



THE NETWORK

AN E-NEWSLETTER FOR OHIO'S CERTIFIED LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

Ohio Historic
Preservation Office
Ohio Historical Society

July / August 2009

Elyria, Ohio's 48th Certified Local Government

by Bill Bird, Vice Chair, Elyria Landmarks Commission

Elyria, the county seat of Lorain County, is located about 25 miles west of Cleveland and 9 miles south of Lake Erie. Elyria was founded in 1817 by Heman Ely of Springfield, Massachusetts on over 12,000 acres of land located in the Connecticut Western Reserve. The original community was developed between the east and west branches of the Black River.

After one log house was built to temporarily house the founding party, a gristmill and sawmill were constructed to benefit from the water power of the river. All subsequent houses were constructed of clapboard siding. Elyria was incorporated as an Ohio town in 1833 and had grown large

enough (5600 people) to become a city in 1892. The current population is about 56,000.

Early business in Elyria was related to milling industries along both branches of the river. The arrival of the Lakeshore Michigan and Southern Railroad in 1853 spurred additional growth. Over the next century significant industry developed including many screw machine, springs, and plastics companies. General Motors was a major employer after W.W. II. The opening of the Ohio Turnpike through Elyria in the mid 1950's fostered even more growth.

Elyria takes pride in having 33 structures, which are still standing, individually

listed on the National Register of Historic Places. In addition, there are two National Register Districts and one local Historic District. The Washington Avenue National Register District is located in a mixed residential, commercial area north of the downtown. It includes two building owned by the Lorain County Historical Society.



1857 Horace Starr House located in Washington Avenue National Register District. Currently being renovated for a History Center by the Lorain County Historical Society.

The Downtown-West Avenue National Register District, which contains close to 140 contributing structures, includes the primary commercial buildings of the downtown area and also joins with a residential neighborhood along West Avenue where it dovetails with the

locally designated West by the River Historic District.

The Elyria Landmarks Commission was formed in 1987. Its primary responsibility has been to oversee and administer applications for exterior repairs and renovations to structures in the local West by the River District. More recently, Landmarks has been developing a greater role in overseeing the preservation of all of the historic buildings in Elyria. As part of accepting this larger responsibility for Elyria's overall preservation needs, the Landmarks Commission worked closely with the Elyria Community Development Department to apply for and attain CLG

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Mark Your Calendars!

September 9, 2009
Show Me the Money
Portsmouth, Ohio
Contact: heritageohio.org

October 13-17, 2009
National Preservation Conference
Nashville, Tennessee
Contact: conference@nthp.org
or call 1-800-944-6847

November 10, 2009
Cash In the Attic
Elyria, Ohio
Contact: heritageohio.org

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status for the city.

The role of downtown Elyria as a commercial center has eroded tremendously over the last four decades since the opening of Midway Mall. Today significant efforts are underway to revitalize the downtown area with the beautiful town square and the many historic facades being a focal point of this redevelopment. Main Street Elyria sponsors numerous events such as weekly concerts in the park, the Farmer’s Market, and the Art Crawl to promote positive activity in the downtown area. The Landmarks Commission will work diligently to ensure that the important historic character of Elyria is maintained as this 21st century rebirth of downtown Elyria takes place.



The former New York Central train depot, 1925, is currently being renovated by the Lorain County Commissioners for use as a transportation hub and community center.

2009 CERTIFIED LOCAL GOVERNMENT GRANTS ANNOUNCED

Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, Franco Ruffini, announced Certified Local Government grant awards totaling \$98,096 for nine projects in Berea, Brookfield Township, Canal Winchester, Cleveland, Columbus, Euclid, Massillon, and the Village of Mt. Pleasant.

The CLG grant program enables local governments participation in the national historic preservation program while maintaining standards consistent with the National Historic Preservation Act, and the Secretary of the Interior’s “Standards and Guidelines for Archaeology and Historic Preservation.”

Each year, 10 percent of the annual federal allocation to Ohio’s historic preservation program is passed through to local communities that achieve certified historic preservation status. These competitive awards come from the U. S. Department of the Interior’s Historic Preservation Fund which derives income from royalties paid by oil companies for drilling rights on the continental shelf. The Society’s Ohio Historic Preservation Office administers the grants in Ohio. The grant may constitute up to 70 percent of the project cost and the applicant provides the remaining 30 percent in local matching funds, through cash, in-kind, or donated services and materials.

The 2009 grant projects are:

Berea - \$14,254 for the continued rehabilitation of Berea



Ross-Gowdy House, window rehabilitation project, New Richmond.

School #7, a property listed on the National Register of Historic Places that is used by the community as a cultural arts facility.

Brookfield Township -- \$8,400 to prepare design guidelines for use by their township historic preservation commission and the public to help ensure the historic character of their community is retained when changes are made to designated properties.

Canal Winchester -- \$24,032 to rehabilitate the windows of the Town Hall, a major public building in the community that houses village government and community offices.

NORTH OLMSTED IS OHIO’S 49TH CERTIFIED LOCAL GOVERNMENT

The Ohio Historic Preservation Office is pleased to announce that the Cuyahoga County city of North Olmsted has been designated Ohio’s 49th Certified Local Government. A nine member Landmarks Commission will oversee the community’s historic preservation program.

Watch for a feature article about North Olmsted in a future issue of The Network.

Cleveland -- \$5,000 for a Cleveland Restoration Society-administered project to establish a web resource guide for reuse of religious properties.

Columbus -- \$14,648; \$4,148 for preparation of a National Register nomination for Old North Columbus Commercial District; to be administered by the Columbus Landmarks Foundation; and \$10,500 for repair of the tile roof at the Green Lawn Abbey Mausoleum, to be administered by the Green Lawn Abbey Preservation Association.

Euclid -- \$8,000 to conduct a reconnaissance history and architecture survey of historic resources in the community.

Massillon -- \$8,792 to prepare a Historic Structures Report for Five Oaks, home of the Massillon Women's Club, to serve as a guide for the sensitive preservation of this local landmark.

Mt. Pleasant -- \$14,970 to repair the soffit and box gutters at the Elizabeth House Mansion Museum in this National

Historic Landmark village.

This was the most competitive funding round in CLG grant program history. Over \$260,000 in grants were requested. Recipients were recommended by the Ohio Historic Site Preservation Advisory Board, a state board of citizens and professionals with expertise in history, architecture, archaeology and related fields. The Board's 18 members are appointed by the governor.

The City of Portsmouth recently completed design guidelines for their historic district and the Village of New Richmond completed window restoration of the Ross-Gowdy House. Both projects were assisted with funding assistance from a Certified Local Government grant. Approximately 9 projects are funded each year. There are 49 communities in Ohio that are CLGs.

For a list of CLG communities or to learn more about the program, call (614) 298-2000 or visit www.ohiohistory.org/resource/histpres

FINDING FUNDING

THE NATIONAL TRUST FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Public and Private funding for historic preservation projects is hard to come by even in the best of times, but in this economy identifying and securing funding for your local historic preservation project may be even more difficult. One possible source is the National Trust for Historic Preservation (online at www.PreservationNation.org). The National Trust provides leadership, education and advocacy to save America's diverse historic places and revitalize our communities. The National Trust's grant and programs have assisted thousands of innovative preservation projects that protect the continuity, diversity, and beauty of our communities.

Grant Programs

The National Trust has several grant programs available in the Midwest. A project must be undertaken by a non-profit organization or a public agency to qualify for grant programs. In brief, the grants available in Ohio are:

The Johanna Favrot Fund for Historic Preservation provides non-profit organizations and public agencies grants ranging from \$2,500 to \$10,000 for projects that contribute to the preservation or the recapture of an authentic sense of place. Funds may be used to hire consultants to provide professional advice on a preservation project, such as feasibility studies, assessments, or preservation plans, or

to support conferences, workshops and educational programs. The next grant deadline is February 1, 2010.

The Cynthia Woods Mitchell Fund for Historic Interiors provides non-profit organizations and public agencies grants ranging from \$2,500 to \$10,000 to assist in the preservation, restoration, and interpretation of historic interiors. Funds may be used for professional expertise such as preparation of feasibility studies or planning documents, or for workshops or education programs. The next application deadline is February 1, 2010.

The Hart Family Fund for Small Towns assists small town preservation and revitalization initiatives around the country, with a focus on towns with populations of 5000 or less. This fund provides non-profit organizations and public agencies matching grants from \$5000-\$10,000 for preservation planning, and education efforts. Funds may be used to obtain professional expertise in areas such as architecture, archaeology, engineering, preservation planning, land-use planning, fund raising, organizational development, and education. The next application deadline is February 1, 2010.

Please note that these funds are for planning purposes. The costs associated with the actual restoration of a structure would not be fundable. However, if your community needs to hire a consultant, prepare a preservation plan, develop preservation related programming etc, these types of

planning activities may be fundable. Also be aware that like any limited source of funds, competition can be quite keen. Applications from the Midwest are competing with a nationwide pool of projects. Because these programs are quite competitive, the National Trust asks that those interested contact them to tell them a bit about their projects so that they can determine if the project is eligible and the most appropriate source of funding. If the project is eligible, the National Trust asks that applicants stay in touch with the office so they can learn more about the project and assist them through the process including providing feedback on draft applications.

If you would like more information on National Trust grant and loan programs, visit their web site at: www.preservationnation.org/resources/find-funding or contact: Jennifer Sandy, Program Officer, Midwest Office, National Trust for Historic Preservation, 53 W. Jackson Boulevard, Suite 350, Chicago, IL 60604, Phone: 312-939-5547, ext. 37225, Email: jennifer_sandy@nthp.org

Information for the above article was provided by Jennifer Sandy, National Trust for Historic Preservation

Grants in Ohio from the National Trust for Historic Preservation

Several Ohio projects have received funding from the National Trust in recent years, including these examples:

W.P. Snyder Jr., Towboat, Marietta

A \$10,000 grant from the Cynthia Woods Mitchell Fund for Historic Interiors assisted the Ohio Historical Society's completion of an Interior Finishes Analysis. The Snyder is National Historic Landmark and the sole surviving example of a steam powered, "pool-type" towboat.

Greenhills Community Building, Greenhills

A grant from the Cynthia Woods Mitchell Fund for Historic Interiors enabled the Greenhills Historical Society to complete a research and conservation assessment of WPA artwork located in the Greenhills Community Building, a centerpiece of this New Deal planned community.



W.P. Snyder Jr., Towboat, Marietta



Greenhills Community Building, Gym

CITY WEB SITES AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Can Your Preservation Audience Find You Online?

A quick review of the web sites of Ohio's Certified Local Government communities reveals little evidence or acknowledgement that a community is a Certified Local Government or has an active historic preservation program. Even when the information is on a city web site, navigating to it can be tricky. The information may be located under any of a variety of headings, and when present, may provide only the most cursory information such as a design review board's meeting schedule, but not information about the purpose of the board or its responsibilities.

The screenshot shows the City of Delaware Ohio website. At the top, there are navigation tabs: WELCOME, COMMUNITY, GOVERNMENT, CAREERS, and CONTACT. Below these is a search bar and a breadcrumb trail: Home > Departments > Planning and Community Development > Historic Preservation Commission. The main heading is "Historic Preservation Commission". Under "Departments", there is a list including Administrative Services, Airport, Around Town, Attorney, Bicentennial, Building, City Manager, Economic Development, Engineering, Finance, Fire, Government, In the News, and Municipal Court. The "Mission" section states: "The Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) works to carry out the policies set by City Council concerning the preservation, protection and use of areas, buildings, structures and works of art in designated historic districts. Currently Delaware has two historic districts that are listed on the National Register of Historical Places, the Northwest District and the Sandusky Street Historic District. Only the Sandusky Street Historic District is protected by architectural standards because it is a part of the City's Downtown Historic District for Architectural Standards which have been created to preserve its character." To the right, under "Funding Preservation", there are links for HPC Map, Preservation Links, Preservation News, Signage for the Downtown Historic District, and a link to the City Links page. The City Links page lists various community services like Education, County Library, Delaware Area Career Center, Delaware City Schools, Ohio Wesleyan University, and Planning Commission.

City of Delaware, Historic Preservation Commission Web Site

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A Useful CLG Web Site

The City of Delaware is one of several CLGs that devote numerous web pages to the work of its Historic Preservation Commission, including a description of the Downtown Historic District, where to apply for a Certificate of Appropriateness, what information is needed, an explanation of the design review process and frequently asked questions. To enhance the text of the web pages, before and after photos of rehabilitated commercial buildings are included. See Delaware's historic preservation commission page at <http://www.delawareohio.net/departments/>.

How to Improve CLG Online Information

If your community's web pages lack complete, user-friendly and easy to access information about the local historic preservation program, why not consider expanding your website? You have earned special status as a Certified Local Government--there are only 49 in Ohio!

Toot your horn a little and at the same time help residential and business owners of historic properties easily understand their status, their responsibilities under the local ordinance and opportunities they have to contribute to and benefit from historic preservation efforts. And the good news is that CLG grant funds may be used to create, expand or enhance web information about historic preservation. Visit the Ohio Historic Preservation Office web site: <http://www.ohiohistory.org> for information about CLG grants. Click on Certified Local Governments and then on CLG Grant Application Package to view the 2009 grant in-

formation. The next application deadline is March 1, 2010.

Some pointers for enhancing the web presence of your local historic preservation program:

- Add a search feature if your site doesn't have one and be sure to include plenty of preservation-related key words so that users can find the preservation-relevant pages from a variety of search terms, such as, historic, preservation, certificate of appropriateness, design review, commission, and ordinance [number]. If you cannot provide a search capability but can provide a quick links tool, include a fairly universal term, such as historic preservation, to steer users to the preservation pages.
- List all of your preservation content on the initial landing page and group links to sub-pages of content by logical categories such as: Overview, design review process, identifying and designating properties, contact information (can contain local state and federal contacts), how-to advice for historic properties, frequently asked questions, etc.
- Keep the content simple and easy to follow, generally flowing from left to right.
- Keep the number of fonts low, such as one for headings and a second for content.
- Keep your background simple and a light color so that pages remain readable if users print them out.
- Historic Preservation is a very visual subject. Include some photos of community historic properties and images that illustrate the results of historic preservation efforts to help viewers connect your local programs and process to outcomes.

OHIO HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE KICKS OFF MAJOR STUDY OF RECENT PAST

The Ohio Historical Society's Ohio Historic Preservation Office recently announced a year long study of mid-twentieth century architecture. The project, *Ohio Modern: Preserving Our Recent Past*, will produce previously unrecorded information about housing, subdivisions, public and commercial buildings and the work of area builders, developers and architects. The City of Dayton and the surrounding communities of Fairborn, Kettering, Huber Heights, Oakwood, Trotwood and Vandalia have been selected for the pilot history-architecture survey that will document the historic themes and buildings of the period from 1940-1970. The project is funded with an \$87,000 National Park Service Preserve America grant and matching funds. Ohio Modern will not only benefit Dayton and its surrounding suburbs but will also serve as a model for communities throughout



This Dayton house of the recent past is representative of those found in the survey area. Photo courtesy of the city of Dayton.

Ohio that are beginning to identify and evaluate similar architecture and neighborhoods. For more information about *Ohio Modern: Preserving Our Recent Past*, contact the Ohio Historic Preservation Office at 614-298-2000. Be sure to request the fact sheet: *Ohio Modern: Preserving Our Recent Past History-Architecture Survey*.



This Dayton house of the recent past is representative of those found in the survey area. Photo courtesy of the city of Dayton.

New from the National Trust

HAVE TEARDOWNS COME TO YOUR TOWN?

If so, *Teardown Tools on the Web*, created as part of the National Trust’s Teardown Initiative, can help community leaders identify approaches and best practices for managing teardowns. This easy-to-share, user-friendly resource highlights approximately 30 tools and more than 300 examples of best practices being used in 32 states around the country, including case studies from eight cities. Check out *Teardown Tools on the Web* (pdf, 27 pages) and additional resources at www.preservation.org/issues/teardowns.

Sustainability

The Trust’s Sustainability Initiative provides free “green building” resources for home and business owners, preservation advocates, and others. Check out the *Tip Sheet for Historic Wood Windows*, a new four-page PDF compiled by the National Trust’s Northeast Office. Go to www.PreservationNation.org/issues/sustainability and click on “Sustainability at Home.”



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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

Publication of this newsletter has been made possible in part by a grant from the U.S. Department of the Interior’s National Park Service, administered by the Ohio Historic Preservation Office of the Ohio Historical Society.

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