

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.



1. Name of Property

Historic name: Ashland County Children's Home
Other names/site number: Freer Children's Home; Children's Receiving Home
Name of related multiple property listing: N/A
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

2. Location

Street & number: 1260 Center Street
City or town: Ashland State: OH County: Ashland
Not For Publication: n/a Vicinity: n/a

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,
I hereby certify that this X nomination ___ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.
In my opinion, the property X meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria.
I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

___ national ___ statewide X local
Applicable National Register Criteria:
X A ___ B X C ___ D

Barbara Powell
DSHPO Inventory & Registration April 19, 2019
Signature of certifying official/Title: _____ Date
State Historic Preservation Office/Ohio History Connection _____
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.
Signature of commenting official: _____ Date
Title : _____ State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

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4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain:)


Signature of the Keeper

6/17/2019
Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private:
- Public – Local
- Public – State
- Public – Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box.)

- Building(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

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Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>4</u>	<u> </u>	buildings
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	sites
<u> </u>	<u>1</u>	structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	objects
<u>4</u>	<u>1</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC: Institutional Housing

EDUCATION: School

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

VACANT

EDUCATION: School

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE 19th & 20th CENTURY REVIVALS: Colonial Revival
MODERN MOVEMENT: International Style

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: Brick, Stone, Wood

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

The 90-acre Ashland County Children's Home property includes a two-story institutional home, garage, barn, and one-story school. All of the buildings contribute to the historic significance of the property. There is also a noncontributing picnic shelter structure, which was constructed outside the period of significance. The prominent pedimented two-story porch, with its fanlight, and the dentils below the cornice give the brick Children's Home elements of the Colonial Revival style. The sizeable frame 1947 barn supported the mission of the facility and is of the Three Gable Barn type. The adjacent 1961 Dale-Roy School exhibits the International Style. Located roughly a little over a mile from the center of the city of Ashland, the Ashland County Children's Home is south of the historic downtown. The individual buildings maintain historic integrity, and the property as a whole maintains integrity, reflecting its agricultural and institutional history.

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Narrative Description

Setting

The terrain on which the Ashland County Children's Home is located is characterized by gently rolling hills. The children's home, garage, barn, and adjacent Dale-Roy School are largely surrounded by open fields of grassland (photos 1-3). The southern and western edges of the property are defined by a 30-acre wooded area. The buildings have a deep set back from Center Street, which is also State Route 60. A long, tree-lined driveway from Center Street, curves around the home on the south side to access the garage and barn behind it. Behind the home, the driveway branches off to the south above the barn and to the north behind the Dale-Roy School. Additionally, a black top driveway, which accesses the north elevation of the barn, extends off of the main driveway. A large parking lot is in front of the school, and a smaller one to the rear of it. The large parking lot between Center Street and Dale-Roy School is now a separate parcel and owned by the nearby hospital. The grounds of the former Ashland County Children's Home are now part of the Ashland County Park District, and walking trails through the fields, and into the woods, are visible. The northern property line is delineated by the backyards of the adjacent neighborhood. Along Center Street there is mostly turn-of-the 20th century housing, spread out on large lots.

Located at an existing farmstead, the Ashland County Children's Home property historically included a few outbuildings. Situated behind the barn, they included a granary, pig pen, and chicken coop. The smaller outbuildings were demolished in the 1920s and a larger, single one replaced them. It is unclear what function the new outbuilding served. It and the granary existed until the 1940s, but both were later demolished at an unknown time. The barn is the only remaining outbuilding associated with the Ashland County Children's Home farm. The 1874 *Atlas of Ashland County Ohio* indicates that a small orchard was planted around the house, to the south and west. Additional fruit trees were planted on the farm in the spring of 1927. At least one remains near the Children's Home, on the south side of the driveway.

Children's Home

When established in 1907, the Ashland County Children's Home was located in an extant L-shaped farmhouse. The farmhouse was constructed c.1860, and the County Commissioners adapted the 2nd floor to have a small bedroom for the matron and two larger dormitory style bedrooms, one for boys and one for girls. Additions were added to the farmhouse in c.1914-15 and 1934-35, giving the building its current configuration (See Attachment C). The original farm house, plus each addition, are all of brick construction. The front portion of the building has a gable roof, while the rear additions have a flat roof. The building was painted white in the 1960s, and the window sash have been replaced (date unknown) within the original openings.

The irregularly-shaped Ashland County Children's Home is defined by a centered projecting block, with a two-story front porch. (Photos 4-5) The façade of the building includes the original c.1860 southern wing, the 1934 projecting block, and the c.1914 north wing. The 1934 addition was added to the gable end of the original farm house, extending the building roughly 21' to the

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east. The 1934 façade has two windows at the first story, and the primary entrance is off-center in the southern bay. The entrance features four-light side-lights over wood panels and a seven-light transom extends across the door and both side-lights. The door has been replaced with a modern metal one. There are three windows at the second story. The projecting 1934 addition included a two-story front porch. The porch has a pedimented roof with a deep wood eave and a wood fan-light. The porch is decorated with an entablature of dentils and decorative brackets. The double-height Doric fluted columns are hollow metal. The porch has a brick foundation and brick and concrete floor. Brick cheek walls frame the porch stairs. The façade of the c.1860 southern wing has three 2nd story windows and three windows and a door at the 1st floor. The southernmost window opening is different in configuration (shorter with paired windows) and likely dates to the 1952 kitchen remodel. The front porch on the southern wing dates to the 1934 remodel. It has a concrete block foundation, poured concrete steps and flooring, and brick cheek walls with stone caps. Like the main front porch, the fluted Doric columns are hollow metal, and there are decorative brackets in the entablature. An original, or early, door is on the south elevation of the main block, underneath the southern porch. It is wood with a fixed light window at the top and a recessed panel at the bottom. A concrete ADA ramp with metal railings has been added to the front of this porch. The north wing was constructed between 1914 and 1919, and the 1919 Sanborn map illustrates that the addition had been completed by then (see Attachment A). It has three 2nd story windows and four windows and a door at the 1st floor. The door is situated at the L of the building. The 1934 front porch on the north wing is the same in detail as the southern porch, minus the ADA ramp. All three porches have bead board ceilings.

The south elevation features the original gabled, lateral wing with wood cornice returns (photo 6). A single window is at the 2nd story, and a shorter paired window is at the 1st floor. The paired window likely dates to the 1952 kitchen remodel. The gable end is on a raised foundation, with a full window at the basement level as well as a door into the basement, which is slightly below grade. A door has been added at the second story, which accesses a metal fire escape stair attached to the elevation. The flat-roof 1934 addition extends to the west off of the original south wing. It has paired basement windows and a basement access door, slightly below grade. A simple metal railing encloses the basement stairwell. The two basement doors are high-security, reflecting the former juvenile detention center usage of the building. The 1st floor has a centered, single window, flanked by paired windows. The 2nd floor has four window openings, one of which is much smaller in size.

The west, rear elevation of the Children's Home contains the c.1860 gable end of the original farmhouse, which became recessed behind the 1934 rear additions (photo 7). The original section has a fieldstone foundation and four windows, with smooth stone lintels and sills. A metal fire escape is situated in the open U of the rear elevation, with 2nd story doors in the two wings. The 1934 window openings have concrete sills and a mix of paired and single windows at each floor level. The basement windows have matching lintels, but have header course sills instead of the concrete. The bottom of the basement window openings are at grade in the southern wing. A secondary entrance is in the south wing of the rear elevation. It is accessed by a set of concrete stairs, with metal hand rail, on a brick foundation and provides access to the first floor. In the north wing, a secondary exit is at the basement level, below grade, and is

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accessed by poured concrete stairs, with metal pipe railings. Window openings at the first floor in this wing have been partially infilled and smaller metal high-security windows installed. At the basement level the windows are multi-light metal sash with interior security wiring. Metal grates cover these partially below grade windows. The security features were added in the 1970s, when this portion of the building was converted to house juvenile delinquents.

The north elevation of the Children's Home contains the gable end of the c.1914 north wing (photo 5). The older gabled wing has a stone foundation, while the rear addition has a brick foundation. It has wood cornice returns and half fanlight windows on either side of the chimney, which is within the roofline at the gable end. This elevation has four window openings at the first floor, one of which has been infilled and two that have been partially infilled with security windows. The second floor has five window openings, the central one is a small opening to a bathroom. Three windows are at the raised basement and are framed by poured concrete window wells. A secondary entrance, with a high-security door, is on this elevation. It is covered by a metal shed roof.

Interior

On the interior, the Ashland County Children's Home is a maze of interconnected rooms and short corridor segments. Because the building was constructed in three phases – c.1860, c.1914, 1934 – it does not have the double-loaded central corridor that was typical of late 19th and early 20th century infirmaries and children's homes. Instead, rooms were added to the existing building to meet the needs of the Ashland County Children's Home as it expanded in the early 1900s, and there are only a few truncated hallways within the irregular floor plan. Woodwork throughout the home changes according to what time period it was installed, with the 1934 trim being the most simplified in profile. Plaster walls generally remain intact. Original ceiling heights are maintained in most areas, although dropped ceilings have been introduced in a few rooms. Some plaster ceilings are intact, while some have been stippled and some have been removed altogether. Bathrooms were updated in the mid-20th century, with fixtures from that era, ceramic tile wainscot, and terrazzo flooring. Carpeting covers the floor in most of the 1st and 2nd stories, although it has been removed in some locations, exposing the wood floor underneath.

On the 1st floor, the area first encountered upon entering the primary entrance is within the 1934 façade addition. It contains a foyer with hallway, wood staircase, and a large front room (photos 8-10). The foyer retains wood trim around the front door, window, doors, and at the baseboard. The wood stairs have a square newel post and square balusters. The front room, which likely served as a public common room, retains a set of multi-light French doors on the west wall. The French doors on the south wall are a later addition.

Beyond the front entrance area, to the west, is the c.1860 portion of the building. This area contains another large room, with intact trim work, and the original farm house wood stairs (photos 11-12). The stairwell is curved, and the stairs have a fluted square newel post and tapered, carved balusters. A short hallway, with a bathroom and a small bedroom (which has been converted into a bathroom), is west of the stairs. The converted bathroom retains the wood floor. Another large room is south of the c.1860 stairs (photo 13). Here, the ceiling and some

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baseboards have been removed. The door and window surrounds in this room appear to have been replaced during the 1934 remodel campaign, and linoleum was placed over the wood floor. The southernmost room in the c.1860 building is the kitchen. Basement stairs are situated along the north wall of the kitchen. The ceiling has been removed in the kitchen, and the wood floor is exposed (photo 14). In 1952, the kitchen was remodeled, and remnants of the cabinetry and yellow tile backsplash remain. The kitchen is linear in configuration and extends to the west into the 1934 south wing addition. The large open area contained the home's dining room. The baseboard and ceiling materials have been removed from the dining room, but the window surrounds are intact. A wood staircase to the 2nd floor is on the east wall of the dining room (photo 15). Although within the footprint of the c.1860 farm house, the stairs appear to date to the 1934 remodel. The lower five steps are exposed and have a carved balustrade.

The northern portion of the 1st floor contains the c.1914 addition and its 1934 rear wing. An enclosed wood staircase, leading to the 2nd floor and basement, is on the southern wall of the addition. The c.1914 section reportedly was the superintendent's apartment with a large living room, two small bedrooms, and a bathroom. This area has a drop ceiling, but the 1910s woodwork and four-panel doors are intact (photo 16). In the early 1970s, the Ashland County Juvenile Detention Center was installed inside the Children's Home. Three two-person cells were built at the rear of the first floor, in the 1934 wing. Transformation to this new function included construction of a secured corridor outside the cells, conversion of the western bedroom in the superintendent's apartment into a bathroom for the detention center, and subdividing the living room with a partition wall for office use. The partition wall contains a built-in sliding window, and it created a narrow, secure check-in area for visiting inmates. The cell walls (and west corridor wall) are glazed ceramic tile blocks (photo 17). The beds are a tile block base with a concrete top. Each cell has a stainless steel combination toilet/sink apparatus and a high-security door with two openings on the corridor side for conversation or passing items through.

A mix of large and small rooms is on the 2nd floor, likely reflecting a combination of larger dormitory style rooms and smaller rooms shared by fewer residents. Plaster ceilings are generally more intact on the 2nd floor, and wood trim work remains from each era of construction. For example, the balustrade at the stair landing and trim in the southeast room of the c.1860 farm house is intact (photos 18-19). The c.1914 addition contains similar trim (photo 20), although it is slightly simplified in profile, and also has built-in cabinets in a hallway (photo 21). The 1934 trim sections have the flat profile of that era (photos 22-23). One of the larger rooms was altered with a partition wall dividing the space, in order to accommodate the more recent office function of the building (photo 20).

The basement contains utility space for a large boiler and storage. It also originally had separate boys and girls gymnasiums. When the Ashland County Juvenile Detention Center was installed inside the Children's Home, the majority of that facility was contained in the basement. Four single-person cells were inserted into the north gymnasium, while the southern gymnasium remained in place, becoming a multi-purpose recreation room (photo 24). Detention center offices and a conference room were also located in the basement. The single cell rooms are the same as the first floor ones, only much narrower. The cell corridor is secured with a mesh metal

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wall (photo 25). The 1934 portions of the building have ceramic tile foundation walls in the basement, while the coursed stone foundation of the c.1860 building is exposed.

Garage

The three-car garage was constructed c.1927. It shows up between publication of the 1919 and 1930 Sanborn maps, and in a 1926 annual report from the Children's Home Board of Trustees to the Ashland County Commissioners, the trustees requested a vegetable cellar with garage and storage above to be built. The rectangular, brick garage is behind the house (photo 26). It has a poured concrete foundation and water table, and the brick has been painted white. The 1½ story garage has a gambrel roof and cornice returns on the gable ends. The window openings have header course brick sills, soldier course lintels, and multi-light metal sashes. The east elevation has two garage doors, one single-bay and one double-bay. They're both wood doors, with multi-light glass panes. A wood dormer with a 4-light wood window is on this elevation. The garage also has a basement level. Sitting on the crest of a small hill, a pedestrian door accesses the basement, where it is exposed on the south elevation. Poured concrete retaining walls frame the basement door. A single window is slightly off-center, at the first story, and a six-over-three window is centered in the gable end. The west elevation has two window openings at the first floor and two basement windows directly below them (photo 28). A chimney stack is within the roof surface, at the west elevation. The north elevation is similar to the south with the same window pattern. The interior has a poured concrete floor and exposed wood siding and two-by-four framing. With its gambrel roof and roof dormer, the garage has the essence of the Dutch Colonial Revival style.

Barn

The present barn was constructed in 1947, replacing a 1920s barn that was destroyed by arson. On October 21, 1946, three boys, who resided at the Children's Home, set fire to the barn, causing an estimated \$15,000 of damage to it, plus the equipment and the summer's harvest stored inside. The new barn was potentially constructed on the same foundation. It has the same configuration as the barn depicted on the 1930 and 1945 Sanborn maps, and a photo taken during the fire shows it to be roughly the same size with a gambrel roof (See Attachments A and B).

The barn is a T-shaped, wood-sided Three Gable Barn type, several yards southwest of the children's home. It has a poured concrete foundation, a concrete block raised basement, and a gambrel, standing seam metal roof. Window openings in the basement have poured concrete sills. The eaves, all the way around the building, have exposed wood rafters. Facing Center Street, the east elevation has an Ohio Bicentennial logo (photo 27), two boarded-up basement window openings, and a door opening for pulley equipment high in the gable end. On the east elevation of the lateral section, there is a sliding barn door and a metal four-light window at the basement level. The north elevation has four barn doors at the basement level. Additionally, there is an upper level barn door, near the corner of the lateral wing. There are two window openings at the ground level that have been boarded-up. The gable end of the north elevation has a four-light window, and the upper portion of the gable end has a double layer of siding, which is scalloped at the ends creating a decorative effect. Covering the gable end basement doors, a metal, standing seam shed roof extends the full width of the south elevation. It has exposed

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wood brackets and a decorative dental motif on the ends. An earthen ramp aligns with the first floor level on the west elevation (photo 28). A pair of sliding barn doors are on the west elevation. The south elevation has two barn doors at the raised basement and a window opening that has been boarded-over. Covering the basement doors, a shed roof matches the one on the north elevation. The south elevation of the east-west section has boarded-over window openings within the raised basement level. Two rolling barn doors are on this part of the south elevation. Additionally, there is a barn door at the upper level corresponding with the hay loft area. On the interior, the double-height first floor is an open volume space (photo 29). The truss system, wood flooring, wood siding, and underside of the metal roof are exposed.

The Three Gable Barn type was popular c.1850-1920. To accommodate ever larger mechanized equipment, which resulted in greater yields, barns grew larger for storage purposes. The “identifying feature of the Three Gable Barn is the wing that projects at a right angle from the gabled or gambrel roof barn.”¹ In Ohio, the barn type was prevalent in the north-central part of the state.

Dale-Roy School

The 1961 International Style Dale-Roy School is just north of the Ashland County Children's Home. It has the same setback from State Route 60 as the Children's Home. It is a one-story brick building, which originally contained four classrooms, office, sick room, and multi-purpose room (See Attachment B – 1961 image). The aluminum door and windows throughout the building appear to be original. The building has concrete coping at the roofline. Two major additions were added to the building in the late 20th century. They match the original building in character, design, scale, and materials.

Typical of the International Style as associated with mid-century school design, the façade features horizontal bands of window openings that have groupings of four or five vertical window stacks (photos 30-31). The window openings are connected with a continuous concrete lintel and sill. Each window grouping has an angled concrete sill that is in line with the concrete stringcourse. The window bays are separated by decorative brick panels that feature stacked header courses with every third brick projecting outward. The primary entrance is recessed underneath an integrated flat roof porch. Also typical of the International Style, the entrance is off-center within the asymmetrical façade. A projecting block, which contained the original multi-purpose room, is north of the entrance. It has the school name denoted with attached metal letters. The window grouping in this block has a concrete surround and concrete spandrels below the sill. The north end of the façade, beyond the projecting block, constitutes the 1976 and 1988-89 additions. At the northernmost end, the 1980s addition steps back about ten feet from the rest of the façade. Here, the window openings are smaller, with a single window opening rather than grouped windows. A set of doors, which now serve as the primary entrance, is near the north end of the building. The entrance is slightly below grade and accessed by a sloped sidewalk. It is covered with a flat roof metal structure.

¹ Gordon, Stephen C. *How to Complete the Ohio Historic Inventory* (Columbus, Ohio: Ohio Historical Society, Inc., 1992), p.147.

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The north elevation continues the same fenestration pattern as the façade, but without the continuous stringcourse. The ground slopes upward at the north end of the property, causing the north elevation windows to be somewhat below grade. The west or rear elevation largely continues the same window pattern as the north elevation (photo 32). Secondary doors are scattered along the rear elevation.

The western end of the south elevation has two dock doors at the corner, a pedestrian door, and an aluminum window with paired hopper sash and a fixed window above. Continuing east, the school has two large garage doors for buses and two pedestrian doors. The original school is to the east of the bus garage. A horizontal window opening with concrete lintel and sill, matching the façade is in the first bay beyond the garage. Near the southeast corner, the south elevation of the school has a secondary entrance into the 1961 portion of the building. The paired doors and transom above appear to be original to the building. This entrance is recessed underneath a porch, which is defined by end walls that feature a panel of decorative concrete block (photo 30). The porch has a flat roof, a concrete floor, with an integrated accessibility ramp, and metal railings and supports.

On the interior, the original 1961 school has painted concrete block walls and a mint green, glazed, ceramic block wainscot in the corridors (photo 33). The floor appears to be original with alternating green and white linoleum tiles. Blond wood doors, with horizontal double panes, are also intact. A 1976 addition extended the school to the north and west. The stacked bond wainscot continues here, although the ceramic block is a different shade of green. The linoleum tile floor is off-white. A recessed display case is situated in this corridor. The wall around it and the adjacent recessed water fountain is accented with small, square, dark green tiles. The 1976 addition contains classrooms (photo 34), a cafeteria (photo 35), and the double-height gymnasium. In 1988-1989, an L-shaped classroom addition, with a double-loaded corridor, was constructed on the north end of the 1976 addition. This later addition has concrete block walls without any wainscoting. The corridors have a curved, beige ceramic block baseboard and the white linoleum flooring. The school's office was relocated to the 1988-89 addition, and the primary entrance was reoriented to the northern end of the building (photo 36). The two office walls, facing into the corridor adjacent to the entrance, have a nearly full-height window system. The 1988-89 addition has a few brick accent walls, located in the corridor southeast of the office, and in the conference room. Doors within the 1976 and 1980s corridors are the same style as the original 1961 doors, but stained a darker shade in these additions, instead of being blonde wood. The walls throughout the building, aside from the wainscot and accent walls, are painted concrete block. The ceiling throughout the school is dropped acoustic tile. Loading docks, garages, and other support areas at the rear and southwest corner of the building were likely added in either the 1976 or 1988-89 construction campaigns.

Associated with the school are playgrounds and a picnic shelter. Dating to the 1980s, a fenced-in playground is north of the school. Another fenced in playground is northwest of the school playground. It was added to the school property in 2015 and designed specifically for children with limited abilities. Added c.2010, a fenced-in basketball court is to the west of the school building. A small wood shelter is contained within the basketball court area. As it is not

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substantial in scale, it is not being included within the resource count. A larger freestanding wood picnic shelter is to the west of the rear elevation (photo 32). Constructed in 2000, the gable-roof structure is noncontributing. A paved parking lot is also behind the building.

Historic Integrity

The Ashland County Children's Home maintains historic integrity, conveying the elements that represent its significant history. The Ashland County Children's Home property reflects its historic appearance, including the eras of its most intensive development, the 1910s-1930s. The 1920s and through the 1930s, were a period of growth for the facility. A number of features were added to the property during that time, including the large modern barn for the farm (rebuilt in 1947), the garage with vegetable cellar, and the 1934 additions to the children's home building.

Both the location and setting greatly contribute to the property's historic integrity. The Ashland County Children's Home was, and still is, located in a semi-rural setting, at the city's edge. Residential properties across Center Street are spread out, typical of the transition from agricultural to urban development. The presence of the parking lots in front of the Dale-Roy School, created in the 1990s and then separated off into different parcels, does not detract from the overall semi-country setting. Because the former farm fields and the roughly 30-acre woods have not been developed and the sizeable barn is intact, the Ashland County Children's Home continues to reflect its agricultural past.

The Ashland County Children's Home retains materials and craftsmanship from its three eras of construction. On the exterior, the stone lintels, sills, and foundation of the oldest sections of the building are intact. Materials from 1934, such as the hollow metal Doric columns, wood decorative brackets, and concrete porches and stairs, are also intact. On the interior, the home retains wood detailing that exhibits the profile popular during its era of construction. For example, the c.1860 curved staircase has delicate, tapered, carved balusters, while the 1934 staircase has simple square balusters more reflective of the Arts and Crafts, which was at the end of its popularity. The 1945 Sanborn map denotes fire proof construction for the children's home, particularly noting concrete. In the basement, especially, fire proof construction materials can be seen, where poured concrete and ceramic tile block walls are visible. Additionally, the 1934 porch foundation wall was constructed of 2' long bricks, stamped with 'NATCO CONDUIT, Manufactured By National Fire Proofing Co., Pittsburgh, PA.'

The Children's Home building contains a few design elements of the Colonial Revival style, which it gained during the 1934 construction campaign. These elements include the elaborate two-story pedimented porch, the fanlight, the dentiled entablature, fluted columns, and an entryway emphasized by a multi-light transom and sidelights.

Materials, craftsmanship, and design are also evident in the garage and barn. Both outbuildings have materials – wood, brick, concrete, and metal sash - from their date of construction, 1927 and 1947, respectively. Popular during the 1920s, the garage has design elements of the Dutch Colonial Revival style, including the gambrel roof and roof dormer. The barn, which was initially constructed in the 1920s and rebuilt to similar dimensions and type in 1947, supported the operation of the children's home, exhibits the

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key design feature of the Three Gable Barn type, including the gambrel roof and the projecting right angle wing forming a T.

The Children's Home facility continued to play an important educational role in Ashland into the mid-20th century, and the associated 1961 Dale-Roy School still provides specialized education in the community. The school maintains its mid-20th century materials, craftsmanship, and design. It has typical materials of the era, including the decorative concrete block panel, the brick stacked bond relief pattern between the window bays, and the smooth concrete spandrels, coping, and sills. The original building exhibited the International Style with several design elements, including the characteristic flat roof, cubist form, off-center entrance, and horizontal ribbon windows. Although other additions have been attached to the 1961 school, its form is still distinguishable. The 1976 and 1988-89 additions do not detract from the original building. The materials match, the low-rise horizontal form has been maintained, and similar design features, such as the ribbon windows, were utilized. The interior school configuration of double-loaded corridors remains intact, as well as common spaces, such as the cafeteria and gymnasium. Typical mid-20th century interior school materials, such as the glazed ceramic tile wainscot, are also intact.

The Ashland County Children's Home property through its location, setting, design, materials, and workmanship maintains association with the historic themes of institutional housing and child welfare, during the defined period of significance. The property retains the key buildings related to the function of a children's home, including the home, barn, and garage, plus it retains a functioning school related to the desire to serve all children of need within the county. The Ashland County Children's Home effectively illustrates the 20th century children's home experience and expresses a sense of time and place.

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- B. Removed from its original location
- C. A birthplace or grave
- D. A cemetery
- E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F. A commemorative property
- G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

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Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Social History

Architecture

Period of Significance

1907-1969

Significant Dates

1907

c.1914

1934

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Russell, Laurence N.

Don Graber & Associates

Poggemeyer Design Group, Inc.

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Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Ashland County Children's Home is being nominated under Criterion A for social history, as an intact example of an early 20th century children's home. The former institution fits into the broad pattern of county sponsored orphanages to care for impoverished and orphaned children. County-sponsored Children's Homes were considered the best solution for addressing the social issue of orphaned children during the post-Civil War decades. The care of orphans throughout Ohio's history evolved with changing legislation and social attitudes, until county children's homes were phased out in the mid-to-late 20th century. As a historic district, the Ashland County Children's Home represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction and is also being nominated under Criterion C. The period of significance begins in 1907, when the Ashland County Children's Home opened. Because the Children's Home continued to operate in its original function until the 1980s, the period of significance ends in 1969. This end period also encompasses the main era of construction for the Dale-Roy School, which expanded social programs associated with the Children's Home, also on the Ashland County Children's Home property.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

Ashland – Background History

The village of Ashland (originally called Uniontown) was platted in 1815, with 41 lots along a main street. Initially not anticipated to be more than a crossroads hamlet, Ashland had gained several additions and enough citizens to be incorporated in 1844. Ashland County was formed from surrounding counties in 1846, and there was a hearty competition among the communities of Ashland, Hayesville, and Jeromesville for county seat designation. Ashland, with its enticement of donated land and \$5,000 for the construction of county buildings, won the honor.

Ashland's late 19th century growth beyond a small, rural county seat is also attributed to the establishment of an industrial base. The first mass production industry in Ashland was begun in 1850 by Martin Mansfield. He was a maker of plows, other farm equipment, and the inventor of a clover huller. The clover huller factory was important to the community's early manufacturing efforts, but it was quickly surpassed by the F.E. Myers & Bro. Co. Established in 1870, by Francis E. Myers and Philip A. Myers, the F.E. Myers & Bro. Co. produced water pumps and hay tools. F.E. Myers had been an agricultural implements salesman and saw the need for reliable water pumps on family farms. Philip, a mechanical mastermind, patented a glass valve that made the water pumps one of the best on the market. By the early 1880s, the pumps were winning awards, and Philip had also patented a hay trolley device. The company had explosive growth, and by the 1910s, had an international presence with 30,000 dealers selling Myers

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pumps.² The F.E. Myers & Bro. Co. put Ashland on the map, and the Myers brothers were immensely influential in the community, attracting other industrial development, as well as railroad lines, to Ashland.

By 1930, Ashland had grown into a prosperous small city, with three dozen industrial plants, hundreds of businesses, three hotels, and a population of 11,141, while Ashland County had a population of 26,867.³ Ashland's population grew steadily during the 20th century, until reaching a fairly steady enumeration, hovering around 20,000-21,000 from 1980 to the present. Ashland maintains an industrial base, including the F.E. Myers & Bro. Co. which became Pentair Inc. in 1986, and in addition to serving as the seat of county government, has the private Ashland University within the city. Formed as Ashland College in 1878 and associated with the German Baptist Brethren Church, Ashland University today averages around 6,600 students.

Freer Family

In addition to the Myers, the Freers were another prominent family in 19th century Ashland. Jonas and Mary Freer married in 1839, living near the Freer family farm west of Rowsburg. For four years, the couple operated a hotel. The Freer family manufactured fanning mills, and Jonas was also a traveling salesman for the business, working closely with his brother Harvey. Jonas and Mary Freer relocated to Ashland in 1849. In 1855, Harvey located on a 94 acre farm a mile and a half south of Ashland, after having lived in California for three years. An 1861 Ashland County map shows an L-shaped building on the property. He later decided to move to Richland County and sold the prosperous farm to Jonas, who was the owner by 1874. Jonas Freer was an Ashland merchant, grocer, railroad warehouse operator, and banker. Beginning in 1852, he partnered with his other brother, Randolph D., establishing several businesses, including the local Farmers' Bank in 1874. Jonas' various business endeavors were fruitful, and he was a leading businessman in mid-to-late 19th century Ashland.

Upon Jonas Freer's death in 1886, his wife Mary inherited the considerable estate, including their large 1859 house at 503 Center Street, multiple farmsteads, city property, and the farm property that had once belonged to her brother-in-law, Harvey Freer. Jonas and Mary Freer did not have children, but raised nine orphans in their home, which was the impetus for Mary Freer's later desire to establish a children's home. Mary Freer also donated church windows and to a number of civic causes in Ashland, including the library and a town clock. One of her most celebrated donations was a Civil War statue, placed on the lawn of the Ashland County Courthouse in 1888.

Ashland County Children's Home – Background History

The Ashland County Children's Home was the vision of Mary Freer. In 1901, she died, having left instructions in her 1894 will for the establishment of a county children's home. The 94 acre farm property, just south of town that was initially owned by Harvey Freer, was donated for the location of the new children's home. Along with the land, Mary Freer dedicated \$25,000 to

² <https://www.farmcollector.com/equipment/history-f-e-myers-and-bro>

³ Duff, William A. *History of North Central Ohio*, Volume One (Topeka-Indianapolis: Historical Publishing Company, 1931), p.294.

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build a new home. However, the will was contested and by the time the executor's and legal fees were paid and the remaining estate disbursed, there was little more than a dollar in cash left. As a result, the County Commissioners converted the extant L-shaped farmhouse on the Freer Farm into a children's home, rather than constructing a new building.

Previous to the establishment of the Ashland County Children's Home in 1907, the Ashland County Infirmary directors rented houses for the children under their care. The Ashland County Infirmary was instituted in 1849, five miles from Ashland and just north of Hayesville, and a new infirmary building was built in 1898. In 1899, the directors created an orphanage on Cottage Street, under the care of Mrs. Christian Miller.

The Ashland County Children's Home officially opened on October 17, 1907. Having the capability to house 19 children, the Home began with an enrollment of 14. Sarah Miller continued to serve as the matron directly overseeing the children. Mr. and Mrs. L.C. Chamberland were the first superintendents of the property, managing operation of the home and the associated farm. The superintendent's job was a Civil Service position, requiring testing for both the superintendent and the matron. From the beginning, the superintendents recommended the addition of a wing to separate the older and younger children, and the north wing was constructed c.1914-15. Shortly after opening, a 1910 Bureau of Census report recorded that the Ashland County Children's Home had four paid employees, received ten new children that year (6 boys, 4 girls), and that 'colored' children were also received at the home.

Likely due to the Great Depression, the Ashland County Children's Home was overcrowded by the early 1930s. On July 19, 1934, the Ashland County Commissioners passed a resolution stating that the conditions at the home were not favorable for serving the area's children of need. "Whereas, the space at the Children's home is now inadequate, thus causing numerous children to be placed out in private homes, and Whereas, in the judgment of this Board, it would be to the best interest of the children committed to the Children's Home to reside at the Home..."⁴ A \$25,000 expenditure to construct additions to the home was included with the resolution. Due to unforeseen expenses, the Home's Board of Trustees were allocated another \$5,000 in December 1934 to finish the construction project. County Commissioner records indicate that the additions were nearing completion by February 1935, as furnishing funds were allocated at that time. The additions to the building included one on the façade and two on the rear, which are clearly indicated when comparing the 1930 and 1945 Sanborn maps (See Attachment A). These additions and the reconfiguration of the front entrance gave the institution its Colonial Revival look.

Under the auspices of the Works Projects Administration, a survey of Ohio county records was completed in 1942. This document outlined that the Ashland County Children's Home housed, or cared for, 408 children in the twenty year period between 1907 and 1927. During the 1930s, the number of children residing in the home had increased, with 48 living there during 1941. The report denoted that "the cost to the county for operating the home is approximately 60 cents a day for each child."⁵ In the late 1930s, the annual appropriation for the home was \$10,000-

⁴ Office of the County Commissioners. *Ashland County Commissioners Records*: Multiple Years 1916-1988.

⁵ The Ohio Historical Records Survey Project. "Inventory of the County Archives of Ohio: No. 3 Ashland County," (Columbus, Ohio, August 1942), p.251.

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\$11,000. In 1934 and 1935, an additional \$29,151 was appropriated for additions and improvement to the property.

In 1948, there were 28 children living at the home and about 100 placed into foster homes.⁶ The number of children in the home and supervised at off site locations was fairly consistent during the 1940s. Also, some children were returned to their parents, but still under the Children's Home Board of Trustees supervision. By this time, the foster home system included three categories:

Free foster homes, for those who want small children to care for; boarding homes, for which the County pays for their board; work or wage homes, where older children are paid a wage for their work. In the latter group, the sum of money is divided so that the boy or girl is given a part for spending money and the rest is placed in a savings account at one of the local banks.⁷

As was typical for children's homes or infirmaries, the Ashland County Children's Home was a working farm, raising crops and livestock to offset the costs of running the facility. The boys tended the farm and the girls worked inside the home. The Children's Home had horses, cows, and pigs. Produce from the farm was canned by the residents, and they made their own butter and cottage cheese. The Ashland County Children's Home was still largely self-sufficient during the 1940s, with most of its food procured from the farm and reflected in the rebuilding of the barn in 1947. The farm contained 10 cows, providing dairy products for the children, and also income, as nearly \$50 of cream was sold monthly. One report summarized the annual produce from the farm:

200 half gallon jars of green beans; 40 bushel of peaches; 60 half gallon jars of beets; 50 quarts of corn; 50 half gallon jars of black berries; several hundred half gallon jars of cherries, strawberries, plums, pears, and other garden and fruit produce; 100 lbs. of beef cold-packed; 150 bushel of potatoes; 2 beef slaughtered; a large amount of poultry; and many other quantities of other meats, popcorn, eggs, carrots, onions, etc.⁸

Around 1950-51, the Ashland County Children's Home became known as the Children's Receiving Home. In 1952, the facility was down to 15 children residing there. Fewer children were living in the Children's Home, as the foster care system continued to gain preference in the mid-20th century. The Children's Home's function slowly shifted to being less of an institutional home and more of a temporary receiving location, while awaiting foster home placement.

In the 1950s, the Ashland County Commissioners faced multiple legal battles over rights to the land. Mary Freer's will gave the 94-acre farmstead to the county, if the commissioners established a proper children's home meeting all of the state requirements. The will also

⁶ "Wayne Strine Supt. of Co. Children's Home," *Ashland Times-Gazette*, March 26, 1948.

⁷ "Children's Home," 1940s. Written summary of the Children's Home by an unknown author. From the Ashland County Historical Society Archives.

⁸ "Children's Home," 1947-48.

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stipulated that if the county declined to establish a children's home, the farmstead was to be divided equally among four Ashland churches: the Methodist Episcopal, the Trinity Lutheran, the Presbyterian, and the Congregational. In 1953, the City of Ashland wanted a 35' strip of land (amounting to less than an acre) at the western edge of the field, in order to widen Park Street. Initially offered \$1,100 dollars, the County Commissioners refused the offer, believing that it could be perceived as an abandonment of the will's stipulations. The matter went to a jury trial in April 1954, where it was determined to permit the city's condemnation of the land and a fair market value of \$851.44. The Methodist, Lutheran, and Presbyterian churches (the Congregational church was defunct by this time) joined together to claim their share of the proceeds. Because of the provision in Mary Freer's will, the churches believed that they were rightful heirs to any money that the commissioners made on the sale of acreage.

Concurrent with that legal fight, the Ashland County Commissioners were fending off other requests to acquire acreage at the property. Due to the fact that it was a large parcel of undeveloped land within the city boundaries, outside pressure was mounting by the 1950s. The Ashland City Board of Education attempted to enter negotiations for the acquisition of 15 acres in the spring of 1953, wishing to secure the site for a new high school campus. The commissioners declined to negotiate, believing that their authority was to only retain the land for the Ashland County Children's Home, but three years later the Board of Education returned.

By October 1956, the Welfare Board, which managed the Children's Home, was considering the possibility of eliminating the farm operation. As fewer and fewer children were residing at the home (only five had resided there in the previous few months⁹), the farm was not needed and was becoming a financial burden. Arguing that the Ashland County Children's Home was less institutional than it previously had been, and therefore, it did not need all of the acreage, the Ashland City Board of Education made another appeal for acreage. The commissioners again declined to negotiate, and the school board considered their options to acquire the land by appropriation, condemnation, or eminent domain.

The \$850 from the city condemnation sale was still undistributed in 1956, and seeing that the Ashland County Commissioners could potentially sell a large amount of acres to the city school system, the churches brought legal action. In late May 1957, the Court of Common Pleas determined that the conditions of the will had been met by the Ashland County Commissioners and that the churches had no legal claim on the property. The court declared the county as the sole owner of the Children's Home, which then enabled the commissioners to accept the school board's \$27,500 offer for 50 acres or to sell to any other entity. It also enabled them to phase out the farming operations at the Ashland County Children's Home, without concern that they were not maintaining the property in support of the home.

In November 1957, the First Methodist and the First Presbyterian churches (Trinity Lutheran Church dropped out of the proceedings) appealed the earlier court decision that refuted their ownership claims to the Children's Home property. Contending that "the land in question was

⁹ "County Urged To Act On Home Land," *Ashland Times-Gazette*, October 9, 1956.

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no longer being used in connection with the Children's home that it or the money from its sale should revert to the churches."¹⁰ Common Pleas Judge Hugh Culbertson rejected the new argument and upheld his earlier judgement that the Ashland County Commissioners were the clear owners of the property. The First Methodist and the First Presbyterian churches appealed again in February and May 1958, to no avail. In June 1958, the two churches requested a hearing from the Ohio Supreme Court. Upholding Judge Hugh Culbertson's decision, the higher court refused to hear the case, thus ending litigation between the churches and the Ashland County Commissioners.

In meantime, the Ashland City Board of Education was still campaigning to acquire land on the site for construction of a new school complex, and in early May 1957, was threatening appropriation of the land. At a special hearing, the County Child Welfare Board argued that the proposed school development amounted to an unfair taking of valuable land for the benefit of the city, at the expense of all county residents. Additionally, it argued that the proposed development "would come within 39 feet of the existing Children's Home," obtain most of the Center Street frontage, and cut a wide street through the property. It would hamper any redevelopment plans that the commissioners were considering, including the construction of a smaller home. The Welfare Board's final rebuttal was about the land itself, asserting, "the land which the School Board proposes to take is the choice portion of the Children's Home property, which will leave the home with land which is unimproved, filled with ruts, gulleys... that property is the most valuable in Ashland today, and the proposal, if carried out by the Board of Education, would be taking the frosting and leaving cake."¹¹

The Ashland City Board of Education ultimately decided against an appropriation of the Children's Home land. In November 1958, an opinion piece written by the *Ashland Times-Gazette* blasted the Ashland County Commissioners for holding onto farm land within the city's corporation limits, because it was "a waste of valuable property," and also for failing to declare their future plans for the site.¹² In the end, the commissioners chose to retain all of the land, developing it, or not, as they saw fit. The Ashland County Commissioners remained committed to their mission of serving the entire county's children and their special needs, in whatever form that took.

As the home was housing fewer children and increasingly had more space, in the late 1950s, the Ashland County Children's Home began to house other county agencies related to children's well-being. For example, the county welfare department was located in the building by 1959. In 1972, the County Juvenile Detention Center began operation in the building, which included the construction of jail cells at the rear of the first floor and in the basement. At first only boys were housed at the facility, but space for girls was added in 1975. The detention center housed children aged 12-18, for an average of fifteen days. In 1986, the building also included the

¹⁰ Wainscot, Cy. "Judge Refuses To Alter Childrens Home Decision," *Ashland Times-Gazette*, November 13, 1957.

¹¹ Gordon, Bud. "Welfare Board Criticizes School Board On Children's Home Request, Claim School Would Block Expansion Plan," *Ashland Times-Gazette*, May 9, 1957.

¹² "A Clue For Treasurer Dilgard: It May Be A Long Wait For Any Action," *Ashland Times-Gazette*, November 25, 1958.

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Ashland County Juvenile Court Counseling Service and the Department of Human Services. Other sample agencies during the 1990s and early 2000s, included Ashland Family Services, Early Intervention Program, Birth to Three, and Catholic Charity Services, which occupied much of the original south wing.

The last house parents for the Ashland County Children's Home were hired in 1988, but the facility was closed the following year. At its peak after the 1934 additions were built, the home housed close to 50 children, but when it completely ceased operation as a home in 1989, less than ten children were residing there.¹³ Over its 82 year run, nearly 1,000 at risk or in-need children lived at the home.¹⁴ The County Juvenile Detention Center vacated the building in July 2013. By late 2014, the building was vacant when Catholic Charities, the last tenant left, moved out. In 2016, the Ashland County Commissioners transferred control of the Children's Home building to the Ashland County Historical Society with a 20-year lease. The building is currently vacant, while restoration efforts are underway.

The open field and 30-acre wooded area have remained undeveloped. In 2006, the Ashland County Park District, an all-volunteer organization, formed. Known as Freer Field, the land behind the home became its first public park, and development of handicap accessible paved trails within the field began in 2012. The barn is also part of the park, and is utilized for special events.

Dale Roy School

Constructed in 1961, the Dale-Roy School was also known as the County School for Retarded Children. This specialized school program began in 1954 and was located on the second floor in the Children's Home. At the time, the local public schools were not fully equipped to handle students with developmental disabilities, and parents only had the option of driving their children almost 20 miles to Mansfield. The push to address this problem came from two Ashland mothers, Alice Davis and Margaret Reeve. Deciding to start their own school, they walked door to door, asking for donations to raise \$3,000, which would enable them to hire a teacher. Reflecting on the experience, at age 90, Alice Davis recalled, "It was tough to garner local support. In some cases, even parents of disabled kids were against the idea. We really had to sell it. I remember one night the snow was so deep. It was horrible, but we knew there was a need for it, and we wanted to give these children the opportunity to learn."¹⁵

The efforts of the friends succeeded and led to the formation of the Ashland County Council for Retarded Children in 1953. The group, which was made up of various church and grange members, held its meetings at the Children's Home. In January 1954, the council started the Happy Hour School with 12 students and 2 teachers. A month later, the program was relocated from a church to the Children's Home, where it remained until the Dale-Roy School was completed.

¹³ Watters, Carrie. "Home holds many memories," *Ashland Times-Gazette*, June 7, 2001.

¹⁴ Shar, Chelsea. "A home without a purpose," *Ashland Times-Gazette*, September 10, 2014, p.A1.

¹⁵ Albon, Courtney. "A Mother's Devotion," *Ashland Times-Gazette*, May 9, 2009.

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For the first seven years, the Happy Hour School operated without a levy, housed at the Children's Home and funded by donations and the sweat equity of the parents. The Ashland County Council for Retarded Children was eventually able to get a three-tenths of a mill levy passed, which provided funds to construct the \$125,000 Dale Roy School near the Children's Home. The land for the school was freely donated by the Ashland County Commissioners. In 1967, Ohio passed legislation that provided state funding, and the council then became the Ashland County Board of Developmental Disabilities.

The school was named for married actors Dale Evans and Roy Rogers, who had "made public their journey with their daughter who had Down syndrome in an era when many children with disabilities were hidden away or ignored."¹⁶ The 1961 Dale Roy School was designed by architect Laurence N. Russell. An Ashland native, Russell organized his firm in 1939 and spent the bulk of his career based in his home town. As Dale-Roy School's enrollment grew, additions were added, expanding its footprint to the present configuration. Don Graber & Associates, of nearby Mansfield, designed the 1976 addition. The 1988-89 addition was designed by Poggemeyer Design Group, which was formed in 1968 as an engineering firm. The company has since expanded into a multifaceted design firm, with offices around the country. The Dale Roy School continues to operate as a school, serving the developmentally disabled population in Ashland County.

Infirmaries and Children's Homes – Background History

In the first decades of the nineteenth century, orphans were indentured into private homes where they were to work or learn a trade. The Overseer of the Poor was authorized by the township trustees to place a child in servitude. This was done not only with orphans, but also with children from poor families in order to prevent them from becoming wards of the township. A contract was entered into that stated what work the child was to perform and for how many years.¹⁷

Social policies were shaped nationally in the 1820s-1840s. During this era of reform, state and county institutions were established to care for people who could not care for themselves. The prevailing thought was that such people should be given asylum from any of society's corrupting influences. By institutionalizing them, their rehabilitation could be controlled and eventually mold them into contributing members of society. In Ohio, separate institutional facilities were built for the deaf and dumb, lunatic, and blind. Children with any of these afflictions were sent to the respective state institution.

The care of paupers and the elderly was handled on a countywide basis beginning with legislation enacted in 1816 that allowed for county poor houses. These facilities became known as infirmaries in 1850 as their mission had been expanded to care for the ill and infirm as well.

¹⁶ Schweitzer, Kristi. "DD board members reflect on the organization's history," *Ashland Times-Gazette*, March 30, 2017.

¹⁷ Background history for infirmaries and children's homes from: Wright, Nathalie. *Fairfield County Children's Home National Register of Historic Places Nomination*, 2008.

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Orphaned and impoverished children were often sent to county infirmaries to live if they were not indentured.

Charitable organizations and individual philanthropists believed that orphaned or abandoned children could become productive citizens if they were properly raised. Private charities and religious organizations began to construct orphanages as early as the mid-1800s in Ohio. "The main objective of these homes was to improve the conditions for orphaned children by separating them from the adult "inmates" in the county homes and infirmaries ("poor houses"). A few of the earlier documented children's homes include the Dayton Female Association for the Benefit of Orphans established in 1844 and the Colored Orphans Asylum in Avondale, Ohio, established in 1845. The first public-funded children's home in Ohio was founded by Mrs. Catherine Fay Ewing of Marietta in 1858."¹⁸

Ewing's orphanage initially began with the purchase of 15 acres outside Marietta funded from an inheritance. After the Civil War, there was a dramatic increase in the number of orphans. Believing that they deserved more from the country than the social stigma of life in the county infirmary she began a crusade for legislative change. Working with the support of Washington County commissioners, she petitioned the Ohio General Assembly to enact legislation establishing separate facilities for children. Her efforts failed twice before finally becoming law in 1866.¹⁹ As a result, Ohio was the first state to pass legislation providing for separate children's homes at the county level.²⁰

The 1866 legislation allowed county commissioners to levy taxes for the construction of children's homes and create a five-member board of trustees that would oversee the home and hire superintendents. Orphaned, abandoned, and even children with parents who could not provide for them were permitted acceptance into the orphanages. The next year after passage of the legislation, Washington and Montgomery counties were the first to start orphanages. By 1871 thirty-seven of Ohio's eighty-eight counties had established children's homes.

The state law also allowed for superintendents to place children in foster homes for free or for work exchange. As part of the legislation, provisions were in place for follow-up visits to the foster home, but this was not consistently completed. Because there was little oversight for monitoring foster parents, children were sometimes placed in worse conditions than they had endured before being removed from their own homes.

During their 1883 statewide conference, infirmary officials called for the removal of children from infirmaries indicating that in some counties children were still being housed there. The testimony of infirmary administrators precipitated the passage of statewide legislation in 1884

¹⁸ Kane, Kathy Mast. *Huron County Children's Home National Register Nomination*, 2004, p. 8-3.

¹⁹ "Catherine Fay Ewing, Originator of Children's Homes." Ohio State Archaeological and Historical Society Publications, V.34 (1925), pp. 241-243.

²⁰ Kane, *Huron County Children's Home National Register Nomination*.

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that prohibited healthy, eligible children from being admitted to the county infirmary unless it had separate facilities for them.²¹

A state law passed in 1898 repealed the superintendent's authority to place children in foster homes. By this decade, most counties had a visitation committee to follow-up on foster placements, but they were volunteers and inspections were still inconsistent. In 1913, state legislation was approved creating a Children's Welfare Department within the Board of State Charities that was to certify all placement homes and begin state inspections. This law was further strengthened in 1920 with the passage of the Ohio Boarding Home Law that established licensure for family foster homes.

Fifty-eight of Ohio's counties had children's homes in 1912. The numbers began to decline in the 1920s with fifty-five counties having a home in 1928. Since the latter years of the 1800s, a social philosophy emerged that favored the placement of a child in a foster or adoptive home if they could not remain in their own home. This notion took hold in the 1920s when some counties began to shift away from operating an institutional children's home to having a temporary receiving home for children awaiting placement in a foster home. The idea that a children's home should be a short term solution became increasingly popular as did the use of a Child Placement Agent, which had been authorized at a county level by an 1889 state law.

The 1920s also witnessed more mandates from the state upon the operation of the county children's homes, such as minimum standards for curriculum and building conditions. Attendance at public schools was encouraged rather than classes at the home. Recreation and culture were to be a part of the children's daily activities as well as work.

The title of the administrative authority was changed in 1946 from the county board of trustees to the Child Welfare Board. By 1969, the term "welfare" evoked negative connotations and the name was changed to the Child Services Board. Providing assistance to a family with financial difficulties was the preferred method of helping impoverished children rather than removing them from their home to ease monetary trouble. This led to an increase in direct family assistance and a decrease in the number of children admitted to county children's homes. The 1969 changes also allowed counties to seek approval to close their children's homes in order to provide more specialized foster care.²²

This trend, occurring in Ohio and nationally, led to c.1980 federal legislation that funded only homes with less than 25 children. Funding became difficult for the large institutional children's homes in service for over 100 years. Their ability to be self-supporting was also reduced as laws changed with respect to what work children were permitted to do. New child labor laws combined with a lack of philosophical support resulted in the closure of such institutions in Ohio. The large institutional orphanage was no longer economically or socially viable.

²¹ Knedler, Bryan. Unpublished research subject-filed under County Homes/Infirmarys - Ohio Historic Preservation Office, no date.

²² Kane, *Huron County Children's Home National Register Nomination*.

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Conclusion - Historic Significance

The Ashland County Children's Home illustrates an era when county children's homes provided orphaned and impoverished children with safe shelter and the facsimile of a normal home life. County children's homes were established in two-thirds of Ohio's eighty-eight counties from 1867 through the early 1900s, and Ashland County followed that statewide trend. The first Ashland County orphanages were rental properties acquired by the County Infirmary Director. The last one, before the Ashland County Children's Home was established in 1907, was the Cottage Street house in the downtown district, which was rented in 1899. Although this was an appropriate solution for housing children outside of the Ashland County Infirmary, in the late 1800s and early 1900s, there were desired property characteristics that were sought for children's homes.

As with the case of infirmaries, locating a children's home in an agricultural setting approximately two miles from town, often the county seat, was viewed as the best location... This type of setting provided a more controlled environment and enough land for running a farm. An associated farm served the very practical purpose of providing food for the residents, thus allowing children's homes to be reasonably self-sufficient. While learning a trade or skill was not a primary function of the county orphanages, participation in the upkeep of an associated farm often served that function. The farming practices of the Children's Home were in keeping with the county's overall agricultural base.²³

At 1¼ miles from the commercial center, the Ashland County Children's Home perfectly illustrates the ideal setting for such homes. The extant farmstead was easily converted to its new undertaking and provided the defined property type required for the new home. The combined historic components of the Ashland County Children's Home – large acreage, barn, outbuilding, children's home – physically conveying the history of the county institution and forming a distinguishable entity, meeting Criterion C.

In eight decades, nearly a thousand children lived in the Ashland County Children's Home. Mary Freer's generous gift, in 1901, created a legacy of child welfare in Ashland County that includes not only the children's home itself, but eventually extended to children with disabilities. Although the Dale-Roy School was never operated by the Ashland County Commissioners, the school spent its first seven years housed inside the Ashland County Children's Home and is a historically related component of the facility. The mission of the Dale-Roy School was later immensely supported, when the Ashland County Commissioners donated land for its new school building on the Children's Home property. While the two entities had separate functions, the land donation illustrated the commissioners' commitment to upholding the spirit of Mary Freer's will, in serving children with special needs and circumstances. Meeting Criterion A, the historic district clearly illustrates social history in Ashland County.

²³ Wright, *Fairfield County Children's Home*.

Ashland County Children's Home
Name of Property

Ashland, Ohio
County and State

9. Major Bibliographical References

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Ashland County Children's Home
Name of Property

Ashland, Ohio
County and State

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Name of Property

Ashland, Ohio
County and State

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Ashland County Children's Home
Name of Property

Ashland, Ohio
County and State

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Archives

Ashland County Historical Society Archives
420 Center Street
Ashland, OH 44805
419-289-3111
www.ashlandhistory.org

Websites

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<http://ashlandohiogenealogy.org/myersfactory.html>, Accessed October 22, 2018.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other
- Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

Ashland County Children's Home
Name of Property

Ashland, Ohio
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 90.34

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- | | |
|--------------|------------|
| 1. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 2. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 3. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 4. Latitude: | Longitude: |

Or

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or NAD 1983

- | | | |
|-------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1. Zone: 17 | Easting: 388947 | Northing: 4523608 |
| 2. Zone: 17 | Easting: 389737 | Northing: 4523598 |
| 3. Zone: 17 | Easting: 389734 | Northing: 4523091 |
| 4. Zone: 17 | Easting: 388940 | Northing: 4523097 |

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The nominated boundary includes two parcels defined by the Ashland County Auditor.
Parcel#: P44-064-A-0001-00 = includes 11.76 acres, Children's Home, garage, and the Dale-Roy School. Parcel#: P44-064-A-0001-02 = includes 78.58 acres and the barn.

Ashland County Children's Home
Name of Property

Ashland, Ohio
County and State

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The nominated boundary includes the buildings and acreage historically associated with the Ashland County Children's Home, during the Period of Significance (1907-1969). The boundary excludes the parking lot northeast of the Children's Home, in front of the Dale-Roy School. The parking area was split off from the Children's Home into two separate parcels and sold to the Samaritan Regional Health System, for the nearby hospital's use, in 1990 and 2006.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Nathalie Wright
organization: Historic Preservation Consultant
street & number: 1535B Lafayette Dr.
city or town: Columbus state: OH zip code: 43220
e-mail nwright66@yahoo.com
telephone: 614-447-8832
date: February 7, 2019

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A USGS map or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Ashland County Children's Home
Name of Property

Ashland, Ohio
County and State

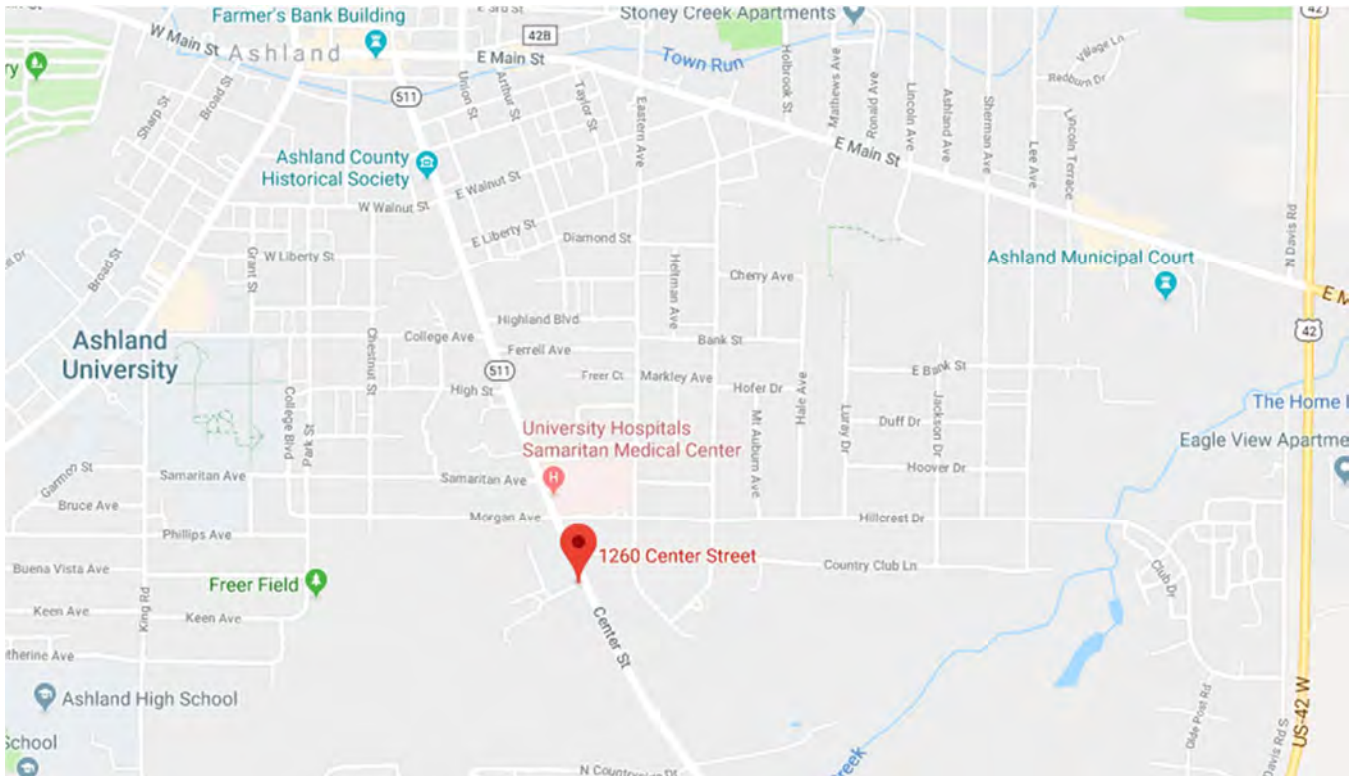
Photo Log

Photographer: Nathalie Wright

Date Photographed: September 12, 2018 and February 6, 2019

1. Site, looking southwest
2. Site, looking southeast
3. Site, looking southwest
4. Children's Home, façade, looking southwest
5. Children's Home, façade and north elevation, looking southwest
6. Children's Home, façade and south elevation, looking northwest
7. Children's Home, rear elevation, looking east
8. Children's Home, 1st floor, foyer, looking northeast
9. Children's Home, 1st floor, stairs, looking south
10. Children's Home, 1st floor, looking southwest
11. Children's Home, 1st floor, looking northwest
12. Children's Home, 1st floor, stairs, looking southwest
13. Children's Home, 1st floor, looking south
14. Children's Home, 1st floor, kitchen, looking northeast
15. Children's Home, 1st floor, dining room stairs, looking northeast
16. Children's Home, 1st floor, looking northeast
17. Children's Home, 1st floor, detention cell, looking southwest
18. Children's Home, 2nd floor, stairs, looking southwest
19. Children's Home, 2nd floor, looking south
20. Children's Home, 2nd floor, looking northeast
21. Children's Home, 2nd floor, hallway, looking northeast
22. Children's Home, 2nd floor, looking southwest
23. Children's Home, 2nd floor, looking southwest
24. Children's Home, basement, recreation room, looking southeast
25. Children's Home, basement, cell corridor, looking southeast
26. Garage, looking northwest
27. Barn, looking southwest
28. Barn, looking northeast
29. Barn, interior, looking east
30. Dale-Roy School, façade, looking northwest
31. Dale-Roy School, façade, looking southwest
32. Dale-Roy School, rear elevation and picnic shelter, looking northeast
33. Dale-Roy School, interior, 1961 corridor, looking southeast
34. Dale-Roy School, interior, 1976 classroom, looking north
35. Dale-Roy School, interior, 1976 cafeteria, looking northeast
36. Dale-Roy School, interior, 1988-89 entrance/office/corridor, looking southeast

Attachment A - Maps

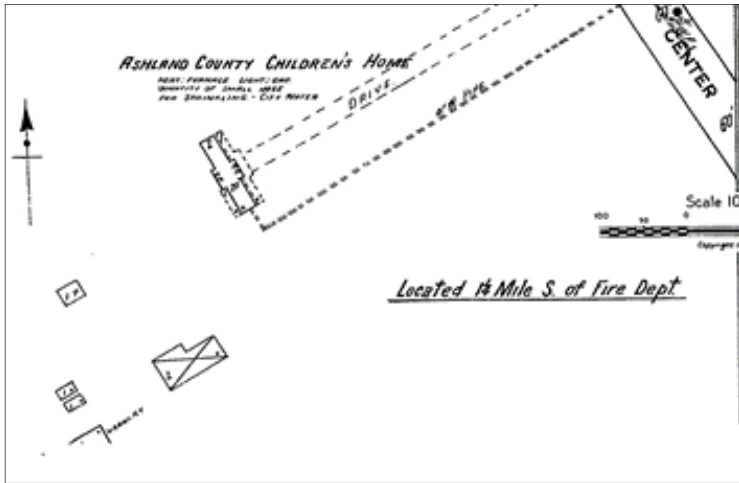


Aerial View, 1260 Center Street. From Google Maps

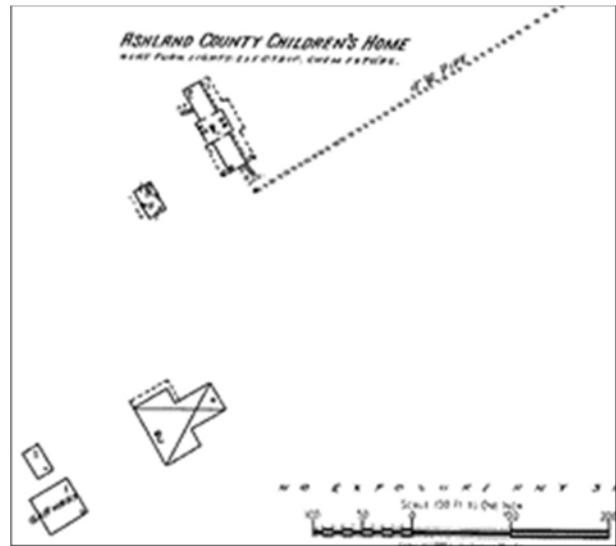


Parcel ID: P44-064-A-0001-00 and P44-064-A-0001-02. From Ashland County Auditor.

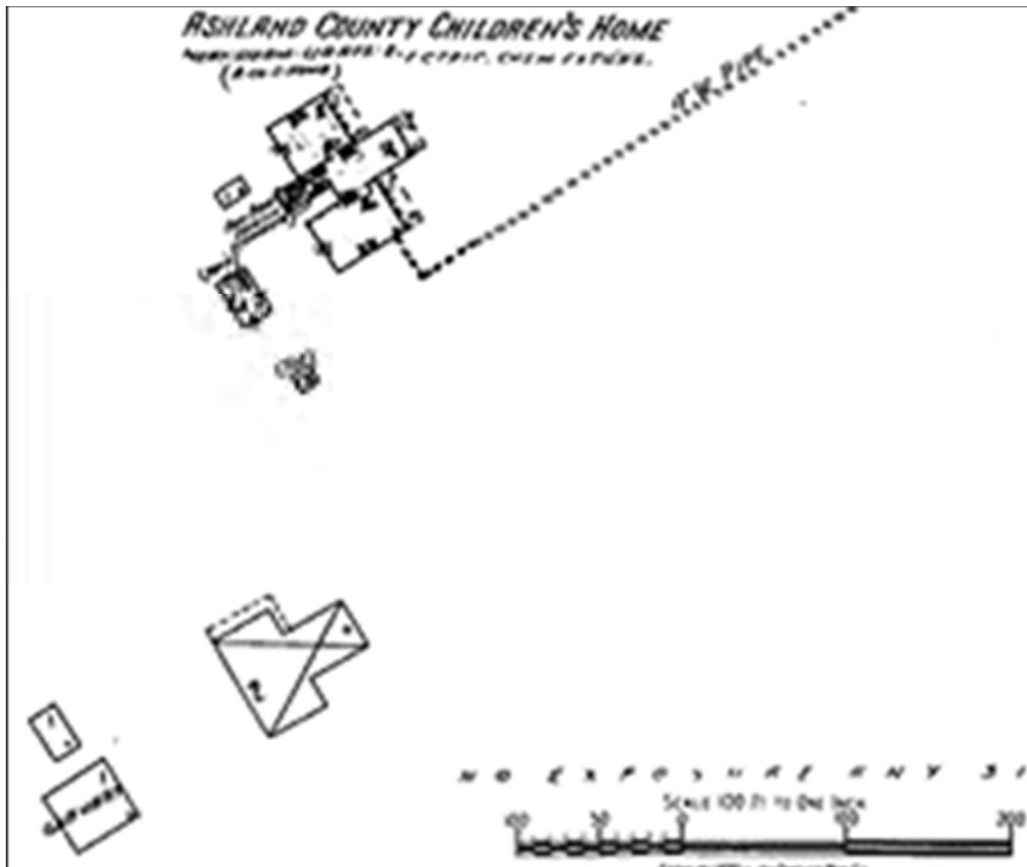
Attachment A - Maps



1919 Sanborn Map



1930 Sanborn Map

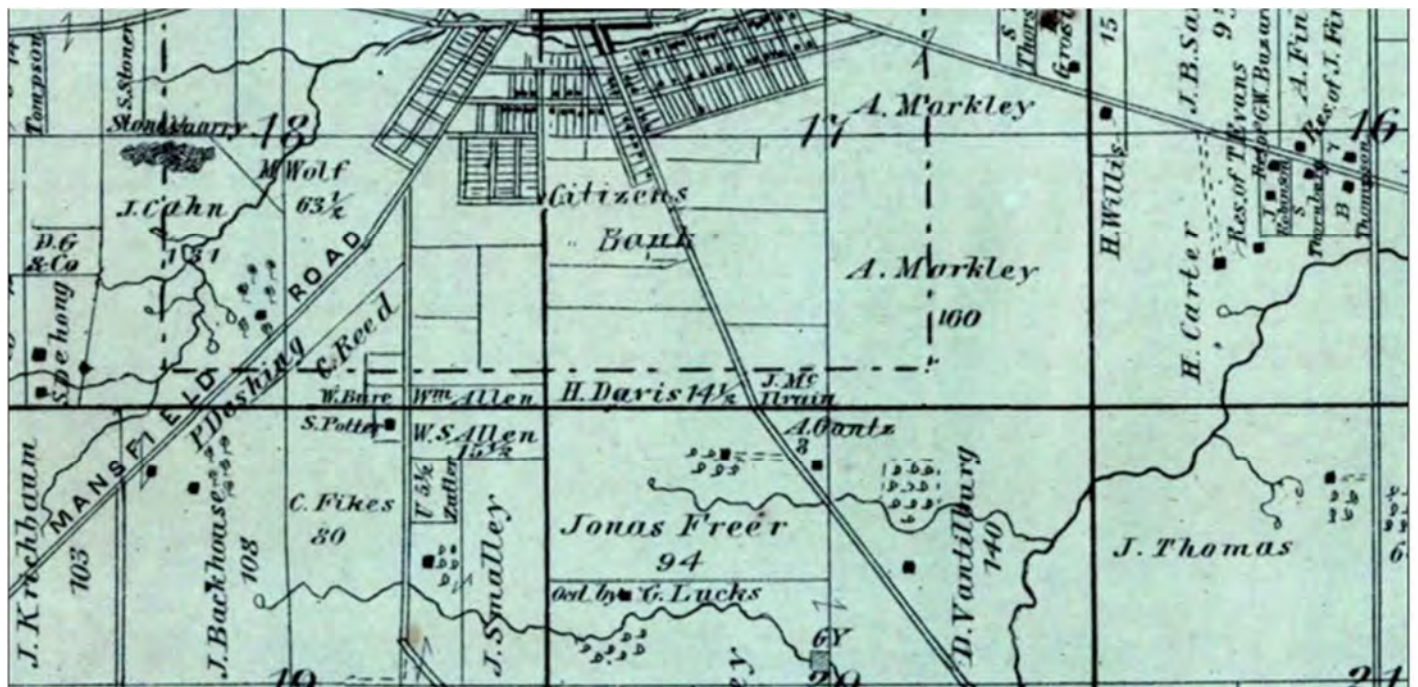


1945 Sanborn Map

Attachment A – Maps



Freer farmstead, 1861. From *Nunan's Map of Ashland Co. Ohio.*



Freer farmstead, 1874. From *Atlas of Ashland County Ohio.*

Attachment B – Historic Images



Original farm house, c.1910. From Ashland County Historical Society Archives.



North wing addition, c.1914. From Ashland County Historical Society Archives.

Attachment B – Historic Images



Children's Home with façade addition, c.1940s. From "Home holds many memories."



Children's Home with rear additions, c.1940s

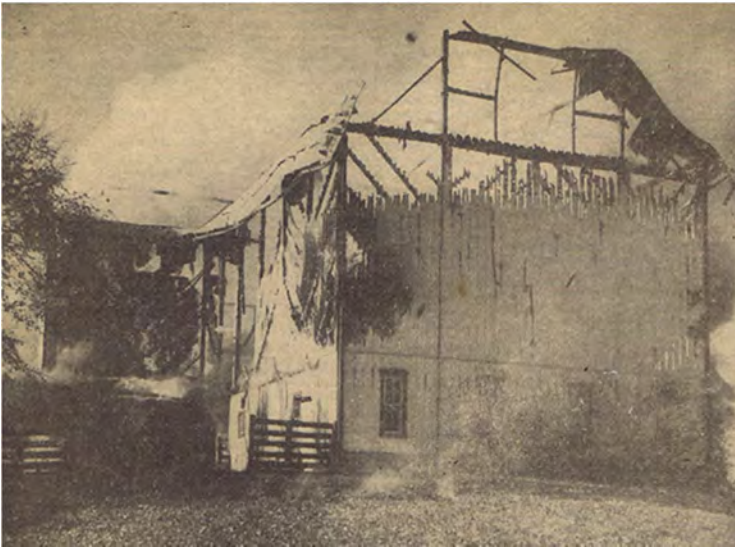
From Ashland County Historical Society Archives.



Superintendent Strine, front room, c.1948

From Ashland County Historical Society Archives.

Attachment B – Historic Images



Barn fire, 1946. From "Fire Loss May Amount To \$15,000"



Mary Freer. From "Home holds many memories"

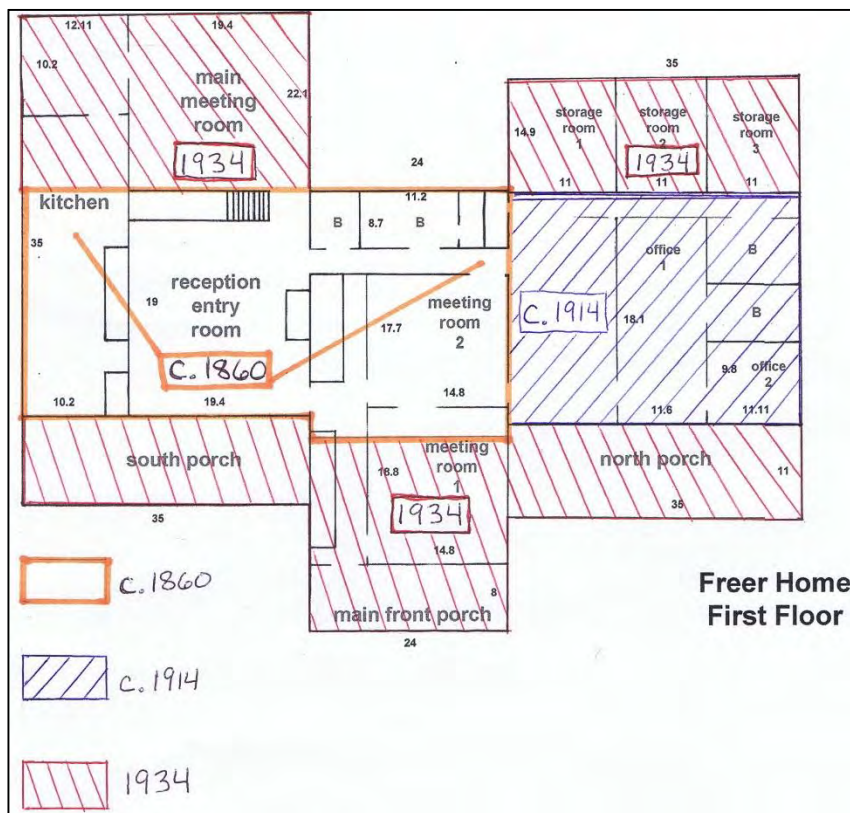
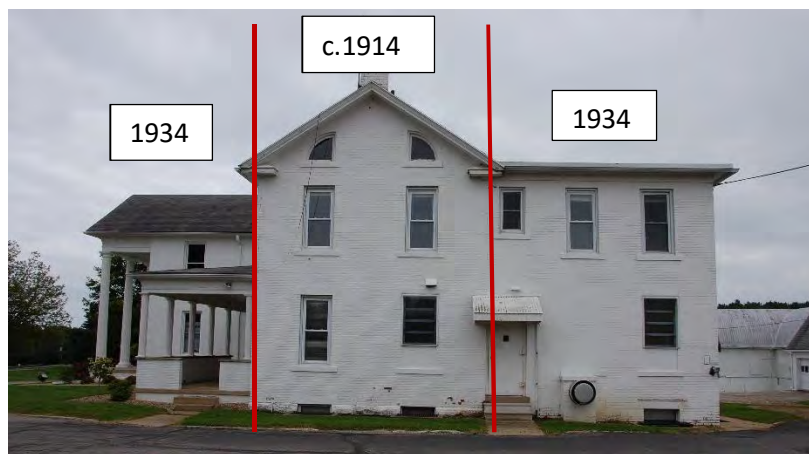


Dale-Roy School, 1961. From Dedication Program.

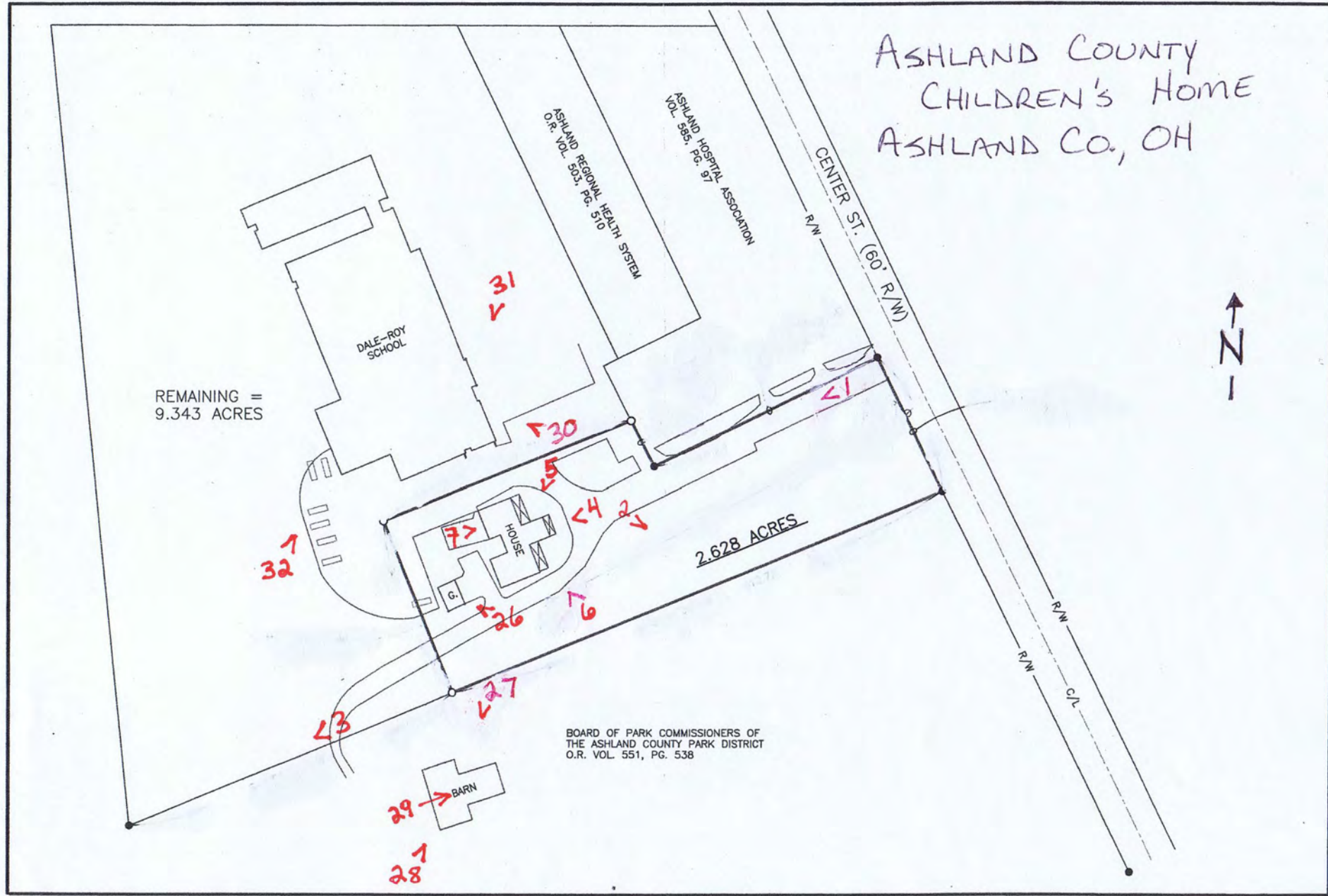


Dale Evans and Roy Rogers with Dale-Roy School students. From "Dale-Roy school celebrating 50th anniversary Thursday."

Attachment C – Property Evolution



ASHLAND COUNTY CHILDREN'S HOME ASHLAND CO., OH



REMAINING =
9.343 ACRES

DALE-ROY
SCHOOL

ASHLAND REGIONAL HEALTH SYSTEM
O.R. VOL. 503, PG. 570

ASHLAND HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION
VOL. 585, PG. 97

CENTER ST. (60' R/W)

31

32

30

5

7

26

6

3

27

29

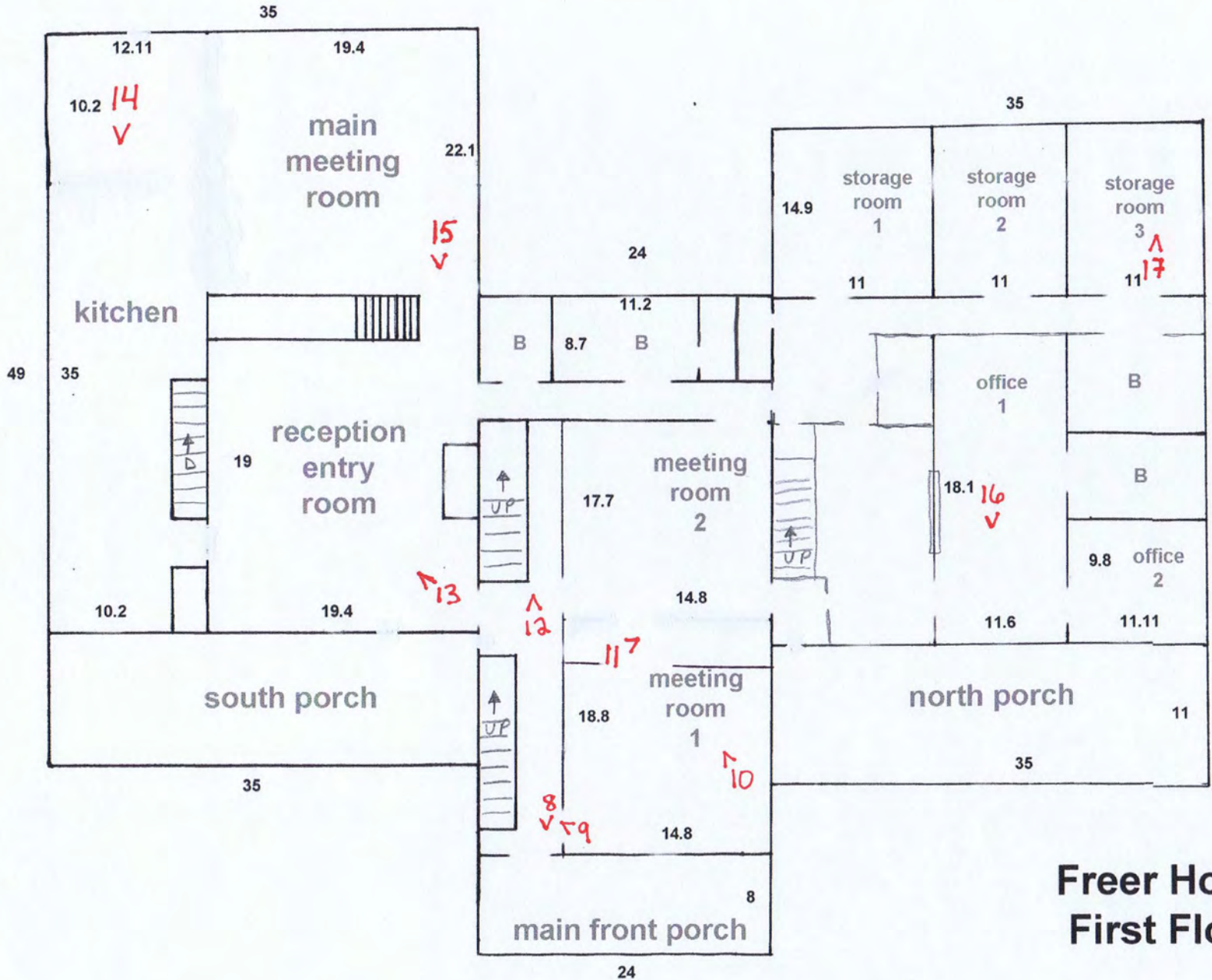
28

BARN

2.628 ACRES

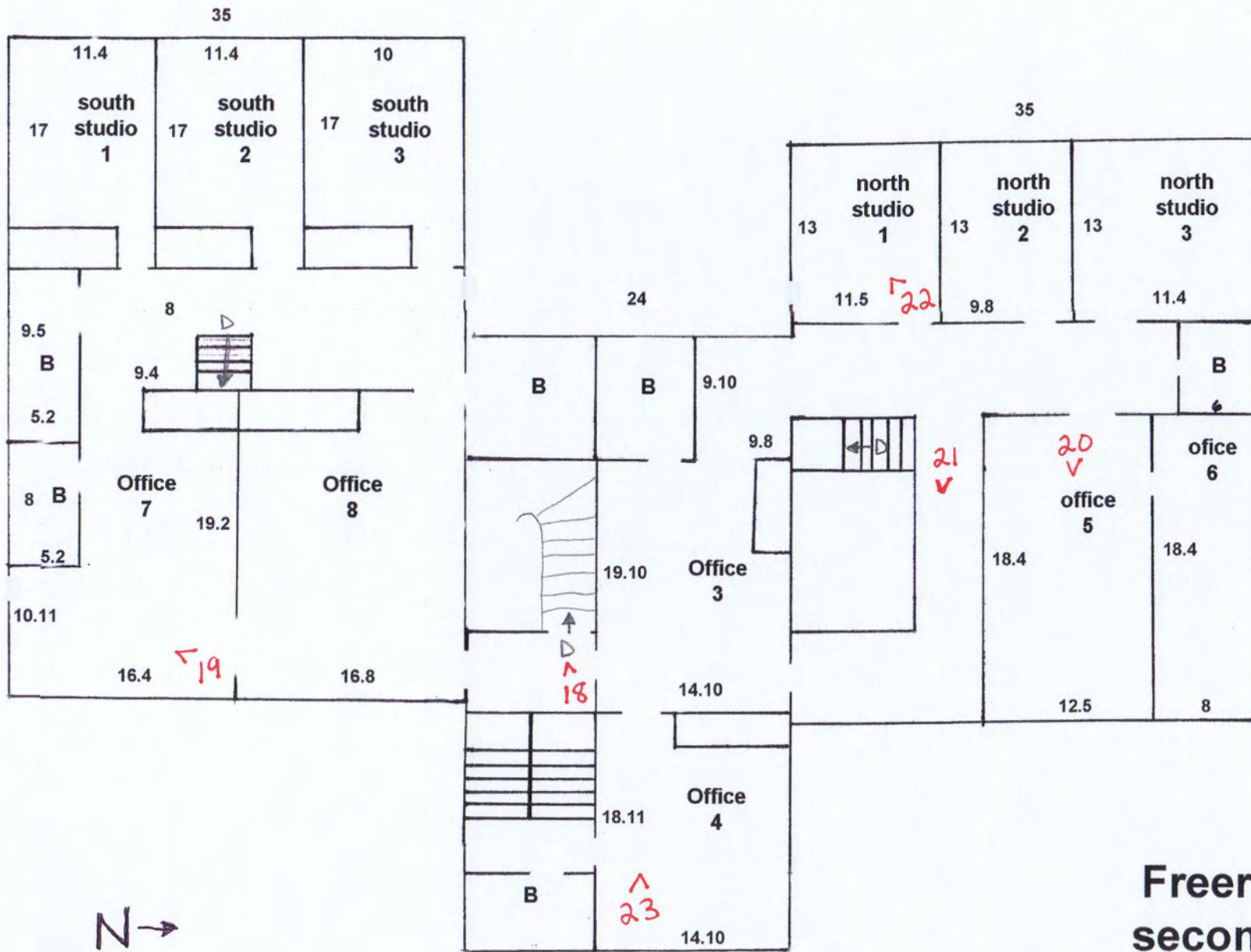
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS OF
THE ASHLAND COUNTY PARK DISTRICT
O.R. VOL. 551, PG. 538





**Freer Home
First Floor**

ASHLAND COUNTY CHILDREN'S
HOME
ASHLAND CO., OH



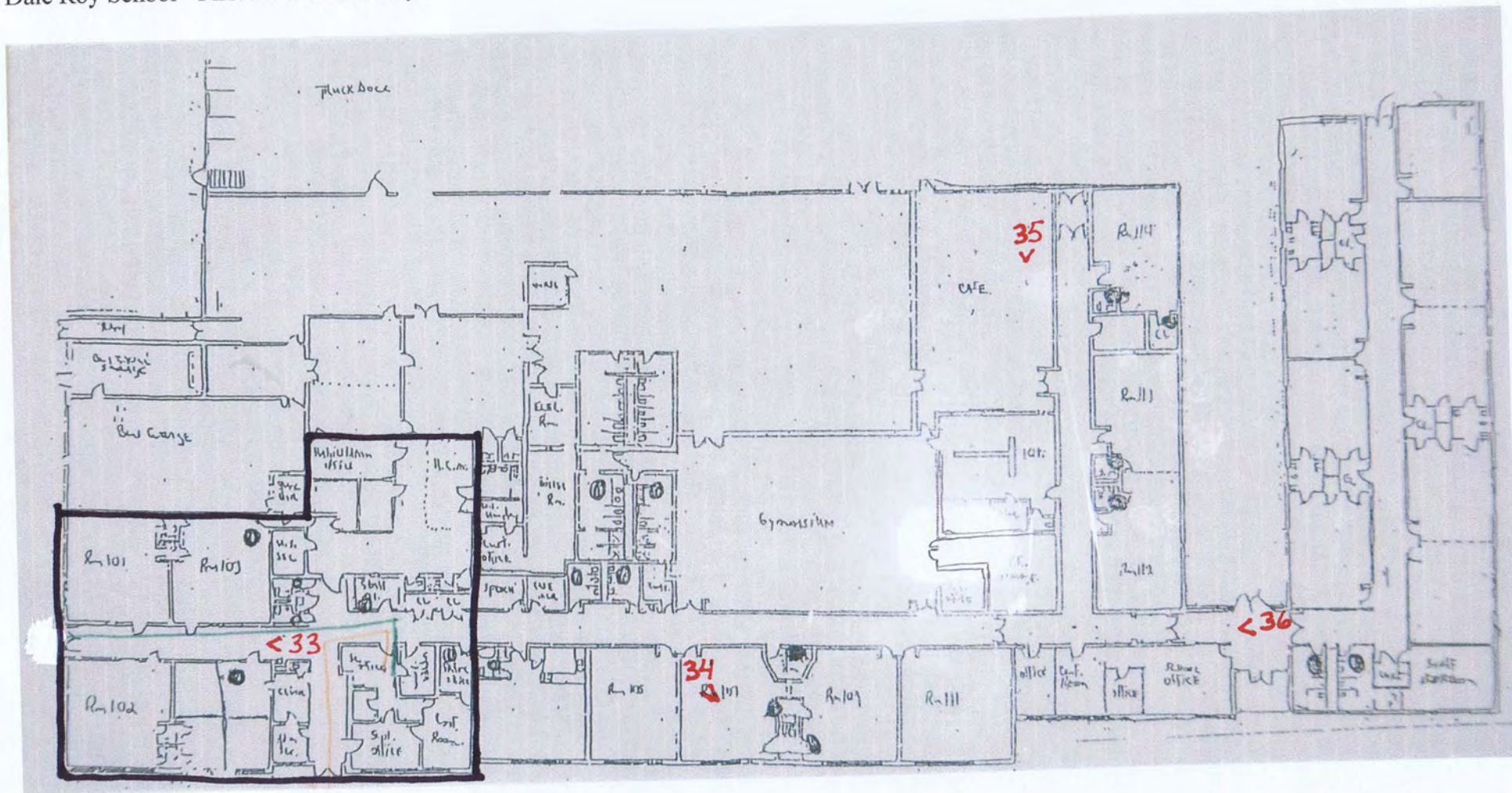
Freer Home second floor

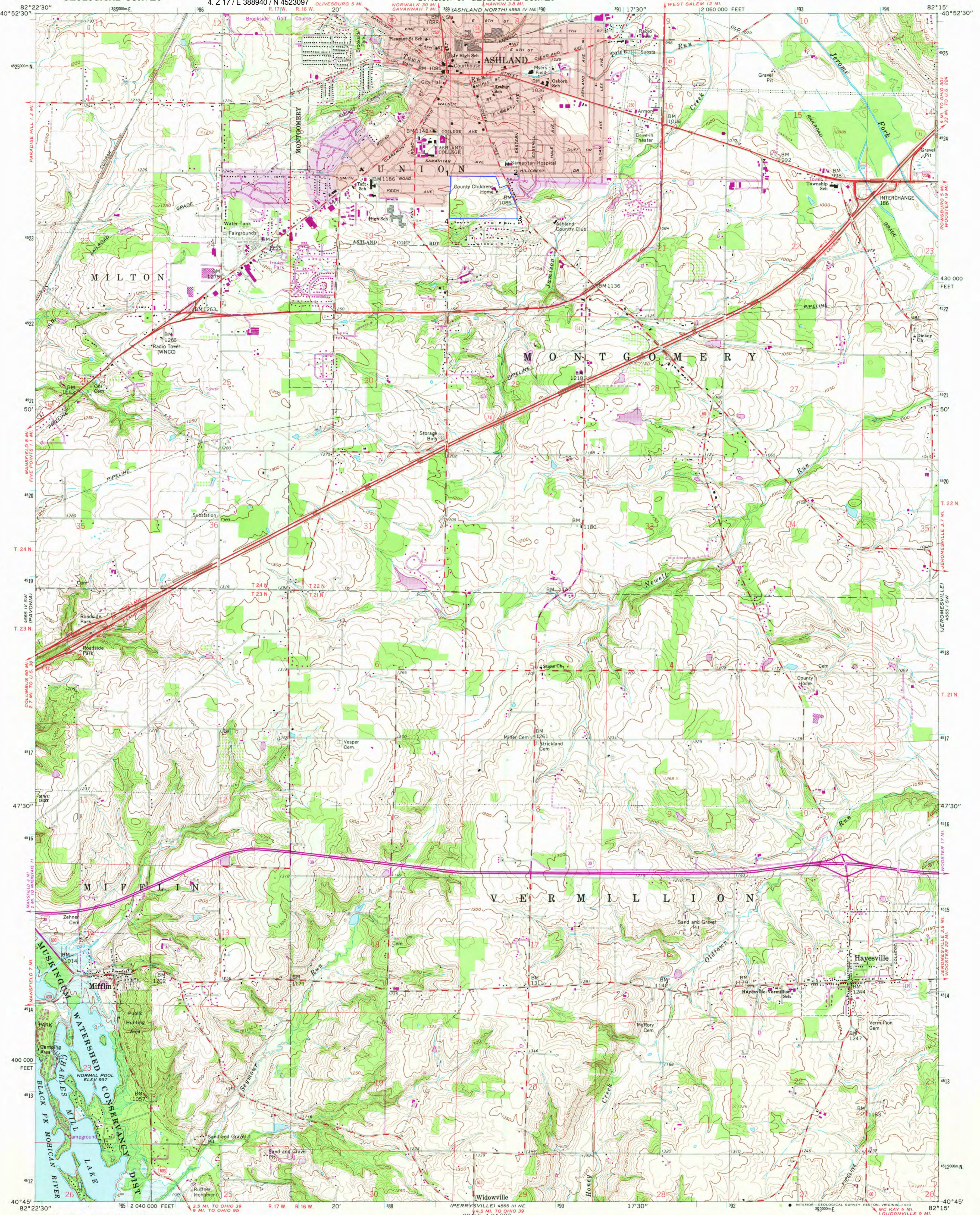
ASHLAND COUNTY CHILDREN'S HOME
ASHLAND CO., OH

Ashland County Children's Home
Ashland County, Ohio

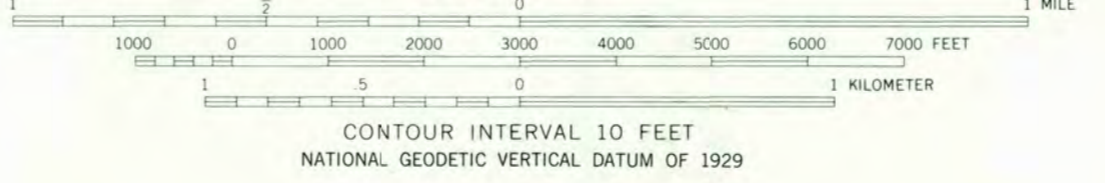
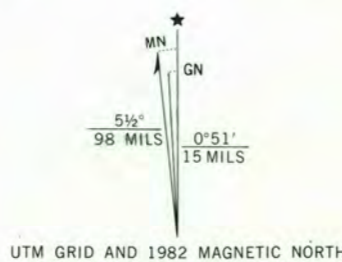


Dale Roy School - First Floor Photo Key





Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS and NOS/NOAA
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs
taken 1960. Field checked 1961
Polyconic projection. 10,000-foot grid ticks based on Ohio coordinate
system, north zone. 1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid
ticks, zone 17, shown in blue. 1927 North American Datum
To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983 move
the projection lines 2 meters south and 11 meters west as
shown by dashed corner ticks
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where
generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked
Red tint indicates area in which only landmark buildings are shown
Area covered by dashed light-blue pattern is subject to
controlled inundation
All wells shown are gas wells
Entire area lies within Congress Lands north of the Old Seven Ranges
Land lines based on the Ohio River Base
There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of
the National or State reservations shown on this map



CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Heavy-duty	Light-duty
Medium-duty	Unimproved dirt
Interstate Route	U.S. Route
	State Route

Revisions shown in purple and woodland compiled in cooperation
with State of Ohio agencies from aerial photographs taken
1981 and other sources. This information not field
checked. Map edited 1982
Purple tint indicates extension of urban area

ASHLAND SOUTH, OHIO
N4045—W8215/7.5
1961
PHOTOREVISED 1982
DMA 4565 IV SE—SERIES V852

1963 HISTORICAL MAP ARCHIVES
AUG 15 1983









SPEED LIMIT
10





























EXIT













CELL
2

CELL
3

CELL
4







Ohio
BICENTENNIAL
1803-2003



Ashland County
Park District





GOLF-ROSE SCHOOL AND TRAINING CENTER

Handicapped
Parking
→



GALE-ROY SCHOOL AND TRAINING CENTER







EXIT

PUSH

PUSH

VISITORS
PLEASE
PUSH GRAY
BUTTON

OFFICE



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action:

Property Name:

Multiple Name:

State & County:

Date Received: 5/1/2019 Date of Pending List: 5/16/2019 Date of 16th Day: 5/31/2019 Date of 45th Day: 6/17/2019 Date of Weekly List: 6/24/2019

Reference number:

Nominator:

Reason For Review:

Accept Return Reject 6/17/2019 Date

Abstract/Summary
Comments:

Recommendation/
Criteria

Reviewer Control Unit Discipline _____

Telephone _____ Date _____

DOCUMENTATION: see attached comments : No see attached SLR : No

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
NPS TRANSMITTAL CHECK LIST

OHIO HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE
800 E. 17th Avenue
Columbus, OH 43211
(614)-298-2000

The following materials are submitted on April 23, 2019
For nomination of the Ashland County to the National Register of
Historic Places: Children's Home, Ashland County, OH

- Original National Register of Historic Places nomination form
___ Paper PDF
- ___ Multiple Property Nomination Cover Document
___ Paper ___ PDF
- ___ Multiple Property Nomination form
___ Paper ___ PDF
- Photographs
___ Prints TIFFs
- CD with electronic images
- Original USGS map(s)
___ Paper Digital
- Sketch map(s)/Photograph view map(s)/Floor plan(s)
___ Paper PDF
- ___ Piece(s) of correspondence
___ Paper ___ PDF
- ___ Other _____

COMMENTS:

- ___ Please provide a substantive review of this nomination
- ___ This property has been certified under 36 CFR 67
- ___ The enclosed owner objection(s) do ___ do not ___
Constitute a majority of property owners
- ___ Other: _____



4/23/19

NRS to NPS via UPS.
Print out tracking form.
Thanks!
BAP

April 23, 2019

Julie Ernstein, Acting Chief, National Register of Historic Places
National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places
1849 C Street, NW, Mail Stop 7228
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Ms. Ernstein:

Enclosed please find two new National Register nominations and one National Register Amendment for Ohio. All appropriate notification procedures have been followed for the new nomination submissions.

NEW NOMINATION

Ashland County Children's Home
L. Hoster Brewing Company

COUNTY

Ashland
Franklin

The enclosed disks contains the true and correct copy of the information to the National Register of Historic Places nominations for Ashland County Children's Home and L. Hoster Brewing Company.

If you have questions or comments about these documents, please contact the National Register staff in the Ohio Historic Preservation Office at (614) 298-2000.

Sincerely,

Lox A. Logan, Jr.
Executive Director and CEO
State Historic Preservation Officer
Ohio History Connection

Enclosures