9-2004

Landmark Report (Vol. 24, no. 1)

Kentucky Library Research Collections
Western Kentucky University, spcol@wku.edu

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.wku.edu/landmark_report

Part of the Cultural Resource Management and Policy Analysis Commons, Historic Preservation and Conservation Commons, and the Public History Commons

Recommended Citation
https://digitalcommons.wku.edu/landmark_report/101

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 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 strongly supported the need and the 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 repointing 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 mortor 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: Rubin Zeigler at 842-1953 or rz@lg.org.

The Center for Historic Preservation of Middle Tennessee State University recently chose 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.iahc2005.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 architectural foundations. Her chief task this summer is to survey the WKU Chapter 99 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 (equaling total development costs of $1.2 million) in all 50 states. All types of properties, including hotels, offices, restaurants, entertainment uses, cultural and nonprofit facilities, retail and mixed-use projects are eligible. Deadline 12/31/04. For more information visit www.ntcicfunds.com or contact the Trust's Joseph Pettiford at joseph.pettifor@ntnp.org or 202-588-6459.

**Green River Union Meeting House Passes On**

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 great overlook at Var Meter Auditorium. I never limited my devotion just to city landmarks; I enjoy the oldRichardsville Bridge, the meeting of the Gasper and Barrren Rivers, the ethereal bridge over the Notcher Parkway at Price's Chapel Road, the knbs 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. Part of the hold was the church's long history, part of it was the simplicity of its sturdy construction, and a great deal of it had to do with the wonderful approach to the building. Curving around a small knob just outside of Richardsville, you captured a view of the elegant white clapboard structure. Upon creating the summit your eyes were satisfied with a Warren County treat. From atop the hill you could see for miles to the northwest. Every time I went I loved it, sooted it in, and every time I went I was able to share this sweeping vista with an interesting old building, one that had enjoyed that view for over 150 years. She had a severe symmetry that pleased the eye—two front, centered doors with transoms with matching double-hung windows above each on the second floor.

About one year ago, someone had warned me that the venerable old church would probably be razed soon. I knew that vandalism had looted 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 wranglers 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 of her own internal injuries within a decade. Then one wet day in March the call came: "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 Richardsville 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 still will be there. It 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. Cliffords, Wills Hill, 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 had 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 Huguenots who settled in the Richland area began meeting at the home of James and Rhodhe 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 Chatsoins, Taylors, Youngs, Runners, Penns, Millers, Whollins, Atrons, and of course the Hudnalls. These surnames are still quite common in the Richland 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 Methodist, Baptist or Presbyterian services 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 continued on page 4

---

*Landmark Report 2*
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 the church's trustees: Matthew Young, Peter Penner, and Butler Herral in Manakitown, Virginia. The framing of the new structure was done by own because the river was frozen. The year for the new building's construction is believed to be 1845. At that time, the two acres surrounded the Green River Union Meeting House. The year for the new building's construction is believed to be 1845. The sanctuary was located on either side of the pulpit. Of course, one side was for women and one side for men. The main seating area was divided into three sections, each containing sixty to eighty seats. The elderly typically sat in the main corridor, near the heating source, with other members of the congregation. One of the wagons, located on either side of the pulpit, had a fan-shaped hearth 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 door where they entered the brick chimney. There 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 J.W. 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 church members are often written under names such as: "Died in faith," "Lost sight of," "Left without letter," "Withdrawn," "Expelled," "Joined the Congregational Church," "Died in the faith," "Gone to Baptist." The number of comments related to church discipline indicate that the local congregation was active in trying to bring the saints. One case of church discipline involving a G.W. Stringfield is found in the church record book. A meeting of the church elders was called in 1893 to render a decision on the allegation that the said Stringfield had repeatedly disregarded the law of the church. Apparently the accused had "willfully and maliciously shoot [shot] with intent to kill Robert Tarrants, a Huguenot, and had commanded his son to kill said Tarrants with an axe." Later he was accused of attempting "again to shoot" Tarrants and foiled only because his gun did not fire. The defendant pleaded guilty to the charges "with the exception of the charge of murder," but the elders found him guilty and the "sentence of expulsion was declared against [him] by [the Preacher]." This one incident shows the influence that the church had at one time in not only religious but civil affairs. It may be possible that Tarrants was also a member of the church, and locals were trying to keep this matter out of the courthouse. Unfortunately we don't know the final outcome of this matter. In 1947 when a Methodist Church was constructed in Richardsville, the Green River Union Meeting House began its decline. Services continued to be held there until the late 1950s, then the building was used only for special occasions. By the mid-1960s, the church had fallen into such disrepair that some members of the Cemetery Association, which had been incorporated in 1954, feared that it would have to be sold. The church was resold to Nora Young Ferguson, interested in the church solicited funds to help refurbish the facility. They were successful in raising just enough to pay for replacing windows and some siding, painting, and in re-roofing the building, but not to repair the old plaster. The church was so disgusting that it continued to take their toll. Despite its deterioration, it's reputation continued to widen. In 1964 a historical marker was placed in front of the church. In 1973 the church was completely razed. The magnificent structure stands, it is a monument of everlasting beauty to both the great railroad system and the bustling Park City. The Central has turned many a track for Bowling Green in the last 10 years and the beautiful station is one that will forever be appreciated." (The Illinois Central never made it to Bowling Green. At the turn of the twentieth century, Bowling Greeners feared the monopoly that the L&N had on railroad transport for both passengers and freight out of their city. The Daily News reported that the L&N "could capriciously set rates and the poor citizenry would have to pay them. They also bemoaned the fact that the L&N had never replaced the dilapidated wooden depot constructed after the Civil War. There were at least one dozen railroads chartered to try to connect Bowling Green with other

Green River Union Meeting House Passes On (cont'd)

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 Bowling Green's past. The article is a factual piece written by a Daily News reporter who was "just a boy". The comments in parentheses, written by the editor, help explain some of the reporter's remarks. The Illinois Central's handsome new station was opened today and countless thousands wandered to College and Third street where the magnificent structure stands, it is a monument of everlasting beauty to both the great railroad system and the church and much more needs to be accomplished. It has taken a lot of effort from you and a few others 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 to save the building was foiled in November 1977, when local citizens filed a suit to prevent it. Still the building sat idle. In 1980 it was fully 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 (cont'd)

The photo accompanying this article is from the Kentucky Library collection, documenting the November 1942 arrest of two German POWs and a German alien in Bowling Green. The following is a transcription from the local paper about the unusual occurrence.

Two German prisoners and an interned German alien escaped from a train carrying aliens which passed through here Wednesday, were captured by Sheriff Boyd Downey and two deputies about 7:15 o'clock this morning on the Richardsville Road six miles north of town near the "old Francis place."

They had been reported seen in that section by Mrs. Iva Simmons and Mrs. Garland Bratcher, employees of the Derby Underwear factory, at whose homes the trio stopped last night inquiring for directions to the nearest store.

The prisoners listed at the county jail as Hand Richard Jonat, 27, Karl Luft, 19, and Paul Theodore Hitzegrad, 38, were turned over immediately to D.A. Christberry, local FBI official.

The escape of the men from the train was announced yesterday by the Federal Bureau of Investigation at Nashville.

The FBI said the three were missed at a Wednesday midnight checkup on the train, which was carrying other prisoners from Comp Meade, Md., to Comp Forrest. All had been accounted for at a check at 10 p.m.

Sheriff Downey said the officers, including Deputies Jock Manar and Herschel Cherry, slowed down as they approached the three men walking along the tracks. When covered by guns by the officers, the men surrendered without resistance. They were dressed in "worn looking" civilian clothes. Two had suits on over forest green uniforms which police had described as accompanying the prisoners of war in April, 1940, when the United States took into custody all German merchant sailors. They were members of a crew of a Japanese merchant ship at the time, Hitzegrad told officers.

After being placed in jail one of the prisoners requested a package of cigarettes, delivering one of the dollars in payment.

In reply to an assertion by Mr. McGehee that "It wasn't one of us 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 said 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, sheriff for the trio, requested directions to one north and was informed that there was a store called Nashwa.

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 packet full of dry corn was found on one of the men.

Hitzegrad spoke good English and served as spokesman, officers said. Jonat spoke 10 years a German in April. Luft could not speak any English at all. When questioned about the possession of the knives, the interned German was quoted as saying they were not searched by alien custodians.

Hitzegrad told Sheriff Downey and Chief of Police R.E. Monahan they were not guarding the train and "had no work." When questioned the third interned German was informed by Mrs. Simmons that they were not guarding the train. They had been reported seen in that section by Mrs. Iva Simmons and Mrs. Garland Bratcher, employees of the Derby Underwear factory, at whose homes the trio stopped last night inquiring for directions to the nearest store.

The prisoners listed at the county jail as Hand Richard Jonat, 27, Karl Luft, 19, and Paul Theodore Hitzegrad, 38, were turned over immediately to D.A. Christberry, local FBI official.

The escape of the men from the train was announced yesterday by the Federal Bureau of Investigation at Nashville.

The FBI said the three were missed at a Wednesday midnight checkup on the train, which was carrying other prisoners from Comp Meade, Md., to Comp Forrest. All had been accounted for at a check at 10 p.m.

Sheriff Downey said the officers, including Deputies Jock Manar and Herschel Cherry, slowed down as they approached the three men walking along the tracks. When covered by guns by the officers, the men surrendered without resistance. They were dressed in "worn looking" civilian clothes. Two had suits on over forest green uniforms which police had described as accompanying the prisoners of war in April, 1940, when the United States took into custody all German merchant sailors. They were members of a crew of a Japanese merchant ship at the time, Hitzegrad told officers.

After being placed in jail one of the prisoners requested a package of cigarettes, delivering one of the dollars in payment.

In reply to an assertion by Mr. McGehee that "It wasn't one of us 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 said 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, sheriff for the trio, requested directions to one north and was informed that there was a store called Nashwa.

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 packet full of dry corn was found on one of the men.

Hitzegrad spoke good English and served as spokesman, officers said. Jonat spoke 10 years a German in April. Luft could not speak any English at all. When questioned about the possession of the knives, the interned German was quoted as saying they were not searched by alien custodians.

Hitzegrad told Sheriff Downey and Chief of Police R.E. Monahan they were not guarding the train and "had no work." When questioned the third interned German was informed by Mrs. Simmons that they were not guarding the train. They had been reported seen in that section by Mrs. Iva Simmons and Mrs. Garland Bratcher, employees of the Derby Underwear factory, at whose homes the trio stopped last night inquiring for directions to the nearest store.

The prisoners listed at the county jail as Hand Richard Jonat, 27, Karl Luft, 19, and Paul Theodore Hitzegrad, 38, were turned over immediately to D.A. Christberry, local FBI official.

The escape of the men from the train was announced yesterday by the Federal Bureau of Investigation at Nashville.

The FBI said the three were missed at a Wednesday midnight checkup on the train, which was carrying other prisoners from Comp Meade, Md., to Comp Forrest. All had been accounted for at a check at 10 p.m.

Sheriff Downey said the officers, including Deputies Jock Manar and Herschel Cherry, slowed down as they approached the three men walking along the tracks. When covered by guns by the officers, the men surrendered without resistance. They were dressed in "worn looking" civilian clothes. Two had suits on over forest green uniforms which police had described as accompanying the prisoners of war in April, 1940, when the United States took into custody all German merchant sailors. They were members of a crew of a Japanese merchant ship at the time, Hitzegrad told officers.

After being placed in jail one of the prisoners requested a package of cigarettes, delivering one of the dollars in payment.

In reply to an assertion by Mr. McGehee that "It wasn't one of us 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 said 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, sheriff for the trio, requested directions to one north and was informed that there was a store called Nashwa.

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 packet full of dry corn was found on one of the men.

Hitzegrad spoke good English and served as spokesman, officers said. Jonat spoke 10 years a German in April. Luft could not speak any English at all. When questioned about the possession of the knives, the interned German was quoted as saying they were not searched by alien custodians.

Hitzegrad told Sheriff Downey and Chief of Police R.E. Monahan they were not guarding the train and "had no work." When questioned the third interned German was informed by Mrs. Simmons that they were not guarding the train. They had been reported seen in that section by Mrs. Iva Simmons and Mrs. Garland Bratcher, employees of the Derby Underwear factory, at whose homes the trio stopped last night inquiring for directions to the nearest store.

The prisoners listed at the county jail as Hand Richard Jonat, 27, Karl Luft, 19, and Paul Theodore Hitzegrad, 38, were turned over immediately to D.A. Christberry, local FBI official.

The escape of the men from the train was announced yesterday by the Federal Bureau of Investigation at Nashville.

The FBI said the three were missed at a Wednesday midnight checkup on the train, which was carrying other prisoners from Comp Meade, Md., to Comp Forrest. All had been accounted for at a check at 10 p.m.

Sheriff Downey said the officers, including Deputies Jock Manar and Herschel Cherry, slowed down as they approached the three men walking along the tracks. When covered by guns by the officers, the men surrendered without resistance. They were dressed in "worn looking" civilian clothes. Two had suits on over forest green uniforms which police had described as accompanying the prisoners of war in April, 1940, when the United States took into custody all German merchant sailors. They were members of a crew of a Japanese merchant ship at the time, Hitzegrad told officers.

After being placed in jail one of the prisoners requested a package of cigarettes, delivering one of the dollars in payment.

In reply to an assertion by Mr. McGehee that "It wasn't one of us 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 said 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, sheriff for the trio, requested directions to one north and was informed that there was a store called Nashwa.
German Prisoners (cont'd)

at Glenmore, about two and a half miles away. Two of the Nazis were on 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 Hitzgang was making inquiry her comrades frequently gave hearty laughs. Mrs. Simmons said she was a store at Glenmore.

About thirty minutes after the men had gone Mrs. Simmons said she turned on her radio just in time to hear a description of the escaped men. From the radio description she sent her 11 year old son, Coy Reed Simmons to the home of Hubert Cherry to seek aid to "call the police." Later Mrs. Cherry said he had put the boy in his car and started in search of the men but failed to find them along the highway. Returning Cherry said the boy went to the store of Joab Jones at Anna, to call officers but found no one at home. Mrs. Simmons said the three appeared worn and tired when they stopped at her house. She described Hitzgang as wearing a gray coat with dark trousers and a light gray felt hat. The other two, she said, had on dark green suits and one wore a large felt hat with a white ribbon on it.

The factory worker said they had passed the men walking along the road laughing and talking when they were returning home from work yesterday afternoon, but her suspicions were in no manner aroused at the time.

After leaving the Simmons place the men went north. A witness saw them pass the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Batcher about a mile from the Simmons residence and inquired for the nearest store. Mrs. Batcher who had known them at the time, said she told them there was a store at Glenmore a mile and a half away, received a polite "thank you" for the information. Batcher later worked a little before six o'clock this morning, called police headquarters at 7:15; they said, "A follow-up article noted that the men were returned to Camp Forrest, Tennessee two days later. The paper also noted that the three men were returned to Camp Forrest, Tennessee two days later. The paper also noted that the three men were returned to Camp Forrest, Tennessee two days later.

Before reaching the Simmons house the men had called from the highway to inquire of Mr. Jones the distance to the next town. Mr. Jones told him he directed them to Canaryville informing then that it was 20 miles or more away.

The men were ferried across Green River at Bear Creek by Mrs. Calvin Johnson, who operates the ferry there. Proceeding to the Glenmore locks they were ordered to the government property by Granger Alford guard at the locks.

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 Internes' questions but could not understand replies to questions he asked Hitzgang.

Alford said Hitzgang asked for water, the trio and accompanied R.C. Honey, lock keeper inside the Honey house when their requests were complied with. Later Mr. Honey 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 lock keeper might need help. Alford described the Nazi as "tough" looking.

Mr. Haney made their way to the home of Mrs. Honaker and requested she open the store for them to make purchases. Mrs. Honaker said she would come home at the time, refused to accompany them to the store about fifty yards from her house to open it for them.

Recovering the river at Hanokers' ferry about midnight the men made their way back toward town.

Mrs. Simmons who left her residence at the time, said she told them there was a store at Glenmore a mile and a half away, received a polite "thank you" for the information.

Local Couple Wins State Award

Landmark members, Dorian and Elaine Walker, received the prestigious Ida Lee Willis Award for Preservation Projects for the houses they have restored on State Street. The Walkers have restored three houses and are working on five-fourth, when they will use the houses for their personal residence. Displaying their preservation ethic in a Daily News article about the award, Dorian noted that the projects they have undertaken have been for recognition. "You do it," he said, "because it's the right thing to do." This is the second Willis award to be presented to a Bowling Green representative in the last few years. In 1996 Landmark member John Perkins was recognized for his outstanding service to preservation work in our community.

Landmark Event Calendar

SEPTEMBER 19
Picnic at Tichener Home
(Butter County)

OC'TOBER 9
Joining Architectural Drawings at Kentucky Building 9:30 a.m.

OCTOBER 19
Tour of Historic Architecture at WKU 9:30 a.m.

OCTOBER 16
Ousting at Speed's Sizable Grist Studio & Russelville House Tour

EARLY-NOVEMBER
Celebration of local architect James Maurice Ingram

DECEMBER 4
Christmas Tour of Homes, Smiths Grove

Graham-McGown Home Being Restored

by Jonathan Jeffrey

A butterfly is beginning to emerge at 1252 State Street.

Local artist, C. David Jones, and his wife Kim, (the Jones also run the popular gallery Lot 916 on the State Street side of Four Town Square) have purchased the old Graham-McGown Building at 1252 State Street and are converting it from apartments back to single family dwelling. One of the first installations of the work was removing the 1920's enclosed porch. The Landmark Association salutes the Jones for undertaking this work and look forward to watching this project as it develops.

The exact date of construction for the home at 1252 State Street is not known (prior to 1914, the street number for this house was 1244). It does not appear on the 1877 Beers map, so it must have built after that time. On May 9, 1883 Mr. Lawrence Graham sold the property to Charlie S. Allen for $6,300. Considering the price paid, it appears that the house would already been on the property and a construction date of the late 1870's or early 1880's fits in with the elaborate Italianate features of the home. The Everhardt-Stewart home at 1223 State Street shares many similar features with the Graham house, and it has a more confirmed construction date of 1879. Lawrence Graham was the son of a very well known local lawyer, Asher W. Graham (1799-1866), and his wife Sarah Powell (Howarth) Graham (1802-1848). Lawrence married Margaret L. Dunavan on February 3, 1858 in Warren County. Graham ran Graham & Graham, a dry goods store at the corner of Main and State Streets. Even in the 1860 census, when he is still living with his father, Lawrence is listed as a "merchant." He was a well-respected member of the community, and served on the council in the 1870s. An advertisement in the 1887 Gaines City Directory categorized Graham & Graham as "merchant tailors, and dealers in dress goods, dry goods, gent's furnishing goods, carpets, oil cloths, etc." In the 1880 census L.A. Graham is listed as a "dry goods merchant" and his two sons Lucien and Hubert have jobs as a "clerk in dry goods." Lucien went on serve as agent for the Evansville and Bowling Green Packet Company and as treasurer for the Bowling Green Land and Cold Storage Company. Hubert later served as the manager for the Bowling Green Strawberry Association. The other children of Margaret & Lawrence Graham were Chessie, Lena, and Asah. Margaret Graham died in 1883 and is buried in Fairview Cemetery. It is the only one that the two-
Graham-McGown Home Being Restored  

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 Wollie 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 McGown livery 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 Aelion 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 to 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 barrister, and the couple lived there for several years until it became almost exclusively student housing under the name, Greg 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 at Beechmont on the Old Richardsonville Road

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 Thomason 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 Gavin

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

Shello 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

September 2004  Landmark Report 10

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 ---

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Regular</th>
<th>Corporate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>[ ] Individual $15</td>
<td>[ ] Active $100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[ ] Family $25</td>
<td>[ ] Patron $250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[ ] Supporting $50</td>
<td>[ ] Donor $500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[ ] Sustaining $100</td>
<td>[ ] Benefactor $1,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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