For Immediate Release – March 6, 2017
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**Heritage Center Annual Meeting Spotlights History and Future of Mercy Allen Hospital**

*16th Annual Community Award Recipients Honored*

The public is invited to the annual dinner meeting of the Oberlin Heritage Center on Wednesday, April 5 at The Hotel at Oberlin (10 East College Street). This year’s gathering of Heritage Center members and friends features remarks by Joseph Sober, President of Mercy Allen Hospital, who will offer a brief look at the history and future of Oberlin's community hospital. Dr. W. Jeanne McKibben, OHC Honorary Trustee, also will display materials and videos from her chronicling of the medical history of Oberlin. The evening includes a brief business meeting with the election of new Board members and officers. The event’s Social Hour (with cash bar and a basket raffle) begins at 5:00 p.m., followed by dinner at 6:00 p.m., with the business meeting and program immediately following.

The Heritage Center’s 16th Annual Community Awards rounds out the evening, with recognition given to several local leaders in history education, historic preservation, and community service. This year’s award recipients are Sid Comings (Community Historian); John G.W. Cowles Director of the Allen Memorial Art Museum Andria Derstine and Oberlin College Facility Planner Leo Evans / AMAM ceiling restoration project (Heritage Guardian Award); Oberlin Schools Music Teachers Robert Duerr, Len Gnazik and Audrey John Melzer (Community Teachers of the Year); Bud Spierling (OHC Volunteer of the Year); Langston Middle School 6th grade teacher Lisa Thacker (History Teacher of the Year); and Radio Stations WOBL/WDLW (Business Leader Service Award).

Reservations for the Oberlin Heritage Center’s annual meeting are $40 per person for Heritage Center members and $45 per person for the general public and may be purchased online at www.oberlinheritagecenter.org, or by contacting the Heritage Center at (440) 774-1700. The deadline for making reservations is March 30. For more information, visit www.oberlinheritagecenter.org or e-mail ohcbiz@oberlinheritage.org.

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