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Landmark Report (Vol. 24, no. 1)

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The Landmark Association invites you to its Annual Picnic
at the home of Carroll and Doris Tichenor

(near) Logansport, Kentucky  •  Sunday, September 19th  •  $5.00 per person

Tour begins at 4:00 p.m.
includes Historic Carson-Annis Home on Green River, Tichenor House,
the Salem School and Salem Baptist Church

Dinner at 5:00 p.m.
Landmark furnishes chicken, drinks and paper goods.
You bring summer salads, vegetable dishes and desserts.

For directions call the Landmark Office at 782-0037
Caravan will leave from Kentucky Building at 3:30 p.m.
Historic Preservation Board News

The Landmark Association applauds the HPB’s efforts in establishing the new College Hill Historic District. Although the process was not without controversy, the HPB, Landmark, and, most importantly, the members of the neighborhood stoutly presented the need and importance of the designation.

Once again the HPB has taken efforts to streamline the Certificate of Appropriateness (COA) application process, making it more user-friendly for property owners. The HPB cut the previously five-page application to only two pages. An additional page outlines the types of attachments needed, such as photographs and drawings, for different types of requests. Last year, the HPB split the application process into two types: minor and major. This allowed the HPB to remove the application fee and provide property owners immediate answers for minor COA applications. Major COA applications still require a fee and board review.

The HPB and WASCO are hosting a reponenting workshop on September 18 & 19, Saturday a.m. to 3 p.m. and Sunday 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. The workshop is an opportunity for people to learn how to make mortar repairs and for civic minded groups to help restore a significant local landmark. The workshop is free; however, you MUST register in advance. To register contact: Robin Zeigler at 842-1553 or rzeigler@wascogroup.org.

The Center for Historic Preservation of Middle Tennessee State University recently published Bowling Green as the site of a satellite workshop for their International Heritage Development Conference, June 3-8, 2005 in Nashville, Tennessee. The conference will focus on preservation, tourism, education and economic revitalization. The Bowling Green session will cover Smart Growth and Urban Revitalization. The conference sponsor is the Alliance of National Heritage Area, a coalition of 24 National Heritage Areas in the United States, as well as other non-profit and corporate members. For more information visit www.hcn2005.org.

Katherine Volk is the HPB’s new intern. She is an anthropology major at WKU with an emphasis on Cultural Resource Management and archaeology. Volk is interested in all facets of preservation and is working with the HPB to gain knowledge and experience in conserving archaeological foundations. Her chief task this summer is to survey the WKU Chapter 162 area for the Kentucky Heritage Council’s ongoing Historic Resources Survey.

The National Trust’s for-profit subsidiary, the National Trust Community Investment Corporation has entered into a partnership with Tax Credit Capital, LLC of New Orleans to form the National Trust SDF. The SDF invests in very small historic tax credit projects generating as little as $200,000 in federal tax credit equity (equivalent total development costs of $1.2 million) in all 50 states. All types of properties, including hotels, offices, restaurants, entertainment uses, cultural and non-profit facilities, retail and mixed-use projects are eligible. Deadline 12/31/2004. For more information visit www.ntcicfund.com or contact the Trust’s Joseph Pettiford at joseph.pettiford@ntph.org or 202-588-6459.

Pardon a brief personal introduction to this story. Since coming to Bowling Green fifteen years ago, I’ve grown rather attached to certain buildings, landscapes and structures. I love Fountain Square Park, the red-white-blue water tower, the College Street bridge, Riverview at Hobson Grove, and the grand overlook at Van Meter Auditorium. I never limited my devotion just to city landmarks; I enjoy the old Richardsonville Bridge, the meeting of the Gasper and Barren Rivers, the ethereal bridge over the Notcher Parkway at Price’s Chapel Road, the knobs near Rockfield, the music the Gasper River makes over the rocks, the beautiful rural churches in Smiths Grove and Oakland and who can leave out the Burton Memorial Baptist Church. Another church building that claimed my heart was the Green River Union Meeting House, the bell tower over the Carpenter’s Grove, the spectacular bridge over the river, the Gasper and Barren Rivers. I also love the old gal who had lived in the building of its flooring, had broken out the window lights, and taken anything else that they could. Abandoned buildings are vulnerable. I was also aware that there had been some legal wrangles over whether the building should remain standing or not. I noticed three years ago that one corner of the building had fallen off of its pier, something akin to a human breaking a hip. If this problem went uncorrected, I knew the old gal would probably fall on her own internal injuries within a decade. Then one wet day in March I called: “She’s gone.” In late July I happened to be out at Jackson’s Orchard, so I decided to see how the hill looked without the grand old dame. For some strange reason as I neared Richardsonville and even as I rounded the church’s hill, I felt like the church would still be there. It was something I had always taken for granted; she will still be there. I reminded me of a similar sensation I experienced after my mother’s death. Even as long as six months after her demise I would find myself picking up the phone and dialing her number, thinking I wanted to tell her something or ask a question. Clumsily, I was sure the Green River Union Meeting House would still be there. I would be able to photograph her one more time. Instead what I found was a pile of churned up red loam where she once sat, a few old bottles, nails, pieces of ancient poplar wood, and some limestone shards were the only vestiges of her passing. She was really gone! One of the few buildings in Warren County that probably had some national significance had been razed.

A group of French Husquenots who settled in the Richardsonville area began meeting at the home of James and Rhodoh Hudnall shortly after they arrived here from Buckingham County, Virginia, in 1814. Soon thereafter the church erected a log meeting house. This building is said to have been largely constructed by Jimmy Young, who notched every log forming the structure’s corners. The church’s early families included the Chastains, Taylors, Youngs, Runners, Penns, Millers, Whittles, and of course, the Hudnalls. These surnames are still quite common in the Richardsonville area. Hudnall not only allowed his house to be used for services, but was undoubtedly the first preacher or lay leader. The church is referred to as a union church, because several denominations shared use of the facility. Using circuit preachers from the area, the church might alternately hear Methodists, Baptist or Presbyterian sermons in a given month.

The exact date that the church was moved to the hilltop location is not easily determined. We do know that a church building already sat on the hilltop in 1835 when Joseph and Peggy
Herral deeded two acres to the church's trustees: Matthew Young, John Young, Elijah Upton, Allen Taylor and Peter Penner. The deed reads that the two acres surrounded "a Meeting House on the Waters of Green River." The land surrounding the church was already being used as a burying ground by that time. The first known grave in the cemetery is for Mary Miller Honaker who died in 1830. A marker indicates that her body was brought from Butler County across the Green River in mid-May, blown away by a gale because the river was frozen. This is not definitive evidence, but it seems to indicate that the church was already there at that time. Eventually this building proved inadequate for the growing congregation.

The year for the new building's construction is believed to be 1845. At this time the Baptists formed the church's trustees: Matthew Young, Honaker who died in 1845. At this time the Baptists formed the church’s trustees: Matthew Young, Peter Penner. The first known building was called "Herral House on the Waters of Green River."

The building was heated by wood burning stoves that were still being used in the early-1960s. These stoves, located on either side of the pulpit, had fan-shaped hearths and upper doors. Beside each stove was a chair that was used by the person tending the fire. The smoke pipes ran all the way from the pulpit to the front doors where they entered the brick chimneys. This may have appeared awkward, but it allowed for the heat to travel the room's entire length. Originally members lit the building with oil lamps. Many of the church's early records were destroyed by a conflagration that destroyed the home of W.J. Richards. However, one account book for the church is found in the Nora Young Ferguson collection at the Kentucky Library & Museum. The book dates from 1879 to 1894, and the majority of it is filled with membership records. Interests of members are often written by names such as: "Died in faith," "Lost sight of," "Left without letter," "Withdrawn," "Expelled," "Joined the Confederate armies," "Left this world," "Called to the Lord's side," and "Died in the church,"

The number of comments related to church discipline indicate that the local congregation was concerned about the observance of the church and much more needs to be accomplished. It has been the lot of many to get so much done. I was out there Sunday and the grass needs to be mowed and so much of the window lights have been broken. It is so disappointing when so much effort has been put into a project like that and then to see that some one desires to destroy it. I'm sure the guilty ones have never lived out there and loved the place like all of us have been privileged to do. An effort was put to raze the building in November 1977, when local citizens filled a suit to prevent it. Still the building sat idle. In 2004 it was finally determined that the building was a safety hazard and had to be razed. Some of the limestone from the foundation was saved to be potentially used in a marker that would honor this important Warren County landmark. I'll still go to the top of the ridge near Richardsville where the Green River Union Meeting House once stood to admire the view of the undulating Kentucky countryside, but it will never be the same.

**Future Predicted for 1932**

This interesting clipping under the title, "Bowling Green 30 Years Hence," comes from an undated article in the Park City Daily News found in a scrapbook compiled by Lula Gaines Hardman in 1902. Since no extant newspapers from this year, scrapbooks like this one are invaluable in piecing together part of Bowling Green's past. The article is a fanatical piece written by a Daily News reporter who was probably paid for replacing windows and some siding, painting, and in re-roofing the building, but nothing is mentioned of the permits, continued to take their toll. Despite its deterioration, it's reputation continued to widen. In 1964 a historical marker was placed in Bowling Green near the intersection of Highways 185 and 263 to honor the site. The marker reads: "Green River Union Meeting House, part of Great Farms, Bureau of Land Management. Burial ground is three miles northwest. Huguenots came 1806 and 1814, organized and built log church. USA in 1845 preserved present meeting house. Methodists, Baptist, Presbyterians met there building own churches in area. Many leading ministers and other notables have worshiped here. Most importantly the Huguenot Society of America designated the site as a Huguenot shrine, the only one in the state of Kentucky and one of only fourteen in the United States. Efforts continued throughout the 1960s to improve the building, but the structure was used for little more than Easter sunrise services and occasional reunions. Instead of being used for religious purposes, it became a local drinking hooten, as evidenced by the number of bottles and cans being left at the site. This unsavory element was also blamed for vandalizing the facility. In 1967 a letter to Nora Young Ferguson, a former resident of the area wrote: "A lot has been done on the..."
lines, but the L&N was extremely powerful and railroad building was expensive.

"Fire last night partly damaged the Southern Hotel property corner of Main and State streets. This structure was erected 12 years ago at a cost of $275,000 on the old Morehead house site that stood there for so many years, the fire originating in the basement and only the heroic work of the firemen saved what at first looked to be a total loss. Insurance was carried to the amount of $175,000 and principally with the well known firm of J. Grover Galloway & Co., of this city. (This is interesting. The Helm Hotel did not replace the Morehead house site until 1924.) Grover Galloway operated an insurance office in the old Cook Building that once stood between the courthouse and the Presbyterian Church. He moved to Louisville in the early 1930s and died there in 1951. He is buried at LaGrange.

"The News learned today upon reliable authority that the well-known dry goods firm of Nahm brothers conducted in their already palatial five­story home are contemplating a very costly addition to their structure and will be in the very near future odd four additional stories making a total of nine all. Mr. Floyd Nahm, the junior member of the firm was seen by a news reporter and he said that such was the case but that he had no statement for the press today." (The Nahm mercantile establishment began operation in Bowling Green in 1861. For a number of years they operated in the Getty Building after it was built. They eventually constructed the Nahm Building at 42 West Main Street to house their thriving business which was noted to be the "largest clothing and gent's furnishing store in Southern Kentucky." My how people would have exclaimed to have seen a nine­story department store in Bowling Green. Floyd Nahm operated the Nahm store for almost forty years with his brother Clarence. Floyd died in 1939 and is buried in Louisville's Jewish Adath Israel cemetery.)

More than 7500 formal opinions for attorneys and citizens across the state in the six years he had been in line. He lived in Frankfurt position. He died in 1947 and is buried in Fairview Cemetery. Herdman's wife, Lula, who is mentioned in our columns. The U.S. Senator wrote across this section of the article, "Wouldn't this be fun?

"Mayor Clark McGehee is on the sick list today, the News wishes for the city's executive a speedy recovery. It has been his intentions to go to New York, immediately, but his trip necessarily be delayed." (In his obituary, the Daily News called Charles Rush McGehee "one of the most popular citizens not only ever graced this city." He was a native of Fulton County, but moved to Bowling Green in 1899 and eventually graduated from Ogdens College. After graduation he was a clerk for the city's waterworks. Ironically he lost his job, when a new mayor took office. He moved in early 1909 to Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, where he worked for the J.I. Case Company. McGehee died from typhoid fever in 1911 in Harrisburg and is buried in Fairview Cemetery; early he died before this prediction could ever reach fruition.

"The Daily News this morning wired its Washington correspondent to secure it possible the population of Bowling Green, as will be shown by the United States census to be issued in a few days and consequently at 2:10 p.m. the following message was received, which comes 10 minutes late for our first edition. "News, Bowling Green, Ky., I learn that the population of Bowling Green is 93,737. Thus it will be seen that the city has increased 14,500 in the past ten years."

In their pockets when arrested the prisoners had a letter written in German dated received October 30, five dollars in one dollar bills, two knives, razor blades, soap and band aids. A pocket full of dry corn was found on one of the men. Hitzegrad spoke good English and served as spokesman, officers. Jonat spoke 18 years an English. Luft could speak any English at all. When questioned about the possession of the knives, the interview was quoted as saying they were not searched by alien custodians. Hitzegrad told Sheriff Downey and Chief of Police R.E. Monahan that Luft couldn't speak any English at all. Luft said that he was separated from the army in Germany after Hitler, Hitzegrad replied, "They wouldn't do anything to you; the law wouldn't let them."

The Nazis said they spent Wednesday night in a barn and last night in the woods. Mrs. Simmons told them that it was about 6 o'clock Thursday afternoon when the men stopped at her home and asked about the "nearest store." When informed by Mrs. Simmons that they had passed a store about a mile and a half south Hitzegrad, the spokesman for the trio, directed requests to one north and was informed that there was a store continued on page 8
German Prisoners

at Glenmore, about two and a half miles away. Two of the Nazis retreated across the side of the highway while the third came into the yard of the Simmons residence. Mrs. Simmons said the man spoke in "broken English" but talked gently. While Hitzegard was making inquiry these comrades frequently gave hearty laughs. Mrs. Simmons said she directed them to Mr. Jones for the information. She noted that a steady stream of Joab Jones at 1252 State Street. The men were ferried across for the information. Besides the work being done, the Trio and accompanied Alford to the house in the district of a very well-known local architect, James Maurice Ingram. The men were ferried across Green River at Bear Creek by Mrs. Calvin Richardson, who operates the ferry there. Proceeding to the Glenmore locks they were ordered off the government property by Granger Alford at the guard. Alford said the men inquired if there was an "old" house in the neighborhood in which they could seek shelter from the rain. The guard said he could understand the internee's questions but could not understand replies to questions he asked Hitzegard. Alford said Hitzegard asked for water for the trio and accompanied R.C. Haney, lockkeeper inside the Haney home when their requests were complied with. Later Mr. Haney learned that the men had asked Mrs. Haney to shelter them for the night after requesting to be directed to the store of Mrs. Ethel Honaker. Becoming suspicious Haney followed the men for a mile and a half but failed to locate them returning home at 10 o'clock. Alford said he "stuck" around thinking perhaps the lockkeeper might need help. Alford described the Nazi as "tough" looking. The men made their way to the home of Mrs. Honaker and requested she open the store for them to make purchases. Mrs. Honaker allowed them at home at the time, refused to accompany them to the store about fifty yards from her house to open it for them.

Recrossing the river at Hanoker's ferry about midnight the men made their way back toward town. Mrs. Simmons said she directed them to Mr. Bratcher who was working at the ferry then about six o'clock this morning, called police headquarters at 7:15; they said they would arrive on scene. A follow-up article noted that the three men were returned to Camp Forrest, Tennessee two days later. The paper also noted that Thomas J. Bratcher, who had worked at the ferry, was still working there the day Friday hoping to get a peek at the German trio.

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Graham-McGown Home Being Restored (cont’d)

story brick house is mentioned in a conveyance. The Mayes left Bowling Green at this time to take up residence in Los Angeles. Mr. Mayes died there on January 17, 1929. They had only one son, Morris Mayes, who died in 1920 and is also buried in Los Angeles. The McGowns had the longest tenure in the home at 1252, living there from 1919 to 1963. Thomas was a native of Warren County, the son of Virgil and Eliza Woddle McGown of the Cave Hill vicinity. Thomas and Nannie, of Riverside, were married in 1909 and had three sons: Neal, John S., and James R. McGown. Thomas owned and operated the Campbell and McGownivery stable on 11th Street (across the street from the present post office) with John Campbell. Later he entered a feed business with Hugh L. McCutchen on 10th Street, and even later opened a livery at 817 State Street. While in his office on January 31, 1929, McGown complained of chest pain and promptly went home. He died in his home later that day from a heart attack. Upon his death the local paper characterized McGown as “one of Bowling Green’s best known citizens and bore the reputation of having a kindly and sympathetic nature.” His funeral was conducted in the house, and he is buried in Fairview.

Thomas McGown and his family were faithful congregants at the State Street Methodist Church, and Mr. McGown was a member of the Aelolian Odd Fellows Lodge. At his death, many Bowling Greeners remembered Mr. McGown’s short tenure on the city council. Even his obituary mentioned: “Mr. McGown was elected a member of the city council when former Mayor Henry E. Stone and Dr. E.D. Rose were the Democratic candidates six years ago. He served only a short time, resigning when he moved into another ward.” Ironically Mr. McGown did not move into another ward. His resignation raised quite a stir, because he was willing to confront the new mayor about government graft. In December 1922, McGown’s resignation made front page news when he announced that he could not serve with an administration whose actions “were in direct conflict with what I conceive to be fair, honest and to the best interest of the taxpayer.” He then went on to list a number of egregious acts carried out by the mayor and his cronies. The local paper noted, “It appears to...every fair-minded man or woman in Bowling Green, that former City Councilman T.J. McGown, has made good his case against the present city administration.” Stirring up passions even further, the same paper editorialized, “Let us have the facts of the case. The public is entitled to a showdown and demands it.” Little reform came from Mr. McGown’s bold stand, but he no doubt felt justified in making such claims.

Mr. McGown died in 1929, but his wife lived for an additional 34 years. To make ends meet, Nannie McGown began using her only asset, her home.

She began taking in boarders, particularly students from the nearby Bowling Green Business University. This was the fate of numerous older homes in the downtown area. The home at 1252 State Street was sold on October 29, 1963, less than one month prior to Mrs. McGown’s death on November 15, 1963. Mrs. McGown and her children sold the home to Ernest R. and Mary Gregory. E.R. was a local banker, and the couple lived there for several years until it became almost exclusively student housing under the name, Gregory Hall. The city directory does not even list the names of all the occupants, instead inserting “student rooms.”


Annual Meeting Scrapbook

Dick and Lori Davidson received a Landmark Home Award for their work on the Oxford House at 1302 Chestnut Street.

Gary and Deborah West received a Landmark Home Award for their work on the Farnsworth House at 1302 Chestnut Street.

Tami Meredith was honored with the Jean Thompson Historic Home Award for her work on the Alexander Graham House in Plum Springs.

Steve and Jeannie Snodgrass accept Landmark’s most prestigious recognition, the Heritage Award, from last year’s recipient David Ganin.

Alisa Carmichael accepts the Steel Wool Award from Ann Wyatt for the work she and her husband John have done at 1310 College Street.

David and Sharon Dahle received a Landmark Building Award for their work at the Victorian Inn on North Main Street in Smiths Grove.

Shelby Steele received a Landmark for her work on the Old Telephone Exchange in Smiths Grove.

April Pearson received a Landmark Home Award for work done at 1327 State Street.

Ann Wyatt received the Lamplighter Award for her outstanding contributions as a Landmark board member.

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September 2004 Landmark Report 11
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

LANDMARK ASSOCIATION
PO. BOX 1812
BOWLING GREEN, KY 42102-1812

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED