# Local Historic Landmark Application

*City of Green, Summit County, Ohio*

**Planning Department**
1755 Town Park Boulevard  PO Box 278  Green, OH  44232  (330) 896-6614 (p)  (330) 896-6606 (f)

## Property Information

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Address: (please include city &amp; zip code)</th>
<th>4890 Thursby Road, North Canton, Ohio 44720</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Acreage:</td>
<td>3.91 acres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parcel #:</td>
<td>2801041</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proposed Landmark Name:</td>
<td>Greensburg Cemetery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Period of Significance:</td>
<td>1838–1938</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Applicant

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name:</th>
<th>Green Historical Society</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mailing Address:</td>
<td>P.O. Box 533</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City/State/Zip:</td>
<td>Green, Ohio 44232</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phone:</td>
<td>330-776-8652</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mobile:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Email:</td>
<td><a href="mailto:board@greenhistoricalsociety.com">board@greenhistoricalsociety.com</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Owner

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name:</th>
<th>City of Green</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mailing Address:</td>
<td>P.O. Box 278</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City/State/Zip:</td>
<td>Green, Ohio 44232</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phone:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mobile:</td>
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<td>Email:</td>
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## Landmark Designation Criteria (check all that apply)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ref: Chapter 278(2)(F)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Possesses integrity of design, location, setting, materials, workmanship &amp; association</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of the city’s history</td>
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<tr>
<td>Associated with the lives of persons significant in the city’s past</td>
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<tr>
<td>Embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period or method of construction, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction</td>
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<tr>
<td>Has yielded or is likely to yield information important in history or prehistory</td>
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## Landmark Narrative of Significance

*Provide a narrative, under separate cover, that describes how the proposed landmark meets the City’s criteria for Landmark Designation. Please reference each criterion marked in the above section.*

*Provide any additional information that relates to the proposed landmark. Areas of importance shall include, but are not limited to, the following:*

<p>| |</p>
<table>
<thead>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Time period of significance</td>
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<tr>
<td>Historic function or use</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Significant events that occurred at, around or resulted in the proposed landmark</td>
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<tr>
<td>Important persons associated with the proposed landmark</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Detailed description of the physical characteristics of the proposed landmark, including the architectural style and materials used</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A list of significant exterior architectural features that should be protected</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Significant dates associated with the proposed landmark</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Detailed description of the property</td>
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<tr>
<td>Description of the current condition of the proposed landmark and whether it has maintained its historical integrity in terms of location, design, materials, etc.</td>
</tr>
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</table>
Historic Landmark Agreement

The undersigned owner(s) hereby grant(s) permission for the property located at 4890 Thursby Road to be considered for local individual historic landmark designation, pursuant to the City of Green Historic Preservation Ordinance (ref. Chapter 278).

I understand the upon designation, I or my successors will be obligated to secure a Certificate of Appropriateness from the Historic Preservation Commission or the City of Green prior to alteration to the designated structure. An alteration to the designated structure is defined as any material change in the external architectural features or in the interior of any such structure when and to the extent that its interior features are specifically included in the relevant designation. A Certificate of Appropriateness shall also be secured prior to demolition of this historic landmark.

I also understand that this designation transfers with the title of the property should the property be sold, or if legal or beneficial title is otherwise transferred.

Dated this ________ day of __________________, 20________.

________________________________________
Owner(s) Name (please print)

________________________________________
Owner(s) Signature

State of _____________________

County of _____________________

Subscribed and sworn to me this ______ day of __________________, 20________.

________________________________________
Notary Public
## Landmark Application Checklist

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Status</th>
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<tr>
<td>Pre-application conference with Planning Department staff</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><em>(Call 330-896-6614 to schedule a pre-application conference)</em></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Completed application with authorized signatures <em>(see agreement)</em></td>
<td>x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Historic Landmark Agreement, executed by property owner</td>
<td>x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Written documentation establishing the applicant as owner of the nominated property and that each owner consents to the proposed landmark designation. In the event legal and equitable title is held by separate parties, written consent of each shall be required.</td>
<td>x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Documentation of age, i.e. deed, transfer or documentation from a recognized source</td>
<td>x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A written narrative describing the structure, building or site. This narrative must also list the applicable historic criteria (listed in application) and explain why the proposed landmark meets this criteria. Must include supporting documentation, i.e., published histories, family histories, records, maps, census information, etc.</td>
<td>x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Photographs of the proposed landmark: all sides of house and property and a straight-on street view <em>(must be submitted electronically or on CD)</em> <em>(will follow via email)</em></td>
<td>x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Front, side and rear elevation drawing <em>(if available)</em></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Please submit this application and all required materials to the City of Green Planning Department. For more information, please contact Sarah Haring at 330-896-6614 or sharing@cityofgreen.org.*
Submittal Addendum to HPC Application for Historic Designation  
Greensburg Cemetery, 4890 Thursby Road, North Canton, Ohio 44720  
SE Quarter Section of Section 28  
Owner: City of Green  

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Exterior Photographs

Cemetery Overview
Evangelical Marker – placed by the Evangelical Association in 1929 at the Centennial Celebration
Site of the First Evangelical Church in Ohio (West of Pennsylvania)
Description of the Property

The proposed local landmark includes three sections of a cemetery that are today listed as a single parcel by the Summit County Recorders Office. One section of the cemetery is still in use for burials. The parcel also includes the site of the first Evangelical Church in Ohio/first Evangelical Church West of Pennsylvania.

The Evangelical Association began in 1800 in Eastern Pennsylvania with the preaching of Jacob Albright. Jacob Albright was of German decent. Albright modeled his new faith from his experiences with the Methodists in Pennsylvania, but with the important difference that his sermons were given in German, which was generally unacceptable to the Methodists who used English exclusively. As the Evangelical Church was expanding throughout Pennsylvania, many Pennsylvanians where migrating west in search of land. Circuit Riders from Pennsylvania began entering Ohio to reach new settlers and Pennsylvania natives already familiar with the Evangelical Church. After the construction of the first church in Ohio in Greensburg in 1838, more Pennsylvania Germans migrated into Greensburg. The Evangelical Church followers in Greensburg were so numerous and prosperous that they were able to establish the Greensburg Seminary in 1855.

During the late 1800’s the Evangelical Association became a large, successful, national denomination and Greensburg remained a loyal yet less populous Evangelical settlement. The Evangelical Association merged with the United Brethren in 1946 to form the Evangelical United Bretheran Church. The E.U.B. Church would eventual merge with the Methodist Episcopal Church in 1968 to form the United Methodist Church. The congregation of the Greensburg United Methodist Church today traces its roots to the first Evangelical Church in Ohio built on the land of the proposed designation.

The first Evangelical Church in Ohio/first Evangelical Church West of Pennsylvania was constructed in late 1838 near the current cemetery entrance off of Thursby Road. In 1851 a new 45x60 church building was constructed in Greensburg. The old church building was moved from the lot in front of the cemetery to Greensburg in 1855 and was then used as a rooming house for students of the Greensburg Cemetery. The old church stood on the north side of the street a little east of the square and was used as a private residence until 1945 when it was replaced by a modern dwelling. In 1929 a stone marker was placed at the site of the first church on the front portion of the cemetery lot. The stone marker on the cemetery lot and the slight change in the appearance of the grass where the old church foundation was filled are the only remaining indication of the first Evangelical Church in Ohio.

Time Period of Significance

The time period of significance is at least 1838 through 1938. The time period begins with the construction of the church and first burials and continues through the time of the last burials of our early settlers and veterans and their descendants.
Exhibit 1: Old Tax Map from Summit County Fiscal Office Indicating the Three Parcels Comprising Greensburg Cemetery

Available at [http://scids.summitoh.net/gpaws2internet/](http://scids.summitoh.net/gpaws2internet/).

Parcel #1 (red) – Deeded by Peter Thornton, 1838 (see Exhibit 2)

Parcel #2 (green) – Deeded by George Cougler, 1874 (see Exhibit 3)

Parcel #3 (blue) – Deeded by Jacob F. & Emma Boettler, 1908 (see Exhibit 4)
#### Documentation of Age

**Exhibit 2: Summit County Recorder’s Office Deed Book 4, Pages 437-438, copy of deed indicating transfer of property from Peter Thornton to Adam Klinefelter, Henry Swartz, and Peter Thornton as Trustees of the Evangelical Association dated November 15, 1838.**

![Copy of deed indicating transfer of property from Peter Thornton to Adam Klinefelter, Henry Swartz, and Peter Thornton as Trustees of the Evangelical Association dated November 15, 1838.]

Prepared by the Green Historical Society June 2010
State of Ohio, before me, a Justice of the Peace within and for said County, personally came Peter Thornton, Mark J. Stockton, recorder in the within commonwealth and this day acknowledged the sum of $100.00 to be due for the assessment and surcharges herein mentioned. And he said Katherine Thornton, wife of the said Peter Thornton being examined, deposed and sworn, said Peter Thornton, the said Katherine Thornton, and the contents of said deed being read, heard, and explained to her, she declared that she voluntarily signed and acknowledged the same and still remain indebted therefor. In testimony whereof, I have hereunto subscribed my name this fifteenth day of November 1835.

Alexander W. Smith
Justice of the Peace

Recorded 13th 1843.
Exhibit 3: Summit County Recorder's Office Deed Book 95, Pages 26-27, copy of deed indicating transfer of property from George Gougler to Trustees of Evangelical Church of Greensburgh (Greensburg) dated April 1, 1874.
South 87 1/2 East 10, 80, 43, thence South 1 West 225 5/6th of a chain to the place of Beginning containing one acre of land with the appurtenances and all the estate, title and interest of the said granter therein. And the said grantor do hereby covenant and agree with the said grantees that at the time of the delivery hereof the said grantor was the lawful owner of the premises above granted and ceded thereof, for himself absolute and that they will warrant and defend the same from and against the same from all actions and proceedings and claims forever. In witness to the foregoing conveyance the said grantor do hereby set their hands and seal this first day of April A.D. 1874. Signed, sealed and delivered in presence of us.

George Gougler
Mary Gougler

The State of Ohio

Personally appeared before me, Summit County, George Gougler and Mary Gougler, his wife, grantors in the aforesaid deed and acknowledged the same to be their voluntary act and deed, and the said Mary Gougler being by me examined apart from her said husband and the contents of the said deed made known to her, she declared that she voluntarily signed, sealed and acknowledged the same and that she is still satisfied therewith. Witness my hand and seal this first day of April A.D. 1874.

Recorded January 7th, 1875.

Justice of the Peace

George W. Payne Recorder
Exhibit 4: Summit County Recorder's Office Deed Book 370, Page 660, copy of deed indicating transfer of property from Jacob F. Boettler & Emma Boettler to Trustees of the Evangelical Association of North America dated October 13, 1908.
Exhibit 5: Copy of 1856 Map of Summit County, published by Matthews & Taintor, map of Green Township.

Exhibit 6: 1874 Map and Atlas of Summit County, Map of Green Township, Tackabury, Mead & Moffet, Philadelphia 1874, indicating a “G.Y.,” graveyard, at the location of the subject designation.

Documentation of Historical Significance

Exhibit 7: Cemeteries of Summit Co., OH, Vol. 2, Summit County Chapter OGS, 1979 (inscriptions), available from Akron-Summit Public Library Special Collections.

This reference includes detailed information about Greensburg Cemetery including identification of grave inscriptions by location, either section and row or by lot.

At page 72 is a listing of the Green Township Veterans buried in Greensburg Cemetery listing name and war of 70 veterans of the wars of 1812, Mexican, Civil, Spanish, and World War I.

From page 73 to 92 is a geographically listing of inscriptions including names, birth date, death date, and age, if inscribed. On page 92 the following note is found:

“No effort has been spared to make the recording of this cemetery as accurate as possible. Esther Powell read the older inscriptions. Genevieve Bolin and Beverly Coss recorded the older part a few years ago. In the Summer of 1978, Russell and Genevieve Bolin recorded the entire cemetery with the help of friends, A. and G. Kungle, Mrs. L. W. Jacobs, and Dr. and Mrs. Robert Yohe. In 1979, Alan and Charlene Barden, literally, uncovered additional gravestones. All of the recordings have been correlated and arranged by Alan Barden.”

The Green Historical Society holds a copy of the significant pages of this book.

Exhibit 8: Inscriptions from Greensburg Cemetery on Thursby Road, Copied by Capt. Jeremiah J. Garman, Postmaster of Greensburg, later postmasters added to list, Gift of Bev Coss on July 26, 2000, to Akron-Summit County Library Special Collections.

This reference is a ledger book organized alphabetically by the last name of the deceased. The entries include the name of the deceased and the date of death. It appears that the ledger began sometime after 1900 when the existing stone inscriptions in the cemetery were recorded in the ledger book. Then, as burials occurred, additional names and dates were added to the ledger in chronological order by date of death.

A listing of deceased name, date of death, and cause of death in order of date of death is found at the back of the ledger from 1958 to 1980.

A note is found on the “R” ledger sheet that states “Paved road west started 5/19/21.”

The Green Historical Society holds a copy of the pages of this ledger.
Exhibit 9: Oldest Identifiable Stones

Dated 1842

Dated 1849

Dated 1848

Dated 1848

Dated 1855

Dated 1834
Exhibit 10: Description of Greensburg Cemetery from the *History of Summit County, Perrin, 1892*

From page 606, paragraph 1:

“The Evangelical church graveyard, about one half mile west of Greensburg, was started about the year 1836. Peter Thornton states he donated the first piece of this land to the church for cemetery purposes, and that his son, George Thornton, aged about twelve, as the first person buried there. In 1875, an additional acre of land was purchased from George Gougler, and added to this cemetery. Rev. Elias Stoeber was possibly the first person buried in the new addition.”

Note that the Deed transfer from Peter Thornton to the Trustees of the Evangelical Association in 1838 states that the Trustees are “...Trustees of a certain meeting house which is about being erected...”

Historic Function & Significant Event

Exhibit 11: Description of the Site of the First Evangelical Church West of Pennsylvania

The First Evangelical Church built West of Pennsylvania was located at the front of the Greensburg Cemetery. The church is described in *The Evangelical Church in Ohio, by Roy B. Leedy, page 67 as follows,*

“Greensburg Church, First West of Pennsylvania. The site of the first Evangelical Church building was three-quarters of a mile west of the village of Greensburg. Here on the west side of the road is located a beautiful cemetery on the hillside, sloping toward the east. Between the road and the cemetery is a vacant lot where the church stood. It was a plain 28x40 “Versammlungshause” (meeting house) without Cornish and with neither tower nor bell. It faced eastward with a double door entrance in the front, a side door opening to the south, and three windows on each side.

The women entered the church from the side door and occupied the pews on the south side. They approached their pews from an aisle along the south wall of the building. The other ends of the pews were closed with a solid board petition along the middle aisle. The pews occupied by the men were fitted against the north wall so that the only entrance was from the central aisle. The men entered from the double front door and there was no intermingling of the sexes during worship services. A stove stood on each side of the room before the front pews near the side wall. There was an “amen corner” on both sides of the front part of the church – on the south for the women and on the north for the men. The rostrum was semi-circular in form; one step high with a railing used for the communion service, and the pulpit stand on a still higher platform.”
Exhibit 11: Centennial Celebration of the Evangelical Church in Ohio – Pilgrimage to Visit Site of the First Evangelical Church West of Pennsylvania & Placement of Stone Marker

The marker stone was placed at the location of the First Evangelical Church by the Evangelical Association during their Centennial Celebration in 1929. According to The Evangelical Church in Ohio, by Roy B. Leedy, page 331, “A centennial and home-coming was sponsored August 6-11, 1929, under the faithful labors of Merle A. Hayes.... On Saturday a large congregation witnessed the unveiling of a monument erected at the site of the first Evangelical Church building in Ohio.” See pictures in Leedy pages 330-331, showing crowd gathered at Greensburg Cemetery to witness unveiling of the stone marker. Note this pilgrimage also travelled to the site of Greensburg Seminary and the Conrad Dillman home in 1929.
Historic Persons: The Peter Thornton Family

Peter Thornton was born Monday, March 15, 1798 to John Thornton II, and his wife Magdalena (Witner) in Selins Grove, PA. In 1828 Peter arrived in Greensburg, OH. There he lived, married and raised six children of record. Records conflict as to whether Peter’s first wife was Catherine; however she is buried along with him in the Greensburg Cemetery. In 1866 he re-married to Lydea, born in 1818, when she was 49 years old.

It is unclear which of Peter’s wives is the mother of Peter’s six children, George, Fannie, Henry, Mary, Louisa, and Leah. George, born in 1828 died in 1836 at 10 years old. After the death of George, Peter Thornton donated one acre from his farm for consideration of $15.00 to the Evangelical Assoc. for the first meeting house (church) in Ohio, see deed recorded in Summit County Book 4, page 437. This one acre may have also been a burying ground for his first born, see description in Perrin.

Peter’s occupation in the early census was that of a stocking weaver at the age of 72. Peter Thornton died Saturday, June 16, 1888 at 90 years, 3 months, 11 days. Peter Thornton was a long time member and supporter of the Evangelical Association. Several of his children were also members of the Greensburg Congregation of the Evangelical Association. The Thornton, Strawhecker (Peter’s daughter Louisa was married to David Strawhecker) and Semler Families (Peter’s daughter Fannie was married to Albert Semler) are all buried in Greensburg Cemetery.
Documentation of Architectural Significance

Burial Arrangement
The cemetery graves are positioned east/west. This orientation is common throughout the United States and throughout the world at Christian burial locations. According to The Association for Gravestone Studies,

“(i)n many, but by no means all, early New England burying grounds the graves are positioned east/west. This east/west orientation is the most common orientation in other parts of the country and world as well. The earliest settlers had their feet pointing toward the east and the head of the coffin toward the west, ready to rise up and face the "new day" (the sun) when "the trumpet shall sound and the dead shall be raised" or when Christ would appear and they would be reborn.”

Evangelical Centennial Marker Stone

The marker stone shown above was placed at the location of the First Evangelical Church by the Evangelical Association during their Centennial Celebration in 1929. According to The Evangelical Church in Ohio, by Roy B. Leedy, page 331, “A centennial and home-coming was sponsored August 6-11, 1929, under the faithful labors of Merle A. Hayes.... On Saturday a large congregation witnessed the unveiling of a monument erected at the site of the first Evangelical Church building in Ohio.” See Leedy pages 330-331.
Gravestone Art

The gravestone art found in the Greensburg Cemetery reflects the Pennsylvania German heritage of the early settlers of Green and the religious beliefs of the Evangelicals in the 1800s.

Upward Pointing Hands
Many early stones in Greensburg Cemetery are inscribed with an upward pointing hand. On some stones, a flower (usually a rose) is present behind the upward pointing hand.

According to An A to Z Guide to Cemetery Icons by ISIS Publications, 2004-08, upward pointing hands signifies the hand of righteousness (citing Weeden). It also suggests the pathway or ascension and the elevated realms of heaven.
Shaking Hands

Shaking hands are common among married couples; indicating marriage, or farewell (An A to Z Guide to Cemetery Icons by ISIS Publications, 2004-08, citing Reid). Shaking hands can also suggest loyalty and friendship even after death and differs from the marriage symbol, in that the sleeves denote male and female in the latter (An A to Z Guide to Cemetery Icons by ISIS Publications, 2004-08, citing Reid).

According to The Association of Gravestone Studies, www.gravestonestudies.org, handshakes may be farewells to earthly existence or may be clasped hands of a couple to be reunited in death as they were in life, their devotion to each other not destroyed by death.
Other Notable Artistic Stones
A Sampling of Stones Representing the Variety of Tablet and Monument Styles and the Varying Inscription Styles
Submittal Addendum to HPC Application for Historic Designation  
Greensburg Cemetery, 4890 Thursby Road, North Canton, Ohio 44720  
SE Quarter Section of Section 28  
Owner: City of Green

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Susannah, age 88, died 3-12-28  
Nancy, married at 15, died 10-21-29  
David, son of D.A.S. Smith, died 10-14-27

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Prepared by the Green Historical Society June 2010

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Description of the Current Condition of the Proposed Landmark

Many grave markers are missing, broken or sunken in Parcel 1 of the cemetery, but the grounds of the cemetery are maintained in excellent condition overall. Active burials are still occurring in Parcel 3 of the cemetery.

No structural remains of the First Evangelical Church in Ohio are present in the Greensburg Cemetery. The stone marker at the front of the cemetery and the slight change in the appearance of the grass where the old church foundation was filled are the only remaining indication of the first Evangelical Church in Ohio.
Documentation Establishing Ownership of the Proposed Landmark Designation

No owner is listed for the subject parcel but the mailing address is listed as Green Township Trustees on the Summit County Fiscal Officers GIS website.