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National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Nan	s—complete applicable	sections		
historic	Brooklyn	ı Centre Multiple	Resource Area (Par	rtial Inventory:
and/or common		Historic and Arc	chitectural Properti	les)
2. Loca	ation			
street & number	r 1867 Brooklyn Vi	illage boundaries	,	not for publication
city, town C	leveland	vicinity of		the north, Cuyahoga Valluside Park south and west
state Ol	hio co	de ⁰³⁹ coui	nty Cuyahoga	code 035
3. Clas	sification			
Category _X_ district _X_ building(s) structure site object	Ownership public private both Public Acquisition in process being considered N/A	Status X occupied unoccupied work in progree Accessible X yes: restricted yes: unrestricted no	$\underline{\hspace{1cm}}$ entertainment $\underline{\hspace{1cm}}$ government	museum park X private residence X religious city scientific transportation other:
4. Own	er of Prope	rty	(3)	
name Vari	ous - see individu	al O.H.I. forms a	nd residential dist	rict owners list
street & number	Pearl Road, Ma	pledale Avenue, A	rchwood Avenue, Den	ison Avenue
city, town	Cleveland	vicinity of	stat	te Ohio 44109
5. Loca	ation of Leg	al Descrip	tion	
courthouse, regi	istry of deeds, etc.	Cuyahoga Count	y Administration Bu	ilding
street & number		1219 Ontario S	treet	
city, town		Cleveland	stat	te Ohio 44113
6. Rep	resentation	in Existing	g Surveys	
title Ohio	Historic Inventor	y has this	property been determined	eligible?yes _X_ no
date Sept	ember-October 1976	-	federal	state county _X_ local
depository for s	urvey records W	estern Reserve Hi	storical Society	
olty town	Cle	veland	etai	te Ohio 44106

7. Description

Condition excellent deteriorated X good ruins fair unexposed	Check one unaltered _X_ altered	Check oneX_ original site moved date
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Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Brooklyn Centre is located on the near southwest side of Cleveland and stands on the high ground just north of the Big Creek valley. It is well-defined by natural boundaries on the south and east sides. The Big Creek valley which contains Brookside Park is a broad depression of varying width, but generally about one-quarter mile wide, through which Big Creek meanders and two railroads travel. On the east is the broader Cuyahoga River valley, here known as the Upper Flats. The Cuyahoga valley at this point contains a number of industries, in particular two large steel mill complexes which border on the Cuyahoga River. Big Creek valley and Brookside Park move northwest to form a western boundary of sorts to Brooklyn Centre. The north edge of this area is today well-defined by an interstate highway, I-71, which sliced through here in the early 1960's. Its 300-foot-wide depression very effectively serves to physically isolate this neighborhood from the rest of Cleveland. Historically, however, the freeway is somewhat south of what had been the northern boundary of the old village of Brooklyn, which was Sackett Avenue, six blocks north of the freeway. Since this northern part of the historic village did not develop until later, it does not contain the wealth of historic resources as the main portion, south of the freeway. only one historic resource, the Jones Home for Children, lies north of the freeway.

The neighborhood is fairly densely developed with primarily single-family residences lining a multitude of streets. Some streets, such as Archwood Avenue, are particularly broad and have in general larger houses located on spacious lots. Later in the development of this neighborhood some smaller streets were cut through and are almost alley-like, with small houses closely spaced together. Pearl Road is the major commercial street through the area and is lined with a variety of institutional, residential and commercial structures. Denison Avenue is the major east-west street and remains primarily residential, although a number of commercial structures are scattered along its length. Fulton Road traverses the neighborhood for only a short distance but it, too, is a major commercial thoroughfare.

Brooklyn Centre underwent several distinct periods in its historical development, which are reflected in the architecture of its buildings. Houses remain from the earliest period of levelopment, from about 1820 to 1850 when the area was a rural farming community, but none of these buildings are included in this nomination. They have all been altered with new siding materials or expanded and enlarged over time such that they retain but little of heir original character. After about 1850 Brooklyn Centre was established as a hamlet with herchandising, manufacturing and trades listed in its business directories of 1858 and 1874. It developed at this time as a desirable residential area for people involved in Cleveland business and industrial activities. Its semi-rural nature, with clean air and spacious lots, attracted residential development. The Mallo House on Pearl Road, dating from 1857, is a large and well-preserved example of early Italianate architecture. In spite of its location on a busy commercial street, it has a spacious lawn and retains a large old outbuilding to the rear. The house was recently carefully restored and now serves as a podiatry center.

The Oscar Kroehle House at 3340 Archwood Avenue is another fine example of wood-frame Italianate architecture which dates from the 1870's. It features an unusual wrap-around porch in front and floor-length windows with elaborate mullions. It is a well-preserved house which retains its old carriage barn. The Charles Selzer House at 3505 Archwood Avenue dates from the same period. It features a front of smooth wood siding, elaborate hood moldings, segmental arched windows and a delightfully detailed front entrance porch, all in the Italianate style. As recently as five years ago its interior was completely modernized but today it has been meticulously restored with period woodwork, wallpapers, etc. The most impressive example of Italianate architecture in Brooklyn Centre and one of Cleveland's outstanding brick Italianate houses is the Adam Poe House at 3101 Archwood Avenue. It dates from about 1870 and is distinquished by brick construction and exquisitely detailed trim at the eaves and around the windows.

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(#8, Photo 8)
It has a most elaborate front entrance porch. The Clayton Townes House, 3800 West 33rd Street, is the only other brick Italianate in Brooklyn Centre and probably predates the Poe House. It survives in good condition although its exterior is now painted and the front porch altered.

At the time of its annexation in 1894 to the city of Cleveland, Brooklyn Centre was a well-established community with many fine residences and some substantial commercial blocks and churches. After 1894 the area entered a new phase in its history as growth increased dramatically. In the space of about twenty years the community was fully developed. The 1894 annexation involved the extension of water and sewer lines, paving of the streets and improved fire and police protection, which made this a more desirable residential area. The first buildings erected after the 1894 annexation along Archwood Avenue, the major residential street of Brooklyn Centre, were on a scale that was without precedent in the neighborhood. The Jargest, most impressive and best-preserved residence from this era is the William R. Coates House, a Neocolonial style house dating from 1902 which features elaborate inlaid floors, a grand stairway with stained glass windows, fireplaces and fine woodwork throughout. A number of interesting Queen Anne residences were erected shortly after annexation. The largest of these is the Weldon Davis House, dating from 1895 and occupying the corner of Archwood and West 36th Street. It has a large and well-defined corner tower, a variety of hardwood finishes inside and has recently been restored. A number of lesser Queen Anne houses exist in the neighborhood, many of which occupy corner lots and have towers which overlook the street intersections.

A number of fine institutional, buildings were constructed soon after annexation to Cleveland. The Cleveland Fire Department Engine Company #24 building dates from 1894 and is an attractive example of Richardsonian Romanesque architecture which survives in a good state of preservation. The Riverside Cemetery Building, dating from 1896, is a rare and distinctive example of Richardsonian Romanesque architecture which is constructed of rock-faced red sandstone. Inside Riverside Cemetery is the chapel building; a Victorian Gothic style stone building which was constructed as the architectural centerpiece of the landscaped cemetery when it opened in 1876. The Brooklyn Savings Trust Company building, dating from 1904 and designed by renown Cleveland architect J. Milton Dyer, is the most prominent and architecturally significant commercial building in the neighborhood and has highly unusual exterior detailing. It is the only building in Brooklyn Centre which is currently listed on the National Register. The 1902 Jones Home for Children is a most unique intitutional building in the neighborhood and is a well-executed example of Neocolonial architecture. It stands on an attractively landscaped lot and has an interesting historical association with the community.(#1, Photo)

The neighborhood contains several architecturally significant churches. The Third Church of Christ, Scientist, located on Pearl Road at Mapledale, is an unusual example of Neoclassical religious architecture dating from 1906. It has an impressive front portico. The Eighth Reformed Church on Willowdale Avenue is a 1909 example of Mission style architecture whose distinctive towers are a community landmark. Brooklyn Memorial Methodist Church dates from 1911 and is the largest church building in Brooklyn Centre. It is arranged on the Akron plan, with separate church and Sunday school auditoriums. It has fine stained class windows.

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Brooklyn Centre has some interesting multi-family buildings which date from the period in the early twentieth century when the neighborhood was reaching the peak of its development. In most cases, these buildings occupy what were vacant lots between houses, but in other cases houses were moved or razed to free up large lots for their construction. Archwood Manor, Brooklyn Manor and Brookside Manor form an architectural ensemble at Archwood and West 33rd Street which gives this intersection a dense urban character. These buildings are ornamented by Spanish tile roofs, limestone accents around windows and doors and detailing which relates to the Neoclassical period. They all date from the mid 1920's and constitute the largest apartment grouping in the neighborhood. The row houses on Mapledale near West 39th Street are a rare complex. Here rows of seemingly separate buildings are linked together with a continuous low roof punctuated with gable-roof dormers. (Phoros 6, H. J. 9)

Brooklyn Centre has undergone some important changes since it achieved its full component of architecturally significant older buildings prior to the Depression. The greatest single change was the intrusion of the freeway into the neighborhood. Pearl Road has undergone great change. Many older commercial buildings have been replaced either by vacant lots or with newer structures oriented to the automobile traffic, such as gas stations. Denison and Fulton have witnessed the intrusion of new commercial uses which generally involve conspicuous parking lots. Postwar apartment complexes have taken the place of single-family residences in certain locations along Archwood and Denison. Yet the residential side streets have retained most of their pre-Depression character in relatively good condition, with the occasional exception of the aluminum-sided altered house here and there. A few impressive large older houses have been poorly converted to multi-family use.

In recent years preservation activity has greatly increased, with a number of houses, particularly along Archwood Avenue, being rescued from neglect or physical abuse. Some of the larger houses are being converted from multi-family back into single-family housing. Progress along the commercial strip on Pearl Road is also apparent in the form of new storefronts and reinvestment in institutional buildings, such as the branch library. A major new building is presently under construction at Pearl and Archwood. This new fire station is designed to complément architecturally the turn-of-the-century character of its neighbors and become a new landmark.

This survey was conducted initially by the Western Reserve Regional Preservation Office during the fall of 1976, in the course of which major landmarks were inventoried. A survey conducted for the Cleveland Landmarks Commission by the Brooklyn Centre Historical Society identified additional properties, many of which were included in the locally-designated Brooklyn Centre Historic District. This district, established in May 1984, includes properties along Pearl Road, Archwood Avenue, and small portions of Denison between Pearl and West 33rd Street. It contains most, but not all, of the buildings in this multiple resources nomination and affords local protection against alteration or demolition, with a local design review board established to monitor changes within the district. Brooklyn Centre Historical Society members performed additional research in the winter and spring of 1985, with assistance from the Cleveland Landmarks Commission, and systematically identified all potential properties of architectural and historical significance within the confines of Brooklyn Centre. The entire area was thoroughly surveyed with the exception of the archeological component. Because this area has been so thoroughly developed, it is thought that the possibility for the discovery of significant prehistoric artifacts is extremely remote.

8. Significance

1500-1599 1600-1699 1700-1799 _X 1800-1899	~ ;	community planning conservation economics education engineering exploration/settlement	literature military music philosophy	religion science sculpture social/ humanitarian theater transportation other (specify)
Specific dates	1857 - 1926`	Builder/Architect	Various	

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Significance of the Historic resources of Brooklyn Centre (Criterion C) (Criterion A)

Brooklyn Centre is a distinct geographic entity within the City of Cleveland which has managed to preserve its sense of identity through its distinctive architecture and its rather unusual and rich history. In the geographic context of Cleveland neighborhoods, Brooklyn Centre contains examples of Post Civil War and turn of the century architecture which are architecturally significant. The 12 individual properties and the residential district contain a diverse assortment of buildings which represent the Italianate, Queen Anne, Neocolonial, Neoclassical, Richardonsian Romanesque and Mission styles. These buildings have been singled out because they are architecturally distinctive and possess a high degree of integrity. Of secondary importance are the historical associations of certain nominated properties. Included are the homes of early settlers, past mayors of Brooklyn Centre and Cleveland, a local philanthropist and a popular writer. These historical associations further enrich buildings which qualify primarily on the basis of their architecture. The neighborhood itself shows through its unusual street plan and its architecture, an unusual transformation from rural to hamlet to suburban village to inner city neighborhood.

Historical Development of Brooklyn Centre

The first settlers arrived here in the spring of 1812 and erected cabins on Pearl Road, an old Indian trail, near the sites of Denison and Mapledale. By the 1820's Pearl Road had a stage line and was improved as a turnpike; it was one of Ohio's better roads. Settlers soon appeared at regular intervals and the intersection of Pearl and Denison became a township settlement center. Brooklyn Township was established in 1818 and a township house was erected on Denison just east of Pearl. By 1830, the cluster of cabins at Pearl and Denison became known as Brooklyn Centre, the small trading center for the largely rural township. The Methodist congregation was formed in 1818 as the county's oldest Methodist congregation. The next year a Congregational church was organized. In 1841 the Brooklyn Academy was opened as a private school for the education of area youth; in 1851 it became tax-supported. By 1852 the hamlet had become established with merchandising, manufacturing and trades taking place at this location. By this time the side streets of Archwood (originally known as Greenwood), Mapledale (Maple) and West 33rd (Liberty) were laid out and houses were lining these streets. In August 1867 this area was incorporated as Brooklyn Village. It extended from Sackett Avenue on the north to Big Creek valley on the south to the Cuyahoga River on the east and to West 65th Street on the west. By 1873 the land north of Sackett was annexed to the city, even though much of that land was used for farming. From the years 1867-1894 Brooklyn was a self-sufficient village with its own school system, fire department and constable. It had flourishing manufacturing activities and businesses. Houses in the area were on large lots of at least one-half acre with small gardens and barns. In 1894 the village was annexed to the city of Cleveland and city services, such as water, sewer, paved streets, etc., were soon extended to the area. The city fire station, included in this nomination, dates from this year of annexation. Like the rest of Cleveland, Brooklyn Centre experienced two decades of tremondous growth. People from Strongsville, Brecksville, Medina and other points south flocked to this area. All streets here were laid out by 1906 and most of the houses and other structures were in place by 1915. Descendants of Connecticut pioneers and early German immigrants

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remained in the area and were joined by Eastern European immigrants who came to work in the nearby steel mills. The area reached its peak in the period from the turn of the century to the Depression. Under its name of the Brooklyn neighborhood it became a highly desirable place to live and shared in the city's growth and prosperity.

Change came to the area with the close of World War II. Greater mobility because of the automobile, the flight to the suburbs, the popularity of shopping centers and an aging population all contributed to the decline of the neighborhood. The coming of Interstate 71 in the 1960's took hundreds of houses leading to population loss and commercial decline. The biggest changes occurred along the commercial streets, especially Pearl Road, where many businesses have changed hands and where a number of commercial buildings have been demolished. Within the past ten years three neighborhood groups have been started, the Brooklyn Centre Historical Society (1978), Archwood-Denison Concerned Citizens (1978) and Crossroads Development Corporation (1981). A number of older residences have been restored and progress is now occurring in the revitalization of the commercial strip.

Historic Events and Persons

William Coates, whose magnificant house stands at West 33rd and Archwood, was a mayor of Brooklyn Village prior to annexation in 1894. He was also the author of a three-volume history of Cuyahoga County and also served as county Clerk of Courts. Harry Farnsworth, president of the Brooklyn Savings & Trust, and in whose name that building is commonly known even today, was long prominent in civic affairs. He served on the city planning commission and was on the first Metropolitan Park Board, where he was a leading figure in the establishment of the city's world-famous metropolitan park system. Charles Selzer was an author and publisher of a local newspaper who also served as mayor of Brooklyn Village. His Italianate style house on Archwood Avenue still stands in good condition. Mayor Carlos Jones of Brooklyn Village established a place for homeless children in 1887 on his 40-acre farm on Pearl Road. The Jones Home for Children operates today on that site in a 1902 landmark building. Clayton Townes, whose brick Italianate still stands on W. 33rd, was president of Cleveland City Council and in that capacity served as mayor of the city when it was under the city manager form of government. In 1818 the first Methodist congregation in Cuyahoga County was founded here and remains active as the Brooklyn Memorial Methodist Church. Of course, this neighborhood has been home to a number of individuals who have achieved distinction in various fields. but only the above prominent individuals have direct links to nominated landmark buildings. These include Florence Allen, first woman to sit on the Court of Common Pleas, the Ohio Supreme Court and the United States Circuit Court of Appeals. Joseph Storer came to Brooklyn Centre in 1827. The Storer Broadcasting Company was founded by his descendants. Mr. A. E. Stouffer lived on Denison Avenue for a number of years. His refreshment stand in the Old Arcade grew into the Stouffer Corporation. Cleveland Mayor Robert E. McKisson, who served from 1895-1899, was from the neighborhood.

Areas of Significance

The primary significance of this nomination rests with the architecture of the buildings. Included are a number of locally significant landmark structures. When compared with other Cleveland buildings from the same period, these nominated buildings are distinctive and unusually well detailed examples of specific architectural styles and survive in good condition.

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This nomination contains five noteworthy examples of Italianate residential architecture. The most impressive of these is the Adam Poe House (ca. 1870), a large and unusually elaborately detailed brick building which is a rare example in Cleveland of the more vernacular Italianate. It compares favorably with the George Merwin House on Prospect and the several prominent brick Italianates which survive in Ohio City. The only other brick Italianate house in Brooklyn Centre is the Townes House (ca. 1860) on West 33rd. It survives in good condition. The Mallo House (1857) on Pearl Road is an unusually early structure which was originally a farmhouse. It has recently been restored and enjoys an attractive setting on a spacious The Oscar Kroehle House and the Charles Selzer House (both ca. 1875) are two other prominent Italianate houses which have distinctive detailing. The Brooklyn Memorial Methodist Church (1911) features fine stained glass windows, including stained glass domes in the sancturay and Sunday school auditorium. The Eighth Reformed Church (1909, Paul Matzinger) is an unusual example in Cleveland of Mission style religious architecture. Riverside Cemetery Office Building (1896, Charles Hopkinson), with its unusual round tower with conical roof, is a romantic structure in a landscaped setting which seems almost transported from the Medieval English countryside. The Third Church of Christ, Scientist (1906, Frederick Striebinger) has an impressive two-story Neoclassical portico supported by ionic columns. With its gambrel roof and Colonial-inspired central tower, the Jones Home for Children (1902, Sidney Badgley) is a very handsome institutional building set on a spacious lawn. The Cleveland Fire Department Engine Co. #24 building is an impressive example of Richardsonian Romanesque architecture (1894, J.W. Dolman) which, although it is rectangular. derives much visual interest through its elaborate brickwork.

Archeological Component

This nomination lacks an archeological component because it is in a heavily developed urban area where it is thought that the liklihood of the existence of significant archeological resources is remote. Brookside Park, Riverside Cemetery and the adjacent industrial valley may be potential sites, but these are excluded from this nomination.

Choice of Resources

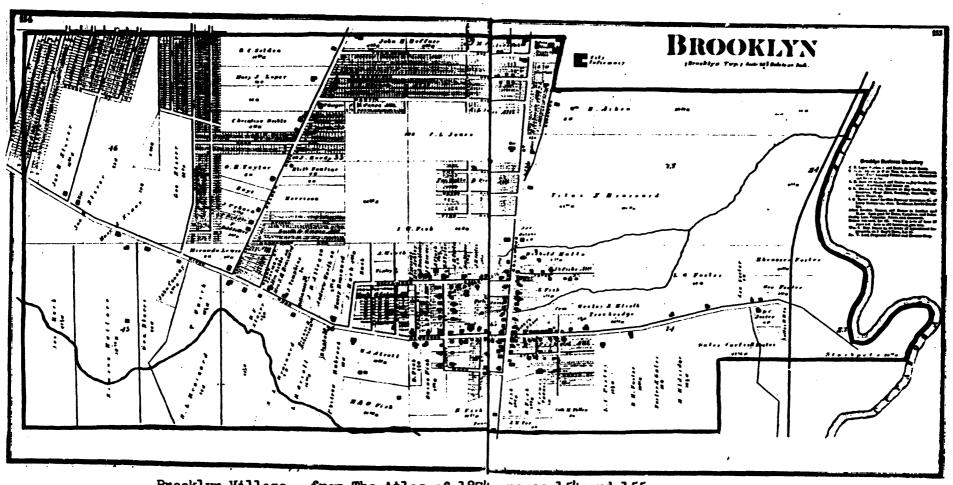
If Post World War II development had not resulted in so much change, it might have been possible to devise a district whose boundaries would have encompassed all of these resources. Apartment development on Archwood Avenue and the changes in the commercial strip along Pearl Road have resulted in intrusions which make a National Register district impossible. a modest residential district, free from any intrusions, was proposed for a section of Archwood Avenue. This is the residential core of the neighborhood and contains the richest concentration of historic houses. The other twelve historic resources were selected largely on the basis of their architecture.

Preservation Efforts

In May 1984, a large part of Brooklyn Centre was designated as a Cleveland Landmark District, known as Brooklyn Centre Historic District. This designation affords design review protection and a local design review committee has been established to monitor changes in the area. Many of the nominated properties are within this local district and are protected.

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Brooklyn Centre Multiple Resource Area, Cleveland, Cuyahoga County, Ohio

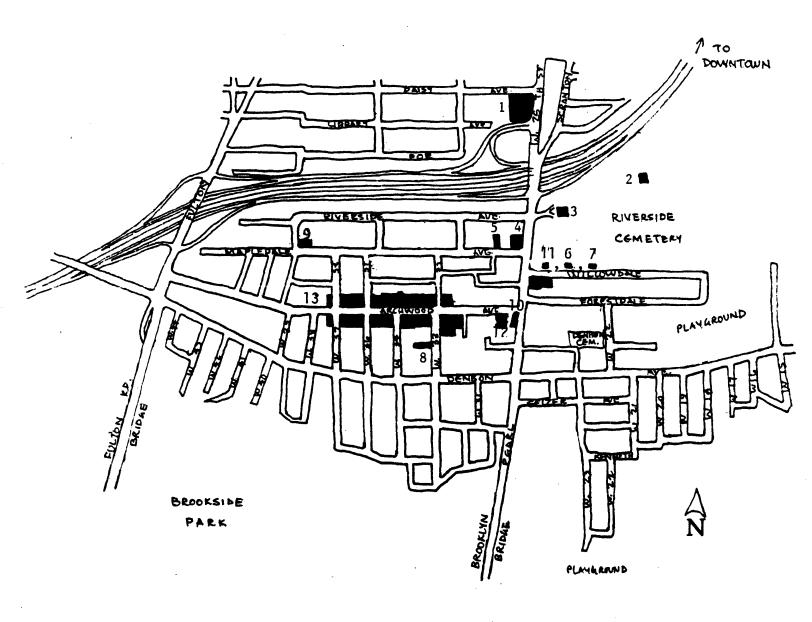


Brooklyn Village - from The Atlas of 1874, pages 154 and 155 Incorporated: August, 1867. Annexed: May, 1894

Brooklyn Centre Multiple Resource Area Cleveland, Cuyahoga County, Ohio

<u>Properties</u>

- 1. Jones Home for Children (3518 W. 25th St.)
- 2. Riverside Cemetery Chapel (3607 Pearl Rd.)
- 3. Riverside Cemetery Building (3607 W. 25th St.)
- 4. Third Church of Christ Scientist (3648 W. 25th St.)
- 5. Bomante House (3000 Mapledale Ave.)
- 6. Mallo House (3781 W. 25th St.)
- 27. Eighth Reformed Church (2409 Willowdale)
 - 8. Townes, Clayton, House (3800 W. 33rd St.)
 - 9. Kindra Apartments (3802-2812 Mapledale Ave.)
- 10. Brooklyn Bank Building (3764-3770 W. 25th St.)
- Clevland Fire Department-Engine Co. #24 (3725 W. 25th St.)
- 12. Brooklyn Memorial Methodist Church (2607 Archwood Ave.)
- 13. Archwood Avenue Historic District (Archwood between W. 33rd and W. 37th)



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Multiple Resource Area Thematic Group

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.0. Riv	Building		Attest	All Breeze 12/10

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form



Continuation sheet

Item number

Page

Multiple Resource Area Thematic Group

State Cuyahoga	County, OHIO		
Nomination/Type of Re	eview		Date/Signature
11. Third Church of Scientist	Christ In In Inc.		Aleun Syun 3/19
12. Townes, Clayton,		Attest Keeper	Delones Syen 3/19/
	Taggemal Register	Attest	
13. Brooklyn Bank Bu		Keeper	
(already liste	d 7-19-84)	Attest	
14.		Keeper	
		Attest	
15.		Keeper	
		Attest	
.6.		Keeper	
		Attest	
.7.	•	Keeper	
		Attest	
18.		Keeper	
	•	Attest	
19.		Keeper	
		Attest	
20.	·	Keeper	
		Attest	