Who needs a new scarf?  Preservation Ky’s Fall Reception

While 75+ people watched at Serafini’s Bourbon room in downtown Frankfort, PK member Chris Black helped auction off items donated by local businesses and individuals, such as Capital Cellars in Frankfort, Morris Book Shop in Lexington, and artist Bill Macintire. Perhaps the most coveted item was, however, a lovely wool scarf hand-knitted by our former State Historic Preservation Officer, David Morgan. This item spurred lively bidding and fetched a large sum! The raffle for a box at Keeneland netted a large sum as well. Former PK Board member Becky Gorman was the lucky winner of six seats for Keeneland’s Spring 2011 meet. Highlights of the evening include music provided by the Lead-Based Pickers, the great food and drink from Serafini’s, and the great company of PK members. We hope you’ll join us at our next event!

Endangered List

Just in time for Historic Preservation Month in May, Preservation Kentucky will announce its 2011 Endangered List. The 2011 list will focus on themes, rather than particular sites. So, an endangered listing might spotlight a number of houses threatened by demolition and how they relate to an overarching theme, such as the demolition of historic houses for downtown parking. PK is looking for input from you. Please send information on specific sites or thematic nominations to the endangered list by Monday, 28 March 2011. Photographs, a brief history, and details regarding the specific threat should be emailed to: info@preservationkentucky.org or via snail mail at: PK Endangered List, PO Box 5192 Frankfort, KY 40602.

Newsletter Submissions

PK welcomes articles from our local and state partners on preservation issues. The newly-conceived PK News will devote a section to news across Kentucky, authored by our partners. The PK News will be published quarterly with the next edition appearing in April 2011. Articles for the upcoming newsletter must be received in the PK office (electronically) by Monday, 14 March 2011. For more details, please visit http://www.preservationkentucky.org or phone 502.871.4570.

New PK Website

The new PK website will launch in December 2010, after several months of design and revision. The new site will be more user-friendly and include links to the newsletter, financial resources (including the Kentucky Preservation Fund Application), PK programs, membership, and a list of PK member partners. Thanks to a program sponsored by the National Trust for Historic Preservation, you will now be able to donate online. Please visit our revamped website and let us know what you think: http://www.preservationkentucky.org.

Welcome New Board Members

PK welcomes new Board members Darlene Gooch of Russellville, Miranda Clements of Bowling Green, and Tim Peters of Mercer County!

Save the Date

The University of Kentucky Department of Historic Preservation, in collaboration with UK College of Design, will host a Preservation Symposium on March 31 and April 1, 2011. This year’s theme is “Adaptive Reuse: Innovation Through Preservation.” Scholars, architects, and city planners from all across the nation will come together to discuss pressing issues facing the country and how they can be applied to Kentucky and the city of Lexington. Details will be forthcoming at http://www.preservationkentucky.org.
Preservation Overload!
By Helen Dedman
PK Board Member

Preservation Overload—but I mean that in a good way. It all began Thursday, October 21 with the State Preservation Conference in Frankfort. Speakers from all over Kentucky and around the country were there discussing tax credits, cultural heritage, historic architecture, tourism, historic zoning, certified local governments, and many more. Preservation Trades Network was a first-time partner bringing workshops and demonstrations of window restoration, timber framing, brick restoration, cemetery upkeep and restoration—the list goes on...

On Thursday, October 21, a home tour was offered allowing us to visit Liberty Hall, Orlando Brown House, several more historic homes as well as historic buildings rehabbed for apartments. We even got to see the Jesse Jesseig House—a Frank Lloyd Wright design—wonderful! This conference ended Saturday, October 23. On Wednesday, October 26 I went to Austin for the National Trust for Historic Preservation Conference. I am honored to have been asked to lead a panel of the two Kelal and advisors on meetings, on which we were the new leader, Stephanie Meeke, we were offered more sessions on barn restoration, cultural heritage sites, and future challenges for preservation.

Now about how you must be thinking, “Yeah, a bunch of old, blue haired people trying to save the big, old house on the hill that was once very grand.” Wrong, attendees of both conferences included African American, young students, Hispanics, and others all trying to find ways to preserve and protect farms through agritourism; small towns and ethnic heritage through development of trails, like the Blues Trail in Mississippi; restoration of Rosenwald schools to serve as community centers; saving churches and theaters, neighbor-hoods, and so much more! What did I learn? That we must continue to preserve and restore what we have here in Kentucky by bringing all the players to the table through workshops, presentations, and planning. We need to find and tell the whole story of our community involving all backgrounds. The old grand house on the hill is very important, but so is the farm and the farmhouse, the buildings and churches in our communities, our cemeteries, and African American neighborhoods. The stories are of course important but so are the people and the stories that go with them. We need to find and tell the whole story. The story isn’t just for tourists but for all who live here so we will know who we are and what is important to all. Help us preserve and tell that story. Tell us your stories or what you think is important—it is too important to lose!

Director’s Note: Like Helen, I had a great time at both conferences, which occurred one right after the other. Speakers such as window restorationist Richard Spigelmyer of Michigan and Local Historic District Expert Bill Schmickle of Maryland led greatly informative sessions on Friday, 22 October in Frankfort. State and local preservationists were also among the educators at the conference, which included sessions on Understanding Section 106 Review, Rural Preservation, and Archaeology in Kentucky.

A day after the conclusion of this conference, I was whisked away to Austin, Texas to the National Trust conference. At this gathering, I was honored to represent Kentucky at State and Local Partners meetings, where I listened to partners from Michigan, Maine, North Carolina, and Washington discuss programs and incentives in their states. This information will be very useful going forward here in Kentucky.

Local News
London, Lauderdale County News
Donna Dom-Taylor

The Pennington House was home to the first modern medical doctor in the area, Dr. H.V. Pennington. The circa 1847 building is currently occupied by the county, according to the courthouse website. The building was purchased from the Pennington family and the buildings on the property (and probably a key part of the deal) to provide a gravel parking lot for the new County Court House. (See Lex H-L, Oct.31). Already included in a historic survey of 1996, the Pennington house qualifies for the National Register of Historic Places. Few historic or architecturally significant buildings still remain in this community. I hope you’ll help support the Pennington House project and the citizens who care about their town. A public meeting will be held Thursday, 18 November, at the Laurel Co Historical Society to discuss preservation options for this building. Stay tuned to the PK website or Facebook page for more information.

PK Welcomes Preservation Louisville as the Newest National Trust Local Partner
Marianne Zickuhr, Executive Director of Preservation Louisville

As Metro Louisville’s non-profit historic preservation organization, Preservation Louisville works in partnership with local, state and national organizations to promote preservation of the community’s historic resources through advocacy and education, including technical information and training. Preservation Louisville is proud to work with statewide organizations such as Preservation Kentucky and national organizations including the National Trust for Historic Preservation, through which we are proud to have recently been designated a Local Partner. Preservation Louisville is based at The Brennan House Historic Home, an 1868 Italianate mansion in downtown Louisville.

Preservation Louisville offers many successful programs including the annual Hands on History educational series, quarterly Historic Preservation Tax Credit Workshops, and Preservation S.O.S: Save Our Shutguns, meant to educate our community about Louisville’s large inventory of historic shotgun houses. In addition, Preservation Louisville has created an in-class program that educates primary and secondary students about the vital and exciting world of historic preservation. The Preservation Education! curriculum was created with Kentucky core content standards in mind and we are proud that it meets five of the seven Kentucky Department of Education core content standards. For more information on these programs, visit www.preservationlouisville.org. For information on the National Trust’s State and Local Partner Program, please see: http://www.preservationinformation.org/about-us/partners/statewide-local-partners/

Hands-On Preservation Happened at the Preservation Trades Network Conference
By Patrick Kennedy
PK Board Member

The 14th International Preservation Trades Workshop (IPTW), the annual gathering of the Preservation Trades Network, Inc. (PTN), was held in Frankfort, October 21–23 in conjunction with Kentucky’s State Historic Preservation conference. Since 1997, this gathering has been an opportunity for practitioners and educators in the traditional trades to come together with tools in hand to share knowledge and demonstrate skills. This year, eighty-five students from Franklin County’s Elkhorn Grade School were invited to participate in PTN’s hands-on demonstrations. In the photo, Moss Rudler, from the National Park Service Historic Preservation Training Center, assisted the students with the basics of stone carving. Students from each group had the opportunity to try their hand at carving on a stone, Moss turned the stone over to show a completed carving and assured them that with practice they too could do such work. Students also observed and/or participated in wood shingle making, using a shave of horsehair, dry stone wall construction, and blacksmith work.

Following tradition, prior to the IPTW, two hands-on workshops were held in the host city as a way of giving to the host community. For eight days, PTN instructors assisted professionals and novices alike in the restoration of an 1830 log building at Cove Spring Park. Shortly before the state conference began, Cemetery Restoration Specialist Jonathan Appell led a two-day seminar at the Frankfort Cemetery on gravestone maintenance and repair. In all, the PTN partnership with the Kentucky conference was well-received by attendees of both conferences and will be a great model for future preservation gatherings.

Rural Heritage Development Initiative Update

2010 has been a busy year for the Rural Heritage Development Initiative (RHDI). Rural preservation services have expanded past the original eight-county area to cover the entire state, thanks to the Robert Wilson Partners in the Field Grant from the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Preservation Kentucky is using this resource to better assist in our ongoing goals of historic preservation in the largely rural state of Kentucky.

In 2008, PK received a nearly $50,000 grant to study historic preservation design solutions that will help the Kentucky Crossroads region maintain the character of its rural landscapes and historic small communities. For the last two years, University of Kentucky Landscape Architecture Professor Ned Crankshaw has worked with PK staff and his students to develop rural design guidelines based on public input from a series of workshops across the Kentucky Crossroads region. The resulting document, which will be complete in 2011, will review regional design characteristics, provide case study examples, and prescriptive recommendations. In the coming year, PK staff Amy Potts will travel across the region to promote these design prescriptions. More details will be available on the RHDI website at: http://www.kycrossroadsregion.com/

Designated in 2009, the Lincoln Heritage National Scenic Byway has thrived under this recognition as a unique heritage tourism destination. A regional-based advisory committee is currently working on a grant to begin assessing interpretation and signage needs.

Preservation Kentucky/RHDI Win Kentucky History Award for Oral History Project

Congratulations are due to the successful RHDI program of Preservation Kentucky. RHDI won an Award of Merit from the Kentucky Historical Society for its “Rural Traditions of Central Kentucky” oral history project in November 2010. This project trained community members in oral history techniques then partnered with state and regional officials and Western Kentucky University students in the original eight county RHDI area to gather local history and unique stories documenting rural traditions. The website is available at: http://www.kycrossroadsregion.com/oralhistory.html. For this region, the project focused on the reuse of an historic drugstore in Mercer County into a thriving and popular restaurant; the historic Texas community in rural Washington County; the history of the Forkland Community in Boyle County and many more.