

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

JUN 26 1978

DATE ENTERED

APR 3 1979

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Leesville Village Historic Resources (partial inventory: History/Architecture)

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

in and around Leesville Village Crossroads

(intersection of S.R. 598 and C.R. 229)

CITY, TOWN

Leesville

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

17th: John Ashbrook

STATE

Ohio

VICINITY OF

CODE

039

COUNTY

Crawford

CODE

033 ✓

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

DISTRICT

☒ BUILDING(S)

STRUCTURE

☒ SITE

OBJECT

☒ Multiple
Resource

OWNERSHIP

PUBLIC

PRIVATE

☒ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

IN PROCESS

BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED☒ UNOCCUPIED

WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

☒ YES: RESTRICTED☒ YES: UNRESTRICTED☒ NO

PRESENT USE

AGRICULTURE

MUSEUM

☒ COMMERCIAL

PARK

EDUCATIONAL

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

ENTERTAINMENT

RELIGIOUS

☒ GOVERNMENT

SCIENTIFIC

INDUSTRIAL

TRANSPORTATION

MILITARY

OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

multiple ownership -- public and private -- see continuation sheet

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE

VICINITY OF

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Crawford County Court House

STREET & NUMBER

112 East Mansfield Street

CITY, TOWN

Bucyrus, Ohio

STATE

44820

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Ohio Historic Inventory

DATE

October 1977

FEDERAL ☒ STATE COUNTY LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Historic Preservation Office, Heidelberg College

CITY, TOWN

Tiffin

STATE

Ohio

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

—EXCELLENT
☒ GOOD
☒ FAIR

—DETERIORATED
—RUINS
—UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☒ UNALTERED
☒ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE
—MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Historic Resources of Leesville consist of three wood frame buildings, a stone quarry site, and the capture site of Colonel William Crawford. Only slight alterations have been made over the years, primarily to the Lee's General Store.

Lee's General Store, now the J & M Trading Post, was built about 1830 and enlarged to its present size about 1880. It is a two-story wood frame building with a foundation of rusticated stone mined from the local quarry. The hand-hewn floor joists still have some of the original bark left on them. The roof on the original (west section) building has a gable roof; when the east section was added, it had a truncated hip roof of slate. The gable roof section was originally of shingle shakes. The west section originally had a bevelled wood siding. The building today is sided with pressed tin, scored to resemble ashlar stone; this is the only alteration on structure. The east addition consists of four rooms on the rear and east sides and a porch on the northeast corner of the building. Windows are primarily double-hung 2/2 with wood surrounds. On the first floor of the north (main) side, there are four 6-light windows with wood surrounds and two double doors with two lights in each leaf and a multi-light transom over each door. The door and window frames are constructed with wood pegs.

Lee's house, now the J & M Trading Post Annex, is immediately east of the Lee's General Store. It is a 1½-story mortise-and-tenon braced frame building with bevelled siding of poplar wood. The full basement is made from rusticated stone from the local quarry. The original gable roof had shingle shakes; it is now a standing seam tin roof. The roof was probably changed about 1880 when the slate roof would have been added to the General Store. A small addition with shed roof has been added to the back of the building at an unknown date. The interior horsehair plaster has been removed from the building, and the beam framework is now exposed. A complete restoration of this building is planned. The house was probably built about 1830 also.

The last building to be included is the Lee's Tavern, now the Leesville Town Hall. It was also probably built about 1830 and is a very plain rectangular wood frame building with bevelled siding. The foundation is also of Waverly sandstone from the local quarry. The structure is very close to the original except that the gable roof has been reshingled. The windows are double-hung 2/2 with lug sills and lintels. There is a door on the south side. There is an interior brick chimney. Inside, there are no partitions and only large halls on the first and second floors.

The Leesville Stone Quarry is no longer in use and is now a lake. It was the source of Waverly Group Sandstone, a high quality sandstone used extensively throughout the area for foundations of buildings, sidewalks, etc. The quarry was destroyed by flood in 1908, and the quarry pit is now filled with water. A few moorings used as pulley anchors still remain. The sandstone quarried here can still be seen along the banks of the Sandusky River in this vicinity. Several bridges built of this sandstone are in the Leesville vicinity, but they are not of National Register quality because of deterioration or alteration over the years.

The final item in the nomination is the Colonel Crawford Capture Site on the south side of County Road 229 near the Paramour Creek. This is now marked by a stone monument erected by the Kiwanis in 1927.

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 type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

1782, 1830s

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

unknown

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Leesville area first gained significance because of the well-documented capture and torture of Colonel William Crawford at the hands of the Delaware and Wyandot Indians in 1782. Fifty years later, the community of Leesville was founded and flourished during the nineteenth century because of the stone quarry located immediately east of the village. When the quarry was flooded in 1908, the economy of the village stagnated. Leesville is now about the same size that it was in 1900. The buildings that were important to its founding and the quarry are being nominated as the historic resources of the community along with the Crawford Capture Site because of its importance to the history of northern Ohio.

Colonel William Crawford commanded the army of about 400 men who started an expedition from Mingo Bottom (just below the present Steubenville) to Sandusky (on Lake Erie), a distance of about 150 miles, on May 25, 1782. The campaign has been documented in C.W. Butterfield's 1873 work entitled An Historical Account of the Expedition Against Sandusky. Crawford's army reached what is now Crawford County on June 2 and soon reached the mouth of the small creek called Allen's Run just east of Leesville's present location. The army camped in the area on June 3rd; they were watched by the Indians who prepared to go to battle on June 4th. The Delawares, under Captain Pipe, and the Wyandots were preparing to join forces against Crawford's army. The battle between Crawford and the Delawares and Wyandots took place in what is now Grant Township in Wyandot County, three and a half miles northeast of the court house in Upper Sandusky. While Crawford's army was immediately successful, they were forced to retreat during the night of June 5-6 as the Indians were reinforced by Butler's rangers. The retreat was not orderly, and, when Crawford's men reassembled in the deserted Wyandot Old Town, they discovered that Crawford was not with them. The remnants of the army, pursued sometimes by the Indians, retreated east; they arrived back at Mingo Bottom on June 13, and the army was dissolved.

Crawford had become separated from the main army and was moving east with Dr. Knight, an aide, when the two were captured on June 7th just east of what is now Leesville, the site nominated here. Crawford and Knight were separated during the march to the Indian towns on the Sandusky, but they eventually were reunited a few days later. Crawford sought help from Simon Girty, a Wyandot, on June 11th, but Girty, a friend, was unable to help him. Crawford and Knight were then taken to a bluff near Tymochtee on June 11th and a fire started for the torture. Knight lived to escape from the scene, and his account of the beatings and torture, including powder being shot into Crawford's body, has been recorded on canvas by Tiffin, Ohio artist Ed Lepper; it was recently reproduced in a Time-Life book.

In 1828 Reverend Robert Lee came to what is now Leesville, and the village was laid out the next year; it was originally called Leesburg. The town then had three streets, the Bucyrus and Leesville Road (Main Street) as the principal east-west road (now County Road 229), Wood Street north of this, and the Portland Road (or

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED JUN 26 1978

DATE ENTERED APR 3 1979

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 1

Liberty Street) as the main north-south street. The Portland Road was the first state highway between Columbus and Cleveland and is now State Route 598.

The 1912 History of Crawford County notes that "the Lees, both Robert Sr. and Robert Jr., were men of education and ability and were deservedly held in high respect. The former was a son of Thomas Lee, born in Donegal, Ireland, in 1770. He emigrated to America in 1787, settling in Washington county, Pa. He studied for the ministry at Cannonsburg Seminary and became a member of the Erie Presbytery. After coming to Crawford County he assisted in the organization of many of the early churches and did much for the cause of religion and morality. He died in 1842. Robert Lee, Jr. was a prominent man in both state and county and efficiently served two years as probate judge. He passed his last years in retirement at Bucyrus."

Robert Lee, Jr. and Porter Lee were the first merchants in Leesville. Robert, Jr. opened the first general store in the community, Lee's General Store, and operated it for many years. The building has been in continuous use as a store since it was built about 1830, operating as Pete Herr's Store about 1880, Grider's Store about 1910, and, since 1970, as the J & M Trading Post (antiques). Lee's house, now the J & M Trading Post Annex, was often owned in conjunction with the store and may well have housed the proprietors of the store.

The building now known as the Town Hall was where "Robert Lee kept the first tavern, selling it later to Elisha Allen who kept it for several years." (1912 county history). Allen purchased the building in 1840. This remained a tavern until 1908 when it was purchased by the town trustees; it has been used since then as the Town Hall.

Hopley's 1912 history notes that "nearly all the smaller branches of the trade were established in the village, and it was in a fair way of becoming a place of importance when the Ohio and Indiana road was built, and passed a mile to the south, and Leesville would have followed similar villages, and gone into a decline, but just east of the village on the farm of John Neuman, one of the finest stone quarries in the state was opened, a spur was built to the Pittsburg road and for years the output of the quarries was constantly increased. The original quarries were operated by Heckert and Rupp, and they finally were purchased by a company composed of Bucyrus and Leesville men and were known as the Leesville stone company. For a dozen years this was one of the profitable industries of the county, and at times the force numbered 100 men. This was Leesville's era of prosperity." (p. 270)

The quarry was opened about 1850. Waverly Group sandstone was mined and cut here and shipped over a "paved" road of crushed rock to the railroad. The stone was used for building walls, foundations, curbs, sills, water tables, and sidewalks; the buildings in this nomination have sandstone from this quarry for their foundations. Much of the work in the quarry was done by hand with levers, horses, and pulleys used to move the stone to the saws. The saws had steel blades, and sand and water were used to ease the cutting; steam engines powered the saws. Horses and sleds then loaded the stone onto the railroad spur which connected Leesville to the railroad to the south. The quarry also had a rock crusher and paved its roads with stone in addition to supplying the railroad with untold tons of crushed fill. The quarry office was located where the Colonel Crawford Capture Site monument is now located.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

JUN 26 1978

DATE ENTERED

APR 3 1979

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

delete In 1908, the quarry was flooded, and all operations there ceased. The taverns and shops soon closed because the quarry had provided the economic base of the community. Hopley, writing in 1912, documents the swift demise of the community: "In its palmy days Leesville boasted a population of nearly 300 people; it had two stores; two taverns, three saloons, and a dozen small shops, but the quarries failed to prove profitable; they were no longer remunerative, and the census of 1900 and 1910 shows too sadly the general decline of the village." (p. 270). Apparently the community showed such a rapid decline after the 1908 flood that it could be detected in the 1910 census.

These three buildings are the most important reminders of the history of Leesville in the nineteenth century. This was described as the "largest village in the township, noted for its extensive and valuable stone quarries" in 1873 when it had 320 people. In still a predominately rural township, Leesville now is little more than a crossroads, with the antique business in Lee's General Store now the most important commercial venture in the community.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE	FEB 28 1979
RECEIVED	
DATE ENTERED	APR 3 1979

CRAWFORD COUNTY, OHIO

LEESVILLE VILLAGE HISTORIC RESOURCES (HISTORY/ARCHITECTURE): REVISED STATEMENT OF
CONTINUATION SHEET ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE SIGNIFICANCE

Revision done 12 February 1979 in response to comments of HCRS reviewers dated Dec. 1978:

To address the questions raised about the multiple resources nomination, this type of nomination was used because the three buildings are not contiguous to the marker and quarry and therefore do not qualify as a district. Leesville is a very small crossroads community in Crawford County that stopped growing when the quarry left; the general store is the only commercial enterprise in the community today. The survey area consisted of the entire town, an area so small that almost every building is located on the USGS map individually. The rest of the community consists of nineteenth and early twentieth-century housing, probably for quarry workers, that is extremely non-descript architectural-ly and generally in very poor condition today. There is nothing to indicate that the housing was built by the quarry owners that would justify its inclusion as a company town. There are one or two small country churches that are newer than 50 years and a red brick building that may have been a school; this is not architecturally eligible for the National Register. The area was surveyed by foot and by car, and the total number of buildings in the community probably does not pass 40 or 50, so the whole community could be visually checked easily. There is some newer construction, but this is generally rather poor quality housing.

We are in agreement that the quarry should be eliminated from the nomination, since flooding has ruined its integrity. Please strike all references to the quarry from the USGS map, sketch map, boundaries, description, etc.

In reference to the Colonel Crawford Capture Site, this is being nominated as a site and not as a commemorative marker. Please refer to the nomination for information on the events leading to Crawford's capture. These events are discussed in C.W. Butterfield's An Historical Account of the Expedition Against Sandusky Under Col. William Crawford in 1782 (Cincinnati: Robert Clarke & Co., 1873), and this source should be added to the bibliography. Butterfield's work is the major and most reliable source of information on the campaign, and it is referred to in all discussions of the campaign by later writers. Butterfield describes Crawford's campaign in his preface as "one of the most notable of the distinct military enterprises of the Western Border War of the Revolution." He added that "the melancholy fate of Crawford caused a profound sensation throughout the United States. Washington was greatly affected by it. He made it the subject of a special communication to Congress. So prominent a soldier and citizen had not, during the Revolution, met such a cruel death. It took a strong and lasting hold upon the sympathies of the people." Much of Butterfield's work is based on Narratives of a Late Expedition against the Indians; with an Account of the Barbarous Execution of Col. Crawford; and the Wonderful Escape of Dr. Knight and John Slover from Captivity, in 1782 (Philadelphia: Francis Bailey, 1783). Knight's first-hand account of the capture and Crawford's death form the accepted base for this military campaign, and the site is as well documented (or better) than most sites in the Indian campaigns in Ohio. Since it is a capture site, there would not be any archaeological evidence relating to the event, and no archaeological investigation has been done here to my knowledge; nor is any planned in the foreseeable future. The importance of the sources quoted above should provide sufficient additional information justifying the inclusion of the capture site.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Hopley, John E. History of Crawford County, Ohio and Representative Citizens.

Chicago: Richmond Arnold Publishing Co., 1912.

McJunkin, James E., ed. History of Crawford County, Ohio. New Washington, Ohio: Herald Printing Co., 1976.

History of Crawford County. 1881.

Illustrated Atlas of Crawford County, Ohio. 1873. 1974 reprint by Bucyrus Historical Society.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____ *Cont. Sheet*

UTM REFERENCES

A

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

D

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

see attached continuation sheet

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
-------	------	--------	------

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
-------	------	--------	------

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Joseph R. Everly, partner and Barbara Howe, Regional Preservationist April 1978

ORGANIZATION

J & M Trading Post

Heidelberg College

STREET & NUMBER

6867 Leesville Road

TELEPHONE

Howe: 419-448-2804

CITY OR TOWN

Crestline, Ohio

STATE

Tiffin, Ohio 44883

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL _____

STATE _____

LOCAL ☒

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

[Signature]

6/12/78

TITLE

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

[Signature]

DATE

4/3/79

DATE

March 31, 1979

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER