

# Olive Branch School Preservation Society News

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Good News! Final revisions to the Olive Branch School (1908 “Round” Building) National Register nomination have been approved by the Ohio Historical Preservation Advisory Board and forwarded to the National Park Service. This review is the final step in the process for listing the Olive Branch building on the National Register of Historic Places. We look eagerly forward to a positive response sometime this summer. Once final approval is received, plans for hosting a ceremony of dedication designating the Olive Branch building an official Historical site will be announced.

With the assistance of attorney Daniel Harkins, who rendered services on a pro bono publico basis, the Secretary of State of Ohio has issued a Certificate of Approval confirming the incorporation of the Olive Branch School Preservation Society (OBSPS), and in so doing allowed us to file for an Application of Recognition of Exemption under IRS Section 501(c)(3). This application has since been approved, which not only allows all donations to be tax-deductible, but also provides eligibility for government and foundation grants. 501(c)(3) status serves as a government “badge of approval” that a charity such as ours is legitimate and worthy of support.

A Board of Trustees has been selected and bylaws adopted for the operation of the OBSPS. The trustees and their terms of office are as follows:

2 year term: Virginia Cox and John Sipe

4 year term: Bill Berry, Cyndie Gerken and Susan Morgan

6 year term: Jim Leathley, Ken Strickland and Virgil Studebaker

Tecumseh Board of Education representative: Jane Manemann

Ex-officio member: Matt Curtis, Assistant Superintendent and Jim Gay, Superintendent

Bill Berry was elected as Chairperson, Cyndie Gerken as Vice Chairperson, Ken Strickland as Secretary, and Pam Mustovich was appointed to serve as Treasurer.

Information about becoming a member of the OBSPS will be forthcoming, and be sure to watch for the announcement of the public dedication ceremony. We hope you will plan to join us for this historic event!