



The former Napoleon High School features three grand arches, a hallmark of Neo-Collegiate design, symbolizing tradition, prestige, and longevity in the community.

### About the Cultural Center of Henry County (CCHC)

CCHC is a 501(c)(3) LLC nonprofit organization, led by an unpaid Board of Trustees and dedicated volunteers. It was established to restore the former school on Main Street in Napoleon, Ohio, and transform it into a thriving community hub, enriching residents' lives through arts, education, athletics, and wellness activities.

### Mission

*Three Arches Ohio: Where Everyone Gathers*

To create a thriving center that reflects the unifying spirit of its architectural arches, offering enriching opportunities in arts, education, athletics, and wellness. By fostering engagement among youth, adults, and seniors, we aim to support a flourishing, inclusive community where individuals of all generations can connect, grow, and thrive.

### Vision

*Three Arches Ohio: A Gateway to Community and Growth*

Rooted in its historic architecture, Three Arches serves as a vibrant hub that bridges generations, connects people, and contributes to Ohio's cultural and economic prosperity.

### History

The former Napoleon High School, located on Main Street in Napoleon, Ohio, is a notable example of early 20<sup>th</sup>-century academic architecture. The original school on this site was built in 1871, with the current structures constructed in 1921, 1935, and 1955. The 1921 building remains a defining architectural landmark.

### Architectural Significance

A distinguishing feature of the building is its **grand facade** with **three large arches** marking the entrance, a hallmark of Neo-Collegiate design, which was popular during that era. This architectural style, influenced by Gothic Revival, was often used in academic institutions to convey tradition, prestige, and longevity.

### **Property Overview & Community Potential**

Nestled along the banks of the Maumee River, CCHC's 9-acre campus is the site of the former school and the proposed home for Three Arches Ohio, a vibrant community hub. The 128,000 sq. ft. facility includes 50 classrooms, 23 additional spaces of varying sizes, two gymnasiums, a 700-seat auditorium with a full stage, and a 4,000 sq. ft. cafeteria. The surrounding grounds feature a spacious front green mall, a full athletic field and stadium, and multiple parking areas. Steeped in history and significance, this campus is poised to once again become a cornerstone of community life.

### **A Legacy of Community Gatherings**

Since the first Union School was built in 1871, the performance spaces in this building have been central to community life. Old newspaper records highlight a long history of entertainment, performances, community meetings, and political gatherings held in its auditoriums. These spaces have long been a place where the community comes together, shaping local culture and history.

### **JLJ Auditorium: The Heart of the Community**

Located within the school, JLJ Auditorium has been the heart of the building for generations. As the only dedicated theater and auditorium in the county—and one of the few with a full stage within 100 miles—this cherished venue has hosted high school plays, musicals, and Christmas shows that many in the community grew up attending. With permanent seating for 700 people, it remains a vital gathering space, and preserving it is an important part of this project.

### **Leadership**

CCHC is led by a dedicated board whose members, along with a handful of other volunteers, have collectively contributed over 15,000 hours to this project. While they bring diverse perspectives on many topics, they are united in their commitment to making this vision a reality because it is in the best interest of the community. The current board president is Mark Giannetto. Other board members include: Janet Lyne, Secretary; Shellee Murko, Treasurer; Larry Lyne, Vicky Delventhal, Yvonne Harter, Tom Jenny, and Phil Gerken.

### **Websites:**

- [ThreeArchesOhio.com](http://ThreeArchesOhio.com)
- [CulturalCenterHC.org](http://CulturalCenterHC.org)

**Facebook:** [facebook.com/CulturalCenterHC](https://facebook.com/CulturalCenterHC)