

3194

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

DEC 16 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 N/A  
other names/site number West Third Street Historic District

2. Location

street & number W. Third St. between Shannon St. and Broadway N/A  not for publication  
city, town Dayton N/A  vicinity  
state Ohio code OH county Montgomery code 113 zip code 45407

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<u>28</u>	<u>4</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	_____	_____ sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	_____	_____ structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	_____	_____ objects
		<u>28</u>	<u>4</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A  
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 1

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  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.  
Signature of certifying official W. Ray Juice Date 12/8/88  
State or Federal agency and bureau SHPO

In my opinion, the property  meets  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:  
 entered in the National Register. Patrick Andrus 1/25/89  
 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 Date of Action

## 6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE/TRADE - business

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE/TRADE - business

## 7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Italianate

Romanesque

Classical Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation stone

walls brick

stone

roof asphalt

other \_\_\_\_\_

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The West Third Street Historic District is a commercial district of two and three story brick buildings built between 1885 and 1924. The buildings have stores on the ground level with offices and apartments above. The facades are made primarily of brick, with stone and metal trim. The one stone facade belongs to a Neo-classical Revival bank building at 1154 West Third Street (photo 11). Styles are wide ranging from the outstanding High Victorian Italianate Walters Block at 1120 West Third Street (photo 10), through turn-of-the-century Italianate (photo 12) and commercial Romanesque Revival (photo 6), to the Neo-classical Revival theater and bank building (photos 3 & 11). The district is linear, only three blocks long. There is a short extension south on Williams Street that encompasses the historically related Wright Cycle Company building built in 1886 (NR: 2-13-86), and four residential structures that help convey the area's context. The district is surrounded by blighted residential lots heavily impacted by demolition. Located only ten blocks from the center of the city it was one of Dayton's earliest streetcar suburbs (1869). While the district has suffered demolition it fully conveys its character as an early suburban streetcar commercial block that evolved at the turn of the century.

Third Street is the city's main east-west thoroughfare. East of the river on Third Street is an Urban Renewal area that was once one of the most prestigious residential locations in Dayton. It is now a widely spaced starkly modern area, encompassing the urban campus of Sinclair Community College and the Montgomery County Administration Building both designed by Edward Durrell Stone. Near the district across the Great Miami River bridge is an area of extensive demolition and several industrial buildings. The center of the city is clearly visible from the edge of the district.

The first building at the southeast end of the district is the Gem City Ice Cream Building, an industrial building at 1005 West Third Street (photo 1). The present facade dates to 1914. The building actually consists of a series of additions wrapped around the structure (right center bay) that housed the first Wright bicycle shop in 1893. Gem City Ice Cream was the first manufactured ice cream in Dayton. On the opposite side of the street (south side) is the unique Mediterranean style three story building of 1914 (photo 4) that housed Dr. Alaman's offices on the second floor and apartments on the third floor. Past an adjacent vacant lot is the Nedham Building of 1897 (photo 5), a significant survival of the mixed residential and commercial facade, now rare in Dayton. Back on the north side there is a brick walled lot and a noncontributing, out-of-period building followed by the diminutive Neo-classical Revival Midget Theater (1019-1021) of 1912 (photo 3). Across the street is the fine commercial Romanesque Revival style Booth building of 1890 (photo 5).

See continuation sheet

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

West Third Street Historic District, Montgomery Co., Dayton, Ohio

Section number 7 Page 2

Next to the Midget Theater is Mory's Block built in 1884 (1023-1027), a pivotal early commercial structure. Mory's Block is a brick two story building with a stairway bay and three storefront bays on the street level. The original iron columns and metal store front cornice have all survived. Seven window bays with stone sills and a continuous lintel service Mory's Hall. Above the lintel are recessed panels with corbelled tops and a label panel. A stone string course supports a blind arcade just below the metal cornice. The store windows have been infilled with smaller windows and siding, however, the original storefront configuration is still apparent.

Adjacent to Mory's Block at the corner of Williams Street is the early twentieth century store and office block, the J. A. Prior Building built in 1924 (photo 2). The south side of the street has an important late nineteenth century collection of commercial Romanesque buildings at the east end of the block (photo 6). The Enterprise Block built in 1890 (1026-1028) has a hall on the third floor. The one story stucco structure next door (1032) is clearly a survivor of the earlier low scale buildings present before annexation by Dayton. Little else is known about this building in spite of extensive research. The Setzer Building built in 1906 is a fine early twentieth century commercial structure. The Hoover Block is the location of the Wright Brothers' printing business built from 1890 to 1895. This building is to be rehabilitated as an aviation museum related to the Wright Cycle Company Building located to the rear of the Hoover Block at 22 Williams Street.

The Williams Street extension south is focused on the Wright Cycle Company Building. This is where the Wright Brother's aviation experiments began. It is a typical neighborhood grocery store type of the period. The four additional houses (23-25, 26, 29 & 30 South Williams Street) (photo 7 & 8) are all properties built as a part of the streetcar suburban development after 1869. They create a vital setting for the cycle shop. The district ends with modern structures and demolition sites on South William Street.

The 1100 block is in full urban scale resembling a small "main street". There is an unfortunate void on the southwest corner of Williams and West Third Streets. The Victorian Italianate commercial Gunkel Building built in 1898 (1101-1107) on the northwest corner is a significant contributor to the district architecturally and historically. It housed the Hamburger Hardware Store for many years and also Dayton's first branch post office (photo 12). The Gunkel Building has three storefront bays on West Third Street. The left store cornice is elaborately decorated while the right is quite plain. The apartments above have semicircular windows with stone head molds and on each side a Chicago type window with stone sill and decorated lintel. The metal cornice is lavishly decorated. The storefront bays have been badly renovated.

Adjacent to the Gunkel building are the Gunkel Block built in 1893 (1109) and the Webbert Flats built in 1908 (1117) both are fine three story examples of turn-of-the-century commercial architecture with first floor storefronts and apartments above. Unfortunately, the building across the street at 1114-1118 West Third Street (photo 9) was badly renovated in the 1950's. It has been compatibly rehabilitated as part of the Walters Block project.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

West Third Street Historic District, Montgomery Co., Dayton, Ohio

Section number 7 Page 3

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The Walters Block, built between 1885-1893 (photo 10), is the only remaining High Victorian commercial block left in Dayton that clearly represents its time in history. The Walters Block is a brick three story High Victorian Italianate commercial block built in three parts; circa 1885, 1888 and 1893. There are six storefront bays with cast iron pillars (several have been reconstructed) the left two bays have cast iron pillars (several have been reconstructed) and the right four bays have limestone pillars. A stairway bay leads to apartments on the second floor. The third floor has a lodge hall. Both second and third floor interiors are in excellent condition. There are seventeen bays of one-over-one double hung sash windows with metal pediments on the second level and cornices on the third. The facade has two open fire escapes. A sheet metal cornice defines the upper terminal.

Across from the Walters Block is a nonconforming modern building (1127) and vacant lot (photo 13) both which occupy the historic site of the last Wright Brother's bicycle shop where the first airplane was invented. The historic building was moved to Greenfield Village in Dearborn, Michigan. The adjacent Hale Building, circa 1923, is a contributing early twentieth century structure. The void next to the Walters Block is the result of a serious fire in 1986.

The Mariette Flats, built in 1913 (1146-1148), represents the influence of early twentieth century cultural expression in architecture. The Mariette Flats located on the north side is a three story pressed brick, mixed commercial and apartment building in Georgian Revival style. The margins have rusticated brick quoins. The center bay is an elaborate cast iron entrance with Doric pilasters, cornice with label and segmental pediment with foliated tympanum. The large door is heavily paneled and has a transom. Above the doorway on the second floor level is a bulls-eye window with swagged garlands. On each side, three bay storefronts have central doors. The right and left bays of the upper facade have a recessed mullion window that has a molded segmental head and paneled spandrels. The windows are six-over-six double hung sash. There is a strong dentiled cornice above the third floor level. Over the cornice is an attic with three-over-three double hung sash windows, rusticated brickwork and a secondary cornice.

Next on the south side is a nonconforming infill building constructed after the period of significance. Last at the corner is the Neo-classical Revival West Side Building and Loan Association Building of 1922. It has the district's only stone facade. The north-side, of the west-end of the block suffered a major fire in 1911 which seriously damaged or destroyed all of the buildings west of the alley (photo 15). The Hoersting-Holtman Building at 1131-1137 West Third Street was "rebuilt." The Hoersting-Holtman Building 1909 has four primary bays and two stairway bays. The storefront bays are mixed in pattern and appear to have considerable original fabric. Each stairway bay has a multiple light transom and stair light above. There are four 3-part polygonal oriels with elaborate scroll sawed Eastlake like detailing. The cornice is whimsical with panels, pendants, rosettes, variformed dentil like devices and modillions.

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

West Third Street Historic District, Montgomery Co., Dayton, Ohio

Section number 7 Page 4

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The twin Groneweg Building, built in 1913 (1139), and William Webbert Building, circa 1912, (1143-1145) with their second story oriels and metal cornice are excellent representatives of their time. The Sapp Building circa 1912 (photo 16), shows the influence of the Prairie style (1147). The Olney Flats (1153) (photo 16) anchors the district on the north side. The Olney Flats 1913 is a three story yellow brick building. Originally a grocery store, it was renovated into a restaurant in the 1940's. There are three recessed bays with corbelled tops on the upper stories. The center bay has a stairway window with stone surround and a blind segmental arch encompassing three round headed mullion windows. The side bays have paired rectangular windows with stone lintels and sills. Over each third story window is a brick panel. The metal cornice has brackets and attic windows. The west side has storefront bays, seven bays of apartment windows and a round arched recessed porch in the northwest corner.

The West Side has suffered serious economic decline since the violent race riot of 1966. The 1200 block of West Third Street has been excluded from the nomination because of extensive demolition (photo 17). While demolition has had an impact, the districts historic character is intact. The district as it stands represents a significant collection of related historic buildings worthy of preservation for its architecture and its local association with historic persons of national significance.

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**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)

Invention

Architecture

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Person

Wilbur and Orville Wright

Period of Significance

1885-1924

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Dates

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Architect/Builder

unknown

\_\_\_\_\_

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

The West Third Street Historic District is significant under Criterion B for its association with Orville and Wilbur Wright, the inventors of the airplane. Several Wright Brothers' printing and bicycle shops were located in the district. For example, the printing shop in the Hoover Block and the Wright Cycle Company Builders located at 22 West Third Street. The district is also significant under Criterion C as a cohesive collection of late 19th century and early 20th century commercial buildings representing a suburban streetcar commercial block. It has a strong commercial Romanesque Revival character with dark red brick, corbelling and round arches. There are also excellent Victorian Italianate and Neo-Classical buildings dating from 1885 to 1924.

The Wrights lived near the district at 7 Hawthorne Street (demolished). Orville Wright's earliest enthusiasm was for printing and he set up his first printing shop at home. In 1889 he took the business to 1210 West Third Street (demolished) and in 1890 moved it to the second floor at the new Hoover Block. While mainly job printers, the brothers also published a weekly magazine and several newspapers including the Westside News. Wilbur Wright, though associated with the printing business, soon took an interest in the booming bicycle fad. In 1892 he opened the Wright Cycle Exchange at 1005 West Third Street which is now incorporated within the walls of the Gem City Ice Cream Building, present appearance dating to 1914. The shop moved next door and then across the street to 1034 West Third Street until 1894. In 1895 the printing and bicycle businesses were brought under the same roof at 22 South Williams Street. There, the Wright brothers began experimenting with aviation. The printing business was finally sold in 1899. In 1897 the Wrights moved to 1127 West Third Street where, in 1903, they invented the first airplane.

The Wright Cycle Company closed its doors in 1908, but the Wrights' office stayed at 1127 West Third Street until 1918. Henry Ford moved the building to Greenfield Village in 1936. Orville maintained an office and laboratory (demolished) at 15 North Broadway until his death in 1948.

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

- Conover, Charlotte Reeve. Dayton and Montgomery County Resources and People. New York; Lewis Historical Publishing Co. Inc. 1932.
- Crouch, Thomas. Unpublished draft biography of the Wright Brothers.
- Fisk, Fred C. "The Wright Brothers from Bicycle to Biplane." The Wheelmen. No. 29; November 1986.
- Howard, Fred. Wilbur and Orville. New York; Alfred A. Knopf, 1987.
- Johnson, Mary Ann. A Field Guide to Flight. Dayton, Ohio; Landfall Press, 1986,
- Montgomery County Register of Deeds and Tax Duplicates

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**

Acreage of property 10.1

UTM References

A 1 6 | 7 3 8 9 9 0 | 4 4 0 4 2 8 0  
 Zone Easting Northing

C 1 6 | 7 3 3 7 2 0 | 4 4 0 4 1 0 0

B 1 6 | 7 3 9 0 0 0 | 4 4 0 4 1 0 0  
 Zone Easting Northing

D 1 6 | 7 3 8 6 8 0 | 4 4 0 4 1 9 0

See continuation sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description** Broadway and the alley between W. 2nd St. and W. 3rd St., thence easterly along the south side of the alley past Williams to the vacated alley east side lot 6308, thence southerly along lot 6308 and diagonally across W. 3rd St. to the corner of Shannon, thence southerly west side Shannon to Peck's Alley thence westerly along the north side of Peck's A-ley to the back lot line of lot 7794, thence southerly along the back lot line to the south line of lot 7793, thence westward along the lot line crossing

See continuation sheet

**Boundary Justification** The W. Third Street Historic District's boundaries were defined to incorporate the best examples of the area's commercial buildings, and with a short extension south along Williams St., to include the Wright Cycle Company building. To the east of Shannon Str and west of Broadway are extensive areas of demolition. What buildings remain outside the district are of insufficient integrity for inclusion in the nomination.

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Loren S. Gannon Jr./Historian

organization Gannon Historical Services date 2 September 1987

street & number 20 Park Avenue, Oakland telephone (513) 298-1110

city or town Dayton state Ohio zip code 45419

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

West Third Street Historic District, Montgomery Co., Dayton, Ohio

Section number 8 Page 2

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Apart from the Wrights, the district is associated with Paul Lawrence Dunbar (1872-1906), the internationally renowned black poet. Dunbar was born in Dayton and grew up in and around the district. The Dunbar family home is located just outside the district. Although both his parents were illiterate, his mother was a former slave, they encouraged Dunbar to learn to read and write and to get an education. He showed his literary talents early. In high school he became the president of the Literary Society and was also the chief editor of the school paper. He graduated from Dayton Central High School in 1890, the only black man in his class.

A mutual interest in printing and newspapers brought Dunbar and Orville Wright together and they collaborated on Dunbar's shortlived Tattler, a black neighborhood paper. Dunbar contributed frequently to local newspapers, including the Wrights' Westside News. Some of his early poetry was published by the Wrights at their presses located in the Hoover Block. Although no buildings in the district are associated specifically with Dunbar, the thriving commercial strip is representative of the neighborhood in which he grew up and worked.

The West Third Street Historic District is also significant architecturally as a suburban streetcar commercial block of the late 19th and early 20th century. In 1869 W. P. Huffman and H. S. Williams established the Dayton Street Railway as a way of opening up to the real estate market the farms lying within a short distance of Dayton. The West End was already starting to blossom when the railway was put down on West Third Street. The street car added the needed impetus behind the West End development and shops sprung up along the line with residential areas growing up behind.

The architecture of this period has the mixed character of the turn-of-the-century. Common unifying elements are the metal cornices, brick, and overall rhythm of the facades. The east end of the district decreases in scale and contains only the Gem City Ice Cream plant. Other unique buildings include the Mediterranean style Dr. Allaman Building built in 1914 (1002), the mixed residential commercial facade on the Nedham Building, built in 1897 (1010-1012) and the tiny Midget Theater, built in 1912 in Neo-Classical Revival style (1019-1021). The middle cluster around the Williams Street intersection is more Victorian and Romanesque Revival. Here we have excellent examples in the Booth Building built in 1890 (1018-1020), the Enterprise Building built in 1890 (1026-1028) both Romanesque Revival, and the Gunkel Building built in 1898 in Victorian Italianate. The west terminus is 20th century in character. The north side has a series of buildings with oriel bays including the Hoersting-Hortman building of 1909, Groheweg Building of 1913, and William Webbert Building, circa 1912 (1137-1143). The Sapp Building is the district's one Prairie style building built circa 1912. On the south side of the west end of the district there is a Georgian Revival apartment, the Mariette Flats built in 1913 (1146) and a Neo-Classical Revival style bank, built in 1924 (1154).

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

West Third Street Historic District, Montgomery Co., Dayton, Ohio

Section number   8   Page   3  

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This streetcar commercial block is considerably different from the other examples in Dayton. It is more urban, compact and architecturally distinguished, and is on a greater scale than others found in Dayton, dominated by two and three story buildings. Those structures that have survived in similar areas are one and two story strips, primarily at intersections and are interspersed with residential buildings. One of these is part of the Huffman Historic District (NR: 8-24-82) on East Third Street. The other west side streetcar commercial block is on the West Fifth Street. It is small and nearly demolished.

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

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

West Third St. Historic District, Dayton, Montgomery County, Ohio

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet Properties List

Item number 7 & 10

Page 3

Address	Architectural Impression	Building Historic Name	Date of Const.
<u>West Third Street</u>			
1002	Mediterranean influence	Allaman Building	1914
1010-1012	mixed Residential commercial	Needham Building	1897
1005	industrial	Gem City Ice Cream Building	c1886-1914
1017	intrusion		
1018-1020	commercial Romanesque	Booth Building	1890
1019-1021	Neoclassic Theater	The Midget Theater	c1912
1023-1027	commercial Romanesque	Mory's Block and Hall	1884
1026-1028	commercial Romanesque	Enterprise Building	1890
1029-1039	Early 20th Century commercial	J. A Prior Building	c1924
1032	vernacular		unknown
1034-1040	commercial Romanesque	Setzer Building	1906
1042-1046	commercial Romanesque	Hoover Block	1890
1101-1107	Victorian commercial	Gunkel Building	1898
1109-1111	commercial Romanesque	Gunkel Block	1891
1114-1118	intrusion		
1117-1119	commercial Romanesque	Webbert Flats	1908
1120-1130	High Victorian Italianate	Walters' Block	1885-1893
1127	intrusion	Wright Cycle company Site	
1129	early 20th Century commercial	Hale Building	c1923
1131-1137	Eastlake influence	Hoersting-Holtman Building	1909
1139-1141	Early 20th Century Commercial	Groneweg Building	1913
1143-1145	Early 20th Century Commercial	William Webbert Building	c1912
1146-1148	Georgian Revival	Mariette Flats	1913
1147-1151	Prairie influence	Sapp Building	c1912
1152	intrusion		
1153	commercial Romanesque	Olney Flats	1913
1154	Neoclassic Bank	West Side Building and Loan	1922

South Williams Street

22	Victorian shop	Wright Cycle company	1886
23-25	Queen Anne influence	residential	
26	Queen Anne influence	residential	
29	Victorian Vernacular	residence	
30	Victorian Vernacular	residence	

North Williams Street

United States Post Office an intrusion (facility leased from private owner)

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

## **National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet**

West Third Street Historic District, Dayton, Montgomery Co., Ohio

Section number   10   Page   2  

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Williams to the south lot line of parcel 32 lot 6353 and on to the back lot line, thence northerly along the back lot line to the north side of Peck's Alley, thence westward to the intersection with Broadway, thence northward along the east side of Broadway to the start point.



BROADWAY

THIRD

WEST THIRD STREET

PECK'S ALLEY

WILLIAMS STREET

SHANNON STREET



1154

1152

1146-1148

1120-1130

1114-1118

1153

1147-

1143-

1139-

1131-1137

1129

1127 (site)

1117-

1109-

1101-1107

1042-1046

1134-1040

1032

1026-1028

1018-10120

1010-

1002

1029-1039

1023-1027

1019-1021

1017

1005

Post Off.

Photography View Diagram

West Third St. Historic District  
Dayton, Montgomery County, OH

FORTH

District Boundary and Properties Map

West Third St. Historic District  
Dayton, Montgomery County, OH



BROADWAY

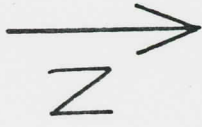
WEST THIRD STREET

WILLIAMS STREET

SHANNON STREET

FOURTH

PECK'S ALLEY



Intrusions

Post Office

1154

1152

1146-1148

1120-1130

1114-1118

29  
23-25

30  
26  
22

1042-1046

1134-1040  
1032

1026-1028

1018-10120

1010-

1002

1153

1147-

1143-

1139-

1131-1137

1129

1127 (site)

1117-

1109-

1101-1107

1029-1039

1023-1027

1019-1021

1017

1005

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: West Third Street Historic District

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: OHIO, Montgomery

DATE RECEIVED: 12/16/88      DATE OF PENDING LIST: 12/28/88  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 1/13/89      DATE OF 45TH DAY: 1/30/89  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 88003194

NOMINATOR: STATE

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N    DATA PROBLEM: N    LANDSCAPE: N    LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N  
OTHER: N    PDIL: N    PERIOD: N    PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N  
REQUEST: Y    SAMPLE: N    SLR DRAFT: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT     RETURN     REJECT    1/25/89 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

*Historically & architecturally significant late 19th/early 20th century commercial district associated with the Wright Brothers*

RECOM./CRITERIA accept B&C  
REVIEWER Patrick Andrus  
DISCIPLINE Historian  
DATE 1/25/89

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

---

CLASSIFICATION

count       resource type

---

STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

---

FUNCTION

historic       current

---

DESCRIPTION

architectural classification  
 materials  
 descriptive text

---

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

---

BIBLIOGRAPHY

---

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

acreage               verbal boundary description  
 UTM's               boundary justification

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ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTATION/PRESENTATION

sketch maps       USGS maps       photographs       presentation

---

OTHER COMMENTS

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to

\_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

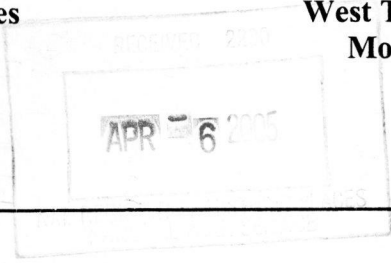
88003194

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

West Third Street Historic District  
Montgomery Co., Dayton, Ohio

Section 7 Page 5



**7. Summary Description:**

The West Third Street Historic District was listed to the National Register of Historic Places in 1989. The nomination includes commercial properties along both sides of West Third Street between Shannon Street and Broadway. The nomination is listed under Criterion A and C for its associations with Orville and Wilbur Wright and Paul Laurence Dunbar and for its collection of late nineteenth and early twentieth century commercial architecture.

Included in the nomination is the property known as 1019-1021 W. Third Street and referred to as the Midget Theater c. 1912. This is a two-story commercial property that was built in two phases. The earliest portion known as 1021 W. Third Street was built around 1874 as a saddler and the later portion was added around 1912 as a motion picture theater. In 1912, the facade was altered to its current appearance. The building was described in the 1989 nomination there have been no changes to the building since that time. Below is an analysis of the available Sanborn maps for the property. This analysis illustrates how the building was transformed while remained two storefronts for the majority of its history.

The earliest available Sanborn map to show the property is the 1887 map, which labels the property as a saddler. The Williams City Directory for Dayton, Ohio, lists 1021 W. Third Street as a manufacturer and dealer of collars, whips, and sweat-pads as early as 1874. The owner of the operation is William J. Osterday. Osterday purchased land along W. Third Street known as Lot 12 in 1870 and Lot 11 in 1888. The property was both a business and residence to the Osterday family from around 1874 to 1912.

1021 W. Third Street is depicted on the 1887 Sanborn map on the west end of a large parcel adjacent to 1023 W. Third Street. The building is a two-story brick structure with two rear additions on its north elevation. The additions include a one-story brick portion and a smaller, one-story frame section. There are no outbuildings indicated on the parcel but 1017 W. Third Street is shown on the east as a gunsmith.

There are a few changes to the parcel shown on the 1896 Sanborn map. These include the addition of a second story on the former one-story brick portion as well as the construction of yet another one-story frame addition. There is also a single outbuilding indicated along the western edge of the property and to the north of the main building. The size of this building is similar to

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

West Third Street Historic District  
Montgomery Co., Dayton, Ohio

Section 7 Page 6

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a privy. It is a one-story frame structure. The only other building on the parcel is 1017 W. Third Street located on the eastern edge and labeled as "saw filing and gunsmith,,"

The 1911 Sanborn map shows all the same information with the only change being the function of 1017 W. Third Street from a gunsmith to "feed,, store.

The next available Sanborn is the 1919 map which depicts a sizable addition to the east and north (rear) elevations of 1021 W. Third Street. This addition is labeled as 1019 W. Third Street; however, Sanborn map continues to indicate a separate storefront at 1021 W. Third Street.

In 1912 Caroline Osterday sells a portion of her property to Harry C. Morey. Morey erected the Midget Theater and leased it to Sherman W. and Benjamin F. Potters (Dalton 1999:19). The 1915-1917 city directory lists Sherman Potterf at both 1021 W. Third Street and 1019 W. Third Street. As explained earlier, the 1919 Sanborn map shows this building adjoining 1021 W. Third Street on both its east and north elevations. The northern rear additions of the 1021 W. Third Street are demolished. The city directory only lists the two storefronts under the control of Potterf from 1915-1917 since by 1917-1919 the directory has 1021 W. Third Street listed as a shoeshine parlor and apartment. 1019 W. Third Street remains the Midget Theatre from 1913-1914 until 1928.

The theater addition on the 1919 Sanborn map is sizable and extends the entire length of the property. 1019 W. Third Street is a brick building. Its storefront facing W. Third Street is a two-story building labeled as an entrance with portions of its west wall shared by 1021 W. Third Street; however, the map clearly indicates a separate storefront at 1021 W. Third Street. This two-story storefront is approximately the same dimensions as the original two-story brick portion of 1021 W. Third Street. The south facade of 1021 W. Third Street was altered around 1912 to give a unifying appearance to the buildings. It is very unlikely that the southern portion of 1021 W. Third Street was demolished; however it is almost assured that the rear additions were razed to make room for the large theater. Interior inspection of the southernmost section indicates a former brick exterior wall on the east side and its hand-cut stone foundation is intact.

The theater was impressive at the time of its construction. It had seating for 300 in opera chairs, a rest room for ladies and toilet facilities for both sexes. It was equipped with its own electric

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

West Third Street Historic District  
Montgomery Co., Dayton, Ohio

Section 7 Page 7

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generator to power both the lights and the projector. The stage area held the screen, green velvet drapes, and a drop cloth (Dalton 1999:19). There is very little of its interior remaining. In the 1950s the building was used as a hall and later a gymnasium. Today the basic footprint shown on the 1919 Sanborn map remains but both storefronts are abandoned.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

West Third Street Historic District  
Montgomery Co., Dayton, Ohio

Section   8   Page   4  

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### 8. Statement of Significance

The West Third Street Historic District was listed to the National Register of Historic Places in 1989. The nomination includes commercial properties along both sides of West Third Street between Shannon Street and Broadway. The nomination is listed under Criterion A and C for its associations with Orville and Wilbur Wright and Paul Laurence Dunbar and for its collection of late nineteenth and early twentieth century commercial architecture.

Included in the nomination is the property known as 1019-1021 W. Third Street and referred to as the Midget Theater c. 1912. The nomination currently sums up the history of this property as "One of the most unique structures is the diminutive Midget Theater Building which operated at 1019-1021 from c. 1912 to 1928,,". Not only is this sentence no longer correct it dismisses a large portion of the property's heritage.

In 1874, 1021 W. Third Street is listed in the Dayton City Directory as housing a manufacturer and dealer of collars, whips, and sweat-pads. The owner of the operation is William J. Osterday. Osterday purchased two lots on West Third Street. The first was bought in 1870 and known as Lot 12 and the second as Lot 11 purchased in 1888. The property was both a business and residence to the Osterday family where he and his wife Caroline raised ten children. Currently, the nomination lists the earliest business in the area as Zachariah T. Hoover's drug store. The drug store operated from 1875-1916. Osterday established his business at the same time helping to portray the early history of the neighborhood. In 1909 William J. Osterday died and his obituary published in both English and Germany Dayton newspapers states that he was one of the oldest harness makers in the city with his business at his residence for 32 years. His residence is listed as 1021 W. Third Street.

The city directory indicates that the Osterday family resided at 1021 W. Third Street from 1874 until 1912. By 1915-1917 the directory lists Sherman Potterf as the occupied at 1021 West Third Street. The first mention of 1019 W. Third Street is in the 1913-1914 city directory when it lists it as the Midget Theater (Potterf Brother Theater).

Caroline Osterday sold a portion of her property to Harry C. Morey in 1912. Morey erected the Midget Theater for Sherman W. and Benjamin F. Potterf. The construction cost was \$33,000 for the 300-seat theater. Its name was due to the fact that Sherman was a midget and used this as an

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

West Third Street Historic District  
Montgomery Co., Dayton, Ohio

Section 8 Page 5

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advertising campaign with a slogan that there was “nothing small about the Midget—Only the manager,, (Dalton 1999:19). The theater was very successful showing silent film with music provided by a Wurlitzer orchestra piano and in 1915 showing Renfax Musical Talking Motion Pictures. In 1917 the Potterf brothers sold their interest to William E. Riceanson who almost immediately sold to Julius Leopold the owner of Mecca Theater at 1217 W. Third Street (Dalton 1999:19). In 1918 the Midget Theater was closed for remodeling and reopened to the general public making it one of the earliest theaters in the area to service both the black and white citizens of Dayton. The manager at the time, R. C. Krapp, stated in the *Dayton Forum* “the theater will be run in an up-to-date manner, courtesy of employes [sic], and patrons’ comfort will be the slogan at all times,, (*Dayton Forum* August 30, 1918). At the time of its reopening there were 40 motion picture theaters in the Dayton area. Most of these were exclusively white businesses; however, on the west side of Dayton both the Midget and the Playhouse theaters (located across the street at 1020 West Third Street) were opened to the general public. In 1927 John Lahm purchased the theater but in less than a year he closed its doors for good most likely due for increased competition from modern theaters such as the Classic and the Palace (Dalton 1999:19).

The Midget Theater was located at 1019 W. Third Street from 1912-1928 and at 1021 W. Third Street from 1915-1917 (Williams City Directories). However, the history of 1021 W. Third Street is much richer as one of the neighborhood stores that helped establish this community. The Osterday harness shop would have been in operation during the time the Wright Brothers were inventing, printing, and running their bicycle shop. William J. Osterday had over a 32-year long presents on the West Third Street. It is very likely that all the local residences and shop owners knew him. His presence as one of the first business owners on West Third Street is noteworthy.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

West Third Street Historic District  
Montgomery Co., Dayton, Ohio

Section 9 Page 2

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Dalton, Curt. When Dayton Went to the Movies: A History of Motion Picture Theaters in Dayton. Curt Dalton, Dayton, Ohio, 1999.

*The Dayton Forum.* "Object to New Photo-play House., (Dayton, Ohio), 23 August 1918.

*The Dayton Forum.* "Special Notice!., (Dayton, Ohio), 30 August 1918.

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form. West Third Street Historic District. Listed 1/15/1989. Located at City of Dayton Planning Department.

Newspaper Clippings from collection of John Osterday. Materials gathered by John Osterday, grandson of William J. Osterday.

Sanborn Maps. Dayton, Ohio, W. Third Street & N. Williams, 1887.

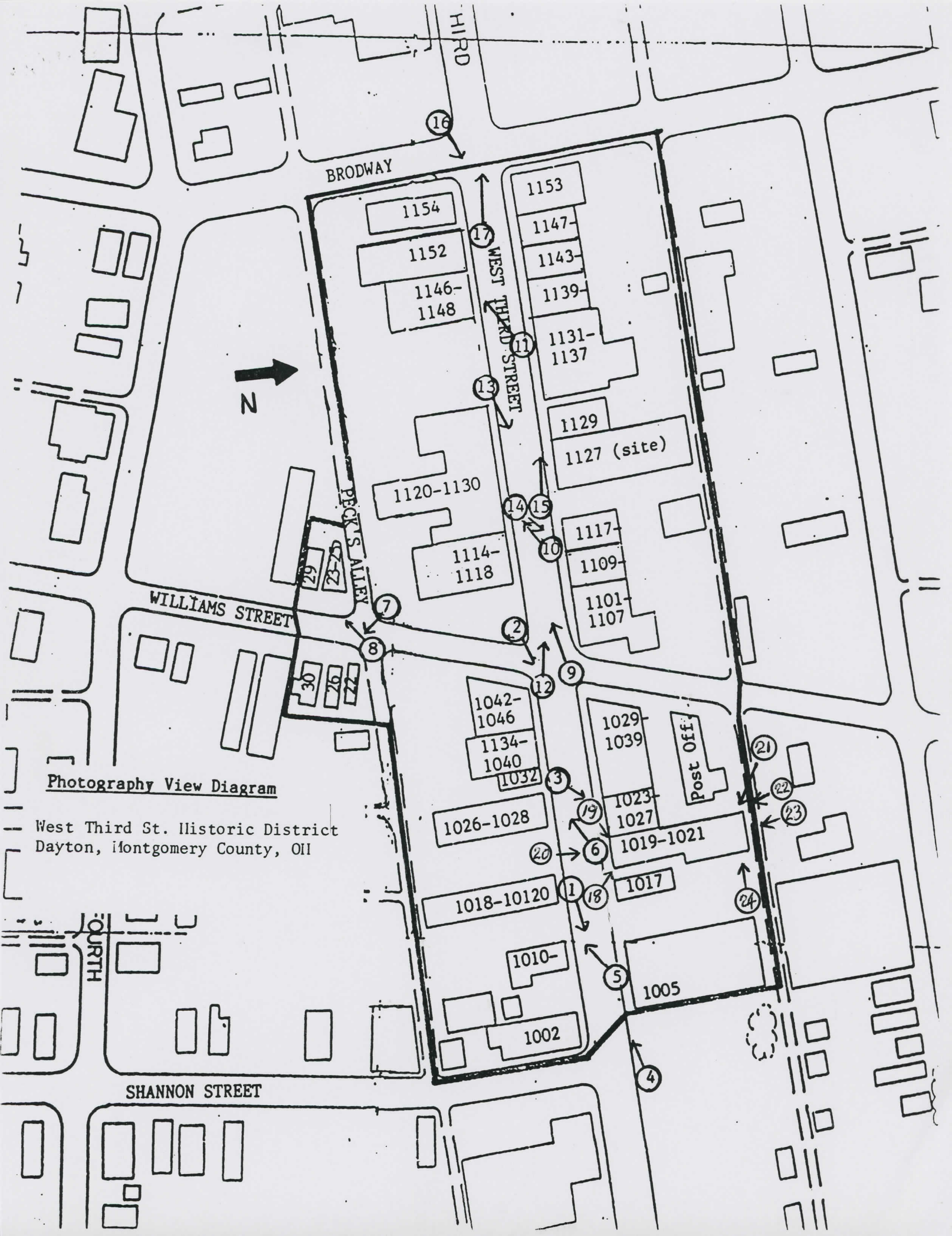
Sanborn Maps. Dayton, Ohio W. Third Street & N. Williams, 1896.

Sanborn Maps. Dayton, Ohio W. Third Street & N. Williams, 1911. Located at City of Dayton Building Department.

Sanborn Maps. Dayton, Ohio W. Third Street & N. Williams, 1919.

Sanborn Maps. Dayton, Ohio W. Third Street & N. Williams, 1955. Located at City of Dayton Building Department.

Williams City Directory (Dayton, Ohio). Information gathered from directories between 1871-72 and 1944 for 1021 W. Third Street and 1019 W. Third Street. Directories are located at Dayton Public Library.



Photography View Diagram

West Third St. Historic District  
Dayton, Montgomery County, OH

BROADWAY

HIRD



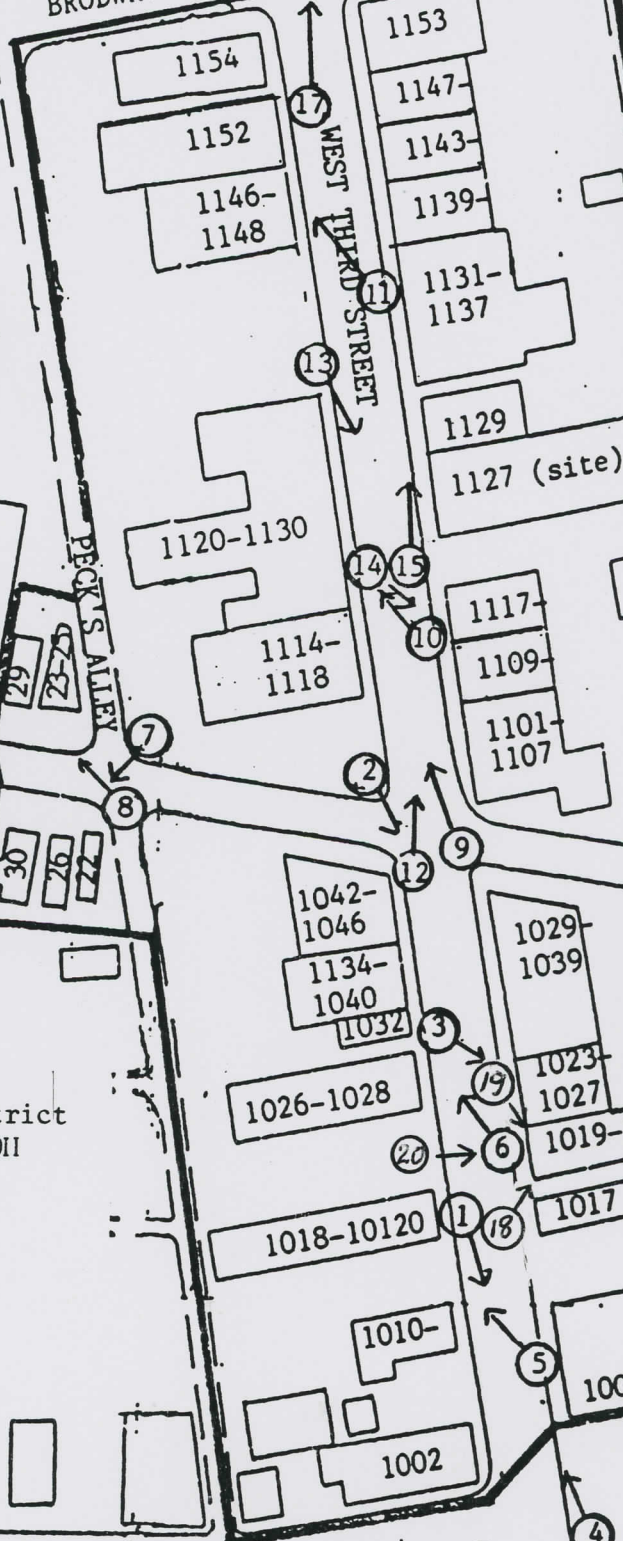
WEST THIRD STREET

PECK'S ALLEY

WILLIAMS STREET

NORTH

SHANNON STREET



Post Off.

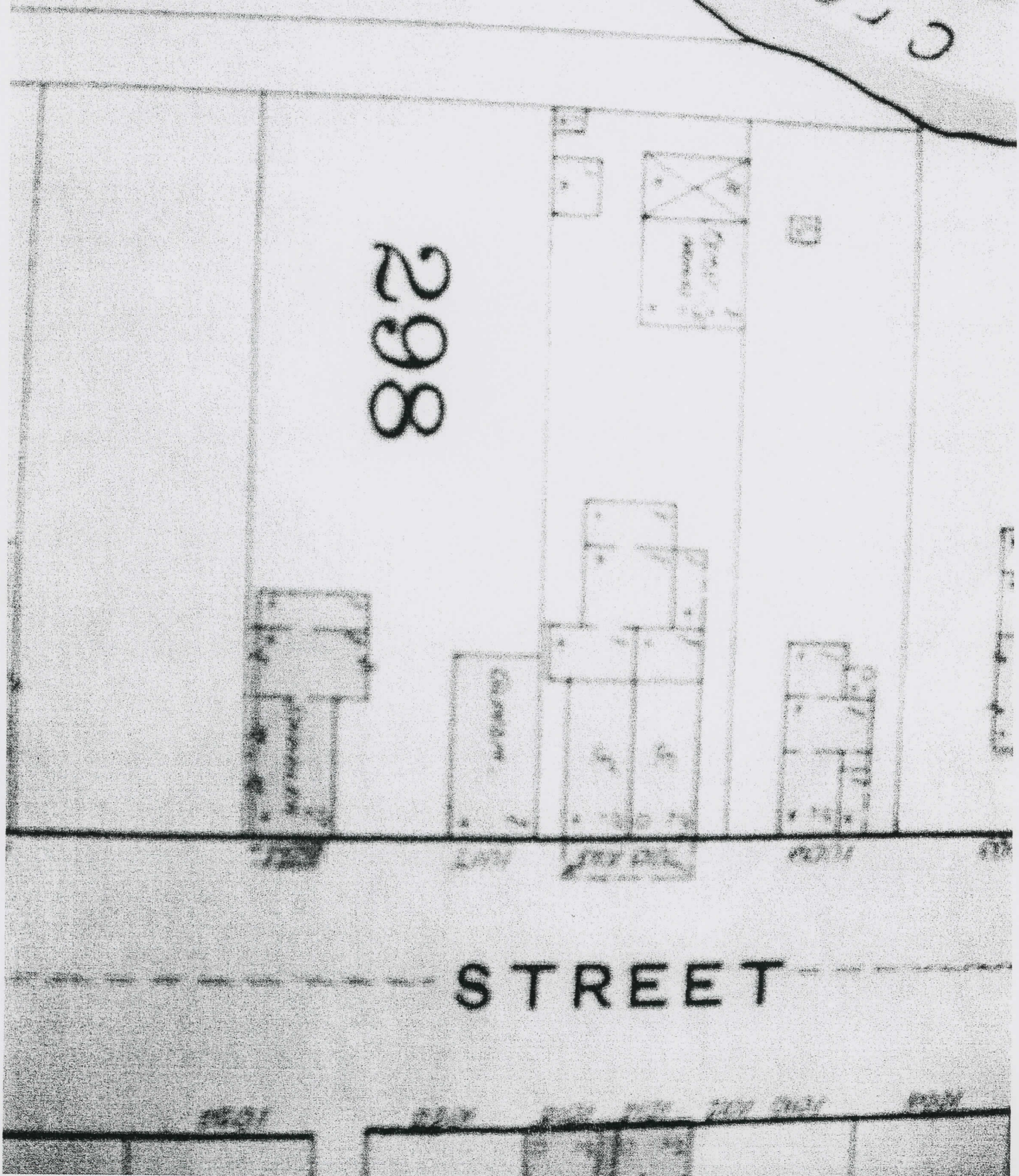
1887 Sanborn map

West Third St A.D.  
Dayton, Montgomery Co., OH

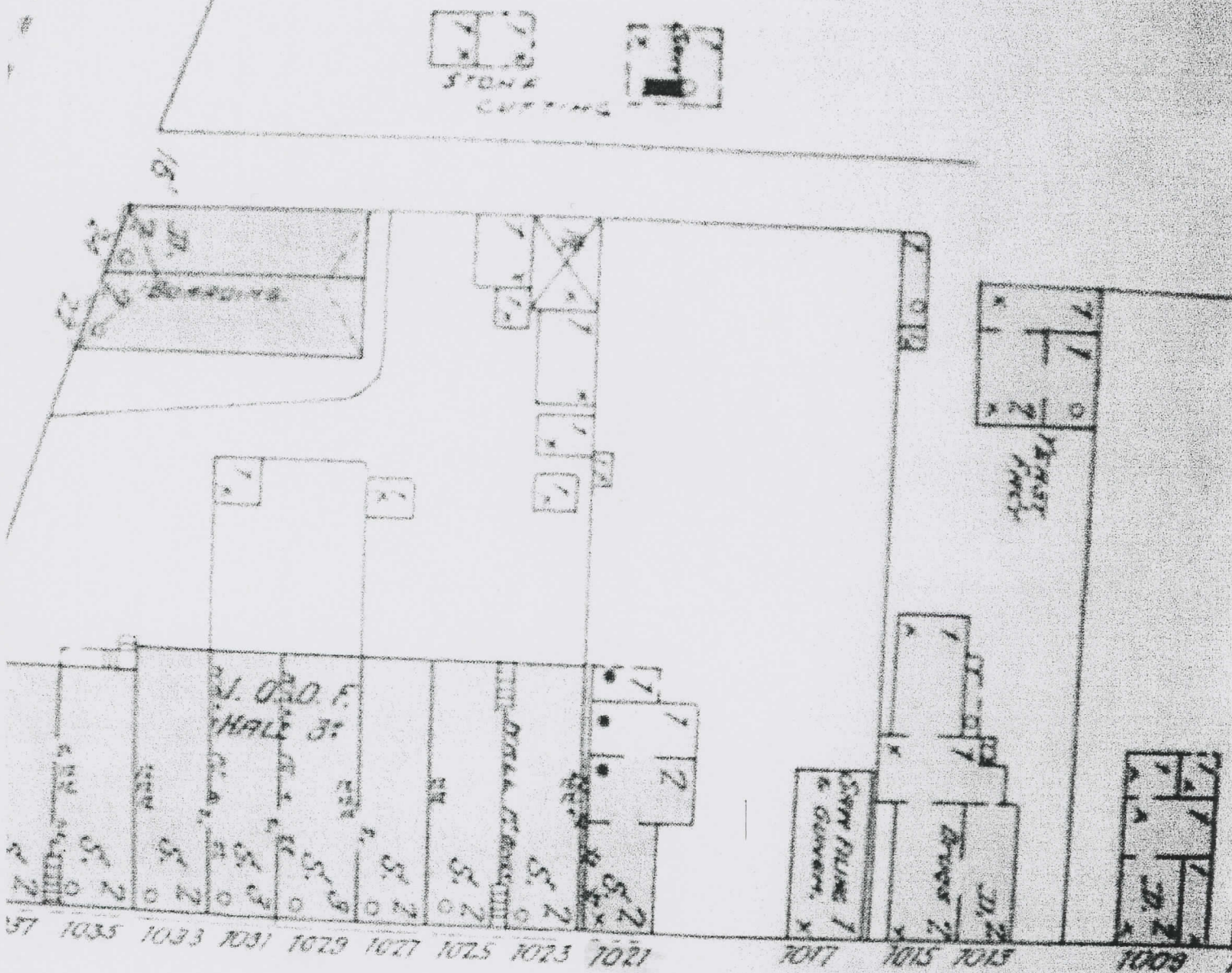
Creek

298

STREET

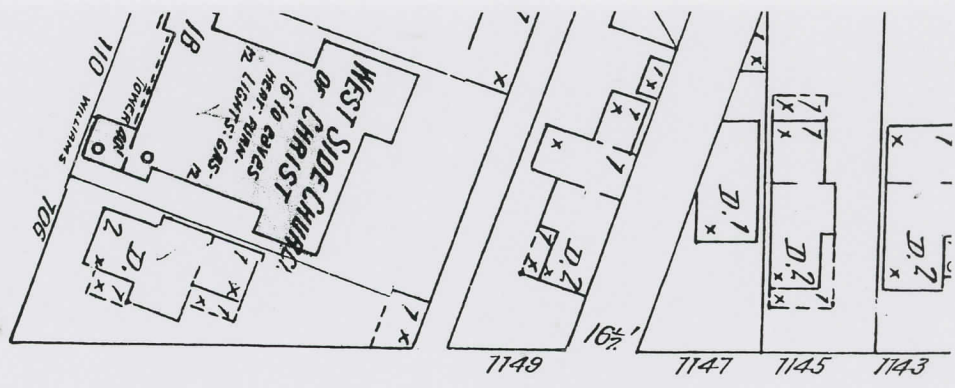


West Third St. H.D.  
Dayton, Montgomery Co., OH



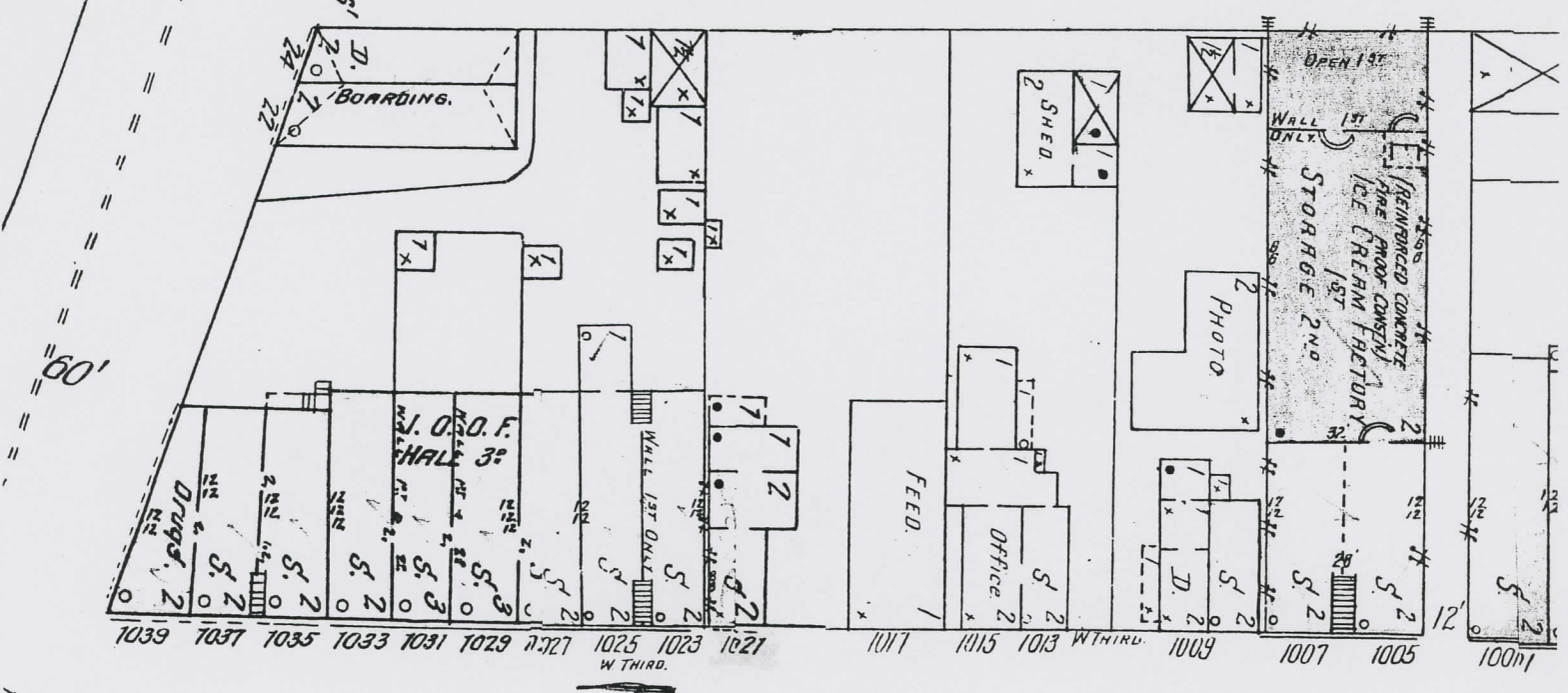
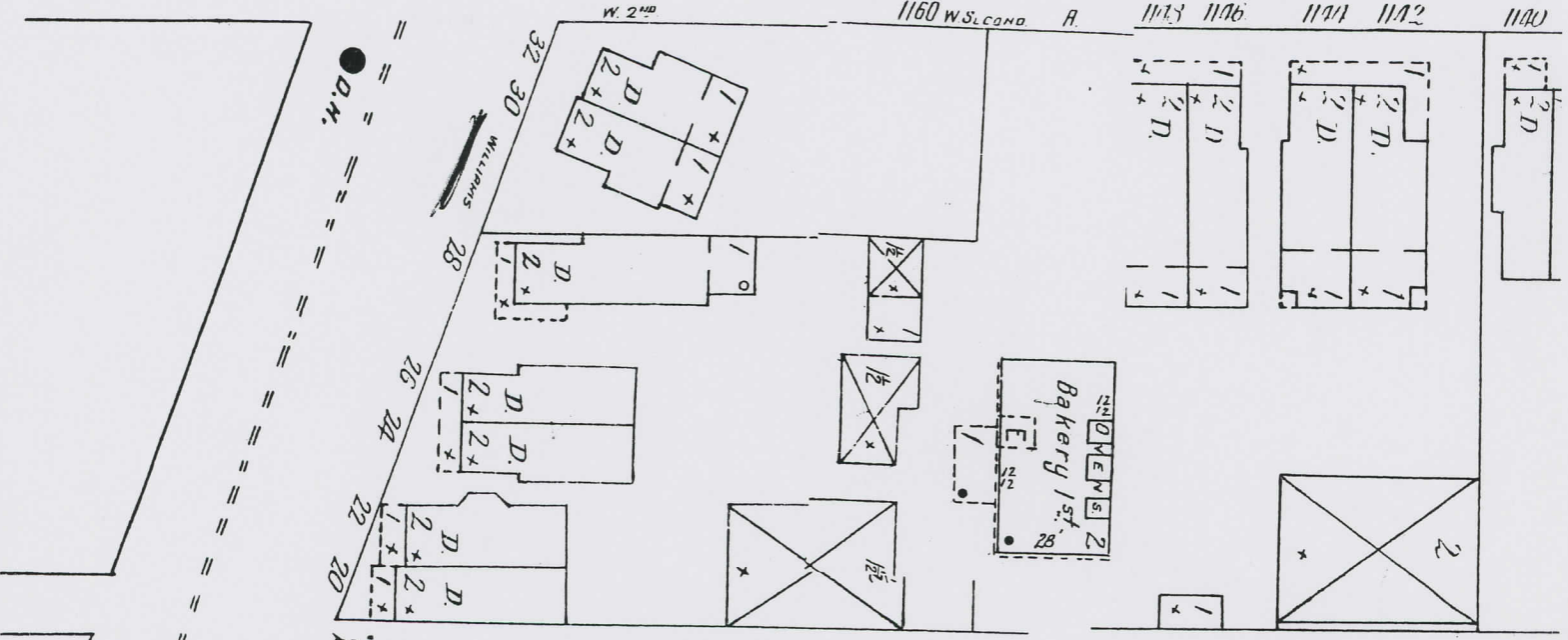
42

West Third St. H.D. 3  
Dayton, Montgomery Co., OH



50'

6" W. PIPE



60'

66'

42

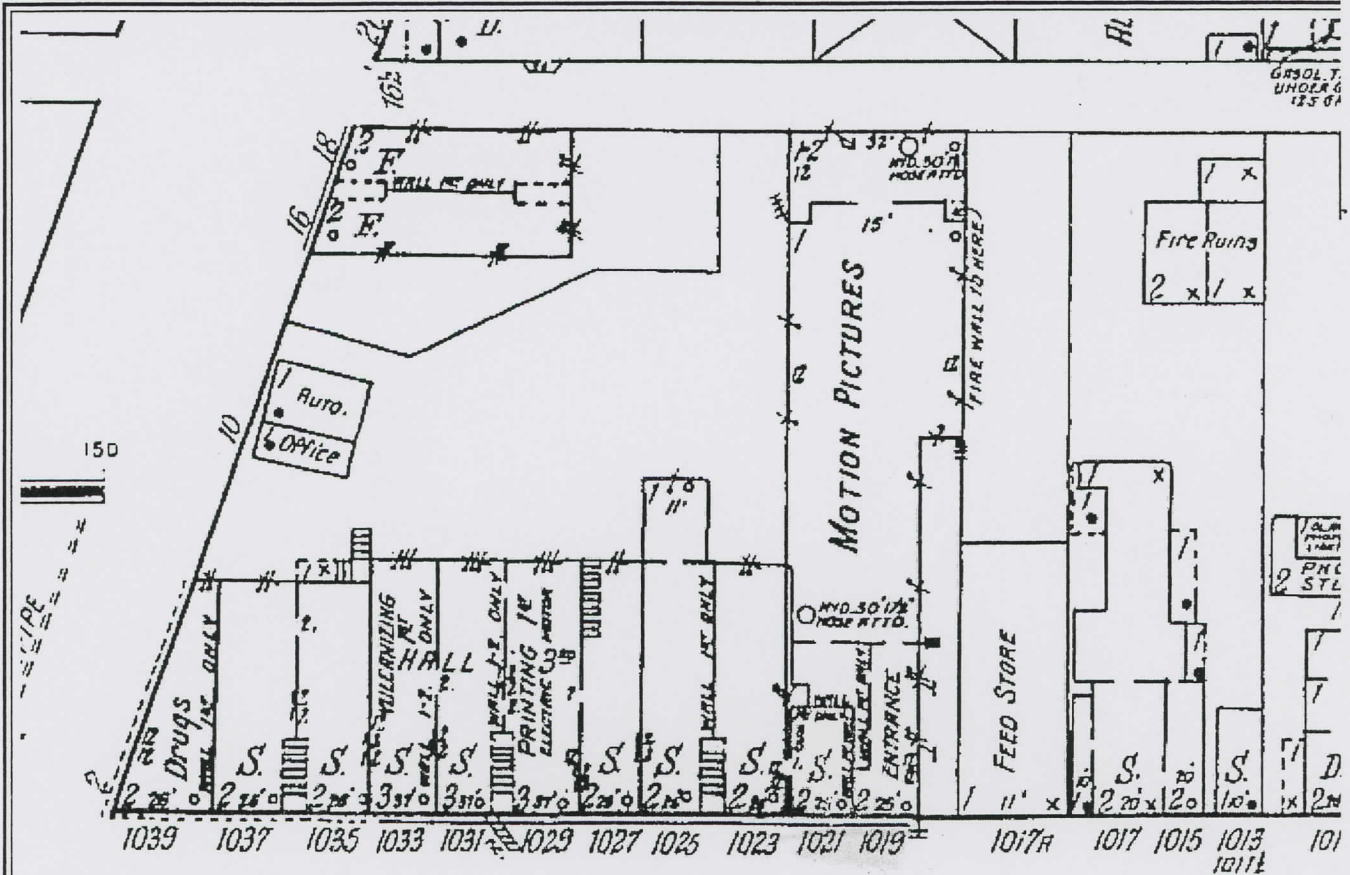
Sanborn Map - Dayton O.  
1911

West Third St. H.O.  
Dayton, MONTGOMERY CO., OH

OhioLINK Digital Media Center

Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, 1867-1970 - OHIO

800 x 600 pixels - 50% zoom



10" W. PIPE

W. 3

180

Zoom to  (percent)

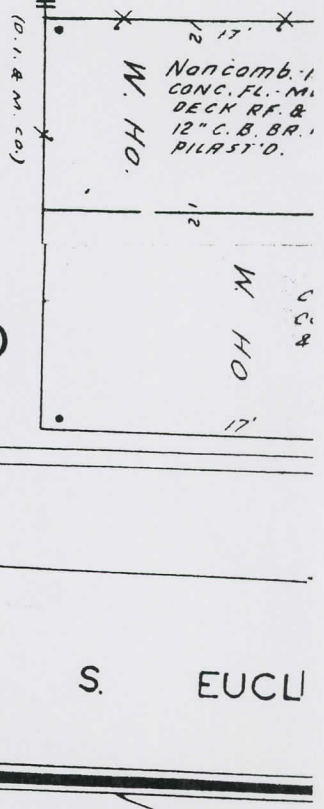
Size  (pixels)

Set the zoom and size then click an area on the image

Dayton, Ohio (1918-1932 vol. 2, 1919)

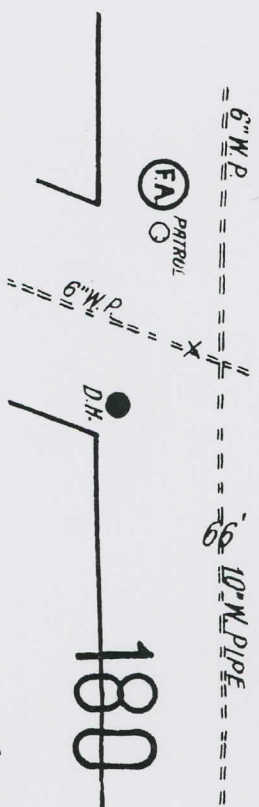
[Search Menu](#) | [Search List](#)

West Third St. H.D.  
Dayton, Montgomery County, OH



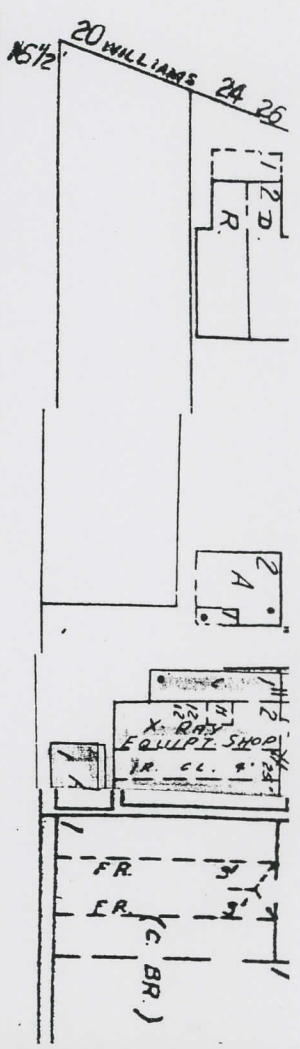
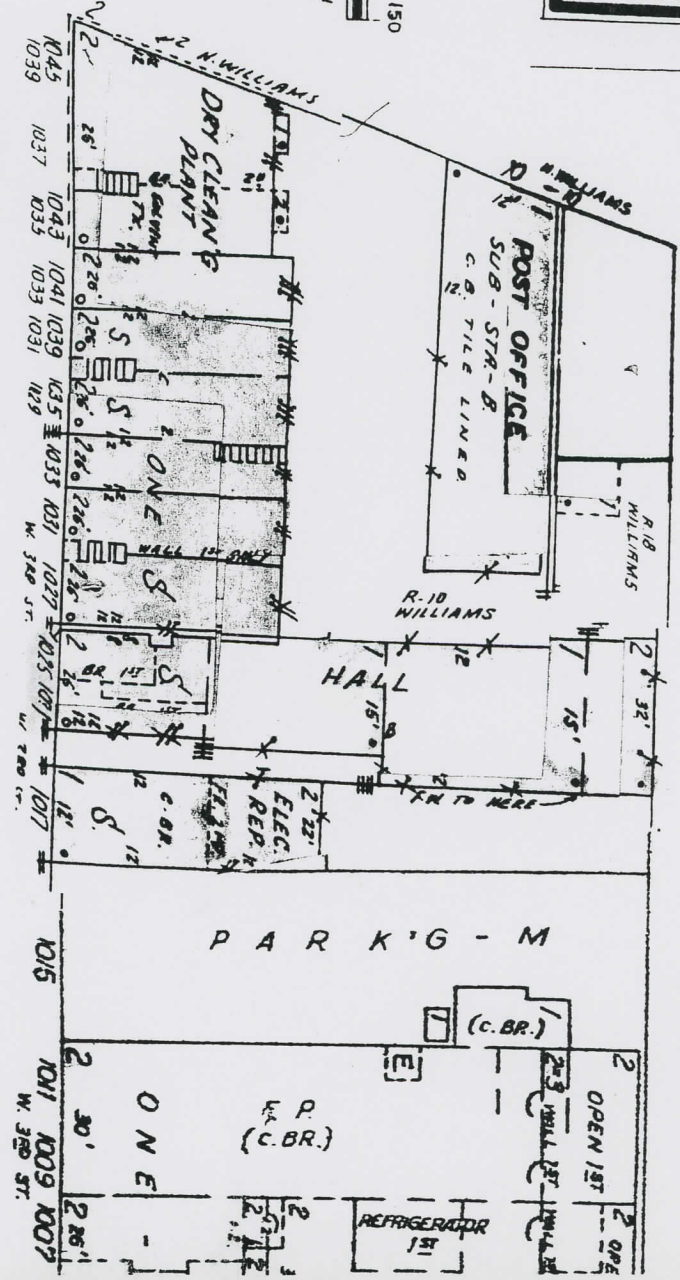
Copyright 1955 by the Sanborn Map Co.

*updated*



180

*From Survey Filed  
Dayton - 1955 map Dept  
Mar 2003*




1955  
W. 3 RD

*2*

West Third St. H.D.  
Dayton, Montgomery Co., OH

**FUNERAL IS SET  
FOR WEDNESDAY**

1909

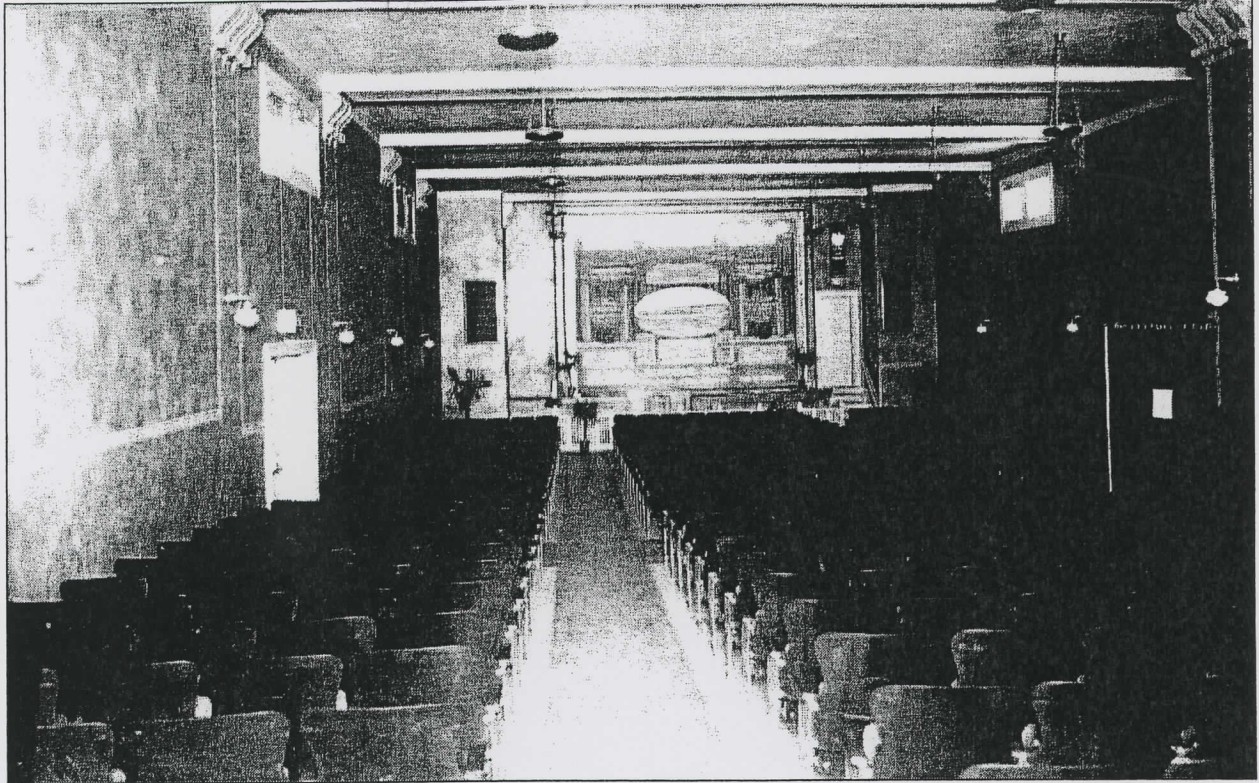


**WM. J. OSTERDAY,**  
Well known citizen who passed away  
Saturday.

Wednesday morning at 7:15 o'clock the funeral of William J. Osterday, aged 67 years, who died Saturday afternoon, will be held from the residence, 1021 West Third street, and at 8 o'clock from the Holy Trinity church. Mr. Osterday was one of the oldest harness makers of this city, and was in business at his residence for 32 years. Burial will be made in Calvary cemetery.

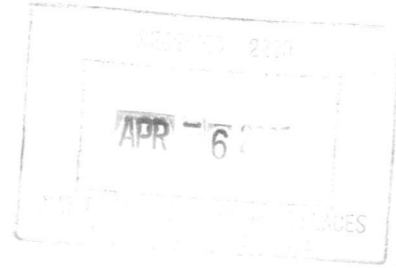
Taken From John Osterday's newspaper clippings

Taken From: West Third St. H.D. Dayton, Montgomery Co., OH  
Dalton, Curt When Dayton went to the Movies: A History  
of Motion Picture Theaters in Dayton. 1999.



*The Midget had an unusually large number of exit doors for such a small building. The fear of fire in a theater was quite understandable at the time. Motion picture film was made of nitrate, a substance that was very flammable. Projection booths were lined with asbestos to contain any flames that might occur.*





March 31, 2005

Ms. Carol Shull, Chief of Registration  
National Park Service  
National Register of Historic Places  
1201 Eye Street, NW 8<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Ms. Shull:

Enclosed please find additional documentation for the **West Third Street Historic District**, Montgomery County, Ohio.

AMENDED SUBMISSION


COUNTY

West Third Street HD (Additional Documentation)

Montgomery

If you have questions or comments about these documents, please contact Steve Gordon at the Ohio Historic Preservation Office (614) 298-2000.

Sincerely,

*for*   
Rachel Tooker  
State Historic Preservation Officer

Enclosures

CC: Harrison Stamm Gowdy

OHIO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

*Ohio Historic Preservation Office*

567 East Hudson Street, Columbus, Ohio 43211-1030 ph: 614.298.2000 fx: 614.298.2037

www.ohiohistory.org

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION

PROPERTY NAME: West Third Street Historic District

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: OHIO, Montgomery

DATE RECEIVED: 4/06/05 DATE OF PENDING LIST:  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: DATE OF 45TH DAY: 5/20/05  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 88003194

NOMINATOR: STATE

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N  
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N  
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

\_\_\_ACCEPT \_\_\_RETURN \_\_\_REJECT \_\_\_\_\_DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

RECOM./CRITERIA

REVIEWER

DISCIPLINE

TELEPHONE

DATE

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.

*Accept*  
*Edson Beall*  
*History*  
*5/17/05*



West Third Street

~~Wright/Dunbar~~ Historic District

W. Third Street Between Shannon and Broadway

Dayton, Montgomery County, Ohio

Photos: Loren Gannon April 1987

1. Gem City Ice Cream Building 1005 West  
Third Street 1916 on the left and looking  
out of the district east toward the center  
city.



Wichita, Kansas, 1950s

Wichita, Kansas, 1950s

West Third street

~~Wright/Dunbar~~ Historic District

W. Third Street between Shannon and Broadway

Dayton, Montgomery County, Ohio

Photos: Loren Gannon April 1987

2. North side of West Third Street from

Williams to Shannon showing the: Pryor

Block c1924, Mory's Block 1884, Neoclassic

Theater c1915, intrusion, Gem City Ice

Cream Building 1916 from left to right



~~Wright/ Dunbar~~ Historic District

W. Third Street between Shannon and Broadway

Dayton, Montgomery County, Ohio

Photos: Loren Gannon April 1987

3. North side West Third Street detail J. A.

Pryor Building c1924, Mory's Block 1884, Neo-  
classic Theater 1915

West Third Street Historic District



West Third Street

~~Wright/Dunbar~~ Historic District

W. Third Street between Shannon and Broadway  
Dayton, Montgomery County, Ohio

Photos: Loren Gannon April 1987

4. South Side West Third Street from Shannon  
to Williams overview and the Allaman Building  
1914 on the left



~~West Third Street~~  
Wright/Dunbar Historic District

W. Third Street between Shannon and Broadway

Dayton, Montgomery County, Ohio

Photos: Loren Gannon April 1987

5. South side West Third Street detail Needham

Building 1897 and on the right the Booth

Building 1890



West Third Street

Wright/Dunbar Historic District

W. Third Street between Shannon and Broadway

Dayton, Montgomery County, Ohio

Photos: Loren Gannon April 1987

6. South side West Third Street detail

at Williams: Enterprise Building 1890, 1032,

Setzer Building c1906 and the Hoover Block

1890



~~Wright/Dunbar~~ Historic District

W. Third Street between Shannon and Broadway  
Dayton, Montgomery County, Ohio

Photos: Loren Gannon April 1987

7. East side of Williams near W. Third St.  
with the Wright Cycle Company 1886 and 2  
contributing background houses. The intrusion  
on the right is outside the district.



West Third Street

Wright/Dunbar historic District

W. Third Street between Shannon and Broadway

Dayton, Montgomery County, Ohio

Photos Loren Gannon April 1987

8. West side of Williams Street near W. Third  
with 2 background houses affecting the  
setting for the Wirght Cycle Company across  
the street. The intrusion on the left is  
outside of the district.



West Third Street

~~Wright/Dunbar~~ Historic District

W. Third Street between Shannon and Broadway  
Dayton, Montgomery County, Ohio

Photos: Loren Gannon April 1987

9. South side of West Third Street from  
Williams to Broadway an overview



**WRIGHT'S RECYCLING CENTER**

WE PAY TOP DOLLAR FOR  
the  
GLASS BOTTLES - ALUMINUM CANS

BRING  
ALUMINUM CANS  
Inside

BRING  
ALUMINUM CANS  
Inside

West Third Street

~~Wright/Dunbar~~ Historic District

W. Third Street between Shannon and Broadway

Dayton, Montgomery County, Ohio

Photos: Loren Gannon April 1987

10. South side of West Third Street detail

the Walters Block 1885-1893



**WESTSIDE  
PAWN SHOP**  
PLENTY OF PARKING - BY REAR ENTRANCE

Westside Jeweler  
*The Jeweler*

32

CT 19

West Third Street

~~Wright/~~ Dunbar Historic District

West Third St. between Shannon and Broadway

Dayton, Montgomery County, Ohio

Photos: Loren Gannon April 1987

11. South side of West Third Street at  
Broadway showing the Mariette Flats 1913, an  
intrusion, West Side Building and Loan  
Building 1922



West Third Street

~~Wright/Dunbar~~ Historic District

West Third St. Between Shannon and Broadway

Dayton, Montgomery County, Ohio

Photos: Loren Gannon April 1987

12. North side of West Third Street from  
Williams to Broadway, overview and the  
Gunkel Building 1898 on the right.



West Third Street

~~Wright/Dunbar~~ Historic District

West Third St. between Shannon and Broadway

Dayton, Montgomery County, Ohio

Photos: Loren Gannon April 1987

13. North side of West Third Street from  
Williams to Broadway showing the Hale  
Building c1923, Wright Cycle Shop site,  
Webbert Flats 1908 and the Gunkel Block 1891  
from left to right



West Third street

~~Wright/Dunbar~~ Historic District

West Third St. between Shannon and Broadway

Dayton, Montgomery County, Ohio

Photos: Loren Gannon April 1987

14. North Side of West Third Street detail  
showing the Webbert Flats 1908 and on the  
right the Gunkel Block 1891



## West Third Street

~~Wright/Dunbar~~ Historic District

West Third St. between Shannon and Broadway  
Dayton, Montgomery County, Ohio

Photos: Loren Gannon April 1987

15. North side West Third Street detail left  
to right: Sapp Building 1912, Webbert Building  
c1912, Groneweg Building 1913 and the  
Hoesting-Holtman Building 1909



West Third Street

~~Wright/Dunbar~~ Historic District

West Third St. between Shannon and Broadway

Dayton, Montgomery County, Ohio

Photos: Loren Gannon April 1987

16. North side of West Third Street at  
Broadway showing left to right: Olney Flats  
1913, Sapp Building 1912, Charles Webbert  
Building c1912



West Third Street

~~Wright/Dunbar~~ Historic District

West Third St. between Shannon and Broadway

Dayton, Montgomery County, Ohio

Photos: Loren Gannon

17. Looking West on West Third Street out of  
the Historic District from Broadway



Midget Theater, Osterday Residence

1019-1021 W Third St., Dayton, OH

MOT-5061-16

view of facade, facing NW

Photo #18

West Third St. Historic District  
Montgomery Co., OH



Midget Theater, Osterday Residence

1019-1021 W. Third St., Dayton, OH

MOT-5061-16

View of facade, facing NE

Photo #19

West Third St. Historic District

Montgomery Co., OH



NO  
PARKING  
EXCEPT  
AS SHOWN

Midget Theater, Osterday Residence

1019-1021 W Third St, Dayton, OH

MOT-5041-16

detail of entrance, facing N

Photo #20

West Third St. Historic District  
Montgomery Co., OH



Midget Theater, Osterday Residence

1819-1821 W Third St, Dayton, OH

MOI-50061-16

view of north end, west elevation,

facing E

Photo #21

West Third St. Historic District

Montgomery Co., OH



Midget Theater, Osterday Residence

1019-1021 W Third St, Dayton, OH

MO-T-5061-16

VIEW of West elevation, facing S/SE

Photo #22

West Third Street Historic District  
Montgomery Co., OH



Midget Theater, Osterday Residence

1019-1021 W. Third St, Dayton, OH

MOT-5061-16

view of north (rear) elevation,

facing E, SE

Photo #23

West Third St. Historic District

Montgomery Co., OH



Midget Theater, Ostrday Residence

1819-1821 W. Third St. Dayton, OH

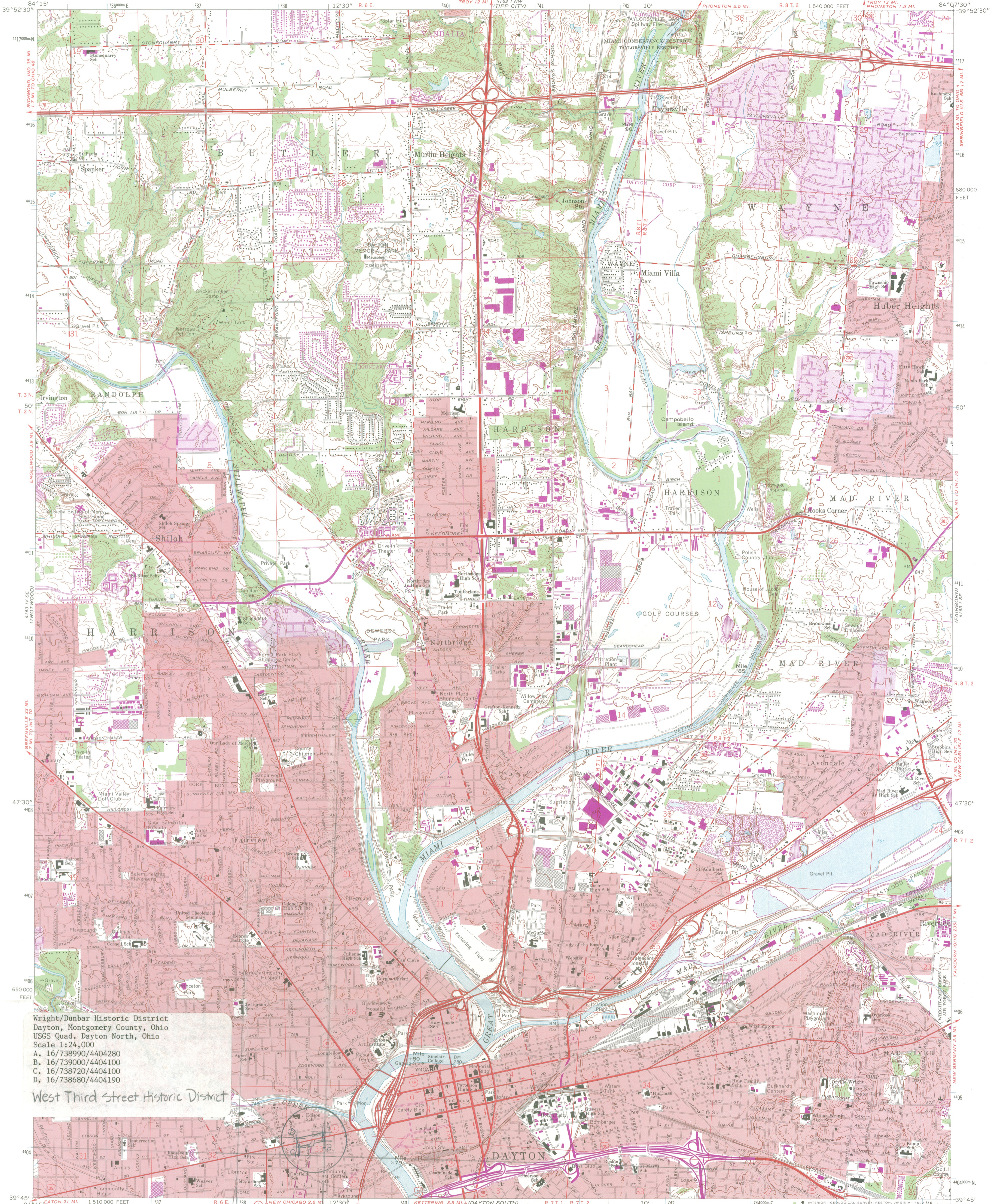
MO9-5061-16

view north end of east elevation,

& facing W

Photo # 24

West Third St. Historic District  
Montgomery Co., OH

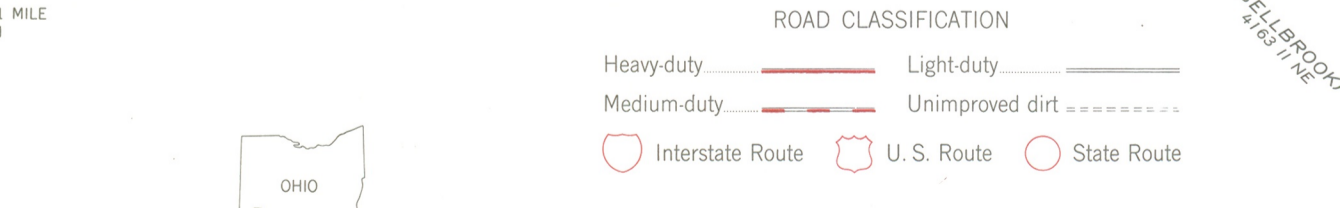
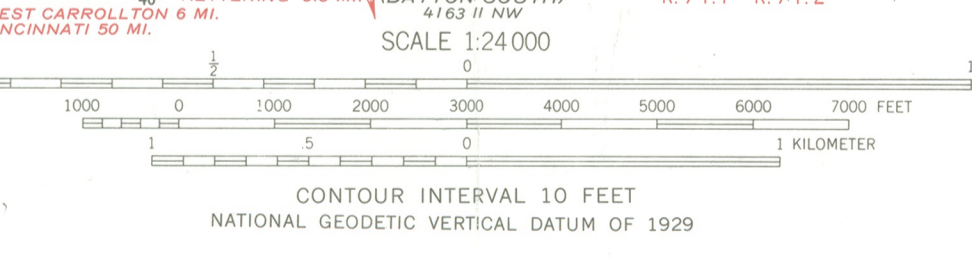


Wright/Dunbar Historic District  
Dayton, Montgomery County, Ohio  
USGS Quad, Dayton North, Ohio  
Scale 1:24,000  
A. 16/738990/4404280  
B. 16/739000/4404100  
C. 16/738720/4404100  
D. 16/738680/4404190

West Third Street Historic District

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey in cooperation with the Army Map Service. Revised in cooperation with State of Ohio agencies. Control by USGS and NOS/NOAA. Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1954. Field checked 1955. Revised from aerial photographs taken 1964. Field checked 1965. Polyconic projection. 10,000-foot grid ticks based on Ohio coordinate system, south zone. 1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 16, shown in blue. 1927 North American Datum. To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983 move the projection lines 2 meters south and 6 meters west as shown by dashed corner ticks. Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown. Area covered by dashed light-blue pattern is subject to controlled inundation to 818 feet. Area west of the Great Miami River lies within the Miami River Survey. Area east of the Great Miami River lies within the Between the Miamis Land lines based on the Great Miami River Base. There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of the National or State reservations shown on this map.

Revisions shown in purple and woodland compiled in cooperation with State of Ohio agencies from aerial photographs taken 1979 and other sources. This information not field checked. Map edited 1981. Purple tint indicates extension of urban areas.



DAYTON NORTH, OHIO  
N3945—W8407.5/7.5  
1965  
PHOTOREVISED 1981  
DMA 4163 1 SW—SERIES V852

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# NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AMERICAN HISTORY

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SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, AND CULTURE

September 1, 1987

Ohio State Preservation Advisory Board  
Ohio Historical Society  
1985 Velma Ave.  
Columbus, Ohio 43211

Attn: Mr. W. Ray Luce, SHPO

Dear Mr. Luce:

I am writing in support of the nomination of the Wright-Dunbar area of West Dayton as a historic district. As a historian I have developed some familiarity with the area over the years. This includes walking the streets of West Dayton with Sanborn insurance maps in one hand and sheets of late-nineteenth century census records in the other, identifying buildings that have survived from the Wright era and matching them to their occupants at that time.

The neighborhood began as a classic street car suburb, a fact that remains in evidence today. Both along the major thoroughfares of the commercial district and in the residential areas set a block or two back from Third Street, you can still see many elements of the neighborhood that would have been familiar to the Wrights. Although there have been major changes and alterations over the years, much of the architecture is representative of their era.

There are other factors that make West Dayton especially interesting. As I noted above, the pattern of a typical first generation street car suburb; the rich racial, cultural and ethnic mix; and the fact that residential and commercial buildings have survived from the late nineteenth century combine to make West Dayton an ideal candidate for recognition as a historic district.

Sincerely,



Tom D. Crouch  
Chairman  
Department of Social and  
Cultural History

TDC:aMc

cc: Jerry Shankey

West Third Street Historic District  
Dayton, Montgomery County, Ohio

**WRIGHT  
STATE**

Wright State University  
Dayton, Ohio 45435

RECEIVED SEP 17 1987

University Library  
513/873-2380

September 11, 1987

Mr. W. Ray Luce  
State Preservation Advisory Board  
Ohio Historical Society  
1985 Velma Avenue  
Columbus, OH 43211

Dear Ray:

I am writing in support of the nomination of the Wright-Dunbar area of West Dayton as a historic district. I have served for a number of years as Head of Archives at Wright State, where I have worked especially closely with the Wright Brothers Collection in our archives. As an historian with an research interest in local history, I have also studied the West Side neighborhood which was a home to both Paul Laurence Dunbar and Wilbur and Orville Wright.

Beneath a sometimes altered surface appearances, much of that neighborhood and its landmarks remain intact today. Buildings that housed the Wright Cycle company and Wright and Wright Printers still stand, as does the home of Paul Dunbar. Blocks of houses and business buildings familiar to these men remain to allow the visitor to recreate the early turn of the century streetscape. The neighborhood became a good example of the street-car suburb, providing decent housing and urban services to the working men and their families who were building Dayton into the "Gem City of the Miami Valley."

The West Side was not a fancy place. The shops were small scaled to meet the needs of local residents. The houses were small as well, and usually very plain. But is largely remains intact, a sort of 19th century survivor in late 20th century city. In my opinion it would make an ideal historic district and I strongly support its nominations.

Sincerely,



Patrick B. Nolan  
Head of Archives & Special Collections  
Associate Professor

cc: Jerry Sharkey

PBN:bpc



RECEIVED SEP 16 1987

# the montgomery county historical society

The Old Court House  
Dayton, Ohio 45402  
Phone 513/228-6271

September 14, 1987

Mr. W. Ray Luce, SHPO  
Ohio State Preservation Advisory Board  
Ohio Historical Society  
1985 Velma Ave.  
Columbus, Ohio 43211

Dear Mr. Luce:

On behalf of the Society, I wish to support nominating the Wright-Dunbar area of West Dayton to the National Register of Historic Places. This neighborhood, the original home of the Wright Brothers, is a classic street car suburb that has retained much of the architecture, both residential and commercial, of the late 19th and early 20th centuries. We feel that both for its architectural integrity and its historical association with the Wright Brothers that the Wright-Dunbar area deserves listing on the National Register as an historic district.

Sincerely,



Kirby Turner  
Executive Director

KT/jmp

**RICHARD CLAY DIXON**  
Mayor



West Third Street Historic District  
Dayton, Montgomery County, Ohio

**CITY of DAYTON, OHIO**  
OFFICE OF THE CITY COMMISSION  
MUNICIPAL BUILDING • THIRD & LUDLOW STS. • PHONE 443-3636

RECEIVED SEP 25 1987

September 16, 1987

Mr. Ray Luce  
Ohio State Preservation  
Advisory Board  
Ohio Historical Society  
1985 Velma Avenue  
Columbus, Ohio 43211

Dear Mr. Luce:

I am writing to express the City of Dayton's interest in supporting the nomination of the Wright-Dunbar area of West Dayton as a historic district on the National Register.

As you are aware from the documentation, the Wright-Dunbar area of Dayton is rich in historic significance.

We support the efforts of those individuals who believe in preserving an important part of our City's past. Many of the landmarks remain and we can appreciate the preservation of those structures suitable as such.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Richard Clay Dixon  
Mayor

RCD:smc

West Third Street Historic District  
Dayton, Montgomery County, Ohio

RECEIVED SEP 17 1987



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE  
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE MUSEUM  
WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, OHIO 45433-6518

SEP 16 1987

Mr W Ray Luce, SHPO  
Ohio State Preservation Advisory Board  
Ohio Historical Society  
1985 Velma Ave  
Columbus, OH 43211

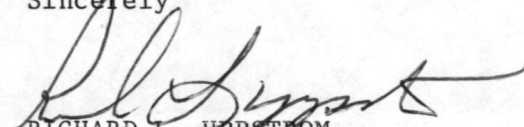
Dear Mr Luce

I understand the Wright-Dunbar area of West Dayton Ohio has been nominated as an historic district. This area is one of the stops of the popular Dayton Aviation Trail, and as a fellow member of the Trail, the United States Air Force Museum heartily endorses this nomination.

The neighborhood is rich in local history and contains much of what remains in Dayton from the era of Orville and Wilbur Wright and Paul Dunbar. Efforts of the Aviation Trail Association directed toward the Wright Cycle Shop and of other historically inclined Daytonians toward the Dunbar House are keys to bringing the district back to its turn-of-the-century form. This enthusiastic and vigorous program will be enhanced by this designation as an historic district and will do much to spur the supporters of the West Dayton complex to continue their commendable work to restore this portion of the city to its former configuration.

West Dayton certainly deserves the designation as an historic district and I earnestly solicit your support to this end.

Sincerely,

  
RICHARD L. UPPSTROM  
Director

**Ohio Historic Preservation Office**

1985 Velma Avenue  
Columbus, Ohio 43211  
614/297-2470



**OHIO  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY**  
SINCE 1885

December 13, 1988

Ms. Carol Shull, Chief  
National Register of Historic Places  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
P.O. Box 37127  
Washington, D.C. 20013-7127

DEC 16 1988

**NATIONAL  
REGISTER**

Dear Carol:

Enclosed is one new National Register nomination. All of the appropriate notification procedures have been followed for this new submission. We request an extension of the 1 October 1988 deadline for the new photograph requirements; the photographs with adhesive labels were submitted to our office before the deadline. Due to dissenting votes by several members of our state review board, I am requesting a substantive review of the West Third Street Historic District nomination.

New Submission

West Third Street Historic District

County

Montgomery

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

W. Ray Luce  
State Historic Preservation Officer

WRL/bap  
Enclosures