

Thumb Land Conservancy NEWS

August 11, 2016

Historic North Street General Store and Post Office

On August 2, the TLC acquired the historic general store and post office in North Street. For those of you unfamiliar with the area, the tiny town of North Street is on North Road just south of Carrigan Road in Clyde Township, Saint Clair County. North Street consists of farm fields, an abandoned railroad, a few houses, the North Street Baptist Church, the new post office built in the 1970's (?), and the old post office and general store dating back to at least the 1920's.

This acquisition was rather last-minute. We noted the property was to be offered at the annual county tax auction when we were looking at the recent corner addition to our Peltier Beach Ridge Sanctuary in Fort Gratiot. We thought it was very likely this historic structure would be demolished if not acquired by a preservation group. As it turns out, we were right. We informed Clyde Township and Saint Clair County, but there was little interest in them acquiring it alone. It happens that I've known the President of the Clyde Historical Society, Janet Kruger, for many years. We decided that we could try to make this acquisition and restoration a joint effort that would bring more attention to both of our groups. Although historic sites are a little outside of the TLC mission, this is just the sort of project that we should be doing more with local partners. We are taking this one step at a time. It's my hope that eventually, with our assistance, the Clyde Historical Society will be able to take ownership of the site.

Our intent in the short-term is to simply restore the outside structure and make the property available as a local historical site. It would be nothing more than a place to stop and view the outside, similar to old country school houses and other sites preserved around the state. There would be some interpretive signs on the outside describing the history. In the long-term, it would be nice to restore the inside and the historical society could allow scheduled tours, or perhaps use it as an old-fashioned general store once again.

Thanks to TLC board members Dan Rhein, Kay Cumbow, and Cheryl Collins for helping with our first clean-up day last Saturday. While we were there, a board member of the adjacent North Street Baptist Church stopped by to introduce himself, show us the parcel corners, and assure us that the church wants to be a good neighbor. We expressed the same to him.

This acquisition would not have been possible without a very generous donation.

Clyde Historical Society Fundraiser – August 20

Considering our new North Street project, I want to encourage everyone to attend the annual Clyde Historical Society Ox Roast Fundraiser on Saturday, August 20, from 1:00 to 5:00 PM at the Clyde Township Bill Bearss Park, across from the Dorsey House at the northeast corner of M-136 and Wildcat Road. Adult admission is \$12. Kids 5 to 12 are \$5, and under 5 are free. For more information, contact Denise Vincent at 810-987-6824, or see their Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1481890455361159/>

Here's a link to their flyer on the Clyde Township web page:

http://www.clydetownshipcc.org/uploads/4/4/0/0/4400048/scan0295_000.pdf

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