

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PH0674281

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

MAY 7 1979

DATE ENTERED

JUL 10 1979

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORMSEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**

14000775

HISTORIC

MANSFIELD BLOCKHOUSE

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

South Park, west of Brinkerhoff Avenue

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Mansfield

VICINITY OF

17th

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

Ohio

039

Richland

139

**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

City of Mansfield

STREET &amp; NUMBER

30 North Diamond Street

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Mansfield

VICINITY OF

Ohio

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Recorder's Office, Richland County Administration Building

STREET &amp; NUMBER

50 Park Avenue East

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Mansfield

Ohio

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Ohio Historic Inventory

DATE

May 1976

☐ FEDERAL ☒ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Ohio Historic Preservation Office

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Columbus

Ohio



## 7 DESCRIPTION

### CONDITION

☐ EXCELLENT

☐ GOOD

☒ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED

☐ RUINS

☐ UNEXPOSED

### CHECK ONE

☐ UNALTERED

☒ ALTERED

### CHECK ONE

☐ ORIGINAL SITE

☒ MOVED DATE 1908

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

The Mansfield Blockhouse stands in South Park on the eastern edge of a wooded ravine. Approaching the blockhouse from the northeast and southeast is a curving park roadway. The blockhouse is an approximate square plan, two story, hipped roof building. The foundation is rubble and concrete. The walls are constructed of hewn and sawn logs that had been used for several earlier buildings. The first story is about 15'11" by 14'5"; the second story overhangs the first by 2'8" and 2'11". Logs on the east and west walls of the first story cantilever outward to support the second story. The eastern cantilever log is also supported by smaller round logs serving as brackets. The hipped roof is covered with wood shingles. Brown painted concrete is used for the chinking between the logs which are also painted a dark brown. Each floor has one room. The first story has a door in the east wall and a window in the north wall. A heating stove is vented through a cut in the south wall. The second story is approached by metal stairs which lead to a door in the north wall. The east and west walls of the second story each have a window. The windows are wood casement with exterior wood shutters. A photograph from 1907 indicates these were originally 6 over 6 double hung sash.

The blockhouse includes material from three buildings. Approximately the lower third of the first story is constructed of sawn logs which were removed from a barn on Marion Avenue. These were used to replace termite damaged old logs. The new logs, which were emplaced within the past decade, are joined by a technique roughly approximating lap notching. The upper two thirds of the first story is composed of very massive, hewn logs which are joined by steeple notching. These logs are from the first story of the hewn log blockhouse of 1812, according to 1907 accounts. The second story is composed of logs retrieved from an 1821 log house which was dismantled with the logs being brought to the city in a parade of seven two-horse wagons in 1906.

The blockhouse was constructed for the 1908 Mansfield Centennial Exhibition which was planned to celebrate the centennial of the founding of Mansfield. It was constructed on the lawn area between the old Richland County Courthouse and Jail opposite the southeast corner of the Central Park. After serving as the centerpiece and focus of the Centennial, the blockhouse was given to the Park Commissioners and moved to its present site in South Park approximately 1-1/2 miles west of the downtown. It was intended to be located at its downtown location only for the duration of the Centennial.

Alterations to the blockhouse are relatively minor. It could be restored to its appearance during the 1908 centennial. The changes resulted from several causes. In 1929, it was adopted for the use as a headquarters for a Boy Scout Troop. In 1938, a fire caused damage to the interior of the building and required the replacement of the first floor surface.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

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

SPECIFIC DATES 1906

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Mansfield Blockhouse was constructed for the Mansfield Centennial Exhibition of 1908 by the Mansfield Centennial Commission. It is significant as a building constructed for and used as the focal point of the Centennial which was held to celebrate the 100th year of the founding of the city. From the accounts of the period, it is apparent the blockhouse, which was built in the fall of 1906, was intended to be a restoration of the blockhouse from 1812 with the stated condition, "... so far as was practicable."<sup>1</sup> In this situation practicable meant utilizing materials from several different buildings. The commission purchased the logs from the first story of the 1812 blockhouse which had been built by a company of soldiers commanded by Col. Charles Williams of Coshocton. After being used as a courthouse from 1813 to 1816, the hewn log blockhouse was sold and moved to lot number 168 (E. Second St.), from its original site on the north side of the Central Park. In 1906, the commission had the logs moved to a new site between the old Richland County Courthouse and Jail. As the second story was not available, the commission acquired a log house built in 1821 and which was associated with an early settler, Capt, James Cunningham. It was dismantled and brought from a farm in Worthington Township to the city.

The expedient use of the 1821 logs for the second story resulted in an overhang which appears to be rather excessive. An account recorded in the 1880 county history mentions an overhang of only 8 inches. This same account, though, also mentions the blockhouse had dovetail notching and a gable roof.<sup>2</sup> One must not interpret the blockhouse as a restoration or reconstruction. The blockhouse is a building constructed in 1906 for the use in the community celebration in 1908. At the time of its construction dedication, and during the celebration itself, the blockhouse was imbued with great symbolic meaning. The president of the commission, Huntington Brown spoke of its purpose "... being that the structure might stand for many years as a memorial to the brave pioneers who by their efforts in the early days laid the foundation stones of what is now the City of Mansfield."<sup>3</sup> The secretary of the commission, A.J. Baughman, spoke in terms of "... obedience to that world-propelling plan by which people have been driven westward in the way of destiny."<sup>4</sup> One may see the blockhouse was the focus of an important ritualistic event. It continues to have a symbolic importance for the City of Mansfield as a historic landmark. Though it has been altered since its construction in 1906, restoration of those features would be possible and is being contemplated by the City of Mansfield. It is proposed that a small museum be located in the building presenting the history and development of the city.

(see continuation sheet for footnotes)



## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Baughman, A.J. History of Richland Co. Chicago: S.J. Clarke Publishing Co., 1908.  
Graham, A.A. History of Richland Co. Mansfield: A.A. Graham & Co., 1880.  
Richland County Historical Society. Illustrated Centennial Souvenir, Mansfield, 1907.

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than an acre

QUADRANGLE NAME Mansfield North

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24,000

UTM REFERENCES

A 17 369 860 4512 638

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C               

E               

G               

B               

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

D               

F               

H               

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION Begin at the south west corner of Park Avenue West and Brinkerhoff Avenue; proceed south 1000' along west side of Brinkerhoff; turn west and proceed 400' to blockhouse; area of land is circle of 25' radius with blockhouse as center located within South Park which is owned by the City of Mansfield.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

George Siekkinen, Jr., Regional Preservation Officer

ORGANIZATION

Regional Preservation Office

STREET & NUMBER

Ohio State University

CITY OR TOWN

Mansfield

DATE

June 30, 1978

TELEPHONE

(419) 755-4011

STATE

Ohio

## 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL   

STATE   

LOCAL X

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

[Signature]

4/23/79

TITLE

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

DATE

7-10-79

DATE

July 9, 1979



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

MANSFIELD BLOCKHOUSE  
Mansfield, Richland County, Ohio

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

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<sup>1</sup>A.J. Baughman. "Address." Illustrated Centennial Souvenir. Mansfield:  
Richland County Historical Society, 1907, p. 32.

<sup>2</sup>A.A. Graham. History of Richland Co. Mansfield: A.A. Graham & Co., 1880, p. 457.

<sup>3</sup>Illustrated Centennial Souvenir, p. 23.

<sup>4</sup>Ibid., p. 31.







1. Mansfield Blockhouse
2. Mansfield, Ohio
3. Steven McQuillin
4. March 1979
5. Ohio State Univ. Mansfield Campus
6. Southeast corner, looking northwest
7. MBH-1

*Richland Co.*

*10 of 2*

MAY 7 1979

*DOE*  
JUL 10 1979







1. Mansfield Blockhouse *Richland Co.*
2. Mansfield, Ohio
3. Steven McQuillin
4. March 1979
5. Ohio State Univ. Mansfield Campus
6. Northwest corner, looking southeast
7. MBH-2

*DoE*  
JUL 10 1979

MAY 7 1979

*2 of 2*







ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

OHIO

STATE

Date Entered JUL 10 1979

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Mansfield Blockhouse	Mansfield Richland County
Memorial United Methodist Church	Caledonia Marion County
Mayflower Memorial Congregational Church	Mansfield Richland County
Belville-Maxwell House	Centerville vicinity Montgomery County

Also Notified

Honorable Howard M. Metzenbaum

Honorable John H. Glenn, Jr.  
Honorable John M. Ashbrook  
Honorable Clarence J. Brown  
Honorable Tony P. Hall

State Historic Preservation Officer  
Dr. Thomas H. Smith  
Director  
The Ohio Historical Society  
Interstate 71 at 17th Avenue  
Columbus, Ohio 43211

NR Byers/bjr 7/13/79

For further information, please call the National Register at (202)343-6401.

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THE OHIO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Ohio Historic Preservation Office

# National Register

PRESERVATION  
SITE INDEXPRESERVATION  
SITE MAPPRESERVATION  
STAFFRELATED  
LINKSCONTACT  
US

## National Register Searchable Database

Use your browser's Back button to refine your current search.  
Click here for a new search.

There are **52** sites matching your criteria!

Name	Address	Ref. No.	City	County
Barr, Jacob H., House	646 Park Ave, W	83002023	Mansfield	Richland
Bissman Block	193 N Main St	86002882	Mansfield	Richland
Bissman, B.F., House	458 Park Ave, W	83002024	Mansfield	Richland
Bissman, Peter, House	462 Park Ave, W	83002025	Mansfield	Richland
Building at 240 Park Avenue West	240 Park Ave, W	83002026	Mansfield	Richland
Building at 252-254 Park Avenue West	252-254 Park Ave, W	84003802	Mansfield	Richland
Building at 309 Park Avenue West	309 Park Ave, W	84003801	Mansfield	Richland
Building at 415 Park Avenue West	415 Park Ave, W	84003799	Mansfield	Richland
Bushnell, Martin, House	34 Sturges Ave	74001609	Mansfield	Richland
Central United Methodist Church	378 Park Ave, W	83002027	Mansfield	Richland
City Mills Building	160 N Main St	86003500	Mansfield	Richland
Colonial, The	283 Park Ave, W	83002028	Mansfield	Richland
Cook, J.M., House	429 Park Ave, W	83002029	Mansfield	Richland
Douglas, S.M., House	437 Park Ave, W	83002030	Mansfield	Richland
Dow House	564 Park Ave, W	83002031	Mansfield	Richland
First English Lutheran Church	53 Park Ave, W	83002032	Mansfield	Richland
Fraser House	681 Park Ave, W	83002033	Mansfield	Richland
Gilbert, F.A., House	343 Park Ave, W	84003800	Mansfield	Richland
Hancock and Dow Building	21 E 4th St	86002864	Mansfield	Richland
Kern, Rufus A., House	608 Park Ave, W	83002034	Mansfield	Richland
Kingwood Center	900 Park Ave, W	76001523	Mansfield	Richland
Krause, John, House	428 Park Ave, W	83002035	Mansfield	Richland
Lewis, Samuel, House	291 N Stewart Rd	82003636	Mansfield	Richland
Mansfield Blockhouse	South Park, W of Brinkerhoff Ave	XXXXXX41	Mansfield	Richland



Property Mansfield Blockhouse

State OH (Richland) Working Number 4.7.79.950

**TECHNICAL**

Photos 2

Maps 1

~~11+11 incorrect~~

**CONTROL**

OK- 5.8.79

I am not convinced that we know enough about the building historical significance apart from the centennial. - It certainly is, however, an interesting illustration of a turn of the century view of history and preservation.

**HISTORIAN**

Return/Conference  
W.R. Luce  
7/3/79

Constructed as a commemorative blockhouse to celebrate town's centennial in 1908. While old materials were used, they are in no way claiming authenticity - simple a commemorative structure.

**ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN**

Accept  
Braham  
6.19.79

-Based on that info - -

**ARCHEOLOGIST**

**OTHER**

**HAER**

Inventory \_\_\_\_\_

Review \_\_\_\_\_

**REVIEW UNIT CHIEF**

significant as part of 1908 Centennial of Mansfield - in that sense it is important as is any bldg at a centennial or bicentennial whether it is in Mansfield or Philadelphia - it reflects the way a people chose to recall its past.

Accept  
Lebowich  
7/2/79

**BRANCH CHIEF**

**KEEPER**

National Register Write-up

Federal Register Entry

8-7-79

Send-back \_\_\_\_\_

Re-submit \_\_\_\_\_

Entered JUL 10 1979