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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: Morgan Township House

Other names/site number: 1858 Morgan Township House Museum

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: 6464 Okeana Drewersburg Road

City or town: Okeana State: OH County: Butler 017

Not For Publication:  N/A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  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,  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  local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

A  B  C  D

|   |   |                       |
|---|---|-----------------------|
| <u>Barbara Pwe</u>  | <u>DSHPO Inventory and Registration</u> | <u>Sept. 13, 2014</u> |
| Signature of certifying official/Title:                           |   | Date                  |
| <u>State Historic Preservation Office/Ohio Historical Society</u> |   |                       |
| 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:)

Mr. Edison H. Beall  
Signature of the Keeper

11.2.16  
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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## 7. Description

### Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

No style  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Materials:** (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: foundation: rubble stone (some concrete veneer)  
walls: clapboard; roof: standing seam metal

### 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.)

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### Summary Paragraph

#### **Morgan Township House (1858, restoration 2009)**

Located in the unincorporated hamlet of Okeana, the property consists of a braced frame township house and a non-contributing concrete block garage (Photo 1). The Morgan Township House is set back from Okeana Drewersburg Road on a level village lot. Built in 1858 and restored in 2009, the Morgan Township House is a single story, frame vernacular building distinguished by its symmetrical fenestration, gable end façade, and modest detailing. The foundation, rectangular building footprint, clapboard siding, symmetrical fenestration pattern, and interior wainscot reflect the type's character-defining elements. The building exemplifies the Township House building type commonly associated with rural governmental architecture across Ohio during the mid-to-late 19<sup>th</sup> century.

### Narrative Description

Okeana is characterized by a collection of modest frame vernacular residential buildings intermixed with brick religious and commercial buildings. A modern community center and brick Methodist church (ca. 1905) are located across the street to the south. Vacant lots are

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located west and east of the township house. The only building in the area recorded in the Ohio Historic Inventory was the former Morgan Township School at 6085 Cincinnati Brookville Road (BUT-01587-10; demolished).

**Exterior:** The simple one-story rectangular plan building, built of timber frame and measuring 20.5 ft wide and 36 ft deep, features gabled ends on the north and south elevations (Photos 1-3). The frame walls rest on a rubble limestone foundation that has had sections faced with smooth concrete. The walls are clad in the original 4.5 inch wood clapboards (reversed during restoration) with narrow cornerboards. There is no fascia and the wood soffits are plain. A single four panel wood door (installed 2009) with three pane flat transom marks the otherwise blind front elevation. Both side elevations exhibit three evenly spaced six-over-six double hung windows with raised panel wood shutters. The rear gable end is characterized by two bays comprised of a door and a single six-over six double hung window. The rear door also has a three-pane transom (Photo 4). The south window on the east elevation is original (Photo 5). Both the front and rear doors are custom wood panel doors milled in 2009. The roof consists of standing-seam metal panels.

**Interior:** The interior plan is distinguished by the exhibition gallery [580 sq ft.] that encompasses much of the house's floor space (Photo 6). The windows are framed with their original simple post and lintel wood trim and wood sills. A character-defining feature is the original 5.5" tongue and groove horizontal board wainscoting (Photo 7). The wood floor consists of 4 inch long needle southern pine boards recycled in 2009 from the vacant Day farmhouse on Layhigh Road (a concrete floor installed by the Trustees for heavy equipment was removed). A stovepipe hole formerly located in the center of the ceiling was covered. At the north end of the exhibition gallery is a modern partition wall that features a gap below the ceiling to indicate it is not original construction (Photo 8). At the northeast rear of the partition wall is the office that measures 8ft. 9in. x 6ft. [77 sq. ft.; Photo 10]. A small furnace room and rear vestibule located in the northwest corner measures 7ft. 3in. x 4ft. 5in (Photo 11). The attic houses a mechanical space above the office.

### Building Restoration

Prior to restoration, the building had been used for storage and as a garage for township service vehicles. Sometime during the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, a large garage bay had been cut into the rear elevation. In 2008, funds were awarded by the Ohio Cultural Facilities Commission to sensitively restore the building. Guided by drawings prepared by preservation architect Bruce Goetzman, A.I.A., the building was restored in 2009 under the supervision of Joseph Meiners. Restoration included installing five window sashes to their original configuration, new gutters and downspouts, handicapped ramp, removal of garage door, installation of new doors (to meet state code), new wood shutters, a salvaged and refurbished wood floor, and a partition wall at the interior rear. The five new windows on the side elevations are custom milled cypress wood sashes. Only the five reconstructed sashes are non-historic; the rest of the window sills and frames are original. The six shutters are kiln-dried, white oak custom milled by Meyer Brothers

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& Sons, Millville, Ohio. The siding was reversed and re-used. Four ceiling light fixtures were salvaged from the Shandon General Store (Evans).

In 2007, an Ohio Historical Marker was dedicated for "The 1858 Morgan Township House" and placed in front of the property (*Remarkable Ohio*).

**Non-contributing Resource:**

Immediately north of the township hall is a 20 ft x 20 ft painted concrete block garage built ca. 1966-1970 to house township vehicles (Walt Westrich; Photo 9). It features a sliding horizontal garage door and shed roof clad in metal. Small fixed windows mark the side elevations.

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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

#### Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Politics/Government

Social History

\_\_\_\_\_

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**Period of Significance**

1858-1966  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates**

1857  
\_\_\_\_\_  
1863  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Cultural Affiliation**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Architect/Builder**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**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.)

Nominated under Criterion A, the Morgan Township House served as the structural center of governmental authority and also hosted social functions in this rural Butler County township for over a century. To this day, Morgan Township does not have an incorporated community, thus the township has occupied a vital role in fulfilling local governmental functions in this predominantly rural community. The Morgan Township House is also significant for its association with the Butler County Mutual Protection Company, a short-lived grass roots entity that represented opposition by some members of the local community to Civil War policies enacted by the Lincoln administration. The Period of Significance encompasses the time from 1858-1966 when township government and maintenance were housed in the building.



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

The Morgan Township House is significant under Criterion A for the integral role it held as the governmental and social center in this small rural Butler County community. It was the first building to serve as a township house in Morgan Township, and for over 100 years, the building served as the center of social, civic and governmental activities and hosted numerous organizations, clubs and events. The First National Bank of Okeana used the township house ca. 1908 while the new bank was being built. Earlier, local school children used the township house after the one-room school had burned (Evans). As such, the building was integral in maintaining the social fabric and civic activities of the community. The Morgan Township House is also significant through its association with local residents concerned about threats to their property and who were also opposed to the war policies enacted by President Lincoln and Congress during the Civil War. This conservative wing of the Democratic Party was also known as Peace Democrats or Copperheads, the names often loosely used interchangeably. In July 1863, Peace Democrats in southwest Butler County and eastern Franklin County, Indiana, alarmed by federal policies and their impact on private property, formed the Butler County Mutual Protection Company. After reaching the peak of its influence in 1863 and early 1864, the Peace Democrats were disgraced late in 1864, and as a result strengthened the Republicans (Weber, *Copperheads*, 1-4).

## History

Ohio townships were established by the Land Ordinance of 1785 as a systematic way of surveying and selling newly created public land. Typically a township would be square, each side six miles in length, and would contain 36 sections of land that each comprised 640 acres. Townships would be governed by a board of township trustees who were elected by residents of the township. There have been at least 1,340 townships in Ohio ("Township," Ohio History Central).

Butler County is divided into thirteen townships. Morgan Township, formed in 1811 from Ross Township, occupies the extreme southwest corner of the county and is divided into 36 sections. The first Welsh settlement in Ohio was established in Morgan Township in 1801 and was centered in the Paddy's Run valley, today known as Shandon. The oldest continuous religious body in Butler County, the Shandon Congregational Church founded in 1803, is located within the township (Stander).

From its establishment in 1828 to 1857, the small village of Okeana was originally known as Tariff. Beginning in 1858, the village was renamed Okeana for the daughter of Chief Kiatta, a local Native American. The Rev. Benjamin Lloyd, a native of Wales, platted the village on land he owned, and by 1828 there was a post office. During the 19<sup>th</sup> century the village had a dry goods and grocery store, a blacksmith shop, a tavern and two churches. The old Scipio road, formerly the Colerain and Brookville turnpike, or present-day Cincinnati-Brookville Road (SR 126), crosses the lower portion of the township. According to Beers, "from Scipio it formerly took down the creek and struck Okeana about where that village now stands. Here it crossed Dry

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Fork and took the direction of Venice” (*Cyclopedia*, 422; 432-433). Okeana was not enumerated in the *Ohio State Directory for 1868*. In 1883 the village was listed as having two churches and a population of 175 (*Ohio State Directories for 1868; 1883*; p. 421). To this day the village has remained an unincorporated hamlet.

Prior to 1858, township elections were held at Jenkins Tavern and later ballots were counted at James DeArmond’s house (*Cyclopedia*, p. 422). On March 4, 1857, William and Eliza Lloyd sold a quarter acre lot along the “Turnpike Road” to Joseph Shields, W. H. Millholland and A. J. McKinstre, Morgan Township Trustees, for \$50. The turnpike road lot measured 156 ft x 85 ft, or one-fourth acre (Deed, Evans). A quarter of a mill tax was levied for the lot and building. The contractor was paid \$650 to construct the meeting house. Fencing cost an additional \$41 and \$22.85 was paid for a table and twelve chairs (*Cyclopedia*, p. 426; Evans).

Over the years the hall was used for trustee meetings, as a school, a bank, voting precinct, concert performances, and for traveling shows. The *History of Butler County* (1882) noted

Since its erection [township house], it has been used by the shows which travel over the country, for village singing-schools and concerts; and, during the Winter of 1881 and 1882, for a school-house for the small children of the district (*Cyclopedia*, 422).

During the 1940s, movies were shown and the local Boy Scout troop met in the township house. The first meeting of the Morgan Township Volunteer Fireman’s Association took place in the house on May 7, 1948. A 1936 Dodge served as the first fire truck (*Driving Tour*, pp-5-6; *Cincinnati Post and Times Star*, 1958). In addition to township offices, it also was used as a garage by the Morgan Township Road Department.

By the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century, the township house had largely been obscured by block and frame additions. In 1972, the trustees required additional and more modern space. The offices relocated to a new building across Okeana Drewersburg Road and in 2000 all township functions moved into a new administrative center and fire station on Chapel Road. From 1972 – 2000, the Morgan Township Service Department used the old township house and garage for vehicle and equipment storage. Karl Dillhoff, Morgan Township Trustee, led the effort to preserve the township hall. In August 2000, the incompatible frame and concrete block fire station additions on the front elevation were removed. In 2008, the Trustees applied for and received an \$80,000 grant from the Ohio Cultural Facilities Commission to renovate the building into a museum (Evans). Today, the township house is used as an exhibit gallery, archives, office and meeting space for the Morgan Township Historical Society.

### **Morgan Township House and the Civil War**

Although Ohio was a steadfast pro-Union state, by 1863 many Unionist citizens in Ohio, and throughout the North, had become disenchanted by the protracted, bloody war.

Many sons and fathers had already fallen for a cause that some dissenters felt was not worth

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dying for anymore. Those dissatisfied with the long war felt that President Abraham Lincoln had overstepped his constitutional bounds granted to the executive branch of the U.S. government, and those violations were infringing upon the rights of Union citizens. They believed the war was no longer about keeping the Union together, but about freeing the slaves, as implied by Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation of January 1863. The institution of national conscription (mandatory drafting of citizens to fill the ranks of the Federal armies) in March 1863 was the final straw for what war Republicans derisively called Copperheads. This faction was led by an outspoken Ohio politician named Clement L. Vallandigham from Dayton, Ohio. They called for Lincoln's immediate removal from office and for a cessation to hostilities.

Factions of Western sectionalism and dislike for Yankees and northerners also worked against northern unity. Distrust of eastern bankers, vested interests, and claims of elitism fostered western distrust (Weber, 27-28). Indiana was especially tense during this unsettled period. In June 1863 two federal enrolling officers were killed in an ambush in Rush County, approximately 30 miles west of Morgan Township (Weber, 104-105).

In Ohio, General Burnside's General Order #38 issued in April 1863 restricted civil liberties and led to Vallandigham's arrest. Tried by a military court from May 5-6, 1863, Vallandigham was convicted of "uttering disloyal sentiments," and was sentenced to two years in Federal prison (Bissland, 281). Out of retaliation, Copperhead supporters in Dayton, Ohio, burned the office of the pro-Republican newspaper *Dayton Journal*. Lincoln calmed the situation by commuting Vallandigham's sentence from imprisonment to banishment to the Confederacy. The Copperhead leader was sent under guard to Tennessee, where he was released behind Confederate lines on May 26 (Bissland, 280-281).

Southwest Ohio was bitterly divided over the arrest and trial of Clement Vallandigham, and political tensions increased. Men from the South were more likely to have reservations about the war. Six percent of Ohioans in 1860 were native-born southerners. Known by some as "butternuts," this minority, along with a number of German Catholics, opposed the war (Weber, 17-18). A substantial anti-war sentiment had grown in the southern townships of Butler County, with Morgan Township being a focal point of the unrest. Morgan Township's voting majority was composed of anti-Republican households. In the Election of 1860, only 152 of 401 voters in the township had cast their ballots in support of Lincoln. Beers recounted that "the Civil War had many opponents in this county [Butler], and the first year had not passed without rigorous protests from them" (*Cyclopedia*, 230). This opposition movement peaked in Butler County during the summer of 1863.

When Confederate Brigadier-General John Hunt Morgan and his 3,400-man cavalry division invaded southwest Ohio at Harrison on July 13, 1863, the Copperheads in southern Butler County sought cooperation from the famous Southern raider. However, having been disgruntled by the Copperheads' lack of military support for the Confederacy, Morgan offered no assistance to these Northerners. In fact, Morgan's men often treated the Copperheads with less respect than the pro-Union residents along his path.

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According to Butler County historian Jim Blount, use of the Copperhead label has been debated for 150 years. Republicans depicted those opposed to Lincoln's policies and actions as "disloyal traitors and Southern sympathizers." However, Blount cautions that not all of those people opposed to Lincoln were supportive of the Confederacy. Most Peace Democrats in Butler County opposed Lincoln's economic policies, namely federal income tax and other federal actions that adversely impacted northern agricultural interests. Southern markets were only 20 miles distant from Morgan Township, so any disruption to downriver trade through the Cincinnati market was potentially adverse to farmers selling corn, hogs and other surplus products. The economic threat should not discount those who felt the war was unconstitutional, it cost too much money, and disrupted the Midwest disproportionately over other parts of the country (Blount).

Pro-Union response to Morgan's Raid was considerable. On July 14, Captain Tim Corcoran from Morgan Township led 40 unarmed militiamen to patrol the township. In addition, Captain Edward Jones, Samuel Woodruff and Henry Dawson organized the Morgan's Guards in Paddy's Run. A large militia from Hamilton assembled along the Venice Road and protected much of the southern border of the county from Morgan's encroachment (*Cyclopedia*, 243).

After the swift departure of Morgan's Raiders on July 14th, Butler County Peace Democrats decided that they had to take matters into their own hands. On July 17, 1863, citizens from Morgan, Ross, Reily, and Hanover Townships of Ohio and from neighboring Franklin County, Indiana, met at the Morgan Township House. There they organized themselves into a group called the "Butler County Mutual Protection Company."

The Peace Democrats were primarily residents living in Okeana, Alert, Morgan Township, and Hanover Township. In 1850, only 4 percent of the township's population was southern natives, and only 9 residents were born in Kentucky, so they were not part of the Butternut minority (Weber, 3; Wilhelm, 1850). Butler County historian Tom Stander has compiled a list of "Peace Democrats;" members of the Butler County Mutual Protection Society were primarily farmers and mechanics concerned about the potential loss of southern markets for their goods (Standar). Banding together to protect their property, the purpose of the Company was to work together "for the mutual protection of person and property" (Standar, email, 2015; *Cyclopedia*, 244). In addition, mechanics and laborers may have been concerned about the impact freed blacks would have on their trades.

On July 20, 1863, at the Company's second meeting held in nearby Auburn, Indiana, the president reported:

"We, the undersigned citizens of the townships of Ross, Reily, Hanover, and Morgan, in the county of Butler, in the State of Ohio, and of the townships of Springfield and Whitewater, in the county of Franklin, in the State of Indiana, having been fully convinced of the importance and necessity of protecting persons and property from invasion, by both foreign and domestic enemies of our country, and her laws, do hereby organize ourselves, for the purpose of mutual protection, into an independent company, to be known by the name and style of the Butler

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County Mutual Protection Company, and to be governed by a constitution and code of by-laws to be hereafter adopted by a majority of those signing this declaration of their determination to protect and defend the rights of our citizens, and to sustain and uphold the supremacy of the laws (*Cyclopedia*, 244).”

Morgan Township was among Butler County’s least populated and most rural townships. In 1850, 189 farms were enumerated in the agricultural census (*Ag. Census, 1850*). Population census records taken in 1860 for thirteen members of the Butler County Mutual Protection Company opposed to President Lincoln’s taxation of farm products indicate ten were farmers, two were carpenters and one, Samuel Lloyd, a prosperous merchant. All of the farmers were born prior to 1830 and owned property valued from \$4,500 to \$21,800. The average value of the ten farms, excluding personal property, was nearly \$9,000, a substantial valuation for mid-19<sup>th</sup> century Ohio farms. Twelve of the members were born in Ohio (*U. S. Population Census, 1860*). In 1850, Company member James Beard’s farm was valued at \$11,700, which placed it as the second most valuable farm in Morgan Township. In adjoining Ross Township, Company members John Evans and A. D. Knox owned farms valued in 1850 at \$9,120 and \$10,000, respectively (*U.S. Ag. Census, 1850*). Research suggests Society members did not have southern roots and were not small farmers and humble mechanics. Indeed, they were among the most prosperous property owners in the area (*Population Censuses, 1850, 1860; Evans*).

Among the charter members of the Butler County Mutual Protection Society was John Cregmile, a founding member of the Bunker Hill Universalist Society (“UU History – Butler County”). Cregmile, a native of Ohio, is listed in the 1860 census as a 48-year old farmer owning over \$12,000 worth of real estate (*Population Census, Ohio, 1860*). Samuel DeArmond, another member of the Society, also served as Morgan Township treasurer for nine years and as a trustee for two years. In 1850, his farm was valued at \$7,400 (*Ag Census, 1850*). DeArmond was known locally as “Squire Sam” for his many years holding public office (*Cyclopedia, 437*).

The momentous events of July 1863, notably Morgan’s raid into Indiana and Ohio as well as the Battles of Gettysburg and Vicksburg likely diminished local support for anti-war protests. Twenty years after the Civil War, Beers observed, “some unfriendly to the war formed a Mutual Protection Company, but it did not meet with much favor, and was soon abandoned” (*Cyclopedia, 245*). In the ensuing October 1863 Ohio gubernatorial election, Clement Vallandigham lost by a landslide to pro-Union Republican John Brough. According to one source, this sound defeat of the Copperheads in the Ohio elections spelled the death knell for the Butler County Mutual Protection Company. The organization ceased to meet after this event. Other Copperhead organizations in southwest Ohio continued to maintain a strong presence in politics, but the anti-war political movement in southern Butler County petered out (Mowery, “Copperheadism in Butler County,” n.p.).

### **Butler County Township Halls - Context**

Butler County’s historic township halls, also called township houses depending on their size, once served as the township clerk’s office and as repositories of township records.

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Township governments, the oldest form of organized government in Ohio, operated from these nineteenth-century buildings well into the twentieth century when space demands often required their replacement with larger structures that could accommodate road equipment, serve as garages and provide more meeting space for larger groups to attend trustees' meetings. Of Butler County's thirteen townships, only a few still have township houses that are over one hundred years old.

In Fairfield Township, the small frame Township House was built in 1882. Divided into two rooms and heated by coal, it served as more than just the seat of government for Fairfield Township. One source indicated that it was used as a general meeting place and even as a church. It also served as the first municipal building for the new Village of Fairfield in the 1950s. It was later replaced by a larger township house, now privately owned, that still stands on Pleasant Avenue.

Hanover Township called its building the Township Hall. It was located on the southeast corner of the intersection of Old Oxford Road and Morman Road and stood across from Hanover School. Centrally located in the township, it was probably built by the mid-1800s and according to a township employee, bark could be seen on some of its log timbers. This wood building was razed in the mid-1970s and a new, larger multi-purpose building was constructed on the same property to replace the Township Hall and an old barn.

Lemon Township has used several buildings. One called the Lemon Township Hall, located on Ben Harrison Street on the outskirts of Middletown, was torn down several years ago. Another was a frame residence and today a concrete block garage with a plaque can still be seen on Ben Harrison Street. Earlier in the twentieth century, the township clerk had an office in a Main Street building in Middletown.

The age of Liberty's Township House is not known, but it still stands on the south side of Princeton Road. The frame building has been re-sided and continues to be used as the township clerk's office.

One building used in Madison Township was actually built as the Grange Hall. The Elk Creek Grange met in an old church building near Elk Creek Cemetery on Middletown Eaton Road until the building collapsed when a basement was being added. The bricks from the old building were used to build a new Grange Hall that was used for church services, Boy Scout activities and township business. Another smaller township house was also used at one time, and according to township employees, it still stands on State Route 122. Today it is a car detailing shop.

Milford Township trustees met in Center School in the mid-1800s. Located on Harris Road, it was schoolhouse No. 9 in the Milford Township School District. In the 1950s Milford Township trustees met in the Collinsville Firehouse and today they meet in the Township garage on the northwest corner of the intersection of 127 and 73.

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Oxford's Township House dates to the 1880s and was until 2007 located at 115 West High Street in the City of Oxford. In the 1920s it was moved several feet back from the curb because gasoline pumps had been installed nearby. The small frame house was owned by Oxford Township until 1960 when a new concrete block building was constructed on Collins Run Road. After the old building was sold by the trustees, subsequent owners used it for small shops. In December 2007, the building was moved to Hueston Woods State Park.

Reily Township's early Township Hall was a small building that stood on the north side of Main Street in the Village of Reily. It was used until a new combination Opera House and Town Hall was built in 1895. The township trustees used the lower level of the new two-story building, which was located on the south side of Main Street. It was used by the Township for close to three quarters of a century before it was torn down following a fire. The Reily Fire Station is on the site today and the trustees meet in the Reily Community Center.

According to Ross Township officials, several buildings have been used for township meetings. Years ago trustees met in a high school and later in the firehouse on Cincinnati Brookville Road.

At one time St. Clair Township trustees used a room in the railroad station in Overpeck. The handsome brick depot was erected in 1874 and was large enough to include a store and post office as well. Later, the Township began to use what is called the Town Hall even though the building was originally built as a schoolhouse in 1902. Located at 2445 Jackson Road in Overpeck, it is still used for meetings even though a new administration building was erected next door.

From the early years until the 1930s, Union Township (now West Chester Township) had a typical small township house that looked like others in the county. In fact the old building in the Village of West Chester is still standing and is used as a store. When Union Township received its share of the inheritance tax from the large estate of E.W. Scripps, the trustees built a sizeable new building called Union Township Hall on Cincinnati Dayton Road. The new building included a gymnasium, stage, and cafeteria and was built next to the high school in order to share the facility. Eventually the township hall and school building were connected and enlarged and became Union Elementary School in the Lakota School District.

Wayne Township's small, one-story, frame Township House was located on the south side of Oxford Middletown Road in Jacksonburg. Built in the 1800s, it was used until the late 1940s when it was sold. The new owner moved it to Madison Township, where it is now used as a beauty salon and tanning parlor on Middletown Eaton Road. Today a fire station is located on the site of the old Township House in Jacksonburg and trustees hold meetings in a newer building nearby (The information and text provided here courtesy of Valerie E. Elliott, "Township Halls Reminder of Early Government").

The Morgan Township House is the oldest Township House in Butler County that is in its original location and resembles its historic appearance.

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The single story frame township hall has also been identified as a building type (*How to Complete the Ohio Historic Inventory*, 1992). The Carroll Township Hall, Ottawa County (1880) is a single story frame building (NR #90000383, listed 3/9/1990). The fenestration and massing are nearly identical to the Morgan Township House. According to the National Register nomination, “the functionally plain, gable roofed, vernacular, 1 story, 3 x 3 bay building type exemplified by the Carroll Township Hall was quite popular in northwestern Ohio (Johannesen, *NR Nomination Form*)



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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

**Bibliography** (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

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- Bird's Eye View of Okeana.* ca. 1910.
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Morgan Township House  
Name of Property

Butler, OH  
County and State

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**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 # \_\_\_\_\_

Morgan Township House  
Name of Property

Butler, OH  
County and State

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: Morgan Township Historical Society

**Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):** \_\_\_\_\_

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property** .23 acres

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: <b>16</b> | Easting: <b>692441</b> | Northing: <b>4357577</b> |
| 2. Zone:           | Easting:               | Northing:                |
| 3. Zone:           | Easting:               | Northing:                |
| 4. Zone:           | Easting :              | Northing:                |

Morgan Township House  
Name of Property

Butler, OH  
County and State

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

The nominated property consists of Lot 10, Parcel G3220016433011. The lot comprises .23 acres.

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected.) The nominated property includes the original parcel purchased in 1857 by the Morgan Township Trustees. The parcel includes the township house, the garage, and a portion of the parking lot. The vacant lot to the east, purchased by Morgan Township in 1985, is not included with the nomination.

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title: Stephen C. Gordon  
organization: for the Morgan Township Historical Society  
street & number: P. O. Box 20  
city or town: Shandon state: OH zip code: 45063  
e-mail: jillsfarm@fuse.net  
telephone: 513-739-9448  
date: February 2016

**Additional Documentation**

**Photographs - Photo Log**

Name of Property: Morgan Township Meeting House

City or Vicinity: Okeana

County: Butler State: OH

Photographer: Stephen Gordon

Date Photographed: November 2015 and March 2016

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

1. Morgan Township House and Garage, south and east elevations, looking northwest
2. Morgan Township House, south and east elevations, looking north/northwest
3. Morgan Township House, west and south elevations, looking northeast
4. Morgan Township House, north and west elevations, looking southwest
5. Morgan Township House, original window sash, east elevation, looking northwest
6. Morgan Township House, interior of museum gallery

Morgan Township House  
Name of Property

Butler, OH  
County and State

7. Morgan Township House, interior wainscot boards and wall rail
8. Morgan Township House, interior, new partition wall
9. Morgan Township House, garage (non-contributing), south and east elevations, looking northwest
10. Morgan Township House, interior, south wall
11. Morgan Township House, interior, west wall
12. Morgan Township House, interior, east wall
13. Morgan Township House, interior, rear door and vestibule
14. Morgan Township House, interior, museum office

Morgan Township House  
Name of Property

Butler, OH  
County and State

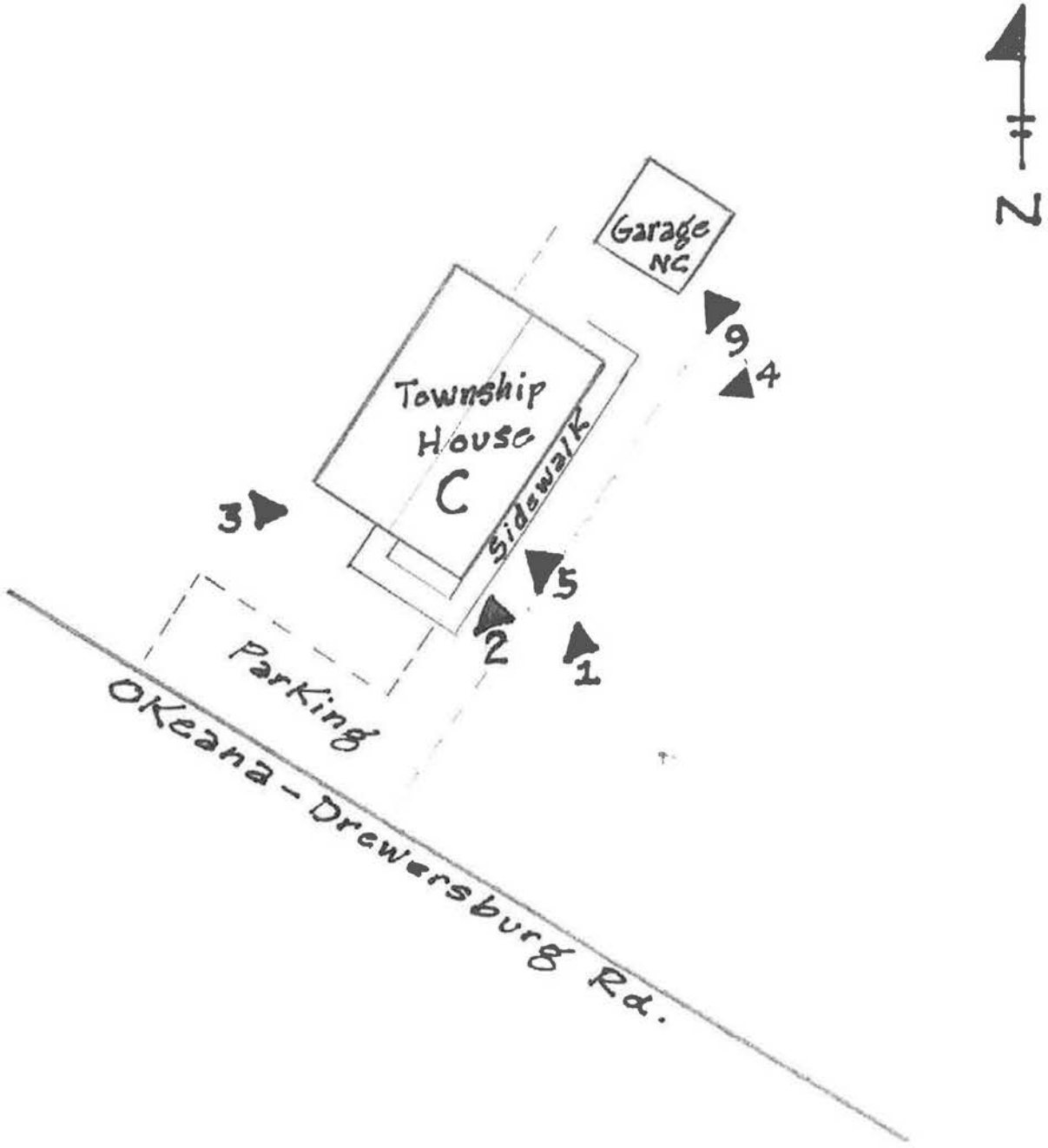


Photo Views - Exterior

Morgan Township House  
Name of Property

Butler, OH  
County and State

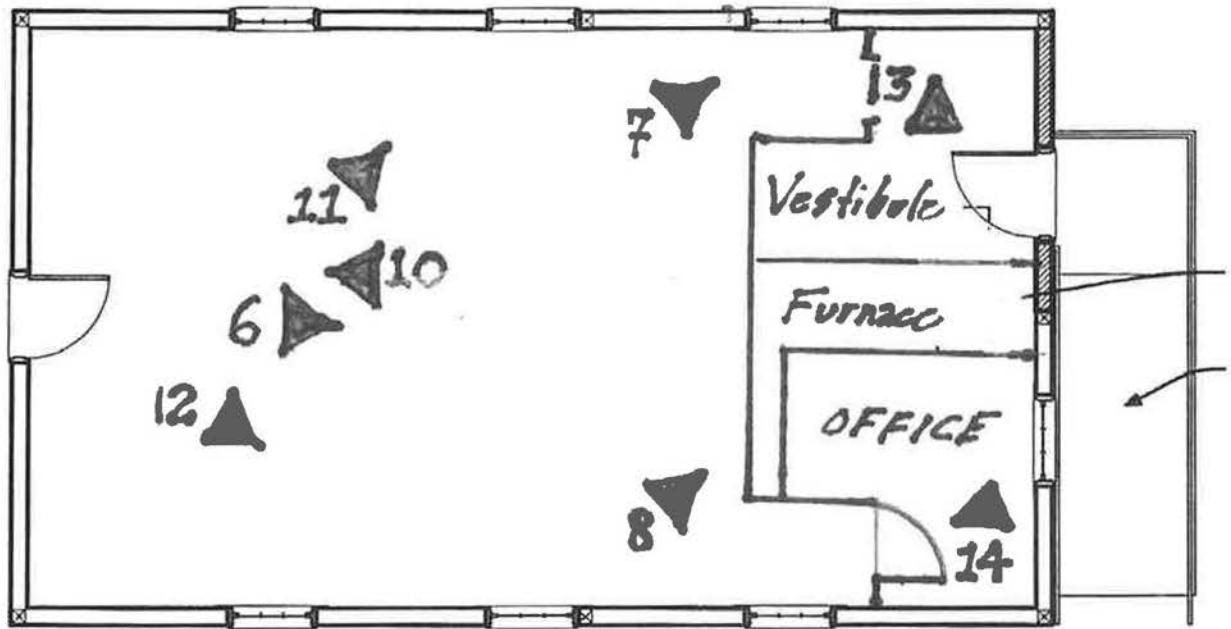


Photo Views - Interior

Morgan Township House  
Name of Property

Butler, OH  
County and State



Morgan Township House Additions. Site Demolition. August 2000.



Morgan Township House. Site Demolition. August 29, 2000.



Morgan Township House  
Name of Property

Butler, OH  
County and State



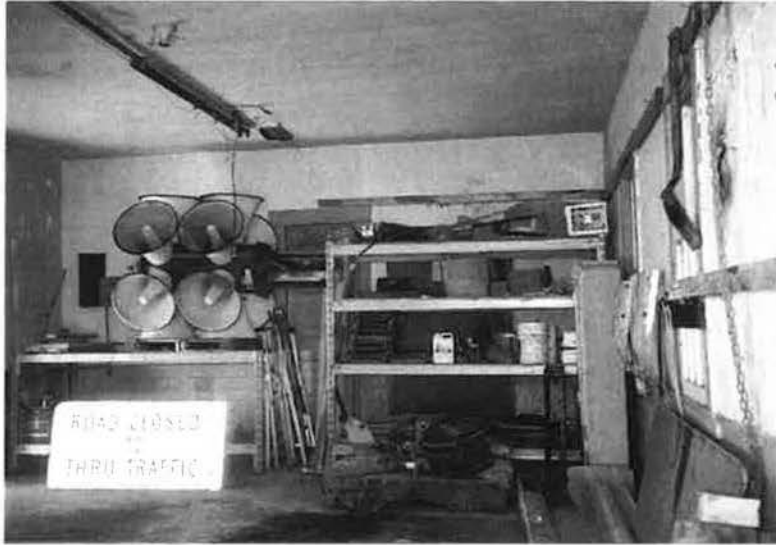
Morgan Township House, ca. 2001. West and South Elevations.



Morgan Township House, ca. 2001. South and East Elevations.

Morgan Township House  
Name of Property

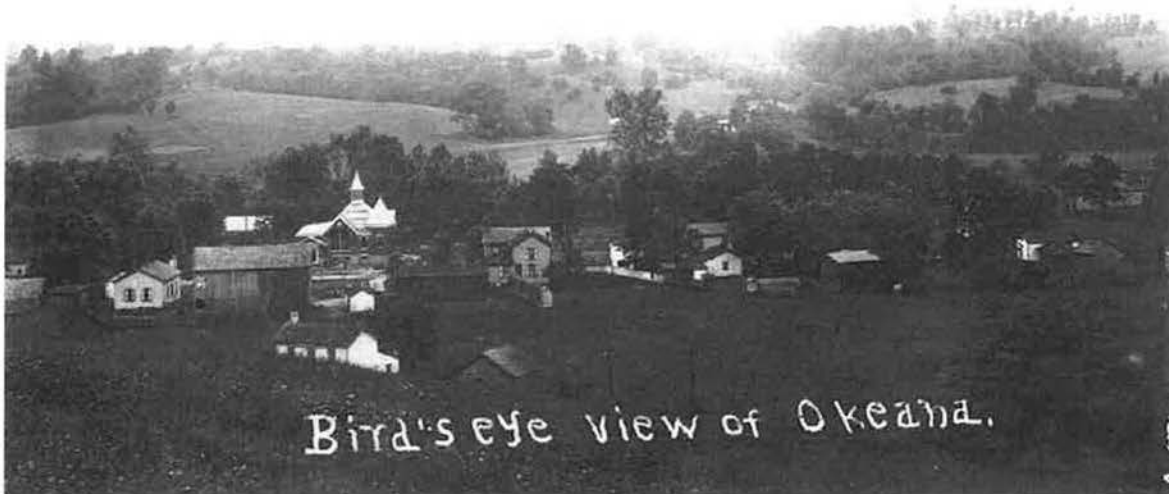
Butler, OH  
County and State



**Morgan Township House  
Interior Views, ca. 2000.**

Morgan Township House  
Name of Property

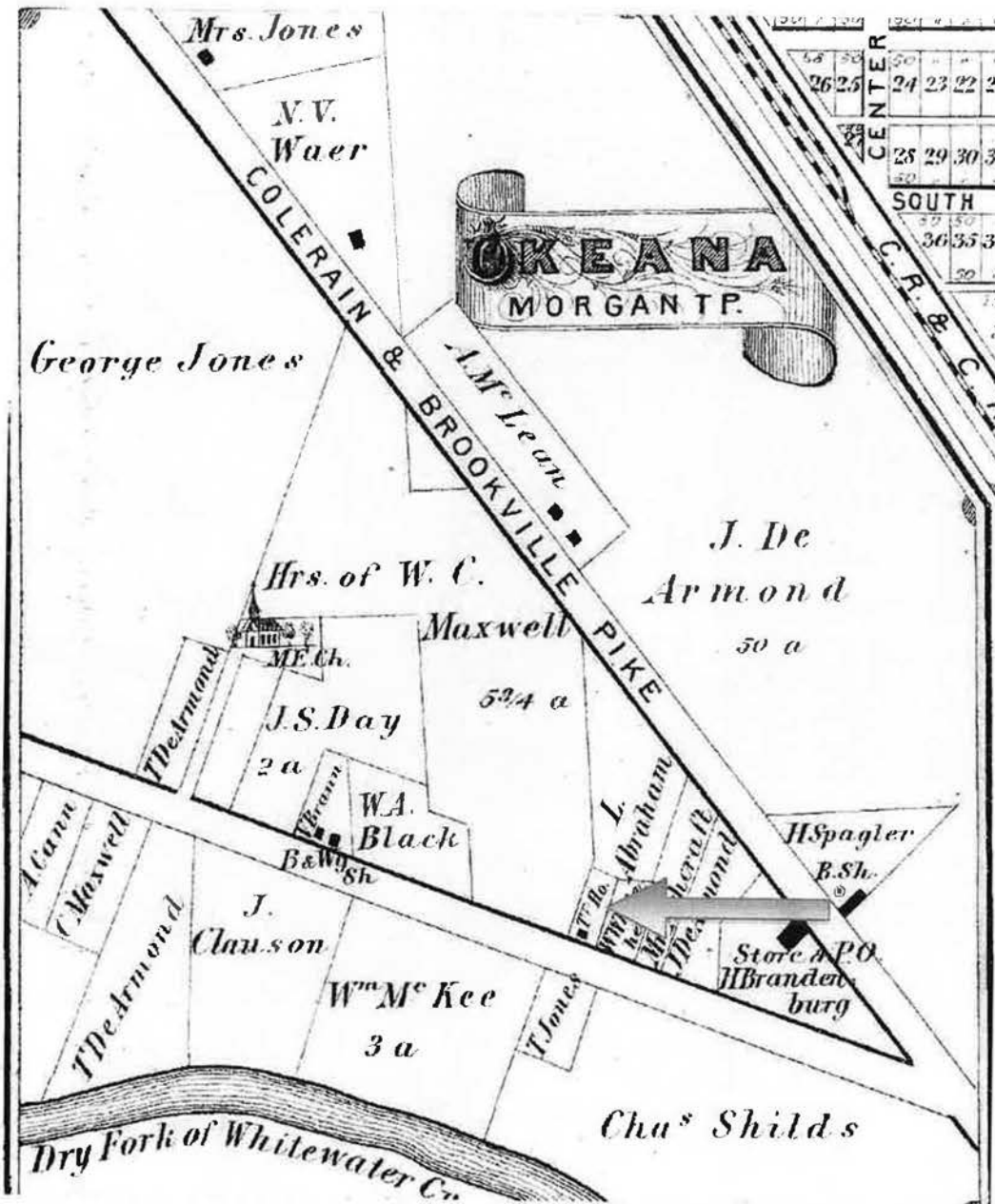
Butler, OH  
County and State



Post Card. Okeana. Ca. 1908. Looking south (Township House in lower left)

Morgan Township House  
Name of Property

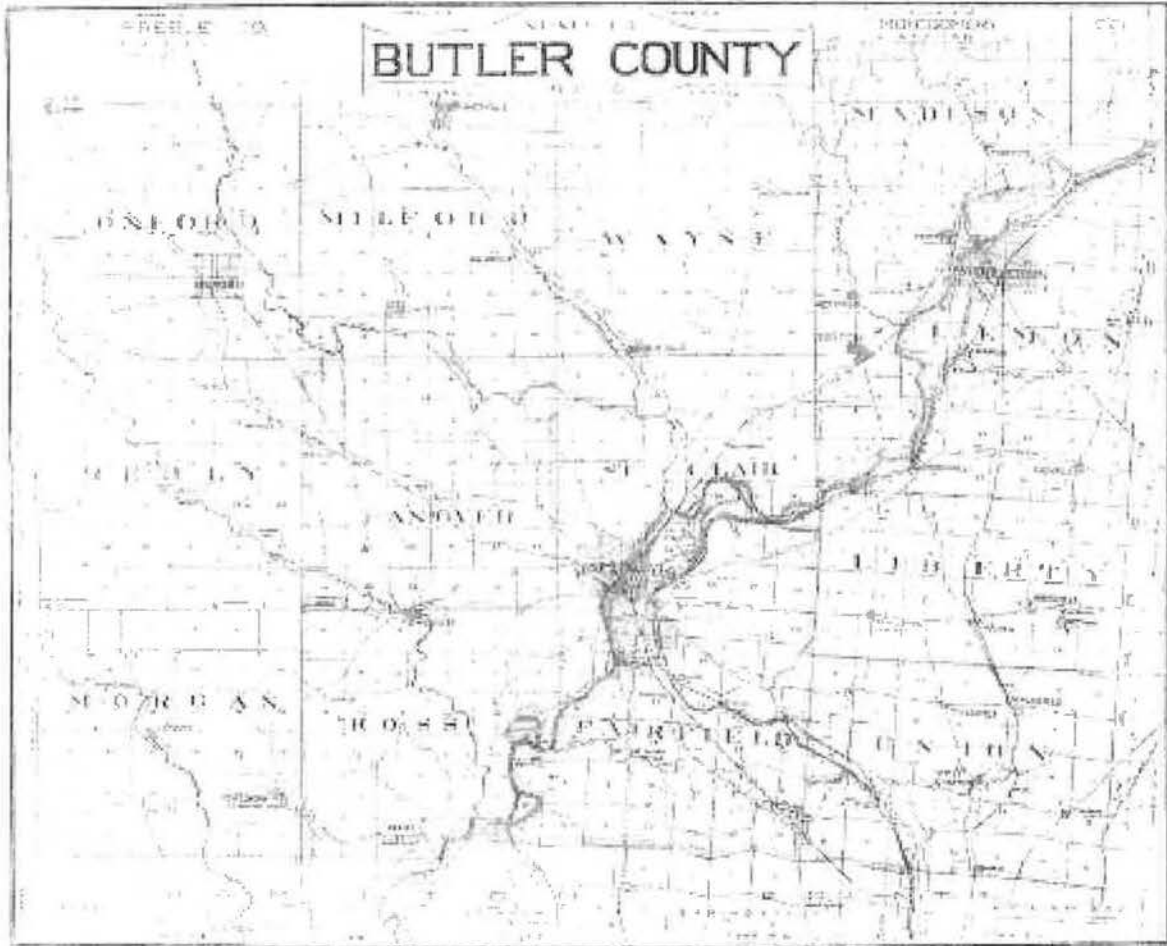
Butler, OH  
County and State



Everts. Atlas Map of Butler County. 1875.

Morgan Township House  
Name of Property

Butler, OH  
County and State



Butler County Atlas and Pictorial Review. 1914.

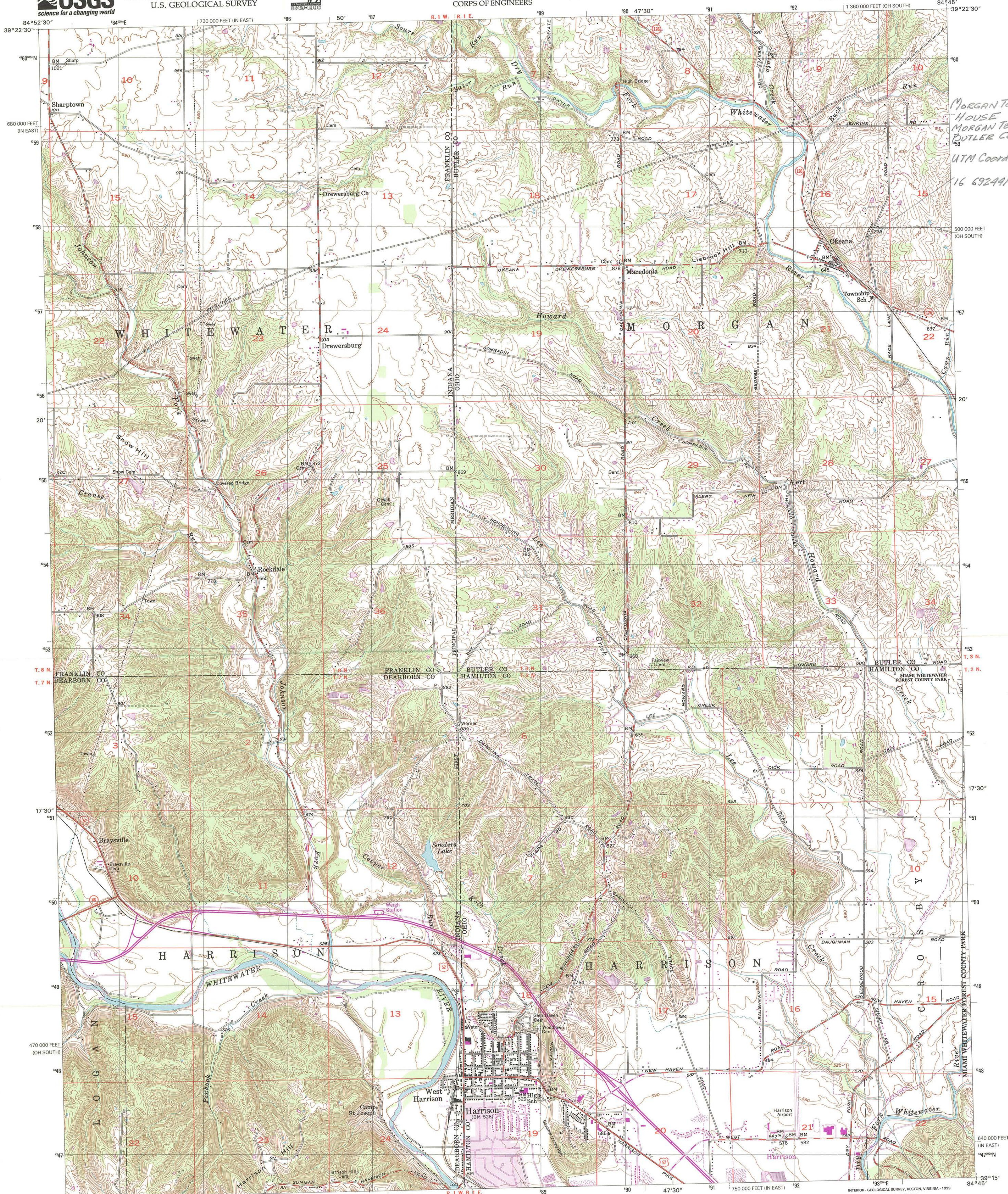


U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY



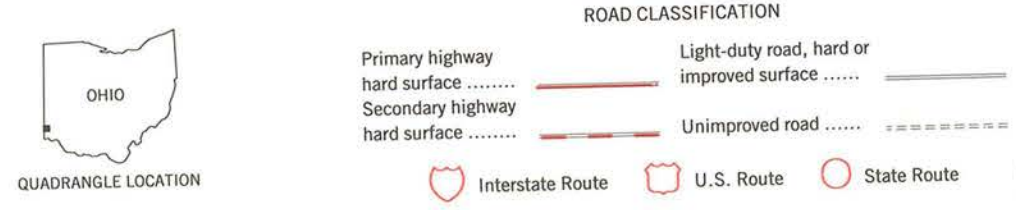
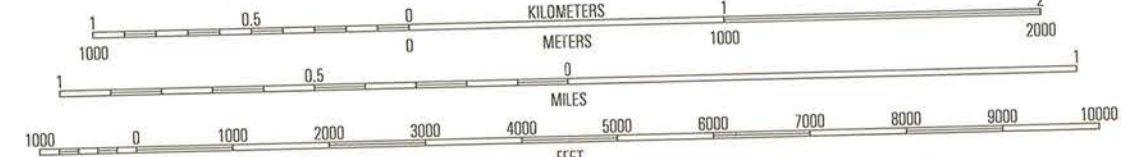
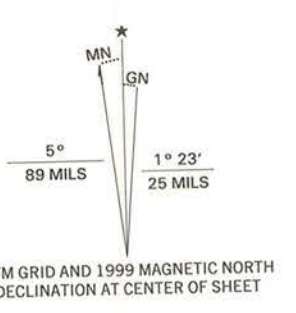
UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
CORPS OF ENGINEERS

HARRISON QUADRANGLE  
OHIO-INDIANA  
7.5-MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)



MORGAN TOWNSHIP  
HOUSE  
MORGAN TOWNSHIP  
BUTLER CO., OH  
UTM Coordinates:  
16 692441 4357574

Produced by the United States Geological Survey  
Topography compiled 1954. Planimetry derived from imagery taken 1979 and other sources. Photospotting using imagery dated 1979; no major culture or drainage changes observed. PLSS and survey control current as of 1954. Boundaries, other than corporate, revised 1999  
North American Datum of 1927 (NAD 27)  
Projection: Ohio coordinate system, south zone (Lambert conformal conic)  
1000-foot ticks: Ohio coordinate system, south zone and Indiana coordinate system, east zone  
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid, zone 16  
North American Datum of 1983 (NAD 83) is shown by dashed corner ticks. The values of the shift between NAD 27 and NAD 83 for 7.5-minute intersections are obtainable from National Geodetic Survey NADCON software  
Ohio area lies within the Miami River Survey  
Land lines in Ohio based on the Great Miami River Base  
There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of the National or State reservations shown on this map  
Information shown in purple may not meet USGS content standards and may conflict with previously mapped contours



|   |   |   |               |
|---|---|---|---------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 1 Whitcomb    |
| 2 | 4 | 5 | 2 Rely        |
| 3 | 6 | 7 | 3 Millville   |
| 4 | 8 | 8 | 4 Cedar Grove |
| 5 |   |   | 5 Shandon     |
| 6 |   |   | 6 Gullford    |
|   |   |   | 7 Haven       |
|   |   |   | 8 Addyston    |

HARRISON, OH-IN  
1996

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, P.O. BOX 25286, DENVER, COLORADO 80225  
AND INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES, INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46204  
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

NIMA 4062 IV SE-SERIES V851







1858  
Morgan Township  
House Museum  
OPENING 2010









1858 Museum  
Open by Appointment  
Call 734-3644



EXIT

OKEANA

SHANDON O



OKEANA



Small framed text label on the wall.



Okeana Depot Sign

Small text label on the table.



Small text label on the table.















Salutes of Thanks Lodge #101  
Member's Plaque  
Name of Member  
Date of Installation





UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Morgan Township House  
NAME:

MULTIPLE  
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: OHIO, Butler

DATE RECEIVED: 9/19/16 DATE OF PENDING LIST:  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: DATE OF 45TH DAY: 11/04/16  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 16000753

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N  
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N  
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT  RETURN  REJECT 11.2.16 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in  
The National Register  
of  
Historic Places

RECOM./CRITERIA \_\_\_\_\_

REVIEWER \_\_\_\_\_ DISCIPLINE \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.

**MORGAN TOWNSHIP**  
**Board of Trustees**

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3141 CHAPEL ROAD, #1  
OKEANA, OHIO 45053

Amanda Terrell,  
Division Director  
State Historic Preservation Office  
Ohio History Connection  
800 E. 17<sup>th</sup> Ave.  
Columbus, Ohio 43211-2474

June, 24 2016

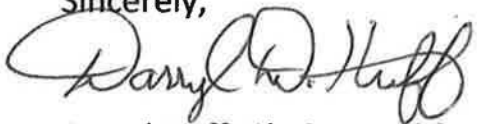
Dear Ms. Terrell,

We, the Trustees of Morgan Township, are pleased to learn that the Morgan Township House, at 6464 Okeana Drewersburg Road in Okeana, Ohio is being considered for nomination into the National Register of Historic Places.

The Township is very proud of the restoration improvements to that building that have taken place over the past several years. We are also very grateful for the care that Jill Evans and the Morgan Township Historical Society have given the Morgan Township House and the little museum that is housed there.

We, as Trustees of the Township, would encourage the listing of our building in the National Register and would support any efforts to preserve this piece of historical property.

Sincerely,



Darryl Huff, Chairman, Morgan Township Trustees



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
NPS TRANSMITTAL CHECK LIST

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

The following materials are submitted on Sept. 13, 2016  
For nomination of the Morgan Township to the National Register of  
Historic Places: House, Butler Co., 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: \_\_\_\_\_



September 13, 2016

J. Paul Loether, Deputy Keeper and Chief, National Register  
and National Historic Landmark Programs  
National Park Service  
National Register of Historic Places  
1201 Eye St. NW, 8th Fl. (2280)  
Washington D.C. 20005

Dear Mr. Loether:

Enclosed please find two (2) new National Register nominations for Ohio. All appropriate notification procedures have been followed for the new nominations submission.

NEW NOMINATION

Morgan Township House  
Franklin Park Medical Center

COUNTY

Butler  
Franklin

The enclosed disks contain the true and correct copy of the nomination to the National Register of Historic Places for the following: Franklin Park Medical Center, Franklin County, OH.

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