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Interpretive Sign unveiled at corner of Main Street and National Road

Sign is one of 60 to be installed along historic U.S. Route 40

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The Ohio National Road Association (ONRA) and civic leaders from the city of Englewood and the Randolph Twp. Historical Society gathered Friday morning for the unveiling of an "Interpretive Sign" at the corner of Main Street and National Road.

The sign features historic photos of the old covered wooden bridge that once spanned the Stillwater River and other sites once located in Harrisburg and lamtown, as Englewood was previously known. The sign also features photos of the Harrisburg Hotel, the old Pure Oil Station and the Baker Brothers grain elevator once located along Route 40.

Often mistakenly referred to as State Route 40, National Road is actually U.S. Route 40. It extends from Baltimore, Maryland all the way to East St. Louis, Missouri. Construction began on the historic road in 1811 in Cumberland, Maryland. The road served as the gateway to the west for thousands of settlers.

Cyndie Gerken, president of the Ohio National Road Association served as emcee for the sign unveiling Friday at 11 a.m. The Englewood interpretive sign is the third of 60 planned unveilings across the state.

alongside the new Interpretive Sign. "Our thanks go to Englewood City Manager Eric Smith for both the sponsorship of this sign and his patience with the slow process of implementation," Gerken said. "I also thank him for seeing that this interpretive sign was installed so quickly and in time for this unveiling since the mounting brackets did not arrive here until Monday of this week. Also my appreciation is extended to Sue Cummings and Glynn Marsh with the Randolph Township Historical Society for not only designing this beautiful sign, but also for providing the historic images that you will see on it."

Gerken also thanked former Englewood Mayor Ed Kemper, a current board member of the Ohio National Road Association, and ONRA members Paul Seibel and Mark Davis for attending the unveiling.

"I also want to acknowledge Eric Smith's Administrative Assistant Teri Davis for her creative contributions to the Association as our Webmaster," Gerken added. "She is always so kind and responsive and I sincerely appreciate her support and her presence here today."

Gerken also acknowledged Deb Keddie and the Walkabout Company as design consultants, as they were responsible for creating the template for the sign as well as drafts of the original 30 signs in Phase I of the project. She also recognized members of the ONRA Signage Committee: Chair Mike Peppe, Dean Ringle, Ed Wagstaff, Ed Kemper, Paul Seible, Jonathan Beard, Doug Smith and Nancy Campbell. for their tireless efforts in reviewing and editing the original drafts so that most accurate and interesting interpretive signs would be implemented.

Appreciation was extended to Zachary Balassone and Louis Agresta of the Clark County-Springfield Transportation Coordinating Committee. Balassone took it upon himself to learn the specialized software necessary to turn Sue Cummings and Glynn Marsh's design for the Englewood Interpretive Sign into a reality. Agresta serves as the current ONRA Byway Coordinator and has been working with Interpretive Graphics, the signage manufacturer and individual site contacts like Eric Smith, to arrange delivery, coordinate installation and to keep everyone informed of the progress.

"Finally, but most importantly, the Board of Trustees of the Ohio National Road Association would like to thank our signage sponsors, like the city of Englewood, as well as the Association members and individuals who sent in monetary donations. Without their generous support, this project would never have come to fruition, and we owe this day to them," Gerken said.