NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM
(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

1. NAME
COMMON:
The Palmer House
AND/OR HISTORIC:
Plank House

2. LOCATION
STREET AND NUMBER:
9370 Olde Eight Road
CITY OR TOWN:
Northfield Center
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:
22 - Charles Vanik
STATE
Ohio
CODE
039
COUNTY
Summit
CODE
153

3. CLASSIFICATION
CATEGORY
(Check One)
□ District
□ Site
□ Object
□ Building
□ Structure
□ Public
□ Private
□ Both
OWNERSHIP
Public Acquisition:
□ In Process
□ Being Considered
□ Occupied
□ Unoccupied
□ Preservation work in progress
STATUS
ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
Yes:
□ Restricted
□ Unrestricted
□ No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)
□ Agricultural
□ Commercial
□ Educational
□ Government
□ Industrial
□ Military
□ Religious
□ Museum
□ Scientific
□ Transportation
□ Other (Specify)
□ Comments

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY
OWNER'S NAME:
Northfield Center Township
STREET AND NUMBER:
Olde Eight Road and Aurora Road
CITY OR TOWN:
Northfield Center
STATE
Ohio
CODE
039

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION
COURTHOUSE, Registry OF DEEDS, ETC:
Summit County Courthouse
STREET AND NUMBER:
209 S. High Street
CITY OR TOWN:
Akron
STATE
Ohio
CODE
039

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS
TITLE OF SURVEY:
DATE OF SURVEY:
□ Federal
□ State
□ County
□ Local
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
STREET AND NUMBER:
CITY OR TOWN:
The 1 ½ story frame Palmer House is gable roofed and rests on a stone foundation. The most important element of the house is its construction. It is constructed of vertical chestnut planks running from floor to roof and varying in width from 18" to 30" and all 3" thick. The house is covered with narrow clapboard. Floors are 1-1/8" thick plank and the structural beams are hand hewn.

The main entrance is centrally placed on the east end of the building and is flanked by single windows. There are two small windows in the gable. Many additions and alterations have been made including an entrance and a dormer on the south facade. The dormer has three windows and the entry is flanked by two windows on either side and has a small raised stoop protected by a bracketed hood. All windows are presently one over one.

The house was moved by the school board in 1915, and at that time an L-shaped portion of the structure was removed from the north side. It is likely that the Palmer House will be moved again soon to a town park since the school board needs the land for further expansion. It will be permanently leased to the Northfield Historical Society and maintained as a museum.

Only by removing the siding and plaster will original and altered fenestration, as well as other structural questions about the house, be answered.
The land on which the Palmer House sits was purchased from the Connecticut Land Company by Hezekiah and Abigail Palmer who came to Northfield from New York state about 1819. William Palmer, a son, purchased the land from his parents and built the house in 1852. The house and land remained in the Palmer name until 1903. In 1915 the property was bought by the Northfield Board of Education. The house was then moved from the south side of the 35 acre lot to the north side. The house was used as offices by the Board until 1954, then converted into a library and used as such until 1965. The Historical Society of Olde Northfield leased the house from the Board and began restoring it to house their exhibits.

While completing repairs in 1965, it was discovered that the house, which was the first frame dwelling in Northfield, was built of "plank wall" construction. There are few other known buildings employing this construction technique in Ohio, and of those, the Palmer House is the only one using vertical, rather than horizontal, planks. The Rufus Putnam house in Marietta also used plank wall construction: four inch poplar planks mortised and pinned to vertical posts placed at the corners. Plank construction was used in many late 18th century military forts in Ohio and in some domestic buildings, especially in New England. These examples are all of horizontal, not vertical, planks. It is not known how many other vertical plank wall structures there are in Ohio, but for the present, the Palmer House is somewhat unique.

The origin of horizontal plank wall construction is unclear. An article in a 1971 issue of the Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians called plank wall construction the only indigenous Canadian construction technique. It is still widely used in Quebec today. It is not stated, however, when the method first came into use in Canada. Plank wall construction in Ohio may be attributed to itinerant Canadian carpenters, or may be just a coincidental experiment in construction by local carpenters. In either case,
"Portrait and Biographical Record" Portage and Summit Counties.
Ritchie, T. "Plankwall Framing, a Modern Wall Construction with an
Vol 80, 1971, numbers 3 & 4, pg. 183.

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

<table>
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<th>CORNER</th>
<th>LATTITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY</th>
<th>OR</th>
<th>LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE EXACT LOCATION OF A PROPERTY</th>
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APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: less than one

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

STATE: CODE COUNTY
STATE: CODE COUNTY
STATE: CODE COUNTY
STATE: CODE COUNTY
STATE: CODE COUNTY

FORM PREPARED BY

Mrs. J. H. Marcum, President

ORGANIZATION
Historical Society of Olde Northfield

STREET AND NUMBER:
9370 Olde Eight Road

CITY OR TOWN:
Northfield Center

STATE: Ohio

STATE LIASON 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 ____________________________

Title ____________________________

Date ____________________________

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

______________________________
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

______________________________
ATTEST:

______________________________
Keeper of The National Register

______________________________
Date ____________________________
The Palmer House

8. Significance (cont.)

few examples of this method of construction are evident in Ohio and for that reason the Palmer House is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places.
1. **NAME**
   - **COMMON:** The Palmer House
   - **AND/OR HISTORIC:** Plank House

2. **LOCATION**
   - **STREET AND NUMBER:** 9370 Olde Eight Road
   - **CITY OR TOWN:** Northfield Center
   - **STATE:** Ohio
   - **CODE:** 039
   - **COUNTY:** Summit
   - **CODE:** 53

3. **PHOTO REFERENCE**
   - **PHOTO CREDIT:** Francis Murphey
   - **DATE OF PHOTO:** May 1973
   - **NEGATIVE FILED AT:** Olde Northfield Historical Society

4. **IDENTIFICATION**
   - **DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.:** South (dormer) and east facades.
1. NAME
   COMMON: The Palmer House
   AND/OR HISTORIC: Plank House

2. LOCATION
   STREET AND NUMBER: 9370 Olde Eight Road
   CITY OR TOWN: Northfield Center
   STATE: Ohio
   CODE: 039
   COUNTY: Summit
   CODE: 153

3. PHOTO REFERENCE
   PHOTO CREDIT: Olde Northfield Historical Society
   DATE OF PHOTO: May 1973
   NEGATIVE FILED AT: Olde Northfield Historical Society

4. IDENTIFICATION
   DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.
   "Cutout" in south wall showing upright chestnut planks and lath and plaster forming interior wall.

   North and east (front) facade.
1. NAME

<table>
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<th>COMMON</th>
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<td>Summit</td>
<td>Northfield Center</td>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9370 Olde Eight Road</td>
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3. MAP REFERENCE

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<th>SOURCE</th>
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<th>SCALE</th>
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<tr>
<td>U.S.G.S. 7.5' Northfield Quadrangle</td>
<td>1963</td>
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REQUIREMENTS: PROPERTY BOUNDARIES, WHERE REQUIRED, AND NORTH ARROW.
August 26, 1974

Superintendent
Northfield Center School District
Olde Eight Road and Aurora Road
Northfield Center, Ohio 44061

Dear Sir:

I am pleased to inform you that the Palmer House, 9370 Olde Eight Road, Northfield Center, has been entered in the National Register of Historic Places by the National Park Service, United States Department of the Interior.

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. All nominations are approved by the Ohio Historic Site Preservation Advisory Board.

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

Congratulations for recognizing the importance of, and the need for, the careful and sensible preservation of Ohio's landmarks. Your farsightedness will surely serve as an example to other individuals and organizations in this state.

Sincerely,

Judith Kitchen
Architectural Historian and Administrator
Historic Preservation Office

JK:dal
enclosure
National Register of Historic Places File Checklist

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

Name: Palmer 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

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

CES: 9/01