



The Jambar/Mark Peyko

Not much of 87 Wick Oval remained by Saturday afternoon.

Wick Oval razing begins

By MARK PEYKO
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As spectators watched YSU lose its Homecoming game in Stambaugh Stadium Saturday afternoon, the University was losing part of Wick Oval.

Demolition of five Wick Oval homes began about 2 p.m., Saturday afternoon and ended at dusk the same day.

Clouds of thick black dust encircled some homes on the eastern part of Wick Oval as demolition crews razed two turn-of-the-century homes.

An elderly woman, who lives next to the home being razed, periodically sprayed the house with a green garden hose to keep the black attic soot and chimney smoke from clinging to her brown aluminum-sided house next door.

After she dusted the house with spray she said, "I've lived here for 53 years; it was such a nice place."

Mark Macovitz, student and photographer for *The Neon*, YSU's yearbook, was disturbed by the houses' razing. He commented on the craftsmanship and quality materials the home contained. "That house was nicer than the ones built today," he said.

The Jambar received word of the demolition through an anonymous telephone call around 2:30 p.m. The caller, a female, said, "YSU's playing their homecoming game and while everyone is there — they're tearing down Wick Oval. I called *The Vindicator* and now I'm calling you," she said.

The homes, listed on the National Register

of Historic Places, were purchased in May by the University.

The houses, located at 87, 91, 97, 103-5 and 115 Wick Oval, were estimated by YSU to cost \$230,000. The upgrading figure was deemed prohibitive and it was decided to raze the homes.

The University concluded that it wasn't "economically feasible to upgrade the

See Oval, page 8



The Jambar/Mark Peyko

Oval

Continued from page 1
buildings for student housing.”

In early August, Walter Damon, East Ohio Historic Preservation coordinator, Richard Ulrich, a YSU art professor, and Richard Blackwell, a downtown developer, called a press conference in the Oval and attempted to change YSU's decision.

Workmen expect to demolish the remainder of the Wick Oval homes purchased by YSU in 30 days.