

Rally to be held at old Galion High School

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The adaptive reuse committee has scheduled a rally for Thursday at 6:30 p.m. in front of the school located at Union and Church streets to gather much needed support in their mission to create a usable, productive space in the historic building.

Three groups have banded together joining efforts to save the old Galion High School: The Adaptive ReUse Committee, the Galion Cultural and Conference Center and the plaintiffs in the legal action forcing the Galion Board of Education to halt demolition.

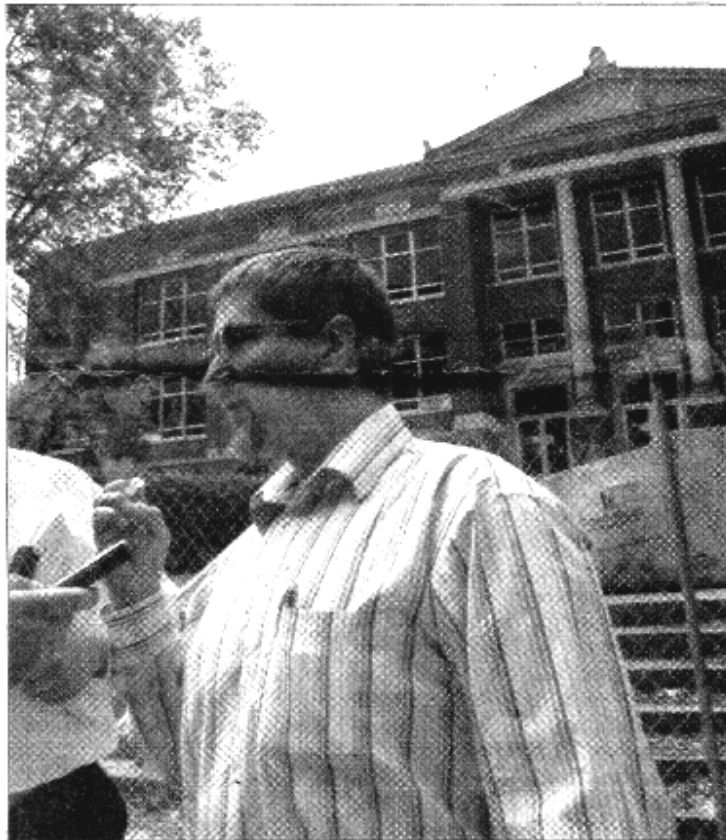
"This is more than bricks

and mortar," said Thomas Palmer. "This represents money. This is the largest asset the school district owns."

Support for saving the old high school has grown steadily as have the number of petition signers. The preservation group has over 1,432 signatures from the community urging the Galion board to not tear down the

building, but to save it for community use. Palmer said the signatures represent 80 percent Galion residents with Galion High School classes of 1941 to 2007 represented. The 1917 Galion High School was put on the 2008 List of Ohio's Most Endangered Historic Sites this week, along side the Warren G. Harding High School in

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Thomas Palmer (not shown) and Steven Kernle meet with the press Tuesday to answer questions about the project of remodeling and reusing the old Galion High School. Palmer and Kernle, part of a larger group trying to save the building, are asking for community support and help in meeting the Galion Board of Education's demands for cash and liquid assets.



INQUIRER PHOTO/RACHEL MENDELL

Griffins, lotus leaves and Corinthian pillars are part of the Egyptian architectural design included on the face of the old Galion High School. These designs are echoed in the auditorium as well which was a classic trait in the Howard and Merriam style, promoting the antiquity fervor following the discovery of King Tut's tomb. Howard and Merriam also designed university hall in Bowling Green and America's first Presidential Library.

Rally

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Warren and the South High School in Springfield. Local groups are working to save these high schools in the face of board opposition there as well.

"Judge Wiseman has been very receptive to a compromise," said Steven Kemle, one of the plaintiffs working on meeting the demands of the board. "We are trying to meet those conditions.

Both sides in the case to

save the school met last week to further negotiations. The Galion Board of Education has cut their demands down to three: \$100,000 cash to purchase the building, \$800,000 in liquid assets for future demolition and an occupancy permit within three years. The \$800,000 doesn't have to be cash, but it can't be collateral. It could be cash equivalent like bonds or a letter of credit from a financial institution.

The Adaptive Re-Use Committee have been work-

ing continually to meet the boards demands, including a security structure which they thought would satisfy, but was rejected. The group is asking for help to save the building.

More information can be accessed online at <http://ohiosmostendangered2008.squarespace.com> and www.1917ghs.com

There is a myspace page for the old high school as well as a facebook site. For more information call 419-689-2284 or 614-437-8393.