



# PRESERVATION

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# Matters

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## *Remembering* Historic Preservation Icons **Dick Decamp and Clyde Carpenter**

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- ▶ **Preservation Education at UK**
- ▶ **18 Mentelle Park, Before and After**
- ▶ **KHC Archaeological Website**
- ▶ **Heritage Society Visits Elmwood**

*and more...*





# Message

## from our President

Fall/Winter 2022

### Greetings Blue Grass Trust Friends,

When I first became involved with the Blue Grass Trust in 1991, it was a very different organization than it is today – skeleton staff, sparse budget, cramped offices, very little programming, and almost no corporate governance. Since then, I have rotated on and off the BGT board making many life-long friends and watching the organization find its “legs” and move forward into the next century.

I am happy to report this moment marks a time in the history of the BGT where a dynamic of change and progress seems to be in full gear. Our Board is nearing the adoption of a strategic plan to forge a new programming path consistent with our Mission. This will include an operational plan to strengthen governance, create new programs, and improve financial development.

A touchstone of this effort will be to reestablish the Trust as **the** Central Kentucky resource for information, advice, and outreach on matters related to historic preservation. This will include collaborations with other organizations, neighborhoods, and groups in need of support and assistance. For many of us, myself included, these are the very relationships and connections that led us to become involved with the Blue Grass Trust.

I encourage all of you to become actively involved in these efforts. There will be much work to do and the Trust has always enjoyed the active support of dedicated volunteers. Working with our talented Executive Director and staff, I feel certain these efforts will succeed, and I am proud to help by serving as president this year.

**Mike Meuser**



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Contributing to this edition of *Preservation Matters* are the following individuals. This publication would not be possible if it weren't for the efforts of these good people. Special thanks to our many guest writers whose names are listed in boldface print.

Jonathan Coleman  
**Diane Comer**  
Beverly Fortune  
**Jim Gray**  
Rebekah Kirkland

**Gloria Martin**  
Mike Meuser  
Judy Owens  
Jackson Osborne  
**Dan Rowland**

**Julie Riesenweber**  
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**Editor:** John Hackworth  
**Assistant Editors:** Wanda Jaquith and Carolyn Hackworth

**On the cover:** Dick Decamp admiring the first BGT plaque, which was placed on a South Mill Street home in 1972 [*Lexington Herald-Leader*], and Clyde Carpenter at work at his beloved College of Design, circa 2000.

# Letter

## from our Executive Director

### Dear Friends of the Trust,

Welcome to this edition of *Preservation Matters*. I always relish the chance to highlight the hands-on ways preservation is affecting change in Central Kentucky while sharing the role the Blue Grass Trust plays in helping Kentuckians protect, promote, and revitalize our historic places.

In this issue, we look to our past and our future. We pay tribute to two preservationists whose affinity for innovation and advocacy helped spur and advance the preservation movement in Kentucky and beyond. We celebrate their spirit of innovation in our preservation-focused programming, such as the kickoff of the 2022-2023 Hopemont Lecture Series where we share the diverse stories and innovative storytellers who make Kentucky history so exciting and relevant. I invite you to join us for one.

I also see our two preservationists' spirits of advocacy at work in the many ways the Trust and our perseveration partners work diligently to preserve our buildings, communities, neighborhoods, and landscapes—from lovingly executed restorations to award-winning tours. And I am excited by the many ways the Trust seeks to grow its resources to help Central Kentuckians make even more preservation projects possible.

In this issue, we also get to do one of my favorite things; we get to say thank you. I am honored by our robust list of donors who believe in historic preservation. Like our donors, I, too, believe in preservation because I have seen preservation at work, and I have seen the Trust use its preservation efforts to enhance the quality of life for Central Kentuckians.

While you are reading *Preservation Matters*, I know you will be as inspired as I am by the mission-focused work the Trust has accomplished. But preservation is a team effort, and we cannot do it without you! I hope you will consider continuing your support of such an important mission through a donation to or membership in the Blue Grass Trust.

As always, thank you for partnering with us in your support of preservation in Kentucky, and thank you for your support of the Blue Grass Trust.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Coleman, Ph.D.  
Executive Director



Jonathan Coleman, Ph.D.  
Executive Director  
Photo by Brett Barnett

## The BGT in Brief

The Blue Grass Trust was founded in 1955 by a spirited group of Lexington citizens who were determined to save the John Wesley Hunt residence at 201 North Mill Street in Gratz Park from demolition. This group raised funds to purchase and restore the property, known as Hopemont, to its original 1814 appearance. In 1958, Gratz Park became Lexington's first local historic district. Today, Lexington has sixteen local historic districts, and Hopemont stands as a testament to the beginning of the BGT and the birth of the preservation movement in Central Kentucky.

Today, the Trust continues to provide valuable leadership, education and inspiration to the preservation movement in Lexington, Central Kentucky, and throughout the state through our advocacy, the BGT plaque program, BGT deTours, *Preservation Matters* magazine, seminars, walking tour brochures and apps, and more. As the region's leading historic preservation organization, we work diligently to fulfill our mission.

### The Blue Grass Trust for Historic Preservation Mission Statement:

The Blue Grass Trust for Historic Preservation is a non-profit advocate for historic preservation that strives to protect, revitalize, and promote the special historic places in our community to enhance the quality of life for future generations.

The Trust is guided by three tenets – education, service, and advocacy.

Read the BGT Statement on Solidarity at:  
<https://www.bluegrasstrust.org>

Stay in touch with the BGT in the following ways:

<https://www.bluegrasstrust.org>

<https://www.facebook.com/BlueGrassTrust/>

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# Remembering Dick DeCamp

Dick DeCamp became the first Executive Director of the BGT in 1969 as its first paid employee. At the time, the BGT Board was Hopemont-centered, but Dick was aware of the larger preservation movement afoot in the nation and led the board to realize the potential good the Trust could exert in the broader community. Then, under Mayor Foster Pettit, Dick became the first chair of the Lexington-Fayette County Historic Commission and played an integral part, in partnership with the Trust, in forming the first historic districts in Lexington thus saving vast swaths of the historic fabric of the city. Without question, foremost among the legacies Dick leaves in Lexington and Central Kentucky is the BGT plaque program, which was his initiative and is still going strong today.

Following are two remembrances of Dick. The first is from former Lexington mayor and current Kentucky Secretary of Transportation, Jim Gray, who recognizes Dick as his mentor. Jim's remarks were read at Dick's memorial service. The second is written by Dan Rowland, professor emeritus in the University of Kentucky Department of History and former director of the Gaines Center, and a longtime advocate of the Trust, who has served on the BGT Board and is currently on the Advisory Board. As you will see, Dan and Dick go back many years. Thanks to both men for their tributes to Dick. 🌿

## Thoughts on Coach.

It's almost cliché to say Dick was one of a kind. But oh boy was he that! He was special!

I'll always recall when I was first thinking about local politics and running for office. We were on a Chamber trip to Providence and we'd both just gotten on a bus to take us from one venue to another. I sat beside Dick for the short trip.

After we got to our destination, he pulled me aside and in a fatherly way said, "Now Jimmy, I want you to do well in this campaigning, but you've gotta listen to me. Don't just talk to me for heaven's sake! You've got to get out there and shake hands, grip and grin as they say, or you'll never get elected to anything! This is a people business! And you've gotta meet new people!

Dick DeCamp was formidable in the people business of politics and life.

I dubbed him "Coach" from that bus ride on. And whatever the time, whatever the issue, what-



Patricia and Dick with Sue Wylie and Mayor Jim Gray

ever his role, he was "Coach DeCamp" to me.

As we worked together on the council, he was always there for the big deals and the smaller ones. For the big picture and for the small details. For neighborhoods and parks and people, and for big projects like renovating the old First National Bank into today's 21c, or fixing up the Old Courthouse, or bringing Rupp Arena into the 21st Century.

Dick DeCamp of course knew and respected and understood history...but he didn't just remember history; he used it to inform the future.

Whether it was preservation or politics, Dick was about tomorrow; he was about the future.

In the last few years, I'd see him routinely at the gym, where we both worked out. I'd holler "Hey Coach, what's up! What do we need to be working on?"

And routinely, we'd get into a conversation about the events of the day and what he thought about it all.

Always thinking ahead. And always sharing those thoughts in a way that was helpful for and caring of the community.

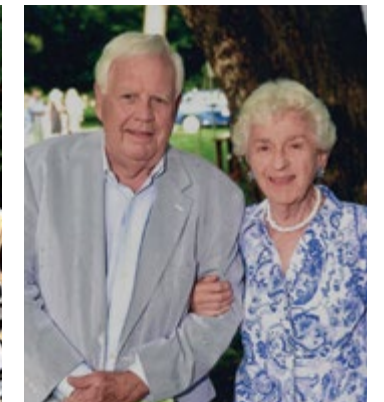
That was Coach. That was Dick DeCamp. We'll miss him but we'll always remember his legacy and influence in this broad community called Lexington he cared so much for. 🌿

## Richard (Dick) DeCamp

Dick and Patricia DeCamp were some of Wendy's and my very first friends when we moved into our 1846 fixer-upper on Mill Street in 1974. The Blue Grass Trust brokered the sale to us, and probably Dick had a hand in that arrangement. We had many connections: my oldest brother, Ned, was in Dick's class at Brown; he was a very close friend of another brother, Robin, when Robin was an intern at UK's Medical School; and

he already knew my father in Naples, Florida. When my father told Dick he had a son who just moved to Lexington, he asked Dick if he knew me. "Know him?" Dick exclaimed, "I talk to him every day!"

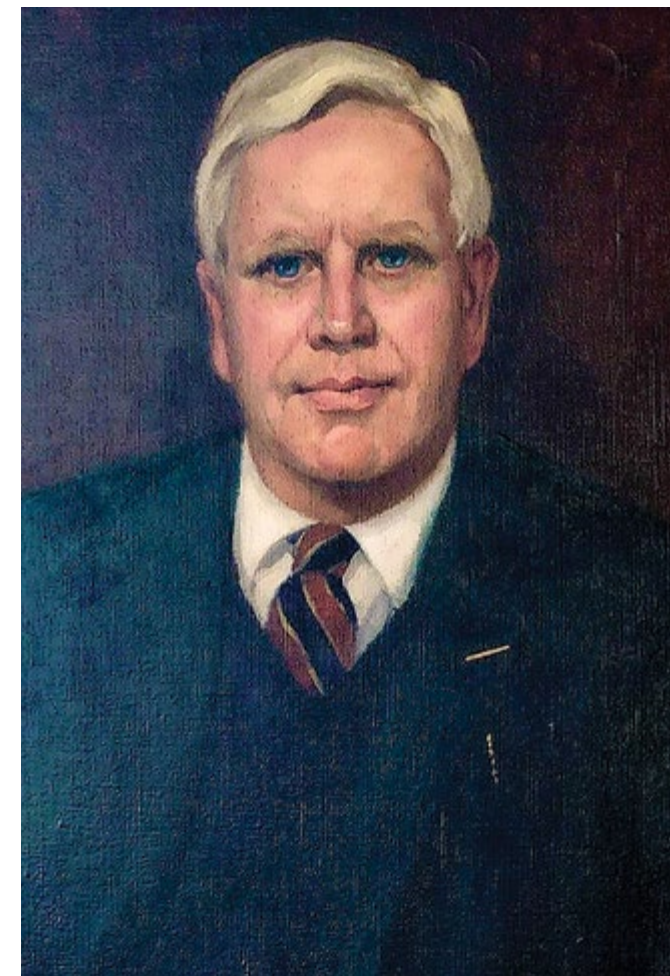
Indeed, we did talk almost every day, over many years. Largely through the Crutcher family and attracted by the good food, I had



Dick and Patricia were constant companions and always enjoyed a good party, as shown in the photos ranging from their wedding day to a more recent event.

joined the Trust in late 1974, and became an enthusiastic but largely ignorant preservationist, focusing much of my energy on our new neighborhood, the South Hill. In the days when Lexington had only two neighborhoods with historic (H-1) overlays, there were constant emergencies that demanded our attention, with Dick teaching me the many complex ins and outs of preservation law, local architectural history, and a raft of other subjects. He and Patricia became fast friends, and we shared many, many social occasions together, some, like my 40th birthday party, pretty raucous.

I don't have space here to list the many important contributions Dick made to historic preservation in Lexington. As the first professional director of the BGT, Dick played a vital role in the growth and increasing sophistication of our organization. As the head of LFUCG's office of historic preservation, he oversaw the research and often difficult negotiations that led to the creation of many of Lexington's H-1 districts, thus hopefully guaranteeing the survival and health, not just of individual buildings, but of entire historic neighbor-



Portrait of Dick painted by Pat, who was a talented artist

hoods. We worked together on many projects, including the drafting of Lexington's first historic preservation ordinance and the saving of the three University of Kentucky buildings now housing the Gaines Center for the Humanities. In short, Dick was an invaluable friend and mentor whose wise advice I relied on every one of the last 40 years.

Dick DeCamp played a central role in the history of historic preservation in Lexington and Fayette County. While Clay Lancaster and Bettye Lee Mastin provided the crucial historical research behind our movement, Dick played a huge role in creating the legal, political, and social structures that have protected the beloved historic structures and neighborhoods that have always been the main focus of the BGT. 🌿



John Hackworth, Chair  
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Dan Rowland





# The 2022 Preservation Awards

Individual winners were presented with a Lexington Silver Barrel Beaker and awarded properties were given a Blue Grass Trust Plaque.

In June, the Trust celebrated its 2022 Preservation Award recipients during the annual membership meeting. Fourteen awardees were announced in twelve different award categories. Awards are given for service in the field of preservation, innovative historical research, and saving Kentucky's diverse cultural heritage.

For over thirty years, the Trust has used the Preservation Awards to shine a light on the positive, far-reaching impact preservation has on Central Kentucky. Over eighty guests attended to celebrate the individuals, places, and organizations who have worked tirelessly to further preservation efforts in the Bluegrass. As Executive Director Jonathan Coleman said at the meeting, "The Preservation Awards are one of my favorite things that we do at the Trust. We love highlighting the many ways Kentuckians are working to save and share the places that tell our stories, and we are so grateful for their partnership."



Blue Grass Trust members and award recipients were treated to a cocktail hour before the membership meeting and awards presentations, hosted at the Dr. Thomas Hunt Morgan House.



Councilmember Susan Lamb and Vice Mayor Steve Kay catch up with BGT Executive Director Jonathan Coleman.



BGT Board President Mike Meuser begins the proceedings before a full house at the 2022 Preservation Awards.



Adam Corona of United Contracting talks with Preservation Outreach Coordinator Jackson Osborne. Corona is the Craftsman Award recipient.

## Preservation Craftsman Award:

Given to a building industry craftsman who has exhibited a strong commitment to quality craftsmanship for historic buildings.

### Adam Carmona

United Contracting  
(Lexington, KY)



Kitty Strode and Sandy Stults accepted the 2022 Community Preservation Award on behalf of the Bluegrass Heritage Museum located in Winchester, Kentucky.

## Community Preservation Award:

Given to a non-governmental organization or individual for service to the preservation movement or to a specific project.

### Bluegrass Heritage Museum

(Winchester, KY)



The 2021 recipient of the Lucy Shropshire Crump Volunteer Award, Joe Turley, congratulates the 2022 recipient, Jan Swauger.

## Lucy Shropshire Crump Volunteer Award:

Given to an individual or group that has provided exemplary service to the Blue Grass Trust throughout the year.

### Jan Swauger,

Immediate Past President of  
Town & Country Garden  
Club (Lexington, KY)



Members of the Huntertown Community Interpretive Park receive the 2022 Barbara Hulette Award from the award's namesake, Barbara Hulette, and the 2021 recipient, Sharyn Mitchell.

**Barbara Hulette Award:** For efforts in the preservation of Central Kentucky's history, heritage, built environment, landscape, archaeological resources, sense of community, or significant endeavors.

### Huntertown Community Interpretive Park

(Woodford County, KY)

**Lucy Graves Advocacy Award:** Given to an individual or group that has exhibited advocacy leadership in supporting the historic preservation movement in Central Kentucky.

### Jessica Winters

(Lexington, KY)

**Public Service to Preservation Award:** Given to a government agency or official for service to preservation movement or to a specific project.

### Camp Nelson National Monument

(Jessamine County, KY)



Community Preservation and Education Committee Co-Chair, Maureen Peters, presents the 2022 Clyde Carpenter Adaptive Reuse Award to the owners of Traxside Restaurant and Bourbon Bar at the Paris Train Depot.

**Clyde Carpenter Adaptive Reuse Award:** Given to an individual or group for outstanding efforts towards the rehabilitation and adaptive re-use of a building or buildings within Central Kentucky.

### Traxside Restaurant and Bourbon Bar at the Paris Train Depot

(Paris, KY)

Continued pg 8





Susan V. Miller and Bob Willcutt pose with their book, *Waveland's Treasures*, which was awarded the Clay Lancaster Heritage Education Award.



Yvonne Giles and Brenda Jackson present the 2022 Yvonne Giles award to Willa Relford Gentry.

# Clyde Carpenter: *Architect* of Our Space



Receiving the Service to Preservation Award from the Kentucky Heritage Council at the annual Ida Lee Willis Memorial Foundation Historic Preservation Awards in 2017 are from L to R: Ann Early Sutherland, Doug Appler, Clyde Carpenter, Allison Carll-White, Barbara Hulette, and Steve Collins.

**Clay Lancaster Heritage Education Award:** Given to an individual or group for service in researching and disseminating information about the Central Kentucky region.

**Susan V. Miller and Bob Willcutt** for *Waveland's Treasures* (Lexington, KY)  
**Dr. Ron Pen** (Lexington, KY)

**Yvonne Giles Award:** Given to an individual, group or project for contributing to research on African American or other culturally inclusive history, advocacy of the understanding of that history, and education of the community regarding African American or other culturally inclusive history in the Bluegrass.

**Willa Relford Gentry** (New Zion, KY)



**John Wesley Hunt Award:** Given to an individual for lifetime service to the preservation movement in Central Kentucky.

**Linda Bruckheimer**  
 (Bloomfield, KY) 🏡

Noted preservationist David Morgan accepts the John Wesley Hunt Award on behalf of Linda Bruckheimer.

**Dot Crutcher Award:** Given to an exemplary member of the Blue Grass Trust.  
**Dr. Daniel Rowland** (Lexington, KY)



**Landscape Preservation Award:** Given to an individual or group for the preservation, design, stewardship, restoration, or enhancement of a historic cultural landscape in the Bluegrass.  
**James Manley, Arborwise Tree and Landscape**  
 (Frankfort, KY)

James Manley accepts his 2022 Landscape Preservation Award from Community Preservation and Education Committee Co-Chair, Wanda Jaquith.

## The Blue Grass Trust receives 2022 Kentucky History Award

The Blue Grass Trust for Historic Preservation is honored to receive a 2022 Kentucky History Award for our digital app and website, *Tour the Historic Bluegrass*. The Kentucky History Awards are given by the Kentucky Historical Society to recognize the outstanding achievements of history-related organizations and the people connected with them. We are honored to be sharing Kentucky's story.

*Tour the Historic Bluegrass* was conceptualized by the Trust's Community Preservation and Education Committee and developed in partnership with Keeneland and the University of Kentucky. The virtual format allows users to take a historical tour of the bluegrass region while highlighting the area's history. There are now two tours to explore, "Lexington's East End" and "Adaptive Reuse in Lexington's Urban Core." 🏡

On a recent family trip, I was staring at a dedication plaque for the Hemlock Lodge at Natural Bridge State Park, a great early mid-century modern structure. It had the Parks Commissioner, Governor, architect, and contractor listed. No date. My first thought was "Clyde will know." He would have known. He had an encyclopedic memory for dates, people, and places. Technically that was how his brain worked, but that was also how he categorized things and formulated a system to remember and recapitulate information to anyone who would ask. Clyde was a repository of knowledge — he took it in and he gave it back.

Clyde's importance to the built environment in the Commonwealth is immeasurable. As I have begun archiving Clyde's papers and documents, it is evident to me he was infatuated with architecture since he could read. I have found magazines and books dating to the 1940's, when he was just a young boy. I have found newspaper clippings of new buildings built in Lexington in the mid 1950's when he would have been in high school. After graduating from UK, Clyde attended Penn where he studied under masters Louis I. Kahn, Robert Venturi, and Denise Scott Brown. That experience solidified an already preternatural understanding of space. This is who he was and what he knew to be true until the day he died — July 1st of this year.

When Clyde finished at Penn and subsequently his European travel scholarship, he returned to Lexington in the Fall of 1963 for what he always claimed was to be just a year. He began as an adjunct professor in the newly formed College of Architecture in the Reynolds Building on Scott St., the soon-to-be future home of the UK College of Design, a fitting return in many ways. Led by Dean Chuck Graves, a fellow Penn graduate, Clyde embarked on a teaching career that would span 57 years and influence nearly every generation of graduate architects since the state formally began educating them. That is monumental. Everything Clyde did, he did in service of the education of space makers. Notice I did not say architecture singularly. Clyde cared about space. He cared about the space you live in, work in, worship in, socialize in, and preserve. Clyde always said he felt he got more from the students than he provided them. I appreciate the sentiment but anyone who studied under, worked with, or was friends with Clyde, knows that is not true.

As we reflect on Clyde's life and accomplishments, it is important to look at the breadth of his service to the space making community in Kentucky. Clyde's role as an educator is well-known. Clyde's role as an architect, having authored many spaces for clients over the years is secondarily known but rarely documented. I would say primary to those reading this article, Clyde will be

known for his role as a Preservation Activist. The many ways Clyde served the preservation community from his involvement with the BGT over the years, to chairing the Board of Architectural Review for LFUCG, to serving as Chair of the Historic Preservation Department at UK, and his cherished home on New Street which symbolizes his beliefs, is well known. The way Clyde served the Kentucky Preservation Community as a chief oral conservator, however, will be his most enduring legacy. Clyde knew things, he shared them, he listened, he shared again, and in those exchanges, he always gave fully of himself.

In closing, I want to leave you with how I think we can continue in Clyde's legacy of service. As we move forward, let us create an open forum for discussion and remembrance. We must make sure we know, understand, and preserve Kentucky's varied architectural history and ensure the next chapter in our stewardship is ever respectful, thoughtful, and evolved.

So now, I ask you to pour a drink, sit down and raise a glass to our dear friend, mentor, neighbor, colleague, and preservation-stalwart, Clyde Reynolds Carpenter as we continue the earnest work of Preservation. 🏡

*By Darren Taylor — friend, neighbor, colleague, and collaborator of Clyde's for over 20 years*



# Historic Preservation Education at the University of Kentucky

While most readers are likely aware the Department of Historic Preservation at the University of Kentucky offers a Master's Degree in Historic Preservation, they may not know the department now provides pathways for students to engage with historic preservation education at any point in their academic or professional careers. In addition to the Master of Historic Preservation (MHP) degree program, the department now also offers: a Graduate Certificate in Historic Preservation (both online and on campus); an Undergraduate Certificate in Historic Preservation (on campus); and as of this year, a Master of Heritage Resources Administration (online), in cooperation with the university's Martin School of Public Policy.

The Master of Historic Preservation (MHP) degree program was the University of Kentucky's inaugural historic preservation degree



Professor Douglas Appler demonstrating large format photography to graduate students at Buffalo Trace Distillery

program and was instituted in 1997. It involves a comprehensive graduate curriculum designed to prepare students for careers in preservation.

Requiring 48 credit hours, it culminates in a major project demonstrating original research ability and thoughtful application of professional skills and knowledge. The MHP program is housed within the University of Kentucky's College of Design, and graduated its first students in 1999. To date around 110 students have completed the program and have attained an outstanding record of placement and career advancement.

The on-campus graduate certificate was designed to introduce students in fields such as architecture, interior design, history, and geography to the theory and practice of historic preservation. The 12-credit-hour program, which enrolled its first students in 2015, was designed to supplement graduate studies in a closely related discipline. By introducing fundamental principles and skills, the certificate expands the abilities of students preparing for careers in associated fields.

The University of Kentucky began offering an online version of the graduate certificate the next year. While it is also a 12-credit-hour program of study, it is oriented toward working professionals and others who are unable to take in-person courses. Like the on-campus certificate, it introduces core preservation principles and concepts. Practicing architects, city planners, archaeologists, design consultants, architectural review board members, and realtors have found it effective in building knowledge that compliments their existing training and experience. The Department of Historic Preservation has awarded around 60 graduate certificates.



Professor Travis Rose discussing log construction with undergraduate students in Gratz Park

An introductory historic preservation course was first offered for undergraduate students in 2014, and in 2019 the department began accepting students into a formal undergraduate certificate program. The 12-credit-hour program introduces the history and theory of historic preservation while allowing students to explore specialized areas of practice. Aimed at developing broad knowledge, the certificate is intended to prepare students for life in a globalized society and decisions they will face in their professional and private lives. The Undergraduate Certificate Program has been very popular with students seeking degrees in architecture and interior design, and increasingly attracts students from allied fields such as landscape architecture, anthropology, history, and geography. Seventeen undergraduate certificates have been granted, and about 35 students are currently enrolled.

The most recent offering is an online Master of Heritage Administration (MHRA) program. Combining historic preservation coursework with training in public and nonprofit administration, the program just began accepting students for fall of 2022. The degree is meant to provide mid-career heritage professionals with a pathway to advancement and leadership within their organizations, and the online format allows for maximum flexibility. The curriculum consists of 36 credit hours, including 24 required course, 9 electives, and a 3-hour capstone project.

# Featured BGT Plaque House Locust Hill

Joe and Anne Markham's Full Circle Farm on Redd Road in Lexington traces its origins to the eighteenth century. The main house is brick, laid in Flemish bond, and was once the centerpiece of Locust Hill Farm. It was built in 1790, probably as a classic Hall-and-Parlor vernacular house of the type brought by early settlers from Virginia. The original house is two rooms down and two rooms up. The second floor is accessed via a closed staircase. The third story attic floor still is held in place by wooden pegs.



Locust Hill from the front

At some time the house was modified into a center hall form, and a one-and-a-half story room and a one story kitchen were

added to the west side. The front of the house gained a polygonal turret in the 1880s as a bit of Victorian whimsy. The Markham's restorations and renovations have maintained the house's floor plan and many architectural elements. They are planning an addition at the back of the

modified to a more fashionable, or perhaps practicable, center hall style. Houses throughout the trans-Appalachian region after the turn of the nineteenth century were transformed into Georgian, Federal, or I-house forms. From Locust Hill to Full Circle Farm the house and farm are part of a historic landscape placed on the National Register in 1991 for its embodiment of changing agricultural practice in central Kentucky over a two-hundred-year period. The seven farms of the Redd Road Rural Historic District represent mixed use, cattle, tobacco, and horse farms with all the architectural accoutrements, appendages,

and outbuildings including a mill, springhouses, houses for enslaved and free labor, tobacco and horse barns, and dry-laid rock fences. In short, it is a quintessentially Bluegrass landscape that reminds us of the region's historical geographies and the material artifacts built, maintained, used, and occupied by its many residents – white, Black and Latinx, rich and poor, free and enslaved.

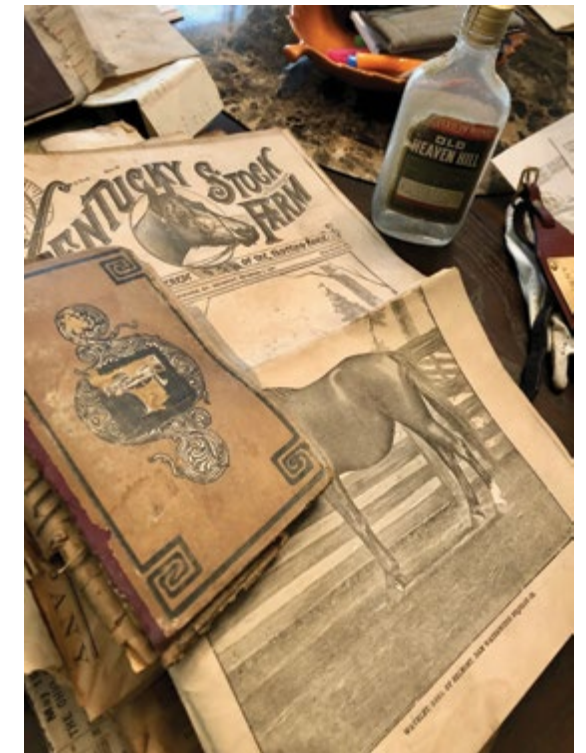


Rebuilt chimney as centerpiece of a new building

Although the building behind the house, once inhabited by enslaved and then free laborers, was beyond repair, the Markhams had a mason carefully restore the central chimney as the centerpiece of a new building. Fireplaces are a central feature of the house, and the ones in the parlor and the kitchen addition are magnificent examples of their time that have been carefully restored. The original roof beams in the west addition were exposed and preserved when the ceiling was opened to provide more light.

added to the west side. The front of the house gained a polygonal turret in the 1880s as a bit of Victorian whimsy. The Markham's restorations and renovations have maintained the house's floor plan and many architectural elements. They are planning an addition at the back of the

Locust Hill is our featured plaque house for several reasons. First, it reminds us the historic houses we live in are not always untouchable or untouched museum pieces frozen in a distant past. Modification and change have always been a feature of the American freehold property experience and tinkering with our houses is a long-standing American practice. This is evident almost from the beginning at Locust Hill, when the traditional hall-and-parlor form was



Treasure rescued from walls



The Annual Fund drive is a critical way to do your part to ensure BGT continues its efforts to be the leading organization in Central Kentucky addressing historic preservation through advocacy, education, and service. The Fall/Winter 2022-23 issue of *Preservation Matters* lists the 2021-22 fiscal year's donors (ending June 30, 2022) broken into giving categories. The Annual Fund is the lifeblood of the BGT as the Trust receives no federal, state, or local funding.

This current Annual Fund drive, which began July 1, closes on June 30, 2023. Please make your contribution by using the donor envelope enclosed in this magazine; by going online at [www.bluegrasstrust.org](http://www.bluegrasstrust.org); or by scanning the QR code below. *Thank you.*

### Marble Donor

\$5,000 or more  
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have made special provisions in their will, a life insurance policy, real estate, or some other financial conveyance to include the BGT in their estate planning. If you would like more information, contact the BGT at (859) 253-0362 or [info@bluegrasstrust.org](mailto:info@bluegrasstrust.org).

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The Trust sadly notes the death of Sally Johnston, wife of Bill Johnston – former board president and current Advisory Board and Heritage Society member. Sally was a constant supporter of her husband as well as the Blue Grass Trust. We will miss her smile, laughter, and presence at BGT events.





# The *Synergy* of Historic Preservation and Rural Land Management in Fayette County



*Sulphur Well's canopied tree-lined rural road is surrounded by over 1500 acres of protective PDR easements.*

Saving Central Kentucky's working farms preserves much more than just a place to grow food to sustain us in the future. Thanks to the foresight and hard work of many, including the Blue Grass Trust for Historic Preservation, Fayette County has one of the most in-depth and successful rural preservation programs of any county in Kentucky. As many became aware that our world-renown agrarian heritage was fast disappearing and its history and beauty could not continue to be taken for granted, a major planning undertaking occurred in the late 1990s. A community-wide outcry arose to devise ways to protect and preserve in perpetuity Central Kentucky's iconic landscape being forever threatened with non-agricultural uses. That agricultural working landscape as well as its diversified agricultural industries generate billions of dollars on an annual basis for the local economy. The importance of tourism, which

was a value-added product, also played a major role in the overall vitality and economy of the area.

Following public demand, several years of surveys, polls and studies conducted by the University of Kentucky resulted in serious political discussions and numerous changes to the way Fayette County planned for the future of its rural area. The Rural Land Management Plan (RLMP), adopted in 1999 by Fayette County's merged government, was one of those long-range planning changes designed to preserve forever a critical mass of at least 50,000 acres of Fayette County's important soils, viable farmland, and unique natural areas. The Plan was comprehensive: in addition to conserving the land base, it also conceived to encourage and support the economy for all types of farming operations with associated agricultural businesses while also protecting the historic resources, large tree stands, wildlife habitats, and the unique environmentally sensitive areas on each of the farms obtaining a protective easement. The basic intent was to maintain the strong agricultural economy and historic and natural resources that define Central Kentucky's cultural landscape. Tourism and recreation were considered important components of the overall plan.

A main goal of the RLMP was to begin a Purchase of Development Rights Program



*The 1785 log cabin on McCalls Mill Road, located in the Boone Creek Watershed and Boone Creek National Register Rural Historic District, is protected on an 85-acre PDR farm.*



*Numerous family cemeteries and gravesites are protected with easements on PDR farms. This stone-walled cemetery contains 21 marked graves of the Clay, Talbot and Grimes Family members from the early 1800s.*

(PDR) to help implement The Plan and to devise additional strategies to preserve working farms associated with that internationally recognized landscape. From the beginning, state and federal dollars, some through the tobacco settlement funds, were available through matching grants to assist with the purchase of development rights. A farm owner, by selling his development potential, placed in perpetuity a protective easement on the land. A 16-member rotating board of stakeholders was formed to oversee the non-profit PDR Program. In addition, the board was charged with the overall goals of

The Plan and monitoring the long-term preservation of the land base and unique qualities on each easement. The board members, nominated by specific organizations as specified by ordinance for diversity, meets regularly for the purpose of preserving and managing agricultural, rural, and natural lands within all of Fayette County's Rural Service Area.

In the twenty years since the adoption of the RLMP and the inception of the PDR Program, 31,066.774 acres of easements have been purchased or donated by Fayette County property owners. This has worked toward the goal of 50,000 acres of prime soils needed to make up the critical mass required to sustain farming operations and agriculturally related businesses into the future. Many of the farm easements on these 31,000+ acres have protected far more in 20 years than just the land base required for farming. The PDR Program has protected historic resources, canopied rural roadways, miles of scenic byways with scenic vistas, blue-line streams with riparian buffers and wildlife habitats.

Many of the protective easements are located within Fayette County's 15,000 acres of National Register rural historic districts. These historic districts identify areas of significant historic importance to Central Kentucky dating back to the 1700s and some to much earlier Native American sites. The existing farm easements throughout these important districts are saving those special places containing a wide range of structures from early log cabins and barns to elaborate farm complexes of houses, barns, stone fences, and family cemeteries. The largest of the rural districts with easements is the Boone Creek National Register District which includes the entire Boone Creek watershed in both Fayette and Clark counties from Winchester Road on the north to the Kentucky River on the south. This currently includes thousands of conserved acres of early farmsteads and historic structures. Included throughout these National Register districts are state designated scenic roads and byways with many noted historic assets. The Bowman Mill Road District holds an easement on Helm Place, connected to and preserving history of Mary Todd Lincoln's family. The Old Frankfort Pike with numerous farm easements, was recently given national status when it was designated a National Scenic Corridor. The overlaying farm easements with their historic resources enhancing scenic viewsheds sealed the deal for national recognition. Maintaining the historic aesthetics along these roadways is important to Kentucky's tourism trade in addition to the daily enjoyment of the general public and local residents.

The Central Kentucky Bluegrass Region has a wide range of unique cultural heritage development patterns. Fayette County is considered the epicenter of equine-related industries. In 2006, the World Monuments Fund listed this landscape among the 100 most endangered places threatened by suburban development. The long-term preservation of this iconic landscape depends on regional cooperation, education, and awareness of the importance of its continued existence. The general welfare and overall economy this priceless resource provides everyone living within the area cannot be over-emphasized or taken for granted. Everyone needs to pay close attention to these unique surroundings to guarantee they survive intact for the continued physical and financial well-being of future generations. 🌱



*The Cleveland-Rogers House National Register Complex has a log barn, two log cabins, smoke house and stone fences protected by a PDR easement on Old Richmond Road in the Boone Creek Watershed.*



*The Victorian home on the scenic Military Pike is protected by a 235-acre PDR easement.*



*The early Greek Revival House is protected on a 175-acre PDR farm on Briar Hill Road.*





# New Website Highlights Archaeological Sites and Research Spanning 10,000+ Years of Kentucky History

Plates and platters recovered through excavation of a privy vault at Ashland, The Henry Clay Estate (Antebellum period, 1820 to 1861), included Chinese and European porcelain vessels suggestive of the many formal dinners held there. Associated with Henry Clay's original home, which was demolished shortly after his death in 1852, more than 900 ceramic vessels were recovered from this privy and make up one of the largest Antebellum ceramic collections in Kentucky.

A new website highlighting more than 100 pre-historic and historic archaeological sites across 64 counties has been launched by the Kentucky Heritage Council/State Historic Preservation Office (KHC) in partnership with the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet (KYTC).

The website, "Discover Kentucky Archaeology" documents the diversity and richness of Kentucky's archaeological record and the scientific documentation and research undertaken by more than 100 archaeologists who have contributed and continue to contribute to our shared understanding of the past.



In 2011, archaeologists excavated the graves of patients buried between 1839 and 1861 at Eastern State Hospital Cemetery in Lexington, which had been incorporated into a garden and rediscovered in 2005. Excavations documented the remains of 186 individuals, and historic documents show those interred there came from a variety of social and economic backgrounds from counties throughout the state.

Prehistoric time periods begin with Paleoindian-era sites (prior to 8,000 BC) and range from Grizzly Newt, an Early Archaic (8000 to 6000 BC) Native American rockshelter located within the Daniel Boone National Forest, to McGilligan Creek, a Late Woodland (500 to 1000 AD) village in Livingston County.

Historic time period examples include Saltpeter

Cave, a Frontier era (1750 to 820 AD) niter mine in Carter County, through sites like Peanickle, a Postbellum and Industrialization (1865 to 1914) African American community on a ridgetop just outside Lawrenceburg.

Featured Fayette County sites range from Mt. Horeb Earthwork, a Middle Woodland (200 BC to 500 AD) Adena earthen enclosure located along Elkhorn Creek, to Davis Bottom, a residential urban neighborhood in a low-lying area west of downtown Lexington, which served as a "portal" community for several generations of African American, European and Appalachian families who moved to the area in search of jobs, education and a better life. Davis Bottom encompasses two eras: Postbellum and Industrialization, and Industrial and Commercial Consolidation (1915 to 1945).

Each site profile includes a summary, findings, a focus on "what's cool" and links to related materials. Other sections include opportunities for public education, outreach and discovery. Content was created by the Kentucky Archaeological Survey and the website was designed by Kentucky Interactive LLC. New sites will be added as research and funding allows.

The project was funded through an alternative mitigation agreement for bridges projects, financed by the federal government, which impacted significant archaeological sites listed in or deemed eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. Through this consultation process, outlined by federal statute and supported by the Federal Highway Administration, consulting parties agreed to create a publicly available guide to Kentucky archaeological sites.

"While we are dedicated to preserving significant archaeological resources, sometimes damage from construction projects to cultural resources can't be avoided," said Craig Potts, KHC executive director and state historic

preservation officer. "In this instance we worked with partner agencies and consulting parties to develop a way to offset these damages by



In the 1920s, the University of Kentucky investigated the Singer site (Mississippian/Fort Ancient period, 1000 to 1750 AD), where two circular Fort Ancient villages extended across a broad ridgetop overlooking a bend in North Elkhorn Creek in Scott County. UK archaeologists and others have returned to the site in the years since to do additional research and excavation, and today multiple seasons of work have documented at least six circular villages at the site.

investing in public outreach to increase understanding of the importance of these sites and what they have yet to tell us about Kentucky's heritage."

"As we build a better Kentucky that meets the needs of the future, the Transportation Cabinet is committed to protecting and preserving Kentucky's past," said KYTC Secretary Jim Gray. "This initiative makes historical information accessible and enjoyable to discover across multiple periods and parts of the state." Explore the site at [archaeology.ky.gov](https://archaeology.ky.gov).



Discover KY Archaeology logo

# 2022-23 Hopemont Lecture Series

We are pleased to announce the new season of our Hopemont Lecture Series at the Dr. Thomas Hunt Morgan House has begun. This year's lecture series kicked off with Dr. Jeremy D. Popkin's *Benjamin Gratz and the Soul of Lexington*. Other lectures highlighting the diverse stories and innovative storytellers that make Kentucky history so exciting and relevant are scheduled for November, February, and April.

*Benjamin Gratz and the Soul of Lexington* explores how Jewish history and the history of slavery collide in Lexington's oldest historic district. Dr. Jeremy D. Popkin, the William T. Bryan Chair and professor of history at the University of Kentucky, presented his important new research into one of the most famous family names in Lexington. Benjamin Gratz (1792-1884) (for whom Lexington's oldest historic district is named) was the first, and for at least thirty years, the only Jewish resident of the city.

"His [Gratz] rapid integration into Lexington's elite was a sign of the community's religious tolerance, and for many decades he was involved in almost every aspect of the city's civic life," said Dr. Popkin. "But what made his central role in local affairs possible was the wealth he earned as one of Lexington's leading slave owners. Intimate documents make it possible to show in detail how slave ownership pervaded every aspect of the Gratz family's life. The



Dr. Jeremy Popkin presents the first Hopemont Lecture of the season, *Benjamin Gratz and the Soul of Lexington*, held at the Dr. Thomas Hunt Morgan House on September 22.

story of Benjamin Gratz forces us to recognize that 'the Athens of the West' whose memory is celebrated in Gratz Park was built on the backs of enslaved Black people."

Popkin has written or edited more than twenty books, including *You Are All Free: The Haitian Revolution and the Abolition of Slavery* and *A New World Begins: The History of the French Revolution*. His latest book, *Zelda Popkin: The Life of an American Jewish Woman Writer*, will appear in February 2023.

Thanks to Blue Grass Trust supporters, all four upcoming events in the Hopemont Lecture

Series are free and open to the public. Each lecture begins at 7pm at the Dr. Thomas Hunt Morgan House, 210 North Broadway, Lexington, KY 40507. We hope you will join us!

## The 2022-2023 Hopemont Lecture Series in brief:

**September 22, 7pm**, Dr. Jeremy D. Popkin, historian, *Benjamin Gratz and the Soul of Lexington*.

**November 17, 7pm**, Kevin Dearing, theatre historian, *The Best One Night Stand in America: The Rich Theatrical History of Lexington, 1808-1918*.

**February 23, 7pm**, Dr. Maegen Rochner, dendrochronologist, *Exploring Kentucky History Through Tree Rings*, presented in cooperation with the University of Kentucky Department of Historic Preservation.

**April 20, 7pm**, Dr. Emily Bingham, historian, *My Old Kentucky Home: The Astonishing Life and Reckoning of an Iconic American Song*.

Detailed lecture information can be found at: [www.bluegrasstrust.org/hopemont](http://www.bluegrasstrust.org/hopemont)



Dr. Popkin captures the attention of a near-capacity audience in his lecture opening the 2022-23 Hopemont Lecture Series.



# Leap of Faith The Renovation of 18 Mentelle Park



The Maples peeked in the windows of 18 Mentelle Park. They were not allowed to do a walk-through or have the house inspected before they purchased it. The photo on the right shows the house today as it sits on a spacious double lot.

Hannah and Corey Maple renovated a house on Cramer Avenue in the Kenwick neighborhood in 2014, putting a significant addition on the back, anticipating this would be home for their family with two young children for years to come.

When they had a third child, space became a little tight, but the couple figured they could make the house work. "The only way we would ever move is if 18 Mentelle Park came up for sale," Hannah said.

The once beautiful Mentelle Park house, built in the early 1900's on a double tree shaded lot, languished in a dismal state of disrepair. Raccoons climbed in and out of holes in the roof; the porches sagged; the yard was an overgrown tangle of ground cover.

But Hannah, an interior decorator with experience working with clients on renovating houses, could see past the deterioration. "I saw such potential," she said. She was concerned if the story and a half brick house ever sold, somebody

lacking experience with old houses would not be sensitive in bringing it back to life, or worse yet, would tear it down.

In 2019, the owner who lived there died, and with no immediate heirs had donated the house to his church, Heritage Baptist Church on North Ashland Avenue. The church trustees weren't in the real estate

would respect its historical legacy; it was where they wanted their children to grow up.

The church had several offers and narrowed the pool to three. The Maples had the high bid. But the church said even with the high bid, their formal offer could not contain any contingencies, like asking to walk through the house or have it inspected.

"We did a lot of window peeking, so we had an idea of the down-stairs floor plan," Hannah said. "But, basically, we bought the house sight unseen."

Before walking through the first time, "We got a really nice bottle of bourbon," she said, laughing. "We each took a little sip to prepare us before we went in."

When the couple stepped inside, they weren't prepared for how grand the house felt: the width of the hallway, the height of the ceilings, the size



Hannah could see lots of potential in the large living room with its interesting architectural details.



business and wanted an easy, quick transition of the house to a new owner.

The Maples submitted an offer, together with a long letter Hannah wrote to the church, saying how she and Corey were committed to the neighborhood and would do the house justice in restoring it. They



The wall at the right with the chimney is the only wall in the house the Maples removed. The exterior door on the left is where the range is now located. The new kitchen is full of natural light, with the addition of windows.

of the rooms, the architectural details intact on the mantels and woodwork.

Floors in the front three rooms were rift and quarter sawn white oak, the dining room fireplace was faced with Rookwood tile, original glass-paned doors were on cupboards in the large butler's pantry. All the interior doors had the original hardware and keys.

The Maples took possession March 18, 2020. Hannah served as the general contractor. Demolition started in September. Work was completed and the Maples moved in Memorial Day weekend, 2021.

"I have done many renovations for clients. I stayed on top of this project," Hannah said. "The subs were reliable. Everything went so smooth."

The front and back porches were completely rebuilt, bricks tuckpointed, rotted box gutters ripped out, a chimney rebuilt, and three corners of the house rebuilt to make the house plumb. Some window frames needed rebuilding, and storms were made to protect all the windows.

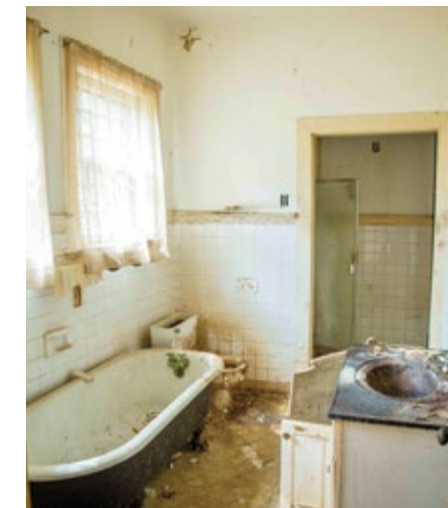
The Maples removed hallway walls at the back of the first floor to create a spacious kitchen and adjoining utility room. The two bedrooms and a bathroom were reconfigured into a master suite.

The second floor was an unfinished attic up to the rafters except for flooring that lead from the stairway to one finished bedroom. Raccoons roamed freely. "We had to shovel raccoon poop. It was gross," Hannah said.

The space today has three bedrooms and a bath for the children, a man cave for Corey and a small sitting area with large windows overlooking the backyard.



The butler's pantry has the original glass doors which have been retained on the beautifully refinished cabinets.



The only bathroom in the house became the laundry/mud room, and new bathrooms were creatively added throughout the house.

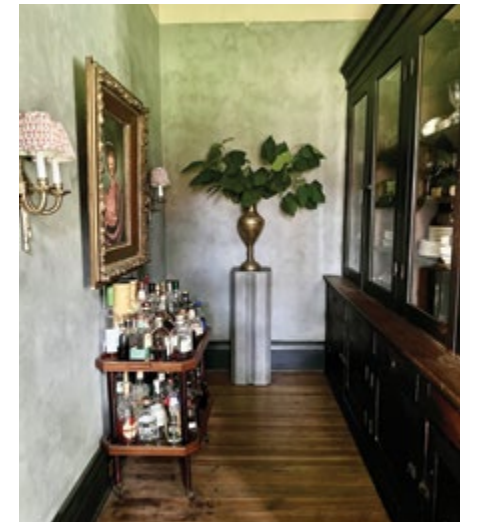


death, Mann lived there until he died in 2019.

The Maples love their double lot, being close to downtown and having Corey's sister and her four children across the street.

"When you're young you don't know what life's going to bring," Hannah said. "But we bought this with the intention it will be our forever home.

We thought ahead to when our children are grown and will bring their families back. That's why when we built the garage, we built a second-floor apartment in case we ever need that space." 🏡





# Heritage Society Visits *Elmwood Mansion*

On a beautiful Sunday afternoon in early October, members of the BGT Heritage Society, along with other guests, met at the 1887 residence of the Watts family in Richmond, Kentucky. Elmwood Mansion is located on a 20-acre park-like grounds amid the bustling Eastern Kentucky University campus. It wasn't always that way, but in the intervening years since its construction, ECU has grown around the property.

Elmwood was built by William Walker Watts, who was born in Madison County and accumulated his wealth through cattle and land speculation in Texas. The chateausque architecture is the only example of its style in Kentucky outside of Louisville. The home was designed by Samuel E. Des Jardins, a French-Canadian architect from Cincinnati.

William and Mary Watts had one child, Emma, who was born the same year her new home was completed, and except for going away to college and going on numerous trips to Europe, Emma lived at Elmwood her entire life. She kept the house much as it was when her parents first built it, which provides part of the property's fascination.

From 1887 until Emma's death in 1970, Mr. and Mrs. Watts and Emma were the only residents of the mansion, besides the servants. Following Emma's instructions, at her death a trust went into effect to maintain the property as it always had



Heritage Society members and guests gather on the grounds of Elmwood Mansion before the tour of the 1887 home.

been. Eastern Kentucky University had wanted to obtain the property for many years before Emma's death, but she was adamant about not abandoning her home to the university. In the 1960s, ECU president Dr. Thomas Martin tried to negotiate the sale of the property with Emma. He is said to have asked Emma what she would take for Elmwood? Her terse reply was, "What would you take for your college?" No deal!

Finally, after 40 years of the trustees attempting to maintain the property, an agreement to deed Elmwood, with covenants, to the Eastern Kentucky University Foundation, a separate 501c3 nonprofit, was finally accomplished in 2011. The home still has all the furniture and furnishings as Emma left it in 1970. The foundation is currently looking for a viable purpose

for this unique space and pursuing conservation easements to better protect the property. While considering various alternatives, the roof has been replaced and other maintenance projects have been completed, but much remains to be done.



Dominated by an ornate oak fireplace mantel and numerous stained-glass windows, the parlor was a central room for entertaining guests.



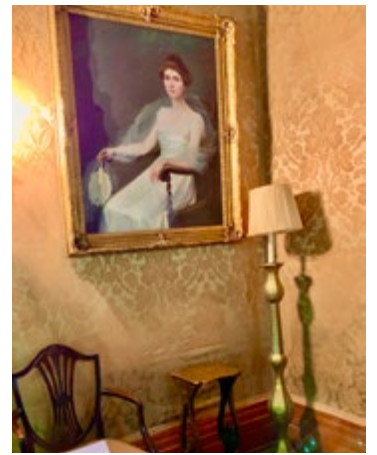
Carrie Tuttle, Administrative Coordinator of the ECU Foundation, begins the tour in the Watts family parlor.



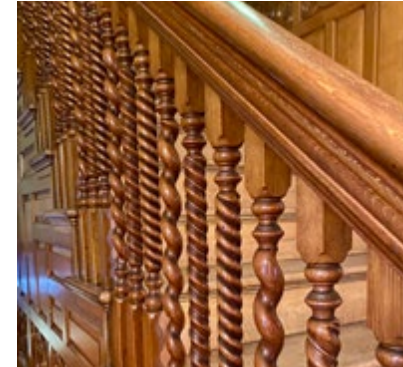
Portraits of William Walker Watts and his wife Mary hang on the left wall of the parlor.



Heritage Society members tour Emma Watts' bedroom.



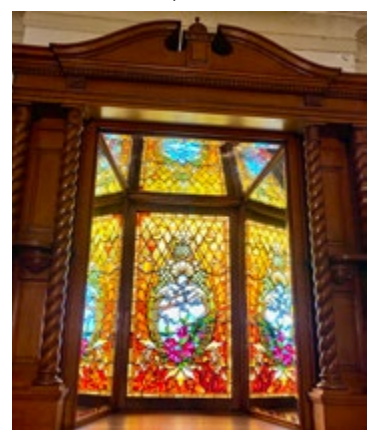
A portrait of Emma Watts hangs on a wall adjacent to that of her parents' portraits in the parlor.



Intricately turned oak balusters made of three designs adorn the six-foot wide staircase that leads to a landing, then on to the second floor.



A gold, red, and orange stained-glass window is a central feature of the staircase landing.



An inset stained-glass window above the fireplace in the dining room has beveled mirrors on each side, which replicate the window, making the window appear larger.



BGT Executive director Jonathon Coleman and Preservation Outreach Coordinator Jackson Osborne present a BGT plaque to Betina Gardner, Executive Director of the ECU Foundation, and Barry Poynter, Treasurer of the ECU Foundation.



An ornate oak fireplace mantel is a central feature in Mr. Watt's bedroom.

A servant's stairwell is located in the back of the house.

Elmwood is approximately 9,000 square feet, and a tour of the house led by Carrie Tuttle, Administrative Coordinator of the ECU Foundation, revealed numerous interesting features including the intricately carved woodwork and the golden oak paneling prevalent in much of the house. Beautiful ornate stained-glass windows adorn almost every room. In the dining room, a stained-glass window above the mantle requires the fireplace chimney to divide into two separate channels to go around the window. At the end of the tour, Heritage Society members enjoyed refreshments in the dining room. ECU Foundation generously hosted the Heritage Society, and, as an expression of the Trust's appreciation, BGT executive director Dr. Jonathan Coleman presented a bronze BGT plaque to Betina Gardner, Executive Director of the ECU Foundation, to be affixed near the mansion's entrance. 🏛️



# Woman's Club of Central Kentucky Supports deTours



One of the stained-glass windows in the Third Street Methodist Church in Danville

repurposed mansion such as Spindletop, a mid-century modern drive-in, or the historic African American Lyric Theater.

By August 2020, deTours were offered on video due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and Woman's Club enthusiastically supported this new format.

As Woman's Club faced the 2021 club year, uncertainty loomed. Many members were uncomfortable attending in-person meetings. Finances were tight for families who relied on businesses that had closed.

Without knowing whether the club would be able to have fundraisers or even

meetings, I was concerned about our level of commitment to deTours.

I didn't linger long on this decision.

For the past 15 years, I have been the executive director of the Appalachian Program of a New York-based charitable trust. From my colleagues in New York, I learned great nonprofits do not shy away during times of challenge. Just the opposite. When facing hard times, great charities have confidence it

is the perfect time to invest.

On my recommendation, our board increased our charitable commitment to deTours.

How rewarding it was to see the deTours program turn to the Third Street Methodist Church in downtown Danville. The building was erected in 1891 on the site of a log church built in 1791 that established the first Methodist Church congregation west of the Allegheny Mountains.

In February, deTour visited the Huntertown Community Interpretative Park in Woodford County. The park, formed in August 1871, was purchased by a formerly enslaved Woodford County United States Colored Troop veteran, Jerry Gatewood. This deTour is available on YouTube.

I was especially pleased the Trust came to my neighborhood in April for a tour of Cartmell House (1795) and Firebrook Mansion (1815).

Woman's Club has been a Lexington fixture since 1894. Like most legacy institutions Woman's Club has been challenged to adapt to changing times. Our women have held on, kept the organization going and new leadership succeeded in recruiting new members.

Woman's Club is proud of its ongoing commitment to deTours and hopes to continue its support for years to come. 🌱

By Judy Owens, WCCCK president

When I became president of Woman's Club on July 9, 2021, one of my first tasks was to work out a budget for the upcoming club year, particularly a plan for charitable giving.

My predecessor, Donna Price, was an avid supporter of the Blue Grass Trust deTours program. Since January 2011, DeTours has offered Central Kentuckians an inside view of places that define our community. Woman's Club loved how deTours democratized historic preservation. A deTour could be a splendid,



Donald H. Morton at the Huntertown Interpretive Park deTour



The circa 1795 Cartmell House, located in the Firebrook neighborhood



Mark Johnson leading the deTour at the MET with the "Ode to the East End" on the front of the building

Editor's Note: The BGT purchased the Woman's Club of Central Kentucky headquarters (the Dr. Thomas Hunt Morgan House) in 2014. As a part of the Trust's positive relationship with WCCCK, Preservation Matters provides a page devoted to a topic of their choice with each issue. We appreciate their input.



October deTour of the Jack Jouett House Historical Site in Woodford County

It has been another great season for the Blue Grass Trust deTours program. This season, we took the bluegrass part seriously, making a point to ask fellow preservationists throughout the bluegrass region to host our deTours.

In May, we kicked off Preservation Month by traveling to Boyle County for a behind the scenes look at Pioneer Playhouse, Kentucky's oldest outdoor theater and one of the oldest continuously operating summer stock theatres in the United States. Pioneer Playhouse was built in 1950 by Colonel Eben C. Henson.



The June deTour attracted over 100 people to view adaptive reuse projects in downtown Versailles.

For June, we went to Woodford County to deTour Historic Downtown Versailles. Over a hundred people explored the town's exciting adaptive reuse projects that include:

The Rickhouse Hotel & Distillery, formerly the Woodford Bank and Trust, which will soon operate as Versailles's first luxury boutique hotel and distillery.

The Galerie, once the Versailles United Methodist Church, now serves as an event space for weddings, private parties, and corporate events.

The Old Woodford Hotel which has been standing since 1880.

The charming bed and breakfast Historic Rose Hill Inn which was built in 1823.

Vallozzi's, the former Versailles Police Department, is now functioning as an Italian restaurant.

In July, we deToured The MET and Artists' Village in Lexington's historic East End neighborhood. These new additions to Lexington's historic East End focus on sharing and preserving the neighborhood's rich history and culture. Participants had a guided tour from Arthouse President and artist Mark Johnson, who highlighted how both locations are dedicated to art and community.

American Architectural History and Historic Places Documentation courses at the University of Kentucky.



deTour committee member Milan Bush films Facebook live at the August visit to the Cane Ridge Meeting House in Bourbon County.

In August, BGT visited the Cane Ridge Meeting House, one of Kentucky's oldest churches located in Bourbon County. We explored the historic structure and its grounds and learned about its colorful history from the site's curator.

For September's deTour of The Historic Thomson Neighborhood in Winchester, we worked with both longtime preservation advocates Claire Sipple and Dr. Julie Resienweiber from UK. They previewed the self-guided walking tour of the district, created by students enrolled in



Cadentown School, built in 1922-23, is one of the Rosenwald schools built throughout the South to provide education for Black communities.

For the October deTour, BGT partnered with Sam Dunn, executive director of the Jack Jouett House Historical Site in Woodford County, to learn about the home of the Revolutionary War hero and Kentucky statesmen Jack Jouett.

For November, we worked with Lexington's Department of Historic Preservation to visit the Cadentown School. Built in 1922-1923 the school was part of the Julius Rosenwald Fund designed to create a rural school building program for Black communities. Because of racial segregation, education would have been denied to these communities' children.

We are grateful to have had the opportunity to deTour so many unique places in person, but with winter coming, we are going to share our deTours virtually. Be sure to follow BGT on social media and sign up for our eblast by emailing [info@bluegrasstrust.org](mailto:info@bluegrasstrust.org). 🌱



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## Lexington *History* Museum Partners with the BGT

In October, The Blue Grass Trust announced its new partnership with the Lexington History Museum (LexHistory). This summer, as LexHistory sought space to re-establish its presence as a public museum, the two organizations agreed leasing the bottom floor of the Thomas Hunt Morgan House will accommodate LexHistory's current exhibit space needs. The Trust will still have its administrative offices on the second floor, and we look forward to seeing our historic property fully utilized.

Finding space to re-establish its museum is a significant milestone for LexHistory as it begins to implement a four-year strategic plan that reimagines its future and expresses a renewed commitment to a bold mission, vision, and strategic objectives leading up to Lexington's 250th anniversary in 2025 and beyond.

"We're excited to welcome the Lexington History Museum to the Thomas Hunt Morgan House on the Blue Grass Trust Campus. Seeing our historic spaces vibrant, utilized, and sharing the collective stories of our city's past is historic preservation at its best. What a natural partnership," said Dr. Jonathan Coleman, Executive Director, Blue Grass Trust for Historic Preservation.

"This arrangement promises tremendous synergy between the two organizations and



*Blue Grass Trust Board President Mike Meuser and Jim Dickinson, LexHistory Board Chair, shake hands after signing the agreement to lease museum space in the Thomas Hunt Morgan House to LexHistory.*

shows how working collaboratively can benefit both—and the community at large," said Jim Dickinson, LexHistory Board Chair. "BGT has embraced us, and we look forward to welcoming people back to a public museum dedicated to Lexington's diverse and vibrant history."

The Lexington History Museum, Inc. was established in 1998 and opened in the former Fayette County Courthouse on Main Street in downtown Lexington. At its peak, the museum hosted over 10,000 people annually from

all 50 states and 60 foreign countries.

In 2012, the museum was forced to vacate the former courthouse space when hazardous lead paint dust and mold were discovered by the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government, the building's landlord and caretaker at the time.

During the ensuing years—with the museum's collection distributed to a variety of storage spaces across the city—museum leadership and volunteers worked to fulfill LexHistory's mission through such initiatives as pocket museums, a speakers

series, rotating exhibits in public spaces, expanding its online WikiLex resources, converting several exhibits to virtual formats, publishing a new history of Lexington, participating in LexArts Gallery Hops, and producing several documentary videos.

In 2020, LexHistory's administrative offices moved into leased space in the Adam Rankin House, Lexington's oldest surviving home located in the South Hill district on Mill Street.