

56-589



National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter categories and subcategories from the instructions.

1. Name of Property

Historic name: Reakirt Building
Other names/site number: Schmidt Building
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: 126-128 East Sixth Street
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Not For Publication: N/A Vicinity: N/A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

<i>Barbara Power</i> DSHPO Inventory & Registration	<i>November 22, 2014</i>
Signature of certifying official/Title:	Date
State Historic Preservation Office Ohio History Connection _____	
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government	

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.	
Signature of commenting official:	Date
Title :	State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

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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:)

Patrick Andrews

1/24/2017

Signature of the Keeper

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>1</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Commerce/trade: office building
Specialty store: automobile showroom

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Vacant: not in use

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Late 19th and Early 20th c. American Movements: Commercial

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: brick, stone

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Narrative Description

Summary Paragraph

Built in 1924, the Reakirt Building is a ten-story, concrete-frame, Chicago Commercial Style office building with brick curtain walls and classically inspired limestone detailing. The building exhibits the three-part configuration typical of the style, with clearly distinguished two-level storefront (base), seven stories of office space (shaft) and prominent cornice (capital). Notable features include rusticated stone piers and fluted pilasters and an overhanging copper cornice. Multi-light steel windows add to the commercial detailing associated with tall buildings. Apart from some alterations to the storefront, the building has seen little exterior alteration. It also retains original interior features including circulation pattern, marble wainscoting and doors and transoms. The Reakirt Building is located in downtown Cincinnati's commercial core among buildings of similar scale and massing. It is presently vacant.

Narrative Description

Location. The Reakirt Building is located at 126-128 East Sixth Street in Cincinnati's downtown business district. The building is flanked by multi-story brick Commercial Style buildings of smaller scale, built in the late 19th or early 20th centuries. (photos 1-4)

To the east is the Brunswick-Balke-Collender Building at 130-132 East Sixth, a six-story brick structure with Richardsonian Revival detailing, built in 1891 (photo 2). Occupying the south side of the block is the former Southern Ohio Bank Building (now AT 580), a 17-story office building constructed in the 1970s that is under conversion to apartments. To the west, across an alley, is 169 East Sixth Street, a functional six-story edifice that has been extensively altered to accommodate a restaurant and mixed office use (photo 2). To the north of the building (rear) is a parking lot not associated with the Reakirt Building. The boundary lines of parcel number 078-0001-0120-00 corresponds with the boundary for this nomination with the exception of the east boundary, which is demarcated by the adjoining building at 130-132 East Sixth Street.

Exterior. The ten story brick-clad Reakirt Building exhibits limestone ornamentation and smooth-faced, rusticated limestone at the lower levels. The symmetrical façade is five bays wide, with smaller windows in the end bays. Windows contain single and multi-light steel sash in a variety of configurations, with pivot windows in the second-story facade. Entry doors are located in the storefront, at the east end of the main façade, and at the rear.

Façade. The Reakirt Building street level contains a storefront that was altered in the late 20th century to accommodate a restaurant; it was refaced with modern synthetic wood siding and tiny square windows and double solid doors installed. The east bay of the storefront appears to have been altered c. 1960. It is clad in what appears to be travertine and contains a squared entrance, framed in contrasting stone, with modern aluminum and glass doors opening to the lobby (Photo 5). At the east side of the first floor, beyond the lobby entrance, is found a nameplate inscribed with "The Schmidt Building" (photo 6).

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The building's second level exhibits a smooth-faced, regularly coursed limestone with rusticated stone piers, and a denticulated interior cornice with exaggerated single corbels at each corner (photo 7). This masonry treatment wraps around the first bay of the west façade (photo 5). Seven large, rectangular, wood pivot sash with rectangular transoms extend across the façade (photo 5).

The third through tenth stories of the Reakirt Building main façade are laid in dark-red brick, articulated by paired, soaring brick piers in the end bays (photo 4). Three pairs of 1/1 sash light the center of the façade, framed by narrow, 6/6-light, double-hung sash in the end bays.

The upper two stories of the building feature Ionic pilasters and square, multi-light, industrial steel sash, also original to the building. Most of the façade bays, with the exception of those at the eighth and tenth stories, are finished with deep lintels of warm sandstone. A deep, projecting, copper cornice completes the design (photos 8, 9).

Alterations to the façade. Glimpses of the façade in the only archival image of the building yet located—a 1924 *Cincinnati Enquirer* advertisement for a Chevrolet showroom on the first floor—reveal that the storefront originally had a three-part configuration with a central, angled, recessed entrance (doorway not visible in photograph). (Figure 4) Painted decoration adorned the upper portion of the display windows. The material of the rectangular bays above the storefront (glazed or solid) cannot be determined by the photo. The eastern bay of the storefront featured an arched portal enclosing a doorway to the upper floors (not visible), in what appears to be the general location of the present entrance. The single-light, multi-pane and pivot windows visible in the ad appear to be those in place today.

Secondary elevations. The building's side and rear elevations are much more simply treated, with the building's concrete frame clearly articulated. In contrast to the Neo-Classical vocabulary of the south façade, the north, east and west facades have a utilitarian character with a high proportion of window to wall area reminiscent of industrial buildings. Each level is seven bays wide, containing five large, multi-light, factory hopper windows. These blocks of windows, in turn, are framed by narrow, twelve-pane sash in the outer bays, like those at the main façade (photos 10, 11). All the east and west façade windows are finished with slender sandstone lintels and slip sills.

The rear (north) façade is even more austere. The ten stories, which grow progressively shorter as they ascend, are spanned by two sets of tripartite, fifteen-pane, steel hopper windows that occupy most of the wall surface. Floors are separated with plain concrete spandrels. No lintels are present. The top story is clad in brick and contains small vents. An exterior flue or ventilation duct rises the height of the building (photos 12, 13). At the east side rear, a narrow, two-bay section contains the rear stairwell and freight elevator. It extends the height of the building and exhibits smaller, multi-light metal windows. Lintels are incorporated into the concrete spandrels that separate the floors and windows terminate with small slip sills. At the rear is a non-historic, open-air, concrete block addition. Within it are several HVAC condensers, trash containers, and electrical connections found within a small metal storage room.

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Characteristic of tall loft buildings constructed in the early 20th c. as speculative investments, the overall character of the Reakirt Building, straightforward and restrained. Ornamentation, which is limited to the street façade, is simple in design with the striking exception of the exuberant cornice. It is currently in fairly good condition.

Interior: The first floor elevator lobby at the east end, features a barrel-vaulted ceiling and numerous original features: brass mailbox, elevator annunciators, “fireproof” metal staircase with marble treads and yellow-and-gray marble wainscoting, and ornate brass chandelier with milk-glass globes (photos 14-16). A plain staircase with iron balustrade and iron newel posts extend to the uppermost floor from the more decorative run of stairs at the lower level (photo 15, 16), from the first floor up to the second floor. At the rear, within the east side stairwell is found a simple metal stair run that extends from the first floor up to the tenth floor (photo 22). Numerous stile-and rail metal doors, some of which contain wire and pressed glass, remain in place at the upper floor stairwell landings. These provide direct access into each floor (typical example at photo 27). Stout circular concrete columns are partly visible in many locations of the floors (photos 18-20, 26, 29).

Because the building was built as a speculative commercial property, the interior floor space has been altered numerous times to accommodate new tenant requirements. While these changes have resulted in the loss of historic interior detailing, if any existed, circulation patterns remain through the original staircase, elevator and corridor locations. Presently, the interior floors exhibit a variety of non-historic tenant build-outs to meet restaurant, office and specialty business needs.

Specifically, at the west end of the first floor, a restaurant has functioned within the past few decades. Current interior features are associated with non-historic lobby, dining area, food prep and storage, and cleaning. Modern tile floors, dropped ceilings, plain door and window detailing, and functional kitchen appliances are modern. No historic details are evident. An HVAC system is contained within the dropped ceilings and vents at the rear into an exterior condenser placed within the previously mentioned, non-historic, open-air, concrete block rear addition.

Upper floors are mostly used for small offices with surviving historic details limited to the original paired elevators and elevator doors, remaining east side corridors extending from the front stairwell landing and connecting with the rear freight elevator and metal stairs (photos 17, 29, 31-36). Upper floor stairwells have been retained, but have experienced some plaster damage. Toilet areas are located off of the hall. Most front elevators and historic doors open directly into an office lobby (photo 17, 35). Some original mail chutes survive. Office space incorporates dropped ceilings with HVAC above, ceiling height and truncated partition space delineate individual and group space activity areas. Interior window surrounds are simple with plain plaster over brick (photos 23-25, 30, 40-41). Below some windows are found, enclosed in plasterboard, an HVAC distribution system with vents at the level of the lower window sashes (photo 25, 34, 37, 40).

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Special use activity floors have been used over the years. The third floor was recently an Arthur Miller dance studio with hardwood dance floor and small offices (photos 18-21), the fifth floor contained a beauty and cosmetology school, and the rear of the sixth floor housed a photographic studio. The eighth floor was most recently used for mixed tenant space and built out for their needs (photos 24-26, 28-32). At the ninth floor, the Schmidt real estate activities were housed (photos 33-41).

With the turnover of varied tenants over the years, space within this building has been periodically changed with new construction. Modern construction for build-outs was the norm. The surviving interior historic detailing is limited to the decorative first floor elevator lobby with marble stairwell with metal rail, elevator doors and decorative lobby details (photos 14-16). Upper floor historic detailing is found at metal passenger and freight elevator doors (photo 17, 35, and 42) stairwell landing doors (photo 27), and concrete columns.

Integrity. The Reakirt Building retains original stone ornamentation, cornice and windows and is almost unaltered on the exterior apart from the storefront alterations, which may be reversible. It also retains some original interior features such as staircases, doors and marble wainscoting, and the vaulted ceiling and chandelier in the lobby. Circulation patterns remain through the original staircase, elevator and corridor locations. The building continues to express the qualities of the Chicago Commercial Style in its verticality, three-part configuration, ample glazing and classically influenced ornamentation. Its setting has remained largely unchanged since construction. The property retains sufficient historic integrity for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

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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.)

architecture

Period of Significance

1924

Significant Dates

1924

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

n/a

Cultural Affiliation

n/a

Architect/Builder

Godley, Samuel S.

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Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The 1924 Reakirt Building meets the requirements for listing in the National Register under Criterion C as a locally significant expression of the Chicago Commercial Style, constructed as a speculative office tower to support a growing commercial, business and light industrial base. The Reakirt Building is distinguished among the Chicago Commercial Style loft buildings in Cincinnati by its refined Renaissance Revival-inspired limestone detailing, juxtaposed with the bold, emphatic cornice. It also is distinguished by the striking contrast between the formal, symmetrical, classically composed main façade and the factory-like side elevations which express its utilitarian nature. The building is a major work of Cincinnati architect Samuel S. Godley, who produced sophisticated commercial and residential work for the Cincinnati elite early in the 20th century. The Reakirt Building's period of significance is 1924, reflective of the date of its construction.

Narrative Statement of Significance

Historical Development. The Reakirt Building was constructed as a speculative office and light industrial tower for Llewellyn Bodmann (L.B.) Reakirt (1867 – 1948), a wealthy Cincinnati capitalist and real estate investor. The 1904 Cincinnati Sanborn fire insurance map indicates that the site formerly was occupied by a six-story loft building housing a type manufacturing business (Figure 2). Williams' 1922 Cincinnati city directory noted that a building permit had been issued for the building, estimated to cost \$200,000: one of several large commercial buildings to break ground in the downtown business district (Williams' Directory Company, 1922).

The 1934 Sanborn fire insurance map of Cincinnati, updated to 1961, includes the following description of the Reakirt Building: "F.P. [Fire Proof] Construction, Built 1923, Concrete Frame, Floors, and Roof, 12" Brick Curtain Walls, [illegible], Metal Lath & Plaster." Fire prevention equipment included a one-and-a-half-inch hose on each floor (Figure 3).

Williams' Cincinnati city directories reveal that the first floor of the Reakirt Building was consistently occupied by consumer-oriented retail businesses that enjoyed the high visibility and ready access of glazed, ground-floor storefronts. As noted previously, a Chevrolet showroom occupied the storefront when the building first opened. (See Figure 4.) A cigar store and a restaurant also variously occupied the space (Cincinnati Enquirer, March 2, 1924; Williams' Directory Company, 1924, 1935; Sanborn Map Company, 1934-1961).

The building's upper floors were dominated by enterprises selling products and services to other businesses. From 1924 to the mid-1930s, these included wholesalers, advertisers, manufacturers' representatives and business schools, as well as publishers, numerous needle trade companies and government offices. L.B. Reakirt occupied an office on the 7th floor, as did his son, insurance broker Robert Reakirt (Williams' Directory Company, 1924, 1935).

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In the 1960s (exact date not determined) the Frederick A. Schmidt Company, a Cincinnati realty and property management firm established in 1878, purchased and occupied the building, which became known as the Schmidt Building (photo 6).

L.B. Reakirt. According to his obituary in the December 23, 1948, *Cincinnati Enquirer*, L.B. Reakirt “inherited three large fortunes” as well as “valuable downtown real estate.” He was the son of drug wholesaler Joseph Reakirt and the grandson of tobacco magnate Ferdinand Bodmann. According to the March 11, 1930, *Cincinnati Post*, “Much of [Reakirt’s] life has been spent in managing the Bodmann estate, created by his grandfather, one of the first of the great builders of this city.” Reakirt was the director of the Cincinnati Realty Co., which operated the Sinton Hotel in downtown Cincinnati (no longer extant).

Reakirt and his wife, Grace, had two sons: Edward, who lived in Los Angeles, and the aforementioned Robert. Although Robert Reakirt took over the family real estate business upon his father’s retirement, L.B. Reakirt “managed to maintain an active interest” in said enterprise until the end of his life. L.B. Reakirt was a member of the Cuvier Press Club, Queen City Club and Elks Club, the Cincinnati Chamber of Commerce and the Cincinnati Real Estate Board (ibid.).

Reakirt hired local architect, Samuel S. Godley (1858-1941) to design his speculative office building. Godley was a prolific, but somewhat overlooked Cincinnati architect. He received his education at the Farmer’s College in College Hill, a Cincinnati neighborhood, worked in the offices of local architects and spent a year training in each in Chicago and St. Louis. He opened his own practice in Cincinnati in 1888, later included his son, G. H. Godley and continued working there until his death in 1941. Godley was more low-key than some contemporary local architects, but was a sought after designer for influential local businessmen like Reakirt. Godley’s residential clients were wealthy prominent members of Cincinnati society, including members of the Doepke, Duttenhofer, Feiss, Fleishmann, Freiberg, Heinsheimer and Herschede families. One of his most prominent residential works was the Beaux-Arts Frank Herschede mansion at 3668 Reading Road in Avondale (1908, now demolished).

In addition to his residential designs, he also designed hotels, apartment buildings, distilleries, a Jewish hospital and the plans for Grove Park Inn at Asheville North Carolina. The Reakirt Building was part of a group of commercial properties that included the Transport, Duttenhofer and Walsh Buildings (all in Cincinnati) during the latter part of his career. (Architectural Foundation of Cincinnati website)

Criterion C: Chicago Commercial Style architecture in downtown Cincinnati, c. 1900-1920

The reform impulse known as Progressivism was most evident in urban areas. There the latest inventions were found.... New building types followed advances in technology. The skyscraper, which James McLaughlin and others pioneered in the 1870s, came into its own as a distinctive urban and American type. Cincinnati’s “skyscraper district” at Fourth and Walnut streets was created at the turn of the century. (Sue Ann Painter,

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Architecture in Cincinnati: An Illustrated History of Designing and Building an American City [Ohio University Press, 2006], p. 129).

The Reakirt Building is one of a group of architecturally significant office towers built in Cincinnati's downtown core in the 1900s and 1910s, designed by locally or nationally prominent architects. All utilized the new, technologically innovative Chicago Commercial Style, which was "created by the demand for light, space, air and strength" (John M. Tess, "Union Trust Building," National Register of Historic Places nomination, 2007).

The new style, which developed in Chicago's post-fire construction boom, featured steel frames with masonry cladding (often terra cotta), allowing for distinctive tripartite windows, and, at times, three parts of a classical column. The first floor functions as the column base, the middle stories, usually with sparse ornamental detail, act as the shaft of the column, and the last floor represents the capital, with added ornamental detail and capped with a cornice. Steel-framed construction with masonry curtain walls and elevators allowed for soaring, unprecedented height, large windows (especially important in early days of electric lighting) and more open, flexible floor plans. Three technological innovations made these tall buildings possible: the elevator, fireproofing, and the self-supporting metal frame.

The oldest surviving examples of the style, built in the late 1880s through early 1900s, typically exhibit a robust, Romanesque-inspired character. Standing six to eight stories high, they use masonry bearing wall or hybrid (masonry/steel frame) construction with iron storefronts. Facades are red or polychrome brick with stone trim, and massive arches at the upper façade. Built before Cincinnati restricted land uses downtown with zoning, they typically housed offices or loft manufacturing/warehousing.

In contrast to the Reakirt, the buildings discussed below are relatively short; either blocky in massing, with a strong balance of horizontal and vertical elements (Hooper), or slender (Dennison, Brunswick); are embellished with Romanesque arches, corbeled brickwork (Brunswick, Dennison, Hooper) and, sometimes, rock-faced stone; and overhanging cornices (Brunswick, Dennison).

One of the oldest surviving examples of the Commercial Style is the **Brunswick- Balke-Collender Building** (1892), which adjoins the Reakirt Building on the east (photo 2). Built as a retail store, it is a six-story, symmetrical, bearing-wall brick building with arcaded upper story. The building is distinguished by a riveted iron front with large, glazed showroom windows which covers the second and third stories. The first story is partly disguised by a modern storefront.

Two blocks from the Reakirt is the former **Dennison Hotel** (1892, 1900; Samuel Hannaford, architect). Built as a warehouse for a carriage parts manufacturer, it was expanded with two additional stories eight years later. The windows have been infilled with masonry and cut down in size and the storefront altered, but the rich masonry ornamentation remains in place. This building is located within the **Main Street Local Historic District**.

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Located in the **West Fourth Street Historic District** (National Register, 07000028), the red-brick **Hooper Building** (Samuel Hannaford; 1893) is a seven-story former loft building. Its two-level, cast iron storefront features delicate arabesque piers, paneled lintels and a modern storefront system at the first level, and fluted pilasters, Ionic capitals and large pivot windows at the second. "The windows are recessed behind full-height pilasters, creating a skeletal effect typical of the Commercial Style" (ibid). The seven-story façade culminates in great Romanesque arches and a modillioned cornice.

Like the Reakirt Building, other Cincinnati examples represent the second, post-1900 phase of the Chicago Commercial Style, whose classically derived ornamentation reflected the influence of the 1894 World's Columbian Exposition. "Subtle, but decisive, shifts...around 1890 encouraged the borrowed (and somewhat ill-fitting) finery of the Columbian Exposition for more mundane purposes" (William H. Jordy, *American Buildings and Their Architects, Volume 4: Progressive and Academic Ideals at the turn of the Twentieth Century* [Oxford University Press, 1972], p. 78).

As the style developed in the new century, it evolved in terms of style, massing and structure, as illustrated by the Reakirt Building. As steel or reinforced concrete replaced solid masonry, buildings became taller and more massive, with flat roofs, brick curtain walls and large expanses of glass. Facades were flatter and simpler. Many, not all, utilized light-colored brick that evoked stone. The Reakirt reflects this evolution in its verticality (10-story height), its ample glazing, and the classical influences of the main façade (rusticated storefront, corner corbels, interior cornices, and fluted pilasters, further emphasizing height).

From the 1900s to 1930, Commercial Style towers were built in the downtown financial district as corporate headquarters and prestigious office space, for the most part along Fourth and Fifth streets between Vine and Main. (See Figure 1.) These buildings housed large companies, financial institutions and utility companies. Standing 10 to 19 stories in height, they make extensive use of costly materials such as granite, limestone and carved terra cotta, and monumental cornices. Secondary elevations are simpler expressions of main facades. Interiors often feature soaring lobbies and banking halls, and marble stairs, flooring and wainscoting on the office floors.

These buildings were designed by architects of local or national reputation such as Daniel Burnham, Cass Gilbert, Ernest Flagg (Gwynne Building 1913, National Register 79001856), John Russell Pope (Cincinnati Gas & Electric Company, 1930), Hannaford & Sons (Cincinnati Bell—demolished), and Elzner & Anderson (Ingalls Building, 1903 National Register 75001418). Examples include the four Commercial Style office towers that introduced the Commercial Style to Cincinnati at the turn of the 20th century, all of which were designed by Burnham; in particular the Union Trust (1901, 1907, 1914, 1930; National Register 08000802) and First National Bank (1904) buildings. Tenants typically included attorneys and financial companies.

In the 1910s and 1920s, loft buildings such as the Reakirt were built as speculative ventures to support a growing commercial, business and light industrial base. Located on the outlying blocks

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of the downtown skyscraper district, they were designed by local architects. These buildings utilize the steel or concrete-framed construction typical of Commercial Style towers and exhibit the characteristic three-part façade configuration, large windows and open plans. Facades typically are faced with brick instead of more costly stone. Ornamentation is simple with little, if any, applied to secondary facades. Building height varies widely, ranging from seven to 16 stories.

Similar in design and massing to the Reakirt Building is the **Duttenhofer Building** (299 East Sixth Street; 1916), built a decade earlier by the same architect. Like the Reakirt, it is a ten-story, reinforced-concrete tower that housed speculative office space; unlike the Reakirt, it also housed light manufacturing operations. Common elements include a two-level, stone-clad base, large window openings spanned by stone lintels, and overall simplicity of design. The Duttenhofer's level of integrity, however, has been somewhat diminished by replacement windows and storefronts, infill of side and rear bays, and removal of the culminating cornice. This property has been locally designated as a Cincinnati Landmark.

The **Gibson Art Building** (1923) at 225-241 West Fourth Street was built as the headquarters of a greeting card company. Occupying half a city block, it consists of two reinforced-concrete buildings joined together. The façade is faced with red brick and exhibits restrained, low-relief classical detailing in limestone and polished granite. The three windows on each bay are separated by narrow, brick-faced, continuous piers, interrupted by third- and seventh-floor belt courses. The building was converted to a parking garage in 1957 and to apartments, retail and parking in 1980. The Gibson is differentiated from the Reakirt in its scale and massing. **West Fourth Street Historic District**.

At the western edge of downtown, the **Merchants Building** (1908) is a 12-story, Commercial Style tower at 32 West Sixth Street. The dark-brown brick façade contains ganged double-hung windows. Its stark simplicity is relieved by a small interior cornice at the tenth story and a simple fluted entablature with paired end corbels. A Modernist, yellow-brick addition was appended to the front of the building in 1950 to house a Newberry's five-and-ten-cent store, partly disguising the original structure. **Race Street Historic District 95000878**.

Among the Chicago Commercial Style loft buildings in Cincinnati, the Reakirt Building is distinguished by its refined Renaissance revival-inspired limestone detailing, including the storefront cladding and sinuous cornice brackets, juxtaposed with the bold, emphatic cornice. It also is distinguished by its juxtaposition of stylistic elements: the striking contrast between the formal, symmetrical, classically composed main façade and the factory-like side elevations, which express the utilitarian nature of the building. In contrast to the formality and classically inspired ornamentation of the main façade (storefront, pilasters, cornice), the vast expanses of glass at the side and rear elevations, and the absence of ornamentation at these facades, are much more representative of early 20th c. industrial than commercial buildings. The utilitarian steel windows, for example, are more commonly used in factories than office buildings, which typically feature punched openings with single or grouped double-hung sash.

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In the words of Professor Patrick Snadon of the University of Cincinnati,

“It seems to me that a major point to be made about the building is the interesting contrast between its rather formal facade and its far more functional side elevation. The facade has a classicizing quality.... This contrasts strikingly with the factory-like functionalism of the side elevations, with their vast, steel casement windows (generating more glazed surface than structural-masonry surface area). In fact, it seems a building that references TWO typological traditions: the more formal ‘office building’ facade, vs. the more functional, ‘factory-like’ side elevation(s).” (Patrick Snadon, personal communication)

In conclusion, the Reakirt Building is a significant and well-preserved example of the Commercial Style applied to a speculative loft skyscraper of the 1920s. Designed by local architect Samuel S. Godley, it is distinguished by its limestone ornamentation and distinctive copper cornice. Its verticality, three-part composition, ample glazing and overall simplicity of design, with utilitarian secondary facades, is characteristic of buildings of similar scale built in the downtown core during this period. It has been evaluated in the context of Commercial Style tall buildings in downtown Cincinnati during the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

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9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

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Reakirt Building
Name of Property

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“Today’s Birthday: Llewellyn B. Reakirt, Capitalist and Sinton Director, is 63,” *Cincinnati Post*, March 11, 1930, p. 13-001. Available online at <http://newsdex.cincinnati-library.org/search/>. Accessed March 8, 2016

“Wealthy Resident of Mt. Auburn Dies After Long Illness,” *Cincinnati Times-Star*, December 23, 1948, p. 25. Available online at <http://newsdex.cincinnati-library.org/search/>. Accessed March 8, 2016

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Wright, Russell, AIA. “West Fourth Street Historic District (Amendment),” National Register nomination, 1979. Available at Ohio History Connection, Columbus, Ohio.

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: Ohio Historic Preservation Office

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

Reakirt Building
Name of Property

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County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than 1 acre

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: |

Or

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or NAD 1983

- | | | |
|-------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1. Zone: 16 | Easting: 715246 | Northing: 4331167 |
| 2. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 3. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 4. Zone: | Easting : | Northing: |

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

This property comprises the western portion of Parcel 078-0001-0120-00 of the Hamilton County Auditor's records. It includes Lot 11 and part of Lot 10, Gano's Subdivision, and is 51.8 feet wide and 90' deep. It is bounded on the north by a parking lot, on the east by the building at 130-132 East Sixth Street which is located on the eastern portion of the same parcel, on the south by East Sixth Street and on the west by a small public alley. (See Figure 7 Survey Map; Parcel 1)

Reakirt Building
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Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary includes property historically associated with the Reakirt Building

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Margo Warminski and Lawrence F. Mitchell
organization: Historic Preservation Associates
street & number: 340 East Second Street
city or town: Newport state: Kentucky zip code: 41071
e-mail: _____
telephone: 859-581-2883
date: July 19, 2016

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.)

Photographs

EXTERIOR VIEWS

Name of Property: Reakirt Building
City or Vicinity: Cincinnati
County: Hamilton State: Ohio

Photographer: Lawrence F. Mitchell
Date Photographed: April 25, 2016

Description of Photograph(s)

Streetscape view of 100 block East Sixth Street, looking northwest from corner of Main Street.

1 of 42

Contextual view of 100 block East Sixth Street, north side. Looking northwest toward Reakirt Building.

2 of 42

Reakirt Building

Hamilton County OH

Name of Property

County and State

Contextual view of 100 block East Sixth Street, north side, looking northeast toward Reakirt Building

3 of 42

Oblique view of main (south) façade of Reakirt Building, partial view of west façade. Looking northeast.

4 of 42

Street view of storefront and second story of Reakirt Building. Looking north

5 of 42

Detail view of Schmidt Building plaque at front façade of Reakirt Building. Looking north

6 of 42

Oblique detail view of limestone facing and ornamentation at main façade of Reakirt Building, including corbel, molding, dentil band and interior cornice. Looking northwest from Gano Alley

7 of 42

View of top five stories of Reakirt Building main façade; partial view of west façade. View to the northeast

8 of 42

View of top three stories of Reakirt Building main façade, including interior cornice, pilasters, frieze and copper cornice. Looking northeast

9 of 42

Oblique view of top eight stories of Reakirt Building west façade. Looking northeast

10 of 42

View of upper nine stories of Reakirt Building rear (north) façade; partial view of west façade. Looking southeast

11 of 42

View of rear façade of Reakirt Building, looking south

12 of 42

Reakirt Building

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Contextual view of rear façade of Reakirt Building; partial view of east façade. Looking southwest.

13 of 42

View of main lobby, with barrel-vaulted ceiling, chandelier and mailbox/mail chute. Looking toward main entrance. View to the south.

14 of 42

Detail view of iron staircase in main lobby, with two-tone marble wainscoting. View to the north.

15 of 42

Looking down staircase toward landing. View to the west.

16 of 42

Third-floor lobby with double doors and elevator (typical conditions). View to the southeast.

17 of 42

View of third floor, with original concrete columns visible. View to the northeast.

18 of 42

View across dance floor, third floor. View to the northwest.

19 of 42

Third floor detail, with column. View to the east.

20 of 42

Third floor detail. View to the northwest.

21 of 42

Rear iron stairs, at third floor. View to the north.

22 of 42

Typical front interior steel window at eighth floor. View to the southwest.

23 of 42

Front and west interior steel windows at eighth floor. View to the southwest.

24 of 42

West interior steel triple windows at eighth floor. View to the northwest.

25 of 42

Paired lobby doors at rear of eighth floor. View to the east.

26 of 42

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Half-glazed stile and rail metal lobby doors at eighth floor. View to the southwest.
27 of 42

Office interior, typical conditions, eighth floor. View to the east.
28 of 42

Corridor detail, eighth floor, looking toward rear. View to the north.
29 of 42

Window detail at rear office, eighth floor. View to the northwest.
30 of 42

Office, typical conditions, eighth floor. View to the east.
31 of 42

Office, eighth floor rear. View to the east.
32 of 42

Office and window detail, southeast corner of ninth floor. View to the southeast.
33 of 42

Office, southwest corner of ninth floor. View to the southwest.
34 of 42

View toward elevator doors, ninth floor. View to the east.
35 of 42

Ninth-floor office details. View to the west.
36 of 42

Window and office details, ninth floor, west side. View to the southwest.
37 of 42

Ninth-floor hallway, looking toward rear. View to the south.
38 of 42

Ninth-floor detail, looking toward front of building. View to the south.
39 of 42

Rear office, northwest corner of ninth floor. View to the northwest.
40 of 42

Typical modern office build-out at rear of ninth floor. View to the southwest.
41 of 42

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Rear freight elevator and stairwell doors. View at ninth floor to north.
42 of 42

List of Figures

Figure 1: Locations of skyscraper buildings constructed in downtown Cincinnati from 1891 to 1929, including Reakirt Building.

Figure 2: 1904 Cincinnati Sanborn fire insurance map of downtown Cincinnati, showing location of Reakirt Building prior to its construction.

Figure 3: 1930 Cincinnati Sanborn map depicting Reakirt Building.

Figure 4: Advertisement for Chevrolet salesroom in the Reakirt Building, *Cincinnati Enquirer*, March 2, 1924.

Figure 5: Exterior and interior first floor photo key.

Figure 6: Third-floor photo key.

Figure 7: Eighth- floor photo key.

Figure 8: Ninth-floor photo key.

Figure 9: Survey map of Reakirt Building (Parcel 1)

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Figures

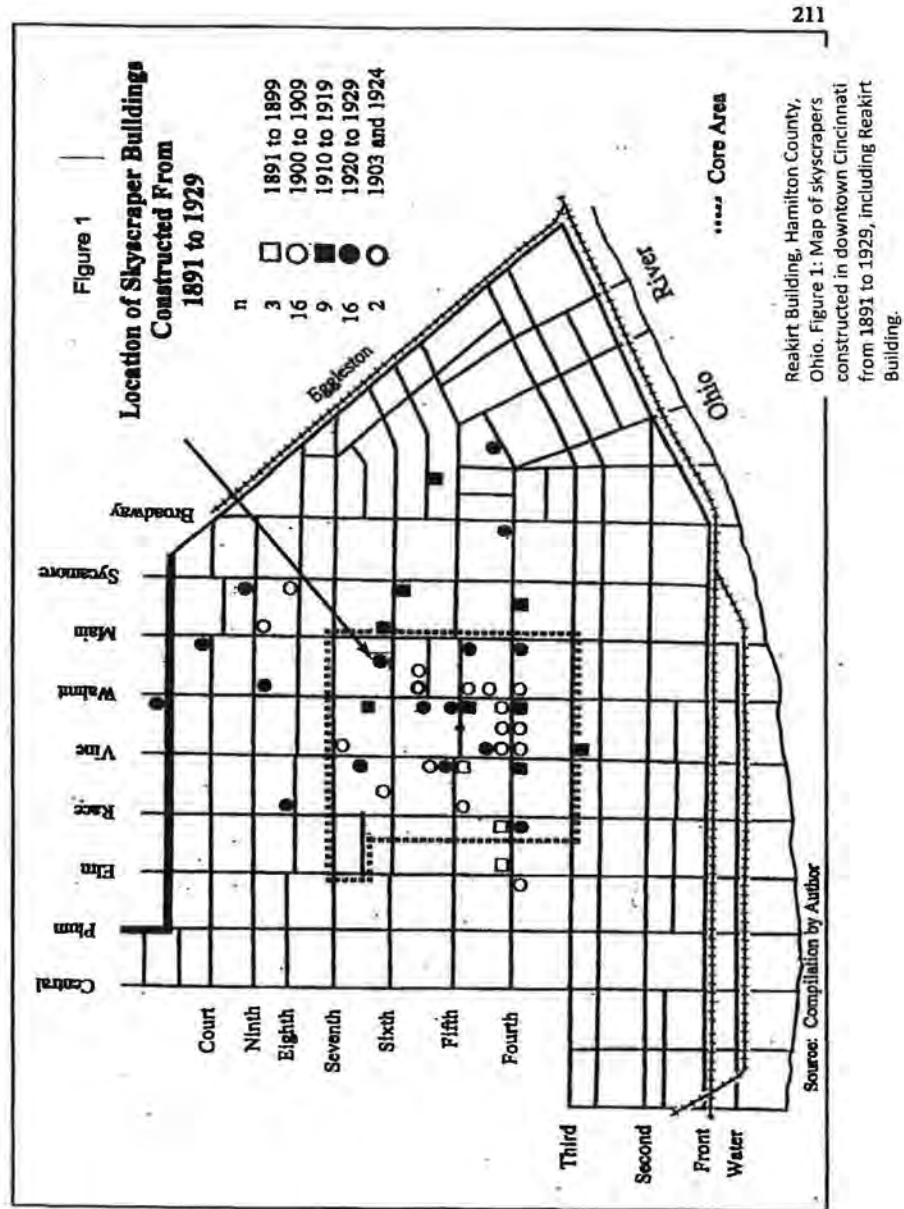
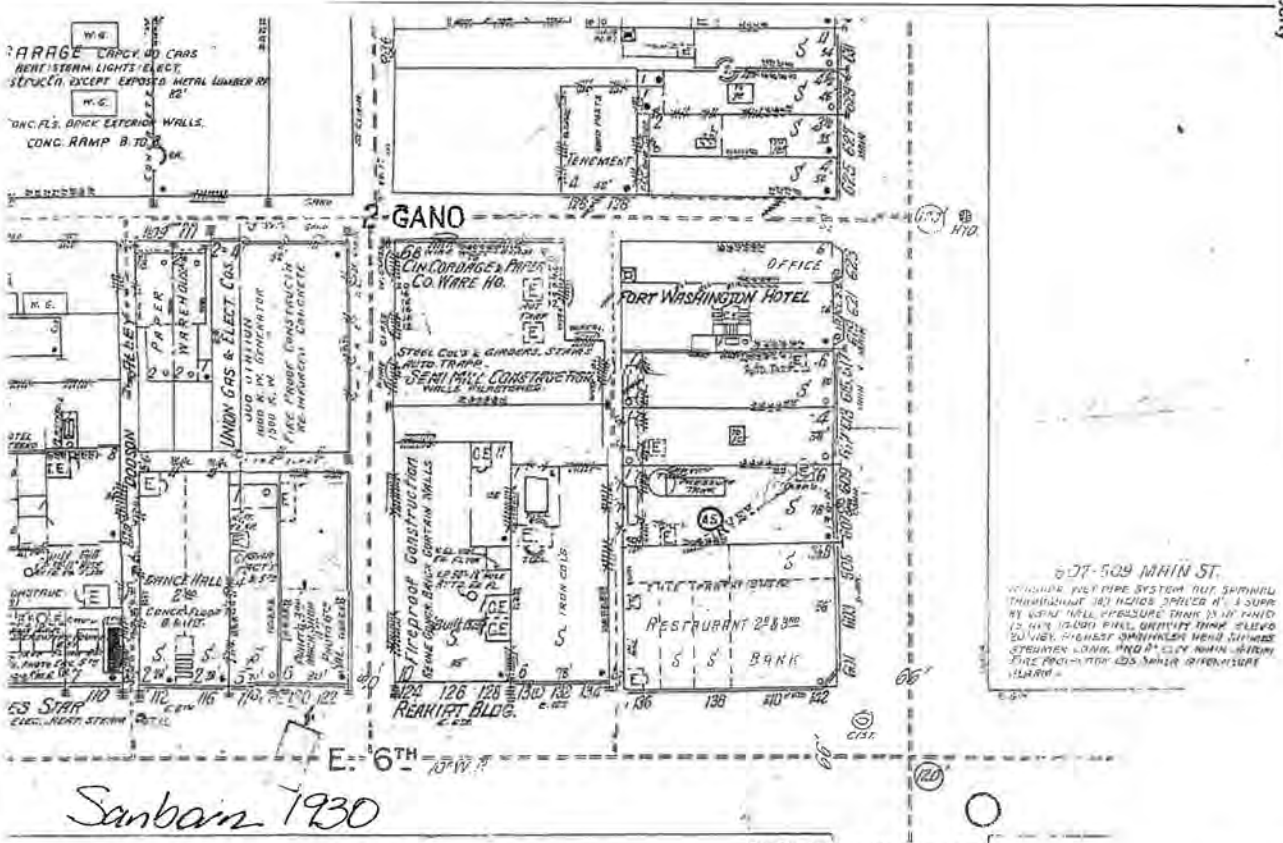


Figure 1 Skyscraper map of downtown Cincinnati (1891-1929), including Reakirt Building

Reakirt Building
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 County and State



Reakirt Building, Hamilton County, Ohio. Figure 3: 1934-1961 Sanborn fire insurance map showing location of building.



Figure 3 1934-1961 Cincinnati Sanborn map showing Reakirt Building

Reakirt Building
Name of Property

Hamilton County OH
County and State

THE ENQUIRER, CINCINNATI, SUNDAY, MARCH 2, 1924

for Economical Transportation



The Salesroom of General Chevrolet Sales Corp., at 126 East Sixth Street, between Main and Walnut, Cincinnati, Ohio.

Location view of the General Chevrolet Sales Corp. Maintenance Plant at 2023-2035 Reading Road, above Florence Ave. Floor space 2,400 square feet.

NEW CHEVROLET SALESROOMS "IN THE HEART OF DOWNTOWN!"

We wish to announce the opening of our new and attractive salesrooms for the exclusive sales of Chevrolet cars and commercial vehicles, at 126 East Sixth Street (between Main and Walnut) "In the Heart of the Down-town District."

To insure satisfactory relations with purchasers and owners of Chevrolet cars, W. J. Fuller, President, and A. P. Longley, Director of Sales, have resolved to make courtesy and promptness the keynote of this new organization.

Unusual service facilities are at your command.

Our large and convenient maintenance station at 2023-2035 Reading Road, north of Florence Ave., is completely equipped with the latest labor saving devices, a large stock of Chevrolet parts and is operated on the standard Chevrolet flat rate maintenance plan.

Our mechanical personnel has been carefully selected. The facilities and organization which we place at your service insure efficient, prompt and economical maintenance. The maintenance station is conveniently reached by all Chevrolet owners; only five minutes from town.

We invite you to make use of it.

GENERAL CHEVROLET SALES CORP.

Sales: 126 East Sixth Street (Canal 6000) Service: 2023-2035 Reading Road

Visit Our New Salesrooms This Week—Complete Display of All Chevrolet Models

Figure 4 Advertisement for Chevrolet showroom in Reakirt Building

Reakirt Building
Name of Property

Hamilton County OH
County and State

Photo Key

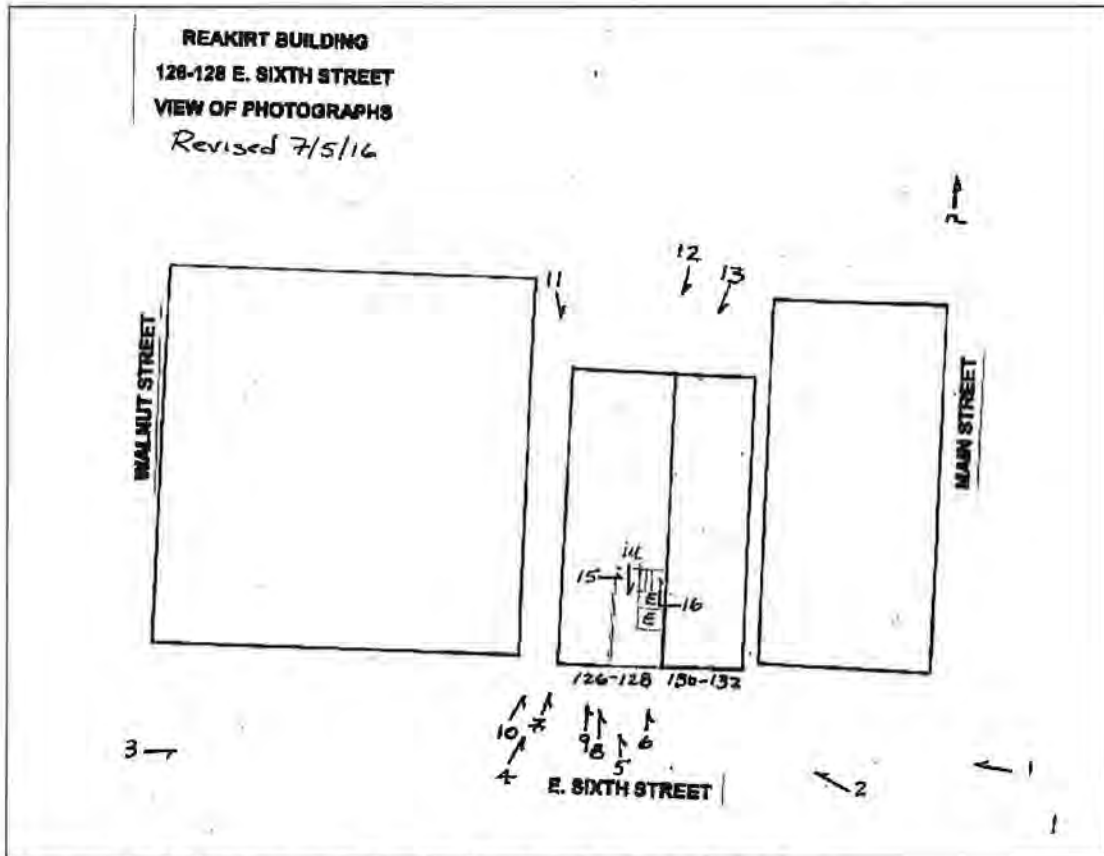


Figure 5 Exterior and first floor interior photo key

Reakirt Building
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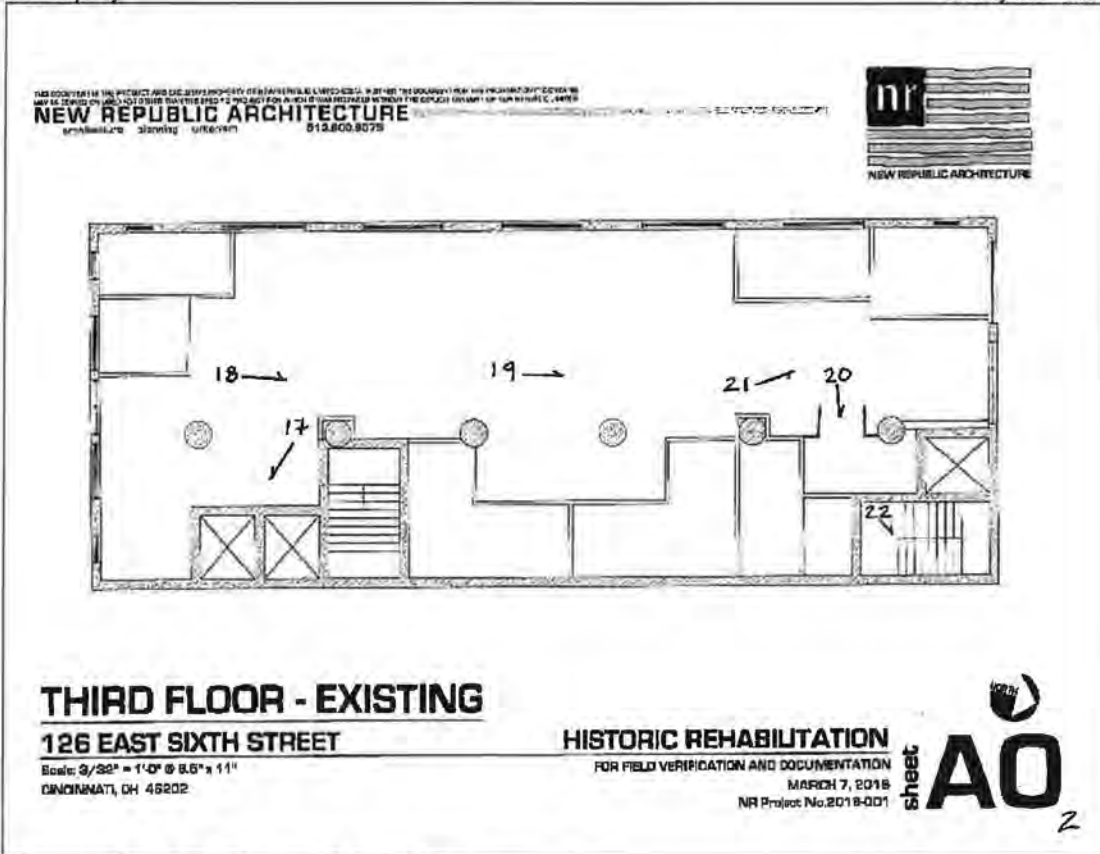


Figure 6 Third-floor photo key

Reakirt Building
Name of Property

Hamilton County OH
County and State

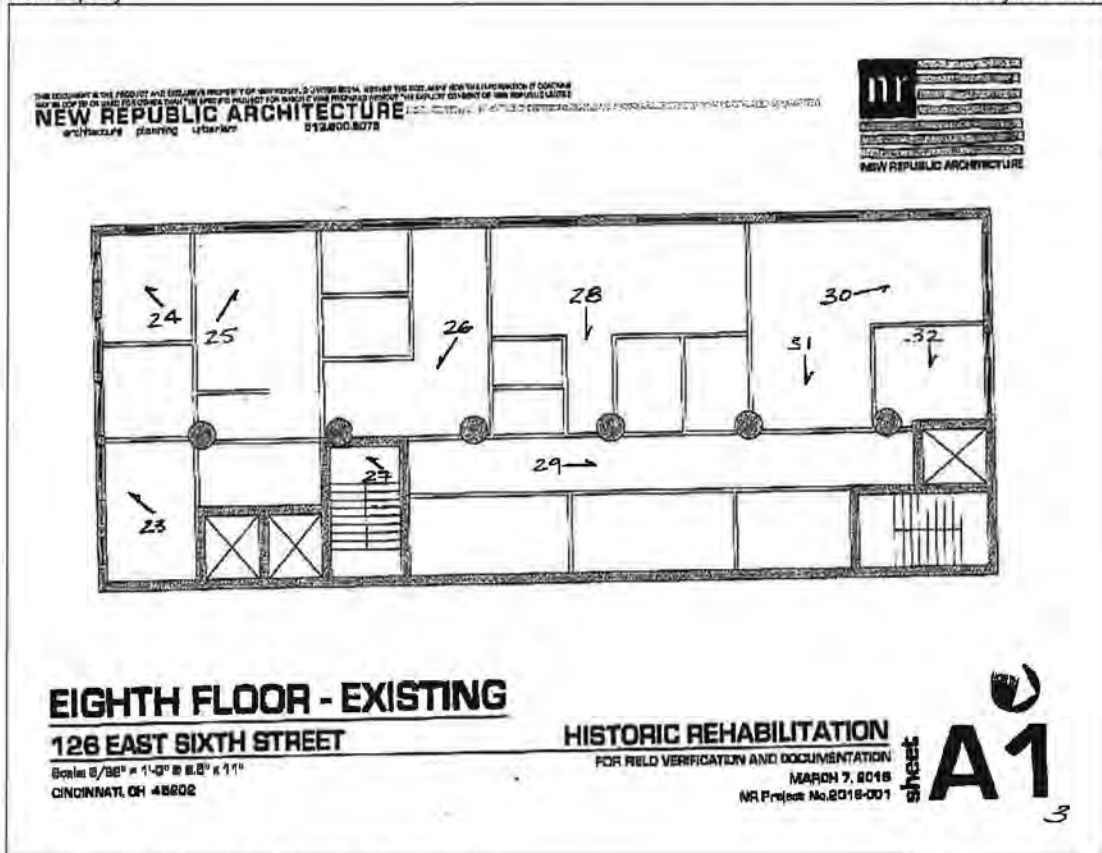


Figure 7 Eighth-floor photo key

Reakirt Building
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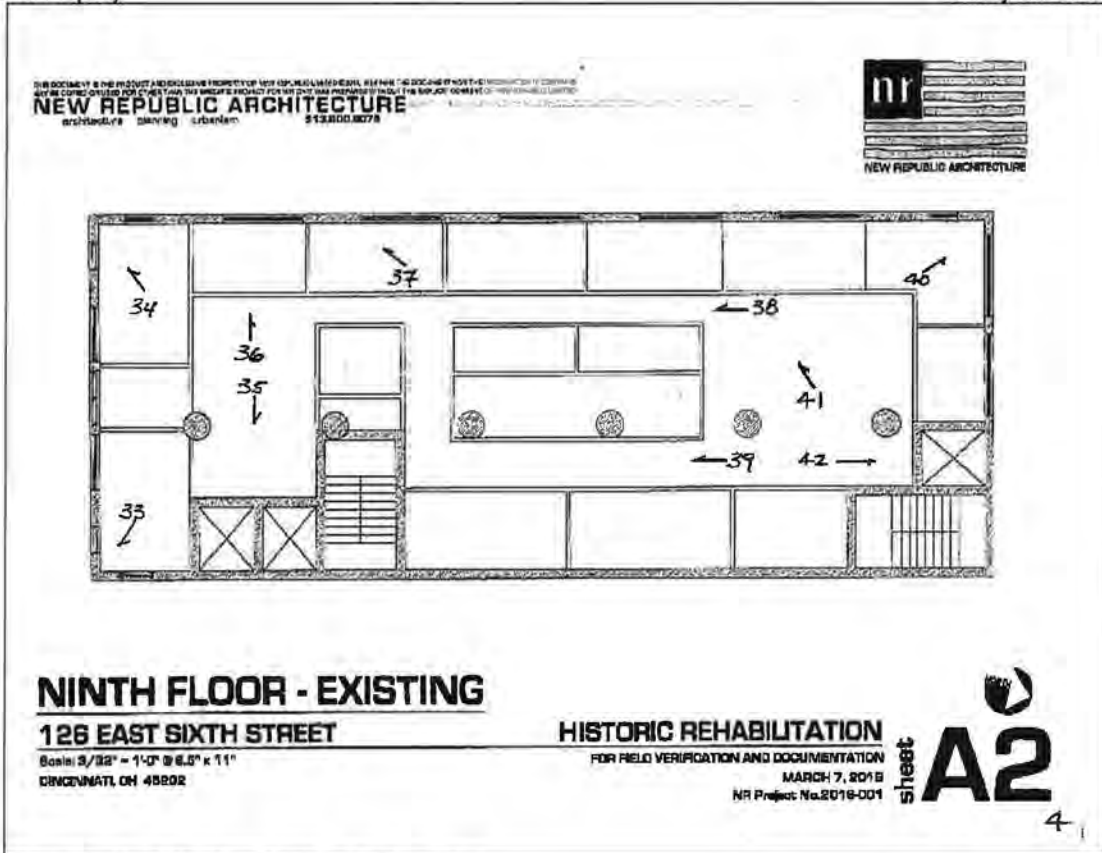


Figure 8 Ninth-floor photo key

Reakirt Building
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County and State

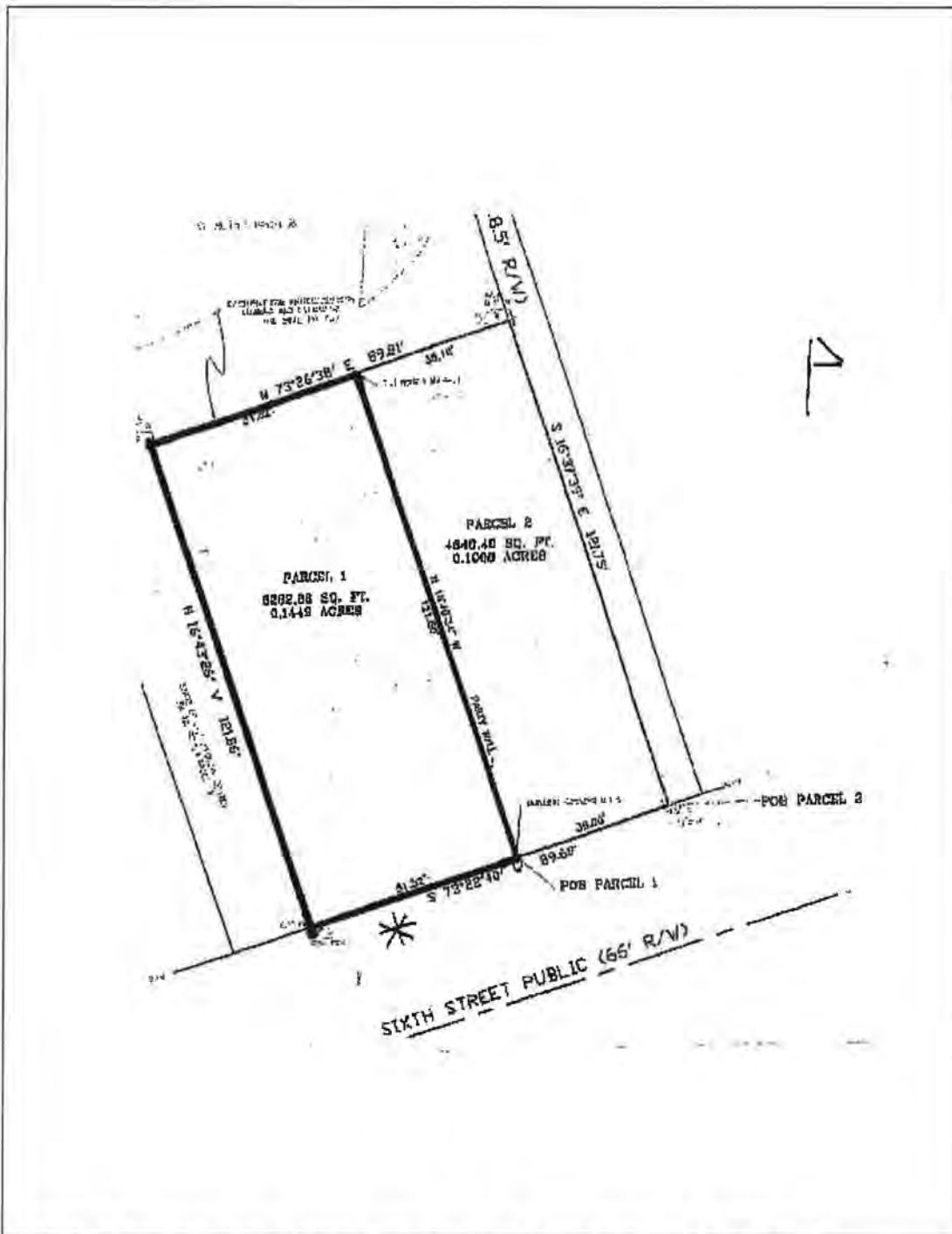
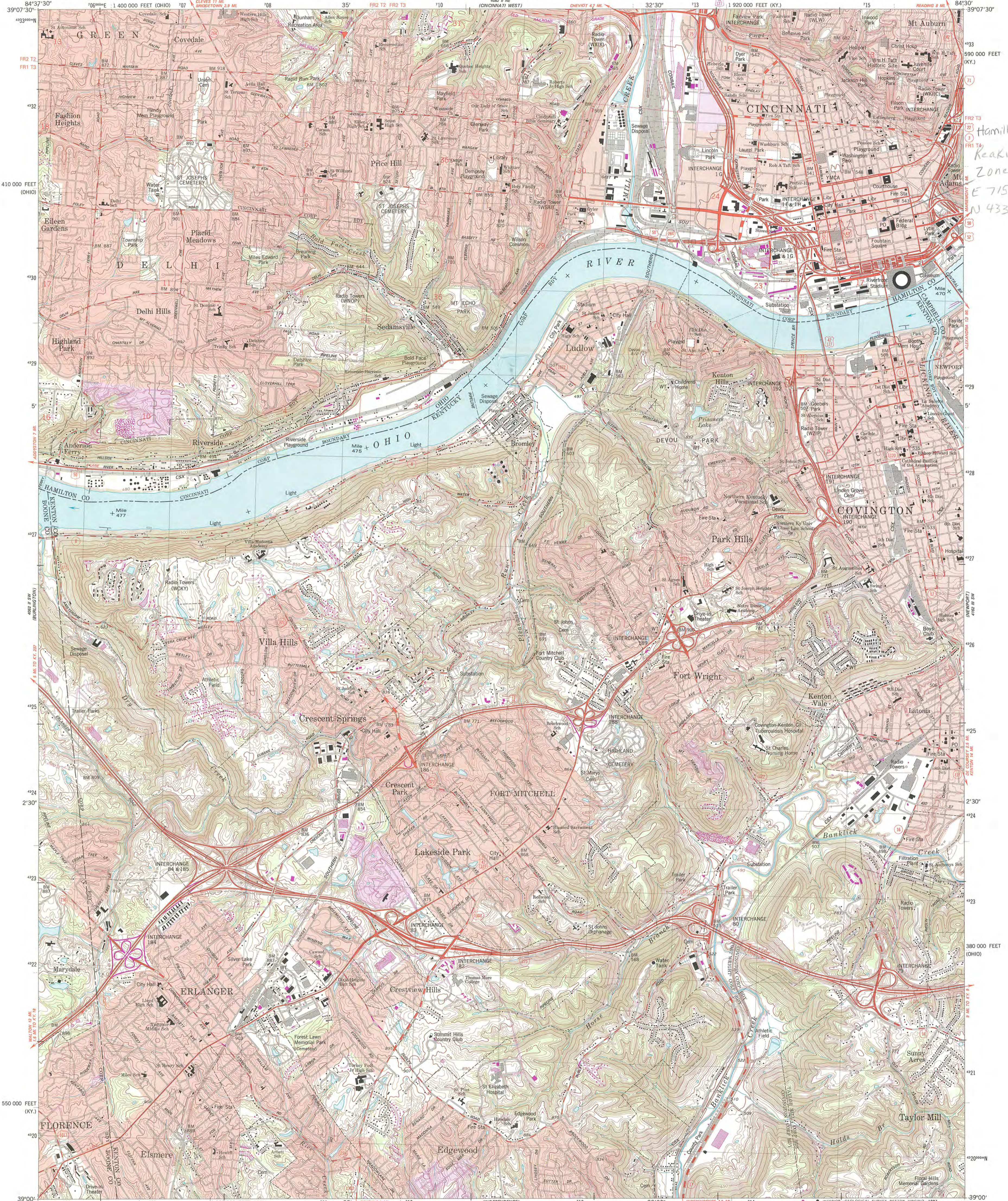


Figure 9 Survey Map showing nomination boundary in dark line



Hamilton Co, OH
Keakirt Building
Zone 17
E 715246
N 433167

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, NOS/NOAA, USCE, and the city of Cincinnati
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1949, and
in part by the city of Cincinnati. Field checked 1950 and 1953. Revised from
aerial photographs taken 1977. Field checked 1978. Map edited 1981
Polyconic projection. 10,000-foot grid ticks based on Kentucky coordinate system,
north zone, and Ohio coordinate system, south zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid, zone 16
1927 North American Datum
To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983
move the projection lines 3 meters south and
5 meters west as shown by dashed corner ticks
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where
generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown
Ohio area lies within the Between the Miamis Land lines based on the
Great Miami River Base. Dotted land lines established by private
subdivision of the Symmes Purchase

UTM GRID AND 1987 MAGNETIC NORTH
DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET

SCALE 1:24 000
1 000 0 1000 2000 3000 4000 5000 6000 7000 FEET
1 MILE
5 0 5 10 15 20 25 30 KILOMETER

CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929

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

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
DENVER, COLORADO 80225 OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
KENTUCKY GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, LEXINGTON, KENTUCKY 40506,
AND KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, FRANKFORT, KENTUCKY 40601
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

COVINGTON, KY.-OHIO
8E4 WEST CINCINNATI 15' QUADRANGLE
39084-A5-TF-024
1981
PHOTOREVISED 1987
DMA 4062 II SE-SERIES V853

Revisions shown in purple and woodland compiled in cooperation
with State of Kentucky agencies from aerial photographs taken 1984
and other sources. Contours not revised. This information not field checked
Map edited 1987
Purple tint indicates extension of urban areas



GODDARD
GODDARD

RENTAL
CONSTRUCTION

Future Home Of
The Richter & Phillips Co.

RENTAL
CONSTRUCTION



Blue banner with text, possibly a brand name like "Burberry".

Signage above the ground floor entrance, including "SPACE" and "LEASE".

SOOMAN



BCA

BCA

BCA

BCA



OFFICE
FOR
SPACE
LEASE

KIJI Steak House Japanese Cuisine. 14000 10th St. NW. 727.333.3388

Ball's

**OFFICE
FOR**

•Below market rates


Leasing info:

**SPACE
LEASE**

•Immediate occupancy

•500 to 4,300 sq. ft.

(513) 651-1835

 **KIJI** Steak House Japanese Cuisine Hibachi Grill Full Bar T:513-381-3888



THE

SCHMIDT

BUILDING













SCHOOL BUS













EXIT





EXIT















802

000

American Federation of
Television & Radio Artists
AFTRA-CIO

TRI-STATE

AMERICA'S









Downtown

Suite 200























CAUTION
ELEVATOR
SHAFT
DANGER
BELOW

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action: Nomination

Property Name: Reakirt Building

Multiple Name:

State & County: OHIO, Hamilton

Date Received: 12/9/2016 Date of Pending List: 1/11/2017 Date of 16th Day: 1/26/2017 Date of 45th Day: 1/24/2017 Date of Weekly List:

Reference number: SG100000569

Nominator: State

Reason For Review:

<i>Submission Type</i>	<i>Property Type</i>	<i>Problem Type</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> Appeal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PDIL	<input type="checkbox"/> Text/Data Issue
<input type="checkbox"/> SHPO Request	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape	<input type="checkbox"/> Photo
<input type="checkbox"/> Waiver	<input type="checkbox"/> National	<input type="checkbox"/> Map/Boundary
<input type="checkbox"/> Resubmission	<input type="checkbox"/> Mobile Resource	<input type="checkbox"/> Period
<input type="checkbox"/> Other		<input type="checkbox"/> Less than 50 years

Accept Return Reject 1/24/2017 Date

Abstract/Summary
Comments:

Recommendation/ Criteria Accept, National Register Criterion C

Reviewer Patrick Andrus Patrick Andrus Discipline Historian

Telephone (202)354-2218 Date 1/24/2017

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

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.

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 Dec. 1, 2016
For nomination of the Reakirt Bldg to the National Register of
Historic Places: 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: _____



December 1, 2016

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 three (3) new National Register nominations for Ohio. All appropriate notification procedures have been followed for the new nominations submission.

NEW NOMINATION

Brunswick-Balke-Collender Building
First National Bank
Reakirt Building

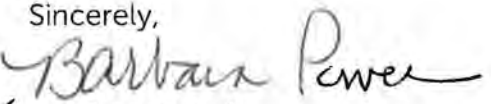
COUNTY

Hamilton
Hamilton
Hamilton

The enclosed disks contain the true and correct copy of the nomination to the National Register of Historic Places for the following: First National Bank, Hamilton County, OH.

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,


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

Enclosures