



Mission: to create an unmatched downtown experience

102 Main Street, Suite 20, Wadsworth, Ohio 44281

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Inquiries: Adrienne Patrick, Executive Director

adrienne@mainstreetwadsworth.org | 330.331.4414

Main Street Wadsworth Announces Important Update Regarding the Downtown Wadsworth Historic District Joining the National Register of Historic Places

(Wadsworth, Ohio—March 28, 2023) – Downtown Wadsworth is on its way to joining the National Register of Historic Places. On March 17, 2023, members of the Ohio Historic Site Preservation Advisory Board (OHSPAB) in Columbus, Ohio discussed the draft of the National Register Nomination for the Wadsworth Downtown Historic District and took a roll call vote for acceptance of the nomination. Each member was in favor and none “opposed.”

Downtown Wadsworth’s journey to join the National Register started in 2018 with the Main Street Wadsworth organization establishing the nomination as a goal. In 2019 Main Street Wadsworth successfully completed the required “Preliminary Questionnaire” that documented properties in the downtown district. The questionnaire was approved by the State of Ohio. In 2021 a fundraising campaign was launched to raise the funds for this initiative and was ended early due to the Wadsworth community fully funding the project ahead of schedule.

A public meeting was held at Wadsworth City Hall on January 31 that provided the Wadsworth community and stakeholders with an overview of downtown Wadsworth’s history, the National Register of Historic Places nomination process, and to answer questions. The presenters were representatives from the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and Perspectus Architecture. The presentation was filmed by WCTV and is available for viewing [online](#).

Main Street Wadsworth Board President Jason Sanders has stated that “[b]eing included in the National Register of Historic Places is an honor Wadsworth will always be proud of” and that “[t]his support from the community demonstrates why we are a destination unmatched!”

Listing in the National Register of Historic Places honors downtown Wadsworth’s story as embodied in its historic brick and frame buildings dating to the mid-1800s and leverages Wadsworth’s industrial and commercial history to support reinvestment in the core of Wadsworth. Once listed, the contributing resources within the district boundaries will be eligible for federal historic rehabilitation tax credits.

Next in this process, the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) will send Wadsworth's consultant, Perspectus Architecture, written comments summarizing the Ohio Historic Site Preservation Advisory Board (OHSPAB) comments, Perspectus Architecture will make the required corrections, and then

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Founded in 2016, Main Street Wadsworth is a 501(c)(3) non-profit dedicated to the revitalization of downtown Wadsworth. One of only 22 Main Streets in Ohio, Wadsworth’s volunteer-powered organization uses Main Street America’s Four-Point Approach™ of Design, Economic Vitality, Promotion, and Operations to coordinate preservation-based economic development.



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SHPO will finalize the draft before they send it to the National Park Service (NPS) for review and formal listing.

The final action that will complete the years-long process will be when the National Park Service (NPS) lists the Wadsworth Downtown Historic District in the National Register of Historic Places. A definitive date cannot yet be provided, but formal listing will likely occur in Summer 2023.

Architect and former Main Street Wadsworth Board Member Emily Little led the Main Street Wadsworth Design Team's effort to apply for the National Register nomination starting in 2018. Little received Heritage Ohio's Young Preservationist of the Year Award in 2020 and currently serves on the City of Wadsworth's Architectural Design Committee (ADC) that reviews changes to downtown buildings. Little previously stated that "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."

Wadsworth's National Register initiative was made possible thanks to generous donors: The Ohio Pipeline Grant Initiative, Akron Community Foundation, ACF Center for Family Philanthropy, Max and Diane Miller, 97.1 FM Wadsworth Community Radio, Berger Insurance Agency, O'Neill Insurance, Dr. Caesar and Lynda Carrino, State Representative Sharon A. Ray, Janet Johnston, Sherry Downs Sigmond, Stacey Renner, Mayor Robin Laubaugh, Tom Stugmyer, Emily Little, Rod Loveless, Ayten Öykü Anderson, Jason and Amy Sanders, Judge Stephen and Sarah McIlvaine, Elaine Walker, Robert and Adrienne Patrick, Stephen and Mary Krauss, Randy and Jody Toddy, Gemma Properties Bob and Kim Thurber, Ralph Copley, Kathy Ott, Kristin Cole, Dr. Bruce and Joanne Manning, Rhonda Johnson, Felicity Wilson, Christa Schmidt, Crossfit Legacy, James and Karen Wilson, Kay Bowman, William Warner, Connie Krauss, Joe Sebe, James and Gail Doerr, Johanna Perrino, Adam Barton, Dr. Gary and Gladys Barnard, Roger Havens, The Wadsworth Area Historical Society, Kelly Graham, State Farm Insurance, Stephanie Mayercik, and Jim and Sally Little.

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://www.nps.gov/subjects/nationalregister/index.htm)).

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