

Application for Membership

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____

EMAIL _____

ANNUAL FEE: \$25.00 Please make check payable to: P. C. Opera House & Cultural Arts Center, Inc.

I am interested in serving on one of the following:

- Board Officer
- Fundraising Grant Writing
- Museum Theatre
- Art Space Renovation
- Research Publicity

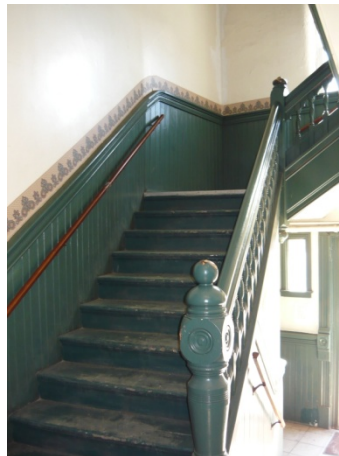
I represent the following Visual Performing Art _____ and I am interested in displaying and/or presenting my work.

Description: _____

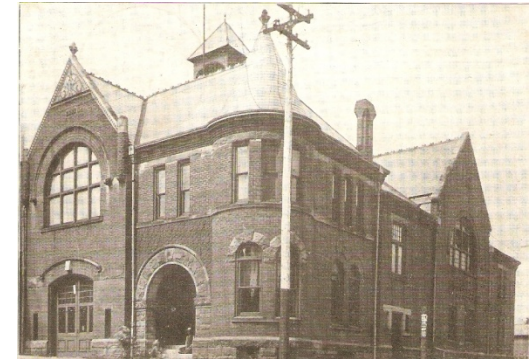


1934 Minstrel Show sponsored by Ludowici-Celadon at Opera House

Unfortunately, the Opera House and balcony was gutted in 1965 to make room for modern fire engines and office space above.



The original staircase to the second floor still exists.



Perry County Opera House and Cultural Arts Center, Inc.

Completed in 1887 by William Rose, this Richardson Romanesque style building has served as the city's headquarters from the time of its construction. Brick for the building was provided by local kiln owner, Ham Nichols. Located at 124 S. Main Street in New Lexington, Ohio, this facility also housed an opera house and the fire department.

A TOUR: Imagine if you will, someone declaring that the Town of New Lexington in the late 1800's needed a new town hall and a young carpenter/builder stepping forward and sketching out a design with just a pencil and a piece of old brown paper. William Jackson Rose (grandfather of our very own Bob Plaisted and whose relatives fought in the Revolutionary War, having the town of Roseville named after them) completed his project in 1887 and New Lexington had a beautiful Town Hall, Fire Department, and Opera House. Standing in front of the building on Main Street to the left were two large double doors that housed the two fire trucks. If you stand back and look up, you'll still see the tall brick chimney-like tower that was used to dry out the fire hoses after a fire. The original bell that once rang in the bell tower is now on display in the fire department. As you climb the stairs into the building to pay your water bill, glance to the right and you'll see the original box office where you purchased tickets for the many

traveling road shows for which Barb Mooney's mother played the piano. As you entered the doors, there was a wall to the left, which boxed in the fire truck area. Now you had to make a decision, go straight ahead and sit in the floor level of the opera house or climb the existing magnificent wooden staircase to the balcony which curved and hung over the lower seating. Ludowici used to sponsor the minstrel shows, which were held on the opera house stage. Of course, if you weren't going to a show, at the top of the staircase was a hallway with two doors. The first door on the left has been the mayor's/city council chambers since 1887. The second door on the left was the fireman's hall where they could relax, hold meetings, and even shoot a game of pool. Our first fire chief, Joseph Weiland, 1872-1908 must have been proud to finally have a new facility after 15 years. You might wonder about restroom facilities of the day. Behind the town hall prior to the new addition to house newer/bigger fire trucks, was a six-

foot wooden fence between the back of the opera house and the alley. Inside the fence stood two outhouses and a jail. Unfortunately, but in keeping with the needs of the community, the opera house was gutted in 1965 to make room for the new fire trucks and a new addition was added in 1977.

The New Lexington Town Hall will become the new home to a nonprofit group entitled the Perry County Opera House and Cultural Arts Center, Inc. Its mission is to preserve the historical integrity of the building through restoration and to provide Perry County with a public facility that will house a museum, black box theatre, art gallery, and eventually the restored opera house. Coupled with the City of New Lexington's revitalization of their downtown area project, this facility will bring much needed culture to our Appalachian area for local residents as well as increase tourism to the downtown area.

BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP:

- Support and promote the arts in Perry County
- Decision making and voting privileges
- Provide assistance with restoration projects
- Opportunity to display and/or present your work
- Help with operational costs
- Opportunity for involvement on a committee, as an officer, or on the Board
- Provide arts programs for our children and adults