



Summer 2016
Volume 4 • Issue 2



Preservation News

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

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Preservation Ohio Names 2016 List of Ohio's Most Endangered Historic Sites

This year, Preservation Ohio selected 16 sites of historical significance representing 11 counties from among those nominated by individuals and groups around the state. There are several repeats from last year, which indicates more efforts are still needed to save these historic sites. Last year's list included 13 properties.

Stone Train Depot, Ashtabula, Ohio

Constructed in 1901, the train station is one of the few left with the distinctive architecture of the time. It's also near the site of the 1876 Ashtabula Train Disaster, where the train bridge collapsed, killing 83 people; a historical marker is near this spot. This disaster was the worst rail accident in the country until the Great



Stone Train Depot

Train Wreck of 1918. The depot remains vacant and is in danger of demolition. Preservation advocates would like to renovate the depot to be used as an Amtrak station, in addition to housing a museum and coffee house. The depot was also named to the 2015 Endangered List.



Sorg's Opera House

Sorg's Opera House, Middletown, Ohio

Although hundreds of volunteer hours have been spent tending to the building in support of preservation, Middletown's first theater (designed by Cincinnati architect Samuel Hannaford and a gift of industrialist and US Representative Paul J. Sorg) sits vacant and exposed to further deterioration. It's also part of the South Main Historic District and listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Preservation advocates hope to restore the theater space to its original 1891 splendor, along with rehabilitation of all four stories of the front building mass.

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It was my privilege to attend the announcement of our 2016 list of Ohio's Most Endangered Historic Sites at the Ohio Statehouse on May 18. This was the culmination of efforts made by statewide advocates and Preservation Ohio board members, and it is always a powerful event. However, this year was even more inspiring due to the participation of several of the nominators. One by one, they spoke about their endangered site with such passion and enthusiasm, and I was humbled by their commitment. These folks work tirelessly and often with no compensation or appreciation. Without them, many of these sites would likely be gone already, and Preservation Ohio is proud to support their efforts. Among this year's nominations, we already have some good news and bad news to report. On June 16, the former Dennison Hotel in Cincinnati was spared the wrecking ball by the local Historic Preservation Board. But in Athens, despite an outcry of public opposition that was supported by many local officials including the mayor, and tireless efforts by Athens County Historical Society, Preservation Athens and advocacy by Preservation Ohio to save the building, the Frank Packard-designed President Street Academic Center on the Ohio University campus has just been demolished. Another piece of Ohio heritage lost.

Cyndie Gerken
Second Vice President



**Peace and Justice House, Ohio
Wesleyan University, Delaware, Ohio**

One of several stylish 19th century brick houses that Ohio Wesleyan University intends to demolish to make way for new student housing. This Delaware landmark is currently used for student housing although the University has let the building decline. Preservation



Peace and Justice House

advocates hope to incorporate the home into the planning and siting of the new housing unit complex in order to maintain some of the historic integrity of the neighborhood and campus.

Columbus Railway Power and Light Building, Columbus, Ohio

Built circa 1915, this two-story brick building has a steep hipped roof, an octagonal tower and round-arched windows. The building has historical significance as a major streetcar depot once operated by the Columbus and Southern Ohio Electric Co. Currently vacant, the building is deteriorating. The Columbus Landmarks Foundation supports the redevelopment of the site as an adaptive reuse project and is



Columbus Railway Power and Light Building

working with Ohio State University and CCAD students to develop ideas for its potential reuse.

Elam Drake Farm, Columbus, Ohio

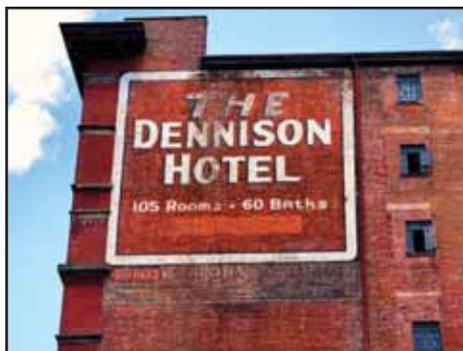
Named to the 2015 list as well as the Columbus Landmarks Foundation's 2016 Most Endangered Buildings List, the farm consists of a house, smoke house and brick threshing barn built in the early-mid 1800s. The intact buildings are currently vacant and exposed to weather and vandalism. Elam Drake was a mason and brick maker who moved to Columbus in 1831. He built some of the city's earliest brick buildings.

Port Columbus Airport Terminal and Control Tower, Columbus, Ohio

The original 1929 terminal is on the National Register of Historic Places and was the site of the first transcontinental flight to Los Angeles. Renowned aviators Charles Lindbergh and Amelia Earhart flew from the terminal. It features a classic octagonal observation tower and art deco appointment. A local advocacy group is attempting to stabilize and renovate the property after a potential buyer pulled out. The building was also named to Preservation Ohio's 2015 list.

Dennison Hotel Building, Cincinnati, Ohio

This historic structure, constructed in 1892 for the G. B. Shulte Sons Company which made carriage and wagon hardware, was designed by Samuel Hannaford. Hannaford was a prominent architect who designed many of Cincinnati's iconic buildings, including Music Hall, City Hall and the Cincinnati Observatory. The



Dennison Hotel Building

Dennison Hotel was in imminent danger of demolition but received a reprieve in June from the local Historic Preservation Board.



Madison Freight Depot

Madison Freight Depot, Madison, Ohio

Built in the late 1800s, the depot's current owner, Norfolk Southern, has agreed to donate the building if it can be moved. Local citizens and the Madison Community Improvement Corporation support saving this treasured village landmark. The depot, which is in desperate need of repair and in danger of collapsing, would be reassembled on land donated by Madison Village.

Ironton Russell Bridge, Ironton, Ohio

In use since 1922, this cantilever bridge is scheduled for demolition in 2017 when its replacement opens. It was an important link on the Atlantic to Pacific Highway, one of the first and shortest east-west highways completed and the only bridge across the Ohio River to link



Ironton Russell Bridge

Cincinnati with Parkersburg, West Virginia at the time. The construction of the bridge spurred cities along the route to pave roads and complete their links on the highway. The bridge is also the oldest of its architectural type remaining on the Ohio River and has some unique design details. Bridging the Past, a group of local citizens, seeks to preserve it as a pedestrian walkway.

Sammel Lyon House, Columbia Station, Ohio

The 1846 home was occupied until October 2015 but is in danger of being torn down because it is on the same parcel of land as another building. Lyon was one of the first settlers of Columbia Township and the house is one of only a few homes of that age left in Columbia Township. The Columbia Historical Society is seeking to move and preserve the building but funding is a major issue.

Dayton Arcade, Dayton, Ohio

Almost three decades of vacancy has damaged these five interconnecting, still structurally sound buildings constructed between 1902 and 1904. Dubbed 'the crown jewel of the Gem City,' the Arcade was



Dayton Arcade

Dayton's prime retail location, a center of business life and social interaction. It combines a variety of styles, including Flemish design and Italian Renaissance Revival. The architect, Frank M. Andrews, also designed many of NCR's factory buildings (notable for their use of progressive fenestration). Plans are underway to redevelop the Arcade for arts housing, but it remains threatened from three decades of deterioration.

Dayton Daily News Building, Dayton, Ohio

This 1908 building designed by



Dayton Daily News Building

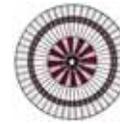
Albert Pretzinger, which is modeled after the Knickerbocker Trust building in New York City, sits partially open to the elements. It was the flagship of Ohio Governor and later presidential candidate James M. Cox's newspaper empire, which began with the Dayton Daily News and later included the Atlanta Journal-Constitution. City officials and local preservation advocates are working to save this majestic building after a Dayton developer pulled out. Financing the redevelopment of the site remains a major challenge.

Gem City Ice Cream Building, Dayton, Ohio

The original wooden structure dating from 1886 housed the Wright Brothers' first bicycle shop in 1892. Three sides and the interior are from the Wright Brothers' era. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the building is located near the West Third Street Historic District and adjacent to the National Aviation Heritage National Historical Park. However, it is currently vacant, deteriorating and recently vandalized. The Gem City Ice Cream Company was also the first manufacturer of ice cream in Dayton, Ohio. The British Transportation Museum was planning on redeveloping the building but later pulled out.

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Ohio's statewide advocate for preservation since 1982

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Columbus, Ohio

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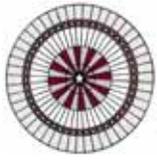
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Please also consider a donation to Preservation Ohio in honor of our past and to build our future. All donations are tax-deductible.



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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.

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Muskingum University Manse, New Concord, Ohio

Built in 1906, this house is part of the Muskingum College Campus Historic District on the National Register of Historic Places, and is the latest historic



Muskingum University Manse

building on campus to be scheduled for demolition. In July 1922, when the college presented President Warren G. Harding an honorary degree, President Montgomery hosted the U.S. President at the Manse (also known as Montgomery Hall) before the ceremony. Annie Castor Glenn's parents were also married in the Manse by President Montgomery. Despite efforts of

preservation advocates, trustees have failed to pause or change their decision to demolish the Manse prior to the 2016-17 academic year as of this writing.

Correll House, North Canton, Ohio

This home, built in 1856, is in danger of demolition due to widening of Ohio State Route 43 North set to begin in 2017. The house sits on farmland that was originally deeded from Allen Trimble, Governor of Ohio, to William Essig and his wife in 1830. John Correll became owner in 1849 and built the



McDowell Farmhouse

brick house that stands on the property. After he died, the house passed to Josiah Correll, a prominent member of the community who served as school director for nine years. Plain Township Historical Society and the owner of the property are seeking a buyer to preserve the house.

McDowell Farmhouse, North Canton, Ohio

One of the oldest houses in Plain Township, this property is endangered due to the widening of Ohio State Route 43 North, which is planned to come within six feet of the house. President James Madison originally deeded the property in 1814 to John Kryder and the oldest part of the Greek Revival style home dates to 1821. James McDowell purchased the farm in 1836 and was a prominent figure in the Stark County Republican Party. He was also a close friend of President William McKinley, who visited the farm frequently.