NPS Form 10-900
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**United States Department of the Interior**
**National Park Service**

# National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received AUG 27 1984

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

## 1. Name

historic

and/or common ~~The~~ Lebanon ~~Multiple~~ MRA Resource Area (Partial Inventory: History/Architecture)

## 2. Location

4 dist. + 12

street & number The incorporation limits of Lebanon ___ not for publication

city, town Lebanon ___ vicinity of

state Ohio code 039 county Warren code 165

## 3. Classification

| Category | Ownership | Status | Present Use | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| ___ district | ___ public | X occupied | ___ agriculture | X museum |
| ___ building(s) | ___ private | X unoccupied | X commercial | X park |
| ___ structure | X both | ___ work in progress | X educational | X private residence |
| ___ site | **Public Acquisition** | **Accessible** | X entertainment | X religious |
| ___ object | ___ in process | ___ yes: restricted | X government | ___ scientific |
| X Multiple Resource N/A | ___ being considered | X yes: unrestricted | X industrial | ___ transportation |
| | | ___ no | ___ military | ___ other: |

## 4. Owner of Property

name Multiple Ownership

street & number

city, town ___ vicinity of state

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Warren County Courthouse

street & number East Silver at High Street

city, town Lebanon state Ohio

## 6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Lebanon Historical and Architectural Survey has this property been determined eligible? ___ yes X no

date 1983 ___ federal ___ state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records State Historic Preservation Office

city, town Columbus state Ohio

# 7. Description

| Condition | | Check one | Check one |
|---|---|---|---|
| _x_ excellent | _x_ deteriorated | _x_ unaltered | _x_ original site |
| _x_ good | ___ ruins | _x_ altered | ___ moved date _____ |
| _x_ fair | ___ unexposed | | |

**Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance**

The city of Lebanon is located in the Turtle Creek Valley in Central Warren County in southwestern Ohio. The township in which Lebanon is centered, Turtle Creek Township, is bounded on the east by the Little Miami River; however, the only water course which runs through the city is the Turtle Creek, which flows through the south side of the city with some tributaries on the west side of town. The densest area of development is seen in the commercial district, which is composed primarily of two- and three-story brick buildings which share party walls. The residential area to the east is filled with modest residences; just east of the railroad on this side of town is a small shopping strip area. In the northeast quadrant of the city along Columbus Avenue a strip commercial area has obliterated the rural character of this area. The residential area just north of the Central Business District is also filled with older residential structures. Further north are recent annexations to the city, which contain new suburban residences. This type of development has encroached on the former rural appearance of this area although there are still some survivors. The area west of the central commercial area contains many early residences and the cemeteries, with newer commercial enterprises mixed in. The waterworks and an industrial park lie further west. The south side is characterized by older, gracious homes sited on spacious lots, with new residential development directly south.

The types of historic resources which are the most prominent are its older residences, whose historic styles span a period of over 100 years. The commercial area in the center of town retains its nineteenth century scale and density; the tallest building in the city is still the Golden Lamb, the area's focus for over 150 years. Many of Lebanon's institutional buildings are included in the districts or are being individually nominated.

The original plat of the town consisted of a grid plan of 100 lots, which was bounded on the north by Silver Street, on the south by South Street, on the east by the alley between Cherry and East Streets, and on the west by Water Street. The intersection of the two proposed main streets, Main and Broadway, contained a public square on each corner. Several additions were made to this original 1802 plat just a few years later on the north, west and east sides. The earliest map of Lebanon, from 1854, shows the inclusion of several more additions to the city which basically follow the original grid plan. Exceptions are along the turnpike roads which run diagonally from the edges of the town. The area south of the Central Business District contains just a few large homes surrounded by abundant landscaping and curving paths (Photo #43, Floraville Historic District). The area to the west of the business district contains a few industries along the water courses there (Photo #19, Lebanon Commercial District). The east side of town is beginning to be filled up with residences, most of them close to the Central Business District. A large addition made in 1850(3) on the eastern edge of this side of town contains very few homes (Photo #44, East End Historic District). The area to the north is filled with structures, with farms and the county fairgrounds beyond (Photo #18, North Broadway Historic District). The 1875 atlas shows basically the same appearance. The 1891 and 1903 maps of Lebanon do not show structures; however, a great many changes were made in Lebanon's appearance during the period from 1880-1930. Many industrial enterprises, some with workers'-type housing nearby grew up along the railroad line, which finally came to Lebanon in 1881. The 1850 addition on the eastern side of town, which had barely any buildings upon it in 1875 was quickly filled in during this period. The subdivision of the spacious lots of the residential area on the south permitted many new residential structures in this area. The area to the west did not change very much from the mid-nineteenth century. Although the 1850 Lebanon cemetery was improved in the late nine-

teenth century with several new structures, including a stone entrance arch and superintendent's house which are included as individual sites in this nomination. Lebanon's subsequent growth has been characterized by the annexation of open space surrounding the city, much of it filled in now by new suburban residential development.

Many different types and styles of architecture are represented in the four districts and twelve individual sites being nominated to the National Register. The earliest style seen is a vernacular Federal all of which are brick with their gable roof ridges parallel to the road. Two individual sites, 206 West Silver (Building #8, Photos #10, 11) and 1255 State Route 48 (Building #11, Photo #15) are two of the best examples. There are several variations of the Greek Revival seen throughout the city. Beginning in the 1830's, many substantial brick homes, characterized by piers across the front facade and simple classical decoration were built in the areas surrounding the central business district. Examples include Glendower, 105 Cincinnati Avenue (Building #4, Photo #4, Floraville Historic District), which set the trend for this particular adaptation of the style, as well as 222 North Broadway (Building #9, Photo #15, North Broadway Historic District) and 320 East Mulberry (Building #43, East End Historic District) which is not pictured. Two institutional buildings, the West Baptist Church as 500 West Mulberry Street (Building #5, Photo #6) and the Lebanon Academy at 190 New Street (Building #9, Photos #12, 13), which are being nominated individually, are similar in their proportions to these residences, but they are much more severe in design. Three former brick farmhouses being nominated individually, 1443 St. Route 48 (Building #12, Photos #16, 18); 475 Glosser Road (Building #14, Photos #19-28), and 342 Columbus Ave. (Building #10, Photo #14), exhibit wide front facades with the gable roof ridge parallel to the road. The decorative features on these three buildings is limited to a full-width Italianate porch on 342 Columbus; a sophisticated paneled entranceway on 475 Glosser Road, and a denticulated frieze on 1443 St. Route 48. Another common form of the Greek Revival seen in Lebanon is more temple-like in appearance, with its wide front gable and severe detailing. These are seen in the East End Historic District at 413 East Silver (Building #30, Photo #37); the best-known example is at 301 East Silver (Building #29), which was the home of builder Ezra Craver.

The Italianate style is also exhibited in several variations in several districts. The earliest examples are quite similar to the substantial cube-shaped Greek Revival residences from the 1830's and 1840's. 203 East Silver (Building #27, Photo #10) in the East End Historic District and 232 South Mechanic in the Floraville Historic District (Building #27, Photos #23, 24) are two examples, although several others are seen in both of these districts. More modest, frame residences with such Italianate details as pedimented lintels, dog-ear window surrounds, bracketed friezes and porches with cut-out designs in the posts and friezes are present in all three of the residential historic districts, with examples at 216 Wright Avenue (Building #36, Photo #32) in the Floraville Historic District, 215 North Broadway (Building #5, Photo #2) in the North Broadway Historic District, and 456 East Silver (Building #46, Photo #23) in the East End Historic District. Many of the buildings in the Lebanon Commercial Historic District exhibit bracketed cornices and elaborate hoodmolds; 21 South Broadway (Building #5, Photo #2), 42 North Broadway (Building #10, Photo #7) and 52 East Mulberry (Building #22, Photos #3, 15) are examples. There is even an Italian villa residence, which is seen in the Floraville Historic District at 207 Cincinnati Avenue (Building #2, Photo #2).

Unique in Lebanon and the region is a six-sided brick house near the Floraville Historic District. 419 Cincinnati Avenue (Building #3, Photo #3) is being nominated individually for its representation of a variation on the Octagon Mode, which was popular in the mid-nineteenth century.

Variations of the Gothic Revival style are seen in several types of structures in both the Floraville Historic District and the East End Historic District. Elements of the Gothic Revival are seen in the large residence at 229 South Broadway (Building #5, Photo #5, Floraville Historic District) and the small brick church at 114 North Cherry (Building #15, Photo #36) in the East End Historic District. The Carpenter Gothic is the most common variation on the style seen in Lebanon, with small frame residences exhibiting decorative barge boards in their center front gables and lacy trim on windows and porches in both the Floraville and the East End Historic Districts. The best example in the city is at 226 North Mound (Building #10, Photo #42) in the East End Historic District, in which area most of the examples are located. A very simple interpretation of the High Victorian Gothic is located in this district as well, at 130 East Mulberry, the I.O.O.F. Hall (Building #37, Photos #15, 16).

Several large frame houses, 402 East Main (Building #60, Photo #28) and 204 East Orchard (Building #39, Photo #38) in the East End and Floraville Historic Districts respectively, are representative of the Second Empire style. A large frame structure at the southwest corner of Deerfield and Maple, an individually-nominated site (Building #1, Photo #1), retains most of its Second Empire elements. A small brick commercial structure at the southwest corner of Mulberry and Broadway (J. W. Lingo Store, Building #4, Photo #3) in the Lebanon Commercial District is distinguished by its elaborate patterned slate mansard roof.

Somewhat late examples of the Romanesque Revival and Richardsonian Romanesque styles are seen in the East End Historic District. The 1893 St. Patrick's Church on Main at East Street (Building #57, Photo #27) exhibits brick corbelling and round arched windows, while the Sheriff's Residence on East Silver (Building #19, Photo #12), built in the same year, features a massive corner tower and front porch which are clad with sandstone blocks. Elements of the second Renaissance Revival style can be seen in the 1894 front addition to the courthouse on East Silver (Building #18, Photo #11) in the same district. Its prominent stone foundation, elaborate entablature and quoins are representative of this style. Two buildings from the early twentieth century (9 North Broadway, Building #2, Photo #4 and 412 South Broadway, Building #12, Photo #8) are simpler interpretations of this style.

Modest frame residences represent the Queen Anne style in this city. The three best examples, in terms of decoration, are seen in the Lebanon Cemetery Superintendent's House at 416 West Silver (Building #5, Photo #6) which is being individually nominated; 427 East Main (Building #64, Photo #30) in the East End Historic District; and 257 South Broadway Building #12, Photo #9) in the Floraville Historic District, which features the unusually-shaped windows characteristic of the Queen Anne style. Many more modest Queen Anne residences in the Floraville and East End Historic Districts exhibit elements from the Shingle and Stick styles as well.

The Colonial Revival style is represented in both frame and brick versions, ranging from a quite substantial size to others quite modest in scale. Large brick examples with massive wraparound porches are seen at 304 East Warren (Building #6, Photo #4) in the East End Historic District and 222 South Mechanic (Building #25, Photo #21) in the Floraville

District. A substantial frame residence, with much more classical decoration, is seen in the Floraville Historic District at 238 South Broadway (Building #15, Photo #15). Modest gambrel-roofed adaptations of this style are seen at 308 East Mulberry (Building #42, Photo #17, East End Historic District) and 150 Wright (Building #31, Photo #27, Floraville Historic District). Several of the early twentieth century institutional building located in the Lebanon Commercial District, are designed in a Georgian Revival style, variations of which can be seen in much newer buildings in Lebanon. The 1913 Harmon Hall (Building #8, Photo #1) was the first building designed in this style, followed by the City Hall (Building #14, Photo #18), Masonic Hall (Building #13, Photo #18) and the post office (Building #9, Photo #1); the last three were built in the 1930's. Two buildings in the Lebanon Commercial District, the Carnegie Library (Building #7, Photo #1) and the Lebanon Citizens National Bank at Mulberry and Broadway (Building #11, Photo #11) exhibit Neo-Classical elements, with an eclectic influence seen in their tiled hip roofs.

Both the East End and Floraville Historic Districts contain examples of the bungalow style, with variations in the Western Stick style (6 South High, Building #59, Photo #39, East End Historic District); the California bungalow (116 West Orchard, Building #7 and 95 East Orchard, Building #19, Photo #16, both in the Floraville Historic District), and a quite unusual Swiss chalet design (213 Wright, Building #38, Photo #34, Floraville Historic District). Two bungalows in the East End Historic District have some Colonial Revival influences in their prominent Palladian windows (401 East Warren, Building #22, Photo #6 and 203 East Main, Building #53, Photo #26).

English Revival styles from the early twentieth century are seen in the Floraville Historic District alone. Two of them were designed by a local architect who also practiced in other, more modern styles. The residence at 26 West Orchard (Building #9, Photo #13) is quite unique in the region for its Cotswold cottage design. Two vaguely Tudor houses, covered in white stucco, at 200 Wright Avenue (Building #32, Photo #28) and 3 East Orchard (Building #17) represent another variation in this style.

A very unique design for this region is seen in the individually-nominated site at 448 South Broadway (Building #2, Photo #2), whose International style design is quite conspicuous in its neighborhood of more traditional homes. This house was also designed by Albert Harmon, the local architect who designed two of the English Revival homes described above. Harmon also designed two homes in the Usonian style, (one of which is located in the Floraville Historic District at 253 South Broadway, Building #10), which feature overhanging eaves, L-shape plan, sandwiched wood partitions, and cedar shingle cladding.

The four public squares at the intersection of Main and Broadway were the first planned open spaces in the town. The Lebanon Cemetery, established in 1850, is a landscaped area filled with curving paths overlooking the city on the west side. Its entrance is distinguished by a stone arch designed in a vaguely Romanesque manner (Building #5, Photo #6), the work of two local black builders, which is being individually nominated.

Three other open spaces in Lebanon are more recent. The park south of the commercial area, along South Broadway on either side of Turtle Creek, and the golf course east of

the Floraville Historic District along East Street were both gifts of William Harmon, a former local resident who was a large benefactor in the city. Colonial Park, north of the East End Historic District, was formerly the site of the French-Bauer creamery, an industry quite important in Lebanon's history. The sites of two former schools, the Union School, which was located opposite the Lebanon Academy, and the Main Hall of the National Normal University, at the northwest corner of Silver and East Streets, now contain children's parks. Large expanses of parking lots surround both the Lebanon commercial district and the County Courthouse.

The breakdown in percentage of uses in the city, in terms of acres, does not express the primarily residential character of Lebanon. Public right-of-way (streets) and open space compose 66.01% of the land in Lebanon. Residential use is next with 21.63%. Public and semi-public uses occupy 6.43% of the acreage. 4.17% of the city is devoted to commercial uses, while industrial only occupies 1.76% of the city's land.

A partial history/architecture survey of the city was conducted in 1976 by Betty Cleveland, a volunteer from the Warren County Historical Society. A history/architecture survey of the entire city was performed during the spring and summer of 1983 by the Miami Purchase Association, a non-profit preservation organization. This survey was supervised by Rita Walsh, architectural historian, who performed most of the historic research, with most of the photography, mapping and description performed by Ms. Walsh's assistant, Jo Ann Strasser. Inclusion of properties in the inventory was based on their historical significance and/or unaltered appearance. Examination of archaeological files and maps pertaining to Lebanon showed only one site within the city limits. The file on this site was vague as to the explanation of the site significance. It is possible that this site is still intact as it is in an undeveloped area; however, the area was not inspected.

# 8. Significance

| Period | Areas of Significance—Check and justify below | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| ___ prehistoric | ___ archeology-prehistoric | ___ community planning | ___ landscape architecture | ___ religion |
| ___ 1400–1499 | ___ archeology-historic | ___ conservation | ___ law | ___ science |
| ___ 1500–1599 | ___ agriculture | ___ economics | ___ literature | ___ sculpture |
| ___ 1600–1699 | _x_ architecture | _x_ education | ___ military | _X_ social/ humanitarian |
| ___ 1700–1799 | ___ art | ___ engineering | ___ music | |
| _X_ 1800–1899 | _X_ commerce | ___ exploration/settlement | ___ philosophy | ___ theater |
| _x_ 1900– | ___ communications | ___ industry | _X_ politics/government | ___ transportation |
| | | ___ invention | | ___ other (specify) |

**Specific dates** N/A **Builder/Architect** N/A

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)** Criteria A, B & C

The historic resources of Lebanon, which are being nominated in four districts and twelve individual sites, are significant in southwestern Ohio as they are associated with various events which made the city an important political, commercial and educational center in the region. Lebanon's steady but moderate growth throughout the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries is evidenced in the unbroken succession of architectural styles, some of them very fine examples, intermingled throughout the city.

Although Lebanon, originally platted in 1802, was not the earliest or most important town in Warren County in the first decade of the nineteenth century, it soon acquired the latter status when it was made the county seat in 1805. The laying of one of the earliest state roads in this decade through the town made it an important stagecoach stop. The political and commercial activities generated by these two events were originally centered at Broadway and Main, the main intersection at that time. The original courthouse was located on one of the corners of this intersection, which had been designated as public squares by the founders. Catering to the large volume of travelers, as well as being the focus of the district, the Golden Lamb Inn (Building #6, Photo #2, Lebanon Commercial District: original portion 1815), which is individually listed in the National Register, was adjacent to another of the squares.

The town's early establishment of a newspaper, The Western Star, in 1806 helped make it an early printing and publishing center, second in the region only to Cincinnati. The paper's founder, John McLean, was a lawyer, a prominent occupation in Lebanon; he went on to become a justice of the U.S. Supreme Court. A host of industries, including furniture and woolen manufactories, were clustered in the town in these early decades; however, this early industrial element in the town's history never had very much impact on its devleopment.

Although no associated structures remain, many of Lebanon's important institutions were founded in the first two decades of the nineteenth century. The Baptists were the first religious group to settle in the vicinity; many of Lebanon's pioneers were of this faith, but the only association left with this congregation and these early founders is the Pioneer Cemetery which contains their graves. The Presbyterian and Methodist religions were established in 1805 and 1806, respectively, in the town. Fraternal lodges were a fairly early institution in the town, one of them being founded in 1815 and another in 1817. A library association was a feature of the town even earlier, having been established in 1811, a year after the town was incorporated.

A separation of the commercial and political functions in the business district occurred in the 1820's and 1830's, when the county jail and courthouse was moved to the east side of town. The move was not a detriment to the commercial district's vitality, as municipal and entertainment functions continued in the old courthouse. The move was certainly a stimulus to the development of the eastern area, where a small node of industries and commerce grew up around the courthouse, activities no longer seen in this predominantly residential area. Most of Lebanon's middle class resided on this eastern side, although they were relatively close to the commercial district.

A golden age in architecture occurred during the 1830's and 40's as many of Lebanon's prominent professionals and businessmen constructed substantial homes to the south, north and east of the commercial district. The 1882 History of Warren County states that there were ten carpenter and joiner shops with 38 hands in Lebanon around 1839, which attests to the building activity in the area at the time. Several of the buildings from this period are known to be the work of local builders. The earliest example is Glendower (Building #4, Photo #4, Floraville Historic District), the work of Amos Bennett, which is individually listed in the National Register. The brick Greek Revival farmhouse at 475 Glosser Road (Building #4, Photos #19-28) was the work of Joseph W. Cowan, a local cabinet-maker and builder. Fine examples of the Italianate (203 East Silver, Building #27, Photo #10 and 210 East Silver, Building #16, Photo #11, East End Historic District; 232 South Mechanic, Building #27, Photo #23, Floraville Historic District), Italian Villa (207 Cincinnati Avenue, Building #2, Photo #2, Floraville Historic District), styles were also built in Lebanon during this period. Delicate cast iron porches with spiralled porch columns and intricate lattice work, the product of the Phoenix foundry or local ironworker George Bundy, are a feature of several of these mid-nineteenth century buildings.

Many of Lebanon's lawyers became involved in state affairs, serving as judges and state representatives. During the mid-nineteenth century Thomas Corwin, probably Lebanon's best-known citizen, was the governor of the state. Corwin was particularly famous for his dramatic speeches and leadership ability. His home still exists in Lebanon, an imposing Federal style structure on the west side of town; however, its entranceway is the only feature that has not been altered.

The Lebanon Academy (Building #9, Photos #12, 13, individual site), which began in 1845, was one of Warren County's earliest secondary schools. The Academy only had a short career before it became the initial building for the Southwestern Normal University in 1855. The effect of these two institutions on the physical appearance of Lebanon was the addition of duplexes and boarding houses in the areas surrounding the schools; their impact on the town's character was to make Lebanon a famous, respected educational center in the region.

While Lebanon's central location in the fertile agricultural valley along an important stagecoach route was advantageous for political and commercial reasons, its experience with other forms of transportation was the opposite in the mid-nineteenth century. Although turnpikes connecting Lebanon to Cincinnati and Dayton were constructed in the 1830's, the city attempted to reach for canal traffic with their ill-fated Warren County Canal, which was constructed as a feeder line to the successful Miami-Erie Canal. Inferior construction and frequent flooding doomed this canal to a very short life during the 1840's. Several efforts to secure a railroad line were unsuccessful until 1881.

Lebanon's early churches were joined by several other congregations during the mid-nineteenth century. In addition, all of the congregations built new edifices during this period, predominantly located in the midst of the residential, middle-class area. The West Baptist Church (Building #5, Photo #6, individual site) on the west side of twon, is the least altered of the churches from this period, exhibiting a severe Greek Revival design which, as the structure was built in 1860, is quite late for this style. The German Reformed Church (Building #15, Photo #36, East End Historic District) and a black church, both located on Cherry Street, were founded in the 1860's, reflecting the influx of new groups into the town.

Several farmhouses in this National Register nomination individually are repre-

sentative of the agricultural region which surrounded the town in the nineteenth century, but which today are included within the city limits. Two of them, 1255 State Route 48 (Building #11, Photo #15, individual site) and 1443 State Route 48 (Building #12, Photo #16, individual site) retain their spacious settings and long farm lanes as well as their architectural integrity although they are endangered by the new residential development which surrounds them. The brick house at 475 Glosser Road (Building #4, Photos #19-28) has the most intact setting, with its surrounding open land, frame barns and brick summer kitchen. The well-preserved structure at 342 Columbus Avenue (Building #10, Photo #14, individual site) is a fine example of Greek Revival/Italianate design. Another residence on the nineteenth century outskirts of town, 419 Cincinnati Avenue (Building #3, Photo #3, individual site) is a rare, six-sided structure built during the mid-nineteenth century when the Octagon Mode was popular. Also nominated individually for its architectural style, the Federal vernacular brick structure at 206 West Silver (Building #8, Photo #10, individual site) was built around the mid-nineteenth century, in the midst of what was historically an industrial area, surrounded by laborers' houses. It is not the only old structure in this area, but it is certainly the only example which retains most of its original integrity.

The scarcity of industry and the flourishing agricultural environs of Lebanon gave the city the reputation as a "healthy, retiring" town. The reputation was reinforced by the location of three health-related institutions here in the last quarter of the nineteenth century. The Dr. Curry Cancer Cure Company and the Maple Farms Hotel were previously located just north of the business district, while the only remaining structure in this theme, the Maplewood Sanitorium (Building #1, Photo #1, individual site) was situated on the south side of town near the County Infirmary Farm.

A public cemetery was laid out in 1850, and although an 1854 map shows curving walks and other landscaped features, many of the improvements seen today were not made until the late nineteenth century. A chapel/waiting room fountain, and superintendent's house were all constructed during the 1890's. This last structure, at 416 West Silver (Building #7, Photo #9, individual site), is an excellent example of a modestly-sized Queen Anne Residence in the city. In 1909, the entrance to the cemetery was improved by a limestone arch (Building #6, Photo #7, individual site) which was constructed by two black contractors in the city. Masonry work was a major occupation of Lebanon's black residents in the early twentieth century.

The Southwestern Normal University, called the National Normal University in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century, was at its height during this period. Its students, whose numbers doubled the city's population, were attracted by the innovative teaching methods and low tuition offered by the university. The university's guiding spirit was Alfred Holbrook who was responsible for its success and respected reputation.

The middle class and more elite residential areas of the city experienced substantial growth in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. In the East End, these structures were clustered, for the most part, at the eastern edge of the residential area, filling up an addition which had been platted in 1853. Some were built closer to the commercial district, attesting to the continued desirability of this residential location. In the Floraville area, on a hill south of the commercial district, the more modest frame structures were interspersed among the larger, older homes from the mid-nineteenth century.

The establishment of a railroad line to Lebanon in 1881 was a pervasive influence in Lebanon's commercial prosperity in this period, particularly around the turn of the century,

when several large factories were built along the line. The Oregonia Bridge Works was established in Lebanon in 1903 on the east side of town, while the French Bros. Dairy of Cincinnati built a large complex in 1898 just north of the East End residential area, taking advantage of both the agricultural regions adjacent to Lebanon and the railroad line to produce and ship cream to Cincinnati markets. This industry was a great source of employment for both the farmers in the region and the black population residing near the main barn. The severity of alterations in these two complexes prevented their inclusion in this nomination. A large brick factory was constructed next to the tracks at Cherry and South Streets (Building #52, Photo #35, East End Historic District) in 1909 as a shoe factory, which provided work for many Lebanon residents until the 1950's.

Throughout the nineteenth century, boosterism was a factor in the successful location of the county seat, Lebanon Academy, National Normal University, as well as many residents, in Lebanon. In addition, its concerned citizens made efforts to improve the town's physical appearance. This tradition of civic betterment was continued in the early twentieth century by William Harmon, a Lebanon native, who was concerned not so much with Lebanon's growth as with its quality of life. Extremely successful in the real estate field, Harmon began a program of philanthropy that included not only his home town, but institutions and individuals across the country. His donations made a Carnegie library (Building #7, Photo #1, Lebanon Commercial District), a public recreation center (Harmon Hall, Building #8, Photo #1, Lebanon Commercial District) and a park possible in the city.

By the 1930's, Lebanon had settled into its present character as a small, quiet town, famous for its historical qualities. The Colonial Revival style and later variations were wholeheartedly embraced in the city as the architectural style most suitable for this "Colonial" town. The City Hall (Building #14, Photo #18, Lebanon Commercial District) is representative of this phenomenon. Most of the residences from this period reflect this frame of mind as well. A notable exception, however, is an International style house (Building #2, Photo #2, individual site) built in 1938, in the midst of residences in these Colonial variations. Designed by Albert Harmon, a local architect, this structure is significant in the area as the only representative of this style.

Lebanon's later twentieth century growth has been through annexation of surrounding agricultural areas, which are planned for suburban residential and industrial use. Farm complexes from these new areas may be included in future nominations from this area, as the city expands its boundaries.

Since the survey was conducted at the same time that this nomination was being prepared, it is not definitely known how the results of the inventory will be used in planning efforts. A local historic district ordinance is being contemplated for several areas in Lebanon, and presumably the concentration of surveyed sites as well as the proposed districts in the nomination will be helpful in the selection of boundaries. A proposed walking tour of the city would certainly benefit from the information supplied by the inventory forms.

A comprehensive plan was prepared for the Lebanon area in 1963, supplemented with a 1971 update by Vogt, Sage and Pflum, a planning firm from Cincinnati, Ohio. These documents do take historic areas into account, particularly the Central Business District and the residential area east of the Central Business District (the East End Historic District). Unfortunately, while preservation is recommended for some of the buildings, the general

restoration theme of these documents favors "Georgetown" and "early American" decor, which have nothing to do with the architecture of these areas.

The central core of the city was divided into four historic districts, partially due to historical use and the integrity of structures within this area. The Floraville Historic District is physically separated from the rest of town by the Turtle Creek and the rise in topography here. The East End Historic District and Lebanon Commercial District are separated by a block or two of parking lots, new construction and insensitive alteration. Although both the North Broadway Historic District and the East End Historic District are residential in character, they are separated by altered older structures. The North Broadway Historic District and the Lebanon Commercial District, though connected historically, are now divided by new commercial intrusions.

Most of the buildings which are being nominated individually represent a theme in Lebanon's history which is not shared by the surrounding buildings. These include the Maplewood Sanitorium (Building #11, Photo #1), the Lebanon Cemetery Arch (Building #6, Photos #7, 8), the Lebanon Cemetery Superintendent's house (Building #7, Photo #9), the Lebanon Academy (Building #9, Photo #12, 13), the West Baptist Church (Building #5, Photo #6), and two farmhouses along State Route 48 (Buildings #11, 12, Photos #15, 16), and one on Glosser Rd. (Building #4, Photos #19-28) which are also significant for their style. Four buildings were nominated for their unaltered styles: 342 Columbus Avenue (Building #10, Photo #14); 419 Cincinnati Avenue (Building #3, Photo #3), 206 West Silver (Building #8, Photos #10, 11) and 448 South Broadway (Building #2, Photo #2).

The people of Lebanon have a great deal of pride in their historic resources. There have been several attempts to nominate buildings and areas to the National Register, but only two buildings are listed in the Register: Glendower, in the Floraville Historic District which is a state-owned historic site, and the Golden Lamb Inn in the Lebanon Commercial District. Resotration activities in the city vary in the degree of sensitivity shown to the historic character and materials of the older buildings. Several buildings in the central business district have been renovated according to the 1963 comprehensive plan, which called for an "early Americna decor" which has resulted in small gas lights, "colonial" doors and multi-pane storefront windows on several buildings. Some residences in the proposed East End and Floraville Historic Districts have been rehabbed recently, most of them in a sympathetic manner. An example is a house on East Main Street where the owner constructed a new front porch based on the design of the side porch. There are still renovation efforts which are reminiscent of the 1960's and 70's with out-of-scale "colonial" elements and sandblasting. A proposed local ordinance may provide more direction in the way of sensitive rehabilitation.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

1) A Brief History of Lebanon, Ohio: A Centennial Sketch, Josiah Morrow (1902); 2) The Western Star; 3) History of Southwestern Ohio/The Miami Valleys, William E. Smith (1964); 4) Traditional Architecture, Warren County, Ohio, Hazel Spencer Phillips (1969); 5) History of Warren County, Ohio, W. H. Beers & Co. (1882); 6) Numerous files at the Warren County Historical Society, Lebanon, Ohio

# 10. Geographical Data

**Acreage of nominated property** see individual sites and districts

**Quadrangle name** Lebanon, Ohio **Quadrangle scale** 1:24,000

**UTM References** - see individual sites and districts

| | Zone | Easting | Northing | | Zone | Easting | Northing |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| A | | | | B | | | |
| C | | | | D | | | |
| E | | | | F | | | |
| G | | | | H | | | |

**Verbal boundary description and justification**

- see individual sites and districts; for present boundary lines of city, see map #1

**List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries**

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **state** | N/A | **code** | **county** | | **code** |
| **state** | | **code** | **county** | | **code** |

# 11. Form Prepared By

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **name/title** | Rita Walsh | | |
| **organization** | Miami Purchase Association | **date** | September, 1983 |
| **street & number** | 812 Dayton Street | **telephone** | (513) 721-4506 |
| **city or town** | Cincinnati | **state** | Ohio |

# 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

**The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:**

___ national X state X 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** W. Ray Luce

**title** SHPO **date** August 8, 1984

**For NPS use only**

**I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register**

Carol D Shull **date** 10-10-84

**Keeper of the National Register**

**Attest:** See Continuation Sheet for Details **date**

**Chief of Registration**

GPO 894-785

NPS Form 10-900-a
(3-82)

OMB No. 1024-0018
Exp. 10-31-84

**United States Department of the Interior**
**National Park Service**

# National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received
date entered

Continuation sheet | Item number | Page 1 of 2

dnr-11

Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

Name Lebanon Multiple Resource Area
State Warren County, OHIO

Nomination/Type of Review — Date/Signature

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | Corwin | 10/10/84 |
| 1. | East End Historic District | Substantive Review | Keeper | Carol D Shull 10-10-84 |
| | | | Attest | |
| 2. | Floraville Historic District | Entered in the National Register | for Keeper | Delores Byrne 10/10/84 |
| | | | Attest | |
| 3. | Lebanon Commercial District | Substantive Review | Keeper | Carol D Shull 10-10-84 |
| | | | Attest | |
| 4. | North Broadway Historic District | Entered in the National Register | for Keeper | Delores Byrne 10/10/84 |
| | | | Attest | |
| 5. | Kaufman, Sam, House | Substantive Review | Keeper | 7 5 |
| | | | Attest | |
| 6. | Coffeen, Goldsmith, House | Entered in the National Register | for Keeper | Delores Byrne 10/10/84 |
| | | | Attest | |
| 7. | Corwin House | Entered in the National Register | for Keeper | Delores Byrne 10/10/84 |
| | | | Attest | |
| 8. | Corwin-Bolin House | Substantive Review | Keeper | Carol D Shull 10-10-8 |
| | | | Attest | |
| 9. | Ferney, John, House | Entered in the National Register | for Keeper | Delores Byrne 10/10/84 |
| | | | Attest | |
| 10. | Lebanon Academy | Entered in the National Register | for Keeper | Delores Byrne 10/10/84 |
| | | | Attest | |

NPS Form 10-900-a
(3-82)

OMB No. 1024-0018
Exp. 10-31-84

**United States Department of the Interior**
**National Park Service**

# National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received 8/27/84
date entered

Continuation sheet | Item number | Page 2 of 2

Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

Name Lebanon Multiple Resource Area
State Warren County, OHIO

| Nomination/Type of Review | | | Date/Signature |
|---|---|---|---|
| 11. Lebanon Cemetery Entrance Arch | [illegible] | Keeper | Helen Byers 10/18/84 |
| | | Attest | |
| 12. Lebanon Cemetery Superintendent's House | [illegible] | Keeper | Helen Byers 10/18/84 |
| | | Attest | |
| 13. Maplewood Sanitorium | Entered in the National Register | for Keeper | Helen Byers 10/10/84 |
| | | Attest | |
| 14. Mohrman-Jack-Evans House | [illegible] | for Keeper | Helen Byers 10/10/84 |
| | | Attest | |
| 15. Smith-Davis House | Entered in the National Register | for Keeper | Helen Byers 2/6/85 |
| | | Attest | |
| 16. West Baptist Church | [illegible] | Keeper | Helen Byers 10/18/84 |
| | | Attest | |
| 17. | | Keeper | |
| | | Attest | |
| 18. | | Keeper | |
| | | Attest | |
| 19. | | Keeper | |
| | | Attest | |
| 20. | | Keeper | |
| | | Attest | |