



# HERITAGE OHIO

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## SUCCESS STORIES

# HISTORIC SCHOOLS

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## PATASKALA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PATASKALA, OHIO

Built in 1908, Pataskala Elementary centers 'Old Town' Pataskala, a locally recognized area of historic homes and buildings. As recently as 1997 however, original sections of the building were condemned as unfit to house students. Remaining sections were in a state of similar decline. Insufficient classroom size, inferior technology, substandard electric and mechanical systems were but a sample of the school's problems.

The deteriorating condition of Pataskala Elementary necessitated action and the School Board recognized renovation to be a more economical alternative to new construction. With community support, the building was renovated. Restoration began in the spring of 1999 and was completed in the fall of 2001.

Renovation included a complete classroom reconfiguration, new mechanical and electrical systems, technology upgrades, and a substantial addition for classrooms and administrator offices. The school's auditorium, previously the site of various community events, was converted to a media center and oversized art and music classrooms. Though the auditorium's conversion became a point of controversy as the community valued it's history, with its renovation students gained exceptional learning spaces.

The renovation of Pataskala Elementary has created a state-of-the-art educational facility and rejuvenated 'Old Town' Pataskala. At a modest cost of \$6.2 million, the community has preserved the school's legacy of education.



# CONTACT INFORMATION AND PROJECT DETAILS

## ARCHITECT/BUILDER

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## SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR

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## SCHOOL DESCRIPTION

**School:** Pataskala Elementary

**Address:** 395 South High Street, Pataskala  
Ohio 43033

**Size:** 63,845 sq feet (following renovation/  
addition); 44,669 sq feet (existing), 19,176  
sq feet (addition)

**Enrollment:** 495

**Student/teacher ratio:** 17.1

## HISTORIC/RENOVATION RECORD

**Date of construction:** 1908

**Date of renovation:** 2001

**Date of previous additions:** 1931, 1965

**Previous renovations/additions:** Additional classrooms and a gymnasium were added in 1931. Still more classrooms were constructed in 1965. The renovation included construction of administrator offices and several classrooms.

## LOCATION

**Historic District:** No historic district.

However, Pataskala Elementary is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Several buildings within walking distance of the school are also listed on the National Register.

**Position within community:** Though the surrounding area is not a recognized historic district, many neighboring homes are of historic value. The area is referred to as 'Old Town'.

## LOCATION (CONT)

**Busing:** While students residing in 'Old Town' are capable of walking, many students reside in satellite housing developments. Thus busing is made available to all students.

## COST

**Total Cost:** \$6.2 million

**Funding ratio:** 100% local

## RENOVATION DESCRIPTION

**State of school prior to renovation:** The original 1908 section of the building had been condemned in 1997. The school's population had then been consolidated into the buildings few remaining classrooms. Classrooms of the 1931 section served as a makeshift library while an old shower room served as the school's computer lab. Two modular classrooms purchased by the district in 1978 sat behind the school, both were in need of repair.

**Description of renovation process:** During renovation, much of the school's student population was redistributed into surrounding district buildings.

## RENOVATION SUCCESSES

**Mechanical/HVAC:** The renovation included new heating and cooling systems. Variable air volume cooling systems and two new gas fired boilers were installed.

**Electrical:** A new electrical system was installed providing classrooms with an adequate number of outlets.

**Disabilities Act compliance:** An elevator was installed providing handicap access to the whole of the building.

**Technology integration:** Every classroom is equipped with three computers with Internet access. Additionally, classrooms are equipped with a television capable of projecting computer images. Furthermore, the school offers a computer lab with 25 additional computers, all with Internet access.

**Adaptation to educational needs:** The original auditorium was converted into a media center and oversized music and art classrooms. This aspect of renovation proved to be the most controversial as much of the community had expressed displeasure with the loss of the auditorium because community events had long been held there.

**Safety compliance:** The renovation included installation of a new fire suppression system with fire pump backup. Though much of the buildings asbestos has been removed, some remains in the buildings 1965 addition in the form of pipefittings and installation.

**Other/unique renovation successes:** The renovation of Pataskala Elementary has refocused 'Old Town' Pataskala around the school. It has rejuvenated the area.