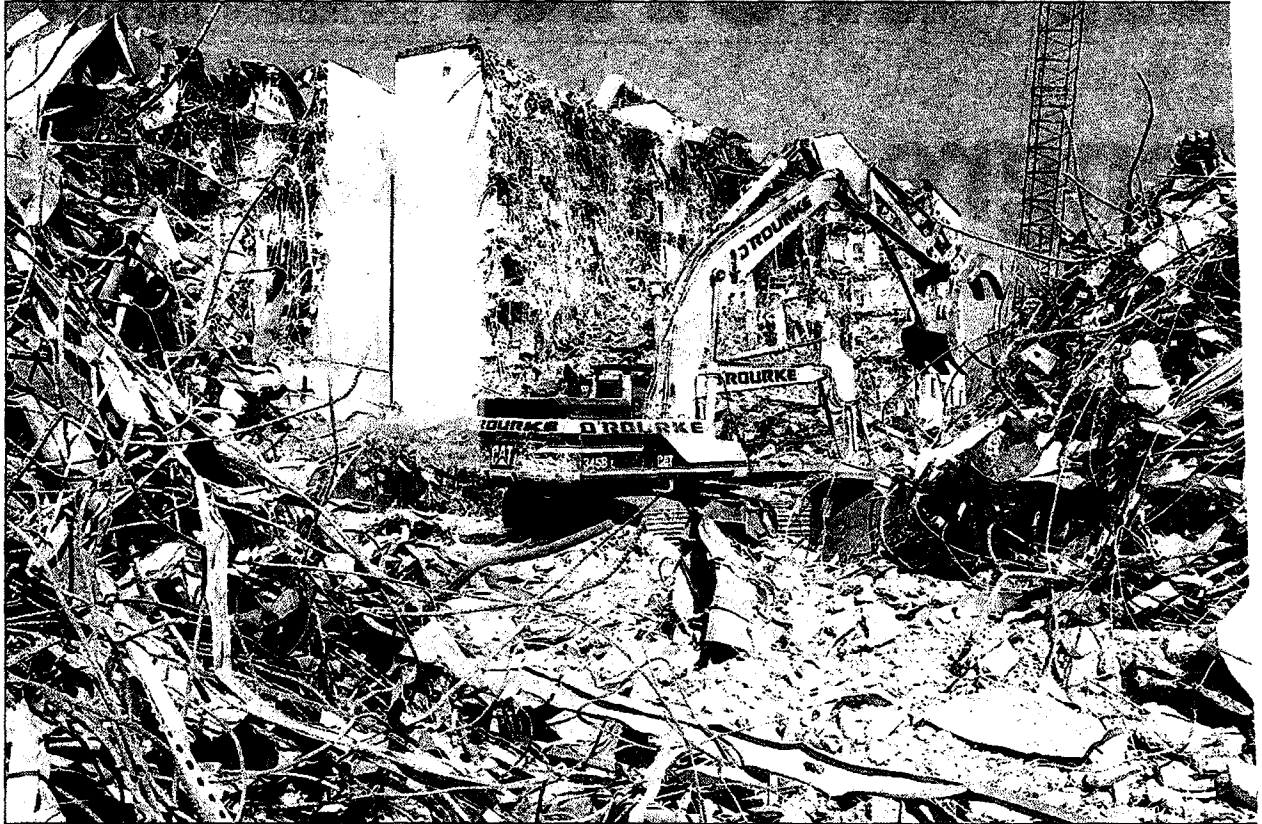


DECONSTRUCTION



O'Rourke wrecking company is working with construction managers ATCS/Shook on the demolition of the Middletown Regional Hospital on Tuesday, March 17, in Middletown. Staff photo by Nick Graham

Hospital demolition on schedule

Official says work is on time and on budget and should be finished by May.

By Jessica Heffner
Staff Writer

MIDDLETOWN — It took more than five years to build Middletown Regional Hospital, but it has taken mere months to raze the city landmark for new development.

Temporary fencing was put up in September, with preliminary site work beginning soon after. Demolition of the parking garage began in December and has moved on to the former surgery and women's centers, said Wendy Parks, spokeswoman, for Atrium Medical Center.

"Deconstruction is progressing on time and on budget with the oldest building on campus, the 1938 building, coming

down last," she said.

Materials from the demolition process are being sorted, Parks said, and trucked to appropriate recyclers.

The demolition is expected to be complete by May, said Mike Campbell, director of the Butler County Port Authority, the nonprofit development entity that helped obtain funding for the project.

A \$1.8-million grant through the Clean Ohio

Revitalization Fund has been approved for the remediation of Middletown Regional, with Atrium picking up the remaining \$8 million, according to the port authority.

Campbell said the site will be used for housing developments, although that work could be several years down the road.

A phone number — (513) 422-8020 — has been set up for residents with concerns or questions.