

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PH0694436

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED JAN 8 1979  
DATE ENTERED FEB 22 1979

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

William Burt House

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER 9525 Brecksville Road (S. R. 21)

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Brecksville

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

23

VICINITY OF

STATE

Ohio

CODE 039

COUNTY

Cuyahoga

CODE

035

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

\_\_\_DISTRICT

PUBLIC

OCCUPIED

\_\_\_AGRICULTURE

\_\_\_MUSEUM

BUILDING(S)

\_\_\_PRIVATE

\_\_\_UNOCCUPIED

\_\_\_COMMERCIAL

\_\_\_PARK

\_\_\_STRUCTURE

\_\_\_BOTH

\_\_\_WORK IN PROGRESS

\_\_\_EDUCATIONAL

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

\_\_\_SITE

**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**

**ACCESSIBLE**

\_\_\_ENTERTAINMENT

\_\_\_RELIGIOUS

\_\_\_OBJECT

\_\_\_IN PROCESS

\_\_\_YES: RESTRICTED

\_\_\_GOVERNMENT

\_\_\_SCIENTIFIC

\_\_\_BEING CONSIDERED

\_\_\_YES: UNRESTRICTED

\_\_\_INDUSTRIAL

\_\_\_TRANSPORTATION

NO

\_\_\_MILITARY

\_\_\_OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Cleveland Metroparks System ✓

STREET & NUMBER

55 Public Square

CITY, TOWN

Cleveland

VICINITY OF

STATE

Ohio

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Cuyahoga County Administration Building

STREET & NUMBER

1219 Ontario

CITY, TOWN

Cleveland

STATE

Ohio

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Ohio Historic Inventory

DATE

5/76

\_\_\_FEDERAL STATE \_\_\_COUNTY \_\_\_LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Ohio Historic Preservation Office, Ohio Historical Center

CITY, TOWN

Columbus

STATE

Ohio

# 7 DESCRIPTION

## CONDITION

## CHECK ONE

## CHECK ONE

EXCELLENT

DETERIORATED

UNALTERED

ORIGINAL SITE

GOOD

RUINS

ALTERED

MOVED DATE \_\_\_\_\_

FAIR

UNEXPOSED

---

### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The William Burt House is a one-and-one-half-story farmhouse in the Greek Revival style. The house is of braced frame construction. It has an ashlar sandstone foundation and there is a basement. The Burt House features clapboard siding with cornerboards. The five-bay facade has a central entrance that features narrow pilasters and a three-part entablature. A transom light has been covered over. There are four small rectangular windows beneath the frieze. Other windows are double-hung, with 2/2 lights. They have plain surrounds. There is a central chimney at the rear of the main block and another in the one-story ell. There is a rolled asphalt roof. The house is painted white with green trim.

When viewed from the southwest, the house has the distinct form of a "saltbox," while the north elevation has a standard gable form that appears to be original. The discrepancy in form probably is explained by the one-story ell that projects from the rear of the house on the north side. Both north and south elevations have gable returns.

The Burt House has undergone numerous alterations. Most apparent is a long, narrow wooden porch, partially screened, that runs the length of the ell on the north side. The ell itself has been enlarged at the rear, and the windows and doors in the ell have been altered. The windows in the main block have been altered from their original 6/6 lights to 2/2, and decorative shutters have been added. Some foundation stones have been replaced with cinder block. The front stoop, probably of stone, has been removed; the front door is not used by the current occupants. Inside, the house has been extensively remodeled, although some original woodwork is intact.

The Burt House is situated on a five-lane road opposite a street of suburban tract houses. Since the property is part of the Brecksville Reservation of the Cleveland Metropolitan Park System, land to the south and east of the house is undeveloped and has a rural character. There is a public golf course and clubhouse north of the Burt House.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
—PREHISTORIC	—ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	—COMMUNITY PLANNING	—LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	—RELIGION
—1400-1499	—ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	—CONSERVATION	—LAW	—SCIENCE
—1500-1599	—AGRICULTURE	—ECONOMICS	—LITERATURE	—SCULPTURE
—1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	—EDUCATION	—MILITARY	—SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
—1700-1799	—ART	—ENGINEERING	—MUSIC	—THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	—COMMERCE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	—PHILOSOPHY	—TRANSPORTATION
—1900-	—COMMUNICATIONS	—INDUSTRY	—POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	—OTHER (SPECIFY)
		—INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES                      1841                      BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The William Burt House is a modest farmhouse in the Greek Revival style. It was built in 1841 by William Burt, an early Brecksville settler who had emigrated with his wife and child from Massachusetts. Thus the house represents the story of settlement in the Western Reserve region. It is important architecturally as an example of the "saltbox" house, a type common to New England but rarely found in northeast Ohio.

### History

William Burt was one of four children of Gaius and Hannah Burt of Easthampton, Hampshire County, Massachusetts.<sup>1</sup> He was born September 8, 1804. He emigrated to Brecksville, Ohio, with his wife and young son about 1833. A reference to William Burt in an early history of the county shows that he was in Brecksville at least by 1834.<sup>2</sup> By 1841, Burt had purchased 149 acres of land in Lot #44, and a notation in the tax duplicate shows the house was built that year.

Little is known about William Burt. Census records show that he was a farmer. His wife, Thankful Strong, was also a native of Massachusetts. According to one history, "She was quite a successful horticulturist, having many rare and beautiful plants for those early times, her flower garden being the admiration of everyone."<sup>3</sup> The Burts had four children, only two of whom reached maturity; William was age eighteen at the time of the 1850 Census; Charles Sidney was born in 1837; John S. Burt died in 1841 at age

<sup>1</sup>Last Will and Testament of Gaius Burt, "Burt Family" file, Brecksville Historical Association files, Brecksville Library, Brecksville, Ohio.

<sup>2</sup>Crisfield Johnson, History of Cuyahoga County, Ohio (Cleveland: D. W. Ensign & Co., 1879), p. 415.

<sup>3</sup>Gertrude Van Rensselaer Wickham, ed., Memorial to the Pioneer Women of the Western Reserve, 2 vols. (Cleveland: J. B. Savage, 1897), 2:687.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Brecksville, Ohio. Brecksville Library. Brecksville Historical Association files. "Burt Family" file.

Cleveland, Ohio. Western Reserve Historical Society and Cuyahoga County Archives. Cuyahoga County Tax Records.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1

QUADRANGLE NAME Broadview Heights

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES  
A 17 447540 4572350

B     
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C     
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

D     
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

E     
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

F     
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

G     
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

H     
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

## VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The nominated property consists of a square lot approximately one acre in size, described as follows: Beginning at a point 30 meters north of the intersection of Brecksville Road (S. R. 21) and Chapel Hill Drive, proceed

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Carol Poh Miller, Historic Preservation Consultant

ORGANIZATION

under contract with the Ohio Historic Preservation Office, Ohio Historical Society

DATE

23 May 1978

STREET & NUMBER

1260 Granger Avenue

TELEPHONE

216/226-8236

CITY OR TOWN

Cleveland

STATE

Ohio

# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE



TITLE

DATE 12/8/78

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 2-22-79

ATTEST: Wesley B. Franklin  
CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

DATE 2-21-79

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	JAN 8 1979
DATE ENTERED	FEB 22 1979

William Burt House, Brecksville, Cuyahoga County, Ohio

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE 1

two; and Sarah J. died in 1842 at the age of eleven months.<sup>4</sup>

The Burts lived in the farmhouse they had built until their deaths. William died April 1, 1882, Thankful on March 18, 1883.<sup>5</sup> At the time of his death, William Burt owned 170 acres of land in Lots #44 and 45, and "stock consisting of horses, cattle, sheep and hogs," which he left to his son Charles.<sup>6</sup> Charles continued to reside on the family farm. He died in 1910. In 1924, Adalene L. Hager sold the Burt House and ten acres of surrounding land to the Cleveland Metropolitan Park District, which then was establishing the Brecksville Reservation. The Park District has since used the Burt House as a residence for park rangers.

The Burt House, with its "saltbox" form, is a type rarely found in this vicinity. The architectural historian I. T. Frary has described a similar house at Richfield, Ohio (since moved to the Hale Farm and Village in Bath Township) as "reminiscent of those early New England cottages that met the needs of family expansion by the addition of a 'lean-to,' the 'lean-to' having become here an integral part of the house."<sup>7</sup> Curiously, the Burt House exhibits only half the saltbox form, for the north wall was given a standard gable form in order to accommodate the ell.

---

<sup>4</sup>The Western Reserve Historical Society, comp., "Cuyahoga County Cemetery Inscriptions," 2 vols. (Typescript, 1934), 1:56 and Federal Population Census of Ohio, 1850, Cuyahoga County, Brecksville, p. 272.

<sup>5</sup>"Cuyahoga County Cemetery Inscriptions," 1:68.

<sup>6</sup>Last Will and Testament of William Burt, "Burt Family" file.

<sup>7</sup>Early Homes of Ohio (Richmond, Va.: Garrett & Massie, Inc., 1936), p. 145.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED JAN 8 1979	
DATE ENTERED	FEB 22 1979

William Burt House, Brecksville, Cuyahoga County, Ohio

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 2

due east for 60 meters; then proceed due south on a line parallel with Brecksville Road for 60 meters; then proceed due west for 60 meters; then proceed due north along the eastern edge of Brecksville Road to the point of origin.