

Ref# 71000652

Form 10-300  
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

|                  |         |
|------------------|---------|
| STATE:           | Ohio    |
| COUNTY:          | Summit  |
| FOR NPS USE ONLY |         |
| ENTRY NUMBER     | DATE    |
|                  | 9-28-71 |

1. NAME

COMMON: Town Square Historic District  
Tallmadge Historical Area

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: Public Square

CITY OR TOWN: Tallmadge

STATE: Ohio CODE: 039 COUNTY: Summit CODE: 153

3. CLASSIFICATION

| CATEGORY<br>(Check One)   | OWNERSHIP   | STATUS  | ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC   |
|---|---|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District<br><input type="checkbox"/> Site<br><input type="checkbox"/> Object  | <input type="checkbox"/> Public<br><input type="checkbox"/> Private<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Both   | Public Acquisition:<br><input type="checkbox"/> In Process<br><input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered   | Yes:<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted<br><input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted<br><input type="checkbox"/> No |
| PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)  |   |   |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural<br><input type="checkbox"/> Commercial<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational<br><input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Government<br><input type="checkbox"/> Industrial<br><input type="checkbox"/> Military<br><input type="checkbox"/> Museum | <input type="checkbox"/> Park<br><input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious<br><input type="checkbox"/> Scientific | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation<br><input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)<br>_____<br>_____                          |

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: City of Tallmadge and Tallmadge Congregational Church

STREET AND NUMBER: Public Square

CITY OR TOWN: Tallmadge CODE: 44278 STATE: Ohio CODE: 039

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: None known to exist - Proprietary Grant

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: 1934  Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Washington STATE: D.C. CODE: 011

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Ohio

COUNTY: Summit

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

UTM 217  
C 461925  
N 4443810

7. DESCRIPTION

|           |   |  |                                |   |                                |                                    |
|-----------|---|--|--------------------------------|---|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| CONDITION | (Check One)                                 |  |                                |   |                                |                                    |
|           | <input type="checkbox"/> Excellent          | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good | <input type="checkbox"/> Fair  | <input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated             | <input type="checkbox"/> Ruins | <input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed |
|           | (Check One)                                 |  |                                | (Check One)                                       |                                |                                    |
|           | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered | <input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered       | <input type="checkbox"/> Moved | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site |                                |                                    |

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Tallmadge Historical Area is composed of an oval green originally designated as the "Public Square," and originally in that shape; and two buildings: The First Congregational Church and the Town Hall.

The Public Square and plan of the entire township (Town 2, Range 10) was laid out in unique form about 1807 by the Reverend David Bacon. Eight roads linking the farthest points of the township to the centrally located village center were designed in the form of spokes of a wheel running to the hub. The avowed purpose of this design was for all township roads to lead to the meeting house. The square was originally 7½ acres. Highway incursions have reduced the size to about 3 acres.

The church building is Connecticut-type Federal, with its typically frame, white painted clapboard construction. A high, classic portico supported by four large columns adorns the facade. The dominant feature of the structure is the 100 ft. high steeple, topped by a weathervane. The steeple is believed to have been inspired by the old Central Church of New Haven, Connecticut. The building measures forty feet wide by fifty-six feet long excluding the more recent addition. Three large doors welcome worshippers. Inside, many changes have occurred from the original which featured box pews, and a winding staircase to a wine glass pulpit. Interior alterations over the years included:

- 1849: pulpit moved from south to north end, box pews replaced;
- 1860's: heating system installed replacing individual stoves;
- 1888: addition placed on north end to accommodate organ;
- 1910: new hardwood floor laid; stained glass windows added
- 1925: stained glass windows replaced for type similar to original of clear glass; green blinds reinstalled.

The present condition of the church is fair, exterior trim has deteriorated, the steeple is in poor condition.

The town hall and academy, now abandoned for these purposes, is a 1859 Greek Revival structure of two stories. Pediments, both front and rear, support two-story high pilasters, the distinctive architectural features of the structure. The interior of the town hall has been remodeled many times over the years, and has been re-partitioned extensively for use as offices, academy, and high school. While basic elements of interior, simple trim remain, there is little resemblance to the original condition. The building is in poor repair. Dry rot has taken its toll of exterior trim, but the basic structure is essentially sound.

Both the church and town hall have been abandoned for their original purposes within the past two years. The former is slated to become a State Memorial; the latter a local history museum.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**6. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

|  |                                       |  |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century            | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century  | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century |                                       |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1809-1859

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

|  |                                       |   |  |
|--|---------------------------------------|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input type="checkbox"/> Education    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political           | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric             | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry     | <input type="checkbox"/> Science                        | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention    | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture                      | _____                                    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape    | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian            | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater                        | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature   | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation                 | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Military     |   |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            | <input type="checkbox"/> Music        |   |  |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Public Square of Tallmadge and its two original structures are the best examples in the Western Reserve of Ohio to illustrate the transplantation of New England architectural styles in governmental and religious structures to that area of Ohio during the early settlement period; and the close relationship of church and state among Congregationalists who were the first and principal settlers of the Connecticut Western Reserve. It is the only central community green space in a commercial district of crass, modern buildings.

The Square with its eight highways leading to it was the religious-political-commercial idea of the Reverend David Bacon, a self-ordained minister, who in 1809 came to the wilderness area and devised the unusual township road and Square plan to conform to his radical religious beliefs for a self-contained "Commonwealth" which would be governed only by the Congregational clergy and laymen. The town and road plan are unique to Ohio and rare in the nation, and were first used in 1809 when the first settlers arrived.

The church was the first permanent fulfillment of Bacon's dream of an imposing edifice towering over all forms of human activity in the township, although he had left the fledgling community in 1812 because landowners refused to consent to a tax to support his ministry and missionary efforts. The church was the design of Lemuel Porter, pioneer Ohio architect-builder from Waterbury, Conn. whose works, many remaining in Ohio, are among the best of the Federal style in the state. The church was completed in 1825 and is regarded to this day as a superlative example of its type. A color picture of it appeared on the Thanksgiving, 1955 issue of LIFE magazine.

The town hall is less distinguished architecturally and historically. The most famous instructor at the Academy was Sidney Edgerton who became Congressman, Chief Justice of the Idaho Supreme Court, and territorial governor of Montana by appointment of President Lincoln. Its location on the Square in proximity to the church, its simple but distinguished classic lines, completes the historical representation of the proximity and intertwining of church, state, and education in the old Connecticut Western Reserve.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

A Brief History of the First Congregational Church of Tallmadge, Ohio, Men's Fellowship, 1940.  
Historical Pageant, Centennial Celebration, Tallmadge Meeting House, 1925.  
The Congregationalist, CVII, #8, 1922.  
 Archives, First Congregational Church, Tallmadge.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

| LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES<br>DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY |          |         |           | OR<br>✓ | LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES<br>DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY<br>OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES |         |           |         |         |
|--|----------|---------|-----------|---------|---|---------|-----------|---------|---------|
| CORNER   | LATITUDE |         | LONGITUDE |         | LATITUDE  |         | LONGITUDE |         |         |
|  | Degrees  | Minutes | Seconds   | Degrees | Minutes   | Seconds | Degrees   | Minutes | Seconds |
| NW   | 0        | .       | "         | 0       | .   | "       | 81°       | 26'     | 27"     |
| NE   | 0        | .       | "         | 0       | .   | "       | 41°       | 06'     | 05"     |
| SE   | 0        | .       | "         | 0       | .   | "       |           |         |         |
| SW   | 0        | .       | "         | 0       | .   | "       |           |         |         |

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 3+

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

| STATE: | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |
|--------|------|--------|------|
|        |      |        |      |
|        |      |        |      |
|        |      |        |      |
|        |      |        |      |

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:  
**Daniel R. Porter, Director**

ORGANIZATION:  
**Ohio Historical Society**

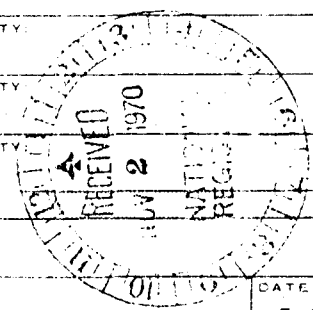
DATE:  
**7 Oct. 1970**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**Ohio Historical Center**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Columbus**

STATE:  
**Ohio**

CODE:  
**039**



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name: Daniel R. Porter  
 Title: Director Ohio Historical Society  
 Date: October 19, 1970

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Ernest G. Renshaw  
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

DATE: MAY 6 1971

ATTEST:  
William J. Swartz  
 Keeper of The National Register

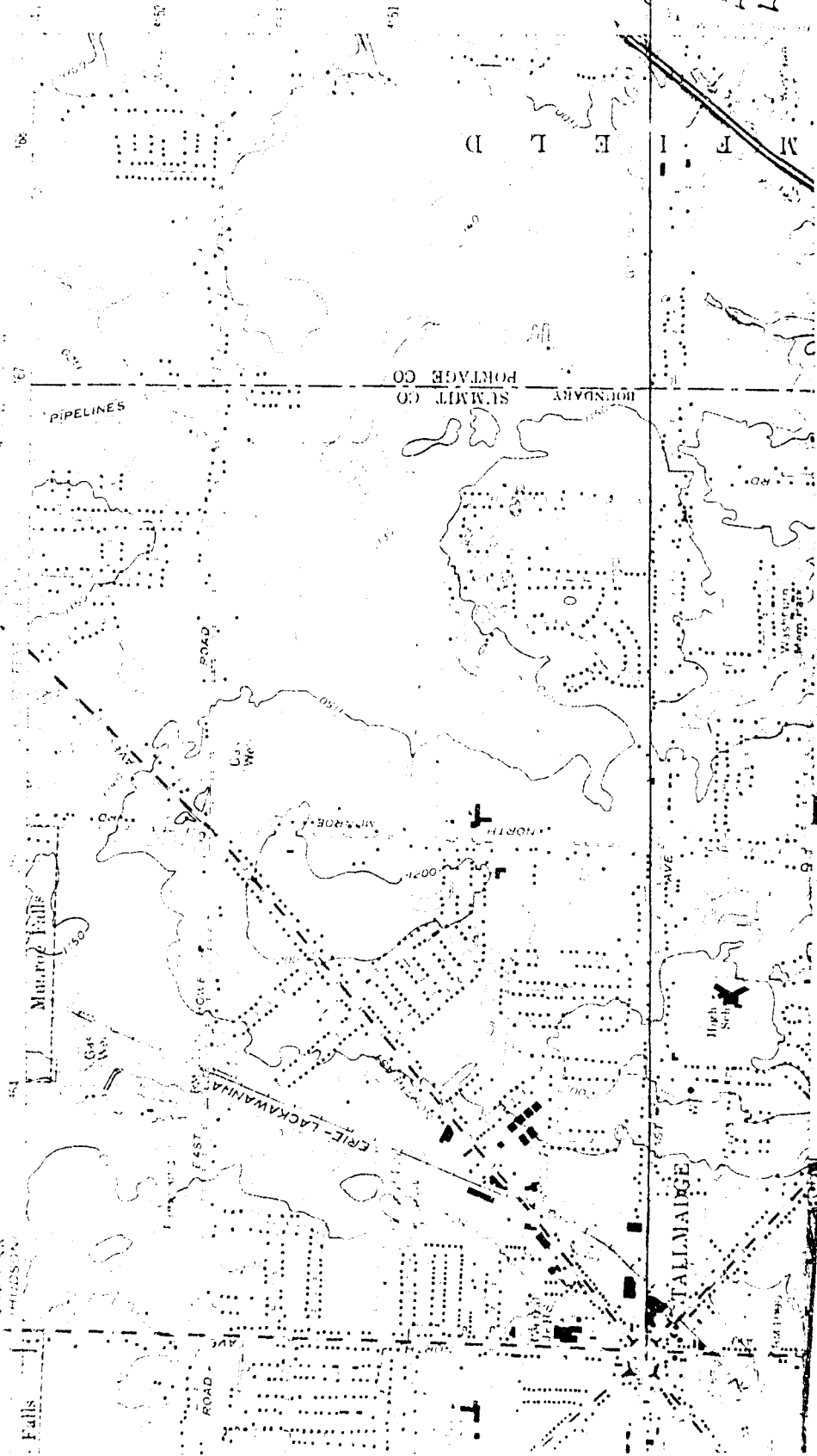
DATE: FEB 21 1971

STATE OF OHIO  
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHWAYS  
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
DIVISION OF GEOLOGIC SURVEY

AKRON EAST QUADRANGLE  
OHIO

7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

SCALE 1:50,000



*Tallemaige National  
Cave  
Lat. 81° 26' 27"  
Long. 41° 06' 05"*

# Ohio Historic Preservation Office

Ohio Historical Center I-71 & 17th Avenue Columbus, Ohio 43211 (614) 466-1500

January 23, 1984

Councilman Dennis Hood  
Tallmadge Municipal Building  
46 North Avenue  
Tallmadge, Ohio 44278

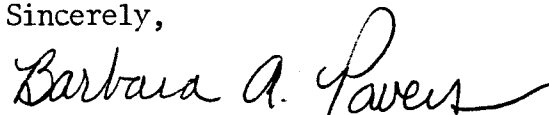
Dear Councilman Hood:

The Tallmadge Town Square Historic District was listed on the National Register of Historic Places on September 28, 1971. The nomination is composed of the oval green originally designated as the "Public Square"; and two buildings: The First Congregational Church and the Town Hall.

Enclosed is a copy of the National Register nomination and a National Register of Historic Places fact sheet.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Barbara A. Powers  
National Register  
Coordinator

BAP:vb

Enclosures

# 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: Tallmadge Town Square Historic District

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 research paper: 1975, news clips

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