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7⁻ DESCRIPTION

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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Columbia-Tusculum Multiple Resources area is characterized by three geographical variations; a rather steep wooded hillside of relatively low fertile soils, a gentle sloping terrace of moderately productive soils, and a level river bottom of highly productive soils. Immediately south of this area is the Ohio River and to the east is the mouth of the Little Miami River. The northwestern sector of the area is situated on the slope of Tusculum Hill, a feature that tess 200' above the river and provides a windbreak for the settlement.

The most dense area of development lies parallel to Eastern Avenue on the terrace, although the hillside and bottoms have clusters of dense development. The types of historic resources that predominate are residential buildings, church buildings, commercial buildings, and cemeteries.

The resource area originally developed at the base of the terrace (present day Carrel Street and Airport Road) and was limited to a few log buildings. Because this location was vulnerable to seasonal flooding the village was moved up to the terrace in 1815. The terrace area, extending from Columbia Cemetery to Stanley Avenue, had been surveyed and platted by 1834. The area north of Columbia Parkway was subdivided in 1869 and settled in 1880's.

The Columbia-Tusculum area is comprised of buildings of mixed scale, style, use and construction. Overall the area is heterogeneous but certain clusters within the area exhibit homogeneity in scale and style. Architecturally the majority of the buildings are Victorian examples with lesser numbers of Gothic, Transitional and Classical. In terms of scale and construction the buildings are predominantly 2 1/2 story frame, asymmetrical and symmetrical, and accentuated by such period detailing as bargeboards, varied wall treatment, and decorative porches.

Most of the buildings were built on quarter acre lots and face their respective streets. The oldest buildings lie further back from the streets and generally occupy larger lots. Because of the uneven terrain the streets were laid in a modified grid pattern. There are no historic parks, squares, open spaces, or unique plantings within the Columbia-Tusculum resource area.

Approximately 75% of the buildings are residential (single or multiple) 15% commercial/residential, and 10% public or industrial use buildings. Of the buildings comprising the nomination 90% are residential, 6% are church or public, and 4% commercial/residential.

Two existing archeological sites are in the Columbia-Tusculum area. The Alms Park Site, 33 HA 375 is a small campsite adjacent to the overlook. This minor site was discovered during test excavation in 1977 by the Miami Purchase Association.

The Pioneer Village, 33 HA 101 (15) was discovered by Frederick Starr in 1958. This small village site rests on a glacial outwash terrace and tentatively dates to Woodland Period (approximately 1000 B.C. - 1000 A.D.). This small terrace is occupied by the Pioneer Cemetery, and the above sites are in grass and small shrubs. No excavations were undertaken at either location.

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HISTORIC RESOURCES OF COLUMBIA-TUSCULUM, Hamilton County, Ohio

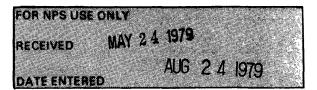
CONTINUATION SHEET

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Although no sites were ever recorded for the East End area, no surveys were conducted. Urbanization and commercialization during the late nineteenth century undoubtedly destroyed many archeological sites. The broad terrace upon which the present residential area lies is excellent for prehistoric habitation and utilization. The Lower Little Miami River Valley supported intense occupations during prehistoric times.

The initial historical resource survey was conducted by local neighborhood organizations such as the Ohio River chapter of the Victorian Society of America and the Columbia-Tusculum Historical Society. Under the guidance and direction of the Miami Purchase Association, local citizens interested in preservation inspected the entire area. The general criteria used in assessing the properties were those of the National Register.

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Multiple Resources of Columbia-Tusculum

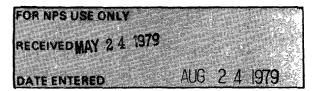
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After considerable study the boundaries for the historic district were selected for the following reasons (see map):

From Point A to Point B the boundary was chosen because: 1) Eastern Avenue, a major four lane artery, provides a convenient boundary 2) Elevated railroad obstructs vision south of Eastern Avenue 3) No buildings on south side of Eastern Avenue From Point B to Point C: 1) Eastern Avenue provides strong physical boundary 2) Buildings on south side Eastern Avenue are considerably broken up by alterations and intrusions From Point C to Point D: 1) St. Stephen's Church and rectory provide solid anchor for district boundary 2) The majority of buildings to the east of existing boundary lack architectural distinction From Point D to Point E: 1) All buildings north of district boundary were demolished by the city for Columbia Parkway improvements From Point E to Point F: 1) The majority of the buildings on the east side of Tusculum Avenue have either been altered or lack architectural distinction From Point F to Point G: 1) Fabric does not hold together well enough to expand district boundary 2) Many of the buildings have their focus away from district From Point G to Point A: 1) Fabric outside of district boundary lacks architectural distinction 2) Intrusions and vacant lots prevent further expansion of district Following extensive consultation with the staff of the Ohio Historic Preservation Office, the current district boundaries were selected for inclusion in the Multiple Resource nimination. Within this district there are only two intrusions, 3734 Eastern

Avenue (c. 1940), and 403 Tusculum Avenue (1923 building built around older building).

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Multiple Resources of Columbia-Tusculum

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An interdiciplinary inventory of the Columbia-Tusculum resource area was conducted by the Miami Purchase Association, the Victorian Society and the Columbia-Tusculum Historical Society. Before the Multiple Resource methodology was adopted, the nomination was prepared to include one large historic district. Further on-site examination by staff members of the Ohio Historic Preservation Office necessitated the utilization of the multi-resource appreach. Of the resources inventoried in the resource area, the proposed historic district and accompanying seventeen properties are considered eligible for listing in the National Register.

SIGNIFICANCE

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AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

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#### SPECIFIC DATES <u>c.</u> 1795 – 1925 STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Columbia-Tusculum Multi-Resource area is significant for its wide variety of nineteenth century architectural styles. It is also important that the area's historical development is represented by a corresponting style or site. The Kellogg House (1835), Stites House (1835), Morris House (1804), and the Langdon House (1855), are the most significant early buildings while the Victorian Row House (1889), and the commercial buildings on Eastern Avenue are selected examples from a later stage of development. The two cemeteries provide a visual link between the settlers, their homes and their community.

Throughout the nineteenth century the Ohio River served this area, like many other river communities, as a primary artery for trade. Yet columbia, primarily because of its flooding problem, never prospered into major commercial center. Interestingly, an 1810 account described Columbia as:

> ... the oldest settlement in the State, on the Ohio River, except Marietta, but has increased very little in the number of its inhabitants. At present it is only a neat, pleasant village, consisting of about forty houses, built at some distance from each other, on a rich bottom or interval. Nor is it probable, from its situation, that it will ever become a place of much business.¹

As early as 1795 John S. Gano surveyed a road from Cincinnati to Columbia and by 1835 the Anderson Turnpike passed through Columbia on its route to Chillicothe. In 1836 the Little Miami Railroad wasiincorporated and by 1841 it connected Cincinnati, Columbia, and the village of Milford. In 1870 it was absorbed by the Pennsylvania Railfoad and until 1970 was among the busiest lines in Ohio. All passenger traffic to and from Cincinnati on the Pennsylvania passed through Columbia. Today the line is operated jointly by the Norfolk and Western and Conrail for freight purposes.

Because Columbia was the gateway to the eastern environs of Hamilton County the area evolved into a primary transportation corridor. The Cincinnati and Columbia Street Railway Company began operation of steam "dummies" in 1866, and in the 1890's the line was modernized with cable cars. In 1877 the narrow gauge Cincinnati, Georgetown, and Portsmouth steam railfoad inaugerated service between downtown Cincinnati and Clermont

¹Cutler, J. A Topographical description of the State of Ohio, Indiana <u>Territory, and Lousiana</u>. (n.p., 1810), quoted in Ford, <u>History of Hamilton</u> County, Ohio. Cincinnati: L. A. Williams, 1881.

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HISTORIC RESOURCES OF COLUMBIA-TUSCULUM, Hamilton County, Ohio

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County. Electrified in 1902 this line was discontinued in 1935. In addition to these lines was the "Black Line", an interurban that connected Columbia, Coney Island and Clermont County.

The industries operating in the Columbia-Tusculum area were light and related to the railroad-river network. Of significance were tanneries, lumber and planing mills, forging mills, and switching yards. The area reached its "zenith" during the turn of the century, approximately the same time railroads and their related industries dominated local commerce. Until recently the neighborhood had stagnated and attracted large numbers of Appalachian whites.

The Columbia-Tusculum District is significant for exploration and settlement because it was the second permanent white settlement in the Northwest Territory (Marietta being the first). Columbia's founder, Captain Benjamin Stites, actually discovered the area by accident. He had come down the Ohio River in a flatboat on a trading expedition. While staying at Washington in Kentucky, some horses were stolen by Ohio Indians. He volunteered to lead a party in pursuit of the Indians and followed them across the Ohio River and then along the shore until they reached the Little Miami River. Discovering that the Indians had built a raft and coossed the river, the pursuing party did likewise. The party explored the valley of the Little Miami to appoint near the present city of Xenia where the pursuit was abandoned.

Stites was so impressed by the natural advantages of the region that he quickly decided to return and make a permanent settlement in the Miami country. He closed up his trading venture in Washington and returned to his family in Pennsylvania. Shortly thereafter he journeyed to Trenton, New Jersey, where he met Colonel Symmes, a member of Congress, and convinced him to take up the project of settling the Miami country. In return he secured contracts for twenty thousand acres of land lying partly in the Little Miami Valley and partly on the Mill Creek. The land on the Little Miami included the junction with the Ohio River. It was at this point that Stites decided to establish his settlement.

He returned to his home and gathered his party of settlers from New Jersey. There were 26 in all, including 3 married women, 2 girls, and 2 young boys. Being experienced enough to know not to depend upon the friendship of the Indians, the party stopped at Limestone, now the present community of Maysville, in Kentucky to prepare timber so that they might immediately begin the construction of buildings. They left Limestone on November 16, 1788, and floated down the Ohio River, landing about 1/2 mile downstream from the mouth of the Little Miami River on November 18, 1788.

In addition to Major Stites and his settling of Columbia were other major historical figures and events. In 1790 the Columbia Baptist Church, first Protestant congregation in the Northwest Territory, was organized. CONTINUATION SHEET

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The church's first pastor was the Reverend John Smith who, in addition to his ministerial duties, owned a store and small farm. Smith later moved to Camden City and achieved fame as one of Ohio's first senators and friend of Aaron Burr.

Tusculum's first resident was John Morris, arriving two years after Columbia wasmsettled. He became the township's first constable and his prominence in the area gave the cluster of houses on the terrace the name of Morristown.

Another Morris associated with the area was Thomas Morris, who lived in Columbia from 1795 to 1800. After working as a clerk in John Smith's general store, Morris was elected a U. S. Senator from 1833-1839 and an organizer of the Liberty Party.

Few buildings remain from the early nineteenth century. However, the oldest continuously occupied building in the city of Cincinnati, the Morris House (#20) remains. Constructed as a log building circa 1804, it has been covered three times with weatherboarding. The original log walls, although invisible now, are still intact. The house was built by James C. Morris, a tanner.

The heaviest concentration of historic resources, numbering approximately 65 buildings, lie in a district bounded roughly by Tusculum Avenue, Eastern Avenue and Morris Place. Herein lie the vast majority of residential buildings (c. 1870-1895), most of them Victorian in style.

### Partial Inventory of Historic Resources Located within the District.

Stanley House (3618 Eastern Avenue, #18): Symmetrical 2 story frame Transitional marked by center gable, doorway with sidelights and transom, and delicately carved two story side porch. c. 1860. Owned in 1880's by Horace J. Stanley, Cincinnati's chief civil engineer.

Langdon House (3624 Eastern Avenue, #19): Frame Gothic Revival, 1 1/2 story marked by four bay arched veranda. Vertical board and batten wall treatment. Listed in National Register. c. 1855. Built by Dr. Wesley Elstun and purchased in 1865 by Dr. Henry Archer Langdon, noted Civil War doctor.

Morris House (3642 Eastern Avenue, #20): Symmetrical 2 1/2 story frame vernacular distinguished by center gable, 5 bays, and Victorian porch. Log building underneath. 1804, 1830.

Columbia Baptist Church (3718 Eastern Avenue, #21): Asymmetrical coursed stone Gothic style building with a massive tower on the facade. The tower is distinguished by a deeply cut, pointed arch entrance with lighted transom

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and hanging lantern. The original lancet windows in the tower have 2/1 double hung windows with upper windows being characterized by pointed arches. The belfry openings are characterized by a centered square rustic stone pillar supporting a smooth stone lintel. Square turrets accentuate the top four corners of the tower. A tent roof caps the tower and turrets. south gable wall of the nave has an enormous pointed arch window with bold wood Gothic multifoil tracery forming three arched with quatrefoil motif and stained glass windows. The gable pediment has a trio of lancet louvered openings. Turrets are located on the ends of the nave gable with a finial at the peak of the gable. The brick walls in the remainder of the building are pierced with single and paired window openings with rustic stone lintels and sills. The distinguishing feature of these windows is the pointed arch frame in square masonry opening. The circular portion of the building with low profile conical roof behind the tower has a rectangular clearstory opening encasing the four pointed arch windows. The north end of the nave has a steep hip roof. The roof is pierced by several dormers. An addition off the north side of the building was added at a later date.

Carnegie Library (3738 Eastern Avenue, #22): One story Renaissance Revival in brick with rustic stone foundation, arched bays, overhanging cornice, and tile hip roof. 1907.

St. Stephen Church (3800 Eastern Avenue, #23): Larger scale Roman Classical building marked by smooth Corinthian columns supporting boxed pediment on facade and Romanesque bell tower on side. 1923.

Residence (335 Tusculum Avenue, #24): **Two**story brick Mansard style marked by arched hoodmolds over first floor bays and door, and slightly protruding roof dormers. 1880.

Residence (343 Tusculum Avenue, #25): Frame Victorian distinguished by elaborate bracketed cornice, gable bracing, and bay windows. 1876.

Fee House (325 Tusculum Avenue, #26): Queen Anne Style, erected in 1890. This 2 1/2 story frame building is distinguished by corner tower, balustrade over porch and side bay window below cross gable. The gable walls, upper tower story and cross gable wall are finished with pattern shingles. The round tower has a square base and is capped with a conical roof with finial. The second story windows in the tower are 1/1 double hung geometrical pattern lead windows. There is a very ornate pattern lead window above the picture window in the first story of the tower and first and second stories of the bay window. A small projecting canopy band at the eave line extends across the front gable and tower. A pair of 6/1 double hung windows are in the gable pediment. The 9/1 double hung windows are characterized by unequal window panes in the upper window.

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Dr. Frank Fee was a Cincinnati surgeon and chief of staff of Christ Hospital.

Residence (415 Tusculum Avenue, #27): Smaller scale 1 1/2 story frame building with center gable enclosing pointed arch window and muted bargeboard. c. 1865.

Residence (431 Tusculum Avenue, #28): Irregular frame Shingle Style distinguished by varied shingle wall treatments, delicate entrance porch, and gable roof. c. 1875.

Stevens House (3718 Morris Place, #29): Stick Shingle Style, erected in 1881. This 2 1/2 story masonry and frame building is distinguished by ornate brickwork on chimneys, the multiplicity of roof intersections, second story shingle pattern treatment, and stone and brick first story wall treatment. The south facade has a pair of double hung windows ornate brackets supporting the framed overhanging pediment. A strong statement is achieved with the use of wood molding between the hood molding of the two unadorned double hung windows. A continuous wooden molding belt coarse is located below all second story windowssills and separates pattern shingles from wooden shakes on the flared overhanging skirt. The functional design of this building is characterized by the circular louver in the main gable, the 24 light window adjacent to the chimney and the dormer with shed roof over the porch. The porch is accentuated with balustrades and brackets which support latticework below roof eaves. The first story on the south facade had stonework over brick construction. The stonework is highlighted by a round corner supporting a bowed window bay featuring four 1/1 double hung curved windows. The west facade has large brackets supporting a projecting cross gable with two modified palladian windows. The east facade has a two-story bay window. The roof is broken with a cross gable with a projected gable pediment. The interior is distinguished by its inlaid floor in the two parlors and paneled ceiling in the entrance hall. There are four Eastlake fireplaces and two tile fireplaces with wooden mantels.

On upper Tusculum Avenue is the outstanding Victorian Row House (1889, #1), and the model Victorian residence. (c. 1895, #2).

On Mead Avenue there are two unaltered residences, one an outstanding Carpenter Gothic with elaborate bargeboard (c. 1890, #3), a frame Victorian with wrap around porch. (1894, #4).

The remainder of the historic resources that are buildings face Eastern Avenue and vary widely in architecture and use. The Stites House, (#10), The Kellogg House, (#6), and the Landt House, (#8), are excellent examples

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of Federal, Vernacular, and Transitional styles while the commercial/ residential buildings(circa.1860-1900, #12-#15), exhibit either wooden storefronts or unique detailing. The Hoodin Building, (#5), is an unusual example of frame Italianate multi-family architecture. The McKinley School (1876, #11), is a good example of functional institutional architecture as is the Spencer Township Hall (1860, #9). Two cemeteries, the Fulton Presbyterian Cemetery, (#16), and the Pioneer Memorial Cemetery, (#17), complete the historic resources of the nomination.

Increcent years many of the historic resources were permitted to deteriorate for either lack of interest or rumors of road improvements. When the rumors proved just that and public interest in the area revived houses began selling and the new residents initiated moves to upgrade the Among the improvements since 1964 are: restoration and maintenance area. of the Pioneer Memorial Cemetery, plans for street beautification from Columbia Parkway to Eastern Avenue and East on Eastern Avenue, upgraded zoning, Neighborhood Improvement Plan (NIP) adopting city financed improvements, and the Columbia-Tusculum Community Council has become active. Currently the Langdon House, (#19), (National Register) is being sympathetically restored and numerous residential buildings on Tusculum Avenue and Morris Place are either being restored or rehabilitated. The Spencer Town Hall, (#9), is serving an adaptive use and the owner plans to remove a late addition from the facade. The Columbia-Tusculum Historical Society is planning walking tours of the area, is encouraging small businesses in the commercial area and will be assisting homeowners in upgrading their properties in a manner sympathetic to the historic fabric of the area.

The combination of multiple resources was chosen on the basis of their architectural and historical significance relating to the community. The district boundary was selected because the buildings exhibited a generally unaltered grouping of nineteenth and early twentieth century buildings.

At this time the results of the survey and inventory have not been integrated by the local planning agency. However, the survey was submitted to the Cincinnati Planning Commission in April, 1978. In 1975 the Planning Commission and the East End Area Council prepared an East End Area Plan, which included mention of the historic resources. The document as yet has not been published.

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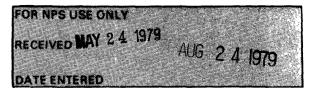
The mame Tusculum is derived from Nicholas Longworth's subdivision of the area in the 1860's. Apparently Longworth, a prominent winemaker, took the word from Tusculum Hill in Rome, Italy. Perhaps the Italian tradition of grape growing attracted the interest of this wealthy land owner.

By 1875 Tusculum Avenue extended from the crest of Tusculum Hill down to Undercliff Avenue (present day Columbia Parkway), whith the section between Undercliff and Eastern Avenues was called Willow Run. In the late eighteenth century this area was heavily populated by people engaged in the shipbuilding industry.

The two cemeteries included within this nomination should be considered eligible for the National Register because of their age, historical importance and their historical association with the persons and events of the Columbia-Tusculum area. More specifically, Pioneer Memorial Cemetery is eligible because the "age, tradition, and symbolic value has invested it with its own historical significance."²

²How to Complete National Register Forms. Washington, D. C.: National Park Service, January, 1977, p. 6.

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



Multiple Resources of Columbia-Tusculum

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The seventeen individual properties listed in the nomination do meet the criteria of the National Register. The following material will suppliment the documentation on the inventory sheets and has been added to Item #43 on the OHI.

- #1 531-541 Tusculum Avenue. This building is the only such rowhouse in the City of Cincinnati. Its Victorian detailing and architectural integrity add to its significance.
- #2 506 Tusculum Avenue. This building, in an unaltered state of preservation, is an outstanding example of Victorian architecture.
- #3 3708 Mead. Especially noteworthy is the scalloped bargeboard and decorative porch. The building is a rare example of Carpenter Gothic and has undergone little alteration.
- #4 3718 Mead. This building is an outstanding example of frame Victorian residential architecture.
- #6 3807 Eastern Avenue. This larger scale frame building is a highly visible focal point and is an integral part of the community's built environment. Perhaps the most prominent Kellogg associated with the building was Edwin E. Kellogg, Cincinnati city councilman in 1904. He was the city's primary mover for railroad track elevation and worked toward the improvement of streets and sewers. Numerous members of the Kellogg family resided here, in 1890 Ensign K, Edwin, George, Marshall, and Willard listed this as their place of residence. Marshall (1864-1950), was a machinist, George was employed at Shillito's, and Willard was a conductor. Ensign K. manufactured bricks in New Richmond. This property is significant for its association with an old local family and their contribution to the commerce and politics of Cincinnati.
- #7 3815-3817 Eastern Avenue. An example of the Colonial-Georgian Revival influence in Cincinnati. Its serpentine facade is an unusual treatment in Cincinnati.
- #9 3833 Eastern Avenue. This building served as both an Odd Fellows Lodge and the Spencer Township Meeting Hall. Two placques on the front facade read: "Spencer Lodge #347 I.O.O.F Instituted July 6, 1859; Spencer Township Hall Erected A.D. 1860" #10 315 Stites Avenue. The Stites House is among the oldest buildings in the community
- #10 315 Stites Avenue. The Stites House is among the oldest building**s**in the community and built by descendants of the first settlers to Columbia. It is an excellent example of Federal-Greek Revival architecture.
- #11 3905 Eastern Avenue. Built as the Fwenty-Fourth District School in 1876 and renamed the McKinley School circa 1900. The original Twenty-Fourth District School was known as the Pendleton House and built in 1862. The present school was also known as the Columbia House, built at a cost of \$42,775 and boasting 12 rooms and seats for 780 pupils.
- #13 & #14. 4024 & 4026 Eastern Avenue. Although these two buildings were built in the twentieth century they retain their commercial integrity and contribute to the streetscape.

^{#19} Until recently this was the oldest continuously operated drugstore in Cincinnati.

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9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES	
Clossman, Dr. Richard H. "A History of the Ohio Baptist Conv facturing Printers Co., 1976	ention", Manu-
"Cincinnati - 1788 to 1800: A Historical Vignette! supplement <u>Cincinnati Historical Society Bulletin</u> vol. 34 no. 2 summer "Cincinnati: A Guide to the Queen City and Neighbors" Works J istration; 1943 (continued)	1986
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Starting at a point in Wilmer Avenue approximately 250 northe Pioneer Cemetery proceed northwest 4,000 feet until intersect Avenue approximately 100 feet south of intersection with Hand From there proceed south along Stanley Avenue until reaching Proceed east 4000 feet along Kellogg Avenue until the Sewage At that point proceed north-northeastwardly until reaching the beginning ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BO	ting Stanley Iman Street. Kellogg Svense. Dispondetwant. he point of
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<b>11</b> FORM PREPARED BY NAME / TITLE Columbia-Tusculum Historical Society - Miami Purchase Associa	+ion 1/17.00
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STREET & NUMBER TELEPHONE	; , 1
Cincinnati, Ohio 45226 CITY OR TOWN STATE	
<b>12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATIO</b>	)N
THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS,	
NATIONALSTATELOCAL_	
As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Pul hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluate criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.	
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE	78
TITLE DATE	
FOR NPS USE ONLY I HEREBY GERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER AND AUC DATE	·.28-29
ATTEST WILL AN H. BAMAAN KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER	3 70

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

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HISTORIC RESOURCES OF COLUMBIA-TUSCULUM, Hamilton County, Ohio

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Verbal Boundary (continued)		

lines of Tusculum for 250' proceeding NNW along N right-of-way of Morris Place then WSW 220' along Stanley Avenue to Eastern.