

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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RECEIVED JUN 27 1979
DATE ENTERED AUG 21 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 *Chesterville Multiple Resource Area (Partial Inventory)*

HISTORIC HISTORIC RESOURCES OF CHESTERVILLE (Partial Inventory: Historic and Architectural Properties)

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION *OH 95 and OH 314*

STREET & NUMBER
the incorporation limits of Chesterville

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN
Chesterville

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
12

STATE CODE VICINITY OF
Ohio 039

COUNTY CODE
Morrow 117

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Multiple Resources	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME *multiple ownership*

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN VICINITY OF
Chesterville

STATE
Ohio

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
Morrow County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER
East High Street

CITY, TOWN
Mt. Gilead

STATE
Ohio

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
Ohio Historic Inventory

DATE
September 1978 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS
Ohio Historic Preservation Office

CITY, TOWN STATE
Columbus 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

Chesterville is a small community of about three hundred people situated about the crossroads of State routes 95 and 314. It is situated on a small plateau, just south of the base of a glacial moraine. Immediately south of the town, the Kokosing River flows from west to east but it is a large creek at this point. Another stream flows through the western edge of town into the Kokosing River. Thus, the site of Chesterville is somewhat confined by these natural features.

In plan, Chesterville is quite simple. Route 95 is the major east-west road and goes from northwest to southeast through the town. Route 314, the major north-south road, is also at an angle, passing through the town in a northeasterly to southwesterly direction. It has a broad curve south of Route 95. The side streets of Chesterville are small and alley-like, forming small square blocks. Few houses and no commercial structures are located on these streets. No public square or other open space is present in the town.

Clustered around the main intersection are several old frame structures that comprise the commercial center of the town. On the southeast corner is an antique shop, formerly a dry goods store.⁴ It is a Greek Revival building and exhibits very robust, massive ornament and a fully articulated pediment, features that are found on a number of Chesterville's buildings. South of this is another similar commercial structure. Its lower level and its window openings have recently been remodeled to the great detriment of its architectural integrity. East of the corner store is the post office,⁵ a large Greek Revival structure that probably served as an inn at one time. The north end of the main intersection today contains a gas station and a few small modern buildings. The two most significant landmarks, the brick Miles Hotel and four story academy building both burned in a fire years ago. East of this intersection is the Town Hall,⁶ a simple two story wood frame structure that is transitional in style from Greek Revival to Italianate. On the southwest corner stands a simple wood frame commercial building.³

Chesterville is entirely residential except for the cluster of commercial buildings at the center. Perhaps the finest grouping of residences is along Route 314 south. Numerous Greek Revival and Italianate houses exist along this pleasant tree-lined street, but, like much of Chesterville, they are often not maintained and are deteriorating. Two outstanding Greek Revival houses are on this street. The first is a two story five bay structure on the east side just south of the center.⁸ It has a bold, massive entablature and a central front entrance ornamented by pilasters and an entablature. On the west side, on the southern edge of town, is Chesterville's finest and best preserved Greek Revival house.⁹ It is similar in ornament to the previous house and other Greek Revival buildings in town. Among its major features are a full articulated north pediment, finely crafted interior stairway and elaborate front entrance.

On the south side of Route 95 west of the center are several small Greek Revival cottages. A simple large wood frame Greek Revival residence is located here.² It has a finely detailed main entrance with fretwork on the surrounding pilasters. Its large dimensions suggest that this may have at one time been an inn. North of the center, along Route 314 are a number of Greek Revival houses. These are either not

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HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

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Historic Resources of Chesterville, Chesterville, Morrow County, Ohio

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particularly distinguished or have been altered. A brick school is at the northern edge of town, but its numerous additions have damaged the original architectural character. Located on a side street in the northeast part of town is a large wood frame Italianate house that is of considerable interest for its large size and prominent location on a hilltop.¹

East of Chesterville's center along Route 95 is the Methodist Church.⁷ This large two story brick Greek Revival building is probably Chesterville's finest architectural landmark that survives today. It is in good condition and enjoys a prominent location in an open area at the eastern edge of town.

This survey was conducted by the regional preservation officer at the request of Chester Community Concerns, a group whose aim is to promote the revitalization and preservation of Chesterville. An inspection of the entire community was made and a list of eligible properties was prepared based on their architectural significance and historical connections with the founding and development of Chesterville. The list of historic resources contains all those properties within and adjacent to Chesterville's village limits that are eligible for inclusion in the National Register. No archaeological work was done as part of this survey, however, the results of previous archaeological investigations and historical accounts both point to the existence of prehistoric sites in the vicinity of Chesterville. The most likely locations for such sites would be along the banks of the Kokosing River nearby and atop the glacial moraine about a mile north of town. Chesterville holds potential for historic archaeological research, since the sites of the old carding mill, hotel and academy can yield data. However, these sites have not been included in the nomination at this time because extensive excavations and testing would be required to designate specific archaeological areas.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES various BUILDER/ARCHITECT various

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The historic resources of Chesterville constitute the remains of what was once a thriving community in the period before the Civil War, a center for regional trade and educational institutions and the home of a sizeable carding mill industry. Chesterville is a relatively rare example of a town whose dominant architectural features are primarily pre Civil War. Thus, it serves as a reflection of other towns in the early nineteenth century, before the railroads and industrialization transformed them.

There is a known record of prehistoric occupation in this region dating back to at least 10,000 B.C. Within ten miles are a series of prehistoric earthenworks and burial mounds and it is likely that similar structures once existed in this vicinity. The nearby glacial moraine to the north and the Kokosing River valley to the south are prime sites for prehistoric habitation, although recorded history does not document significant works in Chesterville.

Chesterville is the first and oldest community in Morrow County. It was surveyed by Joseph Vance in 1807 and the next year the first settlers arrived. Evan and Charity Holt were the first white inhabitants of the new town. After the War of 1812, the little settlement began to grow. Most of its early inhabitants were of Welsh ancestry. In 1812 Chester Township was formed and elections were held. Enos Miles, surveyor, teacher, innkeeper and businessman, arrived in the area around 1815. Fifteen years later Miles laid out the new village, which was named after the township. The major route for travel was a north-south corduroy road on the site of the present Route 314. Miles' imposing house still stands at the southern edge of town.

It was during the period before the Civil War that Chesterville achieved significance. Several private educational institutions were established, attracting people from a broad area to the town. A four story brick building was erected in 1838 by Enos Miles as an academy with hopes of establishing Chesterville as a major educational center. A carding mill was erected that turned out attractive coverlets with a distinctive emblem and the town's name on them. These coverlets are highly prized today. Many fine homes were erected in the 1830's and 40's. A popular inn was established and operated for many years by the Miles family. Two fine churches were erected during this period.

The beginnings of Chesterville's decline can also be traced to this pre Civil War period. In 1845 a campaign began for the creation of a new county in this area with Chesterville, Marengo and Mount Gilead each competing for the county seat. Finally in 1848, a compromise was reached between the Mount Gilead and Marengo supporters with the new county of Morrow established, shrewdly named to honor Governor Jeremiah Morrow, and Mount Gilead chosen as the county seat. The railroad

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bypassed Chesterville in favor of the new county seat. Thus, Chesterville declined and Mount Gilead prospered.

The primary significance of the historic resources of Chesterville lies in their architecture. Many fine examples of Greek Revival architecture exist here, largely intact and in basically their original settings, without a lot of later construction surrounding them. The nominated residences are prime examples of this. The town has significance in the area of education. Although the early academy buildings have been lost, the old Union School still stands. The town hall possesses significance as the center of government for Chesterville and Chester Township and as a center for community and social events. The Methodist Church has religious significance as the house of worship for the town's only congregation, which has met here since 1851. In addition, historic archaeological research can yield information about early industries and educational institutions. In general, Chesterville presents a rare and useful model of a pre Civil War trading center that has survived largely intact while its counterparts have changed drastically since the Civil War.

Chester Community Concerns is actively promoting the preservation and revitalization of this village. A central focus at this point is the town hall which is becoming the setting for community-related programs. While there are not enough historic resources of sufficient architectural quality to constitute a continuous historic district, it is hoped that the restoration of the town hall and other key landmarks will spur the owners of other properties to rehabilitate them. The long range goal is to establish Chesterville as an attraction for visitors to this part of the state and to provide tourist-oriented businesses to complement the historic architecture the village now possesses.

