

FILE 75041535

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	Ohio
COUNTY:	Summit
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE	11-3-75

1. NAME

COMMON:	Pilgrim United Church of Christ
AND/OR HISTORIC:	First Congregational Church of Cuyahoga Falls

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: 130 Broad Boulevard			
CITY OR TOWN: Cuyahoga Falls		CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: 14 - John Seiberling	
STATE Ohio	CODE 039	COUNTY: Summit	CODE 153

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP		STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)				
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments _____ _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: Pilgrim United Church of Christ	STATE: Ohio
STREET AND NUMBER: 130 Broad Boulevard	
CITY OR TOWN: Cuyahoga Falls	
STATE: Ohio	CODE: 44221
	CODE: 039

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: Summit County Building		COUNTY: Summit
STREET AND NUMBER: 72 South High Street		
CITY OR TOWN: Akron	STATE: Ohio	
	CODE: 039	

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:	
DATE OF SURVEY:	<input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:	
STREET AND NUMBER:	
CITY OR TOWN:	STATE:
	CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Ohio  
COUNTY: Summit  
ENTRY NUMBER:  
DATE:

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This is a brick church built in the Greek Revival style and later remodeled according to post-Civil War taste with elements of the Romanesque and Gothic Revivals. The basic form is a rectangular block with four bays on the side elevations and three on the north facade. On the sides shallow brick piers and pilasters stand in relief. The three entrances are placed between brick piers. It seems certain that there was originally a recessed porch, because the interior wall of the narthex appears to be an exterior brick wall which was never plastered, and because of documentary evidence discussed in (8). The exterior brick of the church has been painted white.

In 1869 a two-story addition was made directly to the south of the church. It contained a study, a parlor and a Sunday school assembly room in which several classes met simultaneously. On the exterior, the threesouthernmost bays show the Romanesque Revival windows of this addition. At the same time the tower was altered so that the belfry acquired louvered Romanesque openings, triangular pediments and quoins. A three-part Romanesque window was inserted in the facade pediment.

The interior of the sanctuary retains the original woodwork casings with Greek "eared" architraves. In 1883 the gallery over the narthex was extended by two feet and the front rail faced with a carved Gothic pattern. At the same time the earlier clear glass windows were replaced with colored "art" glass, and the box pews by a semi-circular pew arrangement on a sloping floor, in imitation of the popular "Akron plan." Electric lights were first placed in the sanctuary in 1892. In 1934 the center pulpit was replaced by a divided chancel focussed on the communion table. Nevertheless, the interior retains the character of a mid to late nineteenth century sanctuary.

In 1927 a second addition was made to the southeast of the original structure, consisting of a gymnasium with a stage, a small library, a new office and storage space. A third addition was completed in 1958 to the south and west of the church, including four offices, a library, choir rehearsal rooms and twenty Church School rooms.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian;       16th Century       18th Century       20th Century  
 15th Century       17th Century       19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1845-1847; 1869; 1883

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |   |  |  |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input type="checkbox"/> Education              | <input type="checkbox"/> Political           | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric             | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering            | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> Science             | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture           | _____                                    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater             | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> Military               | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation      | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  |  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            |   |  |  |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

This is a well-preserved example of a church embodying the changes in architectural taste of the second half of the nineteenth century. More important, it is credited with being the oldest church in continuous use in Summit County, now that the famous Tallmadge church of 1825 no longer has a congregation, and excepting only the chapel of Western Reserve Academy (1835), formerly Western Reserve College, in Hudson.

Cuyahoga Falls, now virtually a part of metropolitan Akron, was a separate village on the Cuyahoga River, named because the river descends about 240 feet over a distance of only two miles. The power provided by this fall caused innumerable industries to spring up by the middle of the century. When Summit County was created in 1840 from portions of three other counties, Cuyahoga Falls was a rival for the location of the county seat which went to Akron.

The Congregational Church stands on the proposed site of the county buildings. The church was organized in 1834 by ministers from nearby Middlebury and Tallmadge. It met for several months in a schoolhouse and then in a public Lyceum, and was supplied by pastors from Western Reserve College. In 1845 plans for the present building were commenced, the building was completed in 1846 and dedicated in 1847.

In an existing letter dated August 4, 1845, one of the members describes the beginning of construction, as well as the need to proceed in installments because of limited means. He states that the church "is to be a brick building about 50 by 70 feet with a front similar to the Episcopal Church at Columbus." That church (the first Trinity Episcopal, now gone) and another patterned after it, Rosse Hall at Kenyon College in Gambier, contained a recessed porch with two columns. They were designed by Charles Romanoff Prczriminsky, a Polish teacher of languages at Kenyon in 1834-1835.

The Cuyahoga Falls church was enlarged and "improved" in 1869 and considerably remodeled in 1883. After the gymnasium was added in 1927, the church served as a community social center. The merger as the United Church of Christ took place in 1957.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

William H. Perrin, History of Summit County (Chicago, 1881), 485-486.  
 Letter, E. N. Sill to Wm. F. Sill, dated Aug. 4, 1845 (Pilgrim Church).  
 Rev. T. B. Fairchild, A History of the Town of Cuyahoga Falls  
 (Address delivered July 4, 1876), 26-27.  
 Richard G. Salomon, "The Old Halls of Kenyon College," The American  
Antiques Journal, I, No. 9, Sept. 1946, 7-8.  
 Archives, Pilgrim United Church of Christ, Cuyahoga Falls.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE			LONGITUDE		
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"
				UTM		

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: Less than one

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:  
Eric Johannesen, Preservationist

ORGANIZATION: Western Reserve Historical Society      DATE: February 1975

STREET AND NUMBER:  
10825 East Boulevard

CITY OR TOWN: Cleveland      STATE: Ohio      CODE: 039

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Keeper of The National Register

Date \_\_\_\_\_

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

PROPERTY MAP FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

STATE	Ohio
COUNTY	Summit
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

<b>1. NAME</b>			
COMMON:	Pilgrim United Church of Christ		
AND/OR HISTORIC:	First Congregational Church of Cuyahoga Falls		
<b>2. LOCATION</b>			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
130 Broad Boulevard			
CITY OR TOWN:			
Cuyahoga Falls			
STATE:	Ohio	CODE	COUNTY:
		039	Summit
			CODE
			153
<b>3. MAP REFERENCE</b>			
SOURCE:			
U. S. G. S. Hudson Quadrangle			
SCALE:			
1:24,000			
DATE:			
1970			
<b>4. REQUIREMENTS</b>			
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS			
1. Property boundaries where required.			
2. North arrow.			
3. Latitude and longitude reference.			

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

STATE Ohio	
COUNTY Summit	
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ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

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<b>2. LOCATION</b>			
STREET AND NUMBER: 130 Broad Boulevard			
CITY OR TOWN: Cuyahoga Falls			
STATE: Ohio	CODE 039	COUNTY: Summit	CODE 153
<b>3. PHOTO REFERENCE</b>			
PHOTO CREDIT: Eric Johannesen			
DATE OF PHOTO: February 1975			
NEGATIVE FILED AT: Western Reserve Historical Society			
<b>4. IDENTIFICATION</b>			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. North facade and west elevation, looking southeast. 1958 addition on right. #1			

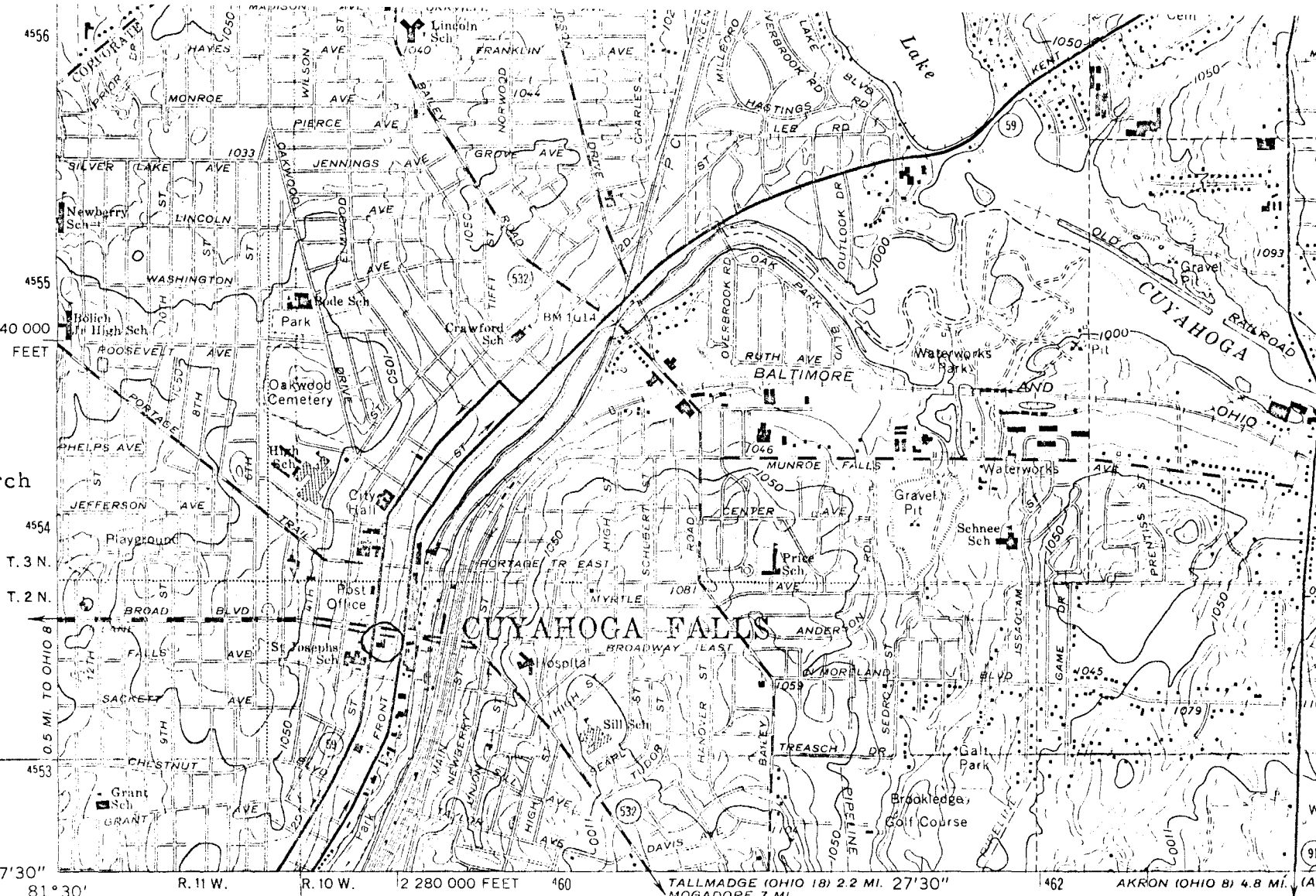
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
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NEGATIVE FILED AT: Western Reserve Historical Society			
<b>4. IDENTIFICATION</b>			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. East elevation and north facade, looking southwest. 1927 addition on left. #2			



Pilgrim United Church  
of Christ  
First Congregational  
Church of  
Cuyahoga Falls

UTM:  
17 459/340 East  
4553/470 North

AKRON WEST  
4066 11 SE

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey  
Revised in cooperation with State of Ohio agencies  
Control by USGS and USC&GS

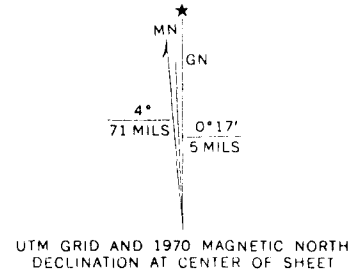
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs  
taken 1952 and planetable surveys 1953. Revised from aerial  
photographs taken 1962. Field checked 1963

Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum  
10,000-foot grid based on Ohio coordinate system, north zone  
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 17, shown in blue

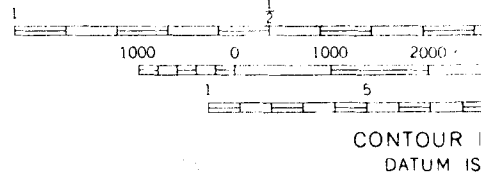
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where  
generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked

Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown

Entire area lies within the Connecticut Western Reserve. Land lines  
established by private subdivision of the Connecticut Western Reserve



UTM GRID AND 1970 MAGNETIC NORTH  
DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET



THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH N  
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGIC  
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC I

November 20, 1975

Mr. George D. Alley, Minister  
Pilgrim United Church of Christ  
130 Broad Boulevard  
Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio 44221

Dear Mr. Alley:

I am pleased to inform you that the Pilgrim United Church of Christ, 130 Broad Boulevard, has been entered in the National Register of Historic Places by the National Park Service, United States Department of the Interior.

The nomination was made in connection with a state plan to identify and document prehistoric and historic places in Ohio which qualify for National Register status under provisions of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966. All nominations are approved by the Ohio Historic Site Preservation Advisory Board.

Enclosed is information explaining the purposes and goals of the National Register of Historic Places.

Sincerely,



Thomas H. Smith  
Director, Ohio Historical Society  
State Historic Preservation Officer

TS:jp  
Enclosure

X.c: Mayor of Cuyahoga Falls  
Eric Johannesen, Western Reserve Historical Society

**Ohio Historic Preservation Office**  
**Ohio Historical Center I-71 & 17th Avenue Columbus, Ohio 43211 (614) 466-8727**



# Ohio Historic Preservation Office

## National Register of Historic Places File Checklist

The following materials are contained in this file of the National Register form for:

Name: First Congregational Church of Cuyahoga Falls

County: Summit

Original National Register of Historic Places nomination form

Multiple Property Nomination form

Photograph(s)

Photograph(s) (copies)

USGS map(s)

USGS map(s) (copies)

Sketch map(s)/figure(s)/exhibit(s)

Correspondence

Other \_\_\_\_\_

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