



PRESERVATION

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Matters

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Fall/Winter 2021-22

**Adaptive Reuse
in Lexington's
Urban Core:**

BGT's New Virtual Tour



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The Trust mourns the loss of Dr. Bonnie Tanner, long-time active supporter of BGT as well as beloved and devoted wife of former board member Dr. James Tanner, who remains an active Trust member. Most recently, Bonnie and Jim were Honorary Chairs of the BGT Antiques and Garden Show.

Contributing to this edition of *Preservation Matters* are the following individuals. This publication would not happen if it were not for the efforts of these good people.

Janie Fergus, Kate Hesseldenz, Wanda Jaquith, Jeb Jarrell, Bill Johnston, Rebekah Kirkland, Hayden McNeil, Jackson Osborne, Judy Owens, Maureen Peters, and Brittany Sams

Editor: John Hackworth
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On the cover:
 21C Hotel, the former National Bank Building at the corner of Main and North Upper Streets in downtown Lexington.
 Photo by Ryan Hermens, Lexington Herald-Leader



Message from our President

With great excitement and tremendous

pleasure, we begin a new chapter in the BGT's life. First and foremost, we are pleased to announce publicly the arrival of the new Executive Director, Dr. Jonathan Coleman. Jon brings experience, education, and energy that will ensure the BGT continues to expand its focus on historic preservation in Central Kentucky. Please read more about Jon in the article found on page 3. We look forward to you meeting Jon.

Additionally, we are pleased to introduce a new format for *Presentation Matters*, proving the BGT is adapting to ensure historic preservation remains relevant. We hope you enjoy this new approach as we work to address our long-standing mission.

Also with great pride, we present the electronic *Adaptive Reuse Walking Tour*. This tour, made possible through the collaborative efforts of the dedicated BGT Community Preservation and Education Committee and UK students, is a fascinating tour for all ages with places to rest, eat, and drink along the way. Please read the article found on pages 4 and 5 for more details and how to access the tour app.

BGT volunteers, committee members, board members, staff, and numerous others continue to provide time, energy, and effort in support of historic preservation. Please look for details about the following accomplishments:

The 2021 BGT Annual Meeting was the perfect time to present the BGT Award Winners gifts and recognize their

accomplishments in person. Enjoy reading about each on pages 16 – 19.

The 2022 BGT Antiques and Garden Show will be back the first full weekend of March 2022. The Show remains an important way the Trust sustains itself and introduces its mission and activities to many. Please see page 7 about how to be involved and how to enjoy the show.

The life blood of the Trust primarily comes through gifts made during the Annual Fund appeal. Donations allow the Trust to succeed and thrive. For those who gave monetarily in 2020-21, the donors list is located on pages 12 and 13. There, you will also find easy ways you can help with the 2021-22 fund drive. Please know every gift is appreciated.

Another highlight was the September kickoff of the Hopemont Lecture Speaker Series with Dr. Sandra Morgan, Garrett Morgan's granddaughter. She presented a moving discussion about Mr. Morgan's many accomplishments and legacy. Please read more about this fascinating and important man and his granddaughter on page 14.

Other articles in this edition are designed to increase awareness of the Trust's numerous efforts.

We hope this edition will make you proud to be part of the BGT family and will encourage you to continue your support and involvement. It takes everyone to ensure our continued success. Jon Coleman and I look forward to seeing you at an upcoming activity! I can't wait for you to meet him. 🇺🇸

New Executive Director at the Blue Grass Trust

The Board of Directors of the Blue Grass Trust is pleased to announce the hiring of **Jonathan E. Coleman, Ph.D. as its Executive Director.** Dr. Coleman officially assumed his new role November 1st. "The BGT Board is thrilled that Dr. Jon Coleman has agreed to lead the Trust in the capacity of Executive Director. His experience, education and accomplishments are a perfect match as we further efforts to address the mission of the Trust," Janie Fergus remarked. "Along with many initiatives underway, Jon is eager to move the Trust forward to an even stronger position as the historic preservation leader in Central Kentucky."

Jon arrives from a six-year tenure as Assistant Executive Director and Curator of the Mary Todd Lincoln House, where he garnered ample experience in museum and nonprofit management. Jon helped complete several large initiatives, including a museum reinterpretation and the shift from a docent-led to self-guided visitor experience. Most recently, Jon spearheaded a new public program, *A House Divided*, funded by Kentucky Humanities, which utilizes the nearby Lexington Cemetery to explore the Civil War in Kentucky, focusing on the experiences of civilians, women, and Black Kentuckians. In his former position, Jon also played a key role in the transitioning of Helm Place into a viable and desirable property with a clear end-use.

As Jon was completing his Ph.D. at the University of Kentucky in 2014, he co-founded Faulkner Morgan Archive, Inc. Under his leadership, Faulkner Morgan has achieved statewide and national recognition for its groundbreaking mission to save and to share the LGBTQ history of Kentucky. The



archive has a collection of 15,000 items and more than 250 hours of oral histories, and it was recently acknowledged by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation for its success in "the creation of a more inclusive and polyvocal American story."

Jon is also no stranger to the Blue Grass Trust. Many of us at the Trust have often seen Dr. Coleman leading group tours through the Gratz Park neighborhood and other historic locations around Lexington. A long-time Trust member, Jon also has served several years on the deTours Committee. In 2018, Jon won the Clay Lancaster Heritage Education Award.

All of Jon's experience, as well as his standing in the community, bode well for the BGT. The Trust has a core mission manifested through its many committees working for preservation and education throughout the Central Kentucky region. Jon is eager to explore ways the Trust's mission can become even more effective.

"I am honored to join the Trust team," Jon commented. "For over 60 years, the Trust's mission to educate, advocate, and serve has been vital to preservation in Central Kentucky, and with the help of our donors, community partners, and Trust leadership, I look forward to building on this incredible legacy." 🇺🇸

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>

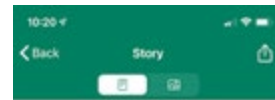
Stay in touch with the BGT in the following ways:

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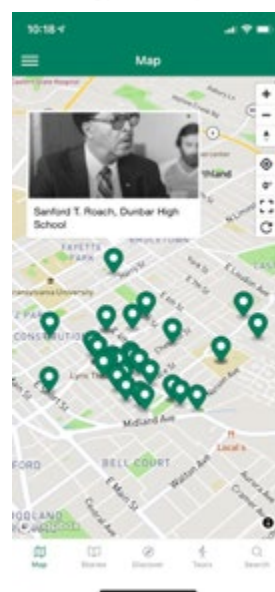
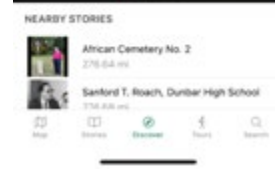
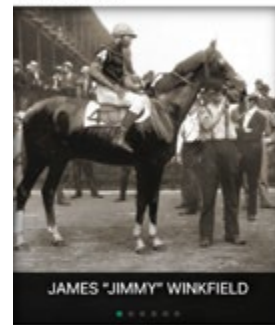
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LES MCCANN
Les McCann, one of Lexington's most recognized musicians, was born in 1935. He contributed greatly to the national jazz scene, perhaps most notably through the albums *Swiss Movement* and *The Shout*.
McCann grew up watching his father draw on their front porch after work in the evenings and listening to his mother while



FEATURED STORIES



ADAPTIVE REUSE IN LEXINGTON'S URBAN CORE: THE BGT'S NEW VIRTUAL TOUR

Adaptive reuse: the renovation and reuse of pre-existing structures for new purposes.



The National Bank Building/21c

This spring, the Community Preservation and Education Committee collaborated with Professor Travis Rose, MFA, and his University of Kentucky architecture and historic preservation students in the Department of Historic Preservation's Adaptive Reuse HP 501 course to research and analyze ten historic buildings in downtown Lexington. Historic Preservation Specialist

Brittany Sams provided feedback to the students who presented their projects in March for midterms, and then worked with Professor Rose and the students to develop their material into the tour, *Adaptive Reuse in Lexington's Urban Core*. The tour went live on the Trust's app, *Tour the Historic Bluegrass*, in August. "I was


excited to work with the Blue Grass Trust," said Rose. "This was an opportunity to use downtown Lexington as a learning laboratory. Our preservation students benefitted from learning from notable examples of adaptive reuse. Through hard work and collaboration, we were able to create a tour that I am incredibly proud of."



Old Fayette County Courthouse

style, from historic skyscrapers to churches. The students covered the history of each building, including its original use and changes

Adaptive Reuse in Lexington's Urban Core is the second virtual tour the BGT has developed and released this year, the first being *Lexington's East End*. The tour features a variety of structures and styles, from Greek Revival and Beaux Arts to International

made over time, as well as architectural analysis, describing character-defining features and how they were changed, or sensitively maintained, when building owners and architects altered the structure's uses. The analysis is often contained in the photo captions illustrating the students' observations. The students also took into consideration whether or not Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation were closely followed or adhered to. 



Melodeon Hall/McAdams and Morford Building



Wolf Wile Department Store/Gray Construction



Dudley School (City No.3)/Dudley Square

Download the BGT's app available at both Google Play and the App Store for Android and iPhone. Or go online and access the tours at tourthehistoricbluegrass.com. Have an idea for a historic walking tour or want to collaborate? Email us at info@bluegrasstrust.org.



The National Bank Building/21c: Jonathan Chesser
Melodeon Hall/McAdams and Morford Building: Madison Hunt

Old Fayette County Courthouse: Madelyn Higgins
The YMCA on 161 North Mill St/LexArts ArtsPlace Building: Caide Khoury

The Carrick House: Meghan Luecht
Wolf Wile Department Store/Gray Construction: Benjamin Oliver

Maxwell Street Presbyterian Church/Joe Bologna's: Emma Gootee

Centenary Methodist Church/Heritage Antiques: Joshua Mackie

Liggett and Meyers Tobacco Re-handling Facility/South Hill Station Lofts: William Hirtzel

Dudley School (City No.3)/Dudley Square: Brandon Nelson

Award Recipient Brenda Jackson Leading a Meaningful Second Act

Brenda Jackson, the 2021 recipient of BGT's inaugural Yvonne Giles Award, proves life's second act can be as meaningful as its first. The Yvonne Giles Award is given to an individual, group, or project for contributing to research of 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.

After suffering the personal losses of her husband and two sisters, and retiring from the Kentucky Department of Education, Brenda discovered her avocation of "helping people to keep from being forgotten." In the 1980s, Brenda read a newspaper article about fellow church member, Rosairene Johnson Black, who wanted to obtain an historical marker for their church but could not, due to a lack of supporting documentation. Once retired, Brenda set out to prove Second Christian Church (Marker Number 2189) in Midway, Kentucky is the oldest African American Disciples of Christ Church in the United States. Brenda's work dated the church to 1832, rather than 1852, thus establishing its status.

Success obtaining the Second Christian Church marker led Brenda to seek markers for the two other Midway African American churches. A thread of personal or familial connection runs through Brenda's research interests.

For example, the first minister of Pilgrim Baptist Church (Marker Number 2239), James Knox Polk, was her husband's great-grandfather. St. Matthew AME (Marker Number 2263) was where Brenda's father Jerome Washington worshipped. Working on St. Matthew AME's history, Brenda discovered it and the present Pilgrim Baptist were both constructed by David Lehman, a prolific Midway builder and undertaker, and were built the

same year, 1892. Brenda's next historical marker was the Midway Colored School (Marker Number 2280). The school was housed in the original Pilgrim Baptist Church, a frame structure. Both Brenda's parents attended the Midway Colored School through the 8th grade before attending Simmons School, founded in 1899, in Versailles, Kentucky for high school. Midway and personal connections spurred Brenda's most recent research (done with Sioux Finney), the history of Huntertown (Marker Number 2629) an "...African American hamlet or 'freetown' located in Woodford County and settled following the Civil War." (<https://explorekyhistory.ky.gov/items/show/899>) Virginia Russell,



One of the houses Harry Clay Anderson built on Gratz Street in Midway, Kentucky.

a music teacher at Midway Colored School, lived in Huntertown. Rosairene Johnson Black, Brenda's inspiration for researching Second Christian Church, married Omaha Nebraska Black, a well-known Kentuckian, who came from Huntertown. Brenda, herself, lived in Huntertown, moving there when she was about six or seven. The Reverend Jesse Bottoms, a noted Civil Rights activist, hailed from Huntertown. Once a thriving community, Huntertown boasted



Brenda Jackson (L) receives the Yvonne Giles Award at the Trust's annual meeting.

three grocery stores and three baseball teams, the Huntertown Hard Hitters, the Huntertown Sluggers, and the Huntertown Tigers.

The Huntertown Community Interpretive Park, dedicated August 28, 2021, on the 150th Anniversary of Huntertown's founding, envisions community and demonstration gardens, a nature play area, a meadow, boardwalks and a wetland, bioswales, a sculpture garden and Colored Troops Memorial, a meeting shelter and outdoor classroom, a school memorial pavilion with a mural, and the RINEY-B Interpretive Trail. The RINEY-B Interpretive Trail takes its name from the railroad track that once ran through Huntertown.

Brenda is also responsible for The Sons and Daughters of Relief Cemetery (Marker Number 2411), the oldest cemetery in Midway, KY. Started after the Civil War it is the "final resting place of veterans as well as former slaves who became great leaders in Midway's African American Community." (<https://secure.kentucky.gov/kyhs/hmdb/MarkerSearch.aspx>)

When asked what she is currently working on, Brenda shared she is writing BGT plaque applications for two historic Midway homes built by a blind man, Harry Clay Anderson; one completed with no assistance! Anderson, a stonemason, lost his eyesight in a quarry accident. The 1930s homes, still extant, sit across the street from a bar appropriately named Blind Harry's. 📍



Kentucky's Finest!

SHOW HOURS

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*Gala Preview March 3, 6 to 9 pm

Cocktail Party & Early Bird Shopping

*Reservations required

Keynote Speaker, Christopher Spitzmiller

*Reservations required @

www.bluegrasstrust.org/events

(859)253-0362

The Blue Grass Trust Antiques & Garden Show is back! Yes, you read that correctly. After a year of absence, the BGT is happy to announce the Antiques & Garden Show will return March 3-6 of 2022 to the Kentucky Horse Park's Alltech Arena.

After being literally one of the last major events of 2020 to occur in Kentucky, the Trust, like many others, decided to take a year off from hosting the Antiques & Garden Show and used the time to rethink

Antiques and Garden Show Returns in March 2022

and to make 2022's show even better. What a show we have in store for you with the return of many favorite, quality antique dealers and gardeners along with new faces as well, our complimentary lectures series, and our Cocktails & Quick Fires panel discussions. We are also excited to announce the keynote lecturer this year, ceramist-designer-farmer Christopher Spitzmiller, who will showcase his latest book, *A Year at Clove Brook Farm*, and Kentucky's Finest Honorary Co-Chairs, Matt Carter and Brent Bruner.

We are proud to be Kentucky's largest premier Antiques & Garden Show and are glad to be back the first weekend in March. We return because of you and



cannot thank you enough for your support throughout the years. Please consider becoming a Sponsor or Patron of our return event by visiting our website at www.bluegrasstrust.org or by calling the BGT office for additional information. We cannot wait to see you at the 2022 Blue Grass Trust Antiques & Garden Show! 📍

Happenings on the Blue Grass Trust Campus



Owner Ed Salisbury and Mike Barnes stand beside their installation by S.O.C.O.R. Enterprises of the Blue Grass Trust sign in front of the Dr. Thomas Hunt Morgan House

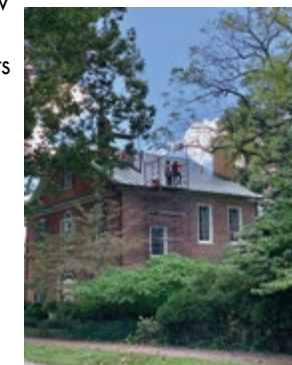
Both sides of the BGT campus have seen recent improvements. On the west side of campus, a new Blue Grass Trust double-sided sign has been installed in front of the Dr. Thomas Hunt Morgan House. Special thanks to Gratz Park neighbor Darren Taylor of Gibson, Taylor Thompson Architecture & Design for working with the BGT Facilities

Committee to design the sign. Now there is no question about the location of the Trust's offices and event spaces!

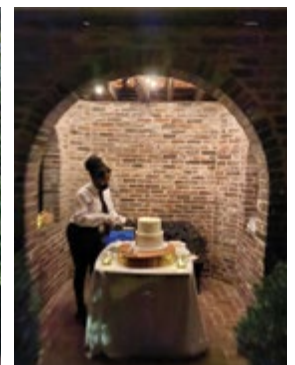
On the other side of the campus, the seven Hopemont chimneys sport shiny new copper chimney caps. The caps stabilize the chimneys and keep bats and chimney swifts from entering Hopemont as uninvited visitors! The caps were fabricated and installed by Barnhill Chimney, and a portion of this work was funded through a generous grant from the Josephine Arbery Foundation, Inc.

A benefit of ongoing improvement is continued use of the facilities and grounds. Note the photo of the gazebo at Hopemont, the perfect spot for the tiered cake at a recent wedding

held in the beautiful Hopemont garden. Thanks to the BGT Facilities Committee for its leadership initiating and shepherding these projects to bring significant improvements to the campus. 📍



The crew from Barnhill Chimney finishes up installing the last of the seven chimney caps at Hopemont.



The wedding cake is being served in the Hopemont gazebo.

Revisiting Records

The employee at the Fayette County Clerk's office returns from the back room with a stack of stuffed manilla envelopes and flashes an amused smile. Your rapport has built steadily over the years, which makes sense, because you visit multiple times a week and request heaps of historical records to examine. The papers placed in front of you are the usual – hundred-year-old wills, mortgages, and deeds containing snippets of information vital to the goal of unearthing knowledge about Kentucky's Bluegrass region. And although you may discover an important fact while reviewing this stockpile, your internal rule is to verify its validity with at least two more sources before uttering a word about its existence. Therefore, you'll be back the next day to review



Yvonne Giles examining a gravestone in African American Cemetery No. 2

the recondite repository of information again. This is a common scenario for Yvonne Giles, a native Lexingtonian and renowned genealogist, whose devotion to volunteer research is her life's work.

Normally, nicknames bestowed on us during adolescence are the ones that stick, but not for Yvonne Giles. After conducting extensive research throughout Lexington in her mid-twenties, the sobriquet "Cemetery Lady" is how she has become known in the local community. Starting at Lexington's African Cemetery No. 2, established in 1852, Giles studied the headstones and real-



Yvonne Giles conducts research at the Lexington Public Library.

ized the vast amount of history evident on the stone slabs – birth dates, maiden names, occupations – and her passion for genealogy was cemented. To date, her work has translated into publishing three books, reestablishing the Isaac Scott Hathaway Museum, and designing the African American Heritage Trail in Lexington.

Serving as the bridge between generations is no small feat, but Giles seems to have mastered the responsibility. Although her focus is on the past, her outlook on the future is equally inspiring. When speaking of her motivations and methods, she says, "It's just my



Ms. Rogers Barde, Hopewell Museum, and Yvonne Giles view historical images of the former home (in background) of US Senator Garrett Davis, Paris, Kentucky.

turn. Someone will pick up after me." It seems impossible to imitate a seasoned professional, but the foundation she's

established is rock solid. With the same goal in mind – to tell untold stories to recognize those who helped shape the cultural and natural landscape of Lexington – it can be accomplished.



Researching the Isaac Scott Hathaway family at the Berea College library, from L to R: Christine Gilbert-Crawford, Sharyn Mitchell, Delphine Ridgeway, Dr. Alicestyne Turley, Yvonne Giles

If you think this type of qualitative research is not for you, give it a try. According to Giles, who received an Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters from the University of Kentucky in 2019, "Once you get started, you can't quit." It will be hard, but uncovering information that impacts someone's legacy, assists a family with their ancestry, and informs a city of bygone events is priceless. Yes, historical records abound with minutiae, but for Giles, it is "important minutiae" that needs to be accurately presented to the public. After all, what do the stories we preserve say about us as a society? 🙏

BGT Receives Prestigious National Trust for Historic Preservation African American Cultural Heritage Action Fund Grant

In early July, Blue Grass Trust staff and Community Preservation and Education Committee co-chair Maureen Peters received fantastic news—the Trust was one of 40 (out of 519 applicants) to receive a prestigious National Trust for Historic Preservation African American Cultural Heritage Action Fund grant. The award totaled \$50,000 and will aid the rehabilitation of the East End's historic Palmer Pharmacy building, currently owned by the city of Lexington.

The National Trust celebrates that "To date, the program has funded 105 historic African American places and invested more than \$7.3 million to help preserve landscapes and buildings imbued with Black life, humanity, and cultural heritage." The Blue Grass Trust is joining history and preservation-oriented organizations throughout the nation in telling its complete community story through its significant places.



Since receiving the grant, the Blue Grass Trust and Palmer Pharmacy have been covered in the Lexington Herald-Leader and Chevy Chaser Magazine, as well as featured on LEX 18 television. The National Trust has promoted the grant recipients

to a national audience (Winners were re-tweeted by Kevin Bacon and John Legend.).

The city of Lexington has re-released the RFP (request for proposals) for potential end-users, and the window to apply closed September 21, 2021. The BGT will work with the new end-user to spend the \$50,000 grant, as well as \$25,000 given by the Trust and a \$25,000 match from an anonymous donor.

The Palmer Pharmacy building was a corner drugstore built in 1961 by Dr. Zirl Augustus Palmer, pharmacist, philanthropist, and first African American Trustee of the University of Kentucky (A second pharmacy he later opened was destroyed by a bomb placed by a Ku Klux Klan leader.). This drugstore was the only Black-owned drugstore in town; a Rexall franchise, it was the company's first drugstore in the country to be owned by an African American. Its soda fountain and lunch counter served as a gathering place, and the second floor housed doctors' offices. Palmer's business fostered many community relationships.

Palmer was also actively engaged in Lexington civic affairs. He served the local branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the Chamber of Commerce, and Planned Parenthood; he was a member of Main Street Baptist Church (where he conducted a health care program), the Kentucky Human Rights Commission, and the Civic Center Board; he was the first African



Brittany Sams filming with LEX18. Photo taken by Jackson Osborne.

American member of the Optimist Club and Big Brothers; he chaired the local United Negro College Fund, helped organize Community Action Lexington-Fayette County and the Hunter Foundation



for Health Care, and was the first African American to be appointed to the University of Kentucky's Board of Trustees, which he served from 1972-1979.

We hope the mission of the new organization inhabiting the Palmer Pharmacy will honor Dr. Palmer's legendary dedication to his community. We look forward to further ensuring the future of the Palmer Pharmacy. 🙏

Photo sheet/National Trust Grant handles:

Instagram: @SavingPlaces

Twitter: @SavingPlaces

Facebook: @NationalTrustforHistoricPreservation #TellTheFullStory #AACHAF

Ouita and Chris Michel Preservationists in the Bluegrass

"It all started with the Holly Hill Inn" states Ouita Michel, recipient (along with husband, Chris) of BGT's 2021 Community Preservation Award. The Community Preservation award is "given to a non-governmental organization or individual for service to the preservation movement or to a specific project." To their credit, Ouita and Chris have been involved directly in several adaptive reuse projects in the Bluegrass area. Both Ouita and Chris love old buildings, grew up in old houses, love their space and feel—love every aspect of old buildings. Even their first house on Short Street was an historic bungalow. Given their personal preferences, it is no wonder the Michels have a penchant for locating their restaurants and other food-related endeavors in historic structures.

Holly Hill Inn, located in Midway, Kentucky is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Of their flagship restaurant, Ouita says it is rare to find a building like Holly Hill already equipped with a cook hood. While the house has been a perfect fit for the Michels' restaurant, Ouita believes it might be difficult to re-open the space as a restaurant were Holly Hill to close. Originally a single-family home named Hermosa, Holly Hill was converted to a bed and breakfast



Holly Hill Inn where it all began for Ouita and Chris Michel

and restaurant in 1979. The name "Hermosa" came from an English rose planted in the formal flower garden surrounding a sundial behind the inn. Built around 1840, various sections of Holly Hill, due to additions, differ in ages. The family from whom Ouita and Chris bought the property owned it 100 years, from 1900 to 2000, when the Michels acquired it. The Michels' recent Community Preservation award, a BGT plaque, will soon grace Holly Hill's façade.

The second restaurant the Michels opened in 2003 was Wallace Station outside of Midway, Kentucky. Built circa 1890, it began life as an old country

store and is largely intact. According to the Wallace Station website, Wallace Station is listed "on the National Register of Historic Places as a surviving example of a small railroad community." The counter inside Wallace Station is the original wood counter from the store. Other artifacts from the old store, including an old scale, reside in the barn behind it. When the Michels bought the property, it was already known as Wallace Station



although it began life as McKinivan's store, named for the original builder.

Another restaurant owned and operated by the Michels located in an older building is Smithtown Seafood, in what was the Rainbo Bread Factory in Lexington, Kentucky in the 1990s. The original bakery, Holsum Bakery was built circa 1890. Smithtown resides in what was the Rainbo Bakery's employee locker and shower room. The existing tile floors are original to the shower room and bathroom, and original brick and plaster are still in evidence.

The Midway Bakery lives in what was the cafeteria of a former Midway, Kentucky school, built in the 1930s. Now the Midway Apartments, the current structure was the fourth or fifth school



Tables at the Thirsty Fox

built on the site. Beginning with a one-room schoolhouse, pictures of some of the previous schools hang in the Midway Bakery. The Midway Apartments development was Holly Wiedemann's (the Michels' landlord at the Midway Bakery) first project, converting the school into mixed income housing for people 55 years or older.

The Michels' relationship with Wiedemann extends to Wiedemann's development of Windy Corner Market on Bryan Station Road outside Lexington for the Michels' landlords, Antony and Angela Beck. While new construction, Windy Corner was designed with history in mind. At Windy Corner, the Michels emphasized older materials as the original building could not be



salvaged due to being an EPA Super Fund site from gas tank contamination. The market is located at the low point of three of four corners; thus, the soil was super contaminated and required special disposal. The new construction is built down to bedrock and its design was inspired by an old country store in Troy, Kentucky.

Zim's and The Thirsty Fox, a restaurant and a bar respectively, are housed

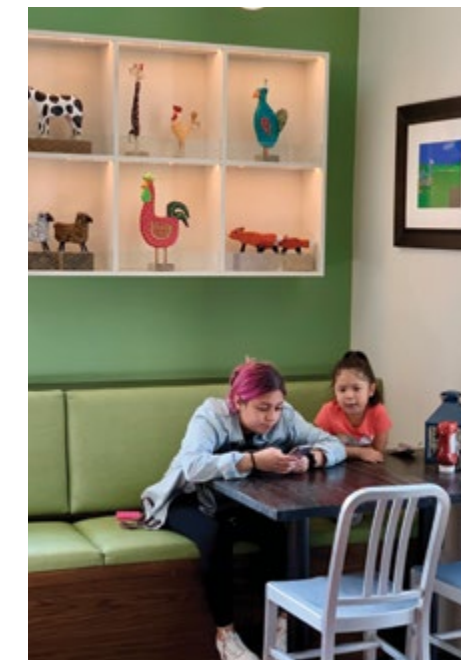
in the historic Fayette County courthouse built in 1899 in downtown Lexington and is another Holly Wiedemann adaptive reuse project. The structure received a complete exterior and interior renovation and reopened in 2018. "An example of Richardson Romanesque architecture it is the largest building of its type in Kentucky," according to the Historic Lexington Courthouse website <https://historiclexingtoncourthouse.com/>. This structure, like Holly Hill and Wallace Station, is on the National Register of Historic Places.



The bar in The Thirsty Fox in the Old Fayette County Courthouse

When asked about new construction versus old buildings for restaurant space, Ouita talked about her privilege to work with a fabulous contractor, architect, and designer for Honeywood, her newest project at the Summit. Honeywood is named for Honeywood Parrish Rouse who grew up at Holly Hill Inn. She went on to say about Honeywood, "In order to make the space feel as comforting as an older space does,

you really have to pay attention to the design elements; otherwise, you end up with something that just feels like a big box." While the designers of Honeywood had to worry about "sound clouds" and how to handle acoustics, among other things, at Holly Hill Inn Ouita says "we took for granted the wood floors and all the trim, the 24-inch base boards, the chandeliers, the medallions, and all the bead board



Waiting for their order in Zim's where Kentucky folk artists are featured throughout

state and its website gives each artist's name and where his or her work can be purchased. Obviously a gifted, award-winning chef, Ouita recently published her first cookbook *Just a Few Miles South: Timeless Recipes from our Favorite Places*. It can be purchased from the Ouita Michel Family of Restaurants webpage at <https://ouitamichel.com/>

and things like that." With Honeywood, the idea was to create "a young, hip Holly Hill Inn in a new environment that would really take a page from... local, hopefully cutting-edge cuisine, with an eye toward nostalgia that really comes across as a modern restaurant but one that feels substantial."

As an aside, the Michels support art and creativity. Holly Hill is home to the Ray Papka Art Gallery. Ray is Ouita's father who creates art from found objects. Zim's features Kentucky folk artists' works from all over the

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 2021-22 issue of *Preservation Matters* lists the 2020-21 fiscal year's donors (ending June 30, 2021) 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, 2022. Please make your contribution by using the donor envelope enclosed in this magazine; by going online at www.bluegrasstrust.org; or by scanning this QR code.



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“Patented: The Innovative Spirit of Garrett A. Morgan” Kicks off BGT Hopemont House Museum Lecture Series



Sandra Morgan stands by her grandfather's portrait.

September 24th was a tremendous evening for the Blue Grass Trust for Historic Preservation as we hosted the lecture “Patented: The Innovative Spirit of Garrett A. Morgan,” presented by Mr. Morgan’s granddaughter Sandra Morgan as the first installment of our Hopemont House Museum Lecture Series. Each lecture is tied to the BGT’s flagship property, Hopemont, and the history surrounding the home, which is why Mr. Morgan and his legacy were featured since

he is a descendent of the Hunt-Morgan family. While the tie to the house created much interest, thanks to an article in the *Herald-Leader* before the event, it was learning about Mr. Morgan’s accomplishments that made the evening so rewarding. Ms. Morgan told the story of a young man, who at the age of 15, was able to escape Jim Crow Kentucky to the racially divided city of Cleveland and eventually positively impact not only his community, but also the country at large.

Held in the Blue Grass Trust’s Dr. Thomas

Hunt Morgan House, the lecture, which was free to attend but required prior registration through Eventbrite, had an audience of around 85, split between those who chose to Zoom-in or attend in-person following the BGT’s COVID policy of correctly wearing a face covering while inside and presenting proof of full vaccination at check-in. Once the guests arrived, Ms. Morgan took the stage and, from the beginning, commanded the crowd’s full attention as she shared the details of her grandfather Garrett Morgan’s amazing life.

While some may have already known about Mr. Morgan’s most famous creations, the precursor to the gas mask and the spotlight, it was the details of how they came to exist that drew in the audience. One example, revealed by Ms. Morgan during her lecture, was about her grandfather’s gas mask prototype he was already selling to fire stations around the country, when he and his brother were called on to help rescue city workers trapped in a collapsed tunnel underneath the streets of Cleveland due to a gas explosion. When they arrived with the gas mask in hand, they were told they had to prove the gas mask worked before their white counterparts would venture into the dangerous situation. Despite being



Sandra and daughter Eliza discuss the lecture outside with other guests.

asked by the city to provide his life-saving mask, both Morgan men took their lives into their own hands, venturing into the tunnel barefoot, so they could feel for exposed wires, and rescued the endangered workers before receiving help from others. Even when the protective device proved effective, and the men trapped were saved thanks to Mr. Morgan and his brother, the two received no recognition from the city for their heroism because, as Ms. Morgan retold it, “according to the city official, he [Mr. Morgan] knew the mask would work and therefore was in no danger.”

Ms. Morgan also described her grandfather’s dedication to civic duty. Garrett Morgan was the first Black man in Cleveland to run for city council, and he created Cleveland’s first newspaper dedicated to the Black community, *The Cleveland Call*, for which she was the Christmas baby several times. He gave his patent for the gas mask to the U.S. Government to assist in the World War I efforts as troops faced chemical warfare in the European trenches. The latter was a particularly moving statement, given that individuals like Mr. Morgan were considered second-class citizens based on their skin color, but he still believed ours



Sandra meets Jennifer Waddington, 4th grade teacher at Garrett Morgan Elementary School, who attended the lecture

was a country worth fighting for, with the potential to become a nation which accepts all people equally.

It was indeed a tremendous night for the Blue Grass Trust, but it was also a huge step forward. Since 1955, Hopemont has told many stories. While Garrett Morgan’s story may seem new, it has always been a part of Hopemont’s history; it is just now being told.

For those unable to attend but who would like to access the lecture, or attendees who would like to revisit it, you can do so by going to the link – <https://www.bluegrasstrust.org/hopemont-lecture-series> – where you also can see the full calendar of upcoming Hopemont House Museum lectures. 📌

BGT Heritage Society Visits Buknore



Buknore, designed by Matthew Kennedy in 1841

The Heritage Society enjoyed an early-October Sunday afternoon visit to Buknore, an 1841 Federal-style house outside Paris, Kentucky. The Blue Grass Trust is grateful to Susan and Sayre Combs, who were our gracious hosts for the event. The Heritage Society consists of Trust members who have included the Blue Grass Trust in their estate plans, either with cash, stocks, real property, life insurance, or some other financial conveyance. Their planned gifts provide additional stability to the organization, making it possible for the BGT to be assured of continuing its mission well into the unforeseen future.

Oh, what a special place Buknore is! This National Registry property has been in the same family since Walker Buckner built it 180 years ago. That fact, in itself, is rather phenomenal. Susan fondly remembers, as a child, coming to her grandmother’s home at Buknore every other Sunday for family dinner. Other members of the sixth generation, who were largely responsible for the restoration decisions, share Susan’s memories. The restoration was made possible through the beneficence of Nancy Hinkle Holland, family member and Lexington physician who died at 88 in 2010, establishing a trust which provided a substantial sum to restore and to maintain the old home place. Hiring architects Charles Jolly and Carol Meyers, along with project manager Ron Little of Coppinger & Associates, was essential to

the success of the project.

Because the house was last renovated in the 1890s, Buknore had few of the modern conveniences available over the last 120 years. Describing herself as a consensus-builder, Susan, along with her cousin Sally Brown Hinkle Thilman (a member of the 7th Buckner generation and an interior designer now living in Chicago), was one of the key players in the restoration plans, admitted it was challenging, at times, to reach agreement among family members. In the long run, Susan felt the process brought the family closer together. There was clear consensus, however, the house should honor the past while making Buknore comfortable and livable for current and future generations. While Buknore is full of antiques original to the home, with many restored by local craftsmen during the renovation, no pieces are off-limits. Susan said, “We did not want this to be a museum. We want it to be a home!”

Susan provided a wonderful tour, taking Heritage Society members to all the rooms, both downstairs and upstairs. Her narrative was priceless as she told family stories of relatives and happenings related to the home. The house is a shared space among members of the Buckner-Hinkle families, who keep a calendar assigning different weeks. During the holidays, how-

ever, the house is often a shared venue where the families celebrate together. To ensure the younger generation of family members will keep coming to Buknore and bringing their children, one major addition was made. A beautiful but somewhat understated swimming pool was installed beside the old icehouse, which has been converted into a pool/guest house.

As a concession to COVID, everyone wore masks during the tour which concluded in the enclosed back porch and family room. In this cross-ventilated, airy room the group was comfortable removing masks and enjoying the comradery of shared purpose along with wine and hors d’oeuvres. As an expression of the Heritage Society’s appreciation, Jackson Osborne, BGT Outreach Coordinator, presented Susan with a bronze BGT plaque, which will go nicely to the side of the front door flanked on the other side by the National Registrar of Historic Places plaque (–once it’s approved by all the family members!) 📌

Heritage Society Members 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.

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The Trust sadly notes the passing of Patricia Storey Decamp, a talented artist, dedicated preservationist, and most of all the spirited companion of Dick for 57 years.

BGT Annual Awards

Our 2021 Annual Meeting and Awards Ceremony was held in-person at the Dr. Thomas Hunt Morgan House on June 27th. We were grateful to see familiar and new faces and honor our award winners, both 2021 and 2020 recipients. This was possible after vaccines became available for individuals over 16 and before the Delta variant began sweeping through the U.S. in July.

The Blue Grass Trust's Community Preservation and Education

Preservation Craftsman Award: Cutting Edge Construction Services	Community Preservation Award: Ouita and Chris Michel	Lucy Graves Advocacy Award: Media Collaboratory	Dot Crutcher Award: Janie Fergus
Public Service to Preservation: Louie B. Nunn Center for Oral History	Barbara Hulette Award: Laura Freeman	Clyde Reynolds Carpenter Adaptive Re-use Award: Greyline Station	John Wesley Hunt Award: Yvonne Giles
Clay Lancaster Heritage Education Award: Reinette Jones	Barbara Hulette Award: Sharyn Mitchell	Landscape Preservation Award: Floracliff Nature Sanctuary	Yvonne Giles Award: Brenda Jackson
	Lucy Shropshire Crump Award: Joe Turley		



Dr. Thomas Hunt Morgan House, post restoration

The Preservation Craftsman Award is given to a building industry craftsman who has exhibited a strong commitment to quality craftsmanship for historic buildings. The 2021 award was given to **Tom Francis of Cutting Edge Construction Services LLC**. Tom Francis has over forty years of experience in the

construction trades and historic preservation, and is professionally trained in historic wood sash window mechanics and building analytics. In 2020, Cutting Edge Construction Services worked alongside various contractors and craftsmen to complete the Dr. Thomas Hunt Morgan restoration. Tom restored

and replicated thirty-five windows for the house. The company has restored windows in other notable historic sites in Kentucky, such as: Jacobs Hall Museum, Kentucky Arsenal Museum, Central Presbyterian Church, Wickland—Home of Three Governors, and the Jefferson Jacob School.

The Public Service to Preservation Award is given to a government agency or official for service to the preservation movement or to a specific project. **The Louie B. Nunn Center for Oral History** received the 2021 award. Since 1973, the Nunn Center



Oral history session conducted by the Louie B. Nunn Center



Zim's restaurant is located within Lexington's historic architectural gem, the Old Fayette County Courthouse.

is recognized around the world as a leader and innovator in the collection and preservation of more than 14,000 oral histories. The collection focuses on a variety of topics: 20th century Kentucky history; Appalachia; agriculture; African American history; the history of education, politics & public policy; the arts; Kentucky writers; gender; diversity; the Civil Rights Movement; veterans; the University of Kentucky; healthcare; and industries, such as the coal, equine and bourbon industries. The Nunn Center produces the *Wisdom Project Podcast* and hosts several ongoing digital exhibits online, publishes a newsletter, and has produced several award-winning oral history-based documentaries.

The Clay Lancaster Heritage Education Award is given to an individual or group for service in researching and disseminating information about the

Central Kentucky region. This year's award was given to **Reinette Jones** for the Notable Kentucky African Americans Database. The database began as an idea three decades ago under Reinette Jones' leadership and guidance. What started as an idea in the late 80s is now a collaborative product with over 3,000 entries and thousands of linked resources. Within the NKA, each contributor is given credit for his or her entry and research. Today the database, though only featuring individuals from Kentucky, has achieved international reach, with the most recent researchers hailing from Scotland and England. After existing ten years, the NKA database received full support from the University of Kentucky which continues today.

The Community Preservation Award is given to a non-governmental organi-

zation or individual for service to the preservation movement or to a specific preservation project. The 2021 award recipients are **Ouita and Chris Michel**, who have used historic structures to house their restaurants, bar, and bakery, including Holly Hill Inn, Zim's Cafe, Thirsty Fox, Wallace Station, Smithtown Seafood, and The Midway Bakery & Café. Ouita and Chris bring food and historic structures together to create hospitality in Central Kentucky. Their dedication to historic structures, including their 200-year-old log cabin residence, exemplifies preservation partnering and adaptive reuse. The Michels' commitment to preservation is especially laudable during the pandemic when the restaurant industry was so negatively impacted.

The Barbara Hulette Award is given for efforts in the preservation of



L to R, Beverly Fortune, Barbara Hulette Award recipient Sharyn Mitchell, and Richmond Mayor Robert R. Blythe

Central Kentucky's history, heritage, built environment, landscape, archaeological resources, sense of community, or significant endeavors. Our 2021 award winners are **Laura Freeman and Sharyn Mitchell**.

Laura Freeman has used her 1,500-acre, seven-generation Mt. Folly family farm in Clark County to demonstrate how regenerative agriculture practices produce a more resilient environment and a more resilient economy. Currently, Laura and her family participate in Kentucky's Hemp Pilot Program.

continued on page 18

They are also one of the largest USDA-certified organic farms in Kentucky. Her organic rye is being used in Kentucky distilleries, one of which is the farm's Wildcat Willy's Distillery, housed in a Winchester building that once served as a meeting house for the American Methodist Episcopal Church and dates to 1833. The building plays an important role in downtown revitalization.



Greyline Station, 2021, post rehabilitation

Sharyn Mitchell is a research services specialist at Berea College's Hutchison Library. She co-founded the African American Genealogy Group of Kentucky in 2011. The group has grown from 12 local members to a nationwide paid membership of over 100 people. The organization provides a venue where the stories and histories of Kentucky African Americans can be captured, shared, and preserved. Sharyn also spearheaded a successful effort to restore the Middletown Consolidated Rosenwald School in Berea, which opened in 1927 and served as



Left, Jerry Daniels, 2020 Lucy Shropshire Crump Award recipient. Right, Joe Turley, 2021 recipient

a school until 1963 when the Madison County schools were integrated. She has secured a Kentucky Historical Highway marker for the site.

The Lucy Shropshire Crump Award is

given to an individual or group that has provided exemplary service to the Blue Grass Trust throughout the year. Our 2021 award winner is **Joe Turley**. Joe is a native of Richmond Kentucky and a long-time volunteer for the BGT. He is a registered architect and his design projects include the Indoor Arena at the Kentucky Horse Park (the site of the BGT Antique and Garden Show), Wellington Elementary School, UK Kentucky Clinic, and multiple renovations and LEED sustainability upgrades to historic buildings. Joe is currently co-chair



Robert Tipton filming a deTour, spring 2021

of the BGT Facilities committee. He has spearheaded the recent renovation of the Dr. Thomas Hunt Morgan House, transforming it into the beautiful jewel we enjoy today.

The Lucy Graves Advocacy Award is given to an individual or group that has exhibited advocacy leadership in supporting the historic preservation

movement in Central Kentucky. The 2021 award winner is **Media Collaboratory**. Located in Lexington, Media Collaboratory is an employee-owned film company providing unique new-media solutions to craft the stories with which they are entrusted. During the height of the coronavirus pandemic, Media Collaboratory generously provided their services to the Trust to continue its community

programming while adjusting to the safety precautions instituted to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Media Collaboratory delivered high-quality documentary films to fill the void of in-person deTours, allowing the BGT to give a closer, more intimate look at the special and historic places within the Bluegrass Region.

The Clyde Reynolds Carpenter Adaptive Re-use Award is given to an individual or group for outstanding efforts towards the rehabilitation and adaptive re-use of a building or buildings within Central Kentucky. **Greyline Station**, this year's award recipient, was built in 1928. In the mid-1960s, Greyhound moved and the building sat mostly vacant until it was acquired by the city in 1972 as a headquarters for LexTran, the local transit authority. When LexTran moved in 2014, the building's



Left, Sav Savane, 2020 Adaptive Reuse Award recipient. Middle, Chad Needham, 2021 recipient. Right, Ben Schulte

future was again uncertain. In 2018, Chad Needham bought the 65,000 square foot building and began a \$5 million adaptive reuse project. Today Greyline Station is a mixed-use development including offices, event space, a community kitchen, retail space, and local bars and restaurants. Black Soil operates a farmers market four days a week. Julietta Market leases 23,000 square feet for a year-round public market where 42 racially and ethnically diverse vendors sell products.

The Landscape Preservation Award is given to an individual or group for the preservation, design, stewardship, restoration, or enhancement of a historic cultural landscape in the Bluegrass. The 2021 award recipient is **Floracliff Nature Sanctuary**. Named for "the



Left, Maureen Peters, Co-chair Community Preservation and Education Committee; Right, Beverly James, receiving 2021 Landscape Preservation Award for FloraCliff Nature Sanctuary

flora on the cliffs", Floracliff Nature Sanctuary is a 346-acre nonprofit nature preserve located in the Kentucky River Palisades region. Floracliff's founder Dr. Mary, a native of Central Kentucky, was the former head of the Biology Department at Georgetown College. She felt some natural areas should be protected and set aside primarily for education. In 1996, Floracliff was dedicated as a Kentucky State Nature Preserve, giving it perpetual protection from development. Later, in 2017, an additional 59 acres were purchased and protected with an

easement provided by the Kentucky Heritage Land Conservation Fund.

The Dot Crutcher Award is given to an individual or group that has exhibited advocacy leadership in support-



Left, Gay Reading, 2020 Dot Crutcher Award Recipient. Right, Janie Fergus, BGT Board President and 2021 recipient

ing the historic preservation movement in Central Kentucky. **Janie Fergus** received the 2021 Dot Crutcher Award. A native Lexingtonian and long-time resident of Ashland Park, Janie was active with Ashland Park Neighborhood Association's (APNA) efforts to obtain an H-1 Historic Overlay. She recently retired after a 40-year career in healthcare information technology management. The Blue Grass Trust appreciates Janie's dedication as board president over the past few years and cannot overstate the significance of her adept leadership as we weathered the pandemic while making great strides, simultaneously promoting the BGT's mission.

The John Wesley Hunt Award is given to an individual for lifetime service to the preservation movement in Central Kentucky. **Yvonne Giles** received the 2021 award. Yvonne passionately shares her research about African Americans in the Central Blue Grass Region. She is a twenty-one-year member of African Cemetery No. 2, serving as its Education Coordinator. From 2017 to 2021 she was research consultant to the International Museum of the Horse assisting with the exhibit

"Black Horsemen of the Kentucky Turf," the Chronicle of African Americans in the Horse Industry website, as well as lead writer for the Chronicle's Women Writers Project. She holds BS, MS and an Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degrees from the University of Kentucky. She has authored multiple texts and projects in Kentucky.

The Yvonne Giles Award is given to an individual, group or project for contributing to the research of 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. **Brenda Jackson**, the inaugural award recipient, epitomizes advocacy leadership supporting the historic preservation movement in Central Kentucky. Brenda has researched, fundraised, and co-chaired efforts to place Kentucky Historical Highway Markers at several sites in her hometown of Versailles as well as Midway, Kentucky. Through her research, Brenda discovered her church, Second Christian Church, is the oldest African American Disciples of Christ Church in the United States, established before the Civil War. Recently, Brenda assisted with research on Hunteertown, an African American Community founded after the Civil War. 🙏



The BGT's own Jackson Osborne, no doubt adding a bit of levity to the proceedings.

BGT deTours: *Together Again*

Founded in January 2011, the award-winning BGT deTours program was designed to provide tours of places the public might not normally get to see and to help people interact with and learn about sites that make the Bluegrass special. BGT deTours is held the first Wednesday of the month at 6:00 pm and is free and open to the public.



The backyard of Richard Isenhour's former home with steps leading down to the Lexington Reservoir

Those of you who remember the last two issues of *Preservation Matters* know the above-mentioned interaction has been done virtually since May of 2020, when we released a very special, albeit very shaky iPhone 6 recording of Kentucky's State Capital. Since then, however, thanks to BGT membership support and a generous donation from the Women's Club of Central Kentucky, we have been able to work with Media Collaboratory to create high-quality documentary-style films of the deTour locations. These have been released monthly on social media and via eblasts at the times normally reserved for in-person deTours. By doing so, BGT continued to promote historic preservation while helping stop the spread of COVID-19. The videos of these deTours were amazingly shot and well edited, so much so we felt the need to honor Media Collaboratory with this year's BGT Lucy Graves Advocacy Award. Nonetheless, it was not the same as an in-person deTour, and we knew it. Due to COVID vaccines, we were able to bring back the in-person deTour to the locations listed below as well as provide their virtual versions.

Beginning in May and in honor of Na-

tional Preservation Month, we visited one of our bucket-list deTour locations by touring two of Richard B. Isenhour's modernist masterpieces exploring a 1950s Isenhour-designed home as well as his 1972 personal residence to get a sense of his style evolution. This tour was particularly special because of the work legacy Richard Isenhour left the world of architecture. Despite being originally trained as a chemical engineer, Isenhour always desired to create. After relocating to his wife Lenora's hometown of Lexington in 1952, he followed his passion for building and designing homes and properties within the Bluegrass Region. He was a pioneer of what was known at the

time as "contemporary homes," now known as "mid-century modern," designing and building properties focused on large open interiors, simple lines, and natural materials that connected to the outdoors. During his career from 1956 to 1980, Isenhour was responsible for 98 new building projects and 95 houses, all but one standing today.

In June, we celebrated Pride Month with our Lexington's Pride of Place LGBTQ Walking Tour deTour led by host Dr. Jonathan Coleman of the Faulkner Morgan Archive, Inc. For this de-

Tour, we explored the history of some of Lexington's sites most significant to the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer community, learning how these locales served pivotal roles as places of community, refuge, and celebration.



Dr. Jonathan Coleman in front of the Bar Complex historic marker

Finally, in July, we held our first in-person deTour since the pandemic began at Cardome in Georgetown. This deTour was particularly special, not just because it was our first one in person, but because it was the scheduled deTour for April 2020, the only month we did not have a deTour. Constructed in 1906 and open until 1969, Cardome operated as an all-girls boarding school, Visitation

Academy, under the care of the Sisters of the Visitation, who also had their monastery on the grounds. Currently, the building serves the Georgetown community as Cardome Renaissance Centre, LLC and hosts events focused on supporting the fine arts.

In August, as everyone began to go back to school, so did BGT by deTouring Mustard Seed Hill, formally known as Millersburg Military Institute. The Millersburg Military Institute was a military boarding school founded in 1893 in the small Bourbon County community of Millersburg. It survived for more than 100 years until closing in 2006 due to declining student enrollment. Subsequent attempts were made to restart the school, but none of them succeeded. In November of 2016, Community Ventures purchased the property, set out to restore the campus, save the distressed



Visitors listening to Jackson Osborne welcome visitors to Mustard Seed Hill, the former Millersburg Military Institute in Bourbon County



Some of the many deTour participants who made the trip to Georgetown to tour Cardome

buildings, and bring new life to this once-thriving community. They renamed the campus Mustard Seed Hill referring to the biblical parable something great can grow from something as small as a mustard seed.

For September, we explored two locations as part of our Adaptive Reuse deTour of Lexington's North Side. The tour began at LuigArt Warehouse,



Jackson Osborne, BGT Outreach Coordinator, welcomes the deTour audience to the Adaptive Reuse deTour at LuigArt Warehouse

once home to Dixieland Gardens Nightclub during the 1930s and '40s, which is now an artist workshop area, community center, and event venue. Following that tour, we made our way to the GreyLine Station, built in 1928 and once company headquarters and bus maintenance hub for South Eastern Greyhound Lines, but now home to the Julietta Market.

While in-person deTours have been a welcome return to normalcy, we understand the risk of COVID-19 still exists, and with the Delta Variant the dominant strain in the United States, is even greater than before. The Blue Grass Trust now requires all in-person deTours guests register to attend, either online or at the event, to provide contract tracing, if necessary, and to wear a facemask while indoors.

We appreciate all who have tuned in virtually and shown up physically throughout the years, making deTours as special as the places we have been. We look forward to seeing you at the future sites that make the Bluegrass special. 🌿

Kentucky Culture Symposium at Dr. Thomas Hunt Morgan House

The first annual Kentucky Culture Symposium: The Big Picture was held at the Dr. Thomas Hunt Morgan House on August 14. Organized by The National Society of The Colonial Dames of America in The Commonwealth of Kentucky (NSCDA-KY), seven speakers presented lectures to about 100 participants.

Using 18th-century backcountry examples, Sumpter Priddy, III explained the Fancy style as one dominated by imagination over reason. Daniel Ackermann's talk focused on three artifacts demonstrating 18th-century Kentucky was much more complex than a frontier—it was more of a borderland or a crossroads for a multicultural exchange of ideas.

Eric Brooks told the story of Ashland's acquisition of an 1842 drawing of Charles Dupuy, Henry Clay's enslaved valet. Tim Tomes discussed the discovery and subsequent restoration of a large-scale painting by Matthew Harris Jouett and apprentice, John Grimes, *The Dead Christ Mourned (The Three Maries) After Carracci*, painted in 1824. Mack Cox told the fascinating story of the Redd Family paintings—painted by Matthew Harris Jouett and Oliver Frazier—and their journey around the country, survival through the

Civil War, and much more, finally coming home to Central Kentucky.

Mel Hankla and Gwynne Potts shared content from their recent books. Hankla's *Into the Bluegrass: Art and Artistry of Kentucky's Historic Icons* (2020) uses various forms of the decorative arts to tell Kentucky's history. Potts' *George Rogers Clark and William Croghan: A Story of the Revolution, Settlement, and Early Life at Locust Grove* (2020) focuses on the impact these two men (and many others) had on the establishment of Kentucky as a state.

Profits from the event will be used for the preservation and restoration of Liberty Hall Historic Site (LHHS), an historic site in downtown Frankfort, owned and operated by the NSCDA-KY. The ARCS fund (Assess, Restore, Conserve, and Sustain) is a multi-year campaign to create an endowment for long-term sustainability of the site. LHHS consists of Liberty Hall (1796) and the Orlando Brown House (1835) plus approximately four acres of gardens and grounds. The property was originally owned by John Brown, one of Kentucky's first U.S. senators.



Some of the participants attending the Kentucky Culture Symposium



Sharon Cox, Symposium Chair

Tours of the property include not only the history of the family but also the enslaved laborers, the Stepneys, who worked there.

With the success of the inaugural event, plans are already underway for the next two years. The Symposium will be held at the Filson Historical Society in Louisville in 2022 and



Proceeds from the symposium are going to fund projects like the new shake Liberty Hall roof as well as restoration of this Palladian window.

WCKK Accomplishments and Plans for the Future



Judy Owens, current president of the Women's Club of Central Kentucky

I first saw Lexington in 1972. I was attending the Kentucky High School Speech League summer institute. Marguerite, the mother of one of my speech club friends, drove us up I-75 and down the tree-lined thoroughfare of Richmond Road. Before heading for the University of Kentucky campus, we swung by the fashionable Phoenix Hotel. The lobby was glamorous and exotic, with its massive leather sofas and stately palms. Marguerite ordered a cocktail with her lunch. That was the first time I saw a person drink alcohol in public, and the first time I had seen a woman drink a cocktail.

After lunch, we traveled to Blanding Tower, my home for the coming two weeks. The Kirwan-Blanding complex soared over UK's South Campus. The two high-rise dormitories were designed by Edward Durell Stone, a celebrity architect, a southerner from Fayetteville, Arkansas and

an early proponent of the International Style. Stone designed the lobby of the Waldorf Astoria and was part of the design team for the Museum of Modern Art in New York. The rooms in the towers were spare, a purposeful design intended to encourage students to spend time in the Commons, a beautifully landscaped outdoor space with tree-lined plantings and seating areas. The dining hall was open and airy with soaring windows.

When I put my suitcase down on the 19th floor of Blanding and looked out the window to the grassy vista of Lexington, I felt modern and sophisticated.

Now, almost 50 years later, the mighty Phoenix and the commanding towers are gone.

My friend, Leslie Miller, and I recently chatted about why some buildings and monuments survive and others do not. Leslie, who lives in Louisville, is the national chairman for historic preservation for the Daughters of the American Revolution and a visionary about historic preservation. Her observation has stuck with me. Historic places are primary sources of our history, she said. They are an irreplaceable resource for understanding our past.

"Yet, the challenge in historic preservation is that everything we build has to inspire a new generation to care for it, nurture it and find good use for it."

So it is with the Woman's Club of Central Kentucky. Only a few short years ago the membership of the club had dropped precipitously, and by the admission of past leaders, the club was in jeopardy of folding.

WCKK was saved as past-president Donna Price deployed her incredible ability to network. Donna more than doubled our membership. The infusion of dues strengthened our service



WCKK members Kelli Parmley (left) and Nanci House (right) volunteer for the Junior League Horse Show.



WCKK members Judge Lindsay Thurston and Kimberlei Locke

work during the pandemic. I was especially gratified by WCKK's partnership to address the needs of the precious children of William Wells Brown Elementary. And we are not finished. We are recruiting a diverse group of women like Kelli Parmley, Judge Lindsay Hughes Thurston and Nanci House, all young leaders who have demonstrated a heart for service. These amazing young women will fire a passion that will guarantee the relevance of our club in the future.

WCKK enjoys an amazing history, but we know resting on our past is the surest path to becoming the next Phoenix Hotel or Blanding Tower. We're not going to let that happen. 🙌



Above: Blanding Tower, the former University of Kentucky residential hall, being demolished a floor at a time
Left: Dining in the Commons Cafeteria in 1986 at the Kirwan-Blanding Complex" (University of Kentucky photo)



BGT Staff

Jonathan E. Coleman, Ph.D.
Executive Director

Jackson Osborne
Preservation Outreach
Coordinator

Rebekah Kirkland
Part-Time
Administrative Assistant

859.253.0362
www.bluegrasstrust.org
info@bluegrasstrust.org

Design: Miki Wright
dba Egg Design
miki.wright@scrambledegg.com



The Blue Grass Trust
for Historic Preservation
210 N. Broadway
Lexington, KY 40507

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Ellie Cook New BGT Intern

Ellie Cook, the Blue Grass Trust for Historic Preservation's new Programs, Engagement, and Inventory Intern, is from the small college town of Morehead, Kentucky. She is currently a senior at Morehead State University majoring in history and joins the Trust thanks to the generous support from the Colonial Dames of America, Chapter IX who provided funding for her internship this semester.

Ellie has always possessed a fascination for historical figures such as Martin Luther King Jr, Queen Elizabeth I, Joan of Arc, and many more, which makes seeing herself working in the history field easy. She applied for the internship after one of her favorite history professors, Dr. Alana Scott, sent her an email with an application for the internship. Dr. Scott suggested she submit her resume to gain experience in the field and meet people who might be instrumental in starting her career after graduation.

Ellie enjoys listening to classic rock music, (she has a vinyl record collection), actively participating in her sorority, Kappa Delta, and

spending time with family, friends, and dog – a goldendoodle named Winston! A few fun facts about Ellie: she memorized the U.S. presidents for fun at eight years of age and loves traveling to new places. Her future plans embrace opportunities involving her love of history. She is open to exploring work in the historic preservation field but can also envision herself in other roles. She says she looks forward to learning new things continually and meeting and working with incredible people who will enrich her Hopemont work time.

As the new Programs, Engagement, and Inventory Intern, Ellie spent the first eight weeks of her internship as a weekend docent at Hopemont until the museum closed for the season in late October. She is also creating a digital accession collection on the BGT server of Hopemont's historic artifacts and museum collections. For the last eight weeks of her internship, Ellie will continue to work on the digital accessioning project as well as explore other aspects of a preservation nonprofit with Preservation Outreach Coordinator Jackson Osborne. Thank you, Ellie, for all of your dedicated hard work, and for your contribution to the Trust's mission! 



*Hopemont Intern and Docent, Ellie Cook,
with John Wesley Hunt in
the dining room of Hopemont*