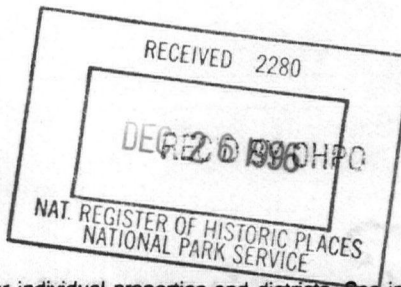


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form



NOV 8 1996

1622

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

1. Name of Property

historic name Penfield, Louis A., House

other names/site number n/a

2. Location

street & number 2203 River Road N/A ☐ not for publication

city or town Willoughby Hills N/A ☐ vicinity

state Ohio code OH county Lake code 085 zip code 44094

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

Barbara Paver Dept. Head
Signature of certifying official/Title Planning, Inv. & Reg. Date 12-9-96

Ohio Historic Preservation Office -- OH SHPO
State of Federal agency and bureau

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

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- ☒ entered in the National Register.
 - ☐ See continuation sheet.
- ☐ determined eligible for the National Register
 - ☐ See continuation sheet.
- ☐ determined not eligible for the National Register.
- ☐ removed from the National Register.
- ☐ other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Patrick Anderson

2/7/97

Penfield, Louis A., House
Name of Property

Lake County, Ohio
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- ☒ private
☐ public-local
☐ public-State
☐ public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- ☒ building(s)
☐ district
☐ site
☐ structure
☐ object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

**Number of contributing resources previously listed
in the National Register**

none

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

MODERN MOVEMENT/Wrightian: Usonian

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation concrete

walls concrete

wood

roof asphalt

other glass

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 1Penfield, Louis A., House
Willoughby Hills, Lake County, Ohio

Narrative Description

The Louis Penfield House is a two-story Usonian house of about 1800 square feet, designed by Frank Lloyd Wright in 1953 and completed in 1955. It is located in a rural setting overlooking the bluffs of the Chagrin River, within the incorporated limits of the village of Willoughby Hills.

Wright's Usonian concepts featured simpler designs and materials than his earlier Prairie style houses. Built on a concrete slab with no basement or attic, the Penfield House was constructed of concrete block and wood with "cemesto" board paneling. Vertical wood elements and block with horizontally raked joints and flush pointed vertical joints are combined with expansive areas of glass under a projecting flat roof on two levels. On the south elevation the lower roof extends over an open carport. Specifically designed for its setting, the open interior plan features a two-story living room with expanses of glass that overlook the nearby river and cliffs, and afford maximum use of natural light. Windows were specifically designed and situated to facilitate natural cooling of the house through cross-ventilation. Doors on the north and east elevations open onto a concrete terrace or patio, which is scored in the same four-foot square grid dimensions as the living area's polished red concrete floor. A large masonry fireplace is located in the center of the living area, with built-in seating opposite the tall windows. Along with the seating area, much of the furniture, bookshelves, and closets, are also built-in. Second-floor sleeping quarters are placed over the kitchen area. However, Wright's "standard 13-inch Usonian vertical unit, which with baseboard gives a 6 foot 8 inch ceiling, was modified to achieve 8 foot bedroom ceilings" (Storrer 1993:391) to accommodate Mr. Penfield's 6-foot 8-inch height. The two-story designs of this and three other Wright houses "are all variations on a two-story in-line theme developed from two projects, the first for George Bliss McCallum in 1938 and the second for Frank A. Rentz in 1939" (Ibid).

Two earlier buildings, a two-story residence built in 1887 and a wood barn/coach house built in 1935, are located on the southeast corner of the Penfield property, but are excluded from the boundary, since they bear no historic relation to the nominated building. Because the site and the views which it offered were important factors in the design of the Penfield House, the remaining 15 acres of the Penfield property are being nominated as a significant setting. Indeed, correspondence to Mr. Penfield from the Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation (statement on account for preliminary sketches) noted that commissions for "dwelling-houses upon urban lots are usually not accepted. Acreage is indispensable to the type of dwelling we like to build."

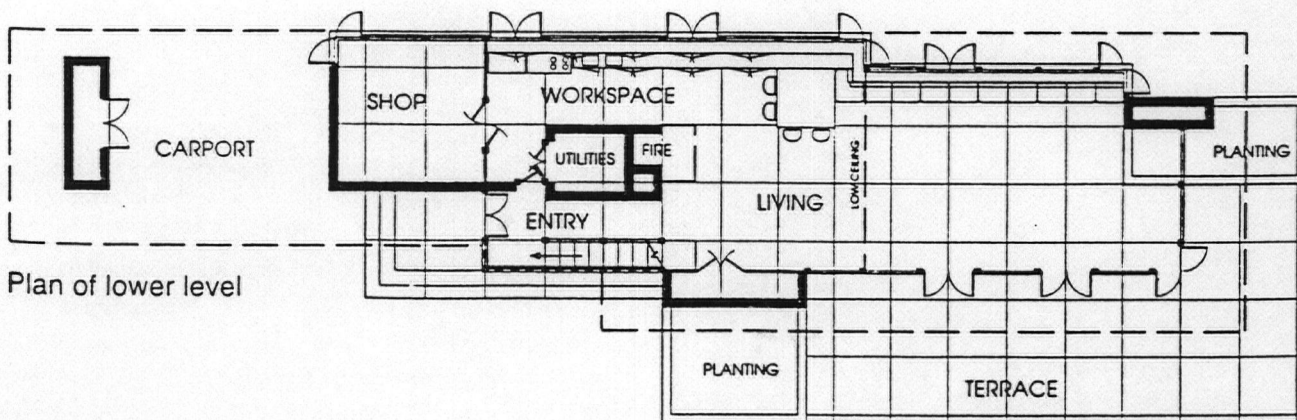
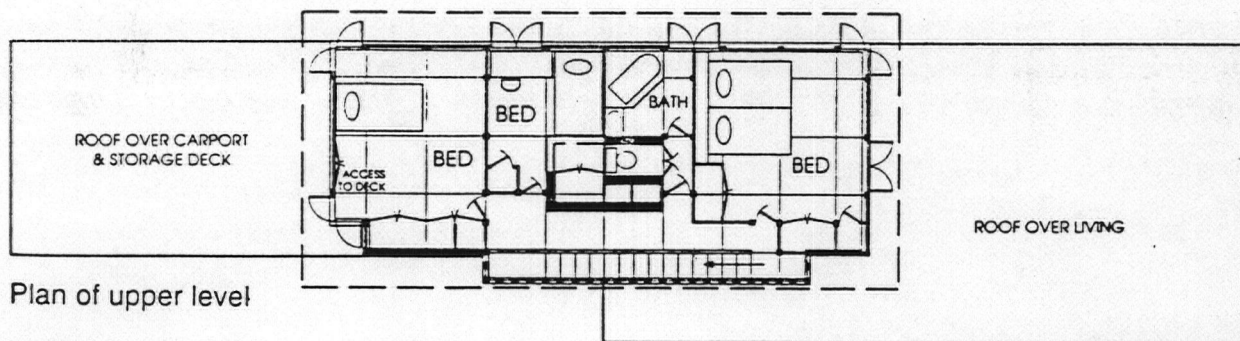
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2

Penfield, Louis A., House
Willoughby Hills, Lake County, Ohio

FLOOR PLANS OF THE LOUIS A. PENFIELD HOUSE



Penfield, Louis A., House
Name of Property

Lake County, Ohio
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

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

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

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

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

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1955

Significant Dates

1955

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Wright, Frank Lloyd

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

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

Name of repository:

Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation Archives

Penfield, Louis A., House
Name of Property

Lake County, Ohio
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property approx. 15

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

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Zone Easting Northing

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C 3

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4	6	6	0	9	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

4	6	0	7	5	0	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Zone Easting Northing

D 4

1	7
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4	6	6	1	0	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

4	6	0	7	3	9	0
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☒ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Paul A. Penfield/owner, and Jeffrey D. Brown/Regional Coordinator

organization none; OHPO date July 3, 1996

street & number 2203 River Road telephone (216) 946-1446

city or town Willoughby Hills state Ohio zip code 44094

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

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

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

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

name Paul A. Penfield

street & number 2203 River Road telephone (216) 946-1446

city or town Willoughby Hills state Ohio zip code 44094

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

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 1Penfield, Louis A., House
Willoughby Hills, Lake County, Ohio

Statement of Significance

The Louis Penfield House is nominated under Criterion C as a significant example of Usonian design by a master architect, Frank Lloyd Wright. One of only eleven known houses by Wright in Ohio (Storrer 1974), the Penfield house displays all the elements that distinguish Usonian buildings, and it still retains integrity of design and setting. Although less than fifty years old, it possesses exceptional importance as an unaltered Frank Lloyd Wright-designed Usonian house, one of only two known in Ohio.

Frank Lloyd Wright (1867-1959) was arguably America's foremost architect. Beginning his career in the late 19th century with Louis Sullivan, Wright soon established his own practice, becoming famous for his organic principles of design as reflected in what became known as the Prairie School of architecture. In the mid-1930s Wright attained renewed prominence for his designs of "Fallingwater" and the Johnson Wax Administration building. From his early Prairie School designs, Wright had attempted to reshape American residential architecture, and the Usonian designs he produced in the late 1940s and early 1950s reflect the mature phase of this aspiration in his career. Usonian houses were intended to provide affordable, well-designed buildings that harmonized with their sites. They are characterized by an open plan featuring "... big living rooms and commodious fireplaces, all eventually turning toward the great single room, dining room, and work space" (Wright: 1958). Attics and basements were eliminated to cut down on labor and materials. The houses were built on a grid plan which allowed easy installation of building elements of compatible dimensions, and the same construction materials were used on both interiors and exteriors. "The grid could be L-shaped, rectangular, square, triangular, or even a hexagon and the plan could be varied depending on the client's needs and the building site" (Costantino: 1991). Lines of the houses were simple, and some of the furniture was built in. Carports were often cantilevered from the main body of the house. Wright also experimented with new heating methods, reflected in his use of a radiant heating system whereby heat rose from hot water pipes laid in the floor slab.

Many of these cost-saving innovations also satisfied Wright's desire to create an organic architecture. His philosophy was that buildings should be designed in harmony with nature, not in conflict with it; that a building should fit into its site and surroundings, to embrace and celebrate weather patterns, and to generally view nature as a gift rather than an impediment, with the building becoming an integral feature of the ground.

Wright's design objectives of incorporating nature into a house and of producing a low-cost building of high quality which encourages a relaxed living style are fully achieved in the Penfield House. The living area is expansive and non-confining, with a strong connection to the outdoors and nature through the tall floor-to-ceiling windows and doors which provide

United States Department of the Interior
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Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 2Penfield, Louis A., House
Willoughby Hills, Lake County, Ohio

views of the forest, Chagrin River, and the cliffs beyond. The large central fireplace, a defining feature of most Usonian houses, and built-in seating opposite the tall windows further enhance the sense of tranquility provided by the overall design and siting of this house. Along with the seating area, the Penfield house has built-in closets and bookshelves, and much of the other furniture was specifically designed by Wright to fit particular spaces. Clerestory windows in the kitchen area opposite the living area windows facilitate natural cooling of the house in summer by providing cross-ventilation, and are another feature typical of Wright's Usonian designs.

One of Wright's complaints about traditional houses was that they cut the occupants off from the outdoors. The Penfield House connects the interior to the outside by replacing solid walls with glass. "The hard-and-fast lines between outside and inside tend to disappear. Any building outside may come inside and the inside go outside when each is seen as part of the other and a part of the landscape" (Wright: 1948). Every door on the north and east elevations of the Penfield House opens onto the patio, the concrete of which is also scored in the same four-foot by four-foot grid dimensions as the living area's polished concrete floor.

Louis A. Penfield, a noted masonry specialist, admired a Frank Lloyd Wright house he had seen while traveling in Arizona, and therefore specifically requested a Usonian house when he initially contacted Wright to design his home. Wright subsequently designed a second house for Penfield (reportedly Wright's last commission) which was to have been built on the same property, but was never constructed.

This property meets the requirements for Criterion Consideration G, properties less than fifty years old. Sufficient scholarly research and evaluation have been done to support the exceptional significance of Frank Lloyd Wright's work and demonstrate how Usonian architecture represents an important aspect of his work.

Strathmore
WRITING 25% COTTON

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 1

Penfield, Louis A., House
Willoughby Hills, Lake County, Ohio

Bibliography

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(Drawing numbers 5303.01-5303.020).

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 1

Penfield, Louis A., House
Willoughby Hills, Lake County, Ohio

U.T.M. References

E	17/466080/4607290
F	17/466010/4607290
G	17/465960/4607210
H	17/465840/4607230
I	17/465870/4607370

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property is located in the Village of Willoughby Hills, Lake County, Ohio, and consists of the portions of Lot No. 2, Tract No. 9 (permanent parcel no. 31-A-016-0-00-002) as recorded in Vol. 91, pp. 868-870 of the Lake County Records of Deeds, but excluding approximately one acre on the southeast corner of the lot. See attached map for more detailed boundary information.

Boundary Justification

The boundary is based upon legally recorded lot lines and descriptions, and includes the property historically associated with the nominated building. Approximately one acre on the southeast corner of the lot has been excluded because it contains two non-contributing buildings of earlier date, and the exclusion does not detract from the setting and viewshed of the nominated building.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number Photographs Page 1 Penfield, Louis A., House
Willoughby Hills, Lake County, Ohio

The following information is the same for all photographs:

Name of Property: Louis A. Penfield House

Address: 2203 River Road, Willoughby Hills, Lake Co., Ohio

Photographer: Paul A. Penfield

Date of Photograph: February 1996

Negatives: In possession of the photographer

Description of views:

- #1 Exterior view of the east (front) & north elevations, looking SW.
- #2 The north elevation, looking SE.
- #3 The carport at the south end of the house, looking NE.
- #4 The south (carport) elevation, looking NW.
- #5 The facade (east side), looking west.
- #6 Interior view of the dining area.
- #7 Interior view of the living area.
- #8 View from carport

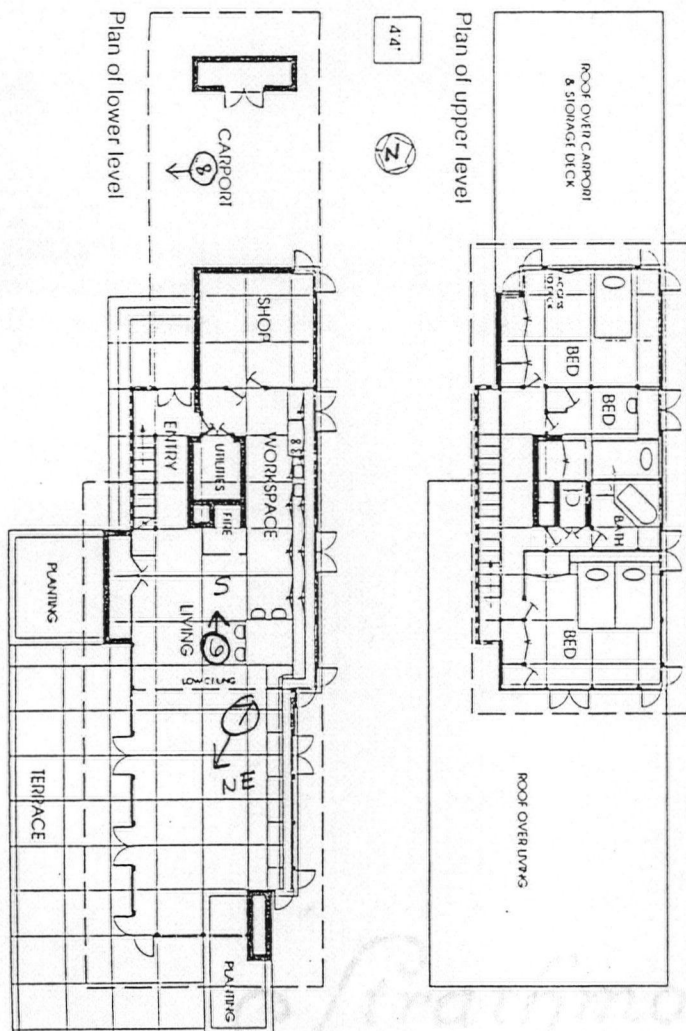
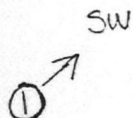
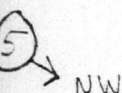
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

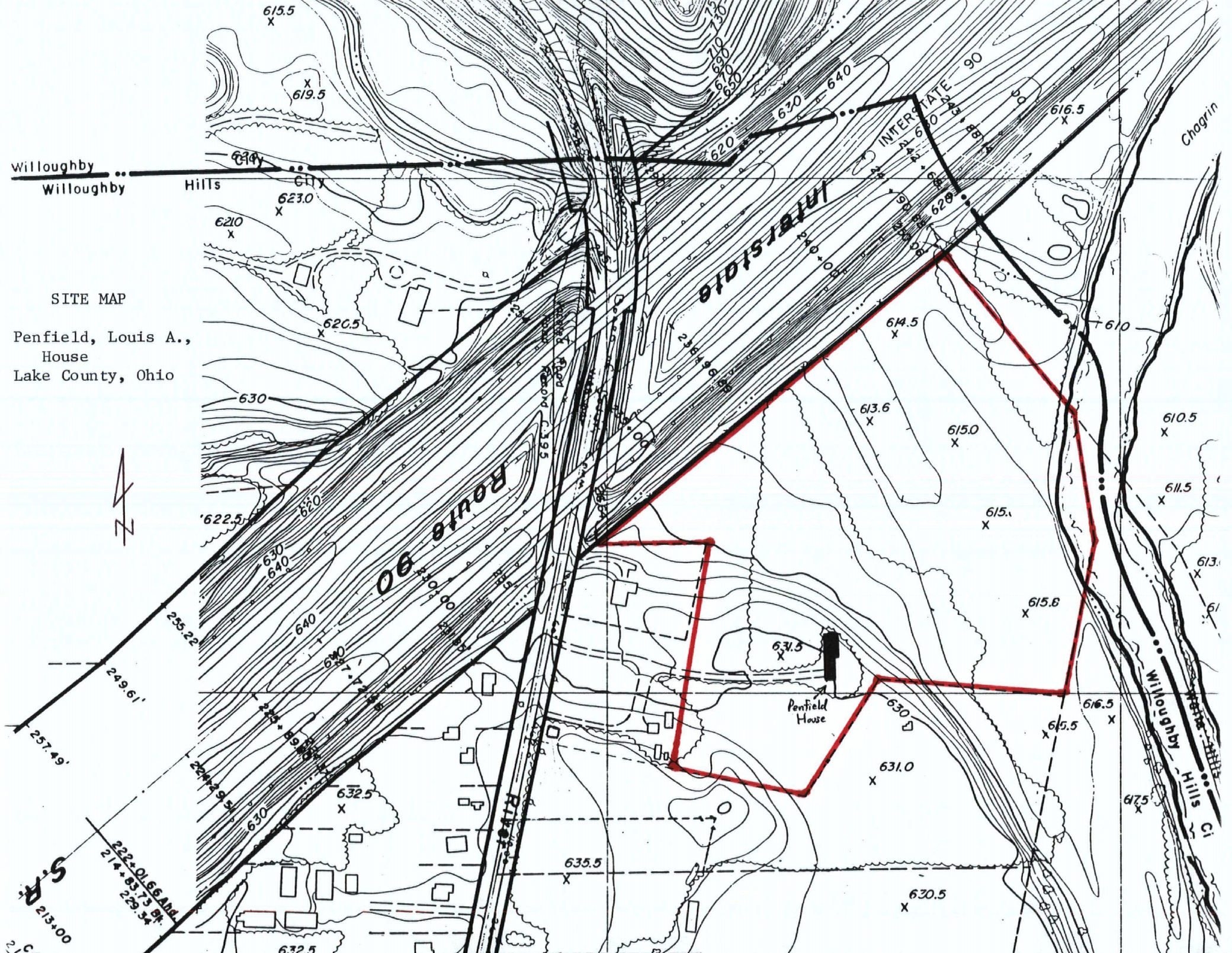
National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number Photos Page 2

Penfield, Louis A., House
Lake County, Ohio

PHOTO VIEWS





SITE MAP

Penfield, Louis A.,
House
Lake County, Ohio



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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Penfield, Louis A., House
NAME:

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: OHIO, Lake

DATE RECEIVED: 12/26/96 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 1/09/97
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 1/25/97 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 2/09/97
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 96001622

NOMINATOR: STATE

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

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

COMMENT WAIVER: N

___ACCEPT ___RETURN ___REJECT ___DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

*Exceptionally important example of Frank Lloyd Wright Usonian house
- one of only two unaltered examples in Ohio*

RECOM./CRITERIA accept c

REVIEWER Patrick Anders

DISCIPLINE Historian

TELEPHONE _____

DATE 2/7/97

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



① of 8

LOUIS A PENFIELD HOUSE
LAKE COUNTY OHIO

PENFIELD, Louis A, House

Photo # 1 of 8



② of 8

LOUIS A PENFIELD HOUSE
LAKE COUNTY OHIO

PENFIELD, LOUIS A., HOUSE

Photo #2 of 8



③ OF 8

LOUIS A PENFIELD HOUSE
LAKE COUNTY OHIO

PENFIELD, LOUIS A., HOUSE
2203 River Rd., Willoughby Hills, Lake Co, Ohio

Photo #3 of 8



④ of 8

LOUIS A PENFIELD HOUSE
LAKE COUNTY OHIO

PENFIELD, LOUIS A., HOUSE
2203 River Rd., Willoughby Hills, Lake Co., Ohio

Photo # 4 of 8



⑤ CF 8

PENFIELD, Louis A, House
2203 River Rd, Willoughby Hills

LOUIS A PENFIELD HOUSE
LAKE COUNTY
OHIO

Photo # 5 of 8



⑥ - OF 8

PENFIELD, Louis A., House
2203 River Rd., Willoughby Hills

LOUIS A PENFIELD HOUSE
LAKE COUNTY
OHIO

Photo # 6 of 8



⑦ of 8

LOUIS A PENFIELD HOUSE
LAKE COUNTY
OHIO

PENFIELD, Louis A., House
2203 River Rd., Willoughby Hills

Photo # 7 of 8



PENFIELD, Louis A., House

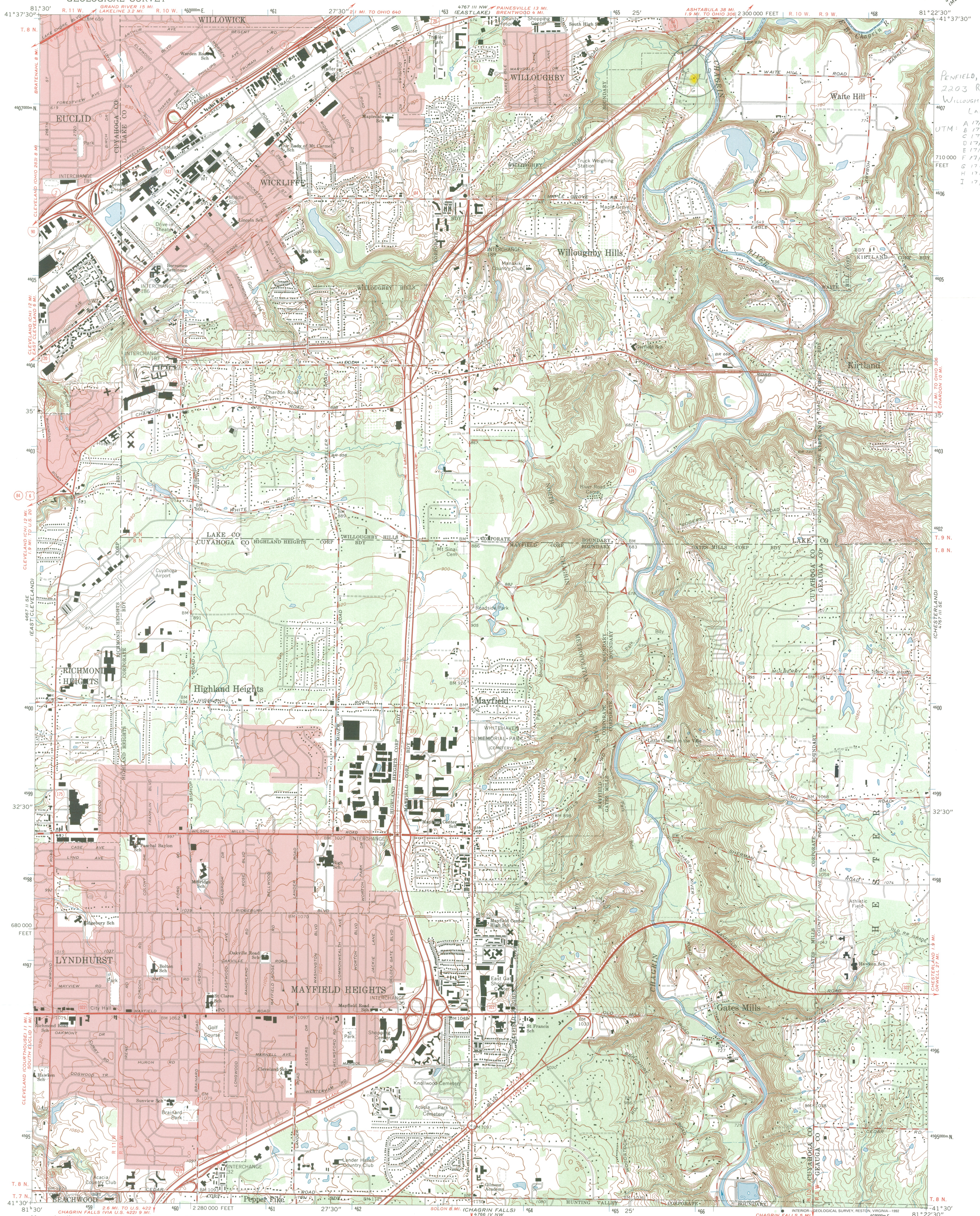
2203 River Rd., Willoughby Hills,
Lake Co., Ohio.

Photo by Paul Penfield, winter 1996.
Negative in his possession.

#8

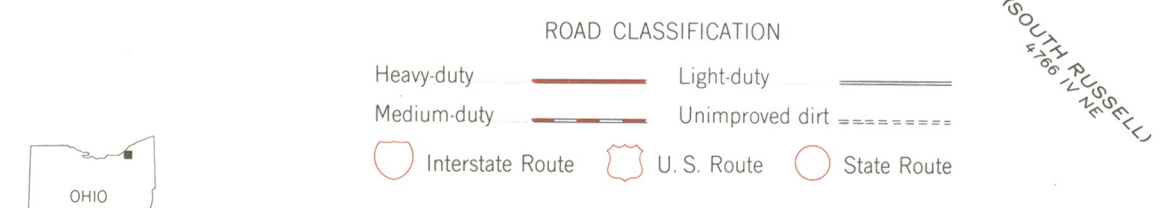
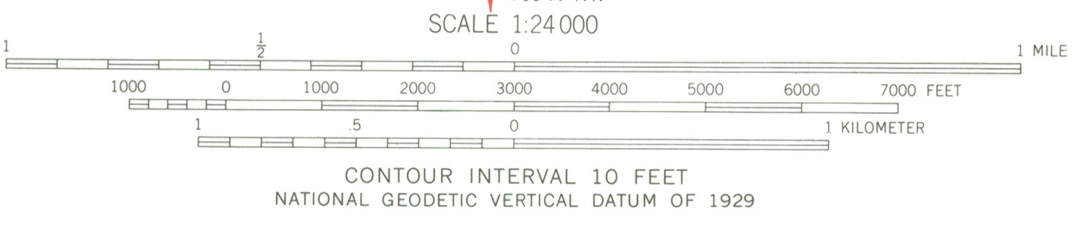
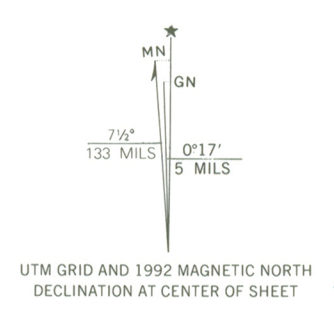
UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

MAYFIELD HEIGHTS QUADRANGLE
OHIO
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)



PENFIELD, Louis A, House
2203 River Rd.
Willoughby Hills, Ohio
Lake County
UTM: A 17/465820/4607410
B 17/466020/4607580
C 17/466070/4607500
D 17/466100/4607390
E 17/466080/4607290
F 17/466010/4607210
G 17/465950/4607210
H 17/465840/4607230
I 17/465870/4607370

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Revised in cooperation with State of Ohio agencies
Control by USGS, NOS/NOAA, and Cleveland Regional Geodetic Survey
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs
taken 1952. Field checked 1953. Revised from aerial photographs
taken 1962. Field checked 1963.
Polyconic projection. 10,000-foot grid ticks based on Ohio
coordinate system, north zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 17, shown in blue
1927 North American Datum
The difference between 1927 North American Datum and North
American Datum of 1983 (NAD 83) for 7.5-minute intersections
is given in USGS Bulletin 1875. The NAD 83 is shown by
dashed corner ticks
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where
generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown
Entire area lies within the Connecticut Western Reserve. Land lines
established by private subdivision of the Connecticut Western Reserve



MAYFIELD HEIGHTS, OHIO
41081-E4-TF-024

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
DENVER, COLORADO 80225 OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

Revisions compiled in cooperation with
State of Ohio agencies from aerial
photographs taken 1988 and other sources.
Contours not revised. This information
not field checked. Map edited 1992

1963
REVISED 1992
DMA 4767 III SW - SERIES V852