

Museum at Friends Home seeks capital for repair campaign

Staff Report

The annual meeting for the Museum at the Friends Home in Waynesville will be held Saturday, Aug. 9, with a special presentation at 7 p.m. to kick off a capital campaign. Interested persons are encouraged to attend and learn how they can help preserve this piece of Waynesville history.

Situated at the top of historic Quaker Hill at Fourth and Miami Streets in the village, the Museum at the Friends Home occupies a 103-year-old structure built by the Soci-

How to donate

Checks should be made payable to The Waynesville Area Heritage and Cultural Center (WAHCC), 115 S. Fourth St., Waynesville, OH 45068.

Donations to the museum are fully tax deductible.

ety of Friends to accommodate elderly members of their community. After more than 90 years of service as a home to retirees, traveling Quakers, single female school teachers, and finally Warren County MRDD patients, the building now houses a unique collection of local history.

The 16 boarder rooms are each dedicated to a slice of the past, preserving the memories of small towns which are fading from existence including Corwin, Oregonia, Lytle, and the now-submerged New Burlington. Laundry and

canning facilities, a schoolroom, doctor's office, children's area, and a time-warping trip to the 1950s round out this collection of memories. The Quaker community is highlighted as well.

As is to be expected in a century-old building, structural issues are demanding attention. The dedicated volunteers who organized the Museum in 1999 and have run it on membership dues, donations and fundraisers, are faced with enormous challenges. While Friends Home, Inc., and Quaker Heights Care Facility, the owners of the building, have been very supportive of the museum's efforts, the current long-term lease arrangements require the Museum Board of Trustees to handle upkeep and repairs. Two years ago, a failing boiler system required the installation of a new heating and air conditioning system. All of the 64 windows in the building are in dire need of replacement. Two sides of the building have been completed at a cost of just under \$40,000; half of the project remains to be completed and fundraising efforts, including last year's grants from the Greater Cincinnati Foundation and the Vectren Foundation, continue.

And now the front porch which was added to the home the year after it opened in 1905 is badly in need of repairs. Four 3,000-pound cement columns support a deteriorating

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