

States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

## 1. Name of Property

historic name Lilly House

other names/site number CUY-1575-13

## 2. Location

street & number 27946 Center Ridge Rd.

N/A  not for publication

city or town Westlake

state Ohio code OH

county Cuyahoga

N/A  vicinity

zip code 44145

## 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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  does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Department Head  
Inventory and Registration

Signature of certifying official  
Ohio Historic Preservation Office, Ohio Historical Society

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

## 4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

- 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 Keeper

Date of Action

Lilly House,

Cuyahoga Co, OH

C

**Classification**

- Ownership of Property**  
(Check as many boxes as apply)
- private
  - public-local
  - public-State
  - public-Federal
- Category of Property**  
(Check only one box)
- building(s)
  - district
  - site
  - structure
  - object

**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1	0	Total

**Name of related multiple property listing**

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

Historic Resources of Westlake, Ohio (review pending)

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

VACANT/NOT IN USE

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

MID-19<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY: Greek Revival

**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Foundation STONE: sandstone

roof ASPHALT

walls STONE: sandstone

BRICK

other \_\_\_\_\_

**Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

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**Lilly House, Westlake, Cuyahoga County, Ohio**

The house stands close to a major roadway in a semi-suburban area about 1/3 mile west of the intersection of Center Ridge and Dover center roads, the historic center of former Dover Township. The house is set within 156 feet of the right-of-way and is on a sloping lot that allows for a walkout basement at the rear. (photo 7) The Lilly House is a 1 and ½ story stone and brick Greek Revival style Upright and Wing type house, with an L-shaped plan, and intersecting gable roof and a narrow porch on the south elevation its lateral wing. (photo 5) The walls of the original section are finished with sandstone and those of the lateral wing are of brick. The roof is covered with imitation slate asphalt shingles. The exterior is trimmed with a massive wood entablature with returns in front. The interior of the house reflects the simplicity of this style in its paneled doors and surviving plain wood trim. Behind the house is an open field, and remnants of a former apple orchard. Part of the foundation of a former barn is present and there is an outline of a driveway to the east. Otherwise, only the house survives as a built feature on this land. The property has undergone change over the years, consisting of the reduction of its acreage, alterations to the interior to provide for a kitchen and bathroom, deterioration because of its abandonment for a number of years. Yet, the exterior form and detailing of the house is intact, it retains its relationship to the roadway and the house retains a preponderance of its interior trimwork such as doors, a fireplace mantel and windows. (photo 3)

The main section of the house dates from about 1844, measures 18x28 ft. and is constructed from massive rectangular sandstone blocks. It measures about 20 by 28 feet. The stones on the front elevation are hand-tooled with vertical tooling marks on the edges and pick marks on the body of each block of stone (photo 8). They are laid up in coursed blocks and, based on those in the basement, are foot-thick solid blocks of sandstone. The front elevation has a center doorway set beneath a large sandstone lintel, but without wood trim or glass panels (photo 5). It is flanked by original six-over-six rectangular windows on either side. At the second floor, a pair of windows faces the street toward the center of the gable roof. A wood fascia and cornice forms returns in front and rear. The stones on the side elevations are dressed but do not have the delicate tooling marks of the front. The rear elevation has a more rubble-like sandstone elevation (photo 7). A frame window once attached to the rear, but was removed perhaps ten years ago. However, the sandstone and door detailing indicates that the rear elevation was originally constructed as an exterior elevation. A curious small window is toward the western end of the rear, on the first floor (photo 7). It appears to be original, but its possible specialized use seems a mystery. The well-worn stone threshold of the rear entrance suggests it received heavy use over the years.

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**Lilly House, Westlake, Cuyahoga County, Ohio**

The interior of the main section features a walkout basement, with a door at the rear. It is constructed of massive rectangular blocks of sandstone, larger than those exposed on the exterior, but carefully formed into rectangular blocks. This is in contrast to rubble sandstone with interlocked corners used more commonly during this timeframe. The basement has a height of a little over 6 feet, with a thin, newer concrete floor poured over dirt and exposed hand-hewn oak or chestnut framing system of large beams and smaller joists. This framing consists of large square hewn beams, perhaps 8 by 8 inches that divide the ceiling into smaller spaces. A pair of large beams spaced about 3 feet apart near the center of the east elevation suggest that either a very large chimney or a stairway was once in this location. Mortised into these beams and into the perimeter sandstone walls are smaller square roughly axe-hewn joists, about 4 by 4 inches, although varying considerably. They have uneven spacing, but are about 16 inches on center. The chimney that rises from the center of the basement is a simple square structure built with relatively modern brick and portland cement, suggesting it dates from the mid 20<sup>th</sup> century.

The first floor of the main section has a relatively large parlor or living room at its southeast corner. The front doorway and front and east windows face into this room, which has a refinished chestnut plank floor. An alcove to the west was apparently originally a separate room, from the marks exposed on the flooring. A stairway to the second floor near the center of the west side also extends to the basement. It has a landing halfway between each floor. Enclosed by walls, this stairway seems to be an alteration. A wide opening to the major rear space of this section also seems newer. The main floor contains its original windows and doors and surviving original trimwork consists of painted flat boards. A wainscot was installed in this room perhaps 50 years ago. The first floor probably had a central fireplace, like that in the lateral wing, as suggested by the basement framing for a larger opening in the center. It was replaced in the mid 20<sup>th</sup> century by a plain square chimney to service the basement furnace.

The second floor of the main section appears to have been completely reworked perhaps 50 years ago, because it has trimwork and drywall that are indicative of that era. A small bedroom and bath are in front and two small bedrooms are in the rear. Leaks over the years have deteriorated these partitions and they are in the process of being removed. Removal of the drywall has exposed eave plates that rest atop the stone walls at the base of the roof on the side elevations. These appear to be 10 by 16 inches. Thin roof pole rafters rest on these beams and are supported by 6 by 6 hewn purlins halfway up the roof on each side. They span the length of the roof. When the lateral wing was constructed, a connection was made at this level, so a portion of the roof structure and the large beam were removed.

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**Lilly House, Westlake, Cuyahoga County, Ohio**

The lateral wing is built from soft-fired common bond red brick resting atop a sandstone block foundation. Window sills and lintels are elegantly dressed sandstone blocks. A narrow porch is recessed into the front of this wing. Set back from the front of the main house, this wing extends back about 7 feet past the rear wall of the original section. The wing measures about 28 by 18 feet, is one story in height, with an attic, and features an exposed sandstone foundation in the rear. The basement of the lateral wing connects with that of the original building and is also made of large blocks. One can observe the original section was built first as its rougher east wall has been partially exposed within the basement of this wing. Based on its stylistic and structural similarity to the original building, it seems to date from probably within 10 years of the original building. The main level of the east wing is more intact than the original building. This wing has a large living or dining space, with a fireplace at its east end (photo 3). Behind that fireplace is a secondary room, probably a bedroom and/or pantry. The fireplace mantel is a simple massive wood feature and seems original, but the masonry firebox and chimney were rebuilt probably in the past 50 years. The upper level of the east wing is an unfinished attic. Severe deterioration of the roof necessitated the replacement of much of the north side framing and sheathing several years ago. The floor of the main space is also deteriorated and will have to be rebuilt, although some of the framing and flooring could be re-used. A major support beam behind the chimney is badly deteriorated and will have to be replaced.

At the rear of the building was a frame wing that was removed about five years ago. It was a one-story gable-roofed balloon frame structure that was probably about 100 years old. It attached to the rear of the sandstone portion and the side of the projecting brick east wing. A porch that had been enclosed in more recent years attached to the rear of the east wing. Basement doors on the east wing indicate that this was a walk-out basement.

The house received a new roof in about 2000. Sheathing and fascia boards were replaced throughout, although the soffits and lower trim boards on the stone section are original. On the brick wing, it was necessary to replace most of the roof structure with new 2x8 framing.

In the fall of 2004, the exterior of the house, which had been painted a mustard yellow color in more recent years, was chemically cleaned. This process was done consistent with the U. S. Secretary of the Interior's Standards by VIP Restoration, Inc., a firm specializing in historic restoration work. Removal of the paint revealed accumulations of dirt on the original stone and brick, indicating that the building had been unpainted for years. Only one layer of paint was present.

**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations**

(Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or a grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

**Period of Significance**

1844-1855

**Significant Dates**

c. 1844

c. 1855

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

**Architect/Builder**

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### Lilly House, Westlake, Cuyahoga County, Ohio

#### Criterion C

The Lilly House, built circa 1844, is a seminal and locally unusual example of a distinctive type of construction in this region, sandstone buildings, and is an exceptional example of the craftsmanship of its time as reflected not only in the finely tooled sandstone blocks of its exterior and foundation, but also in the massive hewn wood beams used in its basement and roof framework. Contextually, it relates to the influence of the Greek Revival style in its form, overall simplicity and in details such as its cornices, doors and windows. Yet, it rises above the more typical frame or less typical brick farmhouse of its era in its use of stone, an immensely labor-intensive material requiring highly specialized skills. Sandstone houses appear primarily in the Berea-Amherst region where at one time numerous local quarries were in operation and where the largest sandstone quarry in the world remains active. While more architecturally imposing pre-Civil War sandstone houses do exist, only a handful rival the fine craftsmanship displayed in this house. The Lilly House also represents a rare juxtaposition of sandstone and brick architecture, as opposed to the more common rubble sandstone or frame secondary wing.

The Lilly House is one of two sandstone houses that are being nominated as part of the Historic Resources of Westlake Multiple Property Documentation. It dates from the *Agricultural Commerce: Settlement Era, 1810-ca. 1850*, as defined in the MPD (*review pending*). The Lilly House represents a rare building type, of which only two examples survive in Westlake, the sandstone Greek Revival style farmhouse. It displays fine stone craftsmanship, simple form, relatively small size and features such as cornice returns, multi-paned windows and window arrangement that are indicative of this style.

What imparts special significance to the Lilly House is its construction of massive rectangular blocks of sandstone. Unlike most sandstone houses of this era which feature face blocks of stone backed by rubble sandstone and/or brick, the Lilly House is built of unusually thick blocks that extend clear through its thick walls. The basement walls are 2 feet thick and the first floor walls are 1½ feet thick. Typical construction techniques of this era would normally have delivered larger blocks to the building site which would then be carved up into face blocks, producing an enormous amount of smaller irregular chips of stone that could be worked into the foundation, to back up the face blocks of stone or to face secondary elevations. For example, when the Herrick House was moved from Twinsburg to Hale Farm and village and reconstructed in the 1980s, only the face brick were saved for re-use. Concrete blocks took the place of rubble stone and brick used to back up its walls. The Ohio Statehouse in Columbus is essentially a brick building faced with limestone blocks. It is difficult to determine the structure of other nearby sandstone houses without considerable internal investigations, but judging by the extensive use of exposed rubble sandstone in many of these houses, it seems unlikely that the face stones featured in front are solid through blocks of stone. In any case, the use of even larger sandstone blocks in the basement seems to indicate a builder with special talents for manipulating especially large blocks of stone.

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**Lilly House, Westlake, Cuyahoga County, Ohio**

While not as visually defining as the sandstone, the wood framework of this house is remarkable for its massiveness and complexity. Rather than having the main floor framed with perhaps one or two center beams from which a secondary joist structure could span, the house has a complex framework of intersecting large beams that seems unusually complex, particular for a relatively small house. The even larger hewn beams atop the side walls and the massive roof structure reflect the talents of a builder who could expertly manipulate large blocks of stone and perhaps found these massive wood timbers somewhat less of a challenge.

The lateral wing is notable for its well-crafted brick construction. This is more typical of the period, but there are two factors that make it unusual. First, it contrasts with the sandstone of the original house, with no evidence of having been painted, except in more recent years. Second, it rests atop a foundation of massive rectangular blocks every bit as remarkable as the foundation of the original building. The foundation suggests it may have been constructed by the same builder as the original section. The 1850 census lists one stonecutter in Dover Township, Sidney Beibe (?), age 26, born in France (?). This house might have been built by this individual or one of the more numerous stone masons in Olmsted and Berea.

New England immigrants to Dover Township were analyzed in a sampling of women who lived here before 1840-1850. Of the 206 in the sample, 30% were born in New England and the remaining 70% were born primarily in Dover Township or elsewhere in Ohio. Of the New England immigrants to Dover, 61% came from Massachusetts, 16% came from Connecticut and smaller amounts from the other New England states.

Sandstone appears rarely in houses in this region extending from Cleveland west to the limestone deposits of the Sandusky River valley. But generally these are the largest and most imposing houses of their times, often associated with very large tracts of land. The Lilly House, in contrast, never had a particularly large farm associated with it and is, even by the standards of its time, a small house. It would have been possible to construct a more spacious house of brick or, most especially, wood. Yet there are other houses of this type in the region. Two miles southwest of here along Center Ridge Rd. is another small sandstone house, one story with a pyramidal roof featuring two symmetrical front entrances. The Gleason House (NR 1978) on Canal Rd. in the Cuyahoga Valley National Park is a 1 and ½ story sandstone house with unusually fine craftsmanship built in 1851-1855. The Phillip Henninger House (NR 2003) is a Greek Revival one-and one-half story gable front house constructed of rusticated sandstone blocks in 1849. Located at Broadview and Snow roads in Cuyahoga County the Henninger House is associated with the 19<sup>th</sup> century Parma quarrying industries.



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**Lilly House, Westlake, Cuyahoga County, Ohio**

***Historical background***

This house was built for Austin (c. 1788-1848) and Roxanna (Sears) Lilly (c. 1793-1868). They came to Dover Township (now Westlake) in 1832 from Ashfield, Massachusetts, an area from which many Dover settlers derived. This lot had been owned by Ozias and Hiram Smith. The Lillys erected this house in about 1844 and lived here until 1867. The date of construction is based on tax records and a subdivision at that time of this land that separated it from a larger tract centered about a brick farmhouse east of here. The attached east side wing was presumably constructed during the Lilly ownership. The date of 1855 is suggested for this construction based on the style of the wing, Greek Revival, with six-over-six windows.

Augustus Lilly died in 1848, not long after completing this house. The property was taken over by his son Albertus (1820-1894) who operated the farm and lived here with his wife, Mary E. (1836-1915) and mother, Roxanna Sears Lilly. Roxanna was listed in the 1850 and 1860 censuses as having no occupation. She died without leaving a written will. Albertus Lilly's listed occupation was that of a farmer, like his father. The Lilly family has a large plot in Evergreen Cemetery, about a mile west of here on Center Ridge Road. Their family graves are marked by an impressive granite obelisk, one of the largest in the cemetery.

After 1867, the lot and house had several owners, including George Weston, James Beardsley, and August Trudel. Eventually, Alice (Mrs. Dezso) Ladanyi, the great-granddaughter of George Weston, deeded the house to the city of Westlake for use as a museum.

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**9. Major Bibliographical References**

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**Bibliography**

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS)

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

Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

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**10. Geographical Data**

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**Acreeage of Property** 1 \_\_\_\_\_

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

Zone Easting Northing

1 17 422016 4588232

2 \_\_\_\_\_

Zone Easting Northing

3 \_\_\_\_\_

4 \_\_\_\_\_

See continuation sheet.

**Verbal Boundary Description**

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

**Boundary Justification**

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

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**11. Form Prepared By**

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name/title organization Steven McQuillin date January 2005

street & number 31156 Detroit Rd. telephone 440-899-1200

city or town Westlake state Ohio zip code 44145

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**Additional Documentation**

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Submit the following items with the completed form:

**Continuation Sheets****Maps**

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

**Photographs**

Representative **black and white** photographs of the property.

**Additional items**

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

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**Property Owner**

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(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name City of Westlake

street & number 27700 Hilliard Blvd. telephone 440-871-3300

city or town Westlake state Ohio zip code 44145

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Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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**Lilly House, Westlake, Cuyahoga County, Ohio**

**Bibliography**

Bay Village Historical Society, "Bay Village: A Way of Life", 1974

Census of the United States, Dover Township, 1850, 1870  
Cleveland Necrology File

Coates, William R., A History of Cuyahoga County and the City of Cleveland. Chicago and New York: American History Society, 1924

Cuyahoga County estate records

Cuyahoga County, Ohio 1852 Index of Landowners

1830-60, 1900-10 U. S. Census, Ohio,

Hopkins, G. M., Jr., Map of Cuyahoga County, Ohio. Philadelphia: S. H. Matthews, Publishers, 1858.

Lake, D. J., Atlas of Cuyahoga County, Ohio. Philadelphia: Titus, Simmons and Titus, 1874

International Genealogical Index

Johnson, Crisfield, History of Cuyahoga County. Philadelphia: D. W. Ensign & Co., 1879

"Women in the Western Reserve Before 1840-1850", Typescript at the Western Reserve Historical Society

**Boundary Description:**

The nominated property consists of Parcel No. 216-16-004, City of Westlake, Cuyahoga County, containing the Lilly House and no other buildings.

**Boundary Justification:**

These boundaries consist of the lot that is associated with the Lilly House.

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**Lilly House, Westlake, Cuyahoga County, Ohio**

**Photographic Documentation:**

*The following information is the same for all photographs:*

Lilly House, Westlake, Ohio

Steven McQuillin, photographer, January 2005 (photos 1-3), August 2005 (photos 4-8)

Negatives in photographer's collection

*Photograph numbers and descriptions are as follows:*

1. front and east side, looking northwest
2. rear and west side, looking southeast
3. parlor and fireplace in east wing, looking northeast
4. street view, looking west along Center Ridge Rd., with the house at right
5. front and east side, looking northwest
6. front and west side, looking west along Center Ridge Rd.
7. rear and west side, looking southeast
8. closeup of sandstone at southwest corner