

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

RECEIVED 2280

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

JUL 22 2016

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 only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

Nat. Register of Historic Places
National Park Service

1. Name of Property

Historic name: L. N. Gross Company Building

Other names/site number: N/A

Name of related multiple property listing:

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

2. Location

Street & number: 315 Gougler Avenue

City or town: Kent State: OH County: Portage

Not For Publication: N/A Vicinity: N/A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

<u>Barbara Pave</u> DSHPO Inventory & Registration		<u>July 13, 2016</u>
Signature of certifying official/Title:		Date
<u>State Historic Preservation Office/ Ohio Historical Society</u>		
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 9/2/2016
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

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

Category of Property

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

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE 19th AND EARLY 20th CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENTS: Commercial Style

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: Brick, Stone

Narrative Description

Summary Paragraph

The L.N. Gross Company building is located at 315 Gougler Avenue, Kent, Ohio in Portage County. The 1928 Commercial style building with Art Deco decorative motifs was designed by Kent architect Charles G. Kistler.

The property is situated on Portage County Parcel #17-025-30-00-005-000, with a lot size of 1.8 acres. The building resides in the commercial downtown on the east side of Gougler Avenue approximately halfway between Fairchild Avenue (to the north) and East Main Street (to the south). The L.N. Gross Company building is set back from Gougler Ave. by a grass strip and city sidewalk which run adjacent and parallel to the street at the façade (west elevation), with a concrete pad leading to the front entry. Vehicle parking is located to the south of the building. A sloped driveway to the north of the building leads to parking to the rear east. The overall landscape of the property slopes to the north and to the east. The Cuyahoga River and Kent Parks and Recreation Riveredge Walking Trail run north-south to the rear and east of the property at an area known as Brady's Leap Park; which refers to the place where legendary frontier scout Captain Samuel Brady (1756–1795) escaped pursuing Native Americans by jumping across a gorge over the Cuyahoga River.

Narrative Description

EXTERIOR (Photos 1-11)

The One-Part Commercial building is post and beam load bearing steel frame construction comprised of variegated red brick. The architectural character of the building is defined by Art Deco decorative elements. The complex consists of the 1928 factory building and a circa 1945

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one-story rear addition resting directly on bedrock, which is revealed at the rear east elevation south end. The building is rectangular in shape and runs 246' along Gougler Avenue.¹

The main two-story 22'x 22' projecting entry tower is 40 feet in height and centrally located on the façade.² The company name is carved into stone work above the entry door at the tower reading "THE L.N. GROSS CO." The façade (photos: 1-4) has five bays of paired arrow point steel industrial sash defined by brick piers, flanking either side of the tower. A carved stone surround marks the building entry at the tower with divided arch transom and side lights framing double entry doors. The double doors, transom and sidelight sash are replacements installed when the entry doors were replaced in the 1990s.³ The front entry is visible in an historic image, however, it is largely obscured by female workers gathered for the photograph (Historic Images, 6). A row of round or bull's eye motif stone elements flank the entrance. They continue on the second floor on all four sides of the tower at the corner piers. The roof of the tower is crenulated with blind arch brickwork and a raised pediment with the arrow motif on all four sides; the front pediment is missing. Reinforced brick piers define the three bays of steel industrial windows on all sides of the tower, each having a stone arrow motif set at the parapet and a bull's eye motif centered on the coping. The end bays of the façade are articulated with a raised pediment with a diamond shape stone tile at the center. All of the existing windows were repaired and received new insulated glazing by the previous owner in the 1990s.⁴

The north and south elevations are three bays wide, with the western most bay of both elevations serving as a dock or large entrance. On the south elevation, the other two bays are filled with large steel industrial sash (photo 3). The north elevation has a single man door with steel industrial sash transom and a large overhead door (photos 5-6). A metal platform, later added to the building, provides access to the dock opening. Similarly to the south elevation, the middle two bays are large steel industrial sash.

The east elevation is defined by a central three-story brick tower which served as the boiler room, identified by the chimney (photos 9-11).⁵ To the south are five bays of steel industrial windows at the street level.⁶ The lower level fenestration south of the tower is more utilitarian in design lacking rhythm and pattern and does not correspond with the street level fenestration. A single man door is accessed by open metal stairs which was added in the 1990s, modifying the window. The bedrock foundation is visible at the base of the two southern most bays.

The building received a concrete block addition to the north of the rear tower circa 1945, when the building was operated by the C.L. Gougler Machine Co. plant (photos 7-8).⁷ A large overhead aluminum door on the north elevation provides access to the 1945 addition from the

¹ *Kent Courier*, 10 July 1928.

² *Ibid.*

³ Adams, Dale Interview. Owner of 315 Gougler Ave., 1995-2015.

⁴ *Ibid.*

⁵ *Kent Courier*, 10 July 1928.

⁶ *Ibid.*

⁷ Di Paolo, Roger J. *Rooted In Kent 101 Tales from the Tree City*. Kent: Kent Historical Society, 2009, 72-73.

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north end. The addition has a large concrete base and CMU walls with corrugated metal along the roof line. The windows are steel industrial sash.

INTERIOR (Photos 12-30)

The front tower entry vestibule is finished plaster with the bull's eye motif flanking the double door entry along the west wall (photos 12-13). First floor 1990 office space demonstrates modifications with new finishes. The tower area historically served as offices on the second floor⁸ accessed by narrow concrete poured steps.

The interior open floor plan has exposed masonry perimeter walls; steel I-posts and I-beams support exposed wood roof decking (photos 17-21). The open floor plan was the likely historic configuration to allow for the reported 225 installed machines and accommodation of up to 400 workers at the opening of the building in 1928.⁹ The floors are either poured concrete or stained hardwood. A skylight runs along the center of the roofline as indicated on the 1929 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map (Historic Image, 5). The skylight's existing steel industrial sashes have been concealed with spray-on insulating material (photo 22). At the first floor, the area of the rear tower is used as rest rooms. A straight run wooden stair, set within brick walls with mounted hand rails is located along the west wall and leads to the lower level. Access to the boiler room is off the lower level, which is two-story in space. The boiler space has exposed masonry walls and steel industrial windows, a concrete floor and a metal stair along the east wall (photos 24-25).

The lower level area is half the size of the first floor due to the sloped landscape. Again the space is an open plan with wood joists supporting the floor above, which rests on the exterior masonry walls (photo 26). The west wall is finished in dryvit-like material, which is a modification from the 1990s renovations. The southern area is defined by terra cotta floor tiles (photos 29-30). The northern area has concrete flooring. The 1945 addition has a concrete floor, dryvit-like material from 1990 west wall and exposed metal roof decking (photos 27-28).

INTEGRITY

The L.N. Gross Company building demonstrates little deterioration, minor modification and repair which has maintained the building in good condition with intact historic material. The building retains a significant level of the manufacturing historic architectural integrity exhibited in both exterior and interior architectural elements such as the Commercial style reinforced masonry structure and steel industrial sash along with decorative motifs of the Art Deco style designed by Charles G. Kistler.

Renovations from the 1990s maintained the open floor plan while introducing a few demising walls for offices at the first floor level. Architect, Charles Kistler, became well known and beloved for the character and individuality in his designs, which date from 1914-1963, with a diverse range of building types and styles, most often of brick construction. The L.N. Gross Company building goes beyond functionality as a manufacturing facility adding design elements

⁸ *Kent Courier*, 10 July 1928.

⁹ *Kent Courier*, 9 October 1928, 23 October 1928.

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and Art Deco detailing apparent in the bulls eye motif, arrow point and stone detailing, blind arch brickwork and crenulated raised parapet at the tower, and end bays articulated with raised parapet and diamond shape stone tile. The interior exposed structural elements demonstrate the retention of historic fabric, materials, and craftsmanship, representing the manufacturing aspects for factory use, such as the large steel industrial sash and the skylight with open plan for large manufacturing equipment. The building remains in its historic location and the architectural language retains the historic feeling and association as noted in historic images of the building in its original historic setting.

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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

COMMERCE
COMMUNITY PLANNING and DEVELOPMENT
ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1928-1936

Significant Dates

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Charles G. Kistler, architect
Super Built Construction Co., contractor

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Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph

The L.N. Gross Company building is being nominated under Criterion A: Commerce and Community Planning and Development as representative of the impact of the Kent Chamber of Commerce on planning and economic development in Kent through their facilitation of the construction of the L.N. Gross Company Building; and, under Criterion C: Architecture as an early and only known extant manufacturing facility designed by premier architect, Charles G. Kistler, the first licensed architect in Kent.

The period of significance begins in 1928 with the construction of the L.N. Gross Company Building and continues to 1936 when the company disbanded their operation in Kent.

Narrative Statement of Significance

The Board of Trade, Kent Chamber of Commerce

Economic development and successful commerce within the City of Kent is directly linked to the pro-active planning, community engagement and fund raising efforts of the Kent Board of Trade formed in 1910, later known as the Kent Chamber of Commerce. The Board was instrumental in the retention of the L.N. Gross Company in Kent in 1928; through the land purchase and facilitation of construction of the nominated property for the company.

The Board of Trade was formed in response to a 1909 fire which destroyed the Seneca Chain Company, one of the primary industries in Kent. The Seneca Chain Company generated more than \$300,000 in business with a local payroll of \$120,000 in 1906. At the time of the fire, the blaze put 400 men out of work, nearly 10% of Kent's population of 4,488 people.¹⁰ Officials of the Seneca Chain Company declared they would enlarge their Mansfield plant rather than rebuild in Kent unless \$100,000 in local subscriptions of preferred stock were raised to fund a new facility. In response, city leaders came together and raised the money. The Seneca Chain committee was headed by Judge David Ladd Rockwell, Jr. and Elmer E. France with members W. S. Kent, Mayor H. C. Eckert, I. R. Marsh and John G. Getz who successfully steered the campaign selling \$100,000 worth of stock.

As a more permanent result of the Seneca Chain effort, the Kent Board of Trade was created holding their first meeting on February 11, 1910.¹¹ The newly organized Board of Trade was led by Chairman Martin L. Davey of Davey Tree Expert Company, later Mayor of Kent (1913-1918), member of U.S. House of Representatives (1918-1921, 1923-1929) and Governor of Ohio (1935-1939).¹² John A. Wells (partner of Williams Brothers Company) was president; John G. Getz (Getz Brothers Hardware), first vice-president; Dr. W.B. Andrews (medical doctor), second vice president; James Miller (Ford auto dealer) third vice president; W.W. Reed (W.W. Reed

¹⁰ Di Paolo, 60; US Federal Population Census, City of Kent, Ohio, 1910.

¹¹ Grismer, Karl. H. *The History of Kent Historical and Biographical*, 1932. Reprinted Kent: The Kent Historical Society, 2001, 116.

¹² Di Paolo, 154-155.

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Insurance Agency) as secretary; and George E. Hinds (Kent National Bank, cashier) as treasurer. These progressive men organized the Board “to promote, foster, protect and advance the commercial, mercantile, and manufacturing interest of Kent and vicinity” as expressed in the bylaws. In 1910, Kent’s population had not yet reached city status of 5,000 people. Kent was competing with the northeast Ohio cities of Akron to the west (population 69,067), Cleveland to the north (population 560,663), Canton to the south (50,217 people) and Youngstown to the east (population 79,066).¹³ The Board of Trade promoted the commercial development of Kent and had a direct and significant impact on the economic stability, job creation, security and long term development of the community.¹⁴ Shortly after the Board’s first accomplishment with Seneca Chain, they held a contest to come up with a slogan for Kent. A \$5 prize was awarded to Ralph Heighton with the slogan “Kent, Home of Hump and Hustle.”¹⁵ The name of the Board of Trade was later changed on December 14, 1920 to the Chamber of Commerce.¹⁶

The Board of Trade/Chamber of Commerce held their meetings in the second floor of the Kent National Bank Building from 1910 to 1930. They were instrumental in bringing the State Normal School to Kent as another early achievement. In May 1910, the Ohio General Assembly passed a measure authorizing the establishment of two normal schools in northern Ohio, one in the northeastern part and one in the northwest. A commission was appointed by the governor to investigate locations. In July 1910, Kent filled out an application with the commission and a delegation including members of the Board of Trade presented Kent as a possible site for the school. W.S. Kent, president of Kent National Bank offered 50 acres of land for the site of the school which clinched the selection, with the Board of Trustees later voting to name the school Kent State Normal School in recognition of his generosity.¹⁷ The name was later changed to Kent State University which in 2014 had an enrollment of 41,214 students and remains central to the identity of the city.

In 1915, the Board of Trade/Chamber of Commerce sponsored the Mason Tire and Rubber Company. Many Kent residents bought subscriptions. In 1916 the company erected a \$50,000 plant on Lake Street, with equipment costing \$30,000 installed for the manufacture of tires. The company continued to expand with sales of \$6,598,000 in 1920. The panic of 1921 caught the company largely over capitalized with no tire market. The owners resigned and new management was brought in, but could not hold the company together which was sold at auction in 1929 dealing an industrial blow to Kent.¹⁸ Once again, the Chamber intervened and raised \$21,500 in subscriptions to bring Black and Decker Manufacturing Company to Kent who took control of the company and extensively remodeled the plant offering employment to 600 people.¹⁹

¹³ U.S. Population Census, Cities of Akron, Canton, Cleveland, Youngstown, 1910.

¹⁴ Grismer, 116.

¹⁵ Ibid.

¹⁶ Ibid.

¹⁷ Grismer, 186.

¹⁸ Grismer, 99, 177-178.

¹⁹ Grismer, 117, 178.

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The 1920 Franklin Hotel (NR#12000802) was another successful civic movement driven by the Board of Trade who assisted with the financial component to fill a much needed void in the town's landscape. A company was formed and \$150,000 worth of stock was sold to 210 persons.²⁰

The Chamber sold \$64,000 worth of stock in 1927 to secure the Twin Coach Company for operation in Kent. The Twin Coach Vehicle, or motor coach, brought immediate interest from large transportation companies. The company first decided to locate in Cleveland but with the enthusiastic response from the Kent Chamber of Commerce negotiations were completed for them to purchase the old Fageol Motors Company in Kent. The company came to have a complete line of motor coaches for from 17 to 40 passengers. The company further expanded to develop house-to-house motor delivery for sale to milk dealers, bakers and department stores. Twin Coach became one of the leading producers in the line in the country. It also revived interest in trolley buses in 1928 powered by electric motors. In 1931 it sold two coaches in the market for every one built by other manufacturers establishing a major industry and employer in Kent.²¹

In 1928, the Chamber of Commerce rallied for another cause and led the drive to attain \$8,300 for purchase of land to entice L. N. Gross Company to remain in Kent with a new production facility. In addition, the Chamber brought the Loeblein Company to Kent, who moved to the Alpaca Mill in 1928, vacated by the L.N. Gross Company. Loeblein upholstered high grade custom built living room furniture with shipments to all parts of the country.²²

The Chamber also helped fund civic improvements including rebuilding of the dam, widening of the Main Street Bridge in Kent, and worked for the installation of the white way lighting system. The Chamber was instrumental in the zoning of the city. Zoning provided that neighborhoods which in the past had contained one-family dwellings should be protected from other types of construction, and neighborhoods that contained two-family dwellings, apartment houses, business houses, light manufacturing and heavy manufacturing should be zoned accordingly. The ordinance was prepared by Charles Root, Cleveland zoning manager.²³ In addition, the Chamber sponsored several organizations including the Welfare Association and the Community Chest, which served to distribute money to non-profit organizations such as the Red Cross, the YMCA, Salvation Army, Boys and Girls Scouts, and the Children Welfare League.

In 1920, Kent officially became a city. By 1930, the population of Kent had doubled since the founding of the Board of Trade in 1910, growth that can largely be attributed to the efforts of the Board.

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²⁰ Grismer, 101.

²¹ Grismer, 171-174.

²² Grismer, 178, 116.

²³ Grismer, 103.

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The L.N. Gross Company building in Kent is representative of the impact of the Kent Chamber of Commerce on commerce and planning and economic development through their retention of the L.N. Gross Company in Kent and facilitation of the construction of the L.N. Gross Company building.

The L.N. Gross Company was a manufacturer and distributor of women's garments founded in 1898 in Cleveland, Ohio, by a Russian immigrant, Louis N. Gross.²⁴ The ready-to-wear garment industry grew enormously from the 1860s to the 1880s, due largely to increasing mechanization and factory production. Systems for sizing men's and boys' clothing were highly developed, based on millions of measurements obtained by the U.S. Army during the Civil War. Accurate sizing for women's clothing also developed.²⁵ The expansion of the ready-to-wear industry coincided with and benefited from the tremendous urbanization and the great wave of immigrants that came to the U.S. in the last decades of the nineteenth century and early decades of the twentieth century. Industrial cities such as Cleveland were experiencing rapid growth, and Cleveland's ready-to-wear clothing industry blossomed. By 1916, Cleveland ranked fourth nationwide in the making of women's wear and was second in employment only to the iron and steel industry. The garment industry reached its peak during the 1920s, when Cleveland ranked close to New York as one of the country's leading centers for garment production.²⁶ The garment industry in Cleveland had two important centers: in the Warehouse District in Cleveland's near west side (NR# 82003558); and, along Superior from East 19th to East 25th Streets the Superior Avenue Historic District (NR# 07000072).²⁷

L. N. Gross Company was one such firm based in the Cleveland garment district, specializing in the production of women's shirtwaists. A popular fashion item of the late 19th and early 20th centuries, the shirtwaist blouse was regarded as the model shirt for the independent, working woman. As a button-down blouse, the functional shirtwaist was valued for its ready-to-wear, workplace appeal and its simple design, originally modeled on menswear shirts. It could be worn jacketless and fashionably tucked into the waistband of a skirt, and it was sold as both an individual piece and as an ensemble. By the early 20th century, designers added lace and frills to embellish the iconic blouse, which was already available in every color. Articles in *Vogue* magazine and advertisements showed various enhancements, including elaborate details and stitching to the collars, wrist cuffs, and bodies that elevated the simple blouse to *haute mode*. An article written for the *Pittsburgh Press* on September 16, 1906, stated, "A very fashionable woman with a half a hundred waists boasts that there are no two alike."²⁸

²⁴ *History of the L.N. Gross Company*. Finding Aid for the L.N. Gross Company Records, Series II., Western Reserve Historical Society, Manuscripts, MS 4711:1898-1900.

²⁵ Benoit, Colleen S. A Women's "Natural Work; Sewing and Notions of Feminine Labor in Northeast Ohio, 1900-1930. Kent State Master of Arts Thesis, May 2011.

²⁶ Van Tassel, David R. and Grabowski, John J. eds. *The Encyclopedia of Cleveland History*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1996.

²⁷ Martin, Sean. *A Stitch in Time. The Cleveland Garment Industry*. Cleveland: The Western Reserve Historical Society, 2015, 12.

²⁸ The American Experience, Western Reserve PBS. Available at

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In 1919, the L.N. Gross Company completed a 125' x 99' four-story building at 1220 Third Street in the Warehouse District of Cleveland. The building, designed by Christian, Schwarzenburg and Gaede, served as the company's headquarters, manufacturing and distribution center (Cleveland Warehouse Historic District (NR# 82003558) extant). Louis N. Gross was a pioneer in the specialization and division of labor in the manufacturing process by using a section system. Instead of having one person produce an entire garment, each garment worker specialized in one section or procedure, and then the entire garment was assembled.²⁹ Louis N. Gross claimed that he had invented the method of section work while in New York City and introduced it to the Cleveland market.³⁰

L.N. Gross Company in Kent

L. N. Gross Company began operation of a small branch factory in Kent at Mantua and North River Streets beginning in 1902 as Silber and Gross, wash dress manufacturers, employing 15 women and girls (Historic Images, 1).³¹ The branch operated for a few years and was discontinued.³² In 1914, the company expanded production and once again opened a branch in Kent³³ moving into the former Alpaca Mill on South River Street. The Alpaca Mill building was the former site of Joseph Turner & Sons Manufacturing Company who operated as a woolen mill producing fine grade mohair, alpaca, brilliantine and mixtures. Joseph Turner came to Kent in 1878 and saw the mill building built in the 1850s by the Kent family, but never occupied, as suitable for his business. He agreed to make \$15,000 in improvements and asked that the people of Kent make an additional \$15,000 subscription to help the company get started.³⁴ The committee to raise money was led by S.P. Wolcott, mill owner Marvin Kent, Dr. A.M. Sherman, Dr. J.W. Shively, George O. Rice, William Jones, Ed. L. Day.³⁵ Several public meetings were held and the money was raised in one month by soliciting contributions; demonstrating the early sprit civic mindedness and public participation in the success of commerce and industry in Kent.

In 1885, the Turner mill had 254 looms and 1800 spindles in operation with 120 employees. In the 1890's, the worsted mills became the second largest industry in Kent, playing a prominent part in the growth of the village. In 1889, the Turners decided to move their mill to Cleveland after being unable to come to terms with owner Marvin Kent to lease the mill for another 10 years or to purchase it. In May 1889, the Turners moved their operation to Cleveland and became nationally known as the Cleveland Worsted Mill Co. on Broadway near East 55th Street

<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/americanexperience/features/general-article/triangle-shirtwaist/>

²⁹ Van Tassel and Grabowski; *The Courier Tribune*. 3 January 1930. Available at Western Reserve Historical Society.

³⁰ L.N. Gross. *The Story of My Life*, L.N. Gross Company Records, Series II, Western Reserve Historical Society. Manuscripts 3823: 1898-1984; Benoit, Colleen S. A Women's "Natural Work; Sewing and Notions of Feminine Labor in Northeast Ohio, 1900-1930.

³¹ Grismer, 178-179.

³² Ibid.

³³ *The Courier-Tribune* 3 January 1930.

³⁴ Grismer, 50.

³⁵ Grismer, 51.

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(demolished), leaving the mill in Kent empty.³⁶ The mill was ideally suited for the needs of the “The L.N. Gross Co. Shirt Waist Factory,” who began operation there in 1914. (Historic Images, Figure 2).

L.N. Gross Company hired only women seamstresses. In 1928, the company had 150 women and girls on its payroll at the Alpaca Mill on South River Street, which was in need of room for expansion. The company approached the Kent Chamber of Commerce and relayed that it would consider remaining in Kent if a suitable location and larger factory could be found. Kent was experiencing serious job loss with the collapse of Mason Tire & Rubber Co. and a severe reduction in jobs at the Erie Railroad freight car manufacturing shops.³⁷

The Chamber, led by President W.W. Reed, once again mounted a subscription effort to raise funds to purchase a factory site. Reed was a founding member of the Kent Board of Trade and in 1910 played a key role in having Kent selected as the site of the Normal School. He founded his insurance business, W.W. Reed & Son, in Kent while practicing dentistry and grew it to become the largest insurance firm in Kent and one of the largest in Ohio. He also served as post master. Elected as president of the Kent Chamber of Commerce in 1927, he inherited an organization that was \$1,400 in debt. He revitalized the Chamber and remained its leader for the next eight years becoming a tireless promoter of Kent lending his energy to development efforts, and spearheading the movement to keep L.N. Gross Company in Kent.³⁸

Under Reed’s leadership and with a committee of 20 solicitors for the L.N. Gross Fund Drive,³⁹ the Chamber succeeded in raising \$8,357 through public solicitation to purchase the site of a new facility for the L. N. Gross Company. In May 1928, Reed announced that president Louis N. Gross had been very lenient in allowing the Chamber time to raise the required funds which as of May was \$6,000. Reed commented, “I have found it not difficult to secure \$10 memberships from many not on the business list and I would suggest a little effort along this line would aid materially. I begin to feel that we are going to put this over.”⁴⁰ A complete list of donors as of May 1928 was published in the *Kent Courier* undoubtedly to encourage others to contribute to the Fund. Those listed included 160 donors: the Chamber of Commerce donating \$1000; two \$200 donations by N.O.P.& L. Co. and Davey Tree; ten \$100 donations; eighteen \$50.00 donations from companies and prominent individuals; one individual donation of \$35.00; fifteen \$25.00 donations including both local newspapers, post office employees, and the Acorn Department Store; eighteen \$20.00 donations; one \$15.00 donation; one \$12.50 donation; eighty-four \$10.00 donations; and, nine \$5.00 donations. The Chamber held meetings to decide how to raise the remaining funds, finally deciding to solicit businessmen in Kent who had not yet donated to the fund. The Abstract of Title was drawn up by Kent attorney D.B. Wolcott ready to present to the L.N. Gross Company as soon as funds were raised.⁴¹

³⁶ Grismer, 52, 178-179

³⁷ Grismer, 100.

³⁸ Di Paolo, 220.

³⁹ *Kent Courier*, 2 October 1928.

⁴⁰ *Kent Courier*, 8 May 1928.

⁴¹ *Kent Courier*, 15 May 1928.

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In July 1928, it was announced that construction of the L.N. Gross Company plant had commenced.⁴² The land was located along the Cuyahoga River just south of the intersection of North River and Mantua Streets, owned by the Gougler Machine Company. President Charles L. Gougler agreed to sell the site to the Chamber for \$1,500 less than its original cost and local realtor J.H. Dussell waived his \$400 commission on the sale.⁴³ Kistler was hired for the design of the nominated property; a new production facility on the site for L.N. Gross Company.⁴⁴

In October 1928, shortly before the opening of the new L.N. Gross building, Chamber of Commerce President W.W. Reed wrote an open letter in the *Kent Courier* stating,

One of the principles, if not the outstanding principle of a Chamber of Commerce is to foster its own industries and to induce new industries to locate in its city. To neglect these matters when presented will bring criticism upon the executives of a Chamber more forcibly and cause dissension and lack of confidence in its management quicker than neglect. The competition for industries is exceedingly keen and with nearly every town and city having within its borders from one to a dozen or more vacant plants and all striving to secure tenants for these buildings and factories, the work of holding that which you already have becomes a problem. Confronted with such a problem in the case of the L.N. Gross Company the Chamber realizing its pay roll value to the city of Kent lost no time in meeting it, and the new building of this company stands today as a monument to its efforts.

Architect Charles G. Kistler

Charles Grover Kistler (1885-1968) was the premier Portage County and Kent architect with a career spanning nearly 50 years. His firm of Kistler & Gregg was recognized in 1926 “in many parts of the state as architects of unusual ability, having gained the prestige of being selected to the exclusion of many older firms to furnish plans for many of the best public buildings.”⁴⁵ Kistler became well known for character and individuality in his designs with a diverse range of building types and styles, most often of brick construction. He designed two Kent fire stations one of which was used as the City Hall, the Post Office block, hospital, schools, the Portage County Courthouse, six known commercial buildings, two funeral homes and movie theaters in Kent and Ravenna.

Kistler’s designs evolved with popular architectural styles over time ranging from Neoclassical and Colonial Revival to Mediterranean influenced, Art Deco, Art Moderne and International styles. His work also included substantial residential portfolio for city leaders including: City of Kent Mayor Major Smith, president of Lamson –Sessions, Kent; City of Kent Mayor Hale Thompson, owner of a Studebaker and Nash automobile business; City Council member Dwight L. Parsons, of T. G. Parsons Lumber Company, Kent; Arthur B. Babbitt, General Manager of Kent Machine Company; and City Councilman J.W. Slater, Manager of Lamson-Sessions Kent

⁴² *Kent Courier*, 10 July 1928.

⁴³ *Kent Courier*, 9 October 1928.

⁴⁴ Di Paolo, 71.

⁴⁵ *The Kent Tribune – Civic and Anniversary Edition, 1926*. Courtesy of Roger Di Paolo, Editor *Record Courier*.

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plant and organizer of Twin Lakes residential development; as well as, over 30 others throughout the city and suburbs. In addition, the Kistler & Gregg designed all the housing in the Twin Lakes residential development to the north of Kent.⁴⁶

Kistler was the first licensed architect in the City of Kent, beginning practice in the City in August, 1922.⁴⁷ Born in Newton Falls, Ohio in 1885, he was known as a self-made man. He worked for nine years as a civil engineer before becoming associated with the architect office of Vernon Redding in Mansfield, Ohio. He then spent two years in Cleveland with A.W. Rust Company before moving to Kent in 1918 with Lamson-Sessions Co.⁴⁸ In 1932, he became the 170th architect in the State of Ohio to become credentialed after the Ohio Architects Board was established in 1929 requiring licensure.⁴⁹ It was an unusual accomplishment having only completed his education through the seventh grade,⁵⁰ and granted a license without having to take the state examination.⁵¹ He served on the Kent Platting and Planning Commission from 1924 to 1935, and as Chair of the Portage County Building Code Advisory Committee (Historic Images, 3). Kistler partnered with architect C.H. Gregg in 1925 as Kistler & Gregg until 1928.⁵² He remained in solo practice until 1959, when he partnered with architects Cornachione, Robert Steuber, Kenneth Derr and W. Prentiss Brown who located their practice to his offices in the Getz Block, Kent.⁵³ In 1961, he sold his portion of the practice. Kistler was retained as a consultant to the firm until 1963. He remained in Kent until his death in 1968 at the age of 83.⁵⁴

Kistler's known commercial and institutional designs include:⁵⁵

⁴⁶ Ibid.

⁴⁷ Kistler, Charles Grover. State of Ohio. Application for Certificate of Qualification to Practice the Profession of Architecture in the State of Ohio. Application 142. 2 January 1932.

⁴⁸ Ibid.

⁴⁹ Ohio Architects Board and Landscapes Board. Available at <http://www.arc.ohio.gov/Home.aspx>.

⁵⁰ U.S. Federal Population Census, 1940.

⁵¹ Kistler, Charles Grover. Newspaper file. Public Member Photos & Scanned Documents *Anecestry.com*. 19 April 1968.

⁵² *The Kent Tribune – Civic and Anniversary Edition, 1926*. Courtesy of Roger Di Paolo, Editor *Record Courier*.

⁵³ Fuller, Doug. *It's All About a Phone Number. A History of Architecture Firms in Kent, Ohio and The Remarkable Story of 330.673.4848*. Available at <http://dsarchitecture-press.tumblr.com/post/124856774544/its-all-about-a-phone-number>; U.S. World War II Draft Registration Card, Charles Grover Kistler, 1942. Kent, OH.

⁵⁴ Kistler, Charles Grover. Newspaper file. Public Member Photos & Scanned Documents *Anecestry.com*. 19 April 1968; Ohio Department of Health, Portage County, Death Certificate, Charles Kistler.

⁵⁵ Portage County, Ohio Auditor's Office–Property Data; Grismer, 101,102, 227; Di Paolo 71; *The Kent Tribune – Civic and Anniversary Edition, 1926*; Portage County Courthouse Ohio Memory.org; First National Bank of Palestine, History; Fuller, Doug, *It's All About a Phone Number*; Bissler & Sons Funeral Home and Crematory. History; *Record-Courier*, 11 September 2013, 11 August 2013; Portage Pathways: Decades of Memories as 'The Venice' Changes Hands; Charles Grover Kistler. Application for Certificate of Qualification to Practice the Profession of Architecture in the State of Ohio. Application 142. 2 January 1932.

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COMMERCIAL & INSTITUTIONAL		Location	Date	Style/Type	Status
BANK					
	First National Bank of East Palestine	East Palestine, Columbiana Cty	1924-25	unknown	Ilkely Demo
CITY HALL/FIRE STATION					
	Kent Fire Station No. 1/ City Hall	S. Water Street, Kent	1922	NeoClassical	Demo
	City of Kent West Side Fire Station	418 N. Mantua, Kent	1940	One-Part Commercial	Extant
COMMERCIAL					
	Andrews Building	157 S. Water Street, Kent	ca. 1920	Two-Part Commercial	Extant, altered
	W.H. Donaghy Drug Co. Building	108 S. Water Street, Kent	ca. 1920	Two-Part Commercial	Extant
	Ferrara's Grocery Store	389 S. Depyster Street, Kent	1931	Mediterranean/One-Part Commercial	Extant
	Marsh Building	124 East Main, Kent	1940	Two-Part Commercial	Extant
	Venice Cafe	163 Franklin Ave., Kent	1941	Art Moderne/One-Part Commercial	Extant
	Dayve Tree Expert Co. Building	905 Bryce Street, Kent	1953	International	Extant
COURTHOUSE					
	Portage County Courthouse	203 West Main Street, Ravenna	1959-60	International	Extant
FUNERAL HOME					
	S.C. Bissler & Son Furniture Store and Funeral Parlor	265 Gougler Ave., Kent	1925	Two-Part Commercial	Extant
	Tinker Funeral Home	1005 East Main Street, Kent	1948	Colonial Revival	Demo
HOSPITAL					
	Robinson Memorial Portage County Hospital; Portage County Admin. Bldg.	449 S. Meridian, Ravenna	1932	Colonial Revival	Extant; Charles G. Kastle/Good and Wagner, Akron
MANUFACTURING FACILITY					
	L.N. Gross Company Building	315 Gougler Ave., Kent	1928	Commercial, Art Deco elements	Extant
MASONIC HALL					
	Newton Falls Masonic Temple	12 W. Broad Street, Newton Falls, Trumbull Cty	ca. 1925	Two-Part Commercial	Extant
POST OFFICE					
	Post Office Block	123-125 S. Water Street, Kent	ca. 1920	Two-Part Commercial	Extant
SCHOOL					
	Theodore Roosevelt High School (Davey Elementary)	196 N. Prospect, Kent	1922	Colonial Revival	Extant
	Central School	200 N. Mantua, Kent	1953	Commercial	Extant
	Mogadore School	Mogadore	by 1926	Unknown	Demo
THEATER					
	Kent Theater	175 East Main Street, Kent	1927	Art Deco	Extant
	Ravenna Theater	225 S. Chestnut Street, Ravenna	1928	Art Deco	Extant, altered

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The L.N. Gross Company Building, Product & Workforce

Architect Charles Kistler's design of the 1928 L.N. Gross Company building exhibits a manufacturing facility in the Commercial style with Art Deco elements. The L.N. Gross Company building is comprised of brick and steel construction with 246 feet of frontage along Gougler Avenue. A central entrance and two-story office tower are the most distinguishing features at the façade. The building goes beyond a strictly utilitarian design, demonstrating Art Deco detailing apparent in a row of round or bull's eye motifs stone elements flanking the entrance and continuing on the second floor at all four sides of the tower and at the corner piers. The roof of the tower is crenulated with blind arch brickwork and a raised pediment with an arrow motif on all four sides. Reinforced brick piers define the bays, each having a stone arrow motif set at the parapet and a bull's eye motif centered on the coping. The end bays are articulated with a raised pediment with a diamond shape stone tile at the center. The design also included an area for recreation on its lower level facing the Cuyahoga River.⁵⁶ The local newspaper, the *Kent Courier* reported during construction that "[t]he building will be a model of architecture in beauty and construction."⁵⁷

Company president L.N. Gross stated that the factory would be wired for capacity of 250 machines enabling 400 women and girls to be employed. (Historic Image, Figure 4).⁵⁸ Super Built Construction of Cleveland was the primary contractor at a construction cost of \$60,000. The factory was ready for occupancy in October with a public dedication and celebration on October 8, 1928. A crowd of over 1,000 people attended, including tours, speeches by community leaders, the high school band parading into the building bringing the line of visitors, the Harry Ackworth orchestra for dancing, food and games.⁵⁹ Louis N. Gross was unable to attend but sent his three sons William, Ned and Julius to represent him. A 25 cent admission fee was charged with all proceeds going to the Fund Drive by the Chamber of Commerce. The concluding speech was given by Dr. James O. Engleman, president of Kent State normal college who talked about civic development stating, "I know the people of Kent have practiced some self-denial in keeping this great organization in the city. Kent people have demonstrated that they can see beyond factory walls and bank accounts. They have stressed the cultural and the spiritual as well as the commercial aspects of life."⁶⁰ Floral offerings lined the speakers' platform and two trees were donated by the Chamber of Commerce for the front of the building.⁶¹

Workers in Kent seamlessly moved from the Alpaca Mill and into the new L.N. Gross Company

⁵⁶ Di Paolo, 71.

⁵⁷ *Kent Courier*, 10 July 1928.

⁵⁸ *Ibid.*

⁵⁹ Di Paolo, 71-72; *Kent Courier*, 10 July 1928, 25 September 1928.

⁶⁰ *Kent Courier*, 9 October 1928.

⁶¹ *Ibid.*

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building.⁶² Dress manufacturing continued, using the Louis N. Gross pioneered section piece-work assembly method, comprised of eight to twelve operations for completion of each garment.⁶³ Describing the method at the Kent plant,

*The material was shipped to Kent from the Cleveland factory in huge boxes where it is cut into the right shapes and patterns. There are between 10 and 15 pieces in each dress made by the company, which specializes in house dresses. The first operation in the assembly of the dress is making of the shoulder seams. Then the bottom of the dress is sewed on, and the side seam is made. A number of the girls are employed in trimming pockets. Others do nothing but make belts, while still others sew collars. Each of these is sewn on the dress by other groups who work on specially built machines.*⁶⁴

The *Wellworth* line featured house dresses, standard wear for homemakers before pants were acceptable attire for women. The *Wirthmor* line featured street dresses, which were viewed as a level above “wash dresses.” Most dresses retailed for the inexpensive price of between \$1.00 and \$2.00.⁶⁵ Kent workers produced approximately 4,800 dresses per day, working five and one-half days per week.⁶⁶ Production reached new highs at the Kent plant which doubled its workforce to 300 employees at one point. The average payroll for all employees combined was approximately \$100,000 to \$150,000 per year (Historic Images, Figure 6).⁶⁷ Finished products were shipped from Kent back to the Cleveland plant for distribution to retailers. From the early 1930s, the company also maintained an office in the New York City garment district as a showroom, sales office and headquarters for design and production personnel.⁶⁸

With the onset of the Great Depression in 1929, jobs were critical to the residents of Kent. The L.N. Gross Company endured the Depression by concentrating on budget priced clothing “basics” with its \$1.00 and \$2.00 dresses, and was less affected by the economic downturn in the early years. The Company was an important employer in the City of Kent with other employers in Kent during the same era including: Black and Decker Electric Company with 600 employees in 1929; Davey Tree Expert Company employing 1000 tree surgeons in 1929; Loeblein, Inc. with 85 employees in 1932; Lamson–Sessions Company with one plant in Kent, employing 1,500 workers at 5 plants in 1932; C.L. Gougler Machine Company employing 40 workers in 1932; Ferry Machine Company employing 14 people in 1932; The Perfection Dairy Company

⁶² *Kent Courier*, 23 October 1928.

⁶³ Van Tassel, David R. and Grabowski, John J. eds. *The Encyclopedia of Cleveland History*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1996; L.N. Gross. *The Story of My Life*, L.N. Gross Company Records, Series II, Western Reserve Historical Society. Manuscripts 3823: 1898-1984; Benoit, Colleen S. A Women’s “Natural Work; Sewing and Notions of Feminine Labor in Northeast Ohio, 1900-1930. Kent State Master of Arts Thesis, May 2011.

⁶⁴ *The Courier-Tribune*, 3 January 1930.

⁶⁵ Di Paolo, 71; *The Courier Tribune*. 3 January 1930.

⁶⁶ Di Paolo, 71; Benoit, 24.

⁶⁷ Di Paolo, 72.

⁶⁸ *History of the L.N. Gross Company*. Finding Aid for the L.N. Gross Company Records, Series II., Western Reserve Historical Society. Manuscripts, MS 4711:1898-1900.

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employing 27 people in 1932; as well as the Twin Coach Company and Kent State University which was a significant employer with enrollment of 1,325 students in 1931.⁶⁹

In 1935, a six-week strike led by the Ladies Garment Workers Union left the L.N. Gross Company Kent and Cleveland plants idled, having a major impact on the stability of the firm. In August 1936, the Kent plant closed its doors. Company president Louis N. Gross reported that the Kent plant had lost money for the previous two years and could not remain in operation without making a profit. Due to lost profits and likely the impact of the Depression years, production was transferred to Cleveland. A new production facility opened its doors in Fayetteville, Tennessee in 1937.⁷⁰

The L.N. Gross Company building was purchased by the C.L. Gougler Machine Co. in ca. 1940, the original owners of the property. C.L. Gougler Machine Co. produced defense products under government contracts during World War II. The building was later occupied by the Great Atlantic & Pacific Tea Company before becoming vacant in the 1980s. It was purchased in 1995 by Dale Adams Enterprises, Inc. and rehabilitated for use as a classic car restoration business.⁷¹ The building was purchased in November of 2015 by developers for rehabilitation.

Conclusion

The Kent Area Chamber of Commerce remains an active and important Kent institution which shaped the economic future and landscape of the City of Kent through pro-active planning, community engagement and fund raising. The Chamber allowed Kent to become the home of important industry and commerce providing a tax base and employment, as well as Kent State University and support for civic and charitable endeavors. It allowed Kent to economically compete in northeast Ohio against larger cities of Akron, Cleveland, Youngstown and Canton. The L.N. Gross Company building is representative of the work of the Chamber and the pro-active citizenry who retained an important garment manufacturer and employer in the City of Kent at the cusp of and through the heart of the Great Depression. The only other early to mid-twentieth century manufacturing building remaining in Kent is comprised of portions of the 1910-11 Seneca Chain Company building located at 872 West Main Street on the Wheeling & Lake Erie Railroad tracks. Building funds were also raised by the community after a fire destroyed an earlier Seneca Chain facility in 1909; however, the building was not designed by Charles Kistler. The Seneca Chain building was adapted with later additions for use by the Thomart Motor Company; Fageol Motors Company of Ohio and Twin Coach Company who operated at the facility from 1924 until the late 1970s.⁷²

⁶⁹ Grismer, 171-189.

⁷⁰ Di Paolo, 72.

⁷¹ Dale Adams Enterprises, Inc. website. *The DAE Facility*. Available at <http://www.daleadamsenterprises.com/ourfacility.html>; Di Paolo, 72.

⁷² Sanborn Fire Insurance Co. Maps, 1911, 1929-1947; Di Paolo, 60; Grismer, 116, 168-74; Kent Historical Society; Di Paolo, Roger J., Editor. *Record-Courier*, Kent and Kent historian; Interview 18 March 2016; correspondence 30 June 2016.

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The L.N Gross building design by premier local Portage County and Kent Architect, Charles Kistler, is his only known manufacturing facility demonstrating the individuality and character of his work with its Commercial style and Art Deco detailing. The L.N Gross Company building remains an important icon and source of civic pride for the community.

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(NR#01001523).

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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: Kent Historical Society; Western Reserve Historical Society

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property 1.8 acres

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates (decimal degrees)

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: 17 | Easting: 469808 | Northing: 4555953 |
| 2. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 3. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 4. Zone: | Easting : | Northing: |

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property is situated in the City of Kent, Portage County, Ohio. The boundary of the historic L.N. Gross Company building follows the boundary of Portage County Parcel #17-025-30-00-005-000; property address 315 Gougler Avenue.

Boundary Justification

The nominated boundary includes the property historically associated with the L.N. Gross Company building since purchase of the parcel(s) and construction of the building.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Wendy Hoge Naylor, Diana Wellman
organization: Naylor Wellman, LLC
street & number: 92 East Washington Street
city or town: Chagrin Falls state: OH zip code: 44022
e-mail: naylor@naylorwellman.com; wellman@naylorwellman.com
telephone: 440-247-8319
date: January 26, 2016

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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

Photo Log

Name of Property: L.N. Gross Company Building

City or Vicinity: Kent

County: Portage

State: Ohio

Photographer: Diana Wellman

Date Photographed: September-December, 2015

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

1 of 30.

1. (OH_Portage_L.N. Gross Co. Building_0001): Facade, tower entry, stone inscribed company name, camera direction W.
2. (OH_Portage_L.N. Gross Co. Building_0002): Facade, east elevation, camera direction SW.
3. (OH_Portage_L.N. Gross Co. Building_0003): Facade, east and south elevations, camera direction NW.
4. (OH_Portage_L.N. Gross Co. Building_0004): Facade, east elevation, motif details, camera direction N.
5. (OH_Portage_L.N. Gross Co. Building_0005): North elevation, camera direction SW.

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6. (OH_Portage_L.N. Gross Co. Building _0006): North elevations, camera direction SE.
7. (OH_Portage_L.N. Gross Co. Building _0007): North elevation, 1945 addition, camera direction S.
8. (OH_Portage_L.N. Gross Co. Building _0008): West elevation, 1945 addition, camera direction E.
9. (OH_Portage_L.N. Gross Co. Building _0009): West elevation, camera direction E.
10. (OH_Portage_L.N. Gross Co. Building _0010): West elevation, camera direction NE.
11. (OH_Portage_L.N. Gross Co. Building _0011): West elevation, camera direction NE.
12. (OH_Portage_L.N. Gross Co. Building _0012): Interior, vestibule, camera direction SE.
13. (OH_Portage_L.N. Gross Co. Building _0013): Interior, vestibule, bull's eye motif, camera direction NW.
14. (OH_Portage_L.N. Gross Co. Building _0014): Interior, Stair #1 detail, camera direction E.
15. (OH_Portage_L.N. Gross Co. Building _0015): Interior, Stair #1 detail, camera direction E.
16. (OH_Portage_L.N. Gross Co. Building _0016): Interior, Second floor of tower, camera direction SE.
17. (OH_Portage_L.N. Gross Co. Building _0017): Interior, First Floor, camera direction NE.
18. (OH_Portage_L.N. Gross Co. Building _0018): Interior, First Floor, camera direction S.
19. (OH_Portage_L.N. Gross Co. Building _0019): Interior, First Floor, camera direction N.
20. (OH_Portage_L.N. Gross Co. Building _0020): Interior, First Floor, camera direction S.
21. (OH_Portage_L.N. Gross Co. Building _0021): Interior, First Floor, camera direction SE.
22. (OH_Portage_L.N. Gross Co. Building _0022): Interior, First Floor, skylight, camera direction NW.

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23. (OH_Portage_L.N. Gross Co. Building _0023): Interior, Stair #2 from first to Lower Level, camera direction S.

24. (OH_Portage_L.N. Gross Co. Building _0024): Interior, Lower Level, boiler room, camera direction SW.

25. (OH_Portage_L.N. Gross Co. Building _0025): Interior, Lower Level, boiler room, camera direction NW.

26. (OH_Portage_L.N. Gross Co. Building _0026): Interior, Lower Level, camera direction N.

27. (OH_Portage_L.N. Gross Co. Building _0027): Interior, Lower Level, 1945 addition, camera direction NW.

28. (OH_Portage_L.N. Gross Co. Building _0028): Interior, Lower Level, 1945 addition, camera direction SE.

29. (OH_Portage_L.N. Gross Co. Building _0029): Interior, Lower Level, camera direction N.

30. (OH_Portage_L.N. Gross Co. Building _0030): Interior, Lower Level, camera direction N.

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.



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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 Gross, L.N., Company Building
NAME:

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: OHIO, Portage

DATE RECEIVED: 7/22/16 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 8/10/16
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 8/25/16 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 9/06/16
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 16000598

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 9/2/2016 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept A&C
REVIEWER Patrick Andrus DISCIPLINE Historian
TELEPHONE _____ DATE 9/2/2016

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.

JUL 22 2016

Nat. Register of Historic Places
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 July 15, 2016
For nomination of the L.N. Gross Co. Bldg. to the National Register of
Historic Places: POR 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 22 2016

Nat. Register of Historic Places
National Park Service

July 15, 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 seven (7) new National Register nominations for Ohio. All appropriate notification procedures have been followed for the new nomination submissions.

NEW NOMINATION

Cleveland Public Library Hough Branch
Commodore Hotel
Engine House No. 6
Bappert, Joseph and Cecilia House
Rauh, Frederick and Harriet House
L. N. Gross Company Building
City Savings Bank and Trust Company

COUNTY

Cuyahoga
Cuyahoga
Cuyahoga
Hamilton
Hamilton
Portage
Stark

The enclosed disks contain the true and correct copy of the nomination to the National Register of Historic Places for the following: Engine House No. 6, Franklin County, OH; Rauh, Frederick and Harriet House, Hamilton County, OH; L. N. Gross Company Building, Portage County, OH; and City Savings Bank and Trust Company, Stark 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,

for

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

Enclosures