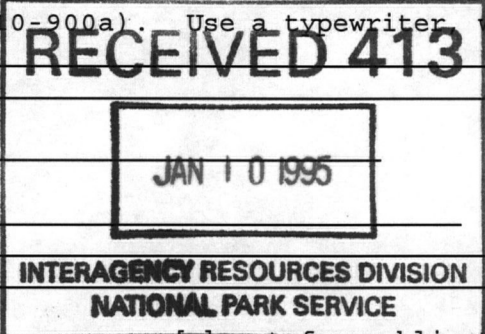


95000050

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

OMB NO. 1024-0018, NPS FORM

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties or districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classifications, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.



1. Name of Property

historic name RICH-TWINN OCTAGON HOUSE

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 145 Main Street

city Akron

state New York code NY county Erie code 029 zip code 14001

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. ([] See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

David S. Gillespie
Director, Field Services Bureau

12/30/94
Date

NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. ([] See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official
State or federal agency and bureau

Date

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby, certify that this property is:
 entered in the National Register.
[] See continuation sheet.
[] determined eligible for the National Register. [] see continuation sheet.
[] determined not eligible for the National Register.

Signature of keeper Edson A. Beall Date of Action Entered in the National Register 2/10/95

[] removed from the National Register.
[] other: _____

5. Classification

Ownership of Property/Category of Property/Number of Resources within Property
(Check as many boxes as apply) (check box) (do not include previously listed resources in the count)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	_____ 1 _____	_____ buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	_____	_____ sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	_____	_____ structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	_____	_____ objects
		_____ 1 _____	_____ Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: NA

NAME OF RELATED MULTIPLE PROPERTY DOCUMENTATION FORM:

NA

6. Function or Use

Historic Function

Current Function

DOMESTIC; single dwelling

DOMESTIC; single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)

Materials
(enter categories from instructions)

MID-19TH CENTURY; Octagon mode

foundation stone
walls frame with clapboard and flushboard siding
roof shingles
other _____

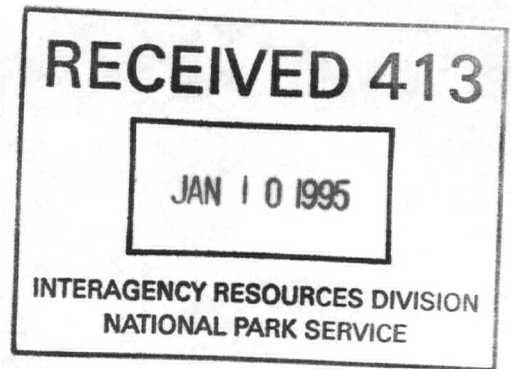
Narrative Description

See attached continuation sheets.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Rich-Twinn Octagon House
Akron, Erie County, New York



Section 7, Description, page 1

Description

The Rich-Twinn Octagon House (1849), a two-story, late Greek Revival style frame dwelling designed in the octagon mode, is located at the southeast corner of Main Street and Parkview Drive in a quiet residential neighborhood several blocks east of Akron's central business district. Akron is located approximately 12 miles northeast of Buffalo; once an isolated, yet prosperous, industrial village in rural Erie County renowned for its production of natural cement, Akron is now primarily a bedroom community for nearby Buffalo. The house is sited on a spacious, gently sloping corner lot landscaped with grass and mature trees and shrubbery. The surrounding neighborhood consists of smaller, more modestly detailed late nineteenth and early twentieth century dwellings; insufficient documentation currently exists to evaluate the neighborhood's eligibility for the National Register as an historic district.

The house, meticulously restored according to the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation, is a two-story, eight-sided frame dwelling resting on a raised, parged fieldstone foundation. The heavy timber frame is sheathed with flushboard siding on the first story and clapboard siding on the second story and is surmounted by a low-pitched, cedar shake clad, hipped roof encircled by a bracketed cornice. An imposing octagonal, copper-roofed cupola with round-arched windows, a brick chimney and a bracketed cornice crowns the building. A one-story verandah supported by slender turned posts encircles the entire building. Fenestration throughout the building is symmetrical; each of the eight sides contain a pair of double-hung sash windows. The main entrance is centrally placed on the first story of the southwest facet of the octagon.

Typical of the octagon mode, few interior rooms are rectilinear. (See attached floor plans.) The small, irregularly shaped front hall features a curved staircase with a handsome turned balustrade and heavy newel post. The public rooms on the first story (i.e., the drawing and dining rooms) are relatively large, pentagonal rooms with elegant marble fireplaces and plaster cove molding. The first floor also includes a small, square parlor and triangular sewing and library rooms. The second floor features a spacious, irregularly shaped front hall, three small, roughly

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Rich-Twinn Octagon House
Akron, Erie County, New York

Section 7, Description, page 2

triangular bedrooms, two slightly larger, also asymmetrical (but four-sided) bedrooms and one large, almost square bedrooms. A steep staircase provides access to the cupola, much of which is occupied by a massive, brick chimney. The basement contains the kitchen and a variety of small and irregularly shaped service rooms.

Severely neglected during the third quarter of the twentieth century, the dilapidated house was acquired by the Newstead Historical Society in 1981. Extensive historical photodocumentation and related records as well as numerous extant fragments of a variety of the building's original features enabled the Society to faithfully restore the dwelling to its original grandeur. In summary, the following original components were virtually intact in 1981 and needed little, if any, renovation: the room configurations, most of the heavy timber framing, the flush-board siding on the exterior of the first story, the entablature and bracketed cornice above the second story, most door and window trim and all marble fireplaces on the interior of the first story and all three interior staircases (from the basement to the first story, from the first story to the second story and from the second story to the cupola). The stones comprising the foundation are original, but were mostly repointed (and reparged). All other elements of the building were meticulously restored, replaced or recreated according to the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation: the clapboard siding on the second story, all exterior windows and window trim, all components of the exterior stairs and verandah, the cedar shake roof, everything but the framing and the bracketed cornice of the cupola, the plaster cornices and wooden baseboards on the interior of the first story and all interior woodwork on the second story. Most of the restoration of the exterior (with the exception of the shutters) has been completed; the renovations of the interiors of both the basement and first story are also virtually completed; the restoration of the second-story interior is in progress. The building serves as a house museum run by the Newstead Historical Society and is open to the public on a regular basis.

There are no outbuildings located on the property.

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark an "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- [] A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
[] B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
[X] C Property that embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
[] D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in pre-history or history.

Criteria Considerations: NA

- [] A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
[] B removed from its original location.
[] C a birthplace or grave.
[] D a cemetery.
[] E a reconstructed building, object or structure.
[] F a commemorative property.
[] G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

See attached continuation sheets.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See attached continuation sheets

Previous documentation on file (NPS): Primary location of additional data:

- [] preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
[] previously listed in the National Register
[] previously determined eligible by the National Register
[] designated a National Historic Landmark
[] recorded by Historic American Building Survey #
[] recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #
[X] State historic preservation office
[] Other State agency
[] Federal agency
[] Local government
[] University
[] Other
Name of repository: Division for Historic Preservation

Area of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Blank lines for entering area of significance categories.

Architecture

Period of Significance

1849

Significant Dates

1849

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above.)

na

Cultural Affiliation

na

Architect/Builder

unknown

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Rich-Twinn Octagon House
Akron, Erie County, New York

Section 8, Significance, page 1

Statement of Significance

The Rich-Twinn Octagon House, built in 1849, is architecturally significant as a rare and extremely early surviving example of the octagon mode in Western New York. It is the only example of its type in Erie County; the octagon, popularized by Orson S. Fowler during the mid nineteenth century, is more commonly found in the Hudson Valley, Mohawk Valley and Central regions of the state. Recently restored by the Newstead Historical Society and operated as a house museum, the house is one of the most distinguished examples of nineteenth century, residential architecture in Akron. The dwelling was built by Charles B. Rich, one of Akron's foremost nineteenth century citizens.

The house embodies many of the innovative architectural concepts promulgated by Fowler in 1848 with the first publication of The Octagon House: A Home For All. Fowler promoted the eight-sided building type, with its economy of materials, functional interior divisions, superior ventilation and ample fenestration, as the perfect house for the progressive, working-class family. The octagon mode was particularly popular in New York State (particularly in the Hudson and Mohawk Valleys and the Central Region of the state); Fowler's own magnificent octagon in Fishkill (Dutchess County) overlooking the Hudson River became the inspiration for many other, albeit more modest, renditions of the type.

Fowler's octagon in Fishkill is reputed to have been the direct inspiration of Charles B. Rich's octagon. Rich, a locally prominent citizen of Akron, was a New York Indian agent and grain merchant. Late in the 1840s he married for the fourth time and with his bride took a packet boat trip on the Erie Canal to New York City; the Rich's were said to have admired an octagon (presumably Fowler's) in the Hudson Valley and, upon their return to Akron, proceeded to erect a similar type of residence. Completed in 1849, the Rich's octagon is a remarkably early example of the trend; most octagons in New York State date from the 1850s. Characteristic of many houses built during the late 1840s, the Rich house displays a variety of features associated with the Greek Revival style, which was popular at mid-century in Western New York. The house is particularly noteworthy for its

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Rich-Twinn Octagon House
Akron, Erie County, New York

Section 8, Significance, page 2

extremely early employment of a variety of Italianate style elements; the Italianate style did not become widespread in Western New York until the 1860s, making the Rich house a remarkably early example of the type and period.

Rich occupied the house until 1870 when it was purchased by Charles A. Clark, the superintendent of the Akron Cement Works. Uriah Cummings, another cement manufacturer, rented the house from 1879 to 1882. After 1882 the house was owned by William Jillings. After Jillings's death, his widow lived there until 1938 at which time it was purchased by Clark J. Twinn, a relative of the second owner (Charles A. Clark). Mr. Twinn served at one time as assistant United States Attorney for the territory of Alaska. Twinn's widow occupied the house after his death; it was acquired by the Newstead Historical Society in 1981 and meticulously restored according to the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation. The house is proposed for listing under its current, popular name, the Rich-Twinn Octagon House, rather than its historic name, the Charles B. Rich House.

The restoration program is nearly complete; the house is once again one of the most distinguished architectural landmarks in the village. Prominently sited on its spacious corner lot, the house remains an imposing reflection of Akron's nineteenth century prosperity.

OMB No. 1024-0018, NPS Form

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Rich-Twinn Octagon House
Akron, Erie County, New York

Section 8, Significance, page 3

Major Bibliographical References

Akron, New York. Newstead Historical Society. Research files.

Albany, New York. Division for Historic Preservation. Research files.

Rich-Twinn Octagon House, Akron, Erie County

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property approx. 1/4 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

A 1|7| 7|0|4|0|6|0| 4|7|6|6|0|9|0|

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary coincides with legal lot lines of the nominated parcel as delineated on the attached county tax map (047.11-2-36).

Boundary Justification

The boundary was drawn to encompass the fullest extent of land historically and presently associated with the nominated armory which, in this case, coincides with the full parcel on which the building is sited.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Nancy L. Todd, Program Analyst
organization NYSHPO, Division for Historic Preservation date December 1994
street & number Peebles Island, PO Box 189 telephone 518-237-8643
city or town Waterford state NY zip code 12188-0189

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

- A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

(check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items) _____

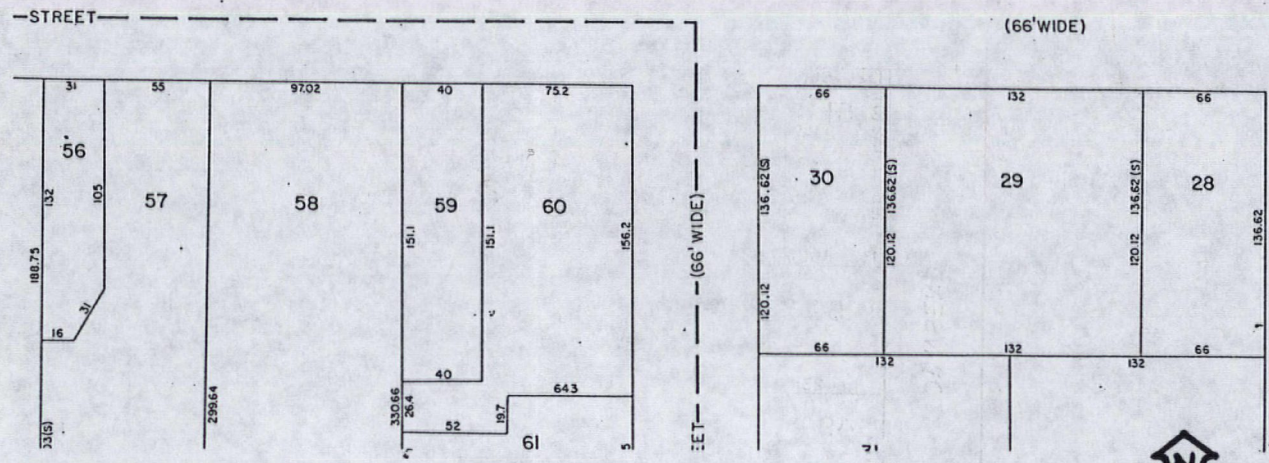
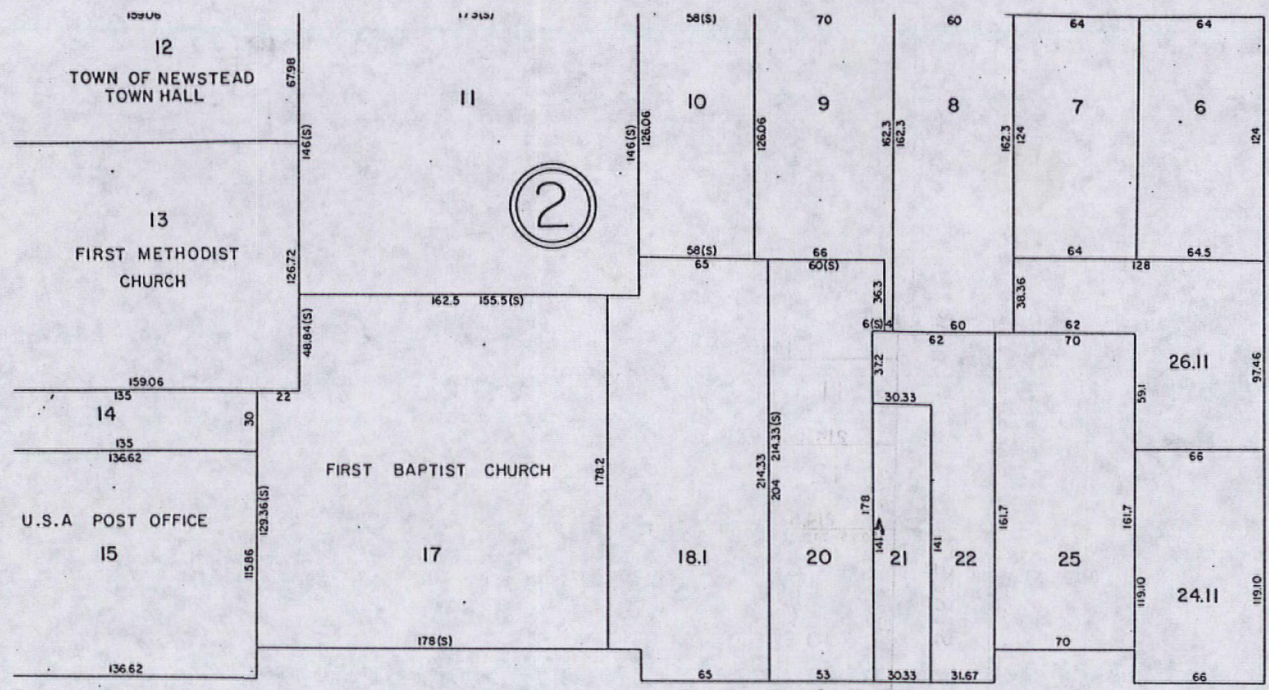
Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name _____
street & number _____
city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Octagon House Site
 - AKRON, N. Y.



Rich Twinn Octagon House
 Akron, Erie Co.
 Tax map 047.11-2-36



DRIVE - (66' WIDE)

PARKVIEW DRIVE

2	7
3	6
4	5

36

37	38	39	40	41	44	45
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STREET

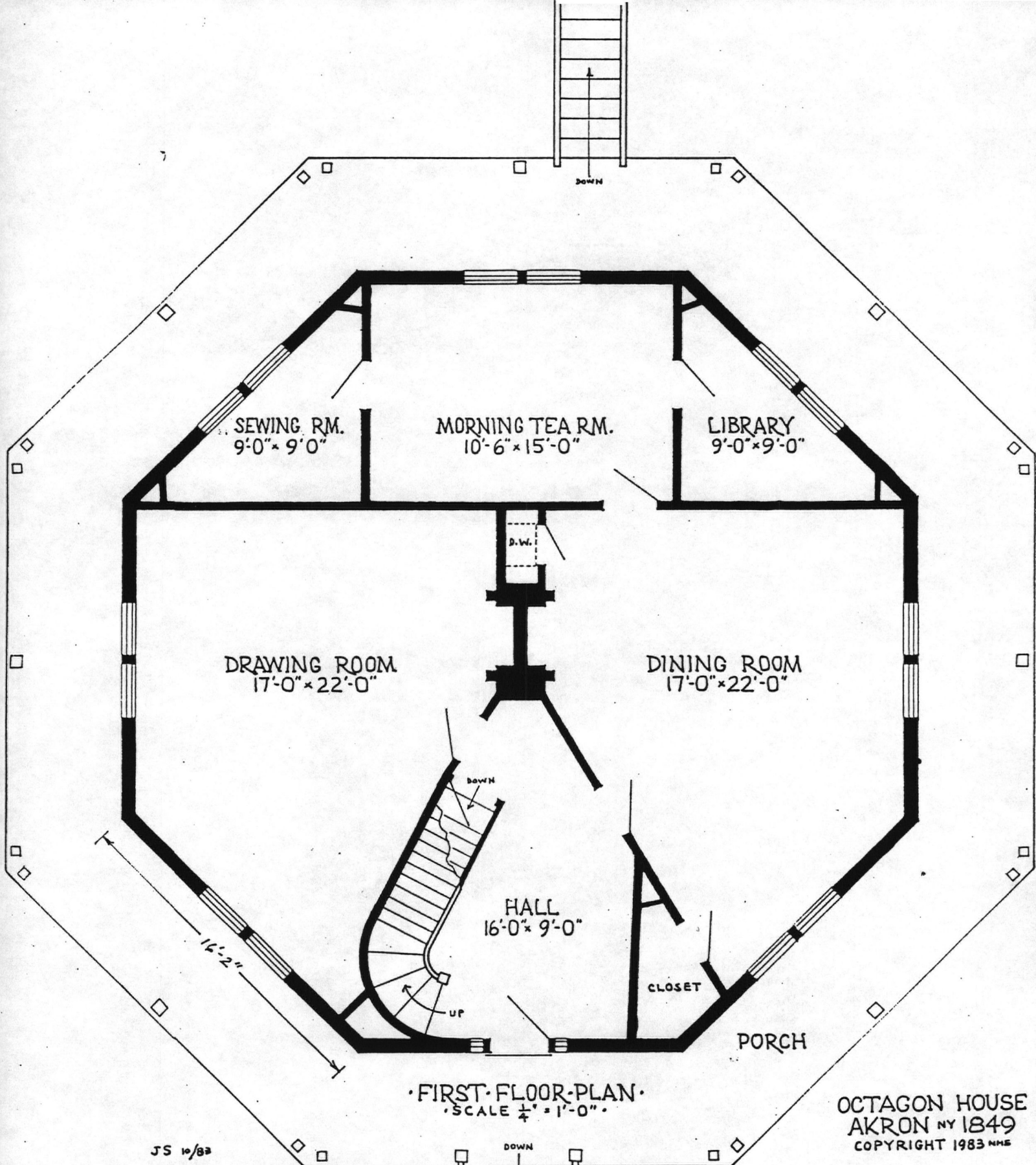
TOWNSEND STREET

11	12	13
35	34	33

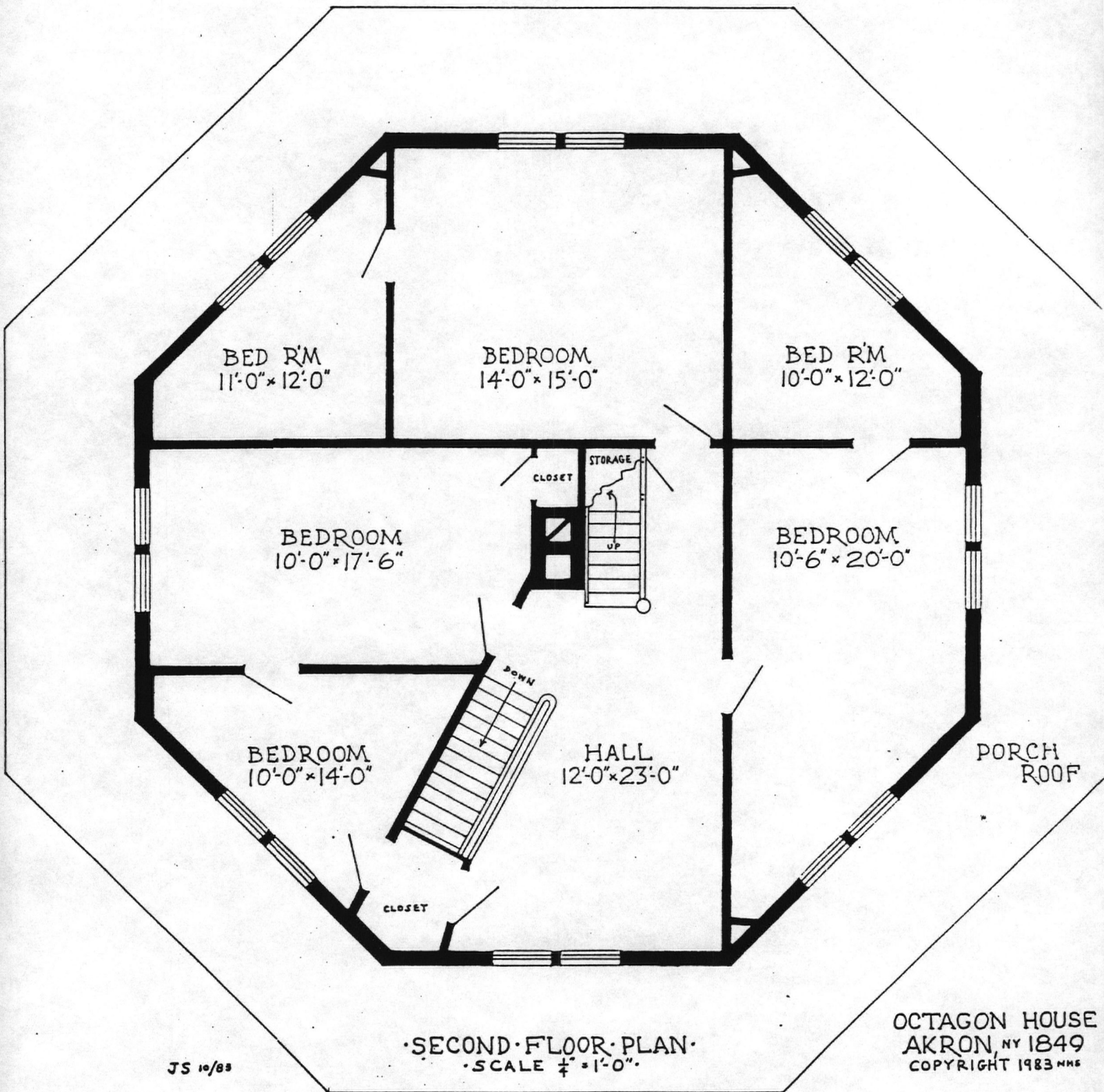
51	52
50	49
48	47

EXCHANGE STREET (66' WIDE)

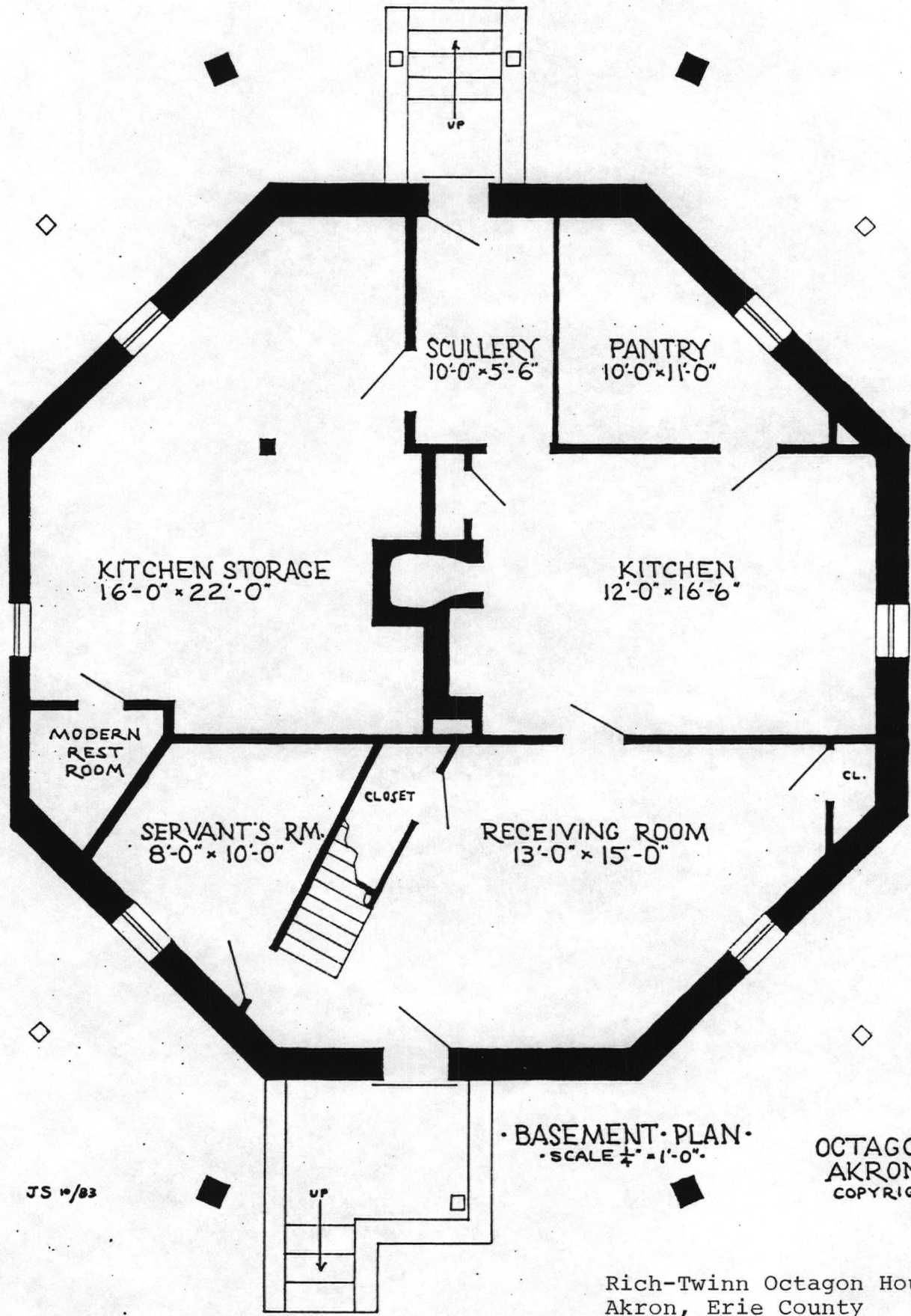
EAST



Rich-Twinn Octagon House
Akron, Erie County



Rich-Twinn Octagon House
Akron, Erie County



KITCHEN STORAGE
16'-0" x 22'-0"

SCULLERY
10'-0" x 5'-6"

PANTRY
10'-0" x 11'-0"

KITCHEN
12'-0" x 16'-6"

MODERN
REST
ROOM

SERVANT'S RM.
8'-0" x 10'-0"

CLOSET

RECEIVING ROOM
13'-0" x 15'-0"

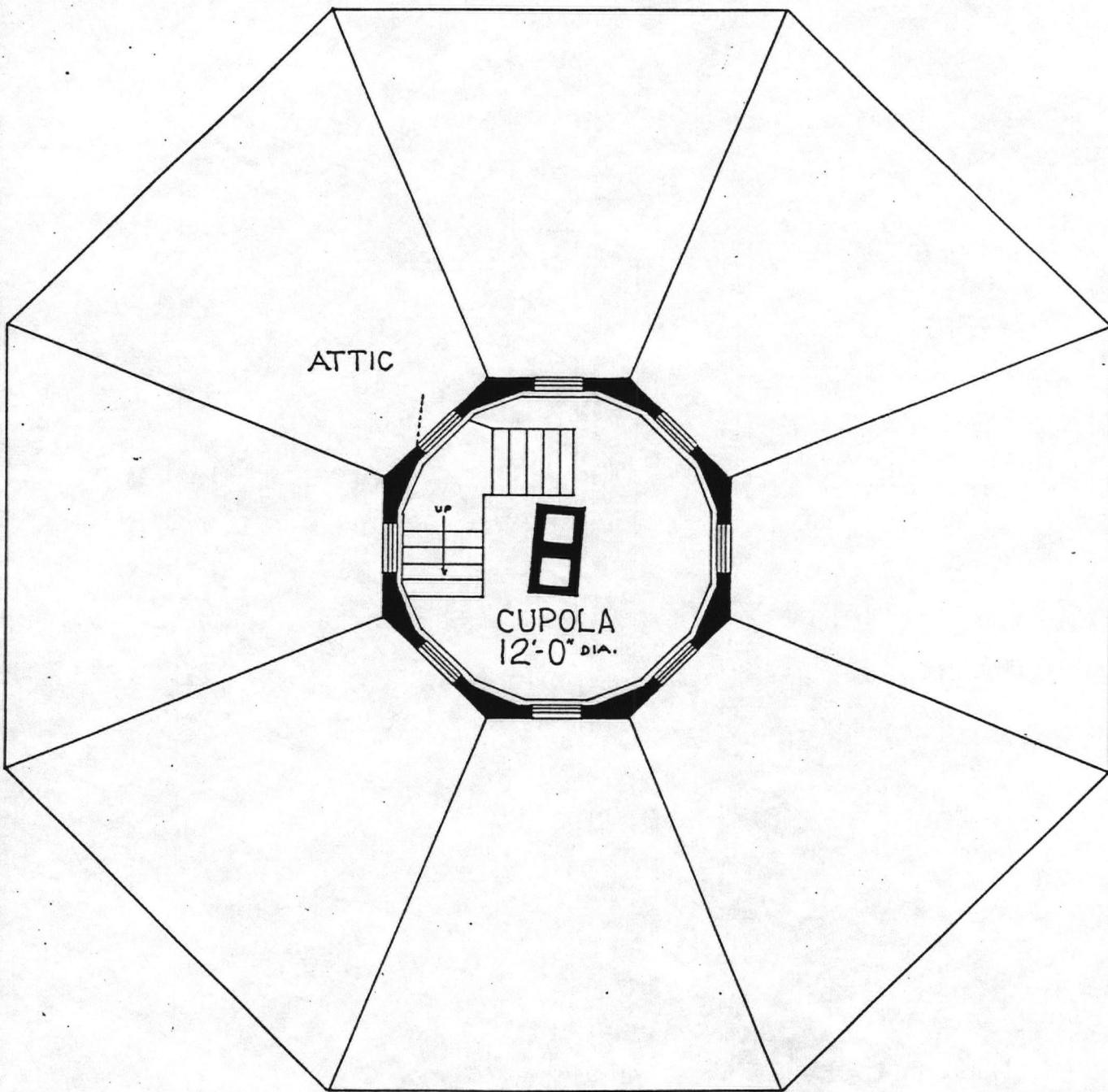
CL.

• BASEMENT PLAN •
• SCALE 1/4" = 1'-0" •

OCTAGON HOUSE
AKRON NY 1849
COPYRIGHT 1983 NMS

JS 10/83

Rich-Twinn Octagon House
Akron, Erie County



ATTIC

CUPOLA
12'-0" DIA.

• CUPOLA PLAN •
• SCALE $\frac{1}{4}'' = 1'-0''$ •

OCTAGON HOUSE
AKRON, NY 1849
COPYRIGHT 1983 NMS

JS 10/83

Rich-Twinn Octagon House
Akron, Erie County

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Rich--Twinn Octagon House

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: NEW YORK, Erie

DATE RECEIVED: 1/10/95 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 1/25/95
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 2/10/95 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 2/24/95
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 95000050

NOMINATOR: STATE

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 2/10/95 DATE

Entered in the
National Register

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

RECOM. /CRITERIA _____
REVIEWER _____
DISCIPLINE _____
DATE _____

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

CLASSIFICATION

count resource type

STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

FUNCTION

historic current

DESCRIPTION

architectural classification
 materials
 descriptive text

SIGNIFICANCE

Period Areas of Significance--Check and justify below

Specific dates Builder/Architect
Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

summary paragraph
 completeness
 clarity
 applicable criteria
 justification of areas checked
 relating significance to the resource
 context
 relationship of integrity to significance
 justification of exception
 other

BIBLIOGRAPHY

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

acreage verbal boundary description
 UTM's boundary justification

ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTATION/PRESENTATION

sketch maps USGS maps photographs presentation

OTHER COMMENTS

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to

_____ Phone _____

Signed _____ Date _____



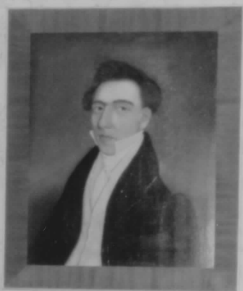
RICH-TWINN OCTAGON HOUSE
EST. 1849

Rich. Twinn Octagon House
Akron, Erie Co.

Photo: N Todd, 1994

neg: OPRHP

view: front (southwest) facade



Rich-Twinn Octagon House
Akron, Erie Co.

Photo: N. Todd, 1994

neg: OPRHP

View: marble mantel
in parlor



Rich-Twinn octagon House

Akron, Erie Co.

Photo: N. Todd 1994

Neg: OPRHP

View: main staircase



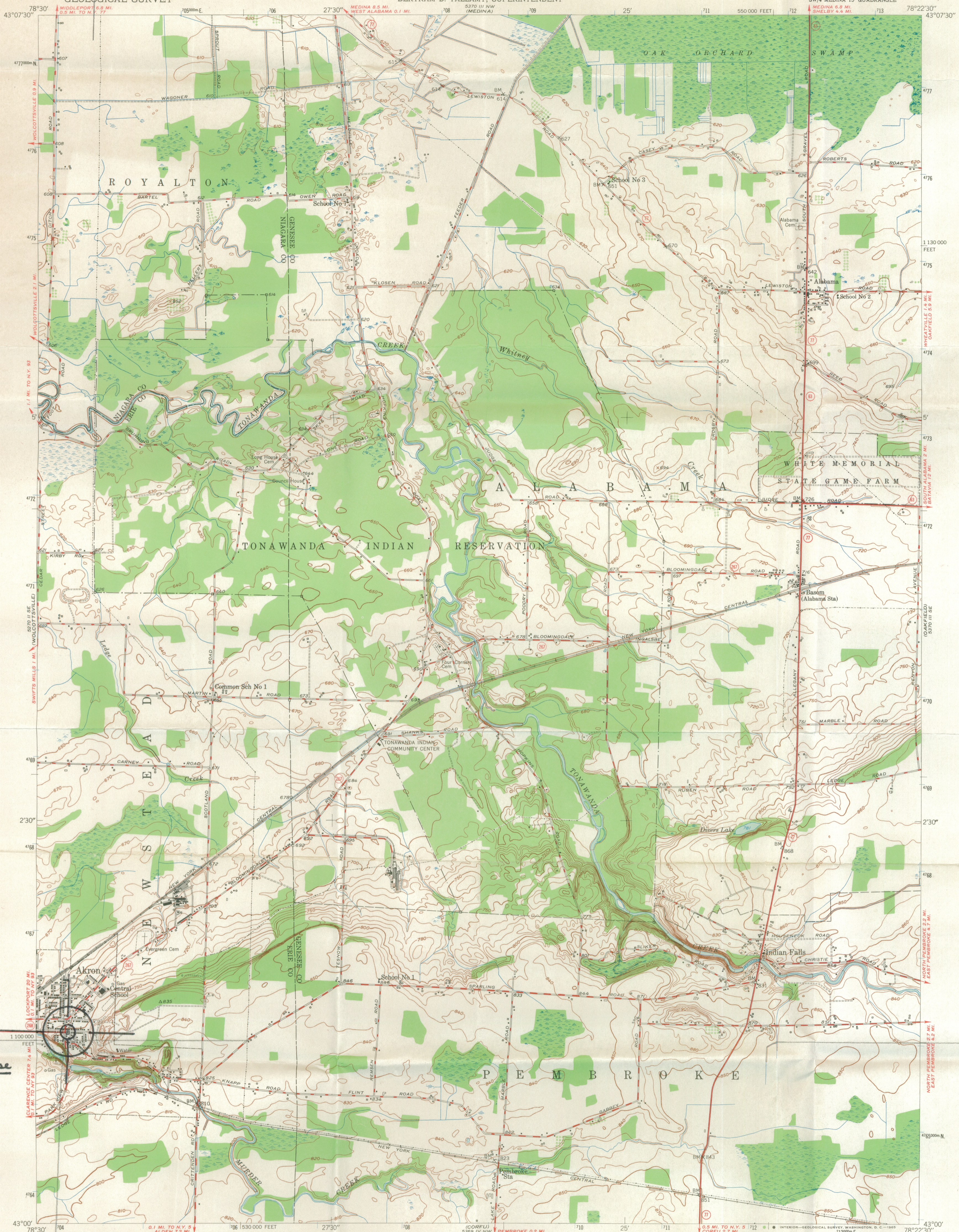
Rich-Twinn Octagon House

Akron, Erie Co.

Photo: N. Todd, 1994

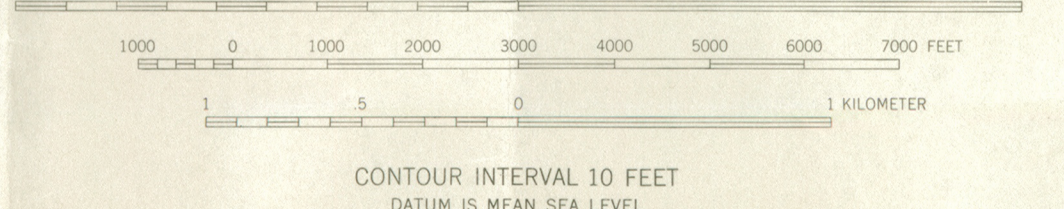
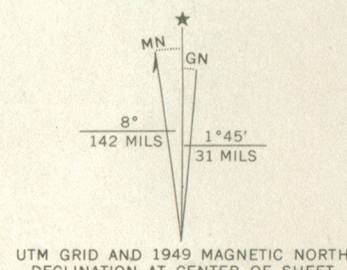
Neg: OPRHP

View: marble mantel
in dining room



Rich Twinn
Octagon House
Akron
Erie County
Zone 18
E: 704060
N: 4766090
Akron Quad

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and USED
Culture and drainage in part compiled by Corps of Engineers,
Dept. of the Army, from aerial photographs taken 1942
Topography by plane-table methods 1949
Polyconic projection, 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on New York coordinate system,
west zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 17, shown in blue



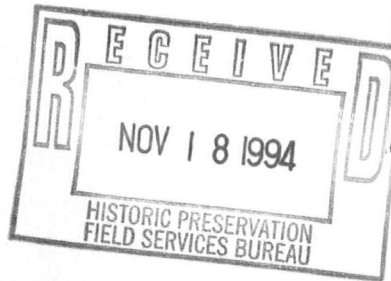
ROAD CLASSIFICATION
HARD-SURFACE ALL WEATHER ROADS DRY WEATHER ROADS
Heavy-duty **2 LANE 6 LANE** Improved dirt
Medium-duty **1 LANE 6 LANE** Unimproved dirt
Loose-surface, graded, or narrow hard-surface
U. S. Route State Route

AKRON, N. Y.
SW/4 MEDINA 15 QUADRANGLE
N4300-W7822.5/7.5
1949
AMS 5370 III SW-SERIES V821

RECEIVED 413

JAN 10 1995

INTERAGENCY RESOURCES DIVISION
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE



98 East Avenue
Akron, New York 14001
November 14, 1994

Nancy Todd
Historic Preservation Field Services Bureau
NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation
Peebles Island P.O. Box 189
Waterford, New York 12188-0189

Dear Nancy Todd:

As Historian of both the Town of Newstead as well as the Village of Akron therein, I wish to support the nomination of the Rich-Twinn Octagon House (1849) to the National and State Registration of Historic Places.

The Octagon has been restored on its original site which is a focal point at the top of Main Street. Authenticity has been assured even to removing many coats of paint both externally and internally to get down to the original colors. The house is furnished with correct period items, and guided tours with knowledgeable personnel in period costume are advertised and regularly scheduled.

Your consideration of this stately and unique structure will be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John I. Eckerson".

John I. Eckerson
Historian

JIE:cdb



County of Erie

DENNIS T. GORSKI
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND PLANNING

RECEIVED 413

JAN 10 1995

INTERAGENCY RESOURCES DIVISION
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

RICHARD M. TOBE
COMMISSIONER

November 21, 1994

Mr. David S. Gillespie, Director
Historic Preservation Field Services Bureau
New York State Office of Parks,
Recreation and Historic Preservation
Peebles Island
P.O. Box 189
Waterford, NY 12188-0189

Dear Mr. Gillespie:

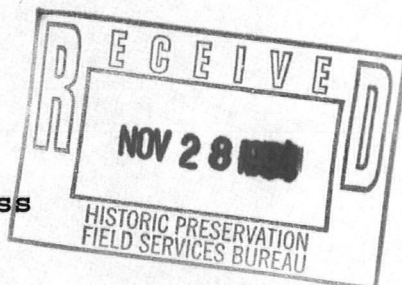
I am very pleased to learn that the Rich-Twinn Octagon House, located at 145 Main Street, Akron, NY is being considered for inclusion on the National and State Registers of Historic Places.

Erie County is truly fortunate to have such an outstanding example of this type of architecture, and in fact, it is the only octagon house in Erie County. The Rich-Twinn House which was built in 1849 embodies the recommendations of Orson Fowler, the promoter of eight-sided buildings. This building has been recognized by the Erie County Preservation Board for its architectural and historical significance. I am sure you are aware, the efforts of the Akron Historical Society have made the restoration of the Rich-Twinn Octagon House possible.

On behalf of Erie County, I support this nomination for inclusion of the Rich-Twinn Octagon House on the National and State Registers of Historic Places.

Very truly yours,

RICHARD M. TOBE
Commissioner



RMT:ss