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For Immediate Release: February 19, 2013

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Oberlin Heritage Center Offers Docent Training Workshop

The Oberlin Heritage Center will offer a training workshop for volunteers interested in becoming docents for its historic sites tours and special events. The session will be held on Saturday, March 16, from 12 noon to 4 p.m. at the Oberlin Heritage Center starting within the Monroe House at 73½ South Professor Street in Oberlin. Parking is available in the Heritage Center's parking lot accessed off of 20 West Vine Street (behind Midas Muffler).

The introductory workshop offers training for the tour of the Heritage Center's three beautifully preserved on-site buildings, the Monroe House (1866), the Little Red Schoolhouse (1836) and the Jewett House (1884). This tour recently was christened with a new name and is now known as the "Upstairs/Downstairs Tour – Small Town, Big Stories." Docent volunteers receive an overview of Oberlin history from the community and college's founding in 1833 through the next 100 years, covering a number of themes and events. Into this background are woven introductions to the people who once lived and worked in the historic buildings featured in the Oberlin Heritage Center tour.

The trained docents will be asked to make a commitment of helping with at least four tours or open house events per year as part of the Oberlin Heritage Center's volunteer program.

The docent-training workshop is free and open to the public. Current and past docents are welcome to join new volunteers in updating their knowledge of the museums' collections and sharpening tour skills. Prospective docents should take part in a guided tour of the Oberlin Heritage Center and chat with the Museum Education and Tour Coordinator Elizabeth Schultz prior to signing up for the workshop. Enrollment is limited for the workshop, and advance registration is required by March 12. For more information, or to reserve your place at the workshop, please call Liz Schultz at the Oberlin Heritage Center office at 440/774-1700 or send her an e-mail at tourinfo@oberlinheritage.org.

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