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Photo Available Upon Request

Oberlin Heritage Center's Morgan Street Bridge Railing Re-use Project wins Statewide Award

A group of creative and hard-working volunteers from the Oberlin Heritage Center recently travelled to Columbus, Ohio to accept an Ohio Association of Historical Societies and Museums' (OAHSM) *History Outreach Excellence Award* for "Rescue, Restore, and Re-Use: The Morgan Street Bridge Railing Project at the Oberlin Heritage Center," an innovative historical recycling project. The award was presented October 3 at the OAHSM annual awards program held at the Ohio Historical Society. Among the recipients were Bert Latran, Jr., Oberlin Heritage Center Trustee, James W. White, Board President, Richard Holsworth, Honorary Trustee, and George Clark, Volunteer. The event was attended by 125 history museum professionals and volunteers from throughout the state.

The bridge railings were originally part of the Morgan Street Bridge over Plum Creek from about the 1880s until 2008 when they were removed by the City of Oberlin and replaced. Fast action by George Clark and other Oberlin Heritage Center volunteers rescued the railings before they went to the scrap heap, and ownership of them was transferred by the City to the Heritage Center. Oberlin Heritage Center Trustee Walter Edling, assisted by Latran, Holsworth, and OHC volunteer Charles Pope, repaired and refurbished the railings and converted them into an attractive fence on the Heritage Center grounds, just south of the Jewett House at 73 S. Professor Street. Heavy lifting for the project was accomplished with the help of volunteers from the Oberlin High School football team and equipment loaned by Mike Galbreath and Walt Edling. A dedication ceremony was held in May 2009, during National Historic Preservation month, and a handsome plaque now explains the origin of the railings and how they came to the Oberlin Heritage Center.

The OAHSM annual awards are selected by a committee of history museum professionals and volunteers from throughout the state. Other organizations with budgets of \$25,000 or more that received History Outreach Awards were the Akron-Summit County Public Library, The Betts House (Cincinnati), Lakeside Heritage Society, the Pioneer and Historical Society of Muskingum County, the Sandusky Library/Follett House Museum, the Shelby County Historical Society and the Wood County Historical Museum.

For more information, please contact the Oberlin Heritage Center at 440-774-1700 or visit their website at www.oberlinheritage.org.