



Mission: to create an unmatched downtown experience

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**PRESS RELEASE****FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Main Street Wadsworth Receives Grant to Join National Register of Historic Places**

Main Street Wadsworth has received a grant from the State of Ohio for up to \$12,000 to place downtown Wadsworth on the National Register of Historic Places. Main Street Wadsworth, whose mission is to “create an unmatched downtown experience” is now seeking to raise additional donations to complete the project, which involves retaining a historic preservation consultant to prepare a nomination that documents contributing buildings in the downtown district.

Wadsworth has already received approval from the State of Ohio for the first step in the process, which determines whether a building or district has merit and is accepted to move forward with a formal nomination. The formal nomination is the next step to receive the honor, which can also open the door to Historic Tax Credits that will incentivize preservation of downtown Wadsworth’s buildings.

Main Street Wadsworth has begun fundraising for this project and an additional \$20,000 is needed to complete the nomination process. Those interested in making a tax-deductible donation toward Wadsworth’s National Register nomination may do so by mailing a check with “National Register” in the memo line to: Main Street Wadsworth, 102 Main Street, Suite 20, Wadsworth, OH 44281. The successful completion of this nomination would add Wadsworth to the list of nearby National Register historic downtown districts, including Medina, Kent, and Wooster.

Mayor Robin Laubaugh, who serves on the Main Street Wadsworth Board of Directors, stated, “I applaud Main Street’s efforts to place Wadsworth on the National Registry of Historic Places. It is not an easy process, but when achieved, it opens doors to much-needed funding to help restore and improve our beautiful downtown buildings.”

According to the government website, “[t]he National Register of Historic Places is the official list of the Nation’s historic places worthy of preservation” and “is part of a national program to coordinate and support public and private efforts to identify, evaluate, & protect America’s historic and archeological resources” ([nps.gov/subjects/nationalregister/index.htm](https://nps.gov/subjects/nationalregister/index.htm)).

Main Street Wadsworth Board Member Emily Little is leading the Main Street Wadsworth Design Team’s effort to apply for the National Register nomination. Little, an architect, serves as adjunct faculty at Kent State University and teaches historic preservation courses to future architects. She received Heritage Ohio’s Young Preservationist of the Year Award in 2020 & serves on the City of Wadsworth’s Architectural Design Committee that reviews changes to downtown buildings.

Little stated, “The National Register of Historic Places was created in 1966 to provide a ‘no strings attached’ honor to historic buildings and districts that are significant to our nation’s history. Recognizing the unique history that Wadsworth’s downtown structures share is not only important to our past, but also provides opportunities for our downtown’s future. There is a common misconception that being listed on the National Register limits what an owner can do to a structure, but that simply is not true. The goal has always been to focus attention on the structures that have helped shape our past. As such, being listed on the National Register can help building owners qualify for grants and other government funding for improvements to their structures.”