

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: <b>Ohio</b>
COUNTY: <b>Summit</b>
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE <b>AUG 23 1974</b>

**1. NAME**

COMMON: **Peninsula Village Historic District**

AND/OR HISTORIC:

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER: *both sides of*  
**OH State Route 303 (see continuation sheet)**

CITY OR TOWN: **Peninsula, ~~Boston Township~~** CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: **22 - Charles Vanik**

STATE: **Ohio** CODE: **039** COUNTY: **Summit** CODE: **153**

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

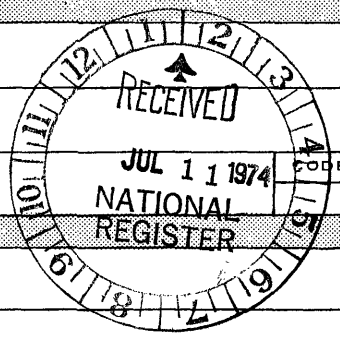
CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____ _____

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME: **Multiple private and public ownership.**

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:



**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: **Summit County Building**

STREET AND NUMBER: **72 South High Street**

CITY OR TOWN: **Akron** STATE: **Ohio** CODE: **039**

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY:  Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: **Ohio**

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This is a nineteenth century canal village located on the Cuyahoga River, and basically oriented along one east-west highway. The district includes some seventy buildings, including a town hall, a former schoolhouse, a meeting hall, three churches, several stores, and residences of frame, brick and stone construction. These represent architectural styles from the late Federal, Greek Revival and Early Gothic Revival to the Italianate and Stick Styles. The district also includes the elbow of the Cuyahoga River at the former peninsula (see 8.), together with the dam made necessary by changing the course of the river, the spillway, the remains of the aqueduct which carried the Ohio Canal from the west side to the east side of the river at this point, and Lock 29 of the Akron-Cleveland Section of the canal.

The concentration of architectural landmarks is along State highway 303 (Main Street). The major buildings include, from east to west:

① Town Hall, southeast corner Main Street and Akron-Peninsula Road. This is a rectangular two-story building of sandstone ashlar construction, with large quoins at the corners. The window arrangement is symmetrical, with horizontal stone lintels over all openings. The roof is a simple gable with a wooden pediment, but there is no Greek detail. On the interior, one iron-barred jail cell remains on the ground floor.

② Peninsula United Methodist Church, northeast corner Main Street and Akron-Peninsula Road. Facing the Town Hall, this frame building has the basic simple lines of a Greek Revival church building. The tower has louvered openings in the Romanesque Revival Style. A modern wing was added to the north side in 1919. The interior was seriously remodeled in 1940.

③ Mother of Sorrows Catholic Church, 6034 Akron-Peninsula Road. This is another frame church building, in the Gothic Revival Style. In 1935 it was expanded by adding a section in the center, and a basement hall was constructed underneath.

④ On the railroad right-of-way at the foot of Mill Street is a frame depot building. This was recently moved to Peninsula from the village of Boston, one-and-a-half miles north, to replace one that had been razed. It is a typical rural station with wide overhanging eaves and hints of High Victorian Italianate Style in the window frames.

⑤ West of the Cuyahoga River. Store at 1663 West Main Street. This is a two-story frame building with a store on the lower level and a residence on the upper level. The entablature is a fully-developed Greek Revival feature, with frieze and cornice returns on the end facing the road. An unusual detail is the two closed and

continued.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian |  16th Century |  18th Century |  20th Century  
 15th Century |  17th Century |  19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1827-1887

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |   |   |  |
|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input type="checkbox"/> Education              | <input type="checkbox"/> Political                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric             | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy            | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> Science                        | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture                      | _____                                    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater                        | _____                                    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commerce     | <input type="checkbox"/> Military               | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transportation      | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  |   | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            |   |   | _____                                    |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Village of Peninsula is significant because it preserves largely intact a thriving mid-nineteenth century canal and mercantile town, located in a relatively unspoiled natural corridor in one of the largest megalopolises in the country. It is also important as testimony to the efforts of private enterprise in historic preservation.

Boston Township was organized in 1811, and the area of Peninsula first settled probably in 1818. Its real beginning dates from the arrival of Hermon Bronson in 1824. In 1837 Bronson platted the village on the west side of the river and named it Peninsula. The name is derived from a large loop in the river which came back to within fifty feet of itself and thus formed a peninsula of land. In 1832 Bronson tunneled through the neck of the peninsula, creating a fall of about eight feet and providing water power for a gristmill. Also at this point, the Ohio Canal crossed the river, paralleling its west bank to the south and its east bank to the north. An aqueduct carried the canal channel across the river, and its foundations still exist.

Hermon Bronson, in addition to building the first gristmill and sawmill, became a large landowner and developed the business interests of Peninsula. During its heyday as a bustling canal boat stop between Akron and Cleveland, the village is reputed to have had five hotels and fourteen bars. Gristmills, cheese factories, the canal traffic and boat building made Peninsula an active prosperous village. Mr. Waterman, whose house is described, was a boat-builder. The quarries of sandstone nearby, opened to provide material for the canal construction, also thrived for many years. Stone was taken out at the rate of a boat-load a day.

It is likely that a tavern and one or two stores were located in the village during the building of the canal in 1826-1827. A traditional date of 1820 is given for Wood's Store, but the earliest mention of a specific general store is J.M. Adams' store in 1833. The earliest mentioned two-story frame building was the warehouse which Bronson built in 1826. F. Wood came to Peninsula in 1853 and purchased the stock of Charles Curtiss, whose store had begun in 1839 or 1840.

continued.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Samuel A. Lane, Fifty Years and Over of Akron and Summit County (Akron, 1892), 654-664.  
 W.H. Perrin, History of Summit County (Chicago, 1881), 540-545, 891, 893.

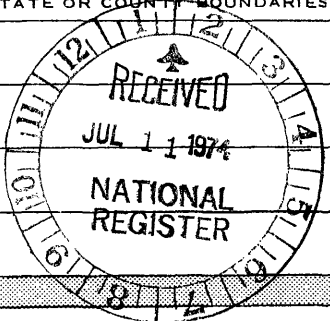
**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	41° 14' 36"	81° 33' 28"		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	41° 14' 35"	81° 32' 47"		° ' "	° ' "	
SE	41° 14' 16"	81° 32' 48"		° ' "	° ' "	
SW	41° 14' 17"	81° 33' 29"		° ' "	° ' "	

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **53 Acres**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE: **Eric Johannesen, Preservationist**

ORGANIZATION: **Western Reserve Historical Society** DATE: **November 1973**

STREET AND NUMBER: **10825 East Boulevard**

CITY OR TOWN: **Cleveland** STATE: **Ohio** CODE: **039**

**12 STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name Daniel R. Smith

Title Ohio Hist. Preserv. Off.

Date 9 July 1974

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

Eric Johannesen  
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

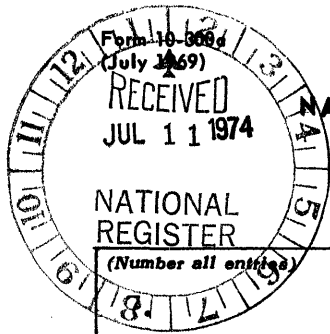
Date 8/23/74

ATTEST:

Charles A. Perry  
 Keeper of The National Register

Date 8-23-74

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
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Peninsula Village Historic District

shuttered windows on the east elevation. They were designed to maintain the symmetry of the exterior, but actually cover framing members behind them. The building has been extensively restored since 1963, and wings which were added to the north and west in 1854 have been removed.

① General Store, 1685 West Main Street. This is a frame building in the Eastlake Style with the narrow end facing the road, and a porch across the front. Like the previous store, it had a residence on the second floor.

① Bronson House, 1715 West Main Street. This is a squarish two-story sandstone residence with a three-bay facade and the entrance door to one side. It is very similar in construction to the Town Hall. The roof is hipped.

① Bronson Memorial Church, West Main and Church Streets. The basic form and original style of this frame building were Greek Revival. The pediment, cornice and frieze are excellently proportioned. In 1889 the building was remodeled in the Gothic Revival Style. The pointed arches are simply permanent shutters above the original windows. The four spires and the small entry porch with its trefoil "gingerbread" are other additions. In 1965 the building was restored, a new basement constructed, and heating and lighting added. However, it still retains its basic nineteenth century character.

① Peninsula High School, northeast corner West Main and Riverview Road. This 1889 two-story school building is an excellent example of the Stick Style. The wall surface is divided by horizontal and vertical posts to symbolize the internal framing structure, and faced with horizontal and diagonal siding between these members. The corner tower has an open octagonal belfry with a steep pyramidal roof. A two-story brick addition was built to the rear in the 1920's, but it has a completely different character from the older part.

① G. A. R. Hall, northwest corner West Main and Riverview Road. This is a frame building with Eastlake Style ornament. It contains a large hall and stage on the street level. Being on a hillside to the rear, the building had a basement opening to the grade level, which served as a dining room. Later a basement kitchen and a street level anteroom and cloakroom were added to the west. Since 1963, the building has been renovated. The hall and stage have been restored, with oil chandeliers of the original type in the hall. The basement areas have been modernized for public use.

continued.

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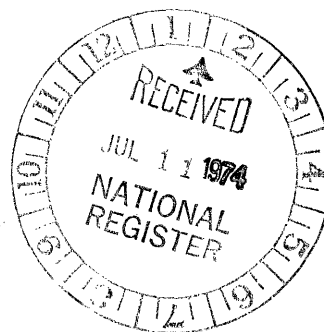
(Number all entries)

Peninsula Village Historic District

7 - (2).

(10) Waterman House, 6050 Riverview Road, south of Route 303. This was originally a Greek Revival frame farmhouse, with a typical five-bay facade and central entrance with sidelights. In the second half of the century it was remodeled with a tall front gable, higher roof, drop molding on the windows, and vertical siding.

Many of the buildings in the district have been renovated and restored by village resident and professional designer Robert L. Hunker. Several have been converted to adaptive uses as residences and small shops. All of the buildings are occupied, and those not yet restored are structurally sound and capable of restoration.



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*(Continuation Sheet)*

STATE Ohio	
COUNTY Summit	
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*(Number all entries)*

Peninsula Village Historic District

10-301.

The boundary of the district begins on the east side of Ridgeway Street, 200 feet south of State Route 303 (West Main Street). Proceed north along Ridgeway, continuing across Route 303 on a line with Ridgeway to a point 200 feet north of Route 303. Proceed east on a line parallel with Route 303 to the west boundary line of the property at 1685 West Main Street. Proceed north on a continuation of this line across the Cuyahoga River, to a point 600 feet north of Route 303. Proceed east on a line parallel to Route 303 across the railroad to a point 200 feet west of Akron-Peninsula Road. Proceed south on a line parallel to Akron-Peninsula Road to a point 200 feet north of Route 303. Proceed east on a line parallel with Route 303 to a point due north of the intersection of Route 303 and Dell Road. Proceed south across Route 303 to a point 200 feet south of Route 303. Proceed west on a line parallel to Route 303 to the west side of Akron-Peninsula Road, then south to the south boundary line of the property of the Mother of Sorrows Catholic Church. Proceed west along the property line to a point 200 feet west of Akron-Peninsula Road, then north to a point 200 feet south of Route 303. Proceed west on a line parallel to Route 303 to a point 200 feet east of Riverview Road, then south on a line parallel to Riverview Road to the south boundary line of the property at 6075 Riverview Road. Proceed west along this line to the west side of Riverview Road, then south along Riverview Road to the south boundary line of the property at 6050 Riverview Road. Proceed west along the property line to a point 300 feet west of Riverview Road, then north on a line parallel to Riverview Road to a point 200 feet south of Route 303. Proceed west on a line parallel to Route 303 to Ridgeway Street.



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8. Peninsula Historic District

Wood moved to the present known location in 1863. The mature Greek Revival style of the building suggests a date no earlier than 1835.

Bronson's stone house is also given a traditional date in the 1820's, but the style suggests that the mid-1830's is more likely. In 1837 an Episcopal congregation was formed under the leadership of Bronson, and in 1839 the frame church was built almost entirely at his expense. When the building was remodeled in the Gothic style in 1889 by his daughter-in-law, the name was changed to Bronson Memorial Church. The two-story stone building used as a town hall was erected as a schoolhouse about 1857.

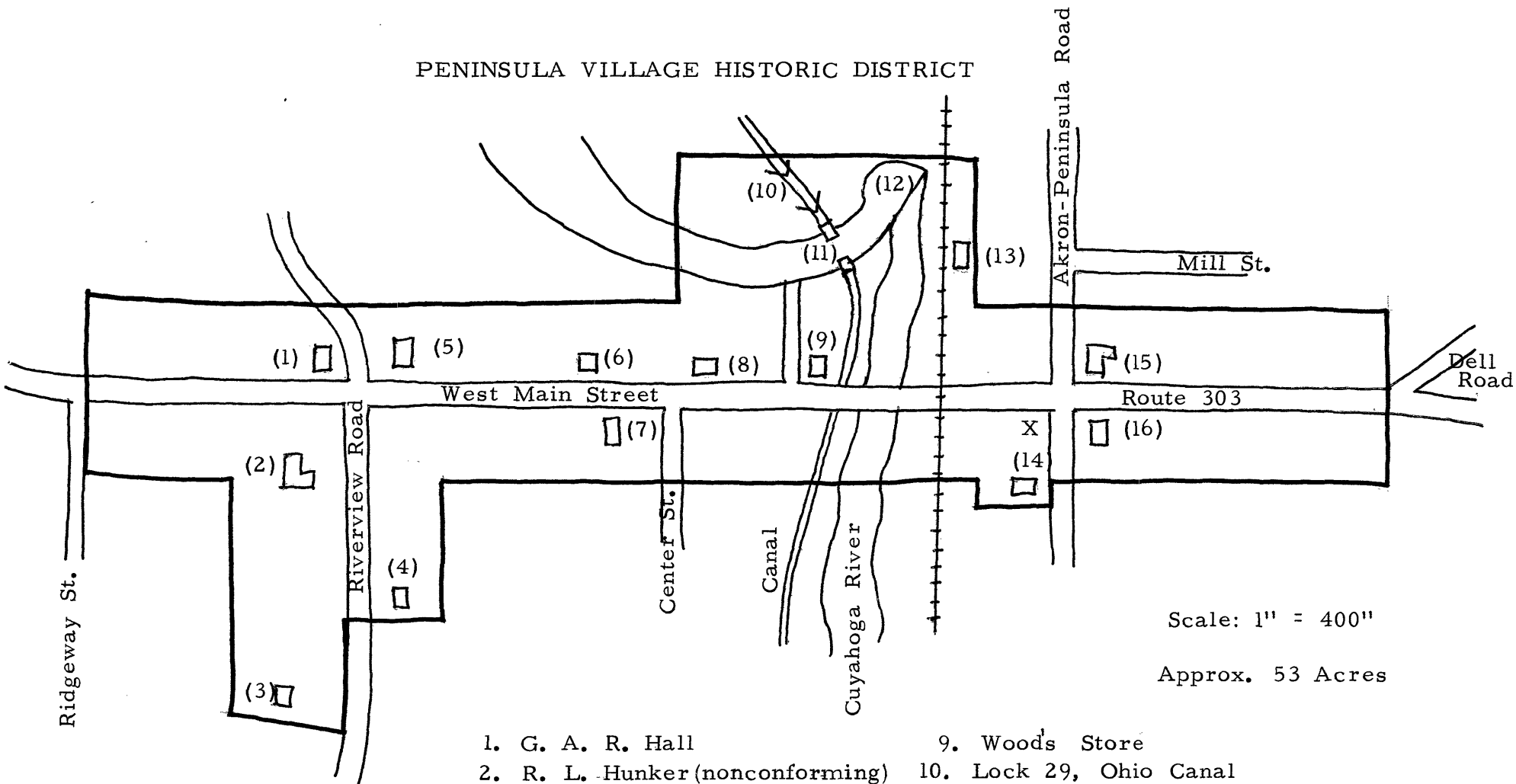
Many of the buildings of the canal era are still standing. After the Civil War there was continued growth. In 1875 the Valley Railroad was built along the east bank of the Cuyahoga. In order to make way for the railroad, the river was diverted at the narrow neck and the peninsula was cut off, creating the sharp elbow of today. Peninsula became the most important village on the railroad. During the next decades, the other buildings described were constructed, the Methodist Church in 1868, the G.A.R. Hall and general store in the mid-1880's, the Catholic Church between 1882 and 1887, and the high school building in 1887.

The Village of Peninsula lies in the heart of the area which has been proposed as a Cuyahoga Valley national park, and which in many ways, like the village, is unchanged since the canal era.





PENINSULA VILLAGE HISTORIC DISTRICT



Scale: 1" = 400"  
 Approx. 53 Acres

- |                                 |                         |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. G. A. R. Hall                | 9. Woods Store          |
| 2. R. L. Hunker (nonconforming) | 10. Lock 29, Ohio Canal |
| 3. Waterman House               | 11. Aqueduct (ruins)    |
| 4. 6075 Riverview Road          | 12. Dam                 |
| 5. School                       | 13. Railroad Depot      |
| 6. Bronson House                | 14. Catholic Church     |
| 7. Bronson Church               | 15. Methodist Church    |
| 8. General Store, 1685 W. Main  | 16. Town Hall           |
|                                 | X gas station           |

