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The experience of Mansfield, OH, The Shawshank Redemption, and the Ohio State Reformatory show the undeniable value of film tourism. In 1990, a dilapidated old prison was shut down in Mansfield, OH, and all the inmates were transferred to newer, more modern facilities. The state of Ohio intended to demolish the building, even though it had been on the historic landmark registry since 1983. In 1993 a young director by the name of Frank Darabont made a scouting visit to the Ohio State Reformatory and decided that it would be the perfect location to act as Shawshank State Prison. The filming of The Shawshank Redemption was directly responsible for helping to save the Reformatory, as the wrecking ball was on-site and ready to start taking it down when the film crew showed up to start working.

The entire community of Mansfield, OH was involved in the filming of the movie. Locals were used as background actors, contractors and businesses were utilized to help build sets, feed/house the crew, and provide services to the production teams. 30 years later, The Shawshank Redemption is still positively impacting Mansfield, Ohio and the Ohio State Reformatory through film tourism.

In 2024, the Ohio State Reformatory and Destination Mansfield, our local Convention and Visitor's Bureau, banded together to put on The Shawshank Redemption 30th Anniversary Celebration. The town spent the weekend joined by Director Frank Darabont and many of the original cast members celebrating the film that IMDB ranks as "The Greatest Film of All Time". The Ohio State Reformatory saw over 175,000 guests to their grounds in 2024, and a significant number of those guests were there due to their love of the Shawshank Redemption. During the 30th Anniversary weekend, Frank Darabont was presented with a proclamation from the Governor's office stating that The Shawshank Redemption has contributed over \$300 million dollars to Ohio's travel and tourism economy since the movie was filmed in 1993. The state of Ohio's annual tourism budget is \$10 million, which means over the past 30 years, tourism brought to Ohio by The Shawshank Redemption has exceeded the entire tourism budget for the state.

In Mansfield, Ohio Reformatory visitation brings over \$10 million per year to the local economy with guests staying in our hotels, eating in our restaurants, and spending at other businesses and attractions around town. In addition to The Shawshank Redemption, the Reformatory has had 5 other major motion pictures filmed on its grounds, including Harry &

Walter Go To New York, Tango & Cash, Air Force One, Escape Plan 3: The Extractors, and Judas and the Black Messiah.

The staff of the Reformatory would like to believe that our beautiful architecture, interesting history, and opportunities for paranormal exploration would have made the building successful on its' own, but the fact that we are Shawshank State Prison allows us recognition and awareness that we would have been hard-pressed to create on our own and it's very unlikely we would have been able to make the restoration and preservation progress we have without the boost Shawshank gives us.