



The Network an E-Newsletter for Ohio's Certified Local Governments

Ohio Historic
Preservation Office
Ohio Historical Society

The Network

April/May 2007

Aurora Restores its Historic Sidewalks with CLG Grant Funds

Certified Local Government grants have been used in a variety of ways to further local preservation goals. In a series of articles beginning with this issue, we will examine the constructive ways limited CLG grant dollars benefit important historic resources.

Nearly every community has at least a few historic buildings and structures. In addition to these resources, a major element of Aurora's historic district are its sidewalks. Over one hundred years old, the sidewalks had deteriorated and were in need of restoration. Aurora applied for and received a CLG grant to repair the sidewalks, thus insuring that the unique walkways would continue to be an important feature of their historic district.

The City of Aurora is a community of 14,000 residents located in Northeastern Ohio between Cleveland and Akron. Aurora first made a formal commitment to the preservation of its local landmarks and historic districts in 1974.

In 1987 Aurora became a Certified Local Government and has since applied for five CLG grants. The first grant, in 1989, was used to produce the Preservation Plan for the City of Aurora, which was designed to evaluate and guide preservation efforts and activities. The last grant was used to update Aurora's Preservation Plan in 2000. In between, Aurora has conducted an archaeological dig and preserved 1400 feet of hundred-year old stone sidewalk built to allow students to walk to one of the area's first centralized school buildings, now Town Hall, in the Aurora Center National Register Historic District.

Historical Background

In 1898, Aurora became the first township in Portage County (and one of the first in the state) to adopt a centralized school sys-



tem. The site of the existing Town Hall at 130 S. Chillicothe Road was the home of Aurora Center School No. 5 as early as 1820. The present building was opened in 1882 as a two room, two-story school. In 1884 the building was expanded to four classrooms. Horse drawn wagons with canvas coverings served as 'school buses'.

Newspaper accounts of the period report of an annual custom for the school kids of Aurora to put on an entertainment event with the proceeds being donated to some project chosen for its public good. It was in 1900 that the idea of a pedestrian walk was formed linking the Aurora Center (and the centralizing school) with the Aurora Station area.

Excited by the idea of a stone walk to bridge the mud to their school, school children produced talent shows to raise money for the project. Though the project seemed doomed because of the cost of installing the sidewalk, the persistence of the school children paid off as the community began to grasp and embrace the idea.

Aurora citizens saw how the walk not only could benefit the schoolchildren but also allow train travelers to go east from the Station Area to the hotels located near Aurora Center. The sidewalks were viewed as a public improvement that could benefit the whole community. Township Trustees donated money, as did prominent citizens, to reach the goal of \$2,000.

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MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Heritage Ohio State Conference
Cincinnati, Ohio
May 16 & 17

National Scenic Byway Conference
Baltimore, Maryland
May 20-24

National Preservation Conference
St. Paul, Minnesota
October 2-6, 2007

Ohio Historic Preservation Office 2007 Workshops

**Section 106 Review Project Summary Form
Training Classes**
May 10, 1-3 p.m.

**Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit:
How to Apply and Qualify**
May 22, 9 a.m.-Noon

**Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit:
Understanding IRS Requirements**
May 22, 1-4 p.m.

**Current Issues in the Archaeology
of the Historic Era**
May 22, 1-4 p.m.

Ohio Archaeological Inventory
May 22, 9 a.m.-Noon

Online Mapping System Training Session
May 22, 9 a.m.-10:20 a.m.
and 1 p.m. - 2:20 p.m.

Using I-Form to Record Historic Buildings
May 22, 10:30 a.m. - Noon

**Using I-Form to Record
Archaeological Properties**
May 22, 2:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

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The Trustees hired Sheridan W. Shepard of Freedom, Ohio to lay a four-foot wide stone walk of what was described as the "best material in the quarries." The project was completed in 1904 with the total length of the two segments measuring 5,502 feet. This worked out to approximately thirty-six cents per foot.

Aurora, which in 1905 could best be described as distinctly rural, had better walks than many villages with more industry, people or pretense. Few communities of Aurora's size could boast of such public works accomplishments.



Sidewalk Repair

Over time the sidewalks deteriorated and it was obvious that they would have to be repaired or replaced. Because the sidewalks were considered part of the historic fabric of the historic district, a unified group of early and mid-nineteenth century buildings, it was decided they should be repaired with only selective replacement. The sidewalk

project was completed in May of 1999 as part of a CLG matching grant. The winning bid was by Landscape by Design for \$39,995 (This worked out to \$8.58 a square foot to repair). The segment located within the Aurora Center Historic District was chosen for its overall completeness.

The first stones (4' 6" x 3' 4" x 6" on average) were lifted and laid to the side, surprisingly showing little of the brittleness initially anticipated. The existing base was found to be in good condition. Since it was installed in 1904, the decision was made to leave it in place as long as it was present and in good condition. It was tamped down,

in-filled, and rolled. A new 4" base was then installed over the old base. This raised the walk two inches above the existing grade along the edges. This solved two problems in terms of positive drainage and ease of reinstallation. A metal edge guard was installed on either side that aligned the walk. The "edges" were covered with topsoil and seeded, with drainage away from the walk.

Walkways perpendicular to the stone sidewalk were re-worked to match the level of the new re-laid walk. This included brick and stone walks as well. A new sand base of 4" was increased where necessary to maintain the sidewalk elevation over longer spans. This increased the visible appearance and helped in future drainage.

The slabs were reset as tight as possible. A fine, crushed gravel was swept into any crevices at completion.

Completion

Aurora citizens appreciated the sidewalk repair but were critical of several sections that were fitted together so tightly that a "jigsaw puzzle" appearance was created. There was no provision as to a minimum size of stone to be reused. Several small pieces (below one-square foot) tended to look like a mosaic, which drew many negative comments. A change order was prepared to "replace" these sections with larger, regularly shaped (rectangular) newer stones. Citizen comments improved after this change.

The final appearance of the repair is quite good and the overall smoothness of the sidewalk is a big improvement. Discussion of future work has centered on using as many new large stone pieces as possible, to replace smaller existing pieces. It was decided nothing smaller than one-square foot should be re-laid if possible. It was desirable to save as much of the existing stone as possible, but safety, appearance and community input required a reexamination of this reuse. Matching stone from the original quarry made the use of new stone easier.

Today the stone sidewalks of Aurora remain a vital element and unique feature of the historic district. For more information about Aurora visit their website at www.auroraoh.com.

Gravestones for Novices

The Auglaize County Historical Society will host "Gravestones for Novices," a comprehensive workshop about historic cemeteries, their challenges, and their preservation on May 18 and 19 near Wapakoneta, Ohio.

The Historical Society has gathered experts from across the Midwest to provide the information about Ohio cemetery law; the State of Indiana's pioneering cemetery preservation efforts; genealogy and cemeteries; funerary symbolism; and the methods to clean, level, and reset tombstones using proper techniques and materials. The workshop will include supervised, hands-on practice by participants.

The cost to attend, which includes workshop materials as well as breakfast and lunch on Saturday, is \$23 for Auglaize County Historical Society members and \$30 for non-members. Registration is limited; the deadline is May 4. For more information or a copy of the registration brochure, please contact Rachel Barber, Auglaize County Historical Society, 419/738-9328, or auglaizecounty-history@bright.net.

CLG's Now Have Access to OHPO Computerized Inventory Records

The Ohio Historic Preservation Office maintains the Ohio Historic Inventory, Ohio Archaeological Inventory and National Register records on properties throughout Ohio, which amount to over 135,000 records. In recent years, hard copy records have been converted to computerized data and scanned as PDF documents.

In addition, the Ohio Historic Preservation Office has developed a Geographic Information System (GIS) web site that allows access to precise locational data on identified historic and archaeological sites throughout Ohio. The goal of this site is to provide agencies and researchers with rapid access to Ohio's cultural resource data in a digital format. This site is designed to allow users to query cultural data and produce maps. Limited data on the following cultural resource types are included:

- Ohio Archaeological Inventory
- Ohio Historic Inventory
- National Register of Historic Places (all listings as points)
- National Register Historic Districts (all districts as polygons)

We hope the use of this site will promote the use of GIS and spatial data as decision support tools for federal undertakings subject to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and for scholarly research on Ohio history, architecture and archaeology.

Access to the Online Mapping System site is currently limited to paid subscribers. We are pleased to announce that Ohio communities with Certified Local Government status will be given up to two accounts in the online mapping system gratis for use with ongoing CLG activities and for local compliance work in accordance with Section 106. The CLG may select the two individuals (city employees or commission officials) who will have accounts. If more than two individuals in a CLG community require an account, the city will need to cover the customary \$100 annual subscription. In addition to completing the subscription form, each individual will also need to complete the online registration process and receive a confirmation email before they will gain access to the site.

The subscription form and online registration can be found at www.ohpo.org. Select 'Online Mapping System' under Features. The red box on the right provides a link to the subscription form. Complete the form and fax or mail it to the Ohio Historic Preservation Office (fax: 614-298-2037)--be sure to mark "CLG" on the form and do not include payment unless more than two people will have accounts. To register, click on the "Register for a new account"

link under the *Submit* and *Reset* buttons. After you are registered and you receive an email informing you that your account is open, return to this page to log-in.

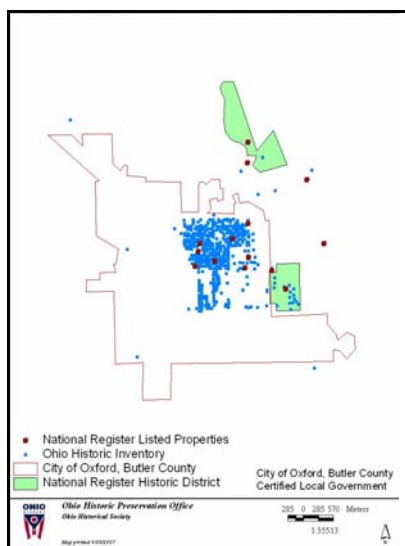
Registered users have the right to view and obtain information about cultural resources in Ohio and the responsibility to protect spatial information on sensitive archaeological and historic resources. This site is not open to the general public and it is our expectation that accounts will be utilized only by the individual account holder and that data, especially the location of archaeological sites, will not be shared with others unless there is a legitimate "need to know."

Once your account is activated, you will have access to OHPO inventory and National Register records in an interactive mapping format. You will be able to view and create maps of known inventory and National Register site locations in and around your locale. You will also be able to query records for a limited subset of information, such as site numbers and addresses. The site also incorporates a variety of helpful base map data, such as USGS topographic maps, roads and city boundaries.

Please note that site locations (UTM references) for National Register and archaeological sites are highly reliable. UTM's for inventoried buildings (Ohio Historic Inventory) are accurate to within township, which is satisfactory for large-scale searches for the presence of sites in an area. The Ohio Historic Preservation Office is in the process of refining UTM references to the actual locations; however, this work will not be complete for another couple of years.

Please contact Mary Beth Hirsch (mbhirsch@ohiohistory.org), head of Education & Support Services, for questions about how to register for access to the

site, and Kyle Smith (ksmith@ohiohistory.org), GIS Coordinator, if you have questions about using the online mapping system. Both can be reached at 614-298-2000.



Sample GIS locational data

The Secretary of the Interior's Standards Applying them to your Board or Commission's Work

As a member of an architectural review board or commission you should be familiar with The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation and recognize them as the basis for your design guidelines. In this issue of The Network, we continue our annotated review of the Standards as they apply to the work of a board or commission. In this issue we discuss Standards 4-6. Portions of this information are based on an article that appeared in the September/October 2006 issue of The Alliance Review.

Standard #4

Most properties change over time; those changes that have acquired historic significance in their own right shall be retained and preserved.

Numerous changes may occur to a building during its life. For example, in 1915, a porch may have been added to an 1880's Queen Anne house. The Art Deco storefront pictured here, is a significant addition and should have been preserved. Unfortunately, it was removed and a non-significant storefront that does not even replicate the design of the original storefront was applied.



Property owners may not see more recent changes as being part of the history of their building. Changes that may fall into the category of "The Recent Past" (within the last few decades) may be particularly difficult to evaluate. An applicant may say, "It can't be historic because I remember when it was added." Be prepared to evaluate the significance of additions from a variety of historic periods.



Standard #5

Distinctive features, finishes, and construction techniques or examples of craftsmanship that characterize a property shall be preserved.

Preserving these features is necessary if a building's distinctive historic and architectural integrity is to be maintained. In the picture to the left is a building where the original slate roof was retained as well as the original porch and unobtrusive wrought iron fence. A nearby building was treated



with little sensitivity to its architectural character. The porch was enclosed; the original roof is gone and a brick wall replaced the fence. Property owners may not realize that a particular architectural detail, material or construction method is distinctive.



Board members should be prepared to explain significance within the parameters of Standard # 5.

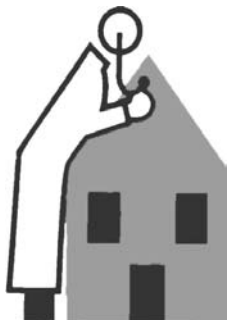
Standard #6

Deteriorated historic features shall be repaired rather than replaced. Where the severity of deterioration requires replacement of a distinctive feature, the new feature shall match the old in design, color, texture, and other visual qualities and, where possible, materials. Replacement of missing features shall be substantiated by documentary, physical, or pictorial evidence.

The top example shows two German Village (Columbus) buildings that once looked very much alike. However, replacing the 2-over-2, double hung windows on the building on the left with tinted, fixed, single pane windows has compromised integrity. Property owners often wish to replace deteriorated features with new replicas because it may be easier or they don't realize repair is possible. If it is determined that repair isn't possible, the replacement should match the original as closely as possible. In the bottom example, only siding that is deteriorated beyond repair is being replaced with matching new siding. As with Standard #3, missing features should only be replaced when clear documentation is available.



The Building Doctor is Coming to Town—Ohio's Building Doctors Make House Calls



The Ohio Historical Society's Building Doctors will hold eight clinics in 2007 in **Wapakoneta** April 26-27; **Gallipolis** May 10-11; **Millersburg** June 14-15; **McConnelsville** June 28-29; **Willoughby** September 6-7; **Vermilion** September 20-21; **Wellington** October 11-12; and **Harrison** October 25-26, 2007.

The "doctors" work in teams, teaching old-building owners how to recognize and solve some of the most common sources of problems in maintaining older buildings, and how to make informed decisions about repairs and improvements.

Each clinic begins with a free seminar on topics like peeling paint and flaking plaster, wet basements, deteriorating masonry, window repair or replacement, and bringing buildings built before 1955 up to date without sacrificing the features that make them appealing.

On the following day, the Building Doctors make the rounds of ailing buildings within five miles of the facility where the seminar was held to examine problems and prescribe cures. Their consultations are free, however you must ask for an appointment with the Building Doctor when you register, and attend the free seminar to qualify. The Building Doctors visit all kinds of buildings built before 1955 — houses, stores, churches, schools, barns and other farm buildings, and even factories. The consultations are free, but the number is limited, so register early. You'll be contacted in advance to set up an appointment. The program is a service of the Ohio Historic Preservation Office, Ohio's official historic preservation agency. A part

of the Ohio Historical Society, the Ohio Historic Preservation Office identifies historic places in Ohio, nominates properties to the National Register of Historic Places, reviews federally-assisted projects for effects on historic, architectural, and archaeological resources in Ohio, consults on the conservation of older buildings and sites, and offers educational programs and publications.

For more information about the Building Doctor program, including how to sponsor a Building Doctor Clinic in your community, call 614-298-2000 or visit our website at www.building-doctor.org.



The Ohio Historical Society's Building Doctors.



OHIO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Monday-Friday 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

(Individual staff hours may vary)

To better serve you we recommend that you call ahead for an appointment

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