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The Church of Christ, organized April 6, 1830 by Joseph Smith, Junior and a small number of his friends in Seneca County, New York, moved its center of activity to Kirtland, Ohio in early 1831. (In 1834 this group adopted the name Church of the Latter Day Saints and in 1838 expanded that to Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints). In early Latter Day Saintism religious, economic and social life were interwoven. Thus, when they decided to build a meetinghouse, while primarily for religious observances, it would also be the center of community life.

The "Saints" believed that their Prophet Joseph Smith received revelations from God directing their activities. When in the Spring of 1833 he commanded them to build a "House of the Lord," he was revealing the will of God, and the house was to be built according to directions given him from heaven. The cornerstone was laid July 24, 1833 and the building known as the "House of the Lord" was dedicated March 27, 1836.

Joseph Smith, Jr. served as foreman of both the temple construction and the stone quarry. Jacob Bump, formerly from New York state, was the master builder. Sidney Rigdon, famed orator for the Disciples of Christ in the Western Reserve and whose conversion to "Mormonism" was influential in Smith's decision to move his followers from New York to Kirtland, Ohio, was a mason on the project. Brigham Young, who was to gain fame as the great colonizer of the Salt Lake Valley, worked as either glazier or plasterer.

The "House of the Lord," in addition to being the center of religious observances, was used as a school for the children, a continuing education center for the lay ministry (most of the adult males), and community lecture hall, with traveling speakers discussing perhaps temperance, abolition, etc.

The majority of the Latter Day Saints left Kirtland in 1837-38. After the death of Joseph Smith, Jr., in 1844 his church split into many factions. In 1880 legal title to the land on which Kirtland Temple is located was cleared in the name of the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints.

The Kirtland Temple is a rare example of beauty and craftsmanship in design and construction seldom witnessed on the frontier, where more pressing demands on time and resources usually precluded such structures. Its beauty and value have been recognized by the Ohio Historical Society, the Architects Society of Ohio, and it was included in the Historic American Buildings Survey of the Department of the Interior. Mrs. Peter S. Hitchcock in The Historical Society Quarterly (Lake County, Ohio) of November 1965 wrote, "The Kirtland Temple stands as a monument to Joseph Smith and to those faithful souls who believed his visions and revelations came from on high. It appears a miracle the temple was constructed and a second miracle it was not harmed in all the years since it was built."

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Architectural Forum, The, March 1936, pp. 177-183.

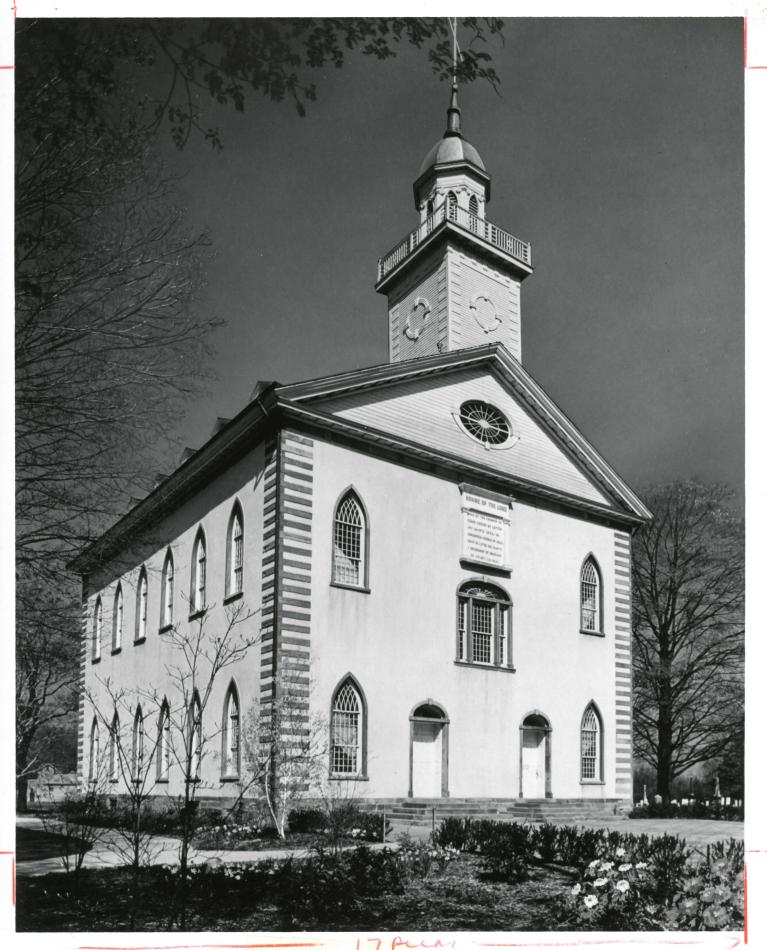
Architecture, Vol. 50, No. 2, August 1924, pp. 264-269.

Echoes (Ohio Historical Society) Vol. 5, No. 8, August 1966, p. 3.

Historical Society Quarterly, The, Lake County, Ohio, Vol. 7, No. 4,

November 1965.

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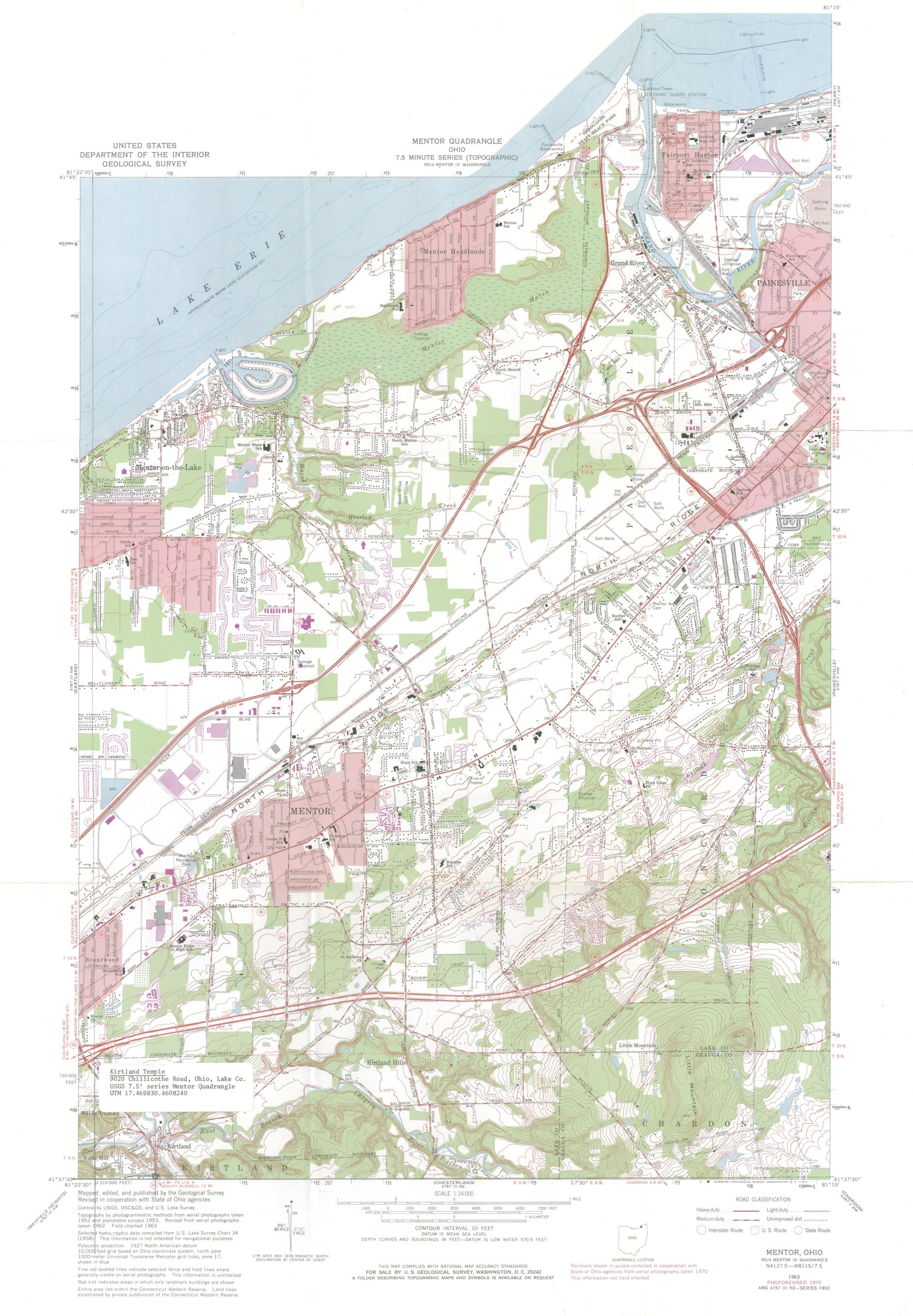
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PRODUCED BY
THE AUDIO VISUAL DEPT,
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INDEPENDENCE, MO.

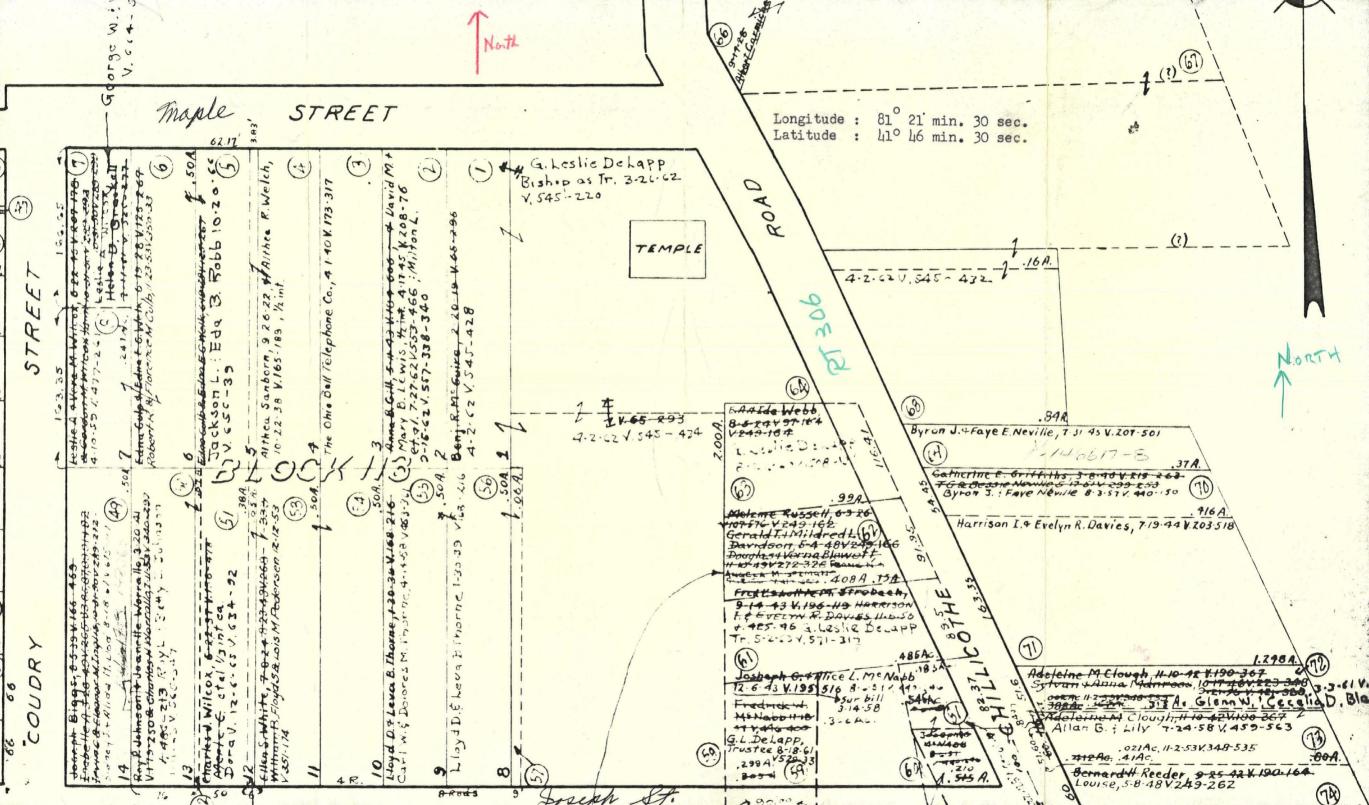
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THE AUDIO VISUAL DEPT.
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11/2 1 s mr. mullin wheated he would answer this letter which be hand delivered.

REORGANIZED CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER DAY SAINTS

THE COUNCIL OF TWELVE APOSTLES

November 18, 1968

Dr. William J. Murtagh, Keeper of the National Register, National Park Service Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation 801 Nineteenth Street, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20006

Dear Dr. Murtagh:

Our mutual friend, Milton Perry, Museum Curator of the Harry S. Truman Library, has encouraged me to write to you. What prompts the letter? Kirtland Temple. This is the only temple still standing which was built under the leadership of Joseph Smith, the controversial American prophet of the early Nineteenth Century.

Kirtland Temple has remained the concern of the heirs of Joseph Smith, and of the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, with headquarters in Independence, Missouri. It has been used variously as a house of worship and education through the years since its dedication in 1836. It is in excellent condition and is open to the public. From 20,000 to 30,000 guests tour the building each year, and plans are under way to provide a visitors' center which will encourage and accommodate many more thousands to come each year.

The attached folder will give you more specific information regarding the Temple.

We are interested in discovering the procedure necessary to have Kirtland Temple declared a national landmark.

Sincerely yours,

Reed M. Holmes,

Commissioner of Communications

Leed Do Holmes

RMH/fb Enclosure



THE OHIO HISTORICAL SOCIETY, COLUMBUS, OHIO 43210

May 15, 1969

Mr. William J. Murtagh, Keeper National Register Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation National Park Service 801 - 19th Street, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20006

Dear Bill:

I am submitting herewith an application to nominate the Kirtland Temple, Kirtland, Ohio for the National Register.

This is to certify that the Ohio Historic Site Preservation Advisory Board has approved the nomination, as has its history advisor, Mr. William G. Keener.

Sincerely,

Daniel R. Porter

Director

DRP/eg



THE OHIO HISTORICAL SOCIETY, COLUMBUS, OHIO 43210

May 19, 1969

Mr. William J. Murtagh, Keeper National Register Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation National Park Service 801 - 19th Street, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20006

Dear Bill:

Submitted herewith is a <u>revised</u> application for the nomination of the Kirtland Temple, Kirtland, Ohio, to the National Register. An error in the longitude and latitude of the previous application prompts this re-submittal.

Regards,

Daniel R. Porter

Director

DRP/eg

Enc.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

801 19TH STREET, N. W. WASHINGTON, D. C. 20006

H30-HR

Mr. Daniel R. Porter Director The Ohio Historical Society Columbus, Ohio 43210

Dear Mr. Porter:

mapregnested enclosed

This is to acknowledge receipt of the revised nomination form of the Kirtland Temple in the Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation on May 21, 1969. In addition to the one map which was included with the first nomination, we need another one which shows more specifically the relation of the Temple to the town of Kirtland. Receipt of this additional map will provide us the information necessary to protect the property and will make it possible to complete the processing of your nomination. You will receive a Xerox copy of the certified entry as notice when it has been placed in the National Register.

Sincerely yours,

Jerry L. Rogers

Assistant Keeper of the

National Register

H30-HR

MAY 2 8 1868

MAY 2 3 1969

Mr. Daniel R. Porter Director The Ohio Historical Society Columbus, Ohio 43210

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Sincerely yours,

JERRY L. ROGERS

Jerry L. Rogers Assistant Keeper of the National Register

EC:

JEdwards: je

H30-HR

Mr. Deniel R. Forter Director The Ohio Historical Society Columbus, Ohio 43210

Dear Mr. Porter:

We wish to inform you that the property indicated on the enclosed forms has been added to the National Register of Historic Places.

Sincerely yours,

William J. Murtagh

William J. Murtagh Keeper of the National Register

Enclosure

cc:

Regional Director, Northeast Region-w/c encl.

T, Butterfield-w/c encl.

Kirtland Temple

BASIC FILE RETAINED IN HR

KIRTLAND TEMPLE Resource Name) LAKE	69000145 (Reference Number[s]) OHH 0	(Date form completed) (Date form completed) (Completed by
County)	(State)	(Completed by)
TATUS: 1. MISSING 2. REMOVED/ 3. NHL 1 4. TR 5. MRA _ DEMOLISHED	6. OVER 7. NPS SIZED UNDOCUMENTED	8. DOE 9. RESTRICTE OWNER OBJECTION
XPLANATION:		
Missing Status: Entire Folder (); Nomination (); Map(s) (); Photo Available on: Microfiche (); Optical Disk ()	os ()	
2. (Cause for removal)		/ / /(Date Removed)
3. (NHL Name, if different than NRHP Name)		12 / 08 / 1976 (Date Designated)
4. (If multi-state/county TR, state/county where filed and location)		
(TR or MRA Name)		
5. (If multi-state/county MRA, state/county where filed and location)		
6. (Location of oversize file)		
7. (Current source of partial documentation)		(Target Date)
COMMENTS: (Where found, or source of replacement)		/ (Date Found/Replaced)
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NATIONAL PARK SERVICE National Register of Historic Locator Card	c Places	WASO 21 JAN. 1986