



For Immediate Release  
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## **Cincinnati Preservation Association makes offer to purchase Gamble House**

**Historic home of James N. Gamble, son of Procter & Gamble Company co-founder, can be preserved and restored for future use, organization asserts**

(CINCINNATI) Cincinnati Preservation Association today submitted a proposal to purchase the James N. Gamble House to property owner Greenacres Foundation. The proposal outlines terms for purchase price, preservation, restoration and the creation of an endowment for the property's anticipated ongoing operations.

The 1870s-era Victorian Italianate villa, located at 2918 Werk Road in the City of Cincinnati's Westwood neighborhood, has been identified by Cincinnati Preservation Association as one of national historic significance and at a high risk if preservation efforts do not proceed, according to company Interim Executive Director Paul Muller.

"Our intentions are to buy the property, stabilize it in the short term and identify a use for it that is compatible with the mission of Greenacres Foundation as well as one that meets community expectations," Mr. Muller says. Today's proposal has been anticipated by Greenacres, which earlier agreed to CPA's offer to act as "master developer" of the property, finding a use for the house compatible with the owner's vision of youth outdoor education at the site and its utilization of the other historic outbuildings on the property.

CPA in March set up an online donation process for Gamble House Restoration through its website, and openly supports current efforts to designate the property with local landmark status, which would help slow demolition efforts.

"We need time to consider the many possibilities for this remarkably beautiful structure, and also to assess the restoration strategy and to align necessary resources best able to bring about its transformation," Mr. Muller says. "We cannot do that in crisis mode, or under its imminent threat. Putting forth a proposal will calm the environment so we can make good decisions on behalf of all parties."

Much of the property renovation expense will come from grants and charitable giving, he says.

“As part of our development role, we would be charged with project financing from a variety of sources. Because of the nature of this project, and because we’re a non-profit, our fund-raising efforts continue enthusiastically.”

Mr. Muller says he hopes to meet with Greenacres representatives next week to begin discussing the proposed purchase.

The endangered property grabbed national attention last month, when Margaret Foster wrote an article entitled, “Threatened: Cincinnati’s Gamble House,” in the online edition of the National Trust for Historic Preservation publication. Included in the story was a statement from Royce Yeater, director of the Midwest Office of the National Trust, who wrote a letter to the City’s Historic Conservation Board on February 24 in support of the house’s preservation.

“The Gamble House is an exceptionally well-preserved Italianate villa with a wealth of original detailing, including porches, roof brackets, and a mansard-roofed tower,” Mr. Yeater wrote. “Its location on a partially wooded site evokes the original grounds of the Gamble estate, a rarity in the city today.” The house is sited on 18 acres.

James N. Gamble was a civic leader, industrialist, and Mayor of the Village of Westwood. In his work with the family business, the Procter & Gamble Company, Gamble invented Ivory Soap, a groundbreaking consumer product still in production today. The property remained in the Gamble family for eighty-six years. Upon the death in 1961 of Olivia Gamble, the last full-time resident of the house, the home was passed to Louis Nippert, who was Olivia's nephew. Mr. Nippert's care for this property is believed to be due to his love for his grandfather, James N. Gamble. In 1991, CPA presented Mr. Nippert and his wife, Louise, with an award for their stewardship of the home. Mr. Nippert died on November 17, 1992. The Greenacres Foundation is a non-profit, private, operating foundation established in 1988 by Louis and Louise Nippert.

Founded in 1964, the Cincinnati Preservation Association (formerly known as the Miami Purchase Association for Historic Preservation) is a non-profit organization dedicated to advocacy and education for the preservation of the historic built environment in Greater Cincinnati.

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