

REF# 74001453

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	Ohio
COUNTY:	Cuyahoga
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE	1-18-74

1. NAME

COMMON:  
St. Theodosius Russian Orthodox Cathedral

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:  
733 Starkweather Avenue

CITY OR TOWN:  
Cleveland

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:  
20 - James V. Stanton

STATE Ohio	CODE 039	COUNTY: Cuyahoga	CODE 035
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3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:  
St. Theodosius Russian Orthodox Greek Catholic Church

STREET AND NUMBER:  
2547 St. Tikhon

CITY OR TOWN:  
Cleveland

STATE:  
Ohio

CODE  
039

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:  
Cuyahoga County Building

STREET AND NUMBER:  
1219 Ontario

CITY OR TOWN:  
Cleveland

STATE:  
Ohio

CODE  
039

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY:  Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Ohio  
COUNTY: Cuyahoga  
ENTRY NUMBER:  
DATE:

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This is a church building of masonry and frame construction faced with yellow brick, in a Byzantine eclectic style based on a specific Russian model. In plan it is a Greek cross contained in a square, with a polygonal apse projecting to the south. The exterior walls are articulated by flat Tuscan pilasters. The windows are round-arched, and the facade and the transverse arms contain circular wheel windows. At the center of each of the three main elevations the cornice is interrupted by a semi-elliptical arch. The most prominent external features are the copper-roofed, onion-shaped domes, a large central one surrounded by four minor ones, and eight still smaller ones at the roof line. The five main cupolas are raised on octagonal drums. Each cupola carries the three-barred cross of Russian Orthodoxy.

The fundamental impression of the interior is one of rich color, gold, and almost overpowering detail. The main central square is framed by four square piers which support wide shallow arches opening into the arms of the cross. The nave is separated from the apse by an altar screen (iconostas) with three rows of icons, painted in Russia. The ceiling is punctured by a square opening which permits a view into the central cupola. From the cupola hangs a crystal chandelier made in Czechoslovakia. The entire wall surface of the interior is painted with murals from the Old and New Testaments, executed in 1954. The central cupola icon represents Christ the Saviour. In the low basement the substructure consists of a large number of square brick piers which support the wooden floor joists. There have been no significant alterations, other than the redecoration of the early 1950's.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**B. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |                                       |                                       |  |
|--|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century  | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 19th Century |  |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **1912**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |   |   |  |
|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input type="checkbox"/> Education              | <input type="checkbox"/> Political                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric             | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> Science                        | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture                      | _____                                    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater                        | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> Military               | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation                 | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  |   | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            |   |   | _____                                    |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

St. Theodosius Russian Orthodox Cathedral is a significant representative of the American response to the religious needs of immigrant communities. In 1910, Russians were among the upper third in population of the many immigrant groups in Cleveland. This building has also been called one of the best examples of Russian Orthodox Church architecture in the United States. The impressive external silhouette of St. Theodosius' onion-shaped cupolas on the high land above the Cuyahoga Valley "Flats" has been a familiar visual landmark for West Side residents for over sixty years.

St. Theodosius, the first Orthodox parish in Cleveland, was founded in 1896, the same year that its namesake was canonized by the Church. The present church, the third building of the parish, was authorized and begun fifteen years later, and consecrated in 1912. The building was designed with features adapted from the Church of Our Saviour in the Kremlin, Moscow. The thirteen domes symbolize Christ and the twelve apostles. The design was the result of the collaboration of Father Basil Lisenkovsky and Frederick C. Baird, a Cleveland architect. The church was mentioned in a 1972 article on Louis Sullivan's Holy Trinity Russian Orthodox Cathedral in Chicago as a most characteristic example of traditional Russian monumental architecture. The interior murals by Andrew Vasilievich Bicencko purport to be in a "Neo-Byzantine" style. Unfortunately the compromised style does not do justice to the quality of the architecture.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

St. Theodosius Russian Orthodox Greek Catholic Cathedral,  
 (Cleveland, 1962), unpagged booklet, 22 color illus.  
 Theodore Turak, "A Celt Among Slavs: Louis Sullivan's Holy Trinity  
 Cathedral," The Prairie School Review, IX, No. 4, 1972, 8-9.

**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		41° 28' 38"	81° 40' 54"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

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: **Western Reserve Historical Society**      DATE: **August, 1973**

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

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 \_\_\_\_\_

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

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

<b>1. NAME</b>		
COMMON St. Theodosius Russian Orthodox Cathedral	AND/OR HISTORIC	NUMERIC CODE (Assigned by NPS)
<b>2. LOCATION</b>		
STATE Ohio	COUNTY Cuyahoga	TOWN Cleveland
STREET AND NUMBER 733 Starkweather Avenue		
<b>3. PHOTO REFERENCE</b>		
PHOTO CREDIT Eric Johannesen	DATE August, 1973	NEGATIVE FILED AT Western Reserve Historical Society
<b>4. IDENTIFICATION</b>		
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.		

Southwest corner of Cathedral, looking Northeast.

GPO 937

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM  
(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

<b>1. NAME</b>		
COMMON St. Theodosius Russian Orthodox Cathedral	AND/OR HISTORIC	NUMERIC CODE (Assigned by NPS)
<b>2. LOCATION</b>		
STATE Ohio	COUNTY Cuyahoga	TOWN Cleveland
STREET AND NUMBER 733 Starkweather Avenue		
<b>3. PHOTO REFERENCE</b>		
PHOTO CREDIT Eric Johannesen	DATE July, 1973	NEGATIVE FILED AT Western Reserve Historical Society
<b>4. IDENTIFICATION</b>		
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.		

Facade on Starkweather Avenue, looking South.

GPO 932-C

Form 10-301  
(July 1968)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES**  
**PROPERTY MAP FORM**  
*(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)*

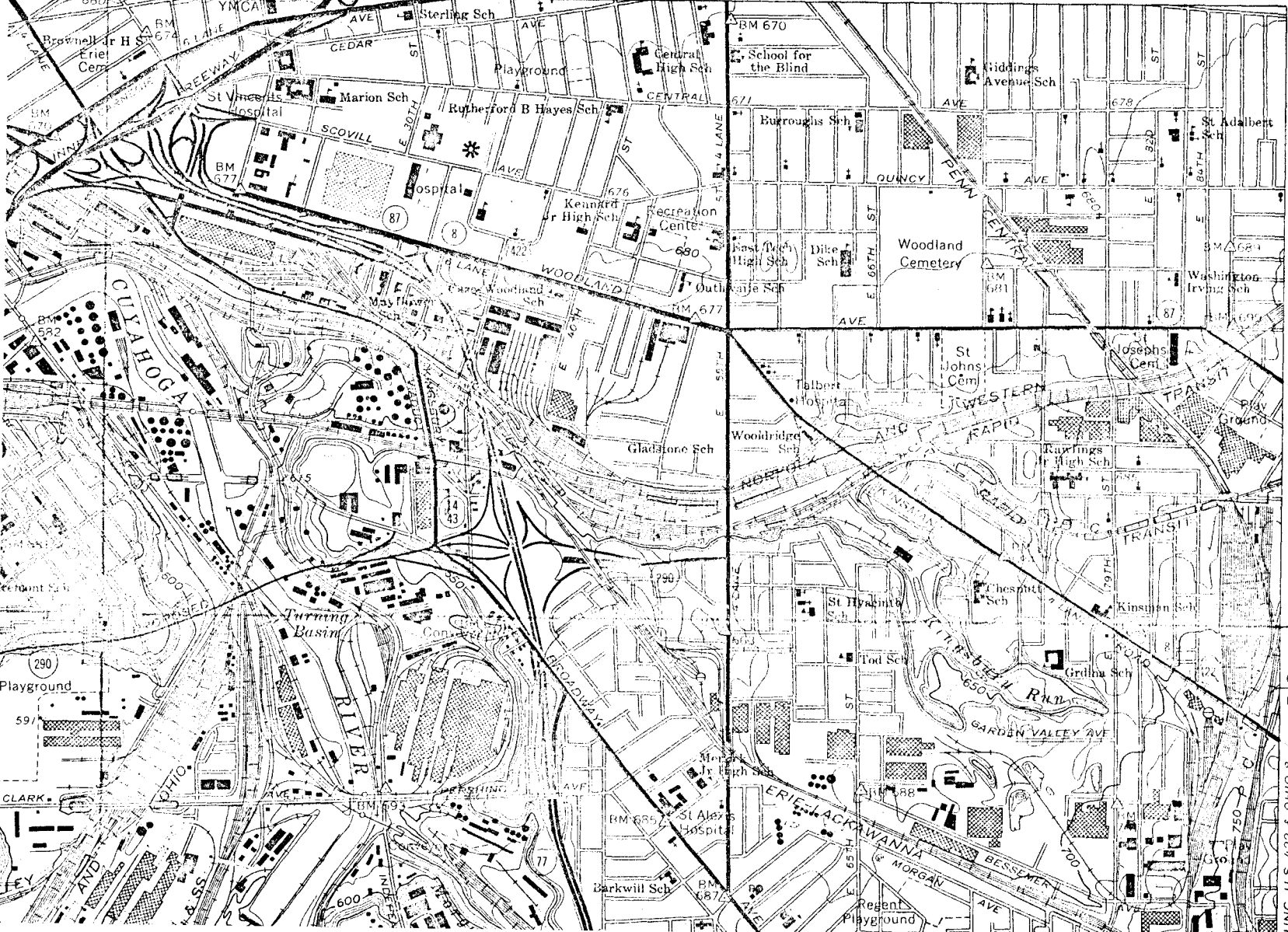
1. NAME		
COMMON	AND/OR HISTORIC	NUMERIC CODE <i>(Assigned by NPS)</i>
St. Theodosius Russian Orthodox Cathedral		
2. LOCATION		
STATE	COUNTY	TOWN
Ohio	Cuyahoga	Cleveland
STREET AND NUMBER		
733 Starkweather Avenue		
3. MAP REFERENCE		
SOURCE	DATE	SCALE
U. S. G. S. Cleveland South Quadrangle	1970	1:24,000

REQUIREMENTS: PROPERTY BOUNDARIES, WHERE REQUIRED, AND NORTH ARROW

CLEVELAND SOUTH QUADRANGLE  
 OHIO-CUYAHOGA CO  
 7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)  
 NW/4 CLEVELAND 15' QUADRANGLE

4667 11 SE  
 (EAST CLEVELAND)

3W (NORTH) 443 1.3 MI. TO OHIO 2 0.3 MI. TO U.S. 322 90 40' 2 230 000 FEET 446 447 81° 37' 30" 41° 30'



SHAKER HEIGHTS 4.7 MI.  
 BURTON 26 MI.

St. Theodosius  
 Russian Orthodox  
 Cathedral

660 000  
 FEET

41° 28' 38"  
 81° 40' 54"

JUNC. U.S. 422 & OHIO 8  
 CHAGRIN FALLS 13 MI.

January 31, 1974

St. Theodosius Russian Orthodox Greek Catholic Church  
2547 St. Tikhon  
Cleveland, Ohio 44113

Gentlemen:

I am pleased to inform you that St. Theodosius Russian Orthodox Cathedral, 733 Starkweather Avenue, Cleveland, has been entered in the National Register of Historic Places by the National Park Service, United States Department of 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.

Congratulations for recognizing the importance of, and the need for, the careful and sensible preservation of Ohio's landmarks. Your farsightedness will surely serve as an example to other individuals and organizations in this state.

Sincerely,

Judith Kitchen  
Architectural Historian

JK:dal  
enclosure



# 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: St. Theodosius Russian Orthodox Cathedral

County: Cuyahoga

Original National Register of Historic Places nomination form

Multiple Property Nomination form

Photographs

Photographs (copies)

USGS maps

USGS maps (copies)

Sketch map(s)/figure(s)/exhibit(s)

Correspondence

Other news clip