



REVITALIZE OHIO

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REVITALIZE OHIO

Winter 2023

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Heritage Ohio
800 East 17th Avenue
Columbus, OH 43211
P 614.258.6200
info@heritageohio.org
heritageohio.org

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ON THE COVER:

The Great Stone Viaduct in Bellaire. The iconic structure and the Great Stone Viaduct Historical Education Society are being honored at the 2023 Appalachia Heritage Luncheon this month.

Cover photo courtesy of Frank Satullo at OhioTraveler.com



Executive Director Note

Community is an interesting word to consider. Passively, it simply means a group of people living in the same place, but actively, it means a group of people with shared goals, visions, identity, and ideas. We were proud to host our annual conference in Dayton, and Heritage Ohio was greatly embraced by the community in a very active way. From the event staff to the visitor's bureau, the chamber of commerce, downtown business owners, developers, hotel staff, transit employees, and so many other supporters, Dayton embraced the conference and helped us welcome over 300 guests to the stunning Dayton Arcade. With nearly 40 sessions, 6 tours, and plenty of networking and socializing opportunities, the conference was a great success, and we're deeply grateful to the scores of people who supported the event.

The belle of the ball was the Arcade. From the moment attendees entered the rotunda, they were astounded by the volume of space, and the beautiful restoration. The story of the Arcade could have ended in a very different way. The decades-long abandoned structure was on the short list for demolition, at a cost of \$12M. Luckily, developers saw the potential in the building, and rather than spending \$12M on an irreparable loss, they convinced the City to invest \$12M in the salvation of this grand space, once again making it the heart of the community.

Fortunately for the city of Dayton, a wise investment was secured, but this is very often not the case in many communities across Ohio. Seemingly every day, historic buildings are demolished and history is lost forever. Buildings are organic structures, built of natural materials from the earth. Like our bodies, they need ongoing maintenance and care. Unfortunately, weak property maintenance regulations and lack of code enforcement often leads to demolition by neglect, leaving gaping holes in the heart of a community district. I cringe when I hear someone say, "it's too far gone to save and it has to come down". It's not the fault of the building that it has suffered and is in poor condition. It's our fault as a community

that we didn't step up and do more to preserve it. Every day, Heritage Ohio works to help communities recognize the value of preservation and revitalization. With real threats to our planet from global warming, overflowing landfills, and pollution, the greenest and best path forward is to keep what we have and not throw it away.

We hope you will join us, and help bring a voice to failing historic structures in your own community. Whether it's an abandoned and neglected storefront in your downtown or a simple cottage in your historic neighborhood, these places have value, stories to tell, and a place in the collective history of your community. They represent the people who lived, worked, and played there, as you do today. Let's see what we can do together to reduce the number of buildings lost every year, and lift up and celebrate what we have inherited as stewards of the past.



Matt Wiederhold,
Executive Director of Heritage Ohio



Upcoming Events

Webinar: Historic Properties and Affordable Housing in Ohio's Appalachia Region

January 17, 2024

Revitalization Series Workshop

February 6, 2024
Wooster

Statehood Day

February 28
Columbus



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Meet Heritage Ohio's New Assistant Director of Revitalization



Heritage Ohio is happy to announce that Lorna Swisher, veteran Ohio Main Street Program executive director, has joined our staff as the new Assistant Director of Downtown Revitalization. Swisher brings nearly 30 years of experience to the position from her time as executive director of Mainstreet Piqua. This new position will support existing Ohio Main Street programs through manager training and networking, program implementation, new revitalization initiatives, and marketing.

GETTING TO KNOW LORNA SWISHER

What excites you about your new role, and/or what made you accept the position?

I love traveling to communities and learning about their Main Street programs. Each community, although they are following the Main Street America 4-point approach, is so different and their volunteers are amazing, passionate and proud of their community. As a Main Street director, I used the resources provided by Heritage Ohio all the time. The trainings, networking and one-on-one coaching were invaluable in my professional growth. I accepted the job because I feel the lessons learned in my 26 years of being a Main Street manager could be of benefit (or a precautionary tale) to other managers across the state of Ohio.

What do you hope to improve upon or add to the existing OMSP?

Extraordinary work is being done by Main Street programs across our state. They are making a real difference in their communities every single day! My goal is to build the network and share best practices across the programs so that we all can learn from each other in an efficient and effective way.

In what direction do you hope to guide OMSP, and help communities?

Being a Main Street director is a challenging job that can often times seem quite lonely. My approach will be to building the network and communication between the Main Street directors so they know they have each other, and Heritage Ohio, to lean on.

How do you hope to broaden the support and networking with managers?

Managers all have certain areas of expertise. One of my goals is to connect those managers with programs that are struggling with that particular area. There is no such thing as the "perfect" background for a Main Street manager, but because our network of Main Street managers bring with them very diverse job experiences, we all have something to learn from each other.

What will you miss from your time with Piqua?

I will miss the volunteers and business owners! Throughout my tenure at Mainstreet Piqua, I was surrounded by an amazing group of committed, tireless individuals who knew the value that our program was bringing to the Piqua community. I will absolutely not miss putting on events but even those brought a huge sense of satisfaction and accomplishment for a job well done.

What are you most proud during your tenure as executive director in Piqua?

The Mainstreet Piqua program makes a difference in the Piqua community. The events add to the quality of life for our citizens. Their beautification program makes a difference in the way the downtown looks and feels, and the role they play in promoting the downtown business and community assets is critical to the success of not only downtown Piqua, but the community as a whole. I am proud of being a part of an organization that builds community.

What do you collect?

Books! I love self-help books and non-fiction.

What is your dream vacation, and why?

At the moment, I have my heart set on going to Greece. I can picture myself in the narrow streets surrounded by whitewashed walls, blue roofs and bright sunshine!

What is your favorite place in Ohio to visit?

My husband Tom and I like to go hiking. We love Glen Helen Nature Preserve outside of Yellow Springs, and West Charleston Reserve in Tipp City. Connecting with nature rejuvenates my soul.

Do you have a favorite architectural style?

I am definitely a fan of minimalist architecture. The basic principle of "form follows function" resonates with me. In this style, only the necessary elements are used, each of which should serve a specific purpose. I love clear, uncluttered design.

Who's Who at Heritage Ohio

Meet a Heritage Ohio Board Member & Learn Why They Serve

Craig Gossman, AIA; NCARB



Where do you work/what is your career/what do you do for a living?

I am a licensed architect and owner of Gossman Group design & planning, an urban design / architecture firm.

How did you get involved with Heritage Ohio?

I was involved with historic preservation for quite a while prior to becoming a Heritage Ohio board member. In 1984, I was invited to attend a week-long introductory workshop on a new program called "Main Street." It changed my perspective on architecture and the impact of historic preservation on downtown revitalization. I began to focus my architectural practice on urban design, placemaking, and downtown strategic planning. Fast forward: after working with numerous cities on downtown strategic planning initiatives, I was invited to consider a board position with Heritage Ohio which I was honored to accept.

What do you value about Heritage Ohio?

I personally value the opportunity to meet people with varied backgrounds from numerous communities across the state of Ohio, all of whom have a passion for their communities and an understanding of the importance historic preservation can play in strengthening their downtowns.

What is your favorite historic building in Ohio?

There are quite a few buildings that come to mind but if I had to choose only one, it would be the Cleveland

Arcade because it represents everything we are trying to do successfully in our downtowns; a vibrant urban place, mixed-use development, and iconic architecture. [*The Dayton Arcade is a close 2nd*]

What is your dream vacation destination?

Fortunately, my wife and I get to travel a lot, but an extended stay in Ireland and Scotland playing golf, hiking, biking and exploring historic towns & villages sounds good to me!

What do you collect, and why?

I own a few guitars. I do not collect them to store or display; I like to play them.

What is your favorite community in Ohio and why?

That is a hard question to answer because I have too many favorites! Granville, Findlay, Loveland, Lebanon, Kent... and all for different reasons; Historic charm, pedestrian focus, historic & hip, great neighborhoods.

What do you foresee as the future of preservation? What are we missing in the conversation?

Historic preservation has become such an important tool in the community development toolbox that I believe it will gain even more prominence in reshaping our towns and cities in the years to come.

As for any missing elements in the conversation, I would urge every community to make sure their zoning codes are set up to reflect their community's values and vision and that the design review process is crafted to expedite historic preservation and urban redevelopment projects. As the saying goes; "Time kills deals" so, be ready to act swiftly & strategically.

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Get to Know a Main Street Director

Karrie Fritz, Executive Director of Cambridge Main Street



Hometown:
Cambridge, Ohio

What do you love most about your downtown?

I really love everyone's true love of the town and its history. I also like how everyone comes together to help each other.

Favorite Main Street event:

I would say my favorite is the Fall Festival. It was great to see everyone out and about. We had music, dancing, food and games and it just felt like a big neighborhood get together.

Favorite building in your downtown:

My favorite building, based on looks, is the 9th Street United Methodist Church building. It has that old-style church feel. I always seem to be drawn to them in all the towns I visit. For historic purposes, it's probably the building that still has the open space under it where the original stores were before the National Road was raised. That is under Ellie's Cottage.

Favorite place to vacation or dream vacation:

I love to go to the beach. Other than that, I'm not sure I have a favorite spot. I really just like exploring new places and find something I enjoy wherever I go. Especially, when it's with the right people.

Mitch Price, Executive Director of Main Street Van Wert



What do you love most about your downtown?

I love the fact that I can walk into every building and we are all so welcoming and the energy flows through the streets with the music playing!

Favorite Main Street event:

Harvest Moon Festival is one my favorite events, it's all about food trucks and music playing that brings a great event together.

Favorite building in your downtown:

The Marsh Foundation building because of the rich history and the potential of what it can be in the future.

Favorite place to vacation or dream vacation:

Siesta Key Florida, the beach is my safe place and love creating memories with my friends and family at the Keys.

Anything else you want to share? Why did you go back to the position? What did you miss, or what do you hope to achieve in your second time at the helm.

I came back because I really believe in Main Street and I never stopped having passion for Main Street Van Wert. I missed the people and I'm trying to make the downtown better each day. Energy, hard work and team work is what I am looking forward to in 2024!





IMPACT

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Preservation News from Around the State

Belpre: After going down in defeat for a 10th consecutive time, one wonders if the Belpre School District might finally be ready to entertain approaching the voters with a levy proposal that includes saving its historic 1928 former high school building. After all, a state analysis demonstrated that the former high school could be fully renovated for less than the cost of a new school building. If the district hopes to position itself to voters as a good steward of local taxpayer dollars, a good place to start would be to choose the most cost-effective option.



The pro-demolition faction uses the same arguments that have been played out across the state for the past 20+ years: the buildings are old, new construction=better student performance, the state is offering the money, etc. If they truly believe that only new schools=better students, perhaps they should check out the latest US New & World Report list of the best high schools in Ohio. #1 on this year's list goes to Bexley High School, which was constructed in 1932. (<https://www.usnews.com/education/best-high-schools/ohio>)



"IT'S OUR TURN" to destroy one more piece of local architectural history? Thanks, but I (won't) pass.

Troy: The Troy Historic Preservation Alliance continues to monitor the status of the historic IOOF Building, and the attached original 1840's courthouse, in the heart of the community. The structure was damaged in a January 2020 tornado, and has been vacant and threatened with

demolition ever since. Currently, the building owner is in mediation to potentially sell the building so that it may be restored and kept as part of the important cultural fabric of the history of Troy.



The courthouse, behind the current IOOF hall, has historical importance of national significance. In 1846, nearly 400 formerly enslaved people from Virginia had to register at the Miami County courthouse under Ohio's so-called Black laws, or Black codes (the records shown in the attached photo are in the Wright State University archives). These former slaves, commonly known as the Randolph freed people, were part of what scholars believe to be the largest mass emancipation of slaves in the United States prior to the Emancipation Proclamation in 1863.

Toledo: Members and volunteers from the Old West End Association successfully lobbied the Lucas County Land Bank to give them an abandoned home and the funds with which it would have been demolished, and they are actively working to save the property for future sale. The house, at 624 Delaware Street, is the only remaining wood shingle, Spanish Revival home, in the neighborhood. Thus far, the organization has fundraised for a new roof and structural repair/stabilization, and are now working on interior systems such as plumbing and electrical. They intend to restore the original windows.



Conference Recap

Last month, we joined nearly 300 of our friends in downtown Dayton for the 2023 Heritage Ohio Annual Conference, presented by Coon Restoration and Sandvick Architects. We were fortunate to be one of the first to hold our conference at the recently renovated historic Dayton Arcade, and it was great to see this icon of Dayton filled with historic preservationists and downtown revitalizationists.

On the first day of the conference, we went to CAMP with the instructors from the National Alliance of Preservation Commissions (NAPC) and explored the ins and outs of historic preservation commissions. Later in the afternoon, we hosted two sessions on the site selection process with JobsOhio, the Dayton Development Coalition, and the City of Trotwood.

That evening, we hosted our annual awards ceremony, which you can read more about in this issue, honoring some of the best places, projects, and individuals from around the state. Our award winners joined the rest of the Legacy Circle members upstairs in the grand rotunda of the Arcade for the Legacy Circle Reception. After some great food, drinks, and conversations, the first day was in the books.

On Wednesday morning, we officially kicked off the conference with a welcome keynote address by Ohio Department of Development Director Lydia Mihalik. Director



Mihalik shared with the attendees all of the work the State is undertaking to help communities around Ohio succeed in job creation, business attraction, and tourism and thanked everyone for their hard work in the revitalization of Ohio.

During the conference, we held over 40 educational sessions and offered over 30 continuing education credits for professionals. We were happy to partner with the State Historic Preservation



Photos by Jeff Goldberg, Esto Photographics



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Pictured: the Cartisles Building in Chillicothe, OH



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Office to help create many of our educational sessions for the conference, as well many professionals



who were willing to share their expertise with conference goers. Here's a small sampling of topics covered at the conference: office to residential conversions, an exploration of Dayton's Funk history, the delicate process of reinterring the burials discovered in the North Market parking lot in Columbus, crowdfunding public projects, mapping ghost neighborhoods using Sanborn maps, and how to celebrate America's 250th birthday in Ohio.

We also hosted 6 tours during the conference, with trips around downtown Dayton, the historic Oregon District, the new Dayton Aviation Heritage Area, a bus tour of the Dayton VA Medical Center campus, and in-depth tours of the Dayton Arcade.

We're deeply appreciative and grateful for our conference sponsors and vendors who made this year's conference a truly special one: AEP Ohio, AES Ohio, altafiber, America in Bloom, Apex Commercial Group, Arcade Innovation Hub, BakerHostetler, Blackberry Systems, CareSource, Casto Management Services, CenterPoint Energy, Century Hotel Group, City of Dayton, CityWide Development, Coon Restoration, Cross Street Partners, CT Consultants, Dana L. Wiley Gallery featuring Mike Elsass, Dayton Area Chamber of Commerce, Dayton Convention Center, Dayton Convention & Visitors Bureau, Dayton Development Coalition, Dayton Regional Transit Authority, Dayton VA Medical Center, Downtown Dayton Partnership, Downtown Redevelopment Services, Friends of the Dayton Arcade, Gather by Ghostlight, GBX Group, Gossman Group, Heritage Architectural Associates, iHeart Radio, JobsOhio, Kleinfelder, Mike Elsass, Mira Development Company, MODA4 Design + Architecture, Montgomery County, Montgomery County Convention Facilities Authority, Mosaic Engineering & Consulting, Nathan Ware, National Park Service, Naylor-Wellman, New Republic Architecture, Ohio Department of Development, OHM Advisors, Ohio Arts Council, Perspectus, Plante Moran, PNC Bank, Preservation Dayton, Sandvick Architects, Schooley Caldwell, State Historic Preservation Office / Ohio History Connection, Thomas Porter Architects, Ulmer & Berne LLP, US Department of Veterans Affairs, Susan Williams WPTD, and WYSO.



The 2023 Heritage Ohio Annual Awards

Best Commercial Rehabilitation – Large Community



Heritage Ohio presents the Best Commercial Rehabilitation Award to those who use the proper preservation techniques to complete a total building rehabilitation. This

year's winner of the Best Commercial Rehabilitation – Large Community is the Municipal Light Plant in Columbus, completed by Connect Realty.

The approximately \$40,000,000 investment in the Municipal Light Plant transformed a vacant and deteriorating building into a functional and exciting new class A office development, with historic industrial features preserved and celebrated. This makes Municipal Light Plant unlike any other property in the Columbus Arena District. Further, the Municipal Light Plant helped spur over \$500,000,000 million in new development in the Columbus Arena District, including but not limited to, the new Crew Stadium, Lower.com Field, and the mixed-use project Astor Park. The iconic Municipal Light Plant, originally built in 1903, has been renovated to create a unique office environment, while maintaining the original character of this piece of Columbus history. The project encompassed two buildings, the Old Generation Building and the New Generation Building. When Connect secured the properties from the City of Columbus the building was still being used to transfer power to the downtown area, namely City Hall. It took several years for the City to decommission the building. Once decommissioned Connect began the redevelopment of the site, expanding the Arena District boundary and bringing new investment to the community.

Honorable Mention: Westminster Presbyterian Church in Toledo.

This award was sponsored by Sandvick Architects & CT Consultants.

Best Commercial Building Rehabilitation – Small Community



This year's recipients of the Best Commercial Building Rehabilitation - Small Community Award is The Delaware Welcome Center/Sheets Building in downtown Delaware.

The Sheets Building, owned by The City of Delaware, stands at 20 East William Street in the historic district of downtown Delaware. In 2019 and for many years prior, it stood empty, deteriorating due to lack of use and maintenance. The structure was originally constructed primarily for residential

purposes and not suited for modern commercial business uses. Therefore, The City proposed it for demolition. That plan was rejected by the City's Historic Preservation Committee, opposed by Main Street Delaware, and unpopular with the public. Main Street Delaware stepped in to save this historic place, leasing the building from the City of Delaware to create a "front porch" for downtown! The ten-year, renewable lease called Main Street to renovate the building, use it as a Welcome Center and public restrooms.

Honorable Mention: Slocum Hall in Delaware.

This award was sponsored by Heritage Architectural Associates.

Best Downtown Placemaking



This year's recipient of the Best Downtown Placemaking is Sidney Alive for the improvements made to downtown Sidney.

In August 2019, a group of community and industry leaders

from Sidney established the City Visions Steering Committee. This group contracted City Visions Associates, Louisville, Kentucky, to study their city and make recommendations for improved housing, placemaking, and talent and business development to enhance the overall perception of Downtown Sidney.

Many ideas were discussed, and evolved into three large arches over the three state routes that pass through their historic downtown. Cantilevered arches in two alleyways were added, along with mid-block pedestrian crossings, bike racks, public seating areas, and additional lighting in underutilized areas. Additional electric was installed to help

know
that serving the community today leads to a better tomorrow.

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2023 AWARDS

Continued from page 9

make it easier for food trucks and musicians to utilize the pocket park across from the courthouse block.

Honorable Mention: Small Nation for the Historic Downtown Bellefontaine Walking Tour.

This award was sponsored by the Dayton Convention Center.

Best Main Street Committee Project



The Best Mainstreet Committee Project was presented to Main Street Kent for the KENT sign project.

Main Street Kent's design committee developed and

installed The KENT Sign, a custom-made public art piece, on N. Water St. in downtown Kent. Located just before the Fairchild bridge, this piece creates a new entry point to the downtown district. With the continued growth and development of The Mill District, it creates a feeling of place as people walk/drive/cycle into town. A dream project of Main Street Kent design committee member Alex Catanese and Main Street Kent staff Lesley Sickle, they took the reins and brought this project to life. Partnering with local design studio Each + Every, the team worked with artist Sean Mercer to design and fabricate the structure, and artist/Kent State University fine arts educator Taryn McMahon, to design the graphics displayed inside the letters of the structure. Visitors to the structure are encouraged to share pictures on social media using the hashtag #kentohart and to take a self-guided walking tour of the other public art attractions in Kent.

The artwork in the facade of each letter is printed on vinyl and will change annually, giving the opportunity to local artists and designers to submit concepts, giving new life to the sign each time it is changed. Main Street Kent is committed to partnering with others and providing funding to artists who keep this art project alive and changing over the years.

Honorable Mention: Kris Kringle Markt by Downtown Tiffin

This award was sponsored by altafiber.



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Excellence in Craftsmanship



A new award for 2023, the Excellence in Craftsmanship Award is presented to the project that showed an amazing attention to quality and detail for the work completed on a historic rehabilitation

project. This year's award is presented to Woodland Cemetery and Arboretum and LWC Incorporated for the Woodland Cemetery Gateway restoration.

The Woodland Cemetery Gateway was originally constructed in 1887, and expanded to its current footprint in 1898. In 1904, Tiffany Studios of New York was hired to redesign the Chapel interior to include stained glass windows and an intricately designed mosaic floor. The exterior restoration scope of work consisted of lifting and relaying the terra cotta roof tiles, reconstruction and restoration of the copper down water control elements, cleaning and repointing of the limestone facades, repair, replacement, patch and consolidation of the severely deteriorated red limestone elements on the facades, and reconstruction of the severely deteriorated and unstable sunburst and herringbone motifs above the windows and at the gables with molded GFRC units.

Woodland's place in history reaches far beyond Dayton, as its remarkable structures with unique interior features are of national significance. One of few 19th-century rural garden cemeteries in America, the site offers a distinctive historical, educational, and recreational resource for the southwestern Ohio region and the nation.

This award was sponsored by CT Consultants.

Historic Theater of the Year



The Historic Theater of the Year is the Ashland Theatre.

Ashland Schine's officially opened in 1942 with one screen, and a total seating capacity of 1,500 people. While live acts were part of the theatre's offerings, it was primarily a movie theatre (and had the narrow stage to prove it). To attempt to remain relevant, the theatre was turned into a multiplex in 1976, with three screens and a total of 600 seats. The theatre closed in 2011.

In 2015, a non-profit bought the theatre and began to restore it. A \$4.1 million capital campaign, along with \$1.3 million from two different Ohio capital budget allocations, enabled the theatre to reopen in May of 2023, with one screen on the first floor, and two smaller screens in the former balcony, screens

which can be lifted to allow all theatre-goers to watch the action on the first floor. Local design firm, Simonson Construction, led the rebuilding project, with work by many other local businesses, including BCU Electric and Comfort Control. The opening of the theatre was a true public-private partnership. The city completely renovated the parking lot at its own cost, and is now leasing the lot back to the theatre for a dollar a year. Now called "The Ashland", which was the theatre's original name, the theatre once again welcomes movie-goers, and will soon host live shows and musical acts.

This award was sponsored by CareSource.

Main Street Business of the Year



This year's recipient of the Main Street Business of the Year award is The Greater Gouda in Delaware.

One might walk into "Gouda", as locals lovingly call it, simply seeking cheese or jam, but walk out with a wealth of information on the downtown because of the top-notch information and neighborly service that the owners, Terri-Lynne and Mark Smiles, are committed to providing. Even the store's monthly e-newsletter, Gouda

News, is frequently filled with updates on all things happening with Main Street Delaware and within the downtown area, cross-promoting other businesses and organizations and encouraging participation. Immediately upon their opening, the Greater Gouda was involved with Main Street Delaware, joining as business members, then participating in committees, and soon thereafter sitting as board members.

Honorable Mention: Speak of the Devil in Lorain.

This award was sponsored by the Coon Restoration & Gossman Group.

Main Street Director of the Year



This year's recipient of the Main Street Executive Director of the Year Award is Jennifer Arntz of Main Street Wellington.

If something doesn't work, Jenny Arntz

has another idea to try. She meets challenges head on with grace, a sense of humor, and an open mind. Jenny is a friendly, outgoing person who does everything in her power to create an attractive destination and a thriving environment for the families and businesses of Wellington.

When Jenny began her career at Main Street Wellington in May of 2015, she took over the reins of an organization that

was in turmoil. Downtown business owners were divided on supporting the program and her as a new director. Her ability to befriend people, listen to complaints and praises, organize the office, and step up and get whatever needed to get done, done, was nothing short of amazing. Her leadership with special events and tourism has greatly increased the visibility of Wellington, and has helped support economic development within the community.

The Joyce Barrett Preservation Hero Award

This year, The Joyce Barrett Preservation Hero Award was presented to both an individual and an organization that have shown a lifelong commitment to advancing historic preservation in the state of Ohio.



The recipient of the 2023 award for an individual was Mitchell "Mick" Schumacher of Woodsfield, Ohio.

Over the past few years, Mick Schumacher has

been involved with a wide variety of preservation efforts in Monroe County. He is a member of the Monroe Arts Council serving as President and is active preserving the historic Monroe Theatre, the Monroe Arts Center and the Buchanan Church sites. These buildings have each been entrusted at various times to the Monroe Arts Council for future keeping.

Through the Monroe Arts Council, Schumacher accepted the gift of the Monroe Theatre from its private owners for restoration. He has led a community-based committee focusing on the difficult renovation. To date, they have secured a CDBG grant, an ARC grant and two State Capital grants as well as many smaller grants toward project-based renovations including a new roof, HVAC, ADA compliant restroom, concession area and stage renovations as well as lighting and sound. Schumacher also accepted ownership of the small Buchanan country chapel, built in 1914 near Woodsfield, into the Arts inventory. He helped raise funds to replace the roof and secure the sites drainage system. He also personally re-painted the front doors and historic archway at the main entrance. The chapel has hosted a variety of poetry and gospel-related concerts as well as a pre-pandemic Monroe Christmas Eve event.

The recipient of the award for an organization was the Cleveland Restoration Society.

The Cleveland Restoration Society (CRS) is the largest, non-governmental regional historic preservation organization in Ohio, and is a member of the National Preservation Partners Network. With an engaged board of



trustees, a professional staff, headquarters in Cleveland, and active programs, today's Cleveland Restoration Society is recognized nationally as a leader in the American preservation movement. With their strategic plan as their blueprint for the future, the organization aspires

to build strategic relationships that allow The Cleveland Restoration Society (CRS) to create and facilitate preservation-based community initiatives for the benefit of all.

This award was sponsored by Coon Restoration & Sandvick Architects.

Spirit of Main Street



The Spirit of Main Street award was presented to Cole Hatcher of Main Street Delaware.

Cole Hatcher is a behind-the-scenes kind of guy, but his impact on Main Street Delaware and historic downtown Delaware is immeasurable. He has served as Ohio Wesleyan University's appointee to the Main Street Delaware board of directors for 16 years, and he's just as active as ever. Cole is always tactful but

never hesitates to ask probing questions or suggest novel answers during board discussions, and his impact extends far beyond the boardroom.

Cole is one of those volunteers who makes Main Street work. Need help at the Farmer's Market? Need a ticket taker for the Holiday Carriage rides? Need a docent for the Hidden Spaces tour? You'll find Cole taking on these tasks, and far more, with a smile and a friendly word. He's one of those people you can count on to help out and always be effective. Another board member described Cole as a "Foundation" – he's a constant, supporting and promoting Main Street Delaware and its activities. I can't imagine there is a Main Street Committee that Cole has not served on, and certainly none he didn't assist. In addition, he's written nearly every press release for as long as anyone can remember and uses his media contacts to promote Main Street events and accomplishments throughout Central Ohio.

Snow and Spuds in Mantua

By Kaley Richard

It's a wintery morning in December and snow is falling. It's time for school and you dread walking in the cold, crisp air. But, putting snow boots on is your favorite part of getting dressed in this season. Luckily, your father puts the chains on his tires and you know he's driving you to school so you don't have to brave the cold. Winter is brutal here, but without it, it's boring. The railroad tracks are covered in snow. The snow will be what you remember and miss most when you someday leave. You look forward to playing with your friends later while waiting for your parents to get off of work. The year is 1915, and it's the second year you're attending school in the new building.

Mantua, Ohio is a small town with a population just above 1,000 residents that doesn't feel so small with its constant hustle and growing attractions. Originally part of the Great Connecticut Western Reserve, Mantua is an old railroad town that was considered a mercantile and agriculture center in the early days. Many locals went into town for things they needed, and today, downtown Mantua is still a destination for residents and tourists. Continuously being revitalized, new attractions are added while maintaining the historical buildings. There are three specific parts of Mantua: Mantua Center, Mantua Corners and Mantua Village, with the village being the area that's constantly growing.

Living in the Village is where all the action is since you can walk to most places. It has all the new and growing businesses, the historic school, Buchert Memorial Park and Headwaters Trail. Restoration 44 is the coffee shop that has opened its doors recently, bringing in a range of customers. They also have rooms available to rent for events, and they own the butcher shop across the way. Restoration 44 Butcher and Bake Shop sells sandwiches and baked goods. Bibury & Co. is a tourist shop; it has cards, gifts and home decor. Crooked River is a flower and gift shop. Jake's Eats is a home-y feeling restaurant. A photographer



Mantua, Old Home Day, 1909



Mantua Blizzard 1950, courtesy Tim Benner.jpg

has moved into a shop downtown and created her own local studio. There's also a pharmacy and drug store, called Mantua Station Drug Co., across from Crestwood High School, that is modeled after a train station.

Being such a close-knit town, it's not surprising that everyone knows everyone. Back in the day, you not only met people through school, but also through your parents work, and where you lived. Smith's pail and wood work factory, Smith's lumber yard, Centennial Flowing-Mills, Frost & Knowles general stores, and Ditto & Sons hardware were the typical places you'd run into people you know. Today, locals still can't go anywhere without seeing someone they know. The historical restoration society encourages Mantua to bring that community aspect back, leaning into knowing your neighbors. Not only to say hello in passing while visiting the coffee shop, but to choose to spend time together in community spaces and to know there's always someone to call when you need help.

Mantua is in Portage County, which got its name from French trappers because the terrain was easier to travel since they didn't have to portage, or carry, their canoes constantly. Mantua, along with other towns in Portage County, provided an ideal path along the Cuyahoga River, running through great hunting lands. Abraham Honey was the first European settler to settle in what is now Mantua Center in 1798.

The railroad system arriving in 1857 made Mantua Village, also known as Mantua Station at that time, flourish as the need for attractions grew. Hotels, homes, liveries, bars and restaurants were established for the growing village. Although the railroad system is no longer there, the village thrives.

In the beginning of the flourishing town, Mantua profited heavily off of the shipment of potatoes. Then it began to produce a large amount of potatoes. Since this town was well known for their potatoes, in 1938 they began to have a Potato Show where farmers could come show their crops and experts could lend advice each year. The event stopped during World War II. Eventually, the community wanted to bring back that sense of positivity to Mantua, so they created the Potato Festival in 1973 to honor Mantua's history. Originally, they had not planned for the festival to be a recurring event, but everyone enjoyed it and the

community decided to do it every year. This festival is less about showing the potatoes off and more about eating them.

The potato festival has been something Mantua citizens look forward to since 1973. The activities at this festival are very niche and interesting. Last year, they introduced mashed potato wrestling. Several years ago, they competed to make the largest (and heaviest) pierogi in the world. It ended up being 200 pounds and all hands from the community were on deck. There's a parade from the high school to the park, the Potato Stomp which is a race throughout the town, and there's always a vote on a Potato Queen. Local vendors come and make potato-themed goods to sell.



Mantua Potato fest, c1980

When you're traveling around Northeast Ohio, consider a trip to Mantua to see some of their historic buildings. The Mantua Historical Society put together a Historic Home Tour of Mantua Village that allows visitors to explore at their own pace independently. While you're in town, visit the local businesses and maybe indulge in a potato treat!

Kaley Richard is a creative writing intern with Heritage Ohio for the fall semester. She is a student at The Ohio State University majoring in journalism.



The Standards for Rehabilitation: Can the removal of lead paint and the preservation of historic building elements coexist?

By Frank Quinn, Director of Preservation

In our Standards Series, we've touched on how best to treat historic structures, but what happens when an original component of that historic structure is deemed to be a health hazard? How do we ensure we're preserving what makes a building historic, without compromising the health of its occupants? Today, we'll focus on lead paint.

Standards 5 and 6 of the Ten Standards for Rehabilitation state the following:

5. Distinctive features, finishes, and construction techniques or examples of craftsmanship that characterize a historic property shall be preserved, and;
6. Deteriorated historic features shall be repaired rather than replaced (when possible).

These simple standards get muddled quickly when it comes to lead paint. A wonder coating that has been used for thousands of years, lead paint is renowned for its durable properties. When mixed as a component of paint it provides a hard barrier against weathering. Bonus: lead-based paint also prevents the growth of mold and mildew, which is great in high-moisture areas. The only problem? As we eventually came to find out, lead is an insidious poison that attacks multiple organs and can lead to serious long-term health issues if not treated. It's no contest; even great building materials won't be used if we have to gamble our health to keep our clapboards looking nice and white. However, banning lead-based paint (as we did in 1978) didn't magically solve the issue either, as countless buildings still contain lead paint. Thankfully, mitigating the hazard of lead doesn't have to mean indiscriminate removal of the component.

Too often, though, preservationists find themselves on the wrong end of the argument when advocating to maintain the historic elements coated with lead-based paint that give a



While windows are an important character-defining feature of a historic building, they also quite often contain lead-based paint. While these windows can likely be reconditioned and made lead-safe, work needs to be done with caution by professionals.

building its historic character. A prime conundrum revolves around historic windows. The parts of the window: the sash, the decorative moldings, the hardware, while crafted from durable materials that literally cannot be duplicated today, were often coated with lead-based paint. We know that lead exposure, especially when it comes to children and pregnant women, can lead to damaging and permanent health consequences. So, to eliminate lead hazards, quite often the proposed course of action is the removal of components that were coated with the substance, typically at the expense of the historic character of the building. But is there another way? Can we keep building occupants safe while keeping the historic character intact? If you dig into Housing and Urban Development documents developed to guide safe renovation practices, the answer is yes.

Interim Controls or Abatement?

Importantly, HUD recommends that "...all lead-based paint professionals and housing agencies should consider interim controls on historic properties instead of abatement if feasible and permissible." (Chapter 18: Lead-Based Paint and Historic Preservation)

Interim controls, as you might guess, entail repair strategies such as safe stripping practices to remove lead-based paint, or stabilizing surfaces by covering over the hazardous paint, and then monitoring and maintaining those controls to insure no subsequent lead exposure to building occupants. Abatement would be defined as the wholesale removal of the entire component that has been coated with lead-based paint.

HUD also recommends that:

"Lead hazard control professionals or housing agency personnel who insist on abatement as a lead hazard control strategy should review this position with the SHPO to determine its appropriateness in light of two factors:

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Costs: The generally higher initial costs of abatement relative to interim controls vs. the lower costs of ongoing maintenance after abatement; and,

Permanence: The possible irreparable damage to a historical property caused by building component removal or inappropriate alteration or encapsulation.”

So, if you have a house recognized as historic, HUD would advise preserving those historic elements through interim controls. I never realized HUD had a preservation streak running through it, but I'm very glad it does.

Additional online sources can assist your efforts to provide information on effectively neutralizing lead hazards while also maintaining the historic character of your building.

Chapter 18: Lead-Based Paint and Historic Preservation provides an overview of treatments for lead-based paint in historic properties;

HUD: Protection Measures for Lead-Based Paint Hazard-Reduction Work (available online, this brochure focuses on proper methods of the removal of lead-based paint, namely wet scraping and wet sanding, which work very well to contain airborne dust;

Preservation Brief 37 (currently under revision) “Appropriate Methods for Reducing Lead-Paint Hazards in Housing” (Preservation Briefs are brief publications focused on different aspects of preserving historic resources published by the National Park Service).

Structure Column

Historic Building in Downtown Glouster Gets a New Lease on Life

Don Gillie, Forensic Structural Engineer at American Structurepoint, Inc.

Downtown Glouster is a common sight in rural Ohio. Many empty and abandoned buildings stand where there used to be a bustling economic center. As money moved out, so did building maintenance and repairs. To those without the time or the imagination, these areas seem like hopeless reminders of a bygone era.

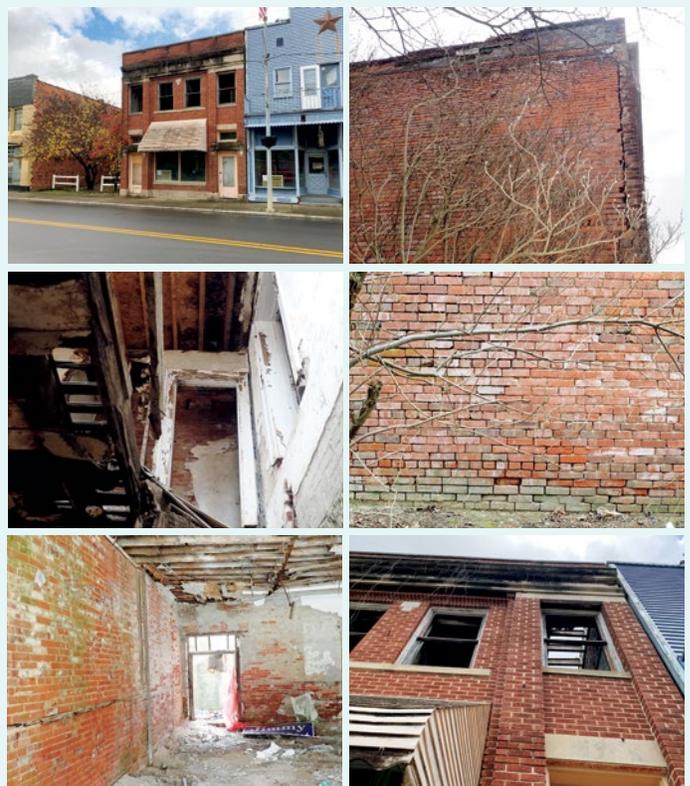
75 High Street is your typical downtown building by most accounts. It likely started as a wood-framed bank building at the end of the 1800s. Floods from nearby Sunday Creek are believed to have wiped away the original structure, and a new two-story brick masonry structure was built in its place. Bands of stone accents along the parapet, below windows and above doors, an otherwise modest building. Wood-framed windows in the exterior walls appear unwilling to let go. A proud awning sticks out above the front windows.

The walls of the building are constructed of multi-wythe brick masonry and support the floor and wall framing. Generations of rain and snow have eroded the soft mortar between the bricks. Some of these bricks have been replaced, and others are just barely hanging on. A wide vertical crack separates the front of the building from its side giving the impression that the building may sink or separate.

Deteriorated wood joists span from wall to wall that support the second story floor and roof. The weight of time and weather has caused the joists to spit and sag. Crushed and wetted wood fibers have stretched and separated rendering the joists soft and weak. No longer able to carry the weight of the walls above, the floors seem to have given up. Unintentional skylights, where the roofing membrane has folded away, has made a pathway for water to enter the building.

As bleak as this may sound, this building's story has not ended. Over the next year, this building will be

put back into service. The brick masonry will be tuck pointed, reestablishing the building's stability and weatherproofing. Vertical cracks will be stitched together using helical bars tucked into the masonry to reattach the walls. Small plates placed on the exterior will anchor tie rods attached to the floor framing, stabilizing the front wall. The condition of the floor framing will necessitate removal and replacement, typical work for any carpenter. When each of these parts are separated out, the pathway for rehabilitation seems less daunting.



Visit an Ohio Main Street

The Ohio Main Street Program is composed of 21 Ohio Main Street Affiliate communities and 33 Downtown Aspiring communities. They range in size from 1,000 to 100,000 people, unique shops, and amazing bakeries, restaurants, and ice creams stands. Each issue, we'll feature a few of our communities and why they should be your next destination in Ohio.

Discovering Downtown Tiffin

By Donna Gross

Located in the heart of Northwest Ohio, Downtown Tiffin is a must-see gem, weaving a tapestry of history, culture, and culinary delights. Exploring this charming community on a day trip offers a mix of vibrant city life, rich history, and small-town charm.

Begin your day at The Deli Café, an iconic spot located in the historic neighborhood of Frost Village. The warm aroma of freshly brewed coffee and the sound of lively conversations create an inviting atmosphere. Indulge in a light or hearty breakfast at The Deli Café, where the menu offers an array of locally made pastries, hearty breakfast sandwiches, and signature coffee blends. As you enjoy your meal, soak in the charm of Frost Village, with its beautiful views of the Sandusky River and historic homes.

After a satisfying breakfast, set out for a leisurely stroll through Downtown Tiffin's historic streets. Many of the buildings date from the 19th century, and showcase the individual architectural styles from Greek Revival, Victorian, Romanesque, and Italianate. Admire the well-preserved facades, each building a testament to the community's commitment to preserving its heritage.

For lunch, head to Madison Street Tavern (MST), a local favorite that has mastered the art of their specialty house made sauces and dry rub spices. MST offers a diverse menu featuring burgers, chicken chunks, salads, and wraps with a relaxed pub atmosphere. Find your favorite flavor and purchase a jar to take home.



Afterward, dive into exploring Tiffin's cultural treasures at the Tiffin Glass Museum and Gift Shoppe. Tour Tiffin's historic connection to the glass industry while viewing glassware made by the factory artisans over its nearly hundred-year history. The Gift Shoppe features products for purchase from the original Tiffin Glass Factory. Take home some beautiful stemware, tableware

and decorative ware produced between 1889 to 1980.

Continue your afternoon browsing through Downtown Tiffin's unique boutique shops including Simply Susan's, Reclaim It, Washington Street Outfitters, Rose & Co, and The Social Cigar to name a few. These eclectic stores offer a selection of artisan goods, vintage finds, stylish apparel, and homegoods, providing the perfect opportunity to take home a piece of Tiffin's character.



As the sun begins to set, prepare for fine dining at The Empire 138, a cornerstone restaurant located on the historic Washington Street block of Downtown Tiffin. The menu features carefully crafted seafood, steak, and vegetarian dishes that showcase the chef's unique farm-to-table creations. Savor each bite in the elegant ambiance with good company, live piano music, and exceptional cuisine.

Your cultural journey continues with a visit to the Ritz Theatre, a historic venue that has stood as a pillar of entertainment since 1928. Catch a live performance or immerse yourself in the nostalgia of a classic film screening, all within the enchanting walls of this architectural gem. Renovated in 1998 to its almost original condition, The Ritz Theatre allows you to look back to a time when the theaters themselves often stole the show.

Cap off your day with a visit to The Renaissance speakeasy bar, where the spirit of the "Roaring Twenties" comes alive. The intimate setting, adorned with vintage decor, live music, and a curated selection of craft cocktails, invites you to unwind and savor the experience of a bygone era. Whether you're a connoisseur of bourbon, mixology or seeking a unique nightcap, the Renaissance offers an unforgettable experience.



Discover Downtown Tiffin, OH. For more information, visit www.downtowntiffin.org

Visit the World Headquarters of Nice People in Downtown Ashland

By Sandra Tunnell

If you are someone who only knows Ashland, Ohio for the rest stop off of 71, we are here to encourage you to go west, young man (and woman), and explore the many amazing



offerings downtown Ashland has to share!

The restaurant scene in Ashland has exploded in the last few years. Their downtown anchor, Uniontown

Brewing Company, is nationally- known for the fifteen plus beers they brew right in downtown, and is equally as well known for their amazing menu, full of favorites and seasonal selections. If your preferred drink is more caffeinated, Downtown Perk has all the coffees, teas, and more you need for your morning buzz through to your afternoon pick me up, plus delicious food options to accompany your drink. Five new restaurants have opened in downtown over the last five years, with offerings to please every palate; Joan's Tavern is that neighborhood bar with a drink to suit anyone; Ohio Fire has incredible wood-fired pizzas; The South Street Grille delivers the best in smoked and grilled sandwiches and barbeque; Bellas 220 and More features the breakfast, lunch, and baked goods that have made their proprietor a catering favorite for years, and The Well offers an incredible cocktail selection, along with a rotating menu of dinner specials.

Luckily, downtown Ashland is eminently walkable, so you can explore all the unique shops after you have sated your appetite. Every woman in Ashland has at least one piece of clothing from the Blue Pumpkin Boutique, and you should, too. Their clothes are flattering, comfortable, and are available in a range of sizes. Clothes Minded Boutiques carries the trendiest of clothes, footwear, and accessories for your favorite fashionista. If you are looking for the perfect gift for a friend, a family member, or for yourself, downtown Ashland has plenty of stores to cover all your shopping



needs. Fig & Oak is a popular destination not only for all the incredible items they have available, but also because those items' purchases all give back to various charities around the globe, and the store also highlights three additional charities that your purchase will support. The ladies at Enjoy! Floral

& Gift Boutique can whip up a gorgeous bouquet for you while you shop their store full of unique and fun finds. If your tastes run toward the eclectic, Madame Bagnabit stocks apparel and accessories that nod to the metaphysical and natural worlds. Don't let the name fool you - Farm & Home Hardware stocks a wide variety of gifts and clothing, as well as anything you need for your yard or home. If you are shopping for the littles in your life, Whoopsie Daisy Bowtique has way more than hairbows- this store has all the fun items the kids in your life need. Of course, no trip to Ashland is complete without a trip to Ashley's Candy & Nut Shoppe. This store has been serving up hand dipped chocolates, freshly roasted nuts, and other sweet goodies for over 80 years.

If you are looking for more reasons to visit downtown Ashland, their event schedule is jam-packed all year round. Yes, they dye their creek green for St. Patrick's Day, and it is a sight you should behold. The Christmas Parade and tree lighting (with fireworks!) are visited by people from across the country. In the warmer months, their car shows, outdoor concerts, and Ale Fest bring in visitors from all over the state, if they aren't already there to look at the spectacular hanging baskets, that rival those in much bigger cities.



We hope you take time to explore all that downtown Ashland has to offer. From food to shops to fun, they have something that appeals to everyone in your family, and will bring you back for more! Find out about shops, restaurants, and upcoming events at www.ashlandmainstreet.org

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Steven P. Larson
Mary Forbes Lovett
Lori Pittman Haas

slarson@ulmer.com
mlovett@ulmer.com
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9 Honored at Appalachia Heritage Luncheon

The 12th Annual Appalachia Heritage Luncheon, sponsored by AEP Ohio, was held in early December at the Ohio Statehouse. With our partners Ohio's Hill Country Heritage Area, we honored 9 organizations and individuals for their contributions to the culture of Appalachia.

Over the past 12 years, 115 people, businesses, and organizations have shared their success stories and have been recognized as important leaders of Appalachian culture.

The 2023 Honorees:

The Great Stone Viaduct in Bellaire



For over 150 years, stone arches have welcomed visitors to Bellaire, in Belmont County. Last October, the Great Stone Viaduct Historical Education Society transformed a 20-arch section of the Great Stone Viaduct into a public walking trail, plaza, and overlook that provides access over the old Baltimore and Ohio railroad line.

The Downtown Exchange in Zanesville



The Downtown Exchange, formerly known as Black-Elliott Block, was built in 1876 in Zanesville, in Muskingum County by Henry Elliot and Peter Black for their businesses. Recently, business partners Brian and Mary Diamond and

Cara and Judd Dodson rehabilitated the building, into a 20,000-square-foot building to host a multi-vendor food hall, offices, and co-working space upstairs.

Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church Restoration Project in Burlington



The Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church Restoration Project is a partnership between the Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church Board of Trustees and the Foundation for Appalachian Ohio's

African American Community Fund. The partnership, formed in December 2021, envisions a reuse of the now vacant facility as an historic site and community center. Services have not been held in the 1849 structure for nearly forty years.

Scioto Historical Project in Scioto County



Scioto Historical Project, created by Dr. Andrew Feight, for Portsmouth, in Scioto County, was inspired by a collaboration between Shawnee State University and

Cleveland State University's Center for Public History + Digital Humanities. First launched in 2013, after two years of development, the Scioto Historical mobile app and website has become the go-to local history source for Portsmouth and Scioto County.

Gay Fad Studios in Lancaster



Jason and David Anney resurrected Gay Fad Studios in 2022, 60 years after the company closed in 1962. Gay Fad Studios was a

premier glassware company that significantly contributed to Lancaster, Ohio and the greater era of midcentury design. The founder, Fran Taylor, was a trailblazing woman who built the company from a \$30 investment to achieve multi-million-dollar sales and international distribution. Today, Jason and David continue Taylor's mission by producing new and exclusive glassware in their retail location, establishing the Gay Fad Studios Glass Museum - featuring 4,000 pieces of original glass, and supporting their local community.

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The Willis James Bed and Breakfast in Chillicothe



The revival of the 1805 Nathaniel Willis home in Chillicothe, in Ross County, begins with a love story between Steph Moore and Drew Musser. They purchased the Willis house in late 2019

and in 2021, they moved 1500 miles to Chillicothe, Drew's hometown, to complete the restoration, operate the bed and breakfast and build a business based around the things and people they loved.

Southern Ohio Museum and Cultural Center Capital Expansion Project in Portsmouth



Established in 1977 and officially opening its doors in 1979, the Southern Ohio Museum and Cultural Center is located in Portsmouth, in Scioto County. Over four decades, the museum has managed to grow its budget, increase the staff,

build a modest endowment, attract testamentary gifts, and acquire five permanent collections of universal interest and local resonance.

Ohio Environmental Council



For more than 50 years, the Ohio Environmental Council has worked to secure clean air, safe water, vibrant public lands, and a strong democracy for all who call Ohio

home. Through legal and policy advocacy, decision-maker accountability, and civic engagement — especially at the local level — the OEC has made great strides to protect the health of our environment and our communities, while addressing the impacts of climate change head on.

Sam Jones Model Citizen Award Kim Jackson, The Hive



Kimberly Jackson's life work is a testament to her compassion and unwavering dedication to others. Her efforts during the AIDS crisis and her fight against child abuse exemplify her commitment to supporting vulnerable communities, even when such endeavors were

not widely acknowledged. Addressing the needs of rural populations, she developed a transportation program that greatly enhanced access to essential services. These initiatives represent just a portion of her consistent commitment to community advocacy and harm reduction initiatives.

Welcome to Our New Members

Heritage Ohio is pleased to welcome the following individuals, communities, and organizations as new members of Heritage Ohio!

Nicholas Blanter

Harmanjit Kaur

Cooper Shields

David Crowell

Taylor Mullinax

Rati Singh

Linda Donaldson

Brett Paguirigan

Devon Stinson

Historic Hamilton

Daniel Schneider

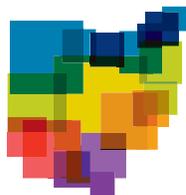
Village of Milan

Cathy Jones

David Schwartz

Betsy Wilson





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***Patron, \$750**

***Ambassador, \$1,500**

***Benefactor, \$6,000**

***Preservation Leader, \$10,000**

***Lifetime Investor, \$25,000**

*Annual membership of \$250 or more includes enrollment in our Legacy Circle.

For more information on membership for Businesses, Communities, Organizations, and Main Street Programs, please visit our website at www.heritageohio.org.