

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only

received

JAN 17 1983

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

**1. Name**

historic Cincinnati Gymnasium and Athletic Club

and/or common Cincinnati Athletic Club

**2. Location**

street & number 111 Shillito Place

N/A not for publication

city, town Cincinnati

N/A vicinity of

state Ohio

code 039

county Hamilton

code 061

**3. Classification**

**Category**

- district
- building(s)
- structure
- site
- object

**Ownership**

- public
  - private
  - both
- Public Acquisition**
- in process
  - being considered
- N/A

**Status**

- occupied
  - unoccupied
  - work in progress
- Accessible**
- yes: restricted
  - yes: unrestricted
  - no

**Present Use**

- agriculture
  - commercial
  - educational
  - entertainment
  - government
  - industrial
  - military
- museum
  - park
  - private residence
  - religious
  - scientific
  - transportation
  - other:

**4. Owner of Property**

name Cincinnati Athletic Club

street & number 111 Shillito Place

city, town Cincinnati

N/A vicinity of

state Ohio

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Hamilton County Court House

street & number Main and Court Streets

city, town Cincinnati

state Ohio

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title Cincinnati Historical Inventory

has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date August 1978

federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Miami Purchase Association for Historic Preservation

city, town Cincinnati

state Ohio

# 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved    date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

## Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Cincinnati Gymnasium and Athletic Club consists of a four story Second Renaissance Revival building with a single entrance located on Shillito Place.

The structure consists of brick and frame construction with the Shillito Place facade consisting of Second Renaissance Revival style architecture. This facade consists of a rough stone foundation with polished stone first level with eight windows arranged in pairs and a carved entrance way with a recessed doorway and with the words "Cincinnati Gymnasium & Athletic Club." Individual windows are located at the extreme side of the front facade balancing the distribution of windows on the facade. The third floor consists of five large windows, centered above the pairs of smaller windows on the first two floors and the doorway, with stone arches above the windows and four medallions between the uppermost portion of the arches. The very top level consists of ten small windows for ventilation purposes which are centered above the five large windows and arches of the third level.

The upper two stories consist of brick exterior with a Quoin of stone to accentuate the corners of the building. The remaining three sides to the building consist of common brick, one being a common wall to an adjoining building owned by the club and used for physical facilities of the organization, the south side fronts on an alleyway and the west side which was originally a wall with an adjoining building which has since been removed and currently consists of a brick wall with a metal wall sculpture commissioned by the City of Cincinnati.

The interior consists of a first level lounge area, business office, restaurant, rest-rooms and athletic facilities. The lounge area is substantially the same design and layout as when the facility was first opened in 1902. It consists of molded plaster ceilings with a fake fireplace on the east side of the building, above which is inscribed "Cincinnati Gymnasium and Athletic Club." The second level consists of locker room and shower facilities. The third level consists of the gymnasium floor and athletic facilities and the fourth level consists of the original banked suspended running track and other athletic facilities. The basement of the building contains the original tiled swimming pool, steamrooms and heatrooms as well as modern whirlpool bath, sauna and sunroom.

## 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1902

Builder/Architect

Warner & Atkins

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Cincinnati Athletic Club is a significant architectural statement within Cincinnati's Central Business District. Designed by the locally prominent firm of Warner & Atkins, it is a fine example of Second Renaissance Revival architecture with its rusticated lower level, and varied molded belt courses, balustrade and window trim at subsequent levels.

According to local newspapers, at the time of its construction in 1902 the Cincinnati Gymnasium and Athletic Club was considered to be one of the finest facilities of its type in the United States. It was second only to the Columbia University Gymnasium in New York City.

The Cincinnati Gymnasium and Athletic Club was organized in 1853; among the original organizers were Thomas and Joseph Emery, Cincinnati industrialists, J. B. Trevor, John A. Townley and Rutherford B. Hayes. The original home of the organization was at the Apollo Building and was later removed to the Commercial Building and then to the Old Grand Opera House, where a fire in January 1901 required the relocation of the organization. It was temporarily housed and quarters rented from Thomas Emery at the southwest corner of Shillito Place and Race Street. A fund raising effort was begun in February 1901 with a letter signed by M. C. Longenecker, Superintendent. The building was designed by the architectural firm of Warner and Atkins after a committee of the organization toured similar facilities throughout the country and in particular facilities of a like nature in the northeastern portion of the United States. The cornerstone was laid on April 26, 1902, and the building was constructed at a cost of \$64,000.00 for the structure. In Cincinnati the firm is also noted for its design of the Second National Bank Building, Grace Episcopal Church and several large residential designs.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Cincinnati Enquirer 4/26/02  
Page 9 column 5 5/16/03  
Page 4 column

Cincinnati Post March 10, 1948  
Page 27 column 4

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property .17 acres

Quadrangle name Covington

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

### UTM References

A 

1	6	7	1	4	8	6	0	4	3	3	0	8	8	0
Zone			Easting				Northing							

B 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

C 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

D 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

E 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

F 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

G 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

H 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

### Verbal boundary description and justification

Lots Numbered 202, 203, 204, 205, and 206  
James Ferguson's Subdivision Deed Book 2, Page 412 and Deed  
Book 44, Page 421, Hamilton County, Ohio

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code county code

state code county code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title James H. Biddle

organization Attorney at Law date April 1982

street & number 1130 Fourth & Walnut Building telephone (513) 721-2552

city or town Cincinnati state Ohio

# 12. 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 W. Roy Luce

title SHPO date 12/9/82

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

J. Melvyn Byers  
Keeper of the National Register

Entered in the  
National Register

date 2/17/83

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

Chief of Registration

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

Cincinnati Gymnasium and Athletic Club  
Hamilton County  
OHIO

Working No. JAN 17 1983  
Fed. Reg. Date: 2.7.84  
Date Due: 2/17/83 - 3/3/83  
Action:  ACCEPT 2/17/83  
 RETURN  
Entered in the National Register  REJECT  
Federal Agency: \_\_\_\_\_

- resubmission
- nomination by person or local government
- owner objection
- appeal

Substantive Review:  sample  request  appeal  NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

Recom./Criteria \_\_\_\_\_  
Reviewer \_\_\_\_\_  
Discipline \_\_\_\_\_  
Date \_\_\_\_\_  
see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for:  technical corrections cited below  
 substantive reasons discussed below

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
	Public Acquisition	Accessible	

4. Owner of Property

5. Location of Legal Description

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- alterations/integrity
- dates
- boundary selection

## 8. Significance

Period \_\_\_\_\_ Areas of Significance—Check and justify below:

Specific dates \_\_\_\_\_ Builder/Architect \_\_\_\_\_

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- applicable criteria
- justification of areas checked
- relating significance to the resource
- context
- relationship of integrity to significance
- justification of exception
- other

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

## 10. Geographical Data

Acres of nominated property \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle name \_\_\_\_\_

UMT References \_\_\_\_\_

Verbal boundary / description and justification \_\_\_\_\_

## 11. Form Prepared By

## 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature \_\_\_\_\_

title \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

## 13. Other

- Maps
- Photographs
- Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: 202 272 - 3504

Comments for any item may be continued on an attached sheet



Cincinnati Gymnasium and Athletic Club  
111 Shillito Place, Cincinnati, Ohio  
Front Facade looking South

#1 of 4 photos

Photographer: James H. Biddle  
Negatives on file at City of  
Cincinnati Planning Commission  
City Hall, Cincinnati



Cincinnati Gymnasium and Athletic Club  
111 Shillito Place, Cincinnati, Ohio  
Front Facade looking Southeast  
#2 of 4 photos  
Photographer: James H. Biddle  
Negatives on file at City of  
Cincinnati Planning Commission  
City Hall, Cincinnati

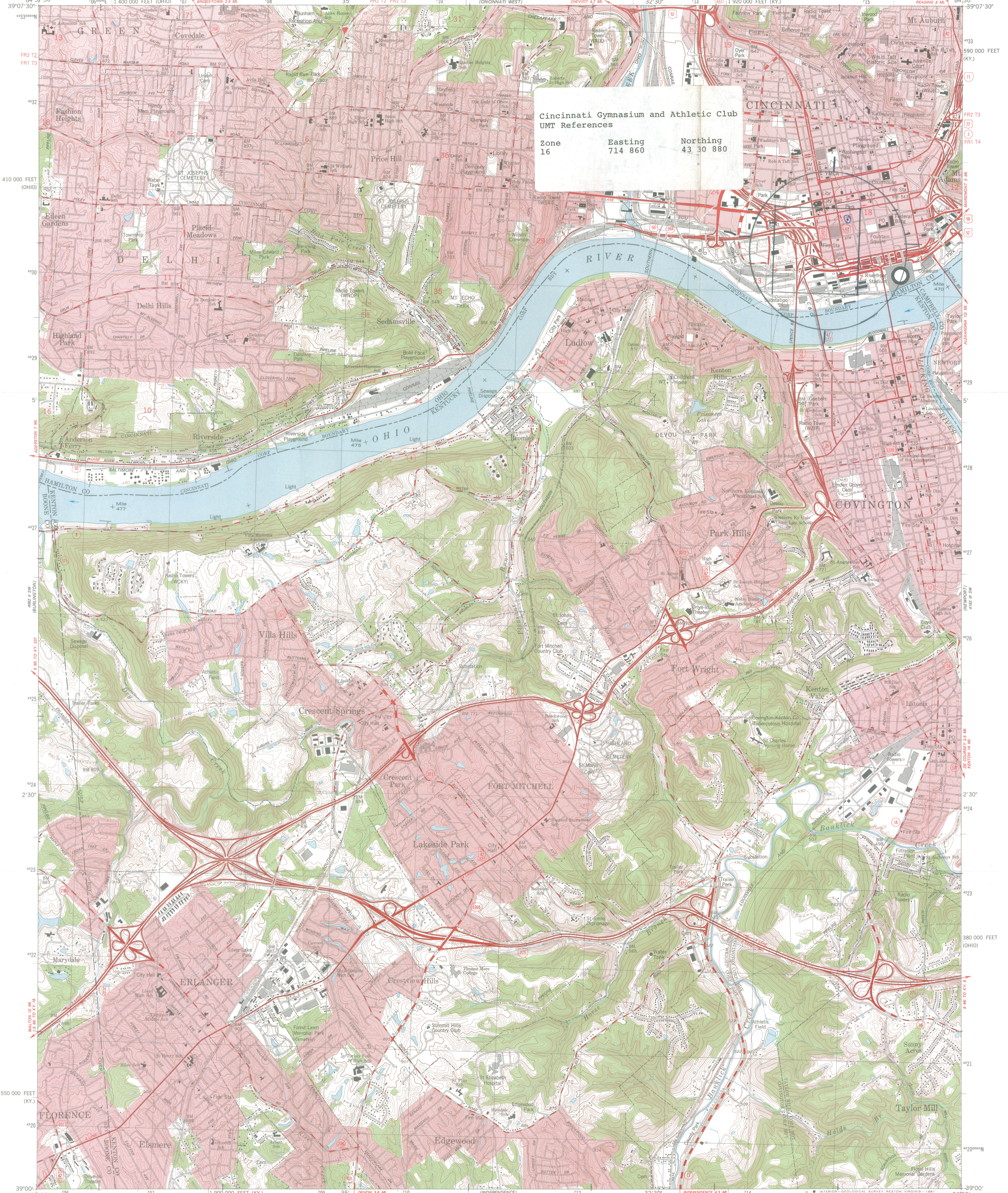


Cincinnati Gymnasium and Athletic Club  
111 Shillito Place, Cincinnati, Ohio  
West wall looking Northeast  
#3 of 4 photos  
Photographer: James H. Biddle  
Negatives on file at City of  
Cincinnati Planning Commission  
City Hall, Cincinnati

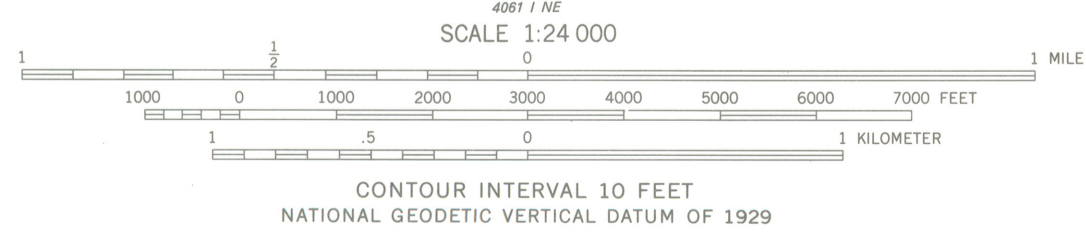
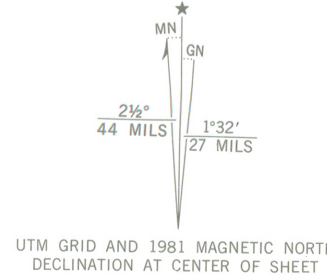


Cincinnati Gymnasium and Athletic Club  
111 Shillito Place, Cincinnati, Ohio  
Entranceway front Facade  
#4 of 4 photos  
Photographer: James H. Biddle  
Negatives on file at City of  
Cincinnati Planning Commission  
City Hall, Cincinnati

Cincinnati Gymnasium and Athletic Club  
UMT References  
Zone 16 Easting 714 860 Northing 43 30 880



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey  
Control by USGS, NOS/NOAA, USCE, and the city of Cincinnati  
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1949, and in part by the city of Cincinnati. Field checked 1950 and 1955. Revised from aerial photographs taken 1977. Field checked 1978. Map edited 1981  
Polyconic projection. 10,000-foot grid ticks based on Kentucky coordinate system, north zone, and Ohio coordinate system, south zone 1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid, zone 16  
1927 North American Datum  
To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983 move the projection lines 3 meters south and 5 meters west as shown by dashed corner ticks  
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked  
The state boundary as shown represents the approximate position of the low water line as determined from U.S. Corps of Engineers Ohio River charts, surveyed 1914, and supplementary information  
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown  
Ohio area lies within the Between the Miamis. Land lines based on the Great Miami River Base. Dotted land lines established by private subdivision of the Symmes Purchase

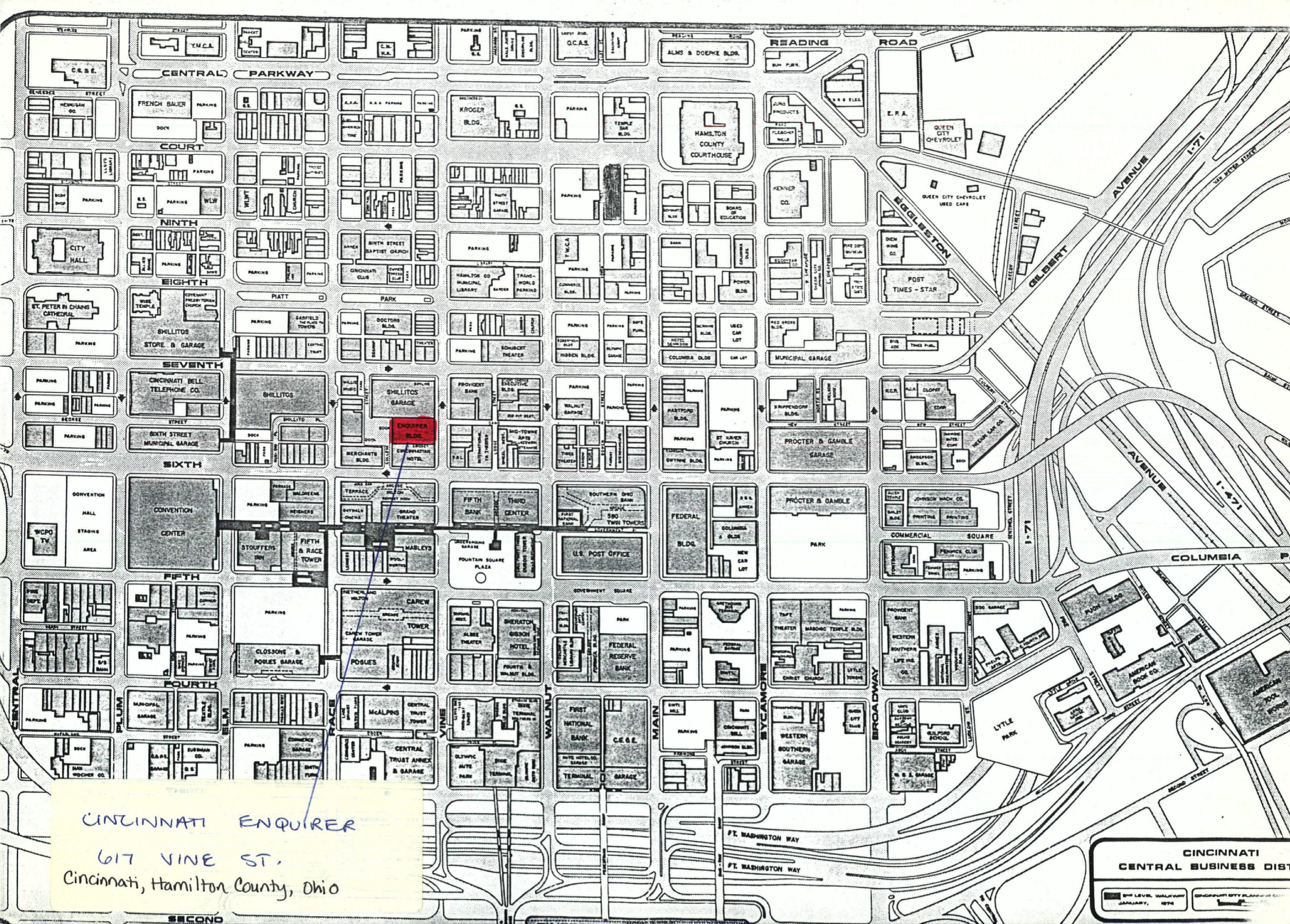


THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092,  
KENTUCKY GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, LEXINGTON, KENTUCKY 40506,  
AND KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, FRANKFORT, KENTUCKY 40601  
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



ROAD CLASSIFICATION  
Primary highway, hard surface — Light-duty road, hard or improved surface —  
Secondary highway, hard surface — Unimproved road —  
Interstate Route — U.S. Route — State Route

COVINGTON, KY—OHIO  
8E/4 WEST CINCINNATI 15' QUADRANGLE  
N3900—W8430/7.5  
1981  
DMA 4062 II SE—SERIES V853



CINCINNATI ENQUIRER  
617 VINE ST.  
Cincinnati, Hamilton County, Ohio

# Ohio Historic Preservation Office

Ohio Historical Center I-71 & 17th Avenue Columbus, Ohio 43211 (614) 466-1500

January 7, 1983

Ms. Carol Shull, Chief  
Department of Registration  
National Register of Historic Places  
440 G Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Carol:

Enclosed are three new National Register nominations. All the appropriate notification procedures have been followed for the new submissions.

New Submissions

County

Broom Building

Guernsey

Cincinnati Gymnasium and  
Athletic Club

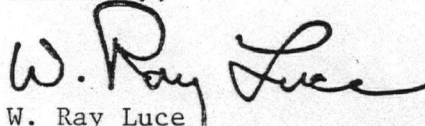
Hamilton

East Walnut Hills Firehouse

Hamilton

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



W. Ray Luce  
State Historic Preservation Officer

WRL/DS:vb

Enclosures

