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News

Public can take peek at Underground Railroad Center

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OBERLIN — One of the city's most historic projects will be open for a sneak peek at 11 a.m. today. The Oberlin Gasholder Building, behind the McDonald's on South Main Street, is undergoing an interior transformation to become an Underground Railroad Center.

Residents can catch a glimpse at the inside of the building to see how the overhaul is coming along, enjoy a speaker talk about the history of the building and listen to music. There will also be a Civil War cannon on display. The whole ceremony will last a half hour.

The building dates back to 1889 when it used to hold coal gas for city's street lamps. Oberlin had a reputation as a safe-haven for runaway slaves. As a tribute, experiences of the people who touched Oberlin along their journey to freedom, the city secured partial funding to restore the Gasholder Building. When it's complete, it will serve as a Park-N-Ride facility as well as a visitor center that will highlight Oberlin's prominent role in the Underground Railroad.

For more information on the project, check out www.cityofoberlin.com.

URL: <http://www.morningjournal.com/articles/2010/09/11/news/mj3296102.prt>

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