

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED APR 15 1980
DATE ENTERED JUN 12 1980

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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC
Symmes Mission Chapel
AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
5139 Pleasant Avenue
CITY, TOWN
Fairfield, VICINITY OF 8th
STATE Ohio CODE 039 COUNTY Butler CODE 017

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER: None.

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
Historical Society of Fairfield (OH) Area
STREET & NUMBER
President's home, 220 Lindale Ave.,
CITY, TOWN
Fairfield VICINITY OF STATE
Ohio

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
Butler County Courthouse
STREET & NUMBER
Courthouse Square, Hamilton,
CITY, TOWN
Hamilton STATE
Ohio

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
By University of Cincinnati architectural students under Bruce Goetzman
DATE
1979
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS
University of Cincinnati
CITY, TOWN
Cincinnati, STATE
Ohio

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT

GOOD

FAIR

DETERIORATED

RUINS

UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED

ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE

MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Built circa 1843, Symmes Mission Chapel is a rectangular plan two story frame building of mortise and tenon construction. The fenestration, albeit modest in design and scale, does exhibit subtle Greek Revival influences. This is apparent through the use of cornice returns, smooth wooden frieze, and generally symmetrical fenestration.

The plain clapboard wall treatment is enhanced by small rectangular bays, those on the first floor are taller than those on the second. All bays are covered with paneled shutters, although the front entrance, which is quite narrow, exhibits louvered doors.

The chapel retains most of its original integrity. A fabric analysis conducted by the firm of Goetzman and Fullmer reveals that the fenestration on the front elevation was altered. Two small windows on the second floor were replaced by the existing center bay. In Mr. Goetzman's opinion this alteration was done prior to 1900. The only other changes have been made to the interior and consist primarily of new partitions and a stairway.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES c. 1843

BUILDER/ARCHITECT unknown

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Symmes Mission Chapel is significant as a unique embodiment of nineteenth century vernacular architecture in southwestern Ohio. Furthermore, it is one of the earliest physical manifestations of religious activity in Fairfield Township. The chapel's severe but distinctive design makes it a seldom used example of vernacular church architecture in this region. Its diminutive size, plain fenestration, architectural integrity, and lack of traditional church design elements contribute to its significance. The church congregation received its primary support from Benjamin Symmes, an important local settler and land developer. From 1843-1968 the chapel was used for religious and educational activities, and recently it was acquired by the Historical Society of Fairfield. Today it is one of the few antebellum buildings remaining in this rapidly expanding community of 35,000.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Newspaper articles in Fairfield Echo (wkly. newspaper)
 My own historical research during the past 18 years of the Symmes family,
 published in the Echo.
 History & Biographical Cyclopaedia of Butler County, 1888.
 Fairfield, Ohio, by Esther Benzing, 1979.

UTM NOT VERIFIED

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 30' x 100'

UTM REFERENCES

A 16 710200 4357020
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING
 C

B
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING
 D

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Part of Section 4, Town 1, Range 2 between Miami Rivers in Fairfield Township, Butler County, being part of 1.21 acres in said section, described as beginning in center of turnpike (Pleasant Ave.) on the section line 91 feet south of the NE corner of the 1.21 acre tract. Then west parallel with north line of said tract, 100 foot; thence at right angles south 38 feet; thence right angles east 100 ft. to center of turnpike.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Edna Antes, one of founders of

ORGANIZATION

Historical Society of Fairfield Area

DATE

Sept. 8, 1979

STREET & NUMBER

270 Cole Dr. (my address)

TELEPHONE

513-863-0300/874-0401

CITY OR TOWN

Fairfield,

STATE

Ohio

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL X

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

David L. Rook

TITLE

SHPO

DATE

4/3/80

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

W. Ray Juce

DATE

6/12/80

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

William H. Bralman

DATE

6.12.80

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Property

Symmes Mission Chapel

State

Oh. Butler

Working Number

4-15-80 1158

TECHNICAL

Photos 5

Maps 1

CONTROL

HISTORIAN

Small, severely plain 1840s church significant as a symbol of early religious activity in the area - and as one of the

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

*accept
Brasnam
6.2.80*

few ante bellum structures remaining in the town. Recently acquired by the area historical society. - Despite its somewhat

ARCHEOLOGIST

marginal nature, ~~at~~

OTHER

HAER

Inventory _____

Review _____

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

BRANCH CHIEF

KEEPER

National Register Write-up _____

Federal Register Entry

2.3.81

Send-back _____

Re-submit _____

Entered

JUN 12 1980



1. Symmes Mission Chapel
5139 Pleasant Avenue
2. Fairfield Twp., Butler Co., Ohio
3. Bruce Goetzman
4. August, 1979
5. Miami Purchase Association
6. East and north elevations,
looking west
7. Photograph # 1/5

APR 15 1980

JUN 12 1980



Symmes Mission Chapel
Pleasant Ave, Fairfield Oh.
43014

APR 15 1980

Symmes Mission Chapel
5139 Pleasant Ave.
Fairfield, Butler Co., Ohio
Edna Antes
Fall, 1979
Negatives with Edna Antes
Looking at side facade
Photo #2/5

JUN 12 1980

Photo by Edna Antes
Fairfield, Oh.



Symmes Mission Chapel
Pleasant Ave., Fairfield Ohio
45014

Symmes Mission Chapel
5139 Pleasant Ave.
Fairfield, Butler Co., Ohio
Edna Antes
Fall, 1979
Negatives with Edna Antes
Looking at second floor shuttered
window
Photo #3/5

APR 15 1980

JUN 12 1980

Photos by
Edna Antes
Fairfield, Oh.



1. Symmes Mission Chapel
5139 Pleasant Avenue
2. Fairfield Twp., Butler Co., Ohio
3. Bruce Goetzman
4. August, 1979
5. Miami Purchase Association
6. Wall construction, mortice and
tenon, south elevation
7. Photograph # 4/5

JUN 12 1980

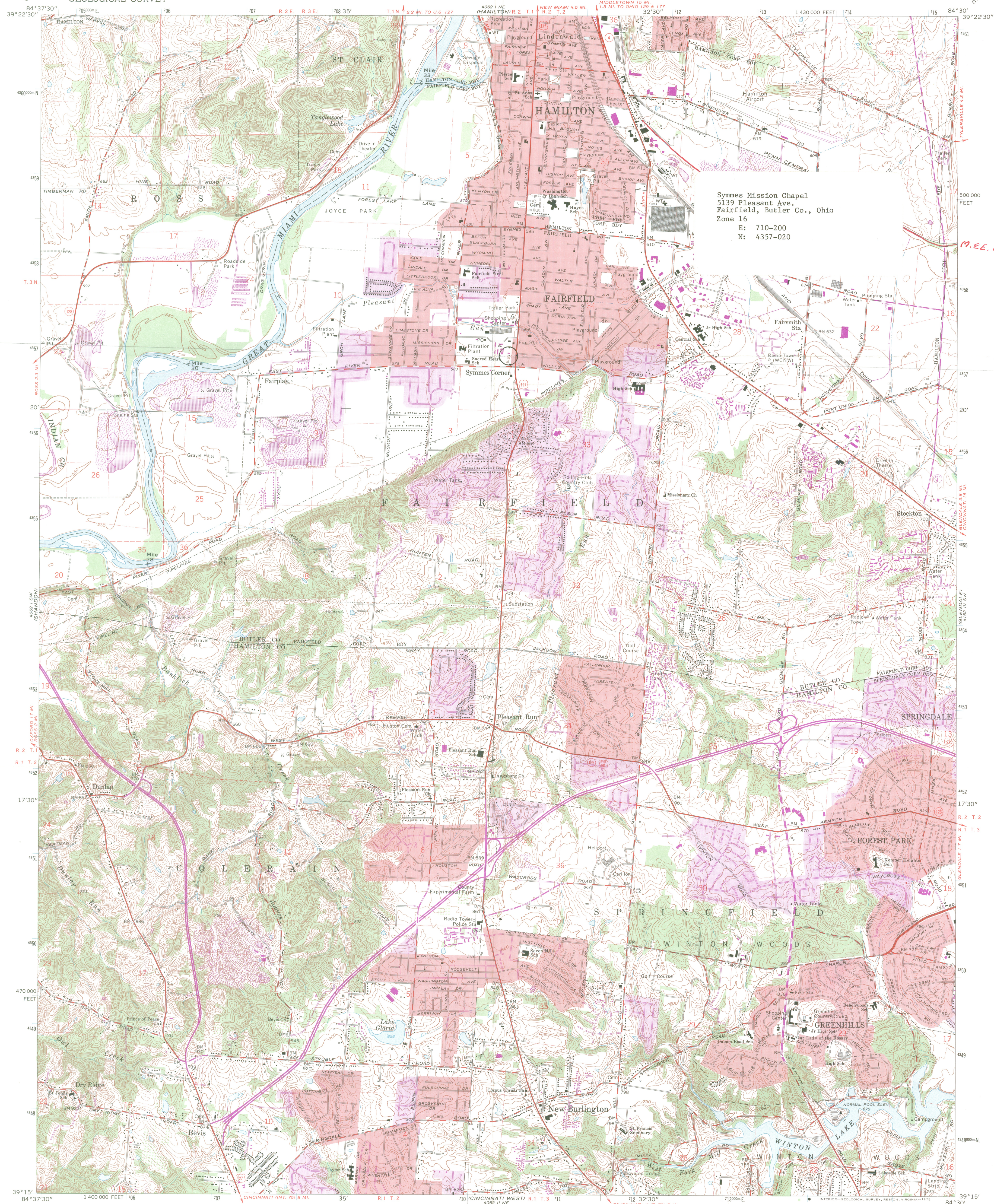
APR 15 1980



1. Symmes Mission Chapel
5139 Pleasant Avenue
2. Fairfield Twp., Butler., Ohio
3. Bruce Goetzman
4. August, 1979
5. Miami Purchase Association
6. Interior, first floor
7. Photo # 575

JUN 12 1980

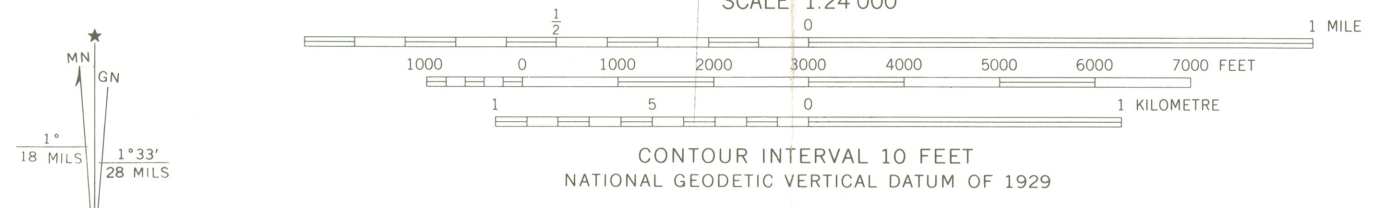
APR 15 1980



Symmes Mission Chapel
5139 Pleasant Ave.
Fairfield, Butler Co., Ohio
Zone 16
E: 710-200
N: 4357-020

M.E. CANAL

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey in cooperation with the Army Map Service. Revised in cooperation with State of Ohio agencies. Control by USGS, NOS/NOAA, and City of Cincinnati. Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1954. Field checked 1955. Revised 1965. Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum. 10,000-foot grid based on Ohio coordinate system, south zone 1000-metre Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 16, shown in blue. Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is uncheckered. Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown. Area west of the Great Miami River lies within the Miami River Survey. Area east of the Great Miami River lies within the Between the Miamis Land lines based on the Great Miami River Base. Dotted land lines established by private subdivision of the Symmes Purchase.



ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Heavy-duty	Light-duty
Medium-duty	Unimproved dirt
Interstate Route	U.S. Route
	State Route



GREENHILLS, OHIO
N3915—W8430/7.5
1965
PHOTOREVISED 1974
AMS 4062 I SE—SERIES V852



Revisions shown in purple compiled in cooperation with State of Ohio agencies from aerial photographs taken 1974. This information not field checked. Purple tint indicates extension of urban areas.

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE OHIO

Date Entered JUN 12 1980

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Syames Mission Chapel	Fairfield Butler County

Also Notified

Honorable John H. Glenn, Jr.
Honorable Howard M. Metzenbaum
Honorable Thomas N. Kindness

State Historic Preservation Officer
Mr. David Brooks
The Ohio Historical Society
Interstate 71 at 17th Avenue
Columbus, Ohio 43211

NR

Eyers/mjd

6/25/80

For further information, please call the National Register at (202)343-6401.