

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

947

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.

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Nat. Register of Historic Places
National Park Service

1. Name of Property

Historic name: Detroit News Complex

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: 615 and 801 West Lafayette Boulevard

City or town: Detroit State: MI County: Wayne

Not For Publication: Vicinity:

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 X statewide ___ local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

X A ___ B X C ___ D

<u>Brian D. [Signature]</u>	<u>11/4/15</u>
Signature of certifying official/Title:	Date
<u>MI SHPO</u>	
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government	

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

Detroit News Complex
Name of Property

Wayne, Michigan
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:)

For Edson K. Beall
Signature of the Keeper

12.29.15
Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

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

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

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

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Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>2</u>	_____	buildings
_____	_____	sites
_____	_____	structures
_____	_____	objects
<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Commerce/Trade: Business
Industry/Processing/Extraction: _
Communications Facility
Storage
Transportation: Road-related (Vehicular)

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Commerce/Industry/Transportation

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Other: Commercial
style with Medieval
decorative influences

Art Deco

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: Limestone, Concrete, 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 Detroit News Complex comprises a block-large complex of reinforced concrete-frame masonry-clad buildings that includes the main original building, built in 1915-17, plus a Paper Storage Warehouse addition built 1918-19, and a garage addition built in two phases in 1921 and 1924, and also a separate parking garage structure that, built in 1924, occupies a quarter of an adjacent block. The 1915-17 main Detroit News Building is a six-story building with Bedford limestone street facades displaying a decorative finish loosely inspired by Medieval architecture that includes broad arched doorway and window openings at ground level and sculptural figures below the roofline on the front. The 1918-24 additions to the building, varying from one to six stories in height, are finished in buff-hued brick with limestone trimmings and for the most part reflect a simplified version of the main building in having arched treatments separated by vertical piers in the ground story and window bays containing groups of triple windows in each story in the upper floors. The 1924 parking garage is a five-level (plus basement and rooftop) garage with its street-facing sides faced in matching buff brick with limestone trim and displaying simple Art Deco styling.

Narrative Description

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The *Detroit News* complex is comprised of two buildings: the Detroit News Building, a single property that has had several additions over the years until it now occupies an entire city block, and the *Detroit News* parking garage, a five-story parking structure that faces the Detroit News Building at the Third Avenue side of the property. Located at Third Avenue on the southwest corner of West Lafayette Blvd., the parking garage occupies the northeast quarter of the block; surface parking covers the rest of the block to the south and west. The complex is located in the western edge of downtown Detroit, and occupies one full block and part of another block of grid-plan streets.

The *Detroit News* complex is located four blocks north of the Detroit River. The complex is in an area bounded on the south by West Fort Street (seven lanes wide), on the east by Second Avenue (four lanes wide), on the west by the John C. Lodge Expressway (M-10) Service Drive (three lanes wide), and on the north by West Lafayette Boulevard (four lanes wide). To the east of the district is the Fort Shelby Hotel, a national register-listed property, and east of the Fort Shelby Hotel is the Detroit Free Press Building, located at the west edge of the national register-listed Detroit Financial District, a large eight-block district in the heart of downtown Detroit. Directly to the north of the Detroit News Building is the former WWJ broadcast station building (1936), now occupied by a labor union's offices. To the northeast of the Detroit News Building is the studio for the television station WDIV, constructed in 1982. To the south and west of the *Detroit News* parking structure is a large surface parking lot surrounded by a chain link, barbed-wire-topped fence. On the south side of West Fort Street is Fort Street Presbyterian Church (1855), a historic church complex of several interconnected buildings. Third Avenue, which separates the News Building from its parking garage, is a four-lane two-way street that runs from downtown Detroit just past Grand River Avenue.

The Detroit News complex is comprised of two primary components, the Detroit News Building and Parking Garage. The Detroit News Building is comprised of three components constructed from 1915 to 1924 and has a square plan footprint encompassing an entire block:

- The main section of the Detroit News Building (1915-17) occupies the east half of the block bounded by West Fort, Second Avenue, West Lafayette and Third Avenue. The six-story, commercial-style, limestone-clad News Building is of steel-frame and reinforced concrete construction with regularly spaced fenestration and medieval-inspired ornamentation.
- A Paper Storage Warehouse addition built in 1918-19 adjoins the building in the southeast part of the block and extends west along West Fort Street to Third Avenue. The warehouse portion has a frontage of 150 feet on Fort Street and 130 feet on Third Avenue. It is seven stories tall.
- Additions built in 1921 and 1924 fill the remaining northwest part of the block along Third Avenue and West Lafayette, and adjoin the original Detroit News Building's West Lafayette façade. The single-story additions were constructed in two stages in 1921 and 1924 for garage space.

The complex also includes a parking structure (1924) located across Third Avenue at the corner of W. Lafayette Boulevard and Third Avenue. The parking structure is five stories tall and includes parking for 200 cars.

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The *Detroit News*' first building occupies the east half of the block bounded by West Fort, Second, West Lafayette and Third. The building has shorter "main" 150-foot long façades fronting north on Lafayette Boulevard and south on Fort Street, and a 280-foot long side façade facing east on Second Avenue. The structure was built with a mezzanine between the first and second stories. Three stories rise above the mezzanine level, and then another story was added in 1920-21. The floors were originally labeled 1st, mezzanine, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th, with the 5th the one added in 1920-21. They are now termed 1st through 6th floors, the mezzanine story now labeled the 2nd story. The current naming will be used throughout this nomination. The added sixth story is set back from the W. Lafayette, W. Fort Street and Second Avenue facades so it is not visible from those streets, but only from the Third Avenue side of the building.

The News Building's three street-facing sides are faced in buff Bedford, Indiana, limestone above a low gray granite base. The portion of the building that faces over the garage addition (western façade of the original building) has finished Bedford limestone wrapping the corner bay, and then it is sheathed in light yellow brick, with a running band of limestone between the fourth and fifth floors. The building is defined by the slightly projecting massive corner bays at each corner of the original building. The corner bays rise slightly above the parapet wall of the building and each corner is capped by a square-plan hipped roof. The corner bays each contain a central vertical strip of windows in each face.

The facades between the outer bays in all the street-facing sides feature arches at ground level separated by raised piers that rise to attic or fifth-floor height and delineate the three façades' bays – five central bays each on the West Lafayette and Fort Street sides and twelve on the Second Avenue side between the corner bays. The raised piers subdivide the upper facades above the arches into bays that each contains three closely spaced windows in each of two stories separated by raised stone mullions. The central arch on the West Lafayette and Fort Street facades contains an entrance beneath an arched upper window, while the other arches on the three facades contain large windows above the stone bulkheads. The first-story windows have been replaced and, within each large arch, a three-part arched window rises above the lower triple window set. In the end bays of the Lafayette Boulevard, Second Avenue and Fort Street facades are narrow rectangular windows. On the Lafayette Boulevard façade, the eastern window opening is filled in with grey slate and contains an original cast iron decorative panel with "The Detroit News Established 1873" centered on it. On the northern Second Avenue narrow window, the panel reads, "The Detroit News Entrance Lafayette Blvd." Between each arched window is a cast iron scone supporting a round globe. These are original features of the building; as one *News* writer said, "Foiled against the towers at the end of the Fort Street vista, the lamps are an architectural gesture of considerable grace. They light both street and structure and create a valuable sense of human scale for the pedestrian."¹

The Detroit News Building was designed to combine historical references (vestigial historicism) with modern engineering and stripped-down forms that express the structural system and modern-day functions of the building. This kind of styling was very characteristic of the 1910s and 1920s American commercial and industrial buildings. The 1918 book celebrating the *Detroit News* and its new building described the style as follows, "Escape was sought from the classic and Renaissance traditions which have too often been but indifferently appropriate to modern

¹ *The Detroit News*, Sunday Magazine, October 14, 1994.

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needs, and by daring adaption of medieval precedents a building that acknowledges its European prototype, and yet is really and essentially American, was realized."²

The main entrance door on Lafayette Boulevard has ramps for handicapped access leading up to the door from both the east and west sides of the doorway. At each side of the entrance door are elaborate wrought-iron sconce lanterns containing upright fixtures. The entrance door is surmounted by a large arch, and the windows over the arch and the door have been replaced. The door is an automatic sliding entrance door. At the northeast corner of the building at West Lafayette Boulevard and Second Avenue are small bronze street name signs for each street. At the Lafayette Boulevard corner is a State of Michigan historical marker recognizing the *Detroit News*. A small Historical Society of Michigan marker marking *The Detroit Free Press* as a Centennial Business in Michigan is located on the Lafayette Boulevard façade between two of the large arched windows. A bronze plaque bearing the name "The Detroit News" is mounted on each side of the entrance door. The name "The Detroit News" also appears over the main central entrance door as does the name "The Detroit Free Press." Between two of the arched windows west of the front entrance is another State of Michigan historical marker for *The Detroit Free Press*.

The Fort Street and Lafayette Boulevard facades are nearly identical, but the Lafayette side's frieze area features four statues of important historical figures relating to printing history and five panels (separated by them) setting forth newspapers' mission as a watchdog of the people. It is likely that the statues were designed by Ulysses Ricci, Albert Kahn's choice as architectural sculptor in this era. The statues are of Johannes Gutenberg, inventor of moveable type, which allowed for the mass production of books and the birth of the Renaissance and Enlightenment periods; William Caxton, who brought the printing press to England and is said to have been Britain's first printer; Christophe Plantin, an influential French printer during the Renaissance period; and Benjamin Franklin, who was not only key in America's founding, but also had a newspaper, *The Pennsylvania Gazette*, and printed "*Poor Richard's Almanac*."

Across the attic/frieze between these statues are five stone panels bearing inscriptions carved in raised letters authored by University of Michigan professor Fred Newton Scott (1860-1931):

- "Mirror of the public mind... Interpreter of the public intent...Troubler of the public conscience."
- "Reflector of every human interest...Friend of every righteous cause...Encourager of every generous act."
- "Bearer of intelligence... Dispeller of ignorance and prejudice...A light shining into all dark places."
- "Promoter of civic welfare and civic pride...Bond of civic unity...Protector of civil rights."
- "Scourge of evil doers... Exposer of secret iniquities...Unrelenting foe of privilege and corruption."

The News Building's exterior has many other applied details including crests, heraldic shields and printers' marks, mostly located in the spandrel areas between the windows of the third and fourth floors.

² White, Lee A., *The Detroit News: 1873-1917 – A Record of Progress*, The Evening News Association, Detroit, 1918, p. 26.

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The West Fort Street façade is nearly identical to the West Lafayette side, lacking only the four sculptures in the attic. On the West Fort Street side, a handicapped entrance ramp and a staircase lead up to the center entrance doors. A composite sign at the west side of the door is the only signage identifying the recent use of this side of the building for the *Detroit Free Press*. The door and windows on the West Fort Street side of the building have been replaced and match the new windows and door on the other facades. At the southeast corner of the building, at approximately fourteen feet from the ground, engraved panels read "Fort Street" and "Second Avenue." Five panels in the attic below the Fort Street parapet read:

- "Voice of the Lowly and Oppressed...Advocate of the Friendless...Righter of Public and Private Wrongs."
- "Chronicler of Facts...Sifter of Rumors and Opinions...Minister of the Truth that Makes Men Free."
- "Reporter of the New...Remembrancer of the Old and Tried...Herald of What is to Come."
- "Defender of Civil Liberty...Strengtheners of Loyalty...Pillar and Stay of Democratic Government."
- "Upbuilder of the home...Nourisher of the Community Spirit...Art Letters and Science of the Common People."

The Second Avenue façade of the building is the longer façade (280 feet) and it mirrors the southern and northern facades. At the north and south ends of the Second Avenue facade are the projecting end piers. Twelve bays of windows each contain broad arched windows in the ground story and triple windows separated by mullions in two tiers above. The attic/fifth story is finished like the Fort Street side (but the attic-level panels do not contain inscriptions). Cast iron light sconces, each with a round globe light, are located between each adjoining set of windows.

The building's arched windows on the east and south sides were bricked in following the 1967 12th Street Riots, but were reopened during renovations carried out when the *Detroit Free Press* relocated its offices to the News Building in 1998. At this time all of the windows in the building were replaced.

The roof of the building is flat at each of the different levels of the building. A flagpole rises above the West Lafayette side of the building, and a second above the Fort Street side of the building, attached at the roofline. Two large standing billboard signs are on the roof, one for *The Detroit News* and one for *The Detroit Free Press*; one of the signs is at the Lafayette side of the building, and one in the center.

Interior Spaces

The *Detroit News*' 1917 building's lobby on West Lafayette has been much renovated and contains very few of its original features. Its flooring of a gray Knoxville marble inset with small green marble squares, ornate carved oak double doors to the north and south (although moved from their original location), and steps up to the elevator lobby are the only original features. A finished dropped ceiling and new walls, windows, doors and security desk are part of renovations to the lobby. A handicapped ramp fills most of the lobby space today. The walls of the main entrance staircase are lined with buff Bedford, Indiana, limestone, the same stone used on the building's exterior. The short marble staircase leads to an elevator lobby, where two passenger elevators have the original brass elevator doors intact. A staircase to the basement has a brass door in this lobby. A larger staircase to the upper floors is located in an adjacent

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hallway, and it leads first to the second level. The southern half of the first floor housed offices, mainly small offices leading to a hallway to the Fort Street side housing the loading dock. The first floor hallway also leads to the garage area of an addition in the northwest corner of the property, and also to a pedestrian exit onto Third Avenue.

The second floor – originally the mezzanine level – at the West Lafayette Boulevard side of the building, in the northeast corner, includes the original executive offices of the publisher, finished with quarter-sawn oak and elaborately carved. The ceilings of two offices are barrel-vaulted with ornate Renaissance detailing created in wet plaster. The floors are a herringbone patterned oak. The executive offices were reached through a lobby featuring a high vaulted ceiling. Adjacent to the executive offices is the former newsroom, a large open space with large squared columns and oak paneled walls. The other spaces of the second floor are functional spaces that were converted from their previous uses over the years. The walls are finished plaster, some ceilings have been covered with a lay-in drop ceiling and floors are carpeted.

The third floor is reached via the same staircase or an elevator, and a similar elevator lobby is in the same location. The third floor lobby has a short hallway leading northeast to the publisher's suite of offices for his staff and his office. These offices are located on the West Lafayette Boulevard side of the original building. This office is also paneled in quarter-sawn oak, with leaded glass windows, some with stained glass at the center featuring medieval figures. The floor is herringbone patterned oak and the ceiling is of plaster with ornate Renaissance detailing. The office contains large brass pendant light fixtures, a recent addition. A short hallway leads to the former library, located on the West Lafayette Boulevard side of the building. The library is also finished in oak detailing, and contains many leaded glass windows with stained glass details of medieval characters. Adjacent space on the third floor is large open office space with contemporary lay-in drop ceiling, plaster walls and carpeting.

The fourth floor has been refinished to allow for newsroom desks and offices to occupy former industrial areas. The ceilings have been covered with a lay-in drop system ceiling, encircling the space's steel reinforced concrete columns. The walls are finished plaster, and carpet covers the floors. The fourth floor has different levels and areas that were part of the additions to the building. All have been modified for current office use, and contain contemporary flooring and finishes. The fifth floor has had the same types of modifications made as contemporary offices were installed in the former industrial and utilitarian spaces. The basement is functional space that housed an office as well as the HVAC equipment and storage. Also in the basement is a pedestrian tunnel running underneath West Lafayette Boulevard to the WWJ Building.

Additions to the Detroit News Building

The Paper Storage Warehouse addition (1918-19) was constructed to the west of the original building on the southwest corner of the block at West Fort and Third. The warehouse fronts 150 feet on Fort Street and 130 feet on Third Avenue, and it reflects in simplified version the design of the original News building. The addition has arched openings (some now enclosed) at the first floor and the division of the upper façade by piers, with each bay containing two tiers of windows separated by narrow piers. It is six stories tall at the northern (rear) end, and three stories tall along the street front on the south side. The warehouse was built to allow for onsite paper storage. It is built with a steel frame and reinforced concrete construction. The structure is surfaced with buff-colored vitrified face brick and trimmed with limestone. The front of the Fort Street side of the warehouse building is three stories in height. Except for the front part facing Fort Street, occupying a depth of two narrow bays on the Third Avenue side, the building rises six

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stories in height. At the eastern and western ends of the warehouse's taller setback fourth-to-sixth-story south façade are projecting bays, with broad raised piers at their corners, framing the recessed façade between the end bays. These end bays are each embellished with a diagonally set square with a roundel containing beige marble.

The windows on the Fort Street façade are deeply set in narrow vertical two-story openings. The windows are narrow wood divided four-light with a metal spandrel between the second and third floor windows. The eight truck entrances on Fort Street are topped by segmental arches with tapestry brick in the spandrels above the arches. Four of the original warehouse loading dock doors on the Fort Street façade are still in use and have replacement coil doors. The piers display limestone banding at the arches' springblock level and at the window lintel levels on the Fort Street façade, the Third Avenue façade and along the back of the six-story portion of the warehouse. On the Third Avenue façade, windows of the third floor have been bricked-in as well as windows running down the first bay of the warehouse's six-story portion closest to Fort Street.

The final addition to the Detroit News Building is a one-story section at the northwest corner of the block at Third Avenue and West Lafayette Boulevard. This is a garage built for storing *Detroit News* delivery vehicles and related staff vehicles. The garage was built in two stages: a 1921 portion was constructed fronting on Third Avenue, in the mid-block area adjacent to the Warehouse building, and a smaller 1924 addition fills the corner out to the lot line on Lafayette Boulevard and Third Avenue. The 1921 portion includes limestone-trimmed piers and three segmental-arch-head vehicle entrances on Third Avenue. Today one of the vehicle entrances has been bricked in, one has a new coil door, and the third, southern door has been shortened to a lower square-head garage door. The northern (1924) garage addition is faced with buff-colored brick and has only one garage entrance door and one pedestrian door. The entire Lafayette Boulevard façade of the garage addition has had all its opening infilled with brick. The roof on both of the garage additions is flat.

Parking Garage

A 200-space parking garage was constructed for *Detroit News* employees and delivery vehicles in 1924, located at the northeast corner of the block across Third Avenue from the News Building at the corner of Third Avenue and Lafayette Boulevard. To the south of the parking garage is an alley, and south of the alley is a large surface parking lot. To the west of the parking garage is another surface parking lot, and the service drive for the John C. Lodge (M-10) freeway. The parking garage is five stories in height, with basement level, as well as rooftop parking. The parking garage is of steel-frame and reinforced concrete construction. It faces Third Avenue and projects west along half of the block of Lafayette Avenue. The parking garage façade is Art Deco in style, using the same materials as the Warehouse addition: buff-colored brick and limestone trim.

The parking garage's east-facing front on Third is dominated visually by a central tower-like form and with slightly projecting corner bays at each front corner. The facade is not quite symmetrical, with a slightly lower four-bay wide, four-story section to the left of the central tower and five-bay, five-story part to the right. The piers between the window bays project two courses of brick and have limestone bases. A limestone entablature at the top of the bays between the piers is detailed with raised flat circles centered over the windows in each. The vehicle entrance and exit are at the north end of the Third Avenue facade, and a small cast iron security booth stands adjacent to the vehicle entrance and exit. The original folding vehicle entrance doors remain in place. The southern end of the façade contains full-height windows, a pedestrian door

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and a former vehicle freight elevator no longer in use. There is a bronze sign at the corner of the building for "Third Street" and a sign for "Lafayette Boulevard" above the first story on each side of the building's façade at the corner. All the windows are the original steel casement windows. Most have a central pivot area. Between the windows on the front's vertical bank of windows from the third to fifth floors are square metal spandrel panels that have small decorations centered in them.

The northern façade (West Lafayette Boulevard) is also finished with a buff-colored brick and limestone sheath. First floor former storefronts were infilled with beige-colored brick and now form a continuous street-wall of brick broken only by a pair of double steel doors into the building. Former basement-level windows have been completely blocked in with concrete. The roof of the structure has ramps for vehicles in addition to the parking areas. The roof holds two elevator penthouses on opposite sides of the structure and a flagpole centered on the Lafayette Boulevard side of the building.

The southern façade is adjacent to the alley. The bay closest to Third Avenue is outlined by four-story piers of finished brick and limestone, matching the Third Avenue façade, for just the depth of the bay. The bay contains a long narrow window in each story. Only the third and fourth floor windows are intact, the lower floor windows having been infilled with an exhaust pipe and security features at the first floor level.

The remainder of the south side façade is simply finished with the reinforced concrete floor and column framing exposed at all floor levels. There is a brick knee wall that raised the floor heights, and the façade has been painted beige. The ground level has only one pedestrian door as an access point at the western-most end of the building. The windows of the first level have been infilled with brick inset with glass blocks in the center of each former window space. The remainder of the upper-story windows are the original large steel-frame windows. Each window contains three sections, each with four panes above and below a central portion comprised of four vertical lights. The center two lights are operable.

The western façade is also unfinished and has exposed concrete columns and floors at all levels, as well as brick in the window openings. The façade is now painted beige and has no windows, pedestrian or vehicle openings. A beige brick windowless addition was constructed adjacent to a gasoline filling station for *Detroit News*-owned vehicles. There is a vehicle entrance opening at the northern end of the addition that now has a coil door. Two vehicle entrances are at the western end of the addition. A canopy projects from the addition over two gas pumps.

The interior of the parking garage is comprised of level-floored parking areas on each side with up and down ramps between. Two rows of interior support columns are of reinforced concrete and run east-west along the center of the structure. A staircase is located at the southeast corner of the building and exits onto Third Avenue. The first level of the building's southern half once contained areas for vehicle maintenance, but today has been converted to additional parking spaces. The area has a small passenger elevator and a large vehicle elevator. The area also has spaces partitioned for offices. On each level of the parking structure, the southeastern area had been used for different purposes by the *News*, but today has been converted to parking spaces. Today the parking structure is still in use by downtown office workers, and contains 200 spaces. The structure will undergo renovation for its new owner, Bedrock Real Estate Services, but it will remain a parking structure.

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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

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Architecture

Commerce

Communications

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Period of Significance
1915 – 1965

Significant Dates
1915
1917
1924

Significant Person
(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)
N/A

Cultural Affiliation
N/A

Architect/Builder
Albert Kahn

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 Detroit News Complex was constructed for the *Detroit News*, one of the city's leading newspapers, founded in 1873 by James E. Scripps, and occupied by the *News* from its opening in 1917 until October, 2014. The publisher of the paper at the time of its construction was George G. Booth, whose vision of the paper's role and importance is reflected in the building. The *News Building* is also significant as a product of Detroit architect Albert Kahn's industrial and office architecture designed for a highly visible downtown setting. The *News Building's* exterior sculpture and relief work is a remarkable display of sculptural and decorative art that contributes strongly to its overall distinction and cultural significance. The building is also historically important for housing radio station WWJ, Michigan's first commercial radio station, which broadcast during its early years beginning in 1920 from the *Detroit News Building*. The *Detroit News* complex meets national register criterion A for its contributions to the newspaper industry's development in

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Detroit and the early history of commercial radio in Detroit, Michigan, and the United States. The Detroit News complex also meets national register criterion C for its 1915-24 buildings and structures designed by Detroit architect Albert Kahn.

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

Early Newspapers in Detroit

Up until 1817 Detroit's sole dependence for news of the outside world were the stray copies of Pittsburgh, Philadelphia and New York papers which were brought to town occasionally by Detroiters returning from trips east. In 1808 the *St. Louis Republican* and the *Missouri Gazette* were published in St. Louis, bringing news of the "west." The *Pittsburgh Commonwealth*, a paper which paid special attention to news from Detroit, was issued from July 24, 1805, through May 1809.³

The *Michigan Essay or Impartial Observer* is said to be the first newspaper published in Michigan. The paper was printed on a small press brought overland to Detroit from Baltimore by the Rev. Gabriel Richard although he was not the publisher. The paper was published and printed by James M. Miller. The first edition is dated August 31, 1809, and it was to be published every Thursday. A small portion of the paper was printed in French, the remainder in English. There was no local news in the paper, but it reprinted news items from London, New York, Pittsburgh, and Boston and it included various items of prose and poetry. It is likely that the first edition was the paper's only one.⁴

The *Detroit Gazette* was one of the first newspapers published in Michigan, issuing its first copy from a building on what is now Jefferson Avenue between Shelby and Griswold Streets on July 25, 1817. Because of the great number of French residents, it was a bilingual paper, one page printed in French and three pages in English. The *Detroit Gazette* was published until 1830. Gov. Lewis Cass, Joseph Campau and John R. Williams agitated for the founding of a newspaper and promised to furnish backing. John P. Sheldon and Ebenezer Reed accepted the opportunity and began the *Gazette* as a little four-page publication, 9 1/2 by 16 1/2 inches in size.⁵

During the roughly forty years straddling the turn of the century, the number of daily newspapers in the United States nearly tripled, from 909 in 1880 to 2,461 in 1916. If E. W. Scripps's estimates were correct, at least 1,500 newspapers were started and died between 1880 and 1916. Newspaper circulation grew faster than the population itself; the average household consumption of newspapers rose from .36 in 1880 to 1.16 in 1920.⁶ In Detroit's mid-nineteenth century, many newspapers were published and some met with success, while some had a limited run. Silas Farmer's *History of Detroit and Wayne County and Early Michigan* describes a newspaper graveyard of approximately 163 one-time Detroit-based newspapers, industry newsletters and trade publications that failed in the nineteenth century. In 1873 three of Detroit's four daily papers were morning papers with a circulation of only 12,000-13,000. The fourth, an

³ White, Lee A., *The Detroit News: 1873-1917 – A Record of Progress*, The Evening News Association, Detroit, 1918, p. 12.

⁴ Farmer, Silas, *History of Detroit and Wayne County and Early Michigan*, Third Edition, 1890, Gale Research Company, Detroit, p. 670.

⁵ *Ibid*, p. 671.

⁶ Owen, Bruce M., *Economics of Freedom of Expression*, Ballinger Publishing Co., Cambridge, MA, 1975 p. 46.

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evening paper, was the weakest of them all. This was in a market of 20,000 families in Detroit at that time.⁷ The evening news field had all but been abandoned by publishers who did not feel it was a lucrative market in the United States at that time.

Detroit News founder James Scripps referred to the newspapers of the mid-nineteenth century as "those damn blanket sheets." These newspapers were large in size, and readers found them difficult to open on a trolley, or to read as teams of horses clopped along. Scripps complained that the articles were long and arduous to read, the makeup unexciting; he felt the papers had limited appeal due to their political party and special interest editorials. Because of the large size of the "blanket" newspapers, the expense of newsprint and production meant the papers (which sold for a nickel) did not reach the lower income group, and had a small circulation.⁸

In 1873, the year the *News* was founded, Detroit had a population of 80,000, but also significant was the fact that it was the year of the "panic of '73," a financial crisis of national scope that, precipitated by the failure of Jay Cooke & Co. of Philadelphia, had a major, negative impact on employment in Detroit and thus on newspaper circulation. And Detroit had an aldermanic government that held clandestine meetings without the public or press in attendance. This was a point of contention for *Detroit News* founder James E. Scripps.

The News' Founder, James E. Scripps

James Edmund Scripps (1835-1906), who founded the *News* in 1873 and served as the paper's president until his death, had printer's ink in his veins. His father, James Mogg Scripps, was a book-binder in England when James was born in London in 1835.⁹ Young James E. Scripps was nine years old when his parents came to America; he grew up on a frontier farm in Rushville, Illinois. James Mogg Scripps had twelve children from three marriages. James Edmund Scripps made his way to Chicago where he graduated from commercial college and later got a \$7.00 a week job at the *Chicago Tribune*. Moving to Detroit, he started work with the *Detroit Daily Advertiser*, in 1862 became a partner, and amalgamated that paper with the *Detroit Tribune*. He later sold his stock in that enterprise before launching the *Detroit News* in 1873.¹⁰

Scripps and his wife Harriet J. (Messinger) Scripps (1838-1933) had four children: Ellen, Anna, Grace and William. Once the *Detroit News* became an established success, James Scripps took two long trips to Europe in 1864 and 1881, collecting artworks. The trips gave him a broader view of European culture and heritage, and he took many trips there afterwards. Scripps' lifelong interest in learning and the arts brought him a leading role in the founding of the Detroit Museum of Art, the precursor of the Detroit Institute of Arts. *Detroit News* editor Malcolm W. Bingay said that "James E. Scripps was a kindly, well-meaning man, interested in art and literature, who believed it was a paper's duty to develop the culture of a community."¹¹

In 1883 Scripps, William Brearley, and Senator Thomas W. Palmer funded the construction of what became Detroit's first dedicated art museum building, known as the Art Loan Building, located on Larned between Bates and Randolph. The resulting building, designed by Mortimer Smith,

⁷ White, *The Detroit News*, p. 13.

⁸ Lutz, William W., *The News of Detroit: How a Newspaper and a City Grew Together*, Little, Brown and Company, Boston, 1973, p. 4.

⁹ Lochbiler, Don, "The Prelude to a Centennial," *The Detroit News*, January 1, 1973, p. 1B.

¹⁰ Peck, William H., *The Detroit Institute of Arts: A Brief History*, Wayne State University Press, Detroit, 1991, p. 23.

¹¹ Bingay, Malcolm, *Of Me I Sing*, The Bobbs-Merrill Company, Inc., Indianapolis, 1949, p. 134.

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opened with a collection of almost 5,000 items. This success led to the establishment of a new permanent museum.

James Scripps donated \$50,000 towards the new permanent museum in 1884.¹² He was elected to the first Board of Trustees of the newly established Detroit Museum of Art in 1885. The board began funding and planning the new Detroit Museum of Art building to be located on Jefferson Avenue. Scripps felt that a fine museum with an outstanding collection would serve as an attraction for the city, enhance its reputation and elevate the spirits of the inhabitants. When the fund for the museum was not quite fully subscribed by the deadline in 1886, Scripps and William Brearley divided what remained and paid the balance.

According to author William H. Peck, James E. Scripps' donations created the basis for the museum's now extensive collections of European art. In October 1889 the Trustees accepted his gift of eighty paintings of Dutch, Italian, Flemish, French and English origin. Scripps was an astute collector, and was among the earliest American collectors to specialize in old master paintings. The remainder of his collection was donated by his widow in 1909. Scripps became the largest single contributor to the fledgling museum; the estimated value of his collection at the time exceeded the construction cost of the building. One of Scripps' gifts, *The Nut Gatherers* (1882) by William Adolphe Bouguereau (1825-1905), was lent to the 1886 exhibition at the museum and given to the museum by his widow. One hundred years later, this painting would be voted the most popular work in the museum.¹³

Scripps also donated the funds to build Trinity Protestant Episcopal Church in Detroit. Scripps asked the firm of Mason and Rice to produce an authentic copy of a fourteenth-century English Gothic church he had seen. The design was based on extensive research in the English countryside. The edifice was erected in 1892 at Trumbull Avenue and Myrtle Street (today Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.), near Scripps's home.¹⁴ The church remains standing today, although the Scripps's family home does not. Scripps retired from active management of the paper in 1888, although he often visited the News offices and questioned the employees. After his retirement, Scripps devoted increasing attention to civic affairs. He served on public commissions and ran for and won a term in office as State Senator (1902). His goal was to turn Detroit city government around from its known reputation for corruption and graft to a government of "reform."

E. W. Scripps

James' half-brother Edward Willis Scripps (1854-1926) was born from their father's third marriage (to Julia Adeline Osborne). Edward was the youngest of the five children born to James and Julia. Both Edward and his half-sister Ellen Browning Scripps (1836-1932) worked with James when he founded the *Detroit News* in 1873. Edward started as an office boy at the *Detroit News*, but in 1878 he left Detroit for good, sold his interest in the *News* and moved to Cleveland. With loans from his brothers George and James, Edward went on to found *The Penny Press* (later the *Cleveland Press*). With financial support from his sister Ellen, he went on to begin to acquire some twenty-five newspapers. Scripps was the prototype of the modern publisher, and he created a centrally managed and economically efficient chain of newspapers. Scripps concentrated on

¹² Farmer, Silas, *History of Detroit and Wayne County and Early Michigan*, Third Edition, 1890, Gale Research Company, Detroit, p. 362.

¹³ Peck, *The Detroit Institute of Arts*, p 35.

¹⁴ Lutz, William W., *The News of Detroit: How a Newspaper and a City Grew Together*, Little, Brown and Company, Boston, 1973, p. 187.

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the nation's smaller cities such as Seattle, Dallas, and Denver. This was the beginning of a media empire now known as the Scripps-Howard Newspaper Syndication. In 1907 Edward Scripps created the United Press Association, later known as the United Press International (UPI) news service, from smaller regional services.¹⁵ Edward later went by the initials E. W. and the E. W. Scripps Company became a diversified media conglomerate. E. W. Scripps' newspaper fortune rivaled that of William Randolph Hearst. Scripps' relative obscurity compared to Hearst or Pulitzer is due to the fact that he avoided public attention during his lifetime, preferring to work behind the scenes in business and politics. Also, he never owned well-known, mass-circulation newspapers.¹⁶ The E. W. Scripps School of Journalism at Ohio University is named for him; additionally he founded the Scripps Institute of Oceanography (now part of the University of California) and the Society for Science & the Public. His half-sister Ellen Browning Scripps (1836-1932) founded a private women's college, Scripps College, in Claremont, California, in 1926 and she was a generous philanthropist in San Diego County where she donated to many public institutions.

The Evening News – The Detroit News

James E. Scripps published the first edition of his new newspaper, *The Evening News*, on August 28, 1873. Scripps thought his paper should be one that everyone could afford, with fresher coverage of local news. In an editorial in his first issue he stated, "There has been an error in leaving the field of popular journalism entirely unoccupied ... In my opinion there should be papers in which only such things are published as are of interest to the great mass of readers ... Popularity and usefulness are our only aims, the wants of the great public our only criterion in the choice of matter for our columns."¹⁷

Scripps saw Detroit as a workingman's town in need of an inexpensive paper that could play an important role in shaping the city's future. His competitors held the opinion that money could be made primarily by appealing to the moneyed class. Scripps saw what other businessmen were to see toward the end of the century: that the average man was to provide a broad market.¹⁸ While the other local papers sold for a nickel, Scripps priced the *News* at two cents a copy. *The Detroit News* began on August 23, 1873, when James Edmund Scripps began publishing it as *The Evening News* in Detroit. The first edition of *The Evening News* was four pages in length and twenty inches long by thirteen inches wide. As was the custom of the time, half of the front page was occupied by advertising. The news items were a paragraph in length or shorter. Scripps saw this in sharp contrast to the average newspaper of the time which he felt had stilted diction and dull content.¹⁹ Among other items, the *News* in 1873 covered the Carlist insurrection in Spain, the purchase of Alaska and Custer's Yellowstone expedition against Native Americans.

Scripps founded the *News* with equity in a house he owned and his holdings from the *Detroit Tribune*. The *Tribune* plant had been lost in a fire, and the insurance payment to Scripps was \$15,000. These funds were the basis of the *News*' founding. The first press run of the *Detroit News* was only a thousand papers. At first the paper was printed on a four-cylinder "Hoe" press from 1873 to 1880. Then a "Scott web" press, with a capacity of 28,000 sheets per hour was

¹⁵ Baldasty, Gerald J., *E. W. Scripps and the Business of Newspapers*, 1999, p. 5.

¹⁶ *Ibid.*

¹⁷ Lochbiler, Don, "The Prelude to a Centennial," *The Detroit News*, January 1, 1973, p. 1B.

¹⁸ Lutz, William W., *The News of Detroit: How a Newspaper and a City Grew Together*, Little, Brown and Company, Boston, 1973, p. 5.

¹⁹ White, *Ibid.*, p. 14.

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substituted. The News had moved its editorial, business and printing facilities to a four-floor building at Shelby and Larned just a few months after its first issue went on the streets. Soon the paper was operating at a loss, and Scripps wrote to his family in Rushville, IL, for assistance. His half-brothers Edward and George and his sister Ellen moved to Detroit to work on the News. Scripps' brother George provided additional financing.

The first year of the News' existence resulted in a financial loss of nearly \$5,000. But by the end of the second year the newspaper showed a profit of about \$21,000. Keeping the News' editorial content related to Detroit's public affairs was a constant point of interest of Scripps'. When stories were presented for publication, Scripps would inquire, "How close is that to Woodward?" Throughout much of the city's history Woodward Avenue has been Detroit's main street. The News would never forget the implied editorial tenet that readers were most interested in things that happened close to home. *Detroit News* editor Malcolm W. Bingay (1884-1953) wrote that Edward Scripps was an influential voice in the paper's early years and took the view "that a newspaper should be made up of the back-fence gossip of the neighborhood."²⁰ In his biography, Bingay described the early News thus: "It was largely scandal and demagogic fulminations." Another publication stated that, "The early days of the *Detroit News* were characterized by flamboyant journalism and strong Democratic Party support."²¹

Evidence of the strong attitude of the News came within its first ten years of existence. Bingay said of the News, "It thrived on libel suits which came fast and furious when touching on the amours of our leading citizens."²² Historian Silas Farmer stated that "The paper has been the defendant in a great number of prosecutions for libel and is perhaps the only newspaper in the country which has ever had to pay a judgment of \$20,000 and costs, that amount being paid in 1884 in the famous Maclean case."²³ The Maclean case involved a story the News ran accusing a University of Michigan professor and physician, Dr. Maclean, of inappropriately "making familiar acquaintance" with a married woman from Canada who had come to Ann Arbor seeking cancer treatment from the doctor. In an ensuing libel case, Dr. Maclean convinced a Wayne County jury that not only was the story false, but it had been printed with malice. The jury awarded Maclean \$20,000. Scripps appealed the judgment to the Michigan Supreme Court. In the end, the Supreme Court under Chief Justice Thomas M. Cooley (1824-1898) upheld the lower court's decision. The News then began an aggressive campaign of mudslinging editorials during Cooley's re-election campaign. The justice was not re-elected in 1885.²⁴

"From the first," stated Detroit historian Silas Farmer in his 1889 history of the city, "the paper was exceptionally prosperous and it closed its tenth year with a circulation of 40,000 copies daily. For several years it boasted a larger daily circulation than all other daily papers in Michigan combined, and is claimed to be the most valuable newspaper property in the state."²⁵ In 1891 Scripps bought the *Detroit Tribune*, a newspaper with roots dating back to 1829 and a long

²⁰ Bingay, Malcolm, *Of Me I Sing*, The Bobbs-Merrill Company, Inc., Indianapolis, 1949, p. 136.

²¹ Edwards, George, *The Wayne Law Review*, "Why Justice Cooley Left the Bench: A Missing Page of Legal History," Volume 33, p. 1565.

²² Bingay, Malcolm, *Of Me I Sing*, The Bobbs-Merrill Company, Inc., Indianapolis, 1949, p. 138.

²³ Farmer, Silas, *History of Detroit and Wayne County and Early Michigan*, Third Edition, 1890, Gale Research Company, Detroit, p. 689.

²⁴ Phillips, Lance, *The Michigan Supreme Court Historical Society – Society Update – "The Defeat of Thomas M. Cooley in the 1885 Election,"* Spring 2007, p. 1.

²⁵ Farmer, *History of Detroit*, 689.

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history of consolidations with other papers. The *News* had previously collaborated with the paper in publishing a Sunday edition, *Sunday News-Tribune*, beginning November 30, 1884.²⁶

George Gough Booth

In 1888 Scripps made his son-in-law George G. Booth his assistant, and as business manager Booth played a key role in the paper's operation from then until 1929, succeeding Scripps as president following Scripps' 1906 death. George Gough Booth (1864-1949) married James Scripps' eldest daughter, Ellen Warren Scripps (1863-1948), in 1887. He was part-owner of his father's Windsor, Canada-based ornamental iron and wire works prior to his marriage but sold his interests when brought into the *News*. George Booth began buying up small Michigan newspapers in the 1890's. He combined these with others belonging to his brother Ralph to form Booth Publishing, the forerunner of Booth Newspapers Inc., in 1914. As chairman, and later as president, George Booth expanded the company to include eight Michigan newspapers and secured his personal fortune.

In his volunteer work, Booth became the first president of the Detroit Society of Arts and Crafts and gave the land for the Society's school building on Watson Street. In 1918 the Booths built Cranbrook Meeting House (today's Brookside School), a building not far from their large home (1908) and the other Cranbrook educational institutions in Bloomfield Hills. George G. Booth stepped down as president of the *News* in 1929 after more than forty years of service. Booth remained a director of the company until his death in 1948. George and Ellen Booth were also noted for their philanthropy and museum support. He retired from his administrative positions with Booth Newspapers in 1946, but continued to sit on the board.

Scripps' second daughter, Anna Virginia Scripps (1866-1953), married Edgar Bancroft Whitcomb (1866-1953) in 1891. Edgar Whitcomb worked in the real estate industry in Detroit. Anna and Edgar lived in a large home in suburban Grosse Pointe, Michigan, and became very generous benefactors of the Detroit Institute of Arts. Anna Scripps Whitcomb's benefactions funded the 1955 reconstruction of the deteriorated 1904 Conservatory in Detroit's Belle Isle Park (the restored structure was renamed in her honor).

Scripps' youngest daughter Grace Messenger Scripps (1878-1971) married Rex Brainerd Clark (1876-1955) in 1901. Rex did not get along with his father-in-law, and after a failed business attempt in Detroit, Clark moved his family west to California. There he established a development company called the North Corona Land Company which purchased the failed agricultural area then known as "Orchard Heights." Rex quickly set about building a community, laying roads, drilling wells and creating a commercial district, renaming the area "Norco." The Great Depression made the development project difficult. Around that time Rex divorced Grace Scripps and married his longtime mistress and aide Emma "Jimmie" Snyder. In the divorce settlement, Rex received a significant portion of his former wife's newspaper inheritance.²⁷ Grace Scripps re-married Captain Johan Johanson and lived on the ocean in La Jolla, California. Later in life, Grace Scripps donated funds to Scripps College in Claremont, California, and a hall there is named in her honor.

Early 20th Century

²⁶ Burton, Clarence M., ed., *The City of Detroit, Michigan, 1701-1922*, vol. I, p. 819.

²⁷ *The Norconian*, April, 2008.

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Under Booth's management the *News* progressed rapidly. Its circulation reached over 100,000 daily as of 1906, over 225,000 daily as of 1918 after Booth merged the formerly separately published *Tribune* into it, and over 220,000 daily and 250,000 on Sunday in 1921.²⁸ On the thirty-second anniversary of the founding of *The Evening News*, August 23, 1905, the paper's name was changed to *The Detroit News*. Many significant achievements followed. Against Scripps' judgment, George Booth introduced Sunday colored "comics" to Detroit as a circulation-getter. These were the first colored comics in Detroit.²⁹ The *News* was the first newspaper to hire a fulltime photographer in Detroit. His name was William E. Kuenzel, and he worked as the *News* photographer for over fifty years. The *News* was a pioneer member of the Associated Press and a founding paper of the North American Newspaper Alliance in 1922, a highly selective group of major newspapers. Dispatches of the United Press International, Reuters and Herald-Tribune News Service and other special services supplemented the work of the staff writers, artists and photographers. Transmission of photography by wire and wireless technology was one of its early functions.

The New Detroit News Building

As the *Detroit News* grew at tremendous rates in the early twentieth century, George G. Booth foresaw the continuing expansion of the *News* and planned for a new building on the site of their current structure on Shelby Street. But by the time the *News* was ready to build the new structure, the needs of the publication convinced the publishers that a larger site was needed. A new location was purchased, and an architect hired. A financial delay prevented the building from being constructed and then that site, too, was discarded as being inadequate. Booth had worked to construct the Grand Rapids Press Building (1904) with Albert Kahn and was determined to undertake a new structure for the *News*.

The block large site at Fort Street, Second Avenue and Lafayette Boulevard was purchased at a cost of nearly \$250,000 (in 1913 dollars). The site included the home of Zachariah Chandler, built in 1858; the large, three-story structure was one of the many grand homes that once lined Lafayette Boulevard and West Fort. The entire area had once been a fashionable residential district, anchored by Fort Street Presbyterian Church. Chandler had capitalized a newspaper that was an early rival of Scripps' first paper, the *Detroit Tribune*, thus giving poetic justice to the demolition. Ground was broken for the new building in November, 1915. The new building was described as the largest and most modern newspaper plant in the world, constructed at a cost of \$2,000,000.³⁰ The *Detroit News*' new building's dedication was held on October 15, 1917.

Albert Kahn (1869-1942) was hired to plan the 1915-17 Detroit News Building at Lafayette and Second Avenues. The German-born Kahn came to Detroit as a youth. He worked for Mason & Rice, one of Detroit's leading architectural firms, from 1884 until 1896, becoming their chief designer in 1891. From 1896 until 1902 he practiced in partnership with others. He established "Albert Kahn, Architect," with Ernest Wilby as an associate in 1902, and Albert Kahn, Inc., Architects & Engineers, in 1918. The firm developed a huge national and international practice as factory designers beginning in the early twentieth century, but industrial design was only part of their vast and varied architectural business. They designed a huge amount of commercial building work in Detroit including auto dealership and garage buildings and also many of the

²⁸ Burton, Clarence M., *The City of Detroit, Michigan, 1701-1922*, Vol. I, p. 818.

²⁹ Pound, Arthur, *The Only Thing Worth Finding: The Life and Legacies of George Gough Booth*, Wayne State University Press, Detroit, Michigan, 1964, p. 151.

³⁰ "\$2,000,000 Building Completed," *Building Management*, February 1918.

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buildings on the University of Michigan campus in Ann Arbor. One of the firm's specialties was bank design. A 1929 company publication, *Architectural Treatment of Bank Buildings*, illustrates numerous large and small examples of the firm's bank buildings in Michigan and elsewhere. The Kahn firm occupied the top floor of the Marquette Building (nearby downtown) from 1917 until 1931 and, while housed there, designed many of downtown Detroit's buildings.

Ernest Wilby (1868-1954), who was Albert Kahn's associate from 1903 to 1918. Albert Kahn stated that Wilby played an important part in the design of the News Building,³¹ although today, Wilby's exact role is not known. Ernest Wilby was born in Yorkshire, England, and came to Canada at a young age. He returned to England to complete his education, and began work with Kahn. Later, Wilby joined the faculty of the College of Architecture at the University of Michigan as an instructor. He continued his practice while teaching at the University of Michigan. Wilby was honored as a Fellow of the American Institute of Architects and an Honorary Fellow in the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada.

Albert Kahn said that the Detroit News Building was "perhaps our most successful (industrial) structure."³² Kahn also stated that it was one of the first industrial buildings to which he was permitted to give an architectural character. According to W. Hawkins Ferry, with the *Detroit News* project Kahn then established the character of much of his later commercial work. Much of the building is an industrial plant, but its location near the financial district and commercial center of downtown Detroit, and the nature of the newspaper industry demanded that the building be given a more decorative architectural treatment than the typical Kahn factory. The building was one of the few at the time to be built exclusively for a newspaper. "The convenience and comfort of the entire staff, the convenience and susceptibilities of the visiting public and the uninterrupted transaction of business have been arranged for with an elaborate care of detail,"³³ according to a souvenir booklet published just after the building opened.

George Gough Booth, president and publisher of the *News*, strongly influenced the design of the building. According to a contemporary account, Booth "was determined that the new home of the *News* should possess the dignity of style, chastity of spirit, and substantiality appropriate to an institution which is aware of its intimate association with the welfare of the individual and the state."³⁴ Having previously designed Booth's house at Cranbrook, Kahn wrote, "He [Booth] draws as well as most architects, is full of ideas, and for practically every project that we have worked on for him, has submitted many workable schemes of his own."³⁵ Booth wanted to refine the Detroit News Building's essentially industrial nature. Accordingly, he inspired his friend Albert Kahn to create a civic-minded building that would elevate the newspaper's image above the mundane.³⁶ The building at Lafayette and Second was "to last the paper for a lifetime."³⁷

³¹ *National Architect: Official Publication: National Council of Architectural Registration Boards*, Detroit, August, 1946, p. 5.

³² *Ibid.*

³³ "The Detroit Evening News," *The Linotype Bulletin*, January, 1918, p. 84-85.

³⁴ White, Lee A., *The Detroit News: 1873-1917 - A Record of Progress*, The Evening News Association, Detroit, 1918, p. 26.

³⁵ Hill, Eric J., and John Gallagher, *AIA Detroit: The American Institute of Architects Guide to Detroit Architecture*, Wayne State University Press, Detroit, 2003, p. 86.

³⁶ *Ibid.*

³⁷ Lutz, *Ibid.*, p. 81.

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A 1918 booklet on the Detroit News Building's completion described the new structure as a "daring adaptation of medieval precedents, a building that acknowledges its European prototype and yet really is essentially American."³⁸ In other words, while a completely modern building, the new Detroit News Building was decked out in plentiful references to the past. Ferry, in *The Buildings of Detroit*, cites Kahn's comment, that German architect Alfred Messel's architecture established "a new type of work expressive of the modern."³⁹ Ferry saw "in the heavy stone arches, piers and mullions of the Detroit News Building ... something of the character of Messel's Wertheim Department Store in Berlin"⁴⁰ (1906). The Wertheim Department Store in Berlin was destroyed in World War II. It is likely that Kahn was familiar with the Wertheim Store, and that it was an example of the furthest to the "modern" that Kahn wanted to take a building at that time.

According to the 1918 News booklet, the vestibule and lobby were designed with influences that included Renaissance coloring, Etruscan plaster finishes and Florentine detailing. These references were in relation to the plaster ceiling work, the metal grill work by Samuel Yellin and decorative features of these public spaces. The main lobby included a large illuminated globe light fixture depicting the medieval world. The main floor was occupied by the presses, shipping and the associated storage areas. The original printing presses were 196 feet long and ran the eastern length of the first floor.⁴¹ Originally, a large expanse of the mezzanine was open to the first floor to accommodate the presses' full height. Viewing platforms were constructed on the mezzanine for visitors to watch the printing presses at work. Also on the mezzanine was president George G. Booth's office suite which featured molded plaster ceilings and elaborately carved oak wainscoting. It is likely that the wood carvers were the firm of Jungwirth and Siebert, well-known Detroit carvers frequently contracted by Albert Kahn's company. Leaded glass casement windows were used in these offices as well as decorative stained glass. The stained glass was designed by G. Owen Bonawit, famous for his Gothic-inspired glass and mosaic windows. The largest concentration of his work is at the Sterling Library on the campus of Yale University.

A broad marble staircase took visitors from the lobby to the second floor lobby. The editorial room and advertising business offices were originally located on the second floor. Broad oak wainscoting and plaster coffered ceilings were used throughout the second floor. The second floor also housed the luxurious offices of the vice president, the general manager and editor, intentionally set apart from the rest of the organization. These offices are finished in carved wainscoting in oak with Elizabethan style details. Intricate molded plaster ceilings and leaded glass windows are also used in these management offices.

At the Detroit News Building, the third floor housed the reference room and library, a special feature intended to allow fact checking. The library was named the George B. Catlin Library in honor of the veteran employee who selected the initial book collection. More than 25,000 books were available to the staff initially; later over 50,000 volumes were on site. By mid-century, the original pendant light fixtures were changed to fluorescent, but the room otherwise remained one of the building's most elaborate with molded plaster, oak woodwork and leaded glass panels with stained glass by Bonawit. The art and photo departments formed special sections of

³⁸ White, *Ibid*, p. 26.

³⁹ Ferry, Hawkins W., *The Buildings of Detroit*, Wayne State University Press, Detroit, 1968, p. 333.

⁴⁰ *Ibid*.

⁴¹ "Building for The Detroit News, Detroit, Mich." *The American Architect*, Vol. 109, March 22, 1916, p. 197.

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the News, as did the display advertising department. The building once featured a large conference room on the third floor that seated 350. The room was furnished with warm red rugs, soft window hangings and a grand piano. It was adjacent to additional smaller conference rooms as well as the News' restaurant. A low paneled wall divided the restaurant into two parts, one side for office employees and one for mechanics. A hospital room was part of the original News Building – staffed by a full time nurse.

The southern side of the building housed the industrial departments of the building. The ground level's pressroom was set so the presses were visible to the public through the large plate glass windows. The main press room was a large area where the presses printed, cut, folded and counted the newspapers. A rotogravure press printed the fine illustrations. At the fifth floor, the composing room (12,000 square feet) and stereotyping department once employed 245 men who "set type" for the day's paper. A long monitor let light into the room for the lino-typesetters. The circulation department supplied the paper for distribution throughout the state of Michigan and to ninety-eight automobiles used for delivery to Detroit and suburbs. The shipping room in the building was a full block long on Second Avenue running from Fort Street to Lafayette Boulevard so that one-way traffic was possible. A power plant, an entire remote substation, was installed in the News' sub-basement. The Detroit News Building was constructed with air conditioning in 1915 through a system of "radiated ventilation from an elaborate plant situated on the roof. The air is drawn in by power, is filtered by being forced through a sheet of water, heated or cooled to meet requirements and then is distributed throughout the building by means of a system of pipes."⁴²

In less than a year after occupying the new building, in August 1918 the owners decided to have Albert Kahn's firm begin work on a paper storage warehouse. The site was adjacent to the new building, fronting 150 feet on Fort Street and 130 feet on Third Avenue. Containing five floors, it could store enough paper to supply the News for four months. In 1920-21 the plant was expanded once again with a sixth floor added to the original building principally to house the art and photographic departments. This addition covered the original light monitors and a new skylight was installed. In 1922 and 1924 a garage was added. The News Building then covered the entire city block from Second Avenue to West Lafayette Boulevard to West Fort Street to Third Avenue. Today the building occupies 404,000 square feet. In 1924 the News constructed a separate parking garage on West Lafayette Boulevard and Third Avenue in the adjacent block for the use of delivery cars and trucks and its staff. The parking garage was designed by Albert Kahn's firm and had ground-level retail stores on the West Lafayette Boulevard façade, and a full-service, 200-space garage with an area for repairing cars and trucks and gasoline filling station, as well as a model engineer (machine/tooling) shop.

The *Detroit Free Press*, the News' main competitor through the 20th century, constructed its own new building in 1925. Also designed by architect Albert Kahn, it is just two blocks away from the Detroit News Building, to the east, on Lafayette Avenue. Similar in its limestone facing, the building differs in that it features an 18-story central tower that contained leasable office space. Booth newspapers constructed a building for the *Flint Journal* in downtown Flint, Michigan, in 1924, also designed by Kahn, but in a modernized neoclassical architectural style that the firm used in many commercial projects.

⁴² "\$2,000,000 Building Completed," *Building Management*, February 1918, p. 12.

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The *Detroit News* offered free daily weekday tours of the building. Held six days a week at 1 and 3 p.m., the tours brought visitors through the main areas of the building from the pressrooms and the WWJ newsroom when it was in the building in the 1920's. In 1922 it was stated that each year ten thousand persons were shown through the building including other journalists and professionals in publishing. In 1931 the News purchased an autogyro, a low-flying aircraft, similar to a helicopter, which allowed news photographers to take aerial photos for the paper. Just two years later, in 1933, the autogyro, named "The Early Bird," was donated to the Henry Ford Museum in Dearborn, Michigan, where it is still displayed today.⁴³

William E. Scripps and Radio Station WWJ

The original, main Detroit News Building was the site of the first commercial radio broadcast in Michigan and the United States and of Michigan's first commercial radio station, station WWJ, in 1920. The station was established under the direction of the News' then vice-president and later publisher, William E. Scripps. W. E. Scripps (1882-1952), known as Will, was James E. and Harriet J. (Messinger) Scripps' youngest child. He served as the News' publisher beginning in 1929. Will had an endless interest in mechanical things, and as a teenager had wireless receiving and transmitting equipment installed into the family home in Detroit so he could send and receive radio messages. Even as an adult with his own family, Scripps had wireless equipment installed on the second floor of their home, "Wildwood," located on a farm and game refuge in Lake Orion, Michigan. His son William John (1905-1965) shared his enthusiasm for radio technology. Will Scripps took over as publisher of the News after George Gough Booth stepped down in 1929. Will was convinced that the future of communication was in commercial broadcasting, and he wanted to insure that the Detroit News was an innovator, and had the radio station WWJ established in the News Building.⁴⁴

The WWJ story begins when William E. Scripps brought Thomas E. Clark, a young Detroit inventor, to see his father in 1902. Clark sat in the elder Scripps' office and described wireless telegraphy. As a result, James Scripps attended a demonstration radio transmission from a loft to the Chamber of Commerce Building (1212 Griswold), a few blocks away. James Scripps was convinced there was something to the radio concept and wrote a check for \$1,000 for the new inventor's startup. Once Will was established as vice president of the News, he made implementation of radio technology a priority.

In August of 1920 Will Scripps had the apparatus for radio transmission installed on the second floor of the Detroit News Building. A De Forest type OT-10 transmitter using a 200-wave length apparatus was set up, and the "wireless," as it was first known, began its first transmission on August 20th, 1920, with a series of experimental music broadcasts of phonograph concerts, with Malcolm Bingay, then News City Editor, as the first program master of ceremonies. These experiments were found to be satisfactory, and on the evening of August 31, primary election day, the local, state and congressional returns were reported to the public. This date marked the beginning of commercial radio broadcasting in the United States. WWJ was the first, and the future potential of radio was realized.⁴⁵ Pittsburgh's KDKA is usually recognized as the first

⁴³ Whitall, Susan, "Historic Detroit News items go to state archives," *Detroit News*, October 20, 2014.

⁴⁴ *New York Times*, William Scripps of Detroit News, June 12, 1952.

⁴⁵ The Radio Staff of *The Detroit News*, "WWJ - The Detroit News," The Evening News Association, Detroit, Michigan, 1922, p. 7-9.

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commercially licensed broadcaster, having beat WWJ to be issued its call letters, but KDKA did not begin broadcasting until eleven weeks after WWJ had started.⁴⁶

WWJ was Michigan's and Detroit's first commercial radio station. Beginning in that August of 1920, the News broadcast to an ever-increasing audience – initially for six days a week, and later including Sundays as well. Two programs were originally broadcast daily and after a few weeks, speakers and singers were brought in to entertain. Reports came in noting the distance the radio broadcast was received – mainly the furthest came from Detroit's suburban towns. The steamer *W. A. Bradley* reported hearing the News music concert broadcast from the middle of Lake St. Clair. During the first week of broadcasting, a party at a home on 700 Parker Avenue danced to the music sent out by the News, and radio music became a new party theme around Detroit. In October, 1920, the results of the baseball World Series between the Cleveland Indians and Brooklyn Dodgers were announced, and on November 2nd the station reported the first returns of the national election showing that Warren G. Harding had an enormous majority over James M. Cox.

By June of 1921 it was apparent that the original transmitting set in the News Building was inadequate, and it was moved to the fourth floor and almost entirely rebuilt. A two-wire antenna 290 feet in length stretched between the News Building and the Hotel Fort Shelby. Soon reports came in that the News broadcast was being heard in much more distant places including Belleville, Illinois, St. Louis, Missouri and Atlanta, Georgia. The *Detroit News* created more elaborate radio programs and booked theatrical talent from Detroit playhouses. At this point the News had eleven fulltime staff devoted to operating the radio station, which occupied 3,003 square feet of the fourth floor of the News Building. By 1922 nearly all of the programming was live, filled by city, state and national celebrities, clergymen, vocal and instrumental artists and public figures. Beginning in 1922, the Detroit Symphony Orchestra broadcast concerts over WWJ radio.

The transmitter was enlarged again in 1922 and letters were then received reporting that the station was being heard in far distant points including Honduras, Saskatchewan, Alberta, Nova Scotia, Cuba, Puerto Rico and Los Angeles. This was extremely gratifying to the News and Will Scripps' goal of continent-wide service. In that time regular transmission reached a minimum of 100 miles and on a still winter's night 4,300 miles.⁴⁷ By 1924 WWJ had hired Edwin L. Tyson as sportscaster, a new term in the dictionary. Tyson initiated radio coverage of the Gold Cup powerboat races in Detroit which made Detroit's Gar Wood a national motorboat hero. Tyson made the first radio broadcast of a football game in the Midwest from the University of Michigan's Ferry Field in Ann Arbor. Tyson also made the first broadcast of a major league baseball game. He was known for his sports broadcasts but also interviewed national celebrities including Helen Keller, the humorist Will Rogers and Charles A. Lindbergh, who visited Detroit after his historic 1927 flight to see his schoolteacher mother.⁴⁸

By the time Will Scripps became publisher in 1929, improvements were made to the apparatus and technology of the station and the *Detroit News* was the owner of one of the best transmitters, latest amplifying apparatus, sound-proof studios, and an antenna system supported by two steel masts towering 265 feet, one on the building and one on the parking garage.

⁴⁶ Gavrilovich, *Ibid.*

⁴⁷ *The Radio Staff of The Detroit News*, *Ibid.*, p. 9.

⁴⁸ Lutz, *Ibid.*, p. 87.

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Today, WWJ's programs have been heard at remote points such as England, Hawaii, South America, Alaska and Northern Greenland.⁴⁹

Other newspapers with radio stations in the 1920s included the *San Francisco Examiner*, the *Rochester (N.Y.) Times-Union*, and the *Richmond (Va.) Palladium*. By World War II Detroit had about ten radio stations. The number grew to forty in the mid-60's and reached sixty by 2000. On August 20, 1936, WWJ moved out of its studio in the News building into a newly completed structure across the street. The new building was designed by Albert Kahn, and features plaques on each side of the entrance titled "The Listeners" and "The Musicians" by Cranbrook artist Carl Milles. It was built at a cost of a million dollars. A tunnel underneath West Lafayette Boulevard connects the Detroit News Building with the WWJ Broadcast Station. It held five studios on three floors, all with soundproof construction and an auditorium where 340 people could watch a radio broadcast or attend a conference.⁵⁰ In 1941 WWJ established the first FM station in Michigan with studios at the top story of the forty-seven-story Penobscot Building in downtown Detroit. On October 23, 1946, the News gave Detroiters their first chance to watch television in the city's Convention Hall. The station began daily experimental television programs in 1947, and went on to bring network television to Michigan.⁵¹ WWJ was Michigan's first television station, and brought Detroiters long-running popular shows such as "George Pierrot's World Adventure Series." The radio and television stations moved from the building in 1983 and the building was sold to the Greater Detroit Chamber of Commerce, who occupied it for about fifteen years. Since about 2000 the building has been occupied by a local union.

Subsequent Detroit News Building History

The Detroit News Building remained in use by the News until 2014. In 1960 the *Detroit News* saw the closure of its closest competitor, the *Detroit Times*. The *Detroit Times* had been a William Randolph Hearst-owned newspaper and was known for its brash and sensationalistic coverage. To help stand out on the racks, the *Times* was printed on pink, orange or green paper and ran lots of pictures. Author Dan Austin stated in *Forgotten Landmarks of Detroit*, "With three main newspapers – the *Times*, *Free Press* and the *News* – all vying for readers, Detroit enjoyed a level of journalism excellence unparalleled in the city since."⁵² Each paper's reporters drove its competitors to succeed and dig deep for the big story. As an evening paper, the *Times* went head-to-head with the *News* in the afternoon market. The *Times'* high circulation in 1951 was 438,757 but had diminished to about 400,000 in 1960 when Hearst abruptly decided to discontinue publishing it. The paper was purchased by the *News* in 1960 as a capital investment. The *Detroit Times* presses were used by the *Detroit News* to handle the jump in its circulation. Before the *News* bought the *Times*, its daily circulation had been around 525,000 and 740,000 on Sunday. After the sale, the *News* absorbed its vanquished rival's customers and was printing 900,000 copies daily and 1.2 million copies of the Sunday edition. The first such Sunday run on November 13, 1960, broke the record for largest print run in the history of Detroit.⁵³ The Detroit Times Building was demolished in 1978, and the site remains a parking lot to this day.

Starting in 1960, when the *Detroit News* purchased the *Detroit Times*, the *Free Press* and *News* began a fifty year duel for Detroit readers. The *Free Press* developed a national reputation as a

⁴⁹ Gavrilovich, *Ibid.*

⁵⁰ "Many Inspect WWJ Studios," *Detroit News*, October 6, 1936.

⁵¹ Lutz, *Ibid.*, p. 90.

⁵² Austin, Dan, *Forgotten Landmarks of Detroit*, The History Press, Charleston, SC, 2012, p. 254.

⁵³ *Ibid.*

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lively, irreverent and hard hitting paper. But the News continued to lead the all-important circulation war.⁵⁴

Centennial

By 1973, when the *Detroit News*' centennial was celebrated, there were many notable accomplishments that had taken the organization to a significant height. The newspaper won the first-ever awarded Pulitzer Prize for photography in 1942. The photos by Milton Brooks documented the famed Battle of the Overpass in Dearborn when several United Auto Worker organizers were attacked by a large group of Ford Motor Company service department workers. The News was the first newspaper to publish a comic strip, the first to hire a full-time photographer and the first to publish a daily advice column.⁵⁵ The News went on to win additional Pulitzer Prizes. In 1982 David Ashenfelter and Sydney Freedberg won for Meritorious Public Service. In 1994 Eric Freedman and Jim Mitzelfeld won for Beat Reporting.

In 1973 the News was part of a corporation – the Evening News Association – that had gross sales in excess of \$100 million (in 1973 dollars). The Evening News Association consisted of the News and the radio station WWJ, and employed more than three thousand people. Two wholly-owned subsidiaries of the Evening News Association were the Universal Communications Corporation which owned the Station WALA-TV, Mobile, Alabama, and Station KOLD-TV in Tucson, Arizona, and also the Commercial Marine Terminal in Detroit, a large warehouse for storing newsprint. And in 1973, all but one of the members of the board of directors of the Evening News Association was related to the founder, James E. Scripps.⁵⁶ By the centenary, the *Detroit News* had attained the largest evening circulation in America.⁵⁷ With the advances in printing technology, such as the expectation of more color photos, and the growing number of suburban readers, the News opened a new high-tech printing plant in Sterling Heights, Michigan, in 1975.

But the newspaper industry was about to swing into decline. By 1986 the Gannett Corporation had purchased the Evening News Association for \$717 million from its president, Peter B. Clark, who was the great-grandson of News founder James Scripps. Soon after the purchase, the News and *The Detroit Free Press* applied for federal permission to form a joint operating agreement, an exemption from antitrust law designed to preserve the independent editorial voices of the two papers. The Joint Operating Agreement began in November 1989. While the rivals would maintain separate newsrooms, they would share operating expenses as well as advertising, printing and distribution.⁵⁸ In June 1998 the *Free Press* left its building at 321 W. Lafayette Boulevard, its home of nearly seventy-five years, and moved into the ground floor of the Detroit News Building. In 2005 the joint operating agreement was revised and managed by the Detroit Media Partnership. The partnership is ninety-five percent owned by McLean, Virginia, based Gannett Co. Inc., the parent of the *Free Press*. The current owner of the *Detroit News*, Digital First Media's MediaNews, has the remaining five percent stake in the partnership.⁵⁹

⁵⁴ Gavrilovich, Peter and Bill McGraw, *The Detroit Almanac: 300 Years of Life in the Motor City*, The Detroit Free Press, 2000, p. 451.

⁵⁵ www.detroitmedia.com/our-transformation (Detroit News website).

⁵⁶ Lutz, *Ibid*, p. 195.

⁵⁷ State of Michigan historic marker, 1976.

⁵⁸ Gavrilovich, Peter and Bill McGraw, *The Detroit Almanac: 300 Years of Life in the Motor City*, The Detroit Free Press, 2000, p. 451.

⁵⁹ *Crain's Detroit Business*, September 15, 2014, p. 27.

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Digital First Media, the owner of the *Detroit News*, said in 2014 that it will evaluate strategic options which could include the sale of the *News* or some of the seventy-six daily and 160 weekly publications it owns. Digital First Media owns *The Oakland Press* in Pontiac, *Macomb Daily* in Mt. Clemens, *The Daily Tribune* in Royal Oak and *The Morning Sun* in Mt. Pleasant, Michigan. Digital First Media formed in September 2010 and operates Denver-based MediaNews Group Inc., owner of the *Detroit News*. In 2013 Digital First merged the MediaNews Group Inc. and Journal Register publications which included newspapers in ten states into a single operating unit.⁶⁰

In January 23, 2013, it was announced that both the *Detroit News* and *Detroit Free Press* would leave the historic Detroit News Building for smaller leased quarters. The following month, the Detroit Media Partnership said it would relocate its 550 employees to the former Federal Reserve Building on West Fort Street in the fall of 2014. The Detroit Media Partnership announced that it had sold the Detroit News Building to Bedrock Real Estate Services, a branch of the Quicken Family of Companies. The building and the adjacent parking garage and two surface lots were included in the deal.⁶¹

⁶⁰ *Crain's Detroit Business*, September 15, 2014, p. 27.

⁶¹ Aguilar, Louis, "Papers plan to move in Detroit," *The Detroit News*, January 24, 2013, p. 1 B.

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Previous documentation on file (NPS):

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

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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): _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property 3

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: 42.328379 | Longitude: -83.054106 |
| 2. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 3. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 4. Latitude: | Longitude: |

Or

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or NAD 1983

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2. Zone:	Easting:	Northing:
3. Zone:	Easting:	Northing:
4. Zone:	Easting :	Northing:

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

The News Building nominated property includes the block bounded by W. Lafayette, 2nd Ave., W. Fort, and 3rd Ave., extending to the centerlines of the boundary streets.

It also includes the Garage property at the southwest corner of W. Lafayette and 3rd extending 210 ft. along W. Lafayette from the 3rd Ave. corner and about 150 feet along 3rd Ave. from the corner of W. Lafayette to the southeast line of the alley between Lafayette and Fort Streets. Also includes the adjoining portions of W. Lafayette and 3rd Ave. to the centerlines of those streets.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

Entire property associated with the building and garage.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Rebecca Binno Savage
organization: Kraemer Design Group
street & number: 1420 Broadway
city or town: Detroit state: MI zip code: 48226
e-mail rebecca.savage@thekraemeredge.com
telephone: (313) 965-3399
date: _____

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

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- **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.

Photo Log

Name of Property: Detroit News Complex

City or Vicinity: Detroit

County: Wayne

State: MI

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

1 of 20: NE (2nd) and NW (Lafayette Ave.) facades of 1915-17 main building

Michael G. Smith Nov. 5, 2014

MI_Wayne County_Detroit News Complex_0001

2 of 20: NW (Lafayette Ave.) and SW side of 1915-17 main building

Michael G. Smith Nov. 5, 2014

MI_Wayne County_Detroit News Complex_0002

3 of 20: SE (Fort St.) façade of 1918-19 Paper Storage Warehouse (L) and 1915-17 main building (R)

Michael G. Smith Nov. 5, 2014

MI_Wayne County_Detroit News Complex_0003

4 of 20: SE (Fort St.) façade of 1918-19 Paper Storage Warehouse

Michael G. Smith Nov. 5, 2014

MI_Wayne County_Detroit News Complex_0004

Detroit News Complex

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5 of 20: SE (Fort St.) facades of Paper Storage Warehouse (L) and main building (center) and NE (2nd Ave.) façade of main building (R)

Michael G. Smith Nov. 5, 2014

MI_Wayne County_Detroit News Complex_0005

6 of 20: Detail of upper façade on Lafayette (NW) front of main building

Michael G. Smith Nov. 5, 2014

MI_Wayne County_Detroit News Complex_0006

7 of 20: Main building 1st floor lobby facing Lafayette, detail showing original carved oak doors and marble floor

Rebecca Binno Savage Nov. 5, 2014

MI_Wayne County_Detroit News Complex_0007

8 of 20: Staircase 1st to 2nd floors off hallway near lobby

Rebecca Binno Savage Nov. 5, 2014

MI_Wayne County_Detroit News Complex_0008

9 of 20: Office of the publisher, George G. Booth, 2nd floor

Rebecca Binno Savage Nov. 5, 2014

MI_Wayne County_Detroit News Complex_0009

10 of 20: Lobby leading to executive offices, 2nd floor

Rebecca Binno Savage Nov. 5, 2014

MI_Wayne County_Detroit News Complex_0010

11 of 20: Hallway leading to library, 3rd floor

Rebecca Binno Savage Nov. 5, 2014

MI_Wayne County_Detroit News Complex_0011

12 of 20: Library, 3rd floor

Rebecca Binno Savage Nov. 5, 2014

MI_Wayne County_Detroit News Complex_0012

13 of 20: Executive office area, 3rd floor

Rebecca Binno Savage Nov. 5, 2014

MI_Wayne County_Detroit News Complex_0013

14 of 20: Typical staircase

Rebecca Binno Savage Nov. 5, 2014

MI_Wayne County_Detroit News Complex_0014

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15 of 20: Garage, NE and NW facades, corner of 1924 garage addition at W (Lafayette/3rd) corner of main complex at left edge of print.

Michael G. Smith Nov. 5, 2014

MI_Wayne County_Detroit News Complex_0015

16 of 20: Garage, interior view in upper stories

Multivista October 30, 2014

MI_Wayne County_Detroit News Complex_0016

17 of 20: Garage, interior view

Multivista October 30, 2014

MI_Wayne County_Detroit News Complex_0017

18 of 20: Main 1915-17 Detroit News Building SE and NE facades

Photographer unknown, date c. 1917

MI_Wayne County_Detroit News Complex_0018

19 of 20: Newsroom in main 1915-17 building

Photographer unknown, date thought to be c. 1917

MI_Wayne County_Detroit News Complex_0019

20 of 20: Composing room in main 1915-17 building

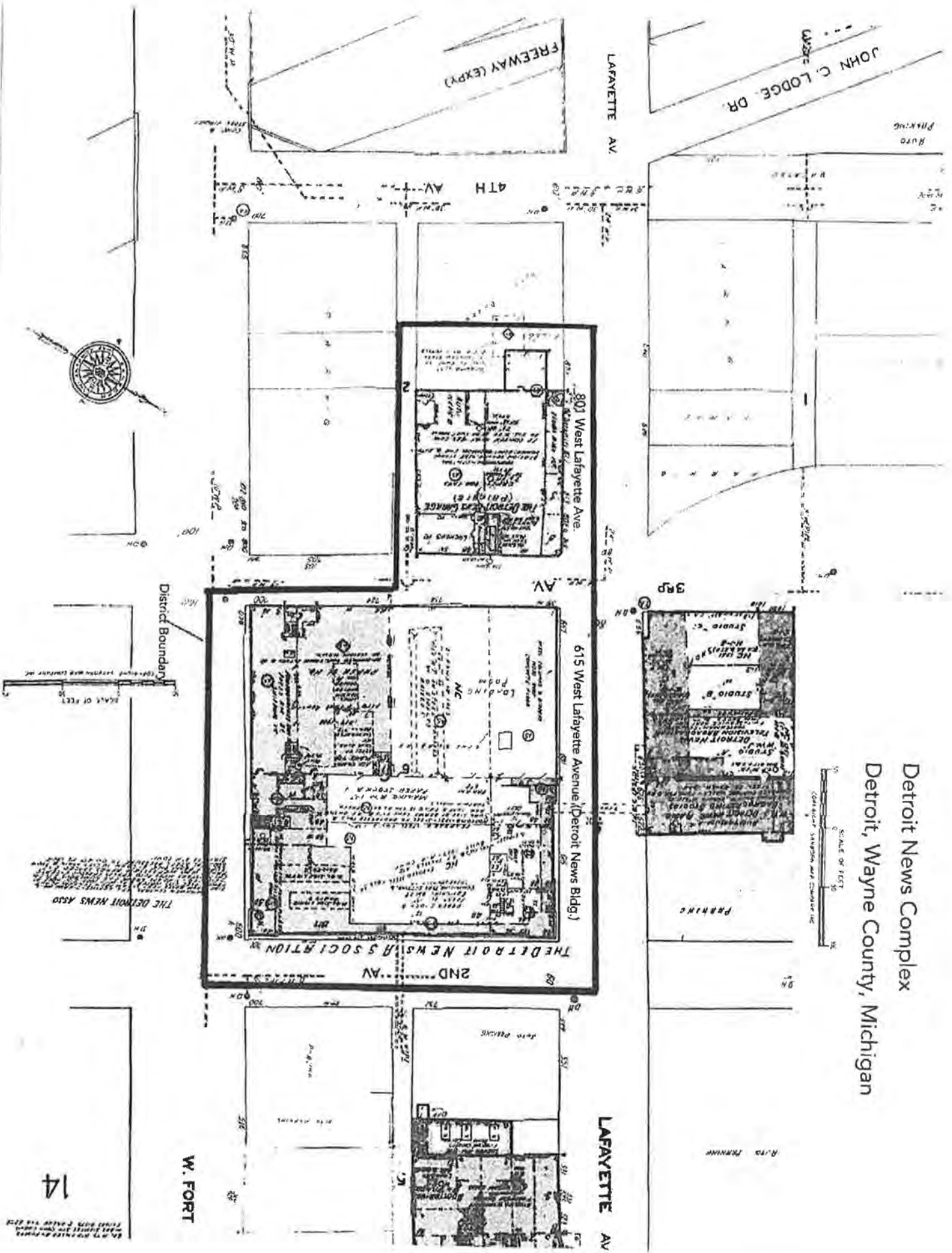
Photographer unknown, date thought to be 1917

MI_Wayne County_Detroit News Complex_0020

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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.

Detroit News Complex Detroit, Wayne County, Michigan



SCALE OF FEET
0 10 20 30 40 50
1" = 10'

W. FORT

LAFAYETTE AV

615 West Lafayette Avenue (Detroit News Bldg.)

801 West Lafayette Ave.

4TH AV

2ND AV

AUTO PARKING

PRINTING

39p

District Boundary

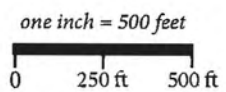
SCALE OF FEET

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Detroit News Complex, Detroit, Wayne County, Michigan
615 West Lafayette Boulevard

Lat./Long.: 42.328379, -83.054106





MARKET OF THE PUBLIC AND
INTEREST OF THE PUBLIC
TO THE PUBLIC CONFIDENCE

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MARKET OF THE PUBLIC AND
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Special Area Access
The Detroit News



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Detroit Street News
The Detroit News









MAINTAINERS OF THE
LIBERTY OF THE
PRESS - THE
RIGHT OF
PEACE

RESISTANCE TO
UNLAWFUL
ACTS IN
THE
NAME OF
LIBERTY

BEARER OF INTELLIGENCE
DISSEMINATOR OF TRUTH AND
PRESERVATION OF LIBERTY
AND ALL FREE PLACES

PROMOTER OF CIVIL WELFARE
AND CIVIL PRIDE - BOND OF
CIVIL UNION - PROTECTOR
OF CIVIL RIGHTS

SOURCE OF EVIL DOERS
EXPOSER OF SECRET INIQUITIES
UNRELENTING FOE OF
PRIVILEGE AND CORRUPTION









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TICE

СЕРБИЈА
РЕПУБЛИКА
ПРЕДСТАВНИШТВО
У Београду











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Lafayette W













UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Detroit News Complex

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: MICHIGAN, Wayne

DATE RECEIVED: 11/13/15 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 12/16/15
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 12/31/15 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 12/29/15
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 15000947

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: Y PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: Y SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 12-29-15 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in
**The National Register
of
Historic Places**

RECOM./CRITERIA _____

REVIEWER _____ DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

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

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



RECEIVED 2280

NOV 13 2015

Nat. Register of Historic Places
National Park Service

RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
MICHIGAN STATE HOUSING DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE

KEMEL SENHEIMER
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

October 12, 2015

Mr. J. Paul Loether, Chief
National Register of Historic Places
National Park Service
1201 Eye Street, NW, 8th Floor
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Mr. Loether:

Enclosed is a national register nomination form for the Detroit News Complex in Detroit, Wayne County, Michigan. This property is being submitted for listing in the national register. No written comments concerning this nomination were submitted to us prior to the submission of this nomination to you.

Questions concerning this nomination should be addressed to Robert O. Christensen, national register coordinator, at 517/335-2719 or email at christensenr@michigan.gov.

Sincerely yours,

Brian D. Conway
State Historic Preservation Officer

