

PH0688371

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	NOV 20 1978
DATE ENTERED	JUL 24 1979

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Jonas Coonrad House

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

10340 Riverview Road

CITY, TOWN

Brecksville *vic* VICINITY OF

NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

23

STATE

Ohio

CODE
039

COUNTY
Cuyahoga

CODE
035

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- MUSEUM
- COMMERCIAL
- PARK
- EDUCATIONAL
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- ENTERTAINMENT
- RELIGIOUS
- GOVERNMENT
- SCIENTIFIC
- INDUSTRIAL
- TRANSPORTATION
- MILITARY
- OTHER:

4 AGENCY

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (If applicable)

U. S. Department of the Interior,
National Park Service, Midwest Region

STREET & NUMBER

1709 Jackson Street

CITY, TOWN

Omaha VICINITY OF

STATE

Nebraska

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
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Situated on the western rim of the Cuyahoga Valley, the Jonas Coonrad House is a traditional brick farmhouse built in 1875. The house has a plain ashlar sandstone foundation with a cut stone water table, and there is a basement. The two-story main block is three bays wide with gable end facing the road. The front entrance is on the left side. A lower two-story wing projects from the rear of the main block, and there is a one-story ell on the north side. The red brick is laid in stretcher bond, and the house features tooled stone sills and lintels. The front entrance features a stilted rectangular lintel over a transom light. The paneled front door has a single round-arch light and is reminiscent of the Second Empire style. The house has large double-hung windows, with 2/2 lights, and there is an oculus window in the gable.

A screened porch has been added on the south side, and the outside end chimneys on the north and south walls probably were added when the house was made into two apartments in 1954. Although the original eleven-room house has been divided, an inspection of the first-floor apartment shows that much of what appears to be the original moldings are still intact.

*Although not part of this nomination, there is a large gable-roofed bank barn with vertical siding, built in 1913, as well as several sheds and garages of more recent construction. The original Coonrad barn burned down, and a cheese factory known to have stood to the north of the house during the late nineteenth century is no longer extant. A spring-fed pond created during the 1960s is situated at the foot of the hill between the house and the road.

*Please note the revision of this paragraph on Page 2 Item Number 7.

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 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

1875

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Jonas Coonrad House is significant for its historic associations with Brecksville township and agricultural development in the Cuyahoga River Valley. "Dairying largely engages the attention of the people . . .," Crisfield Johnson wrote about Brecksville in 1879.¹ This brick farmhouse was built in 1875 for Jonas Coonrad, who operated a substantial dairy farm and cheese factory on the property. Architecturally, the Coonrad House is important as one of the finest late-nineteenth-century residences in the Cuyahoga Valley.

History

Jonas Coonrad was born in 1836 in Rensselaer County, New York.² He was the son of Jacob Coonrad, a farmer and carpenter, and Mary Wager. At the age of eighteen, he learned the trade of molder in the Wager stove foundry at Troy, New York. Three years later, about 1857, he emigrated to Cleveland, Ohio, where he worked as a clerk in the grocery store on Pearl Street kept by his older brother, Jeremiah.³ After two years he went to Quincy, Illinois, and worked for seven years in a stove foundry. In the autumn of 1865, he married Catherine Morten, the daughter of David and Susannah McKay Morten. (Catherine had been born in Brecksville township, on the same farm which she and her husband would later purchase.)

In 1866, the Coonrads returned to Cleveland, and Jonas entered the grocery business with his brother. A year and a half later, he

¹History of Cuyahoga County, Ohio (Cleveland: D. W. Ensign & Co., 1879), p. 411.

²The biographical information on the Coonrads is taken largely from Memorial Record of the County of Cuyahoga and City of Cleveland, Ohio (Chicago: The Lewis Publishing Company, 1894), p. 732. Some of the birth and death dates given were supplied by The Western Reserve Historical Society, comp., "Cuyahoga County Cemetery Inscriptions," 2 vols. (Typescript, 1934), 1:60.

³Directory of the City of Cleveland, 1859-60 (Cleveland: J. H. Williston & Co., 1859-60), p. 69.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Lake, D. J. Atlas of Cuyahoga County, Ohio. Philadelphia: Titus, Simmons & Titus, 1874; reprint ed., Evansville, Ind.: Unigraphic, Inc., 1976.

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 5

UTM REFERENCES

A 17 452050 4569840
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The nominated property consists of a rectangular lot approximately five acres in size, described as follows: Beginning at a point on the western edge of Riverview Road 500 meters southeast of the intersection of Snowville Road and Riverview Road, proceed southwest on a line parallel with the north wall of the Coonrad House for 180 meters; then proceed southeast on a line parallel with Riverview Road for 150 meters; then proceed

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

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

8 May 1978

STREET & NUMBER

1260 Granger Avenue

TELEPHONE

216/226-8236

CITY OR TOWN

Cleveland

STATE

Ohio

12 CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

YES

NO

NONE

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

In compliance with Executive Order 11593, I hereby nominate this property to the National Register, certifying that the State Historic Preservation Officer has been allowed 90 days in which to present the nomination to the State Review Board and to evaluate its significance. The evaluated level of significance is National State Local.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

TITLE

F. B. Holland Jr., Asst. Dir., Cultural Resources

DATE

10/31/78

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Charles H. ...
 DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

7.29.78

ATTEST:

William H. Bramham

7.19.79

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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Jonas Coonrad House, Brecksville, Ohio--Revisions, 2/15/79

CONTINUATION SHEET

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There is a large gable-roofed bank barn with vertical siding on the south side of the house. It was built in 1913, after the original Coonrad barn, located near the road, burned down. A spring-fed pond created during the 1960s is situated at the foot of the hill between the house and the road.

These are several sheds and garages on the property. These are of recent construction and therefore are not included with this nomination.

Item Number 8 -- continued

The Jonas Coonrad House is significant for its historic associations with Brecksville township and agricultural development in the Cuyahoga River Valley. "Dairying largely engages the attention of the people," Crisfield Johnson wrote about Brecksville in 1879.¹ This brick farmhouse was built in 1875 for Jonas Coonrad. Coonrad was the only dairy farmer listed in the "Brecksville Business Directory" published in the Cuyahoga County atlas of 1874, and it is likely that his was one of the largest dairy farms in the township. Architecturally, the Jonas Coonrad House is one of the finest nineteenth-century houses in the Cuyahoga Valley, and is included within the boundaries of the new Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area. It is one of only four early brick farmhouses in the park, and it is the only one that dates from the second half of the nineteenth century. The historical integrity of the house is excellent; Riverview Road has remained largely rural, while much of the rest of Brecksville has been developed with suburban tract houses.

Item Number 10 -- continued

Acreage of nominated property: 5

Verbal boundary description: The nominated property consists of a rectangular lot approximately 5 acres in size, described as follows: Beginning at a point on the western edge of Riverview Road 500 meters

¹History of Cuyahoga County, Ohio (Cleveland: D. W. Ensign & Co., 1879), p. 411.

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purchased a farm of three hundred acres in the southeast corner of Brecksville township. Despite limited experience in farming, "he soon adapted himself to his new vocation and proved a success." The Brecksville Business Directory in the Cuyahoga County atlas of 1874 lists "Jonas Coonrad, Proprietor of Cheese Factory; capacity for 500 milk cows . . ." ⁴ Coonrad continued in this business until about 1880, when the completion of the Valley Railroad to Cleveland made that market more accessible to the Brecksville community.

In 1875, the Coonrads built the large brick farmhouse in which they lived for the rest of their lives. Jonas and Catherine Coonrad had three children: Jessie, who married Frederick Knapp; Kittie, who was born in 1887 and died in 1912; and an infant who died in Quincy. Catherine Coonrad died sometime early in the 1890s at the age of forty-eight. ⁵ Jonas married Lillie Johnson in 1892 and they had one child, Lida, who was born in 1896. Jonas Coonrad died in 1919, Lillie in 1927. Lida married Edward Sneider and they lived in the house until 1958, when it was sold. ⁶ The Coonrad property continued to be farmed until this past year.

A memorial record published in 1894 described the Jonas Coonrad House as "an elegant brick residence, which from its superb natural elevation commands a grand view of the beautiful Cuyahoga River coursing within a short distance." ⁷ This description still rings true today.

⁴D. J. Lake, Atlas of Cuyahoga County, Ohio (Philadelphia: Titus, Simmons & Titus, 1874; reprint ed., Evansville, Ind.: Unigraphic, Inc., 1976), p. 205.

⁵"Cuyahoga County Cemetery Inscriptions" gives Catherine Coonrad's date of death as "1893?," noting that the stone is worn and thus illegible.

⁶Telephone conversation with Lida Coonrad Sneider, Peninsula, Ohio, 4 April 1978.

⁷Memorial Record of the County of Cuyahoga, p. 732.

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northeast on a line parallel with the south wall of the Coonrad House to Riverview Road; then proceed north along the western edge of Riverview Road to the point of origin.

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southeast of the intersection of Snowville Road and Riverview Road, proceed southwest on a line parallel with the north wall of the Coonrad House for 180 meters; then proceed southeast on a line parallel with Riverview Road for 150 meters; then proceed northeast on a line parallel with the south wall of the Coonrad House to Riverview Road; then proceed north along the western edge of Riverview Road to the point of origin.