

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	Ohio
COUNTY:	Scioto
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE	NOV 28 1973

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
First Presbyterian Church

AND/OR HISTORIC:

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
221 Court Street

CITY OR TOWN:  
Portsmouth

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: 6

STATE: Ohio CODE: 039 COUNTY: Scioto CODE: 145

William H. Harsha

**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"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input 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) <u>Retired Senior Volunteer Program</u>			

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
First Presbyterian Church

STREET AND NUMBER:  
221 Court Street

CITY OR TOWN:  
Portsmouth

STATE: Ohio CODE: 039

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
Scioto County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:  
615 Sixth Street

CITY OR TOWN:  
Portsmouth

STATE: Ohio CODE: 039

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:

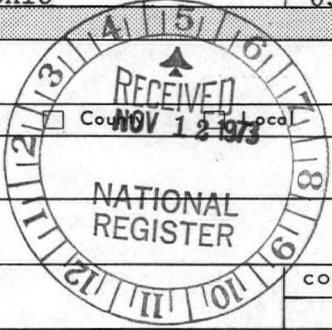
DATE OF SURVEY:  Federal  State

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE:



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:	Ohio
COUNTY:	Scioto
ENTRY NUMBER	NOV 28 1973
DATE	

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" 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

Exterior: The First Presbyterian Church is a Greek Revival style building, built 1849-1851 and measuring approximately 57 by 99 feet. It has a smooth dressed local sandstone foundation and stone sills and lintels. There is a denticulated cornice and an octagonal wooden cupola mounted on an inset wood square base and topped by a finial. The windows in the cupola are round arched and louvered. Brick pilasters flank the second floor windows. The rectangular second floor windows are tall and narrow with Latin crosses supporting the divisions of leaded stained glass.

In 1865 five of the original six chimneys were removed, the building was lengthened by about 16 feet, and the cupola, which had been blown off in 1860, was replaced on the gable roof. In 1910 a rectangular Sunday School building, in the same style as the main building, was added to the north-west corner. The original red and white rectangular panes of glass in the second floor windows were replaced with stylized symbolic scenes. The door on the north side has been moved from the front to the back of the lower hall, and the first floor south windows have been altered.

Interior: Little important change has been made in the interior. The lower floor consists of a vestibule that runs the width of the church and has north and south stairways with severely simple, handmade balustrades. The two doors at the west side of the vestibule lead down three steps to a short hall, flanked by classrooms of equal size, to the hall which fills the rest of the original building. Both halls are paneled in wood but have been both painted and papered previously. The original wood floors were replaced by cement after the 1937 flood and the wood pillars by steel. A cellar under the hall was filled in. The second floor consists of a narthex the size of the vestibule below, a balcony above it, and the sanctuary. The original cloth-covered entry doors to the sanctuary have always been painted and now show the warping of the 1937 flood. The pews are the original solid walnut ones with their original cushions and pew rent numbers. The only major change came when the church purchased a J.W. Steere and Co. tracker organ in 1892 for its 75th anniversary. For the organ a walnut choir loft was built and the pulpit moved forward and its corners rounded.

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) **1849-1851**

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi- | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry    | losophy   | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention   | <input type="checkbox"/> Science                  | _____                                    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape   | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture                | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | Architecture                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human-            | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature  | itarian   | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Military    | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater                  | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            | <input type="checkbox"/> Music       | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation           | _____                                    |

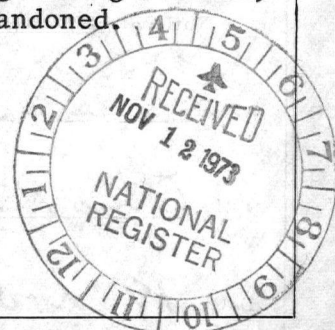
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The First Presbyterian Church is a notable example of classical revival architecture remarkable for its impressive size and relatively unchanged structure. The sanctuary will seat more than 500, and musicians praise it as having the finest acoustics in the city. Begun in 1849 and built by a local contractor under the supervision of five church members, the building was dedicated for use April 6, 1851, and so became the first church dedicated for use and still in use in the city. The congregation, organized May 24, 1817, also built the first church building in Portsmouth in 1823. The bell and clock from that church were moved to the present building, but in 1852 the church purchased a new large brass bell, toned letter "F", designed by G.W. Coffin & Co. and cast by the Buckeye Foundry in Cincinnati. Details of the sanctuary were not fully completed until 1865.

The solid construction of the building enabled it to withstand the floods of 1883, 1884, 1907, 1913 when the water reached nearly to the second floor, and 1937 when water covered the second floor, making it necessary to refinish the floor and pews though their solid walnut construction was not affected.

In 1860 a tornado ripped the cupola off but deposited the bell and clock safely on the east side of the street. The bell was set on heavy wooden beams in the church yard and rung during the Civil War for war aid functions and for services. The clock was put on the south wall of the sanctuary.

An active church body, the members have done important work in missions, Boy Scouts, and in founding other churches. The first Senior Citizens' Center was begun in 1970 and the church now houses the Retired Senior Volunteer Program. The Presbyterians are now considering a merger which, if carried out, will cause the present building to be abandoned.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Schwartz, Mary Elizabeth. Minutes of the Session of First Presbyterian Church. 1817-1973.

\_\_\_\_\_. History of the First United Presbyterian Church, 150th Anniversary, 1817-1967. Privately printed.

Scioto County Records

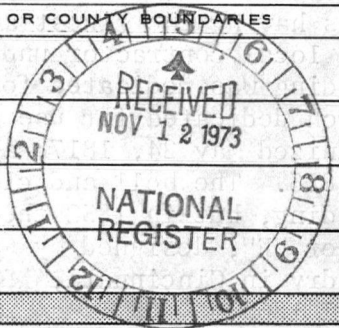
**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES				
CORNER	LATITUDE		LONGITUDE		LATITUDE		LONGITUDE		
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"	38 °	43 '	56 "
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"	83 °	00 '	05 "
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"			
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **less than 1**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE: Mary Elizabeth Schwartz, elder

ORGANIZATION: First Presbyterian Church DATE: July 11, 1973

STREET AND NUMBER: 2813 Gilbert Avenue

CITY OR TOWN: Portsmouth 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: Daniel B. [Signature]

Title: Ohio Historic Preserv. Off.

Date: 19 Nov. 1973

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

(Acting) Robert M. [Signature]  
Associate Director, Professional Services

Date: 11/28/73

ATTEST: [Signature]  
Keeper of The National Register

Date: 11.26.73

PROPERTY First Presbyterian Church STATE Ohio  
 WORKING NUMBER 11.12.73.3936  
 TECH REVIEW PHOTOS 3  
 MAPS \_\_\_\_\_

Ref # 73001532  
 Scioto

CONTROL REVIEW Mr Porter did not sign  
 HISTORIAN reference

cm  
 11.12.  
 73

HISTORIAN Accept  
11-13-73  
C.S.

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

ARCHEOLOGIST

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF Form not as impressive as one  
might wish.

Accept  
KHC  
11/13/73

BRANCH CHIEF

Accept  
Call  
11/14/73

KEEPER

Wm  
11/26

National Register Write-up \_\_\_\_\_  
 Federal Register entry 1-1-74

Send-back 11.14.73  
 Re-submit 11.23.73  
 Entered NOV 28 1973

PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM WHEN THE PROPERTY IS RESUBMITTED. DATE: 11/19/78  
NAME OF PROPERTY First Presbyterian Church, Ohio

The attached National Register Inventory-Nomination form is being returned to your office for clarification of the information indicated below.

- 1. Name. \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. Location. \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. Classification. \_\_\_\_\_
- 4. Owner of Property. \_\_\_\_\_
- 5. Location of Legal Description. \_\_\_\_\_
- 6. Representation in Existing Surveys. \_\_\_\_\_
- 7. Description. \_\_\_\_\_
- 8. Statement of Significance. \_\_\_\_\_
- 9. Bibliography. \_\_\_\_\_
- 10. Geographical Data.
  - a. Longitude and Latitude Coordinates. Longitude (or Latitude) appears to be off by about \_\_\_\_\_ . Please check.
  - b. Acreage. \_\_\_\_\_
- 11. Form Prepared By. \_\_\_\_\_
- 12. Certification. Please have Mr. Porter sign & date
- Photographic Coverage. \_\_\_\_\_
- Map Coverage. \_\_\_\_\_
- Other. \_\_\_\_\_

Clarification or correction of the above items must be made prior to the initiation of our professional review. Correction of these technical errors does not necessarily insure that the nomination will then satisfy the National Register criteria in full.

Thank you for your attention to the above items checked. Thanks,  
SIGNED: Charles Atteridge

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: <b>Ohio</b>
COUNTY: <b>Scioto</b>
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
**First Presbyterian Church**

AND/OR HISTORIC:

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**221 Court Street**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Portsmouth**

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: **6**

STATE: **Ohio** CODE: **039** COUNTY: **William H. Harsha** CODE: **145**

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <b>Retired Senior Volunteer Program</b>

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
**First Presbyterian Church**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**221 Court Street**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Portsmouth**

STATE: **Ohio** CODE: **039**

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
**Scioto County Courthouse**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**615 Sixth Street**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Portsmouth**

STATE: **Ohio** CODE: **039**

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY:  Federal  State  County  Local

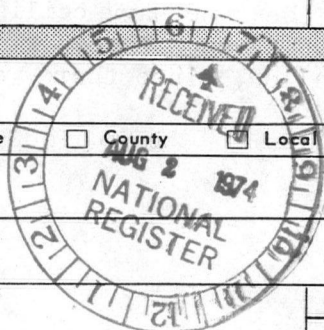
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: <b>Ohio</b>
COUNTY: <b>Scioto</b>
ENTRY NUMBER
DATE



FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" 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

Exterior: The First Presbyterian Church is a two-story Greek Revival style brick building, built 1849-1851 and measuring approximately 57 by 99 feet. It has a smooth dressed local sandstone foundation, belt course, sills and lintels. There is a denticulated cornice and pediment and an octagonal wooden cupola mounted on a square wood base, topped by a finial and weathervane. The windows in the cupola are round arched and louvered. Brick pilasters flank the second floor windows. The rectangular second floor windows are tall and narrow with Latin crosses supporting the divisions of leaded stained glass.

In 1865 five of the original six chimneys were removed, the building was lengthened by about 16 feet, and the cupola, which had been blown off in 1860, was replaced on the gable roof. In 1910 a rectangular Sunday School building, in the same style as the main building, was added to the north-west corner. The original red and white rectangular panes of glass in the second floor windows were replaced with stylized symbolic scenes. The door on the north side has been moved from the front to the back of the lower hall, and the first floor south windows have been altered.

Interior: Little major change has been made in the interior. The lower floor consists of a vestibule that runs the width of the church and has north and south stairways with severely simple, handmade balustrades. The two doors at the west side of the vestibule lead down three steps to a short hall, flanked by classrooms of equal size, to the hall which fills the rest of the original building. Both halls are paneled in wood but have been both painted and papered previously. The original wood floors were replaced by cement after the 1937 flood and the wood pillars by steel. A cellar under the hall was filled in. The second floor consists of a narthex the size of the vestibule below, a balcony above it, and the sanctuary. The original cloth-covered entry doors to the sanctuary have always been painted and now show the warping of the 1937 flood. The pews are the original solid walnut ones with their original cushions and pew rent numbers. The only major change came when the church purchased a J.W. Steere and Co. tracker organ in 1892 for its 75th anniversary. For the organ a walnut choir loft was built and the pulpit moved forward and its corners rounded. For the 100th anniversary the sanctuary was refloored in hard wood, so that total carpeting was eliminated. Lighting fixtures have been changed from oil to gas to electricity. In 1959 the 1910 educational wing was totally remodeled and made fireproof. In 1963 the sanctuary ceiling, cracked by sonic blasts, had furring strips nailed through the 4" of plaster to the joists, and tile ceiling was installed, since there was no other way to made the plaster safe.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



**8. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |                                       |  |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century            | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century  | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century |                                       |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1849-1851

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 checked="" 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

The First Presbyterian Church is a notable example of Greek Revival style architecture remarkable for its impressive size and relatively unchanged structure. The sanctuary will seat more than 500, and musicians praise it as having the finest acoustics in the city. Begun in 1849 and built by a local contractor under the supervision of five church members, the building was dedicated for use April 6, 1851, and so became the first church dedicated for use and still in use in the city. The congregation, organized May 24, 1817, also built the first church building in Portsmouth in 1823. The bell and clock from that church were moved to the present building, but in 1852 the church purchased a new large brass bell, toned letter "F", designed by G.W. Coffin & Co. and cast by the Buckeye Foundry in Cincinnati. Details of the sanctuary were not fully completed until 1865.

The solid construction of the building enabled it to withstand the floods of 1883, 1884, 1907, 1913 when the water reached nearly to the second floor, and 1937 when water covered the second floor, making it necessary to refinish the floor and pews though their solid walnut construction was not affected.

In 1860 a tornado ripped the cupola off but deposited the bell and clock safely on the east side of the street. The bell was set on heavy wooden beams in the church yard and rung during the Civil War for war aid functions and for services. The clock was put on the south wall of the sanctuary.

An active church body, the members have done important work in missions, Boy Scouts, and in founding other churches. The first Senior Citizens' Center was begun in 1970 and the church now houses the Retired Senior Volunteer Program. The Presbyterians are now considering a merger which, if carried out, will cause the present building to be abandoned.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Minutes of the Session of First Presbyterian Church, 1817-1973.

Schwartz, Mary Elizabeth. History of the First United Presbyterian Church, 150th Anniversary, 1817-1967. Privately printed.

Scioto County Records, Scioto County Court House, Portsmouth, Ohio, Recorder's Office (City Abstract of Conveyance of Deeds, Volumes Q, R, 86).

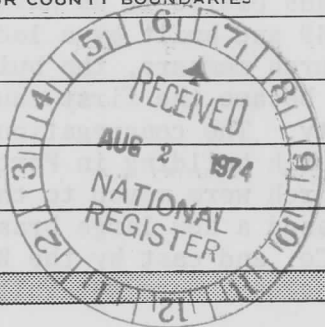
**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				OR	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	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	0	'	"	0	'	"	38	43	56
NE	0	'	"	0	'	"	83	00	05
SE	0	'	"	0	'	"			
SW	0	'	"	0	'	"			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: less than 1

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE: Mary Elizabeth Schwartz, elder

ORGANIZATION: First Presbyterian Church DATE: July 11, 1973

STREET AND NUMBER: 2813 Gilbert Avenue

CITY OR TOWN: Portsmouth 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 Daniel Q. Davis

Title Ohio Hist. Preserv. Off.

Date January 23, 1974

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 \_\_\_\_\_

HB F326060  
Zn17 N4288740

PROPERTY First Presbyterian Church STATE Ohio

WORKING NUMBER 11.12.73.3936

*All ready on Register*

TECH REVIEW  
PHOTOS 3  
MAPS 1

CONTROL REVIEW

*cm  
8.6.  
74*

HISTORIAN *only change last part #7 -*

*OK  
Accept  
W.R. Luce  
8/24/74*

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

*Accept  
HW 8/16/74*

ARCHEOLOGIST

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

BRANCH CHIEF

KEEPER

National Register Write-up \_\_\_\_\_

Send-back \_\_\_\_\_

Federal Register entry \_\_\_\_\_

Re-submit \_\_\_\_\_

Entered \_\_\_\_\_



NPS Number Nov. 28, 1973

#1

Title: First Presbyterian  
Church

Loc. Scioto Co., Ohio  
Front and North side  
of Church

*Photographer*  
**BILLY GRAHAM**  
PH. EL 3-1424  
PORTSMOUTH, OHIO

**PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER**



(2.)

NPS Number Nov. 28, 1973

Title: First Presbyterian  
Church

Loc. Scioto Co., Ohio

South side of Church

Showing part of the  
Sunday School addition of 1910



**PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER**



NPS Number Nov. 28, 1973

Title: Faist Presbyterian  
Church

# 3

Loc. Scioto Co., Ohio

Rear and north side.

Wing at right is north  
side of the 1910 Sunday School Addition



PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY MAP FORM**

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

**1. NAME**

COMMON	AND/OR HISTORIC	NUMERIC CODE (Assigned by NPS)
First Presbyterian Church		NOV 28 1973

**2. LOCATION**

STATE	COUNTY	TOWN
Ohio	Scioto	Portsmouth

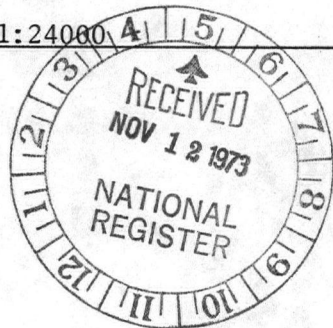
STREET AND NUMBER

221 Court Street

**3. MAP REFERENCE**

SOURCE	DATE	SCALE
U.S.G.S. 7-1/2' Series Friendship Quadrangle	1968	1:24000

REQUIREMENTS: PROPERTY BOUNDARIES, WHERE REQUIRED, AND NORTH ARROW.



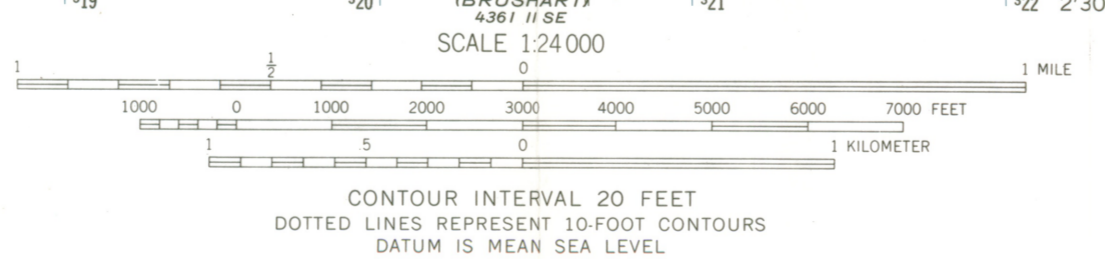


HS  
2m17  
2326060  
04285740

First Presbyterian Church  
Lat. 38° 43' 56"  
Long. 83° 00' 05"



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey in cooperation with State of Kentucky agencies. Revised in cooperation with State of Ohio agencies. Control by USGS, USC&GS, and USCE. Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1947. Field checked 1949. Revised from aerial photographs taken 1967. Field checked 1968. Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum. 10,000-foot grids based on Kentucky coordinate system, north zone, and Ohio coordinate system, south 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 un-checked. The state boundary as shown represents the approximate position of the low water line as determined from U. S. Corps of Engineers Ohio River charts, surveyed 1913, and supplementary information. Red tint indicates area in which only landmark buildings are shown. Area west of the Scioto River lies within the Virginia Military District. Area east of the Scioto River lies within Congress Lands East of the Scioto River. Land lines based on the Ohio River Base.



ROAD CLASSIFICATION  
Primary highway, all weather, hard surface  
Light-duty road, all weather, improved surface  
Unimproved road, fair or dry weather  
U. S. Route  
State Route

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON, D. C. 20242, KENTUCKY GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, LEXINGTON, KENTUCKY 40506, AND KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, FRANKFORT, KENTUCKY 40601. A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST.

FRIENDSHIP, KY.-OHIO  
NE 1/4 GARRISON 15' QUADRANGLE  
N3837.5-W8300/7.5  
1968  
AMS 4361 II NE-SERIES V853

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE OHIO

NOV 28 1973

Date Entered

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
First Presbyterian Church	Portsmouth Scioto County
Hudson Historic District	Hudson Summit County
Chillicothe's Old Residential District	Chillicothe Ross County

Also Notified

Hon. William B. Saxbe  
Hon. Robert Taft, Jr.  
Hon. William H. Harsha  
Hon. J. William Stanton

State Historic Preservation Officer  
Mr. Daniel R. Porter  
Director  
The Ohio Historical Society  
Columbus, Ohio 43211

Director, Northeast Region

PR MMOTT: p1 11.30.73

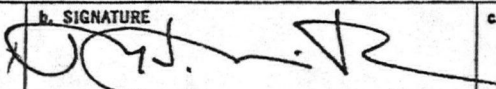
# FEDERAL ASSISTANCE

SECTION I - APPLICANT/RECIPIENT DATA

1. TYPE OF ACTION <input type="checkbox"/> PREAPPLICATION <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> APPLICATION <small>(Mark appropriate box)</small> <input type="checkbox"/> NOTIFICATION OF INTENT (Opt.) <input type="checkbox"/> REPORT OF FEDERAL ACTION	2. APPLICANT'S APPLICATION	a. NUMBER	3. STATE APPLICATION IDENTIFIER	a. NUMBER SAI #2-6-40
	b. DATE 19 77 5 13		b. DATE ASSIGNED 19 75 11 13	
4. LEGAL APPLICANT/RECIPIENT			5. FEDERAL EMPLOYER IDENTIFICATION NO. 31-4389673W	
a. Applicant Name : Ohio Historical Society b. Organization Unit : Ohio Historic Preservation Office c. Street/P.O. Box : 1982 Velma Avenue d. City : Columbus e. County : Franklin f. State : Ohio g. ZIP Code : 43211 h. Contact Person (Name & telephone No.) : Thomas H. Smith, SHPO, 614-466-8727			6. PROGRAM (From Federal Catalog) a. NUMBER   1   5   0   9   0   4   b. TITLE Grants-in-Aid for Historic Preservation	

7. TITLE AND DESCRIPTION OF APPLICANT'S PROJECT  First Presbyterian Church, Portsmouth, Scioto County, Ohio: Development Project - Exterior painting, repair and protection of windows, repair and painting of cupola. Scioto Country Source of non-federal match: Private sources of the First United Presbyterian Church.		8. TYPE OF APPLICANT/RECIPIENT A-State B-Interstate C-Substate D-District E-City F-School District G-Special Purpose H-Community Action Agency I-Higher Educational Institution J-Indian Tribe K-Other (Specify):  Enter appropriate letter <input type="checkbox"/> A	
10. AREA OF PROJECT IMPACT (Names of cities, counties, States, etc.)  Portsmouth, Ohio	11. ESTIMATED NUMBER OF PERSONS BENEFITING  20,000	9. TYPE OF ASSISTANCE A-Basic Grant B-Supplemental Grant C-Loan D-Insurance E-Other Enter appropriate letter(s) <input type="checkbox"/> A	
13. PROPOSED FUNDING	14. CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS OF:	12. TYPE OF APPLICATION A-New B-Renewal C-Revision D-Continuation E-Augmentation Enter appropriate letter <input type="checkbox"/> A	
a. FEDERAL \$ 5,250 .00 b. APPLICANT 6,350 .00 c. STATE .00 d. LOCAL .00 e. OTHER .00 f. TOTAL \$ 11,600 .00	a. APPLICANT 12 b. PROJECT 6 16. PROJECT START DATE Year month day 19 77 5 31 17. PROJECT DURATION 36 Months	15. TYPE OF CHANGE (For 12c or 12e) A-Increase Dollars B-Decrease Dollars C-Increase Duration D-Decrease Duration E-Cancellation F-Other (Specify):  Enter appropriate letter(s) <input type="checkbox"/>	
18. ESTIMATED DATE TO BE SUBMITTED TO FEDERAL AGENCY 1977 5 31		19. EXISTING FEDERAL IDENTIFICATION NUMBER 39-76-00266-00	

SECTION II - CERTIFICATION

20. FEDERAL AGENCY TO RECEIVE REQUEST (Name, City, State, ZIP code) National Park Service, Dept. of Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240		21. REMARKS ADDED <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	
22. THE APPLICANT CERTIFIES THAT	a. To the best of my knowledge and belief, data in this preapplication/application are true and correct, the document has been duly authorized by the governing body of the applicant and the applicant will comply with the attached assurances if the assistance is approved.	b. If required by OMB Circular A-95 this application was submitted, pursuant to instructions therein, to appropriate clearinghouses and all responses are attached:	No response attached
(1) Ohio State Clearinghouse <input type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
(2) <input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	
(3) <input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	
23. CERTIFYING REPRESENTATIVE Thomas H. Smith Director and SHPO	b. SIGNATURE 	c. DATE SIGNED Year month day 19 77 5 13	

SECTION III - FEDERAL AGENCY ACTION

24. AGENCY NAME Department of the Interior		25. APPLICATION RECEIVED Year month day 19 77 06 07	
26. ORGANIZATIONAL UNIT National Park Service		27. ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE Grants Administration Div.	
29. ADDRESS 18th & C Streets, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20240		28. FEDERAL APPLICATION IDENTIFICATION	
31. ACTION TAKEN <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> a. AWARDED <input type="checkbox"/> b. REJECTED <input type="checkbox"/> c. RETURNED FOR AMENDMENT <input type="checkbox"/> d. DEFERRED <input type="checkbox"/> e. WITHDRAWN		30. FEDERAL GRANT IDENTIFICATION 39-76-00266-00	
32. FUNDING		34. STARTING DATE Year month day 1977 08 22	
a. FEDERAL \$ 5,250 .00	b. APPLICANT 6,350 .00	35. CONTACT FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION (Name and telephone number) Stephen Newman 202 523-5472	
c. STATE .00	d. LOCAL .00	36. ENDING DATE Year month day 1980 08 21	
e. OTHER .00	f. TOTAL \$ 11,600 .00	37. REMARKS ADDED <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	
38. FEDERAL AGENCY A-95 ACTION		38. FEDERAL AGENCY A-95 OFFICIAL (Name and telephone no.) same as #35	

JUN 7 1977

see 39-76-00266-00

Bldg. #1

Form 10-300  
(Rev. 6-72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	Ohio
COUNTY:	Scioto
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE	10-28-73

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
First Presbyterian Church

AND/OR HISTORIC:

**COPY**

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
221 Court Street

CITY OR TOWN:  
Portsmouth

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: 6  
William H. Harsha

STATE: Ohio      CODE: 039      COUNTY: Scioto      CODE: 145

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) Retired Senior Volunteer Program

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
First Presbyterian Church

STREET AND NUMBER:  
221 Court Street

CITY OR TOWN:  
Portsmouth

STATE: Ohio      CODE: 039

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
Scioto County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:  
615 Sixth Street

CITY OR TOWN:  
Portsmouth

STATE: Ohio      CODE: 039

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY:       Federal     State     County     Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:      STATE:      CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Ohio  
COUNTY: Scioto  
ENTRY NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_  
FOR NPS USE ONLY

## 7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" 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

Exterior: The First Presbyterian Church is a two-story Greek Revival style brick building, built 1849-1851 and measuring approximately 57 by 99 feet. It has a smooth dressed local sandstone foundation, belt course, sills and lintels. There is a denticulated cornice and pediment and an octagonal wooden cupola mounted on a square wood base, topped by a finial and weathervane. The windows in the cupola are round arched and louvered. Brick pilasters flank the second floor windows. The rectangular second floor windows are tall and narrow with Latin crosses supporting the divisions of leaded stained glass.

In 1865 five of the original six chimneys were removed, the building was lengthened by about 16 feet, and the cupola, which had been blown off in 1860, was replaced on the gable roof. In 1910 a rectangular Sunday School building, in the same style as the main building, was added to the north-west corner. The original red and white rectangular panes of glass in the second floor windows were replaced with stylized symbolic scenes. The door on the north side has been moved from the front to the back of the lower hall, and the first floor south windows have been altered.

Interior: Little major change has been made in the interior. The lower floor consists of a vestibule that runs the width of the church and has north and south stairways with severely simple, handmade balustrades. The two doors at the west side of the vestibule lead down three steps to a short hall, flanked by classrooms of equal size, to the hall which fills the rest of the original building. Both halls are paneled in wood but have been both painted and papered previously. The original wood floors were replaced by cement after the 1937 flood and the wood pillars by steel. A cellar under the hall was filled in. The second floor consists of a narthex the size of the vestibule below, a balcony above it, and the sanctuary. The original cloth-covered entry doors to the sanctuary have always been painted and now show the warping of the 1937 flood. The pews are the original solid walnut ones with their original cushions and pew rent numbers. The only major change came when the church purchased a J.W. Steere and Co. tracker organ in 1892 for its 75th anniversary. For the organ a walnut choir loft was built and the pulpit moved forward and its corners rounded. For the 100th anniversary the sanctuary was refloored in hard wood, so that total carpeting was eliminated. Lighting fixtures have been changed from oil to gas to electricity. In 1959 the 1910 educational wing was totally remodeled and made fireproof. In 1963 the sanctuary ceiling, cracked by sonic blasts, had furring strips nailed through the 4" of plaster to the joists, and tile ceiling was installed, since there was no other way to made the plaster safe.

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) 1849-1851

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 checked="" 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

The First Presbyterian Church is a notable example of Greek Revival style architecture remarkable for its impressive size and relatively unchanged structure. The sanctuary will seat more than 500, and musicians praise it as having the finest acoustics in the city. Begun in 1849 and built by a local contractor under the supervision of five church members, the building was dedicated for use April 6, 1851, and so became the first church dedicated for use and still in use in the city. The congregation, organized May 24, 1817, also built the first church building in Portsmouth in 1823. The bell and clock from that church were moved to the present building, but in 1852 the church purchased a new large brass bell, toned letter "F", designed by G.W. Coffin & Co. and cast by the Buckeye Foundry in Cincinnati. Details of the sanctuary were not fully completed until 1865.

The solid construction of the building enabled it to withstand the floods of 1883, 1884, 1907, 1913 when the water reached nearly to the second floor, and 1937 when water covered the second floor, making it necessary to refinish the floor and pews though their solid walnut construction was not affected.

In 1860 a tornado ripped the cupola off but deposited the bell and clock safely on the east side of the street. The bell was set on heavy wooden beams in the church yard and rung during the Civil War for war aid functions and for services. The clock was put on the south wall of the sanctuary.

An active church body, the members have done important work in missions, Boy Scouts, and in founding other churches. The first Senior Citizens' Center was begun in 1970 and the church now houses the Retired Senior Volunteer Program. The Presbyterians are now considering a merger which, if carried out, will cause the present building to be abandoned.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Minutes of the Session of First Presbyterian Church, 1817-1973.

Schwartz, Mary Elizabeth. History of the First United Presbyterian Church, 150th Anniversary, 1817-1967. Privately printed.

Scioto County Records, Scioto County Court House, Portsmouth, Ohio, Recorder's Office (City Abstract of Conveyance of Deeds, Volumes Q, R, 86).

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	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"	38	43	56
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"	83	00	05
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"			
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: less than 1

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:  
Mary Elizabeth Schwartz, elder

ORGANIZATION: First Presbyterian Church DATE: July 11, 1973

STREET AND NUMBER:  
2813 Gilbert Avenue

CITY OR TOWN: Portsmouth STATE: Ohio CODE: 039

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

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 Daniel R. [Signature]

Title Ohio Hist. Pres. [Signature]

Date January 23, 1974

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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



Boneyfiddle Multiple Resource Area  
Portsmouth, Scioto Co., Ohio  
J. Williams photo 3/87  
Neg. at 391 Library Park S.  
Columbus, Ohio

First Presbyterian Church (NR)  
221 Court Street  
View looking Southwest  
Photo # /

Please refer to the map in the  
Multiple Property Cover Sheet  
for this property

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000611