

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

RECEIVED 2280

1. Name of Property

Historic name: Mohawk Place Historic District

JUL 17 2015

Other names/site number: _____

Nat. Register of Historic Places
National Park Service

Name of related multiple property listing: _____

N/A

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

2. Location

Street & number: 241 to 290 McMicken Avenue, 2009 to 2024 Mohawk Place, 218 to 256 Mohawk Street, and 2026 Central Parkway

City or town: Cincinnati State: Ohio County: Hamilton

Not For Publication: N/A

Vicinity: N/A

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

national statewide local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

A B C D

<p><u>Barbara Power</u> DSHPO for Inventory & Registration</p> <p>Signature of certifying official/Title:</p> <p>Ohio History Connection, State Historic Preservation Office _____</p> <p>State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</p>	<p><u>July 10, 2015</u></p> <p>Date</p>
<p>In my opinion, the property <input type="checkbox"/> meets <input type="checkbox"/> does not meet the National Register criteria.</p>	
<p>_____ Signature of commenting official:</p>	<p>_____ Date</p>
<p>_____ Title :</p>	<p>_____ State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</p>

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4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain:)

For Edison H. Beall
Signature of the Keeper

9-1-15
Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private:
- Public – Local
- Public – State
- Public – Federal

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

- Building(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

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Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>38</u>	<u>5</u>	buildings
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	sites
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	objects
<u>38</u>	<u>5</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

DOMESTIC: multiple dwelling

COMMERCE/TRADE: specialty store

COMMERCE/TRADE: warehouse

RECREATION AND CULTURE: theater

INDUSTRY/PROCESSING/EXTRACTION: manufacturing facility

RELIGION: religious facility

OTHER: stable

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

DOMESTIC: multiple dwelling

COMMERCE/TRADE: specialty store

VACANT: not in use

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Art Moderne

Romanesque Revival

Italianate

Second Empire

OTHER: Vernacular

Materials: Principal exterior materials of the property: WOOD/Weatherboard, BRICK, STONE/ Limestone, Slate; METAL/Cast iron; STUCCO, TERRA COTTA, ASPHALT, CONCRETE, SYNTHETICS/Vinyl

Narrative Description

Summary Paragraph

The Mohawk Place Historic District represents the older core of a business district in a neighborhood historically known as Mohawk,¹ which is situated about a mile and a half northwest of downtown Cincinnati. The proposed district is bounded on the north by Mohawk Street and Peck Alley, on the west by Manchester Avenue, on the south by Central Parkway, and on the east by 218 Mohawk Street (Figure 1). The topography rises up a hillside east of West McMicken Avenue. The district is characterized mostly by continuous streetscapes at the sidewalk line created by three and four-story brick row buildings that date primarily from the late nineteenth century. They are mixed-use brick buildings with storefronts on the first floor and apartments above.

The 5.95 acre district includes 43 individual properties, of which 38 contribute to the significance of the district and 5 that do not contribute due to age or lack of historic integrity. The Period of Significance is from 1850, the construction date of the oldest remaining resource within the proposed district at 281 West McMicken Avenue (Resource 17, Photo 11) to 1940, the construction date of the latest contributing resource, the Felsenbrau Stock House at 244 Mohawk Street (Resource 36, Photo 17), representing the most active period of growth for the district. The Period of Significance marks the span of time when the Mohawk Place Historic District experienced growth and attained the characteristics that qualify it for listing. Most of the buildings date from 1855 to 1915; three early-twentieth-century buildings—a 1913 movie theater modified in the 1930s and three brewery buildings built between 1930 and 1940 reflect the dynamic local brewing industry and contribute to the significance of the district.

The important physical features of the district include the steep hillside, historic street pattern, continuous streetscapes, late-nineteenth-century buildings representing Vernacular, Italianate, Second Empire, and Rundbogenstil styles, and a few twentieth-century examples of Art

¹ According to the "Mohawk-Bellevue NBD Historic District" Designation Report by Daniel W. Young (City of Cincinnati, 2002), Mohawk was never incorporated, and its borders were never officially recorded. Most historic accounts describe Mohawk as being generally located west of Vine Street and North of Findlay Market.

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Moderne. Although some of the resources may lack individual architectural merit, Mohawk Place conveys a strong sense of place as a district.

Narrative Description

Resource Number	Property Address/OHI	Construction Date	Contributing/ Non-contributing	Style	Historic Name and/or Use	Photo Reference
1	242 West McMicken Ave.	1937	Contributing	Art Moderne	Felsenbrau	1
	244 West McMicken Ave. HAM-01366-06	1887	Contributing	Romanesque Revival/Rund-bogenstil	Sohn, Mohawk, Clyffside, Red Top Brewery	1, 2, 14, 19
2	241-243 West McMicken Ave./ 244 Stark St.	Circa 1930	Contributing	Commercial	Beer Warehouse/ Moving/ Storage	13, 15
3	253 West McMicken Ave.	Circa 1887-1900	Contributing	Romanesque Revival/Rund-bogenstil	Sohn Brewery Stable/Warehouse	13, 15
4	259-261 West McMicken Ave.	1865	Contributing	Italianate	Mixed-Use	13
5	262 West McMicken Ave.	Circa 1960	Non-contributing		Auto Service Station	3
6	263 West McMicken Ave. HAM-00450-04	1865	Contributing	Italianate	Multi-Family Dwelling	13
7	265 West McMicken Ave.	1880	Contributing	Second Empire	Mixed-Use	12
8	268 West McMicken Ave.	Circa 1954	Non-contributing		Commercial Building	3, 4
9	269 West McMicken Ave.	1870	Contributing	Italianate	Mixed-Use	12
10	270 West McMicken Ave.	1878	Contributing	Vernacular	Double Building	3
11	271 West McMicken Ave.	1860	Contributing	Italianate	Double Building	12
12	272 West McMicken Ave.	1865	Contributing	Italianate	Mixed-Use	3, 4
13	274 West McMicken Ave.	1861	Contributing	Italianate	Single Family Dwelling	3, 4
14	275 West McMicken Ave.	1860	Contributing	Italianate	Mixed-Use	11, 12
15	279 West McMicken Ave., HAM-00451-04	1855	Contributing	Vernacular	Mixed-Use	11
16	280 West McMicken Ave.	1913	Contributing	Art Moderne	Imperial Theatre	5, 9
17	281 West McMicken Ave.	1850	Contributing	Vernacular	Mixed-Use	11
18	283 West McMicken Ave.	1880	Contributing	Vernacular	Mixed-Use (Restaurant)	11
19	286 West	1868	Contributing	Italianate	Single Family	5, 9

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	McMicken Ave. HAM-00474-06				Dwelling	
20	288 West McMicken Ave.	1865	Contributing	Vernacular	Single Family Dwelling	5, 9
21	289 West McMicken Ave.	1882	Contributing	Vernacular	Apartment Building	10
22	2009 Mohawk PL	Circa 1890	Contributing	Second Empire	Mixed-Use	6
23	2011 Mohawk PL	1869	Contributing	Vernacular	Mixed-Use	6
24	2012 Mohawk PL	1875	Contributing	Italianate	Mixed-Use	7, 8
25	2014 Mohawk PL	1883	Contributing	Second Empire	Mixed-Use	8
26	2016 Mohawk PL	1870	Contributing	Italianate	Commercial	8
27	2019-2021 Mohawk PL	1900	Contributing	Italianate	Former Drugstore /Cutter Apts	5, 6, 10
28	2020 Mohawk Place	1880	Contributing	Italianate	Mixed-Use	8
29	2022-2024 Mohawk PL	1860	Contributing	Italianate	Mixed-Use	8, 11
30	218 Mohawk ST	Circa 1900	Contributing	Vernacular	Apartment Building	16
31	222 Mohawk ST	Circa 1865	Contributing	Vernacular	Multi-Family Dwelling	16
32	226 Mohawk ST	Circa 1890	Contributing	Vernacular	Multi-Family Dwelling	16
33	228 Mohawk ST	Circa 1865	Contributing	Vernacular	Single Family Dwelling	16
34	228 Mohawk ST	Circa 1900	Contributing	Vernacular	Storage building	
35	236 Mohawk ST	Circa 1875	Non-contributing	Vernacular	Single Family Dwelling	17
36	240 Mohawk ST	1874	Contributing	Vernacular	Single Family Dwelling	17
37	244 Mohawk ST	1940	Contributing	Art Moderne	Felsenbrau/ Stock House	17, 21
38	252 Mohawk ST	Circa 1880	Contributing	Second Empire	Sohn Brewery Fermenting Room and Cooling Room	17, 22
39	254 Mohawk ST	1884	Contributing	Vernacular	Mixed-Use	18
40	256 Mohawk ST		Contributing	Vernacular	Single Family Dwelling	18
41	261 Mohawk ST	1920	Non-Contributing	Vernacular	Canan Bros Garage	19
42	271 Mohawk ST	Circa 1865	Contributing	Vernacular	Multi-Family Residence	20
43	2026 Central PKWY	Circa 1915	Non-contributing	Vernacular	Commercial	7

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General Description of the District

The proposed Mohawk Place Historic District includes roughly three blocks on McMicken Avenue, one block on Mohawk Place and roughly one block on Mohawk Street. The linear pattern of the district as it runs along West McMicken Avenue, historically known as the Hamilton Road, curves northwest in response to the rugged hillside on the northeast side and the former alignment of the Miami and Erie Canal on the west. That line pivots west at Mohawk Place, historically the locus of a bridge that carried the Hamilton Road over the canal, through Brighton, and on to the City of Hamilton.

Annexed by the City of Cincinnati in 1849, the area has retained its nineteenth-century scale and character, its early business district and low-scale mixed-use buildings that reflect the typical vernacular types and architectural styles of the period. The district is characterized mostly by continuous streetscapes at the sidewalk line of row three- and four-story brick row buildings with storefronts on the first floor and residential above. Most storefronts on West McMicken Avenue have been adapted to residential use by masonry infill but some commercial storefronts still occupy buildings in the compact business district on Mohawk Place. There are also some freestanding dwellings clustered on McMicken Avenue and Mohawk Street, a large brewery complex and some one-story commercial buildings at the south end.

Architectural Styles and Characteristics of Resources in the District

Architecturally, the district is characterized mostly by circa 1855-1895 brick row buildings with stone trim and/or cast-iron elements designed in typical period styles—Italianate, Second Empire and the Rundbogenstil or American Round-arched style, as well as vernacular examples.

The most high-style structure is the 1887 Rundbogenstil Sohn/Clyffside Brewery building at 244 West McMicken Avenue (HAM-01366-06, Resource 1, Photos 1, 2, 14). The contributing property located at 2016 Mohawk Place (Resource 26, Photo 8), a small one-story wood-frame commercial building with a false front dating from circa 1870, is a rare survivor. The contributing 1913 former theater with a late 1930s Art Moderne façade stands prominently on axis with Mohawk Place (Resource 16, Photos 5, 9). Two more modest examples of the Art Moderne style are the Felsenbrau additions to the Sohn/Clyffside Brewery at 242 West McMicken (Resource 1, Photo 1) and 244 Mohawk Street (Resource 36, Photos 17, 21). Also from the 1930s is a Commercial-style brick building at 241-243 West McMicken (Resource 2, Photos 13, 15). Owned by the Carleton warehouse and moving company since 1984, the building straddles several lots and uses the address of 244 Stark Street on its south end.

Most of the buildings, such as 265 (Resource 7, Photo 12), 269 (Resource 9, Photo 12), and 271 West McMicken (Resource 11, Photo 12), are three-story structures with first-floor storefronts and residential above. These exemplify the Two-Part Commercial Block design, which according to Richard Longstreth in *The Buildings of Main Street*, emerged as a distinct type during the first half of the 19th century and was prevalent from the 1850s to 1950s. In some cases, the upper floors contained a single residence; in many others, it housed apartments. Examples are most often found in towns and neighborhood commercial areas that developed along city streetcar lines. (p 24). The typical example has an entablature that delineates the first-floor storefront from the other floors. Many of these buildings are four-bays-wide and have (or had) two entry doors corresponding to each building function. 271 West McMicken

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(Resource 11, Photo 12) is an excellent example, with its attractive cast-iron storefront and end-bay entrance to the apartments above. A long row of these four-bay buildings exists from 265 to 277 West McMicken (Resources 7,9,11,14,15, Photo 12). 2020 Mohawk Place (Resource 28; Photo 8) is another example.

The property at 2019-21 Mohawk Place, is a 4-story flat-iron-shaped Italianate-style building at the corner of Mohawk and McMicken. It has a cast-iron storefront and apartment entrance on each street elevation, and most likely had two dwelling units per floor. The greater size and density is a reflection of its location on a streetcar line. Cast-iron storefront elements remain at 279 West McMicken (HAM-00451-04, Resource 15, Photo 11) and 2011 Mohawk Place (Resource 23, Photo 6).

The district also has two examples of apartment buildings without storefronts on the first floor—263 West McMicken Avenue and 218 Mohawk Street. Dating from circa 1865, 263 West McMicken Avenue (HAM-00450-04, Resource 7, Photos 12, 13), is a five-bay apartment building with a central stairhall and two units on each floor for a total of 6 dwelling units. Set back from the sidewalk and set off by an ornamental iron fence, this building appears to be a more upscale residential building based on its formal symmetry and architectural detail.

Madeira Flats at 218 Mohawk Street, is a later example built in 1900, with four stories and four bays across. Located on a less trafficked street, it was purposefully built with no commercial component. Originally it had two front doors, which have been converted to windows, so the upper floors were accessed from a side entrance to a stairway midway back.

All of the period styles represented are characterized by a regular fenestration pattern, mostly with one-over-one replacement windows although a few buildings retain original six-over-six and two-over-two wood sashes like the property at 288 West McMicken (Resource 20, Photo 5 and 9). Predominantly Italianate, many buildings display arched window heads and detailed window lintels, and bracketed cornices. The property at 2022-2024 Mohawk Place (Resource 29, Photo 8 and 11) has those features plus two-over-two wood windows and an angled wood oriel at the corner of McMicken.

The previously mentioned multi-family dwelling at 263 W. McMicken Avenue is the district's most high-style example of Italianate design, and reminiscent of larger homes in the nearby Dayton Street Historic District. Other Italianate houses, such as 286 West McMicken (HAM-00474-06, Resource 19, Photos 5 and 9) display similar limestone basements, arched stone door surrounds, bracketed stone lintels and bracketed wood cornices. 259-261 McMicken (Resource 4, Photo 13) retains an arcaded ground floor, round arched stone lintels, a stone string course connecting bracketed stone sills, and a bracketed cornice. The large commercial block at 2012 Mohawk Place (Resource 24, Photos 7, 8), has paired windows with arched heads, stone belt courses and a prominent bracketed cornice.

The Second Empire architectural style influence is seen in four buildings with Mansard roofs—265 W. McMicken (Resource 7, Photo 12); 2029 Mohawk Place (Resource 22, Photo 6); 2014 Mohawk Place (Resource 25, Photo 8); and 252 Mohawk Street (Resource 37, Photos 17 and 22).

Eighteen rowhouses in the district are modest vernacular examples with straight stone lintels and sills and simpler cornices 270, 279, 281, 283, 288 and 289 West McMicken (Resources 10,

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15, 17, 18, 20, and 21, Photos 3, 4, 5, 9, 10 and 11); 2011 Mohawk Place (Resource 23, Photo 6); 218, 222, 226, 228, 236, 240, 254, 256, 261 and 271 Mohawk Street (Resources 30 - 35, 38 - 41, Photos 16 - 20).

A handful of resources associated with Mohawk's brewery industry remain, including the Sohn/Clyffside Brewery (Resource 1, Photos 1, 2, 14, and 19). This remarkable example of Rundbogenstil architecture, a round-arched style that originated in Germany and was popular among ethnic Germans, is considered to be the most ornamental of Over-the-Rhine's remaining brewery buildings. The Rundbogenstil of the Sohn building is distinguished from Romanesque Revival, which is typically monochromatic brick or stone and features geometric or naturalistic moldings within the archivolt or intrados of compound arches and column capitals based on medieval rather than Renaissance sources.

Many Cincinnati brewery buildings were designed in this German round-arched style, popularized in the mid-nineteenth century. The former stable/warehouse across the street at 253 McMicken Avenue (Resource 3, Photos 13 and 15) is similarly styled, but the 1937 Felsenbrau brewery addition (Resource 1, Photo 1), historically used as a bottling plant and housed fermentation tanks, is a boxy red brick building with the flat roof and planar walls of the Art Moderne style.

West McMicken Avenue

1. 244 West McMicken Avenue, HAM-01366-06 (Contributing) (Photos 1, 2, 14, 19): The Sohn/Clyffside Brewery, formerly the Sohn-Mohawk Brewery, circa 1887, is a remarkable example of Rundbogenstil architecture, a round-arched style popular among ethnic Germans. Many Cincinnati brewery buildings were designed in this German round-arched style, popularized in the early nineteenth century. This four-story brick building displays many essential physical features of this style—round and segmental arched openings, polychromy, keystones and stone band and string courses. Elaborate terra-cotta details add to the ornamentation, including the date, "1887," on a cartouche, and beer-related symbols such as the six-pointed star indicating purity of the beer at the top and cherubs, barrels, mash paddle, and hop shovel in the tympanum above the doorway in the right end bay. A brick smoke stack rises from the rear of this building and is a strong visual element within the district. The building has undergone minor alterations and retains its exterior form, Rundbogenstil architectural details, decorative terra-cotta elements and most of its original four-over-four wood sashes. Exterior alterations include modification of several first and second story openings. These minimal alterations do not impact the integrity of the property, and the former brewery retains the identity for which it is significant.

242 West McMicken Avenue (Photo 1): The 1937 Felsenbrau addition to the Sohn/Clyffside Brewery was historically used as a bottling plant and housed fermentation tanks. The asymmetrical, three-story, L-shaped addition has a plain streamlined Art Moderne façade. The property retains characteristic Art Moderne features including its smooth brick wall surface and plain limestone window sills and coping along the flat roofline, which add to the building's horizontal emphasis. Alterations are limited to some replacement windows and metal entry doors. The addition retains the essential physical features and a sufficient level of integrity to convey its significance.

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2. 241-243 West McMicken Avenue (Contributing) (Photos 13, 15): This circa-1930, one-story, three-bay, brown-brick building is identified on a Sanborn map as a beer warehouse (1904-1961, V3, PI 229), most likely for the Sohn/Clyffside Brewery. Since 1964, it has been owned and occupied by Carlton Moving & Storage. This building typifies a modest version of the Commercial style, often employed for one- to four-story buildings designed for commercial use, generally between 1890 and 1920. Essential physical features that represent the building's significance include the flat roof, stepped parapet, and planar masonry walls. The two large display windows have been filled in the brick, but the stone sills and lintels remain. Other alterations include flush metal man doors. Although the building has been altered, it retains enough integrity to convey its significance.
3. 253 West McMicken Avenue (Contributing) (Photos 13, 15): Across the street from the former Sohn-Mohawk Brewery is located the former Sohn-Mohawk Brewery stable/warehouse, circa 1887-1900. This one-story, four-bay-wide, brick building is similarly styled as the Romanesque Revival/Rundbogenstil Brewery. The building's essential physical features include four round arches, connected with a decorative stringcourse, which adorn the façade. All four arched openings have been altered. The two larger end arches have contemporary rolling metal doors installed in the entrances. Another opening has been reduced in size to accommodate a metal exterior door, and another has been bricked in. Although the alteration to the openings has diminished the "design" and "material" aspects of integrity, the essential physical features that remain, namely the exterior form and the Rundbogenstil-style design elements, allow the property to continue to convey its architectural significance and its association with Mohawk's brewery industry.
4. 259-261 West McMicken Avenue (Contributing) (Photo 13): This 1865, three-story, six-bay-wide, brick Italianate-style, mixed-use, double building housed first floor commercial space with residential quarters above. This resource retains its defining Italianate-style, mixed-use and "double building" physical features that allow it to convey its significance, such as an arcaded ground floor, round arched stone lintels, a stone string course connecting bracketed stone sills, and a bracketed cornice. The defining double-building features that represent the building's significance are the continuous front wall plane and cornice line; however the openings of the arcaded ground floor are mostly filled in with brick and one front door, not two, is present. The second- and third-story windows have been partially reduced to accommodate aluminum one-over-one sashes, and the stairwell windows have been filled in with brick. Although the alteration to the window and arcade openings has diminished the aspect of "design," the property retains essential physical features and enough integrity to convey its significance.
5. 262 West McMicken Avenue (Non-contributing) (Photo 3): This resource is an abandoned, circa-1960 auto-service station. It was built outside the Period of Significance and does not contribute to the significance of the district.
6. 263 West McMicken Avenue, HAM-00450-04 (Contributing) (Photo 13): Dating from 1865, this resource is the most high-style residence in the proposed district. Five-bay-wide, this three-story symmetrical Italianate design is reminiscent of larger homes in the nearby Dayton Street Historic District. Although a multi-family dwelling, the building exterior retains a sense of grandeur with its dressed stone basement, arched stone

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window surrounds with keystones, quoins at the corners and an elaborate bracketed cornice with arched windows in the frieze. The original paneled wood front door has a heavy stone surround topped by a bracketed entablature. The front yard is delineated by a low limestone wall and iron fence. With its Italianate-style characteristics intact and limited alterations, including replacement windows and two center windows filled in with brick, the building retains a high degree of integrity to convey its significance.

7. 265 West McMicken Avenue (Contributing) (Photo 12): This circa 1880, three-and-a-half-story, four-bay-wide, brick, Second Empire-style building was constructed with first-floor commercial space in tandem with residential above. Although the first floor storefront has been blocked in to facilitate first-floor residential space, the façade above retains a high degree of integrity as the property's essential physical features are preserved, including the bracketed window surrounds, bracketed cornice, pedimented dormers, and slate mansard roof.
8. 268 West McMicken Avenue (Non-contributing) (Photo 3, 4): The original function of this circa 1954 one-story, concrete block commercial building is undetermined, but the building has functioned as a place of worship on and off since 1954, when the International Holiness Tabernacle Association purchased the building. Currently occupied by the New Life Outreach Ministries, the building was constructed after the end date of the Period of Significance and is considered non-contributing.
9. 269 West McMicken Avenue (Contributing) (Photo 12): Dating from 1870, this four-bay-wide, three-story, mixed-use, brick Italianate-style design retains its essential physical features for which it is significant. These features include an intact first-floor storefront with cast-iron elements, bracketed arched lintels, original two-over-two double-hung wood windows, and an elaborate bracketed cornice with arched windows in the frieze.
10. 270 West McMicken Avenue (Contributing) (Photo 3): This 1878, three-story, four-bay-wide, brick vernacular design is an example of a "double building." Despite alterations to the first floor openings, and replacement windows above, this example retains its straight stone sills and lintels. The property is identifiable as a double building as it retains the essential physical features of this unusual building type, including a continuous front wall plane and cornice line. Although altered, this resource continues to contribute to the streetscape, and retains enough integrity to convey its significance.
11. 271 West McMicken Avenue (Contributing) (Photo 12): Dating from 1860, this four-bay-wide, three-story, brick Italianate-style design is another altered example of a "double building." This first floor has altered window openings and has been clad with Perma-Stone, but the two entry doors remain, indicating its use as a double building. The Italianate design retains its essential physical features for which it is significant, including stone sills and lintels, original six-over-six double-hung wood windows, and a bracketed cornice. Although the building is altered, it retains enough integrity to convey its significance.
12. 272 West McMicken Avenue (Contributing) (Photos 3, 4): This circa 1865, three-and-a-half-story, three-bay-wide, brick Italianate-style design has first-floor commercial space in tandem with residential above. One of the original storefront windows has been reduced; and the other has been converted into a door opening, to accommodate

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residential use. The windows above are replacements. Although the property has lost historic fabric through the mentioned alterations, the retention of Italianate-style elements such as the limestone sills and lintels and wide overhanging bracketed cornice, allows the resource to convey significance.

13. 274 West McMicken Avenue (Contributing) (Photos 3, 4): This circa-1861, two-story, two-bay-wide, brick Italianate-style dwelling has replacement windows on the façade and west elevation and a single metal replacement door, with transom above, on the front. A two-story bay projection on the west elevation has been clad in vinyl. Although altered, the resource's essential Italianate-style physical features remain intact, such as the window's limestone sills and decorative hoods, limestone stringcourse visually separating the first two stories, and the bracketed cornice punctured by rectangular windows in the frieze. Although the building is altered, it retains enough integrity to convey its significance.
14. 275 West McMicken Avenue (Contributing) (Photos 11, 12): Dating from 1860, this twelve-bay-wide, three-story, brick Italianate-style building was constructed with first-floor commercial space in tandem with residential above. The Italianate, mixed-use design retains its essential physical features for which it is significant, including the historic storefront cast iron elements, stone sills and lintels on the second and third floors, and the bracketed cornice punctured by rectangular windows in the frieze. Alterations include the bricking in of the storefront to accommodate residential use and replacement windows throughout. Although the building has been altered, it retains enough integrity to convey its significance.
15. 279 West McMicken Avenue, HAM-00451-04 (Contributing) (Photo 11): This 1855, modestly sized two-story, four-bay-wide, brick vernacular mixed-use building retains its cast-iron storefront elements, although obscured by a false front. The story above has been covered in stucco, but retains its fenestration pattern, six-over-six wood sashes, and stone sills. Although the building has been altered, it retains enough integrity to convey its significance, and continues to contribute to the streetscape.
16. 280 West McMicken Avenue (Contributing) (Photos 5, 9): The 1913-dated brick Imperial Theater is a former movie theater now used as a furniture store. The late 1930s Art Moderne façade, characterized by square enamel tiles and accents and banded details on the marquee, was added over the original brick façade during the Period of Significance and is not considered a negative impact to the integrity of the building. The former theater's Art Moderne façade is intact, allowing the property to convey its significance.
17. 281 West McMicken Avenue (Contributing) (Photo 11): This circa 1850, three-story, three-bay-wide, brick rowhouse abuts the neighboring resource at 283 McMicken. This modest vernacular example has straight stone sills and simple cornices. The entry door was likely bricked in when 283 was constructed in circa 1880. The windows have been reduced to accommodate replacement windows. Although the building has been altered, it retains enough integrity to convey its significance, and continues to contribute to the streetscape.

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18. 283 West McMicken Avenue (Contributing) (Photo 11): This circa 1880, three-story, three-bay-wide, vernacular brick rowhouse was designed to complement its abutting neighbor at 281 McMicken. 283 also has straight stone sills and a simple cornice. The first floor windows have been reduced in size and the second and third story windows are replacements. A circa 1970s metal replacement door faces McMicken. Although the building has been altered, it retains enough integrity to convey its significance, and continues to contribute to the streetscape.
19. 286 West McMicken Avenue HAM-00474-06 (Contributing) (Photos 5, 9): This resource is an 1868, three-and-a-half-story, three-bay-wide, brick Italianate-style dwelling. The essential physical features that convey the building's significance include the dressed limestone basement, arched stone door surrounds and bracketed stone lintels and bracketed wood cornices. The building also retains its original one-over-one wood sashes. Alteration are limited to a shed-roof dormer, which extends above the roof, and a contemporary aluminum replacement door in the front entry. The front yard is delineated by a low limestone wall and pillars, and iron fence. Unlike the neighboring buildings, 286 does not meet the sidewalk, but is set back approximately six feet. With minimal alterations, retention of a high degree of historic fabric and essential physical features, the property retains the identity for which it is significant.
20. 288 West McMicken Avenue (Contributing) (Photos 5, 9): This resource is an 1865, three-and-a-half-story, four-bay-wide vernacular brick dwelling. The resource retains its defining physical features, such as the majority of its original two-over two wood sashes, simple stone sills, lintels and water table, and simple cornice. Alterations are limited to an awning over the front entry and third story replacement windows. With minimal alterations, retention of a high degree of historic fabric and essential physical features, the property retains the identity for which it is significant.
21. 289 West McMicken Avenue (Contributing) (Photo 10): Historically this 1865, three-and-a-half-story, seven-bay-wide Vernacular resource functioned as a mixed-use building with a dwelling at 289, and two stores at 291 and 293. At an undetermined time the property was repurposed into a multi-family dwelling and the first floor of the façade had a door and storefront bricked in. The windows and two remaining exterior doors are replacements. Essential physical features that remain include the second- and third-floor fenestration pattern, massing, simple stone sills, lintels and stringcourse. Although the exposed brick and simple cornice are in a state of deterioration and the first-floor openings have been altered to accommodate residential use, the resource retains enough integrity to convey its significance.

Mohawk Place

22. 2009 Mohawk Place (Contributing) (Photo 6): Historically this circa 1890, three-story, two-bay-wide, brick Second Empire design was a mixed-use building. In 1900, a grocery store was located on the first floor with apartments above (*Williams' Cincinnati Directory*). The essential physical features that represent the building's significance include the stone string course, sills and detailed window lintels, ornate cornice, and Mansard roof with a decorative front-gabled dormer. Today the building serves as an office building. Likely in the 1950s a shallow, one-story addition was added to the south side of this building facing Central Parkway. In the more recent past the storefronts of

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both the original building and the addition were closed with concrete blocks. When viewing 2009 from Mohawk Place the addition along Central Parkway is not visible. Although the alteration to the storefront and the addition along Central Parkway has diminished the aspects of "design" "materials," and "workmanship," the property retains enough essential physical features and integrity to convey its significance.

23. 2011 Mohawk Place (Contributing) (Photo 6): This resource is an 1869, three-story, three-bay-wide, brick vernacular mixed-use building. The essential physical features that represent the building's significance are the cast-iron storefront elements, stone string courses, sills and detailed window lintels and an understated cornice. Alterations include partial infill of the first-floor door openings and replacement windows above. With minimal alterations, retention of a high degree of historic fabric and essential physical features, the property retains the identity for which it is significant.

24. 2012 Mohawk Place (Contributing) (Photos 7, 8): This 1875, three-and-a-half-story, three-bay-wide, Italianate large commercial block fronts Mohawk Place and Central Parkway. The essential physical features that represent the building's significance include paired windows, slender brick pilasters, rough stone belt courses and a prominent bracketed cornice. The second-story paired windows facing Mohawk Place have arched heads of two-toned black and white glazed brick resembling piano keys.

The original use of the building is not known, but in the 1920s it was leased by the Great Atlantic & Pacific Tea Company, colloquially known as A&P grocery store. From 1949 to 1974 it was occupied by a furniture store, and currently it serves as a convenience store with office space above. Although areas of the storefront have been covered, cast-iron elements remain and the alterations are reversible. The stories above retain a high degree of integrity and thus conveys the significance of this prominent corner building.

25. 2014 Mohawk Place (Contributing) (Photo 8): This is an 1883, two-and-a-half-story, two-bay-wide, brick Second Empire style mixed-use building. The essential physical features that represent the building's significance include stone belt courses, corbelled brick cornice, and pedimented dormer protruding from the slate mansard roof. The first-floor storefront has been changed, including the addition of vinyl siding and altered openings. However, the resource retains its Second Empire-style physical features and sufficient integrity to convey its significance.

26. 2016 Mohawk Place (Contributing) (Photo 8): This 1870, one-story, modestly sized wood-frame Italianate-style commercial building with a false front is a rare survivor. The essential physical features that represent the building's significance include the original clapboard siding, a simple doorway with slender sidelight and rectangular transom (although both are covered with plywood), original storefront window, stone stoop, and diminutive bracketed cornice. The only alteration is a contemporary aluminum replacement door. With retention of a high degree of historic fabric and essential physical features, the property retains the identity for which it is significant.

27. 2019-2021 Mohawk Place (Contributing) (Photos 5, 6, 10): This 1900, four-story, brick flatiron-shaped Italianate-style, mixed-use building was formerly a drugstore and Cutter Apartments, and is currently vacant. The essential physical features that convey the building's significance include its exterior form, cast-iron storefront elements, stone

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bracketed sills, lintels and belt course, and bracketed cornice. In regard to alterations, the storefront has been filled in, replacement windows are found throughout, and the cornice is missing on the Mohawk Place elevation. While these alterations have diminished its workmanship, materials, and design, the building is distinctive for its flatiron massing and visual prominence due to its corner site on W. McMicken and retains sufficient integrity to contribute to the district.

28. 2020 Mohawk Place (Contributing) (Photo 8): This is a circa-1880, three-story, four-bay-wide Italianate building with remains of a storefront at the ground floor. Characteristic stylistic features include a stone entablature above the first floor, two-over-two windows with plain stone sills and lintels, and a prominent cornice with paired brackets and attic windows. The former storefront has a central doorway flanked by large four-pane wood windows. A separate entrance in the left end bay, which formerly accessed apartments above, has been closed with plywood. This mixed-use building once housed a saloon and boarding house (1900, Williams' City Directory). Today it is legally considered a part of 2022-2024 Mohawk Place and it is likely that the two properties were adapted internally to function as one building.
29. 2022-2024 Mohawk Place (Contributing) (Photos 8, 11): This resource is an 1860, three-story, Italianate-style mixed-use corner building with four bays on Mohawk Place and a single bay on W. McMicken, which is angled to fit the corner. It retains essential physical features that represent the building's significance, such as stone entablature above the first floor, stone window lintels and sills, some two-over-two wood windows mixed with one-over-ones, a bracketed cornice, and a one-story angled paneled wood oriel at the corner of McMicken. Although the first-floor storefront was altered at an unknown date, it retains pilasters and two large windows. A high pedimented surround emphasizes the entry near the corner. The building retains sufficient integrity to convey its significance.

Mohawk Street

30. 218 Mohawk Street (Contributing) (Photo 16): This circa 1900, four-story, four-bay-wide, brick, vernacular apartment building was historically known as the Madeira Flats and contained twelve units (1900, Williams' City Directory). The units are accessed from the west (side) elevation. The property's essential physical features include its simple massing and plain stone sills and lintels. The windows are replacements. Although the property may lack individual architectural merit, it contributes to the streetscape.
31. 222 Mohawk Street (Contributing) (Photo 16): This is a circa-1890, three-story, four-bay-wide, symmetrical vernacular multi-family dwelling. The main entry is located on the east elevation. The property retains its simple stone sills and lintels, and cornice line. The windows are boarded over and the building is currently vacant. This resource continues to contribute to the streetscape, and retains enough integrity to convey its significance.
32. 226 Mohawk Street (Contributing) (Photo 16): This is a circa-1890, three-story, four-bay-wide, symmetrical brick vernacular multi-family dwelling. The property retains its physical features, such as stone sills and lintels, modest stoop and original entry doors with transoms above. The elongated window openings are boarded over. The property retains its architectural identity and contributes to the historic district.

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33. 228 Mohawk Street (Contributing) (Photo 16): This circa 1865, three-and-a-half-story, three-bay-wide, brick vernacular dwelling has an exposed stone first story, with brick above. The property retains stone sills and lintels, but the first-floor window openings are filled with glass blocks, and the openings above have replacement windows. The attic story has been partial removed and a small contemporary addition with vinyl siding and windows, and a side-gabled roof rests on the top of the historic dwelling. The addition is only visible from the east. A stone retaining wall, topped with an old iron fence, is located on the east side of the property. From perusing Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, it appears that the vacant lot to the west has been associated with this property since the property's construction. Although the dwelling has been high altered and the aspects of workmanship, materials, design, and feeling have been diminished, the property retains a sufficient level of integrity to contribute to the proposed district.
34. 228 Mohawk Street (Contributing) Located at the rear of the property is a circa-1900, one-story concrete-block structure. The resource is not very visible from the public right-of-way resulting from its location on the lot and vegetation. It is known that the structure has a flat roof and at least one window opening with a casement sash. The 1904 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map (Vol. 3) indicates this structure was used for construction storage. The structure is not architecturally significant, but it was constructed during the Period of Significance, and does not appear to have been greatly altered.
35. 236 Mohawk Street (Non-contributing) (Photos 16, 17): This circa 1875, two-story, two-bay-wide, wood-frame vernacular dwelling has been highly altered. The building has vinyl siding, replacement windows, and vinyl shutters. The extensive alterations have impacted its historic integrity, and it no longer conveys historic significance.
36. 240 Mohawk Street (Contributing) (Photo 17): This 1874, two-story, two-bay-wide, brick vernacular dwelling retains its exterior form, stone sills and lintels, and simple cornice, the physical features that relate its significance. The windows openings have either replacement windows or glass blocks; the front door is a contemporary replacement, and the transom above has been filled in. Although altered the resource retains sufficient integrity to contribute to the streetscape, and the proposed district.
37. 244 Mohawk Street (Contributing) (Photos 17, 21): This three-story, 1940 brick Felsenbrau building is in the Art Moderne style. The essential physical features that represent the building's significance include the smooth and unornamented asymmetrical façade, lack of decorative detailing at doors and windows, metal casement windows, and flat roof. The only exterior alteration is a contemporary rolling metal door in the garage bay located on the façade. Retaining its essential physical features that represent its significance, the building retains a high degree of integrity.
38. 252 Mohawk Street (Contributing) (Photos 14, 17, 21, 22): This circa 1885, two-and-a-half-story, square brick Second Empire building once housed the Sohn Brewery's fermenting and cooling rooms. 252 connected to the original 1845 Sohn Brewery building, located at 254 W. McMicken Avenue, via underground stone arched beer cellars. Although the original brewery building was demolished in 2010, the tunnels remain intact. The building stands on an ashlar stone foundation laid in regular courses with a stone water table. Distinguishing stylistic features are a metal mansard roof, punctuated by three shed dormers on the west side, and original multi-pane windows.

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The two-story rear portion of the building is capped by a shed roof. Although the resource has been partially covered with stucco, this alteration was made during the Period of Significance, and is not considered to impact the integrity of the building. The building retains sufficient integrity to convey its significance.

39. 254 Mohawk Street (Contributing) (Photo 18): This 1884-vintage red-brick vernacular building occupies a sloping site and consists of a three-story section fronting on Mohawk Street and behind it a three-and-a-half-story section on a high ashlar stone basement stretching to Peck Alley. This mixed-use building housed a grocery in 1925 (Williams' City Directory, 2093). The building retains the following physical features—exterior form, stone water table, stone band course above the first floor of the façade, simple sills and lintels, and a simple box gutter/ cornice. All openings are covered, and at an undetermined time the storefront was bricked in. Although the storefront has been altered and the condition of the windows is unknown, the resource retains essential physical features that indicate its former use as a mixed-use building and retains Vernacular stylistic characteristics. The property retains sufficient integrity to contribute to the historic district.
40. 256 Mohawk Street (Contributing) (Photo 18): This 1865, two-story, two-bay-wide brick vernacular single-family dwelling retains simple stone sills and lintels, slender transom above main entry door, and modest cornice, which are its defining characteristics. The windows and front door are replacements, and the attic windows have been bricked in; however, these alterations do not greatly impact the building's integrity, thus it continues to convey its significance.
41. 261 Mohawk Street (Non-contributing) (Photo 19): This circa-1930, one-story, rectangular concrete block building, with flat roof and parapet, is listed as the Canan Bros garage in the 1920-1930 Williams City Directory (2178). All window openings are filled in with concrete blocks, and the garage bay has a rolling metal door. The resource lacks individual architectural merit, and does not contribute to the streetscape.
42. 271 Mohawk Street (Contributing) (Photo 20): This circa-1865, two-story, one-bay by seven-bay-wide brick vernacular apartment building rests on a square-cut ashlar foundation laid in regular courses with a stone water table, and capped by a steep shed roof. Physical features include its exterior form, flat-arch lintels and simple stone sills. The windows are replacements. The units are accessed by basement level doors on the east (side) elevation. Although the resource may lack individual architectural merit, it retains sufficient integrity to contribute to the proposed historic district.

Central Parkway

43. 2026 Central Parkway (Non-contributing) (Photo 7): This circa 1915, one-story, three-bay-wide, brick building is a simple vernacular commercial structure with a flat roof and coping at the roofline. The central entrance on the street elevation is surmounted and flanked by narrow glass block windows and larger store windows masked by plywood in the end bays. The property appears to retain its original burglar alarm mounted on the front wall. However, because of alterations and deteriorating brick exterior, this building has little integrity of design, materials, workmanship or feeling and is not considered contributing to the significance of the district.

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Of the 43 properties in the proposed district, only five buildings do not contribute to the character of the district. The non-contributing resources are 1) the circa-1960, vacant auto service station at 262 West McMicken Avenue (Resource 6, Photo 3); 2) the circa-1954, vacant concrete-block structure at 268 West McMicken (Resource 9, Photos 3, 4); 3) the circa-1875, wood-frame dwelling located at 236 Mohawk Street (Resource 33, Photos 16, 17); 4) the vacant concrete-block structure at 261 Mohawk Street (Resource 40); and 5) the 1915 brick commercial building at 2026 Central Parkway (Resource 43, Photo 7). The last three were built within the Period of Significance but have been extensively altered.

Vacant lots at 255, 257, 260, 276 and 278 McMicken, and 232, 234, 238, and 242 on the north side of Mohawk Street interrupt the otherwise continuous streetscape. The McMicken lots were historically occupied by wood-frame houses, as were 232 and 234 Mohawk Street. These frame buildings disappeared between 1904 and 1950, based on comparison of Sanborn maps of those dates. Wood-frame buildings rarely survive in urban neighborhoods, thus the remaining masonry buildings are the character-defining features. The streetscapes included in the proposed district retain at least two-thirds of their buildings. Streetscapes immediately beyond the boundaries of the proposed district had more than two-thirds vacant lots and/or non-contributing properties.

The most significant loss of historic fabric in the district resulted from the structural failure and demolition of the original 1845 Sohn Brewery Building at the southeast corner of W. McMicken Avenue and Stonewall Street (Figures 6, 7, 9) in 2010. Prior to its demolition it had been dramatically altered by raising its gabled roof to add a flat-roofed fourth floor and encasing the building in concrete stucco. In April 2010 it began to collapse due to long-term neglect and so was demolished on a structural emergency basis. However, the basement remains intact under the demolished portion and is joined at the rear by a tunnel that runs under Mohawk Street into the basement level of the building behind it. That building, at 252 Mohawk Street (Resource 37, Photos 17, 22) also historically part of the brewery complex, has a sub-basement with an artesian well in it.

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

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

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

Criteria Considerations

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

- A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- B. Removed from its original location
- C. A birthplace or grave
- D. A cemetery
- E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F. A commemorative property
- G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

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Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

TRANSPORTATION

INDUSTRY

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1850-1940

Significant Dates

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

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Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph

The proposed Mohawk Place Historic District is significant on a local level under Criterion A in the areas of Community Planning and Development, Transportation, and Industry, and under Criterion C in the area of Architecture.

The alignment of the district along West McMicken Avenue reflects the contours of the adjacent hillside, the former Hamilton Road, and the Miami and Erie Canal. The commercial cluster that remains on Mohawk Place represents its historical location at a pivotal point along the canal, where a bridge was built to convey the Hamilton Road. The remains of the Sohn/ Clyffside Brewery buildings characterize the development of Cincinnati's brewing industry, a major manifestation of German-American culture and industry. The district's continuous streetscapes of three- and four-story brick buildings, two-part commercial blocks, and vernacular, Italianate and other revival-style dwellings reflect Cincinnati's development in the mid- to late-nineteenth century as well as architectural styles of that period. The Art Moderne movie theater (Resource 16) reflects characteristics of that style—the sleek façade with its square enamel tiles and geometric details on the marquee—as well as the viability of neighborhood motion picture venues during the 1930s. Twentieth-century brewery-related buildings reflect the continuation of the beer industry after Prohibition and the popularity of the austere International Style for mid-century industrial buildings.

The proposed Mohawk Place Historic District's Period of Significance is from 1850, the construction date of the oldest remaining resource within the proposed district (281 West McMicken Avenue, Resource 17, Photo 11), to 1940, the construction date of the most modern contributing resource built within the district, the Felsenbrau Stock House at 244 Mohawk Street (Resource 36, Photos 17, 21). The proposed Period of Significance marks the span of time when the Mohawk Place Historic District achieved the character on which its significance is based.

Narrative Statement of Significance

Criterion A

Historical Background and Significance.

The tiny settlement of Mohawk was established in the late eighteenth or early nineteenth century along the former Hamilton Road, which followed an old Indian trail that led from Cincinnati 35 miles north through the Mill Creek Valley, to Hamilton, Ohio. By 1792 or 1793, early settlers had created an outpost on the Hamilton Road known as Riddle's Station, named after one of the area's largest landowners. Fortified with a blockhouse, Riddle's Station was located just east of a military road, known today as Colerain Avenue, but the site now lies under the alignment of Interstate 75, north of the Western Hills Viaduct, more than a half mile northwest of Mohawk Place (Giglierano & Overmyer, p. 244)

The land on which the settlement of Mohawk is located was purchased from John Cleves Symmes by a number of speculators and settlers. Mohawk's earliest days are murky. Even in 1902, a neighborhood history brochure stated, "The first settlement of Mohawk goes back beyond the recollection of anyone living today. Its earliest history has been obliterated by time."

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It is known that the original settlement in Mohawk was located near the intersection roads that are now called McMicken Avenue and Mohawk Place, approximately one mile beyond the northern boundary of Cincinnati at the time. (Young, p.2)

Mohawk was never incorporated as a town or city, and its borders were never officially recorded. Most historic accounts described Mohawk as being located generally west of Vine Street and north of Elder Street, where Findlay Market is located. The hillsides beyond were heavily forested and were not developed until the late nineteenth century. As the hillsides along McMicken Avenue, northwest of Mohawk Place, were developed, those areas also acquired the name Mohawk. (Young, p.2)

Today, Mohawk stretches along both sides of McMicken Avenue (the former Hamilton Road) west from Elm Street and includes the properties that climb up the hillside from Central Parkway. Even this distinction is not universally accepted. The *Over-the-Rhine Urban Renewal Plan* of 1985 actually identified two sub-neighborhoods within this area—West McMicken (west of Ravine Street) and Mohawk (north of Findlay Market)—but combined the two under the name "Mohawk" for contemporary planning purposes. The U.S. Census Bureau adds to this uncertainty, with the area east of Ravine Street included in census tracts in the statistical neighborhood approximation of Over-the-Rhine, while much of the area west of Ravine Street is included in the West End. (Young, p.2)

The source of the name "Mohawk" is unclear and not addressed in the standard histories of Cincinnati. An article on, "The Map of Hamilton County," by James A. Green published in 1926 in *The Ohio Archaeological and Historical Quarterly* explained the sources of many local place names, but concerning Mohawk, it stated only:

There once was a little suburb called Mohawk—Madam [Frances] Trollope lived there—and the name was kept alive by the old Mohawk Bridge on the Canal. But the bridge is gone and the name will soon vanish.

Frances Trollope resided in Mohawk in 1828-1829, at the southeast corner of Dunlap Street and McMicken Avenue. In her famous book on *Domestic Manners of the Americans* published in 1832, she wrote that she lived in a "little village" called "Mohawk." This was very likely the first time the name appeared in print. (Young, p.2)

A 1960 *Cincinnati Enquirer* article by Harry L. Hale further claimed that the community took its name from a Native American of the Mohawk tribe, who supposedly occupied a cabin near the intersection of Mohawk Place and McMicken Avenue. However, even Hale expressed doubt about this rationale, observing that the Cincinnati area was "exclusively Shawnee country and the Mohawks, being of the Iroquois nation, were their bitter enemies." (Young, p.2)

Today Mohawk is an urban neighborhood within the City of Cincinnati. The area remained rural until the 1840s when it developed into an urban mixed-use neighborhood. At this time German immigrants were settling in large numbers in the area, especially in the neighborhood of Over-the-Rhine (OTR) to the south. The Miami and Erie Canal, which was referred to as "the Rhine," due to the predominance of German immigrants that populated the area north of the canal,

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continued north along the western edge of Mohawk, spurring real estate speculation and enabling industry and workers to expand and settle northward.

Although the construction of the canal in 1825-1827 disrupted the original portion of the Hamilton Road that connected Mohawk and Brighton Corner to the west, a bridge was built at Mohawk Place to carry the Hamilton Road over the canal (Figure 2). The canal, which enabled the shipment of goods and supplies from the Ohio River some 249 miles north to Lake Erie in Toledo, attracted industries along its length.

The area represented by the Mohawk Place Historic District was part of the northward growth into the Mill Creek Valley, which gave rise to more industry and commerce that helped build Cincinnati's wealth and national reputation as the Queen City of the West. The location alongside the canal and the locus of the bridge crossing the canal contributed geographically to the settlement's burgeoning traffic and transportation role. Mohawk contributed to the physical expansion of Cincinnati through subdivision and construction. Coincident with the completion of the canal in 1845, the neighborhood's growth began to accelerate in the 1840s through the sale of lots within subdivisions created by wealthy landowners like Browne and Morris (1841, 1843 and 1874); Nicholas Longworth (1844); Woodruff and Munson (1845); and Dimmitts (1846), which coincide with the proposed district. (See Figure 2.)

The Browne and Morris subdivision of 36 lots near the intersection of Hamilton Road (Mohawk Place) where it crossed the canal on the west, was developed with residential buildings with storefronts on Mohawk Place and a long row of similar buildings along the south side of Hamilton Road. Most of these are still extant at 2010 to 2024 Mohawk Place (Resources 24, 25, 26, 28, and 29; Photo 8) and stretching from 253 to 283 (Resources 3, 4, 6, 7, 9, 11, 14, 15, 17, 19; Photos 13, 11, 12). Original lots at the east end of the subdivision were developed with industrial uses in the late nineteenth century, such as the former Sohn Brewery stable at 253 W McMicken (Resource 3, Photos 13, 15), now a warehouse, and the early twentieth-century former beer warehouse at 241-243 West McMicken (Resource 2).

The Woodruff & Munson subdivision was a three-block trapezoidal plat fronting on the Hamilton Road (West McMicken) on the south and Hamburg (Stonewall) Street on the west. Initially this subdivision was divided into small residential lots. Circa 1845, Sohn built his home at 242 West McMicken and also his brewery at 254 West McMicken at the corner of Stonewall (Figures 6, 7, 8). The Sohn house was joined by other dwellings still extant at 222, 226, 228, 236 and 240 Mohawk Street (Resources 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, Photos 16, 17). Eventually, however, residences including the Sohn house (demolished, circa 1937 to make way for the Felsenbrau addition) yielded to the expansion of the Sohn/Clyffside Brewery (Resource 1, Photos 1, 2), across Mohawk Street, including a circa 1880 Mansard-roofed building at 250-252 Mohawk built to house a beer cellar, a fermenting room on the first floor, and a cooling room on the second, and a 1940 International-style Stock House at 244 Mohawk (Resource 36, Photo 17, 21).

Longworth's subdivision to the west, comprising 2 ½ blocks fronting on West McMicken Avenue, Mohawk and Prospect (current-day Renner) streets, has seen much demolition but still retains a few residential structures, including 270, 272 and 274 West McMicken (Resources 10, 12, 13; Photos 3 and 4) and 254, 256 and 271 Mohawk Street (Resources 38, 39, and 41; Photos 18 and 20). During the twentieth century, with the rise of the automobile some auto-related uses replaced dwellings at 262 West McMicken and 261 Mohawk (Resources 5 and 40, Photos 3 and 19).

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The smaller Dimmits Mohawk Subdivision, recorded in 1846, included 16 lots which fronted the north side of McMicken Avenue, Mohawk and Renner streets on both sides of Manchester Alley, which is the western boundary of the proposed district. This area was developed with brick and frame row buildings, as seen on the 1922 Sanborn map; however, many of these have been demolished. West of Manchester Alley, 3 of 6 buildings shown on the 1922 Sanborn map are gone; on Mohawk Street, 5 of 6 buildings are missing and on Renner, 4 of 4 buildings are gone.

Mohawk's commerce continued to benefit from new transportation advances during the second half of the nineteenth century, such as the introduction of the Cincinnati, Hamilton & Dayton Railroad in circa 1850, and the 1859 horse car line from Brighton to downtown.² By 1881, the Cincinnati Street Railway Company, Route 9, was extended from Mohawk Place to Brighton (Figures 3, 4, 5). As a major transit terminus, with its location near Brighton, where streetcars and railroad connections could be made, as well as the earlier canal and major roadway access, Mohawk continued to be a center for transportation in and out of the City for some time to come into the early twentieth century.

The commercial cluster along Mohawk Place within the historic district flourished as a result of these transportation advances—all of the resources along this street were constructed between 1850 and 1895 and reflect this period of growth. These include several mixed-use buildings with residential units at 2019-2021 and 2022-2024 Mohawk Place (Resources 27 and 29). Along West McMicken this development pattern continues, with the majority of the resources dating from 1860 to 1890. In the early twentieth century, Mohawk developed a number of smaller commercial businesses, including a movie theatre (Resource 16), grocery (Resource 24), drug store (Resource 27), automotive repair (Resource 40) and a filling station (Resource 5) up until after World War II era.

In response to transportation improvements, industry also flourished. Industries in the Mohawk and Brighton area included packing houses, metalworking shops, wagon shops, pattern-makers, blacksmiths, and breweries. All these businesses in turn stimulated the market for housing and services for workers they employed. The 1895 city directory indicates the variety of occupations in nearby industries held by Mohawk residents: shoe-fitters, shoemakers, tanners, machine hands, brewers, harness makers, stonemasons, and coopers.

As early as 1884, proponents were urging the City of Cincinnati to transform the canal into a roadway. In 1912, Hamilton County decided to proceed with a sixteen-mile subway loop around Cincinnati. Repurposing the canal bed, the subway was to connect downtown to Brighton, where then it would surface and continue through the Mill Creek valley to Saint Bernard. Although significant progress was made on the subway construction, the City gave up its plans for completing the project in 1948. The construction of Central Parkway over the subway in 1928 eclipsed the Mohawk portion of McMicken Avenue and stimulated growth farther north, leaving Mohawk a quiet backwater. The subsequent construction in the late 1950s of Interstate

² The West End neighborhood of Brighton, which is located south and west of Mohawk across Central Parkway, shares a very similar development history with Mohawk, as Brighton benefited from the same transportation advances as Mohawk. Brighton evolved as a cluster of light industrial, residential and commercial buildings, with development concentrated from circa 1840 to circa 1950. Similar to Mohawk, Brighton is composed of mostly buildings that are two-part brick commercial blocks with storefronts on the ground floor and residential above, but predominate styles are Italianate and Queen Anne.

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I-75 farther west provided an even faster path northward. Hence, transportation was a significant factor in the development and the decline of Mohawk as an economic center.

The Brewing Industry

The main industry that moved into Mohawk was brewing, which reflected the area's German heritage. During the mid-nineteenth century, the Cincinnati beer brewing industry grew and expanded throughout OTR, it moved northwest along McMicken and the Miami and Erie Canal, to areas ripe for development. Mohawk offered several natural advantages that attracted a concentration of breweries along present-day McMicken Avenue and the canal. It had an abundance of available land with suitable water sources, a hillside suitable for creating *felsen* or tunnels to keep the beer cool, and convenience to transportation routes in and out of Cincinnati by road and canal.

In his book, *Over-the-Rhine: When Beer Was King*, Michael D. Morgan lists several breweries that were located along the canal in 1889, and others located in close proximity of the canal. Those along the canal included the Adam Henry Brewery (Camp Washington), the Bellevue Brewery (Mohawk), George Weber's Jackson Brewery (200-220 Mohawk Street), the John Germania Brewing Co. (Brighton), the Windish-Muhlhauser Lion Brewery (immediately west of OTR), and the C. Bruckmann Brewery (Cumminsville) (73). Other breweries that were in close proximity to the Sohn/Clyffside Brewery included Hudepohl (OTR, East Clifton Avenue), Christian Moerlein (OTR, Elm Street, Henry, McMicken, Dunlap), Schmidt and Bro. (OTR, 132-134 and 125 E. McMicken), and the John Kauffman Brewery Company (OTR).

In 1845, Johann Georg Sohn and Georg Friedrich Klotter partnered to build the small three-story Hamilton Brewery (demolished in 2010, Figures 6, 7, 8, 9), at the intersection of Hamilton Road (McMicken Avenue) and Hamburg (Stonewall) Street, part of the Woodruff and Munson Subdivision. This brewery was among the early German-owned breweries in Cincinnati. Its location on West McMicken Avenue at the base of a hillside had the physical advantage of allowing the brewery to create naturally cool tunnels needed to produce and store the lager beer it produced. In 1866, Sohn bought out Klotter, and the brewery became the Sohn Brewing Company (1870). Sohn was the tenth-ranked beer producer in Cincinnati by 1875. The brewery changed ownership again in 1907 and was subsequently known as the Mohawk Brewery.

On August 3, 1925 Federal Agents raided the Mohawk Brewery and closed it down for making alcoholic beverages in addition to the "near beer" manufactured during Prohibition. After repeal of the Prohibition law, the brewery reopened as the Clyffside Brewery (1933). It was well-known for its "aged in the hills" Felsenbrau and Old Hickory Ale. In 1945, the brewery once again changed hands, becoming the Red Top Brewing Company, which operated until 1957. For 111 years this brewery was the focal point of the neighborhood, producing beer continuously- longer than most other Cincinnati breweries, as an economic force that helped shaped the residential and commercial development of the area.

Five buildings associated with the brewery industry era remain in the proposed Mohawk Place Historic District: The 1886 Sohn Brewery (Resource 1), more recently known as the Clyffside Brewery, with its 1937 Felsenbrau addition³, the Sohn Brewery stable (Resource 3); the 1930 Clyffside beer warehouse (Resource 2), the circa-1880 Sohn Brewery Fermenting and Cooling

³ This addition replaced the Sohn family dwelling.

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Rooms at (Resource 37, Photos 17 and 22); and the 1940 Stock House at 244-248 Mohawk (Resource 38, Photo 17, 21). Each of these five buildings reflects its period and function. The design of the 1886 Sohn Brewery displays iconography symbolizing the brewery theme; iconography includes a large six-point brewers' star, a symbol of beer purity; a carved terra cotta cherub raising a glass of beer; beer barrels, hops, malt shovel and mash paddle.

By the 1980s most of Cincinnati's breweries were no longer operational. But homegrown beer is making a comeback in the Queen City. Both Christian Moerlein and Hudepohl beers are being brewed again, and several craft beers are now brewed in Cincinnati. Today, Cincinnati's brewery history and its collection of breweries are cherished parts of the City's past that offer opportunities for its future.

The local production of beer was a significant German ethnic and cultural influence that indelibly shaped Mohawk, Over-the-Rhine, and the City of Cincinnati. Cincinnati's economic growth attracted immigrants who sought a better life. In the late 1820s, Germans made up just 5 percent of Cincinnati's population. But economic and political turmoil in Germanic states over the next three decades combined with the economic growth over the same period encourage millions of Germans to immigrate. By 1850, more than 40 percent of all Cincinnatians were either German or born to German parents and they changed the character of Cincinnati. While Germans tended to congregate in the Over-the-Rhine district, they lived in every part of the city.

Throughout America, the German immigrant populated cities of Cincinnati, Milwaukee and St. Louis fueled the growth of beer culture and brewing throughout the nineteenth century. Creating their own, "home away from home," the German Cincinnatians brought with them the desire and expertise to brew beer, and develop a beer drinking culture that became synonymous with Cincinnati. Residents of English heritage had produced ales and porters early on but on a relatively small scale. With the introduction of lager beer in the 1830s, German brewers became the predominant force in the industry. The number of breweries increased from eight in 1840 to about 36 in 1860.

According to historian Zane Miller, the Mohawk-Brighton area, along with Over-the-Rhine to the southeast, was "a haven for German immigrants for a half a century" meaning 1840 to 1890 (Miller, p 13). The Mohawk community, which historically was linked to OTR via the canal and McMicken Avenue, was a natural place for them to move as immigration continued through the late 1800s. The 1860, 1870 and 1880 US Census cites residents predominantly from Germany including Baden, Prussia, Wurttemberg, and Bavaria resided in Mohawk, and held skilled and semi-skilled jobs such as brewery workers, butchers, clerks, tailors, carpenters, saloon keepers, servants, policemen, milliners and blacksmiths. Mohawk was a place of opportunity for German immigrants as they adapted to life in America. Even as late as 1945, about 60 percent of the neighborhood residents had German names.⁴

For most of the twentieth century, Mohawk was considered part of a larger community known as Mohawk-Brighton; the two neighborhoods were located opposite each other along the canal, connected by the old Hamilton Road, and developed during the same time period. Declining housing and health conditions in Mohawk-Brighton lead to part of it being included in the project area of the Cincinnati Social Service Unit Organization in 1917. Headed by Wilbur C. Phillips,

⁴ This is based on the percentage of German names among the 607 men listed on the Mohawk World War II monument.

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this experimental project was an important national initiative that chose Cincinnati for a pilot project. The effort provided child health care and health education in the neighborhood from 1917 to 1919, when it lost the support of Cincinnati's political, health and social welfare establishments because of their fears about losing power due to what they perceived as socialism. (Young, p. 4)

Like other communities in the Mill Creek valley, Mohawk slowly lost population and industry as the twentieth century progressed. Historian Patricia Mooney Melvin's research of the Cincinnati Social Unit Organization shows that in 1920 the residents of Mohawk-Brighton were mostly second- and third-generation immigrants who had left less desirable, inner-city areas of Cincinnati. Even with the influx of Rumanians, Germans and Hungarians in the three wards of Mohawk-Brighton, 83 percent of the 39,835 residents in 1920 were native-born Americans of German or Irish extraction. (For comparison, the 2000 Census shows that census tract 15, with boundaries roughly coinciding with the Mohawk-Brighton Social Unit Organization district, had just 2,261 residents, of which the majority (2,071) were African Americans.) By the late 1970s the population of both neighborhoods had declined sharply and much of Mohawk was considered to be a subarea of Over-the-Rhine, while Brighton was thought of as a portion of the West End. (Young, p. 4)

The populations of Mohawk and Brighton were also combined in their schools. In the late 1920s the Cincinnati Board of Education abandoned plans to expand the 18-room 28th District School at West McMicken Avenue. Instead it was decided to accommodate the children of Mohawk in the proposed Joseph Heberle School in Brighton. The new building opened in January 1930, and the approximately 580 students who attended the 28th District School transferred to the new facility. (Young, p. 4)

The 1948 *Cincinnati Metropolitan Master Plan* identified Mohawk and the nearby communities in the West End as neighborhoods in decline and stated that the entire area "must eventually be redeveloped." The 1985 *Over-the-Rhine Urban Renewal Plan* characterized the southern portion of Mohawk as "an industrial sector comprised of aging factories and warehouses," while the northern portion was described as "a medium-density residential neighborhood curving northward along the base of the hillside to McMillan Street." (Young, p. 4)

Many buildings were lost in the Mohawk area during the twentieth century for a variety of reasons, including disinvestment in inner city neighborhoods in general, the failure of residents and owners to make timely repairs, the wood-frame construction of many of the residential buildings and the area's tendency toward landslides. (Young, p. 4)

Criterion C

The Mohawk area evolved as a cluster of industrial, residential and commercial buildings in which people resided, worked and carried on daily life in close proximity. The scale, setback, streetscape, building types and architectural styles found within the nominated district today represent life in this commercial node within the period of significance. The appearance of the district is distinctive, with a dense concentration of three and four story commercial block brick row buildings, placed close to the sidewalk. Most of the storefronts on West McMicken Avenue have been adapted to residential use by masonry infill but some commercial storefronts still

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occupy buildings in the compact business district on Mohawk Place. The district also includes some freestanding dwellings and unusual 4-bay-wide double houses with two front doors.

According to Richard Longstreth in *The Buildings of Main Street*, the two-part commercial block emerged as a distinct type during the first half of the 19th century and was prevalent from the 1850s to 1950s. This shop house combination became a standard form in European cities during the late Middle Ages. Examples can be seen early on in the American colonies. However, the rapid growth of commerce and manufacturing after independence led to a proliferation of the shop house form in both new buildings and existing ones altered so that their commercial purposes was clearly indicated on the exterior. In some cases, the upper floors contained a single residence; in many others, it housed apartments. Examples are most often found in towns and neighborhood commercial areas that developed along city streetcar lines. (Longstreth, 24)

The two-part commercial block was well-suited for its residents, made up of workers who, before the streetcar, could walk to work in the nearby factories. As a city heavily populated with German immigrants and transients, Cincinnati had a proportionately high number of renters and boarders. In 1860, only 6.5% of the city's total population owned real estate. Since Germany had a proportionately large urban population and a tradition of apartment living, German immigrants were, in contrast to Pole and Italians, an overrepresented ethnic group among apartment dwellers. (Gordon, p. E-32)

The two-part commercial block row building was a variation of the tenement common in Cincinnati. "The most prominent Queen City tenement contained three stories and was constructed specifically to house the unskilled wage earner." These rectangular buildings usually housed two to three families per floor, and featured a side entrance and stairways in the middle of the dwelling. Sometimes toilets were located in the hallway, but many were placed outside in the courtyard." (Gordon, p. E-32)

Architecturally, the Mohawk Place Historic District is distinguished mostly by circa 1850-1895 brick row buildings with stone trim and/or cast-iron elements designed in typical period styles—Italianate, Vernacular, and Second Empire. In addition, the district features the very robust example of Rundbogenstil in the Sohn Brewery Building (Resource 1), the Commercial style in a beer warehouse (Resource 2), and Art Moderne in the Imperial Theater (Resource 16) and two 1930s brewery buildings (Resources 1, 36).

Of all of these styles, the Rundbogenstil most reflects the German influence in the district and in Cincinnati. The Rundbogenstil influence was transmitted to America through a number of central European architects who emigrated here, beginning in the early 1840s and continuing as a result of the political and economic instability brought on by the Revolution of 1848, as well as through architectural publications.⁵ It began in Germany in the late 1820s as an attempt to synthesize the Greek and Gothic styles, and later strove to improve upon the round-arched architecture from the Early Christian to the Romanesque period. In addition to the dominance of the round-arched opening, the German version of Rundbogenstil limited ornament to bordering, with classical or naturalistic Gothic elements but most often based on Romanesque or Byzantine forms. Unstuccoed brick or local sandstone or limestone were preferred.

⁵ Kathleen Curran, "The German Rundbogenstil and Reflections on the American Round-Arched Style," *Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians*, Vol. 47, No. 4 (Dec. 1988), 366.

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"As translated to America, the Rundbogenstil was a much simpler, less theoretical version best identified as the American round-arched style."⁶ In Cincinnati, the style appealed to the many ethnic Germans who began arriving in the 1840s. The style was highly suited for massive buildings, especially breweries, which were exuberant expressions of the Germans' pride in their heritage and their love for beer. Typical characteristics of the Rundbogenstil in Cincinnati were the use of brick, terra cotta and stone ornament, round arches, and a combination of Romanesque and Renaissance elements, such as corbel tables, polychromatic voussoirs, and classical entablatures and pilasters.

The 1887 Sohn Brewery building displays the typical red-brick exterior and Romanesque-style corbelling, but it also reflects a combination of stylistic elements. In addition to the prominent round arched entrance, there are segmental arches in the façade above, and heavy use of texture—rockfaced high basement and smooth stone belt courses, classical brick pilasters, geometrical diapered terra cotta spandrels, and a baroque curved pediment at the parapet. The polychromatic voussoirs and terra cotta ornament are more typical of Victorian Romanesque.

Several other examples of Rundbogenstil brewery buildings still remain outside the proposed district, such as the nearby 1859 Jackson Brewery at 200-220 Mohawk Street; the 1867 Bellevue Brewery, also in Mohawk, at 615 West McMicken and its 1895 addition at 611 West McMicken; the John Germania Brewing Co. at 2125 Central Avenue in Brighton; the Christian Moerlein Barrel House at 1910 Elm Street in OTR; and the 1860 John Kauffman Brewery Company at 1622 Vine Street in OTR. However, the Sohn Brewery is the most highly decorative of all of these with its polychromy, variety of surface textures, Baroque-style pediment, and terra cotta symbols of brewing—the large six-point brewers' star, a carved terra cotta cherub raising a glass of beer; beer barrels, hops, malt shovel and mash paddle.

The district also includes four contributing twentieth-century structures. Three are associated with the large Sohn/Clyffside brewery complex at the east end of the district—the 1930 Commercial-style buff-brick beer warehouse at 241-243 West McMicken (Resource 2) and the red-brick Moderne 1937 Felsenbrau addition (Resource 1) at 242 West McMicken and 1940 Felsenbrau Stock House (Resource 36) at 244 Mohawk Street. The fourth is the former Imperial Theater at 280 West McMicken Avenue (Resource 16) with its late 1930s Art Moderne façade, characterized by square enamel tiles and accents and banded details on the marquee.

The District as a Physical Embodiment of its Historic Significance. The proposed Mohawk Place Historic District physically reflects the themes of transportation, community development, industry and architecture. For instance, the alignment of the district reflects the contours of the adjacent hillside, the former Hamilton Road, and the Miami and Erie Canal. The commercial cluster that remains on Mohawk Place reflects its historical location at a pivotal point along the canal, where a bridge was built to continue the Hamilton Road. Mohawk Place is a physical reminder of that historic road established in 1792.

Similar architectural styles of the resources found in the Mohawk Place Historic District are found throughout the Cincinnati area. However, there are distinctive characteristics that separate the district, and make the community architecturally significant. For instance, one characteristic is the linear pattern of the district along West McMicken Avenue in response to

⁶ Ibid.

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the hillside and the former alignment of the Miami and Erie Canal, versus the more common multi-block development pattern found in other parts of OTR.

The Sohn/Clyffside Brewery buildings represent the development of Cincinnati's brewing industry, a major manifestation of German-American culture and industry. Additionally, these brewery buildings are physical reminders that the brewery industry provided stability in the form of employment for the neighborhood and spurred community development. Mohawk's continuous streetscapes of three- and four-story brick buildings, two-part commercial blocks, double houses and Italianate and other revival-style dwellings reflect Cincinnati's development in the mid- to late nineteenth century as well as architectural styles of that period. The twentieth-century brewery-related buildings reflect the continuation of the beer industry after Prohibition and the popularity of the austere International Style for mid-century industrial buildings. The Art Moderne movie theater (Resource 16) reflects as well as characteristics of that style—the sleek façade with its square enamel tiles and geometric details on the marquee as well as the viability of neighborhood motion picture venues during the 1930s

Alterations to Resources and Impact on Non-Contributing Resources. As previously mentioned in Section 7, many of the three- and four-story commercial/retail buildings have storefronts that have been altered or filled in with masonry, which is very common for this type of building. Some windows have been replaced but many original six-over-six, two-over-two or double-hung windows still remain throughout the district. Most of the original vernacular and lavish Italianate details are extant on upper facades. Thus the buildings on West McMicken, Mohawk Street and Mohawk Place still retain sufficient integrity and are contributing to the significance of the district in terms of workmanship, materials, feeling, and association.

Of the 43 resources in the proposed district, only five are non-contributing. They consist of a 1920 concrete block building (Resource 40) at 261 Mohawk Street known as the Canan Brothers Garage, which has no character; a circa-1875 dwelling at 236 Mohawk Street (Resource 34) that has lost all its character because of vinyl siding, window and door replacement; a 1954 concrete block building (Resource 8) at 268 West McMicken, which has no character and is beyond the Period of Significance, an altered vernacular circa-1915 brick building at 2026 Central Parkway (Resource 42) and a 1960 former auto service station (Resource 4) at 268 West McMicken, which is also beyond the Period of Significance.

There are twelve vacant lots in the proposed district. Eight lots were historically occupied by wood-frame houses, properties which rarely survive in an urban context. Two brick buildings at 255 and 257 West McMicken were demolished between 1950 and 1996; two other brick buildings at 273 Mohawk Street and 2013 Mohawk Place were razed recently. The non-contributing resources and the vacant lots are considered minimal obtrusions and do not destroy the district's ability to convey its sense of significance, which is based on the remaining brick buildings. Ultimately, the existing streetscapes contain no more than 26 percent in vacant lots.

As discussed in Section 7, the most significant loss resulted from the demolition of the original 1845 Sohn Brewery building at the southeast corner of McMicken and Stonewall in 2010. This was an unfortunate loss even though the building had been severely altered by raising the gable roof to a flat roof, adding a floor, and stripping and stuccoing the exterior, yet the demolition of this resource does not curtail the district's ability to convey its sense of significance because most of the brewery complex remains.

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Conclusion. The proposed Mohawk Place Historic District is significant under Criteria A and C. Under Criterion A, the district is significant in the areas of Community Planning and Development, Transportation, and Industry. The community development and transportation advances in the Mohawk Place Historic District expanded the Over-the-Rhine neighborhood of Cincinnati, allowing the City to expand northwestward into the Mill Creek Valley. The alignment of the district reflects the contours of the adjacent hillside, the former Hamilton Road, and the Miami and Erie Canal. The commercial cluster that remains on Mohawk Place reflects the area's location in the nineteenth century along a major thoroughfare and at a pivotal point along the canal, where a bridge was built to continue the Hamilton Road. The resources within the proposed Mohawk Place Historic District reflect the thriving beer industry as the brewery expanded within the neighborhood. The brewery industry was an economic driver for Mohawk, as the success of the Sohn Brewery contributed to the burgeoning residential and commercial area along West McMicken Avenue and Mohawk Place.

The Mohawk Place Historic District is also eligible for listing under Criterion C, in the area of Architecture. The distinct sense of place associated with Mohawk developed largely 1850-1895. Its continuous streetscapes of three- and four-story brick buildings, including two-part commercial block tenements, and Italianate and other revival-style dwellings, reflect Cincinnati's development in the mid- to late nineteenth century as well as architectural styles of that period; and still reflect everyday life in the community. The Art Moderne movie theater (Resource 16) reflects characteristics of that style—the sleek façade with its square enamel tiles and geometric details on the marquee—as well as the viability of neighborhood motion picture venues during the 1930s. The twentieth-century brewery-related buildings reflect the continuation of the beer industry after Prohibition and the popularity of the Art Moderne style for mid-century industrial buildings. Although archeological investigation has not been completed within the boundary of the district, there are likely cisterns, privies, wells and foundation material that may, upon examination, yield additional historic information.

The proposed Mohawk Place Historic District's Period of Significance spans from 1850, the construction date of the district's oldest remaining resource, 281 West McMicken Avenue, (Resource 17), to 1940, the construction date of the most modern contributing resource built within the district, the Felsenbrau Stock House at 244 Mohawk Street (Resource 36). The proposed Period of Significance marks the span of time when the Mohawk Place Historic District achieved the character on which its significance is based.

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
 - Other State agency
 - Federal agency
 - Local government
 - University
 - Other
- Name of repository: The Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): HAM-00450-04, HAM-00451-04, and HAM-01366-06, HAM-00474-06

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property 5.95

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- | | |
|--------------|------------|
| 1. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 2. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 3. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 4. Latitude: | Longitude: |

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Or

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or NAD 1983

1. Zone: 16

Easting: 714105

Northing: 4332801

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

Centered at the intersection of Stonewall Street and West McMicken Avenue, the proposed Mohawk Place Historic District is bounded on the south by Central Parkway and extends along both sides of Mohawk Place one block to the intersection with West McMicken Avenue. The district extends one block west on West McMicken Avenue to Manchester Avenue and east two blocks on both sides of McMicken Avenue to 242-244, the Sohn/Clyffside brewery buildings. Along Mohawk Street, the district extends between 256 on the western edge to 218, which marks the eastern boundary of the district. The district is bounded on the north by Mohawk Street and Peck Alley, on the west by Manchester Avenue, and on the south by Central Parkway. See attached map.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The proposed district boundaries enclose properties with sufficient integrity and significance to represent Mohawk's historic neighborhood business district, which was focused on Mohawk Place. This area is characterized by mixed-use buildings, many residential properties with storefronts, and industrial structures. Properties west of Manchester Avenue and west of 256 Mohawk Street are not included because of the high degree of demolition and alteration, including the World War II monument at the corner of McMicken Avenue and Ravine Street, which was completely reconstructed in 2011 and retains no historic fabric. Properties along Central Parkway, west of the western boundary have been significantly altered and no longer convey historic significance.

The location of the Hanna Recreation Area, at the corner of West McMicken Avenue and Dunlap Street, has been a park since circa 1904, but expanded over time through demolition along the south side of West McMicken Avenue. While the park retains two small historic buildings, most of its area is occupied by contemporary play structures, a swimming pool and wet park. Therefore the park no longer conveys a sense of its historic significance. Properties to the east of the Sohn-Mohawk (Clyffside) Brewery were not included because of vacant lots. To the south, along Stark Street and Central Parkway, there are also numerous vacant lots. The area north of Peck Alley is not included for the same reason. The north side of Mohawk Street between Manchester and Stonewall was not included because of vacant lots and new infill.

The rest of the Mohawk neighborhood, which according to longtime resident Paul Collett was bounded by Ravine Street, Warner Street and Clifton Avenue on the west, north and east

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respectively, was not included in the proposed nomination for several reasons: 1) the subdivisions in that area were later—1871 to 1892 versus 1844, 1845 and 1846; 2) the streets are residential, occupied predominantly by single-family houses without commercial storefronts or any industrial buildings and therefore different in terms of building types than those in the proposed district; and 3) the streets to the north are separated from the proposed district by a wide expanse of vacant hillside land.

The 1978 *Cincinnati Historic Inventory* identified a potential West McMicken Avenue Historic District beginning with the former Sohn Brewery at 244 West McMicken at the east end, crossing Ravine Street to include the Bellevue Brewery Company complex at 601 West McMicken, and wrapping around the bottom of the hillside of Fairview Park all the way to 2364 West McMicken. The survey characterized the district as encompassing 140 buildings “related by scale, placement and time period.”

Rather than identify a single potential Mohawk Historic District, the inventory identified two other potential districts up the hill that could be considered part of the Mohawk neighborhood—the Flora-Victor Historic District between Emming and Warner streets and the Clifton-Wheeler Historic District between Emming Street and McMillan Avenue—as well as 7 individual buildings between Mohawk and Warner streets. Properties at 304 and 308 Mohawk Street were identified individually; however, they are located west of Manchester Alley, the western boundary of the proposed Mohawk Place Historic District, and set apart by vacant lots.

Including the portion west of Ravine Street in the proposed Mohawk Place Historic District was considered, but vacant lots and alterations to properties in the vicinity of the intersection of West McMicken Avenue and Ravine Street interrupt the streetscape and feeling of time and place.

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11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Beth Sullebarger, Principal, and Bobbie McTurner, Architectural Historian
organization: Sullebarger Associates
street and number: 1080 Morse Avenue
city or town: Glendale state: OH zip code: 45246-3830
e-mail: sullebarger@fuse.net
telephone: (513) 772-1088
date: February 5, 2015

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

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

Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.

Additional items: (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

Figure 1: Sketch map and photo key

Figure 2: 1869 *Titus' Atlas of Hamilton County, Ohio*, Pl. 109, showing subdivisions, Hamilton Road (McMicken Avenue), Miami & Erie Canal, Mohawk Street, Mohawk Bridge and approximate boundaries of the district

Figure 3: E. Robinson's 1883-1884 *Atlas of the City Cincinnati*, Pl. 10, showing approximate boundaries of the district

Figure 4: 1904 Sanborn map, Vol. 2, Pl. 228, showing Mohawk Place, Mohawk Bridge

Figure 5: Mohawk Place, 1875, looking northeast, with streetcars (Public Library of Cincinnati & Hamilton County)

Figure 6: Sohn Brewery, circa 1935, showing original 1845 brewery building on corner

Figure 7: Sohn Brewery, circa 1935, showing Sohn house on right

Figure 8: 1904 Sanborn map, Vol. 2, Pl. 229, showing Sohn Brewery Complex

Figure 9: Sohn Brewery, circa 1989, in Robert J. Wimberg, *Cincinnati Breweries*

Figure 10: 1922 Sanborn map, Vol. 1, Pl. 14, showing approximate boundaries of the district

Figure 11: 1904-1950 Sanborn map, Vol. 3, Pl. 229, showing approximate boundaries of the district

Photographs

Photo Log

Name of Property: Mohawk Place Historic District

City or Vicinity: Cincinnati

County: Hamilton State: Ohio

Photographers: Bobbie McTurner, Beth Sullebarger

Date Photographed: June 27, 2014, September 28, 2014

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Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

- 1 of 22. 242 and 244 West McMicken Avenue (HAM-01366-06), looking northwest.
- 2 of 22. 244 West McMicken Avenue (HAM-01366-06), looking north.
- 3 of 22. 262, 268, 270, 272, 274 West McMicken Avenue, looking north.
- 4 of 22. 274, 272 and 268 West McMicken Avenue, looking east.
- 5 of 22. 280, 286, and 288 West McMicken Avenue and 2019-2021 Mohawk Place, looking north.
- 6 of 22. 2009, 2011 and 2019-2021 Mohawk Place, looking west.
- 7 of 22. Mohawk Place, looking northeast on axis at Imperial Theater, 280 West McMicken Avenue in center.
- 8 of 22. 2022-2024, 2016, 2014 Mohawk Place, looking east, 2026 Central Parkway on right.
- 9 of 22. 288, 286, and 280 West McMicken Avenue, looking east.
- 10 of 22. 2019-2021 Mohawk Place and 289 West McMicken Avenue, looking south.
- 11 of 22. 2022 and 2024 Mohawk Place and 283, 281 and 279 West McMicken Avenue, looking south.
- 12 of 22. 277, 275, 273, 271, 269, 265 and 263 (HAM-00450-04) West McMicken Avenue, looking south.
- 13 of 22. 263, 259-261, 253 and 241-243 West McMicken Avenue, looking south.
- 14 of 22. 244 West McMicken Avenue and 252 Mohawk Street, looking east. Vacant corner lot is former site of the 1845 Sohn Brewery Building, demolished in 2010.
- 15 of 22. 241-243 and 253 West McMicken Avenue, looking south.
- 16 of 22. 218, 222, 226, 228, and 236 Mohawk Street, looking northwest.
- 17 of 22. 236, 240, 244 and 252 Mohawk Street, looking northwest.
- 18 of 22. 254 and 256 Mohawk Street, looking north.
- 19 of 22. 261 Mohawk Street and the rear elevation 244 West McMicken Street, looking southeast.
- 20 of 22. 271 Mohawk Street, with 261 Mohawk Street and 244 West McMicken Street in the background, looking southeast.
- 21 of 22. 252 and 244 Mohawk Street, looking east
- 22 of 22. 252 Mohawk Street, rear and side elevations, looking south.

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

Mohawk Place Historic District

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Hamilton County, OH
County and State

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional Documentation

Page 1

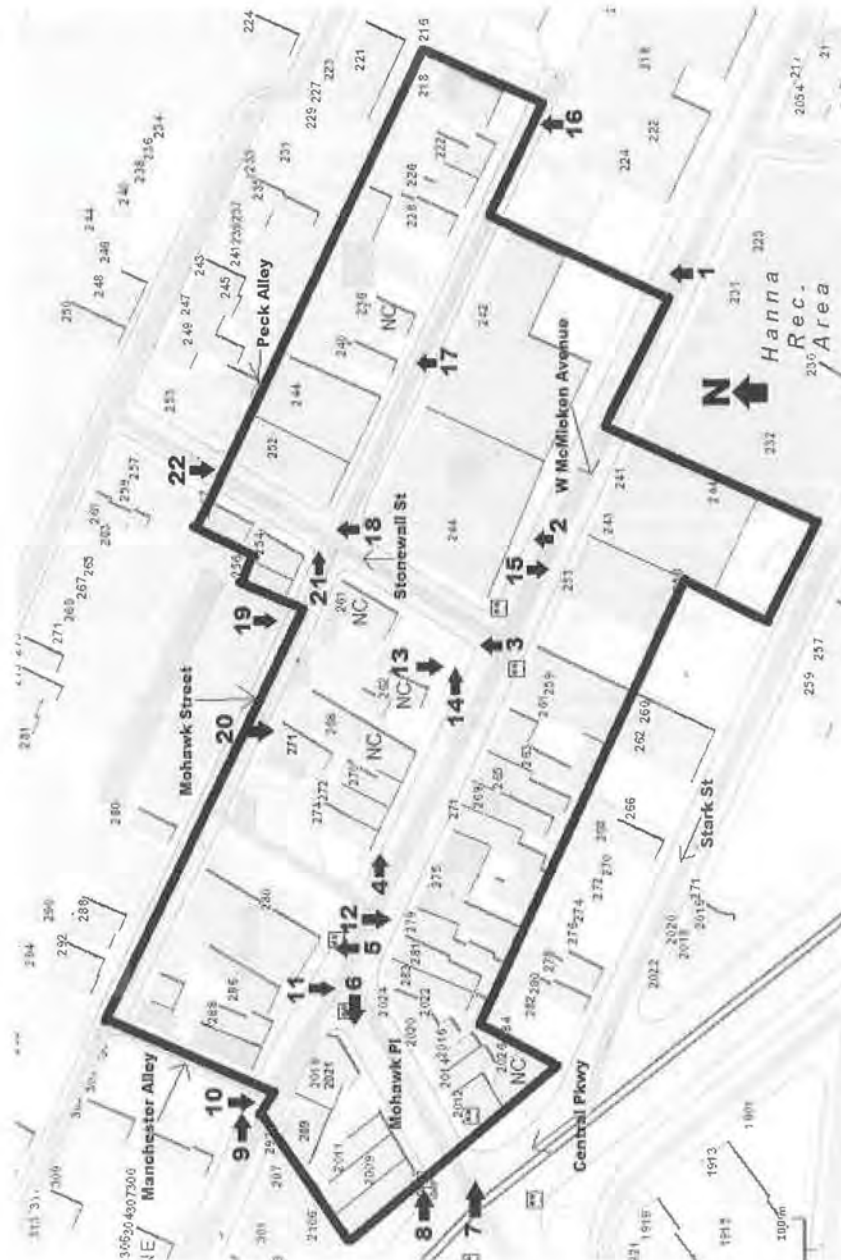


Figure 1. Sketch map and Photo Key
(All properties are contributing unless indicated with "NC" for Non-contributing.)

United States Department of the Interior
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Mohawk Place Historic District
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Figure 2: 1869 *Titus' Atlas of Hamilton County, Ohio*, Pl. 109, showing subdivisions, Hamilton Road (McMicken Avenue), Miami & Erie Canal, Mohawk Bridge and approximate boundaries of the proposed district

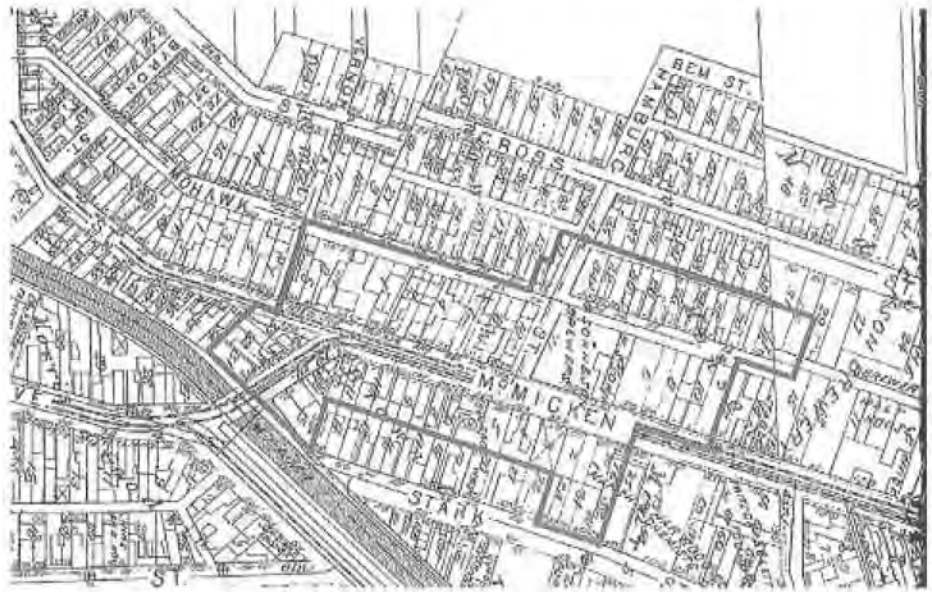


Figure 3: E. Robinson's 1883-1884 *Atlas of the City Cincinnati*, Pl. 10, showing approximate boundaries of the proposed district

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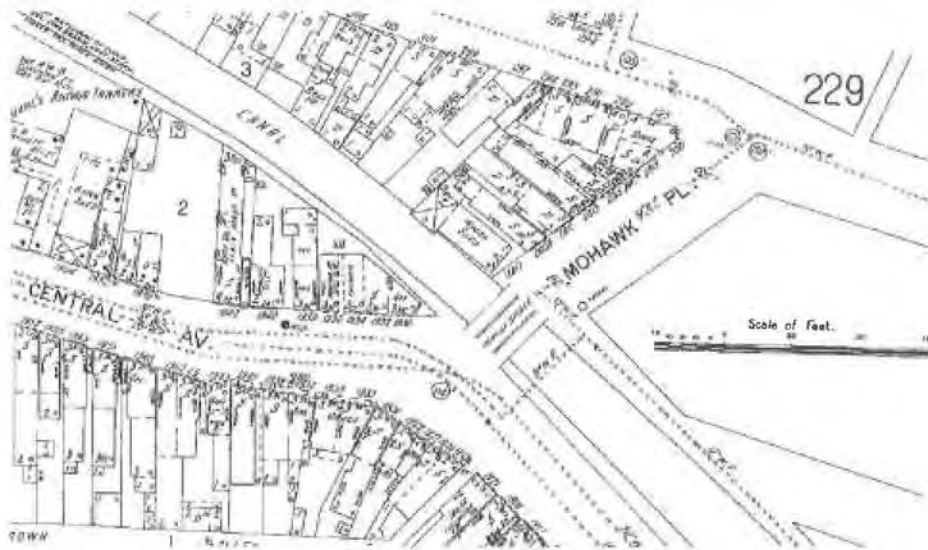


Figure 4: 1904 Sanborn map, Vol. 2, PI 228, showing Mohawk Place, Mohawk Bridge and streetcar lines (dotted lines)



Figure 5: Mohawk Place, 1875, looking northeast, with streetcars (Public Library of Cincinnati & Hamilton County)

United States Department of the Interior
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Figure 6: Sohn Brewery, circa 1935, showing original 1845 brewery building on corner



Figure 7: Sohn Brewery, circa 1935, showing Sohn house on right

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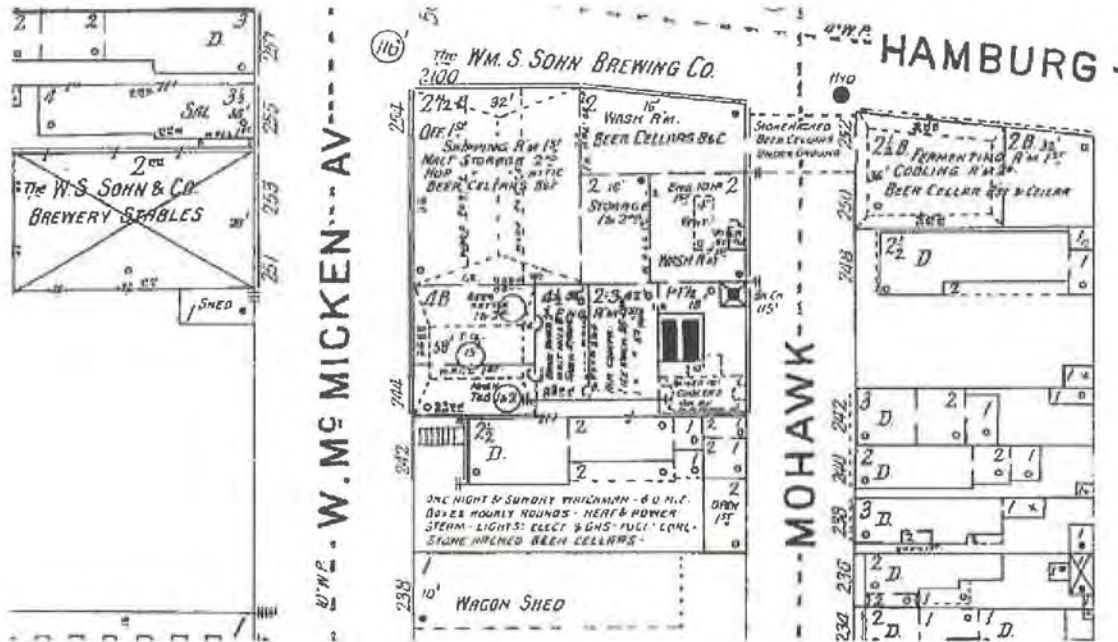


Figure 8: 1904 Sanborn map, Vol. 2, PI 229, showing Sohn Brewery Complex



Figure 9. Sohn Brewery, circa 1989, in Robert J. Wimberg, *Cincinnati Breweries*

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Figure 10: 1922 Sanborn map, Vol. 1, Pl. 14, showing approximate boundaries of the district

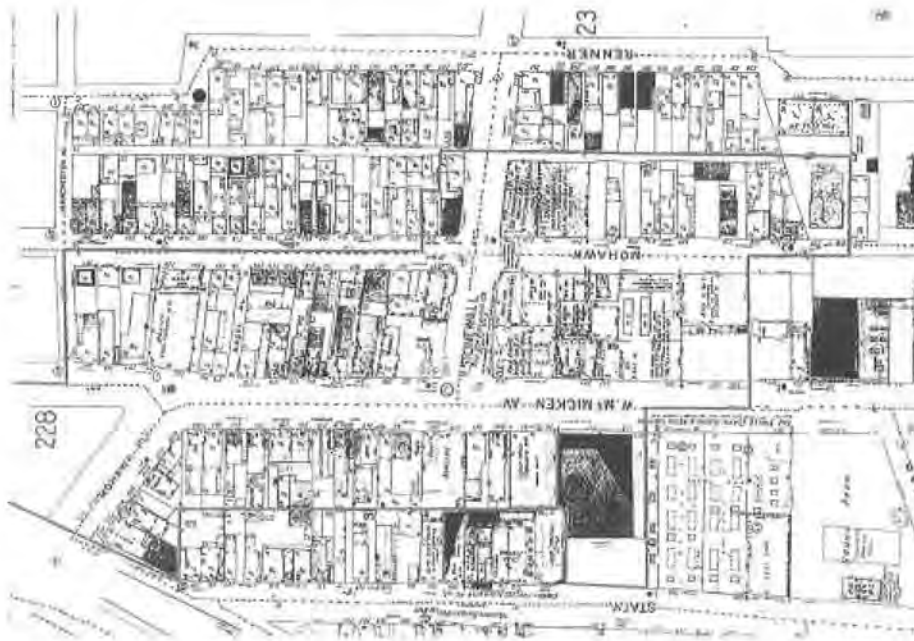


Figure 11: 1904-1950 Sanborn map, Vol 3, Pl. 229, showing approximate boundaries of the district











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AND WAREHOUSE-MOVING-578-0007





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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Mohawk Place Historic District
NAME:

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: OHIO, Hamilton

DATE RECEIVED: 7/17/15 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 8/19/15
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 9/03/15 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 9/01/15
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 15000563

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 9.1.15 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in
The National Register
of
Historic Places

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.

— copy for NR file —

Barb Powers

From: Harris, Larry <Larry.Harris@cincinnati-oh.gov>
Sent: Monday, December 01, 2014 2:08 PM
To: Barb Powers
Cc: sullebarger@fuse.net
Subject: Local Historic support for the Mohawk Place Historic District

Barb and Beth – Please forgive the late timing of this email. That being said, I would like to acknowledge that on November 17, 2014, Beth Sullebarger presented the new “Mohawk Place National Historic District” to the Cincinnati Historic Conservation Board. The presentation was comprehensive and thorough, noting the uniqueness of this district in the Over the Rhine community and indicating why the new district had distinct characteristics that set it aside from the two abutting local districts of Mohawk Bellevue and the larger Over the Rhine. The board unanimously supports the new national district and have stated that they would support the Mohawk Place District as a locally designated boundary.

As the Urban Conservator, I would add that the new district fills a void, architecturally, with its inclusions of the period of significance of the brewery buildings in area and how the sloping hillsides facilitated the underground beer vaults storage of the product and the transport of the product to the neighboring establishments. With the recent influx of microbreweries such as The Rhinegeist and Christian Moerlein in the OTR community, it is important to acknowledge the history of beer manufacturing in the City and specifically in the OTR community. There is an active Brewery District Group in the city who have proposed other local Brewery Districts sites in the area, but the proposed Mohawk Place National District would bring a broader connection to the history of brewing in Cincinnati.

Larry D. Harris

**City Urban Conservator
Historic Conservation Office
Department of City Planning and Buildings
Two Centennial Plaza - Suite 720
805 Central Avenue
City of Cincinnati, Ohio 45202**

**Phone: 513.352.4848
Cell: 513.432.5716
Fax: 513.352.4853
Email: larry.harris@cincinnati-oh.gov**



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
NPS TRANSMITTAL CHECK LIST

OHIO HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE
800 E. 17th Avenue
Columbus, OH 43211
(614)-298-2000

The following materials are submitted on July 15, 2015
For nomination of the Mohawk Place to the National Register of
Historic Places: Historic District, Hamilton Co, OH

- Original National Register of Historic Places nomination form
 Paper PDF
- Multiple Property Nomination Cover Document
 Paper PDF
- Multiple Property Nomination form
 Paper PDF
- Photographs
 Prints TIFFs
- CD with electronic images
- Original USGS map(s)
 Paper Digital
- Sketch map(s)/Photograph view map(s)/Floor plan(s)
 Paper PDF
- Piece(s) of correspondence
 Paper PDF
- Other _____

COMMENTS:

Please provide a substantive review of this nomination

This property has been certified under 36 CFR 67

The enclosed owner objection(s) do _____ do not
Constitute a majority of property owners

Other: _____



RECEIVED 2280

JUL 17 2015

Nat. Register of Historic Places
National Park Service

July 13, 2015

J. Paul Loether, Deputy Keeper and Chief, National Register
and National Historic Landmark Programs
National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places
1201 Eye St. NW, 8th Fl. (2280)
Washington D.C. 20005

Dear Mr. Loether:

Enclosed please find five (5) new National Register nominations for Ohio. All appropriate notification procedures have been followed for the new nomination submissions.

NEW NOMINATION

Woodland-Larchmere Commercial Historic District
Villa San Bernardo Historic District
South High School
Bon Air Flats
Mohawk Place Historic District

COUNTY

Cuyahoga
Cuyahoga
Franklin
Hamilton
Hamilton

The enclosed disks contain the true and correct copy of the nomination for the South High School, Franklin County, OH nomination to the National Register of Historic Places.

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

Sincerely,

for Handwritten signature of Barbara Bowen in cursive script.

Lox A. Logan, Jr.
Executive Director and CEO
State Historic Preservation Officer
Ohio History Connection

Enclosures