

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

REFNUM 88003440

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

NR: 2-7-89

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

1. Name of Property

historic name East Market Street Church of Christ
other names/site number East Market Street Christian Church

2. Location

street & number 864 East Market Street
city, town Akron
state Ohio code OH county Summit code 153 zip code 44305

3. Classification

Ownership of Property: [X] private, [] public-local, [] public-State, [] public-Federal
Category of Property: [X] building(s), [] district, [] site, [] structure, [] object
Number of Resources within Property: Contributing 1, Noncontributing 0

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

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this [X] 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 [X] meets [] does not meet the National Register criteria. [] See continuation sheet.
Signature of certifying official: W. Ray Juce
Date: 12/22/88
State or Federal agency and bureau: SHPO

In my opinion, the property [] meets [] does not meet the National Register criteria. [] See continuation sheet.
Signature of commenting or other official:
Date:
State or Federal agency and bureau:

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:
[] entered in the National Register. [] See continuation sheet.
[] determined eligible for the National Register. [] See continuation sheet.
[] determined not eligible for the National Register.
[] removed from the National Register.
[] other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION/religious structure

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION/religious structure

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)Neo-Classical Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation stonewalls brickroof asphaltother terra cotta

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The East Market Street Church of Christ is a rectangular two story brick building in the Neo-Classical Revival style. The cornerstone was laid on 8 October 1911 and the church was completed by June, 1912.

The facade is laid in Flemish bond brick; the sides and rear are running bond. The foundation is stone, with a terra cotta watertable. A projecting central raised pavilion with columns in antis is distinguished by a full pediment supported by brick Doric pilasters and two fluted Ionic columns with attic bases on high plinths. The plain architrave, cornice and raking box cornice of the pediment are terra cotta, and the frieze is brick. A blind brick balustrade wraps around the front and sides of the pavilion. The three bay recessed entrance portico has stained glass round-arched windows with circular tracery and terra cotta surrounds and sills. The main double door and flanking single doors also have terra cotta surrounds and entablatures. Arcaded round-arch bays flanking the portico have paired rectangular stained glass windows on the first floor, with terra cotta sills and lintels, and paired round windows with circular tracery on the second floor level. Side and rear elevations are rather plain, distinguished mainly by single and paired stained glass rectangular windows on the first floor and round-arched windows on the second floor. The roof is a shallow pitched hip with asphalt shingling.

The church's interior is arranged on the "Akron Plan" of church design. The altar is centered on the east wall, with seating and balconies in a modified semi-circle on three sides. Sunday school or classrooms on the main and balcony levels can be opened to or closed off from the main sanctuary. The original seating has been replaced by theater seats. The coved ceiling has a beamed and coffered three-section stained glass skylight. The interior is further distinguished by ceiling beams, hexagonal balcony supports, and pilasters with carved and scrolled capitals.

The church continues to maintain a high degree of integrity on both the exterior and the interior.

8. Statement of Significance

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

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

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

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1912

Significant Dates

1912

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Harpster, Milton E. and Bliss, John F.

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

The East Market Street Church of Christ is significant as one of only two essentially unaltered Akron Plan churches remaining in the city where the Akron Plan was developed. It is also the earliest example of the type in Akron still in use as a church and Sunday school, and is the oldest surviving Akron Plan church in Akron that was designed specifically as a sanctuary. This church is also a notable example in the Neo-Classical Revival style of the buildings designed by Harpster and Bliss, Akron's most noteworthy and prolific architects of the early twentieth century.

The Akron plan originated with Lewis A. Miller, an inventor and manufacturer of reapers, the father-in-law of Thomas A. Edison, and the co-founder of the influential Chautauqua cultural institution at Chautauqua Lake, New York. Together with architect Jacob Snyder, Miller developed a unique design for the First Methodist Church of Akron (built 1868), with a Sunday school room at the rear and opening into the sanctuary. George W. Kramer, a well known Akron architect (who moved to New York City in 1894), adapted this plan to provide a semi-circular auditorium with a double tier of Sunday school rooms on three sides which could be closed into classrooms by sliding or folding partitions, or opened up when extra space was needed in the sanctuary. The First Methodist Church was demolished years ago, and the Akron Plan High Street Christian Church, built in 1892, burned in 1975. The Wooster Avenue Church, very similar in design to this church, was also demolished. St. Paul's Sunday School and Parish House, built in 1884 (NR 11-76), although an Akron Plan Sunday School, was not designed primarily as a sanctuary. The East Market Street Church is thus the oldest and most intact Akron Plan Church, designed and built specifically as a sanctuary and Sunday school, in the city of Akron.

This building is also a noteworthy example of a church designed by the Akron firm of Harpster and Bliss. From their association in 1907 to Bliss' death in 1925, Harpster and Bliss were the most prominent and prolific architects in Akron. Numbered among their commissions were many houses, including one for Harvey Firestone (now demolished), and major public buildings, churches, and schools in a wide variety of styles. Much of their church architecture was in the Neo-Classical Revival style, and includes the Church of Christ, Scientist (built 1915), the First Methodist Episcopal Church (First United Methodist, built 1913-14), the Temple Israel (built ca. 1917), and the East Market Street

See continuation sheet

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

East Market Street Church of Christ, Akron, OH, Summit County

Section number 8 Page 2

Church of Christ. (The Neo-Classical Revival Style was unusual in itself - most Akron plan buildings were Richardsonian Romanesque and Romanesque Revival.) The East Market Street Church embodies most of the elements that distinguish Harpster and Bliss' later notable church designs in this style. They all feature prominent raised porticos in antis, with either Ionic columns (Methodist & Christian Science) or brick piers (Temple Israel). Pedimented balustrades and three bay central doorways, flanked by single bays, are found on Temple Israel and the Christian Science Church, and round-arched windows are also used in the Christian Science and Methodist Churches. Plain friezes, second story windows aligned with the doorways, and decorative string courses are other stylistic elements shared among Harpster and Bliss' most distinguished Neo-Classical churches. The University Club (built 1917-19) was also a notable Harpster and Bliss building in this style, but has lost integrity through alterations. The Methodist Church, Christian Science church (now owned by the University of Akron), and Temple Israel have likewise all had additions or alterations. The East Market Street Church of Christ, with its prominent raised portico in antis, full pediment and balustrade, Ionic columns, brick pilasters, and terra cotta trim, is thus the earliest and most intact surviving example of Harpster and Bliss' church designs in the Neo-Classical Revival style.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Pahlau, James A. "Harpster & Bliss, Akron Architects 1907-1925." (Akron, 1983) Portage Trails, Vol. 36, No. 8, The Summit County Historical Society.

_____. Akron Historical Landmark Survey. (Akron, 1980) City of Akron, Department of Planning and Urban Development.

DATE _____

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 # _____

See continuation sheet

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

10. Geographical Data

Acres of property Less than one acre

UTM References

A

1	7
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4	5	8	6	6	0
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4	5	4	6	7	3	0
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 Zone Easting Northing

C

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B

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 Zone Easting Northing

D

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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

Sublot 6 and the west 21.04 feet of subplot 5 in the Newton Allotment, Portage County Records Vol. 1, p. 24 of the Board of transcribed plats of Summit County and page 538

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary is based on legally recorded lot lines, reflecting the entire city lot that has historically been associated with the church.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Jeffrey D. Brown, Regional Coordinator
 organization Ohio Historic Preservation Office date July 13, 1988
 street & number 528 County Office Building telephone (216) 438-0404
 city or town Canton state Ohio zip code 44702

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 88003440

Date Listed: 2/7/89

East Market St. Church of Christ
Property Name

Summit
County

OH
State

Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

Patrick Andrews

Signature of the Keeper

2/7/89

Date of Action

=====
Amended Items in Nomination:

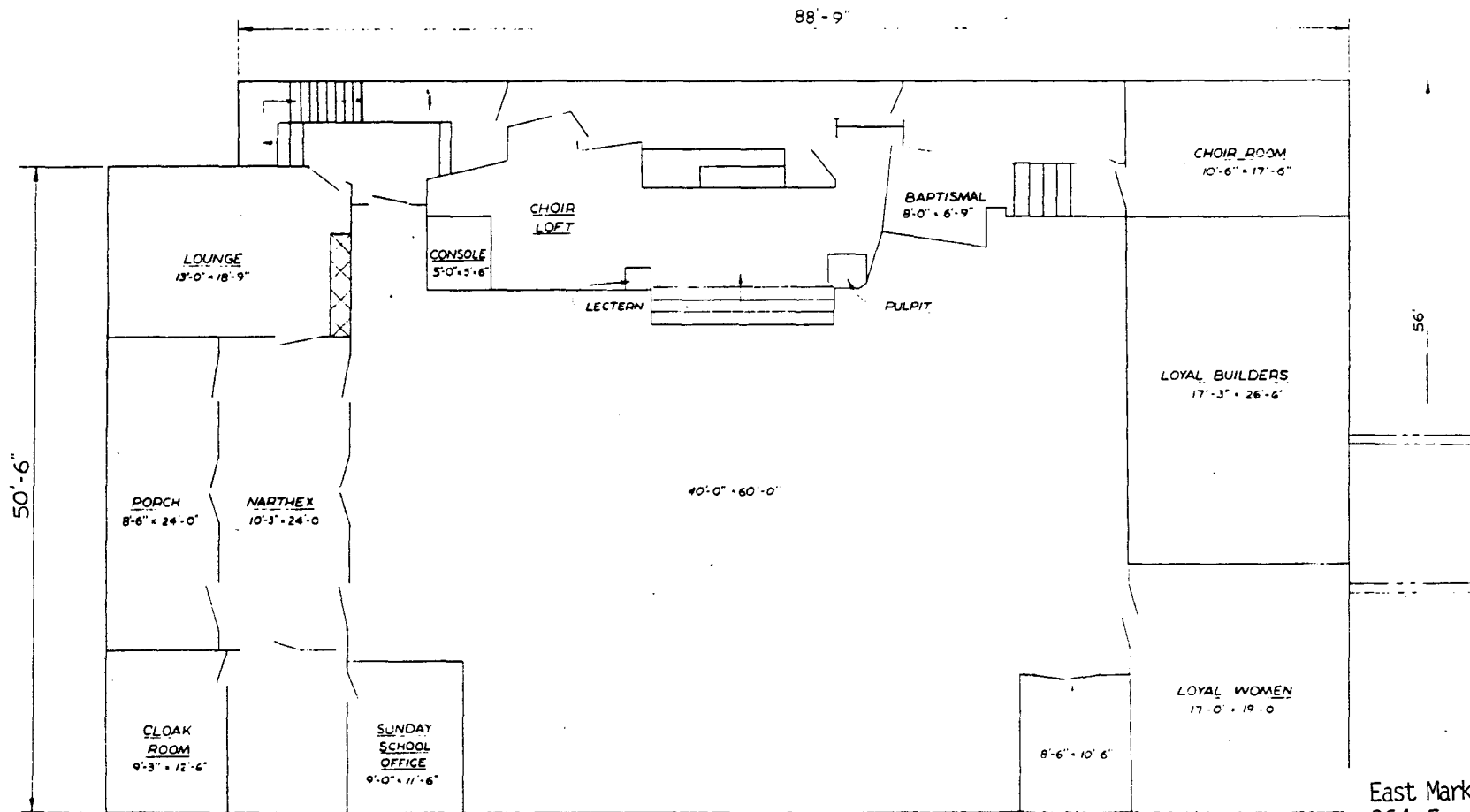
There is a technical oversight on the form - this property meets the National Register Criteria exception for religious properties, yet Criteria Consideration A was not checked. Barb Powers with the OH SHPO agrees that the form should be changed. The form is now officially amended to include the Criteria Consideration.

DISTRIBUTION:

National Register property file
Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

RECEIVED DEC - 2 1988

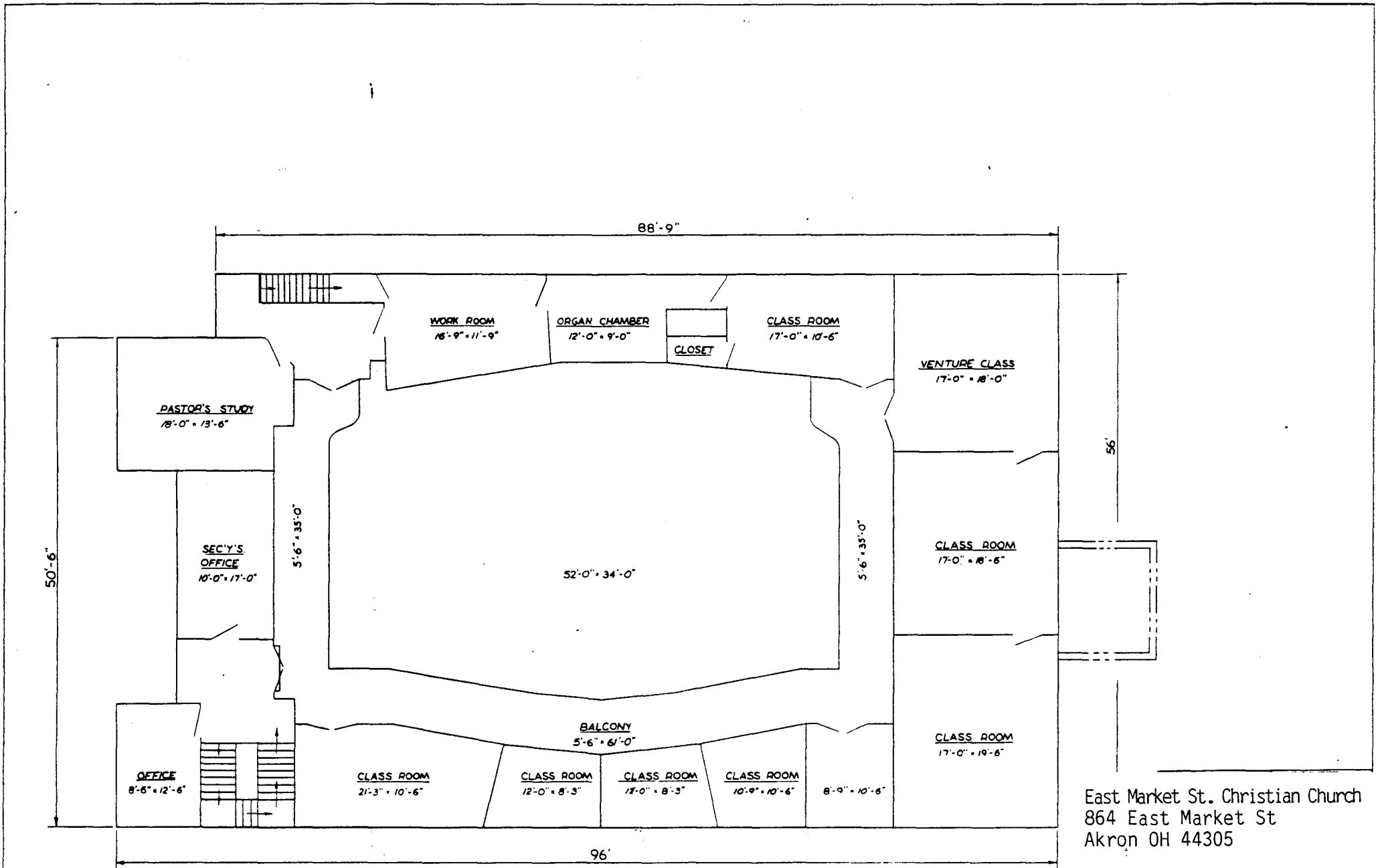
East Market Street Church of Christ
Akron, Summit County, Ohio



East Market St. Christian Church
864 East Market St
Akron OH 44305

FIRST FLOOR
SCALE - 1/4" = 1'-0"

NOTE:
ALL ROOM DIMENSIONS ARE
ONLY APPROXIMATIONS.



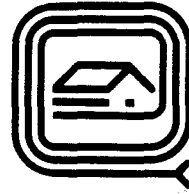
East Market St. Christian Church
864 East Market St
Akron OH 44305

SECOND FLOOR
SCALE ~ 1/4" = 1'-0"

NOTE:
ALL ROOM DIMENSIONS ARE
ONLY APPROXIMATIONS.

Ohio Historic Preservation Office

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



OHIO
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY
SINCE 1885

March 8, 1989

Mrs. John Davis, Trustee
East Market Street
Christian Church
864 East Market Street
Akron, Ohio 44305

Dear Mrs. Davis:

Re: East Market Street Church of Christ, 864 East Market Street,
Akron, Summit County, Ohio

We are pleased to inform you that the East Market Street Church of Christ nomination has been entered into the National Register of Historic Places by the National Park Service, Department of the Interior (NR listed 02/07/89).

The nomination was made in connection with a state plan to identify and document prehistoric and historic places in Ohio which qualify for National Register status under provisions of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 as amended. All nominations are approved by the Ohio Historic Site Preservation Advisory Board.

Enclosed is information explaining the purposes and goals of the National Register of Historic Places.

Sincerely,

W. Ray Luce
State Historic Preservation Officer

WRL/BAP:emn
Enclosure

xc: Jeff Brown, Regional Coordinator
Donald L. Plusquellic, Mayor
State Senator Roy L. Ray
State Representative Thomas W. Watkins
NEFCO

Ohio Historic Preservation Office

National Register of Historic Places File Checklist

The following materials are contained in this file of the National Register form for:

Name: East Market Street Church of Christ

County: Summit

Original National Register of Historic Places nomination form

Multiple Property Nomination form

Photograph(s)

Photograph(s) (copies)

USGS map(s)

USGS map(s) (copies)

Sketch map(s)/figure(s)/exhibit(s)

Correspondence

Other _____

