

hale farm & village

a museum of WESTERN RESERVE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Ground Breaking for Hale Farm and Village's Capital Improvement Project

For Immediate Release, Bath, Ohio --- Hale Farm & Village (HFV) is pleased to announce the construction of the Mary Jane Davis Hartwell Community Room, an addition to the Gatehouse Welcome Center. The project broke ground with a ceremony on April 11, 2019 attended by Ohio House Representative Bill Roemer, Western Reserve Historical Society Chair of the Board Gregory Bean, President & CEO Kelly Falcone-Hall and the family of Mary Jane Davis Hartwell as well as historical society and community members. The project is being generously supported by the State of Ohio - OFCC, the Estate of Mary Jane Davis Hartwell, Lehner Family Foundation, Ohio & Erie Canalway Association, an anonymous donor, Sisler McFawn Foundation, Howland Memorial Fund, Bath Community Fund, Wendy and John Naylor, and the Citizens of Hale Farm & Village. Local architectural firm Braun & Steidl have designed the project and the Cornice Company has been chosen as the builder. The expected completion date is late summer 2019.

“Since commencement of this project HFV has experienced continued annual attendance growth. To support this momentum HFV is creating a community engagement space to promote strategic initiatives focusing on adult workshops, professional development, youth education and community connection,” explains Kelly Falcone-Hall, President & CEO of the Western Reserve Historical Society. The new space will expand existing Gatehouse Welcome Center amenities and provide a multi-functional space. The expansion will increase HFV's capacity for interpreting the Hale's family farm, and integrating the story of the Cuyahoga Valley, the Canalway and the importance that crafts, trades and entrepreneurs have played in the history of Northeast Ohio.

The Mary Jane Davis Hartwell Community Room is the fourth phase of a capital improvement project that began in 2007. The Gatehouse Welcome Center is the “gateway” to the Hale experience and hub of education and public activities, serving over 85,000 youth and general audience visitors annually. Capital improvements to the Gatehouse Welcome Center keep this hub of program activities and visitor amenities attractive, functional, safe, and accessible. The design of the structure will be consistent with

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the existing Gatehouse Welcome Center. It will consist of 2,500 sq. feet of conditioned space that will be flexible enough to accommodate multiple programs simultaneously or one large group. It will be connected to the current space using natural materials and through an open design bringing the historic landscape into the building.

Highlights include:

- Four season space for HFV crafts & trades demonstrations and workshops
- Space for community and corporate engagements
- Increased capacity for school and youth programming and interpretation
- Space for professional development for local teachers, artists and preservationists

Previous phases of this Capital Improvement Project have consisted of preservation needs for 32 historic structures and infrastructure upgrades throughout the property. The project enhances Hale Farm & Village's mission to preserve and share the story of the Western Reserve through an experiential learning community that creates a lifetime of social value. Our educational and social impact is built around our core interpretative themes: early American crafts & trades, historic preservation, agriculture, horticulture, entrepreneurship, and American history.

For more information on how you can support this initiative, please contact Jason Klein, Director Hale Farm & Village jklein@wrhs.org or 330-666-3711 x 1713.

Captions:

Artist concept for the Mary Jane Davis Hartwell Community Room of Hale Farm & Village's Gatehouse Welcome Center.

Left to Right: Western Reserve Historical Society Chair of the Board Gregory Bean, President & CEO Kelly Falcone-Hall, Director of Hale Farm & Village Jason Klein, the family of Mary Jane Davis Hartwell and Ohio House Representative Bill Roemer break ground on the expansion of Hale Farm & Village's Gatehouse Welcome Center.

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Hale Farm & Village, a living history museum of the Western Reserve Historical Society, is located on 90 acres in Bath, Ohio with 32 historic structures, farm animals, heritage gardens, farming and early American craft and trade demonstrations. The location is open for a summer season June – August, Wednesday – Sunday; weekends only September and October; and signature events or educational programming during other times. Visit www.halefarm.org or call (330) 666-3711 for seasonal hours,

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program listings, rental information, and to become a member. 2018 marked Hale Farm & Village's 60th anniversary as a museum of the Western Reserve Historical Society.

Founded in 1867, Western Reserve Historical Society (WRHS) is Northeast Ohio's premier storyteller based on its vast collection of the tangible history of Northeast Ohio. It is one of the oldest and largest nonprofit regional historical societies in the nation. It presents the lives and activities of 19th-Century settlers through historic Hale Farm & Village in Bath, Ohio. WRHS offers a wealth of resources to research your family heritage at the Cleveland History Center in University Circle, Cleveland.

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