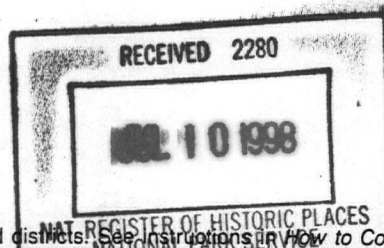


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

1013

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions on 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 U.S. Grant Birthplace and Grant Commemorative Sites Historic District

other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

**2. Location**street & number State Route 232 and U.S. Route 52 N/A ☐ not for publicationcity or town Point Pleasant N/A ☐ vicinitystate Ohio code OH county Clermont code 025 zip code 45153**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 Power Dept. Head 7-6-98  
Signature of certifying official/Title Manager, Invt. Registration Date

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

Edson H. Beall 8-6-98

**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 |            |
|--------------|-----------------|------------|
| 3            |                 | buildings  |
| 1            |                 | sites      |
| 1            | 1               | structures |
| 4            |                 | objects    |
| 9            | 1               | 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**

-0-

**6. Function or Use****Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/SINGLE DWELLING=HOUSE

LANDSCAPE/PARK

TRANSPORTATION/ROAD-RELATED

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Recreation and Culture/Monument Marker

Domestic/Museum

Landscape/Park

Transportation/Road-Related

**7. Description****Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

NO STYLE

**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone: limestone

walls Brick

roof

other

**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 1U. S. Grant Birthplace & Grant Commemorative Sites Historic District  
Clermont County, Ohio

## DESCRIPTION

Pt. Pleasant is a small, unincorporated hamlet (1990 pop: approx. 100) located on the northeast bank of the Ohio River, 25 miles upstream from Cincinnati. This sleepy, riverine community occupies a second terrace backed by a ridge of steep Ohio hills. Big Indian Creek marks the southeastern edge of the village and also serves as the southeastern boundary of the district. Architecturally, Pt. Pleasant has a modest collection of 19th century vernacular dwellings, almost all of frame construction. U. S. Route 52, the old turnpike road between Portsmouth and Cincinnati, parallels the river and bisects the village. A small store and roadside park lie immediately northwest of Route 52 and opposite Grant Memorial Park. Both properties lie outside the district boundaries. Southeast of the district and beyond Indian Creek is the Clarke Farm Site (33-CT-22 CT 22; NROHP 1974), a significant prehistoric habitation area. Of interest to industrial archaeologists is the site of the former Peterson Pottery and Pipe Factory, a once thriving operative that produced highly detailed kaolin pipes during the 19th century. Substantially altered ca. 1970, this site is believed to lie outside the district boundaries immediately southeast of the bridge.

Contributing resources within the district include Grant Memorial Park (site), Grant Birthplace (building), Caretaker's House (building), Caretaker's Garage (building), Grant Memorial Bridge pylons and beacons (objects), and WPA landscape features (structure). The concrete bridge span is considered a non-contributing structure (Figure 11 - Site Plan).

**The Grant Birthplace (ca. 1820, 1936)**

The Grant Birthplace is a vernacular, one-story, three-bay, timber-frame building with a limestone foundation (Photo #1). The house has a wood-shingled, end-gable roof with no eaves. The balanced, east-facing facade consists of a center door framed by single 6 over 6 double hung windows. The main portion of the south elevation is blank with a single 6 over 6 window in the shed-roof addition. The west-facing rear elevation of the shed has a single 6 over 6 window and doors (Photo #2). The north elevation is dominated by a large external chimney which vents the cooking fireplace, a single door and a 6 over 6 window. The interior of the house consists of a single

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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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**U. S. Grant Birthplace & Grant Commemorative Sites Historic District  
Clermont County, Ohio**

**DESCRIPTION (cont'd)**

large room with random width floor boards and plain woodwork, with the exception of a 1/4 inch bead on either side of the fireplace. The room is furnished as it might have been when Grant was born. The space is defined by the cooking fireplace on one side of the room and a rope bed, chest and cradle on the opposite side. The shed-roof addition is divided into two rooms, a small office and an exhibit space. A white board fence encloses the front yard.

**Lee Thompson House/Caretaker's House (ca. 1820; 1936-1937)**

Immediately north and west of the Birthplace is the Caretaker's House, a vernacular, single story brick dwelling with gable roof (Photo #3). This private residence was leased to the Ohio Historical Society in 1937 and subsequently purchased in 1953. The original portion of the house is rectangular in plan with interior end chimneys and small window bays. Brickwork appears to be common bond with houndstoothing at the cornices. Attached to the northwest and northeast elevations are sensitively constructed, single story wings (Photo #4). Designed in 1936 by the Columbus architectural firm of Goller, Harsh and Davies, the additions complement the historic fabric and fenestration of the original brick cottage. The clapboard wall treatment and eight-over-eight and six-over-six window sashes are original to the 1936 design. An asphalt shingle roof has since replaced the 1936 wood shingle roof surface.

**Caretaker's Garage (1936-1937)**

Located approximately 50' northwest of the Thompson House is the caretaker's garage, a simple, balloon frame, single story, gable roofed frame structure (Photo #5). The garage retains its original novelty siding and six-over-six double hung window sashes. The rubble limestone foundation reportedly was laid using WPA labor (Fuhrman, 1997).

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Clermont County, Ohio

## DESCRIPTION (cont'd)

Grant Memorial Bridge (1925-27; 1984)

The original Grant Memorial Bridge (CLE US 52-10.70) was replaced in 1984 by a reinforced concrete deck span (Photo #8). The bridge span is a non-contributing resource. The 1927 structure was a Parker through truss span manufactured by the Brookville Construction Company, Brookville, Ohio (Figure 9). However, the original commemorative stone end pylons, decorative bronze beacons, bronze plaques and wingwalls remain in situ (Photo #9). The plaques contain brief biographical information on Grant and the bridge. One of the plaques exhibits a handsome bas relief of Grant in uniform (Photo #10). The original manufacturer's nameplate was removed from the bridge during demolition and now stands in the highway rest area immediately northwest of the bridge.

Grant Memorial Park (1925-1928)

A small village, Pt. Pleasant's fame as always been its association with Grant. The idea of developing a park in honor of Grant can be traced to 1922 when J.B. Winspear, a local grocer and head of the Centennial Committee, recommended demolition of several houses for a new park. Supporters felt it was important "this place [Pt. Pleasant] will have something to show to persons patriotic enough to come to the birthplace of the nation's greatest general" (*Enquirer*, 1922). Upon recommendation of the Grant Centenary Commission, in January, 1926 the State of Ohio began acquiring lots 21, 22, 27, 28, 29 and 30 for creation of Grant Park, which would provide an open vista from the newly designated Atlantic and Pacific Highway (U.S. 52) of the Grant Birthplace Site. Today, the park remains an open wooded space and several trees, including Buckeyes, Red Maples and Ash, appear to be vestiges of the original park plantings. The portion of Grant Memorial Park located southwest of U.S. Route 52 and S.R. 252, presently serving as a highway roadside rest, is excluded from the nomination by virtue of new bathroom facilities and major site alterations.



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**U. S. Grant Birthplace & Grant Commemorative Sites Historic District  
Clermont County, Ohio**

**DESCRIPTION (cont'd)**

**Landscape Features (ca. 1937-1940)**

The limestone retaining walls, sidewalk flagging and gutters constitutes an important part of the district (Figure 11; Photo #7). Background research indicates these features were built in conjunction with a Works Progress Administration (WPA) project to improve the park and enhance its historical setting. The main retaining wall extends approximately 370 feet from the confluence of Indian Creek and the Ohio River and parallels the north bank of the creek adjacent to the roadside park (Photo #10, Figure 3, Map #2). A short flight of stone stairs leads from the wall down to the confluence. This section of the wall and stairs is overgrown with foliage and portions have been covered with river debris and sediment. The wall continues beyond the east side of Route 52 forming the southern boundary of the parking lot. Built of Trenton limestone, the walls feature rock faced ashlar surfaces and flagstone coping (Photo #11). The numerous limestone outcroppings around Pt. Pleasant were identified by Bownocker in 1915 as the "Pt. Pleasant Beds" (Bownocker, pp. 17-18). A series of stone landscape features also distinguish the park and Birthplace property. Fronting Grant Park along Route 52 is a low limestone wall. A handsomely crafted limestone gutter parallels the northwest side of State Route 232 from Route 52 to Back Street. Stone flagging, original to 1937 with subsequent improvements, fronts the Birthplace and Caretaker's House (Photo #12). Between the Birthplace and the Caretaker's House is a flagstone walk with a ca. 1937 wooden "wishing well" (Photo #13). At the rear of the Birthplace is a flagstone patio and sundial mounted on a battered stone base. Another series of low limestone walls runs perpendicular to the Caretaker's House and separates it from the open space to the northeast along Back Street (Photo #12). Another limestone wall runs from the rear of the Caretaker's House along the back side of the Park northwest to Locust Street.

While undoubtedly repaired over the years, all of the above landscape features appear to have been built as part of and in conjunction with the WPA.

The parking lot facing State Route 232, constructed in 1937 using WPA funds, is included in the district (Photo 19).

**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.

**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):**

- ☐ 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 # \_\_\_\_\_

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Entertainment/Recreation/Tourism

Conservation

**Period of Significance**

ca. 1864-1948

**Significant Dates**

1885

1936

1907

1938

1922

1928

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

n/a

**Cultural Affiliation**

n/a

**Architect/Builder**

Goller, Harsh & Davies, Columbus, OH

Name of repository: Grant Birthplace Museum files

Ohio Historical Society Archives-Library

Name of Property

County and State

**10. Geographical Data**Acreage of Property 4 acres**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

|   |      |                  |                     |
|---|------|------------------|---------------------|
| 1 | 1, 6 | 7, 4, 0, 0, 0, 0 | 4, 3, 0, 8, 4, 8, 0 |
|   | Zone | Easting          | Northing            |
| 2 |      |                  |                     |

|   |      |         |          |
|---|------|---------|----------|
| 3 |      |         |          |
|   | Zone | Easting | Northing |
| 4 |      |         |          |

☐ See continuation sheet**Verbal Boundary Description**

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

Boundaries indicated on accompanying Map 1 and Figure 11.

**Boundary Justification**

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

**11. Form Prepared By**name/title Steve Gordon with Glenn Harperorganization Ohio Historic Preservation Office date November, 1997street & number 567 E. Hudson Street telephone (614) 297-2470city or town Columbus state Ohio zip code 43211**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 The State of Ohio and the Ohio Historical Society (see owner notification sheet)

street &amp; number \_\_\_\_\_ telephone \_\_\_\_\_

city or town \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ zip code \_\_\_\_\_

**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 Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.



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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 1

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## U. S. Grant Birthplace & Grant Commemorative Sites Historic District Clermont County, Ohio

### Significance

The properties comprising U.S. Grant's Birthplace and Grant Commemorative Sites Historic District in Pt. Pleasant, Ohio, are significant under Criterion A for their role in commemorating the birth of Ulysses S. Grant, president, West Point graduate and Union general, and under Criterion Consideration F as commemorative monuments within the context of U. S. Grant iconography. The birthplace, memorial park and related commemorative sites represent places associated with Grant's birth in Clermont County and also as twentieth century tourist-related sites which in their own right have come to physically symbolize his Clermont County heritage. The district further represents how patriotic meanings are communicated through commemoration and, by implication, the connection between grass-roots patriotic sentiment and the nation (Glassberg, 2). In the case of the Grant's Birthplace, the period of significance begins ca. 1864 because this was the period when Grant emerged as a nationally significant figure and associations were being made to his place of birth (Figure 4).

The State of Ohio's acquisition of Grant's Birthplace in 1925 was authorized to preserve, for the benefit and inspiration of ensuing generations, the traditional site of the birthplace "cabin" and park property. State government, augmented by the federal government's WPA construction programs during the 1930s further reinforced this vernacular interest in local history. As one historian notes, during the 1930s and the depths of the Great Depression, members of the professional classes and governmental officials "sought to inculcate civic obedience and loyalty in an era when discontent was widespread, and transform the meaning of vernacular symbols" (Bodnar, 137). Over the past seventy-five years the Birthplace, returned to its original site in 1936, and associated U. S. Grant sites have been imbued with their own historical importance as commemorative monuments to the Union general and eighteenth president.

The Grant Birthplace Memorial Park, established by the Grant Centenary Commission in 1922, was acquired by the state in 1925, ranking it among Ohio's early public historic preservation and conservation initiatives. Although significant prehistoric and Indian War related sites such as Ft. Ancient had been acquired by the Ohio State Archaeological and Historical Society (hereafter referred to as OAHS) as early as

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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

U. S. GRANT BIRTHPLACE AND GRANT  
COMMEMORATIVE SITES HISTORIC DISTRICT

Section number 8 Page 2

CLERMONT COUNTY, OH

## U. S. Grant Birthplace & Grant Commemorative Sites Historic District Clermont County, Ohio

1891, it wasn't until the World War I period that historic buildings and historic sites were incorporated into the state's site system, later coming under the aegis "State Memorials."

Characteristic of many early historic house museums, Grant Birthplace began as a commemorative site recalling the history of a great man (Photo #15). During the first half of the 20th century, buildings housing museums or birthplaces were generally vehicles for interpreting something other than architecture--the preservation of history (McDonald, 22). These early sites were preserved for their historical associations hallowed by virtue of their important military and political connections. The 1920s and thirties also saw a widespread romance with two quintessentially American concepts which are in themselves contradictions: the road and the small town. Small towns such as Hodgenville, Kentucky, and Pt. Pleasant, Ohio represented the quintessential American experience, evoking a time when people seemed more sure of their place in the world. The yearnings for lost innocence, conquests and historical achievements were seen to compensate for modern-day failures of the Depression era. Ordinary people celebrated their local ancestries and sought inspiration in the present by making their counterparts in the past seem almost heroic. As historic symbols commemorative sites helped soothe the personal needs of ordinary people and the political needs of professionals and officials. Americans were longing to experience traces of an authentic, more fulfilling past, a desire to experience something untouched by the ravages of time (Bodnar, 135; Boyer, 200-201). "The urge to commemorate America," explains one author, "combined with the burgeoning availability of the automobile and a new national road system, led to a wave of interest in seeing America." (Shubinski, 1997). The Grant Birthplace and Grant Commemorative Sites Historic District epitomize this early expression of auto-related patriotic commemoration.

In Clermont County, efforts to physically memorialize Grant began, at least in more formal terms, in 1907, when a Civil War cannon and bronze tablet were placed in front of the birthplace site (Photo #14). At the dedication ceremony Governor Andrew Harris addressed a large throng that had traveled upriver from Cincinnati by steamboat. As visitation to Pt. Pleasant increased, and road access gradually improved, interest grew in relocating the Birthplace to its original site.

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Clermont County, Ohio

## GRANT'S POINT PLEASANT YEARS (1822-1823)

While a good portion of the birthplace's history has been a peripatetic one, the first 60 years of its existence were confined to its original site in Pt. Pleasant, Ohio, a sleepy hamlet located on the Ohio River 25 miles upstream from Cincinnati. Today, untouched by sprawl or tacky tourist stands, Pt. Pleasant retains much of its quiet, sleepy ambience, much as it has for the past 150 years. Pt. Pleasant was platted in 1813 by Henry Ludlow to include 100 in-lots. In 1837 Warren Jenkins described Pt. Pleasant in his gazetteer as:

a flourishing little town in Monroe Township, Clermont County, on the north bank of the Ohio River. It contains about 30 houses, 130 inhabitants, and two stores. It is situated immediately below the mouth of Indian Creek (Jenkins, 366).

It was in this riverine community that Jesse and Hannah Grant operated a tannery. According to his *Personal Memoirs*, President U. S. Grant wrote, "In June, 1821 my father, Jesse R. Grant, married Hannah Simpson. I was born on the 27th of April, 1822, at Point Pleasant, Clermont County, Ohio." Dr. J. G. Rogers, the first physician of neighboring New Richmond (see CLE-442-10), assisted with the birth of baby Hiram, later named Ulysses. Jesse, Hannah and infant Ulysses lived in the one-story foreman's cottage which Jesse rented from Lee Thompson, next door to the tannery above Indian Creek. Tradition claims the house was built in 1817, although one account attributes it to 1820.

The family's move from Point Pleasant to Georgetown was dictated by Jesse's desire to better himself economically by establishing a new and larger tannery near an area promising a ready supply of tanning bark (Bearss, 1). Grant was brought to Georgetown in 1823 as a 16 month-old baby and lived in the Boyhood Home (NHL, 1985) with his parents until leaving home to enter the U. S. Military Academy in May, 1839.

## POST-GRANT YEARS IN POINT PLEASANT (1823-1885)

The Birthplace appears to have remained relatively intact during this period. In 1885,



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just prior to its removal from Point Pleasant, Henry Howe noted the house "remains as well preserved as originally built; a lean-to kitchen has since been added. It is a one story frame, 16 x 19 feet, with a steep roof, the pitch being five feet, and on the right or north end is a huge chimney, affording a spacious fireplace" (Howe, 421; Figure 1). A photo taken of the house in July, 1864 shows it to appear much as Howe described it twenty years later (Library of Congress, 1864, Figure 4).

## REMOVAL OF BIRTHPLACE (ca. 1886-1935)

On August 2, 1885, the Estate Section of the *Cincinnati Enquirer* featured the following advertisement: "Michael Hirsch, owner of the decayed little frame house at Pt. Pleasant, in which General Grant was born, yielded yesterday to a \$7,000 offer from New York, transportation to be made by the buyers. A year ago Hirsch was willing to sell the house, land and all, for \$300." The sale apparently never took place. Yet following Grant's death in 1885 the Birthplace was moved by towboat from Point Pleasant to Cincinnati and leased for the 100 day celebration of the Ohio Valley Centennial, despite opposition from some Clermont County and Pt. Pleasant citizens, who feared the house would never be returned. A small fee was charged to view the Birthplace and the owner, Michael Hirsch, received one-fourth of the exhibition proceeds.

It was while viewing the house on exhibit at the Centennial Exposition in 1888 that Henry Chittenden, "a friend and admirer of Grant," and William F. Burdell of Columbus concluded it was inappropriate to use the birthplace for commercial purposes. Only a year earlier Congressman John Little of Ohio proposed the federal government acquire the birthplace, but action was never taken (OHS VFM-161). Convinced of its authenticity, Chittenden purchased the Birthplace in 1888 for \$3,000 and first moved it to Goodale Park in Columbus as part of the GAR national encampment. This "Great Reunion" saw 70,000 comrades march in procession in front of an estimated 100,000 spectators, the largest such assemblage since the great Washington parade of 1865 [43rd AR Board of Agriculture, 74]. Subsequently, the birthplace went on a tour of the nation before being moved to the State Fairgrounds in Columbus, where it became a featured attraction (Figure 5).

Exposed to the elements and throngs of visitors for nearly a decade, the birthplace's condition became a growing source of concern among state officials, principally the

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Clermont County, Ohio

Secretary of Agriculture (BOA, *Annual Report*, 8). In September, 1896, a glass and limestone pavilion was erected on the fairgrounds to enclose and protect the Grant Birthplace, where it remained sheltered until 1936 (Figure 6). At the dedication ceremony opening the pavilion, Henry Chittenden, vice president of the [Ohio] Centennial Board, undoubtedly spoke for many Ohioans when he proclaimed, "We have gathered about this now consecrated spot to complete an affair that had its beginning some eight, or perhaps better, eighty years ago when this little cottage which we see here was reared upon the banks of the Ohio River to be the home of a single pioneer of our great state" Adding somewhat nostalgically, Chittenden said of the cabin, "I here deliver once more to the care of the people of his [Grant] native state, to shine like a gem on her fair bosom...to be the mecca of millions of grateful, pious pilgrims and to present to unborn generations the most impressive and instructive of lessons for the conduct of life...." ("Dedication of Memorial Building," 291).

Given its numerous relocations and the physical demands of lengthy exhibits, some doubts about the Birthplace's authenticity began to emerge. Chittenden was quick to respond to such murmurings, pointing out that testimony and affidavits were taken regarding the building's authenticity and sketches were made of its original appearance so any details could be reproduced. Chittenden further noted,

Upon each removal extreme care, involving in every case an expenditure of money far beyond the first cost of the building, has been exercised to transfer and replace every particle of the building as it was found to be after Grant's glorious achievements had thrown a luster and sacredness about his every belonging and made this humble house sacred to the American people. Nothing was added and nothing was taken away and it stands today as it stood for more than half a century looking out upon the glancing waters of the beautiful river ("Dedication," 291).

In 1897 President William McKinley came to the Ohio State Fair and made a special point of visiting the Grant Birthplace. A hushed silence fell over the crowd as the President stood looking at the house, removed his hat and entered the low door. "Inside the memories that came over the minds of the veterans present, standing as



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## U. S. Grant Birthplace & Grant Commemorative Sites Historic District Clermont County, Ohio

they were in the birthplace of the grand Union general, were too sacred to find utterance and the few remarks addressed by one to the other were in whispers," a newspaper account said of the scene (*Dispatch*, 8/17/97).

The centennial in 1922 of Grant's birth served as a catalyst for commemoration activities. A U.S. Grant State Memorial Association was created and a Grant Centenary Commission was appointed by the Governor. In addition, Congress approved the creation and sale of Grant commemorative coins, which, along with the formation of the Grant Memorial Highway Association, helped fund road improvements between New Richmond and Pt. Pleasant, Ohio (Figure 7). The road gained further attention in 1928, when a congressional Committee on Post Roads and Post Offices designated it as part of a proposed Atlantic to Pacific Highway (Atlantic to Pacific Report).

No event focused more attention on Grant and the plight of his birthplace more than the centennial celebration of his birth, held at Pt. Pleasant April 27, 1922. Standing on a platform near the site of the birthplace, President Warren G. Harding addressed an estimated crowd of 30,000 through an electronic device known as a Bell Loud Speaker. The President's speech was broadcast simultaneously to an equally large gathering at Cincinnati's Lytle Park, marking one of the earliest uses of the recently developed technology of electronic voice amplification (*Cincinnati Bell Telephone Bulletin*, 67; *Long Lines*, 13).

The early importance of the site rather than the building itself is partly evident from a description in 1930 of a GAR pilgrimage to Point Pleasant. In a lengthy, somewhat obsequious summary of the day's activities under a cut line that read, "At the Grant Cottage," the newspaper columnist concluded by stating, "There was a pilgrimage to the plain comfortable little cottage of Grant's nativity, and back to the boat, and downriver to Cincinnati" (*Times Star* 8/30/30). Apparently unbeknownst to the writer, Grant's actual Birthplace was still in Columbus, and would not return to Pt. Pleasant for another six years.

## CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION AND RETURN OF BIRTHPLACE

Hugh Nichols, former Chief Justice of the Ohio Supreme Court and Chairman of the



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## U. S. Grant Birthplace & Grant Commemorative Sites Historic District Clermont County, Ohio

Grant Centenary Celebration Committee, and Clermont County native, was a strong advocate of returning the birthplace to Point Pleasant. Propitiously, during the 1920s and early 1930s events were taking place, both locally and nationally, that led the return of the cottage (Figure 8). Restorations at Colonial Williamsburg, Greenfield Village and Old Sturbridge helped raise the nation's historical consciousness, coupled with the celebration of the United States sesquicentennial in 1926. In November, 1925 the Grant Centenary Commission acquired its first parcel of property in Pt. Pleasant, and by January, 1926 the State of Ohio had begun acquiring several lots in Point Pleasant, including the property where the birthplace formerly stood, and a Grant Memorial Park was established. The OAHS did not assume official responsibility for administering the Grant Memorial State Park until 1932 (Deed Files, Facilities Division, OHS). The almost fraternal connection of presidential sites manifested itself that same year when the Conservation Committee of Ohio Federation of Women's Clubs planted willow trees from Mt. Vernon along Indian Creek (*Times Star* 4/6/32). Today none of the willows survive, although a Buckeye, Sweetgum and Red Maple planted in the park during the 1920s still stand. The Grant Birthplace was among the first historic sites in Ohio acquired by the state and marked the beginning of an era when houses deemed to possess statewide historical importance were preserved and interpreted. Prior to this period the emphasis toward preserving Ohio's significant places was more prehistoric in scope (Ft. Ancient, acquired 1891, NHL 1964; and Serpent Mound, acquired 1900, NHL 1964). Hayes Presidential Center (acquired 1915) and Campus Martius (acquired 1918) were the first individually significant historic buildings acquired by the State of Ohio (OHS, Education Division, Site Files).

In 1927 construction for the Grant Memorial Bridge, a Parker through truss span with decorative stone pylons and cannons, was completed over Indian Creek along Route 52 (Figure 9). The entire structure, noted a Department of Highways publication,

was given special architectural treatment as a memorial to General U. S. Grant. . .the substructure approach was given particular attention, being built in part, of stonemasonry consisting of native stone trimmed with cut Bedford limestone. Decorative bronze beacons serve to beautify and light the structure, while the end pylons serve as pedestals for cannon obtained from the War Department for this particular purpose (*Dept. of Highways*, 156).

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## U. S. Grant Birthplace & Grant Commemorative Sites Historic District Clermont County, Ohio

Unable to handle the heavier truck traffic, the steel truss was imploded in 1983, replaced in 1984 with a modern concrete deck span. At the time all of the stone pylons and walls were dismantled, repaired, rebuilt and repointed. During background research for the bridge replacement project the Ohio Department of Transportation noted a concrete bridge was originally specified for the site, but soil tests dictated a lighter weight, steel span. It is useful to note the original bridge was built partly from funds raised from the sale of special Grant dollars and half dollars minted for the occasion (*Times Star*, 9/30/36).

In 1932 over 50,000 visitors registered at the park, making it one of the most visited sites in southern Ohio (OHS, Box 82). Finally, in May 1935, the Ohio legislature authorized and directed the OAHS to remove the house from the fairgrounds to the original site in Pt. Pleasant, Ohio (House Bill 168, May, 1935).

In March, 1936, under the supervision of H. R. McPherson, Director of OAHS, the Birthplace was dismantled in sections and shipped by six trucks to Point Pleasant. The building was stored in a barn and erected in sections on its original stone foundation. A simple two story frame house that had occupied the site since ca. 1885 was moved to a nearby lot on Locust Street in Pt. Pleasant. Evidence suggests much of the original fabric of the birthplace was replaced during and immediately after the move. One period account noted curators "Found [it] impossible to return original house, but through the enthusiastic and untiring efforts of Judge Hugh L. Nichols, the house was rebuilt, following out in every detail the plan of the original house." A typewritten description of the site taken ca. 1941 reported "The house as it now stands is an exact replica of the house in which President Grant was born" (OHS, Site Files; OHS Archives, Box 87, Folder 45). Establishing any authenticity of the house's historic fabric remains conjectural given the fact no detailed field notes or reconstruction specifications have been found. One newspaper account reported the



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U. S. GRANT BIRTHPLACE AND GRANT  
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CLERMONT COUNTY, OH

**U. S. Grant Birthplace & Grant Commemorative Sites Historic District  
Clermont County, Ohio**

original hand-made brick nogging had been preserved (*Enquirer* 7 March 1936). It is definitely known the floor and floor joists were so rotten they were replaced at the time of re-assembly (OHS Deed Files. 8" x 10" sills were placed under the "cabin" and 6" x 8" sills under the leanto in 1936).

For years local folklore claimed the lean-to addition on the Birthplace was the site of Grant's birth, but subsequent research and fabric analysis refuted this claim since the leanto was added to the cabin following Grant's occupation but prior to 1864 (Frost, Grant Album, 234). The rear of the original house features two outside windows, a door and clapboard siding nearly identical to the other three exterior elevations (Photos #2 & #16).

On October 4, 1936, dedication services were held in Point Pleasant celebrating the return and "restoration" of the birthplace (Shetrone, "Grant Cabin," p. 103; Figure 10). Marking the occasion was Governor Myers Y. Cooper, who in addressing the crowd solemnly observed:

Due to the fame of a citizen who was born on this spot and in this house, there was removed from this site many years ago, the home in which was born a child who was destined to illumine [sic] America and the world with the grandeur of his character and of his patriotic mind and heart.

It was a great conception of Judge Nichols to perpetuate this shrine, and cause to be built here a magnificent memorial bridge, over which thousands will pass in safety and security as they visit this sacred spot.

So, my friends, we celebrate this unusual circumstances of a home restored and rededicated to God and country. From this day forth it will be a shrine attracting people from the North, South, East and West of our own country, and from lands beyond the sea, who will come here, leaving with a rebirth of faith in the virtues for which Grant lived and died (Cooper, "Address at Pt. Pleasant," 1936).



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**U. S. Grant Birthplace & Grant Commemorative Sites Historic District  
Clermont County, Ohio**

During the year, 100,000 people visited the Birthplace, of which 63,000 signed the guest register.

With the house successfully relocated to its original site (Photos #17 & #18), improvements to the park and adjacent areas soon followed. A long term lease for the Caretaker's House was negotiated by the OAHS in October, 1937 with an option to purchase. Alterations and additions to the Caretaker's House were implemented in 1937 according to designs rendered by the Columbus, Ohio architectural firm of Goller, Hirsch and Davies (Deed Files, OHS). In August, 1936 the OAHS was awarded a series of WPA sponsored construction projects for state memorials. As was customary for WPA projects involving "sites and structures of historical and archaeological importance," all planning and construction was subject to the written approval of the [National] Park Service. The Park Service commended the Society for the quality of its restoration work to date, calling it a "model of its kind." In this same letter to H. C. Shetrone, then Acting Director of the National Park Service, A. E. Demaray wrote "We appreciate the importance of the preservation work which you are carrying out and will cooperate with you in every way towards its progress." Included in the project were funds for the construction of retaining walls, sidewalks and street gutters at Grant Memorial Park, with additional federal flood relief funds awarded later for repairs to the house, which had suffered some damage during the epic Ohio River flood in January, 1937. Total cost for the WPA project was \$42,734.00 (Letter from A. E. Demaray to H. C. Shetrone, 16 September 1936, Letter from Weldon McGlaun to S. Harrison, 5 March 1937, Series 3078, Box 92, Folders 29 & 42; *Times Star*, 3/30/37).

Since 1937 the Ohio Historical Society has endeavored to maintain the integrity of the Birthplace and Grant-related structures. In 1953 the Caretaker's House was acquired by the OAHS from the Allison family, and in 1966 minor restoration work was conducted on both the interior and exterior of the Birthplace. Other than the replacement of the bridge span in 1984 and modernization of the roadside rest in 1984 (outside the boundaries of the district) the Grant Birthplace and Grant Memorial Park appear much as they did in the late 1930s.

The various memorial and tourist sites associated with Grant have been integral to area tourism efforts since the early 1900s. Clermont County emphasizes its identity

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**U. S. Grant Birthplace & Grant Commemorative Sites Historic District  
Clermont County, Ohio**

as the birthplace of Grant while Brown County promotes his boyhood years there. The Birthplace and park sites are simply interpreted, serving as the keystone of Clermont County's heritage tourism efforts.

1

A birthplace of a historical figure is eligible if the person is of outstanding importance and there is no other appropriate site or building directly associated with his or her productive life. In the case of Grant, there are several other properties, including his boyhood home in Georgetown, Ohio, that are more closely associated with his productive career. Therefore, the Birthplace is not considered eligible under Criteria Consideration C (See *National Register Bulletin* 15, pp. 32-33).

2

Grant's Birthplace is interchangeably referred to in historic sources as the "cabin" or "cottage." For the sake of consistency this nomination will refer to it as the Birthplace.

3

"A concrete bridge in place of the truss as originally planned in the 1920s would not [adversely] affect the memorial features. In reality the existing bridge is only a connecting link between two identical, but discrete memorial structures." Letter from Byrd Finley, Ohio Dept. of Transportation to W. Ray Luce, State Historic Preservation Officer, 5 November 1981.

4

Soon after the flood the cannon and marker were moved to the south corner of the park,

5

The site has been under the care and supervision of Loretta and Edward Fuhrman since 1966.



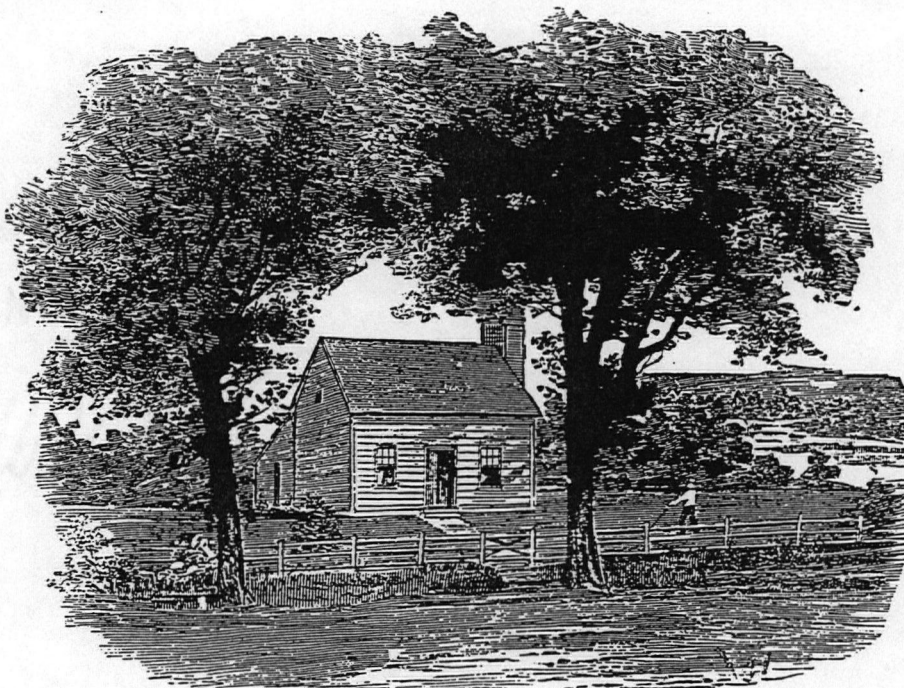
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U. S. GRANT BIRTHPLACE AND GRANT  
COMMEMORATIVE SITES HISTORIC DISTRICT

CLERMONT COUNTY, OH



BIRTHPLACE OF GEN. U. S. GRANT, POINT PLEASANT.

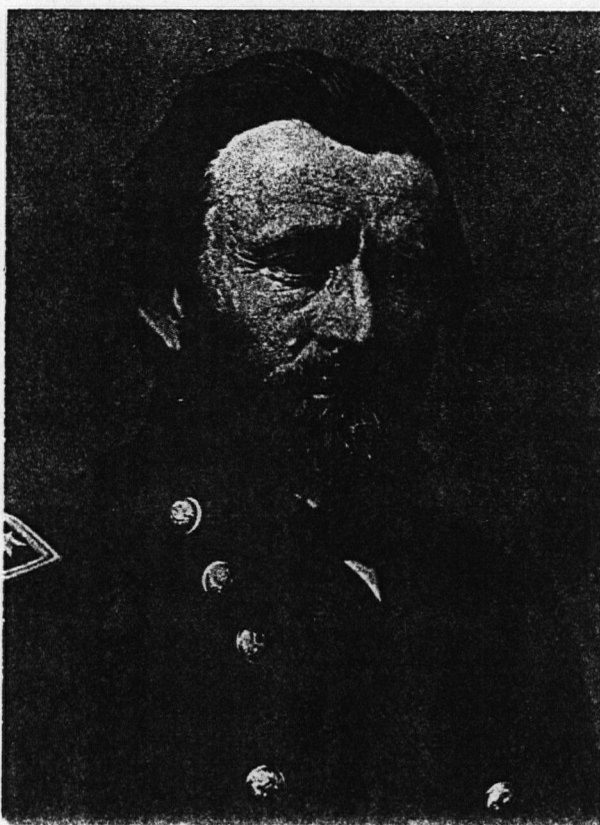
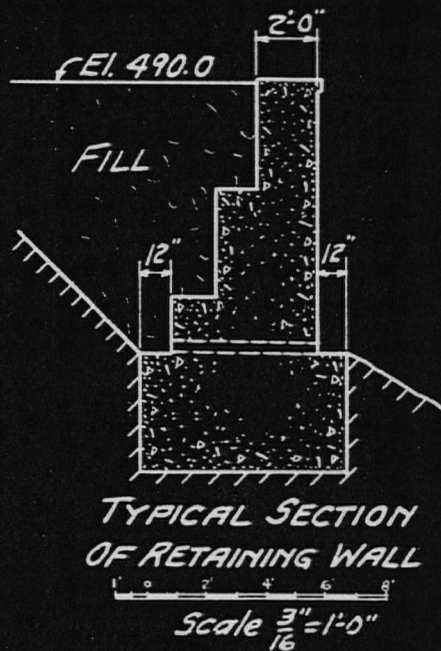
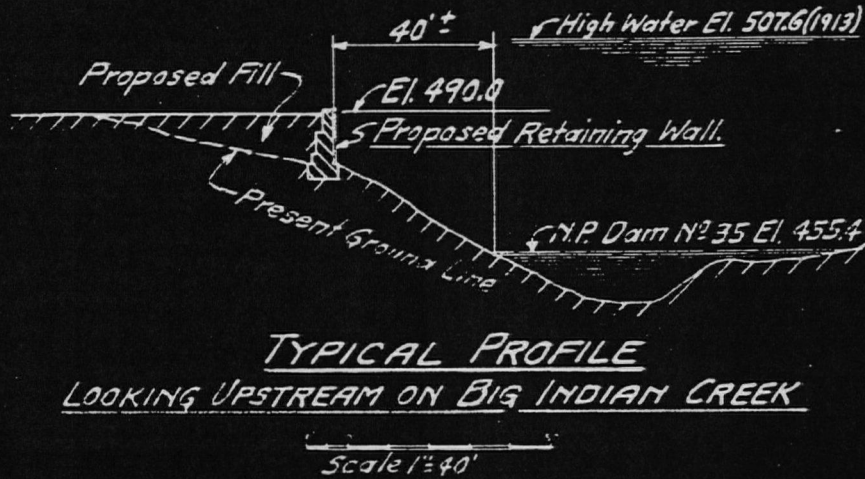


FIGURE 1. & 2.



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CLERMONT COUNTY, OH

PROPOSED RETAINING WALL  
ON OHIO RIVER

APPLICATION BY:

THE OHIO STATE ARCH. &amp; HIST. SOCIETY.

COLUMBUS, OHIO. JUNE 15, 1936.

Sheet 2 of 2 Sheets.

FIGURE 3.  
Profile of Limestone Wall

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U. S. GRANT BIRTHPLACE AND GRANT  
COMMEMORATIVE SITES HISTORIC DISTRICT

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CLERMONT COUNTY, OH



Family I

Entered according to Act of Congress, July 6th, 1864, by Goodwin & Dickinson, in the Clerks Office of the Southern District of Ohio.

BIRTH-PLACE OF LIEUT.-GEN. U. S. GRANT,

POINT PLEASANT, CLERMONT COUNTY, OHIO.

FIGURE 4.



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U. S. GRANT BIRTHPLACE AND GRANT  
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CLERMONT COUNTY, OH



FIGURE 5.

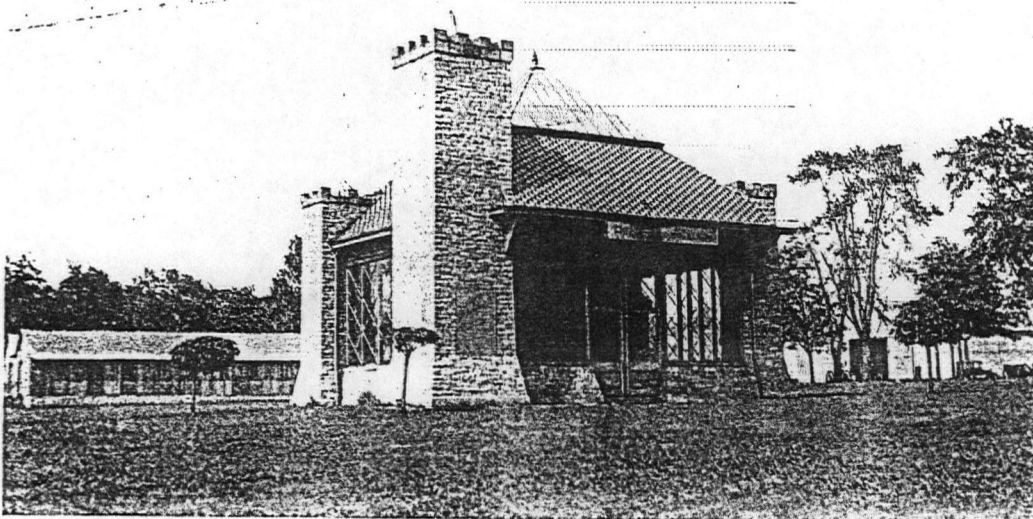


FIGURE 6.



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U. S. GRANT BIRTHPLACE AND GRANT  
COMMEMORATIVE SITES HISTORIC DISTRICT

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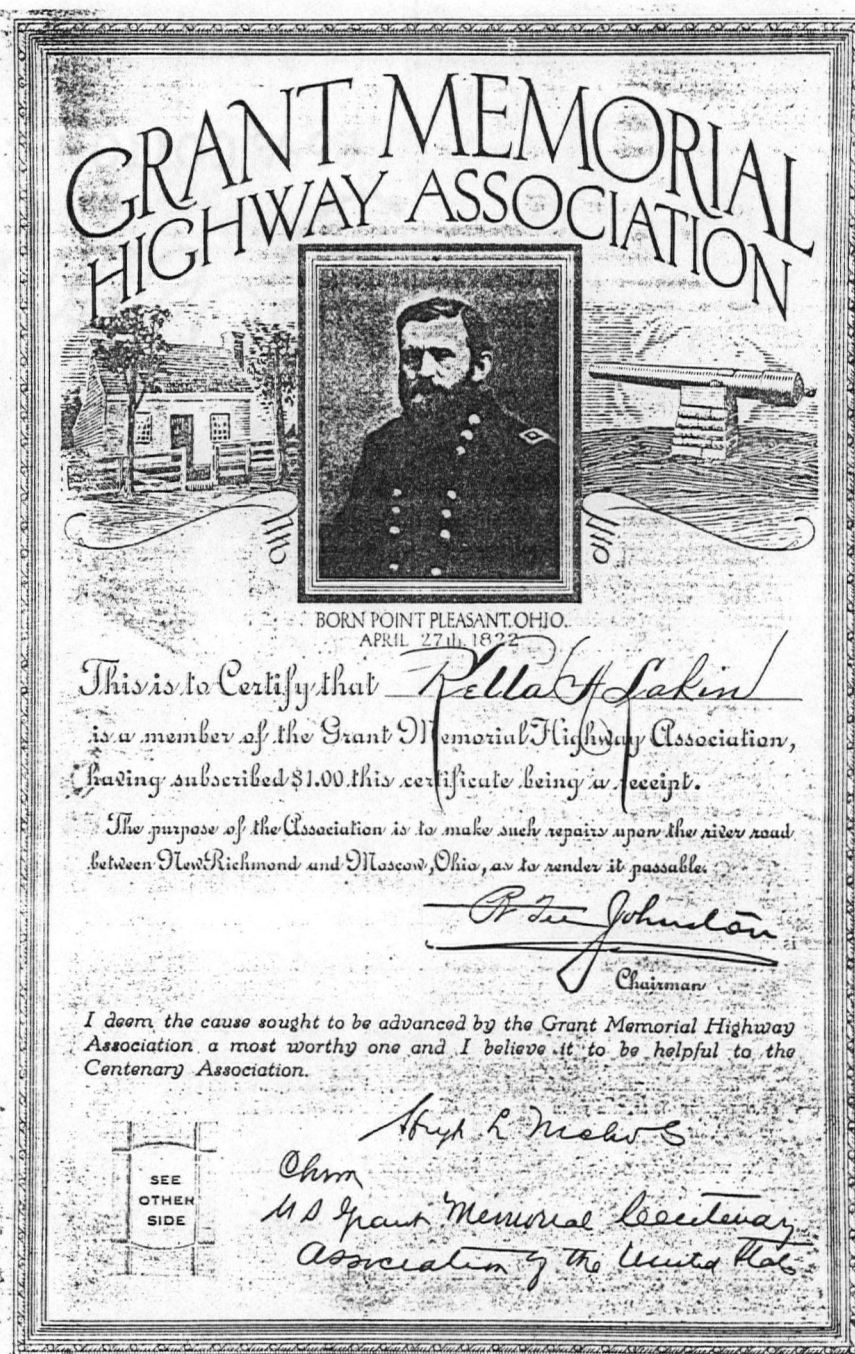


FIGURE 7.

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CLERMONT COUNTY, OH



106th ANNIVERSARY OF THE  
BIRTH OF U. S. GRANT.  
GET A SOUVENIR CABIN  
CARD: FOR SALE HERE

FIGURE 8.



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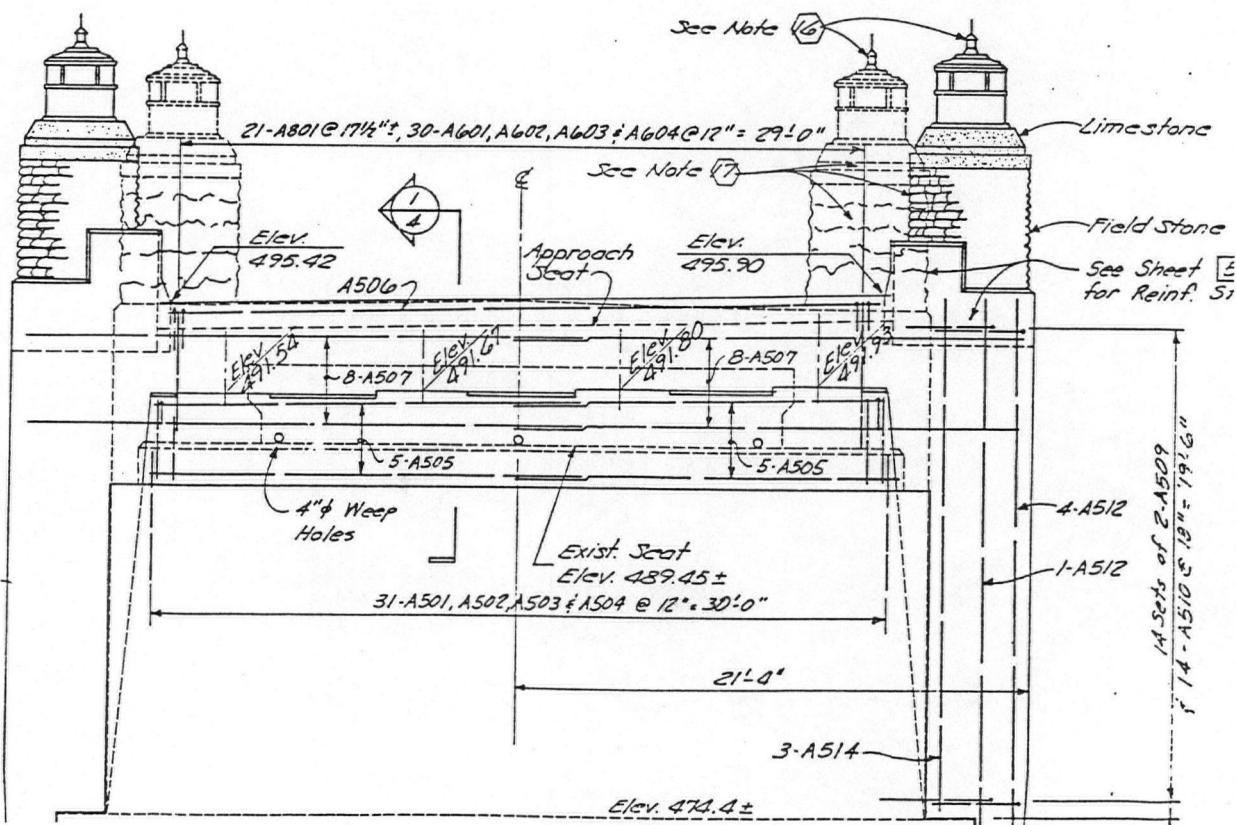
Section number 7, 8 Page 18

CLERMONT COUNTY, OH



Grant Memorial Bridge  
ca. 1983

FIGURE 9.



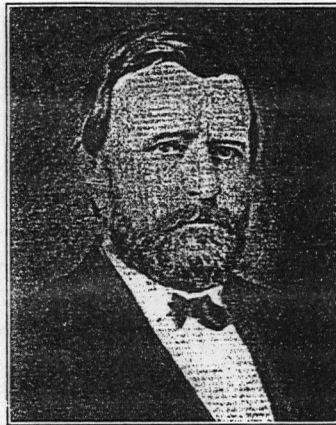
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CLERMONT COUNTY, OH



Dedicatory exercises held Sunday, October 4, 1936, at Point Pleasant, Clermont County, Ohio, commemorating the return of the cabin in which General U. S. Grant was born on April 27, 1822 to its original site

PROGRAM

INVOCATION - - - Rev. R. E. Budd - - - Batavia, O.  
INTRODUCTION of Chairman of meeting by Mr. M. G. Heintz  
HUGH L. NICHOLS, Chairman, Batavia  
ADDRESS . . . C. H. W. Ruhe, . . . Pittsburgh, Pa.  
Newly elected Commander-in-Chief Grand Army of the Republic  
SHORT ADDRESS . . Hon. John Hayden,  
Member Ohio House of Representatives  
SHORT ADDRESS . . Hon. Harold D. Nichols,  
Senator 2nd-4th District of Ohio  
MUSIC BY XENIA BAND  
ADDRESS . . . by former Governor Myers Y. Cooper  
ADDRESS . . . Hon. E. L. Bowsher, . . . Columbus, O.  
Director of Education State of Ohio  
SHORT ADDRESS . . . Clifford R. Fox, . . Cincinnati, O.  
Commander U. S. Grant Camp Sons of Veterans  
ADDRESS . . . Col. W. C. Myers . . . Cincinnati, O.  
Representing Spanish American War Veterans.  
ADDRESS . . . John E. Hendrixson, . . Cincinnati, O.  
Representing American Legion World War Veterans.  
ADDRESS . . . Hon. Henry C. Chetrone, . Columbus, O.  
Director of Ohio Historical Society  
MUSIC BY XENIA ORPHANS HOME BAND

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Fred Pfister, Grand Army of the Republic  
Wm. C. Lambert, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War  
Esther Schooler, Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War  
Elizabeth Kersting, Woman's Relief Corps  
Emma Brueggemann, Ladies of the G. A. R.



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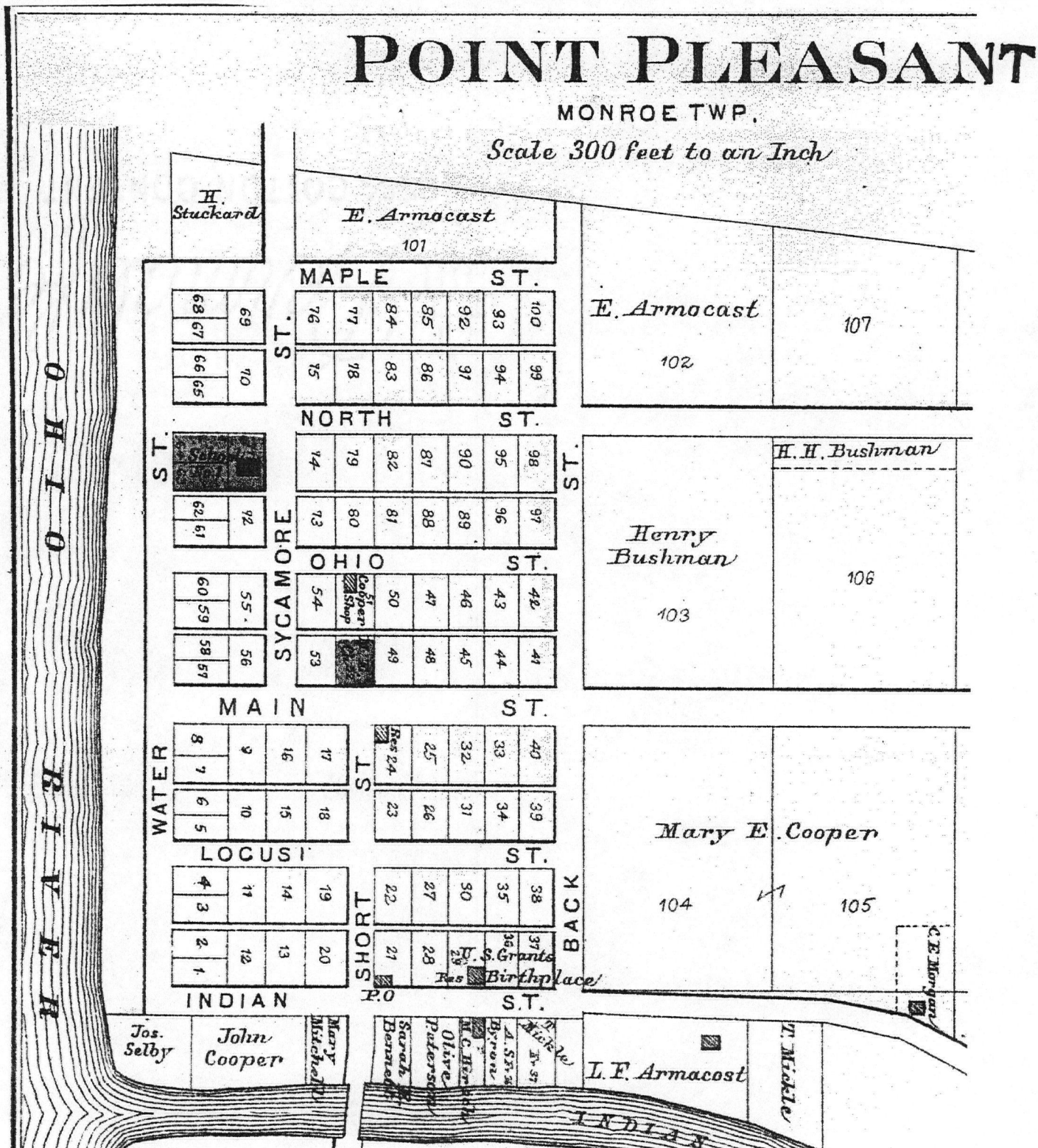


FIGURE 12. Atlas of Clermont County, Ohio. 1891.

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U. S. GRANT BIRTHPLACE AND GRANT  
COMMEMORATIVE SITES HISTORIC DISTRICT

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CLERMONT COUNTY, OH

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CLERMONT COUNTY, OH

Ohio. House Bill No. 168. An Act to authorize the Ohio Archaeological and Historical Society to remove the house in which General U. S. Grant was born, from the state fair grounds to the village of Pt. Pleasant, Ohio. Approved May 29, 1935.

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Ohio Historical Society. Education Division. Dr. Amos J. Loveday Jr., Site Files.

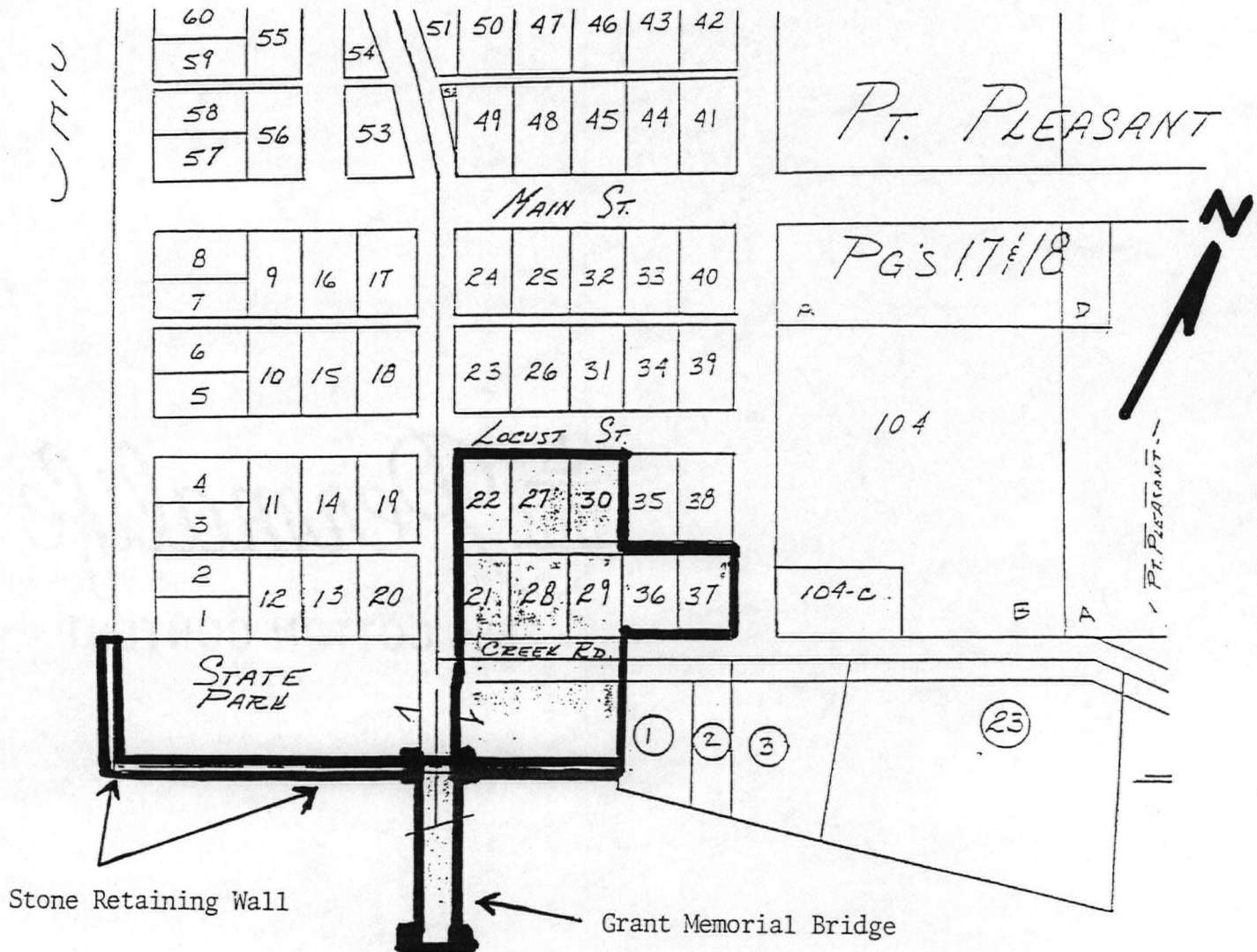
**VERBAL BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION**

The boundaries of the U. S. Grant Birthplace and Grant Commemorative Sites Historic District include the historic properties in Pt. Pleasant that have historically been part of and/or associated with Grant's Birthplace and his commemoration and maintain integrity.

Grant Memorial Church, built in 1931 and located immediately northeast of the district, has been excluded from the nomination due to the strong written opposition expressed by the church.

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CLERMONT COUNTY, OH

Lots 21, 22, 27, 28, 29, 30, 36-37 The State of Ohio  
% Ohio Historical Society

Bridge: Ohio Department of Transportation



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Section number Photos Page 1

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PHOTOGRAPHIC DOCUMENTATION

The following information in the same for photographs 1 through 13 and 19.

Photo # VIEW DESCRIPTION

1. U.S. Grant Birthplace and Grant Commemorative Site Historic District
2. Pt. Pleasant, Clermont County, Ohio
4. Ohio Historic Preservation Office, Ohio Historical Society

Photo #1 Glenn A. Harper, photographer  
August 1997  
South and East elevations, looking northwest

Photo #2 Glenn A. Harper, photographer  
August 1997  
Northwest (rear) and east elevations, looking south.

Photo #3 Stephen C. Gordon, photographer  
February 1998  
Grant Birthplace, Caretaker's Residence and Garage, looking east.

Photo #4 Stephen C. Gordon, photographer  
February 1998  
Grant Birthplace and Caretaker's Residence, looking west.

Photo #5 Glenn A. Harper, photographer  
August, 1997  
Caretaker's Garage, looking north.

Photo #6 Glenn A. Harper, photographer  
August, 1997  
Grant Memorial Park, looking east toward Grant Birthplace.

Photo #7 Glenn A. Harper, photographer  
August 1997  
Grant Birthplace, stone flagging, stone gutters and low retaining walls, looking southwest toward Ohio River.

Photo #8 Stephen C. Gordon, photographer  
February 1998  
Grant Memorial Bridge, looking north.

Photo #9 Glenn A. Harper, photographer  
August 1997  
Grant Memorial Bridge, stone pylons and Beacons, looking north-northwest.

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PHOTOGRAPHIC DOCUMENTATION (con't)

- Photo #10 Glenn A. Harper, photographer  
August 1997  
Grant Memorial Bridge, Pylons and Grant Bronze plaque, looking southwest.
- Photo #11 Stephen C. Gordon, photographer  
February 1998  
WPA Retaining wall, looking west toward Ohio River.
- Photo #12 Glenn A. Harper, photographer  
Stone flagging and stone walls, south of Caretaker's Residence, looking northeast.
- Photo #13 Glenn A. Harper, photographer  
Grant Birthplace and Caretaker's Residence, flagstone walk and "wishing well", looking north.

The following information is the same for photographs 14 through 18

Photo # DESCRIPTION

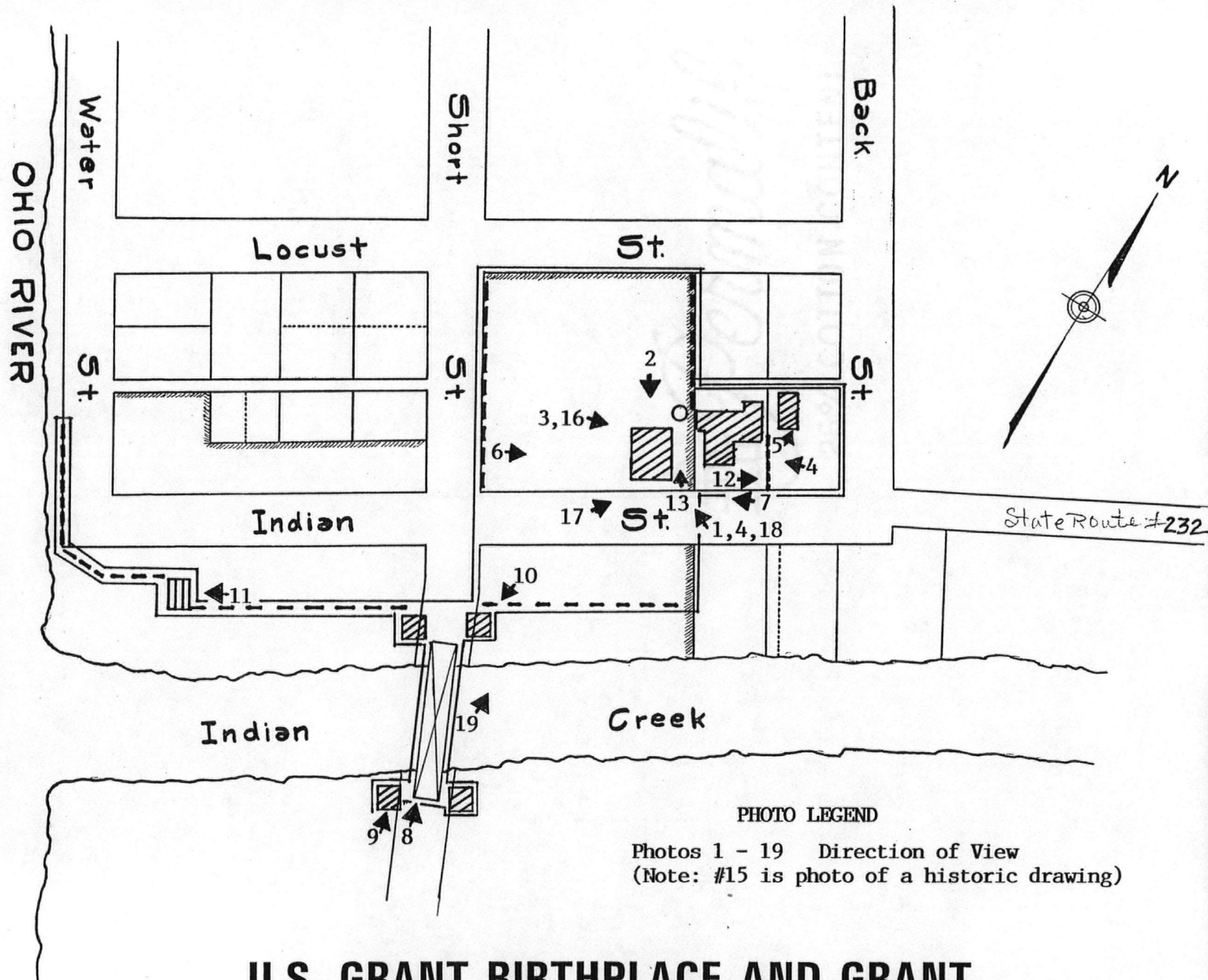
1. U.S. Grant Birthplace and Grant Commemorative Sites Historic District
2. Pt. Pleasant, Clermont County, Ohio
3. Photographer unknown
5. Archives-Library Division, Ohio Historical Society

- Photo #14 Grant Birthplace, south and east elevations looking northwest.  
Photo ca. 1936
- Photo #15 Illustration of Grant Birthplace.  
Circa 1885
- Photo #16 Grant Birthplace and Caretaker's Residence, North (rear) and west elevations, looking east-southeast from Memorial Park.  
Photo ca. 1940
- Photo #17 Grant Birthplace, west and south (front) elevations, looking northeast.  
Photo ca. 1940
- Photo #18 Grant Birthplace, south (front) and east elevations, looking northwest.  
Photo ca. 1940
- Photo #19 Stephen C. Gordon, photographer  
February 1998  
Grant Birthplace, Grant Memorial Park and WPA Retaining wall, looking northeast.

# PLAT OF

## U.S. GRANT PARK

Scale 1" = 100'



### PHOTO LEGEND

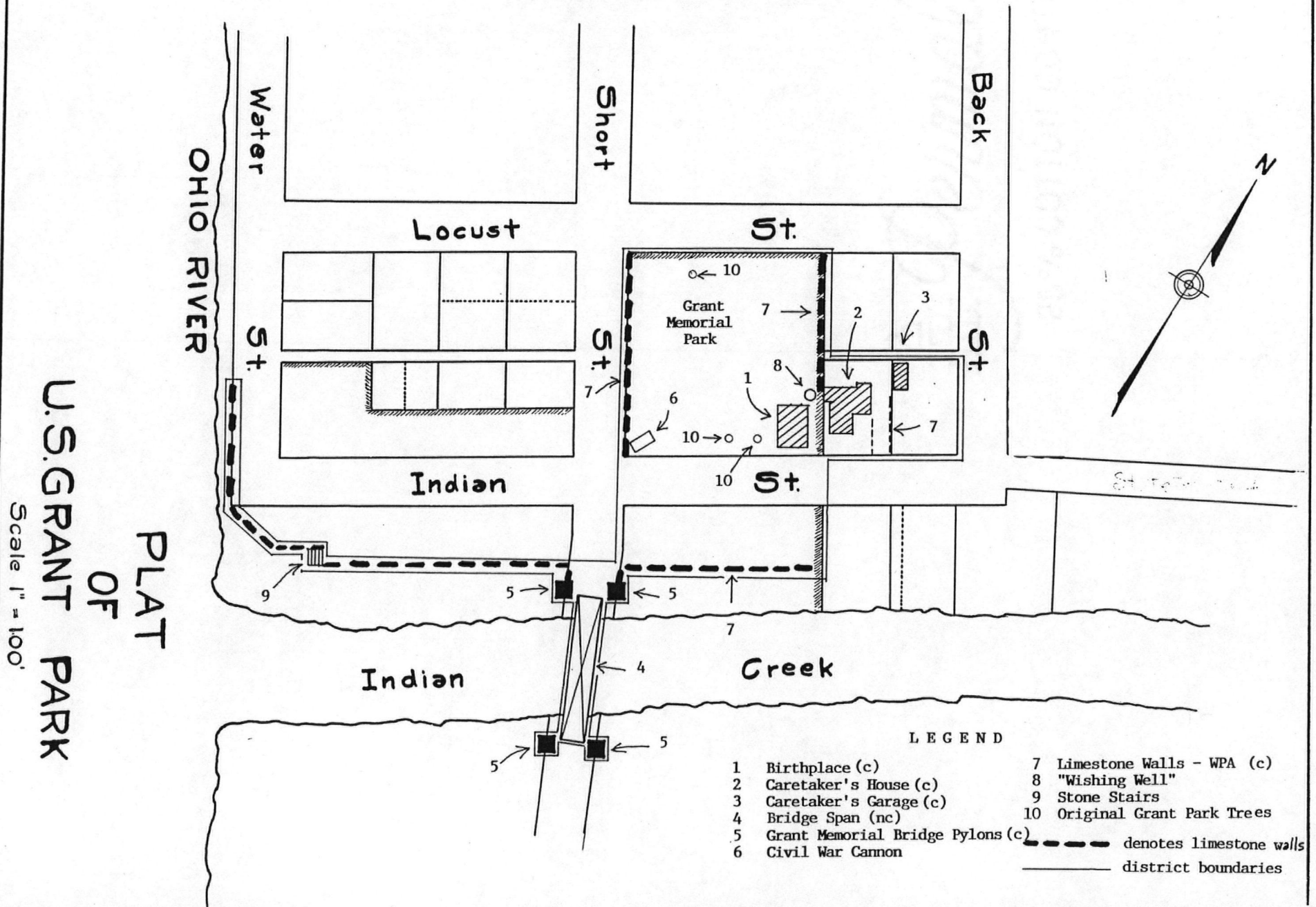
Photos 1 - 19 Direction of View  
(Note: #15 is photo of a historic drawing)

## U.S. GRANT BIRTHPLACE AND GRANT COMMEMORATIVE SITES HISTORIC DISTRICT



# U.S. GRANT BIRTHPLACE AND GRANT COMMEMORATIVE SITES HISTORIC DISTRICT

FIGURE 11. SITE PLAN



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY U.S. Grant Birthplace and Grant Commemorative Sites Historic  
NAME: District

MULTIPLE  
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: OHIO, Clermont

DATE RECEIVED: 7/10/98 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 7/20/98  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 8/05/98 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 8/24/98  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 98001013

NOMINATOR: STATE

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

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

COMMENT WAIVER: N

☒ ACCEPT ☐ RETURN ☐ REJECT 8-6-98 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in the  
National Register

RECOM./CRITERIA \_\_\_\_\_

REVIEWER \_\_\_\_\_ DISCIPLINE \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

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



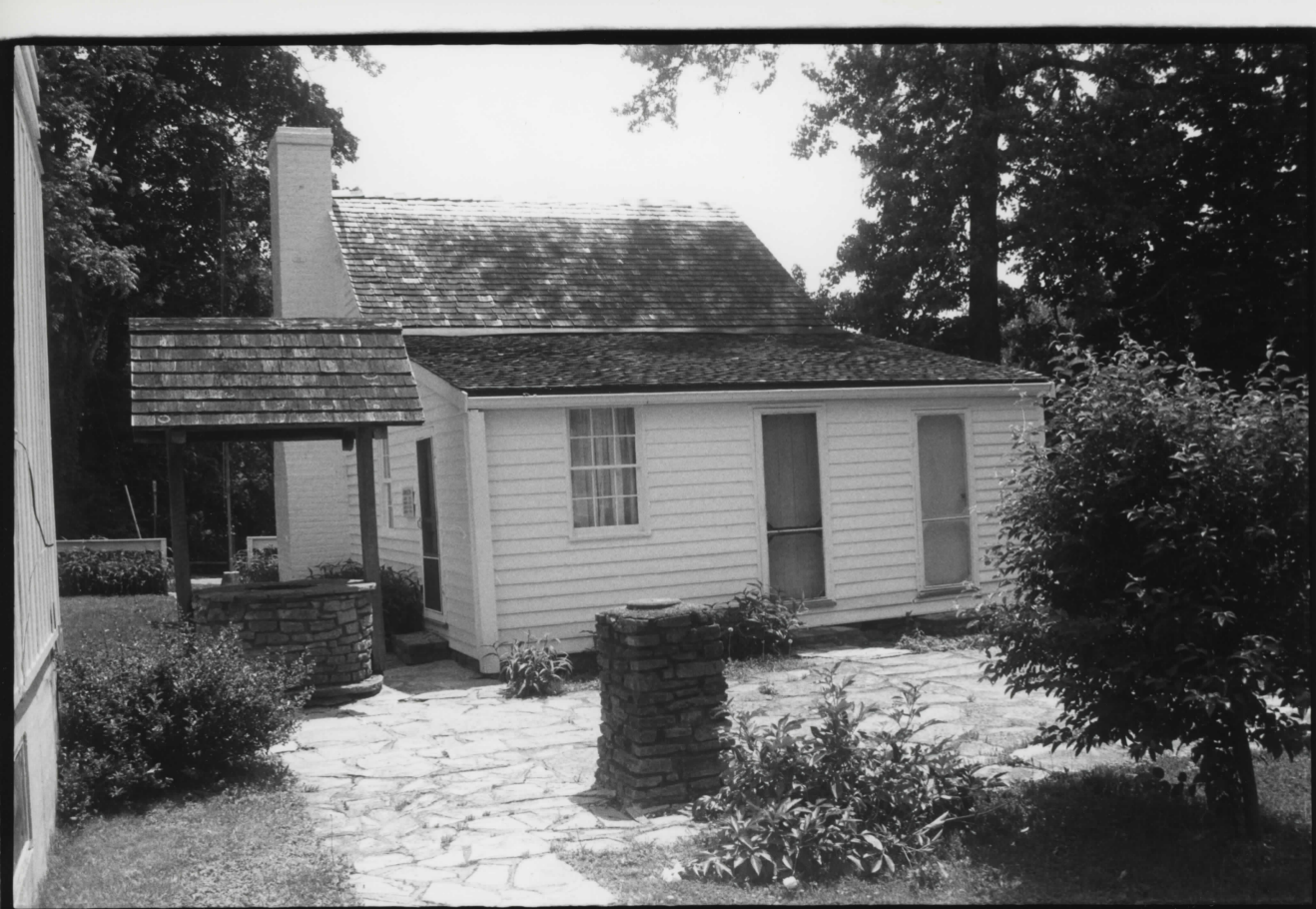


U.S. GRANT BIRTHPLACE & GRANT  
COMMEMORATIVE SITES H. D.

GRANT BIRTHPLACE

PT. PLEASANT, OH

PHOTO #1



U.S. GRANT BIRTHPLACE & GRANT  
COMMEMORATIVE SITES H. D.

GRANT BIRTHPLACE

PT. PLEASANT OH

PHOTO # 2





U.S. GRANT BIRTHPLACE & GRANT  
COMMEMORATIVE SITES H. D.

GRANT BIRTHPLACE, CARETAKER'S RES., & GARAGE

PT. PLEASANT OH

PHOTO #3





U.S. GRANT BIRTHPLACE & GRANT  
COMMEMORATIVE SITES H. D.

GRANT BIRTHPLACE & CARETAKERS RES.  
PT. PLEASANT OH

PHOTO # 4



U. S. GRANT BIRTHPLACE & GRANT  
COMMEMORATIVE SITES H. D.

CARETAKER'S GARAGE

PT. PLEASANT OH

PHOTO # 5





  
**GRANT BIRTHPLACE  
STATE MEMORIAL**

OHIO HISTORICAL SOCIETY 

OPERATED BY HISTORIC NEW RECORDS  
AREA OPEN SEASONAL HOURS

U.S. GRANT BIRTHPLACE & GRANT  
COMMEMORATIVE SITES H. D.

GRANT MEMORIAL PARK & BIRTHPLACE

PT. PLEASANT OH

PHOTO #6





U.S. GRANT BIRTHPLACE & GRANT  
COMMEMORATIVE SITES H. D.

GRANT BIRTHPLACE

PT. PLEASANT OH

PHOTO #7



U.S. GRANT BIRTHPLACE & GRANT  
COMMEMORATIVE SITES H. D.

GRANT MEMORIAL BRIDGE

PT. PLEASANT OH

PHOTO # 8





U.S. GRANT BIRTHPLACE & GRANT  
COMMEMORATIVE SITES H.D.  
GRANT MEMORIAL BRIDGE PYLONS & CANNON  
PT. PLEASANT OH  
PHOTO # 9





U. S. GRANT BIRTHPLACE & GRANT  
COMMEMORATIVE SITES H. D.  
GRANT MEMORIAL BRIDGE  
PT. PLEASANT OH  
PHOTO #10



U. S. GRANT BIRTHPLACE & GRANT  
COMMEMORATIVE SITES H. D.

WPA RETAINING WALL & STAIRS

PT. PLEASANT OH

PHOTO # 11





U.S. GRANT BIRTHPLACE & GRANT  
COMMEMORATIVE SITES H. D.

STONE FLAGGING

PT. PLEASANT, OH

PHOTO # 12





U. S. GRANT BIRTHPLACE & GRANT  
COMMEMORATIVE SITES H. D.  
BIRTHPLACE, CARETAKER'S COTT. & WELL  
PT. PLEASANT, OH  
PHOTO # 13



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OHIO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

U. S. GRANT BIRTHPLACE & GRANT  
COMMEMORATIVE SITES H. D.  
GRANT BIRTHPLACE

CLERMONT COUNTY, OHIO  
Photographer unknown  
Photo ca. 1937

Photo # 14



"NO POLITICAL PARTY CAN OR  
OUGHT TO EXIST, WHEN ONE OF  
ITS CORNERSTONES IS OPPOSED TO  
FREEDOM OF THOUGHT AND THE  
RIGHT TO WORSHIP GOD ACCORDING  
TO THE DICTATES OF ONES OWN  
CONSCIENCE"

(GRANT'S MEMOIRS)

BIRTH PLACE OF GEN. U. S. GRANT

POINT PLEASANT, OHIO.



*U. S. Grant*



U.S. GRANT BIRTHPLACE & GRANT  
COMMEMORATIVE SITES H. D.  
ARTIST'S RENDERING OF GRANT BIRTHPLACE  
PT. PLEASANT, CLERMONT CO., OHIO  
PHOTO #15

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OHIO HISTORICAL SOCIETY





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OHIO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

GRANT BIRTH PLACE  
U.S. GRANT BIRTHPLACE & GRANT  
COMMEMORATIVE SITES  
HISTORIC DISTRICT

PT. PLEASANT, OH  
PHOTO #16



GRANT STATE MEMORIAL  
POINT PLEASANT, OHIO

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OHIO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

GRANT BIRTH PLACE  
U.S. GRANT BIRTHPLACE & GRANT  
COMMEMORATIVE SITES  
HISTORIC DISTRICT

PT. PLEASANT, OH  
PHOTO # 17





GRANT STATE MEMORIAL  
POINT PLEASANT, OHIO

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OHIO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

GRANT BIRTHPLACE

U.S. GRANT BIRTHPLACE & GRANT  
COMMEMORATIVE SITES  
HISTORIC DISTRICT

Pt. Pleasant, OH  
PHOTO # 18





U.S. GRANT BIRTHPLACE & GRANT  
COMMEMORATIVE SITES H. D.

GRANT BIRTHPLACE, PARK & WPA RETAINING WALL  
PT. PLEASANT OH

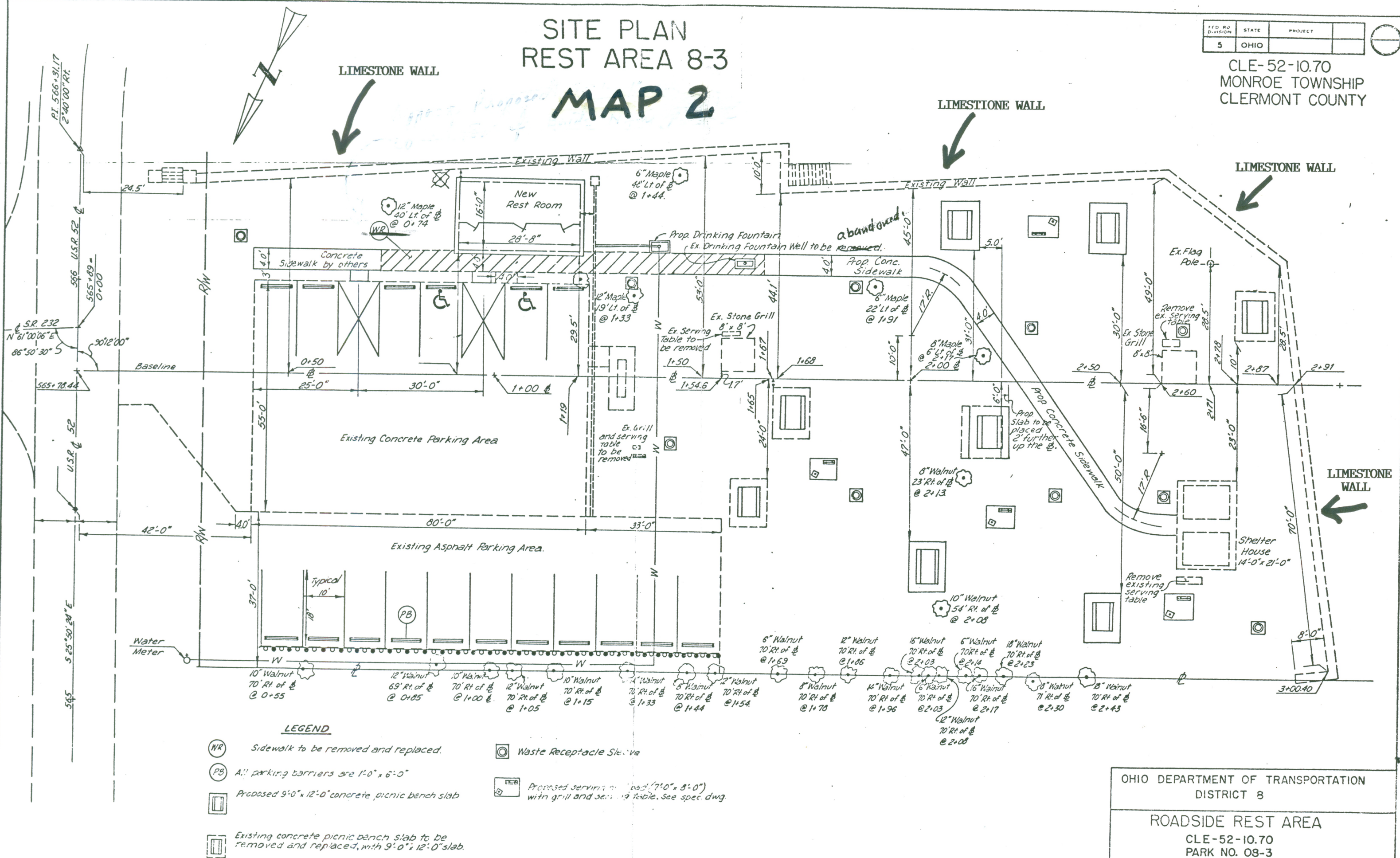
PHOTO #19

# SITE PLAN REST AREA 8-3

# MAP 2

|                    |       |         |  |
|--------------------|-------|---------|--|
| FED RD<br>DIVISION | STATE | PROJECT |  |
| 5                  | OHIO  |         |  |

CLE-52-10.70  
MONROE TOWNSHIP  
CLERMONT COUNTY





UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

LAUREL QUADRANGLE  
OHIO-KENTUCKY  
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)  
NW/4 FELICITY 15' QUADRANGLE



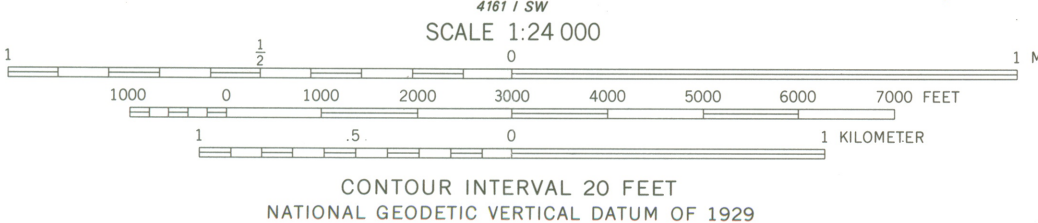
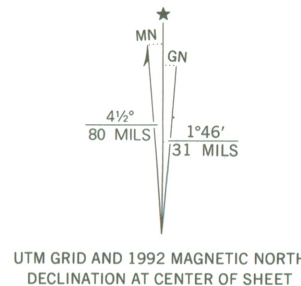
U.S. GRANT BIRTHPLACE  
GRANT COMMEMORATIVE  
SITES HISTORIC DISTRICT

PT. PLEASANT  
CLERMONT CO., OHIO

UTM REFERENCE:

16/740000/4308450

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey  
Revised in cooperation with State of Ohio agencies  
and Kentucky Geological Survey  
Control by USGS and NOS/NOAA  
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs  
taken 1952. Field checked 1953. Revised from aerial photographs  
taken 1977. Map edited 1981  
Polyconic projection. 10,000-foot grid ticks based on Ohio  
coordinate system, south zone, and Kentucky coordinate system,  
north zone. 1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid, zone 16  
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 photographs. This information is unchecked  
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 1914, and supplemental information



THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092  
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

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

ROAD CLASSIFICATION  
Primary highway, hard surface  
Secondary highway, hard surface  
Light-duty road, hard or improved surface  
Unimproved road  
Interstate Route  
U.S. Route  
State Route

LAUREL, OHIO-KY.  
NW/4 FELICITY 15' QUADRANGLE  
38084-H2-TF-024

1981  
REVISED 1992  
DMA 4161 I NW-SERIES 7852



(614) 644-6034 - Office  
(513) 553-4636 - Home  
72nd House District  
Brown, Clinton and  
Clermont (part) Counties

# Ohio House of Representatives



**ROSE VESPER**  
Representative

**COMMITTEES:**  
Agriculture & Natural Resources  
Finance & Appropriations  
Chair - Agriculture & Development  
Subcommittee  
Health, Retirement & Aging  
Transportation & Public Safety

November 24, 1997

REC'D BY OHPO NOV 26 1997

Ohio Historic Site Preservation Advisory Board  
567 East Hudson Street  
Columbus, OH 43211

Dear Members of the Ohio Historic Site Preservation Advisory Board:

Thank you for agreeing to consider the U.S. Grant Birthplace and Grant Commemorative Sites Historic District for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places.

I would like to take this opportunity to reiterate my strong support for this action. A strong argument can certainly be made that the birthplace of such an important historical figure as Ulysses S. Grant holds exceptional significance and commemorative value to our nation. I urge your favorable recommendation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rose Vesper".

**Rose Vesper**  
State Representative  
72nd House District

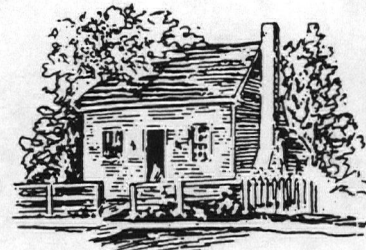
cc: Mary Campbell  
Jeanene Ginn  
Dr. Gary C. Ness, OHS Director

REC'D BY OHPO DEC 9 1997

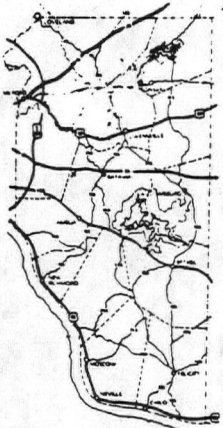
BAP  
NW

# Clermont County Historical Society

CHARTERED 1958  
P. O. Box 14  
BATAVIA, OHIO 45103



BIRTHPLACE  
U.S. GRANT  
1822



CLERMONT COUNTY  
CREATED  
1800

Ohio Historical Site Preservation  
Advisory Board  
567 E. Hudson St.  
Columbus, OH 43211

December 6, 1997

Dear Friends,

I understand that there will be a presentation made soon in favor of the Ulysses S. Grant's Birthplace, Pt. Pleasant, Ohio, Clermont County, to be included on The National Historic Register. I am writing to state The Clermont County Historical Society's position that it should be included in the register.

That the commanding general of the Union Armies and the 18th President of the United States should have been born in such a simple one-room house on the Ohio River is remarkable. The little house is intact and on the original site.

We feel that it deserves national recognition.

Thank you so much for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, which appears to read "Richard Grgetic".

Richard Grgetic, president

GRANT MEMORIAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

St. Rt. 232 and Back St.  
Pt. Pleasant, Ohio 45153

Shannon Luckey, Pastor

December 8, 1997

Ohio Historical Society  
1982 Velma Avenue  
Columbus, Ohio 43211-2497

RE: U. S. Grant's Birthplace  
Pt. Pleasant, Ohio

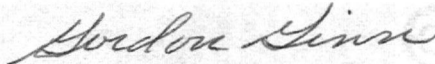
To Whom It May Concern:

We, the members of Grant Memorial United Methodist Church, want to relay our wishes to have President U. S. Grant's Birthplace put on the National Register for Historic Places.

We feel this is a must for such an important part of American History and, certainly, for our local history - to preserve it for now and for future generations.

Thank you for your consideration to have the birthplace of President U. S. Grant put on the National Register.

Sincerely,



Gordon Ginn  
Lay Leader

GG/jrg

cc: Loretta Fuhrman, Curator of Grant's Birthplace  
Shannon Luckey, Pastor  
James Hackney, Chairman of the Board



*Steve*

REC'D BY OHPO DEC 11 1997

Monroe Township Trustees  
2828 St. Rt. 222  
Bethel, Ohio 45106  
513 734 6700  
December 9, 1997

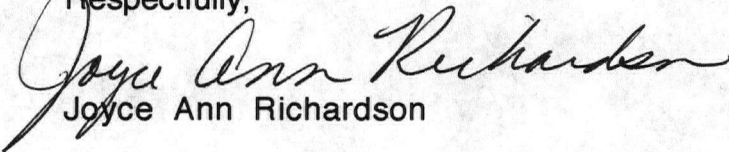
Ohio Historic Site Preservation Office  
Advisory Board  
567 East Hudson Street  
Columbus, Ohio 43211-1030

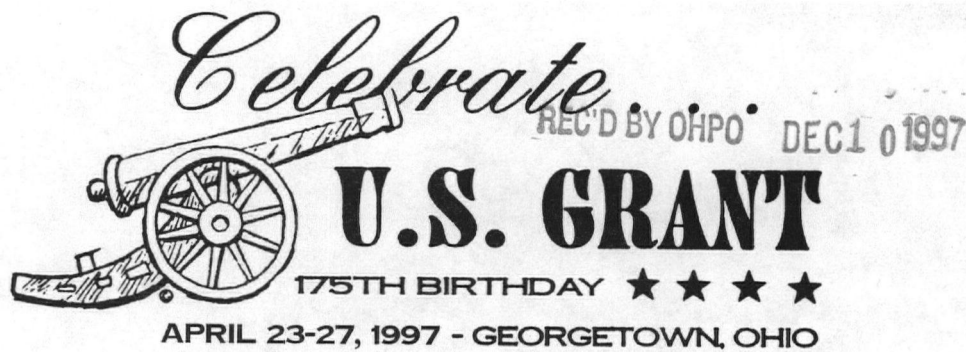
Dear Advisory Board:

As a citizen in Monroe Township and as a Trustee of Monroe Township, I want to give my support to the U.S. Grant Birthplace being placed in the National Register of Historic Places.

I am pleased that the Ohio Historic Site Preservation Advisory Board is considering the nomination. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

  
Joyce Ann Richardson



December 9, 1997

Dr. Amos J. Loveday, Jr.  
State Historical Preservation Officer  
567 E. Hudson St.  
Columbus, OH 43211-2497

Re: U.S. Grant Birthplace & Commemorative Site, Pt. Pleasant, Ohio

Dear Dr. Loveday:

I am writing as President of the U.S. Grant Homestead Association in support of the effort to have the U.S. Grant Birthplace and commemorative site listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The birthplace and the adjoining properties are the most recognizable and effective sites in furthering and preserving the history of U.S. Grant and his family.

Last year, in the course of celebrating the 175th Anniversary of U.S. Grant's birthday, the U.S. Grant Homestead Association established the Grant historic sites in Georgetown, Ohio, Clermont County, Ripley and Maysville, Ky as the "Land of Grant." The birthplace and its adjoining sites are an integral part of the "Land of Grant." The birthplace is a very popular tourist stop at the present time and designation on the National Register of Historic Places will only enhance its popularity.

We have also been working with the American Automobile Association to include reference in its Ohio tour book concerning the birthplace, homestead and schoolhouse in Georgetown. The U.S. Grant homestead here in Georgetown is a national landmark. It would be complemented very nicely by the birthplace and sites being listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The birthplace is an important site in continuing and furthering the interest of school children in the Southwestern Ohio area in the history of U.S. Grant and his family. This national recognition would only enhance the Birthplace as a nationally known historic site.

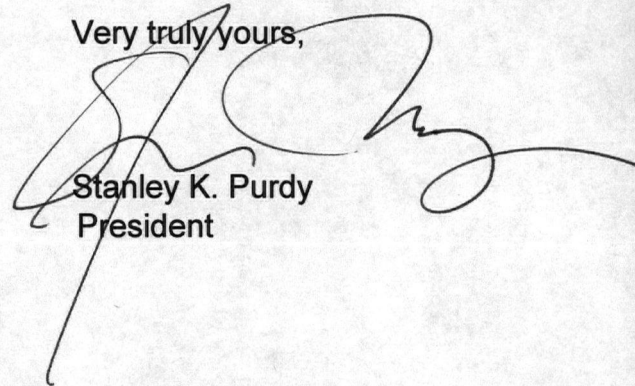
The house and the immediate area is of great architectural significance as an

*"I was born on the 27th of April, 1822...In the fall of 1823 we moved to Georgetown...This place remained my home until...I went to West Point."*

example of housing on the Ohio frontier. It represents the roots of a man who was to become a two-term President, hold the same military rank as George Washington and, who along with President Abraham Lincoln, was instrumental in preserving the United States.

If I can provide you any further information or support please let me know.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Stanley K. Purdy', written over the typed name.

Stanley K. Purdy  
President

SKP/tat

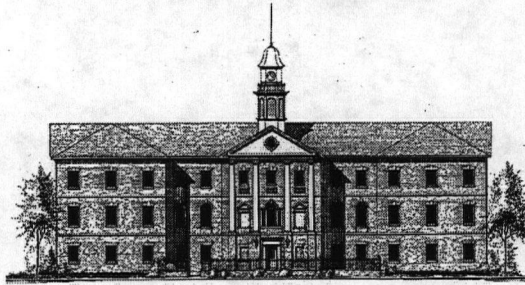


**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**  
**Clermont County, Ohio**

Martha Dorsey

Richard L. Martin

Robert L. Proud



REC'D BY OHPO DEC 11 1997

December 10, 1997

Ohio Historic Preservation Office  
567 East Hudson Street  
Columbus, Ohio 43211-1030  
Attn: Mr. Steve Gordon

Dear Mr. Gordon :

Ulysses S. Grant was born on April 27, 1822 and was the commander-in-chief of the Army of the Potomac during the Civil War and the eighteenth president of the United States.

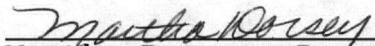
We, the Board of County Commissioners', Clermont County , Ohio strongly support the placing of Ulysses S. Grant's Birthplace on the National Historic Registry.

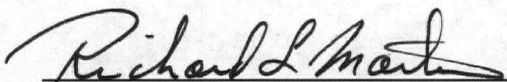
President/General Grant's Birthplace, located in Point Pleasant, Ohio contains historical memorabilia and furnishings of the 18<sup>th</sup> President and is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

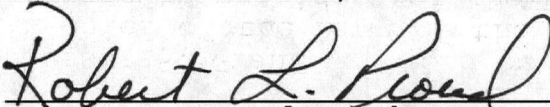
Once again, we strongly urge the placement of President Ulysses S. Grant's Birthplace on the National Historic Registry.

Thank you for your consideration.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

  
Martha Dorsey, President

  
Richard L. Martin, Vice-President

  
Robert L. Proud, Member

**Ohio Historic Preservation Office**

567 East Hudson Street  
Columbus, Ohio 43211-1030  
614/ 297-2470 Fax: 614/ 297-2496

Visit us at [www.ohiohistory.org/resource/histpres/](http://www.ohiohistory.org/resource/histpres/)



**OHIO  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY**  
SINCE 1885

July 2, 1998

Ms. Carol Shull, Chief of Registration  
National Park Service  
National Register, History & Education Programs  
Mail Stop 2280, Suite 400  
1849 C. Street, NW  
Washington, D. C. 20240

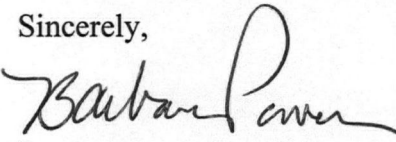
Dear Ms. Shull:

Enclosed please find three (3) new National Register nominations. All appropriate notification procedures have been followed for these new submissions.

| NEW SUBMISSION                                                          | COUNTY    |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| U.S. Grant Birthplace and Commemorative Sites Historic District         | Clermont  |
| Eldridge-Higgins Building                                               | Coshocton |
| Ada Pennsylvania Passenger Depot and Railroad Park (Substantive Review) | Hardin    |

If you have questions or comments about these documents, please contact this office.

Sincerely,

  
for Amos J. Loveday, Jr.  
State Historic Preservation Officer

enclosures