Form 10-300 (Rev. 6-72)

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

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The original campus of Western Reserve College/Academy was planned in the early 1820's, and the first cornerstone of the first building was laid in 1826. This building was afterward called Middle College. Its chief characteristic was an open cylindrical belfry with wooden pillars supporting a dome surmounted by a flagstaff. This building eventually outlived its usefulness and was razed in 1912. South College was built in 1829-30 of stone and brick, had four stories, no belfry, and a chapel was on the ground floor. It was also razed in 1884, but all other permanent college buildings remain.

The President's House (1829-30) was a two-storied brick building built to house the President on one side and the Professor of Theology on the other. While the north half was actually occupied by the president from 1830-71, the south half was rarely tenanted by a professor of Theology. This early Federal house has fanlighted doorways that are simple and graceful. It has been renovated at various times, and in 1959, the original exterior appearance was restored. Some mantlepieces removed at that time are preserved elsewhere. This building was built by Simeon and Orrin Porter.

The Chapel (1835-36) is a Greek Revival building mixed with early Federal, built by Simeon and Orrin Porter, sons of Lemuel Porter who had contracted to build the college buildings, but had died in 1829. As Mr. Campen says in Architecture of the Western Reserve 1800-1900, "this without doubt is the most important work of architecture in a town rich in good architecture." The Grecian Doric pilasters on front beneath white Boric entablature become piers in shallow relief on the side walls, while moldings of capitals are replaced by Georgian elliptical arches. It could be a reluctance to pay for the additional entablature on four sides, or to give an arcade motif which would be used again on the Athenaeum. The tower uses pilasters with Greek frets set in sunker panels, a motif from Asher Benjamin's Fractical House Carpenter. The pediment window with globe-of-the-world tracery remains ear-Ty Federal. The interior is severely plain; with the gallery columns clothespin-like with exaggerated entasis, are Grecian Doric. The one similarity to Yale is that the first floor was planned as the Library. The stairway was originally single from double west doors; but it was changed in 1871-72 to two side stairways. In 1936 the building was completely renovated, and in 1940 a 22-foot extension to the rear was added housing a pipe organ. The tower of the chapel was originally three-tiered with square members of equal height, but dimishing diameter. The lowest housed the bell, next for the clock (installed before October 1837) and the top for the flagstaff. The latter blew off in a windstorm around the turn of the century and was never

North College (1837-38) is highly simplified Greek Revival with a hip roof. It is plain four-storied brick with Greek frets in central openings and doorways, pilaster-like jambs, and entablature-like heads which appear to have been originally cambered lintels. The building was not meant to stand alone architecturally, but to be one of the "brick row" of campus buildings.

The Observatory (1838) was built by Simeon Porter to the specifications of Professor Elias Locais, the Math & Astronomy professor of WAC. It is a simple symmetrical building of three members; the central one carrying a revolving dome. The building housed a transit circle and equatorial telescope both built by Troughton & Simms of London in 1837. The astronomical clock

PERIOD (Check One or More as	Appropriate)		
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Conservation	Music	☐ Transportation	

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Western Reserve Academy is on the ground originally established as Western Reserve College. The college was an outgrowth of interest of Hudson people in general and the Erie Literary Society in particular. From 1822, plans were worked on, and in 1826, the college was founded. The village founders were also active in the founding of the college and its growth. The land they sold and donated to the college provided actual facilities and income to carry on. The Academy was founded as a prep school in conjunction with the college. As years went by, more land was acquired through bequests and purchases. Some people involved are indicated by the street names surrounding the campus area. Baldwin Street reflects the college treasurer Augustus Baldwin, Hudson Street after David Hudson, and Oviatt Street after Heman Oviatt who gave 11h acres to the college in lieu of a note to endow a professorship in 1838. College Street runs through the middle of the campus. WRC influenced village life; men came to teach and stayed to enrich the community. Abolition was argued on campus and in town and caused both a church and college split. The Oberlin branch of the Congregational Church and Oberlin College itself were founded in this spirit. However, the pro-abolitionists later found more sympathy in both village and college circles. Although founded with a Theological School in mind, it grew in academic breadth, and after 1853, theology was no longer taught.

The campus was designed to be a "brick row" facing west on an elevation overlooking the village green. The original buildings from the President's House on the north to the Observatory on the south formed the nucleus of professors' nomes and those of others connected with college life. Professor Seymour (Prof. of Greek & Latin) built the only house in what was supposed to become another "brick row" of professors' houses. President Pierce built a home just north of the campus, and various other professors built homes around the area. Some of these houses have been purchased by the Academy over the years, while others that had belonged to college people are now simply private dwellings.

In 1882 the college moved itself and its facilities to Cleveland. The academy remained in Hudson. The academy had had separate financing since 1850, and was modestly subsidized by WRC from the move in 1882 until 1900 when this subsidy ceased. In 1900 James Ellsworth, a philanthropist of local origins, pledged \$50,000 to support WRA. However, the pledge needed to be met with a like amount from the village and this was not forthcoming, thus the academy closed its doors from 1903 until 1916.

Mr. Ellsworth perservered, and in 1910 the Hudson campus ownership was

9.	MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES					
	"1950 Record of Old Houses of Hi	udson (Ohi o"			
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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

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2. Location of Western Reserve Academy Historical District

Beginning at the intersection of Oviatt and Aurora Streets to the intersection of Aurora and College Streets; then north on College Street to the north side of Chapel Street; west to North Main Street; north on Main Street to the David Hudson House property, around the 2.5 A. so of the property, back to Main; north to the northeast corner of Prospect and Main Streets; east across the rear property lines on the north side of Prospect to College Street. Then north on the west side of College Street around the property lines of the Cartwright House, crossing the intersection of College and High Streets to the east side of College Street; north to include the Headmaster's house (#1), then south on a line some 400 ft. east of College Street to a line 200 ft. north of Hudson Street; east on this line on the north side of Hudson Street to Oviatt Street; southeast to include the property of the Hosford House, and south on the east side of Oviatt Street to the point of beginning.

Map Legend:

- 1. President Pierce House
- 2. Cartwright House
- 3. Athenaeum
- 4. Cutler House
- 5. Morley Cottage
- 6. Nutting House
- 7. Potwin Cottage
- 0 11 C 1 11 - -
- 8. Hosford House
- 9. President's House

- 10. North Hall
- 11. The Chapel
- 12. Seymour Hall
- 13. Wilson Hall
- 14. Crisp House
- 15. The Observatory
- 16. (David) Hudson House
- 17. Seymour House
- 18. Gymnasium

Additional (new) Buildings:

- A. Ellsworth Hall
- B. Hobart House
- C. Harlan N. Wood House

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

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Number all entries) Page 2 - Physical Appearance
was built by Robert Molyneaux of Londor. The instruments were moved to
Cleveland with the College, but the telescopes were returned when the Academy was reactivated (1916.) The clock was returned in 1963. The dome was
originally tin-plated, but this was replaced by copper in 1924.

The last of the campus buildings in this early period of the College was the Athenaeum (1841-43.) This Classic Revival designed and built by Simeon Porter resembles the Chapel with blind arcades used to decorate the facade. The main entrance was originally on the west end of the building. The rooms were used for recitation, with student organizations and fraternities also meeting there till 1870. Also, the lab was on the ground floor, and the museum on the top floor. In 1890, the tower was removed, and in 1916, the building was changed from three to four stories, and the entrance changed to the south side.

After the reactivation of the Academy under the influence and financing of James Ellsworth, various additional buildings were erected. Seymour Hall (1914) was built by Page and Corbusier on the ground where Middle College had been. The Gymnasium (1920) was designed as an oversized replica of the John Hancock house in Boston, and had a wing added in 1951. Cutler Hall (1922), now Ellsworth Hall, was designed by James Ellsworth with a dining hall on the first floor, and the upper two floors for underclassmen dormitories. Hobart House (1935) and Wilson Hall (1962-63) were built as needed by the expanding Academy. While Wilson Hall resembles Seymour in being somewhat Transitional in design, Hobart House is simply an utilitarian brick building.

There are various houses surrounding the campus that are currently involved in the Academy affairs or have been part of College and Academy history. The oldest framehouse still standing in Summit County was built by David Hudson in 1806. During successive generations there were interior and exterior changes made in the house. After the death of the last Hudson descendant to live in the village, the Academy purchased the house and restored it as close as possible to the simply copy of an early Connecticut farmhouse it originally was.

Simeon Porter designed a house for Professor Nathan Seymour (1841) on Prospect Street that has changed very little internally or externally over the years. The front doorway of this brick Greek Revival is a classic example of the Greek ideals expressed architecturally.

The northernmost area of the campus contains Cartwright House; a Tuscan house built c. 1875, and President Pierce's house. This latter building was built from 1851-54, and is a large rambling two-story Greek Revival. Further south on College Street is Cutler House (1835-40) named for Carrol Cutler, President of WRC 1860-82. It was originally only a square brick section, the wing was added later. There is a narrow spiral staircase immediately inside the entrance and to the left of the central hall.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

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(Number all entries) Physical Appearance, Page -3-

Around the corner on Hudson Street is Morley Cottage (c. 1835) which is shaped in the cross pattern on a simple scale. The only decoration on the building is below the windows. Further up the street is Nutting House (1831) built for Professor Nutting, and later known as the Slaughter House when used for a dining hall by college boys. The doorway is notable as a local somewhat crude copy of an Adam design. While the fanlight is quite good, the "rosettes" around the door have been likened to doughnuts. There is another simple cottage built for Professor Potwin, a physicist at the college from 1873-82. At 120 Hudson Street, is the only gambrel roof in the area. It was built in 1832 by Leander Starr for Elizur Wright, Jr., and for many years was known as the Hosford House for the Reverend Henry B. Hosford, minister and professor at Western Reserve College.

At the corner of Aurora and Oviatt Streets is the William E. Crisp house (c. 1835). During the 1840's, this house was used as a boarding house for college students. It has been of necessity modernized inside, but is basically the same simple gable construction described by both I.T. Frary and R.N. Campen as Vernacular.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE CONTINUED - Page 2

transferred to an independent corporation of his instigation and in 1916 the academy re-opened under his strong endowment. At one point, 1919-20, the academy was serving the village and township as a high school, under a tuition plan paid by the local school district. Co-education was phased out in 1925, but returned in 1972 with girls currently both day and resident students.

The additional buildings added when WRA took over the entire campus have been harmonized with the existing buildings. As stated in the articles of agreement in 1916, Mr. Ellsworth called for any additional buildings to be "colonial architecture so as to harmonize with the present buildings." To a large extent, this dictum has been followed. In the almost century and a half the academy has been part of the community of Hudson it has contributed both in architecture and thought to the area and has become an integral part of the Hudson scene.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

(147 College Street)

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PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM (Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph) S z I. NAME Western Reserve Academy 0 COMMON: Western Reserve College & Academy AND/OR HISTORIC: 2. LOCATION STREET AND NUMBER: (See Continuation Sheet) \Rightarrow CITY OR TOWN: Hudson N STATE: COUNTY: CODE CODE Ohio Summit 039 153 3. PHOTO REFERENCE Z PHOTO CREDIT: W. Poliber DATE OF PHOTO: May 1971 NEGATIVE FILED AT: ш WRA ш 4. IDENTIFICATION DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. North Hall: western facade facing College Street. Note details of pilasters both on the doorway and the windows above the doorway.

☆ U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1973-729-152/1446 III-I

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

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Presi	dent Pierce's House: Now the Headmaster's home, this western dent Pierce's House: Now the Headmaster's home, this western ure shows the northern wing, the palladian window with balcony the porticoed doorway. (169 College Street)	

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

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STATE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR Form No. 10-301a NATIONAL PARK SERVICE OHIO (7/72)COUNTY NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES SUMMIT PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM FOR NPS USE ONLY ENTRY NUMBER DATE (Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph) Z I. NAME 0 COMMON: Western Reserve Academy Western Reserve College & Academy AND/OR HISTORIC: 2. LOCATION STREET AND NUMBER: (See Continuation Sheet) CITY OR TOWN: Hudson ~ STATE: COUNTY: CODE CODE Ohio Summit 039 153 3. PHOTO REFERENCE 7 PHOTO CREDIT: W. Doliber Lav 1071 DATE OF PHOTO: 111 EGATIVE FILED AT: WRA Ш 4. IDENTIFICATION DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. President's House: view of west facade from Sollege St., showing the double doorways. Euilt in 1829-30, this early Federal bldg. was originally designed to house the President of the College and the Professor of Theology. 153-155 College Street.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

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CITY OR TOWN:	Hudson	***************************************		
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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph) 1. NAME COMMON: Western Reserve Academy AND/OR HISTORIC: Western Reserve College & Academy 2. LOCATION STREET AND NUMBER: (See Continuation Sheet) CITY OR TOWN: Hudson STATE: Ohio CODE COUNTY: CODE Summit 039 PHOTO REFERENCE PHOTO CREDIT: Poliber DATE OF PHOTO: May 197 SEGATIVE FILED AT: WRA 4. IDENTIFICATION DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. Potwin Cottage: southern exposure of the simple cottage, showing the red tile roof added in James Ellsworth time and influence as was done to many other older homes in Hudson. (97 Hudson Street)

☆ U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1973-729-152/1446 III-I

Form No. 10-301a (7/72)

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

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tains the clock and hells.

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pilasters. b	pelow the Doric en	tablature: and a	also the pediment w	indow wit

The tower, with its two remaining tiers con- (135 College Street)

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UNITED STATÉS DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

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			northwest at the from		
south side.	Built in 1806, it	•	en restored to the or	igina.	
style of Con	nectucut farmhouse.	North Main St	treet)		

Form No. 10-301 Rev. 7-72

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES PROPERTY MAP FORM

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS

TYPE ALL ENTRIES ENCLOSE WITH PHOTOGRAPH

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AND/OR COMMON

Western Reserve Academy

2

LOCATION

CITY. TOWN Hudson

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COUNTY

Summit

DATE ENTERED

STATE Ohio

3 PHO

PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT

Barney Oldfield

DATE OF PHOTO May, 1975

NEGATIVE FILED AT

IDENTIFICATION

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

PHOTO NO.

Harlan N. Wood House. This view faces east on Oviatt St. and Hudson St. It is position C on the map of the Historic District.

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LOCATION

CITY, TOWN Hudson

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PHOTO CREDIT

Barney Oldfield

DATE OF PHOTO May, 1975

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Western Reserve Academy

IDENTIFICATION

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

рното по

Newton B. Habart Hause. Prospect St. This view is from the south facing Prospect St. This hause is position B on the Historic District Map.

(Pev. 10-7 a)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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AND/OR COMMON

Western Reserve Academy

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN Hudson

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COUNTY Summit.

STATE Ohio

PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT

Barney Oldfield

DATE OF PHOTO May, 1975

NEGATIVE FILED AT

Western Reserve Academy

4 IDENTIFICATION

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

PHOTO NO.

Bicknell Gymnasium. This view is facing West on College St. This building is position 18 on the Historic District Map.

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SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS

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Western Reserve Academy

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LOCATION

CITY TOWN Hudson

___VICINITY OF

COUNTY Summit

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PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT

Barney Oldfield

DATE OF PHOTO May, 1975

NEGATIVE FILED AT Western Reserve Academy

IDENTIFICATION

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

PHOTO NO.

Robert S. Wilson Hall. This view is facing north on the corner of Aurora St. & Oviatt St. It is position 13 on the Historic District Map.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

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AND/OR COMMON Western Reserve Academy

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COUNTY Summit

STATE Ohio

PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT Barney Oldfield

DATE OF PHOTO May, 1975

NEGATIVE FILED AT Western Reserve Academy

IDENTIFICATION

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

PHOTO NO.

Ellsworth Hall. This view is looking east on the corner of College St. and Prospect. It is position A on the Historic District Map.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

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DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS

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Western Reserve College & Academy

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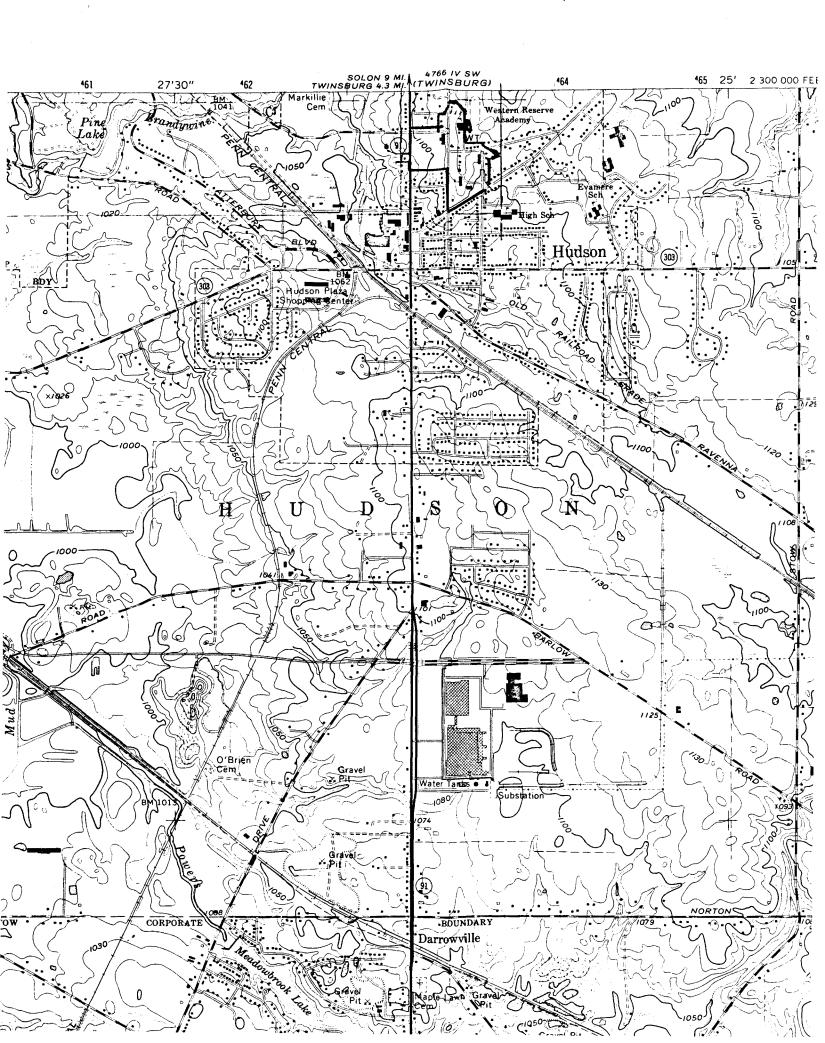
Western Reserve Academy

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PHOTO NO.

Seymour Hall, College St. This view is from the northeast on College Row. The building faces West. It is position 12 on the Historic District Ma



July 25, 1975

Western Reserve Academy Office of the Headmaster Hudson, Ohio 44236

Dear Sir:

I am pleased to inform you that the Western Reserve Academy, Western Reserve College, Hudson, 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.

Sincerely,

Thomas H. Smith

Director, Ohio Historical Society State Historic Preservation Officer

TS/eml enclosure

X.c: Mayor of Hudson

Eric Johannesen, Western Reserve Historical Society

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: ₋	Western Reserve Academy
County:	Summit
	Original National Register of Historic Places nomination form
····	Multiple Property Nomination form
<u> </u>	Photograph(s)
$\overline{\chi}$	Photograph(s) (copies)
	USGS map(s)
<u>X</u>	USGS map(s) (copies)
$\overline{\chi}$	Sketch map(s)/figure(s)/exhibit(s)
	Correspondence
X	Other news clips, brochure