

PH 0694479

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED JAN 8 1979
DATE ENTERED FEB 22 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

Charles B. Rich House

AND/OR COMMON

Squire Rich Historical Museum

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

9367 Brecksville Road (S. R. 21)

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Brecksville

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

23

STATE

Ohio

CODE

039

COUNTY

Cuyahoga

CODE

035

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

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

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

Cleveland Metroparks System

STREET & NUMBER

55 Public Square

CITY, TOWN

Cleveland

VICINITY OF

STATE

Ohio

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Cuyahoga County Administration Building

STREET & NUMBER

1219 Ontario

CITY, TOWN

Cleveland

STATE

Ohio

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Ohio Historic Inventory

DATE

2/76

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Ohio Historic Preservation Office, Ohio Historical Center

CITY, TOWN

Columbus

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 Charles B. Rich House is a plain, one-and-one-half-story structure of braced frame construction. The main block, rectangular in shape, is five bays wide and features a central entrance. A one-story ell at the rear contains a kitchen, carriage house, and loft. The foundation is of random ashlar fieldstone and there is a basement. The house has a gable roof covered with asphalt shingles. The front door features a transom light divided by two mullions. Windows are double-hung, with 2/2 lights, and have plain surrounds. (Some of the windows have 6/6 lights, and these probably represent the original style.) The house features clapboard siding and a thin, plain frieze. It is painted white.

Inside, the first floor consists of a central hall and stair, a parlor, two bedrooms, sitting room, and kitchen. A small pantry connects the sitting room with the kitchen. Floors are of white ash, woodwork and doors are of black walnut. Upstairs, there are three rooms plus bath. The bathroom in the half-story and a central heating system are the only obvious alterations that have occurred.

There is a barn and chicken coop at the rear of the house. The barn is divided into two halves. It features a stone foundation, vertical siding, and a gable roof of corrugated metal. A lean-to was added to the east wall about five years ago. The chicken coop is approximately twenty by thirty feet in size. It rests on stone piers and features vertical siding and a gable roof of corrugated metal. Both the barn and the chicken coop are painted red. No documentation exists for these structures, although they are claimed to have been part of the original Charles Rich farmstead.

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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input 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 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 c. 1846

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Charles Richardson

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Squire Rich Historical Museum is located in a modest Greek Revival farmhouse at the western edge of the Brecksville Metropolitan Park. It was built about 1846 for Charles B. Rich, an early Brecksville settler who lived in the house until his death in 1883. Rich farmed the land and was a trustee of Brecksville Township for a number of years. He served as Justice of the Peace for nearly thirty years, and heard lawsuits in the sitting room of his home until the Brecksville Town Hall was completed in 1874. Architecturally, the Rich House is typical of the houses built by the early settlers in the Brecksville region, and it survives in a very good state of preservation. The house has served as a community museum since 1944.

History

In 1835, Charles B. Rich and his wife, Jane Smith, emigrated from New Lebanon Springs, New York, to Ohio. They journeyed by ox team with their two small daughters, Lucy and Eliza.¹ Although it has been asserted that Rich "took up about 100 acres of land in Brecksville" soon after his arrival,² tax records do not list Rich as an owner of real property until 1846, when he is listed as the owner of fifty-five acres in lot #44. (Rich first appears in the tax records for 1836, when he was taxed for three cattle; thus his presence in the township by this year is substantiated.) The family may first have resided with relatives or friends before purchasing its own farmstead in 1846 on the Brecksville Road just south of the village center. The house probably was constructed this year, although "about 1840" is the date commonly given by local historians. About the Rich House it has been written: "One Charlie

¹Dorothy Bourn, "Squire Rich and His House," The Pioneer (Newsletter of the Brecksville Early Settlers' Historical Association), June 1952, unpagued.

²Marion Wilcox, comp., "Descendents of Early Settlers of Brecksville Celebrate Centennial of Brecksville Inn," Brecksville, O., [1939?]. (Mimeographed.) The information on the Rich family contained in this volume is based on an interview with Charles Rich's grandson, Charles Kettlewell.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Brecksville Historical Association, comp. A Reminiscent History of Brecksville. [Berea, O.]: Berea Publishing Company, 1961.

Cuyahoga County Tax Records. Western Reserve Historical Society and Cuyahoga County Archives, Cleveland, Ohio.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1

QUADRANGLE NAME Broadview Heights QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES			QUADRANGLE SCALE		
ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
A	17	447540	45	72820	
B					
C					
D					
E					
F					
G					
H					

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The nominated property consists of a square lot approximately 80 x 80 meters in size, described as follows: Beginning at a point on the eastern edge of Brecksville Road at the intersection of Brecksville Road and Oakes Road,

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
Carol Poh Miller, Historic Preservation Consultant
 ORGANIZATION under contract with the Ohio Historic Preservation Office, Ohio Historical Society DATE 1 May 1978
 STREET & NUMBER 1260 Granger Avenue TELEPHONE 216/226-8236
 CITY OR TOWN Cleveland STATE Ohio

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]*

TITLE _____ DATE 12/8/78

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER	
<i>[Signature]</i> KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER	DATE <u>2.22.79</u>
ATTEST: <i>[Signature]</i> CHIEF OF REGISTRATION	DATE <u>2.21.79</u>

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Charles B. Rich House, Brecksville, Cuyahoga County, Ohio

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Richardson did the greater part of the work, working from sunrise to sunset. The lumber was taken off Rawson Bourne's land, south of Whiskey Lane [now Parkview Drive]. Chauncey L. Young sawed the lumber on shares. The house was erected at a cost of six hundred dollars cash."³

Charles and Jane Rich had five children: Eliza, who died when still a small child; Lucy; Mary Ann, who died at age ten; Hannah; and Charles, who died at age fifteen. Charles Rich farmed the land. About seven of his fifty-five acres were under "plow," the remainder were "timber" and "meadow," according to the 1870 tax map for Cuyahoga County. Rich served as township trustee from 1849 until 1854, and as Justice of the Peace for nearly thirty years, from 1848 to 1863 and from 1868 until 1880.⁴ It is in the latter capacity that "Squire Rich" achieved his place in the historical lore of Brecksville:

In the sitting room . . . Squire Rich conducted his lawsuits. . . . In the parlor, . . . many a bride and groom had the knot tied. [The] walnut-trimmed sitting room was the marble courthouse of the countryside. Horse and cattle thievery cases were settled here. Family quarrels were aired, then as now . . .⁵

Jane Rich died in 1882, Charles one year later. The Rich House passed to their daughter Hannah, who had married William Kettlewell. The Kettlewells' sons, Charles and James, next inherited the house; Charles lived there until his death in 1941. The house was purchased by the Cleveland Metropolitan Park District in 1922, and their vast holdings to the rear of the property ensured a permanent rural environment despite tract development taking place nearby. By an agreement between the park district and the Brecksville Early Settlers' Historical Association made in 1942, the Rich House was to be used by the Association as a museum. The house opened in 1944 as the Squire Rich Museum.

Today, the Squire Rich Historical Museum is administered by the

³Ibid.

⁴W. R. Coates, comp., The Brecksville Centennial, 1811-1911 (Cleveland: The Gates Legal Publishing Co., 1911), p. 68; and Crisfield Johnson, History of Cuyahoga County, Ohio (Cleveland: D. W. Ensign & Co., 1879), p. 413.

⁵Wilcox, "Descendents of Early Settlers of Brecksville," unpagued.

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Brecksville Historical Association, and is open to the public each Sunday afternoon from May through October. It contains artifacts relating to the Rich family, as well as nineteenth-century furniture and other objects from the Brecksville vicinity. The barn and chicken coop at the rear of the house are used for craft demonstrations. The Squire Rich Museum justifiably has won praise as "one of the most complete of the smaller community museums in northern Ohio."⁶

⁶Cleveland Plain Dealer, 7 September 1959.

Item Number 9 -- continued

Klein, Betty. President, Brecksville Historical Association, Brecksville, Ohio. Interview, 13 March 1978.

Wilcox, Marion, comp. "Descendents of Early Settlers of Brecksville Celebrate Centennial of Brecksville Inn." Brecksville, O., [1939?]. (Mimeographed.)

Item Number 10 -- continued

proceed due east 80 meters; then proceed due south 80 meters; then proceed due west about 80 meters to Brecksville Road; then proceed north along the eastern edge of Brecksville Road to the point of origin.