

Supplementary Listing Record

NRIS Reference Number: SG100002879

Date Listed: 9/6/18

Property Name: Boss Manufacturing Company, The

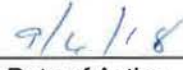
County: Hancock

State: OH

This Property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation



Signature of the Keeper



Date of Action

=====
Amended Items in Nomination:

The Boss Manufacturing Company is also significant under Women's History for the role women played in the glove-making industry and for their contributions to the early 20th-century, female labor force in general.

The OHIO SHPO was notified of this amendment.

DISTRIBUTION:

National Register property file

Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

562879

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

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



1. Name of Property

Historic name: The Boss Manufacturing Company

Other names/site number: _____

Name of related multiple property listing:
N/A

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

2. Location

Street & number: 317 West Main Cross Street

City or town: Findlay State: Ohio County: Hancock

Not For Publication: N/A Vicinity: N/A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

Applicable National Register Criteria:

X A ___ B ___ C ___ D

Barbara Power DSHPO for Inventory & Registration July 16, 2018
Signature of certifying official/Title: _____ Date
State Historic Preservation Office, Ohio History Connection
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official: _____ Date

Title : _____ State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

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4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

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


Signature of the Keeper

9/6/18
Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

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

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

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

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Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

INDUSTRY/PROCESSING/EXTRACTION/manufacturing facility

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

COMMERCE/TRADE/business, warehouse

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

No Style

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: Brick

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

The Boss Manufacturing Company plant is located at the southeast corner of West Main Cross and Liberty Streets in a mixed-use area just three blocks to the west of Findlay's downtown Main Street. The area today is characterized by fringe uses that include modest frame housing and a scattering of industrial, warehouse or office buildings. In addition, there is an intact block of turn-of-the-century commercial buildings directly to the north of the plant on West Main Cross Street. The impetus for the industrial and warehouse development of this area was the presence of the railroad line a few blocks further to the west, originally operated as the Lake Erie & Western Railroad line. In fact, this line had a spur to the east along the alley to the south of West Main Cross, running directly to this plant during the period when it was in use as a factory.

The subject factory building consists of three substantial brick sections built in 1887, 1905 and 1910. There are also three smaller additions: a frame lean-to warehouse built in 1903, a concrete-block loading dock enclosure added c.1930, and an entry vestibule that was recently added. Please see the building diagram in Attachment C. Overall, the building takes the form of a three-story, brick-bearing L-shaped structure with stone foundation and flat roof. Originally red brick, it was painted at some point in the past. The first construction on the site was not constructed for factory use; it was built as a hall for a German musical society in 1887. Known as Harmonia

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Hall, it was adapted for factory use in 1903 and expanded by the subsequent additions as the business grew. Due to changes made on both the exterior and interior of the hall for the factory use, the 19th century association with the Harmonia Society is no longer successfully conveyed, so this period is excluded from the Period of Significance. The building as a whole is illustrative of the glove factory use from 1903 to 1961, however, so this is the Period of Significance for the nomination.

Integrity Discussion

While not nominated under Criterion C, the factory building has architectural integrity that allows it to clearly convey its historic use and historic significance. This includes both exterior and interior details. On the exterior, the building retains its historic fenestration pattern, with rows of paired six-over-six wood windows set within segmental arched openings (almost 90% of the windows remain, although deteriorated and boarded over in many places). The fenestration of the former Harmonia Hall is also still evident, with many original windows remaining. It is interesting to note that, like the 1887 hall, the 1905 and 1910 factory additions exhibit double rows of brick headers at windows, helping to link the buildings together and present a unified design. On the interior, the factory retains the heavy timber construction, wood floors, wood roof trusses, exposed floor rafters, exposed brick walls and features such as freight elevators that provide evidence of its early 20th century industrial character. The addition of drywall partitions, lowered ceilings and a newer stair has obscured some original features from view in the north portion of the factory, but there is sufficient evidence of the original materials in the rest of the building to convey its historic character.

The Boss Manufacturing Company building has integrity of location and setting, as it is on the original site, has not been encroached upon by later development, and still retains its appearance as an independent building with frontages on Liberty and West Main Cross Streets. It has integrity of design, materials and workmanship, as it retains its original form and historic footprint (with only one small exterior vestibule added in recent years), open floor plans visible on the interior, and defining elements such as wood windows, wood floors, wood or metal posts, and exposed wood joists or roof rafters. These elements combine to provide integrity of feeling and association with the historic factory use.

Narrative Description

The original section of the factory, built as Harmonia Hall in 1887, is a three-story brick-bearing building with its main façade oriented to the west, facing Liberty Street (photos 1-4). Originally designed with a mansard roof in the Second Empire Revival style (see Attachment B, Figures 1-2), the building was altered to its present flat roof at an unknown date. Three sides of this earliest building remain intact, with round-arched window fenestration separated by raised brick piers. The front contains three bays and each side contains five bays. The original use as a hall is evident in the tall window openings at the upper level, with paired windows set below an arched transom and spandrel panel indicating a former two-story space. At the center of the first floor is

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the former main entry, a round-arched recessed opening with double row of headers and tall keystone, infilled today with a rolling metal door (photo 3). To either side of this door are arched windows, again with double rows of headers, set in a pair to the south and flanking a former door opening to the north. The pattern of tall arched windows at the upper level and paired arched windows at the first floor is continued in the five bays on both north and south elevations of this section (photos 1, 2, 4).

The interior of the former hall was adapted during the historic period to accommodate the manufacturing use. The first floor was originally designed with a center hallway leading from the entry door. Today, the north wall of this corridor remains but the south wall was removed, along with any other partitions that might have been in the space, to support the factory use (photos 20-22). In addition, the upper level two-story hall was divided into two floors in 1904 ("Factory closed while third floor being added to building."¹) and this was also verified by Sanborn Insurance Co. Maps that show the building as two stories in 1901 and three stories in 1908. Please see second-floor photos 34-36 and third-floor photos 44-45. (The inserted floor is evident in photo 45, which shows the upper arch of the window at floor level). The 1908 Sanborn notes that the third floor was used as a factory dining room. While the former floor plan of Harmonia Hall is no longer evident today, it is worth noting that some of the interior window and door trim as well as wood flooring was not removed in the conversion to manufacturing (photos 20, 22-23, 36, 45).

In August of 1903, the Findlay *Jeffersonian* reported that the glove factory had purchased the house directly north of the factory and would be removing it for construction of a storage warehouse. This is the frame lean-to warehouse that still exists (photo 5), a shed-roofed structure that retains its original form but is covered by metal siding today. A skylight remains (photo 24). On the interior, the warehouse is unfinished space with the exterior brick walls of both the 1887 hall and the later 1905 warehouse visible (photos 24-25).

Boss Manufacturing's first significant factory expansion occurred in 1905, consisting of a four-bay by eight-bay brick three-story building, 50 by 100 feet in size, attached to the rear of the former hall and extending to the north to create an L-shaped footprint (see Attachment B, figure 2, and photos 5, 17). Window openings are located on all three floors on the south elevation, but only on first and second floors on the east side and only on the second floor of the west elevation. The latter was due to the presence of the frame storage warehouse at the first floor, which pre-dated this addition. Windows are segmental arched, with a pair of six-over-six double-hung wood windows in most openings. (Please see photos 37 and 47 for interior views of the windows at the south elevation upper floors.) A metal fire escape stair is attached to the exterior of the east elevation, accessed by a door within a segmental arched opening on the second floor (photos 15-16, 39). The interior construction is steel (first and second floors) or heavy timber framing (third floor) with wood floors, exposed floor joists and roof rafters, and exposed brick walls (photos 26-28, 37-39, 46-48). The space is largely open as it was historically, used for a

¹ Don E. Smith, *Findlay Business and Industrial Historical Outline*, Vol. I, 1962; notes from the *Morning Republican*, April 16, 1904.

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warehouse function today. The original features include a freight elevator at the southwest corner adjacent to the former hall (photos 28, 38, 46), with a penthouse above the roofline (photos 2, 17). Also located here is a wood stair (photos 27, 37) that provided access between levels for the workers.

The factory was again expanded in 1910 with an even larger three-story brick addition measuring 50 ft. by 150 feet. This construction extended the building to the north to West Main Cross Street, providing a new main façade and new address for the business. Built by the same contracting firm, Alge Brothers, the design, fenestration and materials of this addition matched that from 1905. This section is 11 bays by four bays, with windows appearing at all three levels (photos 7-10, 12-14). The elevation on West Main Cross Street (photos 9, 12) has four paired-window bays at the second and third floors, while the first floor contains four single one-over-one wood windows and a recessed door. The door is above grade and accessed by a set of concrete steps, with metal railings (photo 11). A former double door opening in the first bay of this façade has been bricked in but can be seen in the c. 1911 historic image in Attachment B, figure 3.

The interior of this section of the factory is very similar to the 1905 section, with the exception that the northern eight bays of the first two floors have been outfitted with drywall and partitions serving the current office use (photos 31-33, 43). The third floor retains the open factory plan (photos 49-52). An original freight elevator is located in this section, along the east wall (photos 30, 40, 50), with a penthouse above the roofline (photos 13-16). In addition, this section features a brick enclosed boiler room at the ground floor (photo 29), with the space above it used as a manager's office on the second floor (photo 40-41), complete with windows overlooking the factory floor (photo 42).

A metal fire escape stair is attached to the exterior of the east elevation (photo 14), accessed by a wood door within a segmental arched opening on the second and third floors. Two other small additions exist on the west side of the building. The first is a gable-roofed, molded concrete block loading bay that was added c. 1930 (photo 7). This structure has a rolling metal door at dock height on the west side and boarded openings on the north side; the south side is blank. The second addition is a more recent entrance vestibule, a small frame enclosure with vertical siding, shed roof and steps leading to an entry door (photo 8). A paved parking lot occupies the corner of the property at West Main Cross and Liberty Streets (photo 10).

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

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

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

Criteria Considerations

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

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

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Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions.)

INDUSTRY

Period of Significance

1903-1961

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Alge Brothers

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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 Boss Manufacturing Company building in Findlay, Ohio, is locally significant under National Register Criterion A as an example of a local industry that had a significant impact on the city of Findlay and its industrial base during the first half of the 20th century. As noted by several historians, Findlay entered the 20th century as a city of small factories, without the large-scale industries that had been hoped for at the height of its oil and gas boom just a few years earlier. Stepping in to fill this void were companies like Boss, an Illinois-based glove and mitten manufacturer that was actively seeking to locate branch factories in Illinois, Indiana and Ohio during this period. Findlay provided the ideal location, due to its location in the center of a farming district, its adequate rail transportation, and its available workforce. The Findlay branch employed 450 in 1910, making it the company's largest branch plant, as well as the largest factory in Findlay at the time. Boss Manufacturing successfully operated its glove-making factory in this building, without interruption, from 1903 to 1961, so this is defined as the Period of Significance for this nomination.

Beginning with the development of a hand-held corn husking device in 1890, the Boss Manufacturing Company's evolution into the mass production of gloves and mittens for farmers and working men demonstrates the transition being made at the turn of the century from goods produced at home (corn husking gloves were typically made by farmer's wives in the 19th century) to standardized goods being produced by machine in a factory. This required labor – in this case predominantly female labor, as the process involved efficiency and nimbleness with the sewing machine. The story of Boss Manufacturing in Findlay is representative of the entrance of large numbers of young women into factory work during the early 1900s. Often expected by their families to be employed for only a short time, these young women (and young men in some cases) worked long hours for low pay in the period before labor reforms. Their abilities and proficiency at their tasks were critically important to the glove manufacturing process however, with the Findlay plant providing an important example of their contribution.

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

Industrial Findlay in the Early 20th Century

The county seat of Hancock County in northwestern Ohio, the city of Findlay was founded in 1821 and named for Col. James Findlay and the fort that he built at this spot during the War of 1812. Located on the Blanchard River in the center of an agricultural county and just 40 miles south of Toledo, Findlay was rather typical of a northwestern Ohio farming community during the 19th century, with limited manufacturing interests that included flour and planing mills, sawmills, wagon and carriage manufacturers, foundries and machine shops, furniture makers, and producers of staves, handles, and rakes. Findlay remained a village for its first six decades, slowly growing to reach a population of just over 3,300 by 1870 and just over 4,600 in 1880.

This was all to change, however, upon the local discovery and extraction of natural gas for commercial purposes in the 1880s. Oil was discovered in the area at about the same time. The result was that Findlay experienced an oil and gas boom that dramatically changed the face of the community during the last two decades of the 19th century. The first natural gas well drilled for commercial purposes occurred in 1884. The first industrial use of natural gas in the city was in 1886, and by 1887 some 31 industries had been attracted to Findlay to take advantage of this free or inexpensive natural resource. "In the autumn of 1886 manufacturing establishments began to locate here and inside of two years Findlay became one of the largest manufacturing cities in the state."² Glass factories in particular sprang up, with a total of 16 factories established in the city by 1891, employing some 2,400 men, women and boys at their peak. Findlay had five tableware companies (collectively known as Findlay Glass), which drew upon skilled workers who came to Findlay from eastern states as well as from Belgium, France and Germany. The city's population exploded from 4,633 in 1880 to 18,553 in 1890, an increase of 300% in just 10 years. While this boom brought many diversified industries and businesses to the city, the natural gas output began to decline almost as quickly as it sprang up, with the result that factories began to leave. Without natural gas, the glass industry could not be sustained; 12 manufacturers listed in city directories in 1892-1893 became four in 1894-1895 and only one by 1897-1898. According to local historian Paulette Weiser, the last glass factory left Findlay in 1908.³ The city's population declined in response, as people left the city to find employment elsewhere.

At the same time, the oil industry was gaining steam and helping to sustain the community through the economic downturn caused by natural gas. The Ohio Oil Company was founded in Lima, Ohio, by five independent oil producers who banded together. The company, which was purchased by Standard Oil in 1889, chose Findlay as its headquarters in 1905, bringing a number of employees and their families to the community. While this investment gave rise to a sense of

² Jacob A. Kimmel, *Twentieth Century History of Findlay and Hancock County, Ohio, and Representative Citizens*, 1910, page 255.

³ Paulette Weiser, *Historic Hancock County, An Illustrated History*, page 32.

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optimism at the dawn of the 20th century, as one historian writes, “Gone were Findlay’s dreams of becoming an industrial center. In place of hoped-for large plants, the small local factory was to become the basis of its industrial economy.”⁴ This was still the case in 1910, when county historian Jacob Kimmel noted that “Findlay has no large factories, but quite a number of small ones.”

The community remained an attractive location for business, nevertheless. At the turn of the 20th century, with a population of 17,613, Findlay was the county seat of a strong agricultural county (Hancock County had over 3,200 farms in 1900), had access to five railroad lines (although none was a main line, people and goods could get to Chicago, New York, Cleveland and Cincinnati from Findlay), and was attracting some new, albeit small-scale industries. Even so, the population continued to decline in the early 1900s, dropping to 14,858 in 1910 before rebounding to 17,021 in 1920.

It was in this context that a glove factory was started in Findlay by the Houck Brothers in early 1903, very shortly to be absorbed by Illinois-based Boss Manufacturing. Having met with great success in its first plant, Boss was seeking branch locations to set up additional factories in the farming centers of the Midwest. Based in the center of a strong agricultural county and having recently lost so many industrial employers, Findlay offered just such an opportunity, and Boss purchased the Houck Brothers plant here in 1903. With rapid growth over the next several years, the Findlay plant became Boss Manufacturing’s largest branch factory by 1910. In addition, the factory was heralded as “Findlay’s largest factory” in a 1912 publication of *Greater Findlay* magazine.

This was borne out by a survey of factories in Findlay in 1910, which listed Boss Manufacturing as having 450 employees in that year. The next largest industry cited (the Findlay Clay Pot Company, est. 1888) had one third of that number, at 150 employees. This was followed by Buckeye Traction Ditcher (est. 1903, 136 employed), U.S. Electric Porcelain Co. (est. 1905, 90-100 employed), Hancock Brick & Tile (est. 1903, 60 employed), and Hollerback Piano Co. (est. 1909, 30 employed). Aside from the Clay Pot Company, these were relatively new companies that had only recently located in Findlay. No employment figures were given for the other factories listed, including a flour mill, two planing mills, cement plant, casket company, carriage company, machine shop, cartridge maker, handle works, and basket factory, but these were likely small-scale employers. By the 1920s, some additional employers had been added to the Findlay landscape. The Deisel-Wemmer-Gilbert Company, a cigar manufacturer based in Lima, located a plant in Findlay in about 1911 and had a workforce of nearly 400 in the 1920s. Cooper Tire and Rubber Company moved to Findlay in 1917 and was employing nearly 500 people by 1929. Deisel-Wemmer-Gilbert remained in town until the early 1960s, and Cooper Tire is still based in Findlay today.

⁴ William D. Humphrey, *Findlay, the Story of a Community*, 1961, page 184.

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History of The Boss Manufacturing Company

The Boss Manufacturing Company was founded in Kewanee, Illinois in 1893, and is celebrating its 125th anniversary in 2018. The company had its origins in a patent for a corn husking pin device that was developed in 1890 by H. H. Perkins of Kewanee. The husking pin consisted of a leather strap with a metal hook that was worn on one hand and used to remove ears of corn from the stalk. (All corn at the time was picked by hand.) After achieving success with his so-called Boss Husking Pins, Perkins began the manufacture of Canton flannel mittens in 1892, again for use in husking corn. Typically, such mittens were hand-sewn, often by the farmer's wife, but now they could be manufactured by machine. According to Henry L. Kiner, writing in the *History of Henry County, Illinois*, in 1910, these mittens were normally used by the farmer for husking corn in the fall and winter and were not generally used as a work mitten. "With this idea as a starter, it was believed that a large business could be worked up in making not only mittens, but gloves, out of the same material."⁵ Thus, on July 1, 1893, the Perkins Husker Company was succeeded by the Boss Manufacturing Company, which incorporated with capital stock of \$50,000. Boss purchased 40 acres of land in Kewanee for its new plant and produced 350 dozen pairs of Canton flannel gloves and mittens in that first year.

Boss experienced tremendous growth in the 1890s, increasing the size of its Kewanee plant and hiring more employees, but the company found that it needed to establish branches in other cities to ensure a good supply of help and to position its shipping points in the center of the different consuming districts.⁶ In 1901 and 1902, the company established its first four branch factories – in Galesburg, Illinois; Fort Wayne and Bluffton, Indiana; and Dayton, Ohio. In 1903, the company moved its Dayton plant to Findlay. In 1905, Boss opened an office and branch in New York City. This was followed by branches established in Monmouth and Peoria, Illinois; Van Wert, Ohio; and Beatrice, Nebraska. All told, the company had 16 branch operations, in addition to the home office and factory, by 1912.

According to historian Henry Kiner, writing in 1910, "The Boss Manufacturing Company is really a pioneer in the idea of having these different factories located at different points. A specialty of different classes of goods is made in each place, the help is trained along certain lines, and with the advantage of an abundance of help and shipping facilities, this idea has proved advantageous..."⁷ In fact, "the question of getting labor is a prime factor in the location of Boss plants, the company employing girls almost exclusively."⁸ Kiner states that the various Boss factories were giving employment to approximately 1,600 people in 1910, mostly young women. Findlay employed more than one-fourth of them.

The glove-maker continued to grow and expand during the first half of the 20th century, as the practice of opening branch plants continued from the 1910s through the 1940s. In Ohio, the company remained focused in northwestern Ohio, as this was a strong agricultural area, in close

⁵ Henry L. Kiner, *History of Henry County, Illinois*, 1910, page 569.

⁶ *Ibid*, page 566.

⁷ *Ibid*, page 569.

⁸ *Kewanee Daily Star Courier*, August 14, 1906, page 1.

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proximity to its Illinois headquarters, and with the apparent availability of a suitable workforce. A branch was opened in Toledo in 1914 along with smaller branches in the Hancock County towns of Bluffton and Pandora by the 1920s. This was expanded to include small plants in Napoleon in Henry County and Tiffin in Seneca County during the post-World War II years of the late 1940s, with a total of five plants in Ohio at that time. By 1955, only Findlay and Bluffton remained, and by 1960, only Findlay was still operational.

The Findlay branch closed in 1961, part of a major shift that occurred in the 1960s and 1970s as manufacturers from the Midwest and Eastern states began to relocate to either foreign countries or the Sunbelt states of the U.S. Among other factors, this was due to skyrocketing manufacturing costs, the influence of union labor in the north, cheaper labor in foreign markets, and population shifts to the southern states at the time.

A comparison of the Boss branch plant locations in 1954 with the company's branch plants in 1993 demonstrates this trend. Boss was still primarily a midwestern industry in 1954, with branch plants in Kansas, Missouri, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, and Pennsylvania, plus two plants in Texas. By the time of the company's centennial in 1993, no plants remained in the Midwest. In that year, there were branch plants in Crestview, Florida; Greenville, Alabama; El Paso, Texas; Berkeley, California; Juarez, Mexico; and Toronto, Canada. Today, manufacturing is no longer carried out in the United States although the company remains headquartered in Kewanee, Illinois. The large Kewanee factory complex was closed in 1977.

History of the Findlay Plant

The Findlay plant of The Boss Manufacturing Company was the largest branch factory in the early growth years of the company. Findlay's location in the center of a productive farming area, with an available transportation network and a good supply of help, worked well for the glove manufacturer. Although employment fluctuated depending on the available workforce as well as the product demand, the Findlay operation was a consistent and viable industry from 1903 to its closing in 1961, remaining in the same location for 58 years. It should be noted that a good deal of information about the Findlay Boss factory, its management and its workforce was uncovered in a historical volume published by Don E. Smith in 1962 containing excerpts from the Findlay *Morning Republican* newspaper between 1903 and 1933. Smith's collection is referenced where appropriate in the following discussion.

The history of the nominated property actually began before Boss Manufacturing bought "a small mitten plant at Findlay, Ohio" for a branch factory in 1903. The mitten plant had been established just eight months earlier by the Houck Brothers of Fort Wayne, Indiana, who purchased an existing building on Liberty Street for their new business. This is the earliest section of the factory, constructed as "Harmonia Hall" in 1887. The Harmonia Society was a German musical association that was organized in Findlay in 1875 with eight members. Originally located in a small hall over a grocery store on West Main Cross Street, the society presented a few concerts per year, which were "well attended by the German population of the

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village.”⁹ Harmonia was incorporated as a musical society in 1887, about the same time that its new home was constructed. Originally French Second Empire in style, the building is shown on the 1887 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map with a gallery in the front section and a stage at the rear. The upper level would have been a two-story space, still expressed by the monumental arched windows at that level. Harmonia Hall remained at this location through 1902. The owner of the property at that time was Jacob Kuebeler, noted as a “wealthy brewer” from Sandusky, Ohio.

In early 1903, Harmonia Hall was sold by Jacob Kuebeler to the Houck Brothers who made plans to convert it to manufacturing purposes as the Houck Brothers Glove Factory, producing canvas gloves for working men. The company planned to employ women who would operate Singer Sewing Machines to manufacture the gloves. As reported in a January 22, 1903, article in the *Weekly Jeffersonian*: “The interior of the building will be entirely remodeled, and work in that line will be commenced at once. It is expected to have the factory in running order within six weeks. Fifty hands, mostly women, will be put to work at first, with forty machines, and the number will be increased as soon as possible – probably within three or six months – to one hundred, which means sixty additional women. Mr. Houck says he has a demand for all the gloves that his force can turn out, even if he ran double time.” Houck Brothers was up and running by April of 1903, when a tour of the plant was provided to a Findlay *Morning Republican* reporter who noted that 26 machines were in use and a large gas engine had been installed.

Within eight months the Findlay glove plant had been acquired by the Boss Manufacturing Company, which retained the Houck brothers to remain in charge as stockholders. Willie E. Houck was the factory manager, a position he held from 1903 until he retired in 1947. His brother John Houck was listed in city directories as the plant foreman. From the start, this location was a success, employing 200 workers who turned out 1200 dozen pairs of gloves each day by December 1904. By July of 1905, the company was making plans to build a new addition, which would give them room for 400 hands.

From its 1903 beginnings in Harmonia Hall, the glove factory had three additions built by 1910, illustrating the company’s rapid growth during this period, as shown in Attachment C. The first was the frame lean-to warehouse attached to the north side of the old hall in 1903. The plant was closed briefly in April of 1904 while a third floor was built into the two-story space of the former hall. The first large-scale addition was constructed in 1905 when the new three-story 50 ft. by 100 ft. brick addition to the rear of the old hall was built.

The 1908 Sanborn Map provides an indication of the factory layout at that time. The Harmonia Hall section was used as warehouse on 1st, sewing on 2nd and dining on 3rd; the three-story brick factory was used as shipping on 1st, sewing on 2nd and stock on 3rd; the one-story lean-to was used for warehouse and cutting. The complex as it appeared at that time is shown in the historic image “Three Views, Findlay, Ohio plant,” figure 2 in Attachment B. The enlarged plant doubled the company’s Findlay workforce. According to reports in the Findlay *Morning Republican*,

⁹ Warner, Beers & Co., *History of Hancock County, Ohio*, page 611.

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employment stood at 150 hands in December 1905 and had increased to 300 hands working by May 1906.

Business was booming during this period. Boss gloves were popular – and affordable. As reported by the *Morning Republican* on March 29, 1906: “The tick type of gloves and mitts manufactured by the Boss Co. have nearly paralyzed the leather glove trade. Workmen can buy five pairs of Boss gloves for the price of one pair of leather gloves.”¹⁰ Inventory taken in December 1907 reported that the factory contained 100,000 pairs of gloves, 300,000 yards of goods, and about two tons of knit bands that were used on the manufactured article.¹¹ Although employment numbers fluctuated slightly, they remained high in order to meet the demand. The 300 workers on hand at the end of 1907, dropped to 240 at the end of 1908, but increased again to 340 in March 1909 and ballooned to 466 by July 1909. This workforce consisted mostly of young women, who operated a total of 360 machines.¹² In need of additional workspace, the company leased a commercial building at 318 West Main Cross Street, just north of the plant (pictured in figure 2 in Attachment B) and started making plans to expand the factory once again.

A new brick addition, three stories and 50 by 150 feet, was completed in 1910, extending the plant all the way north to West Main Cross Street. It was built by Alge Brothers, the same masonry contractor who had built the first addition five years earlier. The new building was designed to have a modern sprinkler fire extinguishing system installed, the first building in Findlay to do so.¹³ This included placement of a 30,000-gallon tank on the roof (no longer existing), with pipes extending into every part of the plant. The work was complete by May 1910 and the factory was temporarily shut down until June 3rd so that machinery could be moved into the new addition. The addition also contained the factory office. From then on, the main entrance and address were on West Main Cross Street instead of Liberty Street. The company shortly added a “box shed” at the corner of Liberty and West Main Cross, after buying the lot and removing some earlier buildings. This was replaced by a 35 by 130-foot garage for employees’ automobiles in 1931 (no longer existing). The final factory addition in the historic period was the loading dock enclosure on the west side of the building, added c.1930.

In February of 1911, an open house was held at the Findlay glove factory, with Boss Company officials from Kewanee on hand to welcome visitors and provide tours of the facility. The *Morning Republican* reported that nearly 6,000 persons visited during the open house, which was followed by a Boss company banquet with Findlay manager W. E. Houck as toastmaster.¹⁴ It was reported on October 3, 1911, that the company had made 14,000 dozen pairs of gloves per week since moving into the new part of their factory. Employment stood at 400 and the company

¹⁰ Don E. Smith, *Findlay Business and Industrial Historical Outline*, Vol. I, 1962; notes from the *Morning Republican*, March 29, 1906.

¹¹ Ibid. *Morning Republican*, December 17, 1907.

¹² Jacob A. Kimmel, *Twentieth Century History of Findlay and Hancock County, Ohio, and Representative Citizens*, 1910, page 587.

¹³ Don E. Smith, *Findlay Business and Industrial Historical Outline*, Vol. I, 1962; notes from the *Morning Republican*, March 19, 1910.

¹⁴ Ibid. *Morning Republican*, February 24, 1911.

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shipped about 15 carloads of gloves per week.¹⁵ By March of 1912, the *Morning Republican* reported that the plant's capacity stood at 25,000 dozen pairs of gloves per week and that the stockroom had a capacity of 500,000 dozen pairs of finished product. An advertisement in *Greater Findlay Magazine* in 1912 proclaimed that The Boss Manufacturing Company is "Findlay's Largest Factory" with "nearly 60,000 square feet of floor space under one roof." Shipping was facilitated by the railroad switch of the Lake Erie & Western Railroad line, which ran east and west across Liberty Street directly to the factory.

The Findlay plant was devoted exclusively to the manufacture of cloth gloves and mittens, including corn husking mittens. An article published in The Findlay *Morning Republican* on September 25, 1915, described the factory, its layout and its glove-making process.

"The raw material for the gloves is received in large boxes and gales and placed in different compartments after each bundle is checked. The bundles then are unrolled and stretched on long tables by machinery and by hand until a pile of thirty or forty piles are lying on the table at one time. The entire pile then is pulled so that the end is in a press, where cutters place dies on the material and cut the shape of the gloves through the entire thickness..."

The hand-shaped material is taken to the sewing room, where there are nearly 300 sewing machines run by motor power, each manipulated by a young woman who has become proficient in that line of work. Ten new machines have been added within the last week. The sewed gloves then go to the finishing department, where they undergo processes of turning, forming, examining, rolling, stacking and bundling.

The stock room, cutting room, shipping room and office are located on the first floor of the building, the sewing room on the second floor and the finishing room on the third floor. A dining hall on the second floor has sanitary tables and chairs for those who carry their dinners.

The system used at the Boss Glove factory is such that each employee becomes proficient in his or her special line of work and the buzz of sewing machines and the nimble movements of the operators show the aggressive class of persons employed at the factory. One young woman at a machine will average from twenty-five to thirty dozen pairs of gloves in one day. In the finishing room some of the employees working piece work make on an average \$2 a day.

The company deals exclusively with large jobbing concerns and it is a common occurrence to see carloads of finished gloves leave the Findlay factory on their private switch. The gloves are shipped in cartons and in bulk."

¹⁵ Ibid. *Morning Republican*, October 3, 1911.

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During the 1920s, the demand for gloves picked up as factories went back to work following World War I. A *Morning Republican* article from 1923 noted that the company was putting 30 machines in the homes of former factory workers, who “must be old hands and know the art.”¹⁶ The gloves would be cut at the factory, then delivered to the workers’ homes in special boxes and picked up on regular trips throughout the city. The glove business at Findlay remained viable through the first half of the 20th century, although employment was not quite as robust as it had been in the early years. Employment numbers at the Findlay plant hovered around 200-250 through the 1920s, 1930s and 1940s, dropping to about 125-150 employed in the post WWII period to 1960.¹⁷ Boss Manufacturing maintained operations at its Findlay plant through 1961; the building has been used for offices and warehousing since that time.

Women in the Glove-Making Industry

Like many textile and garment industries of the 19th and early 20th centuries, the role of women at Boss Manufacturing plants cannot be underestimated. The glove-making industry was a labor-driven business, requiring proficient use of sewing machinery to produce dozens upon dozens of pairs of gloves and mittens per day. The vast majority of those employed at Boss were women, mostly young women and girls, as well as a few young men or boys. At the outset, the Houck Brothers promoted the wage that could be earned by young women, most of whom would come from the local community: “The ladies, after having been broken in, can soon earn from \$5 to \$8 per week, and later when they become skilled, will be able to earn from \$12 to \$15 per week. ... The great proportion of the hands employed will be secured right here in Findlay, and girls out of work will have opportunities to get pleasant and profitable employment.”¹⁸ The “girls out of work” may very well refer to the women who had worked as decorators and packers at the Findlay Glass factories, most of which had already shut their doors and moved out of Findlay by this time.

The availability of a female labor force was instrumental in the company’s ability to thrive in a particular location. In fact, “the question of getting labor is a prime factor in the location of Boss plants, the company employing girls almost exclusively.”¹⁹ Lack of an available female workforce could cause the premature demise of Boss factory branches. For example, a branch plant was opened with 26 machines in Bluffton, Ohio, in March 1907, only to shut down in September due to a “lack of girls.”²⁰ (A factory was re-established in Bluffton in 1913.) Similarly, a Boss factory that had been established in Van Wert, Ohio, was to be closed in October 1910 as the company “was never able to secure enough girls to run the factory properly.”²¹

¹⁶ Don E. Smith, *Findlay Business and Industrial Historical Outline*, Vol. I, 1962; notes from the *Morning Republican*, April 18, 1923.

¹⁷ Ohio Department of Industrial Relations, Division of Labor Statistics. *Directory of Manufactures in Ohio*, multiple years, 1929 - 1960.

¹⁸ *Weekly Jeffersonian*, January 22, 1903.

¹⁹ *Kewanee Daily Star Courier*, August 14, 1906, page 1.

²⁰ Don E. Smith, *Findlay Business and Industrial Historical Outline*, Vol. I, 1962; notes from the *Morning Republican*, September 27, 1907.

²¹ *Ibid*, October 26, 1910.

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The Findlay plant, however, appeared to be a reliable work horse for the company, especially in the early years, when the void left by the boom industries was still being felt. When the Van Wert plant closed, its machinery was sent to Findlay, where “more help will be put to work in a short time.”²² Experienced Findlay women were sometimes sent to other branches to help set up new factories or provide instruction. For example, the *Morning Republican* reported in January 1907 that “Miss Beatrice Bair and Miss Flossie Altman – two of the best and speediest machine operators – will go to New York City as instructors in some of the company’s new glove factories in that city.” Another six local girls were sent to Peoria, Illinois, to set up the new Boss glove factory in March 1907.

The story of women working at plants like Boss Manufacturing during the early 1900s is a story of industrialization, which brought large numbers of women into the factory workforce for the first time. In an article entitled “Industrial ‘Girls’ in an Early Twentieth-Century Boomtown: Traditions and Change in Fort Wayne, Indiana, 1900-1920,” Peggy Seigel discusses the traditional roles of women in factory work during the early 20th century. Although women worked at a variety of factory jobs, Seigel notes that they were most heavily concentrated in so-called “female” industries, such as the making of textiles, hosiery, garments, shoes and cigars. In glove manufacturing, the women and girls worked as sewing machine operators as well as seamstresses, shapers and turners, while men and boys worked as cutters and sometimes turners. (The gloves were sewn wrong-side out, so each pair had to be turned right-side-out.) Female workers at this time were predominantly young and unmarried, according to Seigel, and often were expected by their families to be in the workforce only a few years, with the result that they could be paid a lower wage. In fact, gender-specific jobs were seen as important to the industrial process; in part because their low wages kept production costs competitive.

Even at the Findlay factory, which had early success in attracting workers, the demand for labor was sometimes unmet by the supply²³. One factor was progressive reform in Ohio in 1905, when laws were enacted to prohibit boys under the age of 15 and girls under the age of 16 from working during the school year. By March of 1907, the *Morning Republican* was reporting that the new 16-year age law was causing a “shortage of girls at the Glove factory.” The shortages continued: On March 9, 1911, the *Morning Republican* noted that the plant “would have 600 employed if they could find them.” Promoting the company to prospective workers, the plant manager told the newspaper that girls could earn \$3 a week at the start, to \$10 and more in a short time. (This was significantly less than had been suggested at the opening of the plant in 1903, however.) In November of 1911, there were 400 employed but the “company can always use more.” Finally, the newspaper noted in June 1912 that boys were being taught to sew gloves – “first time ever tried” – with eight boys learning to operate the power-driven sewing machines.

²² Ibid, December 14, 1910.

²³ It is important to note in this context that Findlay did not have a sizeable immigrant population in the early 1900s that might have provided an available labor pool. Census figures indicate that 95.6% of the population was native born in 1910, 96.7% in 1920, and 97.9% in 1930.

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The Ohio Bureau of Labor Statistics annual report for 1909 provides a picture of the glove and mitten industry in the state in regards to male and female employment, their average daily wages and number of hours worked per day. There were nine companies making gloves and mittens in Ohio in that year. The jobs were described as Cutters, Machine Operators, Seamstresses, Glovemakers, Shapers and Turners. The hours were long and the pay was low. The highest paid jobs (other than the plant foremen) were the Cutters, who were exclusively male and earned an average daily wage of \$1.77, working an average of 9.5 hours per day (18.6 cents per hour). Machine operators were exclusively female, earning an average daily wage of \$1.08, working an average of 8.7 hours per day (12.4 cents per hour). Seamstresses were exclusively female, earning an average daily wage of \$.95, working an average of 9.9 hours per day (9.6 cents per hour). Shapers and turners were also exclusively female, earning an average daily wage of \$.75 and \$.81, working an average of 8.0 and 8.8 hours per day, respectively (9.3 cents per hour and 9.2 cents per hour). These numbers were certainly below the national average of all U.S. workers in 1910, when the average wage was reported to be 22 cents per hour.²⁴

According to Seigel, "In the first two decades of the twentieth century, studies for the United States as a whole show that women and girls in all manufacturing jobs, regardless of skill level, earned at best three-fourths of the wages paid to unskilled males." In the glove-making industry in Ohio in 1909, men earned more than their female counterparts within the same job description. For example, both men and women were employed as glovemakers, with the men (total of 35) earning an average daily wage of \$1.50 and the women (total of 132) earning an average daily wage of \$.90. Both worked an average of 9 hours per day. Also employed were foremen (5) and forewomen (3) who earned an average of \$2.11 per day and \$1.45 per day, with the forewomen earning only about two-thirds the salary of the foremen.²⁵

In the era before reforms that offered protections for workers, factory employment could be hazardous and even dangerous. The Findlay glove factory was no exception. For example, there was a newspaper report in December 1905 that the girls were made ill from engine fumes. In 1907, the Findlay *Morning Republican* reported that "Miss Bessie Moses, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Moses, 727 Putnam Street, got caught in the machinery at the Glove factory and was badly injured." Her arm amputated, she recovered and settled with the company a few months later for \$500. Despite these examples, reports of injuries at the plant were not often cited in the newspaper between 1903 and 1933.²⁶ In fact, it appears that Boss and the local management were proactive in terms of addressing working conditions for their employees. A new gas engine was installed by 1906 when the first addition to the factory was completed. And, at the construction of the second addition in 1910, the company became the first in Findlay to install a modern sprinkling system of fire protection. "In the case of fire, fusible links will melt, the plant will be completely flooded in a short time, wherever the fire may be."²⁷ This was a full

²⁴ www.orangepower.com/threads/life-in-1910, accessed April 26, 2018.

²⁵ Ohio Bureau of Labor Statistics, *Annual Report to the General Assembly of the State of Ohio for the Year 1909*, pages 282, 305.

²⁶ Don E. Smith, *Findlay Business and Industrial Historical Outline*, Vol. I, 1962; notes from the *Morning Republican*, 1903-1933.

²⁷ *Ibid.* *Morning Republican*, March 19, 1910.

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year before the infamous Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire in New York City on March 25, 1911, which tragically caused the deaths of 146 garment workers and resulted in many industrial safety reforms.

For female labor, the Boss plant had to compete with some other Findlay industries that relied upon women workers. The Anderson Underwear Company was one such employer, albeit a short-lived one. Taking advantage of the trend toward mass-produced clothing, C. C. Anderson opened his underwear factory in nearby Fostoria, Ohio, in 1904, hiring 300 women. This was followed by a factory in Findlay, with another 200 jobs filled. The company did not last long, however, filing for bankruptcy in 1909.²⁸ Other than the textile or garment industry, factories employing a predominantly female workforce in Findlay during the first half of the 20th century included a cigar manufacturer and a chemical compounding company. The Diesel-Wemmer-Gilbert Company was a Lima, Ohio-based maker of hand-rolled cigars that located a branch in Findlay in 1911. Although earlier figures for this company were not found, Diesel-Wemmer employed a total of 346 women and 50 men in 1929, compared to 217 women and 24 men at Boss Manufacturing in that year. Another Findlay company that employed women in the majority was the Glessner Company, a maker of medicinal compounds which had a workforce of 55 women and 25 men in 1929.

For Boss Manufacturing, two historic images of the factory workforce in Findlay help to tell the story of the company and its predominantly female workforce during the early 20th century. These images are found in figures 4 and 5 of Attachment B. According to *A Pictorial History of Findlay, Hancock County, Ohio*, published in 1999, the factory's employees posed for a group photo inside the Findlay plant in 1911 (figure 4). The photo shows hundreds of women, who are seen wearing the high-necked shirtwaist blouses and long skirts typical of the period, along with some young men or boys who are seated in front or standing off to the side. The plant manager, Mr. W. E. Houck, is standing toward the middle of the group in a dark suit and tie. This photo was taken shortly after the 1910 addition to the plant, representing a period when the factory was Findlay's largest. The second group photograph was taken outside the plant in 1918 (figure 5), again showing the predominantly female workforce. An example of a successful and long-lasting industry in Findlay, Ohio, The Boss Manufacturing Company provides a snapshot of a time when women were heavily employed in factories producing standardized products, particularly in the textile industries of the early 20th century.

²⁸ "Underwear sales can be economic indicator," *The Courier*, on-line article accessed April 19, 2018.

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www.orangepower.com/threads/life-in-1910, accessed April 26, 2018

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: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): HAN-00363-08

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10. Geographical Data

Acreege of Property 0.6961

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: 41.038910 | Longitude: -83.654740 |
| 2. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 3. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 4. Latitude: | Longitude: |

Or

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or NAD 1983

- | | | |
|-------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1. Zone: 17 | Easting: 276840 | Northing: 4546255 |
| 2. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 3. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 4. Zone: | Easting : | Northing: |

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

The nominated property occupies the entirety of two parcels in the City of Findlay, Hancock County, Ohio: Parcel 5600001025196 and Parcel 560000170830, as identified by the Hancock County Auditor.

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Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The nominated property occupies the parcels of land that have historically been associated with the Boss Manufacturing Company from its founding in 1903 to its closing in 1961.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Judith B. Williams,
organization: Historic Preservation Consultant
street & number: 854 Pullman Way
city or town: Columbus state: Ohio zip code: 43212
e-mail Judywilliams.hpc@gmail.com
telephone: 614-736-3540
date: May 9, 2018

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

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

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Photo Log

The Boss Manufacturing Company
317 West Main Cross Street
Findlay, Hancock County, Ohio
Photos by Judith B. Williams
Photos taken January 2018

- Photo 1: Exterior, Harmonia Hall section, west and south elevations, looking northeast
- Photo 2: Exterior, Harmonia Hall section, south elevation, looking east
- Photo 3: Exterior, Liberty Street elevations, looking northeast
- Photo 4: Exterior, Harmonia Hall section, west and north elevations, looking southeast
- Photo 5: Exterior, warehouse, looking southeast
- Photo 6: Exterior, west elevation, looking south
- Photo 7: Exterior, west elevation including enclosed loading dock, looking northeast
- Photo 8: Exterior, west elevation including entry vestibule, looking northeast
- Photo 9: Exterior, north and west elevations, looking southeast
- Photo 10: Exterior, looking south from West Main Cross Street
- Photo 11: Exterior, north elevation, entry door and steps, looking southeast
- Photo 12: Exterior, north elevation, looking southwest
- Photo 13: Exterior, north and east elevations, looking southwest
- Photo 14: Exterior, east elevation, looking northwest
- Photo 15: Exterior, east elevation, looking southwest
- Photo 16: Exterior, east elevation, looking west
- Photo 17: Exterior, south elevation, looking northwest
- Photo 18: Exterior, east elevation windows, looking west
- Photo 19: Exterior, window detail, looking west
- Photo 20: Interior, first floor of Harmonia Hall section, looking west at entrance
- Photo 21: Interior, first floor of Harmonia Hall section, looking southeast
- Photo 22: Interior, first floor of Harmonia Hall section, looking north at historic trim
- Photo 23: Interior, first floor of Harmonia Hall section, looking south
- Photo 24: Interior, warehouse section, looking south
- Photo 25: Interior, warehouse section, looking south at former exterior of Harmonia Hall
- Photo 26: Interior, first floor of 1905 section, looking west
- Photo 27: Interior, first floor of 1905 section, looking southeast
- Photo 28: Interior, first floor of 1905 section, looking west at freight elevator
- Photo 29: Interior, first floor of 1910 section, looking west at loading dock door
- Photo 30: Interior, first floor of 1910 section, looking northeast at freight elevator
- Photo 31: Interior, first floor of 1910 section, looking south
- Photo 32: Interior, first floor of 1910 section, looking north at entry door
- Photo 33: Interior, first floor of 1910 section, looking south at stairs
- Photo 34: Interior, second floor of Harmonia Hall section, looking south

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- Photo 35: Interior, second floor of Harmonia Hall section, looking east
- Photo 36: Interior, second floor of Harmonia Hall section, south wall windows
- Photo 37: Interior, second floor of 1905 section, looking southwest at stairs to second floor
- Photo 38: Interior, second floor of 1905 section, looking west toward freight elevator and connection into Harmonia Hall
- Photo 39: Interior, second floor of 1905 section, looking north
- Photo 40: Interior, second floor of 1910 section, looking north
- Photo 41: Interior, second floor of 1910 section, looking south
- Photo 42: Interior, second floor of 1910 section, looking northwest inside manager's office
- Photo 43: Interior, second floor of 1910 section, looking north
- Photo 44: Interior, third floor of Harmonia Hall section, looking east
- Photo 45: Interior, third floor of Harmonia Hall section, south wall window detail
- Photo 46: Interior, third floor of 1905 section, looking south at freight elevator and south wall
- Photo 47: Interior, third floor of 1905 section, looking east along south wall, showing windows
- Photo 48: Interior, third floor of 1905 section, looking north
- Photo 49: Interior, third floor of 1910 section, looking south
- Photo 50: Interior, third floor of 1910 section, looking east at freight elevator
- Photo 51: Interior, third floor of 1910 section, looking north showing wood floor
- Photo 52: Interior, third floor of 1910 section, looking southeast along east wall, showing windows

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.

Boss Manufacturing

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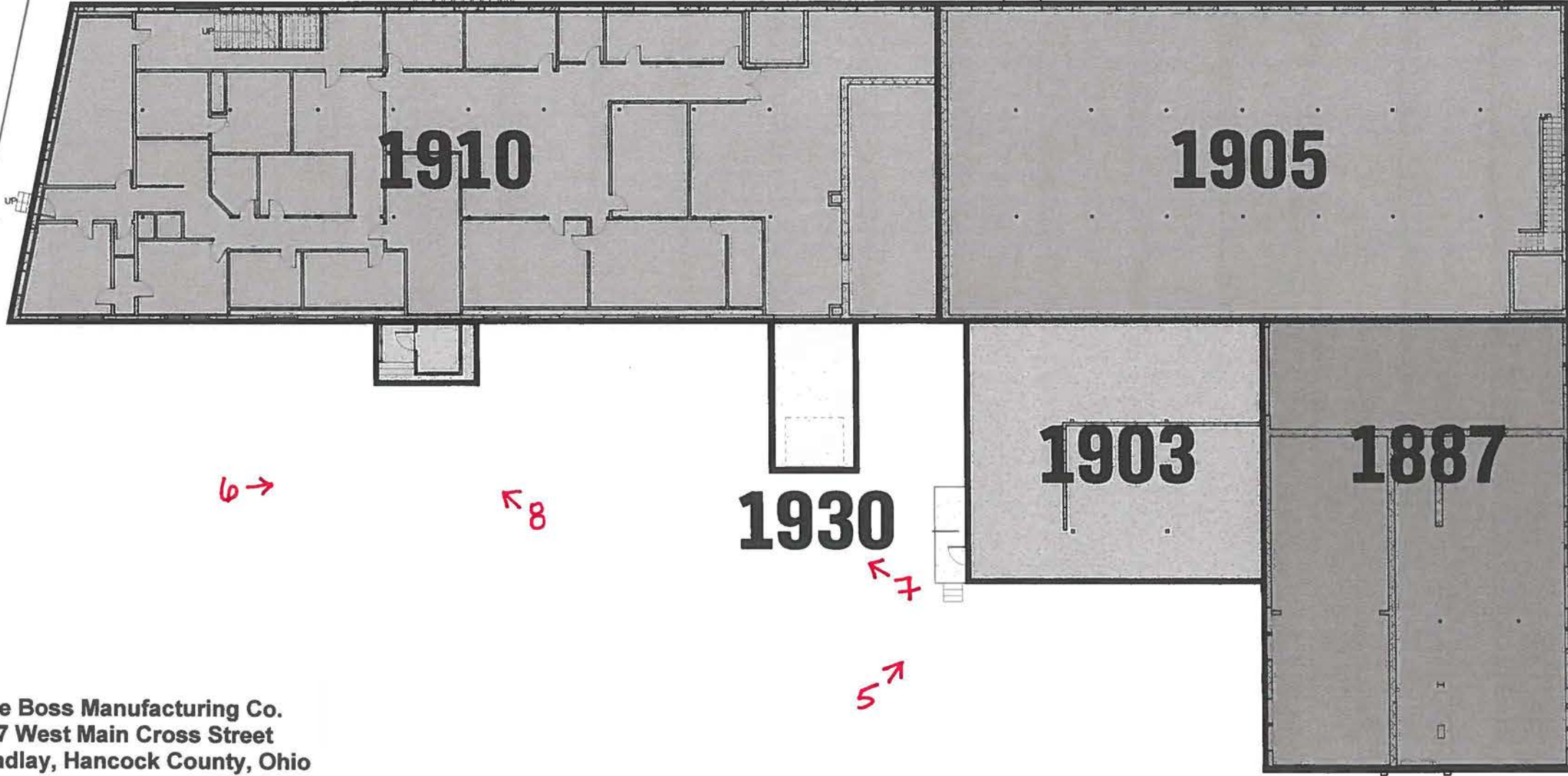
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The Boss Manufacturing Co.
317 West Main Cross Street
Findlay, Hancock County, Ohio

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Exterior Photo Views
1 - 17

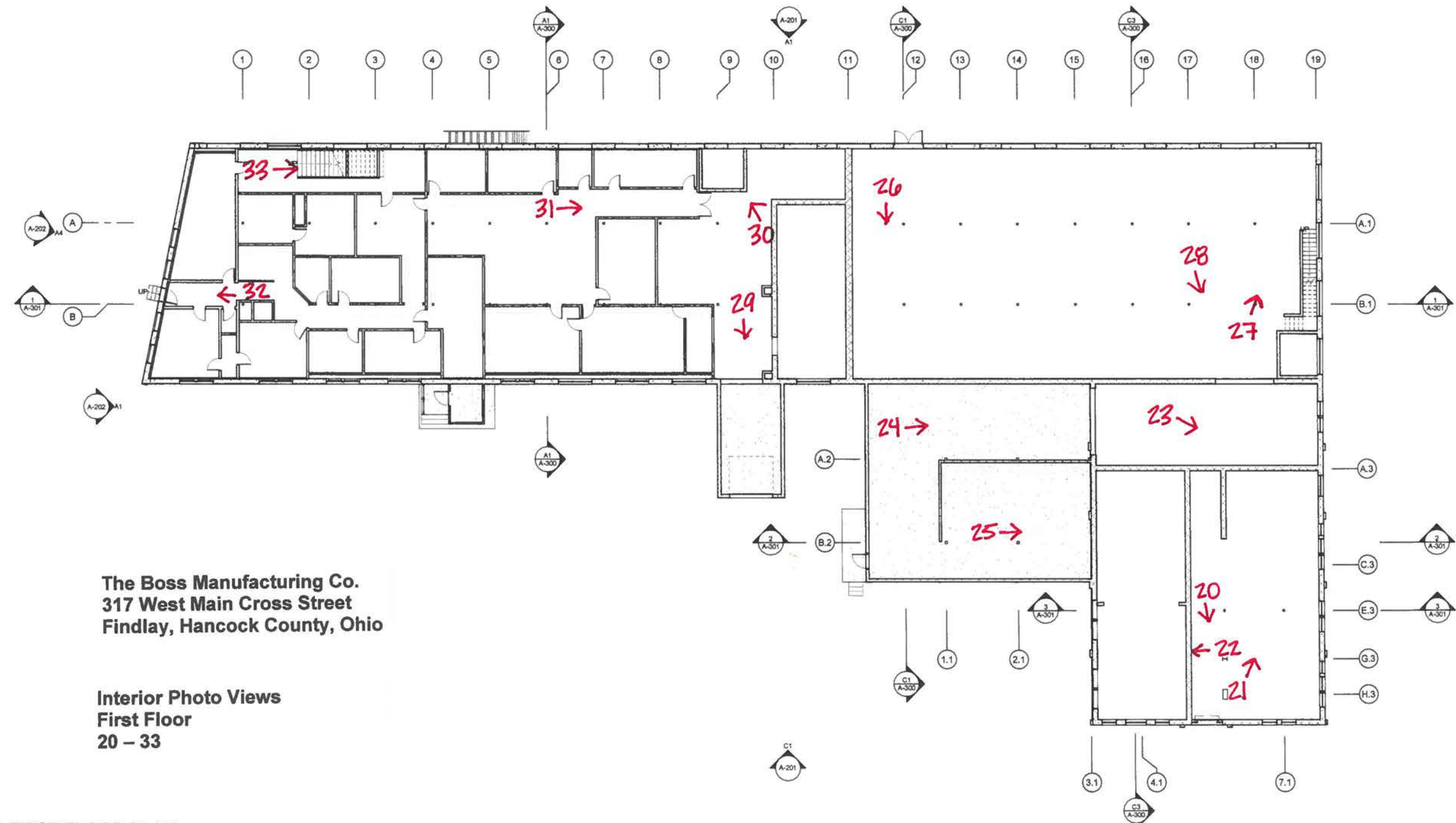
Liberty Street

4 ↗

3 ↑

1 ↖

← N



The Boss Manufacturing Co.
 317 West Main Cross Street
 Findlay, Hancock County, Ohio


Interior Photo Views
 First Floor
 20 – 33

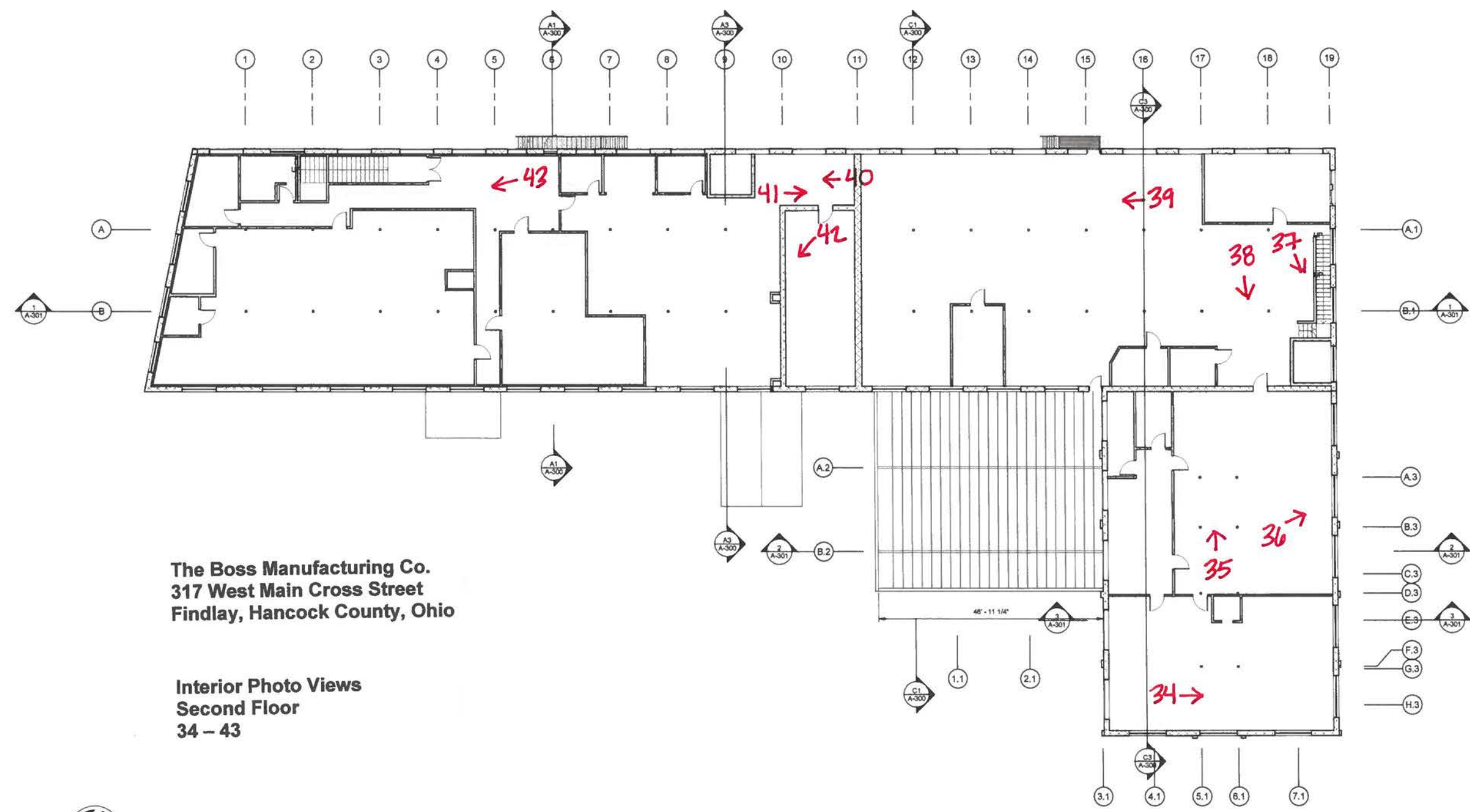
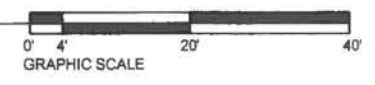
FIRST FLOOR PLAN
 3/32" = 1'-0"
 PLAN NORTH

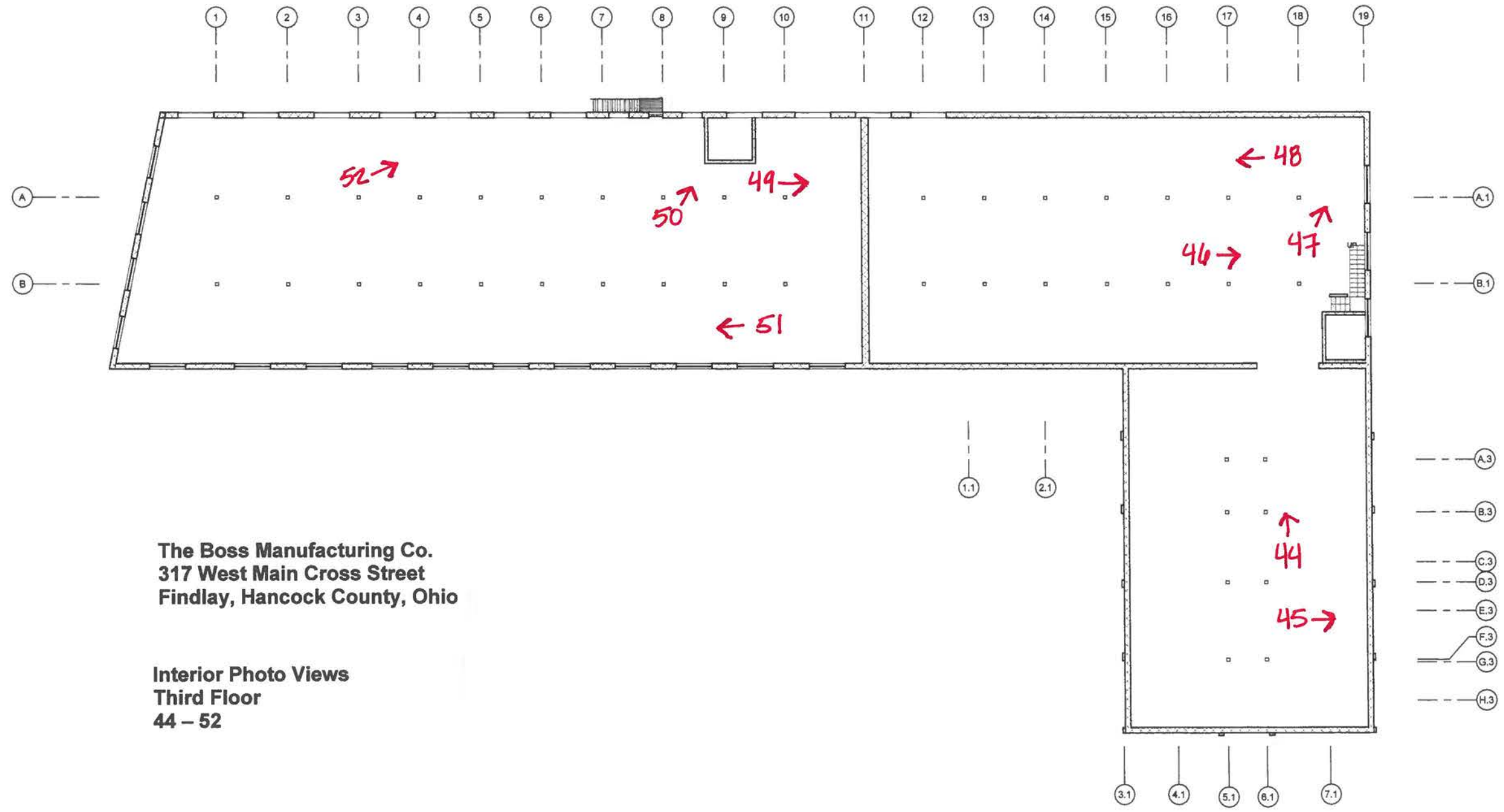


The Boss Manufacturing Co.
317 West Main Cross Street
Findlay, Hancock County, Ohio

Interior Photo Views
Second Floor
34 - 43

 **SECOND FLOOR PLAN**
3/32" = 1'-0"
PLAN NORTH

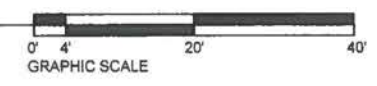




The Boss Manufacturing Co.
 317 West Main Cross Street
 Findlay, Hancock County, Ohio

Interior Photo Views
 Third Floor
 44 – 52

 **THIRD FLOOR PLAN**
 3/32" = 1'-0"
 PLAN NORTH



ATTACHMENT A – Historic Maps

The Boss Manufacturing Company
Findlay, Hancock County, Ohio

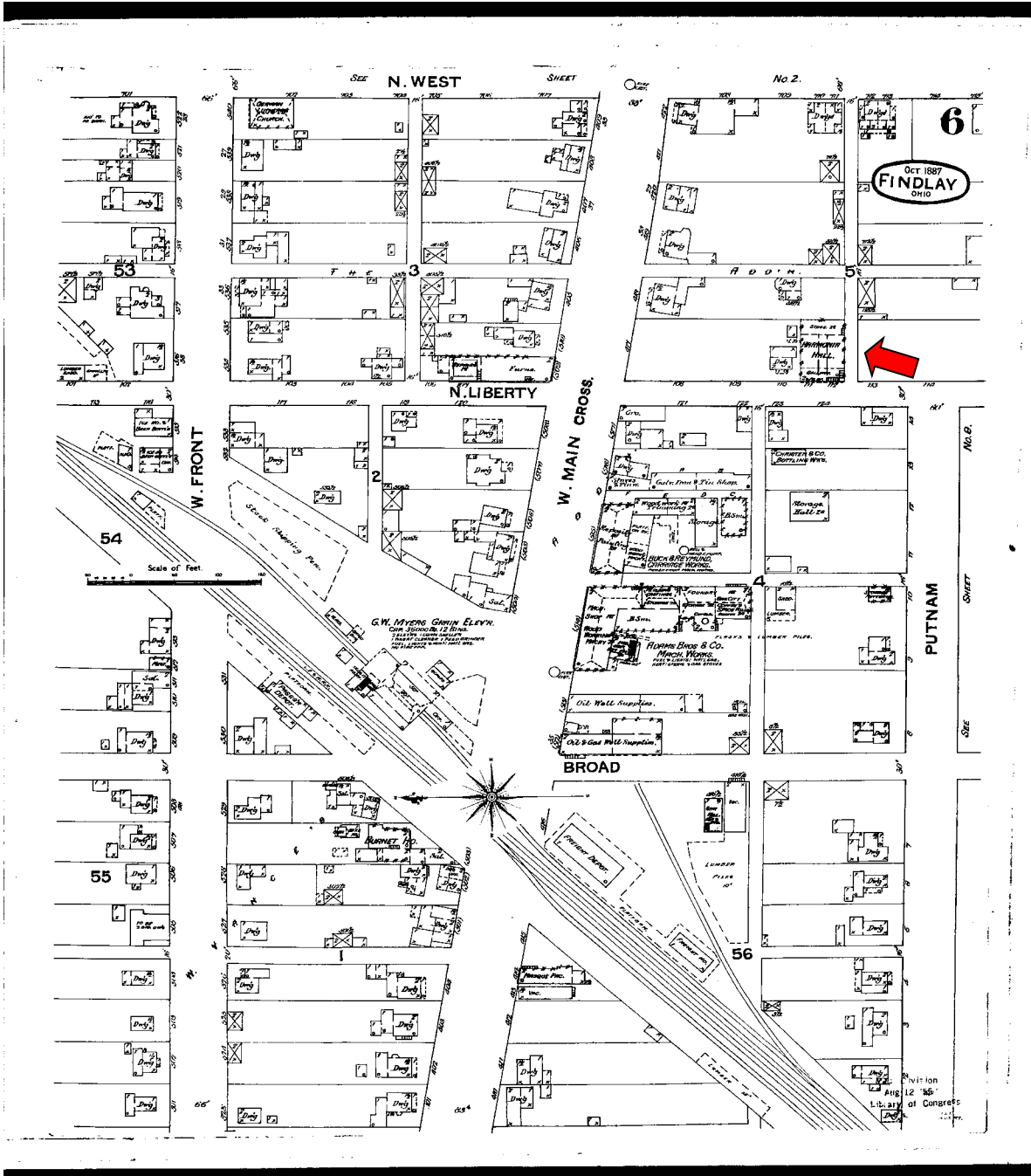


FIGURE 1: Harmonia Hall
Sanborn Insurance Co. Map, 1887

ATTACHMENT A – Historic Maps

The Boss Manufacturing Company
Findlay, Hancock County, Ohio

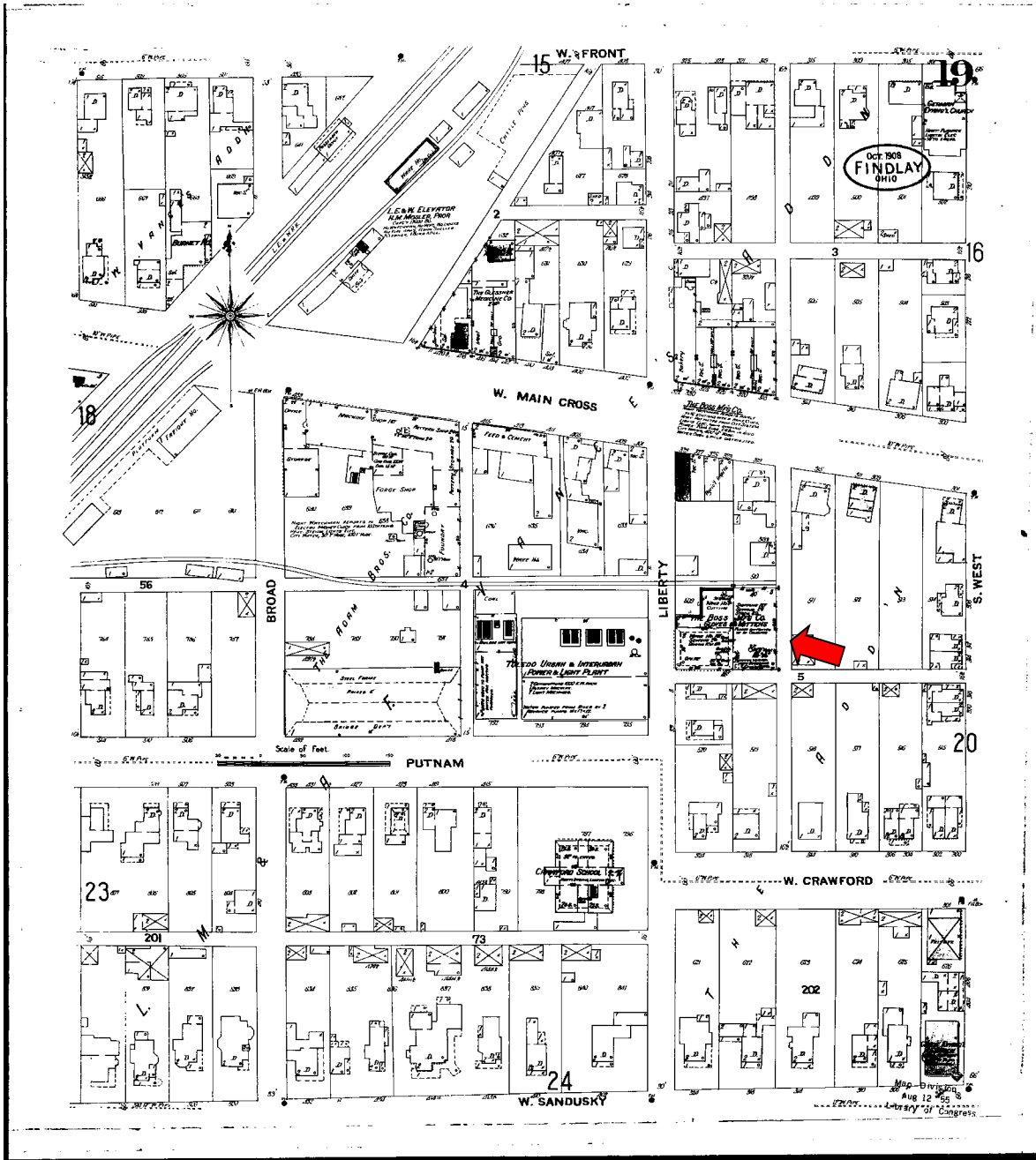


FIGURE 2: Boss Manufacturing Company
Sanborn Insurance Co. Map, 1908
Showing 1903 and 1905 Additions

ATTACHMENT A – Historic Maps

The Boss Manufacturing Company
Findlay, Hancock County, Ohio

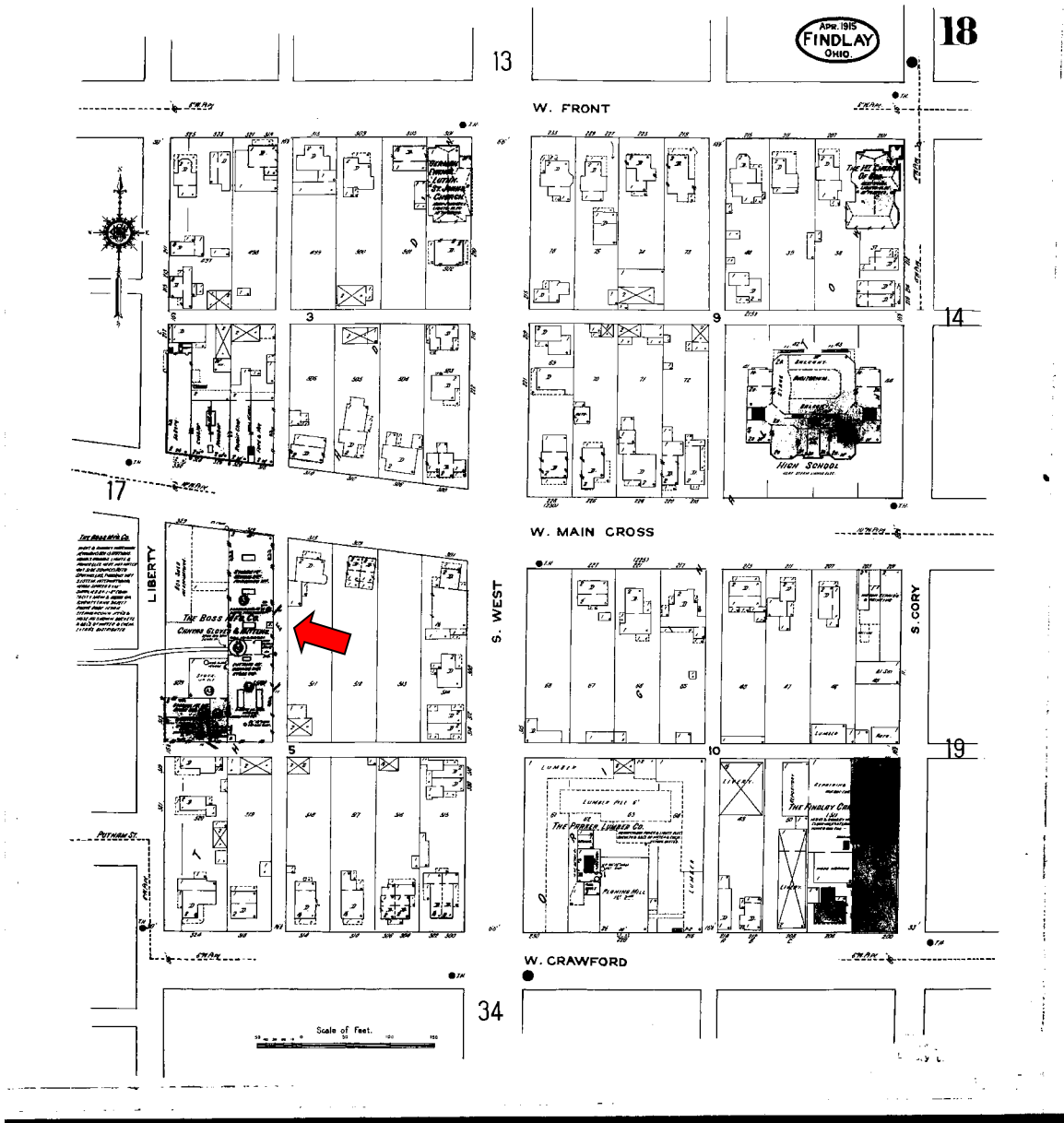


FIGURE 3: Boss Manufacturing Company
Sanborn Insurance Co. Map, 1915
Showing 1903, 1905 and 1910 Additions

ATTACHMENT B – Historic Photos

The Boss Manufacturing Company
Findlay, Hancock County, Ohio



FIGURE 1: Liberty Street view of Harmonia Hall, c. 1890s

ATTACHMENT B – Historic Photos

The Boss Manufacturing Company
Findlay, Hancock County, Ohio

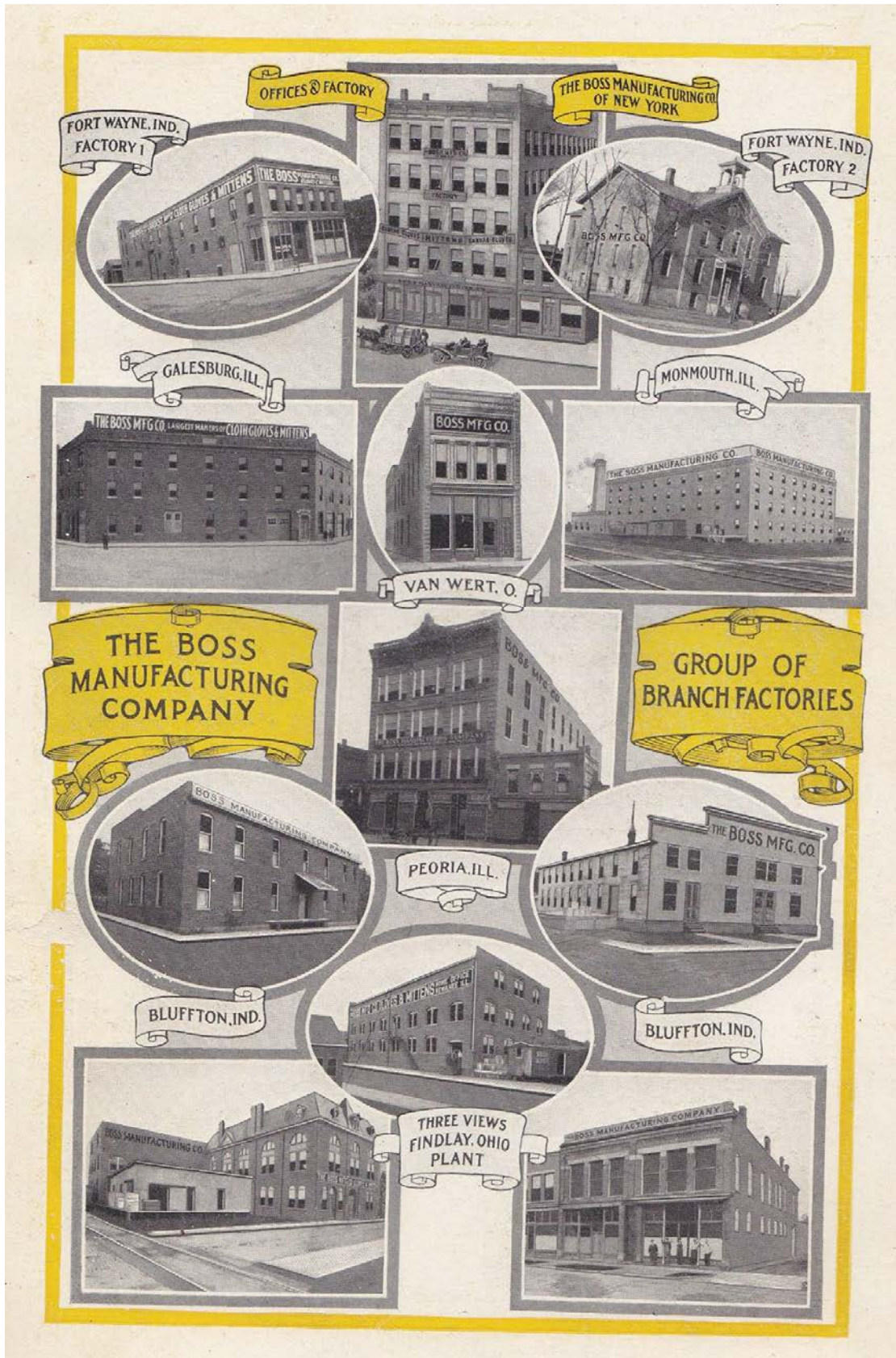


FIGURE 2: Boss Manufacturing Branch Factories, c. 1909
(Findlay plant in bottom views)

ATTACHMENT B – Historic Photos

The Boss Manufacturing Company
Findlay, Hancock County, Ohio



FIGURE 3: The Boss Manufacturing Company, Findlay plant, c. 1911

ATTACHMENT B – Historic Photos

The Boss Manufacturing Company
Findlay, Hancock County, Ohio



FIGURE 4: Boss Manufacturing Company employees in 1911, Findlay plant



FIGURE 5: Boss Manufacturing Company employees c. 1918, Findlay plant

ATTACHMENT B – Historic Photos

The Boss Manufacturing Company
Findlay, Hancock County, Ohio

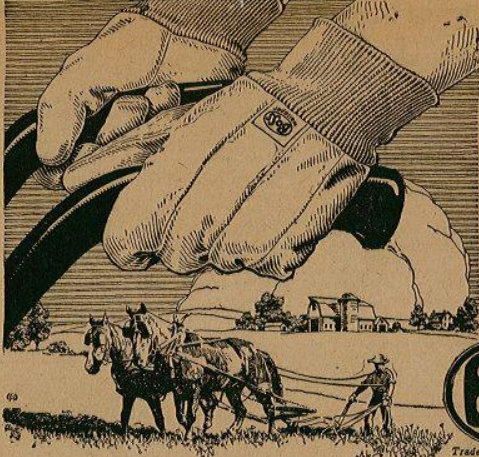


FIGURE 6: View of sewing room at Boss Manufacturing, Plant in Kewanee, Illinois

ATTACHMENT B – Historic Photos

The Boss Manufacturing Company
Findlay, Hancock County, Ohio

SUCCESSFUL FARMING 79



69
70

Trade Mark
This Trade-Mark identifies
Genuine Boss Work Gloves.
Be sure it is on
every pair you buy.

For Hard-Working Hands

EVERY day, farmers' hands need protection from grease and oil, cuts, bruises, and many minor injuries. Boss Work Gloves offer this protection.

They are made to stand the hardest, most rugged kinds of work. Yet they are exceptionally flexible. You can adjust a carburetor or handle a screw driver with ease while wearing them.

You will find them useful for a hundred different jobs such as repairing farm machinery, all barn work, plowing and harvesting, handling an axe, driving, painting, installing new equipment, digging post-holes and handling fencing.

Boss Work Gloves come in three styles of wrist—ribbed, band, and gauntlet. There are sizes for men and women, boys and girls. Ask your dealer for them by name.

THE BOSS MEEDY —best quality, medium weight canton flannel.	THE BOSS WALLOPER —highest quality, heaviest weight canton flannel.
THE BOSS HEVY —very best quality, heavy weight canton flannel.	THE BOSS JERZY —highest quality cotton jersey cloth in many colors.
THE BOSS XTRA HEVY —finest grade of extra heavy canton flannel.	THE BOSS TIKMIT —Roomy mittens made of ticking that wears like iron.
THE BOSS LETHERPOM —heavy canton flannel with tough leather on palms, fingers and thumbs.	THE BOSS ELASTO —strong canton flannel. Made by a patented process in one weight only.

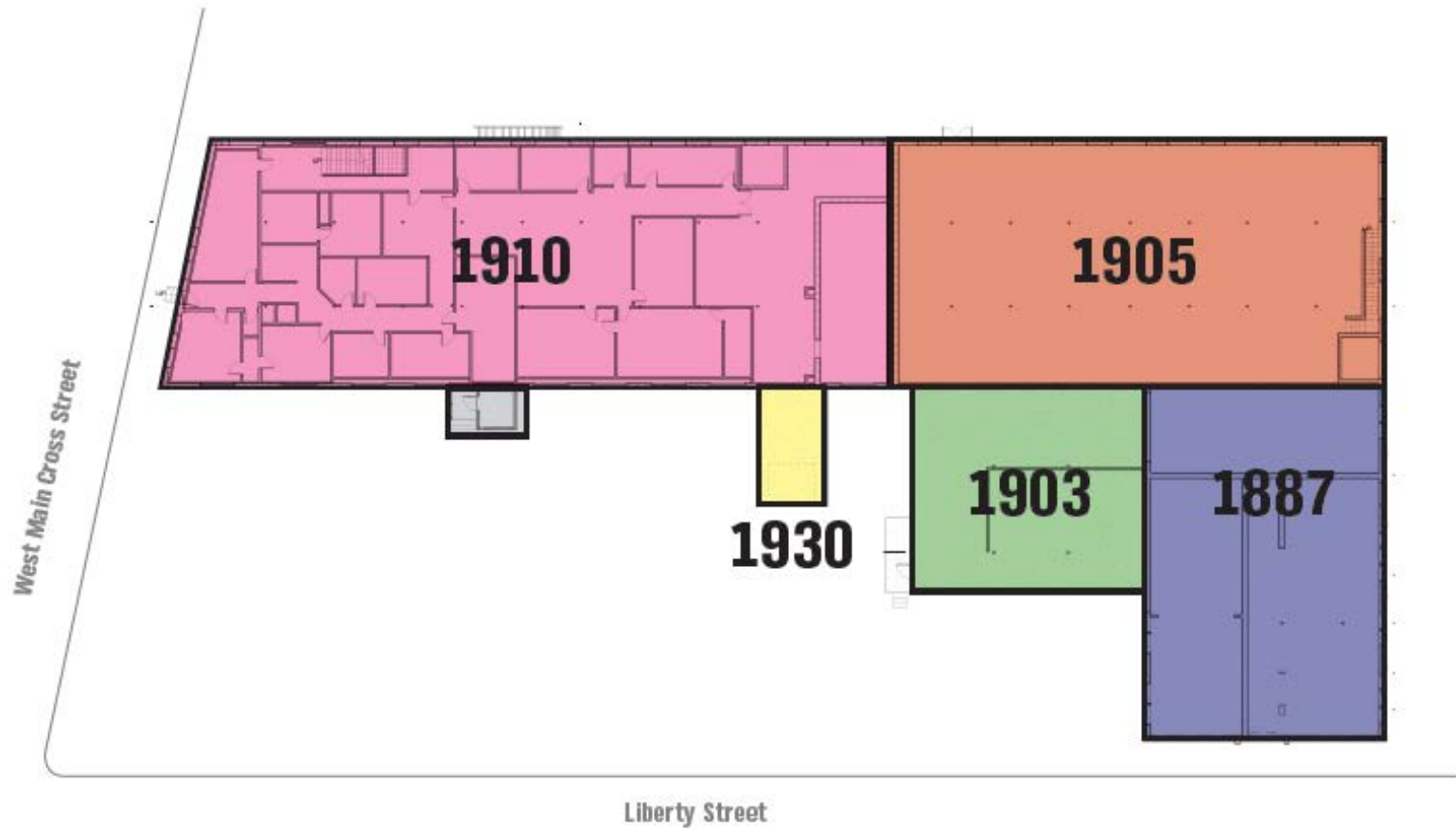
THE BOSS MANUFACTURING COMPANY, Kewanee, Ill.

BOSS WORK GLOVES

FIGURE 7: Ad for Boss Work Gloves in Successful Farming, c. 1920

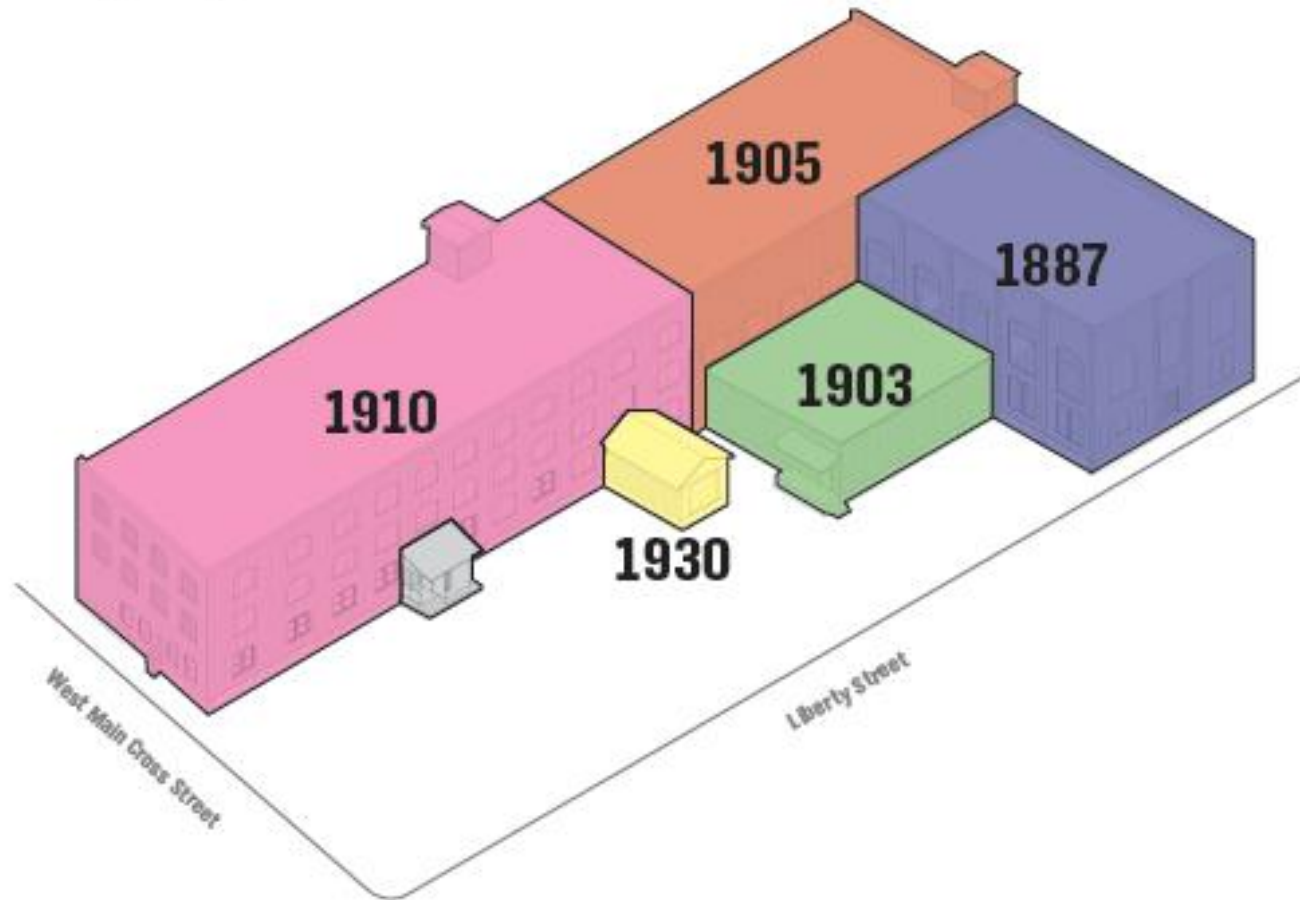
ATTACHMENT C – Illustrations
The Boss Manufacturing Company
Findlay, Hancock County, Ohio

Boss Manufacturing Building Dates



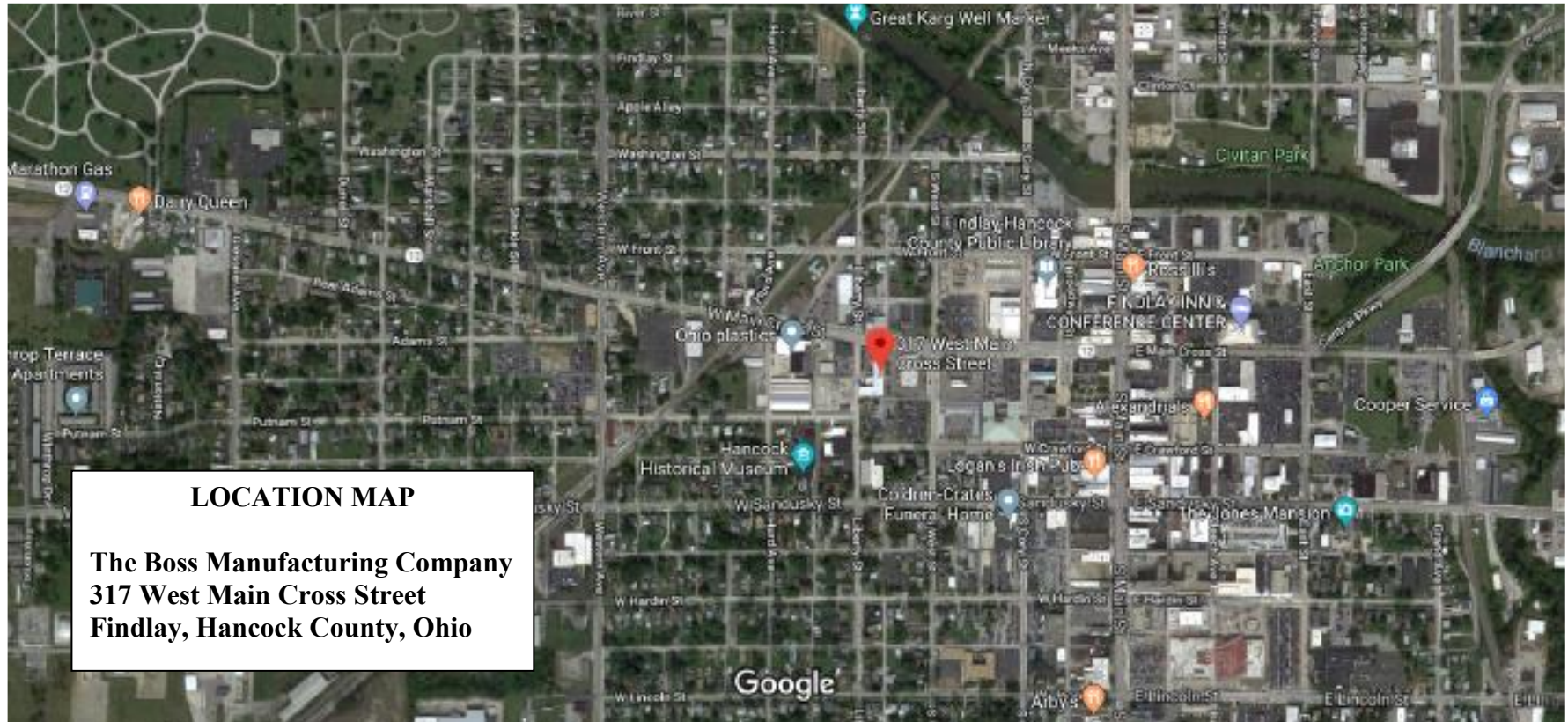
ATTACHMENT C – Illustrations
The Boss Manufacturing Company
Findlay, Hancock County, Ohio

Boss Manufacturing Building Dates



ATTACHMENT D – Location Maps

The Boss Manufacturing Company
Findlay, Hancock County, Ohio



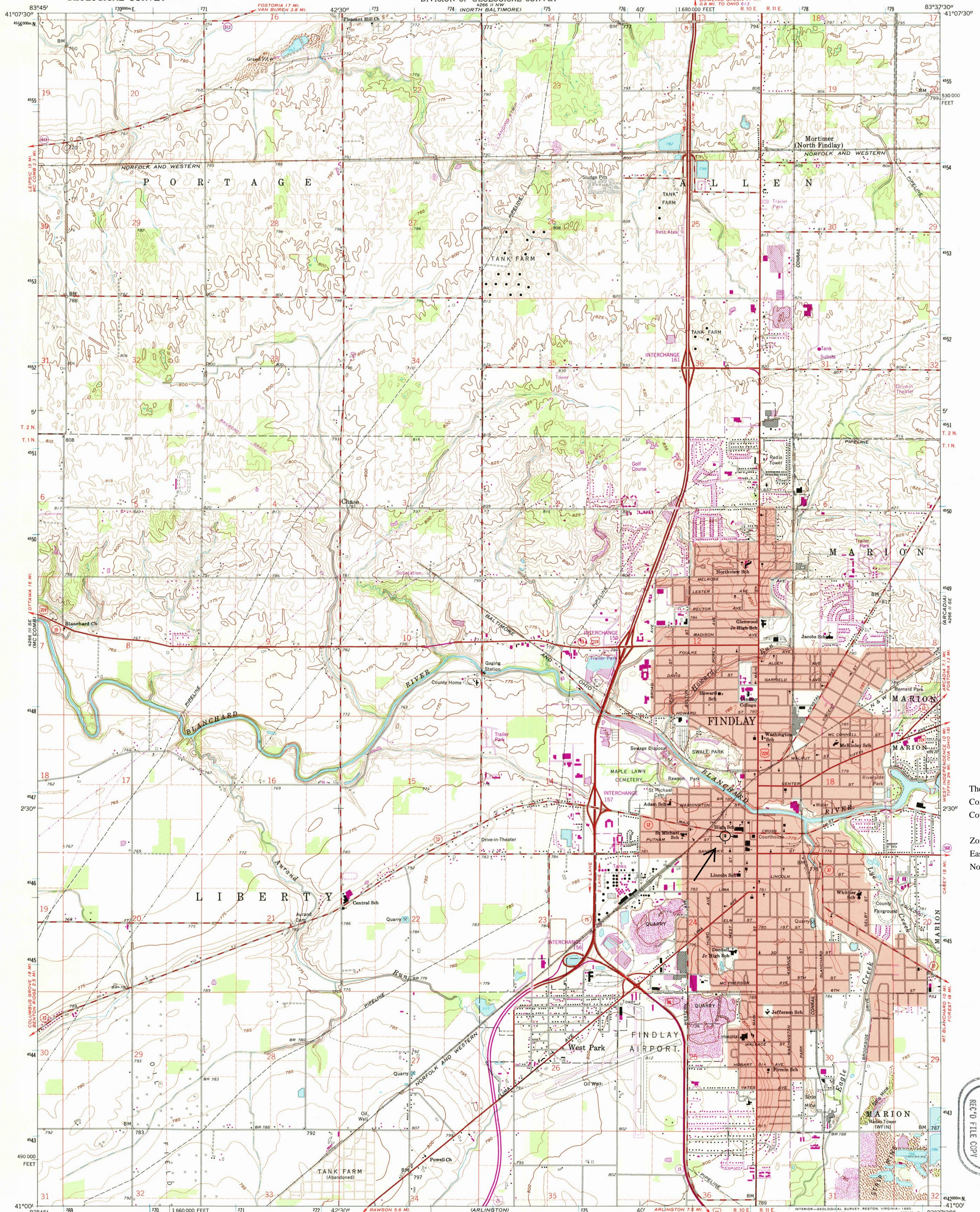
ATTACHMENT D – Location Maps

The Boss Manufacturing Company
Findlay, Hancock County, Ohio



LOCATION MAP

The Boss Manufacturing Company
317 West Main Cross Street
Findlay, Hancock County, Ohio



The Boss Manufacturing
Company, Findlay, Hancock
County, Ohio

Zone 17
Easting 276840
Northing 4546255

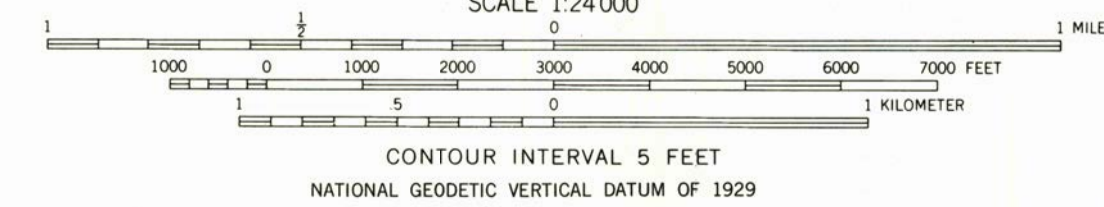
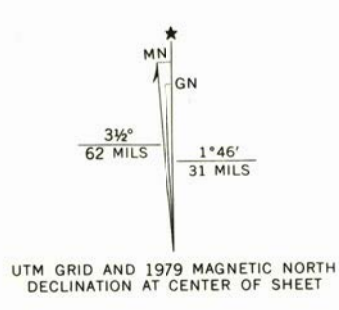


Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS and USC&GS

Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial
photographs taken 1959 and by planetable surveys 1960
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Ohio coordinate system, north zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 17, shown in blue

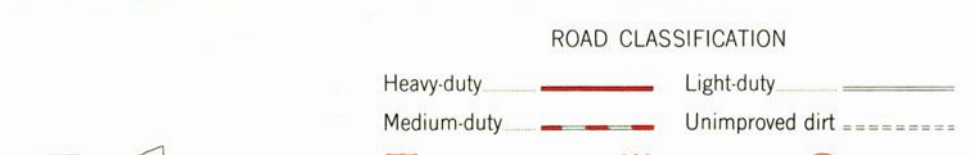
To place on the predicted North American datum 1983
move the projection lines 1 meter south and
7 meters west as shown by dashed corner ticks

Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where
generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked
Entire area lies within Congress Lands
Land lines based on First Principal Meridian
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown



CONTOUR INTERVAL 5 FEET
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



FINDLAY, OHIO
N4100—W8337.5/7.5

1960
PHOTOREPRODUCED 1979
DMA 4266 II SW—SERIES V852

Revisions shown in purple compiled in cooperation with State of
Ohio agencies and from aerial photographs taken 1977 and other
source data. This information not field checked. Map edited 1979
Boundary lines shown in purple compiled from latest
information available from the controlling authority











NO
PARKING
ANY
TIME



GIBS
877-434-GIBS
1999

CAUTION



NO LEASING





GIBS
877.654.GIBS
(2427)



NO
PARKING
LOADING
UNLOADING
STORAGE

MO LEASING, LLC
1000 E. 10TH STREET, ST. LOUIS, MO 63102

Handicap Accessible

Jeep
GYR 3967



PURE!
AD.

FOR RENT
Call [phone number]



YOU'RE!
SO RAD!

EMPLOYEE
PARKING



PRIVATE ENTRANCE
PLEASE USE THE OTHER



317

317
Encounters, Inc.
1000-1000-1000-1000
1000-1000-1000-1000
1000-1000-1000-1000







Progressive

REFRIGERATION CO.

Commercial & Industrial Specialists

1-800-480-6005

317 W. Main Cross St.
Troy, OH 45366



Progressive
REFRIGERATION CO.
Commercial & Industrial Services
1-800-440-6957





A large, multi-story industrial building with a grey facade and arched windows. The building shows signs of wear, with some brickwork visible through the peeling paint. It features several fire escapes and utility pipes. The building is situated on a street with snow on the ground.

A small, square, stone-veneer structure with a white gabled roof, likely a utility shed or storage unit. It is located on the sidewalk in front of the main building.

A silver Chevrolet pickup truck parked on the street. The truck has a '4x4' decal on the rear fender and a license plate that reads 'TX-2021'.

A row of parked vehicles including three white delivery vans with 'Propane' branding, a blue sedan, and a white SUV.

A street with snow on the ground and a yellow curb. The snow is partially melted, revealing the asphalt. There are utility poles and wires overhead.









FIRE EXTINGUISHER









Shelving units on the left side of the room, containing various items including bags, containers, and boxes. The shelves are organized with different types of supplies, some in red and black crates. A green bucket and a yellow bucket are visible on the floor near the shelving.



Large stacks of cardboard boxes, many labeled 'camfil', arranged in the center and right side of the room. Some boxes are stacked on wooden pallets. A hand truck is visible near the center. The boxes have various labels, including blue and yellow ones with tracking information.

camfil
24124XU
482995801

camfil

camfil

camfil

camfil

S-16 X 20 X 3
1743/6 003-50
19/1/15





ATV

KES Products

FESTIVAL

DO NOT TO EXCEED
GENERAL
SAFETY
INSTRUCTIONS

859810

44 Home





CUSTOM

BLACK MAINTENANCE
BLACK MAINTENANCE
BLACK MAINTENANCE



PLEASE SHUT THE GATE WHEN LEAVING THE ELEVATOR



CUPS ARE
BEHIND YOU!

FIRE
↓

Please
be Easy
w/door!





NO OPEN FLAMES
Please be aware that this door is closed completely when entering or leaving the office. Please use the fire extinguisher.

REMEMBER
FIRE
DO NOT USE ELEVATOR

REMEMBER
FIRE
DO NOT USE ELEVATOR

TEMPORARILY
OUT OF
SERVICE

IN CASE OF FIRE
DO NOT
USE ELEVATOR

TORNADO
SAFE AREA

Area in front of
SAFE
will be kept
CLEAR AT ALL TIMES
so that the safe
can be opened!

#90
North
Exit

HAMMERMILL
COPY DIGITAL COVER
HAMMERMILL





EXIT

OUT





SYLVAN
Fluorescent Super S

FLAMMABLE
INFLAMMABLE
INFLAMMABLE

Pitch
In!

Digital Revolution

OLD PHONE
CELL



Healthy.
Be Healthy.

HUSKY
HUSKY

ELMER'S
GUM LINE
Line

COBLETE EN PLASTICO
MADE IN PLASTIC
COBLETE EN
MADE IN PLASTIC
P35A

5320-BK
BLACK
PET
Salad Bowls
320 oz.
BLACK
RECYCLE

COUGAR
DIGITAL
Relay
MP
DSI
Retail Solutions

100

Generic
Angus
22577
FRAGILE

FIRE
EXTINGUISHER





Electrical panel with multiple circuit breakers and switches, mounted on a brick wall.



Stacks of cardboard boxes on metal shelving units. Many boxes are labeled 'Dole' and 'BANANA'. Some boxes are open, showing contents.

Relay





RelayMP
RelayMP
RelayMP
RelayMP

Dole
Dole
Dole

STAPLES
1099 2008-2015
135848

CLUB TOOLS

A-C

1099
401(4) Document
Sales District List





EXIT

SSL I
48 X 12

SSL I
48 X 12
findlay
SSL II
48 X 12





THIS IS NOT
A FIRE ESCAPE

IN CASE OF FIRE
DO NOT
USE ELEVATOR

NO
SMOKING



20 KW

20 KW



10 copies
of

FEI
317-4111-1111
V...



CAUTION
HOT
SURFACE

THIS IS NOT
A PASSENGER ELEVATOR

 IN CASE OF FIRE
DO NOT
USE ELEVATOR





0-13

Fresh Produce

Fresh Produce

0-13



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action: Nomination

Property Name: Boss Manufacturing Company, The

Multiple Name: _____

State & County: OHIO, Hancock

Date Received: 7/23/2018 Date of Pending List: 8/16/2018 Date of 16th Day: 8/31/2018 Date of 45th Day: 9/6/2018 Date of Weekly List: _____

Reference number: SG100002879

Nominator: State

Reason For Review: _____

X Accept Return Reject 9/6/2018 Date

Abstract/Summary Comments: AOS: Women's History, Industry; POS: 1903-1961; LOS: Local.

Recommendation/ Criteria: National Register Criterion A.

Reviewer Lisa Deline Discipline Historian

Telephone (202)354-2239 Date 9/6/18

DOCUMENTATION: see attached comments : No see attached SLR : No

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

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
NPS TRANSMITTAL CHECK LIST

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



The following materials are submitted on July 19, 2018
For nomination of the Boss Manufacturing to the National Register of
Historic Places: Co., Hancock County, 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: _____



July 19, 2018

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

NEW NOMINATION

The Astrup Company Building
Knights of Pythias Hall
Hartman Hotel
Provident Savings Bank & Trust Co.
The Boss Manufacturing Company
Lavin, Carl and Audrey, House
Cuyahoga Falls Downtown Historic District

COUNTY

Cuyahoga
Darke
Franklin
Hamilton
Hancock
Stark
Summit

The enclosed disks contain the true and correct copy of the nomination and additional information to the National Register of Historic Places for all of the submissions listed above.

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