

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PH0674303

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11 1 1979

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

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

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

*Bath Township Multiple Resource Area*

AND/OR COMMON

Historic Resources of Bath Township (Partial Inventory: Historic/Architecture)

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

Incorporated boundaries of Bath Township

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

*and vicinity*  
Bath Township

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

14 - John Seiberling

STATE

Ohio

CODE

039

COUNTY

Summit

CODE

153

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

**CATEGORY**

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

**OWNERSHIP**

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

**STATUS**

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

**PRESENT USE**

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

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Multiple Ownership

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Bath Township

VICINITY OF

STATE

Ohio

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Summit County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

72 South High Street

CITY, TOWN

Akron

STATE

Ohio

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Ohio Historic Inventory

DATE

September 1977

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Ohio Historic Preservation Office, Ohio Historical Society

CITY, TOWN

Columbus

STATE

Ohio

# 7 DESCRIPTION

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

## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Located on the western edge of Summit County, Bath Township was a part of Connecticut's Western Reserve. Its original five mile square boundaries remain intact. Bath lies west of the Cuyahoga River with the township's major stream, the Yellow Creek, serving as a tributary. The eastern section of Bath has several wooded ravines with the western section characterized by open fields and farms. Except for some suburban developments related to nearby Akron, a limited access highway that runs through the center of the township, and the Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area that lies along its eastern edge, Bath has changed little since the 19th Century. It was and still is used primarily for farming, although the size and number of farms has decreased. There are four towns : Bath, Bath Center, Ghent, and Montrose arranged along the central north-south township road.

The historic architectural resources of the township include several Federal and Greek Revival residences, several later Victorian residences in the Italianate, Eastlake, and Queen Anne styles, a vernacular schoolhouse, and a Georgian Revival township hall.

The best example of the Federal style is the Jonathan Hale House ( SUM-3 :<sup>#1</sup> National Register, 4-23-73). Its brick construction, three-story five-bay facade, and its stepped gable are Federal features unique in Bath Township. The Greek Revival structures reflect three variations on that style. The Elijah Hale House<sup>#6</sup> (SUM-83) has two full stories with a three bay facade, a broken bed pediment, and double entrances flanked by Doric columns. The John Kent House<sup>#3</sup> (SUM-94) and the Sylvester Shaw House<sup>#4</sup> (SUM-96) are story and a half structures with five bay facades, central entrances, and blind attics. The Roswell Hopkins House<sup>#10</sup> (SUM-113) and the Harvey Miller House<sup>#11</sup> (SUM-114) are one and a half stories with frieze windows and such unusual elements as a front porch and an exposed basement. Three other properties, while altered, still reflect good Greek Revival detailing: Johnson Residence<sup>#17</sup>; Richard Residence<sup>#18</sup>; Kittinger Res.<sup>#19</sup>

The Victorian styles include some vernacular structures connected with significant facets of Bath Township's development and some buildings that are excellent examples of their architectural style. The Bath Township School<sup>#12</sup> (SUM-116), the Dr. Rufus Randall House<sup>#7</sup> (SUM-78), the William Barker House<sup>#8</sup> (SUM-108), the Edward Heller House<sup>#9</sup> (SUM-110) and the Samuel Shaw House<sup>#5</sup> (SUM-91) represent the Victorian vernacular. They feature elements such as vertical 2x2 windows, scrollwork brackets, turned posts, shiplap siding, and projecting architraves.

The J. Ligget House<sup>#14</sup> (SUM-120) is an outstanding example of the Italianate style with its stilted-arched hoodmolds, oculi, bracketed porch, and full-height windows. A variation of this is in the Eastlake detail of the John

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Historic Resources of Bath Township, Summit County, Ohio

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Harshey House (SUM-123)<sup>#15</sup>. With its gable scrollwork, saw-tooth vertical siding, carved gabled architraves, and scrollwork porch brackets, the house successfully conveys the elaboration of that style. The Manville Thorp House (SUM-92)<sup>#2</sup> reflects the more generous horizontality of the later Victorian period. Its wide central window, broad hip roof porch, double-story bay window, spindled columns, and open spindle cornice make the house a transition between the Stick Style and the Queen Anne style. A more elaborate Queen Anne structure is the M. Conklin House (SUM-119)<sup>#13</sup> with its flared shingled surfaces, wide double-hung windows, and its double story porch with spindles and brackets.

The Classical Revival of the early 20th Century is represented by the Bath Township Hall (SUM-127)<sup>#10</sup>. Although the structure has a simple rectangular form, the modillioned cornice, the projecting pediments, and the classical detail on the porch evoke a formality appropriate to the building's function.

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Bath Township has changed little since the late 19th Century. Many of the houses still stand, although additions and alterations have obscured their original fabric. Recently, suburban growth has begun to encroach upon the farmland, but the rural character of the township remains intact.

As the first settlers in Bath, the Hales played a major part in the development of the township, farming large tracts of land as well as manufacturing lime and bricks for local residents. The imposing quality of the Jonathan Hale House<sup>#1</sup> (SUM-3 : National Register, 4-23-73) reflects both his importance in the community and his enterprising spirit. Another Hale house<sup>#6</sup> (SUM-83), built in the 1830's, was owned by Elijah Hale. By 1856, Theodore, Eilijah's son, had inherited the property, after which it was sold to S. McNeil.

One of the earliest Greek Revival houses belonged to John Kent (SUM-94)<sup>#3</sup>, a farmer who came to Bath in the 1820's. The Hopkins family moved to a large tract of land in southwestern Bath in 1813, building their house (SUM-113)<sup>#10</sup> a few years after Roswell Hopkins' birth in 1825. Roswell farmed the land until 1871, when he went into lumbering. Harvey Miller's house (SUM-114)<sup>#11</sup>, another Greek Revival structure, was probably built by his parents at about the time they moved to their 800 acres of land in 1827. The father ran a

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The historic architectural resources of Bath Township represent the two major periods of growth in the 19th Century Western Reserve. These were marked by the construction of the Akron-Cleveland section of the Ohio-Erie Canal in 1827 and the railroads in the 1850's and 1860's. The significance of the nominated buildings rests with their architectural integrity and their historic connections with people important in the settlement and development of Bath Township. The township itself is significant in its retention of the original township government and the five mile square township boundaries unique to the Western Reserve and in its maintenance of a rural character in close proximity to the cities of Akron and Cleveland.

While Ohio became a state in 1803, the land west of the Cuyahoga River in the Western Reserve was not secured by the government until 1805 with the Treaty of Fort Industry. In 1808, Rial McArthur and R. Warden surveyed Bath Township, then called Wheatfield, and divided it into 100 lots. Several white squatters built log cabins and cleared small gardens in the township prior to 1810. In that year, the first permanent settlers, Jonathan Hale and his nephew, Theodore Hammond, arrived in Bath. They were followed by other Hales and Hammonds, all of whom settled in the northeastern corner of Bath on the site of an old Mingo indian village. After the War of 1812, people began to settle in greater numbers. The area was organized in 1818 as Bath Township and, by 1820, had become a well populated rural community.

In 1818, Major Lemuel Hoadley, brother of noted New Haven architect David Hoadley, built the first saw mill in Ghent. Several other saw mills and grist mills were soon erected along Yellow Creek, making milling one of the township's major early industries. The growth was aided by the completion of the Akron-Cleveland section of the Ohio-Erie Canal in the spring of 1827, providing new commercial markets outside of the township. This period of expansion is reflected in the large number of Greek Revival houses located in Bath. By the 1850's, the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad had replaced the Ohio-Erie Canal as the easiest mode of shipping and transportation. However, the economic benefits of this were not apparent until the 1870's and 1880's, when a significant number of large Italianate structures were erected in the township.

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tavern for travellers on the Medina Road, while Harvey farmed and raised cattle. Sylvester Shaw moved his family to Bath in 1832. They lived in a log cabin already on the property until the present house (SUM-96)<sup>#4</sup> was built. Although major landowners were often active in the early township government, Shaw stayed out of local politics, preferring to spend his time farming. He died in 1875 and by 1891, his son, Sylvester, owned his father's land as well as his own. By 1860, Samuel Shaw, another son, had married and built his house (SUM-91)<sup>#5</sup>. He owned 74 acres in 1874. His cousin Richmond bought land from Manville Thorp and also built a house (SUM-92)<sup>#2</sup> in the area.

More growth came to Bath in the 1850's. William Barker's investments contributed substantially to the township. He owned several lots in Ghent, building his house (SUM-108)<sup>#8</sup> on one of them. By 1856, he also owned 571 acres of land as well as the Ghent Champion Mill, the largest mill in western Summit County. Barker operated the mill until 1871, when he sold it to Edward Heller. Heller came to Bath in 1870. Trained as a miller by his father, he bought Barker's mill and another mill east of Ghent. Heller's house (SUM-110)<sup>#9</sup> stands across the street from the Ghent Champion Mill, still in operation. Dr. Rufus Randall served the medical needs of the people near Hammonds Corners, now known as Bath. He began studying medicine at the age of seventeen. Upon graduation from Starling Medical College in 1858, he located in Bath (SUM-78)<sup>#7</sup> and built up a large practice based on "new and rational remedies".

After the Civil War, Bath's agricultural products were in high demand. Holding 345 acres, John Harshey (SUM-123)<sup>#15</sup> raised cattle and became a leading agriculturalist in the township. Others such as J. Ligget (SUM-120)<sup>#14</sup> and M. Conklin (SUM-119)<sup>#13</sup> owned modest tracts of land, but were involved in the prosperity that came to the towns of Ghent and Montrose.

Education in Bath Township developed slowly. Although school was held regularly after 1811 in farm buildings or private homes, the first school building was not erected until the 1830's when school taxes were first levied. The best preserved of the early educational structures (SUM-116)<sup>#12</sup> dates from the latter part of the 19th Century.

The Bath Township government began with three trustees, regulated by state

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statutes, that held public meetings three times a month. The township has retained this original form of government. The Bath Township Hall (SUM-127)<sup>#16</sup> marks the geographical as well as the civic center of the community.

The historic architectural resources of Bath Township thus provide a physical record of the major people, events, and institutions that affected its growth. While this development typifies that in many Western Reserve townships, Bath's state of preservation offers a significant contrast to the nearby urban concentrations and an excellent example of 19th Century rural life.

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For a number of years a portion of the southeast corner of Bath Township in Summit County has been threatened by annexation to the City of Akron. Local residents who oppose the action have tried every legal avenue, no matter how far-fetched. Because the Western Reserve Historical Society, location of the northeastern Ohio preservation office, owns and operates the Hale Farm and Village in Bath Township, the preservation officer was asked to assist in determining the historic significance of the township and its resources.

Some people contended that the township is unique in being the only township in the county to retain its original boundaries (five miles square in the Connecticut Western Reserve) and its township government. In fact, Bath Township was not unique in this respect. Nevertheless, a proposal to nominate the boundary lines of the township to the National Register was presented by certain citizens to the Ohio Historic Site Preservation Advisory Board in 1976. Quite properly, it was rejected on the grounds that an intangible line does not meet the criteria of the National Register.

In September, 1977, a complete inventory of the structures in the township was undertaken by Thomas Fisher, regional preservation officer, and Hope Ford, intern at Hale Farm and Village. The primary method was a field survey, based largely on architectural criteria, of every township road. The field observations were correlated with places shown in the Summit County atlases and described in Summit County histories. As a result, 38 structures were entered in the Ohio Historic Inventory. Later, those structures which bore the degree of integrity and significance required by the National Register criteria were nominated as a group. There are 20 of these.

The archaeological resources of Bath Township have not been completely inventoried in a comprehensive survey, nor was the historic architecture inventory coordinated with the regional archaeological office at the Cleveland Museum of Natural History. However, two sites have been identified in the Ohio Archaeological Inventory.

The inventory and the nomination arrived at the conclusion that the historic architectural resources of Bath Township provide a physical record of the major people, events, and institutions from the period of the township's nineteenth century development, and that their state of preservation offers a significant contrast to the nearby urban concentrations.

