



The following are responses to some of the most frequently asked questions regarding this project. All responses are from Mark Giannetto, Board President of the Cultural Center of Henry County.

What is the latest legal update – Is demolition a done deal?

MG: We filed an emergency motion for a stay on February 18th pending appeal as part of the ongoing legal process regarding the future of the building.

What is "saving these buildings" costing us taxpayers?

MG: Nothing. Taxpayers have already paid for this land and these buildings. They did so for 150 years, and now they are paid off. Our legal expenses are being paid by donors specifying this (not general donations). However, the legal expenses for the city and school board are probably being paid by taxes somewhere along the line.

Where is the money for this project coming from?

MG: The money comes from supporters and revenues. This campus no longer gets any tax moneys.

Are you, or is anyone, making any money off of this?

MG: No. We are a non-profit 501-c3. No one in this organization gets paid at all. None of the Board, supporters, or volunteers.

Then why do you do this?

MG: We do this for the people of this area, past present, and future. This Board of Trustees is entrusted with a paid-off historic treasure.

Isn't the building falling down?

MG: No, this building wouldn't fall down in an earthquake.

Isn't the building a danger to the community - the city says so?

MG: No. We will be glad to discuss this.

How close are you to occupancy?

MG: Going from east to west...

- The 1921 Old East Central School - we have always been looking at housing or Condos in the Old High School. That will take some time, and it won't start until this legal stuff is over.
- The 1936 central area, with the three arches, Snake Pit, and JLJ Auditorium, and the east-west elementary wing with the cafeteria and upper gym. We have been working on this area for almost 2 years now. We are now going through our initial fire and safety inspections to-do-list and will soon be ready for the next. How long depends on volunteer hours and funds frankly. In a phased plan, partial occupancy sometime later this year for the venue areas is a reasonable expectation.
- The 1955 Elementary north-south, which is the classroom wing that goes back to Loose Field. I've talked to people who would be glad for build-to-suit leases in that 30,000 sq ft wing. No need to return those rooms to classroom quality in this scenario.

How can you assure anyone that this project is sustainable?

MG: We believe it is for a number of reasons.

- The building and land is paid off.
- There are plenty of examples of successes of these types of projects, for example the community center in Monclova. They are win-wins culturally and economically. We encourage people to learn more about the potential: [Community Impact by The Numbers](#)
- The building is literally designed for so many activities. The JLJ Auditorium for performances and concerts, two gymnasiums for athletics, practices, and competitions. A cafeteria and plenty of spaces for event rentals like conferences and weddings. For details on the property: [Who We Are](#)
- We know that working together creates more funding opportunities for local organizations. Some grants, for example, are only available when working with local government. Partnership is more effective than confrontation and will be essential for long-term success. To understand more about project strengths and challenges: [Case for Preservation](#)

Can you provide an update on historical designation of the building?

MG: Yes. We understand that many in our community believe that receiving historic designation for the building would prevent it from being demolished. While we are proud that our building is located within a designated historic district and are actively pursuing recognition on the National Register of Historic Places, our legal and architectural advisors have confirmed multiple times that this designation does not grant any guarantee of protection from demolition and is irrelevant to our lawsuit.

Our application with the National Register of Historic Places has successfully passed preliminary review, and we have been in the process of submitting additional information. While we remain committed to completing this step, recent legal and occupancy challenges with the building have required our all-volunteer board to focus our time and energy on those other tasks. As a result, the back-and-forth of the application has not been finalized yet.