

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

For HCRS use only

received

AUG 16 1982

date entered

1. Name

historic Russ and Holland, Snow, Houses

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 12911 ^{and} 13114 Snowville Road. not for publication

city, town Brecksville vicinity of congressional district 23

state Ohio code 039 county Cuyahoga code 035

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<u>N/A</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Jerome J. & Irene T. Haus/Charles H. & Marcia R. Snow

street & number 12911 Snowville Road/13114 Snowville Road

city, town Brecksville 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 has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 9/77 - 4/80 federal state county local

depository for survey records Ohio Historic Preservation Office, Ohio Historical Society

city, town Columbus state Ohio

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Russ and Holland Snow Houses are located on a wooded, rural section of Snowville Road at the western edge of the Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area. The Russ Snow House stands on the north side of the road, the Holland Snow House on the south side. The houses stand approximately 600 feet apart. To the west, Snowville Road is largely developed with newer single-family houses.

The Russ Snow House is a substantial brick structure in a transitional Federal-Greek Revival style. The two-story house is five bays wide by two bays deep, with a central entrance and inside end chimneys. The brick, laid in common bond, reputedly was made on the site. The house has double-hung windows, 6/6 lights, with sandstone sills and lintels. The windows are fitted with louvered wooden shutters painted black. In the gable ends there are two small, narrow windows with plain stone sills but no lintels. The front entrance features sidelights and a transom capped with a heavy horizontal lintel in the Greek Revival mode. The thin cornice suggests the Federal style. The house rests on an ashlar stone foundation, and there is a basement. The gable roof is covered with asphalt shingles.

A photograph of the house taken about 1900 shows the presence of a one-story wood frame wing on the right (east) side of the house; this reputedly housed a summer kitchen and woodshed. The house at this date had double-hung windows with 2/2 lights, a clay tile roof, and a small shed-roof porch across the middle three bays of the facade. The porch, with its gingerbread trim, probably was added sometime in the 1880s.

The house was remodeled in 1928. A sun porch and terrace of brick construction was added in place of the wooden kitchen wing, and a family room, caretaker's room, and two-car garage of wood frame construction were added at the rear of the house. The front porch was removed and new double-hung windows with 6/6 lights were installed.

Inside, the house is in excellent condition. Notable historic features include black walnut woodwork; a large built-in storage cabinet, also of black walnut; and two fireplaces, in the living and dining rooms, with their original mantelpieces. The original main block of the house contains a living room, dining room, kitchen, and bath on the first floor; four bedrooms and two baths on the second floor; and two bedrooms and a bath on the third floor. Living space on the third floor has been enlarged with the addition of two shed-roof dormers at the rear of the house.

Outbuildings on the property include a large gable-roof bank barn, a chicken coop, and a small one-room log cabin. The barn, which has shiplap siding and a silo made of structural clay tile, probably was built in the late nineteenth century. The log cabin, which has a stone fireplace and chimney, was moved from its original location on Miller Road in Brecksville about 1930.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1845;1864

Builder/Architect *Unknown*

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Russ and Holland Snow Houses are significant for their long association with one of Brecksville's pioneer families. Members of the Snow family have been active in civic affairs, in Brecksville's political life, and in social and humanitarian causes. Both houses, together with their several outbuildings, illustrate Brecksville's heritage as a farming community. The Russ Snow House is important architecturally as one of only three brick houses in the Cuyahoga Valley built before 1850.¹

History

Russ A. Snow (1789–1875) was born in Plymouth, New Hampshire, although his parents moved to Bath, Maine, shortly after his birth. He married Ruth Hibbard in 1815, then served in the New Hampshire militia from 1817 until 1821. He moved his family to Atkinson, Maine, the following year. He purchased land, erected a house and barn, and "followed farming." The Snows, to whom two daughters (Charlotte and Jane) had been born while they were in New Hampshire, added two sons and another daughter to their family after moving to Maine: Owen Payson, Henry Holland, and Orpha P.²

Russ Snow left Maine in the spring of 1835 to locate a new home in a milder climate. Intending to travel to Indiana, he stopped over at Cleveland, where he found an old acquaintance who was living in Brecksville Township and who urged Russ to pay him a visit. While staying in Brecksville, Russ Snow purchased a piece of land "on speculation" and a horse, on which he started for Indiana. "The accident of his horse going lame changed the whole course of his plans," according to the reminiscences of one family member. Russ returned to Brecksville, purchased additional land, and "set about clearing timber."³ He sent for his family, who arrived on October 19, 1835, after a four-week

¹The Jonathan Hale Homestead (1828), in Bath, and the Stephen Frazee House (1826), in Valley View, already have been listed in the National Register.

²Owen N. Wilcox, comp., History of the Family of Benjamin Snow (Cleveland: By the Author, 1907), p. 239; and Memorial Record of the County of Cuyahoga and City of Cleveland, Ohio (Chicago: The Lewis Publishing Company, 1894), p. 419.

³Untitled reminiscences of Corwin Snow, dated March 13, 1918, in the "Snow Family" file, Brecksville Historical Association files, Brecksville Public Library, Brecksville, Ohio.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Brecksville, Ohio. Brecksville Public Library. Brecksville Historical Association files. "Snow Family" file.

Memorial Record of the County of Cuyahoga and City of Cleveland, Ohio.
Chicago: The Lewis Publishing Company, 1894.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 3

Quadrangle name Northfield

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A

1	7	4	5	0	2	5	0	4	5	7	0	1	4	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B

1	7	4	5	0	4	3	0	4	5	7	0	0	6	0
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 and justification

The nominated property consists of Cuyahoga County Permanent Parcels No. 605-19-61, measuring approximately 400 feet by 300 feet (tapering to 190 feet at the rear of the lot), and No. 605-27-2, measuring approximately

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state NA code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Carol Poh Miller, Historic Preservation Consultant
under contract with the Ohio Historic

organization Preservation Office, Ohio Historical Society date 29 January 1981

street & number 2940 Somerton Road telephone 216/321-3940

city or town Cleveland Heights 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature W. Ray Luce

title SHPO date 7/6/82

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I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

[Signature] date 9/28/82
Keeper of the National Register

Attest: date

Chief of Registration

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The Holland Snow House is a modest wood frame house with an L-shaped plan. It has a one-and-one-half-story main block with gable end facing the road and a one-story ell. The main block rests on a tooled stone foundation, while the ell has a foundation of coursed ashlar. There is a basement. The house has clapboard siding with cornerboards, a plain frieze, and double-hung windows with plain trim, 6/6 lights, and wooden shutters. Both the main block and the ell have a central chimney. The roof is covered with asphalt shingles.

The principal entrance, at the left side of the main block's three-bay facade, features a gabled hood whose sides consist of a lattice-work trellis. There is another front entrance in the ell. At the back of the house, there is a recessed porch with flush siding in the ell.

The house has been altered over the years, although its present appearance closely resembles a photograph taken about 1880. The ell originally accommodated a kitchen, pantry, and woodshed. There was a small recessed porch with flush siding in the ell at the front of the house, from which a door on the left side of the main block opened directly to the parlor. This small porch was closed up sometime in the early 1900s; its flush siding was reutilized as part of the new outside wall. Ventilators have been added in the gable ends of the main block, and the hinges have been removed from the wooden shutters, which now are nailed on.

Inside, the ell has been remodeled to accommodate a modern kitchen and what now serves as an "all-purpose" room. The interior of the main block, however, retains its original appearance. Downstairs, there is a parlor, living room, and two small bedrooms. Upstairs, there are three bedrooms and a bath. The main block has floors of ash and chestnut, and woodwork of tulip poplar and pine.

Outbuildings on the property include a barn, smokehouse, and a garage. The rectangular gable-roof barn was erected at about the same time as the house. In the early twentieth century, it was raised onto a new basement and the ground around it was graded, making it into a bank barn. It has vertical siding painted red and a coursed ashlar foundation. The red brick smokehouse has a gable roof and stone foundation. The garage, built in 1928, is a simple gable-roof structure with vertical wood siding and a corrugated metal roof.

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journey by carriage.

The Snow family occupied a log house already standing on the land, to which they added two sleeping rooms and a pantry. According to the Snow genealogy, "A plan was soon laid to erect a house of brick, in size and form like the one built in Maine, except that . . . it would be two full stories instead of one and a half. This plan was carried out in the year 1844." The Snows moved into the house the following year.⁴

The household was considerably enlarged in 1851, when sons Holland and Owen both married and brought their wives to live in the family home. Holland married Mary Jane Lockhart, of Richfield, Ohio, and Owen married Frances Fay Eaton, of Brecksville Township. By the 1860s, the two young families had grown so large that a new wood frame house was built on Snow property a short distance to the east, on the south side of Snow Road. Holland and his family moved out of the "Brick House" (as it had come affectionately to be called) and into what soon came to be known as the "Other House" in 1864. Russ Snow also moved to the "Other House" and resided there until his death in 1875. (Ruth Hibbard Snow had died in 1858.) Owen Snow remained in the original family home with his wife and their four children.

The Snows stand out as one of Brecksville's prominent families. Russ Snow, the family patriarch, laid out Snow Road (later changed to "Snowville" to avoid confusion with another road of the same name) in 1838. He served as a township trustee and was active in the formation of the Brecksville schools. The first school in the district reputedly was taught in his barn.⁵ Russ's son, Owen Snow (1823-1905), was a "highly esteemed citizen of the farming community" of Brecksville; in 1894, he had 180 acres of "good farm land" on which he raised "horses and sheep and some other live stock."⁶

Holland Snow (1827-1894), who had come to Ohio at the age of eight, was educated in the Brecksville district schools and in Brooklyn village. According to the family genealogy, he taught school in Richfield and Brecksville townships, and "thereafter his whole life was spent as a

⁴Wilcox, Benjamin Snow, p. 247.

⁵Reminiscences of Corwin Snow, "Snow Family" file. Corwin Snow writes that "The first school in this district was taught by Louisa Snow . . . in the newly raised barn of Russ Snow, which stood where Harry Snow's barn now stands, south of the road" (i.e., on the site of the present Holland Snow Barn, included in this nomination).

⁶Memorial Record, pp. 419-420.

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farmer."⁷ One biographical portrait describes him as an "influential farmer of Brecksville township." He farmed about two hundred acres and served as a township trustee from 1864 to 1872.⁸

Owen and Frances Snow's sixth-born child, Minabel Snow (1864-1947), attended Oberlin College and received her medical degree in 1899. After an outstanding career as a physician in Cleveland, Dr. Snow returned to Brecksville to spend her last years in the "Brick House" where she grew up. Her obituary noted that "Scores of Cleveland women owe their happiness and success in life to Dr. Minabel Snow, pioneer Cleveland woman physician who during her years as director of Sterling House gave them a new viewpoint and new ideals."⁹ Dr. Snow was credited with the establishment of Cleveland's West Side branch of the Y.W.C.A. and as one of the founders of the West Side Community Council in 1915. In her early years as a physician, she practiced at the Women's and Children's Free Medical and Surgical Dispensary in Cleveland's Haymarket district; this was the forerunner of Woman's Hospital.¹⁰

The "Brick House" served as the ancestral home for the entire Snow family. Summer and holiday visits to the house were the inspiration for Brick House Stories (1936) by Don Knowlton, a Snow cousin.¹¹ Another famous cousin, watercolorist Frank N. Wilcox, painted scenes suggested by his frequent visits to the farm. In 1935, the house was the site of the "Russ Snow Centennial" celebration.¹² Descendants of the Snow family from ten states gathered in Brecksville for a reunion and witnessed a pageant commemorating the history of the Snows. They laid a bronze plaque (still extant but no longer in place) on the property to commemorate the 100th anniversary of "the purchase and settlement upon this farm of Russ Snow and his wife Ruth Hibbard."

When Walter S. and Minnie Bartlett Lister (a granddaughter of Owen Snow) purchased the "Brick House" in 1928, they hired Cleveland architect Abram Garfield to renovate it. Garfield--"dean of Cleveland architects"¹³⁻⁻

⁷Wilcox, Benjamin Snow, p. 300.

⁸Memorial Record, p. 423.

⁹Cleveland Press, 22 October 1947.

¹⁰William Ganson Rose, Cleveland: The Making of a City (Cleveland and New York: The World Publishing Company, 1950), p. 419.

¹¹Cleveland: The Gates Press.

¹²Russ Snow Centennial Program, 1835-1935, Brecksville, Ohio, August 31-September 1, 1935 (privately printed pamphlet).

¹³Rose, Cleveland, p. 448.

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advised the Listers that "there were values here that could scarcely be reproduced; that the brick and stone in the building were of exceptional quality, and the architectural lines were very good."¹⁴ Garfield reportedly added "all the conveniences," while leaving the house "with as little change as possible."¹⁵ The Listers remained in the house until 1949, when they sold it to George E. Darmstatter. In 1971, Jerome and Irene Haus, the present occupants, purchased the property. The house has been featured on local home and garden tours, and it was recognized as one of Brecksville's historic houses during the American Bicentennial.¹⁶

After Holland Snow's death in 1894, his son, Harry, resided in the "Other House" with his wife, Alice Noble. They had five children, among them John Milton Snow, to whom the house next passed. John Milton married Orpha McCreery. Their son, Charles Holland Snow, resides in the house today. Farm operations ceased about 1960, because the small farm was unable to compete with modern, large-scale dairy operations.¹⁷

¹⁴Memory Book: Russ Snow Centennial, 1835-1935 (Cleveland: The Gates Press, 1935), pp. 57-58.

¹⁵Cleveland Plain Dealer, undated clipping, "Snow Family" file.

¹⁶Sun Courier, 8 September 1977.

¹⁷Interview with Charles H. Snow, 13114 Snowville Road, Brecksville, Ohio, 8 May 1980.

Item Number 9 -- continued

A Reminiscent History of Brecksville. Brecksville, O.: The Brecksville Historical Association, 1961.

Snow, Charles H. 13114 Snowville Road, Brecksville, Ohio. Interview, 8 May 1980.

Wilcox, Owen N., comp. History of the Family of Benjamin Snow. Cleveland: By the Author, 1907.

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300 feet by 330 feet. These boundaries encompass both the historic houses and their outbuildings.