

SECTION 106

PRESERVING OUR PAST, PROTECTING OUR FUTURE

**Newport Township
Washington County**



Built in 1832 near Marietta, the Judge Joseph Barker Jr. House was later acquired by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers as part of the Willow Island Lock and Dam project. Vacant by 1981 and considered for demolition, the National Register-listed property gained renewed attention after a 2017 public meeting generated strong community support. The Friends of the Joseph Barker Jr. House was established in 2018 to advocate for its preservation.

Through the Section 106 consultation process, facilitated by Ohio's State Historic Preservation Office, community members, preservation advocates, and government agencies worked together to identify a preservation-minded alternative to demolition. The result was the transfer of the property from the Corps to the Friends organization, which is now working to stabilize and rehabilitate the building.

The Barker House is an excellent example of how Section 106 consultation can bring stakeholders together to develop creative solutions that preserve historic places while meeting project needs.