

Historic James N. Gamble House Faces Potential Demolition

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SAVING THE GAMBLE HOUSE

In what could prove to be a watershed moment for historic preservation in Cincinnati, the grand Victorian home located at 2918 Werk Road, fondly referred to as *the Gamble House* by local residents, is being scheduled for potential demolition, perhaps as early as March of this year.

The current owners of the property—the Greenacres Foundation—have been developing a plan to bring environmental and agricultural programming to the grounds. Sadly, these plans do not include any use for the main house.

HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE PRE-DATES THE GAMBLE FAMILY

Although widely-known as the Gamble House, the property has historic significance that reaches back before the Gamble legacy—to the very beginnings of Westwood. John Gaines—the *very first mayor* of the Village of Westwood—lived in the home. In 1875, ownership transferred to James N. Gamble—the *very last mayor* of the Village of Westwood, before its annexation in to the city of Cincinnati.



Demolition permits have been issued against the historic Gamble House, located at 2918 Werk Road in Westwood.

JAMES N. GAMBLE: PATRIARCH OF THE WESTERN HILLS

James N. Gamble was a true visionary; he oversaw the construction of Ivorydale in the Mill Creek Valley in 1888; he is credited with inventing Ivory soap in 1863; he gave Thomas A. Edison one of his first jobs; his coordinated community campaign for charities gave birth to The United Way.

When his grandson James Nippert died, he saw to it that the stadium at the University of Cincinnati was completed and named in James' memory.

Mr. Gamble was an enthusiastic supporter of connecting Cincinnati to other cities via rail; he resurrected and modernized the Cincinnati & Westwood Railroad with substantial investments of his own money; in 1932, at 95 years of age, he served as the guest of honor for the opening ceremonies of the Western Hills Viaduct.

The first concrete sidewalks in Westwood were laid in front of his home on Werk Road and one of the first telephones to ring was his. He and his wife were instrumental in having street trees planted in Westwood.

FUTURE OF THE PROPERTY

The work that the Greenacres Foundation is doing in Indian Hill is noble, and Westwood residents are very receptive to the idea of bringing the Greenacres philosophy and educational opportunities to our community. But it would be a bittersweet moment if the historic home of our patriarch could not be spared.

HOW YOU CAN HELP: LET THEM HEAR YOUR VOICE!

1. SIGN *the* PETITION

We have copies of the petition here for you to sign—if you haven't seen one, please ask.

We've created an online petition, which has nearly 400 signatures already—please add yours:

<http://www.ipetitions.com/petition/savethegamblehouse>

All signatures will be included in the official documentation presented to the Historic Conservation Board in our attempt to gain a Local Historic Landmark designation for the house.

2. JOIN *the* FACEBOOK GROUP

There are over 815 supporters of our "Save the Historic Gamble Estate NOW!" Facebook Group. Become a member in order to receive the latest updates. You'll find historic photos, stories—and more.

<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=309727368005>

3. CONTACT GREENACRES

Carter Randolph is the Executive VP of the Greenacres Foundation and representative of the L&L Nippert Trust. Please give him a call and let him know how you feel about the Foundation's decision to demolish this important piece of Westwood and Cincinnati history.

Carter Randolph: 513-891-4227, ext.1040

JOIN US AT THE RALLY! Wednesday · Feb 24 · 5-6:30pm · 2918 Werk Rd