**National Register of Historic Places Inventory - Nomination Form**

**1. NAME**

**COMMON:**

McKisson, Robert, House

**AND/OR HISTORIC:**

**2. LOCATION**

**STREET AND NUMBER:**

7878 North Gannett Road

**CITY OR TOWN:**

Sagamore Hills Township

**CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:**

Ohio

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CATEGORY</th>
<th>OWNERSHIP</th>
<th>STATUS</th>
<th>ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>District</td>
<td>Public</td>
<td>X Occupied</td>
<td>X Yes:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Site</td>
<td>Private</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Object</td>
<td>Both</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**PRESENT USE** (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Agricultural
- Commercial
- Educational

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

**OWNER'S NAME:**

William McKee

**STREET AND NUMBER:**

7878 North Gannett Road

**CITY OR TOWN:**

Northfield

**STATE:**

Ohio

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

**COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:**

Summit County Building

**STREET AND NUMBER:**

72 South High Street

**CITY OR TOWN:**

Akron

**STATE:**

Ohio

**CODE:**

039

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

**TITLE OF SURVEY:**

**DATE OF SURVEY:**

**DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:**

**STREET AND NUMBER:**

**CITY OR TOWN:**

**STATE:**

**CODE:**
### 7. DESCRIPTION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CONDITION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>☒ Excellent</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| ALTERED | Unaltered | Moved | Original Site |

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance.

This is a two-story frame house in the Greek Revival style. The principal entrance is on the long (south) side, the center one of five bays. A subsidiary entrance is in the center of the east end facing the modern road. The main entrance has a small porch with two columns. To the west there is a one-story wing with a porch across its front. The frieze board, cornice returns, and proportions of the building are those of the maturing Greek Revival style.

However, the interior has a floor plan typical of the earlier late Colonial style. Instead of a central hall, the entrance leads to a shallow vestibule in front of a large central chimney, whose fireplaces open into three principal rooms. The east room is the formal parlor, and its woodwork is more pretentious and purely Greek in style than any other room. There are wide window casings whose entablatures have recessed slightly pointed arches. The east exterior door in this room is wider than the others, a so-called "funeral" door. Two smaller rooms in the rear corners of the house make a total of five on the first floor. This is the typical colonial Connecticut central chimney plan.

All of the main structural timbers of the house, as well as the finish carpentry, are of walnut, as walnut trees were plentiful on the land. The cellar hearth foundations consist of two giant piers of cut sandstone, brought up from the nearby Ohio-Erie canal. Modern plumbing, heating and kitchen facilities have been installed, the cellar floor paved with concrete, and the central chimney was rebuilt under the supervision of a restoration architect in the mid-1960s. The house has undergone intelligent repair and restoration by the present owners since 1963.
This is a house in an excellent state of preservation with characteristic features of both the late Colonial and Greek Revival styles. The house was built in 1838 on the site of a celebrated murder. The builder Robert McKisson was the widower of the victim. Thus the house is a local reference point for an event which occupies ten pages in a standard county history. The murdered woman was the grandmother of the "spectacular" Cleveland mayor Robert E. McKisson (1895-1898), who laid the groundwork for the lakefront civic center.

The murder, which took place on July 24, 1837, was the result of a family quarrel, and the brother of McKisson, David, was found guilty of murdering his sister-in-law Catharine. David McKisson was executed on February 8, 1838, in Ravenna (Northfield then being a part of Portage County), and contemporary accounts estimate the attendance at the public hanging from several thousand to 15,000. This was the second execution in Portage County, the first having taken place in 1816. The present house replaced the log cabin in which the murder took place.

Murder is a social (or anti-social) phenomenon. At the very least, it is of intense concern to everyone. This house has always been known locally as the home of the family of the murdered woman, and by inference commemorates an early and notable event for the people of Summit County.

In addition, the house is one of the few existing and certainly best preserved examples in the locality of a house combining characteristic features of both the late Colonial vernacular and the mature Greek Revival style.
L. V. Bierce, Historical Reminiscences of Summit County (Akron, 1854), 111-112.
Samuel A. Lane, Fifty Years and Over of Akron and Summit County (Akron, 1892), 908-917.
William Ganson Rose, Cleveland: The Making of a City (Cleveland, 1950), 401, 591, 597.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES
DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CORNER</th>
<th>LATITUDE</th>
<th>LONGITUDE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NW</td>
<td>°</td>
<td>°</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NE</td>
<td>°</td>
<td>°</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SE</td>
<td>°</td>
<td>°</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SW</td>
<td>°</td>
<td>°</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Degrees Minutes Seconds

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES
DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LATITUDE</th>
<th>LONGITUDE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>41° 19' 22&quot;</td>
<td>81° 33' 51&quot;</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: Less than one

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

STATE: CODE COUNTY: CODE

STATE: CODE COUNTY: CODE

STATE: CODE COUNTY: CODE

STATE: CODE COUNTY: CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Eric Johannesen, Preservationist

ORGANIZATION: The Western Reserve Historical Society

DATE: April 1974

STREET AND NUMBER: 10825 East Boulevard

CITY OR TOWN: Cleveland

STATE: Ohio

CODE: 039

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 [x]

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

DATE: ____________________________

ATTEST:

______________________________
Keeper of The National Register

DATE: ____________________________

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES**

**PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM**

*(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)*

1. **NAME**
   - COMMON: McKisson, Robert, House
   - AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. **LOCATION**
   - STREET AND NUMBER: 7878 North Gannett Road
   - CITY OR TOWN: Sagamore Hills Township
   - STATE: Ohio
     - CODE: 039
   - COUNTY: Summit
     - CODE: 153

3. **PHOTO REFERENCE**
   - PHOTO CREDIT: Eric Johannesen
     - DATE OF PHOTO: April 1974
     - NEGATIVE FILED AT: Western Reserve Historical Society

4. **IDENTIFICATION**
   - DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.
     - South facade, showing west wing, looking north.

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES**

**PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM**

*(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)*

1. **NAME**
   - COMMON: McKisson, Robert, House
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     - DATE OF PHOTO: April 1974
     - NEGATIVE FILED AT: Western Reserve Historical Society

4. **IDENTIFICATION**
   - DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.
     - Northeast corner, looking southwest.
**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES**  
**PROPERTY MAP FORM**  
*(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)*

### 1. NAME

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**CODE:** 153

### 3. MAP REFERENCE

**SOURCE:** U.S.G.S. Northfield Quadrangle
**SCALE:** 1:24,000
**DATE:** 1967

### 4. REQUIREMENTS

**TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS**
1. Property boundaries where required.
2. North arrow.
3. Latitude and longitude reference.
Historic Preservation Office

January 6, 1975

Mr. William McKee
7878 North Gannett Road
Northfield, Ohio  44067

Dear Mr. McKee:

I am pleased to inform you that the Robert McKisson House, 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 Sites Preservation Advisory Board.

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

Sincerely,

Charles C. Pratt, Acting Director
Acting State Historical Preservation Officer

CP/oml
enclosure

X.c: Summitt County Board of Commissioners
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: McKisson, Robert, 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 newspaper clippings

__________________________

__________________________

__________________________

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__________________________

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CES: 9/01