

# The Mahoning Valley Historical Society

## 2006 Historic Preservation Award Winners

*Generous support for this program came from the Raymond John Wean Foundation*

### Community Revitalization Awards

#### **Youngstown Water Works Building, *City of Youngstown Water Department***



The Youngstown Water Department's West Avenue Facility, originally constructed in the late nineteenth century in the Romanesque style and used by the city to house pumps for water intake from the Mahoning River and distribution to residents, sat vacant for many years. Rather than demolish the structure to provide space for new offices, ms consultants, inc. convinced the city to invest in the restoration of the building and conversion into office space. Phase I of a three phase project, this restoration allows the Water Department space to meet current needs as well as room for future expansion. One member of the Historical Society's judging panel commented that this project serves as a "shining example of transforming a building destined for the wrecking ball into a valuable and useful public facility."

#### **Kirk Road Trailhead, *Mill Creek MetroParks Bikeway***

Located on the former Niles and New Lisbon Railroad right-of-way, this project, designed by Ronald Cornell Faniro Architects, AIA, and Mill Creek MetroParks Chief Landscape Architect Stephan Avery, preserved two historic 1930's structures and incorporated them into a 21<sup>st</sup> century use as facilities to serve the Great Lakes to River Bike and Hike Trail running through Mahoning County. The two restored buildings, one built in 1934 by the Federal Emergency Relief Administration and the other built in 1938 by the Works Progress Administration, gained new life upon completion of this project. A shelter for trail users, built to look like a railroad depot, echoes the building stone used to construct the 1930's era buildings. One judge remarked that this addition showed "sensitivity to the site," while another complimented the "integration of old and new buildings."



## **Community Revitalization Awards (continued)**

### **Kinsman House Exterior Restoration, *City of Warren***



Built in 1832 by General Simon Perkins and presented to his daughter Olive upon her marriage to Frederick Kinsman, this house on Mahoning Avenue Northwest looks back on the historical development of Warren and, thanks to continuing preservation efforts, looks forward to an active role in the future of the City. Next to the house is the former office of the Erie Land Company, the site of a majority of the land transactions that occurred in the old Western Reserve in the first half of the nineteenth century. One of the finest examples of Greek Revival architecture surviving from the 1830's in Ohio, the house's exterior was restored over a six-month period in 2005. The City plans to make the buildings available to the public for exploration of Warren's history, for individuals and groups to host events, and for office space for some of the city's departments upon completion of an interior restoration. The Kinsman House and Land Office lend themselves to serving as a backdrop for festivals, outdoor events, and arts performances. One judge commented that it is "nice to see a city invest in its historical assets," while another felt strongly that this is an "impressive restoration project."

## **MVHS Trustees' Award of Achievement**

### **Volney Rogers Memorial Statue Restoration, *Mill Creek MetroParks***



Dedicated on October 12, 1920, this statue serves as a reminder to local residents of a visionary who created a place for residents to enjoy nature and escape the rapidly industrializing City of Youngstown. In 1918, the Youngstown Chamber of Commerce formed a committee to honor Volney Rogers for his tireless efforts to establish and protect Mill Creek Park. The committee commissioned Chicago sculptor Frederick C. Hibbard to create a bronze statue of Rogers. After more than 80 years and significant deterioration, Mill Creek MetroParks, with support from the Mill Creek Park Foundation, hired a conservation firm to inspect and suggest methods to restore the statue. The subsequent restoration included flushing remaining casting materials out of the statue and cleaning of the bronze exterior. A wax coating applied by the conservators will remain in good condition due to training of park staff to maintain and repair the coating as needed. One judge stated that the preservation of this monument "stands far and above as a project worthy of recognition."