



Preservation News

A publication by  **PreservationOhio**
Ohio's statewide advocate for preservation since 1982

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Preservation Ohio Helps Local Groups Advocate for Preservation

Preservation Ohio's 2015 list of Ohio's Most Endangered Historic Properties contained 13 sites nominated by concerned individuals and groups. Six months after the presentation of the list at the Ohio Statehouse, some of the properties have been saved and progress has been made on raising awareness and community conversation on others. Unfortunately, the threats to some properties remain or have escalated. In this edition of Preservation News, we provide an update on the 2015 properties list and Preservation Ohio's efforts to support local community advocates, as well as some notes on other properties around the state that are on our watch list.

UPDATE ON 2015 MOST ENDANGERED HISTORIC SITES

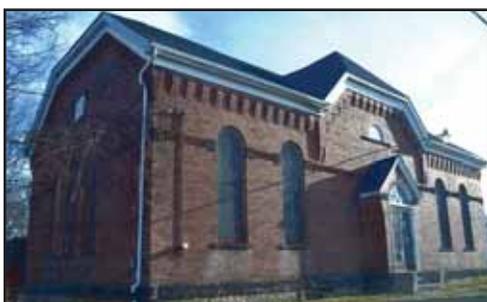
THE GOOD NEWS

The 1908 Olive Branch School in New Carlisle got a new roof with funds allocated by the Board of Education. The Olive Branch School Preservation Society hopes to eventually restore the interior and open the building as a museum.



Olive Branch High School

The East Liberty Schoolhouse, built in 1890 in Akron, will be moved to a nearby location, preserving it from demolition. The Green Historical Society was instrumental in obtaining city council funding.



East Liberty Schoolhouse

Preservation Ohio's Board of Trustees supported a number of local preservation efforts by visiting sites nominated to the 2015 Most Endangered list, speaking with media reporters and holding board meetings in the communities. Our Annual Meeting was held this year in Lima, where members of the Board participated in media interviews and a tour of **Allen County Memorial Hall** with the advocates for its restoration, the Council for the Arts of Greater Lima. The Plain Township

The Most Endangered List sets our priorities each year. The Board votes nominations to the list based on submissions and the ability of local partners to assist. Preservation Ohio always seeks partners. We respect the established preservation efforts located mostly in the larger cities. But we will list endangered places located anywhere in Ohio, even if overlooked locally. We seek to concentrate our efforts in smaller places where organized preservation may be new or initially weak, with assistance and encouragement.

Preservation Ohio will stand with our partners to preserve as many threatened parts of history as possible! No matter how long it takes, or how limited the prospects for success, or the cost to us. We lost board members when we undertook to save a high rise hotel in Hamilton. We lost nearly half of the Board in our successful effort to save the Masonic Temple in downtown Columbus. An effort to replace a French Second Empire hotel on the Square in Urbana was defeated even though a state partner dropped out. We and our local partners fought for more than seven years against the Seneca County Commissioners' effort to destroy their Court House in Tiffin. Our efforts are not limited to the Most Endangered List. We seek to advance preservation.



Alex Bobersky
1st Vice President

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Historical Society hosted Preservation Ohio board members for a quarterly meeting, media interviews and a tour of the **Peter Pontius House** and three other historic properties in Canton. Trustees also visited the **Toledo – Indiana Interurban Railway Depot** in Wauseon to help with advocacy efforts by the Wauseon Downtown Association, and added a voice in support of the four



Allen County Memorial Hall

Historic Homes on Ohio Wesleyan Campus. Although there have been no changes yet to the status of these properties, Preservation Ohio is eager to lend its advocacy support to local history and preservation groups.

THE NOT SO GOOD NEWS

The 1850s-era **Elam Drake Farm** in Columbus continues to deteriorate and has been defaced with large graffiti



Peter Pontius House

images visible from the freeway.

Heartland Bank terminated its involvement in the renovation of the original **Columbus Airport Terminal**. A local group of concerned citizens is still looking to find a tenant for the property.

The Bellows School in Columbus continues to face demolition in 2023.



88 Oak Hill - Ohio Wesleyan University

NEWS FROM OUR WATCH LIST

Preservation Ohio continues to monitor the properties on our 2015 Most Endangered list as well as other threatened properties throughout the state. We also celebrate the preservation of important historic properties as they are renovated and adapted for reuse to provide economic benefit to their communities.

Below are some recent updates from historic properties we are watching:

- Thanks to a \$10 million renovation by Adena Health Systems, the **Carlisle Building**, constructed in 1885 in Chillicothe, has been reborn as a residential and training center for graduate medical program students.
- Restoration is looking more and more likely for **The Big Four Depot** in Galion as the Friends of the Galion Big Four Depot gain traction with the local community.
- The Union Literary Institute Preservation Society is working to preserve and restore the **Clements House** in Darke County's historic Longtown settlement, the first African American settlement in Ohio.
- Lancaster's Fairfield County Commissioners continue to look for a buyer for the historic **Fairfield County Home** building, a three-story brick building built in stages between 1825 and 1865.
- The Unionville Tavern Preservation Society announced receipt of two grants for restoring the 200-year old **Unionville Tavern** in Lake County (recognized in past years on Preservation Ohio's list of Most Endangered Historic Sites).
- In Dayton, the **Grafton Hill Community Development Corporation** is celebrating the preservation of two historic homes, which have been moved to new locations after escaping demolition.
- A petition to save the 93-year-old **Ironton-Russell bridge** in Lawrence County after a rather bizarre attempt to sell it on Craig's List.
- **The Dam Keeper's House** at Griggs Reservoir in Columbus is being preserved as an event center. This 1816 structure was built on land that had been deeded by President John Adams. City officials were set to demolish it nine years ago before advocacy by Columbus Landmarks Foundation.
- The 1890s-era **Ferncliff Cemetery Superintendent's Amherst sandstone house** in Springfield faces demolition because it has fallen into disrepair.
- Historic houses on the grounds of universities continue to be threatened with demolition to make way for new developments. In the past year, advocacy efforts at Miami University and Case Western Reserve have been successful, but these houses, like memorial halls and railway depots throughout Ohio, are candidates for preservation advocacy efforts.

These are only some of the properties that Preservation Ohio is monitoring. We welcome contact from local preservation groups, and encourage nominations for the 2016 list of Ohio's Most Endangered Historic Properties. The nominations are scheduled to open in February 2016. You can help by becoming a member of Preservation Ohio and making a generous donation to assist with our advocacy efforts on behalf of all Ohioans.

Through the Years

Known today as Preservation Ohio, the organization was incorporated in 1982 as the Ohio Preservation Alliance. In May of that year a group of preservation advocates set out on a mission to connect the various people and organizations working on historic preservation issues in Ohio. Nothing statewide existed and the group thought it was time to reconcile that. They met in what is now the Supreme Court Building in downtown Columbus. The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court sat on that board along with our own Bruce Goetzman who has remained a long time advocate for preservation of the built environment.

As stated in the articles of incorporation, the Ohio Preservation Alliance has been formed with the goal to improve “preservation enhancement and maintenance of our built and natural environment, including buildings, structures, sites, areas, monuments, and objects.” Going back through old board rosters it is noted that some of the early board members still work in preservation today. The early trustees were a hard working bunch. Doing legislative work, holding conferences and working through local communities with educational opportunities.

Among the many conferences held in the 1990’s were the Managing Change conferences, which were held statewide in several venues.

Managing Change was the forerunner of the still active farmland preservation movement. Several statewide land-use organizations were modeled after this original movement. A “Courthouse Revisited” conference brought to light the plight of many of our county courthouses. The results of that are also still reflected today.

The first endangered property list was published in 1983. Preservation Ohio likes to mention the many buildings that are still here today because of the advocacy work we did then and our currently doing. To name a few would include the Columbus Athenaeum, the John Wilson house in Adams County, the Frank Lloyd Wright home in Springfield, Anthony Wayne hotel in Hamilton, and the Douglas Inn in Urbana. The results of the 2015 list are mentioned in this newsletter.

We’re very proud of our website (www.preserveohio.com) which is updated regularly and reflects not only our own activities but also, things that are happening around the state. Our site is a powerful tool that no one could have predicted would make such a profound difference in the way we tackle issues today.

Our hats are off to the early visionary individuals who made such a difference and are still serving our communities today.

Become a member...



Joining Preservation Ohio means more than just being a member. You are also making a statement that the preservation of Ohio’s history is a priority to you. And most importantly, your membership dollars stay in our state and work for Ohio communities and Ohio residents.

There are three ways to join:

- 1 – **Online** membership form and payment – at www.preserveohio.com
- 2 – **Contacting us** by e-mail at info@preserveohio.com and requesting a membership form.
- 3 – **Regular mail**: Fill out the membership form below, clip out and send to:
P.O. Box 340885
Columbus, Ohio
43234-0885

Name

Address

City / State / Zip

Email

Phone

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY:

Please check category below.

Make checks payable to:
Preservation Ohio or Ohio Preservation Alliance, Inc. (our corporate name).

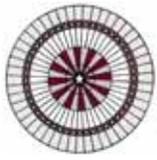
- INDIVIDUAL \$15
- FAMILY \$25
- ORGANIZATION \$100
- INDIVIDUAL GOLD \$125
- PATRON \$250

Please also consider a donation to Preservation Ohio in honor of our past and to build our future. All donations are tax-deductible.

2016 List of Ohio’s Most Endangered Historic Sites

**NOMINATIONS BEING ACCEPTED
FEBRUARY 15 – APRIL 16**

Nomination forms and instructions at
www.preserveohio.com



PreservationOhio
Ohio's statewide advocate for preservation since 1982

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Founded more than 30 years ago, Preservation Ohio is the oldest, statewide non-profit organization working to provide a future for Ohio's collection of historic resources. From single buildings to entire downtowns and neighborhoods; from dense, urban areas to rural, county seat towns – we're dedicated to making a difference for Ohio's past.

BOARD MEMBERS:

Carol Merry – Columbus – President
Alex Bobersky – Warren – 1st Vice President
Cyndie Gerken – New Carlisle – 2nd Vice President
Marian Vance – Delaware – Secretary
Mo Orsatti – Lewis Center – Treasurer
Ralph Johnson – Ottawa Hills
Larry Frimerman – Oxford
Laurel Sheppard – Hilliard
Bruce Goetzman – Cincinnati
Scott Crider – Marion

STAFF:

Thomas Palmer - Executive Director

Historic Home and Elks Lodge demolished

Sights like this are far too common around Ohio. This is what is left after the wrecking ball destroyed the former Elks Lodge in Delaware last December 2015. Appearing on Preservation Ohio's 2014 list of Most Endangered Sites, this building was a casualty of the most common threat – demolition by neglect.

What is historic and worth saving? Sometimes the structure plays a role in the past history of a community; sometimes nostalgia plays a role; sometimes it is the craftsmanship or a particular architect. Older buildings are built with better materials which cannot be duplicated today. Older buildings are examples of a city's complexity and we never know what might be valued later in the city's growth.

Downtowns are filled with historic buildings that are being repurposed as restaurants, small industries, and other types of businesses. These establishments thrive in such unique places because patrons who cherish history want to be a part of these buildings' rebirth.

What preservationists most often hear are regrets from tearing a building down. Maybe the promise of something better being built in its place never happened. Maybe the new structure or parking lot just never felt right in the scheme of things. Can we really afford to take that chance?

