



Ohio National Road Association

President: Cyndie Gerken
Vice President: Doug Smith

Byway Coordination Services
C/O Clark Co. - Springfield TCC
3130 East National Road- Suite 2A
Springfield, Ohio 45505

Phone: 937-521-2134
Email: lagresta@clarkcountyohio.gov
Web-site: www.ohionationalroad.org

★ ★ ★ *An All - American Road National Scenic Byway* ★ ★ ★

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 28, 2010

Ohio National Road Association Announces National Register Listing for Blaine Hill “S” Bridge in Belmont County

Ohio National Road Association (ONRA) President Cyndie Gerken congratulates Belmont County's Pease Township Trustees and form preparers Nancy Campbell of the Ohio Historic Preservation Office and Mike Peppe on the recent nomination and listing of the **Blaine Hill “S” Bridge** on the National Register of Historic Places.

The National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior listed the **Blaine Hill “S” Bridge** at Old National Road, Twp. Rd. 649, Belmont County, 1.1 miles east of I-70 Exit 220, 4.7 miles west of I-70 Exit 225, in Blaine, Ohio, on March 17, 2010. The nomination of the Blaine Hill “S” Bridge was made through the Ohio Historic Preservation Office of the Ohio Historical Society. It was reviewed and recommended by Ohio Historic Site Preservation Advisory Board to Burt Logan, state historic preservation officer, who nominated the property to National Register of Historic Places. The final decision to add the bridge to the National Register was made by the park service, which administers the program nationwide.

The **Blaine Hill “S” Bridge** was constructed in 1828, and is the oldest documented standing bridge in Ohio. The **Blaine Hill “S” Bridge** is 385 feet in length with three segmental arches, and carried the National Road over Wheeling Creek, a tributary of the Ohio River. The bridge was retired from highway use in 1933 when the Blaine Hill Viaduct was constructed, and was saved from demolition in 1999. In 2001, the Ohio Legislature designated the **Blaine Hill “S” Bridge** as Ohio's Bicentennial Bridge. The bridge has since been fully restored.

The National Road ranks as one of our nation's most unique roadways, designated as both a *National Scenic Byway* and an *All-American Road* by the Federal Highway Department in 2002. Initiated in 1806, it was America's first interstate highway, paving the way for settlement of the west. During the early years of the automobile era, it was one of the nation's most heavily traveled east-west arteries. In the last decade, interest in protecting and preserving the historical richness of the sites along the Road, such as the **Blaine Hill “S” Bridge**, has led to increased interest and involvement of individuals and grassroots organizations, such as ONRA, in all six National Road states. For more information, go to ONRA's web site www.ohionationalroad.org. Further questions regarding the Ohio National Road Association should be addressed to Byway Coordinator Louis Agresta, Phone: (937) 521-2134, E-mail address: onra@clarkcountyohio.gov.

For more information about the National Register of Historic Places, visit the Ohio Historic Preservation Office Web site at www.ohpo.org.

###