

**Boone County Historic Preservation Review Board**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**April 13, 2017**  
**4:00 PM**

The Boone County Historic Preservation Review Board held their monthly meeting on the above date in Room 204-A, Boone County Administration Building, Burlington.

- I. **Call to Order.** There being a quorum of the membership present, the meeting was called to order by Chair Pat Wingo at 4:05 PM.
- II. **Roll Call.** Review Board members present were Chair Pat Wingo, Vice-Chair Bridget Striker, Secretary Tom Schiffer, Pat Berry, and Pat Fox. Also present were Matt Becher representing the Staff of the Boone County Planning Commission and Assistant County Administrator Matthew Webster.
- III. **Approval of Minutes.** Ms. Striker moved to approve the minutes of the March 9, 2017, Review Board business as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Schiffer and approved unanimously.
- IV. **Item for Discussion and/or Action**
  1. **Historic Boone County Column.** Mr. Becher noted that per discussion at the January Retreat, the Review Board will not continue this monthly column in *The Boone County Recorder*. Board members and staff are still encouraged to prepare articles for submission at any time, but it will no longer be a monthly commitment. Instead, the board will use their Facebook Page and start submitting periodic articles to the *Northern Kentucky Tribune*, who's Editor Mark Hansel has a strong interest in local history.
- V. **Item Updates**
  1. **Old Boone County Courthouse.** Mr. Becher reported that the long-awaited Courthouse Rehab project had begun. The Child Support, Drug Court and Historic Preservation offices all moved out in March, while interior demolition was underway. Interior demo was wrapping up the last week of March and crews were starting on exterior demo. All demo should be done by mid-April. The project remains on schedule for completion in mid-October. The nicest surprise so far has been the extent and overall condition of the pressed tin ceiling in the Courtroom. Despite initial concerns that there might be many missing/damaged panels, over 97% of the original panels are intact. There are holes in a few panels scattered around the room and about a dozen missing from the center of the ceiling, where a chandelier may have been located. Most of the original wood trim was intact under the 1960s paneling removed from the upper rooms, but very little of it survives behind the paneling on the first floor. Overall, there is plenty of original fabric left in the building, which should look spectacular when complete.

2. **Review Board 2017 Action Plan.** Mr. Becher noted that the final version of the board's 2017 action plan - adopted at the March meeting - was sent with board packets FYI.
3. **Walton CCC Camp Marker Dedication.** Mr. Becher reminded everyone that the dedication event for this newest Kentucky Historic Highway marker is May 4 at 1:00pm. The marker is to be set on the Walton-Verona Middle/High School campus, but the exact location has not yet been picked. The Boone County Historical Society is sponsoring the event and has asked him to speak about the camp, as he prepared and submitted the nomination on their behalf.
4. **Big Bone Springs Project & John C. Miller House/Piner Property.** At this time, the board is waiting for The Boone Conservancy to move forward with both the history project and potential salvage of the Miller House. The TBC's Executive Director has indicated that their board will not revisit the issue until their May meeting. Mr. Becher will report back once he hears from her.

## **VI. Items for Discussion and/or Action**

1. **Rabbit Hash General Store.** Mr. Becher reported that the General Store officially reopened April 1, 2017, 13 ½ months after it was nearly lost to the fire. This unprecedented project, along with the Rabbit Hash Historical Society and key volunteers are all up for 2017 Preservation Awards, which will be held in Rabbit Hash on May 11. In addition to the Boone County awards and National Trust Dreihaus award (nomination submitted Feb 27), Mr. Becher has submitted a Preservation Project nomination for Kentucky's Ida Lee Willis awards. He is also planning to nominate the project for at least one other award this year - the Cincinnati Preservation Association Awards (Sept. 30) and asked the board to let him know if there are any others that he should look in to.
2. **2017 Preservation Awards: Nominees and Reception.** Mr. Becher directed everyone to the list of nominees for 2017 Boone County Preservation Awards circulated with the monthly packet. After some discussion, the list was approved with some additions/clarifications, including: (1) the 2017 awards would be dedicated to Steve & Betsy Conrad, whose picture would appear in the event program; (2) the Graves-Duncan Cemetery Preservation Award would be expanded to include everyone who assisted with placement of the SAR & DAR markers on the site; (3) the Rabbit Hash General Store Reconstruction project will receive special recognition in the form of a plaque titled "Center of the Universe Award." Regarding the reception, Mr. Becher has been working with members of the RHHS to plan the event in the Rabbit Hash Barn. Ms. Striker noted that there should be about 30 of the library's folding chairs there available for use and that her staff can bring a laptop and projector if needed. Ms. Wingo will bring two half sheet cakes specially decorated for the event and the NKY Preservation Coalition has pledged to bring drinks. Ms. Striker will bring plates, cups, napkins, etc. In

regards to the time/site for the board's May business meeting, the members decided to hold the meeting in the barn at 5pm. "Doors" for the awards reception open at 6:00pm and the program will begin at 6:30pm.

**3. Boone County Comprehensive Plan Goals & Objectives.** Mr. Becher directed everyone to the existing Comprehensive Plan Preservation Goals & Objectives (G&O) sent with the monthly packet. The proposed changes shown in red were drafted following the board's discussions at the January and March meetings. All comments on the G&O collected to date will be presented to the Planning Commission's Long Range Committee for consideration on April 19. There were no additional comments and Ms. Wingo stated that she would forward this finalized version to Planning Commission staff.

**4. Cemeteries in Union and at CVG.** Mr. Becher reminded the board that Fiscal Court approved the abandonment of 2 Popham family cemeteries at CVG at their March 7 meeting. Jeannine Kreinbrink's firm (NEES, Inc.) has already removed the Ann Popham cemetery, which included 5 burials. According to Jeannine, "They are at Linnemann Funeral Home. One may be Ann...a grave which was fairly well in line with her grave marker. We have very little bone preservation (a few teeth), buttons in two graves. They are most likely all smallish adults, definitely not small children. they could be the persons listed on the cemetery record, but we unfortunately have no way of confirming any of the identities." Jeannine is still waiting on the Kentucky Heritage Council for a determination of "not eligible" to the National Register of Historic Places for the cemetery known as Popham 2. At the request of CVG, Jeannine is also now running a legal ad for the Barlow/Crisler Cemetery, also located on the south side of airport property. The required 60 day period will be up in late May, at which time they will make another abandonment request to Fiscal Court. According to Jeannine "Bridget thinks she knows two descendants of David Crisler, died 1823 who we now think is buried in the Barlow/Crisler cemetery based on a limestone grave marker found by [archaeologist] Vince Versluis." Elsewhere, Jeannine's firm is also currently working to identify the extent of the Old Bethel Church Cemetery in Union. The site is on the west side of the Union Post Office on Frogtown Road. While the cemetery location is described in deeds and other documents, there is little above ground evidence on site. All of the grave markers were removed at some point, although they may be located on site under the rubble of a collapsed barn. Archaeologists have identified a section of a stone walkway mentioned in the church history and two upright limestone slabs nearby, but that's about it. They may use Ground Penetrating Radar to identify grave shafts. The goal is to delineate the cemetery boundaries for preservation in place as surrounding property develops.

**5. Archaeological Site on Cleek Lane.** Mr. Becher stated that he was advised that an archaeological site on a property on Cleek Lane in southern Boone County may be threatened by housing construction. The site (15Be476) was

first documented and reported to the Kentucky Archaeological Survey in 1997 by local archaeologist Matt Maley. The site has a Middle Fort Ancient component and midden - the type of site which almost always has human burials. He coordinated with the archaeologist and property owner to confirm that the two houses already permitted in the subdivision are well away from the midden. Any development proposed on at least one of the parcels (which are 10-15 acres each) may require additional archaeological testing and/or monitoring to identify and avoid potentially sensitive areas.

**6. Carl Bankemper Archive.** Mr. Becher noted that he has mentioned this architect periodically over the past few years, primarily in reference to Marydale and the 1959 Courthouse Annex addition. While working on the Old Courthouse project, architect Chris Meyer of Hub & Weber, Inc. learned that the Kenton County Public Library has archived Carl Bankemper's files and plans. He found and scanned a copy of Betz & Bankemper's design for the Courthouse Annex, dated 1957. The principal architect for the Annex is thought to have been Harley Fisk. Bankemper himself apparently designed the St. Pius X Seminary, Retreat House and other buildings at Marydale, all of which have been recently demolished. Much of Bankemper's work (c. 1953 to his death in 1984) was in Kenton County, including big projects such as the IRS Service Center (1967), Kenton City-County Building (1970), Panorama East & West (1967, 1972), and Golden Tower (1972). He designed a number of Catholic churches and schools as well. In addition to Marydale, his Boone County designs included Woodspoint Nursing Home (1969), the Boone County Admin Building (1981), and the original IHM Elementary (1962, demo'd c. 1993). Given the current interest in modern architecture and the fact that his most well-known Boone County designs are already gone, Mr. Becher feels it worth doing a bit of research on Mr. Bankemper. He has already begun a catalog of his designs and plans to visit the Kenton library to assess the collection and complete the catalog. Elaine Kuhn at the Kenton County Library says that Bankemper's widow donated the materials years ago for a future archives project. If there is enough material to warrant an article (in *Northern Kentucky Heritage* or the like), he may invite Mr. Meyer to collaborate. Research of this type can be a valuable tool for National Register nominations. A similar project/article supported the argument for NR significance of Frank Milburn's Burlington machine shop.

**7. Other. Big Bone Lick Museum Phase III.** Mr. Fox reported that another phase of the visitor center revitalization will begin this summer.

There being no further business to come before the board, Mr. Schiffer made a motion to adjourn at 5:12 PM. Ms. Striker seconded and all present agreed. The next business meeting of the Historic Preservation Review Board will be May 11, 2017, at the barn in Rabbit Hash.

Respectfully submitted,

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Matt Becher, Rural/Open Space Planner  
Boone County Planning Commission

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Thomas Schiffer, Recording Secretary

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Pat Wingo, Chair  
Boone County Historic Preservation Review Board

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Date