

REVITALIZE OHIO

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REVITALIZE OHIO

Summer 2025

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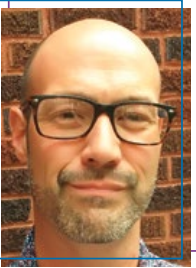
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ON THE COVER:

This year's winning Preservation Month Photo Contest entry features a former umbrella factory. Head to page 15 to see who took the winning submission and learn more about what is happening in the umbrella factory now.



Executive Director Note



Heritage Ohio was founded as a historic preservation organization. It's inherent in our mission, and it's woven through the fabric of our daily work. This year, we've taken a focused approach to expand awareness and appreciation for what preservation means, and how it helps communities thrive.

Across Ohio, many historic properties are at risk due to disinvestment, limited access to capital, deferred maintenance, or a lack of appreciation. Losing a building is more than just losing a building; it's losing part of the collective history of the community, it's losing the chance for reinvestment to create commercial and residential development, and it's losing the opportunity to generate, income, property, and sales taxes.

So often, we hear people say, "Oh, that building is too far gone, it has to come down. It's not safe." Buildings don't begin to crumble overnight. Buildings can't repair their own roofs. Buildings can't fix a broken windowpane. Buildings can't tuck point their own mortar joints. We as citizens and caretakers are responsible for this, and it's time that we all step up and do better.

Thanks to funding from the Ohio Legislature, Heritage Ohio has had the great fortune to work with Dave Mertz, retired director of the Building Preservation/Restoration Program at Belmont College in St. Clairsville, OH, to offer Preservation Assessment Workshops in several Ohio communities. The workshops consist of an evening public presentation that covers common building maintenance issues that, if not addressed, can lead to significant damage to a historic structure. The following day, Dave does an in-person, physical assessment of key downtown properties and points out areas of concern, such as water draining toward rather than away from a property, bricks or stones that are loose and crumbling, or step-cracking in masonry walls that could indicate a structural concern. These small things can compound over time, leading to a building being "too far gone." We want to stop that.

Preservation is also a primary goal of Main Street America, and we were lucky to receive a Certified Local Government grant from the Ohio State Historic Preservation Office, to host Lisa Mullins Thompson, Senior Program Officer for Revitalization Services at Main Street America. Lisa presented a comprehensive workshop on why preservation is important to local communities, how it supports economic development, how it supports tourism, and how it generates revenue.

Heritage Ohio is proud to be a first-call resource for residents and communities across Ohio. On a weekly basis, we receive calls and emails from concerned citizens about endangered properties. The City of Middletown is considering the demolition of 4 properties in their downtown, three of which are on the National Register of Historic Places. Citing poor conditions, the properties include a landmark 1921 brick and stone downtown bank building, a stunning former residence that served as the home of the Knight of Columbus, a former Ford Dealership that is made of poured concrete, and the historic, five-story Manchester Inn, once the center of Middletown society, and which has hosted former presidents and stars from the Entertainment world. The City has invested some funding to clean out the buildings, but the ongoing decay has not been stopped, and the future is not looking great. Losing any of these structures would be considered a loss, but losing four would be a detriment to the continued development of their downtown Main Street District.

Another Ohioan recently wrote asking for guidance to try and help save the Molly Sanitorium in Canton, Ohio. The structure, built in 1929 as a tuberculosis hospital, is a wonderful example of Spanish Revival architecture, that closed in 1995, and has been vacant ever since.

Historians in Waterville are mounting an effort to save the historic yet controversial Roche de Boeuf Bridge. The interurban bridge, constructed in 1908, supported the rail line that connected Lima and Toledo. The heart of the bridge sits on the Roche de Boeuf, a limestone outcropping and historical meeting place for Native American tribes. The bridge was abandoned in 1937, but grew into an iconic landmark for the area, and the subject of many artistic works by painters and photographers.

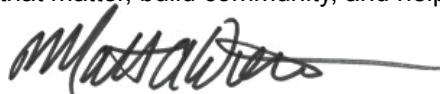
All of these structures are historic, are important, and are clearly very dear to local residents. While we have to acknowledge that not everything can be saved, it's critical to take a pragmatic approach to making the decision of what is saved, and what is sacrificed. At Heritage Ohio, we interact with these champions by providing technical assistance such as leads on funding resources, connections to local, regional, and state experts to help with assessments, and sometimes; getting directly involved with the project by attending community meetings and public forums.

NOTE

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This spring, I attended two different forums where we discussed sustainability and equity through a preservation lens. The conversations were enlightening and concerning at the same time. With the very real threat of global warming and more destructive natural disasters, preservationists are now concerned with hurricanes (Hurricane Helene, Asheville), flooding (Hurricane Katrina, New Orleans; Marietta, OH), and fires (Lahaina, Maui, and Los Angeles) and what it means for historic properties in these risk zones. Preservationists are discussing equity in what we save, how we save it, if we move it, or if it's ultimately an area that will be sacrificed.

Preservation. Man, it's tough sometimes. We hate to lose places and spaces that have shaped our past and continue to guide our present and future. There are no easy answers. It's expensive. It's risky. It's difficult, and sometimes; it's heartbreaking. Heritage Ohio is here to champion preservation, and we confirm our commitment to helping save the places that matter, build community, and help people live better.



Matt Wiederhold,
Executive Director of Heritage Ohio

UPCOMING EVENTS

JULY 2

Recruiting Tomorrow's Leaders

Webinar

JULY 23

Financial Tools & Incentives for Downtown

Revitalization Workshop

Greenville

JULY 30

Latinos in Heritage Conservation

Webinar

AUGUST 13

A Career Retrospective with Barb Powers

Webinar

AUGUST 20

Masonry Maintenance & Graffiti Removal

Webinar

SEPTEMBER 4TH

Revitalization Series Workshop: The Dollars and Sense of Multifamily Development

Wellington

DOLLARS AND SENSE OF HISTORIC REHABILITATION

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 4
WELLINGTON**

Vacant and underutilized downtown buildings are the hidden assets of community revitalization, yet developing these properties can be a challenge. Join Heritage Ohio and Corey Leon, Senior Field Director with Grow America, for a full-day, deep dive course on real estate development to transform white elephant buildings into vibrant income-producing properties. While Ohio's Historic Tax Credits can be a valuable tool, they typically cover no more than 25% of a project's funding. That means the remaining 85% or more must come from debt and equity tied to cash flow.

Participants will learn about the critical role of TIME (both as a concept and an acronym), how banks determine loan amounts, and what drives equity investors' decisions. The day concludes with a practical case study, giving attendees a chance to apply these insights to a real-world scenario.

This deep-dive workshop will equip those new to real estate development with the tools and knowledge they need to move forward on a project.

The workshop will be held at the Wellington Eagles FOE #2051, 631 S. Main Street, Wellington and will begin at 8 a.m. Pre registration is required. Find more information and register at www.heritageohio.org

This workshop is made possible through support from the Ohio Department of Development, Main Street Wellington and the Lorain County Visitors Bureau.



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Gordon Goldie
gordon.goldie@plantemoran.com

plantemoran.com

Meet a Main Street Director

Arasin Hughes

Executive Director of Main Street Ravenna

How long have you been in your position and what excites you most about downtown revitalization? I have been at Main Street Ravenna for a little over 3 years now! It has been a fantastic journey. We have a beautiful historic downtown with rich history that is deserving of care and creativity. Our community boasts that small town feel and being able to partner with Heritage Ohio and Main Street America to activate our spaces and provide opportunities for people to get out and enjoy our downtown keeps me going! Our work is never done in our community and being able to continue to find ways to pour time and energy into it keeps me on my toes for what our next big steps can be.

What part of your job is the most rewarding? At first glance, it is easy to see the success of an event or project installation as rewarding, but receiving praise and clarity of understanding what Main Street Ravenna does by both residents and visitors helps recharge my battery to keep moving forward. It's not always the loud and flashy recognition, but when someone waves at you when you are picking up trash and says, "hey, you're that girl from Main Street! We see you out here all the time, thank you!" it goes a long way.

What is your professional background? What did you do prior to this position? I am also a licensed realtor and have experience in the community as a property manager. I also have a counseling degree & license, which helps wonderfully to pair with communications and feedback!

What is your leadership style and how does it serve you in your role as Main Street manager? My leadership style floats between transformational and servant leadership. Strong leadership is formed through putting needs of the community first, but it is important to keep vision on what our community can become. Our residents are vocal in their desire to have a welcoming downtown and assisting our volunteers to lead the charge to do so

helps grow the transformation right before our eyes.

Where is your favorite place to vacation or your dream vacation? Recently I have caught the Disney bug for travel, which works out well because of Main Street USA in Magic Kingdom! Their own imagineering and preservation are a lot of food for thought to Main Streets across the nation – how they have been able to use their architecture, wayfinding signage and tools for visual perception sure could play a factor in other Main Street communities as well.

Anything else you want to share? Being a part of the Main Street community is such an important role in so many ways. You're both leading the charge and preserving the history within your community. There is a ton of potential in every downtown, and there are always ways to grow and inspire change while honoring the past. Don't be afraid to get involved in your own community – volunteer today!



Mone't Roberts

Executive Director of Elyria Community Partnership

How long have you been in your position and what excites you most about downtown revitalization? I have been the Executive Director since February 2023, but previously served

on the board for a year prior. What excites me most about downtown revitalization is creating an impact for years to come. There is truly something special about bringing forth an art project, helping a business owner, bringing in the community, and making connections that will impact my child's future and the community's perspective about the place we call home.

What part of your job is the most rewarding? The most rewarding part of my job is watching seeds bloom—sometimes literally. With our landscaping projects, we often don't see the results until the following year. In the same way, I know that many of the efforts I put in today won't reveal their full impact for years, because community

STREET DIRECTOR
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Welcome to Our Newest Members

Please help us welcome our newest members, whose financial contributions support our mission: Save the places that matter. Build community. Live better.

Madalyn Bailey – Yellow Springs
Cherese Capadona – Middletown
Daniel Peterson – Columbus
Patricia Ratz – Columbus
Ellen Rodriguez – Toledo
Justin Zink – Hillsboro



GBX Group does more than preserve the nation's historic structures. Together with our investors, development partners and members of the historic preservation community, we transform neighborhoods, stimulate economic growth, and protect the cultural and historic fabric of communities.



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Van Wert Preservation Training Highlights Economic Opportunities

By Joe Dunay

On May 7, 2025, Heritage Ohio hosted the Van Wert Revitalization Series Training, transforming downtown Van Wert into an active classroom for community leaders, preservation experts, and stakeholders eager to explore preservation as a powerful economic tool. The event, featuring Lisa Mullins Thompson of Main Street America, emphasized practical methods and real-world examples to help attendees understand how preservation efforts can effectively fuel economic renewal.



Participants—including city planners, nonprofit executives, Main Street managers, and local foundation leaders—convened to tackle common preservation challenges. The day started not with abstract theory but with clear economic rationales behind historic preservation. Thompson articulated preservation as more than aesthetics or nostalgia, presenting it as a catalyst capable

of attracting investment, creating jobs, and revitalizing local economies. The session clearly outlined financial incentives, particularly historic tax credits, and demystified the complex details involved in their application. Attendees responded positively, highlighting the clarity and practicality of these insights, particularly regarding project cost assessments and financing strategies.

WALKING THE STREETS

An integral component of the workshop was a direct, hands-on assessment of building façades in downtown Van Wert. Participants, guided by Thompson's expertise, conducted real-time evaluations of various properties, from successfully restored structures to buildings in need of immediate intervention. The walking audit was not merely observational but interactive, prompting attendees to apply preservation criteria learned earlier that day directly to the buildings around them.

These real-world exercises stimulated dynamic discussions among participants on the nuances of restoration versus rehabilitation, structural versus cosmetic repairs, and how to practically prioritize preservation efforts. A participant summarized the experience effectively, stating, "Being able

to see and immediately apply these techniques to actual buildings was incredibly valuable. It made abstract ideas concrete and achievable."

The exercise provided participants the necessary technical vocabulary and conceptual understanding to confidently address preservation challenges within their own communities.

LOCAL LESSONS

Moving beyond broad strategies, attendees gained in-depth insight from the ongoing Van Wert Forward initiative. Seth Baker and Spencer Creekmore of the Van Wert County Foundation delivered a transparent look at the complexities involved in large-scale community revitalization, emphasizing both strategic planning and practical execution. Their case study detailed effective partnerships, financial structuring, and risk management strategies. Attendees noted how such localized, candid accounts offered invaluable lessons, moving preservation efforts from idealistic ambitions into achievable action plans.

The day concluded with a tour of the Odd Fellows Lodge, a tangible example of successful adaptive reuse, now functioning as a boutique accommodation tailored to corporate guests. This guided tour allowed attendees to visualize the potential outcomes of strategic preservation, combining historic integrity with contemporary community needs. The lodge's transformation underscored the importance of collaboration between private investment and public interest, vividly illustrating Thompson's earlier points about the economic viability of historic preservation.

SUSTAINING MOMENTUM THROUGH PRACTICAL EDUCATION

Feedback from participants highlighted the workshop's blend of practical education and hands-on application as particularly effective. One attendee encapsulated the sentiment by emphasizing the immediacy of the workshop's





impact: “We left with actionable steps, not just general ideas. This equips us to better manage our historic resources immediately and efficiently.”

Heritage Ohio’s ability to translate complex preservation strategies into straightforward, practical approaches was repeatedly acknowledged as the event’s greatest strength. The training empowered participants by bridging the gap between preservation theory and actionable community-driven projects, creating lasting impacts well beyond the day’s discussions.

STREET DIRECTOR

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development isn’t a quick fix. It’s not a microwave process; it’s more like baking—slow, intentional, and deeply satisfying. For me, seeing tangible results from projects like our housing initiative, murals, events, and business development efforts is incredibly fulfilling, especially knowing that many other seeds we’ve planted will take time to grow, as many of them have.

What is your professional background? What did you do prior to this position? I have a Bachelor’s in Promotional Communications and a Master’s in Public Administration. I’ve held various marketing roles and even managed a small business for several years. Before stepping into my current position, I oversaw 16 different communities across the U.S. while working with a consulting firm called Better City, which focused on economic development. In that role, I led strategic planning efforts and community engagement initiatives. That experience—combined with my education and my involvement at the board level in shaping our organization’s strategic plan—uniquely prepared me for the work I do today.

What is your leadership style and how does it serve you in your role as Main Street manager? I would say that I take on a servant leadership model. For me, leadership is about supporting others—whether it’s business owners, community members, or our partners—by removing barriers, listening to their needs, and helping them succeed. As the Executive Director, this approach is essential because so much of the work relies on

THE BROADER IMPACT

By showcasing how strategic preservation aligns directly with local economic development, Heritage Ohio reinforced preservation as a cornerstone of sustainable community growth. Communities facing similar challenges statewide can look to Van Wert’s experiences as a realistic model, demonstrating how deliberate, informed preservation practices generate lasting economic and social benefits.

collaboration, trust, and long-term relationship-building. By focusing on serving others first, I’m able to foster stronger community engagement, empower stakeholders, and create a shared sense of ownership in the revitalization of our downtown.

Where is your favorite place to vacation or your dream vacation?

Surprisingly, my love for travel has played a big role in shaping my career decisions. One of my favorite travel experiences was a trip to Israel with my grandmother a few years ago—an experience I’ll always treasure. The vibrancy I witnessed there, along with the energy of other communities I’ve visited, helped spark my passion for downtown revitalization and my vision for what Elyria can become. I remember waking up to fresh pastries, walking to shops, and having easy access to public transportation. That kind of walkable, lively environment is something I see as possible for downtowns everywhere, including Elyria.

Anything else you want to share?

In addition to travel, I’m deeply inspired by the stories and resilience of the people who live and work in our community. I believe every successful community is built on authentic connections and shared experiences. That’s why I prioritize listening, collaboration, and celebrating local culture in everything we do. Whether it’s through events, housing, public art, or business development, I want our downtown to reflect the spirit of Elyria—both where we’ve been and where we’re headed.

Preservation Across the State

Cleveland: On Friday, May 16, Cleveland Restoration Society honored Jonathan Sandvick with the Robert C. Gaede FAIA Lifetime Achievement Award for his significant contributions to the city's architecture, his leadership in developing historic preservation tools, and for his long-time service as a trustee for Cleveland Restoration Society.



Jonathan Sandvick

Cleveland residents today who live in converted warehouses and office buildings, eat in restaurants adapted from retail space, enjoy a spa in an historic mansion, and shop for groceries in an old bank building owe a debt of gratitude to the vision of Jonathan Sandvick and his team at Sandvick Architects for their restoration and re-adaption of many Cleveland landmarks.

In addition to his over 35 years of service to Cleveland Restoration Society through its board of trustees, Jonathan has decades of involvement with other non-profit organizations such as Downtown Cleveland Alliance, Heritage Ohio, Inc., and the Warehouse District Development Non-Profit Corporation. When he started in the Warehouse District, it was only 7% occupied and known as the most distressed location in the downtown. Today, it is 97% occupied and is a great success story for Cleveland and the home of Sandvick Architects.

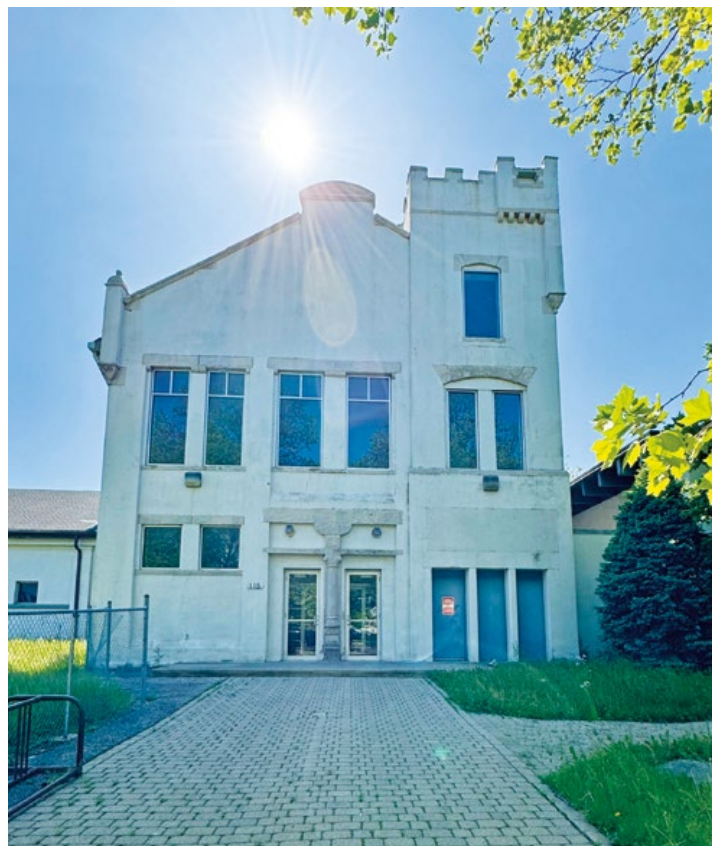
Columbus: As part of the 2026 America 250 celebration, the Ohio Historic Connection, in partnership with the Ohio Society Sons of the American Revolution, the Ohio State Society, NSDAR, is leading an initiative to identify and list all gravesites of the more than 7,000 Revolutionary War veterans buried in over 1,700 cemeteries across Ohio. This is the first comprehensive effort to document these historic gravesites. Ohioans are encouraged to become a Public Researcher, to photograph and record gravestones to ensure these early heroes are never forgotten. Find out more at Ohiohistory.org

Dayton: In April, the city of Dayton concluded an archaeological investigation on the historic Lichliter Village – a former Native American settlement – to assess if the surrounding area is suitable for future development. The two-year investigation produced 2,208 artifacts, ranging

from pottery to flint stones. The Boonshoft Museum of Discovery now has possession of the artifacts to archive. They will not be on display.

The property that was investigated is 126 acres. Just above Wolf Creek, Lichliter Village was first discovered in 1953, with a few archaeological excavations occurring on the site in the following two decades. The site's been on the National Register of Historic Places since 1973. The city collaborated with the Dayton Society of Natural History, Ohio History Connection, Ohio Valley Archaeology, and the Dayton-Montgomery County Port Authority for the archaeology project's duration. (WYSO | By Adriana Martinez-Smiley)

Franklinton: Columbus Landmarks announced their 2025 most endangered list of properties, which includes the Boys & Girls Clubs of Columbus, housed in the last remaining historic market house building in Columbus and Central Ohio, built 136 years ago and continuously used by the community for over 127 years. Now home to the Westside Boys & Girls Club, this rare civic structure reflects Franklinton's working-class history and tradition of public service. Despite limited documentation, it holds deep community attachment and embodies a living history in a neighborhood rapidly transforming through redevelopment. Its potential loss would erase a tangible piece of the city's past. Preserving it means protecting one of Columbus's few remaining connections to its 19th-century civic life. (Columbus Landmarks)



The Boys & Girls Clubs of Columbus

Saved, Threatened, Demolished

SAVED:

INTERURBAN BUILDING (MEDINA)

Medina's Interurban building will be relocated to the McDowell-Phillips property, which is owned and maintained by the Medina County Historical Society. City Council has authorized Mayor Dennis Hanwell to enter into an agreement with the historical society to allow the relocation. The building was once part of the Cleveland Southwestern Electric Railway.



THREATENED:

HISTORIC ANSONIA TOWN HALL

Despite its historical significance, and National Register listing, Darke County Commissioners recently voted to demolish the Ansonia Town Hall in Brown Township. Serving as a hub of the community since its construction in 1883, the sturdy masonry building has served multiple purposes. Unfortunately, the commissioners apparently made no effort to market the ornate Italianate building for redevelopment, and the State Historic Preservation Office provided their approval for the county's actions, paving the way for demolition.



DEMOLISHED:

REEVES BUILDING (WARREN)

The 100-year-old Reeves Building was recently demolished as the city and local port authority have assembled parcels for an out-of-town developer to create a large mixed-use development.



Preservation in Practice: How Heritage Ohio's Assessment Workshops Impact Communities

By Joe Dunay

Preservation Assessment Workshops (PAWs), hosted by Heritage Ohio during Preservation Month, have emerged as valuable educational tools for communities looking to address the practical challenges of historic preservation. In May 2025, the PAWs visited Findlay, Middletown, and Salem, each community seeking tailored guidance from preservation expert Dave Mertz, former professor at Belmont College.

Dave Mertz opened each PAW with a focused educational session, emphasizing the critical, often overlooked aspects of maintaining historic buildings. Attendees learned about common preservation pitfalls: failing roofs, compromised



PRESERVATION IN PRACTICE
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PRESERVATION IN PRACTICE

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masonry, neglected drainage systems, and improperly maintained wood windows and doors. These practical insights resonated deeply, as many participants recognized similar issues in their communities.

In Findlay, the workshop became a catalyst for real-time action when the PAW team unexpectedly joined a county commissioner's meeting at a former juvenile court building. Participants toured the facility, offering immediate recommendations for its rehabilitation. The conversation underscored a prevalent challenge—community leaders often hesitate due to gaps in technical preservation knowledge. Heritage Ohio's involvement provided both the knowledge and confidence needed to consider practical preservation strategies.

Similarly impactful was the visit to Findlay's historic firehouse, where fire department staff sought advice on repurposing the building, out of active use for decades. Dave Mertz's assessment highlighted the building's strong structural condition and outlined clear steps for repurposing it sustainably. Such hands-on evaluations not only informed immediate preservation efforts but also encouraged community leaders to prioritize maintenance to prevent buildings from reaching critical states of disrepair.

Salem's PAW emphasized proactive preservation through Dave Mertz's succinct yet powerful presentation on long-term maintenance

planning. Attendees learned how routine assessments and incremental repairs could mitigate significant future expenses. The concept of monitoring buildings "like a doctor, not a surgeon" was particularly resonant, underscoring the importance of addressing preservation incrementally, avoiding overwhelming interventions later.

Participants consistently noted the value of the practical, actionable nature of the workshops. "It clarified the importance of consistent maintenance," remarked one Salem attendee, who highlighted the usefulness of developing structured plans to manage historic assets. This feedback reflected broader sentiments from other communities, underscoring Heritage Ohio's role in transforming theoretical preservation concepts into achievable community actions.

PAWs effectively bridge gaps between theoretical preservation and practical application, providing communities with direct access to expert knowledge. This educational approach empowers local officials, homeowners, and business owners to undertake informed preservation efforts, ultimately safeguarding the unique architectural heritage that defines their communities.

By offering both educational clarity and hands-on advice, Heritage Ohio's Preservation Assessment Workshops are shaping the future of historic preservation across Ohio, community by community.



What's Happening with the Young Ohio Preservationists

By Abby Marshall

Young Ohio Preservationists (YOP) has been very active this year, gathering for tours, workshops, and more. A 2025 goal of the group has been to learn Historic Preservation trades. This spring, YOP hosted a two-part cemetery preservation series at Erie Street Cemetery in Cleveland and Green Lawn Cemetery in Columbus. Dani Cohen, an advocate for Erie Street Cemetery, wrote their Master's thesis on the history of the cemetery. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2024, Erie Street Cemetery is one of the oldest and historically significant cemeteries in Cleveland. Dani discussed the establishment of the cemetery in 1826, preservation efforts throughout its history, and its significance as the resting place for Chief Thunderwater, whose Indigenous activism associated with the cemetery grounds significantly raised awareness of American Indian history and culture in Cleveland and the Western Reserve.

In Columbus, Krista Horrocks, with the Ohio State Historic Preservation Office, gave a presentation discussing the history and significance of Green Lawn Cemetery, listed on the National Register of Historic Places, followed by a training session on historic cemetery preservation practices. Attendees were able to learn why cemetery preservation is important, best practices for preserving grave markers, and what products are safe to use considering the historic integrity of the markers. Following the presentation, the attendees were able to get hands-on experience cleaning the headstones in the Maurer family lot. This involved clearing off biological growth and using products to restore the marble stones. Green Lawn Cemetery is managed by the 501(c) 3 non-profit, Friends of Green Lawn Cemetery Foundation and will be hosting additional volunteer days for those who want to learn about cemetery preservation.

As 2025 progresses, more exciting events are planned for Young Ohio Preservationists. In June, the group will be attending a weekend long event in Toledo. The weekend will include a series of tours of successful Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit projects in the city, a historic lighting fixture workshop, and tours of Toledo gems such as the Collingwood Arts Center and the Edward Drummond Libbey House. Additional events planned for the group include a downtown walking tour of Marysville and a Historic Window Rehabilitation Workshop with Blind Eye Restoration in Columbus. Follow Young Ohio Preservationists on Instagram @youngohiopreservationists for information on upcoming events!

Interested in hosting YOP for a tour or workshop? If so, please email YOP Organizer Abby Marshall @amarshall@ohiohistory.org.



Historic Preservation Under Threat: Three Things You Can Do to Protect and Strengthen Historic Preservation

Rob Naylor, Preservation Action

Federal historic preservation programs are in crisis. Despite strong bipartisan support, historic preservation at the national level is facing substantial challenges from funding delays, cuts, staff reductions at the National Park Service, and more. Now, the Historic Preservation Fund (HPF), which is the cornerstone to carrying out the federal historic preservation program, is under direct threat.

Fiscal Year 2025 funds for State and Tribal Historic Preservation Officers (S/THPOs), and competitive grant programs from the HPF have not been released, despite being appropriated by Congress in March. These funds are necessary for SHPOs and THPOs to carry out their federally mandated duties. Further compounding the immediate threat, the President's proposed budget request for FY2026 nearly eliminates the HPF entirely.

This delay at the federal level is having a direct impact on Ohio. As a result, the Ohio State Historic Preservation Office already laid off one-third of their staff. The consequences of this will be immediate and severe. This means nominations to the National Register of Historic Places, consultation and review of federal projects in the state, and administering the Federal and State Historic Tax Credit programs- key drivers of economic development in the state- are all at risk of slowing down or ending entirely. The longer the funding delay continues, the worse the situation becomes.

At this same time, Congress is finalizing large tax reform



legislation. While the federal Historic Tax Credit (HTC) was left unchanged in the House version of the bill, it also did not include long sought provisions to strengthen and modernize the HTC. These provisions, laid out in the Historic Tax Credit Growth and Opportunity Act (H.R. 2941, S. 1459) would restore value to the HTC, improve access to the credit, make more projects eligible to use the credit, and boost the credit for smaller and rural rehabilitation projects.

We need your voice to strengthen and protect these vital preservation programs!

Here are three things you can do:

1. Reach out to your members of Congress and urge them to help facilitate the immediate disbursement of congressionally approved FY 2025 Historic Preservation Fund funding and support necessary and adequate funding for the HPF in FY 2026.
2. Reach out to **Sen. Bernie Moreno** (R-OH) and **Sen. John Husted** (R-OH) and urge them to co-sponsor the HTC Growth and Opportunity Act (H.R. 2941, S. 1459) and work to include these provisions to strengthen and modernize the HTC in emerging tax legislation.
3. Invite your members of Congress to visit a historic site and HTC project. One of the best ways for lawmakers to understand the impact these federal programs have in their community is to see it first-hand. Members of Congress will be back in-district/state several times this summer, including the entire month of August, and are looking to fill their schedule. **As we prepare to recognize the 250th anniversary of the nation in 2026, we should be recommitting to preserving the places that tell America's story- proposals that diminish or threaten the HPF do the opposite. Thank you for advocating for Ohio's historic places. Your voice is critical.**



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Accepting Nominations for the 2025 Heritage Ohio Annual Awards

Main Street Awards

- Best Main Street Committee Event*
- Best Main Street Committee Project*
- Main Street Business of the Year*
- Main Street Executive Director of the Year*
- Main Street Volunteer of the Year*
- Spirit of Main Street*

Individual Awards

- Joyce Barrett Preservation Hero Award
- Young Preservationist of the Year

Preservation Project Awards

- Best Commercial Building Rehabilitation
- Best Residential Restoration
- Best Historic Theater Restoration
- Best Downtown Placemaking

Details on required materials and nomination forms can be found on our website, www.heritageohio.org. **All nominations must be received by July 31, 2025.** If you have questions about submitting a nomination, please contact Frank Quinn at fquinn@heritageohio.org.

**Accredited & Affiliate Ohio Main Street Program Communities Only*

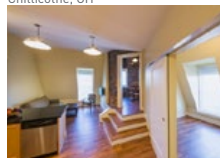


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Pictured: the Carlisle Building in Chillicothe, OH



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Registration Now Open for the 2025 Heritage Ohio Annual Conference in Canton

Join us on October 14th – 16th

We're excited to share that registration is now open for the 2025 Annual Historic Preservation and Community Revitalization Conference! We cannot wait for all of you to join us in October in historic downtown Canton

TUESDAY WORKSHOPS

We're kicking things off on Tuesday with several in-depth sessions, including a day-long historic theater summit, and another for small developers of historic buildings.

New to this year's conference is the Historic Theaters Summit at the Canton Palace Theatre. Join us for a full day, deep dive on best practices in the field. Hear from regional expert panelists representing the Canton Palace, Cleveland Cinemas, Playhouse Square, Conrad Schmitt Studios, DLR Group, Arts in Stark, Stark Community Foundation, Akron Civic Theater and the Goodyear Theatre, Visit Canton, MOCA Cleveland, Cleveland Public Theater/Gordon Square Arts District, Ohio Arts Council, and the Ohio Facilities Construction Commission on historic theater management, fundraising, capital campaigns, donor engagement, restoration, and programming.

If you're new to historic rehabs or thinking you'd like to undertake your first project in your downtown, the Small Historic Developers Workshop is for you. Hear from industry experts to learn all of the funding available for historic rehabilitation projects, best practices from our panel of seasoned developers, and take a tour of the historic Onesto Lofts in downtown Canton with the developer of the project.

KEYNOTE ADDRESS



We thrilled to share that Erin Barnes, President and CEO of Main Street America, will deliver our keynote address at the conference welcome on Wednesday morning.

Erin is a leader at the intersection of civic technology, community organizing, place, and inclusion. Prior to joining Main Street America, for 15 years, Erin was CEO of ioby, an organization she cofounded, designed

to mobilize neighbors who have good ideas to become powerful civic leaders who plan, fund, and make positive change in their own neighborhoods.



Explore downtown Canton's Centennial Plaza, a lively community space designed to bring people together in the Hall of Fame City!

In 2018, Erin was named an inaugural Obama Foundation Fellow. In 2012, the Rockefeller Foundation awarded Erin and her co-founders at ioby the Jane Jacobs Medal for New Technology and Innovation.

TOURS

Canton has plenty of historic attractions to explore during the conference. This year, we're offering tours of downtown Canton, the Canton Arts District, a special hardhat tour of three downtown Canton tax credit projects, the First Ladies National Historic Site and Library, nearby Stan Hywet Hall and Gardens, and the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

Make sure you reserve your space on our tours before they sell out.

SESSIONS

This year, we will offer over 40 sessions that address current issues facing historic preservation and community revitalization. Some of the topics being presented include new building code changes and how they relate to historic buildings, best practices for curating and filling downtown commercial real estate, designing and maintaining public art installations in small communities, and how to create and implement shared business models in downtown.

Many of these sessions will be eligible for American Institute of Architects (AIA) continuing education credits.

Early bird registration rates are available now through August 31st. Register now and join us in Canton. You can see the latest updates and register at heritageohioconference.com.

2025 Preservation Month Photo Contest: We Have a Winner!

This year's Preservation Month Photo Contest theme was *Where Life Happens*, and entries conveyed how historic places served communities in the past, have come back into use, or are waiting for someone to step in. There were so many great entries this year, and we're grateful to everyone who submitted. Voting for the winning image was very competitive, but we tallied the votes, and this year's winner is Ben Morales for his image *Past Lives!*

Ben's statement about his entry did well to tie the past to the present. Here's his image statement:

"Built in the early 1900s, this unique building at 1447 N. Summit Street in Toledo, was first home to Hull Brothers Umbrella Manufacturing Company. By the 1920s, Hull Brothers had become one of 10 leading umbrella manufacturers in the country. The historic photo here shows some of the umbrella factory staff workers sitting on the front steps, overlooking the Maumee River.

The 25,000 square foot manufacturing space served its owners well for many years, but eventually found itself vacant and in disrepair, patiently waiting for someone with the vision and ambition to give it new purpose. That time would finally come in 2021 when local entrepreneur, Will Lucas, completely renovated the space into a high-end social club. Tolhouse would consist of several lounge areas and wet bars, as well as a coffee shop, a jazz club, a full



commercial kitchen and a rotating art gallery. The building was given a new, beautiful life, but still maintains its unique charm with some of the original hardwood floors and exposed brick walls."

Understanding The Standards: Don't Paint the Brick. Just Don't.

Design trends in the construction industry come and go. Big deals from a few years ago don't age well, or the marketing machine cranks up new ideas, and before you know it everyone is riding the latest fashion wave and changing things up. I don't even know what sintered stone is, but it's apparently the newest in kitchen countertops.

Thankfully, a recent exterior decorating trend, painting masonry, seems to be at the end of its fashionable life, and as preservationists, we can't be more thankful. But it's not because we're the color police and hate the thought of grey-hued masonry walls; there's a real danger in painting brick. So, if you're 10 years behind the curve and thinking about Gaines-ing your brick, I have three words of advice: Don't do it! Here's why.

Paint+Water=Brick Danger!

You may not realize it, but brick needs to "breathe." The older the brick, typically the more permeable it is, which means that water can get into it, and water needs to get out. When water has a clear path to make it to the surface of the brick, it can evaporate, and the cycle of moisture infiltration and moisture removal continues. However, introducing a material that prevents the movement of water through and out of the brick, such as an impermeable paint coating, can lead to unintended consequences.

Today's exterior latex paints can be great at keeping out water. After all, that's their job. You don't want to paint your exterior woodwork only to have it rot after a couple years because it didn't keep out the rainwater. Your home's brick, as a more porous material, is great at collecting moisture,

UNDERSTANDING THE STANDARDS
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UNDERSTANDING THE STANDARDS

Continued from page 15

and if that moisture hits a barrier, and can't escape, that moisture becomes trapped. The danger to brick is exacerbated by freeze/thaw cycles, as the water in the brick expands as it freezes, deteriorating the brick pore by pore. Weaker, or poorly fired exterior brick are especially susceptible, and when you see red dots of masonry showing through a grey painted wall, you can see how the paint is slowly destroying the brick as it has sealed the water in, the faces of the weaker brick spalling off one by one.

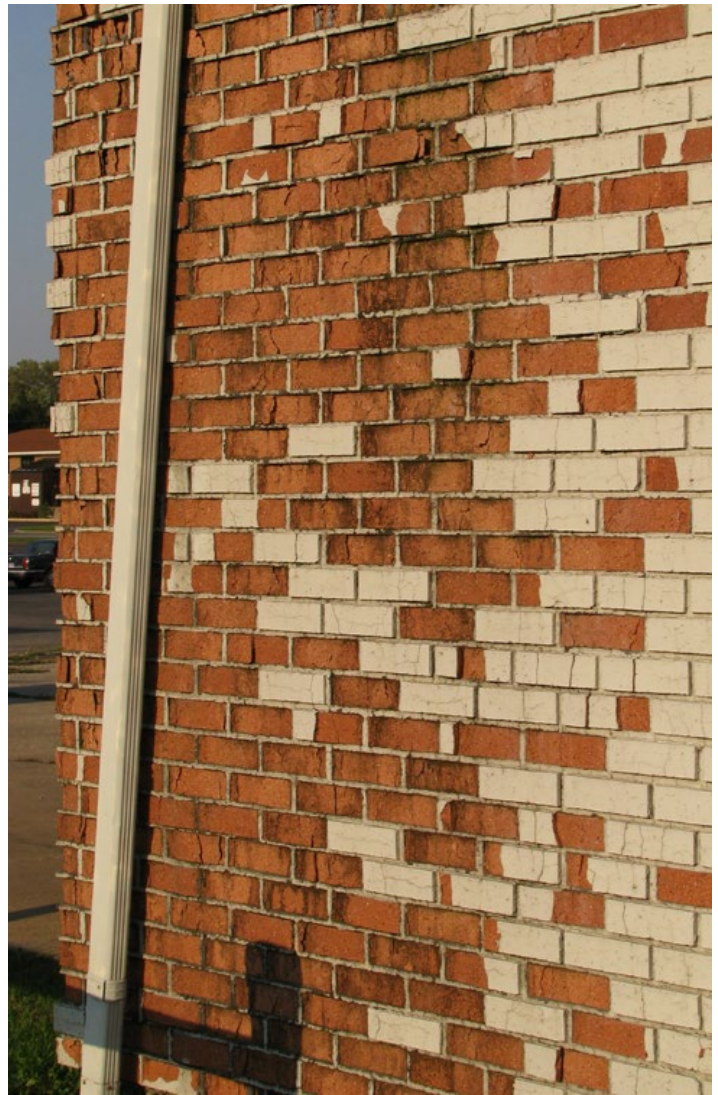
If this cycle continues long enough, eventually the owner will be left with no choice but to make costly repairs. And, really, how fashionable is spending your building budget on repairs because you were chasing the latest HGTV trend?

Still desperate to add that splash of color? Sigh, ok. Limewash has been used for centuries, as its permeability doesn't disrupt the movement of water through masonry. Oxides and other minerals provide color options. Bonus: since lime is highly alkaline, it's an effective fungicide and mildewcide, preventing the ugly staining that can plague other materials (such as shaded vinyl).

But trust me, the classic look of unpainted brick will always give you style points that no flash-in-the-pan style trend will ever approach.

How this all ties into the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation

We've touched on Standard 7 in a previous article, as the sandblasting standard (chemical or physical treatments, such as sandblasting, that cause damage to historic materials shall not be used) but damage can be done in the blink of an eye, or over an extended period of time. Whether a treatment does its damage in a matter of minutes, or a matter of years, that treatment needs to be avoided.

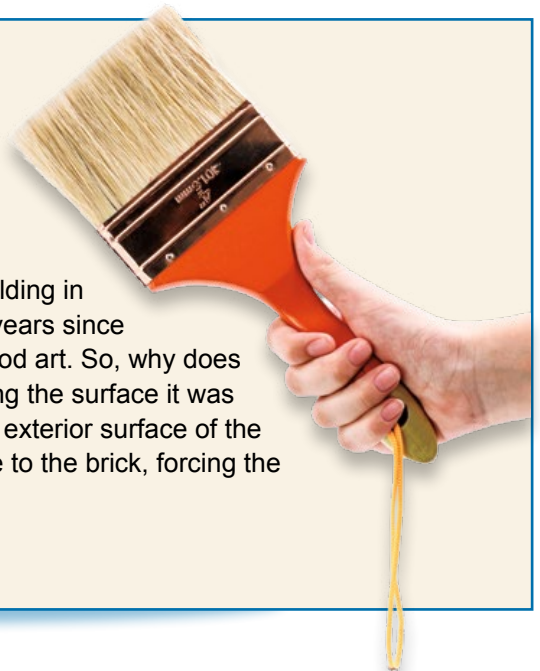


Need a recipe for disaster? Repoint your brick wall with a mortar that's too hard then seal it all in a latex tomb. Just think, you could've joined Heritage Ohio's Legacy Circle, asked us for advice on how to handle your brick, made a donation to our Save Ohio's Treasures loan fund after getting all that new-found knowledge empowerment, and still be thousands of dollars ahead.

Painting Brick: Hard Lessons Learned

How long could it take paint to have a detrimental effect on masonry?

Perhaps decades, but in the case of the Madison mural on a brick building in Madison, Wisconsin, it only took five years. Unfortunately, in the five years since it was painted, the mural became an appreciated piece of neighborhood art. So, why does the mural have to go away? Quite simply, the paint did its job of sealing the surface it was painted on, trapping moisture on the inside of the building against the exterior surface of the brick. In just a few years, the paint began causing irreparable damage to the brick, forcing the owner to remove the mural.



Historic Enon

By Alex Tighe
OSU Creative Writing Intern



If you drive from Dayton to Springfield you may run into a small little town named Enon, Ohio. Actually, it isn't even a town. It is a village

with a population of around 2,300 residents. I have lived in Enon for almost my entire life, longer than I have lived anywhere else. My family has been in Enon since both my parents were young. My dad's parents moved to Enon for my grandpa's job in 1981, when my dad was three. They came from northern Indiana and both my father and aunt attended Greenon High School. My mom's parents moved to Enon in 1980 because that is where they found land to buy to build a house. My grandpa worked at Wright Patterson Air Force Base and my grandma ended up getting a job in the school district. My mom and uncle also attended Greenon High School. My parents knew of each other in high school, but had never officially met until after college, then they got married, had kids and moved back to Enon when I was 8. My sister and I also attended Greenon High School, just as both my parents did. Even though the village may seem small, there is so much history that dates all the way back to the Native Americans. Enon was once home to three American Indian tribes: the Adena, Hopewell, and Shawnee. The Shawnee were believed to have lived at Old Piqua where George Rogers Clark Park is now located. There has been evidence of the Hopewell in the excavation of the Campbell Mounds. The Adena Tribe are most familiar with Enon residents because of the mound they built in the center of town.

The first European settlers of Mad River Township settled sometime prior 1798. Enon means "abundance of springs" and from 1817 to 1838 the area was a flourishing agricultural center. In May of 1838 the site of Enon was plotted by Ezra Baker and Elnathan Corey, and by June of 1838, plots 1-60 were approved. The town of Enon was dedicated at the same time Springfield and Dayton roads were laid out, and in March of 1850, Enon was incorporated. There is a small cemetery in Enon that was founded in 1841, when Ezra Baker gave the township the land. Many of the people buried in the cemetery fought in the Civil War, along with 3 soldiers who fought in the Revolutionary War, and 2 from the War of 1812. There is a monument in the cemetery with the names of 31 soldiers from Enon who served in the Civil War, even though not all are buried here. By 1987 there were 3,212 burials in the cemetery.

In Enon, there is a historic log home that has been relocated several times within the village. The logs used to build the house were made from available resources at the time, until a "modern" home could be made. Even though this was called a log home, the cabin was technically made from flat finished pieces of wood. There was evidence of three fires in the house from 1851 to 1940, the worst being in 1859 when the cabin was severely damaged, but this was repaired in 1867. This increased the value of the Baker location because of the addition of the second floor. In the years following additional rooms were added as well as plaster and siding. The original house was a one room structure with a stone fireplace. The current building was donated to the Enon Historical Society in 1978 by Jerry and Barbara Brown. It was moved to its current location by CETA (Controlled Environment Testing Association) workers. When the cabin was moved to the current location one log had to be removed on the second floor due to damage, so the top floor of the house is now shorter than originally. The second floor would have been used for sleeping or drying clothes in the winter, but is now used for show in tours done by the Historical Society. The interior now reflects a simple life in 19th century Ohio and it also features an 1850-1861 Wheeler Wilson sewing machine. A few times a year, the Historical Society hosts tours and the guides wear clothing typical of the early Ohio period.

One fun thing that happens in Enon annually is the Apple Butter Festival, put on by the Enon Historical Society. The Apple Butter Festival is held the second full weekend of October. The festival began in 1980 and happens every

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The History of the Enon Adena Mound

By Alex Tighe, OSU Creative Writing Intern

All across Ohio, there are many landmarks of American Indian settlement. Each tribe had different practices and traditions, but one common thread is that many buried their dead in earthen mounds. Majority of these mounds were built of dirt, while some contain stone and other materials. Two of the biggest mounds in Ohio, the Miamisburg Mound in Miamisburg, and the Adena Mound in Enon, are not even 40 minutes away from each other.

Studies done in the 19th century determined that there were three different periods of a American Indian culture that existed in Ohio since the Pyramids in Egypt were built around 2700-1500 BCE. One of the first conical mounds identified was found on the property of Thomas Worthington in Chillicothe, Ohio. Worthington named his estate "Adena" which helped those studying the mound give a name to that American Indian tribe. Archaeologist William C. Mills, who excavated the estate in 1902, also agreed on the Adena name because of the cultural attributions he found. While traces of the Adena are found in Ohio, Indiana, and Kentucky, Southern Ohio seems to be the center of their culture because of the size and number of mounds found. At one of the first documented excavations, an Adena pipe was found that was 8 inches

in length, weighed a pound, and was shaped like a human. The pipe found inside the mound was made of "pipestone" as many called it, but it was actually made of calcinite. Other excavations uncovered pipes shaped like animals or reptiles.

The Adena culture was one of hunters and gatherers, and they are generally considered the first farmers in the state of Ohio. One distinct tradition of the Adena culture was how they buried their dead. They would begin with one noted individual and bury them. As additional important people died they were added to the same place, being buried on top of one another, slowly creating a mound. Only the very important people within the culture were allowed to be buried in the mounds. Grave offerings have reinforced the idea that high ranking members of the tribe were buried in the mounds because of high status goods that were found with the bodies, such as artistic trinkets or personal adornments. There have also been times that bodies have been found indicating that someone of lower status had been buried there. Some of the mounds that were excavated had full skeletal remains found inside, while others had cremated remains. Evidence suggests that remains were first buried in a wooden box then sprinkled



with ochre and other colorful materials before the mound was constructed overtop. Other evidence suggests the wood was burned before the mound was built. The mounds were normally built in prominent locations, often at the edge of river valleys, and they served as public monuments within the tribe. The burial mounds were viewed as sacred and were interpreted as communal sites where burials were held whether they were celebratory or not. It is still difficult to get information on these mounds because so many of them were disturbed many years ago, prior to the knowledge that they were possibly ancient burial grounds.

The second largest conical mound in Ohio is located in Enon. It is called the Adena Mound, and is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Owned by the Village of Enon, it was supposedly used as a vantage point by George Rogers Clark in 1780, who was a Brigadier General in the Revolutionary War, to see the Shawnee Encampment. Clark was known for being involved in many conflicts between American Indians and European-Americans over land disputes.

The Adena mound in Enon has been bought and sold for years, having many different owners. The mound was purchased from Paul Pence by Charles Beaver in 1952. Beaver was a real estate developer and he developed Indian Mound Estates and deeded the mound to the village in 1953. In the 1900's the mound was in the center of a large dirt race track. Thoroughbred horses would race

and win awards for the state fair. On lot number 7 in the Indian Mound Estates, there is still evidence of the track on Meadow Lane. The mound was historically covered in apple trees, and many settlers used the apples for food. No one knows exactly why the trees were planted on the mound, or who did it. By 1978, only one tree remained which was ultimately removed by the historical society. To honor the apple tradition, the historical society decided to make and sell apple butter as a fundraising event, which started the Enon Apple Butter Festival. In 1989 the Enon Community Historical Society installed a split rail fence around the mound, which is still there today.

After surviving thousands of years, the mound is largely intact and sits next to the Enon Historical Society. The mound currently covers one acre of land and has a circumference of 574 feet. The mound has many local visitors throughout the year, for the annual 5K run on the weekend of The Apple Butter Festival, and for field trips from various schools in Clark County. Some people walk around it for exercise or to read more about the mound on the plaques that sit around it. There used to be a geocaching site, which is finding a hidden object by using a GPS, near the mound that would bring visitors throughout the year but that has since been removed. The mound is a great place to visit and it brings many people from around Ohio each year.

HISTORIC ENON

Continued from page 17

year no matter the weather. The festival is tribute to the European harvest tradition of combining the last harvest for jamming to preserve fruit for the winter. The festival has a unique backstory that is now known by many, but dates back to 1834 when Joseph Smith led the Zion camp through Enon on their way West. The Enon Adena Mound was covered in apple trees that provided food for those settling in the region. By 1978, all the apple trees were gone except one, and the Enon Historical Society decided to make apple butter from a bushel of apples as a fundraiser. Forty years later, the apple trees are gone, but the tradition of making apple butter still remains in Enon. Now, you can find food, crafts, and even get a jar of homemade apple butter made fresh each day. The apple butter is still made the old-fashioned way in five 50-gallon copper kettles and is cooked over open wood burning fires. The canning and selling of the apple butter is done each afternoon. They begin cooking before dawn with community members and local office holders taking turns stirring the apple butter with

large oak paddles as it was done 100 years ago. The Historical Society uses the original recipe that has been used for decades. Annual attendance is estimated to be 8,000 - 10,000 people over the two days. The festival opens with a ceremony featuring the Greenon High School Marching Band and Choir, and on Sunday there is an annual 5k that runs through the village and around the mound where it all began.

Enon may be a small village, but there are many things to learn. There are also many events to attend throughout the year. Living in a small town has its perks, and there are many benefits to living around the same people all your life. Everyone knows one another and it makes many things much more fun because the families go back many years.



Honoring Ohio's Revolutionary War Veterans: A Statewide Effort to Preserve Their Legacy

By Krista Horrocks, Department Manager, Education and Support Services



As the United States approaches its 250th anniversary in 2026, Ohio is taking significant steps to honor the memory of Revolutionary War veterans who settled and are buried within the state. The Revolutionary War Veteran Graves Identification Project, spearheaded by America 250-Ohio in collaboration with Ohio's State Historic Preservation Office, Terracon Consultants, Inc., the Daughters of the American Revolution, and the Sons of the American Revolution, aims to document and preserve the gravesites of these early American patriots.

A LEGACY ROOTED IN THE NORTHWEST TERRITORY

Following the conclusion of the Revolutionary War, the newly formed United States opened the Northwest Territory for settlement. Ohio, as part of this territory, became a destination for many veterans seeking new opportunities. To incentivize settlement and reward military service, the government designated two significant land areas within Ohio: the Virginia Military District and the United States Military District. These tracts were reserved explicitly for veterans, with land grants varying based on military rank and service duration.

One notable figure among these settlers was Nathaniel Massie, a private in the Virginia Militia. Massie played a pivotal role in Ohio's early development, serving as the deputy surveyor of the Virginia Military District and founding the city of Chillicothe in 1796. His contributions exemplify the profound impact Revolutionary War veterans had on shaping Ohio's early communities.



THE NEED FOR COMPREHENSIVE DOCUMENTATION

Despite the estimated 7,000 Revolutionary War veterans buried across Ohio, there currently lacks a centralized, publicly accessible database detailing their final resting places. Recognizing this gap, the Revolutionary War Veteran Graves Identification Project seeks to create a comprehensive digital map and searchable database. This initiative not only honors the memory of these veterans but also serves as a valuable resource for historians, genealogists, and the general public.

The project's inaugural documentation began with Nathaniel Massie's gravesite, situated on a bluff overlooking Chillicothe. Utilizing modern technology, volunteers employ Survey123, a free mobile application, to collect data. This includes photographs, inscriptions from grave markers, and precise GPS coordinates. Such meticulous documentation ensures the preservation of these historical sites for future generations.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT: A CALL TO ACTION

Central to the project's success is community participation. With over 1,700 cemeteries in Ohio known to contain Revolutionary War veterans' graves, local involvement is crucial. Residents are encouraged to become Public Researchers, contributing to the identification and documentation process. By engaging in this initiative, Ohioans have the opportunity to connect with their state's rich history and ensure that the sacrifices of these early patriots are not forgotten.

Volunteers can access the Grave Marker & Cemetery Collection portal to learn more about participating. Those who contribute, and choose not to remain anonymous, will be acknowledged for their efforts, fostering a sense of communal pride and historical stewardship.

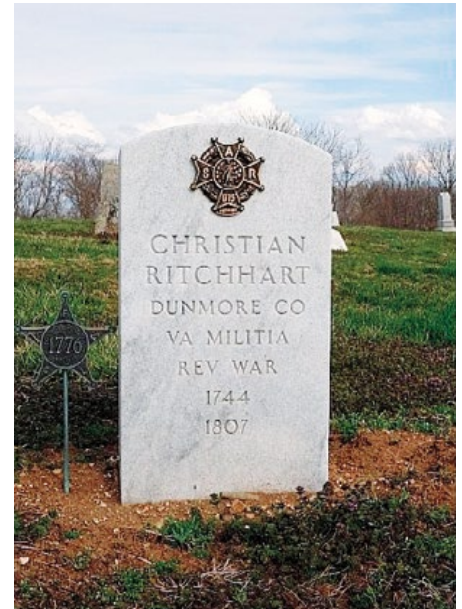
PRESERVING HISTORY FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

Krista Horrocks, the project manager, emphasizes the long-term vision: "By emphasizing data collection and long-term preservation, Ohio's State Historic Preservation Office can serve as the central resource for identifying the burial locations of Revolutionary War veterans." The information gathered will aid local communities and organizations in locating veterans' graves, assessing the condition of gravestones, and prioritizing preservation efforts.

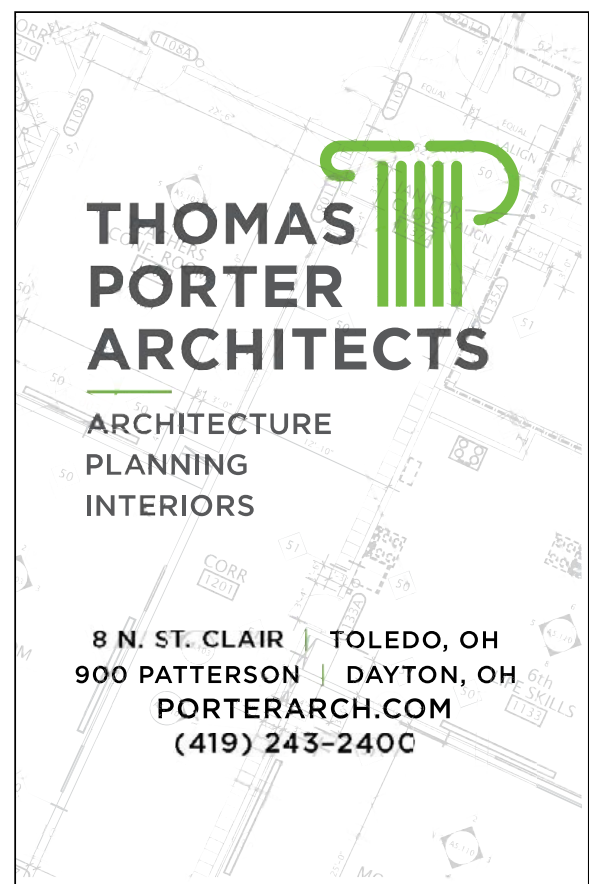
This initiative aligns with the broader goals of the America 250-Ohio Commission, established by the Ohio legislature to coordinate the state's commemoration of the nation's semiquincentennial. Through projects like the Revolutionary War Veteran Graves Identification Project, Ohio not only honors its past but also educates and engages its citizens in preserving the state's historical legacy.

HELP US HONOR OHIO'S REVOLUTIONARY WAR VETERANS

As 2026 approaches, Ohio's commitment to honoring its Revolutionary War veterans stands as a testament to the state's dedication to preserving its rich history. The Revolutionary War Veteran Graves Identification Project offers a unique opportunity for residents to actively participate in this preservation effort, ensuring that the stories and sacrifices of these early American heroes are remembered and celebrated for generations to come.



For more information or to get involved, visit the Revolutionary War Veterans Graves Project website: <https://www.ohiohistory.org/preserving-ohio/history-preservation-where-you-live/revwarvet-graves/>.



First Round of Paul Bruhn Historic Revitalization Grants are Now Complete

The Paul Bruhn Historic Revitalization Grant Program has provided hundreds of thousands of dollars in bricks and mortar grant funding to help both small-business entrepreneurs and nonprofit organizations tackle important building preservation projects. Ranging from the installation of an elevator to provide better accessibility in a Main Street downtown, to fixing a leaky roof on a community theater, Paul Bruhn grants have made a positive impact, allowing property owners to stretch their construction budget and complete needed projects, while helping to preserve important historic buildings in our state.

Heritage Ohio has worked with Ohio's State Historic Preservation Office (and the National Park Service) to administer two rounds of these Federal grants. Each round of grants has had its twists and turns, and you might be surprised to learn that giving away money isn't always as easy as you might think. Nevertheless, it's been a fulfilling experience to know we've positively steered the course of historic preservation in Ohio.

As we wrap up the first round of projects, our final grant project brought about some nervous moments, mainly due to hard deadlines and the expiration of the grant.

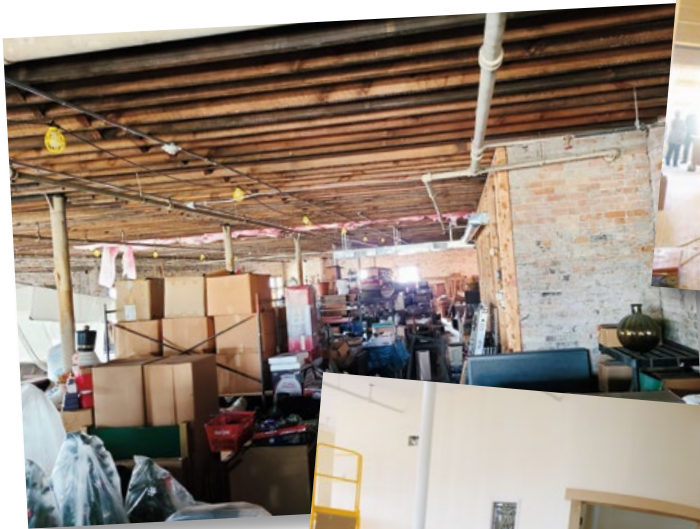
One of our favorite projects took place in Middletown, with the construction of a new apartment unit in upper floor space previously used for storage. Amazingly, the owners pulled off the project within the Paul Bruhn timeframe. The formerly empty upper floor space has been transformed into an amazing living space, while

preserving the character and existing elements that make the building historic in the first place.

Although the required match for the grant recipient of Paul Bruhn funds is 10% (for every \$10 of grant money, the owner must match with \$1 of private money) the property owners went above and beyond, matching the grant funds at over 100%! Their own funds in the project insured that all elements of the project would be done to a level of quality that everyone involved in the grant program can be proud of, and stand as a great hand-up to help push community revitalization forward.

Insuring that these grant dollars end up being money well-spent, each property owner is required to accept a covenant placed on the property for a temporary period of time, insuring that the investment made in these historic buildings will not be quickly undone, even if someone new purchases the property. In the case of our new apartment unit project, the covenant will be enforced for 15 years, ensuring this wise investment.

The Paul Bruhn Historic Revitalization Grant Program has been a win all around for historic preservation in Ohio and it's been an honor for Heritage Ohio to play a role in moving the preservation movement forward.



The Middletown apartment project.



2025 Photo Contest Finalists

Ahmed Hamed Aly – “Mount Zion: A Living Legacy”

From its groundbreaking in 1905, conceived by a thriving community of freeborn and formerly enslaved Black Americans, Mount Zion emerged as the undisputed spiritual and social cornerstone for Black Athens and Southeast Ohio. Imagine the hopes and dreams embedded within its cornerstone, holding copies of Black Ohio newspapers, amplifying voices that demanded to be heard.

The story of Mount Zion is not static; it continues to unfold. From its addition to the National Register of Historic Places in 1980, to the formation of the dedicated Mount Zion Baptist Church Preservation Society in 2013, to the recent crucial roof installation in 2017 and million-dollar window restoration efforts ongoing since 2021, this building is actively being brought back to vibrant life. Now operating as the Mount Zion Black Cultural Center since 2022, its mission has broadened, creating historical walking tours to combat the ongoing erasure of Black history in Athens.



Kalpa Bahgasingh – “A Tapestry of Community”

Bright murals, handmade flags, and a patch of grass—this small park beside the Athens Armory is where art meets everyday life. It's where kids play, neighbors gather, and creativity spills into the open air. Painted by many hands and shaped by shared stories, this space isn't just a park—it's a celebration of community spirit, where color and connection thrive side by side.



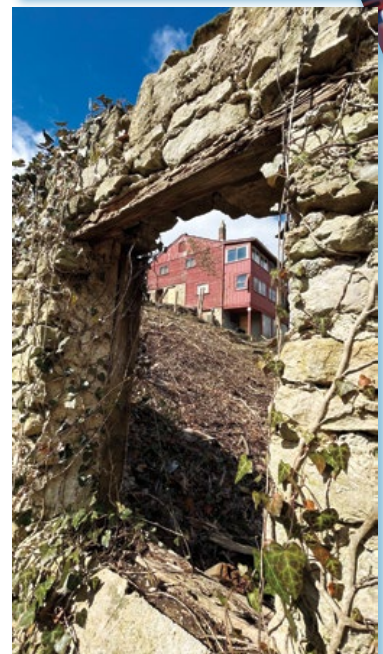
Bernie Sigal – “Kroger Bakery Decorative Carved Column Base”

My image of the Kroger Bakery decorative carved column base was taken for a project commissioned by Casto Communities to be used as artwork in the building once the adaptive reuse building becomes an apartments and multipurpose spaces. I noticed the fabulous carved details, wonderful textures, and beautiful shadows that add depth to the photo. This detail is indicative of along lost artistic treatment that the artisans at the time did completely by hand with a hammer and chisel. These types of architectural details help to tell the story of the artwork in many of the historic buildings and do tell a powerful story to those who appreciate such artwork. Another strong reason to save historic architecture.



Bassem Bitar – “Between Past & Future”

The Scioto River corridor in Dublin was once home to small industries that helped sustain and support the growth of the community in the 1800s. Several deteriorated historic homes and structures along the west side of the river have now been assembled to create “Riverview Village”, a vibrant walkable district with a mix of businesses, event spaces, art markets, outdoor plazas, a restaurant and a public park. The project is a collaborative effort between COhatch and the City of Dublin. In addition to the complete renovation of the four existing structures on the site by COhatch, a new building will be constructed to house the co-working company's national headquarters. The red house in the background will be converted into a restaurant with decks overlooking the river. The new building will be constructed above the old stone foundation in the foreground but the historic structure will be retained between the support piers and programmed in coordination with the new riverfront public park. Historic maps indicate that the site once contained a tannery and an ashery, and the site is being surveyed for additional historic information, which will be incorporated into interpretive signage.





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