



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

Ohio Historic
Preservation Office
Ohio Historical Society

The Network
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Mansfield, the First Certified Local Government Celebrates Bicentennial

Alan Wigton, Chair, Historic Preservation Commission

Mansfield was the first Certified Local Government in Ohio, achieving certification in 1985. This

year the City is celebrating its 200th birthday. Surveyed out of the forest on the western edge of settled land in 1808, Mansfield by 1812 consisted of “two block-houses, a peach orchard, a cellar, and a cabin where liquor is sometimes sold”.

The village grew to a few thousand by the 1840s and developed into an industrial city in the post-civil war era. Mansfield-born writer, Louis Bromfield, characterized the city in the 1890s as “no longer a village and not yet a city...” hovels stood side by side with pretentious new buildings, and empty building plots littered with rubbish and weeds spread their desolation beside the newly built palaces of merchants and manufacturers. It was the desolation of a great prosperity when change and decay ran side by side, the new arose from the ruins of the old, and there was no time for clearing away the debris of progress.”

The city’s third historic district, established in 2003, encompasses the downtown square and Central Park, where no storefront and few buildings predate about 1910, attesting to the accuracy of Bromfield’s characterization of a prosperous city arising from the ruins of the old. The skyline of this city of about 50,000 was thrust up in the 1920s and the city’s pros-

perity peaked with the expansion of the Westinghouse plant in the late ‘30s and the prosperity of other industries like Mansfield Tire and the Tappan Stove Company.



Historic Block House

The cutting of a street through Central Park in 1959 and the demolition of the county courthouse in 1968 aroused intense community debate that has repeatedly emerged in more recent history as the city has faced similar issues. According to Iwana Wagner, the city’s first Preservation Officer and long-time member of

the Preservation Commission, establishing a preservation ordinance and eventually becoming a Certified Local Government was spurred by the untimely demolition of the Leland Hotel in 1976.

Two residential historic districts and 20 individually listed landmark properties were established shortly after the City became a CLG. The more recent establishment of the Central Park District in 2003 was followed by a failed attempt to establish a much larger residential district of early to mid 20th Century luxury homes called Woodland.

Establishing the Reformatory Preservation Society, saving the historic Reformatory from demolition and utilizing CLG grants in that process were direct offshoots of the early activities of the City’s Historic Preservation Commission. The most recent use of a CLG grant has been the renovation of the pest house for resident use at

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the County Home outside of the city, a National Register Property nominated through Historic Preservation Commission efforts.

Opening the Carrousel Park in 1991 and receiving the Great American Main Street award in 2001 were crowning achievements of public and private development activity ongoing today in the North Main Street district.

Successfully qualifying for CLG status solidified Mansfield's efforts to temper the effects of change and decay and minimize the "debris of progress" while benefiting from preservation partnerships at the state and federal level.



Rehabilitated Reeds Block Central Park Historic District

Changes in the CLG Grant Program Announced

The Ohio Historic Preservation Office is announcing changes for the 2009 Certified Local Government (CLG) grant funding round.

The CLG program, administered by the Ohio Historic Preservation Office, of the Ohio Historical Society, is funded by an annual state allocation from the Historic Preservation Fund of the U. S. Department of the Interior's National Park Service. Each year, 10 percent of Ohio's allocation from the Historic Preservation Fund is set-aside for CLGs and made available through a competitive matching grant program.

Delay in passage of the federal budget the last several years has affected the process of re-granting the funds to local governments for this program. Not knowing the level of funding that would be available has resulted in multiple funding rounds in recent years.

To address this issue and to bring the CLG grant cycle more in line with the operating budget calendars of local governments, grant applications for federal fiscal year 2009 CLG funding will become available in January, 2009 and proposals will be due in early March. The project period will run from May 1, 2009 through September 30, 2010.

In addition to changing the CLG grant cycle, the grant application, selection criteria and OHPO priorities have been modified and will be available online for public review and comment November 1 – 31. All comments can be directed to Judy Krasniewski, Grants Manager, at jkrasniewski@ohiohistory.org.

Projects eligible for CLG grant assistance include historic preservation planning, surveys of historic resources, nominations of properties and districts to the National

Register of Historic Places or local registers, predevelopment and rehabilitation of properties listed on the National Register of Historic Places, and public education programs on historic preservation-related topics.

The application, guidelines, schedule, and selection criteria will be available on our web site at www.ohiohistory.org/resource/histpres/toolbox/clg/index.html or by paper copy upon request.

Cities and villages in Ohio that have attained Certified Local Government status are eligible to apply for grants for their local preservation projects.

For questions about the CLG program or CLG grants, contact the Ohio Historic Preservation Office at www.ohpo.org or (614) 298-2000.



*The Henninger House, Parma
A CLG grant is helping to rehabilitate this former residence as a trailhead facility for the West Creek Preserve and Greenway.*

Ohio's Newest Certified Local Governments Brookfield Township in Trumbull County and the City of Elyria

Brookfield Township is located in Trumbull County in northeast Ohio. The township borders Pennsylvania and has a population of about 10,000. The focal point of this rural community is the Brookfield Center village green. With its recently completed Victorian bandstand, the green is the site of community events and celebrations.

Elyria is also located in northeast Ohio at the forks of the Black River. It is the county seat of Lorain County and is part of the greater Cleveland metropolitan area. Founded in 1817, Elyria has a current population of approximately 56,000.

Ohio now has 48 Certified Local Governments. Watch for feature articles about our newest CLG's in future issues of *The Network*.

Just a Reminder: The Benefits of Local Historic Districts

As members of architectural review boards or commissions we may occasionally be asked to explain the benefits of local historic districts or maybe we just need to remind ourselves:

Here is a handy list of benefits. File it in a convenient place, so the next time someone asks you can expound accordingly.

- ◆ **Local districts protect the investments of owners and residents.** Buyers know that the characteristics of an area that make it attractive and desirable will be protected over time. Real estate agents in many cities use historic district status as a marketing tool to sell properties.
- ◆ **Local districts encourage better design.** Comparative studies show that there is a greater sense of relatedness, more innovative use of materials, and greater public appeal within historic districts than in areas without historic designation.
- ◆ **Local districts help the environment.** Historic preservation can—and should—be an important component of any effort to promote sustainable development. The conservation and improvement of our existing built resources, including re-use of historic and older buildings, greening the existing building stock, and reinvestment in older and historic communities, is crucial to combating climate change.



Downtown Lancaster

- ◆ **The educational benefits of creating local districts are the same as those derived from any historic preservation effort.** Districts help explain the development of a place, the source of inspiration and technological advances. They are a record of ourselves and our communities.

- ◆ **A local district can result in a positive economic impact from tourism.** A historic district that is aesthetically cohesive and well promoted can be a community's most important attraction. The retention of historic areas as a way to attract tourist dollars makes good economic sense.

- ◆ **The protection of local historic districts can enhance business recruitment potential.** Companies continually relocate to communities that offer their workers a higher quality of life, which is greatly enhanced by successful local

preservation programs and stable historic districts.

- ◆ **Local districts provide social and psychological benefits.** A sense of empowerment and confidence develops when community decisions are made through a structured participatory process rather than behind closed doors or without public comment.



Cincinnati Over-the-Rhine Historic District

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- ◆ **Local districts may qualify for grant funds.** Communities that are Certified Local Governments may apply for CLG grants for properties that are individually listed on the National Register of Historic Places or are listed as part of a National Register historic district.
- ◆ **Local Districts may qualify for tax credits.** Properties in Certified Local Government, local districts may

be eligible for the Ohio Historic Preservation Tax Credit even if they are not listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Properties in historic districts that are listed on the National Register of Historic Places may be eligible for the federal historic tax credit.

Excerpted and adapted from "Maintaining Community Character: How to Establish a Local Historic District" by Pratt Cassity. National Trust for Historic Preservation, 2000.

Historic Preservation is Green

With the growing concern about climate change, Richard Moe, President of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, recently highlighted what may be the most important benefit of historic preservation. "Because it necessarily involves the conservation of



Lakeside Hotel

energy and natural resources, historic preservation has always been the greenest of the buildings arts." In a December 2007 speech, Moe noted that 48% of America's greenhouse gas emissions are produced by the construction and



Demolition of Hancock County Jail and Sheriff's Residence.

operation of buildings. Discussing the concept of "embodied energy", Moe noted that it takes energy to manufacture or extract building materials and more energy to transport and assemble them at the building

site. Every time a building is demolished this energy is totally wasted.

In an era of rising gasoline prices, here are some other sobering statistics. Approximately 80 billion BTUs of energy are embodied in a typical 50,000-square foot commercial building. That is the equivalent of 640,000 gallons of gasoline. Demolishing that same building creates nearly 4000 tons of waste, enough debris to fill 26 railroad boxcars.

By now it should be clear. The greenest building is the one that already exists.



Miamisburg Residence

Preserve America Summit Update

In a recent communication, John Fowler, Executive Director of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, noted that one year had passed since the Advisory Council issued recommendations based on the findings of the Preserve America Summit, a national conference held in October 2006 to mark the 40th anniversary of the National Historic Preservation Act. Hosted by Mrs. Laura Bush, Honorary Chair of Preserve America, the Summit brought together more than 450 preservationists, government officials, and stakeholders to examine the nation's historic preservation program. During the Summit participants explored opportunities to build on the past achievements of the national historic preservation program, while focus-

ing on actions the federal government should take to enhance the effectiveness of the program during the years to come.

The ACHP evaluated more than 60 ideas and recommendations that emerged from a series of expert panel reports, discussions and follow-up public comment and consultation with federal and non-federal partners. The priority recommendations that will be considered for inclusion in the ACHP's final report include the following:

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- ◆ **Create a comprehensive inventory** of historic properties through a multi-year plan that expands current inventories and makes them more compatible and accessible.
- ◆ **Promote cultural diversity** in the National Register of Historic Places by evaluating the National Register for its inclusiveness and encouraging local, state, and tribal governments to evaluate their own inventories.
- ◆ **Respond to disasters** by forming a technical advisory committee to develop guidance, a plan for dissemination and training, and emergency and mitigation strategies consistent with the National Response Plan.
- ◆ **Address security** needs by developing guidance, including guidance on-all hazards risk assessment.
- ◆ **Conserve cultural collections** by pursuing cost-effective collaboration between the historic preservation community and the broader cultural heritage community, including support for the Institute of Museum and Library Services “Connecting to Collections” initiative.
- ◆ **Promote innovative** technologies by creating a clearinghouse through the National Park Service National Center for Preservation Technology and Training to disseminate information and encourage the use of innovative technologies.
- ◆ **Measure and share preservation’s benefits** by developing consistent ways to measure direct and indirect economic impacts and pursuing and promoting necessary research.
- ◆ **Provide more technical assistance** to local communities to promote historic preservation and heritage tourism, and explore the concept of a Preserve America Community agent or similar mechanism to work more actively with local communities.
- ◆ **Increase synergy** between the development community and public sector partners by implementing improvements to the Federal Historic Preservation Tax incentives and seeking ways to expand use of federal financial assistance programs for historic preservation.
- ◆ **Enhance heritage education** by developing a communication strategy that takes advantage of web sites, curriculum guides, and other outreach to the educational community.
- ◆ **Engage youth in historic preservation** through a variety of means, including possible establishment of an ongoing youth summit as part of the Preserve America initiative.
- ◆ **Optimize U.S. participation** in the international preservation arena by improving information exchange and facilitating U.S. participation in international preservation activities.

The ACHP encourages comments on the Summits recommendations to date. If you would like to comment on the recommendations contact preserveamerica@achp.gov.

Be sure to indicate which recommendation you are addressing.

New Richmond Designated Ohio’s newest Preserve America Community

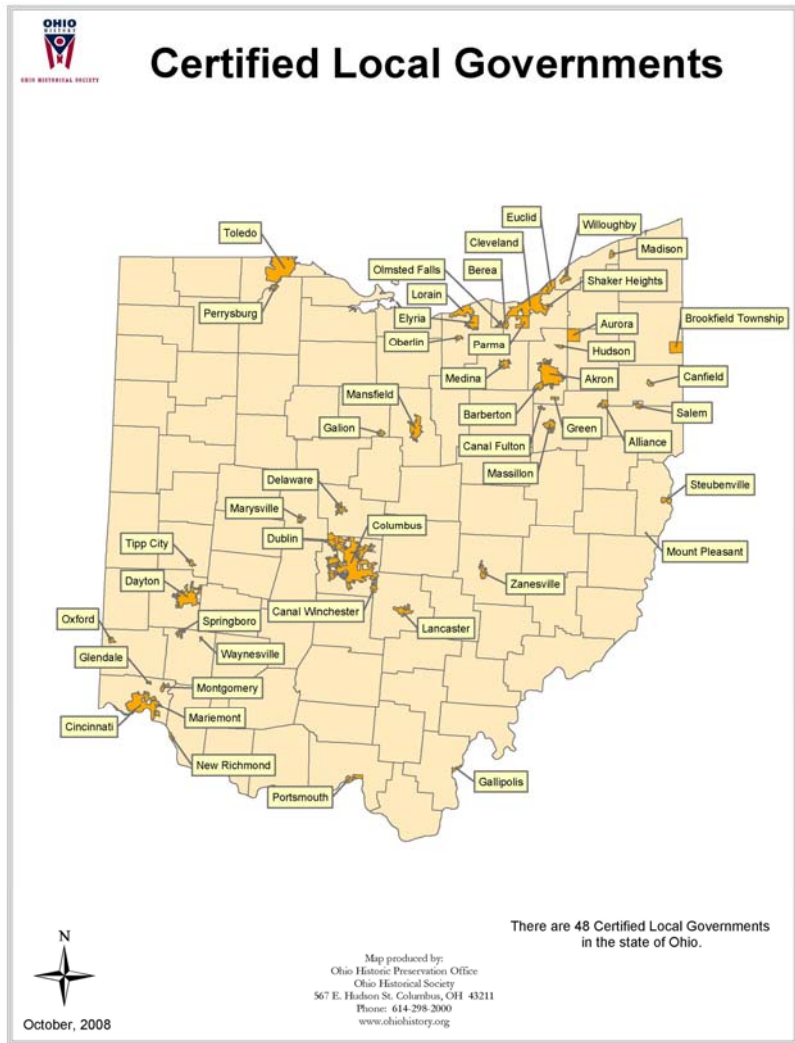


The Dr. Rogers House before and after

Congratulations to New Richmond on becoming Ohio’s newest Preserve America Community. The Ohio River village joins eleven other communities including Certified Local Governments, Canal Winchester, Delaware, Medina and Oberlin in receiving the designation.

Preserve American is a White House initiative that encourages and supports community efforts to preserve and enjoy our cultural and natural heritage. The program recognizes and designates communities that protect and celebrate their heritage, use their historic assets for economic development and community revitalization, and encourage people to experience and appreciate local historic resources through education and heritage tourism programs.

Benefits of designation include White House recognition; eligibility to apply for Preserve America grants; a certificate of recognition, a Preserve America road sign; authorization to use the Preserve America logo; listing in a Web-based Preserve America directory; inclusion in national and regional press releases, official notification of designation to State tourism offices and visitor bureaus; and enhanced community visibility and pride.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Ohio Historic Preservation Office 2008 Workshops

October 21, 2008

- I-Form Advanced: Creating and Editing Digital Images for I-Form
- National Register Basics
- National Register Advanced: Levels of Significance & Historic Context

Ohio's Preservation Conference

November 6-7, 2008
Ohio Historical Center, Columbus
www.preservationohio.org

December 9, 2008

Section 106 Review Project Summary Training Class

Go to www.ohpo.org to register today!

National Trust for Historic Preservation

Annual Conference
October 21-25, 2008
Tulsa, Oklahoma
For more information, please visit
www.nthpconference.org



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(Individual staff hours may vary)
To better serve you we recommend that you call ahead for an appointment

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