

# LANCASTER EAGLE-GAZETTE

ESTABLISHED 1807 ■ LANCASTER, OHIO

A Gannett Newspaper

September 12, 2000

35 CENTS ■ 24 PAGES

## Decorative Arts Center moves to next phase

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The Eagle-Gazette Staff

With the grand opening of the Decorative Arts Center of Ohio just days away, the focus of construction is now on phase two of the project, involving the Art Garage.

The Decorative Arts Center of Ohio at The Reese-Peters House, 145 E. Main St., is preparing to be open to the public on Sept. 23 and 24.

The 1916 brick garage, which has two and a half floors and has 2,600 square feet, will be converted into an art studio. Construction by Durable Slate Construction Co. is now under way with the scheduled completion date estimated to be in February 2001.

Trisha Clifford-Sprouse, assistant director for education, said the Art Garage will be an active artist studio for children and teens.

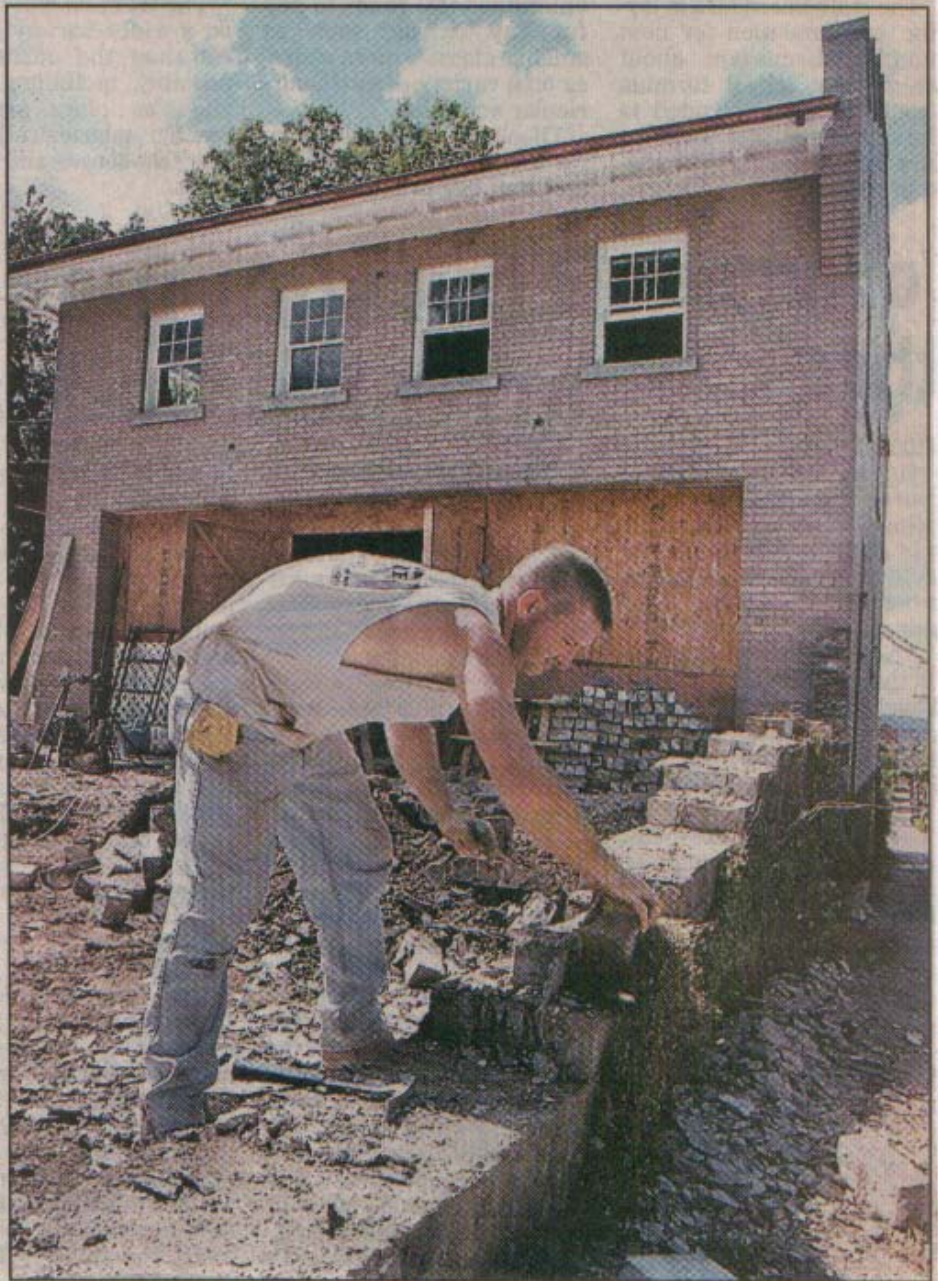
"There are three floors to the Art Garage," Clifford-Sprouse said. "The first floor will be a large open studio space geared towards the teens. The focus will be to teach design and art concepts, allowing them to work on a variety of projects."

Clifford-Sprouse said the second floor will be a family center for preschoolers and significant adults.

"We will be teaching the art of playing and how important it is for parents to play with their children," Clifford-Sprouse said. "We'll have a lot of beautiful wooden blocks and toys to play with. The kids will love them."

The third floor will be a preparation area for teachers. Teachers and others will be able to look down on the preschool classes and observe the activities of the classes.

Handicapped accessible restrooms



**LARRY FUNK**, New Holland, an employee of Durable Slate works outside of the Art Garage at the Decorative Arts Center. (E-G photo by Rose Shriver)

will be on both floors. An elevator will enable access to the classes.

The classes will be taught and mentored by artists in residence and experienced artist-instructors.

"We are really pleased with the progress of the Art Garage," Clifford-Sprouse said. "We are looking forward to its completion and running a full curriculum when it opens. For now, we will hold limited classes in the basement level of the main building."

The 1807 Saylor House, adjacent to the main house, will be restored to house visiting artists and artists-in-residence. The offices that were in the Saylor House have already moved to the basement of the arts center.

Also included in the second phase will be the hard landscaping. Walkways and driveways, patio areas for outdoor extension and special events, crumbling brick walls, and wrought iron fences will be repaired or replaced as needed.