\* UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

## NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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NATIONAL	REGISTER	OF HISTOR	IC PLACES
INVEN'	rory no	MINATION	FORM

SEE		OW TO COMPLETE NAT ES COMPLETE APPLIC			18
NAME	•				
HISTORIC	St. Paul's Su	nday School and P	arish H	ous e	
AND/OR COMMON	Firestone Con	servatory I			
<b>D</b> LOCATION	J				
STREET & NUMBER	East Market	and Forge Streets	N	OT FOR PUBLICATION	<b>v</b>
CITY, TOWN	Akron	VICINITY OF		ongressional dis John Seiberl	
STATE .	Ohio	CODE 039	C	Summit	CODE 153
CLASSIFIC	ATION				,
CATEGORY DISTRICT  X_BUILDING(S) STRUCTURE SITEOBJECT	OWNERSHIP X_PUBLICPRIVATEBOTH PUBLIC ACQUISITIN PROCESSBEING CONSIDERED	STATUS  X_OCCUPIED UNOCCUPIED WORK IN PROGRESS  TION ACCESSIBLE  X_YES: RESTRICTED YES: UNRESTRICTED NO		PREAGRICULTURECOMMERCIALEDUCATIONALENTERTAINMENGOVERNMENTINDUSTRIALMILITARY	SENT USE MUSEUMPARKPRIVATE RESIDENCE TRELIGIOUSSCIENTIFICTRANSPORTATIONOTHER:
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LOCATION	OF LEGAL DES	SCRIPTION			<b>\</b>
COURTHOUSE. REGISTRY OF DEEDS,	етс. Summit Co	ounty Building			
STREET & NUMBER	72 South I	High Street			
CITY. TOWN	Akron			STATE	Ohio
REPRESEN	ITATION IN EX	ISTING SURVEY	S		
DATE		FEDERAI	LSTATE	_COUNTY _LOCA	AL.
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS					
CITY, TOWN				STATE	

CONDITION

**CHECK ONE** 

CHECK ONE

X EXCELLENT

\_\_DETERIORATED

\_\_UNALTERED

XORIGINAL SITE

DATE\_

\_\_GOOD \_\_FAIR

\_\_UNEXPOSED

\_\_RUINS

·\_\_MOVED

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.

PERIOD	AF	REAS OF SIGNIFICANCE CH	ECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW	
FREHISTORIC	ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	COMMUNITY PLANNING	LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	RELIGION
_1400-1499	ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	CONSERVATION	LAW	SCIENCE
1500-159 <b>9</b>	AGRICULTURE	ECONOMICS	LITERATURE	_ SCULPTURE
1600-1699	X_ARCHITECTURE	<b>X</b> EDUCATION	MILITARY	SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
1700-1799	ART	ENGINEERING	MUSIC	THEATER
<u>×</u> 1800-1899	COMMERCE	_EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	PHILOSOPHY	TRANSPORTATION
1900-	COMMUNICATIONS	INDUSTRY	POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	OTHER (SPECIFY)
		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.

As the designated thereby nominate the criteria and proced STATE HISTORIC PATTEST:  DIRECTOR, OFF	THE EVALUATED S  TIONAL  State Historic Preservation his property for inclusion ures set forth by the Nation RESERVATION OFFICER SIGN	SIGNIFICANCE OF T STATE on Officer for the Na in the National Re ional Park Service. NATURE	HIS PROPERTY WITH THIS PROPERTY WITH THE NATIONAL R	CERTIFICATION THIN THE STATE IS: LOCAL rvation Act of 1966 (Public La at it has been evaluated acc	
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STREET & NUMBER	10825 East Bo	oulevard		TELEPHONE 216-721-5722	
ORGANIZATION	Western Reser	ve Historica	l Society	November	1975
NAME / TITLE	EPARED BY Eric Johannesei	n, Preservat	ionist		
STATE		CODE	COUNTY		CODE
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MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

#### UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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Interior of "Akron Plan" Sunday School.

Form No. 10-301a (Rev. 10-74)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECT	TION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET		PHOTO NO.

East elevation, looking west.

Form No. 10-301a (Rev. 10-74)

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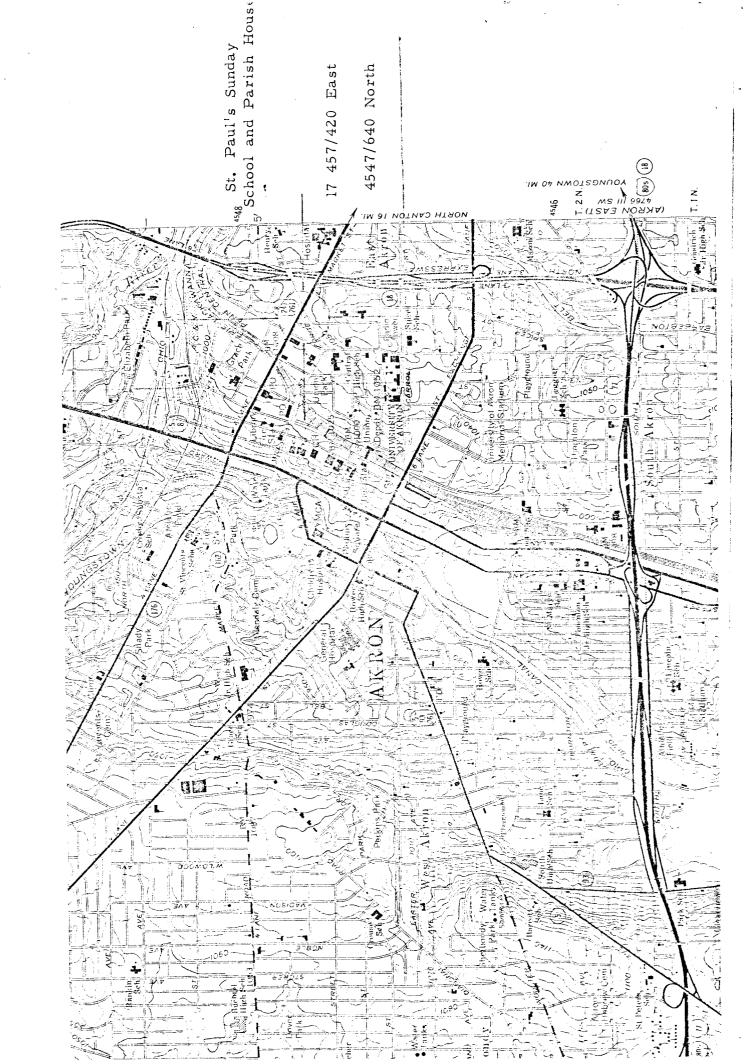
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Western Reserve Historical Society



## NEWS

the OhioHistorical 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., Akrohas 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 "Akren plan", of which it is an excellent example, was evolved. This structure was built in 1884-1885. In 1907-09 the sancturay 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 nomination, are approved by the Ohio Historic Site Preservation Advisory Board.

The National Register was designed to focus nationwide attention on importalandmarks and help guarantee their preservation. Entry into the Register in neway alters ownership or administrative responsibility for the site.

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

THE OHIO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

# Ohio Historic Preservation Office

National Register of Historic Places File Checklist

The foll	owing materials are contained in this file of the National Register form for:
Name:	St Paul's Sunday School & Panish House
County	: Summit
X	Original National Register of Historic Places nomination form
	Multiple Property Nomination form
X	Photograph(s)
	Photograph(s) (copies)
	USGS map(s)
	USGS map(s) (copies)
	Sketch map(s)/figure(s)/exhibit(s)
	Correspondence
	Other