

Mayor of Portsmouth and Portsmouth City Council,

I would like to propose a use for the Marting's Building. I believe the building would make a great Regional Historical Center and Hall of Fame. It could include all the history and notable individuals and groups from Southern Ohio, Northern Kentucky, and West Virginia up to a radius of 50 to 75 miles.

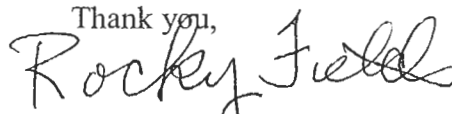
BASEMENT – Prehistory up through the 18th Century. This could include native peoples, explorers, pioneers, animals, plants, artifacts, fossils, weapons, clothing, dwellings, conflicts, etc. Animals could be depicted in their habitats and Native Americans and settlers could be shown in villages and period clothing, including military uniforms.

FIRST FLOOR – 19TH Century. This period could include the rich histories of the cities, villages, and counties within range of the center. Again, artifacts, dwellings, conflicts (Civil War, etc.), clothing, etc. could be exhibited. By including all the cities of the region they would all assume ownership. This would be an eternal captive audience, since schools would plan field trips and study groups around the center, and a short family drive would provide a day's entertainment. Future generations would take pride in the center as it grows in stature.

SECOND FLOOR – 20th Century to the present. This display could include the history and culture of each individual community. Cities, counties, and villages could be provided with their own display areas. The various entities would be responsible for the content of the display. Possible themes could be famous people, industries, groups, establishments (restaurants, theaters, etc.), and notable community celebrations. Brochures promoting tourism could be made available at each display.

THIRD FLOOR – Regional Hall of Fame. I have always believed we should have a hall of fame honoring the many famous people from this region. This is the perfect venue for such a display. The list is endless for not only a charter class, but for future classes of celebrities. The guidelines could be made strict, so as not to water down the Honorees. Special efforts could be made to include nominations from every corner of the region. The Hall Of Fame committee could include members from a wide range of backgrounds and communities. Again, by including all communities, we would be ensuring a captive audience due to ownership. The hardwood flooring on the 3rd floor would lend a special touch to the display, and to the grand induction ceremonies that could be held there.

I believe such a center would make wise use of the Marting's Building, and do honor to the region at the same time. Tour groups to the Portsmouth area would make the center part of their itinerary, and regional schools would plan field trips to visit it. It would be one more piece to what is becoming our best asset – tourism. The project could be funded, constructed, and maintained by grants, endowments, donations, fundraisers, admissions, and volunteers (senior citizen greeters, student tour guides, trades-people such as carpenters, electricians, plumbers, etc.). Everyone I have talked to agrees this would be a wise use of this facility.

Thank you,

Rocky Fields
353-4133