



Management Plan
The Heritage Corridors of Bath
An Ohio Scenic Byway

Sponsored By:
Bath Township
3864 West Bath Road
Bath, Ohio 44333

Prepared for:
The Bath Township Scenic Byway Task Force

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Statement of Significance

Faced with increasing development in Bath Township, our mission is to preserve and enhance the historic and scenic rural character of our community. The proposed byway connects the 19th century hamlets of Ghent, Bath Center, Hammond's Corners and historic Hale Farm and Village with the Stony Hill School House, the Bath Nature Preserve, and the Cuyahoga Valley National Park. It lies in proximity to the Ohio and Erie Canal. Early Bath homes, barns, cemeteries and mills line the byway as it winds through areas of scenic and natural beauty.

Our vision is to protect for future generations the scenic rural views that have come to characterize Bath Township. And by also promoting and preserving our unique heritage as part of the Western Reserve, we wish to provide an enriching and pleasurable experience for those who travel the byway.

Management Plan Goals

1. To preserve and enhance the rural character, scenic beauty and historic legacy of the Heritage Corridors for future generations.
2. To enhance the appearance of the Cleveland-Massillon Road corridor and in particular, the character of the hamlets of Ghent, Bath Center and Hammond's Corners.
3. To guide future development so that it preserves natural areas, protects view sheds and riparian corridors and creates an architectural and landscape image in concert with the rural character of Bath.
4. To promote the preservation of rural landscape features on both public and private property.
5. To encourage the enjoyment and safe use of the corridors by pedestrians, bicyclists, equestrians and motorized travelers.



Introduction

The U.S. Department of Transportation established a National Scenic Byway Program and encouraged each state to develop its own Scenic Byway Program. In 1994, The Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) established The Ohio Byway Program. This program replaces the Scenic Highways program, which was established in 1962.



An Ohio Byway must meet all of the following four criteria:

1. The byway must possess one of the following outstanding intrinsic qualities: scenic, natural, historical, cultural, recreational, and/or archaeological.
2. It must be an existing road with legal, public access. This includes any combination of routes under either federal, state or local jurisdiction.
3. The road must safely and conveniently accommodate two-wheel drive automobiles with standard clearances.
4. The Ohio Byway must be a minimum of five miles in length.



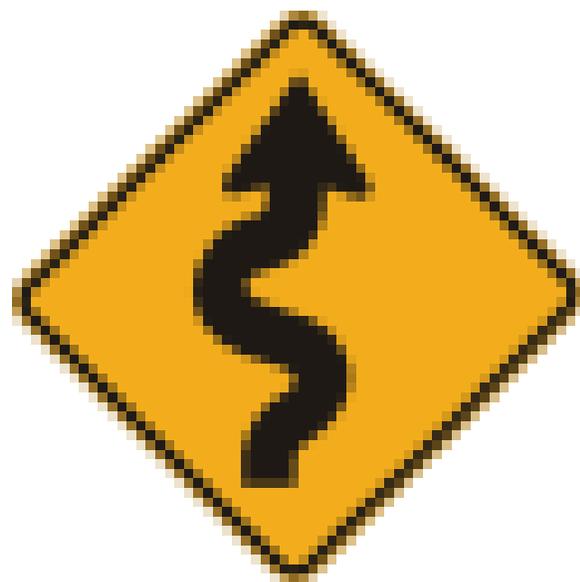
In 1996, Bath Township commissioned an extensive study of the township called the “Bath Township Comprehensive Plan.” This document stated; “It is recommended that a local system of scenic roadways should be planned for Bath...” An additional document was prepared by the township called the “Bath Township Design Guidelines.” This document reiterated the need for protection of Bath’s scenic roadways.

The citizens of Bath Township realized that the reason they loved their community so well was the rural character of its roads, the history of the roads themselves and the structures along them as well as the open fields and wooded hillsides that line their edges. In 1999, Bath Township realized the character of their community was being threatened by increasing commercial development, increased home building and the widening and straightening of their rural roads. They passed resolution 99-26 requesting the creation of a Bath Township Scenic Byway Task Force (member’s names are listed on the back of the front cover of this report). The task force was responsible for analyzing the feasibility of the byway, determining which roads would be included in the byway, selecting a name for the byway, applying for state designation through ODOT and creating a management plan for the byway. This task force worked diligently and quickly and in 9 months received official designation from The Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) for 34.5 miles of scenic and historic byway along 12 roads now known as the Heritage Corridors of Bath.

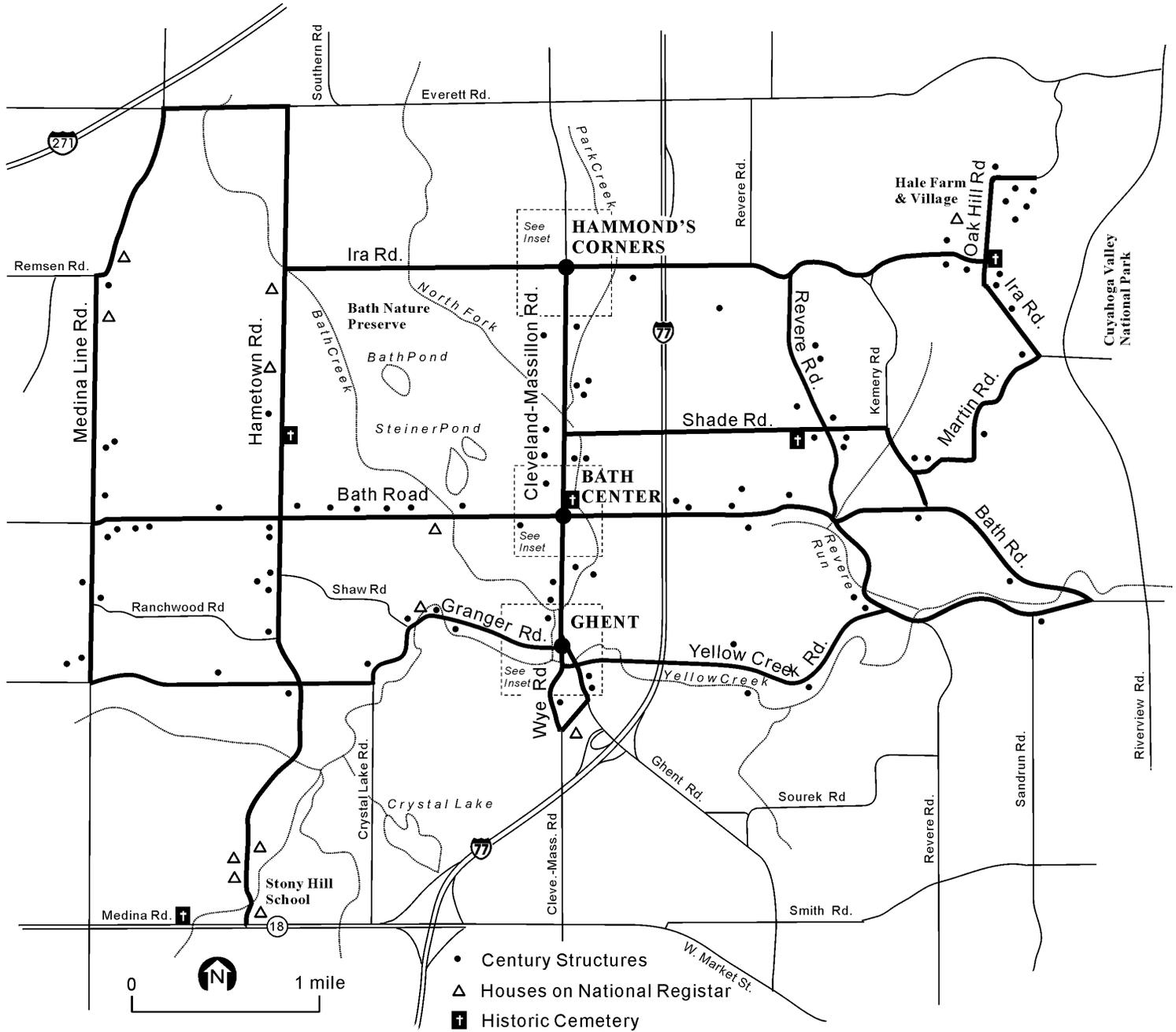
This document is the next phase for the Heritage Corridors of Bath. The task force met monthly over a period of 10 months, with the Bath landscape architectural firm of Vittum-Andrew Associates to explore different aspects of the Heritage Corridors and to develop this management plan. It is a Byway Corridor Management

Plan intended to provide a long-term strategy to preserve and enhance the roads along the Heritage Corridors of Bath. This document is also intended to be used as a tool, in conjunction with the Township’s Comprehensive Plan, the Bath Township Design Guidelines and the Bath Township Zoning Resolution, to assist the Appearance Review Commission and the Zoning Commission in their quest to direct development in a direction that is compatible with Bath’s rural character.

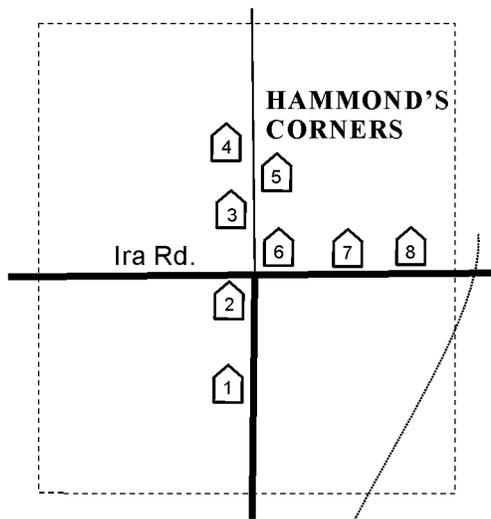
The Heritage Corridors of Bath, shown on the accompanying map, extend across the entire township with Cleveland-Massillon Road as its primary north-south thoroughfare linking the three historical hamlets of Ghent, Bath Center and Hammond's Corners. The corridors have a well documented historical heritage and a rich, diverse scenic landscape. The intent of this Management Plan is to provide a clear strategy for preserving and enhancing the scenic and historic landscape for future generations.



Heritage Corridors of Bath

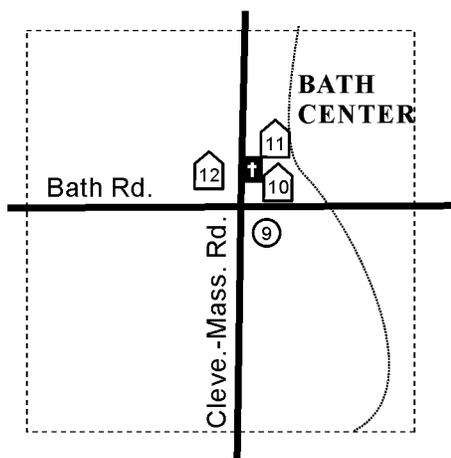


Historic Points of Interest



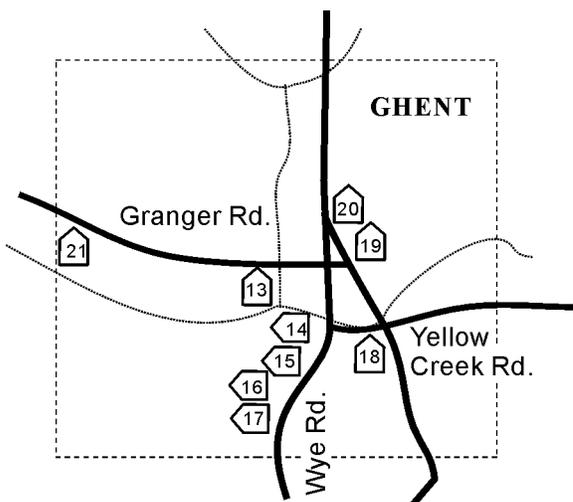
Hammond's Corners

1. Wyant and Associates (1830) 'John Richard' house, National Register
1924 N. Cleve-Mass Rd.
2. First Merit Bank (1830) 'Dustin Johnson' house, National Register
1946 N. Cleve-Mass Rd.
3. Am. Inst. of Language (c.1850) 'Pugh' house
1990 N. Cleve-Mass Rd.
4. Friendship Manor (c.1850)
1996 N. Cleve-Mass Rd.
5. ATC Group (1886)
1989 N. Cleve-Mass Rd.
6. Garth Andrews (1913) rebuilt historic 'Whitcraft' store
1969 N. Cleve-Mass Rd.
7. Russ Price Realty
3687 Ira Rd.
8. Academy of Court Reporters (c.1860) 'Rufus Randall' house
3675 Ira Rd.



Bath Center

9. Veterans Memorial-To honor Bath citizens serving in the armed forces
10. Historic Bath Town Hall (1905) National Register, Bath Century Plaque
1241 N. Cleve-Mass Rd.
11. Bath Center Cemetery (c.1820) Stone Holding Vault 1913
12. Bath Elementary School (1923) First 12 grade consolidated school
1246 N. Cleve-Mass Rd.



Ghent

13. The Ghent Woolen Mill (1832) Ohio Historical Marker, Bath Century Plaque
3542 Granger Rd.
14. The Octagon Bee House-Built to house honey bees, only structure of its kind
800 Wye Rd.
15. The Bake Shop in Ghent (1837) 'Thomas Pierson' house,
800 Wye Rd.
16. Yellow Creek Barn (c.1893) Bath Century Plaque
794 Wye Rd.
17. Yellow Creek Barn (c.1893) Bath Century Plaque
794 Wye Rd.
18. AFC Interiors (1893) Old Ghent Christian Church
3636 Yellow Creek Rd.
19. Cole Company, LPA (c.1850) 'James Root' house
863 N. Cleve-Mass Rd.
20. Frantz Financial Group (c.1850) 'James Root' house
875 N. Cleve-Mass Rd.
21. Artist Inc. (rebuilt in 1940s) Alderfer's Mill
3850 Granger Rd.

