OMB No.

United States Department of the Interior

National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

1. Name of Property	[Naji s
Historic name: The Overmyer Building	0.0
Other names/site number: Commerce Paper Bui Name of related multiple property listing:	liding
N/A	
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple	e property listing
2. Location	
Street & number: 15 South Ontario Street	
Max Pan Doblications Websters	bunty: Lucas
Not For Publication: n/a Vicinity: n/a	a
3. State/Federal Agency Certification	
As the designated authority under the National l	Historic Preservation Act, as amended.
I hereby certify that this X nomination the documentation standards for registering proplaces and meets the procedural and professional	request for determination of eligibility meets perties in the National Register of Historic
In my opinion, the property X meets decommend that this property be considered significance:	
	/ local
nationalstatewide _X	<u>C</u> local
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Applicable National Register Criteria:	
$\underline{\hspace{1cm}}^{A}$ $\underline{\hspace{1cm}}^{B}$ $\underline{\hspace{1cm}}^{X}C$ $\underline{\hspace{1cm}}^{D}$	
DSHPO Inventory & Registration	Novemberl, 2019
Signature of certifying official/Title:	Date
State Historic Preservation Office, Ohio History	
State or Federal agency/bureau or Triba	al Government
In my opinion, the property meets criteria.	does not meet the National Register
Signature of commenting official:	Date
Title :	State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

The Overmyer Building Name of Property	Lucas, Ohio County and State
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:)	
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Dyon Deline	12/23/19
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	
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Overmyer Building		Lucas, Ohio
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Narrative Description	

Summary Paragraph

The Overmyer Building, constructed in 1912, is constructed using the reinforced concrete flat-slab method which reflected an emerging and fluid technology. It appears to be one of the earliest surviving buildings in downtown Toledo to reflect this construction. Originally four stories in height, it was engineered specifically to allow for future vertical expansion which happened four years later in 1917 when four additional stories were added. It has sufficient integrity for listing, retaining character defining features that represent its historic engineering technique and warehouse property type; distinctive flat slab, girder-less, reinforced concrete construction design and materials, open plans at floors 2-8 that reflect its historic use as a grocery warehouse, original spacious industrial steel windows, circulation pattern represented by freight elevators, staircases, loading dock and loading dock entrances, and terra cotta embellishments. An attached one-story structure at the building's south elevation was added between 1914 and 1936 based on evidence from historic photos and Sanborn maps is small and low in scale and does not adversely affect the building's historic integrity.

The building is located just south of central downtown Toledo, in a historic industrial area, transitioning to light retail and residential. It is adjacent to other late 19th and early 20th century commercial warehouse buildings, with other surviving buildings of this original function in the vicinity.

Narrative Description

The façade of the eight-story, square-plan building features five bays, demarcated by decorative brickwork and fenestration pattern (Photo 1, 2). The brickwork framing the northern and southern-most bays is laid two wythes thicker than that of the rest of the façade. It contains a two-brick wide frame of even further projecting brick which adds additional decorative interest. These two end bays feature two, side-by-side, steel, horizontal pivot windows set in a surround of fixed panes, with four panes for the side, top, and bottom lights, in the second through eighth stories. Limestone block sills are present below each opening. The center three bays feature three, side-by-side nine-pane, steel, horizontal pivot windows set in a surround of fixed panes, with five panes for the side, top, and bottom lights, in the second through eighth stories. A continuous sill of limestone block, identical to the two end bays, underscores these windows across all three center bays at each floor. A decorative band of white terra cotta runs across the entire façade, just above the eighth story windows. A white terra cotta dentil cornice crowns the façade.

At the first story, historic storefront window and door openings and a garage/loading entrance at the southern-most end are covered with wood siding at the exterior and a paneling system at the interior, with the exception of the original pedestrian entrance within the center bay which features a modern aluminum and glass entry door with two, fixed-pane, plate glass windows to either side. It is unknown if original windows and/or openings still exist or if the openings have

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been infilled with other materials underneath paneling. Historically, two, one-over-one, sash windows were located within the northern-most bay, three one-over-one sash windows within the second from northern-most bay, the original entrance as just described but with transom above within the center bay, another double-door entrance with two, one-over-one sash windows to the south and transom above within the second from southern-most bay, and a double-door garage/loading entrance within the southern-most bay. With the exception of the garage/loading entrance, all other bays featured a secondary transom of what appears to be frosted or opaque glass above window or window/door configurations (Figure 4L).

The south elevation has an attached, one story, three-bay addition of red brick and steel beam construction (Photo 1, 3). Above the addition, the south elevation features exposed concrete framing brick infilled with brick curtain walls from the second story to the seventh. This elevation does not appear to have had fenestration originally. (Photo 4).

At the east, rear elevation of the building, a loading dock spans the four southern-most bays (Photo 5, 6). The northern-most four bays each feature two original loading entrance doors with pulley systems at the interior which were designed to lift the doors back and in. The doors each have two, three-over three-windows, currently painted over, in their uppermost third. The opening in the southernmost bay has been infilled with block, though based on the size and shape of this infilled opening, it appears that the original fenestration pattern within this opening may have been different than the northernmost four bays. Within each of the five bays, over each original door opening, is a transom consisting of three, 33-pane (three by eleven), fixed windows. A metal awning overhangs the loading dock over the middle three bays. The second through eighth stories have banks of historic steel windows in each bay. These window banks feature centered, 12-pane horizontal pivot windows, with 6-pane top, bottom, and side lights, set between two nine-pane, steel, horizontal pivot windows set in a surround of fixed panes, with five panes for the side, top, and bottom lights. Each bay is further delineated by exposed concrete framing infilled with brick curtain walls around door openings at the first floor and beneath each window opening on the second through seventh stories. The eighth-floor window openings are framed by structural masonry.

The north elevation shares a party wall for seven stories with the neighboring Bartley Building, constructed in 1914 for the R.A. Bartley Company, also a wholesale grocer. The exposed portion of the eight story of the Overmyer Building is of structural masonry (Photo 7).

In 1917, a four-story addition was added to the top of the original four-story building, also of reinforced concrete, with the exception of the eighth floor which has walls of masonry construction, with the building's steel roof deck supported by steel columns and girders. Red shale facing brick at the front elevation and steel windows with pivot openings at the front, west match those of the original four-story structure exactly, make the addition appear seamless. This addition created the eight-story structure as it exists today. Documentation accompanying original architectural plans states that the potential for an addition of at least two stories was accounted for in strength calculations for the original four-story structure (Figure 5J).

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The basement of the building spans the entire original structure and contains mechanicals (Photo 8, 9, 10, 11). At the southern fifth, a block wall fitted with three, original fire doors partitions off a mechanical room, otherwise, the basement is largely open plan with octagonal concrete support columns, hallmarks of the particular method of flat slab construction employed, featuring prominently within the space.

The front roughly two-fifths of the first floor of the building is divided into offices, with all finishes from the recent past including drop ceilings, paneled walls and carpeting (Photo 12, 13, 14). Original architectural plans indicate that this front area historically functioned as office space (Figure 5B). Octagonal concrete columns remain unenclosed in some locations in the finished, office portion of the first floor, two have been covered in carpeting.

The back three-fifths of the length of the first floor consists of the loading dock area which possesses original loading entrance doors leading to loading dock at the exterior of the eastern elevation (Photo 15, 16, 17, 18). Brick and columns in the loading dock area have been painted white.

The second through seventh floors retain historic open plans, exposed concrete floors, octagonal concrete columns, and concrete ceilings at the interior. (Photos 21-29). The second floor has some additional masonry partitioning constituting a restroom and storage room (Photo 21, 22). It also has a brick floor, roughly 10 feet by 10 feet, inset in the concrete floor at the southwest corner. Demarcations on the walls and ceiling indicate that the brick-floored area was originally partitioned off, and original architectural plans indicate that this space was designed as a cigar room (Figure 5C).

The eighth floor, also open plan, possesses aforementioned steel columns and steel girders supporting a steel roof deck (Photo 30). Though documentation accompanying original architectural plans states that, in order for the building to be fully prepared to receive a vertical addition at some point in the future, the ceiling of the fourth floor would be put in as a concrete slab so as to be ready to become the fifth floor (Figure 5J), architectural plans indicate that this was abandoned and instead the original four-story building utilized steel columns and girders to support a steel roof deck, presumably for either cost or time savings or a combination of both (Figure 5I).

Plans for the four-story addition state that the steel columns originally utilized on the fourth floor were to be reutilized to support the roof at the eighth floor. This was presumably again for cost savings and also potentially to reduce the dead load of the structure (Figure 6D).

Two, side-by-side, original freight elevators, which facilitated the quick movement of goods in and out of the warehouse, are centrally located on the north wall at each floor. They are identical with wooden pull-down gates and bi-folding, overhead, paneled outer doors. A penthouse on the rooftop houses elevator equipment. The building's single stairway is located directly behind the elevators (Photo 27). It retains the building's original metal staircase. A small, non-passenger lift is located within a masonry shaft at the center of the building at each floor. An original automatic sprinkler system is still in place at each floor.

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The one story, three-bay addition at the south elevation is of red brick and steel beam construction (Photo 1, 3). This addition was built sometime before 1936 (Figures 3C) and consists of a roof tied structurally to the south elevation of the building at 15 S. Ontario St. and to what was once the north elevation of a now-demolished adjacent structure. The original window openings of this demolished structure, though bricked in, are still visible in the addition's north wall at both the interior and exterior. A modern semi-trailer loading opening and pedestrian entrance are located at the east end of this elevation. The building has three garage door openings at its west elevation. The southern two-thirds of the east elevation is of block with a row of windows just below the roof. The northern two-thirds features a loading entrance over the loading dock which continues on to span the southern four bays of the original building. At the interior, the addition is open plan. Originally, four openings existed between the addition and the original building however all but the center one have been closed in. The eastern roughly three-quarters of the floor is elevated approximately three feet above that of the western quarter, for purposes of loading.

Integrity

The Overmyer Building, possesses integrity through the intact nature of its location and setting, with original orientation to the street, adjacent to other late nineteenth and early twentieth century industrial and warehouse buildings, as well as its unaltered design and the retention of nearly all original materials. These materials convey the building's design, workmanship, and feeling as a warehouse, as well as directly speak to its significance for association with early engineering and architecture utilizing reinforced concrete construction methods. The exterior of the building remains largely unchanged. At the façade, the 1917 addition matched the red shale facing brick of the original structure almost exactly. Minimal terra cotta ornamentation and subtle decorative brickwork convey subtle elements of the Commercial Style aesthetic. While the storefronts and front entries are currently covered, the openings remain. At the east elevation, a loading dock and original loading doors relate the original use as grocery warehouse, while exposed concrete framing at the south elevation displays the use of reinforced concrete as construction method to achieve functionality and fire resistance goals. Other important elements including industrial steel sash windows, circulation patterns consisting of original elevators, stairway, and open spaces for warehousing, and fireproof concrete construction as evidenced by exposed octagonal concrete columns, exposed concrete floors, and exposed concrete ceilings, that convey its engineering significance as an early example of reinforced concrete, flat slab, or girderless, construction executed in a warehouse property type.

The one-story addition was constructed sometime prior to 1936. Pockets cut into the original structure's masonry to hold the steel joists supporting the addition's roof, and access openings in the masonry at the first floor (all but one now closed in as previously described) represent the only alterations to the original building posed by the addition. The small scale and location of the addition do not seriously affect the integrity of the property.

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	atement of Significance		
(Marl	able National Register Criteria "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the p	property for National Register	
listing)		
	A. Property is associated with events that have made broad patterns of our history.	a significant contribution to the	
	B. Property is associated with the lives of persons sig	nificant in our past.	
Х	C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of construction or represents the work of a master, or or represents a significant and distinguishable entitional individual distinction.	possesses high artistic values,	
	D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, informat history.	tion important in prehistory or	
Crite	a Considerations		
(Marl	"x" in all the boxes that apply.)		
	A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religion	ous 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 w	within the past 50 years	

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me of Property	County and Sta
Areas of Significance	
(Enter categories from instructions.)	
ENGINEERING	
ARCHITECTURE	
	
Period of Significance	
<u>1912-1917</u>	
Significant Dates	
1912	
<u>1917</u>	
Significant Person	
(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)	
,	
Cultural Affiliation	
Cultural Affiliation	
Architect/Builder	
Mills, Rhine, Bellman & Nordhoff	
A. Bentley and Sons Company	

State

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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 Overmyer Building is significant at the local level under Criteria C in the area of engineering as an early local example of reinforced concrete flat slab, or girderless construction; a technique attributed to Claude A. P. Turner. The design and construction material reflects a transitioning turn of the twentieth century concrete building technology enthusiastically embraced as fireproof and superior load bearing. The Overmyer Building is also significant in the area of architecture as a locally significant example of the warehouse property type. The building displays an open plan, octagonal support columns, loading dock, heavy freight elevator and large steel framed windows that define the warehouse property type. The period of significance reflects the original construction date; 1912 through the date of the significant four-story vertical addition; 1917.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

The Overmyer Building was designed by the local architecture firm, Mills, Rhine, Bellman and Nordhoff. Led by the nationally-renowned George S. Mills, the firm was to be one of the longest-lived architecture firms in Toledo's history, designing many prominent buildings including 1875 Burt's Theater (NRHP #77001074), the 1934-35 Central YMCA (NRHP#82003610), the 1925 Commodore Perry Hotel (NRHP #97001240), 1908 Secor Hotel (NRHP#76001475), 1925 Hillcrest Hotel (NRHP# 98001179) and the 1915 Toledo Club (NRHP #78002127). 1,2

Mill's design for the Overmyer Building was executed by A. Bentley and Sons Company, which was founded in Toledo in 1872. Over the course of the first two generations of family ownership into the 1920s, the firm was responsible for the construction of a great number of early, prominent Toledo commercial buildings from the Hall Block on South St. Clair (destroyed by fire in 1882) to the Toledo Museum of Art (extant), the Secor Hotel (NRHP #76001475), and the Second National Bank Building (extant) and eventually conducted business well beyond, on the east coast to Florida, even in the Caribbean and South America. Bentley and Sons Company remained in the Bentley family until its dissolution in 1981.³ These two firms worked closely together in Toledo during the first two decades of the twentieth century to pioneer the use of fireproof, reinforced concrete construction, including the flat slab, girderless method.^{4,5} **Engineering**

Woodlawn Cemetery and Arboretum 2012b History, Notable Families: The Mills Family. http://www.historic-woodlawn.com/mills-family.html. Accessed July 2017.

Zaborney, Mark 2012a. Charles H. Stark III 1935-2012. Obituary. *Toledo Blade*. Accessed February 7, 2017. http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/toledoblade/obituary.aspx?n=charles-h-stark&pid=156491380.

³ Woodlawn Cemetery and Arboretum 2012a History, Notable Families: *The Bentley Family*. http://www.historic-woodlawn.com/bentley-family.html. Accessed July 2017.

⁴ Rock Products 1906. Concrete Construction in Toledo. Rock Products. IV(1) pp. 47-49.

⁵ Woodlawn 2012a.

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At the turn of the twentieth century, reinforced concrete gained ground as a versatile structural material. The railroad industry was an early proponent in the use of concrete for bridges that required both stability and strength to carry heavy loads and resist weathering. The rail industry also utilized factory-made precast components and concrete piles and slabs in trestles by 1906. However, despite the landmark construction of the 16-story, reinforced concrete Ingalls Building in Cincinnati in 1902-1903, the effort to introduce reinforced concrete as a common building component was still met with some skepticism. However, with very little regulation and promising economic potential, the use of concrete in construction continued to evolve. In 1909, the tilt-up construction technique was documented by Robert Aiken in his "Monolithic Concrete Wall Buildings, Methods, Construction and Cost." In it, he described the process as reinforced concrete retaining walls cast flat on the ground, much like a sidewalk slab, then raise on edge and placed by crane and anchored to the foundation by steel rods. The advantages of concrete construction spurred continued design adaptations that resulted in the reinforced concrete columns and flat plates girderless floors design that provided an economical option with flexible open floor plan well adopted to industrial and commercial applications. ⁶

The design and execution of flat slab, girderless reinforced concrete construction, was pioneered in the United States by Claude A.P. (CAP) Turner with his Johnson-Bovey Building in Minneapolis in 1906. Turner's method consisted of reinforced concrete columns with radial bars connected by concentric reinforcing rings extending up from columns and bending out into the slab floors of the structure. These radial bars supporting the main floor reinforcement. This type of construction had distinct advantages over earlier beam and girder systems of the late nineteenth and early twentieth. Some of these advantages included increased daylight inside structures, ease of running utilities throughout and cost savings with the reduction of form work over other reinforced concrete methods. All of these aspects would have been appealing to Overmyer as he planned his warehouse design in 1912. Existing original architectural drawings and specifications for the construction of the Overmyer Building illustrate how Turner's construction method was incorporated into the Mill's design. (Figures 4A-6D)

Turner originally filed for U.S. patents for his particular method of executing flat slab construction utilizing two-way reinforcement and octagonal columns which he had dubbed the "Mushroom System" in 1907, however he did not receive patents until 1911. (Figure 7) Similar, but slightly modified versions of girderless construction proliferated in the interim, leading immediately to patent infringement lawsuits and countersuits from 1911 to 1916, with the major difference among the various flat slab construction systems being the type and configuration of reinforcing bars. Eventually judgments were handed down against Turner, stating that all flat slab construction fell under an earlier 1902 patent by Orlando Norcross that, though similar in that it also depicted two-way reinforcement, utilized strips of wire netting rather than bars for reinforcement and metal versus concrete columns. Norcross's design was appears to have been

⁶ Wilde, Robert. E. ACI A Century of Progress. American Concrete Institute. 2004. pp. 4-5.

⁷ Wight, James K. and James G. MacGregor 2012. Reinforced Concrete: Mechanics and Design. Pg. 634. Peareson: Boston.

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conceptual, most likely never executed by him at the entire building scale. ^{8,9, 10,11} Turner's Mushroom System focused on reducing shearing forces near the column heads, but was met with criticism initially for utilizing a small moment coefficient to calculate reinforcements needed throughout the slabs to counter live and dead loads and prevent flexure. This was compounded by the fact that Turner never explicitly shared the assumptions or methods behind the calculations that constituted his design, likely due to his inability to secure a patent as discussed above. As it turned out, these criticisms were founded and in the long-term, buildings designed with the system do tend to exhibit deflection, especially towards the middle of the slab at ninety degree angles from columns where the cantilevered rods extending up from the columns are at a minimum. ¹² ¹³

Due to the desirable qualities but load bearing concerns of the construction technique, a comprehensive study of the properties of concrete and best-practices for all manner of concrete construction, including flat slab buildings, was undertaken, beginning in the early twentieth century, to create standards for design and construction. Reflecting the diverse usage of concrete construction that included vehicular and rail bridges, roads, and buildings, to name a few, representatives of the forerunner of the American Concrete Institute, the National Association of Cement Users actively studied construction methods and material formulas. In addition, a Joint Committee comprising representatives from the American Society of Civil Engineers, American Society for Testing Materials, American Railway Engineering and Maintenance of Way Association, and the Association of American Portland Cement Manufacturers all convened to study issues and solutions pertaining to concrete construction. By the mid-1910s various committees of these efforts began to release reports on their findings. Over time these best-practices were enveloped in building codes across the United States. Research into materials and methods continues to this day, building upon this early effort to codify knowledge. 14,15,16,17

Flat slab reinforced concrete construction, continues to be widely utilized in commercial building today for the very reasons that made it an attractive choice in the early twentieth century. ¹⁸ Turner's engineering innovation was an important development in the evolution of concrete construction and in many ways influenced contemporary reinforced concrete regulations and

Eriedman, Donald 2010. Historical Building Construction: Design, Materials, and Technology. Pp, 143-147. W.W. Norton & Company, Inc, New York.

⁹ Gasparini 2010.

¹⁰ Willis, Carol 2017. The Skyscraper Museum. Virtual Exhibit: *Vertical Urban Factory, The Concrete Factory: Reinforced Concrete Systems*. http://skyscraper.org/EXHIBITIONS/VERTICAL_URBAN_FACTORY/concrete.php. Accessed July 2017.

¹¹ Wolfe et al 1913

¹² Elliott, Meghan. 2009. Testing the Limits: Long-Term Deflection of the C.A.P. Turner Flat-Slab Floor.

Paper presented to the Construction History Society of America. Abstract: http://www.mbjeng.com/wp-content/uploads/2011/03/Testing-the-Limits-CAP-Turner-Abstract.pdf. Accessed August 2019.

Elliott, Meghan. 2010. Square Buildings and Round Bars: C.A.P. Turner and the Minneapolis Warehouse District. Construction HistorySociety of America. Issue No. 13 (October). Pp. 5-6

¹⁴ Gasparini 2010.

Mahamid, Mustafa, et. al 2015. Guide to Design of Reinforced Two-Way Slab Systems. Reported by Joint ACI-ASCE Committee 421, ACI 421.3R-15. American Concrete Institute.

¹⁶ American Society for Testing Materials 1913. Report of Committee on Concrete and Reinforced Concrete. Vol. XIII. https://archive.org/details/reportofcommitte00joinrich/page/n1

¹⁷ Wilde, Robert E. ACI: A century of Progress. 2003. American Concrete Institute. Pp. 3-22.

¹⁸ Mahamid 2015.

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industry practices. Many of Turner's flat-slab buildings have been lost to demolition, have been significantly altered or have not been identified for study, making the Overmyer Building an important example of his engineering technique.

Early Flat Slab Reinforced Concrete Construction in Toledo

As in other urban areas, Toledo's development and the proliferation of wood and timber framed buildings downtown resulted in the continued threat of fire. The development of viable reinforced concrete construction methods presented an opportunity for those in the market to construct commercial and industrial buildings to mitigate the risk of fire, with the advantages of flat slab construction making it a particularly appealing option among available systems.

The first building in Toledo of reinforced concrete flat slab construction, the Bostwick-Braun Warehouse Building at 24-44 North Summit St. was erected in 1907 by the A. Bentley and Sons Company. The building was demolished in 1995. The design of this building involved a collaboration between George S. Mills (at this time practicing alone prior to establishing Mills, Rhine, Bellman and Nordhoff), and Turner. Built just a year after Turner's Johnson-Bovey Building, the Bostwick-Braun Building in Toledo was among the earliest reinforced concrete flat slab buildings in the country. Turner used this building to conduct load tests and wrote about his findings in the May 2, 1908 *Engineering Record*. ^{19, 20,21,22}

The Thompson-Hudson Department Store building at Summit and Adams in Toledo, built in 1909, demolished 1974, is believed to have been the next flat-slab building to have been constructed in Toledo, again through the collaboration of Mills and Bentley & Sons. ^{23,24,25,26,27} No references were found to the construction of any other flat slab buildings between the years 1909 and 1912, until the construction of the Overmyer Building.

Original architectural drawings for the construction of the Thompson-Hudson Department Store and for the 1912 construction of the Overmyer Building (Figures 4A-4L) show that the method of flat slab construction was practically identical to each other and to Turner's "Mushroom" system (though not explicitly labeled as such perhaps due to the ongoing patent litigation) including two-way reinforcement and octagonal columns. The Overmyer Building illustrates this iteration of innovative construction. Each floor exhibits the wide open floor plan, robust octagonal columns topped with equally robust caps integrated into and reinforced within the concrete slab ceilings. The wide expanse of industrial windows on the front and rear of the Overmyer Building are also hallmark elements that illustrate the construction of the property.

¹⁹ Gasparini 2010.

²⁰ Historic American Building Survey 1995. Bostwick-Braun Warehouse, HABS No. OH-2407, Data Files (narrative and images). https://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/oh1770/. Accessed July 2017.

²¹ Toledo-Lucas County Public Library 2017. Images in Time. Keyword searches "Bostwick" & "Tiedtke's". http://images2.toledolibrary.org/. Accessed July 2017.

²² Woodlawn 2012a.

²³ Kopytek, Bruce Allen 2013. *Toledo's Three Ls: Lamson, Lion Store and Lasalle's*. Pp.87-88. The History Press, Charleston

Mills, George S. 1909. Architectural Drawings & Correspondence Files. "Building for Mrs. Mary E. Nearing"/Thompson-Hudson Department Store. Bauer, Stark, & Lashbrook Collection. Local History Department. Toledo Lucas County Public Library, Toledo, OH.

Speck, William D. 2002. Toledo: A History in Architecture, 1890-1914. Pg. 95. Arcadia, Charleston.

²⁶ Toledo-Lucas County Public Library 2017

²⁷ Woodlawn 2012a.

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This design indicates the continued influence on George S. Mills' of his earlier collaboration with Turner on the Bostwick Braun Building. Mills, Rhine, Bellman and Nordhoff was also responsible for the design of the subsequent four-story addition to the nominated property in 1917. (Figures 5A-J). Interestingly, the addition, also flat-slab reinforced concrete, employed a slightly different execution method, including the apparent addition of stirrups (which Mills calls "chairs" on the addition plans, Figure 6C) perpendicular to latitudinal reinforcing bars within the slab to further reduce the possibility of failures due to tension and spiral reinforcement within the columns rather than discrete bands. As described above, steel columns and roof at the fourth floor were removed and reused at the new eighth floor with new concrete columns set directly above those at the third floor. It is possible that Mills drew on findings of committees described above to make improvements to the flat slab design employed for the original four stories²⁸. Though not explicitly illustrated in Mill's drawings or outlined in specifications, this most likely required drilling into the floor of the fourth floor to set longitudinal bars for the fourth-floor columns (Figure 6C). It is believed that the addition was constructed by a different firm from the original four-story building.

Toledo's Warehouse District and the Warehouse property type

Proximity to the Miami and Erie Canal first gave rise to the southeasterly end of Toledo's central business district, where the nominated property is located, as a warehousing center. The Canal in turn contributed to the placement and growth of rail facilities nearby in the second half of the nineteenth century, with Toledo realizing its potential as a transportation hub, thanks to its strategic location on Lake Erie between Buffalo and Chicago, by becoming the third largest rail facility in the United States by the turn of the twentieth century. The majority of buildings constructed in this district during the last quarter of the nineteenth century and first quarter of the twentieth century functioned as warehouses as wholesalers focused on produce and other foodstuffs. The buildings were primarily of masonry and wood construction.

A review of the *Huron-Superior Streets Warehouse/Produce Historic District* National Register nomination and Ohio Historic Inventory forms provide a local context of wholesale property types. The nominated property is located just a block from the listed historic district. Other warehouses buildings include the extant Berdan Building (NR reference #75001468) at 601 Washington St., also a grocery wholesale warehouse, built in 1900 and the most monumental of the masonry and wood structures in the area; the extant three story brick Smith-Kirk Candy Company Building at 42-46 S. Superior St., built in 1897; and the simple two-story S. Metzger Produce Company Building at 139 S. Huron St., built in 1912. In 1914, the R. A. Bartley Company, another grocery wholesale business built a reinforced concrete warehouse next door to the Overmyer Building. At seven stories, it was for three years the taller of the two, until Overmyer Building received its vertical addition. Of the documented warehouses in Toledo, the Bartley Building is the only other concrete constructed warehouse in the district. It was converted to loft style apartments within the past ten years.

The Overmyer Company was a prominent grocery wholesaler founded by Alfred E. Overmyer. Born in 1858, A.E. Overmyer had already been in the grocery business for fifteen years before

²⁸ American Society for Testing Materials 1913. Pg.266

The Overmyer Building

Name of Property

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moving to Toledo in 1895. He eventually bought out a partner, creating The Overmyer Company in 1910. As president, Mr. Overmyer commissioned the firm Mills, Rhine, Bellman, and Nordhoff to design a warehouse and office for his business within the established warehouse district of Toledo in 1912, just a block away from its then location at 20-24 Huron St. ^{29,30} The success of his business provided the means for Overmyer to pursue a state-of-the-art, fireproof building that would mitigate the possibility of losses from blazes originating within or in adjacent, more flammable, masonry and wood buildings, while still allowing his company to take advantage of the transportation opportunities afforded by remaining in the Warehouse District through the rail spur located directly behind the building. (Figures 3A-C)

The Overmyer Building is a significant example of a distinctive and identified warehouse property type, purpose built to store product. Open floor plans at each floor, with the exception of office partitioning on the first floor, and expansive banks of original steel windows at the east and west elevations, reflect the application of flat slab reinforced concrete technology to facilitate the building's function as a wholesale grocery warehouse. The open plan design allowed for flexibility in the organization of the goods within the space, while the windows let in plentiful natural light to facilitate work, unimpeded by girders as with older construction methods.

The lack of girders also facilitated the running of electricity and mechanicals, including an automatic fire sprinkler system. Along with the use of metal, particularly steel for columns, girders and roof deck on the eighth floor, and for the building's single staircase, reinforced concrete construction allowed for the almost complete eschewal of wood, dramatically reducing the risk of a catastrophic loss to fire that historically had plagued buildings in a dense urban setting. The presence of the original fire suppression system also speaks to the desire to employ new building technologies to achieve fire prevention. Overmyer's success not only prompted him to construct this cutting-edge building, but to anticipate the need to almost double the building in size by commissioning it designed to structurally support a vertical addition.

When Mr. Overmyer retired, he passed the company and its building on to his son, Harrison M. Overmyer (H.M.), who continued to run the wholesale grocery business until 1937, when he utilized the company's experience and assets to create The Merchants and Manufacturers Warehouse Company (MMWC) and started leasing warehouse space to other businesses, including the Sears & Roebuck Company. In 1950, H.M. passed the warehouse business on to his son, D.H. Overmyer. D.H. continued to run the business, expanding it into a multi-national corporation, with over 350 warehouses across North America and Europe. The MMWC continued to operate out of 15 S. Ontario, until D.H. sold the building in 1963, to purchase a television station in Toledo, creating the Overmyer Communication Corporation. In 1966, the building was purchased by the Roberts Investment Corporation, owners of long-time tenant, Union Paper Company, which moved into the warehouse in 1941. The Union Paper

²⁹ Killits, John M., Ed. 1923. Toledo and Lucas County, Ohio: 1623-1923. Pg. 404. The S. J. Clarke Publishing Company, Chicago & Toledo.

³⁰ Overmyer, Barnhart B. & John C. 1905. Overmyer History and Geneaology, From 1680 to 1905. Pg. 166. Chas. S. Beelman, Fremont.

The Overmyer Building	Lucas, Ohio
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Company changed its name to Commerce Paper in 1970.^{31,32} The Roberts family continued to own the building and run the paper supply company from 15 S. Ontario until January 2017. The building has been vacant since.

Conclusion

The Overmyer Building is significant at the local level, under Criteria C, in the area of engineering as an early example of reinforced concrete flat slab, or girderless, construction in Toledo that was the result of a collaboration between renowned architect, George S. Mills and prominent local builder, A. Bentley and Sons Company in downtown Toledo. It is also eligible for listing in the area of architecture as a significant example of a warehouse property type, illustrated by its fireproof construction materials, open floor plan, intact circulation patterns and spacious fenestration. The building embodies the rapid evolution of this particular reinforced concrete construction method in the first two decades of the twentieth century with the goal of a cost-effective-to-build, functional, and fireproof urban fabric.

³¹ R.L. Polk & Company 1912-2010.

³² Zaborney, Mark. 2012b.

The Overmyer Building	Lucas, Ohio
Name of Property	County and State

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The Overmyer Building		Lucas, Ohio
Name of Property Previous documentation on file (NPS):		County and State
Previous documentatio	n on me (NPS):	
previously listed in previously determined designated a Nation recorded by History recorded by History	the National Register ned eligible by the National	ey # cord #
Primary location of add	ditional data:	
x State Historic Prese		
Other State agency		
Federal agency		
Local government		
University		
<u>x</u> Other		
Name of repository	7: Toledo Lucas County Publ	ic Library Local History Department
Historic Resources Sur	vey Number (if assigned):	
10. Geographical Data		
Acreage of Property <u>0.</u>		
Use either the UTM syste	em or latitude/longitude coor	dinates
Latitude/Longitude Co Datum if other than WG (enter coordinates to 6 do 1. Latitude: 41.648630	S84:	-83.542428
Or		
UTM References Datum (indicated on US	GS map):	
× NAD 1927 or	NAD 1983	
1. Zone: 17	Easting: 288285	Northing: 4613668
2. Zone:	Easting:	Northing:

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Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.) The property consists of two parcels and 4 and 1/3 lots, described as follows:

Lots numbered 334, 335, and the southwesterly 39 1/3 feet of lot number 336 in the Port Lawrence Division of the City of Toledo, Lucas County, Ohio, in accordance with plat recorded in Volume 16 of Plats, page 47. Parcel Nos 12-16007, 12-16014, 12-16021.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The above boundaries are the legal boundaries historically associated with the property.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Erin Claussen

organization: <u>Toledo Revival, Ltd.</u> street & number: <u>3204 River Rd.</u>

city or town: Toledo state: OH zip code: 43614

e-mail: toledorevival@gmail.com

telephone: 419-902-4808

date: 1/24/2019

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.)

Photo Log

Name of Property: Overmyer Building, 15 S. Ontario St.

City or Vicinity: Toledo

County: Lucas State: OH

Photographers: Erin Claussen Dates Photographed: 11/18 & 4/19

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

camera:

Lucas, Ohio	
County and State	

The Overmyer Building

Name of Property

Photo #1 (OH_Lucas County_Overmyer Building_0001) West Elevation (camera facing southeast)

Photo #2 (OH_Lucas County_Overmyer Building_0002) West Elevation (camera facing southeast)

Photo #3 (OH_Lucas County_Overmyer Building_0003) West Elevation (camera facing east)

Photo #4 (OH_Lucas County_Overmyer Building_0004) South Elevation (camera facing north)

Photo #5 (OH_Lucas County_Overmyer Building_0005) East Elevation (camera facing west)

Photo #6 (OH_Lucas County_Overmyer Building_0006)
East Elevation (camera facing northwest)

Photo #7 (OH_Lucas County_Overmyer Building_0007) North Elevation (camera facing southwest)

Photo #8 (OH_Lucas County_Overmyer Building_0008) Lower Level (camera facing southeast)

Photo #9 (OH_Lucas County_Overmyer Building_0009) Lower Level (camera facing northeast)

Photo #10 (OH_Lucas County_Overmyer Building_0010) Lower Level (camera facing northwest)

Photo #11 (OH_Lucas County_Overmyer Building_0011) Lower Level (camera facing southwest)

Photo #12 (OH_Lucas County_Overmyer Building_0012) First Floor (camera facing southwest)

Photo #13 (OH_Lucas County_Overmyer Building_0013) First Floor (camera facing northeast)

Photo #14 (OH_Lucas County_Overmyer Building_0014) First Floor (camera facing northwest)

Photo #15 (OH_Lucas County_Overmyer Building_0015) First Floor (camera facing southeast)

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Photo #16 (OH_Lucas County_Overmyer Building_0016)
First Floor (camera facing northeast)

Photo #17 (OH_Lucas County_Overmyer Building_0017) First Floor (camera facing southeast)

Photo #18 (OH_Lucas County_Overmyer Building_0018)
First Floor (camera facing west)

Photo #19 (OH_Lucas County_Overmyer Building_0019) First Floor (camera facing southeast)

Photo #20 (OH_Lucas County_Overmyer Building_0020) First Floor (camera facing southwest)

Photo #21 (OH_Lucas County_Overmyer Building_0021)
Second Floor (camera facing northwest)

Photo #22 (OH_Lucas County_Overmyer Building_0022) Second Floor (camera facing northeast)

Photo #23 (OH_Lucas County_Overmyer Building_0023) Third Floor (camera facing east)

Photo #24 (OH_Lucas County_Overmyer Building_0024) Fourth Floor (camera facing west)

Photo #25 (OH_Lucas County_Overmyer Building_0025) Fifth Floor (camera facing southwest)

Photo #26 (OH_Lucas County_Overmyer Building_0026) Sixth Floor (camera facing southeast)

Photo #27 (OH_Lucas County_Overmyer Building_0027) Sixth Floor (camera facing east)

Photo #28 (OH_Lucas County_Overmyer Building_0028) Seventh Floor (camera facing southeast)

Photo #29 (OH_Lucas County_Overmyer Building_0029) Seventh Floor (camera facing northwest)

Photo #30 (OH_Lucas County_Overmyer Building_0030) Eighth Floor (camera facing northeast)

The Overmyer Building
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List of Figures

Figures 1A-1I: Photo Key
Figures 2A-2B: Location Maps

Figures 3A-3C: Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps

Figures 4A-4L: Original Four-Story Building Construction Photos

Figures 5A-5J: Original Four-Story Building Architectural Drawings and Specifications

Figures 6A-6D: Vertical Addition Architectural Drawings

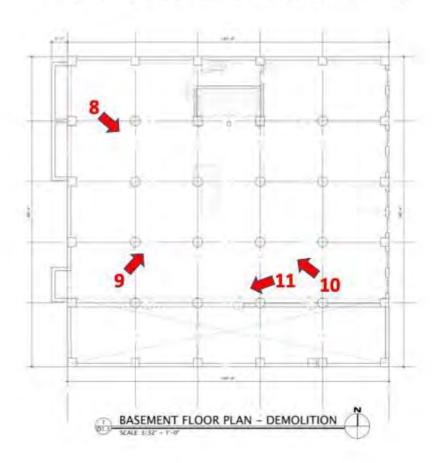
Figure 7: Diagram Illustrating C.A.P. Turner's "Mushroom System" of Flat Slab

Concrete Reinforcement

The Overmyer Building	
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Overmyer Building, 15 S. Ontario, Toledo Lucas County, Ohio, Photo Key



Basement

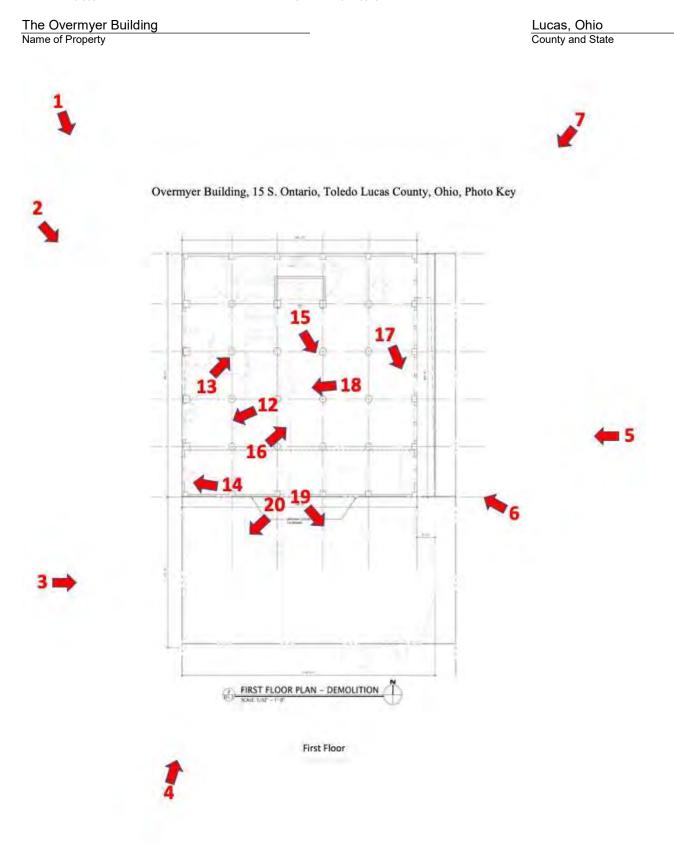
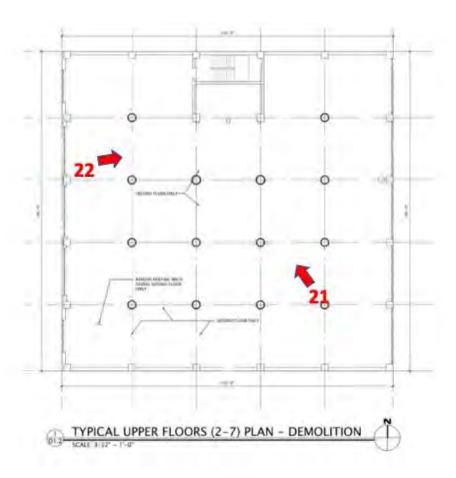


Figure 1B. Photo Key – First Floort

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Overmyer Building, 15 S. Ontario, Toledo Lucas County, Ohio, Photo Key

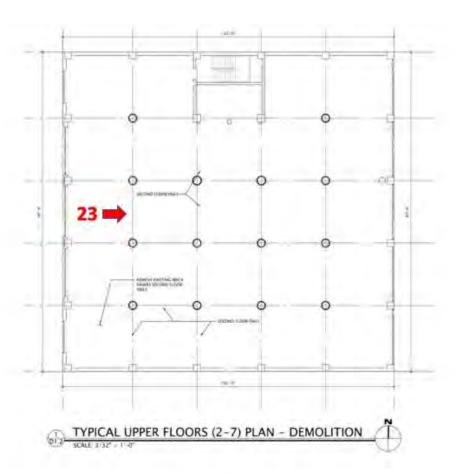


Second Floor

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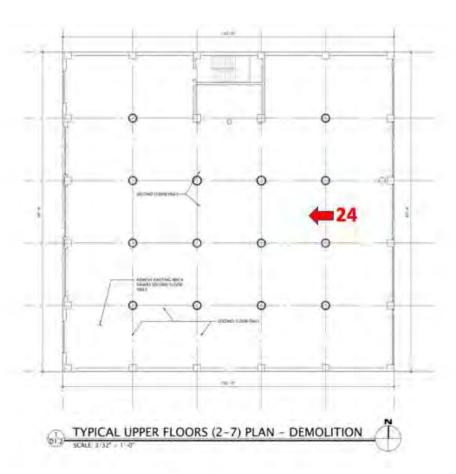


Third Floor

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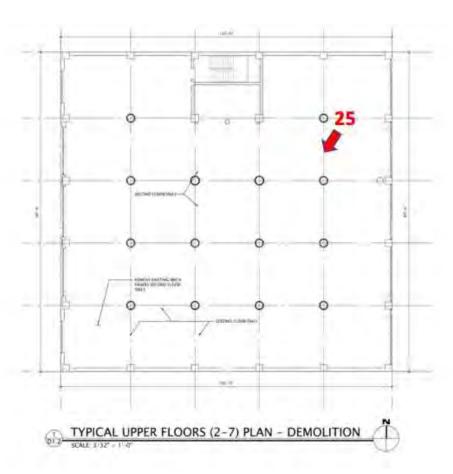


Fourth Floor

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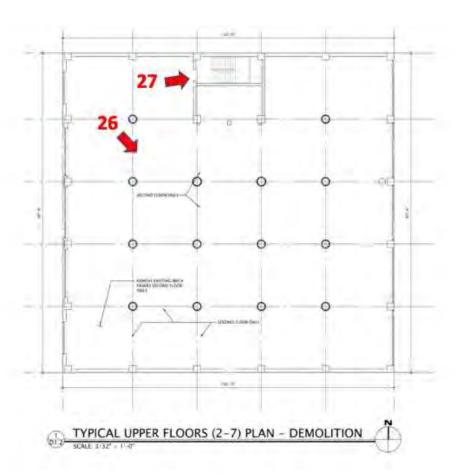


Fifth Floor

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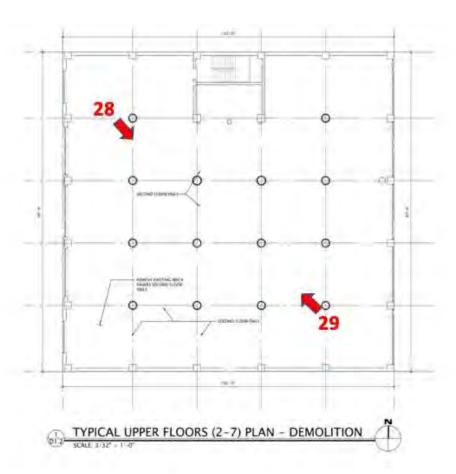
Overmyer Building, 15 S. Ontario, Toledo Lucas County, Ohio, Photo Key



Sixth Floor

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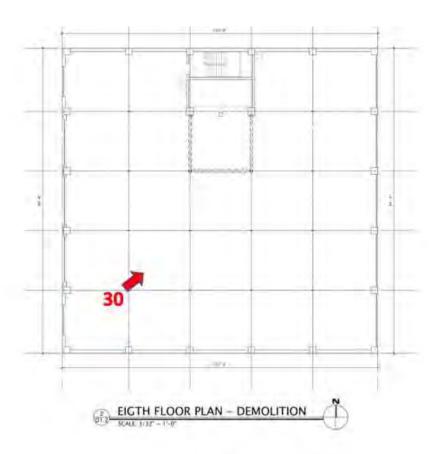


Seventh Floor

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Overmyer Building, 15 S. Ontario, Toledo Lucas County, Ohio, Photo Key



Eighth Floor

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Bing Maps - Directions, trip planning, traffic cameras & more

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15 S Ontario St, Toledo, OH 43604
Location: 41.64861, -83.54239

Large Scale

15 S Ontario St, Toledo, OH 43604

Location: 41.64861, -83.54239

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Bing Maps - Directions, trip planning, traffic cameras & more

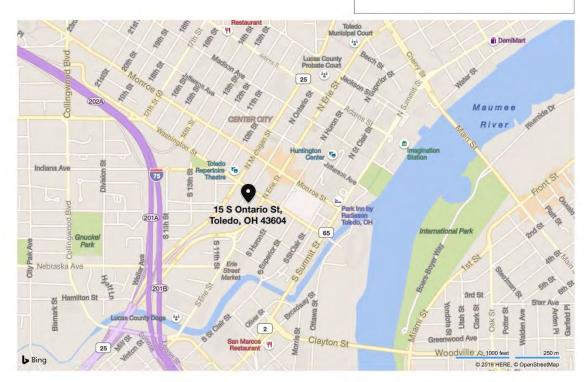
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15 S Ontario St, Toledo, OH 43604

Location: 41.64861, -83.54239





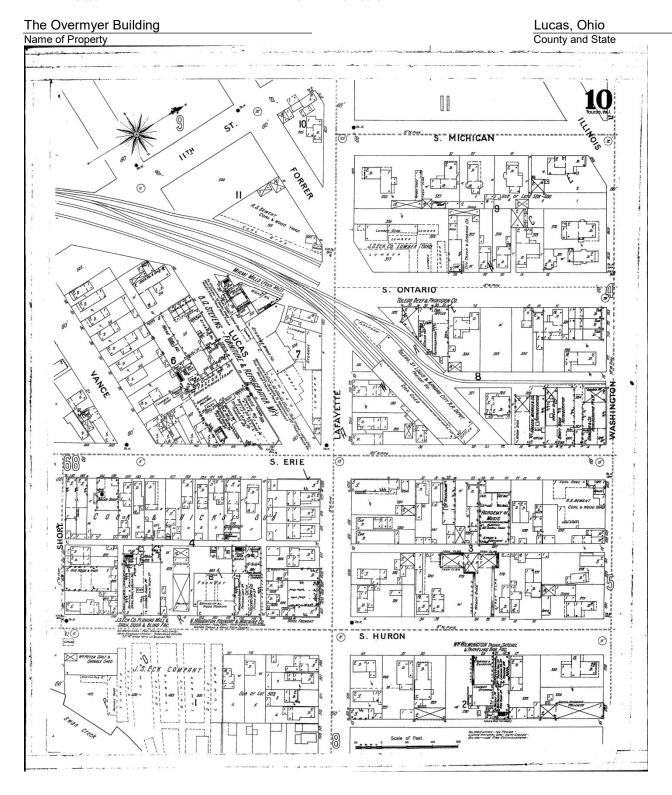


Figure 3A. 1895 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map

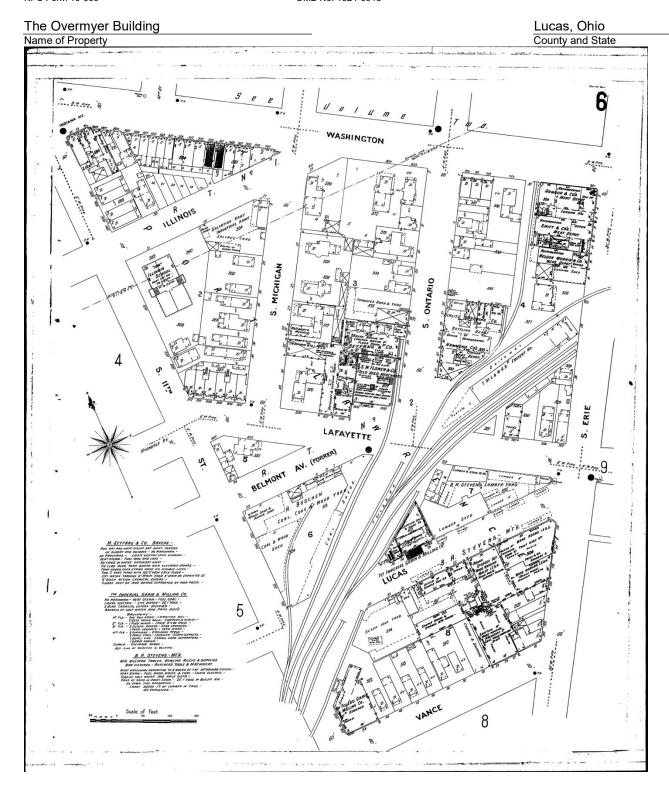


Figure 3B. 1904 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map

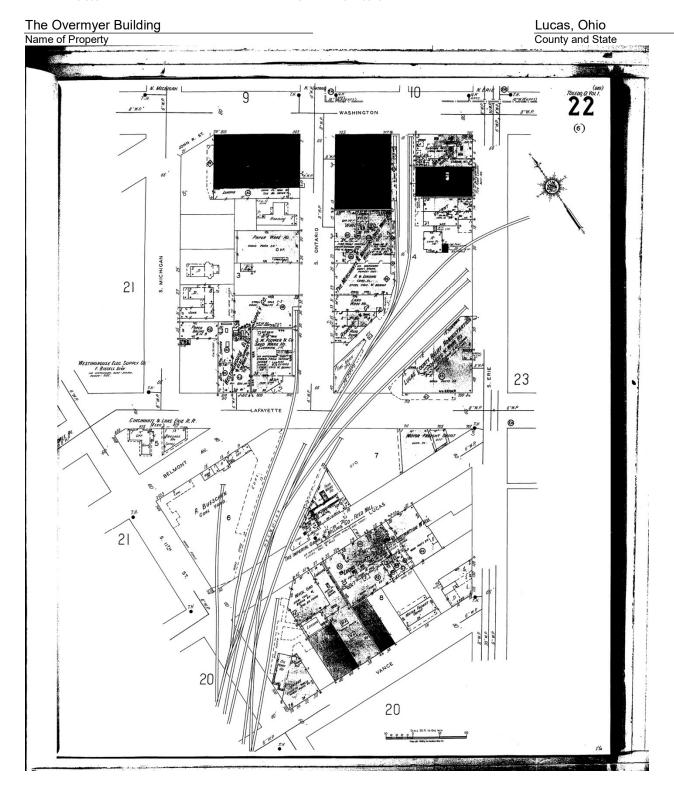


Figure 3C. 1936 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map





Figure 4B. Construction of Original Four-Story Building, June 1, 1912



Figure 4C. Construction of Original Four-Story Building, June 15, 1912





Figure 4E. Construction of Original Four-Story Building, July 15, 1912

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9,16,1912.







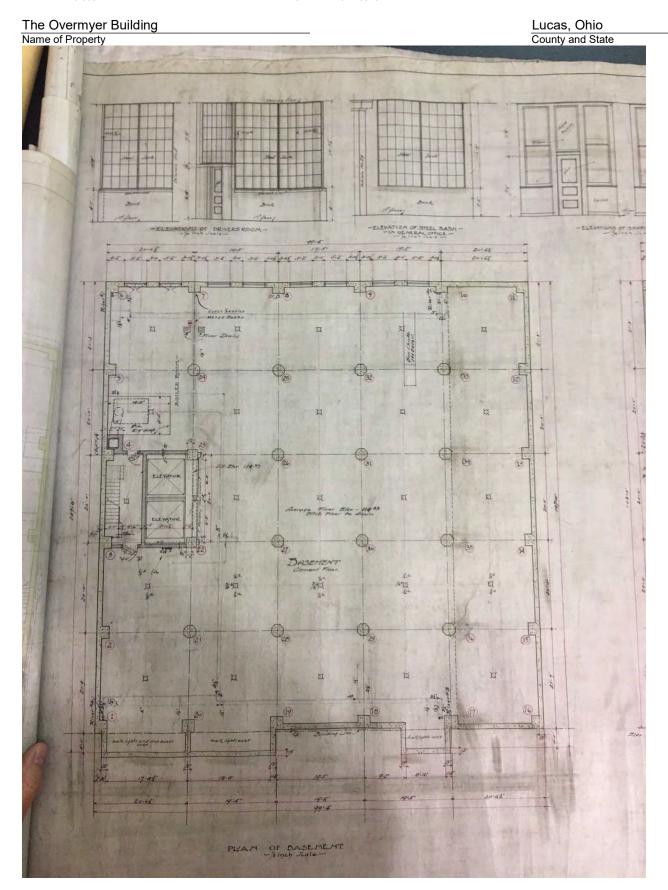


Figure 5A. Original Four-Story Building Basement Plan

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Figure 5B. Original Four-Story Building First Floor Plan

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Figure 5C. Original Four-Story Building Second Floor Plan

The Overmyer Building Lucas, Ohio Name of Property County and State

Figure 5D. Original Four-Story Building Third Floor Plan

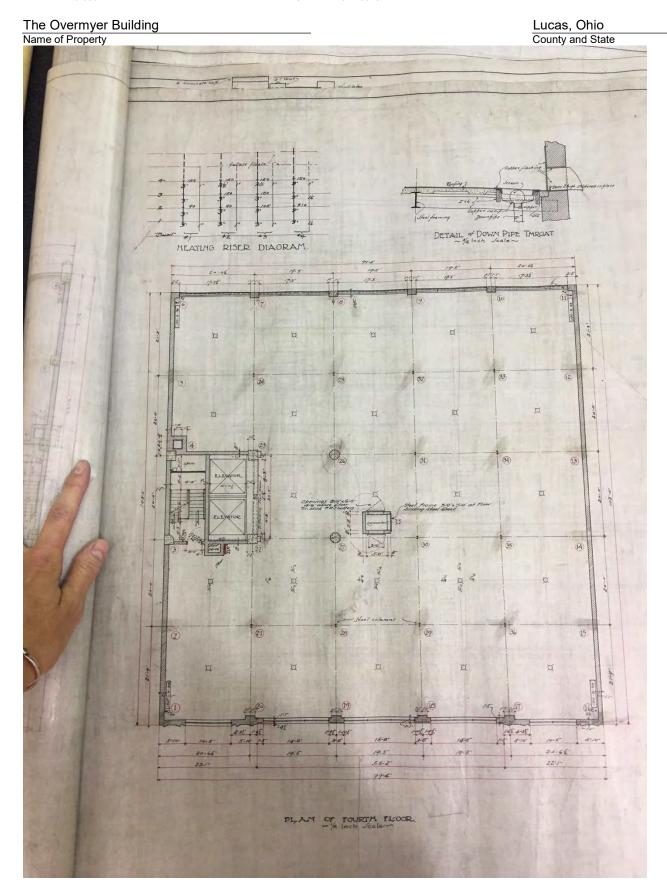


Figure 5E. Original Four-Story Building Fourth Floor Plan

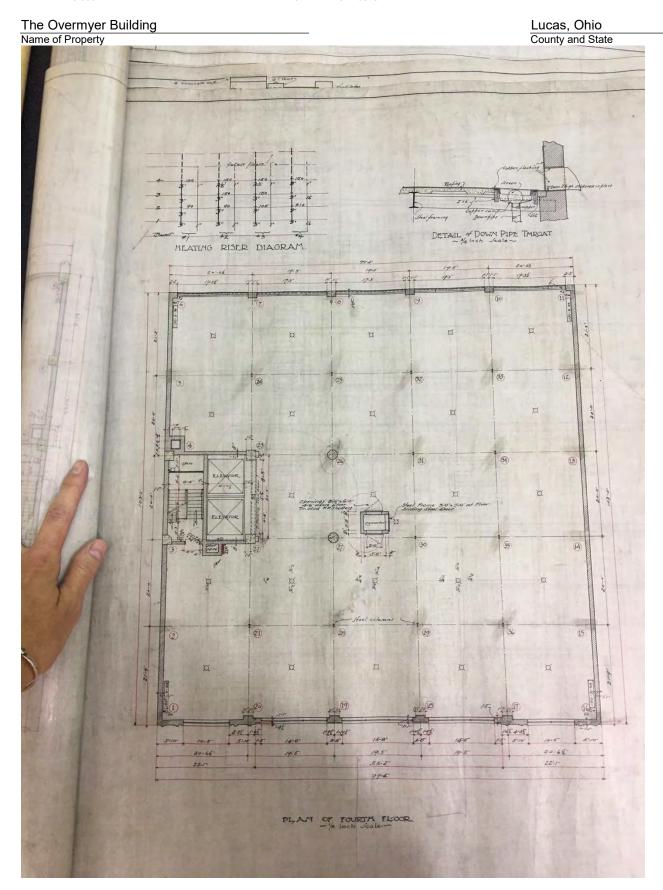


Figure 5F. Original Four-Story Building Roof Plan

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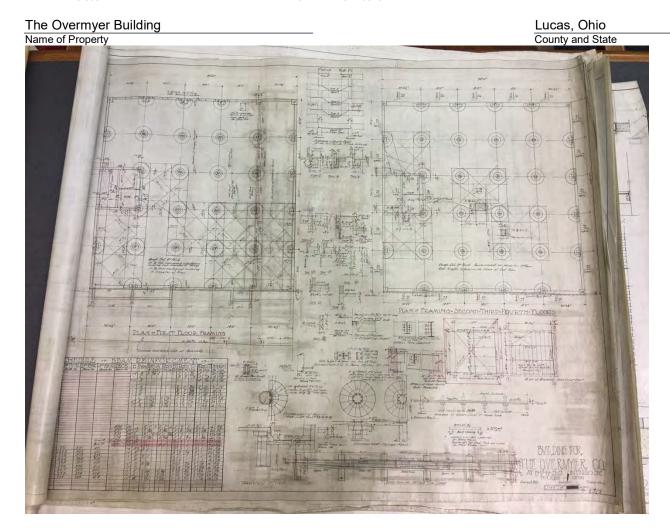


Figure 5H. Original Four-Story Building First-Fourth Floor Framing Plan

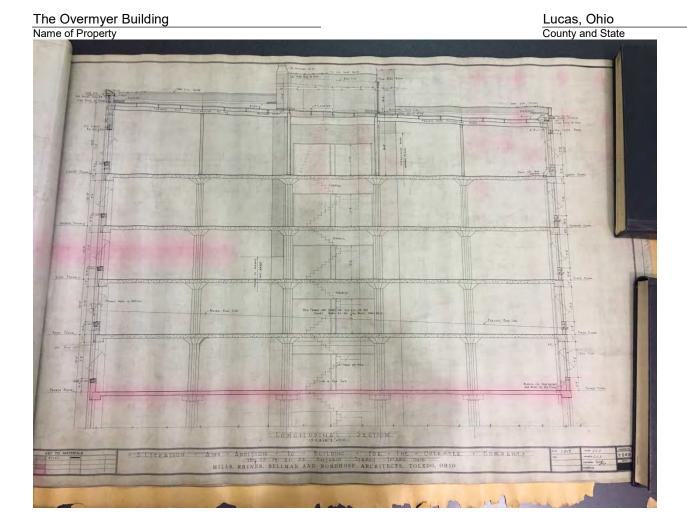


Figure 5I. Original Four-Story Building Longitudinal Section

The Overmyer Building

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Mills, Rhines, Bellman & Nordhoff,

Commission No. 175

OUTLINE DESCRIPTION OF MERCHANTILE BLDG

DRAUGHTING ROOM-FILE No. 43

The building will be 99'3" wide, 101'0" deep, basement and four stories, the foundations and supporting columns will be designed with sufficient strength to permit two additional stories being added later. The ceiling of the fourth story will be put in as a regular floor slab, which in the event of increasing the height of the building will serve as the fifth floor without change. The roof meantime, being blocked up above this floor slab.

The entire structural frame work of the building will be reinforced concrete designed to carry live load of 350# per square foot throughout all floors.

The enclosing walls will be brick, the street front will be faced with red shale brick with terra cotta sills, cornice and coping.

The rear windows throughout and the front windows above the first story will be steel sash.

The roof covering will be a built up asphalt composition roofing.

There will be a canopy at the rear.

Stairways will be iron throughout, enclosed in brick shaft with fireproof doors at each floor.

Automatic closing iron fire doors will be placed at all elevator openings.

There will be two electric elevators and one lowerator.

Toilet rooms and necessary plumbing system will be provided.

The building will be wired for electric lights throughout a steam heating plant and automatic sprinkler equipment will be provided.

The building will cost complete including arbhitect's fees \$66.000.00

2-2-12

The Overmyer Building
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Figure 6A. Vertical Addition Fourth Floor and Typical Floor Plans

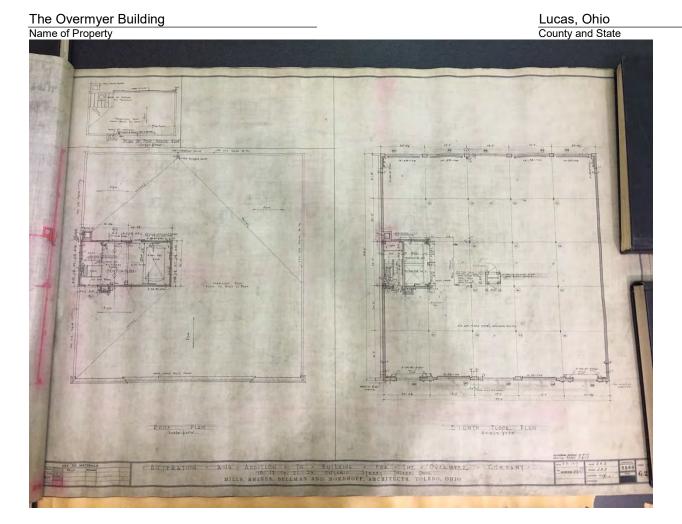


Figure 6B. Vertical Addition Eighth Floor and Roof Plans

The Overmyer Building
Name of Property

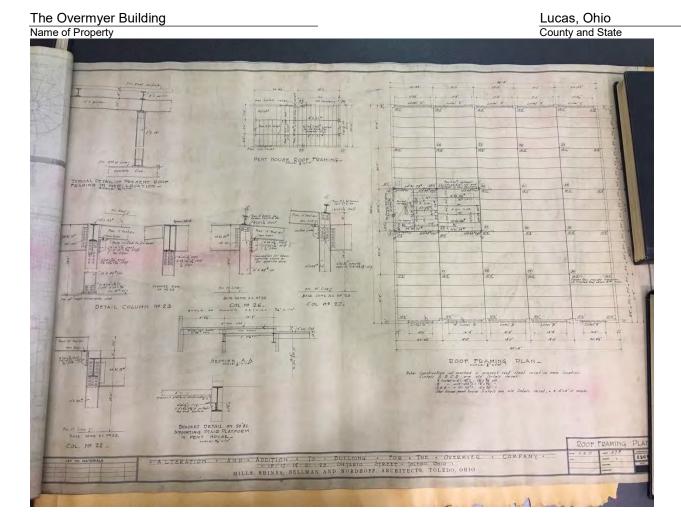
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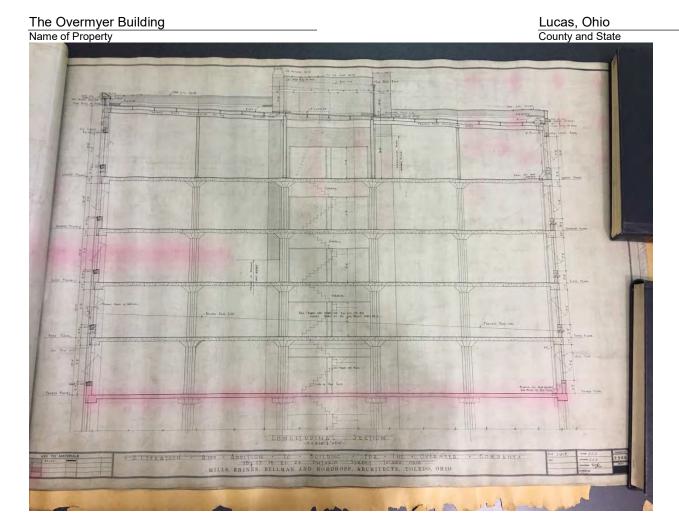


Figure 6D. Vertical Addition Longitudinal Section

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service / National Register of Historic Places Registration Form NPS Form 10-900 OMB No. 1024-0018

The Overmyer	Building
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Name of Property

Lucas, Ohio County and State

C. A. P. TURNER.
STEEL SKELETON CONGRETE CONSTRUCTION.
APPLICATION FILED COT. 10, 1010.

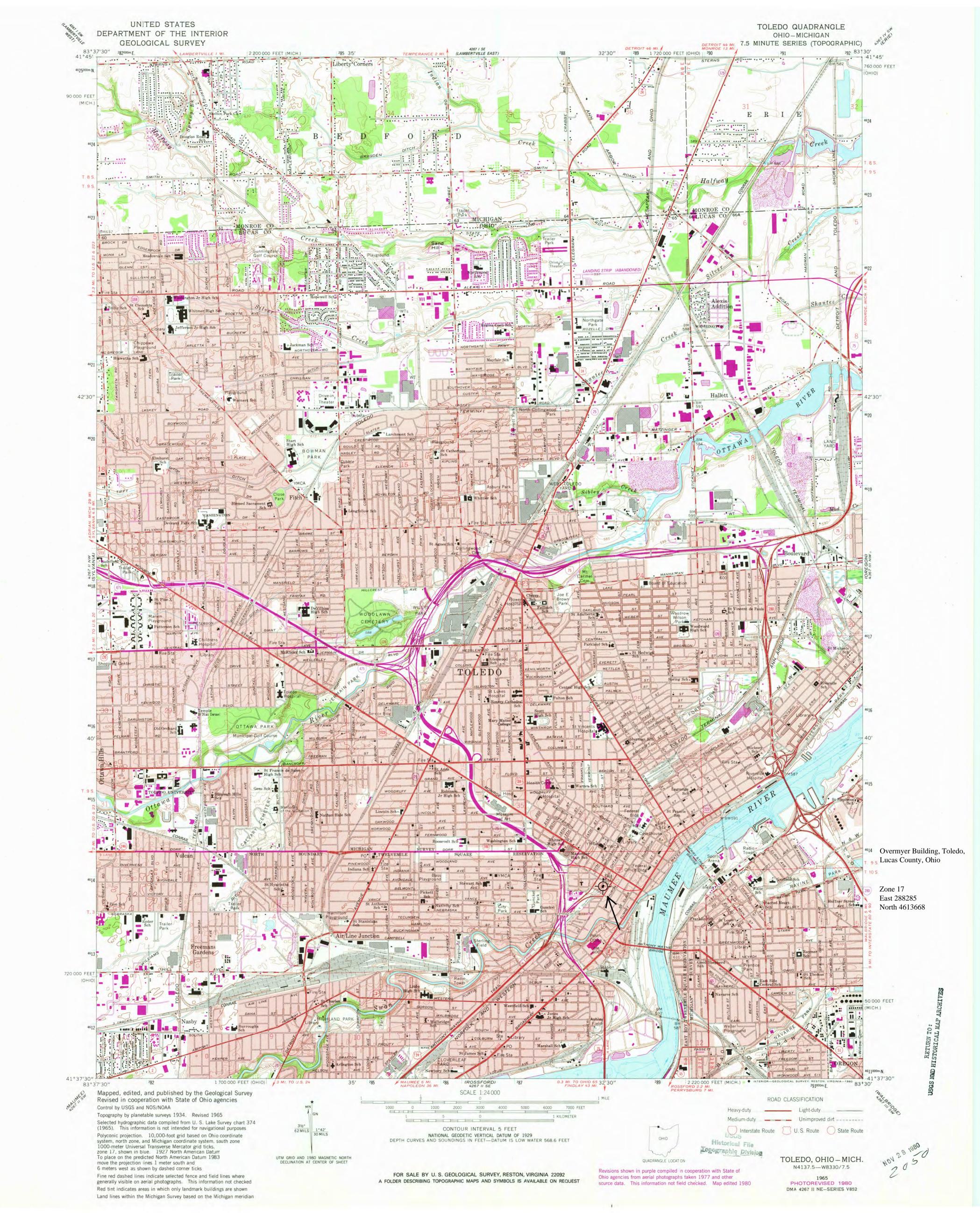
985,119.

Patented Feb. 21, 1911.

Jig. 7.

Witnesses: Joslesfutchinson: Agnes I. Hayes!

Claude a.P. Luner Charfornellaming:































































UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action:	Nomination				
Property Name:	Overmyer Building, The				
Multiple Name:					
State & County:	OHIO, Lucas				
			f 16th Day: E 23/2019	Date of 45th Day: 12/23/2019	Date of Weekly List
Reference number:	SG100004780				
Nominator:	SHPO				
Reason For Review	r;				
Appeal		X PDIL		Text/Data Issue	
SHPO Request		Landscape		Photo	
Waiver		National		Map/Boundary	
Resubmission		Mobile Resource		Period	
Other		TCP		Less than 50 years	
		CLG			
X Accept	Return	Reject	12/23	3/2019 Date	
Abstract/Summary Comments:	NR Criterion: C.				
Recommendation/ Criteria	AOS: Engineering/	Architecture; POS: 19	912-1917; LO	S: local	
Reviewer Lisa D	eline		Discipline	Historian	
Telephone (202)3	54-2239		Date	12/23/1	19
DOCUMENTATION	I: see attached co	mments : No see	e attached SL	R : No	

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



November 1, 2019

Julie Ernstein, Acting Chief, National Register of Historic Places National Park Service National Register of Historic Places 1849 C Street, NW, Mail Stop 7228 Washington, DC 20240

Dear Ms. Ernstein:

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

NEW NOMINATIONS
Myrtle-Highview Historic District
Landers Brothers Company Building
Overmyer Building
Marion Women's Club Home

The enclosed disks contain the true and correct copy of the information to the National Register of Historic Places nominations for <u>Myrtle-Highview Historic District</u>, <u>Landers Brothers Company Building</u>, <u>Overmyer Building</u>, and <u>Marion Women's Club Home</u>.

COUNTY

Lucas

Lucas

Marion

Cuyahoga

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



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 Nov. 4, 2019				
For nomination	on of the Overnger Blog to the National Register of				
Historic Place	s: Lucas County, OH				
	Original National Register of Historic Places nomination form Paper PDF				
	Multiple Property Nomination Cover Document				
	Paper PDF				
	Multiple Property Nomination form				
1	Paper PDF				
V	Photographs				
/	Prints VTIFFs				
	CD with electronic images				
V	Original USGS map(s)				
	PaperDigital				
	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:				