

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

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National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

APR 25 1988

NATIONAL REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Olney, Charles, House and Gallery
other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 2241-2255 W. 14th St.
city, town Cleveland
state Ohio code OH county Cuyahoga code 035 zip code 44109

3. Classification

Ownership of Property: private (checked)
Category of Property: building(s) (checked)
Number of Resources within Property: Contributing 2, Noncontributing 0 buildings, 0 sites, 0 structures, 0 objects. Total 2.

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets (checked) does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.
Signature of certifying official: W. Ray Juce
Date: 4/12/88
State or Federal agency and bureau: SHPO

In my opinion, the property meets (unchecked) does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.
Signature of commenting or other official:
Date:
State or Federal agency and bureau:

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:
[checked] entered in the National Register.
[] See continuation sheet.
[] determined eligible for the National Register. [] See continuation sheet.
[] determined not eligible for the National Register.
[] removed from the National Register.
[] other, (explain:)
Signature of the Keeper: Patrick Andrews
Date of Action: 6/6/88

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling
RECREATION & CULTURE/museum

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

SOCIAL/civic

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)

Renaissance
Colonial Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation stone
walls brick
aluminum siding
roof asphalt
other stone

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Olney Residence and Gallery are two buildings connected by a passageway located on W. 14th Street south of downtown Cleveland. The residence was built c. 1870, and renovated c. 1895. The Second Renaissance Revival style Gallery was built in 1893. Both buildings are set back behind a cast iron fence, and are major contributions to the historic residential character of West 14th Street, a major street in Cleveland's Tremont neighborhood.

The two and a half story Colonial Revival style Olney Residence is set back 45' from the street. The main house is 50' wide, and 40' deep, with a two story 20' wide and 30' deep projection to the rear. This symmetrical house has a projecting center bay with a double door entrance, second story Palladian window, and topped by a gable roofed dormer. Colonial Revival style elements include a dentilled and modillioned cornice. The full porch with modillioned and dentilled cornice is supported by slender fluted columns with Ionic capitals. The house's south side has two small round arched second story windows, with stained glass in the transoms. There is also a first story Classical inset with fluted colonettes. While the house's facade gives the appearance of the Colonial Revival style, evidence of an older house is apparent to the rear. Evidence that the house predates its present appearance include a stone foundation, long narrow two over two windows, and the two story bay window on the house's south side, which is more characteristic of the Italianate style. The rear projection has a porch to its south elevation. Although this house has been aluminum sided, the house's original ornamentation remains intact.

The house is connected by a passageway with Roman brick walls to the Olney Gallery. Set back 50' from the street, the gallery has a 35' wide facade with three bays, and is 105' deep. The two story Second Renaissance Revival style Olney Gallery was built in 1893 at a cost of \$20,000. The Roman brick exterior walls are relieved by dressed stone ornament. There is a projecting first story porch with paired Ionic columns. Porch ornamentation includes bead molding, and the use of the egg and dart motif. The building's first story windows have been glass blocked, but the window openings have not been altered. The tiled porch floor has a representation of an artist's pallet, paint brush, and fleur-de-lis. The second story has a series of circular stone plaques with representations from mythology and of a variety of angels.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture
Art
Community planning/development
Ethnic Heritage - European

Period of Significance

1887-1907
1919-1938

Significant Dates

1893
1899

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

Charles F. Olney

Architect/Builder

Coburn and Barnum (gallery)

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Olney Residence and Gallery are significant because of their role in Cleveland's art community, ethnic history, and association with Charles Olney. The Olney Gallery is architecturally significant within the Tremont neighborhood as a representation of the Second Renaissance Revival style.

From 1870 to 1882 the Olney Residence was the home of Thomas Lamson. An industrialist, Lamson was an important figure in Cleveland's industrial growth. In 1866 Thomas Lamson had formed a partnership with John Holt and Augustus Dickerman in Mt. Carmel, Connecticut for the manufacture of bolts. Holt's and Dickerman's interests were later bought out by Samuel W. Sessions and Thomas' younger brother Isaac. The Lamson-Sessions Company moved to Cleveland in 1869 to be closer to raw materials and located on Scranton Avenue in Cleveland's industrial valley. A large number of the company's Connecticut employees also made the move. The Lamson-Sessions Company was instrumental in the growth of the Tremont neighborhood.

After Thomas Lamson's death in 1882, his widow Abbie Lamson Bradley continued to live in the house. In 1887 she was remarried to Professor Charles Olney of New York City. The couple took up residence in the house on Jennings Avenue (now West 14th Street). At this time the Tremont neighborhood was the home to a largely white anglo-saxon population, with the neighborhoods wealthiest people living along Jennings Avenue. Olney was a teacher that had become an avid devotee of art and music. Olney built a gallery, which was open to the public, that was connected by passageway to the house. Important in the early history of Cleveland's art community, the gallery was opened in 1893 with over 200 oil and water color paintings, statuary, and porcelains. Olney's collection, along with Charles Brush's and W. J. White's, was considered one of the finest in Cleveland. Neither Brush nor White maintained separate galleries nor had the notoriety of Olney's collection. Famous paintings exhibited at the Olney Gallery included Michael Muhkassy's "Christ Before Pilate", "The Last Moments of Mozart", and Gerome's "Crucifixion" and "The King of Desert". Upon Olney's death in 1907, the art collection was donated to Oberlin College, Oberlin, Ohio. At about the same time as the gallery's

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

City of Cleveland Building Permits

Cleveland City Directories

Cimperman, John D. Cleveland Landmarks Files (n.p., n.d.)

Cuyahoga County Archives, Photographs from the Collection (Cleveland: Board of Cuyahoga County Commissioners, 1981)

Orth, Samuel, A History of Cleveland, Ohio (Chicago: The S. J. Clarke Publishing Company, 1910)

Cleveland Public Library - History Department Vertical File

Rose, William Ganson. Cleveland, The Making of a City. Cleveland: The World Publishing Co. 1950.

See continuation sheet

Previous documentation on file (NPS): N/A

preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested

previously listed in the National Register

previously determined eligible by the National Register

designated a National Historic Landmark

recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____

recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

State historic preservation office

Other State agency

Federal agency

Local government

University

Other

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acresage of property less than one

UTM References

A

1	7	4	4	2	3	0	0	4	5	9	2	2	2	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C

Zone		Easting				Northing								

D

Zone		Easting				Northing								

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

Permanent Parcel #004-12-036, City of Cleveland

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the entire city lot that has historically been associated with the property.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title John Cimperman, Director and Robert Keiser, Preservation Planner
organization Cleveland Landmarks Commission date December 22, 1986
street & number 601 Lakeside Ave., Room 519 telephone (216) 664-2531
city or town Cleveland state Ohio zip code 44114

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Olney, Charles, House and Gallery, Cleveland, Cuyahoga Co., Ohio

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The second story's center bay has a central diamond latticed window inset behind Doric columns. The building's modillioned cornice is accentuated with acanthus leaves. The peaked hip roof has a skylight. Two tall ornate stone capped chimneys with bead molding rise above the roof line. In 1931 a two story yellow brick addition was added to the rear of the building at a cost of \$9,000. The interior of the Gallery includes an auditorium and the former exhibit space, both of which are devoid of ornamentation.

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construction the house was renovated with its exterior style changing from Italianate to Colonial Revival. The house and gallery are the only properties associated with Olney in Cleveland.

Olney was active in late 19th century civic affairs and organizations in Cleveland. Olney supported the Cleveland Architectural Club, an organization of junior architects, draftsmen, and artists which formed in 1894. Proposed public buildings for Cleveland was a much talked about issue, the federal, county, and city governments each planning to erect monumental structures to meet their separate needs. Inspired by the fine groups of buildings displayed at the Chicago Exposition, the club arranged a competition in March in which members competed to produce a grouping of Cleveland's public buildings. Charles F. Olney, one of the judges, became an enthusiastic supporter of the Group Plan idea. Olney was also a leading member of the Cleveland Chamber of Commerce, and introduced to that body in January, 1899, a resolution providing for a Committee on Grouping Plan of Public Buildings. Prominent speakers were brought to Cleveland, and a vigorous program was launched by the club to interest citizenship in the Group Plan advantages.

The Olney Gallery and Residence were located in Cleveland's Tremont neighborhood. In the early 20th century the Tremont neighborhood was the home of a number of ethnic groups, including Greeks, Russians, Polish, and Ukrainians. In 1919 the Ukrainian American Center moved into the former Olney residence and gallery complex. The Ukrainian American Center was the center of all the Ukrainian cultural and social life in Cleveland. The complex was the headquarters of fraternal, athletic, and educational organizations, and was used for church services before the completion of St. Vladimir's Ukrainian Orthodox Church on W. 11th Street. In 1934 the gallery housed the Ukrainian Little Theater where native folk dances were performed. The complex was owned by the Ukrainian American Center until 1969 when it was sold to the Ukrainian-American Youth Center.

The Olney Gallery, built in 1893, and connected by a passageway to the house is a good local example of the Second Renaissance Revival style. The Roman brick exterior walls are accentuated by dressed stone ornament. A significant feature is the projecting first story porch with paired Ionic columns. The gallery was designed by the noted local architectural firm of Coburn and Barnum. In business between 1878 and 1897 the firm was noted for design for the Gothic Romanesque style George Howe house, built in 1894 and Case-Western Reserve University's Guilford Cottage (NR 1974) built in 1892.

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SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 88000633

Date Listed: 6/6/88

Charles Olney House and Gallery
Property Name

Cuyahoga
County

OH
State

Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

Patrick Andrews
Signature of the Keeper

6/6/88
Date of Action

=====
Amended Items in Nomination:

The nomination form selects Art and Ethnic Heritage as areas of significance but does not check Criterion A. We have added Criterion A to reflect these areas of significance. Alice Edwards of the OH SHPO agrees with this change on 6/6/88.

DISTRIBUTION:

- National Register property file
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)