

WESTERN RESERVE ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIANS

CLEVELAND, OHIO

Founded 1965

A Chapter of the SOCIETY of ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIANS



SPRING 2026

PROGRAM & INFORMATION

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Steve Kish at (440) 382-7454 or email stevekish74@aol.com website www.wrah.org

WESTERN RESERVE ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIANS

PURPOSE:

Western Reserve Architectural Historians was founded in 1965 to provide an opportunity for persons from all professions and backgrounds to meet regularly so that they might understand and enjoy the region's architectural heritage. At least six times per year, through walking tours, on-site visits, lectures, and discussions, WRAH members explore the notable, unusual, and significant in the built environment.

AWARDS:

The Western Reserve Award is given when merited, to recognize significant achievements and outstanding contributions to the architectural history of Ohio and the Western Reserve in particular. Some years, as a memorial to Edmund H. Chapman, Professor of Art History, Western Reserve University, a topical book is presented to a local library. On occasion, WRAH trustees may present an award of achievement.

2026 WRAH OFFICERS AND TRUSTEES

President	Sarah Klann	Barbara Flinn	Immediate Past President
Vice President	Stephen Kish		
Treasurer	Anne Meissner	Angelina Bair Shirley Lutts Steven Wexberg	Trustees
Associate Treasurer	Will Krause		
Secretary	Laura Peskin	Anne Meissner	Awards & Publications
Chapter Historian	Kenneth Goldberg	Richard Christ	Webmaster

RECENT RECIPIENTS OF THE SAH WESTERN RESERVE AWARD

1997:	Foster Armstrong, Richard Klein, & Cara Armstrong A Guide to Cleveland's Sacred Landmarks	2009:	Timothy Barrett, for Research and Advocacy towards Preservation of Significant Sacred Structures.
1998:	Eleven Authors in Search of a Building Edited by Cynthia C. Davidson	2012:	Walter Leedy, (Awarded Posthumously) Eric Mendelson's Park Synagogue Edited by Sara Jane Pearman
1999:	Elwin C. Robison First Kirtland Temple: Design, Construction, and Historic Context	2014:	Nina Freedlander Gibans and James D. Gibans Cleveland Goes Modern: Design for the Home, 1930-1970
2000:	Eric Johanneson (Awarded Posthumously) A Cleveland Legacy: the Architecture of Walker and Weeks	2018:	Laura DeMarco Lost Cleveland
2001:	Ann Marie Wieland, Cleveland State University A Century of Planning in Cleveland	2021:	Jeannine DeNobel Love Cleveland Architecture 1890-1930 Building the City Beautiful
2008:	Bratenahl Historical Society A Place Apart: The History of Bratenahl, Ohio Dianna Tittle, author, Color photos by Jennie Jones	2024:	Lauren Pacini Empire Builders

WRAH SPRING 2026 PROGRAM

Events Free and Open to the Public Except as Specified Below

Date: Saturday, March 21, 2026 at 1:30 PM
Subject: Saint Mary Seminary and Graduate School of Theology/Borromeo Seminary
Speaker: Reverend Andrew B. Turner, S.T.L., D.Min., President-Rector
Place: Saint Mary and Borromeo Seminaries, 28700 Euclid Avenue, Wickliffe, Ohio

Saint Mary Seminary and Graduate School of Theology as well as Borromeo Seminary, a college formation program for the priesthood, are housed in the Center for Pastoral Leadership of the Catholic Diocese of Cleveland in Wickliffe. The focal point of the Center is the modern tau-shaped Chapel, directly beneath the tower, where daily liturgy is celebrated. Designed to hold 300 people, the Chapel contains a pipe organ and is enhanced by 26 stained glass windows. The library houses a collection of historically significant volumes, including the Bishop Ignatius Horstmann collection. The *Aula Magna* (Great Hall) is an auditorium for special events, larger meetings, lectures, and conferences. Reverend Andrew Turner, President-Rector will discuss the history of Borromeo and Saint Mary Seminaries and lead a tour of the campus. Theresa Shine of the Wickliffe Historical Society will give a short presentation about the McKinney farm (Ridgemere) which previously occupied the site. **Parking:** Ample off-street parking is available at the Euclid Avenue entrance. **RSVP reservations to Laura Peskin at 440.637.5829 or email ldeepclvnd@gmail.com by Monday, March 16.**

Date: Friday, April 10, 2026 at 3:30 PM
Subject: Preserving the Vanishing City & A Tour of an Iconic Library
Speakers: Stephanie Ryberg-Webster, Ph.D., Professor, Cleveland State University
Angela Guinther, Manager, Carnegie West Branch, & Staff
Place: Cleveland Public Library - Carnegie West Branch, 1900 Fulton Rd., Cleveland, Ohio

The program will begin at 3:30 PM with a tour of the triangular-shaped, Beaux Arts style, Carnegie West Branch of the Cleveland Public Library. Erected in 1910, the library was designed by New York architect, Edward L. Tilton, a specialist in libraries. Following the tour and after a short interlude featuring light refreshments, at 4:30 PM, Stephanie Ryberg-Webster, Ph.D., Professor, Cleveland State University, will talk about her fascinating book, *Preserving the Vanishing City: Historic Preservation and Urban Decline in Cleveland, Ohio*, in which she discusses preservation in many contexts. Her talk will focus on documentation of the industrial city, historic preservation, downtown revitalization, and preserving neighborhoods. Dr. Ryberg-Webster is the recipient of the 2025 SAH Western Reserve Award which will be presented to her at this program. **Parking:** Ample on-street parking in front of and around the library as well as on adjacent side streets. **RSVP reservations to Laura Peskin at 440.637.5829 or email ldeepclvnd@gmail.com by Monday, April 6.**

Date: Sunday, May 17, 2026 at 2:00 PM **MEMBERS ONLY**
Subject: Architectural Education, Practice, Studio and Library
Speaker: David Ellison, AIA
Place: The D. H. Ellison Company, 2002 West 41st Street, Cleveland, Ohio

The circa 1865 commercial building at the SW corner of Lorain Avenue and West 41st Street in the Ohio City neighborhood will be the site of a tour and presentation by architect David Ellison. Educated at the Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Art and the Institute of Classical Architecture and Art in New York City, Mr. Ellison will relate the stories of the building and his formal and hands-on training. Meaning of the term "architectural practice" may become clearer. His studio and architectural library will be open for exploration and explanation. The D. H. Ellison Company is a small "boutique" architectural firm that specializes primarily in residential and small commercial; new old work, frequently in the context of an older house or building; and sometimes building from scratch. David Ellison is often involved in preservation efforts both in front and behind the scenes. Preservation of the ca. 1971 Cleveland Trust Co. building, now known as "The 9" hotel, was a focus for over a year, while unfettered real estate development in Cleveland's historic neighborhoods, promoted by the Jackson and Bibb administrations, has been a recent area of involvement. **Accessibility:** The tour will require attendees to navigate a staircase as the building does not have an elevator. **Parking:** Available on city streets. **Reservations:** Limited and mandatory. **RSVP reservations to Steve Kish at 440.382.7454 or email stevekish74@aol.com by Friday, May 8.**

Date: Sunday, June 28, 2026 at 12:30 PM **MEMBERS ONLY**
Subject: Mornington Lane: The First Condominium in Cuyahoga County
Speakers: Sara Stashower, Homeowner and Condominium Historian
Richard Bozic, Architect and Member of Original Design and Construction Team
Place: Mornington Lane Condominium, Cleveland Heights, Ohio (details below)

Attendees will assemble in the Ballroom for a general presentation, including an overview of the history of the site and property as it now stands, by Ms. Stashower as well as a discussion of the design and construction of the complex by Mr. Bozic. A tour of the property will follow. Light refreshments will be served. **Directions and Accessibility:** The Mornington Lane Condominium is on the city block of East Overlook, Coventry, Edgehill and Mornington Lane in Cleveland Hts. There are three entrances to the property; you will park on (either side) of East Overlook and use the entrance at the corner of East Overlook and Mornington Lane (it will be identified). Follow the path to the Ballroom Entrance. There are stairs to the Ballroom but no elevator. Because of uneven stone walks, "sensible" shoes should be worn. **Reservations:** Limited and mandatory. **RSVP reservations to Laura Peskin at 440.637.5829 or email ldeepclvnd@gmail.com by Monday, June 22.**