

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

1. Name of Property

Historic name: Newton Falls United Service Organization (USO) Center

Other names/site number: Newton Falls Community Center

Name of related multiple property listing:

N/A

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

2. Location

Street & number: 52 East Quarry Street

City or town: Newton Falls State: Ohio County: Trumbull

Not For Publication: N/A

Vicinity: N/A

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

national statewide local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

A B C D

<u>Barbara Power</u>	DSHPO for Inventory & Registration	<u>12/20/2017</u>
Signature of certifying official/Title:		Date
<u>State Historic Preservation Office, Ohio History Connection</u>		
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government		

In my opinion, the property <input type="checkbox"/> meets <input type="checkbox"/> does not meet the National Register criteria.	
Signature of commenting official:	Date
Title :	State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

Newton Falls U.S.O. Center
Name of Property

Trumbull County, Ohio
County and State

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain:)

Patrick Andrews

Signature of the Keeper

2/14/2018

Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private:
- Public – Local
- Public – State
- Public – Federal

Newton Falls U.S.O. Center
Name of Property

Trumbull County, Ohio
County and State

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Modern Movement/International Style

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

wood, vinyl siding, concrete block, asphalt shingles

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

The Newton Falls United Service Organization (USO) Center building is a one-story building of approximately 10,800 square feet.¹ It is located in the heart of Newton Falls Village at 52 East Quarry Street on a 1.32 acre lot. The site for the USO was selected by Mayor Elmo Bailey of Newton Falls and Joseph Barnett, Federal Security Administration Regional Supervision. (Federal Works Agency Project No. Ohio 33-154-F). Its construction was completed in 1941 by the U.S. Army as part of the building program of the United Services Organization. The building is a standard USO Type "A" Federal Recreation Building with a U-shaped front portion including a lounge, reading room, study, offices, and kitchen, and a central portion serving as the social hall and stage. Overall the building displays a simple, unadorned functional design featuring projecting wings with ribbon windows with plain flat awnings and with the original flat roof gave the building modest International Style influence. The building is surrounded by a community park with playground to the south and baseball fields, a basketball court and tennis court to the west. To the east is a small fishing pond. The USO facility retains its historic integrity of location, setting, design, feeling and association. Despite changes to the exterior siding, replacement of windows, and alteration of the roof pitch; the historic floor plan and current layout remain the same and the facility is recognizable as the historic Type "A" USO federal recreation building.

¹ Trumbull County Tax Records

Newton Falls U.S.O. Center
Name of Property

Trumbull County, Ohio
County and State

Narrative Description

The Newton Falls USO Center building is a U-shape plan with a slightly taller gabled roof rectangular center portion extending to the rear. It has a concrete block masonry foundation and wood frame construction with an open interior floor plan with wooden load-bearing pillars. These load-bearing pillars support large exposed ceiling beams that extend fully across the interior space of the structure to the outside walls or to other load bearing walls. Originally the exterior of the building was wood sided. The horizontal wood siding was replaced with the current horizontal vinyl siding in 1996. The flat roof on the front U-shaped portion of the building has been replaced with a hipped roof to eliminate leaking issues created by heavy rain and snow falls in Northeastern Ohio.² The building has a partial basement used for mechanical and electrical equipment. Two brick chimneys pierce the roofline. One extends in front of the gable peak of the center social hall portion of the building and the other is located in the roof slope on the west side of the front portion of the building.

The front of the exterior of the Newton Falls USO. Center is best depicted by photos #1 and #2. The main entrance vestibule projects slightly from the center of the recessed portion of the front elevation. The double glass doors are flanked by floor-to-ceiling double hung windows horizontally divided into 4 panes (four windows on each side of the entrance) comprising the front wall of the recessed portion. The covered walkway and ramp leading to the entrance were later added to provide ease of access and protection from the elements. The flag pole, centered across a walkway on axis with the entrance, has remained in this location since the dedication of the building in January 1942. Symmetrical wings with hipped roofs extend out from the recessed center forming the east and west sides of the front U-shaped portion of the building. The wings have 1-over-1 double hung bands of ribbon windows on three sides and along the east and west walls of the front portion of the building.

Photos #3 and #4 together depict the right, or western, side of the building. The ribbon band of windows on the meeting/activities room wrap around to the side and several additional 1-over-1 double hung windows are along the building's west elevation. The social hall and stage portion of the building extends back from the center of the U-shaped front portion of the building. This rear portion has a gable roof and rises slightly higher than the front portion. It has large window openings on the west and east elevations (original windows have been replaced with new window configuration but the original fenestration pattern and opening size remain). Smaller hipped roof wings extend from the rear portion stage area and are used for storage and garage space. Photo #4 shows the set back of the social hall or auditorium building portion and the single door entrance to the social hall area as well as a small garage or storage area. Photos #5 and #6 show the rear stage and service projections on the south exterior elevation. The west

² Replacement of the original flat roofs with hipped roof is a common alteration associated with several USO facilities across the country. The Hawthorne, Nevada USO Building (NR-listed 2005); DeRidder, Louisiana USO Building (NR-listed 1992); and Hattiesburg, Mississippi USO Building (NR) had their original flat roofs changed to hipped roofs prior to their individual listing in the National Register. Additionally two of these properties had their original wood exterior siding replaced with vinyl siding.

Newton Falls U.S.O. Center

Trumbull County, Ohio

Name of Property

County and State

service area has a garage door opening on the south elevation and the east service area has a concrete ramp and single door.

Photo #7 reflects the eastern side of the building at the corner of the front elevation. An entrance to the kitchen area and two 1-over-1 double hung windows are located on the east elevation towards the rear of the front portion of the building. Photo #8 is a view of the building from across the water retention pond on the adjacent property.

The interior of the building retains its original floor plan and room functions. The main entrance opens into the large lounge area. Photo #9 shows the interior of the lounge area with the open floor plan. The large open space is divided by two rows of evenly spaced structural columns with a large fireplace centered on the south wall and includes some original finishes and numerous pieces of original furniture that have been well maintained since 1942.

Off of the lounge to the west are restrooms, showers, and offices. To the east side of the lounge are offices and the kitchen area and original refreshment counter. The original study and reading room spaces in the east and west front projections remain intact and serve as smaller meeting/activity spaces.

The social hall/auditorium is accessed through double openings on either side of the fireplace. Photo #11 is an interior view of the social hall/auditorium. The original hardwood flooring is shown along with the additional height of this room. The original stage is at the south end. Doors on either side of the stage lead to dressing and storage rooms and lead to outside entrances. The dropped ceiling with ceiling tiles was later added to improve both acoustics as well as provide additional insulation.

The Newton Falls USO Center building has had several major changes to the property since 1941. The original flat roof on the front U-shaped portion of the building has been altered with a hipped roof. This was needed because flat roofs were subject to leaking and there was a concern with snow loads. In 1978 the social hall/auditorium ceiling has been dropped by using ceiling tile instead of leaving the beams exposed. This was done in order to save on heating costs. The exterior wood siding has been covered with vinyl siding and in the 1990s, a covered sidewalk ramp was added to the front entrance for ease of accessibility and all new windows were installed between 1996 and 1998, however the original window openings and appearance to the overall building design has been retained.

Despite these changes the Newton Falls USO Center building retains important character-defining features and historic integrity of location, setting, design, feeling and association to convey its significance as a USO facility and its service as a recreation and entertainment location during World War II. The USO's historic location in Newton Falls and its proximity to serve the defense workers from the nearby Ravenna Ordnance Plant (Ravenna Arsenal) remains. Its overall shape, appearance, and plan still reflects the historic Type "A" USO federal recreation building and its interior room arrangement, their original functions and many of the interior details, material, and finishes are still intact.

Newton Falls U.S.O. Center
Name of Property

Trumbull County, Ohio
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- B. Removed from its original location
- C. A birthplace or grave
- D. A cemetery
- E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F. A commemorative property
- G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Entertainment/Recreation

Social History

Newton Falls U.S.O. Center
Name of Property

Trumbull County, Ohio
County and State

Period of Significance

1941-1947

Significant Dates

Oct. 1941

Dec. 1941

Jan. 1942

Aug. 1947

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Standardized Plans designed by Kahn and Jacobs, Architects, New York
Gibson, W.B., Contractor, Warren, Ohio

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Newton Falls USO Center building is nominated under National Register Criterion A as a property associated with a broad pattern of history for its role in World War II home front mobilization and its historic significance and association with the Ravenna Ordnance Plant, which had a significant impact on U. S. military armament and community development in Newton Falls.

The Newton Falls USO Center is one of very few material manifestations of its kind left that captures an important period in American history, the beginning of World War II and the colossal war support effort on the domestic home front. In a congratulatory article on the front page of the *Warren Tribune Chronicle* of its dedication on January 18, 1942, the Newton Falls USO was hailed as “the first designed for defense workers which has been opened in the nation.”

Newton Falls U.S.O. Center
Name of Property

Trumbull County, Ohio
County and State

This facility was also the first in the nation to remain open and provide 24/7 service through its “Dawn Patrol” program. This innovative service to the Ravenna Ordnance Plant defense workers caught the attention of the national Office of Civilian Defense (OCD). In their review of a handful of USO centers throughout the county, the OCD national publication of 1943 took explicit note of Newton Falls and their USO facility: “Newton Falls, Ohio has its ‘Dawn Patrol’ parties for men and women workers who finish their day’s work during the early morning hours.”

The building’s construction began in 1941 prior to the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. It was used as a USO recreation center throughout World War II. After the war ended, it was sold by the Federal Works Agency to the Village of Newton Falls in 1947. This structure is one of only four known original Type “A” USO buildings remaining in the United States. It is the only one of its kind surviving in the State of Ohio.

The Period of Significance begins with the construction of the Newton Falls USO Center from October to December in 1941 and ends in 1947 when the facility was sold to the Village of Newton Falls.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

History of Newton Falls and the development of the Ravenna Ordnance Plant

The settlement of Newton Township began at three points. The earliest was at Duck Creek in 1802; the next at the river near the Milton line in 1804; and the last at the present site of Newton Falls in 1806 or 1807. Created in 1806 as township number 3, range 5 after the Connecticut Western Reserve was surveyed. Through the Connecticut Land Company, investors obtained ownership to huge parcels of property which were sold over the years to settlers. Many of the earliest settlers were New England farmers and dairymen who were attracted to the area by the good water supply provided by two branches of the Mahoning River. The falls provided a power source for grist, flax, woolen, carding and saw mills. Beginning in 1840, the Pennsylvania and Ohio Canal ran from New Castle, PA through Newton Falls on its way west to Akron, Ohio. The canal briefly influenced the economy because it provided residents access to outside markets for cheese, butter, woolen blanket, kegs, and timber until the railroads assumed that role. In the mid-1800s, Newton Falls was a trading center for the farmers but with the passing of the canal in 1867, the economy experienced a decline.

The village’s industrial history and population growth began when the United States entered World War I and area businessmen attracted the steel industry to Newton Falls. In 1919, the Newton Steel Company was created and it started a movement to use this location’s proximity to rivers and the railroads in a commercial way. The steel company site has experienced many changes over the years. North American Rockwell manufactured automobile bumpers in the plant until 1976.

Newton Falls U.S.O. Center
Name of Property

Trumbull County, Ohio
County and State

In the early 1940s, construction of the Ravenna Ordnance Plant (Ravenna Arsenal) on 21,418 acres at the northwestern edge of Newton Falls had a significant impact on the village. Illustrating Ohio's important contributions to winning World War II, from 1942 to 1945 workers at the Ravenna Arsenal produced more weapons for the war effort than at any other plant in the United States. Beginning production on March 23, 1942, the arsenal was a major facility with 1,371 buildings. It took 16,000 workers to build the complex and it employed up to 15,000 workers at its peak. It drew workers from Akron to the west and from Warren to the east, and throughout northeast Ohio. A significant amount of defense workers housing was built in Newton Falls. The majority of this housing were temporary units. Between 1941 and 1943 three trailer camps with a total of 850 units and a prefabricated temporary homes project of 350 houses, East River Gardens, were built in Newton Falls.³ During World War II nearly 10,000 temporary residents lived in Newton Falls.⁴

During World War II, the plant operated 12 production lines and built more than 36 million bombs and shells, 420 million other munitions and 571,000 tons of ammonium nitrate fertilizer. More than 700 large bunkers were located on the complex to store explosives. The complex ceased arms production at the end of World War II, although it continued to store ammunition. With the outbreak of the Korean War, the Ravenna Arsenal began production of arms again. In 1957, the Arsenal ceased munitions production, only to manufacture arms again during the Vietnam War. Following the Vietnam War, Ravenna Arsenal workers principally disarmed ammunition. The arsenal ceased operation by the end of the 1980s. Today, this facility is known as Camp Ravenna Joint Military Training Center and is being used as a training facility for the Ohio National Guard.⁵

In 1965, General Motors constructed an automobile complex six miles away in Lordstown, Ohio. Many residents worked at this site or in supply companies related to the auto industry. Currently, small service industries, light manufacturing, agriculture, and retail shops provide most of the local employment.

The population increased from 500 residents in 1900 to 3,355 in 1930. According to the 1960 census, the community had 5,038 residents but the population declined to 4,960 in 1980. Currently, the village has a population of about 4,800 residents.

Entertainment/Recreation – Organization of the United Services Organization (USO) and History of the Newton Falls USO Center

In early February 1941 during the military and economic buildup that preceded American's entry into World War II, President Franklin D. Roosevelt formed the United Service Organization out of six charitable organizations: Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA), Young Women's

³ Rita Walsh, *The World War II Ordnance Departments Government-Owned Contactor-Operated (GOCO) Industrial Facilities: Ravenna Ordnance Plant Historic Investigation*, 74, 78-79.

⁴ Newton Falls Public Library reference materials.

⁵ Ohio History Central, Ravenna Arsenal, http://www.ohiohistorycentral.org/w/Ravenna_Arsenal, accessed 11/15/2017. Ralph Pflingsten, *The History of the Ravenna Arsenal*.

Newton Falls U.S.O. Center

Trumbull County, Ohio

Name of Property

County and State

Christian Association (YWCA), National Jewish Welfare Board (NJWB), National Catholic Community Service (NCCS), Salvation Army, and National Travelers Aid Association. They pooled their military outreach operations to form the new agency, which was created to address welfare and recreation issues created by the rapid expansion as well as to lift troop morale and enhance public support for the massive war effort.

The USO was a public-private partnership in which the national organizations provided trained leadership and local communities contributed volunteers and operating funds. The federal government underwrote the cost of building or renovating and furnishing the facilities. The USO was one of the largest and most important of the voluntary organizations that supported the men and women of the Armed Forces, the domestic civilian defense and war support workers and their families. The USO Centers became a principle off-duty destination with dancing, recreation activities, and various forms of entertainment. The USO provided, in many ways, the feeling of a “home away from home” atmosphere and was a great boost to morale.

To fulfill its role in the cost-sharing agreement with its partners, Congress began appropriating funds in June 1941 for the erection, renovation, and furnishing of several hundred recreation buildings in towns and cities that were struggling with defense-related growth. Funding was supplied by a series of appropriations that continued throughout the war under the auspices of the Defense Housing and Community Facilities and Services Act of October 1940. This was one of many pieces of preparedness legislation enacted during this period and was popularly known as the Lanham Act after its sponsor, Congressman Frederick Garland Lanham of Texas.

Standardized plans for the USO building program, including the Newton Falls USO Center, were designed by the New York architectural firm of Kahn and Jacobs. Kahn and Jacobs prepared templates for three large recreation centers, known in ascending order of size and complexity as the Type A, Type B, and Type C. These flexible designs featured large auditoriums or “social halls” with projecting lobbies and flanking wings that could easily be modified to adapt the structures to their surroundings. In the Type A Building, the smallest and most compact of the three and the type of the Newton Falls USO Center, the auditorium was located directly behind the lobby and its wings, which contained the lounges, staff offices, showers, rest rooms, and kitchen. The Type B and C Buildings were L-shaped, allowing visitors to enter the lobby or the auditorium separately. All three designs were modest interpretations of the International Style. The Type A is especially distinctive with its severely utilitarian façade, flat lobby roof, ribbon windows and industrial sash. The Type D was an adaptation of the Type A plan exhibiting a smaller lounge space and the projecting wings were pulled back closer to the social hall/auditorium portion.

According to the 1941 USO financial report: “201 (clubs) are housed in buildings provided by the government in four standard types”. Current number of known survivors: 14, as follows:

Type “A”: Jacksonville and Wilmington, North Carolina; Bay City, Texas; Newton Falls, Ohio

Type “B”: DeRidder, Louisiana

Type “C”: Hattiesburg, Mississippi

Type “D”: Battle Creek and Warren, Michigan; Hattiesburg, Mississippi; Hawthorne, Nevada;

Newton Falls U.S.O. Center

Name of Property

Trumbull County, Ohio

County and State

Jamestown, Rhode Island; Marfa, Texas; Alexandria and Bowling Green, Virginia

Thousands of wartime defense workers poured into Newton Falls and surrounding areas to operate the massive munitions production facility at the nearby Ravenna Arsenal. In part because so much of the new housing for defense workers at the Ravenna Arsenal was located in Newton Falls, the federal government authorized Federal Public Housing Authority funds to build a new recreation facility to be operated by the USO in the village. Construction of the Newton Falls USO building began in October 1941. The W. B. Gibson Company, a contractor from Warren, Ohio, was chosen for the construction. It was completed in 90 days at a cost of \$65,860. On January 18, 1942, the USO building was dedicated in a ceremony that attracted over 500 enthusiastic residents who were greeted and addressed by a personal letter from First Lady, Eleanor Roosevelt.

The Newton Falls USO Center never closed in order to provide 24/7 service to support the defense workers and their families. It was available for use by local residents as well. During this timeframe, there were also two USO Clubs in Ravenna, Ohio but the closest USO facility to the Ravenna Ordnance Plant was in Newton Falls. The buildings in Ravenna are no longer standing.

Since plant defense workers were compelled to work around the clock to meet the enormous demand for ordnance material, the Newton Falls USO Center was explicitly singled out in a national publication for recognition and commendation of its important "Dawn Patrol:" "Newton Falls, Ohio has its 'Dawn Patrol' parties for men and women workers who finish their day's work during the early morning hours."⁶ According to the Ravenna Ordnance Plant newsletter these dances were held every Thursday from midnight to 2 am.⁷ In addition to this unique service, the Newton Falls USO Center also provided recreational opportunities, child care, crafts, indoor picnics, dances, photography as well as free coffee and donuts.

Following the end of World War II, the Ravenna Arsenal workforce was greatly diminished, servicemen and women returned to their homes and the use of the USO Center likewise ceased. In 1946 the Federal Works Agency put the building up for sale and in August 1947 sold the building to the Village of Newton Falls to become a Community Center.

For decades following its service as an USO Center, the Newton Falls facility operated as a Community Center for countless residents in need of public space for weddings, birthday parties, graduation celebrations and family reunions as well as dances for teens, activities for children, adults and seniors, tai-chi and yoga lessons and numerous on-stage music and theatre productions. Every Christmas for many years it hosted thousands of residents seeking a bit of holiday cheer and celebration. The Community Center served as a meeting place or event location for local organizations such as Kiwanis Club, Knights of Columbus chapter, and Mahoning Valley Grange No. 1272. Local service organizations such as the Lions Club and

⁶ Office of Civilian Defense 1943:11

⁷ Anonymous. Ravenna Ordnance Plant, ROP Atlas, Official Publication of the Ravenna Ordnance Plant of Ohio. November 1942, Vol. 2, No. 11, p. 19.

Newton Falls U.S.O. Center
Name of Property

Trumbull County, Ohio
County and State

Jaycees directed community service projects and funds to the needs of the Community Center. In December 2015, due to municipal budget constraints, the Community Center was closed by the Village of Newton Falls. As a result, the future of this historic USO Center is uncertain.

Summary

As America entered World War II, the home front embarked on the most monumental mobilization in the country's history. A massive federal wartime building program constructed facilities needed to produce military equipment and ammunition. Federal programs supplied housing for the massive number of workers migrating to jobs in the country's new wartime production centers. Federal government agencies partnered with private non-profit organizations to address the social impact of the mobilization upon servicemen and women and home front defense workers. The Newton Falls USO Center is significant for its role in providing recreation and entertainment to the men and women workers in the Ravenna Arsenal, "one of the world's largest ammunition loading plants."⁸ The Newton Falls USO Center retains its historic integrity of location, setting, design, feeling and association. An off-duty worker from the arsenal could still recognize the building and walk in for a cup of coffee and donut at the refreshment counter or wander into the auditorium for a quick dance to the sounds of a big band before going home until their next shift.

⁸ Walsh, p.70.

Newton Falls U.S.O. Center
Name of Property

Trumbull County, Ohio
County and State

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Anonymous. Ravenna Ordnance Plant, ROP Atlas, Official Publication of the Ravenna Ordnance Plant of Ohio. November 1942, Vol. 2, No. 11.

Anonymous. "Opening and Dedication of the Newton Falls USO Center," program dated Sunday, January 18, 1942.

Anonymous. *To the Friends of the USO*. February 1943, p. 7.

Harper, Marilyn M. and et al. *World War II and the American Home Front, A National Historic Landmark Theme Study*. Washington DC: U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 2007.

Harmon, Mella Rothwell. "Hawthorne USO Building," National Register of Historic Places Nomination (Carson City, NV: State Historic Preservation Office), 2005.

Lyman, Lima. *Lyman's Histories and Stories of Newton Falls*.

Newton Falls Public Library – History Room

Ohio History Connection/Ohio History Central website,
http://www.ohiohistorycentral.org/w/Ravenna_Arsenal

Pfingsten, Ralph A. *This History of the Ravenna Arsenal*.

Smith, Everard H. Ph.D., historian with focus on military history (Wilmington, N.C.), written communication.

Stern, Jewel and John A. Stuart, *Ely Jacques Kahn, Architect: Beaux-Arts to Modernism in New York*, 2006; *New York Times*, August 27, 2006.

Trumbull County Tax Records and Trumbull County Recorder's Office official land records

Walsh, Rita. *The World War II Ordnance Departments Government-Owned Contactor-Operated (GOCO) Industrial Facilities: Ravenna Ordnance Plant Historic Investigation*. U.S. Army Material Command Historic Context Series, Report of Investigations, Number 7A. Plano TX: Geo-Marine, Inc. 1995.

"65,860 USO Center Almost Complete at Falls." *Warren Tribune Chronicle*. January 9, 1947, 14:3.

Newton Falls U.S.O. Center
Name of Property

Trumbull County, Ohio
County and State

Wasch, Diane Shaw and et al. *World War II and the US Army Mobilization Program: A History of Series 700 and 800 Cantonment Construction*. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
 - Other State agency
 - Federal agency
 - Local government
 - University
 - Other
- Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 1.32

Note: Trumbull County Tax Records state 1.34 Acres.
Recorded Deed states 1.32 acres.

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1. Latitude: 41.18349 Longitude: -80.975428

Newton Falls U.S.O. Center
Name of Property

Trumbull County, Ohio
County and State

2. Latitude: _____ Longitude: _____
3. Latitude: _____ Longitude: _____
4. Latitude: _____ Longitude: _____

Or

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or NAD 1983

1. Zone: 17 Easting: 502058 Northing: 4558908
2. Zone: _____ Easting: _____ Northing: _____
3. Zone: _____ Easting: _____ Northing: _____
4. Zone: _____ Easting : _____ Northing: _____

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The Newton Falls USO. Center/Community Center is on a parcel of land consisting of 1.34 acres with 175 feet of road frontage facing North on East Quarry Street, Parcel Number 53-003022 as recorded by the Trumbull County Auditor. The deed as recorded at OR Vol. 449.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary includes the entire parcel historically associated with the Newton Falls USO Center building.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Connie Smith Talcott, Newton Falls Preservation Foundation, Board Member
organization: The Newton Falls Preservation Foundation
street & number: P. O. Box 31
city or town: Newton Falls state: Ohio zip code: 44444
e-mail: nfpreservation44444@gmail.com or SmithTalcott@gmail.com
telephone: 336-420-0448
date: June 19, 2017

Newton Falls U.S.O. Center
Name of Property

Trumbull County, Ohio
County and State

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location. (Attached/included)
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map. (Attached/included)
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

(Additional items of interest are included)

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph. (Included as prints and DVD-R Archival Gold Discs)

Photo Log

Name of Property: Newton Falls United Service Organization (USO) Center

City or Vicinity: Newton Falls

County: Trumbull State: Ohio

Photographer: Patrick (Pat) Layshock, Everard H. Smith. PhD, Lisa Hoerig

Date Photographed: March 10, 2017, May 1, 2017, June 15, 2017

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

Name of Photographer:	Patrick (Pat) Layshock
Date of Photographs:	March 10, 2017
Location of Original Digital Files:	1015 Paige Ct., Newton Falls, OH 44444

Photo #1 (OH_Trumbull County_Newton Falls USO Center_0001)
Front façade and west elevation, camera facing south/southeast

Name of Photographer:	Lisa Hoerig
Date of Photographs:	June 15, 2017

Newton Falls U.S.O. Center
Name of Property

Trumbull County, Ohio
County and State

Location of Original Digital Files: 3879 Warren Ravenna Rd,
Newton Falls, OH 44444

Photo #2 (OH_Trumbull County_Newton Falls USO Center_0002)
Front façade, camera facing south

Photo #3 (OH_Trumbull County_Newton Falls USO Center_0003)
Front west façade, camera facing southeast

Photo #4 (OH_Trumbull County_Newton Falls USO Center_0004)
West façade, camera facing east/southeast

Photo #5 (OH_Trumbull County_Newton Falls USO Center_0005)
West façade and rear elevation, camera facing East/Northeast

Photo #6 (OH_Trumbull County_Newton Falls USO Center_0006)
Rear of building and East façade, camera facing North/Northwest

Name of Photographer: Patrick (Pat) Layshock
Date of Photographs: March 10, 2017
Location of Original Digital Files: 1015 Paige Ct., Newton Falls, OH 44444

Photo #7 (OH_Trumbull County_Newton Falls USO Center_0007)
Front façade and East elevation, camera facing South/Southwest

Photo #8 (OH_Trumbull County_Newton Falls USO Center_0008)
East elevation and front façade with pond to the East, camera facing Southwest

Name of Photographer: Everard H. Smith, PhD
Date of Photographs: May 1, 2017
Location of Original Digital Files: 517 Dock St., Wilmington, NC 28401

Photo #9 (OH_Trumbull County_Newton Falls USO Center_0009)
Interior view of lounge with original furniture, fireplace and center posts, camera facing Southwest.

Photo #10 (OH_Trumbull County_Newton Falls USO Center_0010)
Interior view of lounge with original furniture, camera facing West/Northwest

Photo #11 (OH_Trumbull County_Newton Falls USO Center_0011)
Interior view of social hall with stage, camera facing Southeast

Newton Falls U.S.O. Center
Name of Property

Trumbull County, Ohio
County and State

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.). **Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

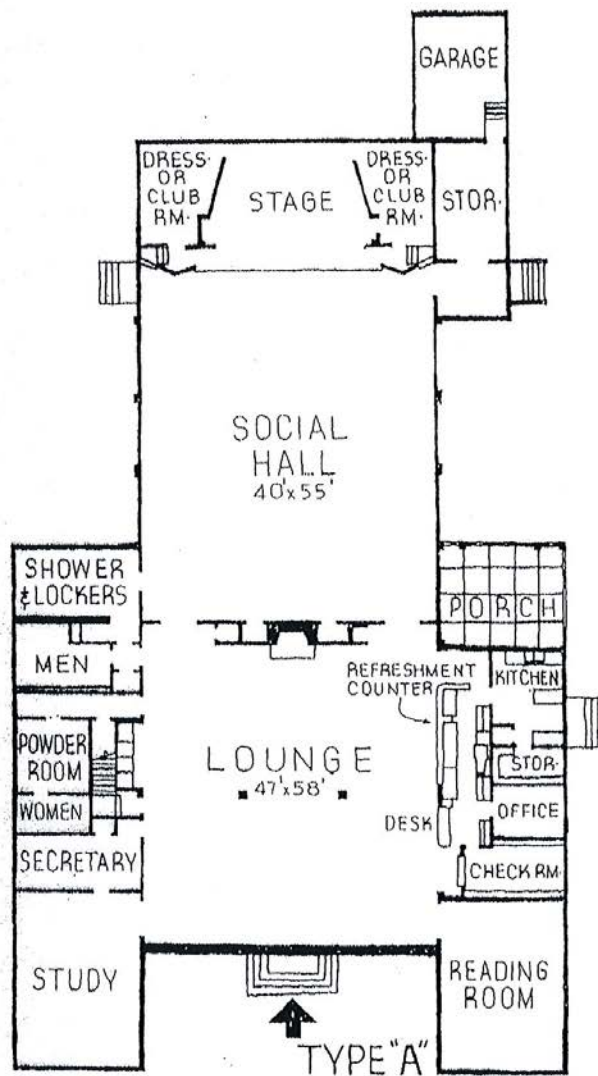
National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Newton Falls USO Center
Name of Property
Trumbull County, Ohio
County and State
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Supplemental Materials

Page 1

Newton Falls U.S.O. Center
52 E. Quarry St.
Newton Falls, OH 44444



This floor plan is that of the U.S.O. Type "A" building. It was obtained during research by EUGENE H. SMITH, PH.D., military historian.

The wings of ancillary offices, bathrooms, kitchen, etc. were designed to be reversible if desired. The Newton Falls U.S.O. Center has its wings of ancillary offices reversed. Otherwise, this floor plan depicts the Newton Falls U.S.O. Center layout in every respect.

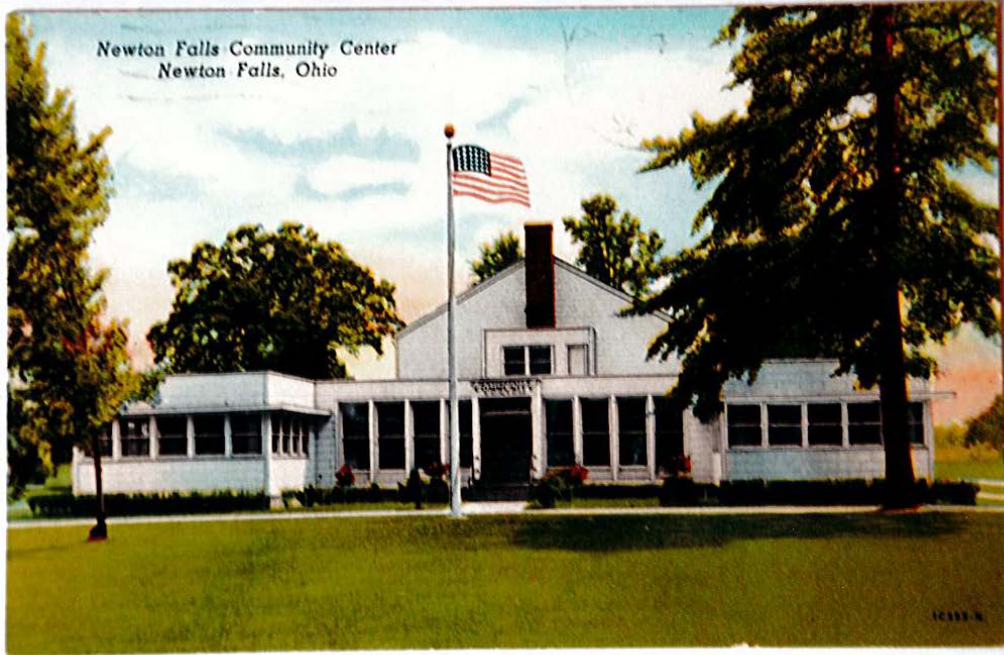
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Newton Falls USO Center
Name of Property
Trumbull County, Ohio
County and State
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Supplemental Materials

Page 2



Historic Postcard – Newton Falls USO Center, Newton Falls, Trumbull County, Ohio

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Newton Falls USO Center

Name of Property
Trumbull County, Ohio
County and State

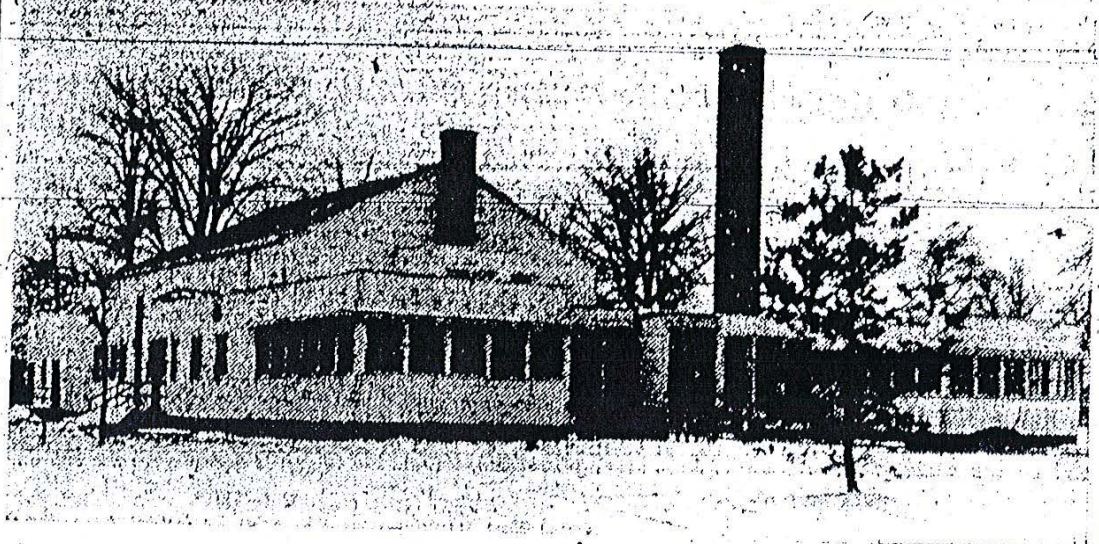
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Supplemental Materials

Page _____

NEWTON FALLS: USO CENTER BUILT
Warren Tribune Chronicle 09 JAN 1942 14:3

\$65,860 USO Center Almost Completed At Falls



(Tribune Photo)

Virtually completely, except for inside furnishings, is this United Service Organizations center at Newton Falls which has been built by the federal government at a cost of \$65,860 by W. B. Gibson Co., Warren, to provide recreational facilities for defense workers, particularly those employed at the nearby Ravenna Ordnance Plant and Portage Ordnance Depot. Inside the frame, one-story building are a large social hall, three club rooms, a kitchen, refreshment bar, lounge room, office, shower and locker rooms. The building, already in use for occasional programs, will be dedicated later this month. It is located at Village Park on Quarry St. near Center St.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Newton Falls USO Center

Name of Property
Trumbull County, Ohio
County and State

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Supplemental Materials

Page _____

*Resource: RDP Atlas (newsletter)
Ravenna Ordnance Plant
Vol. 2 No. 2 Feb 1942*

Capt. H. D. L. Van Bockern, executive officer to the Area Engineer at the Ravenna Ordnance Plant, presented the official key to the Building to John C. Coady, representing the Defense Public Works.



Taken from the auditorium, the photo below shows part of the crowd and the group of celebrities and speakers who occupied the stage during the program. A member of the Woman's Relief Corps is shown erecting the flag which that organization presented to the Community Center.



*Newton Falls U.S.O. Center
52 E. Quincey Street*

pg 2 of 2

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Newton Falls USO Center

Name of Property
Trumbull County, Ohio
County and State

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Supplemental Materials

Page

The source: Newton Falls Public Library

*Newton Falls U.S.O. Center
52 E. Quincey Street
Newton Falls OH 44444*

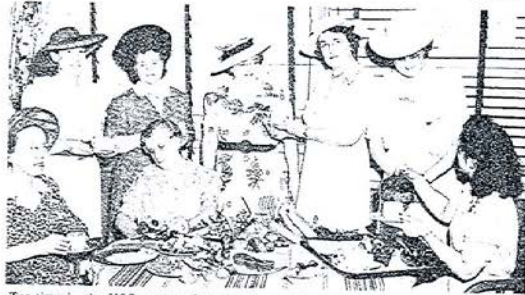
USO CLUBHOUSE AT NEWTON FALLS OPENS WITH "DAWN PATROL" DANCE



They've worked part of the night at the arsenal, but they're young and ready for fun, these workers pouring through the doors of the USO clubhouse at the "dawn patrol" dance given for the swing shift.



Most arsenal workers are young, want to go someplace where they can have a good time and not spend all their money. Here the swing shift "cuts a rug" to juke box music. In the background another group is playing ping-pong. It was all very informal. Refreshments cost a nickel.



Tea-time in the USO center. Seated, left to right, are Louise Hawley, Mrs. S. C. Harshman and Miss Florence Stone. Standing, left to right, are Miss Kathryn Fincinal, Mrs. G. E. Whitacre, Mrs. Lee D. Kepner, Mrs. Frank Mattes and Mrs. Mabel Johnston.



"Hawk" Leibert, Mary Todor, Libby Mandrean and Russell Kindley sit out a dance.



Miss Bertha Daniels is director of the Ravenna Defense Area and head of the USO at Newton Falls.



The guests line up for coffee and doughnuts.



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Newton Falls USO Center

Name of Property

Trumbull County, Ohio

County and State

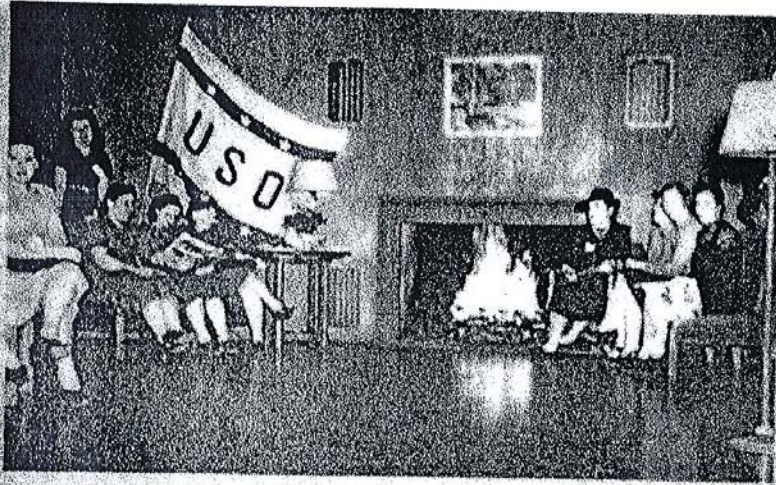
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Supplemental Materials

Page _____

Resource: Newton Falls Public Library

Newton Falls USO Center
52 E. Quarry Street
Newton Falls, OH 44444



RECREATION CENTER AT VILLAGE PARK IN NEWTON FALLS

Pictured here is a ladies group gathered around the fireplace in the large lounge area in 1942.

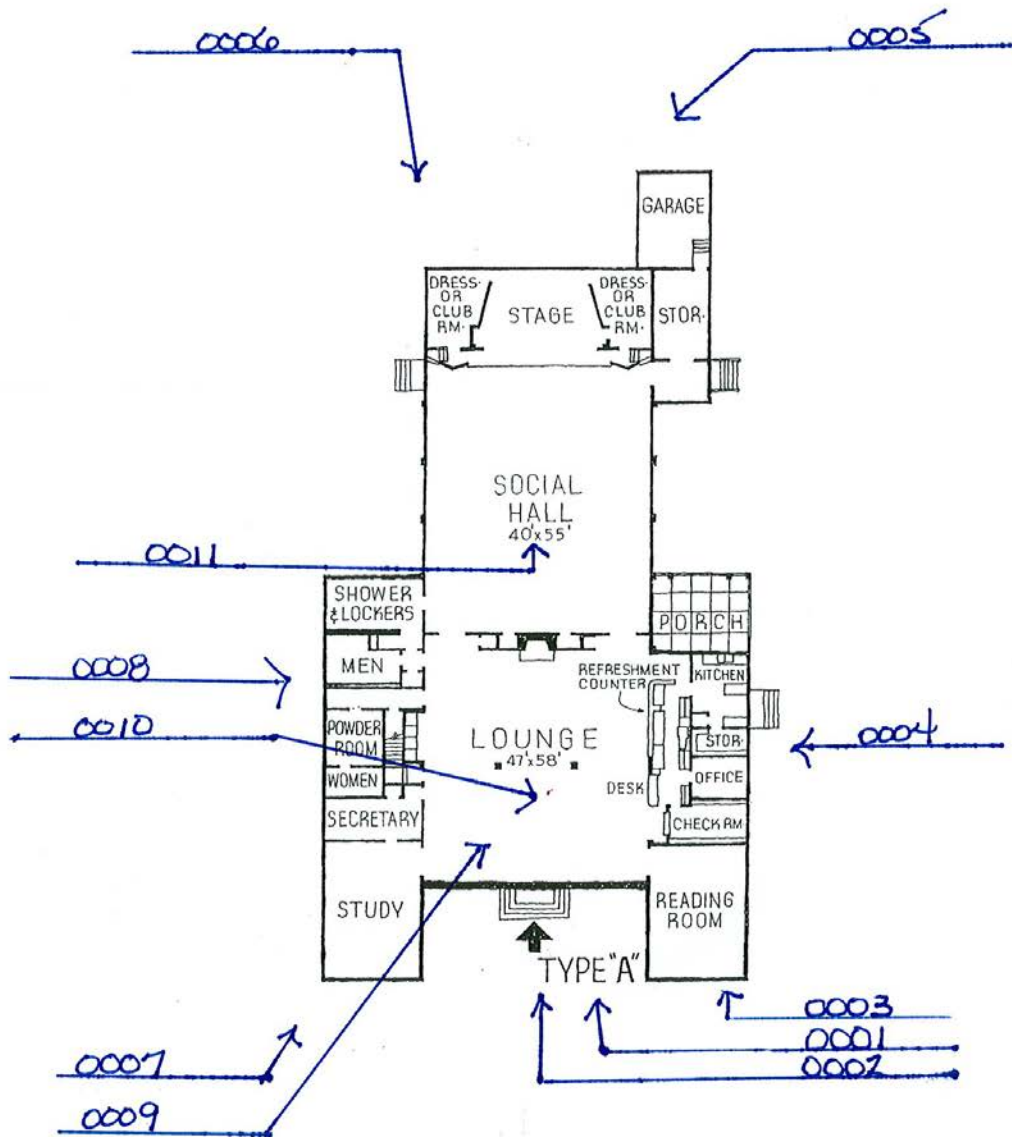
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Newton Falls USO Center
Name of Property
Trumbull County, Ohio
County and State
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

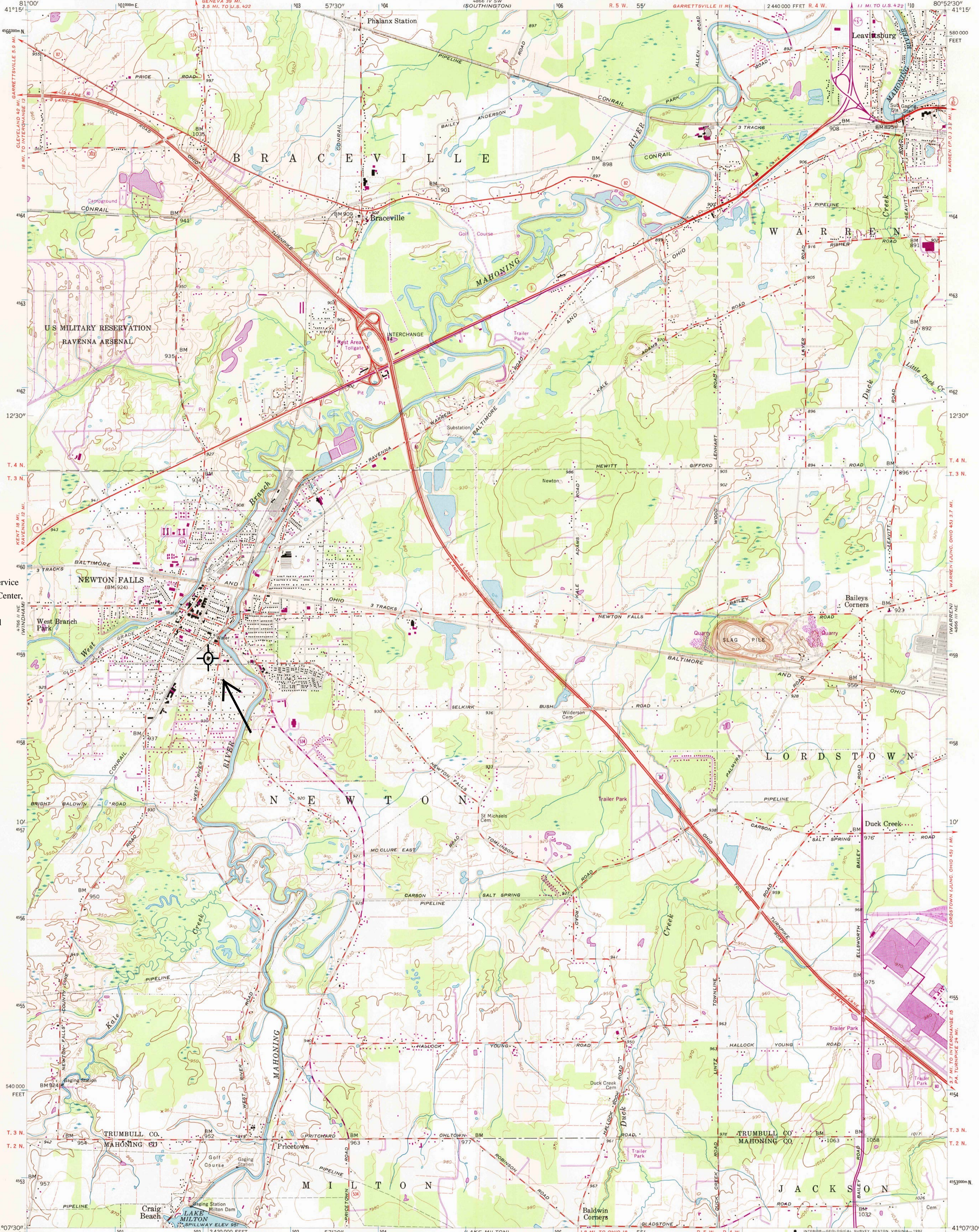
Section number Supplemental Materials

Page _____



Newton Falls United Services Organization Center
Trumbull County

Photo view key



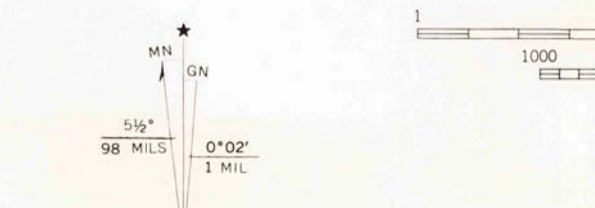
Newton Falls United Service
Organization (U.S.O.) Center,
52 East Quarry Street,
Newton Falls, Trumbull
County, Ohio

Zone 17
East 502058
North 4558908

USGS HISTORICAL
MAP ARCHIVES
FEB 05 1992
REC'D FILE COPY

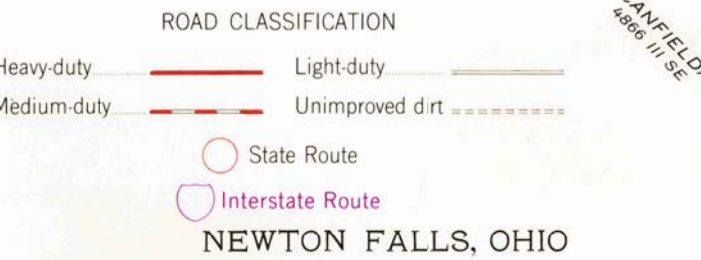
Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey

Control by USGS and USCGS
Topography from aerial photographs by photogrammetric methods
Aerial photographs taken 1957. Field checked 1959
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Ohio coordinate system, north zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 17, shown in blue
Entire area lies within the Connecticut Western Reserve
Land lines established by private subdivision of the
Connecticut Western Reserve
There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of
the National or State reservations shown on this map
Map photorevised 1987
No major culture or drainage changes observed



THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

Revisions shown in purple compiled in cooperation with State
of Ohio agencies from aerial photographs taken 1977 and
other source data. This information not field checked. Map
dated 1979.
Boundary lines shown in purple compiled from latest
information available from the controlling authority



41080-B8-TF-024
PHOTOINSPECTED 1987
1959
PHOTOREVISED 1979
DMA 4866 III NW—SERIES V852























UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action: Nomination

Property Name: Newton Falls United Service Organization (USO) Center

Multiple Name:

State & County: OHIO, Trumbull

Date Received: 1/8/2018 Date of Pending List: 1/29/2018 Date of 16th Day: 2/13/2018 Date of 45th Day: 2/22/2018 Date of Weekly List:

Reference number: SG100002124

Nominator: State

Reason For Review:

X Accept Return Reject 2/14/2018 Date

Abstract/Summary
Comments:

Recommendation/
Criteria Accept, National Register Criterion A.

Reviewer Patrick Andrus *Patrick Andrus* Discipline Historian

Telephone (202)354-2218 Date 2/14/2018

DOCUMENTATION: see attached comments : No see attached SLR : No

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.

REC'D BY SHPO DEC 08 2017



A. JOSEPH FRITZ

LAW DIRECTOR

19 North Canal Street
Newton Falls, Ohio 44444
Telephone 330-872-0589
Facsimile 330-872-0544

Monday, December 04, 2017

Ohio History Connection
National Registry Advisory Board
Attn: Ms. Susan M. Tietz
800 E. 17th Ave.
Columbus, OH 43211-2474

Re: Newton Falls Community Center, 52 East Quarry Street, Newton Falls, Trumbull County

Dear Board Members:

This letter serves to memorialize the decision of the majority of the Council of the City of Newton Falls, Ohio. The Council made this decision at a regularly scheduled and properly advertised public meeting.

The Council for the City of Newton Falls, Ohio wishes to *object* to the nomination of the above referenced City property to the National Registry of Historic Places. Council understands your Board meets on 8 December at 10:00 to accept comments regarding the property's nomination.

Please weigh the decision of the duly elected Council heavily. The Council is the steward of all City property, including the Newton falls Community Center.

I thank your Board for their attention to this matter.

Very truly yours,

Attorney A. Joseph Fritz
Law Director



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
NPS TRANSMITTAL CHECK LIST

OHIO HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE
800 E. 17th Avenue
Columbus, OH 43211
(614)-298-2000

The following materials are submitted on December 28, 2017
For nomination of the Newton Falls USO to the National Register of
Historic Places: Trumbull Co, OH

- Original National Register of Historic Places nomination form
___ Paper ___ PDF
- ___ Multiple Property Nomination Cover Document
___ Paper ___ PDF
- ___ Multiple Property Nomination form
___ Paper ___ PDF
- Photographs
___ Prints ___ TIFFs
- CD with electronic images
- Original USGS map(s)
___ Paper ___ Digital
- Sketch map(s)/Photograph view map(s)/Floor plan(s)
___ Paper ___ PDF
- Piece(s) of correspondence
 Paper ___ PDF
- ___ Other _____

COMMENTS:

___ Please provide a substantive review of this nomination

___ This property has been certified under 36 CFR 67

The enclosed owner objection(s) do ___ do not X
Constitute a majority of property owners → public owner
___ Other: _____



2018

December 28, 2017

J. Paul Loether, Deputy Keeper and Chief, National Register
and National Historic Landmark Programs
National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places
Mail Stop 7228
1849 C St, NW
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Mr. Loether:

Enclosed please find seven (7) new National Register nominations for Ohio. All appropriate notification procedures have been followed for the nomination submissions.

NEW NOMINATION

George-Caldwell-Grum Farm
Myers Daily Market
Bruce-MacBeth Engine Company
620-622 Vine Street
Chesapeake High School
Medina Farmers Exchange
Newton Falls USO Center

COUNTY

Belmont County
Clark County
Cuyahoga County
Hamilton County
Lawrence County
Medina County
Trumbull County

The enclosed disks contain the true and correct copy of the nominations to the National Register of Historic Places for the following: George-Caldwell-Grum Farm, Belmont County; Bruce-MacBeth Engine Company, Cuyahoga County; Medina Farmers Exchange, Medina County; and Newton Falls USO Center, Trumbull County.

The Newton Falls USO Center nomination includes a letter from the City of Newton Falls objecting to the National Register nomination. Since this letter of objection is from a public owner and Newton Falls is not a Certified Local Government, the State Historic Preservation Office is not seeking a Determination of Eligibility for this property. The letter of objection does not prohibit the listing of the property in the National Register.

If you have questions or comments about these documents, please contact the National Register staff in the Ohio Historic Preservation Office at (614) 298-2000.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Barbara Power".

for Lox A. Logan, Jr.
Executive Director and CEO
State Historic Preservation Officer
Ohio History Connection

Enclosures