

JEFFERSON COUNTY HISTORIC LANDMARKS COMMISSION MEETING

Time: 7:00 PM

Date: December 27, 1988

Location: Jefferson County Court Room

Present: Mr. David Ash, County Administrator, Capt. John Schley, past president, Jefferson County Landmarks Commission, Mr. David Layva, Attorney, Avey and Steptoe, Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Jonkers. Commission Members: Mr. Walter Washington, Mr. William Theriault, Mrs. Nancy Coyle.
Absent Commission Members: Mrs. Jean Crolius and Mr. Archie Franzen.

Mr. Washington abstained from participating in the discussion at this meeting to avoid any appearance of conflict of interest. He had worked with Mr. Jonkers on the matter being presented before having been appointed to the commission.

Mr. Theriault served as temporary Chairman and Mrs. Coyle as temporary Secretary.

Mr. and Mrs. Jonkers proposed to donate to the Jefferson County Landmarks Commission an historic easement on their home, Blakeley. Blakeley has received a plaque from the Commission as an historic landmark and also has been placed on the National Register of Historic Places. The easement would cover the Blakeley house and surrounding farm, containing one hundred and ten acres. The document, as prepared by Avey and Steptoe, along with maps and pictures of the property, were examined.

Mr. Jonkers made a brief statement explaining that the proposal is intended to comply with certain sections of the Internal Revenue Code which would entitle him and Mrs. Jonkers to claim an income tax deduction based on the appraised value of the easement. To claim the credit, the easement must be recorded before January 1, 1989. He had approached other organizations with his offer including the National Trust for Historic Preservation and the State of West Virginia. But they were not receptive - The Landmarks Commission was acceptable to the Internal Revenue Service.

It was made clear that, should the Commission accept the easement, the property taxes on Blakeley would not be affected.

Mr. Layva also made a brief statement, arguing for the desirability of such an easement not only to protect the land from development and/or division, and the buildings from deterioration, but also to make an historic property such as Blakeley accessible to the public, under certain circumstances spelled out in the easement.

In further discussion clarification was requested concerning the parts of the easement 10 (d) page 9 and 2 (c) page 3.

It was decided that the pictures of the facade as presented did not show enough detail to determine its condition. Mr. Jonkers offered to have another set made and also to make available house plans which had belonged to a former owner, Mr. Funkhouser.