

# The Columbus Dispatch

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## Once an eyesore, building again a source of pride

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An independent newspaper serving Ohio since July 1, 1871.

- Kirk Davis: CEO, GateHouse Media Inc.

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Small towns around Ohio and across the country are dotted with beautiful, historic buildings that have fallen into disrepair. When a once-grand building sits vacant and dilapidated, it can symbolize — and feed — a lack of hope for the future of the town.

It's gratifying, then, to see the iconic Carlisle Building in downtown Chillicothe restored to its former glory and being given new purpose by Adena Health System, the building's tenant. The \$10 million renovation brings beauty and activity to a 130-year-old building that had become a "blight in the center of town," noted developer Michael Chesler. He pieced together funding, including public loans, grants and historic tax credits, for the restoration.

The Carlisle Building "represented a failure every time anyone looked at it," Chesler said. "It said to everyone, 'We can't fix our problems here.' Now, it represents success."

The four-story brick building, on the National Register of Historic Places, spans an entire block in the city of about 22,000. It fell into grave disrepair 12 years ago, after an accidental fire gutted the building. In the following years, the building went through multiple owners and was slated for a sheriff's sale more than once.

Today, the Carlisle Building is again is a showcase property for Ohio's first capital city.

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