

Olive Branch H.S. Added To List of Ohio's Most Endangered Historic Sites

Preservation Ohio, Ohio's oldest statewide preservation organization, announces the 2014 Ohio's Most Endangered Historic Sites.

Gleaned from properties submitted statewide, these properties represent 11 of the most notable and fragile properties. Some have been destined for demolition and others are falling to demolition because of lack of maintenance and care. Either way, their loss will deeply affect their community and reduce our list of historic properties statewide. The list below tells the story of everything from an airport terminal to a farmstead -- mansions and those of a humble origin.

Preservation Ohio hopes that the attention brought to these properties through this listing will alert others to their plight and perhaps those of other properties statewide.

2014 Ohio's Most Endangered Historic Sites

Former Houghton Sulky Manufacturing Building 185 N. State St. & 150 E. Huber St. • Marion, OH 43302

Built in 1845, the main stone building originally served as Marion's first church -- the Centenary Methodist Episcopal Church from 1845-1854. It also served as church sites to other congregations, alternating amongst Catholic and various English and German speaking groups until each group was able to build their own separate facilities. This property is in imminent danger from demolition by neglect.

Columbus Municipal Light Plant 589 Dublin Rd. (Olentangy River & Nationwide Blvd, west of the Buggy Works) • Columbus, OH

The Municipal Light Plant was built in 1903 though the original pumping station was built in 1871 under the direction of Nathan Kelley, architect associated with the Ohio Statehouse. The light plant (and water works) was important to the development of city utilities. This property is in imminent danger from demolition by neglect.

Olive Branch High School 9710 W. National Road • New Carlisle, OH

Located in Clark County along the National Road, the Olive Branch High School was originally built in 1908 and was considered progressive for its time. Following a devastating fire, the school was reconstructed in 1913, and stands as a good representation of a rural turn-of-the-century Craftsman-style high school. Designed by noted Dayton, Ohio architect Charles Insko Williams, the building was used as a school house until the mid 1970s and still maintains its 1913 appearance. This property is in imminent danger from demolition by neglect.

Ellis House/Farm 7806 SR 22 & 3 • Wilmington, OH

Built in 1860, the Ellis House represents the Itali-anate-style began in Europe as part of the Picturesque movement, a reaction against the formal classical ideals in art and architecture that had dominated the previous two centuries. This property is in imminent danger from demolition by neglect.

Elks Lodge and Residence 110 North Sandusky Street • Delaware, OH

Built in 1840's as a home for the founder of the Wesleyan Female College, which existed in the city of Delaware many years prior to joining with the Methodists to form Ohio Wesleyan University, this home is important to the streetscape of Delaware and has been an integral part of the downtown for over 100 years. Currently known as The Elks Lodge, it has served The Elks since the early 1900's.

Unionville Tavern Route 84 • Madison, OH

The Unionville Tavern is a 216-year-old wooden structure, which may be one of Ohio's oldest surviving taverns and certainly one of the oldest structures in the Western Reserve of Northeast Ohio. This tavern served frontiersmen as a place for lodging and supplies and later served as a station on the Underground Railroad. The sale tunnels are still present underneath the Tavern. This property is in imminent danger from demolition by neglect.

Port Columbus International Airport Terminal & Control Tower 4920 East Fifth Avenue • Columbus, OH 43219

On the National Register of Historic Places and owned by the Columbus Regional Airport Authority, the Port Columbus International Airport Terminal is on a downward spiral due to its idle status. This property is in imminent danger from demolition by neglect.

Gen Richard Stephen(s) Farm 10417 Stephen-Young Road, Somers Twp. Camden, OH 45311

On June 18, 1816, after serving in the War of 1812, President James Madison awarded General Richard Stephen "...lands of the United States in the territory north-west of the Ohio, and above the mouth of Kentucky river,..." and there he built a sturdy stone farmhouse with a frame addition, all assembled with rose head nails. Current owners attempting to sell -- this property is in imminent danger from demolition by neglect.

Markey Mansion 5486 Lexington Salem Road • West Alexandria, OH

Built in the mid 1850s, this 17-room grand Victorian mansion was built by J. H. Markey a Preble County Probate Court Judge and large farm owner. This property is in imminent danger from demolition by neglect.

Music Hall 1241 Elm St. • Cincinnati, OH 45202

Music Hall, a National Historic Landmark, was built in 1878 and has a significant connection to major themes in American history, including art, architecture, and music.

Union Terminal 1301 Western Ave. • Cincinnati, OH 45203

Union Terminal, an iconic symbol of Cincinnati and a world-class example of Art Deco architecture, was designed by the firm of Alfred Fellheimer and Steward Wagner, with Paul Cret, in 1933. (Credit: Courtesy of Cincinnati Museum Center)

For more information, please check the Preservation Ohio website at www.preserveohio.org. Pictures of all properties available upon request.



The Olive Branch School Preservation Society was established with the ultimate goal of restoring the Olive Branch School to its original condition. The Society is reaching out to community members, different foundations and even corporations for their support in restoring the building as an archival historical museum. Currently, money is being raised for Phase 1 of the project, which is to remove the asbestos from the building. As it is today, the Olive Branch School stands as a 106 year old storage building for the Tecumseh Local School District. In 2009, the building was officially placed in the National Register of Historical Places. On Monday, July 21, Preservation Ohio listed Olive Branch as one of "Ohio's Most Endangered Historic Sites".