

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination FormSee instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

For NPS use only

received

JUN 10 1987

date entered

JUL 21 1987

1. Namehistoric Guy Tilden Thematic Resources/ Architecture of Guy Tilden in Canton (1885-1905)and or common N/A**2. Location**street & number 1717 N. Market Ave., 2206 13th St. NE, 209 W. Tuscarawas Ave., 606 McKinley Ave. SW, 137 Court SW not for publicationcity, town Canton N/A vicinity ofstate Ohio code OH county Stark code 151**3. Classification**

| Category | Ownership | Status | Present Use |
|---|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> district | <input type="checkbox"/> public | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied | <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s) | <input type="checkbox"/> private | <input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial |
| <input type="checkbox"/> structure | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> both | <input type="checkbox"/> work in progress | <input type="checkbox"/> educational |
| <input type="checkbox"/> site | Public Acquisition | Accessible | <input type="checkbox"/> entertainment |
| <input type="checkbox"/> object | <input type="checkbox"/> in process | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> government |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> being considered | <input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted | <input type="checkbox"/> industrial |
| | <u>N/A</u> | <input type="checkbox"/> no | <input type="checkbox"/> military |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> museum |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> park |
| | | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> religious |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> scientific |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> other: |

4. Owner of Propertyname multiple -- see individual continuation sheets

street & number

city, town vicinity of state **5. Location of Legal Description**courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Stark County Court Housestreet & number 207 W. Tuscarawas St.city, town Canton state Ohio**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**see also continuation sheet 2.1
title Ohio Historic Inventoryhas this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☒ nodate 1986 ☐ federal ☒ state ☐ county ☐ localdepository for survey records Ohio Historic Preservation Officecity, town Columbus state Ohio

7. Description

Condition

☒ excellent
☒ good
☒ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered
☒ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The buildings described here are unified by virtue of their having been designed by Guy Tilden, Canton's foremost architect during the boom years at the turn of the century. In addition to the seven buildings being nominated, a review is included of two other Tilden works, the Canton Public Library and the Trinity Lutheran Church, which were previously listed on the National Register. These buildings were selected for nomination based on previous research into the career and works of Tilden, with particular emphasis on a scholarly article by Johannesen (1973) detailing the development of Tilden's styles and describing the buildings that still survive.

Tilden's name is inextricably linked with the era in which Canton became a major industrial city. The city grew rapidly and aggressively sought to attract new industries, such as the Timken Co., Dueber-Hampton Watch Works, and others, to Canton. It was also the era in which an adopted native son William McKinley, mounted his successful "Front Porch Campaign" for the U.S. presidency from a frame house on Canton's North Market Avenue. Tilden was one of the few locally prominent architects, as a number of important local commissions went to out-of-town firms. While Tilden is most commonly associated with Romanesque structures with signature towers, the nine remaining Canton works discussed here are representative of the full range and development of this style and career.

The earliest of Tilden's work which remains in Canton today is Trinity Lutheran Church, already listed on the National Register (8-23-85). Perhaps bowing to the church committee's desire for a Gothic structure, Tilden designed a massive medieval Romanesque stone "fortress" with Gothic detailing. Martin Luther's words, "A Mighty Fortress is Our God," are appropriately cut into the stone, and the design also features a 60-foot stone camponile, porte-cochere, and arched stain glass windows with tracery.

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Tilden demonstrated his stylistic versatility in his 1896 design for the Fife House, which also reflects Tilden's enduring love of towers. Built for Harry Fife, an early independent insurance man and stock broker, it is a rectangular frame structure on a brick foundation. It features a front porch integral with the asymetrically sloped gable roof which envelops a half-octagonal tower, shingle siding, and a two-story bay on the north side. Two dormers pierce the roofline, the upper one hip-roofed and the lower with a flat roof and plain balustrade. The interior, with oak and cherry woodwork and stained glass and bevelled windows, is virtually intact. The only notable alteration to the house is the brick steps at one entrance.

In the same year as the Fife House, 1896, Tilden received the first of his many commissions from Frank E. Case, probably Tilden's most important client. Case was one of the city's leading industrialists, an attorney who left his law practice to take up the manufacture of dental equipment. He hired Tilden to design his Harvard Co. in the Crystal Park addition of Canton. Tilden parlayed his affection for towers into a masterpiece in the Harvard Co. design. The rectangular-plan factory's most notable feature is its impressive Romanesque stone and brick entrance tower, with chamfered corners and battlemented roof, rising above the one-story complex. The three-and-a-half story square tower also features a heavy rock-faced coursed-ashlar first floor. The brick second floor originally had two 6/6 windows with stone lintels on each side, which have been replaced and partially bricked in. The dramatic top, also is brick, features a corbelled parapet, battlements, chamfered corners, and three slender 6/6 arched windows per side. The massive tower anchors the one-story brick production buildings with stepped gables. The 85,000 sq. ft. factory was billed in 1917 as the largest in the world devoted to the manufacture of dental equipment, with agencies in London and Melbourne. In 1937 the company merged with the Weber Dental Manufacturing Co., which still occupies the building.

In 1899-1900 Tilden designed for Frank E. Case the Case Mansion, located on six acres in the "Quality Hill" section of North Market Avenue. Although its Richardsonian Romanesque style was somewhat passe by this time (completed in 1902), the 18-room rock-faced coursed ashlar mansion represents the culmination of Tilden's design work in this style and "may well be Tilden's masterpiece" (Johannesen 1973:132). The focal point of the castle-like mansion, irregular in plan, is a large open corner tower. It features three sets of windows, large rectangular openings at the base (now filled with matching, though unweathered, sandstone), slender rectangular openings twining around the central portion of the tower, and small windows separated by colonets near the top. Two smaller turrets flank a gable-ended projecting bay with a third-story recessed balcony and carved balustrade above the main entrance. A similar balustrade once surmounted the veranda, but has been removed; the veranda extends along the front (east) facade, continuing into a

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porte-cochere to the south. The veranda's carved capitals, intricate dentils, and the porte-cochere's Roman arches "epitomize Tilden's love of ornamental detail" (Ibid.). The interior tilework, carved oak woodwork and panelling, parquet floors, and spacious third-floor ballroom remain largely unaltered. The lost veranda balustrade and the closed-up tower windows are the most notable exterior alterations to the Case Mansion, which is currently vacant. An apartment complex now occupies most of the former estate, and its construction resulted in the demolition of the coach house.

In 1899 Tilden designed the Belmont (now Benders), a tavern located on a narrow passageway dubbed "Whiskey Alley" for its many barrooms. Its design reflects the beginning of Tilden's shift from medieval to more modern styles. The rather plain heavy red brick rectangular building features a three-bay front facade with extensive use of stained glass on both the front and south facades (areas where one would usually expect plate glass). The original windows are preserved and visible from the interior, although they are presently covered with smoked glass on the first floor and fiberglass sheating on the second floor. The turn-of-the-century taproom atmosphere in the interior remains virtually unchanged. Dark paneling and marble wainscoting, coffered and beamed ceilings, original tile floors, the ladies entrance, and murals painted by an itinerant German artist still remain and contribute to Benders reputation as one of Canton's premier restaurants. When purchased by Benders in 1908, the tavern/restaurant was expanded into an adjoining barber shop and livery to the north, and has occupied those buildings since that time. Constructed of rock-faced coursed ashlar and red brick, these buildings, although not designed by Tilden, are historically an integral part of Benders and conform in scale, style and finish to the original Belmont.

Two buildings erected in 1905 more fully reflect Tilden's abandonment of medieval styles in favor of Classical Revival designs. In 1903 Tilden won a design competition for the Canton Public Library, to be built with a cash gift from Andrew Carnegie. The library, a distinguished building already listed on the National Register (7-15-82), contrasts sharply with the heavily ornamented Case Mansion. Constructed of pressed grey brick, the library features Greek Ionic columns flanking a recessed entrance which gives way to a central rotunda. Large windows pierce the first and second floors, flanked by pilasters of the same grey brick. Absent in the design are the towers which previously were Tilden trademarks; gone, too, are the dramatic Romanesque flourishes which made the Case Mansion so noteworthy. Yet Tilden's quick mastery of the new style is indicated by the fact that the library is "one of Tilden's designs most admired by present-day architects" (Johannesen 1973:134).

The Courtland Hotel (completed 1905), also of Classical Revival design, is a seven story building, rectangular in plan, with stone facing on the first and

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mezzanine stories, round arches above the three central ranks of windows, and a classical cornice at the roof line, which was originally surmounted by a balustrade. Although the design was based on 16th century Roman palaces, the divisions between the stories and ranks of windows clearly show that it has a modern skeleton frame. Very few exterior alterations have been made to the Courtland; an aluminum canopy was erected over the main entrance and the roof balustrade was removed long ago. The interior still largely preserves the original floor plan, and marble wainscoting, a panelled ballroom, and brass handrails on the marble staircases leading to the 2nd and 3rd floor still survive. The upper floor rooms are quite plain, although the stair railings still feature medallions bearing the Tilden coat-of-arms. Windows are rectangular 1/1 double-hung sash, except for the 6th floor windows which are round-arched, continuing the motif of the three central arches around the building. The Courtland was the hub of Canton society in its era. Football great Jim Thorpe was among its regular patrons, and the hotel was reputedly the site of one of the meetings which led to the formation of the National Football League (Heald). The Courtland, later named the St. Francis, served as a hotel for more than 50 years before being converted into the Stark County Office Building. The once-great hotel has been allowed to deteriorate, and the county commissioners and local developers are proposing to raze it.

A majority of the approximately 50 Tilden-designed buildings in Canton have now been razed, but these nine remaining buildings still offer major insights into Tilden's development and mastery of disparate styles, the course of his career in Canton, and the growth and industrialization of the city of Canton.

Members of the Canton Preservation Society lead by Ruth Whitticar and Amy Shriver conducted the survey to record all remaining Tilden designed/associated buildings in Canton. Assisted by Jeff Brown of the Ohio Historic Preservation Office, the group reviewed each property's integrity and applied the National Register criteria to determine the potentially eligible properties to include in the thematic nomination.

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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> industry | <input type="checkbox"/> politics/government | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> invention | | <input type="checkbox"/> other (specify) |

Specific dates 1885-1905 **Builder/Architect** Guy Tilden

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The seven buildings nominated are significant as the best remaining examples of the designs of Guy Tilden, Canton's premier architect during the latter part of the 19th century and early 20th century, when Canton blossomed into an industrial city of national repute. These buildings are only a small portion of the approximately 50 Guy Tilden buildings erected in Canton, most of which have been demolished. Of the 14 Tilden-designed buildings extant in Canton, two are already on the National Register (Trinity Lutheran Church, Carnegie Library) and the others have suffered significant loss of integrity through later alterations. In addition to their significance as Tilden designs, most of these buildings are also significant for their ties to the history of Canton's industrialization and development.

Tilden himself is significant as Canton's best-known local architect, who successfully competed with a number of out-of-town architectural firms. He was a skillful, versatile, and prolific architect whose designs incorporated an acute attention to ornamental detail and an ability to blend the romantic touches of older eras with modern construction technology in a full range of building types. His works run the gamut from modest residences to multi-storied commercial buildings, from churches and schools to industrial design. Tilden came to Canton in 1883, just as the city was beginning a transformation from small town to an industrial power. Boosterism was the theme of the day, as civic-minded Cantonians lured various manufacturing firms, among them the Dueber-Hampton Watch Works and the Timken Co., to the burgeoning steel city. The extent of Canton's growth in those years is reflected in the city's population, which increased seven-fold from 1880 to 1920, from 12,258 to 87,901 people. Although many of Canton's buildings were designed by out-of-town architects (e.g. Dueber-Hampton Watch works (1888) by Kramer & Weary of Akron, Stark County Courthouse (1890-93) by George Hammond of Cleveland), Tilden emerged as the premier local architect of the era. He executed many of Canton's most prominent buildings including those nominated here and such buildings as the Dime Bank, McKinley Hotel, Lakeside Casino, Case Building, and numerous private homes and mansions, all now demolished.

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Trinity Lutheran Church (1885) is the oldest surviving Tilden building in Canton. A Romanesque edifice with Gothic detailing, it was listed on the National Register in 1985. The church exemplifies Tilden's early mastery of the Romanesque style, and is one of the finest buildings of that style in Canton.

The Fife House (1896) is the most intact private residence in Canton designed by Tilden. A building embodying Queen Anne elements, it is a good reflection of Tilden's versatility in designing private residences on a more modest scale prior to the turn of the century, just before Tilden began to produce designs in more modern styles.

Two other buildings, both commissioned by Frank E. Case, perhaps Tilden's most important client, reflect Tilden's successful adaptation of medieval designs. Case himself played a significant role in Canton's development. He was an inventor and pioneer of dental equipment manufacturing in Canton, and held patents on designs for dental furniture. Case was also the founder of the Dime Bank (designed by Tilden, now demolished) and president of the Canton Public Library Association (see library below). In 1896 Case commissioned the design for his Harvard Co. factory. Its heavy Romanesque tower imparts an architectural distinction that sets it apart from the more pedestrian factory structures in Canton. The buildings was billed in 1917 as the largest in the world devoted to manufacturing dental equipment, and still serves the same function today. The Harvard Co., Trinity Lutheran Church, and the Case Mansion, all in the Romanesque style which Tilden favored in many of this earlier works, are the best examples left of his work in that style (and the three best Romanesque buildings in Canton), and reflect Tilden's ability to successfully execute designs in a more traditional mode.

The Richardsonian Romanesque Case Mansion has been characterized as Tilden's masterpiece (Johannesen 1973). Completed in 1902, the mansion was one of Tilden's last works in this style. With its rock-faced coursed-ashlar construction, massive recessed third-story balcony, the Case Mansion is significant not only as the culmination of Tilden's development of the Romanesque style, but also as the finest Richardsonian Romanesque building still standing in Canton.

The beginning of Tilden's turn from medieval to more modern styles can be seen in his relatively plain, unadorned exterior design for the Belmont (now Benders). The interior, however, is a magnificent, largely intact example of turn-of-the-century taproom design with its original dark paneling,

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coffered and beamed ceilings, tiled floors, stained glass windows, murals, and separate ladies entrance. In 1908 Benders bought the Belmont and expanded into the adjacent barber shop and livery. These two buildings, one of coursed rock-faced ashlar and the other of red brick, are not Tilden designs, but they have been a part of Benders since its inception and contribute to its turn-of-the-century atmosphere.

Two buildings completed in 1905 reflect Tilden's successful turn from medieval to classical revival styles. The Canton Public Library, already listed on the National Register (7-15-82), and the Courtland Hotel are in sharp contrast to the heavily ornamented Case Mansion. The gray brick Carnegie library features fireproof construction with concrete floors, Greek Ionic columns flanking a recessed entrance, and a central interior rotunda. "The best of Tilden's new classic designs is the Hotel Courtland, later the Hotel St. Francis, and now the Stark County Office Building. Built in 1905, it is clearly based on sixteenth-century Roman palaces, with the stone facing of the ground floor and the mezzanine story, the round arches above the three central ranks of windows, and the classical cornice at the roof line. Yet it is also a modern building, as the divisions between the stories and the ranks of windows clearly show that it has a skeleton frame." (Johannesen 1973:131). The Courtland thus epitomizes one of Tilden's best talents, the blending of old and new, of classic design and modern technology. The interior, especially the first two floors, has been somewhat altered, but the exterior still possesses a high degree of integrity, and the Courtland is "unequivocally the best remaining public/commercial building designed by Guy Tilden" (Johannesen, 1986 letter to the Canton Preservation Society).

Unfortunately, many of Tilden's works have been lost to the wrecker's ball, including many schools, a Richardsonian Romanesque masterpiece - the 1887 Central Savings Bank, the Bulley Mansion (ca. 1900), the classic 1905 Dime Savings Bank, and the Frank E. Case Building, a thoroughly modern buildings which Tilden designed for his patron in 1920. Tilden was a prolific architect, however, and the few Tilden buildings which remain in Canton comprise a cross-section of some of his best works; they display his unique capabilities and represent the development of his styles, his career, and the city as a whole.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Johannesen, Eric. "The Architectural Legacy of Guy Tilden of Canton." Ohio History 82 (3-4) p.p. 124-141. Ohio Historical Society, Columbus, 1973.

Heald, E.T. The Stark County Story. 6 volumes. The Stark County Historical Society, Canton. 1949-1959.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property see individual property forms

Quadrangle name Canton East and Canton West

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References-- see individual property forms

A

Zone Easting Northing

B

Diagram B shows three empty coordinate axes. The first axis is labeled 'Zone' and has two tick marks. The second axis is labeled 'Easting' and has four tick marks. The third axis is labeled 'Northing' and has four tick marks.

C 

D 

[illegible]

F

G

H | | | | |

Verbal boundary description and justification

see individual property forms

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 Ruth Whitticar and Amy Shriver; Jeff Brown, OHPO

organization Canton Preservation Society

date July 1986

street & number P.O. Box 174

telephone (216) 452-5184

city or town Canton

state Ohio 44701

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

title**date**

For NPS use only

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

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registrations

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National Park Service

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Multiple Resource Area
Thematic GroupName Architecture of Tilden in Canton: 1885-1905 TR
State Stark County, OHIO

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

Cover

~~Entered in the~~

Keeper

Patrick Andrews 7/21/87

1. Bender's Restaurant--
Belmont BuffetEntered in the
National Register

Keeper

Attest

Melorus Byers 7/21/87

2. Case Mansion

~~Entered in the~~
~~National Register~~

Keeper

Attest

Melorus Byers 7/21/87

3. Fife, Harry E., House

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

Attest

Melorus Byers 7/21/87

4. Harvard Company-Weber
Dental Manufacturing
Company~~Entered in the~~
~~National Register~~

Keeper

Attest

Melorus Byers 7/21/87

5. Hotel Courtland

~~Entered in the~~

Keeper

Attest

Patrick Andrews 7/21/87

6.

Keeper

Attest

7.

Keeper

Attest

8.

Keeper

Attest

9.

Keeper

Attest

10.

Keeper

Attest