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Landmark Report (Vol. 28, no. 2)

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Support Landmark’s Restoration of the Pump House

To save the Pump House at the summit of Reservoir/Hospital Hill, the Landmark Association has signed a long-term lease with Bowling Green Municipal Utilities. The utility built this attractive structure in the mid-1920s to house pumps capable of providing adequate water pressure for those in the western part of the community, particularly its largest customer Western Kentucky University. The building, designed by Chester Engineering of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, is of masonry construction with a core of hollow brick veneered on the exterior with traditional red brick and lined on the interior with yellow glazed tile. The building features architectural elements of the Colonial Revival style so prevalent in the 1920s, including limestone quoins, sills, lintels, and water table. A lunette transom over the door is highlighted with limestone details, and the entire structure is capped with an attractive terra cotta tile roof.

Thus far, Landmark, spearheaded by Christy Spurlock, Jason Hildabrand, and Drew Wollin, have removed the windows for stripping as well as the unattractive widow grills. The grills will not be re-installed, instead appropriate storm windows will grace the building’s seven windows. A replica of the damaged wooden door is being fabricated. In addition, minor masonry damage has been repaired as well as several tiles on the roof. The facility will offer Landmark a storage site and potential office space. The Association will work toward installing low-maintenance, attractive landscaping after the restoration work is completed.

Each of the building’s storm windows cost approximately $150 and the door approximately $450. We need members and interested parties to financially assist us in paying for this project. Would you be willing to underwrite the cost of a window ($150) or the door ($450)? If so, please send checks made out to Landmark to the address on the back of the newsletter. We appreciate your help on this worthwhile project.

Save the Dates:

- September 12
  Annual Picnic,
  4:30 – 6:00

- December 4
  Christmas Tour of Homes
Lillian South: Bowling Green Public Health Pioneer

by Eileen F. Starr

Lillian South’s name may not be recognized by many in Warren County today but in the early 1900s she was well known in her native Bowling Green. Dr. South devoted her professional life, as a bacteriologist and public health official, to improving the everyday lives of Kentuckians and caring for them during emergencies. South was born in Warren County and graduated as valedictorian from Potter College in 1896. Her father John Fletcher South practiced medicine as an osteopath in Bowling Green and probably influenced her decision to pursue medicine as a career. She continued her education at Patterson Hospital in New Jersey where she studied nursing. Immediately after obtaining her nursing degree, she entered medical school at the Pennsylvania Medical College for Women in Philadelphia where she became a physician.

She returned to her hometown around 1905 to practice medicine where she was the lone female physician and specialized in the treatment of women and children, not men. It is not known how many women physicians practiced in the state at the turn of the century, but women numbered for less than 1% of Kentucky doctors at the time. Later Dr. South recounted that the only time she was called upon in Bowling Green was on stormy nights, weekends or when a male physician was unavailable.

Her office, which was also her family home, was on Twelfth Street where the parking lot for the First Baptist Church is located today.

Another Bowling Green resident, Dr. Joseph McCormack, Director of the State Board of Health in Kentucky, appointed Dr. South to the position of State Bacteriologist in 1911. As such she was the first female state bacteriologist in the nation.

Initially, Dr. South’s office was crowded into a small room at St. Joseph’s Hospital. Although it was a rather unseemly topic, she focused her efforts on the horrendous problem of hookworm infestation, a disease that devastated people due to improper sanitation conditions. Her first step was to survey the impact of hookworm in the state. Dramatic photographs taken of families and of children at one room schools illustrated the symptoms of hookworm infestation. The Rockefeller Sanitary Commission evaluated South’s facility and her hookworm survey and decided to fund the expansion of the bacteriology lab in 1912 and to provide funds for construction, personnel and equipment. In return, the Rockefeller Sanitary Commission relied upon Dr. South to pursue the eradication of hookworm disease.

Her efforts were incredibly successful. She worked long hours and slept at the laboratory with a buzzer beside her bed so she could be awakened at any hour to examine specimens and distribute medicine. Dr. South developed a new test for detecting hookworm and became well known as one of the foremost authorities on the disease. Her method of preparing samples was lauded nationally for its simplicity and inexpensive nature.

In 1913, Dr. South was elected as a Vice President of the prestigious American Medical Association (AMA), its first female officer. At the same meeting as her election, her exhibit entitled “Intestinal Parasitic Diseases” was awarded a Certificate of Merit. South became an officer in the Southeast Medical Association, was involved in other professional organizations and edited the Kentucky Medical Association’s (KMA) journal.

The Kentucky Medical Association, Dr. South, and the General Assembly combined forces to eradicate something just as deadly as hookworms, the public drinking cup. Enacted in 1916, new public health legislation stated that “the use of the common drinking cup on railroad trains and in railroad stations, public hotels, boarding houses, restaurants or steamboats or stores or other publically frequented place in Kentucky is hereby prohibited.” Eliminating public drinking cups was an important step in the prevention of the spread of communicable diseases and both the KMA and Dr. South were lauded for their efforts.

Throughout her career, Dr. South continued her education in the U.S. and internationally. As a professional in the field of science, she made a conscious effort to learn about the latest discoveries in her field and to share that knowledge. She traveled and lectured frequently and relied upon stereopticon images to augment her technical discussions.

As the field of public health expanded nationally, the State Board of Health in Kentucky moved from Bowling Green in 1919 to Louisville. Dr. South relocated to that position and left a training school for women microscopists in 1922, the only...
An eXXcellent Literary Club

by Jean E. Nehm

The XX Club, affectionately known as “Double X” by the members, is a women’s literary club founded in 1901 in Bowling Green, Kentucky. The Roman numeral XX denotes exactly twenty members. According to the original club constitution, “Nominations for membership shall be given to the President, who will present them to the club; and they shall then be elected by private ballot, an unanimous vote being required.” In a revised constitution in 1948, a provision for aging members was added: “Members of long standing in the club, when they are unable to be active members, may be made honorary members.” In 1981, an amendment was added that provides two associate memberships for women who are “brought into the club by the same voting procedure as active members, and proceed to active membership.” Thus, for over 100 years, filling vacancies from death or the rare resignation, the club has maintained the tradition of having twenty members.

The constitution was also clear about officers and protocol. The four officers—president, vice president, secretary, and treasurer—have had specific duties and an intricate rotation among the membership. A program committee was also in place to “make out the program for the coming year with dates and topics selected and presented to the club.”

Twenty meetings were scheduled from September through May, with the members gathering every two weeks. The constitution states that the meeting “shall begin promptly at the appointed hour” and that for an “absence of a fine of ten cents shall be imposed...” For each meeting, one member would serve as hostess in her home and another member would be responsible for presenting a program. The club’s colors were black and gold, and its flower was the daisy. A seal was created with the initials XX, featuring two gold Xs, as active members, and proceeding to active membership. A program committee was elected to present programs, thus selecting and presenting to the membership. A program committee was elected to present programs, and members were free to choose a book or explore an idea within the general theme. Fascinating topics reflected the enormous range of interests of the club members: Naturalists, Regional Literature, Water Life and Water Ways, New Countries, Famous Women, Literary Awards, and Famous Naturalists.

In 1904, Miss Helm discussed an impressive list of figures, including The Stuarts, James I, Charles I, Oliver Cromwell, Charles II, the Restoration, and James II. As the years rolled by, the program committee selected a theme for the year, and members were free to choose a book or explore an idea within the general theme. Fascinating topics reflected the enormous range of interests of the club members: Naturalists, Regional Literature, Water Life and Water Ways, New Countries, Famous Women, Literary Awards, and Famous Naturalists. Several of the members traveled abroad and enjoyed giving presentations to the club about India, Japan, Greece, Scandinavia, and other interesting destinations.

As shown in the club minutes and program booklets archived in the Kentucky Library and Museum, the early program committees prepared detailed outlines for the year’s study that resembled a challenging syllabus for a college course. For example, the theme for 1906–1907 was Shakespeare; the first meeting of the year set the stage with an introduction to drama in general. Four different members presented information on Greek drama, Roman drama, Medieval drama, and the early Renaissance. The following meeting covered tragedy and comedy during Shakespeare’s time. Subsequent meetings then undertook the study of Shakespeare’s great plays. These detailed outlines relaxed over the years, yet still reflected a great deal of study and planning. Miss Marjorie Helm, who was Western’s Director of Library Services from 1956–1965 and whose portrait hangs in the building named in her honor, joined the XX Club in 1925 and often presented her program at the first meeting of the year, giving a scholarly and sweeping overview of the year’s study. In September 1961, for example, to introduce the year’s theme of 17th Century England, Miss Helm discussed an impressive list of figures, including The Stuarts, James I, Charles I, Oliver Cromwell, Charles II, the Restoration, and James II.

Alas, the club’s format seems intellectual, formal, and perhaps daunting, the women have certainly not been without creative, humorous, and genuine caring for each other. This club has maintained the tradition of having twenty members, is a women’s club founded in 1901, and whose portrait hangs in the building named XX Club Archives.

How beautiful the mind of one who works it out so well; To get down every action that the body wants to tell.

How orderly the work of man, How civilized our way, When we are able to write down each thing we do and say.

I do believe St. Peter must be clerk of all he sees; A-lotting all his "s" and "l"s and crossing all his "t"s.

I’ll bet that God will moderate as Peter writes it down In beautiful Old English he will copy verb and noun.

And all the angel chorus will intone across the sky, When God says all in favor of the motion shall say "aye."

And when I get to heaven and reward there shall earn, I shall conclude the meeting with the motion to adjourn.

Many current members fondly remember Miss Clagett’s tradition of serving cakes decorated to match her topic. And Patty Greeninger, current member who wrote a poem about the sea to accompany one of her own programs, decides to tell the story of the club’s standing ovation in response to Nancy Keasler’s program on Calamity Jane, presented in costume, complete with coonskin cap and antique musket. These two friends have a long history of fun and scholarship together. The March 2, 1977 minutes report that while Mrs. Greeninger spoke about real estate, she “was assisted and sometimes harassed by the puppet people as worked by puppeteer Mrs. Keasler.”

The minutes of the meeting are important to be done; The motions that are voted are recorded every one.

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Club by Mrs. Carl D. Herdman, Mar 3rd, 1917: “Twas in this manner, I became a 'Literary Gavel.'”

Gently poking fun at the club’s serious practice of keeping accurate minutes, Miss Marjorie Clagett presented this poem entitled “The Minutes of the Meeting” at the September 6, 1989 meeting:

These are women who, over the years, have enjoyed not only the stimulation of learning but also fellowship with each other. When Mrs. J. C. Sims resigned in May of 1951, “the resignation was accepted, though with the heartfelt regret that her thirty-year membership was ended. Mrs. Sims was extended an urgent invitation to be a guest at every meeting possible.” Sprinkled throughout the decades of club minutes are occasional tributes to members who had passed away.

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The Younglove Building: Historic Preservation at Work

by Ethan Evans

[Editor's note: Ethan Evans, while a 7th grader at Drakes Creek Middle School, won first runner up for this piece in the 12th Annual Photo-Essay Competition sponsored by the Kentucky Heritage Council. Ethan is the son of Landmark members, Tim Evans and Eileen Starr.]

From a gathering area for local men, chewing tobacco and sitting around a warm stove talking of weather, politics, and crops, to the oldest surviving building in downtown Bowling Green, Kentucky, the Younglove Building has come a long way.

Built by Thomas Quigley in 1837, and opened as a pharmacy 1842, it quickly caught on. The three story building with decorations above the windows and the twin chimneys was a pleasure to look at, and a business success. Sales were very profitable. It made good, great in fact, sales until the Civil War, when most of the drugs and goods it had were looted by Union soldiers. Later, the pharmacy went back into business and began to flourish once again. A soda fountain was installed and a signature look of high counters and glass cases, filled with (prescription) drugs, candy, and Indian artifacts became known to the store. Even later, it began serving sandwiches and hot meals.

This building is still in use today, sporting a mahogany colored roof and an eye-catching storefront with iron front pieces near the coin store entrance. It is on the National Register and among the businesses that occupy it include a home decoration store, a coin store, a law office, and a living space.

One person, Jonathan Schwer, is working to become a preservation craftsman. David Lyons, who is the owner of the construction firm, is training Jonathan to rebuild the old windows, fix decrepit parts of the ceiling, and re-paint most of the structure. They will also repair some of the rotted wood on the outside of the building and turn the upper space into apartments. The work done hires people, who, because of the economic downturn might not otherwise have worked.

This project also stimulates our economy in other ways, last year, a ball park was constructed downtown and a new performing arts center is coming. Most people who come for these pass this building, so, if they are attracted to this building, they may come and explore the downtown, stimulating the economy. The well known Western Kentucky University is nearby and students walk down from the hill to the downtown. Preservation creates many jobs, because of the "Kentucky Main Street Program." In Kentucky's 2nd congressional district alone 128 net jobs have been created.

Preserving the Younglove building also has great cultural meaning. It survived the Civil War, and even housed Union soldiers. It is a valuable educational piece as well as being one of the oldest buildings in the city. A popular Bowling Green artist points and lives in this building, and her works can be seen in many local art galleries. Preserving this building leads to a better understanding of our history. It is a pleasure to look at, and a business success.
spend long hours in the laboratory and would need to choose science instead of being distracted by husbands and children. Dr. South remained single until she was in her late forties when she married an attorney and judge from Whitley County, H. H. Tye. She commuted to Williamsburg by rail on the weekends. She had various business interests including lumber and oil which South inherited when her husband died. She was proud of her husband's accomplishments and shared those details with others.

When the State Board of Health moved from Louisville to Frankfort, Dr. South decided to retire at the age of seventy. She commuted to Williamsburg by rail on the weekends. Th e judge hod various business interests including lumber and oil which South inherited when her husband died. She was proud of her husband’s accomplishments and shared those details with others.

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A particularly beautiful one was written by Margie Hehn, secretary for the day on September 13, 1961. After the program, all members spoke of Virginia Garrett and of the characteristics that made a special appeal to them. Such traits were mentioned as her generosity, her genuine character, her lack of affectation, her kindly humor, her serenity and strength of character, like nature itself, her devotion to her scientific studies of horticulture and landscape gardening, and to Western college campus which she has made so beautiful and a living monument to herself. The individual comments were in reality, memorial tributes to their friend, Virginia Garrett. The president read the note of thanks from her two sons and their wives for the flowers sent to her funeral.

Being in existence for over a century, the club would naturally experience some changes. Instead of meeting on Saturdays, members now meet on Wednesday afternoons. Duels are no longer $1.00, and fines are not assessed. When speaking of the pleasure and importance of the social time when refreshments are served, Barbara Ford, a current member, noted that the women no longer wear hats and gloves as they did in the early years, nor do they address each other with the formal "Miss" or "Mrs." plus the husband’s name. (It is interesting to note, however, that current members often refer to earlier members as Miss Clayett, Miss Hehn, or Miss Hines, commenting about their kindness and respect.) Current member Susan Webb; great niece of Marjorie Garrett, reflects on reasons for the club’s longevity—respect for tradition and the opportunity to pursue a topic in depth. Cora Jane Spiller, a member for about thirty years, ten, feels the continuity across generations as her mother, Mrs. Jane Morningstar, had also been a member of XX Club. All agree that the scholarship work along with the bonding of women makes “Double X” very special in their lives. Poiniently, the secretary on June 6, 1925 closed her minutes, writing that “the Club adjourned feeling that the year's work had been a very interesting and profitable one.” Nearly a century later, the twenty members of the club embrace the same fellowship and high standard of excellence.

Architecture Matters!


Architecture...is a subject that is fraught with genuine conflict, and it seems to have acquired an extraordinary capacity to make all kinds of people extremely angry about issues that range from the most intensely personal to the most diffusely political. Architecture causes neighbors to go to war over tear-downs or allows a wronged spouse to expunge the memory of an ex-husband from a former family home.

In recent years, it is architecture more than any other aspect of contemporary culture that has touched the rawest nerves. Architecture is what caused Vittorio Sgarbi, the Italian art historian turned sometime deputy minister of culture, to reportedly threaten to dynamite Richard Meier’s new pavilion in Rome, which has just opened to house Augustus’s 2,000-year-old Arc Pacis; or altar of peace. Sgarbi had his best to stop the project when he served in the government and charged his protests long after he left office. To Sgarbi, the Modernist austerity of Meier’s cool monochrome construction insulted the historical grandeur of its setting on the Tiber. Rather than blow up the building, the ex-minister finally had to content himself with setting fire to an effigy of the design instead.

It was architecture that Saddam Hussein used to consolidate his grip on Iraq. And it was architecture that the Serbs and the Croats deployed in the first stages of their bloody battle over the division of the former Yugoslavia. Both sides marked out their territory by building churches: steel and glass modern for the Catholic Croats; neo-Byzantine in so-called traditional stone and tile for the orthodox Serbs.

Often quite wrongly, architecture is equated with political beliefs. Flat roofs have been associated with modernism and progressivism, while the use of dated historical styles I believed to embody traditional values. When the Swiss architects Herzog and de Meuron were hired by the University of Texas to design a campus art gallery in 1998, Tony Sanchez, a fund-raiser for George W. Bush, engineered their resignation because they refused to adopt the Spanish colonial style, which he, as a member of the university’s board of regents, found most fitting.

Architecture, it seems, matters more than ever. It affects us personally, in ways that we have all come to know. Certainly it has never been more talked about than it is now. The argument about how to reconstruct ground zero turned every New Yorker into an architecture critic. And as the popular onslaught against the banality of the first designs suggests, the wider audience is far less conservative than the professionals presume—"a point that had already been eloquently demonstrated by public enthusiasm for Mayo Lin’s Vietnam memorial."

Architects rarely know how to deal with public attention, whatever form it takes. When the Prince of Wales compared their impact on London to that of Nazi bombers, the popular outcry was immediate. And it is true that the prince’s comments made it hard for some architects to avoid toeing the neo-Classical line. But the prince had also done the architectural profession the honor to taking it seriously. He got it talked about, as it had not been for a decade or more. Similarly, when the Victoria and Albert Museum in London opened a large-scale exhibit on Modernism last month, a British newspaper columnist raised eyebrows by declaring that it was the most terrifying exhibition he had ever seen and that the creations of I.0. Coubisier and Mies van der Rohe "must have inspired more human misery than any in history." And yet the chief impact of his words was to boost visitor numbers.

Architecture matters because it lasts. Of course. It matters because it is big, and it shapes the landscape of our everyday lives.

Architecture matters because it lasts. Of course. It matters because it is big, and it shapes the landscape of our everyday lives. 

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of the Quigley children fell from this balcony and was killed. The balcony no longer exists. The interior was not changed upon acquisition from Joseph L. Younglove.

It is interesting to note that the building is the last of three structures of similar design in Bowling Green. The John Graham-John C. Gerard house was once located where the City Hall and Fire Station are today, on the corner of 10th and College Streets. According to a photograph in the Gerard Collection at the Kentucky Library, this house was designed and built by the same man who built the Younglove building. The house was built between 1837 and 1847. Bricks from the home were salvaged and used in construction of City Hall in 1907. The second structure of similar design was the Morehead House. The Morehead House was once the leading hotel in Bowling Green. It was built in 1847 by James K. McGoodwin at the corner of State and Main Streets, now the site of Citizens National Bank, and patterned after the Younglove building directly across the street. This hotel was owned and operated by Charles D. Morehead until 1862.

Joseph Younglove was a pharmacist from Johnstown, New York and moved to Bowling Green by way of Louisville, Kentucky. He formed a partnership with Augustus Starr in 1842 and moved the business into the Green River Hotel. Starr soon died and Joseph moved his pharmacy into the Quigley building that same year. Joseph's brother John moved to Bowling Green in 1844. He began work as a clerk and later became a full partner in 1859. The establishment was then changed to Joseph I. Younglove and Brother. This partnership was to last for 35 years.

Both of the brothers soon became well known and respected businesses in Bowling Green. Joseph wrote to his brother David in 1846 that he had about $7,000 worth of goods. His sales from the previous year had totaled $8,000. The profits from the previous four years had totaled $4,000. This indicates a very good business for the time. He had no business opposition at the time and this could explain part of his success.

In addition to selling drugs, the Youngloves operated a post office. Among the postmasters were Charles D. Morehead, John B. Helm, a son of Joseph Younglove and James T. Donaldson. A stage office was also located in the building. At the time, a ticket for a 24-hour stage ride to Louisville cost eight dollars. The stage office lasted until the L&N Railroad took away business in 1859. The store became a total loss during the Civil War, constantly being raided for supplies.

In later years the store became a popular meeting place for the men in town. Weather, politics, court and crops were the main topics among the regular crowd. The “seat of the county seat” was kept next to the store for many years. This was a seed box used either as a platform or a seat. It was later made into a plaque and given to Mayers James Geddes, a supervisor for the L&N. Believed to have been lost, the plaque was later found to be in the possession of James Geddes Stahlman, a past president and publisher of the Nashville Bonner. In 1905 the lower floor was rented by Harold Sublett. Per the contract, Younglove lowered the front floor level with the pavement, put in a steel ceiling, finished the walls with smooth plaster and paint, put in a plate glass show window with side extension and door, wired the building for electricity, ran water and gas pipes, and lowered the rear floor one step. In return, Sublett agreed to lease the shop for five years at $500 per year. Sublett provided his own furniture and fixtures and paid the utilities. Harold Sublett and Phil Valentti ran a large prescription department and had one of the largest stocks in the city. The new soda fountain was very popular with the townsmen. The second floor was retained as living quarters by John Younglove.

John Younglove died in 1916. The property was put up for bid in a master commissioner’s sale. Oscar Fletcher, at the Woodburn area, purchased the building and ran the business until his death in 1930. The building was then inherited by William Fletcher who continued the drugstore business. In 1930 the soda fountain was moved from the Main Street side of the building to the opposite side. The present entrance to the store at the corner of State and Main Streets was moved from State Street. The second and third floors were remodeled. In 1932 the outside of the structure was painted Milwaukee Brick. The color scheme was tan with a brick outline between the bricks. A central air conditioning system was installed in the building in 1937.

Mr. Fletcher operated the drugstore until 1944. In December he sold it to Tony Bartlett; about one year later Bartlett sold one-half interest to E.C. Williams. Mr. Williams bought out Bartlett in 1946. Although Williams sold the business in 1966, the drug store continued to be known as Williams Drugstore. James H. Holland purchased the drugstore in 1966. In August 1968, many of the fixtures installed in the 1930s were removed as well as the soda fountain. James Holland eliminated candy, cosmetics, sundries and the like in order to develop a more professional aspect to the drug business. Mr. Holland continues to run Williams Drugstore in the Fletcher Building.

Younglove Glance Back, continued from page 7

(Younglove Glance Back, continued from page 7)

The Younglove building has survived since 1837 and more interest in Bowling Green’s downtown and more interest in preservation as a whole.

One other factor that applies to the preservation of the Younglove building is the environment. When buildings are preserved, the materials used to build it will not go to our growing landfills. The yellow poplar used as the frame is a strong wood, and is inexpensive now. So, things like the wooden framework or brick of the Younglove building could, and should, not be replaced.

Over all, the Younglove building has survived since 1837 and its positive historical, economic, cultural, and environmental impacts on the town are huge. The preservation and restoration of the Younglove building are very crucial to the town’s history.

“"The best prophet of the future is the past." -Anonymous

Annual Meeting Scrapbook

John Perkins & Emily (Perkins) Sharp receive the Jane Manninger Award at Meet for their work at the Quigley-Younglove Building at 900 State Street.

Jack & Carol Glaser receive the Joan H. Thomas Historic Home Award for their home at 627 E. Main Street.

Karen Ogleden accepts a Landmark Building Award for the work done at Van Meter Hall, WKU.

Kevin & Lynn Reily accept a Landmark House Award for their preservation work at 1130 High Street.

Dave & Jean Murph accept a Landmark House Award for their work at 615 Chestnut Street.

Michael & Sharon Barron accept the Historic Preservation Board Award for work at 408 E. Main Street.

Joey Powell receives the Landmark Award for being an outstanding Board member.

Drs. Jeff & Tammy Adams receive Landmark’s Highest Honor, the Heritage Award, for continued commitment to the preservation ethic.

LANDMARK ASSOCIATION
Bowling Green-Warren County

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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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[ ] Foundation $25    [ ] Ionic Order $100    [ ] Entablature $500

[ ] Doric Order $50    [ ] Corinthian Order $250    [ ] Cornice $1,000

Checks should be payable to: Landmark Association
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LANDMARK ASSOCIATION
Bowling Green–Warren County

"A future with a past"

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