community Festival and Street Dance

On the Main Street side of the square, so that the entire square did not have to be blocked off, store clerks worked at a feverish pace, as hundreds of additional shoppers purchased items on Tuesday. The paper reported "business was unusually brisk throughout the day." The bonzont was set up on the Main Street side of the square, to swell the crowds and play for a later dance which was advertised to last "all evening." The bonzont was set up on the Main Street side of the square, to swell the crowds and play for a later dance which was advertised to last "all evening." The bonzont was set up on the Main Street side of the square, to swell the crowds and play for a later dance which was advertised to last "all evening."
Landmark to Publish Bicentennial Bits

During Bowling Green and Warren County's Bicentennial (1997-98), Nancy Baird and Carol Crowe-Carraco produced approximately 100 short articles about the history of our county that were published in the local paper. The duo has added several new vignettes to the previously published collection and has given Landmark permission to compile these in book form. Each article will be accompanied by an illustration. The completed book should number around 130 pages with and introduction and index. Below is an example of one of the articles.

RELIGIOUS FERVOR

Revivals have always been important in the lives of Warren countians. The letters of a woman living on the northern edge of town provide interesting comments about the effects of mid-nineteenth century revivals on the community.

"You remember me writing you about the Baptist meeting that has been going on here for nearly four weeks, under the special preaching of a Mr. Groves of Nashville. If he had left a week or ten days ago it would have been better for the community and the cause of religion. He has set the whole place in an uproar, by attacking Methodists, Presbyterians, Episcopalians, etc. etc. asserting that the Baptist church is the only road to heaven. Twenty-six persons, five of them ladies, have been immersed in the Big Barren—an emblematic Jordan."

"The Methodist meeting is still in progress. It has been going on for two week and about 80 conversions have taken place, many of them the gay pleasure seekers of the Town, both Ladies and Gentleman. The old Green River Hotel has been painted throughout and fitted up with new furniture. The proprietor Captn. Warriner, had tickets prepared for the purpose of opening with a ball, but the religious temperament now prevailing through the community put a stop to his proceedings. All the dancers have become professors and church members."

Burgess Funeral Home: A Brief History

Four years ago, Western Kentucky University's Kentucky Library accepted the records of the Burgess Funeral Home (Manuscripts Collection 139). The records cover the period from 1930 to 1969. The funeral home actually began operation in Bowling Green in 1924. Mr. Burgess's obituary (Daily News 10/16/1969) stated that he "moved to Bowling Green in 1921 and founded the Burgess Funeral Home." Further investigation indicates that Burgess was actually here in 1920; the census for that year shows him residing with William O. (68 yrs.) and Helen (53 yrs.) Rodes at 318 Tenth Street. The census also reveals that he was a native of Indiana as were both of his parents. At 37 years of age, Burgess is listed as a widow and curiously as "manager for an oil pipe line." The 1922 city directory lists Burgess as "manager for an oil pipe line." The 1922 city directory lists Burgess as general manager for the Oakline Pipe Line Company. Bowling Green's oil boom attracted a large number of such individuals to the community from 1919 through 1924.

The information we have about Mr. Burgess is sketchy. He was born near Bluffton in Wells County, Indiana, the son of Richard and Deborah (Stout) Burgess. A small article about the opening of the Burgess and Walker Funeral Parlor in September 1924 noted that Burgess had been a mortician for the last 25 years having worked as such in "Owensboro and elsewhere." He married Margaret Alexander of Smiths Grove on June 25, 1936. The service was witnessed by his son and daughter-in-law, Valjean H. and Leva Burgess, and Jack and George Alexander. Mr. Burgess was a member of Bowling Green's Masonic Lodge No. 73 and the
I was reared on stories of our house, then educated by the University to look at it with a historian’s eye, and now try to recount a blended story of fact and tradition. During my college years, Irene Moss Sumpter included the Adams-Goodrum residence in her Bowling Green landmarks book. Its publication probably was the catalyst for my interview with my grandmother, Nelle Jane Shanks Stone, concerning her earliest memories of being in the house (notes of which I found years later when I had completely forgotten the conversation, but not its contents). As a young graduate with a bachelor’s degree in history, I met with Dick Pfefferkorn to discuss career opportunities and, to my surprise, found a photograph of my front door adorned his office wall. Much of who I am comes from the 20+ years I spent at 1123 State Street; even my name “Sue Lynn” first belonged to an earlier resident of apartment 2.

The year 1844 is always told as its building date. In walking its interior and exterior with an eye for renovations, I have come to appreciate through the years the house as physical evidence of how a downtown residence survived and was renovated to meet the changing needs of its residents. It was originally built as a Greek Revival townhouse constructed using a Flemish-bond brick pattern. As several interior walls are three-bricks thick, I suspect the original house consisted of two rooms over two rooms and later was expanded to four rooms over four. When the three southern rooms separated by a concrete goldfish pond were added, a former exterior window became a mirrored shelf in the front parlor. Grandmother remembers visiting Aunt Alice before the exterior door facing the south was modified into a window in the Sun Room. She also recalled a servant’s staircase behind the second room (which would become the elevated toilet which graced the rock hewn basement). The framed enclosed back porches, both upstairs and downstairs, appear to be later modifications. Its last addition, probably in the late 1930s was a kitchen for apartment 2 on the northwest corner of the house.

My father, Dan Ray Stone, recounts that it was his great grandmother’s sister Alice Goodrum’s independence which first brought the house into our family. As a spinster with failing eyesight, Alice overheard her brothers planning to share their homes with her in sequential two year periods. Unwilling to be a permanently revolving guest, she acquired a bank loan to purchase 1123 State Street as a “overnight guest house.” When downtown hotels would fill, hotel clerks would refer travelers to her home. Dying of typhoid fever at her residence in 1924, The Park City Daily News described Alice Goodrum as “one of the best beloved women in Bowling Green.”

Alice’s brother J. Willis Goodrum, his wife, Hattie Massey Goodrum, and her sister Johnnie Massey Clay next occupied the house. Mrs. Clay and Mrs. Goodrum later remodeled the private residence into apartments. Frugal women, they closed the former doorway into apartment 2 by using a gilded continued on page 3
Burgess Funeral Home: A Brief History (cont'd)

Scottish Rite Rizpoh Temple in Madisonville and Royal Arch Chapter no. 38. When he died on October 16, 1969 and was interred in the Stahl Cemetery in Bluffton, Indiana. We do not know a great deal more about the funeral home that Burgess conducted. The Burgess and Walker Funeral Home opened on September 6, 1924 in a building at the corner of Main Street and Center Streets that housed the post office prior to its move to its new building across the street (today known as the William H. Natcher Federal Courthouse). R.E. Walker was said to have had “long experience in undertaking work and rated as an excellent businessman.”

The local paper said the new establishment was “among the handsomest to be found in the entire state and the equipment is excelled by none. It consists of invalid car, hearse, [and] autos, etc. of the most modern design.” In 1925 Burgess’s firm was credited to Mr. Burgess had a number of partners throughout the years and his operation moved a number of times. Mr. Walker was not with the firm long, as the 1927 city directory noted that the new location had “a reception room, office, two bedrooms, a large hall, hall, store, family, plumber, music, show and dry goods room, and a morgue.” By this time the firm was styled as Burgess, Ellis, and Kelly; no information could be located on Mr. Ellis. Another address changed occurred in 1937 when the firm was located at 534 East Main.

Within the next decade the business moved to its final location at 512 East 12th Street, which was located behind the present-day telephone company. The business used the south facade of a former business’s records will show a disproportionate number of burials in that section of the county. Loyalty is an important rural attribute. The 1927 city directory shows that Burgess & Ellis offered “ambulance service” as did most funeral homes of the era.

In January 1930, the firm moved to 826 State Street in the old Mrs. A.H. Taylor building, where they were able to “secure larger and more up-to-date quarters.” A small article noted that the new location had “a reception room, office, two bedrooms, a large hall, hall, store, family, plumber, music, show and dry goods room, and a morgue.” By this time the firm was styled as Burgess, Ellis, and Kelly; no information could be located on Mr. Ellis. Another address changed occurred in 1937 when the firm was located at 534 East Main.

Within the next decade the business moved to its final location at 512 East 12th Street, which was located behind the present-day telephone company. The business used the south facade of a former residence for Hiram Smith in the mid-nineteenth century. Several illustrious Bowling Green families had lived at this address including: the Albert Mitchells, the Tandy Gossoms, and the A.T. McKee family. Eventually, the building became the home of the Bowling Green Masonic Lodge, and if you look carefully at the top left-hand corner of the roof line you can see the familiar Masonic symbol. The attached ellipse was the symbol for the Order of the Eastern Star painted to the right of the second floor windows.

After Burgess occupied the building, many Bowling Greeners remember the two concrete urns that stood at the entrance. The firm’s address did not change for the next 15 years, but Mr. Burgess’s partners did. In the mid-1930s Burgess was associated with John T. Jordan; his longest partnership began in 1958 with Otis C. Moody, who had operated a grocery. Other important employees at the firm included J. Rowe Cessna and J. Ralph Conner. The partnership evolved again in 1968 when Roy B. Gravill is listed as president of the firm, Patrick H. Thomas as vice-president, and Nadaon N. Gravill as Secretary Treasurer. Michael R. Porter was added to the firm’s masthead in 1969. The Burgess Funeral Home ceased operation in 1969.

Over the years the advertising for the Burgess operation in the city directories listed a number of the firm’s amenities, including: 24-hour service, lady attendant, air conditioned and oxygen equipped ambulance service, friendly courteous service, personal direction, and dignified and thoughtful service.

HPB Welcomes New Board Member

By profession, Doug Ault is a Civil Engineer and has been employed as the Director of Facilities Management at WKU since June 2000. With more than twenty-five years of engineering experience at various universities and military bases throughout the world, he has managed services organizations, project and multimillion dollar budgets, including several historic renovations at Penn State University and Georgia State University. At Georgia State he also taught a course on technology and history for three years. With degrees in both history (US Naval Academy and engineering (University of Michigan), he has the ability to understand and communicate both the aesthetic and technical aspects of historic preservation. He has also been heavily involved in Master Planning activities at several institutions and has taken a lead role in development of exterior design standards for WKU.

With a lifelong love of military and cultural history, Doug now considers Bowling Green home and is very interested in studying history of this area. He and his wife, Pat, live on a property which incorporates a 19th century log cabin and a cemetery which Doug has spent the past three years researching and restoring. Doug joins the HPB bringing a deep respect for history and historic preservation, a broad understanding of the engineering aspects of such endeavors and a personal passion for safeguarding our local and regional historic treasures.

Monumental Workshop

WASCO and the Historic Preservation Board are pleased to offer two ways to learn about masonry repair as a part of the "Me and My Old House Educational Series." WASCO Inc. will provide both a free lecture on Thursday, March 25th, 6:30 p.m. at the Historic Bowling Green Depot and a hands-on workshop on Saturday, March 27th, location to be announced. Both events will cover information such as mortar types and their appropriate uses, precasting, preparation, color matching and installation of patches. The lecture will be of particular interest to building owners who simply want to know the right questions to ask of a contractor or mason. Shawn Gallant of WASCO Inc. points out that masonry buildings have lasted a hundred years or more but that the incorrect repair could cause quick deterioration of the building. "The right technique and the right hand can make a difference. Shawn Gallant, "will mean that your building can last another 100 years with minimal maintenance." This lecture is free and open to the public.

The hands-on full-day workshop will be valuable to anyone interested in seeing the basics of how a repair is accomplished. The setting for the workshop will be a Warren County cemetery where participants will actually repair a portion of a dry-stack stone wall and several monuments. No only will participants learn useful skills, but their work will also be an initial step at repairing a valuable Warren County historic site. WASCO Inc., is a masonry contractor with a division that specializes in restoration. They not only have the necessary skills and knowledge but they have an understanding of how to relay their expertise. At the heart of WASCO’s quality product is a premier training program. In addition to restoration work, WASCO has performed masonry work on new buildings such as Diddle Arena and applied the brick, precast and manufactured stone on the Warren County Justice Center.
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 -------------------------

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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

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March 2004