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Phase One: Interior Rehabilitation

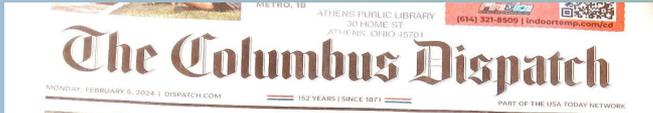
Phase Two: Adjacent Expansion



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New details surface in trial of ex-deputy

Former Franklin officer facing charge of murder

Bethany Bruner
Columbus Bureau
USA TODAY NETWORK

New details about the case of a former Franklin County sheriff's office deputy charged with murder and robbery homicide in the December 2016 killing of a Black man came to light during the first week of his trial in Columbus.

Michael James Mueller, 46, is charged with murder and robbery homicide in the December 2016 killing of a Black man. Mueller is charged with the murder of a Black man who was shot during the first week of his trial in Columbus.

See TRIAL DETAILS, Page 5A.



Black church's renewal fuels community spirit

Athens historic Mount Zion Baptist on mend

Diana King
Columbus Dispatch
USA TODAY NETWORK

Ada Woodson Adams' health is too compromised for her to step inside the more than 100-year-old church — with its wooden floors covered in thick layers of dust and mold growing up the walls — but she believes she is still alive today because she has work to do in honor of those who built it.

Adams, 84, grew up attending Mount Zion Baptist Church, a historically Black church in Athens, Ohio, built in the early 1900s by former slaves and other Black residents. Adams and her late husband, Alvin, were married in the church.

Now, more than 60 years later, she is part of extensive efforts to restore it to its former glory and reclaim the history of her ancestors and the formerly vibrant Black population in Athens.

"All the people who went together and built this church, they did it to see to



Mount Zion Baptist Church in Athens as seen Thursday. The church was founded more than 100 years ago by former slaves. The Mount Zion Black Cultural Center is restoring the building.

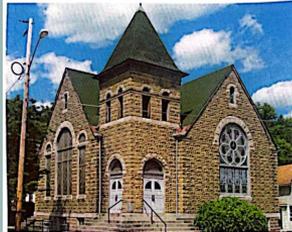
the public at large." "We're here, we have a presence in this community, and we're just as good as anybody else," Adams said. "Today, I'm saying Mount Zion has to have one objective: support everybody so that, too, can again be the beacon of light on the corner of Carpenter and Congress."

Though a large group of people are working to restore the building and make it into a community center and gathering place — including a 16-member working board — the project is about more than the structure to Adams.

In 2006, Adams and her husband had to move out of the Athens area because no one would hire them because of the color of their skin, she said. They moved back after retirement in 2016, and many of the Black-owned and built buildings had been demolished.

"I was brought back here not because I wanted to, but because of a higher power... It must be my ancestors calling, saying 'This is what you need to do,'" Adams said. "This is where I need to be, and I think I'm still alive today because I

See CHURCH, Page 2A



The historic Mount Zion Baptist Church on the corner of Congress and Carpenter streets.



Eliza Davison worked for many years as a cook for General Custer, and Andrew Jackson Davison was Athens first Black lawyer.



Edward and Martha Jane Berry opened the acclaimed Berry Hotel in the 1890s.



Christopher Davis was lynched by an Athens mob in November 1881. He was hung from a bridge on Mulberry Street despite his innocence.



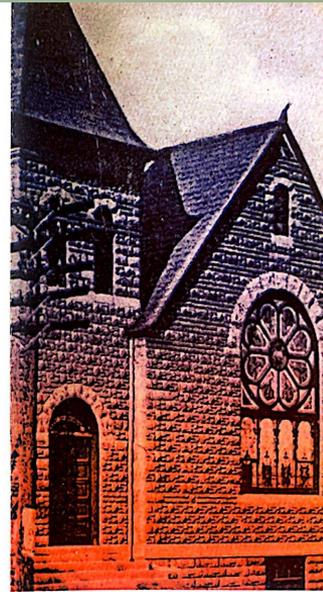
Olivia A. Davidson was a prominent educator. She married Booker T. Washington in 1886 in Athens, they later started the Tuskegee Institute.



Black architect William W. Cooke designed and built the Athens Post Office, now Ohio University's Haring Hall. The building originally opened in 1911.



Ohio University's Adams Hall was built in 2007 and named in honor of Alvin C. Adams. In 1959, Adams became the first Black American graduate of the OU School of Journalism, and he had a storied career.



Athens, Ohio Black History Map

OHIO UNIVERSITY
Center for Campus and Community Engagement

MOUNT ZION
BLACK CULTURAL CENTER

INDUSTRIAL GROUND



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Theodore Roosevelt, 1912



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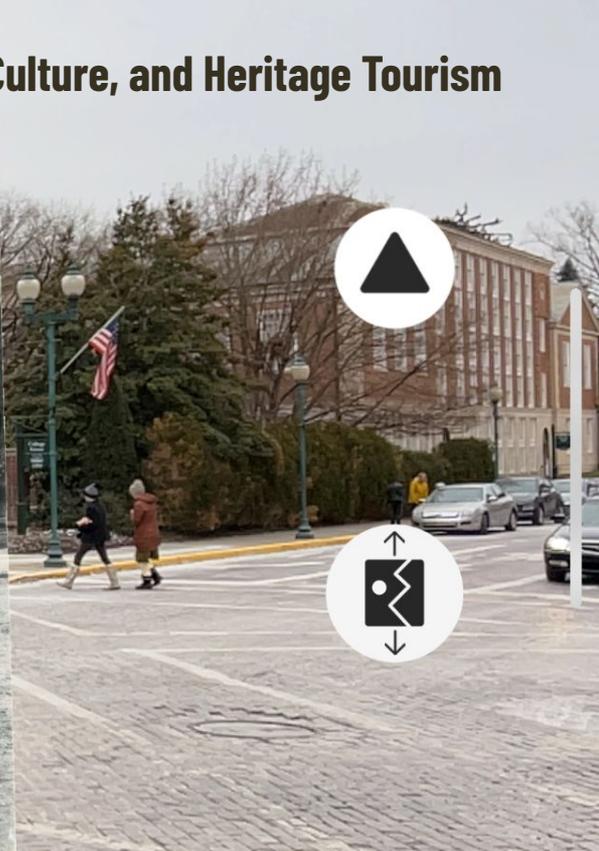
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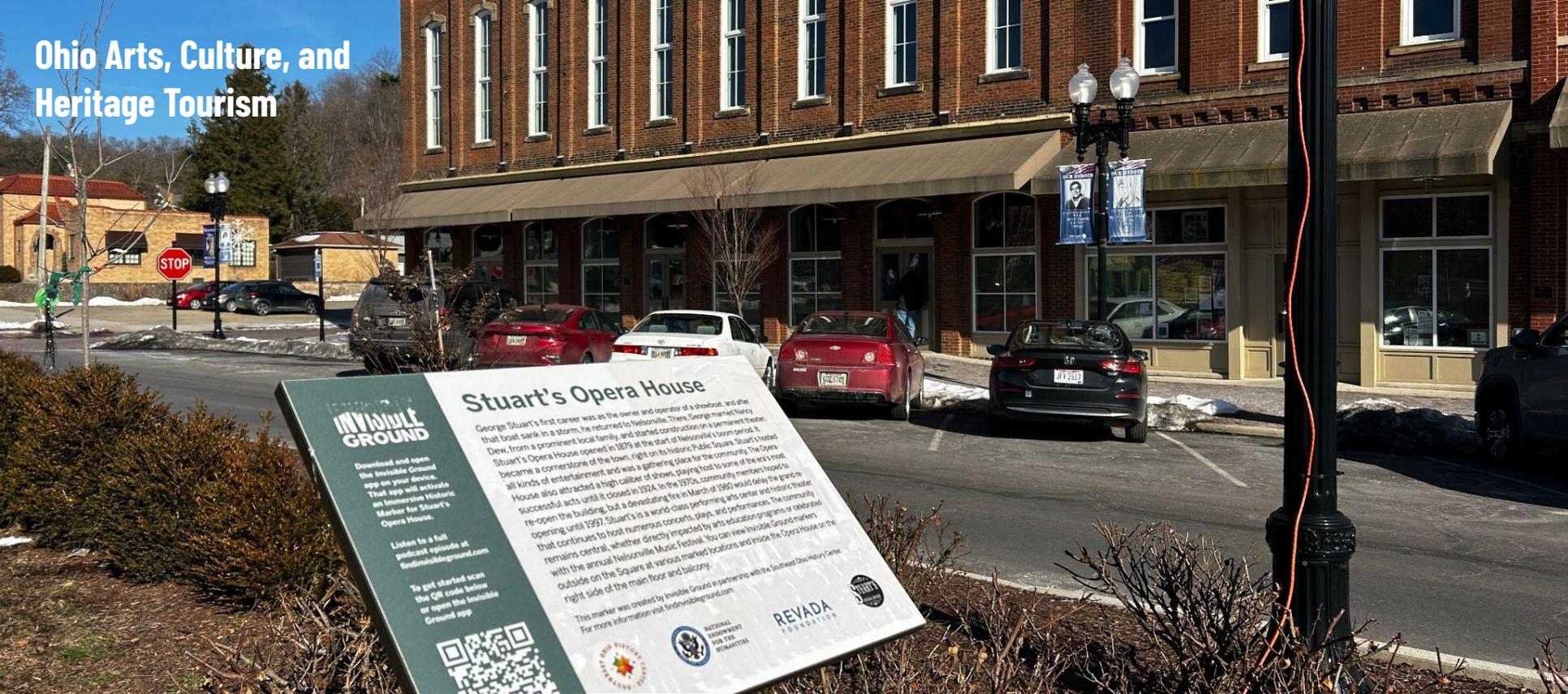
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To get started scan the QR code below or open the Invisible Ground app

Stuart's Opera House

George Stuart's first career was as the owner and operator of a theatrical, and after that boat sank in a storm, he returned to Nelsonville. There, George married Nancy Dew, from a prominent local family, and started construction on a permanent theater. Stuart's Opera House opened in 1879 at the start of Nelsonville's boom period. The Opera House became a cornerstone of the town, right on the square. The Opera House became a gathering place for the community. The Opera House became a place for all kinds of entertainment, and was a gathering place for the community. The Opera House also attracted a high caliber of shows, playing host to some of the era's most successful acts until it closed in 1924. In the 1970s, community members helped re-open the building, but a devastating fire in March of 1980 delayed the and re-opened until 1997. Stuart's is a world-class performing arts center and historic theater that continues to host numerous concerts, plays, and education programs in celebration with the annual Nelsonville Music Festival. You can view Invisible Ground markers outside on the main floor and balcony.

This marker was created by Invisible Ground in partnership with the Southeast Ohio History Center. For more information visit findinvisibleground.com.

OHIO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES

REVADE FOUNDATION

STUART'S OPERA HOUSE



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1909



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That app will activate
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Marker at the Athens
County Courthouse.

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Athens County Courthouse

Athens County was founded in 1804 and its government created shortly afterward in 1805. After conducting court proceedings in several local residences, a two-story log structure was built on this spot and served as the courthouse from 1807 to 1817. In 1817, it was replaced by a two-story brick courthouse that stood until 1874, when that second courthouse was deemed to be “beyond repair” and abandoned. The current courthouse became the third on this site and was dedicated on September 10, 1880. Designed by H.E. Myers, the brick structure is of Italianate design and filled with incredible architectural details including a beautiful iron stairwell and mosaic floors inside, and the old town clock in the tower above. A public drinking fountain adorned with a statue of the Goddess Hebe at the top graced the corner of Court Street and Washington Street in the 1900s. The Athens County Courthouse has played host to countless historic events. In 1876, Andrew Jackson Davison became the first Black lawyer to practice law in Athens. In 1908, William Howard Taft spoke on the Court Street steps during his successful presidential campaign. And in 1912, Theodore Roosevelt campaigned for the presidency from these same steps, but lost the election.

This marker was created by Invisible Ground in partnership with the Southeast Ohio History Center. Thank you to Tom O'Grady for the voiceover. For more information visit findinvisibleground.com



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Download the Invisible Ground app on your device. It will activate an Immersive Historic Marker at the Baileys Trail System's Chauncey-Dover Trailhead and Chauncey Community Park

Listen to a full podcast episode at findinvisibleground.com

To get started scan the QR code below or open the Invisible Ground app



Coal Mining in Chauncey

In 1838, two capitalists from Philadelphia moved to southeastern Ohio and partnered with Thomas Ewing and Samuel Vinton to purchase a salt mining company nearby from Resolved Fuller. The initial settlement was named Chauncey in honor of one of the capitalists, Elihu P. Chauncey. These initial mines would become an important part of the history of Chauncey, and the extracted resources of salt, and later coal, would power the growing United States. In the late 1890s and into the early 20th Century, coal mining would boom here in Chauncey as part of the rich coalfields of the Hocking Valley. The Strike of 1932 would bring labor disputes, explosions, fires, shootings, and the National Guard to town. The last mine closed permanently in 1952, which residents remarked brought an eerie silence to the community. The area where the Chauncey Community Park and Baileys Trail System's Chauncey-Dover Trailhead are today was the actual site of that New York Coal Company coal mine, known under other names like the Baileys Coal Mine, Chauncey Coal Mine, and Mine 25, or 255. The large tippie would have been right near this spot. The coal shaft was nearby with gob piles and references to the area's industrial past dotting the landscape. Down the paved bike path connector, you can still see the remains of the historic mining buildings associated with this location. You can use the Invisible Ground app to see the coal mine tippie, railroad, and historic images nearby that are marked.

This marker was created by Invisible Ground in partnership with the Southeast Ohio History Center and the Athens County Foundation. For more information visit findinvisibleground.com



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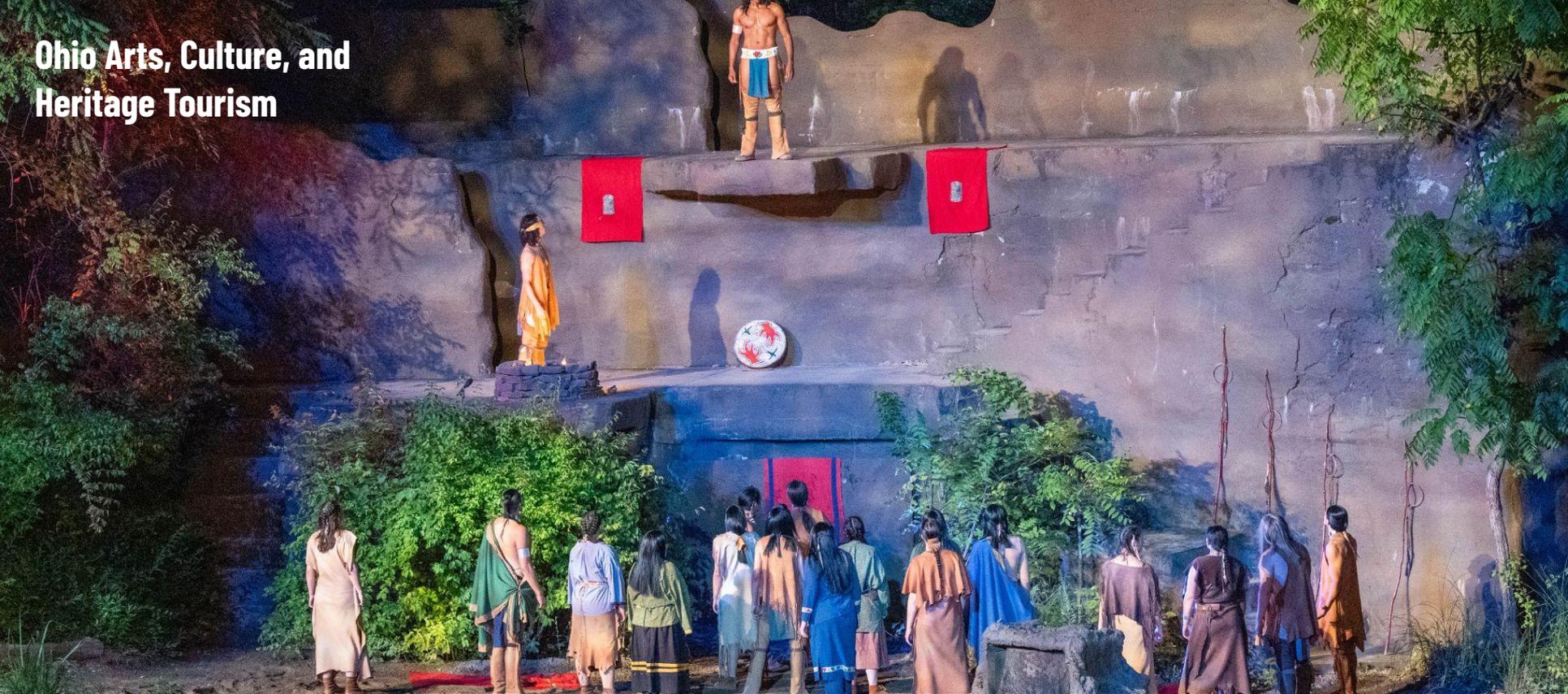
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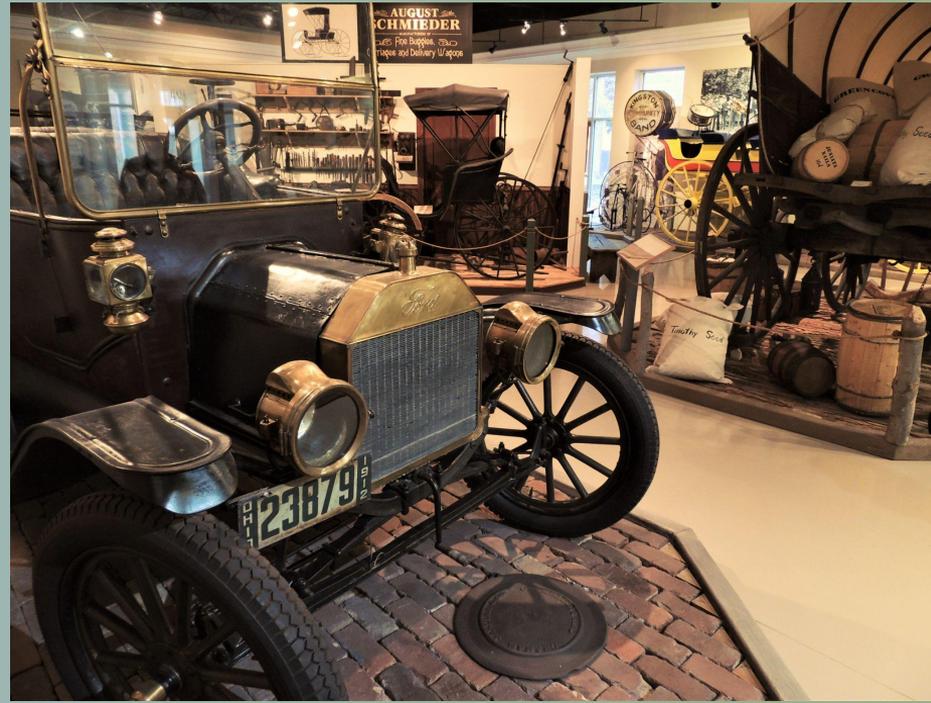
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