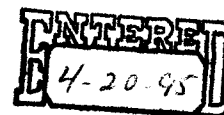


REFNUM 95000499



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

DEMOLISHED

### National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

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

#### 1. Name of Property

historic name Mason, Frank H., House

other names/site number Brighton Farm, Turkeyfoot Manor, Healthaven

#### 2. Location

street & number 615 Latham Lane N/A  not for publication

city or town Akron (Franklin Township)  vicinity

state Ohio code OH county Summit code 153 zip code 44319

#### 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.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

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 of 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

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Mason, Frank H., House  
Name of Property

Summit County, Ohio  
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property  
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property  
(Check only one box)

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

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
4	5	buildings
1		sites
1		structures
		objects
6	5	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

Current Functions  
(Enter categories from instructions)

HEALTH CARE/sanitarium

Since 1991 administrative offices  
and reception and meeting areas

7. Description

Architectural Classification  
(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19TH AND EARLY 20TH CENTURY  
REVIVALS/Tudor Revival and  
Craftsman

Materials  
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE/Granite  
walls BRICK  
STUCCO  
roof TERRA COTTA  
other STONE/Limestone  
METAL/Copper

Narrative Description

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

Mason, Frank H., House

Name of Property

Summit County, Ohio

County and State

**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

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

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

**Criteria Considerations**

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

Property is:

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

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

INDUSTRY

**Period of Significance**

1913-1931

**Significant Dates**

1913

1931

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Mason, Frank H.

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

Milton E. Harpster and John F.

Bliss, Architects

**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 # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

Collection of James A. Pahlau

Mason, Frank H., House  
Name of Property

Summit County, Ohio  
County and State

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreeage of Property** 16.049

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

A 1 

1	7
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4	5	4	2	0	0
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4	5	3	4	8	6	0
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C 3 

1	7
---	---

4	5	4	1	1	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

4	5	3	4	6	5	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

B 2 

1	7
---	---

4	5	4	2	6	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

4	5	3	4	7	4	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

D 4 

1	7
---	---

4	5	4	1	0	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

4	5	3	4	5	2	0
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See continuation sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description**

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

**Boundary Justification**

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

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title James A. Pahlau, architectural historian

organization for Braun & Steidl, Architects date November 30, 1994

street & number 37 Byers Avenue #213 telephone 216-836-5533 Bus.

city or town Akron state Ohio zip code 44302

**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 Healthaven Corporation

street & number 615 Latham Lane telephone 216-644-3914

city or town Akron state Ohio zip code 44319

**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

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Mason, Frank H., House  
Summit County, Ohio

### Description

The Frank H. Mason House was built in 1913-1914 as a grand summer residence for a wealthy Akron industrialist. It was the centerpiece of Brighton Farm, a 746-acre estate on the west shore of Turkeyfoot Lake, and showed the architects' Progressive view of the Free English Manorial style with many Tudor and Craftsman influences. Using solid masonry and steel-frame construction, the house is mainly of beige brick with a foundation and accents of random field stone. There are large areas of stucco and painted half-timbering on the second storey. A complex roof of green English tile has bracketed purlins in the gables and exposed shaped rafter ends in the eaves. The driveway facade is fronted by an architecturally treated porte-cochere. Behind the copious fenestration are found spacious interiors rich with detailing in assorted historicist styles.

### Exterior

The entrance, or driveway, facade of two storeys with full attic has a symmetrical main block with flanking front-gabled end pavilions. Textured beige brick is laid in Flemish bond with recessed mortar joints. Wood trim now painted white was originally cream. Decorative brickwork panels are placed between sets of four windows on the first and second floors of the two pavilions. Double-hung windows have upper sash with muntins and plain lower sash. There are bracketed purlins in the pavilion gables and herringbone brick in the gable apexes. Exposed shaped rafter ends support the eaves overhang of the main and subordinate roofs. The roof surface is covered with narrow green English terra-cotta tile evenly coursed with bridged valleys. The main roof carries a deep truncated top section to allow for greater floor area in the room plan. A large center shed dormer has tripartite windows and sides sheathed with roof tile. Original copper troughs, leader heads, and downspouts are retained.

The slightly projecting center section of the second floor, faced with raw coarse stucco and painted timbering, is supported by

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## Description (continued)

stone corbels. A large double landing window to the left has decorative diamond leaded-glass sash and transoms. A second-storey bay window rests on the roof of the porte-cochere fronting the center section below, which is random irregular granite field stone laid in the Craftsman manner. This same stone is used as foundation material for the entire house and is capped by a first-floor sill course of dressed limestone, which is also the other decorative trim. The porte-cochere has an enscrolled baroque parapet gable, where a granite roundel is set above the keystoned segmental arch over the front opening. The porte-cochere is supported by battered field-stone corner piers with limestone Doric columns and square pilasters in antis on three sides. The underside of the even-span roof is finished with stucco panels. Sheltered by the porte-cochere, the entry stoop of cast-stone square tile is raised two steps to the recessed main entry door, set in a segmental brick arch. Intermediary wood pilasters flank the door itself. Leaded translucent-glass sidelights and a transom have amber insert designs. A large free-standing field-stone planter of cylindrical form stands to the right at the front of the porte-cochere.

A subordinate two-storey wing at the right has a roof parapet with decorative brickwork. On the side elevation is a full-height gabled center pavilion. This wing contains the large sun porch, with a double sleeping porch above. The entry door, its sidelights, and multiple transom are placed under a segmental stone arch resting on limestone Doric columns. Long narrow windows with decorative leading flank the entrance enframingent. Limestone sills of the sleeping-porch windows have small stone corbels. To the left a sizeable two-storey service wing extends at an obtuse angle from the main block, with brick for the first floor and stucco and timbering above. The side-gabled roof contains a wide stucco shed dormer whose projecting gabled center element has paired windows and flared eaves. The centered first-floor service door is protected by a small bracketed pent roof. The back-stair landing window above has a half-round stucco lunette and is set in

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## Description (continued)

a brick section of wall rising above the pent roof and extending to the eaves. A battered stone pier at the far corner of the first storey of the service wing matches one at the corresponding corner of the sun-porch wing to the right. Contained in the angle formed by the setback of the service wing is the billiard room's field-stone vestibule with a side-facing door. The shed roof of the vestibule is shielded by a baroque side parapet.

The lake, or rear, facade of the house has the same massing and treatment of brick, stone, and stucco as the entrance side. Here flanking front-gabled end pavilions have full-width first-floor bow windows with the left one serving the living room and the right one the dining room. Extending between the end pavilions is an enclosed cross-axial loggia, each of its three doors with side windows and multiple transoms set under a keystoned segmental arch. A two-storey left wing houses the sun porch with a sleeping porch above. To the right a similar but front-projecting wing contains the breakfast room with another sleeping porch on the second floor. The entrance to the breakfast room corresponds to that of the sun porch. The main roof is centered with a shed dormer like that on the entrance front. More readily seen from this elevation are two large panelled roof chimneys and a third, lesser chimney, each with thickened terminal treatments and brick corbelling.

## Interior

Opulent, spacious interiors found within the Mason House embrace a mix of period-revival styles popular with wealthy patrons at that time. First-floor rooms are unusually large with high ceilings and monumental proportions. There is generous use of multiple windows, as well as wide openings between rooms. Indicative of the well conceived floor plan is the good-sized cross-axial reception, or main, hall with no outside walls. It is fronted by the vestibule, office, and open staircase toward the driveway facade and placed against the parallel loggia facing the lake.

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## Description (continued)

Major first-floor rooms open logically from the reception hall, affording a kind of easy livability typical of the period. The vestibule is entered from the porte-cochere through a wide door (since replaced) with sidelights and a segmental-arched transom, all with decorative leaded translucent glass. The entrance thence into the reception hall corresponds to the outside entry but with plain glass and a blind arched transom of embellished wood. Both door enframements employ intermediary half-round wood pilasters. Oak panelling reaches almost to the high arched ceiling of moulded plaster panels bordered by an enriched plaster cornice moulding. The original chandelier remains, as well as the early floor linoleum, brown and green on a cream ground in a stylized spot pattern with a border of interlacing circles and ellipses.

The reception hall, vestibule, office, living room, and billiard room utilize Tudor, Jacobean, and Renaissance style elements with dark oak trim. The hall floor is formed of oak squares, whereas other floors use an oak herringbone pattern. The hall ceiling is in three sections defined by framed oak beams. The original branched bronze center chandelier and matching sconces are still in use. Walls are treated with applied panel-effect mouldings. Radiators here, as often elsewhere, are hidden by grilles variously placed under bookcases, windows, deep sills, or seats. Oak-panelled overdoor and window friezes are centered with roundels. To the south of the vestibule, entered from both the hall and the vestibule, is a small oak office with panelled dado, and flanking the paired window, glass-doored bookcases. To the north is a two-storey alcove housing the grand oak staircase with eased and ramped railings, shaped balusters, and a square newel post with strapwork carving and horizontal bandings. The reverse landing has a large double window with transoms, all glazed with decorative leading. A sill-height wainscot moulding extends around the stairwell, separating long, emphasized vertical panels in the lower staircase from standard rectangular panels above. The original large bronze cylinder-glass chandelier is retained. Under the landing is a guest lavatory with white tile walls and



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## Description (continued)

floor. From the hall two large casement windows and a wide center French door open to the loggia, which has decorative beige brickwork panels on its end walls, a beige tile floor, and its early ceiling fixtures. The glazed arcade of the outer wall overlooks the terrace and the lake.

The expansive rectangular living room, opening southward from the hall, features a dominant fireplace with a deep oak-panelled chimney breast. Over the Tudor arch of the marble surround is an enriched panelled frieze under a high denticulated shelf supported by carved side consoles reaching to the marble hearth. Overmantel panelling is sectioned by inverse strapwork pilasters. Now closed up from the sun porch, narrow full-length windows with round-arched decorative leaded-glass casements flank the chimney breast. Two sets of wide French doors with panelled overdoor friezes with center roundels formerly led to the sun porch; both are now partly bricked in and have metal fire doors. The entrances to the sun porch are balanced on the opposite living-room wall by matching built-in bookcases with radiators beneath concealed by wood grilles. The glass doors over the shelves have been removed. Two oak-panelled ceiling beams aligned with wall pilasters, as well as the crown moulding, are embellished with shaped modillions. The original bronze center chandelier, two secondary chandeliers, and matching sconces remain. The wall of the driveway facade consists of four grouped windows with a radiator grille beneath, and bookcases at either side each with a panelled frieze and center roundel. The opposite end wall toward the lake is a full-width bow window with curved glass in the plain lower sash. The living room is rendered thematically in total ensemble, further unified by the oak-panelled dado.

In the sun porch are beige brick walls accented with vertical panels of basket-weave brickwork, and a floor of large bright green rectangular tile laid in a herringbone pattern. The ceiling-height Craftsman fireplace is of random field stone with a corbelled limestone shelf over the segmental-arched opening. A

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Mason, Frank H., House  
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### Description (continued)

panel of brickwork is set above the shelf, and three panels of small random igneous rocks and stones below. Two plaster beams divide the ceiling, which has a modillioned plaster crown moulding above enc scrolled frieze panels. The original center chandelier has been replaced by a similar one from elsewhere in the house; the early torchere-type sconces are still in use. Front, back, and side doors all with sidelights and transoms are placed under segmental arches and are in turn flanked by long narrow windows with decorative leaded casements. Radiators at each end of the room are covered by limestone window seats with shaped stone end supports. Wood trim now painted white was once medium green.

The billiard room, north of the reception hall and behind the driveway facade, has two oak beams dividing the ceiling into three sections, each broken into smaller parts by secondary beams. The red brick fireplace in the Craftsman manner has above its corbelled limestone shelf a small recess set in a panel of brick framed by multiple receding segmental arches. Above the brickwork of the chimney breast are three oak panels; the center one is stationary while the side ones conceal cupboards. To either side of this grouping is a carved linenfold panel. The upper wall above a high panelled wainscot was originally padded leather (only one section remains, now painted over) with cross-stitched seams and large bronze upholstery tacks along the border. The original sconces are hanging bronze lanterns on brackets. A cupboard with panelled double doors to store billiard apparatus is framed by an architrave with an eared elliptical curve at the top. Out of view behind a regular panelled door is found a deep built-in wall safe. An oak-panelled vestibule with a plain arched ceiling and tile floor affords direct access to outside.

The dining room, which backs against the billiard room while overlooking the lake, is strongly Adamesque in its interpretation. The cove of the ceiling rises from a plain frieze and crown moulding to an enriched plaster border, with the ceiling itself set up from the border. The original branched pewter-finish

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## Description (continued)

chandelier and matching sconces are still in place. The fine Adamesque mantel of onyx marble with mauve-brown frieze panels and matching inlay work in the pilasters is further detailed with applied swag and urn motifs. The marble hearth is inset with mauve-brown geometric designs. Flanking the fireplace are architecturally treated alcoves for the formal placement of twin furniture pieces. The walls consist of paired vertical panels with small corner rosettes, set off by fluted Corinthian pilasters. Opposite the fireplace is a full-width bow window, matching that in the living room, with radiators hidden by metal grilles under the deep sill. Originally finished in cream, the wood trim is now painted white.

The out-sized breakfast room, formerly entered from the dining room through French doors (now closed up), repeats the Adam theme of the dining room. Partly set in a projecting wing, the room has exposure on three sides. Facing the lake, the outside door with its sidelights is surmounted by a segmental-arched multiple transom and flanked by narrow full-length casements. Formed by the gently arched ceiling, a tympanum on each end wall is ornamented by a curving low-relief plaster band. The frieze along the straight ceiling line is supported by narrow stylized Corinthian pilasters, some in pairs, with vertical garland reliefs in the panelled shafts. Original lighting fixtures have been removed. Two small dummy fireplaces at the corners on opposite walls have radiator grilles framed by plain inverse pilasters supporting a shallow marble shelf. Now painted white, the wood trim was at first cream to match the dining room.

The kitchen in the service wing to the north was fully equipped with then state-of-the-art refrigeration, appliances, and fittings but has been gutted and replaced with a modern institutional-type plan to serve the former nursing-home use of the house. Its walls are still faced with original white rectangular tile extending to the ceiling. The partly intact butler's pantry, joining the kitchen with the dining and breakfast rooms, has its panelled

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## Description (continued)

walls and maple glass-doored cupboards. A servants' room, cold (refrigerator) room, and enclosed recessed corner service porch have been substantially altered, mainly for storage.

Upstairs in the main block is a wide lengthwise central corridor with no outside walls, whose sectioned ceiling has plaster beams and crown moulding. The wood trim and panelled dado, now painted white, were originally cream. Walnut-finish panelled doors all have blind transom panels above; the architraves are framed by narrow half-width Ionic pilasters at each side. Opening off this corridor are the owner's chamber with a corner fireplace and its own bathroom, as well as seven other bedrooms, two unusually large sleeping porches, and three other bathrooms. The bathrooms, which open also into adjoining bedrooms, all utilize white tile reaching to the ceiling cove, bordered at the top by tiles of blossoms with leaves draping into the next row of tile down, in such colorings as lavender and green or mauve and green. Shaped white tiles form door and window architraves and floors are of small white square tile. All of the bathrooms are quite large with closets or built-in wardrobes with shelves and drawers. Two formerly had separate shower stalls as well as tubs.

The second floor of the service wing contains four servants' rooms, one bathroom, a linen room, and a sewing room, all serviced by a hallway extending from the north end of the main second-floor corridor. A generous service stair reaches from the third floor to the kitchen and then to the basement laundry. At the north end of the main corridor a once partly open staircase leads to a reception hallway, thence to the 51-foot third-floor ballroom, given a full-blown Georgian Revival treatment with fluted square Doric side columns, a fireplace alcove at the far end with a storage room behind, an oak herringbone floor, and a high ceiling with a deep cove to accommodate the slope of the roof. Engaged square columns frame four large lateral conversation alcoves each with windows. Off the reception hallway are two bedrooms, one with a complete bathroom, which also served ballroom guests. The

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## Description (continued)

adjoining third floor of the service wing is one large completely finished storage space banked with drawers under the roof slope. The near end, just off the ballroom vestibule, at one time was equipped for food preparation and serving for the ballroom. A trunk lift extended from the basement through two floors to this area.

## Setting

All doors on the lake facade of the Mason House open to a full-width raised terrace of herringbone brick. Originally laid out with a bird bath in a round pool, an architecturally framed set-down centerpiece terrace with stone benches extends toward the lake. The curved brick wall of the far side is flanked by steps descending to the general lawn area, which slopes gently to the lake. Placed at the ends of the curved wall to light the steps are two large bronze urns with marbled glass panels. Walls of the lower terrace have limestone coping with the side walls of random field stone. From the loggia and upper terrace a vista is seen across the walled terrace thence to the lake and beyond. South of the house the focus of a view on axis with the center of the sun porch is now blocked by the new nursing-care building. The terminus of this view was an impressive garden pavilion in the Greek Doric style with limestone columns and square corner piers. A wood frieze of pierced fretwork is set under the exposed pergola-effect joist ends of the flat roof. This pavilion is the only part left of a once grander treatment with subordinate side arbors curving toward the house. Field-stone piers, one still standing, indicated driveways and entrance and exit lanes now conjoining with a circle from which a drive leads to the Mason grandson's 1928 house.

The combined garage and carriage house, located across an expanse of lawn from the driveway facade, was built in 1920 to complement the main house in style and materials. It has been altered to contain five apartments down and six on the second floor. The

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## Description (continued)

prominent slightly projecting front jerkinhead gable of stucco and timbering is supported by brick corbels. This large two-storey building is mainly stucco with sections of beige brick for former vehicle entryways on both front and rear elevations, as well as wide corner piers and exterior wainscot, all laid in running bond. The roof slopes to the first-floor ceiling height with nearly full-length shed dormers on each side, now faced with asphalt shingles, as is the roof. First-floor and dormer eaves have exposed shaped rafter ends. On the right elevation is a foot entrance protected by a bracketed pent roof. In spite of its use as apartments, the Mason garage still effectively conveys from the exterior its original purpose. Nearby is a vestige of the old working farm, a medium-size bank barn erected in 1928 of board-and-batten type with paired roof cupolas and set on a sandstone-block foundation. Noncontributing buildings on the property are two small one-storey frame houses (1958 and 1964), two six-stall garages of cement block (1961), and a small garage (with apartment above) close to the north end of the Mason House. The two-story frame house (1930) located near the barn contributes through its association with the estate's use as a farm. Fronting for 663.85 feet on the west shore of Turkeyfoot Lake, the estate presently consists of 16.049 acres backing against Portage Lakes State Park. The original Brighton Farm, formed by Frank Mason from eight separate farms that he had acquired, constituted 746 acres, one of the largest estates ever found in the Portage Lakes area. In 1954 a 500-acre section was sold to the State of Ohio as the nucleus of present Portage Lakes State Park. In 1943 dentists Vincent McCormish and Frank Ganyard established a nursing home in the Mason House under the name Turkeyfoot Manor. Ganyard withdrew the next year, and McCormish and his wife Darma then operated the nursing home until 1953, when it was purchased by David Wise and later renamed Healthaven in 1966. In 1991 a new building to house all nursing facilities was completed south of the former Mason home and joined to it by an enclosed passageway. Now called Mason Manor, the Frank H. Mason House presently contains the administrative offices and reception and meeting

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## Description (continued)

areas for Healthaven, as well as second-floor quarters for the Portage Lakes Historical Society.

Since 1991 when all nursing-care operations were removed, the Frank H. Mason House has surprisingly reassumed much of its earlier residential character and integrity with only cosmetic rather than major work being done. Because of its visual architectural strengths, in spite of the following alterations (all reversible), the house still offers sufficient prerequisites for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. These alterations include: small plain two-storey addition on lake facade at juncture of service wing for first-floor storage and second-floor bathroom, roofless porch deck at north door of service wing, year-round corridor connecting south door of sun porch to new nursing home, replacement asphalt-shingle roof on porte-cochere, masonry and glass fire wall at top of main staircase, interior walls of two-room sleeping porch to south reformatted for room use and fire-exit corridor, kitchen replaced with institutional appliances and fittings, ancillary kitchen rooms reconfigured, French doors from dining room to breakfast room closed up, tripartite exterior French window in breakfast room bricked in, entrance door in vestibule replaced, one of two windows from reception hall to loggia closed up with cement blocks, two leaded-glass windows from living room to sun porch closed up, two sets of French doors from living room to sun porch replaced with metal fire doors, fireplace openings closed up flush with surrounds, glass doors removed from four book-cases in living room, and exposed fire-sprinkler pipes almost throughout.

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Mason, Frank H., House  
Summit County, Ohio

## Statement of Significance

The large 43-room residence at Brighton Farm designed in 1913 for Frank H. Mason, a chief officer of the B. F. Goodrich Company, is significant in three areas: its strong architectural character and associations, the execution of its design, and the quality of its construction; the importance of its architects Harpster & Bliss, Akron's premier firm from 1907 to 1925; and the importance of its original owner as an industrialist before and during Akron's rubber-boom years and as a respected civic leader and generous benefactor.

## Architectural Character

Frank H. Mason had earlier lived in important houses that duly reflected through then popular styles his standing in the community. His enormous Queen Anne house on South Union Street built in 1887 is no longer standing. During the mid 1920's his city house was the rambling 1902 Colonial Revival mansion of Charles B. Raymond, another Goodrich executive, designed by Howard Van Doren Shaw, a prominent Chicago architect. In 1904 where the present residence stands, Mason erected a large frame gambrel-roof "cottage" by architects Bunts & Bliss (predecessor firm to Harpster & Bliss), his summer home until destroyed by fire in 1908. A new house (subject of this nomination) was constructed in 1913-1914 for both summer and year-round use. Because of the scope of its construction and work force, three small kit houses from Sears, Roebuck and Company were put up for the use of workers, then later taken down. The new house would be a Progressive interpretation of the Free English Manorial style with Tudor references, such as large second-storey areas of raw stucco with a half-timber effect. It is a sturdy monumentally proportioned structure using steel framing and reinforced concrete. Mainly of beige brick with random field-stone accents and dressed stone trim, it exhibits such Craftsman elements as bracketed gable purlins and exposed shaped rafter ends, and a complex roof of green English tile.

Although the Frank H. Mason House evokes an overall feeling of



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Summit County, Ohio

## Statement of Significance (continued)

sedateness and reserve, closer inspection reveals rich, varied detailing and inventive use of design elements. There is much decorative brickwork, one of several devices in which architects Harpster & Bliss excelled. The exterior presents two nearly symmetrical, linear facades of exceptional interest and complexity each with flanking two-storey gabled pavilions. The entrance, or driveway, facade is fronted by an impressive stone porte-cochere. The lake, or rear, facade with its wide two-tiered terrace looks out toward Turkeyfoot Lake. Little of the vast lakeside gardens remains, but the main part of a Doric-columned garden pavilion still stands south from the house. Opulent, spacious interior treatments embrace a wide spectrum of period revival styles including Tudor, Jacobean, Renaissance, Georgian, and Adamesque, with many influences from the Arts and Crafts movement in evidence. The truncated roof of the main block, along with two large shed dormers and gable space from the flanking pavilions, allows for a grand third-floor ballroom with a full architectural delineation in the Georgian manner. Blueprints show remarkable spatial relationships and many special amenities and innovations, such as the central vacuum-cleaning system, to satisfy the wishes and requirements of a wealthy client and his family. Utilization of all spaces, both readily seen and hidden, is unerringly thought out. The Frank H. Mason House is the largest as well as the most extravagant residence by Harpster & Bliss still extant.

## Harpster &amp; Bliss, Architects

Milton Eugene Harpster and John Frederick Bliss together formed the most important early 20th-century architectural firm ever to practice in Akron. From 1907 to 1925 their designs were in constant demand not only for major civic and commercial buildings, schools, and churches but also for fine residences for the corporate elite. John Bliss, born in Baden, Germany, had become associated in 1903 with architect Edward H. Bunts in Akron. After the death of Bunts in 1907 Bliss joined with Milton Harpster, a native of Findlay, Ohio, already practicing in Akron. Both men

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Mason, Frank H., House  
Summit County, Ohio

### Statement of Significance (continued)

had previously apprenticed with established architects. When their partnership was begun Bliss was thirty-three years old, Harpster thirty-six. Bliss died in 1925 and his partner then was joined by architect Frank W. Billman for eleven years.

The work of Harpster & Bliss in the public sector was principally Neo-Classical Revival in style, including the Central Police Station (1908, razed 1979), Nantucket Building (1911), Ohio Building (1914), Masonic Temple (1917), University Club (1917), Akron Armory (1918, razed 1982), and Summit County Courthouse Annex (1924). Representative of their fourteen public schools were Portage Path Elementary School (1907), Lincoln Elementary (1909), South High (1911, razed 1979), and West High (1914). Their church architecture, usually Neo-Classical Revival or Late Romanesque Revival, included Temple Israel (1912), East Market Street Church of Christ (1912), First Methodist Episcopal (1914, destroyed by fire 1994), and First Church of Christ Scientist (1915). The firm's schools and churches often employed masterful use of terra cotta for trim and details.

In residential design the Harpster & Bliss masterwork was the French Renaissance Revival mansion of industrialist Ohio Columbus Barber built at 3,000-acre Anna Dean Farm in nearby Barberton in 1910. The massive brick mansion with cast-stone trim and red tile roof was torn down in 1965. Of the thirty-five brick farm buildings in a rural French style, only eight remain. The largest of the three main barns (now razed) was 800 feet long. Another important domestic commission was Harbel Manor, the large 1912 home of rubber magnate Harvey S. Firestone, Sr., rendered in a strong English Manorial style with much Craftsman influence. Greatly enlarged from 1915 to 1918 by architects Trowbridge & Ackerman of New York, it was demolished in 1959. A goodly number of houses by Harpster & Bliss have been razed in the last thirty years. An astonishing output of other fine homes was produced by these two men especially from 1910 to 1920, Akron's greatest rubber-boom years when the city's population tripled in one

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National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 15Mason, Frank H., House  
Summit County, Ohio

## Statement of Significance (continued)

decade. These were houses for socially prominent industrial and civic leaders such as Clarence I. Bruner (bank official), Andrew H. Noah (Diamond Rubber Company), H. Evan Williams (nationally known concert tenor), C. Landon Knight (Akron Beacon Journal), and Byron R. Barder (Biggs Boiler Works). The architects' versatility and adaptability were shown in Tudor-influenced English Manorial, Georgian, Italian Renaissance, and Neo-Classical terms, often with Progressive and Craftsman ideals introduced.

In addition an untold number of lesser, average-size residences dotting West Akron streets were designed for not such affluent clients; Colonial Revival, Mission Revival, Craftsman, and the straightforward American Foursquare were popular. Although these houses were relatively unadorned, on occasion such widely diverse elements as Georgian Baroque and Egyptian would be used for a lone special effect. Obviously great thought and care were given to each assignment, and there were idiosyncratic touches not found in the work of their contemporaries. Not really great innovators but rather, eclectic architects of considerable capabilities and professionalism, Harpster & Bliss designed in then acceptable styles for a broad clientele. The Frank H. Mason House stands as testimony to their finest accomplishments.

## Frank H. Mason

Frank H. Mason was a prominent Akron industrialist and civic leader who was born in 1852 in Littleton, New Hampshire. As a young man he spent time in the Pennsylvania oil fields and later several years in the California mining regions. He married May L. Dexter of Bangor, Maine in 1876. Coming to Akron in 1879 to work at the Buckeye Mower & Reaper Company, he instead took employment in the mill room at Dr. Benjamin F. Goodrich's Akron Rubber Works. Half a year later he was made foreman and within two years superintendent, with further promotions soon following. Mason was made general works manager in 1902, vice president in 1907, and vice chairman of the board of directors in 1912, and would become

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Mason, Frank H., House  
Summit County, Ohio

### Statement of Significance (continued)

the second largest stockholder of the company. In addition to his fifty-two years with Goodrich, he maintained financial interests in other Akron concerns, serving at one time as president of the Bridgewater Machine Company and as a director of the Thomas Phillips Company, manufacturers of paper sacks.

Mason gave land to the city to form Elizabeth Park, named for a daughter who died in 1911. He improved the land at his own expense of \$35,000 before donating it as a playground. He gave the site for Mason Elementary School, built in 1913, and the land for Mason Park nearby. With Frank A. Seiberling he donated funds for the University of Akron library building, no longer standing. He set up a visiting trained-nurse program for the Akron public schools, paying the wages for four nurses for the first year of operation. He was an ongoing and liberal supporter of his church, First Congregational on East Market Street. For his grandson Frank M. Raymond he built the important Tudor Revival residence close by on Turkeyfoot Lake, designed in 1928 by Akron architects Good & Wagner, next-generation successors to Harpster & Bliss. After his wife died in 1926, Frank Mason continued to live in the big house at Brighton Farm until his death there in 1931. His grandson John G. Raymond with his wife Charlotte then owned the house, living there until 1941.

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National Park Service

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Mason, Frank H., House  
Summit County, Ohio

### Bibliography

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National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page \_\_\_\_\_ Mason, Frank H., House Summit Co., Ohio

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UTM References

E	17/453980/4534520
F	17/453990/4534680
G	17/454020/4534680
H	17/454030/4534790

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National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

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Mason, Frank H., House  
Summit County, Ohio

Verbal Boundary Description

PARCEL NO. 1: Situated in the Township of Franklin, County of Summit and State of Ohio, and being a part of the Northwest Quarter of Section 13, and described as follows:

Beginning at iron pipe at most northerly corner of Mason-Turkeyfoot Lake Allotment #1, as recorded in Plat Book No. 39, Page 31, of Summit County Records; thence along northwest line of said Mason-Turkeyfoot Lake Allotment #1, a distance of 570.00 feet to iron pipe; thence along north line of said Allotment #1, a distance of 100 feet to a point in center line of Mason Avenue (now Withers Avenue); thence south along center line of said Mason Avenue a distance of 140.00 feet to a point; thence west at right angle to center line of said Mason Avenue, a distance of 415.00 feet to a point; thence north parallel to center line of said Mason Avenue, and said line produced a distance of 600.00 feet to a point; thence east at right angle to last described course, a distance of 130.00 feet to a point; thence north at right angle to last described course, a distance of 165.63 feet to a point in travelled driveway; thence southeast a distance of 110.00 feet in driveway (60 ft. in width); thence northeast a distance of 323.64 feet; thence a distance of 175.13 feet to a point in west line of Turkeyfoot Lake; thence following west shore line of said Turkeyfoot Lake south the following distances: 94.87 feet; 288.79 feet; 158.11 feet and 122.08 feet to place of beginning containing 12.0814 acres of land.

PARCEL NO. 2: Situated in the Township of Franklin, County of Summit and State of Ohio, and known as being:

All of Lot No. 89 in the Mason-Turkeyfoot Allotment No. 1, as recorded in Plat Book 39, Page 31, Summit County Records, together with right to use for park purposes in conjunction with Grantors, their heirs and assigns and other owners of lots in said allotment of a parcel registered for park purposes as shown on said plat, recorded in Plat Book No. 39, Page 31.

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National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Mason, Frank H., House  
Summit County, Ohio

### Boundary Justification

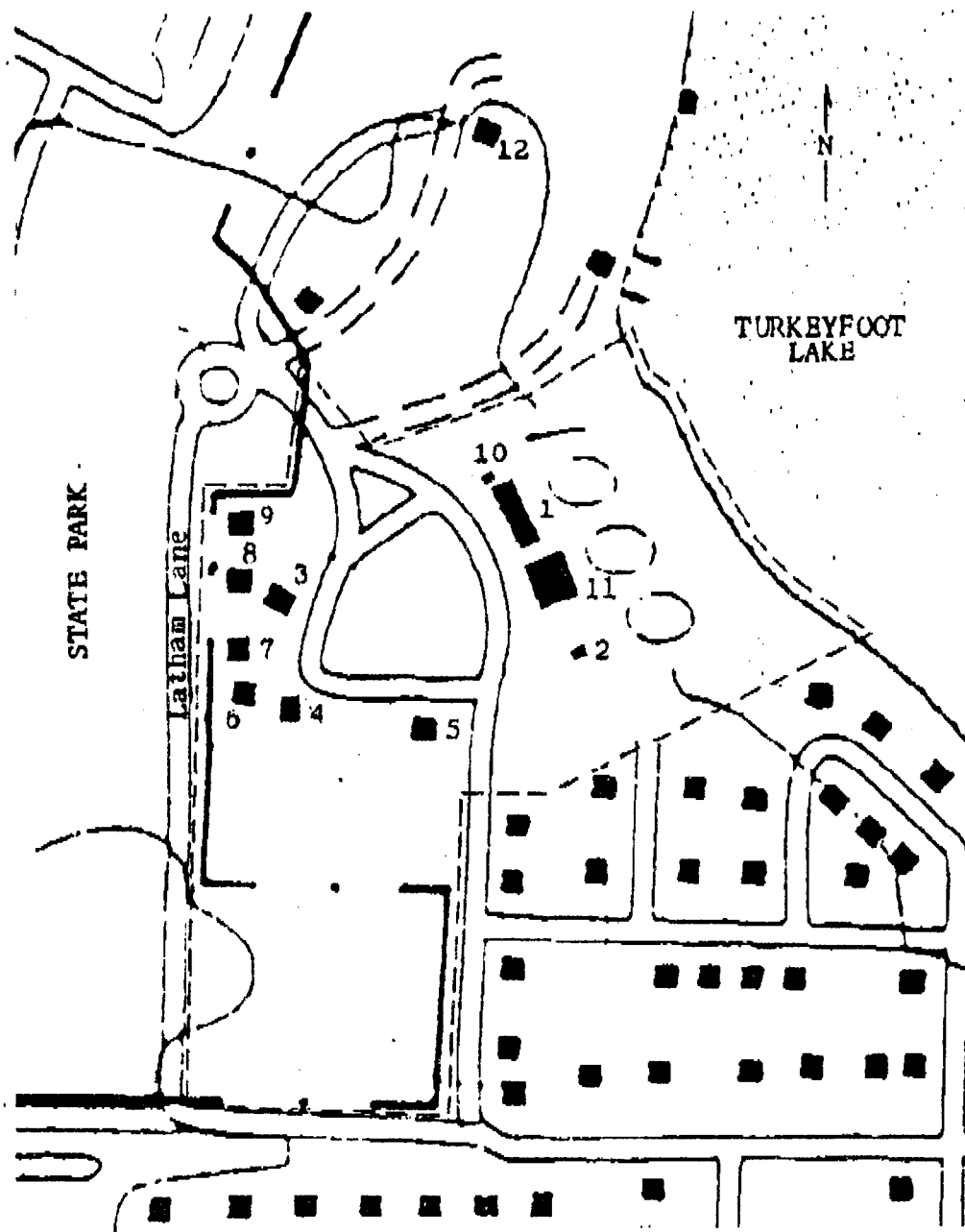
The stated boundaries enclose the 16.049 acres which surround the Frank H. Mason House and are in possession of the owners of the house and attendant buildings, all part of the original 746-acre Brighton Farm, including the garden pavilion, Mason garage, and bank barn.



Ohio Historic Site Preservation Advisory Board  
Ohio Historic Preservation Office  
Columbus, Ohio

Fax: 614-297-2546  
Attention: Barbara Powers  
From James A. Pahlau

Re National Register Nomination  
Site Plan, Frank H. Mason House  
Akron, Summit County, Ohio



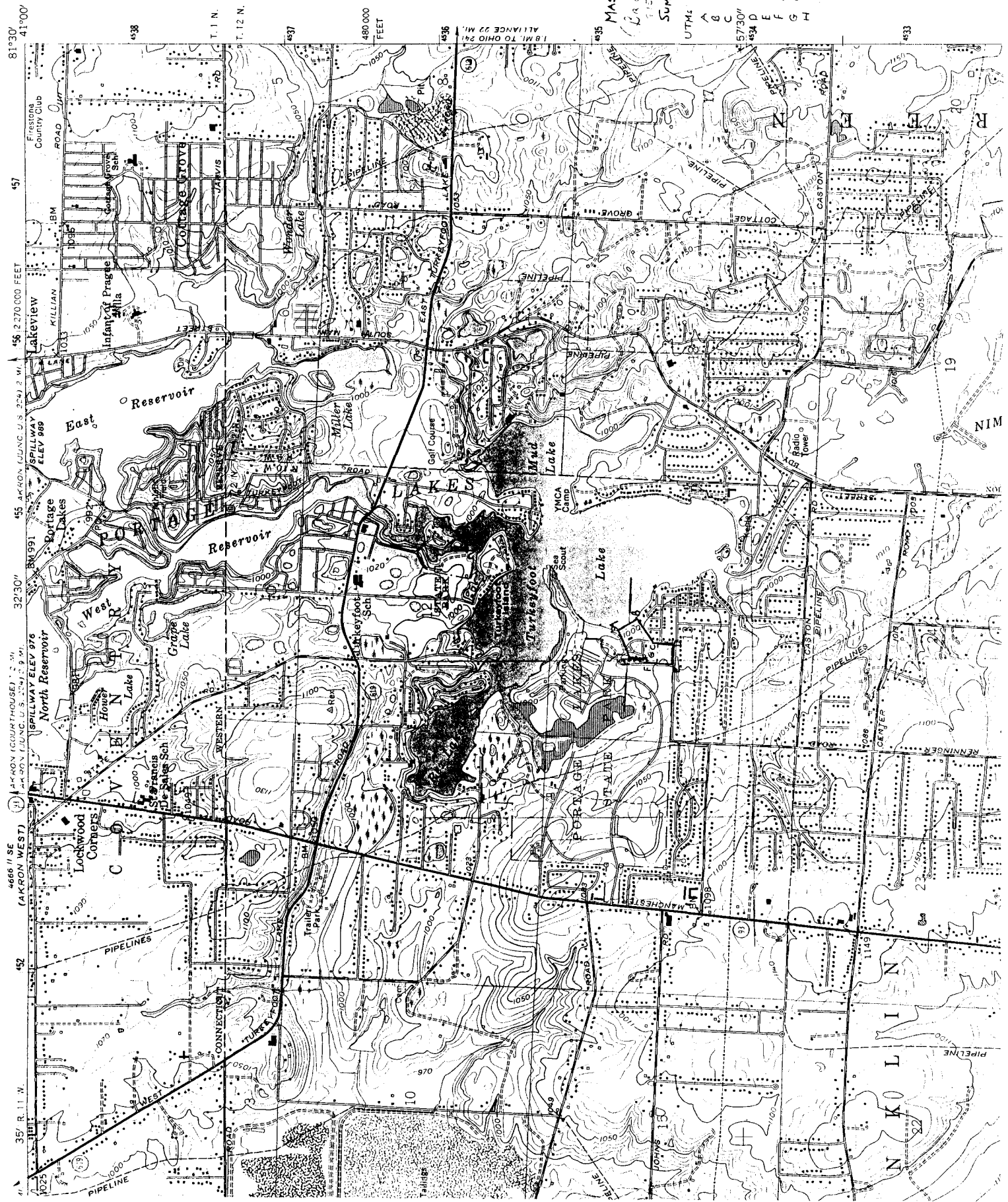
- 1 Frank H. Mason House
- 2 Garden Pavilion
- 3 1920 Garage
- 4 Barn
- 5 1930 House
- 6 1958 House

- 7 1964 House
- 8 1961 Garage
- 9 1961 Garage
- 10 Small Garage
- 11 1991 Nursing Home
- 12 Frank M. Raymond House

\*\*\*END\*\*\*

AKRON EAST 7  
AREA 11 SW (7)

CANAL FULTON QUADRANGLE  
OHIO  
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)



MASON, FRANK H, HOUSE  
(BRIGHTON FARM)  
115 LITTLE LANE  
SUMMIT CO., OHIO

UTM:

A	17 454100 / 4534740
B	17 454200 / 4534740
C	17 454300 / 4534740
D	17 454400 / 4534740
E	17 454500 / 4534740
F	17 454600 / 4534740
G	17 454700 / 4534740
H	17 454800 / 4534740

41° 35' R. 11 N. 4666 11 SE (AKRON WEST) 41° 32' 30" 41° 30' 41° 27' 30" 41° 24' 30" 41° 21' 30" 41° 18' 30" 41° 15' 30" 41° 12' 30" 41° 9' 30" 41° 6' 30" 41° 3' 30" 41° 0' 30" 41° 0' 00"

47 46 45 44 43 42 41 40 39 38 37 36 35 34 33 32 31 30 29 28 27 26 25 24 23 22 21 20 19 18 17 16 15 14 13 12 11 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

480000 FEET

NIM

N K L I N

**Ohio Historic Preservation Office**

Ohio Historical Center  
1982 Velma Avenue  
Columbus, Ohio 43211-2497  
614/ 297-2470  
Fax: 297-2546



**OHIO  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY**  
SINCE 1885

May 19, 1995

Healthaven Corporation  
615 Latham Lane  
Akron, Ohio 44319

Dear Sir/Madam:

Re: Frank H. Mason House, Akron, Summit County, Ohio

This is to inform you that the above has been entered into the National Register of Historic Places by the National Park Service, Department of the Interior (listed 04/20/95).

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 about the programs and services offered by the Ohio Historic Preservation Office.

Sincerely,

Barbara Powers  
Department Head  
Planning, Inventory and Registration

BAP:slw

Enclosure

xc: Jeff Brown, Regional Coordinator  
Bob Lockhart  
James A. Pahlau  
State Senator Robert Nettle  
State Representative Twyla Roman  
AMATS  
ODOT

# 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: Mason, Frank H, 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 news clippings

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