

THE RICHLAND COUNTY  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

310 Springmill St.  
Mansfield, OH  
44903  
419-524-1765

WWW.OAKHILLCOTTAGE.ORG

MEMBERSHIP

Membership renewals are sent out each year to existing members, but for others who would like to join, you may copy or clip this form and send to Judith Boling, our Board of Trustees Secretary.

Membership benefits include one free tour, the newsletter, reduced price on special tours, and an invitation to the annual Christmas member open house.

Member meetings are quarterly and open to the public unless otherwise announced.

Also consider volunteering with the Guild or other projects. Volunteers take an annual outing to an historical destination with lunch and admission paid for by the Society. In 2011 we visited the Seneca County Museum in Tiffin.

The  
RICHLAND COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Street City Zip

Enclosed herewith is \$..... to cover membership dues (tax deductible) as follows:

( ) Individual \$10.00

( ) Family 15.00

( ) Patron 100.00

Make checks payable to Richland County Historical Society

Mail to: Judith Boling, 100 Essex Circle, Lexington, OH 44904

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signed \_\_\_\_\_

THE RICHLAND COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

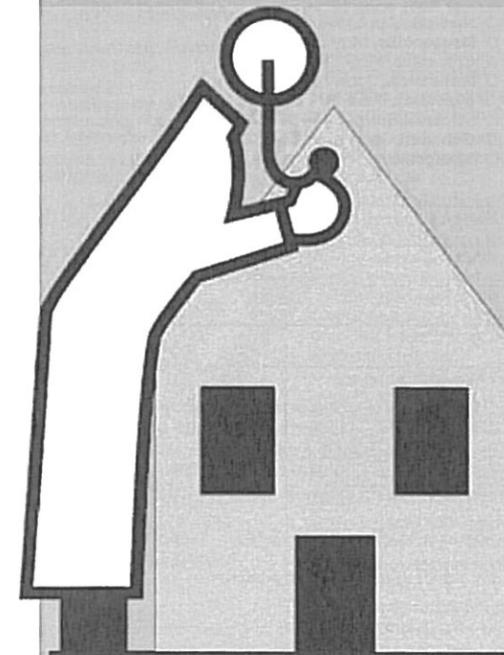
OAK HILL

MEMBER UPDATE

VOLUME II, ISSUE III MARCH, 2012

THE  
BUILDING  
DOCTOR

2012 Cities & Dates	
Norwalk	April 9 - 20
Steubenville	May 3 - 4
Columbus	May 17 - 18
Portsmouth	June 14 - 15
Mansfield	June 21 - 22
Somerset	August 16 - 17
Gahanna	September 27 - 28
Montgomery	November 1 - 2



A PROGRAM OF THE OHIO HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE

BUILDING DOCTOR  
WORKSHOP COMING  
TO MANSFIELD

The Richland County Historical Society, Downtown Mansfield Inc., and the Historic Preservation Commission of Mansfield will bring the Building Doctors here on June 21 and 22.

This program of the Ohio Historic Preservation Office will consist of a two hour workshop in the evening on June 21, followed the next day by site visits to 10 buildings in need of expert examination. Problems such as peeling paint, failing plaster, wet basements, deteriorating masonry, damaged wood, window repair, and many other topics will be addressed.

If you own an older building, or are involved in the care and maintenance of one, you will want to register it for this free consultation. All kinds of buildings built before 1955, including schools, churches, factories, stores, offices, farm buildings, and homes, may be visited, but space is limited, so register early. The building must be within 5 miles of downtown Mansfield.

Contact Alan Wigton to receive registration materials which will be available soon. 419 543-1619 or email oakhillcottage@earthlink.net

MARCH 20TH  
MEMBERSHIP  
MEETING

• Scott Schaut of the Mansfield Memorial Museum will present *Old Mansfield Movies*, a treasure trove of vintage films. Scott has collected, conserved and converted these old movie films to video for sharing. This is a fascinating look at old scenes, locations, and events in and around Mansfield. Mark your calendars; you won't want to miss this!

• 7:30 PM in the Carriage House. Open to the public.

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## PROPERTY PURCHASED



64 Surrey Rd.

The former Stearns & Lehman building at 64 Surrey Road and adjacent lots on the hillside have been purchased by the Historical Society.

Once part of the original Jones estate, the total of five lots were subdivided in the 1920s and sold by the heirs. The building at 64 Surrey once housed a ma-



Interior of the upper floor.

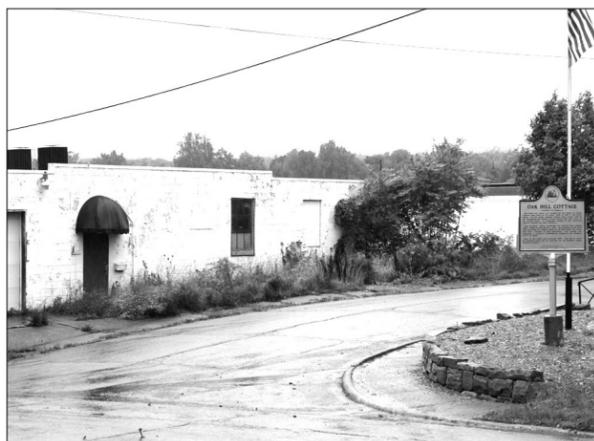
chine shop and then for many years, the Tenney Tool Co. The Stearns & Lehman operation ran a production line for their brands of syrups in the upper level of the building most recently, but it has been vacant for several years.

The intention in purchasing the building is to eventually restore the hillside to its previous natural state, but for the near future the Trustees are looking for a suitable tenant or other use. Inspection of the building revealed that it is in good condition with up-to-

date HVAC and 3 phase power equipment on the upper level, suitable for a small manufacturing, service, or warehousing operation.

Each floor has 6300 square feet. Ceiling height is 10 ft. upper and 13 ft. in the lower level. The floors are concrete on both levels, with a loading dock on each level and a drive-in overhead bay in the upper.

Meanwhile this Spring, work will go forward planting some trees and landscaping the three lots between this building and the Interstate Battery shop. Simply mowing and maintaining these lots will be a vast improvement over the last few years. For several years an abandoned pickup truck blocked the sidewalk across from the Cottage, and the property had not been mowed since 2010.



The property in 2011 prior to purchase.



The hillside in 1870

## PRESERVATION NEWS: FOUR MEMBERS DEPART PRESERVATION COMMISSION

Mayor Tim Theaker cancelled the February monthly meeting of the Historic Preservation Commission of Mansfield and gave notice he was not reappointing four of its veteran members including its Chair, Alan Wigton. Members serve two year terms, and reappointment of willing, active members has previously been routine.

Appointments to the Commission follow a formula prescribed in the city's Preservation Ordinance, with three members serving on recommendations from the Richland County Historical Society. Presently Chuck Gleaves, Jennifer Kime, and Margie Cutnaw are RCHS recommended members. Cutnaw has been offered reappointment, and Gleaves and Kime are in the middle of their terms. New appointees have not yet been announced by the mayor.

Scott Schaut, Connie Pastor, and Pat Adair are the other three members departing the Commission. Pastor, also a former Chair of the body, was the longest-serving member to be removed. Schaut is director of the Mansfield Memorial Museum.

### Future projects affected

Several projects will be affected by the meeting cancellation and removal of key people involved. The Building Doctor program (see page 1) will proceed with DMI and RCHS carrying on until the reorganized Commission gets up to speed and rejoins the partnership. However, an effort to fund an update of the city's Preservation Plan through CDGB and CLG grants had to be scuttled. This is the same effort that was abandoned in 2011 when the previous administration withdrew support for CDGB matching funding. The city's Preservation Plan is now over 25 years old.

### Section 106 Review

The Richland County Historical Society is signed onto the city and county Programmatic Agreements as a consulting party in reviewing federally funded rehabs and demolitions using Neighborhood Stabilization and CDGB funds. Changes in the Preservation Commission will not affect that status. Future reviews may continue to be done in partnership with the Preservation Commission, but the Historical Society still holds the key to this process.

Up until the end of 2010 when NSP1 funds had been all committed, the RCHS and the Preservation Commission had re-

## YOUR STATE TAX REFUND CAN HELP PROMOTE, PRESERVE LOCAL HISTORY!

History advocates have a new and convenient way to demonstrate their support for history and preservation in Ohio. For the first time, taxpayers will be able to donate a portion of their income tax refund to the Ohio Historical Society. The 2011 Ohio individual income tax forms provide a "tax check-off" option—a blank box on where those receiving a refund can designate an amount of it for donation.

The Ohio Historical Society will use the revenue generated from the tax check-off to create a new grant program to support history-related projects throughout Ohio. These will include repair or restoration of historic properties, care for historic objects and documents, education initiatives, public programs, and more across the entire state of Ohio. The Society is busy preparing criteria for the grants program, which they expect to be unveiled in the spring.

The Ohio Historical Society income tax check-off was approved as part of the state's two-year budget that was signed into law by Gov. John R. Kasich on June 30. The Society does not know how much the new tax check-off will generate, but officials estimate it to be at least \$200,000 per year.

Please be sure to remember that tax time is also your time to support local history!

viewed 138 demolitions. Of those, 3 properties were targeted for protection or remediation. The city pursued the Section 106 Review process with 331 Prescott, but dropped it when the OHPO determined the house was eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. The other two properties were simply passed over; not surprisingly, considering the number of abandoned properties to chose from.

A recent check with Justin Cook in the Preservation Office in Columbus reveals that Mansfield has been submitting Section 106 Reviews on a regular basis for rehabs and demolitions since 2009 when the city's NSP funds were suspended for a time by the Ohio Department of Development in an effort to bring the city into Section 106 compliance.