

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

RECEIVED

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

JUN 13 1988

NATIONAL
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Nichols, John H., House
other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 103 South Blackhoof Street N/A not for publication
city, town Wapakoneta N/A vicinity
state Ohio code OH county Auglaize code 11 zip code 45895

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> 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
		<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. 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. See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official SHPO W. Ray Juce Date 6/6/88

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official _____ Date _____

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register. Entered in the National Register 7-14-88
 See continuation sheet.
 determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.
 determined not eligible for the National Register.
 removed from the National Register.
 other, (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper _____ Date of Action _____

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE/TRADE/Business

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)

Greek Revival

Gothic Revival

Italianate

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation limestone

walls brick

roof tin

other wood

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The John H. Nichols House is located in Wapakoneta, seat of Auglaize County, Ohio. The property sits on the west side of Blackhoof Street, opposite the Wapakoneta Commercial Historic District. As one of the town's principal north-south routes, Blackhoof Street crosses Auglaize Street (the major east-west thoroughfare) one and one-half blocks north of the building, separating the downtown commercial district from a prominent turn-of-the-century residential neighborhood to the west.

The John H. Nichols House is a cross-shaped, two story, common bond brick building with smooth-faced, coursed limestone watertable and foundation. It is an outstanding and well preserved local variant of Greek Revival architecture. The building's gable-fronted, three bay facade features a prominent entablature with cornice returns and wide frieze. It is further distinguished by an off-center entrance with consoled hood, multi-pane sidelights, and bracketed transom, as well as shuttered six-over-six, double-hung sash windows with bracketed lintels and sills of smooth-faced limestone; similar windows are symmetrically placed about the rest of the building. Two story porches with elaborate Gothic Revival influenced lattice work are recessed into the side wings, which also sport the roof details of the facade.

One of the very few alterations to the house is the Italianate-influenced, one story bay with flat, bracketed roof and one-over-one, double-hung sash windows added to the south wing c. 1880. An unsympathetic, one story frame (office) addition was made to the northwest corner of the building c. 1930; it has recently been removed in the course of the building's restoration. An exterior brick chimney has also been added to the rear wing of the house.

The interior of the building has suffered under mid-twentieth century renovations for apartment use, but nonetheless retains many significant features. As constructed, the cross-shaped house basically consists of five large rooms on each floor -- a central, windowless room flanked on all four sides by rooms (see attachment A). The east room is further divided to accommodate a narrow side hall with stairs. In the mid-twentieth century the rooms were also divided in a makeshift fashion for the various apartments, but have since been restored to their original dimensions. With the exception of the east rooms (on both floors), the windows and transomed doors are trimmed with temple-like molding. Equally distinctive is the walnut staircase with stocky, carved newel post. Three mantels appear to be original to the house, and feature simple pilasters and bracketed shelves. The later (c. 1900) mantel of the front parlor (the east room) is much

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Nichols, John H., House, Wapakoneta, Auglaize County, Ohio

Section number 7 Page 2

larger and distinguished by pendants. Floor-to-ceiling cupboards are built into the northwest corners of the center rooms (both floors). Some rooms retain floors of wide yellow pine.

The Nichols property formerly encompassed all of Lots 55 and 56 in the Original Plat of Wapakoneta, a full third of its city block. A frame, T-shaped Workingman's House was moved to the northeast corner of the block around the turn-of-the-century, but was recently moved away again. The later's small garage, converted into a house c. 1955, is located north of the main building. It is not included in the nomination. The John H. Nichol's Office (AUG-1230-3) sits on the southeast corner of the block. This diminutive Greek Temple was substantially enlarged and altered in the early 1980s, and retains little original fabric; it is no longer part of the property and has not been included in the nomination.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)
ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance
1865

Significant Dates
1865

Cultural Affiliation
N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Thomas and William Nichols

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The John H. Nichols House qualifies for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C. Built in 1865, the Nichols House appears to be the earliest residential expression of the Greek Revival style in Wapakoneta with several later houses showing its influence. Distinctive features include the building's gable-fronted, three-bay facade with full entablature and cornice returns along the roofline, trabeated entrance with multi-paned sidelights and bracketed transom, and 6/6 double hung windows with flat limestone lintels and sills. The building and its neighbors formed th first significant residential neighborhood in Wapakoneta.

"From contemporary evidence Wapakoneta still was not far out of its forest hamlet stage ... in 1848 ... the town, as the countryside around it, was almost a swamp. The whole vicinity of the public square (the original courthouse was on the southwest corner of Blackhoof and Mechanic Streets), extending about the courthouse and out to Auglaize Street, afforded a swimming pond during the summer and a skating and coasting park for the boys during the winter." -- William J. McMurray, The History of Auglaize County.

The establishment of Wapakoneta as seat of Auglaize County gave the village (whose population in 1850 was only 504) impetus to a different kind of development that it would have otherwise known. In addition to commercial and industrial activity, Wapakoneta played host to assorted governmental functions, thus spurring the emergence of an educated, service-oriented class. As Auglaize Street developed into the commercial center of Wapakoneta, the Blackhoof Street area became the town's first significant residential neighborhood. All of Wapakoneta's major religious congregations had erected substantial buildings within two blocks of The Square by 1875. In the same year Williamson or Third Ward School, a four story Gothic Revival masterpiece, was built on Main Street just west of the Nichols House. Furthermore, Wapakoneta's earliest collection of grand houses had been constructed in the area by the third quarter of the nineteenth century.

Thomas and William Nichols completed construction of their brother's residence by 1865, when the value of the property jumped from \$414 to \$3914. In the decade that followed, six more substantial brick houses were built within two blocks; they were occupied by Wapakoneta's governmental, social, and service leaders. Auglaize County atlases and

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

- The Atlas of Auglaize County (Philadelphia: Robert Sutton, 1880).
- Auglaize County Auditor's tax records (Wapakoneta: Auglaize County Courthouse).
- Interview with Virginia Backus, granddaughter of John Nichols, February 1988.
- Interview with Don Shuler, owner, December 1987.
- William J. McMurray, The History of Auglaize County (Columbus: The Historical Publishing Company, 1923).
- Obituary Notices of John Nichols, The Auglaize County Democrat and The Auglaize Republican (Wapakoneta: May 12, 1892).

See continuation sheet

- Previous documentation on file (NPS): N/A
- 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 Buildings Survey # _____
 - recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

- Primary location of additional data:
- State historic preservation office
 - Other State agency
 - Federal agency
 - Local government
 - University
 - Other
- Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of property less than one acre

UTM References

A 16 737340 4494530
 Zone Easting Northing

C

B
 Zone Easting Northing

D

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The north two-thirds of Lot 55 and the center third of Lot 56, the Original Plat of the City of Wapakoneta.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the extent of property which currently reflects the property's historical association with John H. Nichols.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Rachel Barber/consultant
 organization Economic Development Council date February 20, 1988
 street & number 22 East Auglaize Council telephone 419/738-3643
 city or town Wapakoneta state Ohio zip code 45895

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Nichols, John H., House, Wapakoneta, Auglaize County, Ohio

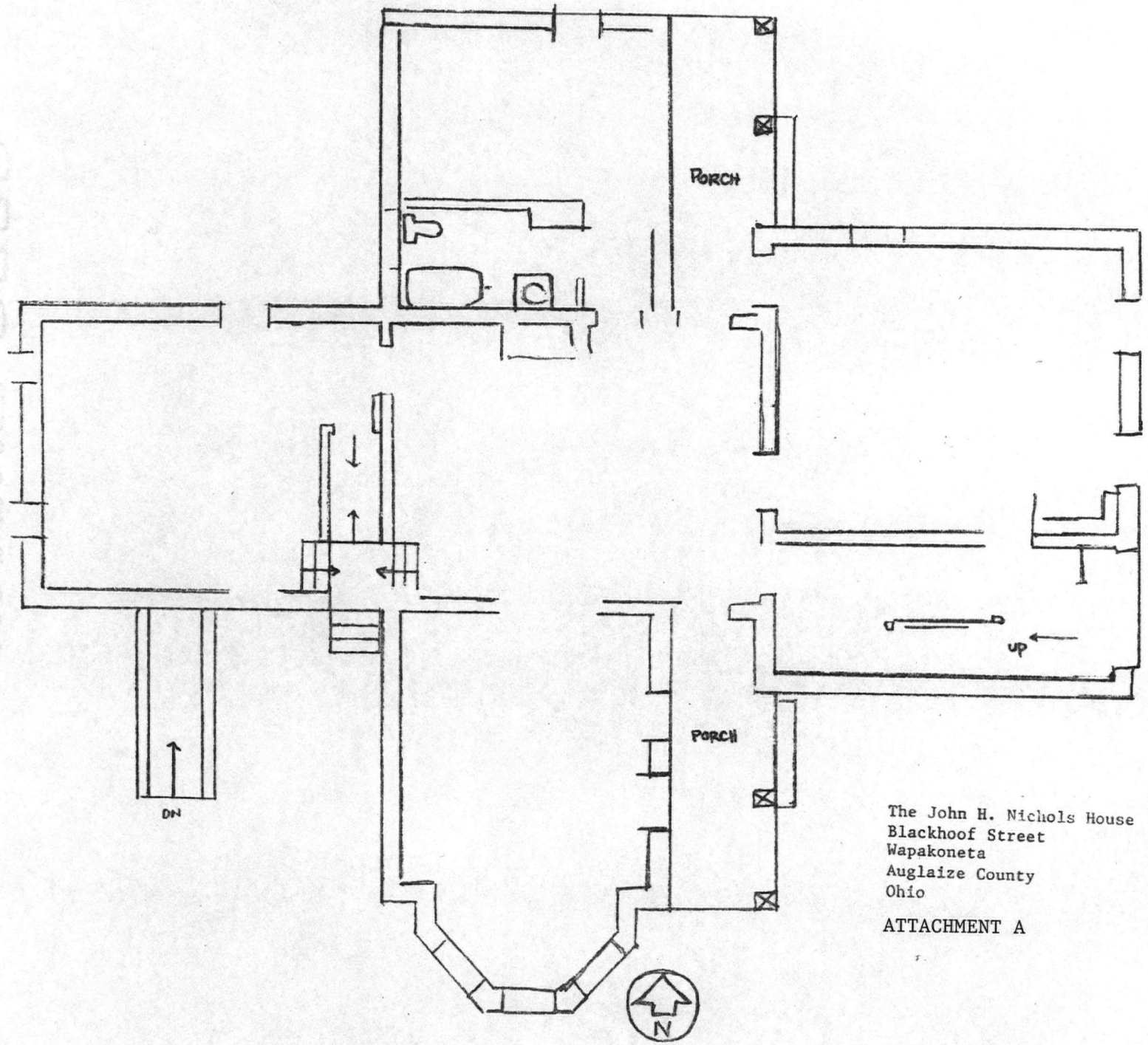
Section number 8 Page 2

Sanborn-Perris Company maps from the nineteenth century indicate that this neighborhood formed the largest concentration of brick residential construction in Wapakoneta. Of the six, three have been demolished, and three substantially altered.

Additionally, the John H. Nichols House appears to have set the architectural precedent for a pronounced local variant of the Greek Revival style. According to family history, Nichols took inspiration for the design of his residence from Classical homes he had seen during visits to his native state of Virginia. As such, the building features a low-pitched gable roof, wide bands of trim representing the classical entablature, and doors and windows with elaborate surrounds. Rather than the entry or full-facade porches more typically associated with Greek Revival architecture, the Nichols House employs two story porches recessed into the side wings which display sturdy square posts and Gothic Revival influenced ornate lattices. Greek Revival architecture is rare in west-central Ohio, an area of heavy settlement by German immigrants. Indeed, the only remaining non-residential example of this architectural movement in Wapakoneta is the First Presbyterian Church, which sits opposite the Nichols House on Main Street. According to the survey of Wapakoneta conducted by the Ohio Historic Preservation Office in 1980-81, the Nichols House nonetheless served as a model for at least six other houses built in Wapakoneta by 1875. These brick, two story, cross-gabled (cruciform, L-, or T-shaped) buildings all feature a gabled, three-bay facade with prominent entablature, broken returns, and off-centered entrance. Their details are generally more subdued than the Nichols House, although at least one (the Carl D. Fischer House, AUG-1346-3) was constructed with a two story porch identical to the Nichols House. The survey of Wapakoneta further indicates that, unlike the Nichols House, these other residences have been subject to numerous additions and/or alterations, both historically and recently (at least one has also been demolished). The John H. Nichols House is therefore the earliest, and best preserved of Greek Revival residence in Wapakoneta.

John Hatcher Nichols was born in Purcellville, Loudon County, Virginia, on April 10, 1822. In 1828, he and his family moved to west-central Ohio, living somewhat nomadically, first in St. Marys, then on a farm near Celina "among the Indians," and then on a farm north of St. Marys where the elder Nichols operated a saw and grist mill for two or three years. The Nichols family settled in Wapakoneta in 1834, the year after the town's platting, and established a dry goods business. They returned, however, to St. Marys in 1837. Meanwhile, the younger Nichols' sister, Lydia, had married Dr. G.W. Holbrook. Holbrook was also a pioneer to Wapakoneta, having moved here in 1834 at the end of a circuitous trip from Palmyra, New York. Because of his interest in medicine, John Nichols did not follow his family, but remained in Wapakoneta to live with the Holbrooks. Holbrook sponsored Nichols' schooling, initially in Piqua, then at the Ohio Medical College, Cincinnati, from which he graduated with honors in 1843. The two men worked in partnership for a decade, when Holbrook retired, "and turned over his office, library, instruments, and medicines . . . and finally his practice" to Nichols. Nichols spent his entire working life in Wapakoneta; he died here in 1892. The family retained ownership of the house until 1925. The building is currently under renovation for occupancy by the Wapakoneta Chamber of Commerce and the Wapakoneta Area Economic Development Council.

DEED FROM RALPH A. NICHOLS TO JOHN H. NICHOLS
A. 211 400 HT110VHT102



The John H. Nichols House
Blackhoof Street
Wapakoneta
Auglaize County
Ohio

ATTACHMENT A

88001064

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Nichols, John H., House
Auglaize County
OHIO

JUN 13 1988

Working No. _____

Fed. Reg. Date: _____

Date Due: 7/14/88 - 7/28/88

Entered in the National Register
Action: ACCEPT 7-14-88
 RETURN
 REJECT

Federal Agency: _____

- resubmission
- nomination by person or local government
- owner objection
- appeal

Substantive Review: sample request appeal NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

Recom./Criteria _____
Reviewer _____
Discipline _____
Date _____
_____ see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for: _____ technical corrections cited below
_____ substantive reasons discussed below

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

Category	Ownership Public Acquisition	Status Accessible	Present Use

4. Owner of Property

5. Location of Legal Description

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Has this property been determined eligible? yes no

7. Description

Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- alterations/integrity
- dates
- boundary selection

8. 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

Nichols, John H. House
Auglaize County
OHIO

9. Major Bibliographical References

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

UTM References _____

Verbal boundary description and justification _____

11. Form Prepared By

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

____ national ____ state ____ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature _____

title _____ date _____

13. Other

- Maps
- Photographs
- Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to _____

Signed _____ Date _____ Phone: _____



The John H. Nichols House
103 South Blackhoof Street, Wapakoneta
Auglaize County, Ohio

Photographer: Rachel Barber

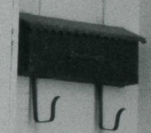
December, 1987

Negative at Wapakoneta Area Economic Development Council

Detail of Two Story Porch (Southeast Corner)

#1 of 10 Photographs

103 SOUTH
BLACKHOOF STREET



The John H. Nichols House

103 South Blackhoof Street, Wapakoneta

Auglaize County, Ohio

Photographer: Rachel Barber

December, 1987

Negative at Wapakoneta Area Economic Development Council

Looking West - Door Detail

#2 of 10 Photographs



The John H. Nichols House

103 South Blackhoof Street, Wapakoneta

Auglaize County, Ohio

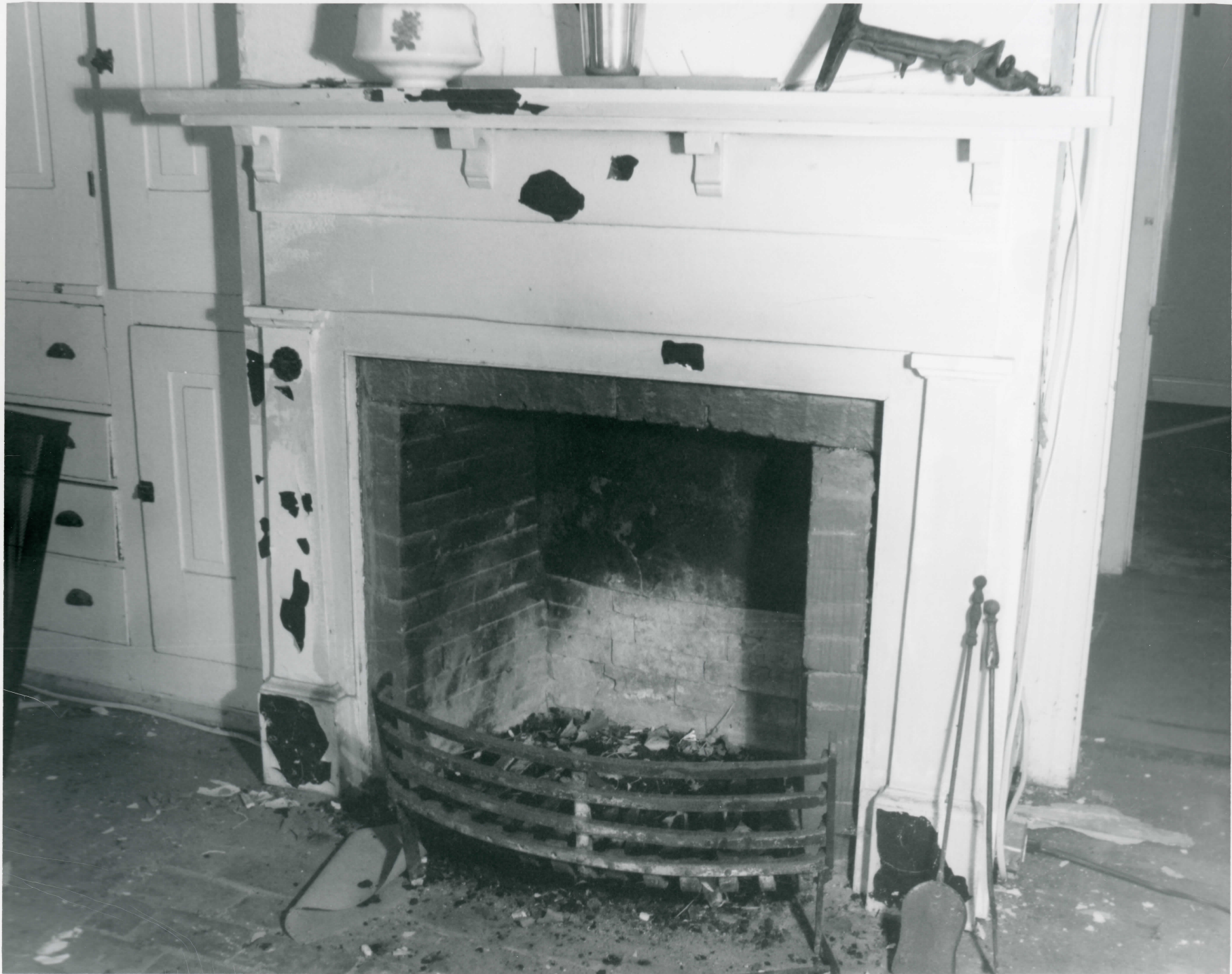
Photographer: Rachel Barber

December, 1987

Negative at Wapakoneta Area Economic Development Council

Looking Southwest

#3 of 10 Photographs



The John H. Nichols House

103 South Blackhoof Street, Wapakoneta

Auglaize County, Ohio

Photographer: Rachel Barber

December, 1987

Negative at Wapakoneta Area Economic Development Council

Interior Showing Central Mantel

#4 of 10 Photographs



The John H. Nichols House
103 South Blackhoof Street, Wapakoneta
Auglaize County, Ohio

Photographer: Rachel Barber

December, 1987

Negative at Wapakoneta Area Economic Development Council

Looking Southeast

#5 of 10 Photographs



The John H. Nichols House
103 South Blackhoof Street, Wapakoneta
Auglaize County, Ohio

Photographer: Rachel Barber

December, 1987

Negative at Wapakoneta Area Economic Development Council
Bay Addition (Southeast Corner) / Looking Northwest

#6 of 10 Photographs



The John H. Nichols House

103 South Blackhoof Street, Wapakoneta

Auglaize County, Ohio

Photographer: Rachel Barber

December, 1987

Negative at Wapakoneta Area Economic Development Council

Looking Northeast

#7 of 10 Photographs



The John H. Nichols House
103 South Blackhoof Street, Wapakoneta
Auglaize County, Ohio
Photographer: Rachel Barber
December, 1987

Negative at Wapakoneta Area Economic Development Council
Looking Southeast (at the West Wing)
#8 of 10 Photographs



The John H. Nichols House

103 South Blackhoof Street, Wapakoneta

Auglaize County, Ohio

Photographer: Rachel Barber

December, 1987

Negative at Wapakoneta Area Economic Development Council

Looking South (at the North Wing)

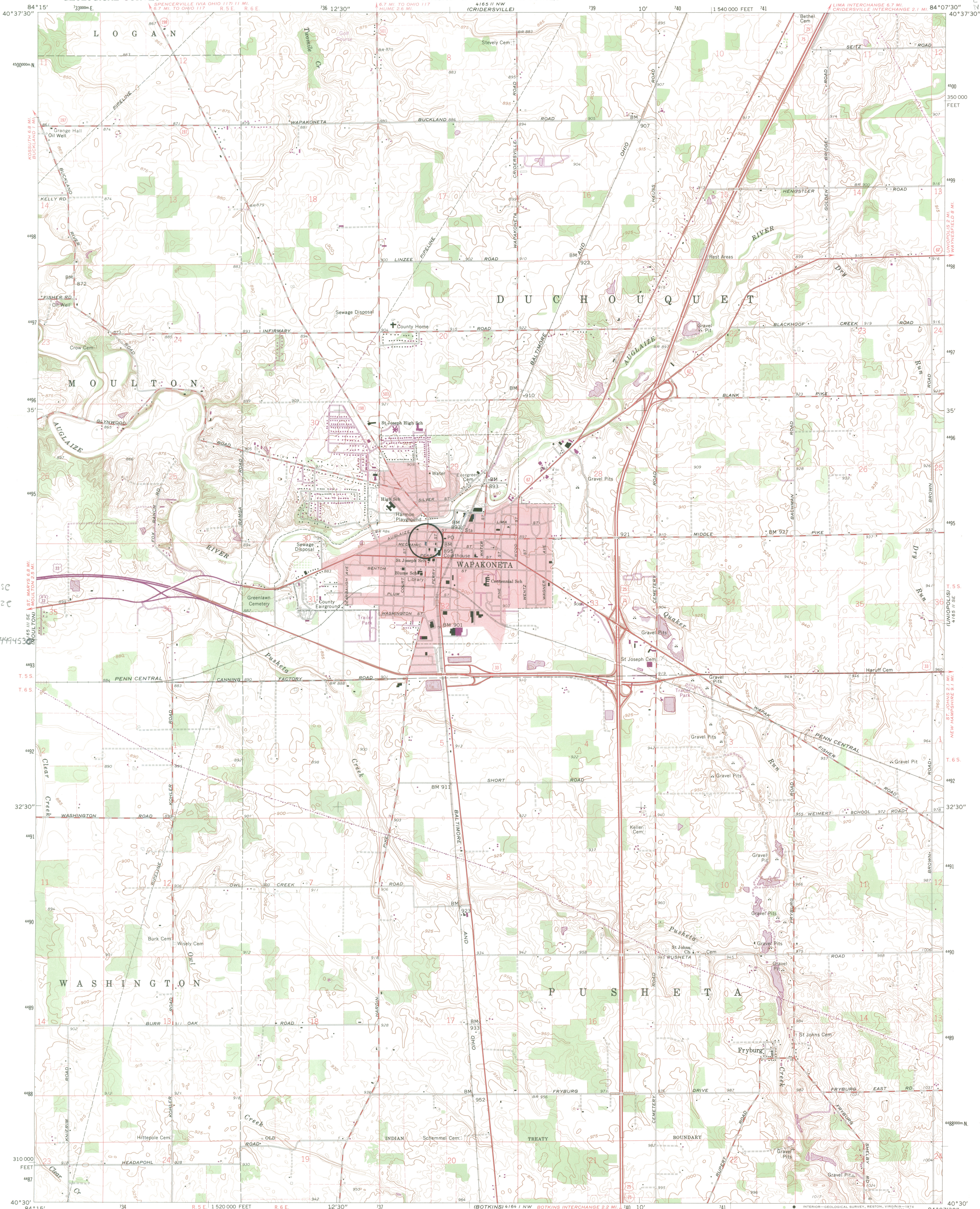
#9 of 10 Photographs



The John H. Nichols House
103 South Blackhoof Street, Wapakoneta
Auglaize County, Ohio
Photographer: Rachel Barber
December, 1987

Negative at Wapakoneta Area Economic Development Council
Interior Showing Temple Molding
#10 of 10 Photographs

THE JOHN H. NICHOLS HOUSE
WAPAKONETA,
AUGLAIZE COUNTY, OHIO
E 737340
N 4494530



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS and USC&GS

Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial
photographs taken 1959-60. Field checked 1961

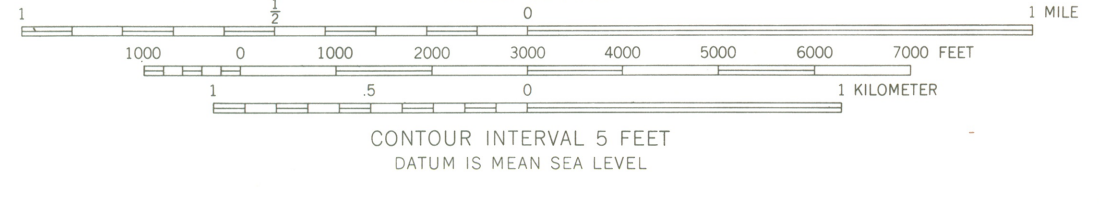
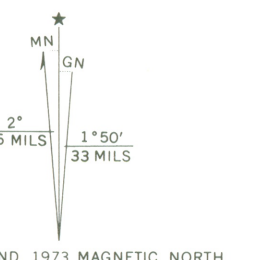
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Ohio coordinate system, north zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 16, shown in blue

Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown

Entire area lies within Congress Lands

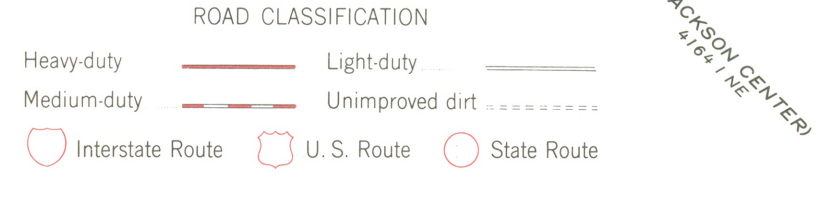
Land lines based on the First Principal Meridian

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



THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

Revisions shown in purple compiled in cooperation with
State of Ohio agencies from aerial photographs taken
1972 and 1973. This information not field checked



WAPAKONETA, OHIO
N4030—W8407.5/7.5

1961
PHOTOREVISED 1972 AND 1973
AMS 4165 II SW—SERIES V852



Nichols, John H., House
Wapakoneta, Auglaize
County, Ohio
UTM: 16 737340 4494530

NEW KNOXVILLE
1:61,146

JACKSON CENTER
1:61,146

[RECEIVED MAR 7 1988



March 1, 1988

W. Ray Luce
State Historic Preservation Officer
Ohio Historic Preservation Office
Ohio Historical Society
1985 Velma Avenue
Columbus, Ohio 43211

Dear Dr. Luce:

The Wapakoneta Area Economic Development Council wishes to express its support for the nomination of the John H. Nichols House to the National Register of Historic Places. Our organization is pleased about the impending move of its offices to such an architecturally and historically significant building. We hope that the inclusion of the Nichols House on the National Register will further local pride in the preservation of the many nineteenth and early twentieth century buildings in Wapakoneta that mark our community's social, economic, and governmental importance in the development of west-central Ohio.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me at the number listed below.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Phillip H. Downing', is written over the typed name and title.

Phillip H. Downing
Director

RECEIVED MAR 9 1988

March 8, 1988

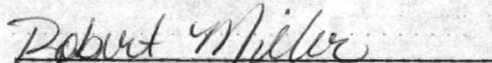
W. Ray Luce
State Historic Reservation Office
Ohio Historical Society
1985 Velma Ave.
Columbus, OH 43211

Dear Mr. Luce:

Mr. Robert Miller and I own the John H. Nichols house at 103 S. Blackhoof St. in Wapakoneta, Ohio. We both approve of the application submitted to have the house put on the National Register of Historical Places.

We are very much in agreement that the house is very significant historically and should be properly preserved.

Wapak Restoration


Robert Miller


Don Shuler

DS:mbt

RECEIVED MAR 15 1988

City of Wapakoneta

102 Perry Street
Wapakoneta, Ohio 45895
(419) 738-3011 or 738-6111

WILLIAM V. LIETZ
Mayor

WAYNE A. YORK
Director of Public Service and Safety

GLEN L. FUERST
Office Manager

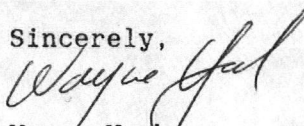
March 16, 1988

W. Ray Luce
Historic Preservation Officer
Ohio Historic Preservation Office
Ohio Historical Society
1985 Velma Avenue
Columbus, Ohio 43211

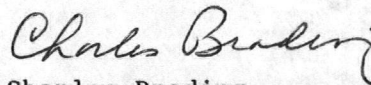
Dear Dr. Luce,

The City of Wapakoneta supports the nomination of the John H. Nichols House to the National Register of Historic Places. This landmark building marks the early settlement and development of our community. We are pleased that its preservation for future residents of Wapakoneta has been assured.

Sincerely,



Wayne York
Safety-Service Director



Charles Brading
City Council President

WAPAKONETA AREA
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



RECEIVED MAR 22 1988

P.O. BOX 208

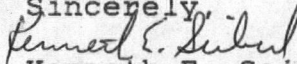
WAPAKONETA, OHIO 45895
TEL. 419/738-2911

March 21, 1988

W. Ray Luce
State Historic Preservation Officer
Ohio Historic Preservation Office
Ohio Historical Center
1985 Velma Avenue
Columbus, Ohio 43211

Dear Dr. Luce:

The Wapakoneta Area Chamber of Commerce fully endorses the inclusion of the John H. Nichols House on the National Register of Historic Places. Our organization and the Wapakoneta Area Economic Development Council will soon move to this important building, and we are delighted that its significance in local architecture and history has been recognized. Thank you for your attention in this matter.

Sincerely,

Kenneth E. Seibert
President

Ohio Historic Preservation Office

1985 Velma Avenue
Columbus, Ohio 43211
614/297-2470



**OHIO
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY**
SINCE 1885

June 7, 1988

Ms. Carol Shull, Chief
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
P.O. Box 37127
Washington, D.C. 20013-7127

Dear Carol:

Enclosed are two new National Register nominations. All of the appropriate notification procedures have been followed for these new submissions.

New Submissions

Nichols, John H., House
Memorial Hall

County

Auglaize
Montgomery

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

W. Ray Luce
W. Ray Luce
State Historic Preservation Officer

WRL:bp
Enclosures

JUN 13 1988