NAME
HISTORIC Twinsburg Institute
AND/OR COMMON Twinsburg Historical Society

LOCATION
STREET & NUMBER 8996 Darrow Road
CITY, TOWN Twinsburg
STATE Ohio

CLASSIFICATION
CATEGORY DISTRICT X BUILDING(S)
OWNERSHIP X PUBLIC
STATUS X OCCUPIED
PRESENT USE X MUSEUM

OWNER OF PROPERTY
NAME Twinsburg Historical Society
STREET & NUMBER 8996 Darrow Road
CITY, TOWN Twinsburg
STATE Ohio

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Summit County Building
STREET & NUMBER 72 South High Street
CITY, TOWN Akron
STATE Ohio

REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS
TITLE
DATE
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS
CITY, TOWN
This is a large one-story building of sandstone construction. The stonework is of squared rubble, some vermiculated and some rock-faced. The jambs of the openings are large vertical slabs and square blocks. The building is unusually long for its height, having seven bays on the side elevations. This is due to the fact that it was originally a two-story building. The second story was removed around 1920 and a new roof added. The present roof has a plain eaves line with no cornice or frieze.

On the narrow end facing east there are three openings on the ground floor. The center one is a door and the other two are windows which were formerly doors. The two second-story windows on the east end were formerly full height, as can be seen from the wooden lintels and the different stonework above the openings.

On the west end a one-story addition of cement block was erected around 1920 to provide a kitchen. At the same time most of the window openings were made smaller by filling in the lower half with masonry. The interior is one large room, used for exhibit space and meetings.
This was the last building of an important educational institution and virtually a one-man school in Summit County which lasted over half a century. It is also an unusual example of vernacular stone construction.

The founder and mainstay of the Twinsburg Institute was Samuel Bissell. Born in 1797 in Middlefield, Massachusetts, he was brought to Ohio with his parents in 1806. At an early age he decided to get an education and was tutored in Aurora. In 1816 he went back to Massachusetts, determined to enter college. After making up the necessary work he was admitted to Yale and graduated in 1823. He then studied theology and became a minister.

In 1826 he returned to Aurora and taught at nearby Western Reserve College in Hudson. In 1828 he became pastor at the Congregational Church in Twinsburg. He soon began a school in a nearby log house. In 1837 he built his own school house, in which he taught for 29 years.

By 1848 four buildings were in use, and there were 300 students and seven teachers and assistants. The Institute never received a charter or any public funds. The tuition was very low, so that all could attend. Many Indians of the Seneca, Ottawa and Potawatomi tribes were among the students. A range of courses was taught including classical and modern languages and constituting the complete classical curriculum of mid-nineteenth century education.

At the onset of the Civil War, there were financial difficulties, and some of the buildings were sold to pay debts of around $6,000. Then Samuel Bissell began all over again, erecting the present stone building in 1866-1867. Although he was 70 years old, the manual labor was largely done by himself. In an account of 1881, Bissell was still teaching at the age of 84, and 6,000 students had attended the Institute.

With Bissell's death at the age of 98 the Institute passed out of existence. The stone building was acquired by the Twinsburg Grange in 1920, and in 1964 it was transferred to the Twinsburg Historical Society.
MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

William H. Perrin, History of Summit County (Chicago, 1881), 656-659, 1040.
Lena M. Carter, Centennial History of Twinsburg, Ohio (Twinsburg, 1917), 44-64.

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY  Less than one

UTM REFERENCES

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE  CODE  COUNTY  CODE

FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE  Eric Johannesen, Preservationist

ORGANIZATION  Western Reserve Historical Society

DATE  June 1975

STREET & NUMBER  10825 East Boulevard

TELEPHONE  216-721-5722

CITY OR TOWN  Cleveland

STATE  Ohio

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL  STATE  LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE  SHPO

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

GPO 688-445
Twinsburg Institute

Twinsburg Historical Society

Twinsburg

Summit

Ohio

E. Johannesen

June 1975

South elevation, looking northwest.

2
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

NAME

Twinsburg Institute

AND/OR COMMON

Twinsburg Historical Society

LOCATION

CITY, TOWN

Twinsburg

VICINITY OF

COUNTY

Ashtabula

STATE

Ohio

PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT

Centennial History of Twinsburg, Ohio

DATE OF PHOTO

NEGATIVE FILED AT (1917), facing 167.

1917

IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

Original two-story structure in 1917.

3

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES PROPERTY MAP FORM

NAME

Twinsburg Institute

AND/OR COMMON

Twinsburg Historical Society

LOCATION

CITY, TOWN

Twinsburg

VICINITY OF

COUNTY

Summit

STATE

Ohio

MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE

U.S.G.S. Twinsburg Quadrangle

SCALE

1:24,000

DATE

1970

REQUIREMENTS

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

1. PROPERTY BOUNDARIES
2. NORTH ARROW
3. UTM REFERENCES
January 26, 1976

Twinsberg Historical Society
9886 Darrow Road
Twinsburg, Ohio 44087

Gentlemen:

I am pleased to inform you that the Twinsburg Institute, 9886 Darrow Road, Twinsburg, 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 information explaining the purposes and goals of the National Register of Historic Places.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Thomas H. Smith
Director, Ohio Historical Society
State Historic Preservation Officer

THS;jp
enclosure

X.c: Mayor of Twinsburg
    Eric Johannesen, Western Reserve Historical Society
National Register of Historic Places File Checklist

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

Name: Twinsburg Institute
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