

REF 7600 1532

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED // 7-76

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC St. Paul's Sunday School and Parish House

AND/OR COMMON

Firestone Conservatory I

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER East Market and Forge Streets

CITY, TOWN Akron

VICINITY OF

14 - John Seiberling

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE Ohio

CODE 039

COUNTY Summit

CODE 153

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME The University of Akron

STREET & NUMBER 302 East Buchtel

CITY, TOWN Akron

VICINITY OF

STATE

Ohio 44304

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Summit County Building

STREET & NUMBER 72 South High Street

CITY, TOWN Akron

STATE

Ohio

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

411-16

DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This is a two-story Victorian Gothic structure with a basement. The walls are constructed of coursed sandstone with corner buttresses. The plan is an irregular cross-shape, but it is not entirely symmetrical. The four main gables of the building are approximately equal in size and importance. There is a corner entrance in the southeast angle of the cross. The Gothic windows on each elevation have flat masonry frames, a sort of plate tracery. Each side elevation of the east end has a dormer with three Gothic lancet windows. Some of the windows on the west elevation are rectangular with lintels. Originally there was a small belfry tower on the north side, and above the crossing there was a small pointed fleche, but they have been removed.

The interior arrangement is unusual. The east half is a two-story parish house. The main floor meeting room faces a proscenium platform at the east end. The room is connected to the west part of the building by a large folding wooden door. The second floor contains one large room which has sloping ceilings under the roof. The west room is a tall two-story space surrounded on three sides by a balcony. Opening from the balcony are a number of small classrooms now used as offices. On the north side the balcony ends at the organ chamber; on the south side it provides access to the upper east room. The balcony is supported on wooden posts which appear to have been added after the original construction. The woodwork of the west room is a dark oak, and the ceiling consists of tongue-and-groove boards. The area immediately to the west of the folding door has been temporarily partitioned to provide an office, so the door is not used. This temporary arrangement has also obscured a corner fireplace with a Gothic hood in the northeast corner of the large west room, which formed a sort of domestic "inglenook."

The building is connected to the later sanctuary (1909) by a temporary wooden passageway, but they do not for this reason constitute one structure, and only the building described is nominated.

SIGNIFICANCE

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

SPECIFIC DATES

1884-1885

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This is an early building designed specifically as a Sunday school and parish house, and secondarily as a sanctuary. It is located in the city where the "Akron plan," of which it is an excellent example, was evolved.

St. Paul's Episcopal Parish was formed in 1835. Meeting at first in private homes and rooms, the congregation built a small frame building in 1844, and that building was subsequently enlarged in 1870. In 1884 the church purchased the triangular lot at East Market, Forge and Fir Streets and built the existing Sunday School and Parish House at a cost of \$35,000. It was dedicated January 6, 1885.

In the latter part of the nineteenth century religious organizations became increasingly concerned with the care and education of children, proper and supervised recreation, and social service. The first building to be erected solely for Sunday school purposes was built by the First Methodist Church in Akron in 1868. It was conceived by Lewis Miller, an inventor and manufacturer of reapers, the father-in-law of Thomas A. Edison, and later the co-founder of the widely influential Chautauqua cultural institution at Chautauqua Lake, New York.

For the Sunday School Miller created a unique plan to accommodate his graded classes, consisting of a semi-circular auditorium arranged as a parterre and gallery, and suggested to him by an outdoor picnic ground and amphitheater. This arrangement came to be known as the "Akron plan," and frequently incorporated a large folding or lifting door to enlarge a conventional sanctuary. Miller's original Sunday School no longer exists, and St. Paul's is a rare early example of the type.

In 1907-1909, the sanctuary of St. Paul's Episcopal Church was erected adjacent to the Sunday School and is connected to it by a wooden passageway, but it does not have the architectural or historical distinction of the earlier building. Both buildings were acquired by the University of Akron in 1952 with funds from the Firestone Foundation and serve as the Firestone Conservatory of Music.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Centennial Celebration (St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Akron, 1935).
 The University of Akron Archives.
 Ellwood Hendrick, Lewis Miller (New York, 1925), 144 ff.
 William B. Doyle, Centennial History of Summit County, Ohio (Chicago, 1908), 219-220.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Less than one

UTM REFERENCES

A	1 7	4 5 7 4 2 0	4 5 4 7 6 4 0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE Eric Johannesen, Preservationist

ORGANIZATION Western Reserve Historical Society DATE November 1975

STREET & NUMBER 10825 East Boulevard TELEPHONE 216-721-5722

CITY OR TOWN Cleveland STATE Ohio

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL STATE LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER	DATE
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION	DATE
ATTEST:	DATE
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER	

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2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN

Akron

— VICINITY OF

STATE

Ohio

COUNTY

Summit

3 PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT

E. Johannesen

DATE OF PHOTO

1975

NEGATIVE FILED AT

Western Reserve Historical Society

4 IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

PHOTO NO.

Interior of "Akron Plan" Sunday School.

4.

GPO 892-454

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East elevation, looking west. 2.

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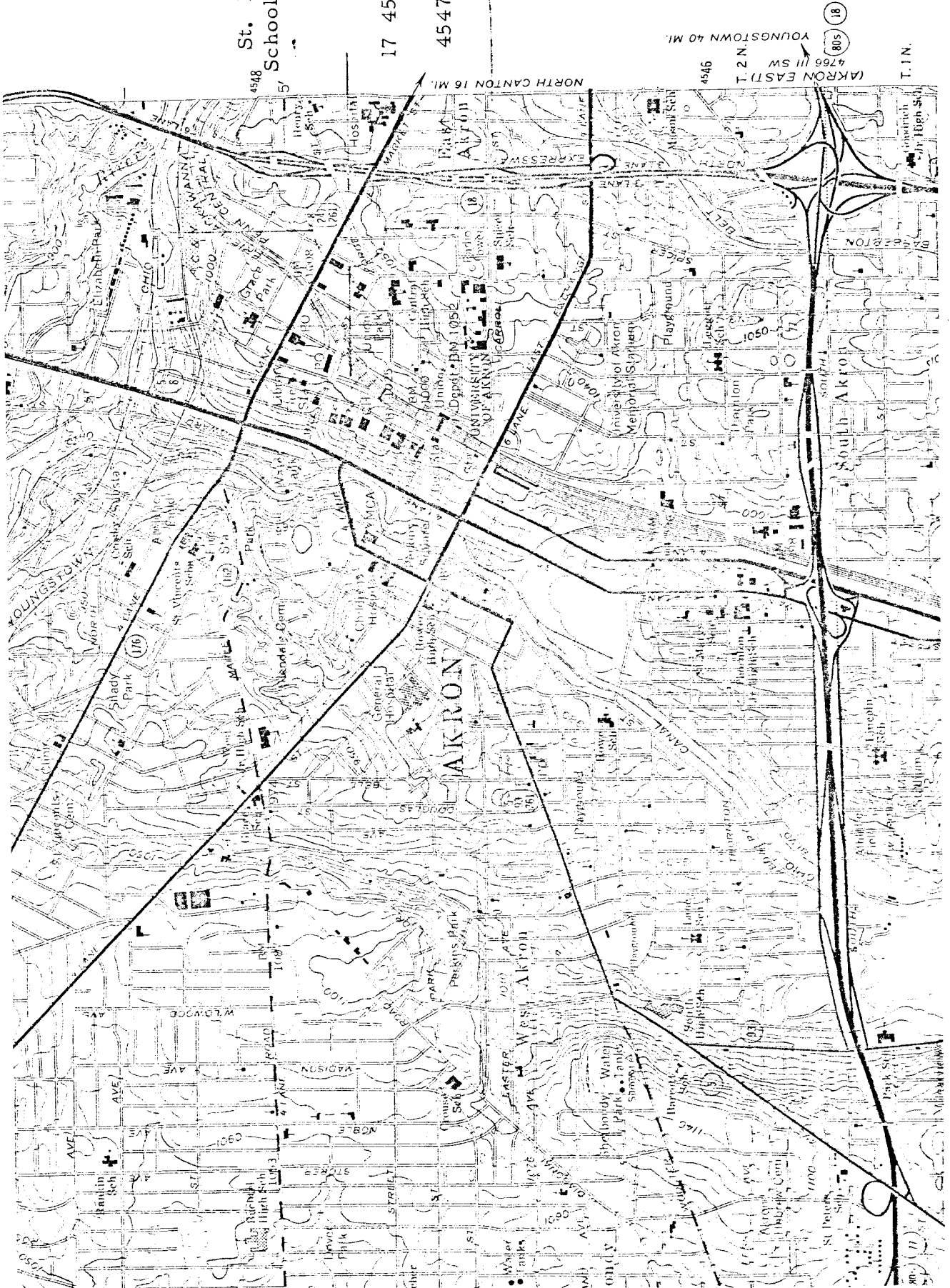
PHOTO CREDIT E. Johannesen DATE OF PHOTO 1975

NEGATIVE FILED AT Western Reserve Historical Society

4548 St. Paul's Sunday School and Parish House

17 457/420 East

4547/640 North



AKRON EAST 1.2 N
4766 III SW
YOUNGSTOWN 40 MI.
805 18
T. I. N.

NEWS

the
Ohio Historical
Society

PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE

OHIO HISTORICAL CENTER
INTERSTATE 71 AND 17TH AVENUE
COLUMBUS, OHIO 43211
614/466-4655

Date: December 8, 1976

County: Summit

Release

Columbus -- The St. Paul's Sunday School and Parish House, Market & Forge Sts., Akron has been entered in the U.S. Department of the Interior's National Register of Historic Places.

This is an early building designed specifically as a Sunday School and parish house, and secondarily as a sanctuary. It is located in the city where the "Akron plan", of which it is an excellent example, was evolved. This structure was built in 1884-1885. In 1907-09 the sanctuary was erected. The sanctuary and the school are connected to each other by a wooden passageway. Both buildings were acquired by the University of Akron in 1952 with funds from the Firestone Foundation and serve as the Firestone Conservatory of Music.

The nomination of St. Paul's Sunday School & Parish is part of a continuing program of the Ohio Historical Society to identify sites in Ohio which qualify for National Register status. Under provisions of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, which established the program, all nominations are approved by the Ohio Historic Site Preservation Advisory Board.

The National Register was designed to focus nationwide attention on important landmarks and help guarantee their preservation. Entry into the Register in no way alters ownership or administrative responsibility for the site.

For further information please contact the Ohio Historic Preservation Office at (614) 466-8727.

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: St Paul's Sunday School & Parish House

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 _____

