

Former Coe Manufacturing building to be demolished

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An aerial view of Coe Manufacturing in 1957. News-Herald file

The office building on the former **Coe Manufacturing** site on Bank Street in Painesville soon will be coming down.

The Lake County Ohio Port and Economic Development Authority Board approved a financial assistance agreement with the **Lake County Land Bank** for the cost of the demolition.

The Land Bank's portion is not to exceed \$50,000, which would cover half of the anticipated \$100,000 cost of the demolition.

The office building has long been considered the toughest sell on the [590 Bank St. property](#). Port Authority Executive Director Mark Rantala has called the building “functionally obsolete.” There are no elevators and it does not have ADA-accessible restrooms, among other issues.

Rantala previously said anyone who took over the building would have to be a “creative user” of the space.

The office building was once considered as a [potential site for the Lake County General Health District](#). When looking at estimates when that was under consideration, it was determined that the building had “no viable future,” Rantala said at the port authority’s July 26 board meeting.

The demolition of the building could free up space for future development, he added.

Rantala said he expects to have a resolution selecting a contractor for the demolition on the board’s August agenda.

The port authority has [owned the former Coe Manufacturing site](#) since 2012. The site has a long history in Painesville. Harold Hayes Coe and Leonard Anderson formed the Anderson and Coe Co. in 1852. The company first manufactured steam engines and machinery for sawmills and grist mills. According to [VintageMachinery.org](#), the company began studying the problem of creating splints for lighting street lamps. That work resulted in the development of the first practical rotary veneer lathe and veneer production became the company’s specialty.

It eventually became known as Coe Manufacturing Co., but was acquired by a competitor in 2009 and operations ceased in Ohio. In May 2012, the port authority received a Ohio Jobs Ready Site Grant [to clean up the property](#).