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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

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

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1. Name of Property

Historic name: Springfield Metallic Casket Company

Other names/site number: _____

Name of related multiple property listing: _____

N/A

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

Nat. Register of Historic Places
National Park Service

2. Location

Street & number: 105 N. Center St.

City or town: Springfield State: Ohio County: Clark

Not For Publication: N/A

Vicinity: N/A

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this X nomination ___ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property X meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

___ national ___ statewide X local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

X A ___ B ___ C ___ D

| | |
|---|--------------------------|
| <i>Barbara Powers</i> | |
| DSHPO Inventory & Registration | <i>December 28, 2015</i> |
| Signature of certifying official/Title: | Date |
| <u>Ohio Historic Preservation Office, Ohio History Connection</u> | |
| State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government | |

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

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4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

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

For Edison H. Beall
Signature of the Keeper

2-23-16
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

3

buildings

sites

structures

objects

3

Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

INDUSTRY: Manufacturing Facility

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Vacant

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

No Style

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: Brick, Concrete, Stone, Metal

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 nominated Springfield Metallic Casket Company property consists of three buildings. The brick buildings include a one story, c.1905 power plant, a two-and-a-half story, 1920 office building and a 1928-1929 five-story factory building. All three buildings maintain historic integrity and continue to reflect their original functions, providing a tangible association with the historic significance of the property. None of the buildings specifically exhibit an architectural style.

Narrative Description

General Setting Description

The Springfield Metallic Casket Company is located in Springfield, Ohio a few blocks north and west of the commercial downtown. This portion of downtown Springfield historically was a mix of residential properties and large industrial buildings and complexes. The Springfield Metallic Casket Company represents Springfield's manufacturing heyday from the late 1800s into the 20th century. It is one of only a few of these remaining complexes still standing.

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The three nominated Springfield Metallic Casket Company buildings face North Center Street and take up the entire block between North and Columbia Streets. (Photo 1) The Metallic Casket Company buildings are all constructed right at the sidewalk line.

Forming a visual boundary on the east, North Center Street is a small, two-lane, street with minimal traffic. On the east side of N. Center St., outside the nominated boundary, is a large gravel parking lot at the northeast corner of Center and Columbia Streets. The parking lot is the location of a late 19th century factory building (non-extant) purchased by the Springfield Metallic Casket Company. A mid-20th century office and wholesale building is to the north of the gravel lot.

North Street, which bounds the nominated property on the north side, is a busy three-lane one-way thoroughfare heading west out of downtown Springfield. The street is also U.S. Route 40, which historically was the National Road. Small commercial buildings are on the north side of North Street across from the Metallic Casket factory building. These buildings are two and three story in height.

The property is bounded on the south by West Columbia Street, which is a busy three-lane one-way thoroughfare leading east into downtown Springfield. Immediately south of the Metallic Casket Company complex, on the opposite side of W. Columbia Street, there are numerous parking lots and one small park, which visually split the manufacturing facility from the downtown.

A c.1890 house is directly west and behind the Springfield Metallic Casket Company office building, facing onto West Columbia Street. An early 20th century, three-story commercial building, with an adjacent parking lot, is further to the west, just beyond the house. One-story additions to the rear of the commercial building extend north, along the alley, attaching to a c.1924-28 factory building, (formerly associated with Springfield Metallic Casket Company) which is not part of the nomination. A historical cemetery, dating to the early 1800s, is to the west beyond the adjacent three-story commercial building that faces W. Columbia Street. All of these are outside of the nominated property boundary.

An alley forms the west boundary for the nomination and separates the Metallic Casket Company complex from a c.1924-28, brick factory building once associated with the company. Constructed along North Street, it was the facility where metal grave vaults were constructed. It is not being included in the current nomination (see boundary justification).

Individual Building Descriptions

Power Plant

The power plant is a one story, rectangular, gable roofed building, constructed in 1905. (Photos 1-3, 23) The roof is corrugated metal, and the raised foundation is concrete. The façade faces west onto North Center Street with three window bays, which are recessed within arched panels. Two-over-two, triple-hung, paired windows are within each opening and have segmentally-

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arched header course lintels. The metal windows have stone sills. The gable end contains a single round window with four lights and a key stone at each direction. It is framed with two rows of header course bricks. The gable end has a metal cornice, with cornice returns. The returns have dentils.

The north elevation is obscured by the abutting 1929 factory building. A large smoke stack extends several feet above the power plant and above the adjacent factory. The south elevation has eight window bays and matches the façade's fenestration pattern. Window bays on the south elevation are segmentally arched with two header courses. The bottom third of the windows have been boarded-over. A door opening is in the third bay from Center Street.

The rear, west elevation has a large door opening and two window bays. Paired windows are in the gable end of the rear elevation. A metal industrial chute attaches to this elevation, near the gable window. Historic images and maps indicate that a shed roof, covering the ground level door and windows, was originally present on the rear elevation. The location of this protective canopy is still evident on the building and abutting factory building. (Photo 3) The canopy is indicated on the 1955 Sanborn map and points to the likelihood that the industrial chute post-dates 1955.

The power plant, also called the engine building or engine house room, connects to the factory building on the 1st floor, via the freight elevator. (Photo 27) This interior connection is likely a later alteration, as it is not indicated on Sanborn maps.

The interior is an open space with a metal ceiling and wood joists. (Photo 4) The brick walls are exposed. A concrete block room enclosure was added to the southeast corner. A later alteration, it is one story in height and does not extend the full height of the original walls. Additionally, a concrete block partition wall was added along the length of most of the north elevation. It divides the open space but does not form a complete enclosure.

Office Building

The primary elevation of the office building (1920) faces east onto N. Center Street. (Photo 5) The 2 ½ stories of the building consist of a raised basement lower level and two floors above. The flat-roof, brick building has the same fenestration pattern on the façade and the secondary elevation, which faces onto Columbia Street. Windows on the upper floors are wood six-over-one, while the lower floor has three-over-three. Some of the ground floor windows have been boarded over and all have a metal grate installed over the window opening. Window sills throughout are stone. The first, second, third, fifth, sixth and seventh bays have paired windows within the window openings. The ground floor windows have a header course lintel which is continuous around the building, and a continuous stone stringcourse is directly above it. The 3rd floor windows are slightly recessed within a panel, which extends downward to just a few courses above the 2nd story windows. The 3rd floor window lintels are a row of soldier course brick. A cornice is above the 3rd story windows and a second, larger cornice is a few feet above that. A header course is at the roof line. The water table at the sidewalk is concrete.

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The main entrance, on the east elevation, is off center. It is in the third bay of the façade's eight bays. The entrance is characterized by a two panel multi-light wood door, eight-light sidelights and a multi-light transom that extends across the opening. (Photo 6) The door surround is composed of a header course, alternating vertical and horizontal brick rows, and an outer header course row. The surround has a smooth stone base and threshold. The entrance is capped with a concrete cornice which has a small pediment. The bricked-in area, at the northern end of the façade, was the location of an elevated, enclosed bridge, which once connected to a Metallic Casket Co. factory building on the opposite side of N. Center St. A secondary door is located between the 6th and 7th bays. It is aluminum and also has a flat-roof aluminum hood.

The south elevation is three window bays wide with paired windows in each bay, like the façade. The base of an advertising sign is at the corner of the building, by the 2nd story window. Historic images indicate that an entrance, with a canopy, was once on this elevation. Additionally, the building's address was given as 74 W. Columbia Street. However, there is no physical evidence that an entrance existed on this elevation.

The north elevation has metal, multi-light industrial windows. Here, the brick is of a different type and color than the façade and south elevation. The heavy lintels on the north elevation are concrete and cast to simulate a dressed stone lintel. A one story garage bay is on the north elevation of the building, at the façade corner. (Photo 5) The 1928 Sanborn map indicates that a garage has been in this location, at least since then. It has a flat roof, which aligns with the sill line of the 2nd story windows, with concrete coping. Large openings are on the east and north elevations. The garage is faced with brick on Center Street and the alley, while the west wall is concrete block. Inside the garage, the north wall of the office building is exposed and the west wall is of a differing brick. The roof beams are exposed inside the garage bay. An enclosed 2nd story emergency exit extends into the concrete block section of the garage, with a door opening into the alley. (Photo 7) A substantial concrete water table is present on the north elevation.

The rear elevation has metal industrial windows and faces onto the adjacent residential property. This elevation is largely not visible from the street due to the neighboring house, and it is also essentially not visible from the alley, due to vegetation overgrowth. Lintels and sills on the west elevation appear to be concrete, like those on the north elevation. In the central portion of the rear elevation, the wall is recessed on the upper floors, creating a light well.

Entering the building from N. Center St., the entrance opens into a stairwell landing. (Photos 8-9) The entrance is characterized by a two panel multi-light wood door, eight-light sidelights and a multi-light transom that extends across the opening. One must go either up or down from the street-level landing, which has a mosaic tile floor with the initials for Springfield Metallic Casket Company and an old light fixture. (Photo 9, 10) A short stair flight leads to the partially below grade 1st floor and a full flight leads to the 2nd floor. The stairwell maintains its historic wood banister all the way from the ground floor to the 3rd floor, and the marble stairs also extend the full height of the stairwell. (Photo 10) Landings at each level have decorative mosaic tiles and marble baseboards.

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The ground level has scored concrete floors and a coved concrete base. This floor level is the most altered of the three. Much of the wood door trim has been removed although some of it remains in place. (Photo 11) The original door into the main stairwell has been removed and the opening enclosed with dry wall. The north end of the ground floor is one big room. (Photo 12) The secondary entrance from Center Street is three steps below grade, into this floor level. (Photo 13) The main block of the ground floor has an open room, and to the west are smaller room divisions, including a secondary staircase and a restroom. (Photo 14) The ceiling has been dry walled on this floor level. Columns are concrete and plain, with bases that match the concrete baseboard. Asbestos tiling was added over the original concrete floor in some places.

Historic sources outline functions within the office building. Once located on the 2nd floor, the casket sales and display function within the building was relocated in the mid-20th century. A 1953 newspaper account mentions the recent opening of a new sales and display room in the basement.¹ This basement remodeling project may have occurred, and corresponded with, the aluminum secondary door at the north end of the façade. The big open rooms still present in the basement also reflect the space required for the display of caskets.

The south end of the 1st floor has two separate restrooms and offices. The restrooms may be original to the building, but they have late 20th century tile wainscoting and laminate flooring. The office area is defined by a corner fireplace. (Photo 15) The room is delineated by a banister similar to the stairwell. Most of the wood floor is intact. Markings on the floor indicate that a partition wall separated these two office spaces. Constructed of formed concrete, a safe room is present. The safe door is adjacent to the restroom corridor and the offices. The central part of the 1st floor contains an open area. (Photos 16-17) Some of the wood floor is intact, although about half of it has been removed. The majority of the wood baseboard is intact and has not been painted. Wood door and window surrounds are also intact. Some original wood doors are present throughout the 1st and 2nd floors. They have two recessed panels with a single light. Some door openings on the 1st floor have a three light transom. The north end of the 1st floor has a secondary staircase that leads directly to N. Center Street. The north end has been divided into two separate rooms. The room at the northeast corner has industrial windows on the north end, which face the Power Plant. (Photo 18) A secondary stair leads to office space on the 2nd floor. The northwest corner room has an emergency exit on the north wall, which leads to a staircase down to the alley. The wood floor is intact in this area. In this northern part of the 1st floor most of the historic trim, such as the baseboards and door surrounds, has been removed except at the six-over-one windows on the façade wall. The columns on the 1st floor are plain, without ornament or capitals. Paint lines indicate that these features were likely removed. Most of the columns do maintain their wood baseboard.

The 2nd floor is primarily an open space. A large room is on the north end, with a secondary stair that leads to the 1st floor offices and a restroom. (Photo 19) In the center portion of the 2nd floor historic columns are intact. (Photos 20-21) The square columns are decorative, with an inset panel and Doric capital. A small office is beside the main stairwell. (Photo 22) The stairwell door is characterized by two multi-light side lights and transom windows across the opening.

¹ "Springfield Metallic Casket Co. Supplies Needs Of Funeral Directors In All Parts Of Nation."

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Throughout the 2nd floor most of the wood baseboard is intact, although some of it has been painted, along with the wood floor. The south end of the 2nd floor has a coved plaster ceiling and defined ceiling panels.

In 1936, the sales and display room was on the top floor of the office building. It was described as “a quiet, detached room, under shaded lights in a fitting atmosphere, one may choose from a hundred styles truly as lovely as any jewel casket prepared for a beloved by any Royal lover in any age—even to a bronze Sarcophagi weighing 1260 pounds and costing \$15,000.00.”² The present open space quality of the 2nd floor reflects the historic function of the former display room, as a fair amount of space would have been necessary for displaying caskets.

Factory Building

Completed in 1929, the five-story factory building is brick with a flat roof. (Photos 1, 23-24) Shortly after completion, the *Springfield Builder* described the new building as being constructed of steel with brick and stone facing and reinforced concrete floors. To accommodate the weight of the manufacturing equipment and the final product, “construction throughout is heavy duty, the ground floor having a carrying capacity of 500 pounds per square foot and the upper floors a carrying capacity of 200 pounds per square foot.”³

The industrial metal multi-light windows are intact throughout the building, although glass is missing in some locations. The 3rd story windows have a continuous concrete sill, while the other sills are contained within the window openings. The east elevation serves as the façade. (Photo 23) It has twelve window bays, and an entrance is in the southernmost bay. The paired doors are wood with multi-light openings. Openings on the 3rd and 4th floor, above the entrance bay, once contained enclosed walkways to the original factory building, across N. Center Street. They have been bricked-in. The east elevation has a raised concrete foundation. Center Street slopes downward towards Rt. 40 to the north and the foundation height varies according to the slope. Window bays in the 3rd through 10th, and then the 12th bay, are continuous from the 1st through 2nd floor reflecting the double-height space on the interior. The entire window bay is open from floor to floor. A garage door opening is at the ground floor in the 11th bay. (Photo 24)

The seven-bay north elevation of the factory building faces North Street/U.S. Route 40. (Photo 24) On the ground floor the easternmost bay has a single garage door opening. The 2nd and 3rd bays have one large door opening big enough for railroad cars. On the interior, the northeast corner of the building and several bays along the east elevation have a lower floor level that corresponds with the overhead doors at street level. The garage door, as well as the one facing east on to N. Center St., accommodated truck deliveries. A single pedestrian door is in the central bay. Painted on the brick, the company name, The Springfield Metallic Casket Company, Inc., is still partially visible above the 2nd floor. The central portion of the roof line is raised on the north elevation creating a small parapet.

² Johnson, “The Springfield Metallic Casket Company,” p.5-6.

³ “New Factory Addition Opened,” *Springfield Builder*, June 1929.

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The west elevation of the factory building faces an alley and adjacent factory building that was once part of the Metallic Casket Company's complex. (Photo 25) At the 3rd floor there is evidence of the skywalk opening that once connected the two buildings. Like the façade, the 3rd story windows have a continuous concrete sill that is taller than the sills elsewhere. The 4th bay of the west elevation has a garage door opening at the ground floor and an adjacent pedestrian door. The raised foundation is concrete and is stepped according to window height at the ground level.

The south elevation of the factory building is only visible above the power plant building. The factory building abuts the Power Plant at the south elevation, and the two buildings connect on the interior at the elevator shaft. The elevator core is visible above the roof line of the south elevation.

Entrance into the factory building is from a set of double doors on N. Center Street, near the south corner of the east elevation. (Photo 26) Exposed materials throughout the building are a combination of concrete block and ceramic tile block. The 1st floor is predominately open space except for concrete block partition walls near the entrance door. (Photos 28-29) Stairwells are at the north end and the south end of the building, extending from the basement through the 5th floor. (Photo 30) The stairs are concrete with metal railings. A restroom with original fixtures is at the northwest corner of the 1st floor. A small office abuts the northern stairwell. It has multi-light windows set within the partition walls. The steel I-beams are exposed on the 1st floor, expressing the building's construction method. The ceilings are a steel I-beam grid system and the floor is poured reinforced concrete. A freight elevator is at the southern end of the building extending from the basement to the 5th floor. (Photo 27) The elevator shaft abuts the southern stairwell.

The *Springfield Builder* described the Springfield Metallic Casket Company's highly tailored design in its profile of the building. "The nature of the business required that some unusual and interesting features be incorporated in the construction. A switch from the C.H. & D. traction line in North St. runs into the building, permitting freight car loadings and unloadings, connections being made through the Springfield Interurban Railroad to all trunk lines touching the city. This switch has a capacity of four cars inside the building. There is also a truck entrance, and girder supports are so arranged that heavy truck loads of material may be brought into the building and placed where needed on the floor. Easy handling of heavy materials is proved for by a 15-ton crane runway which runs the length of the building."⁴

On the 1st floor, at the northeast corner of the building and several bays along the east elevation, the floor is sunken, forming a dock, and corresponds with the overhead doors at street level. This area is an open volume space that extends from the lowered dock level up to the 2nd floor ceiling. This volume space relates to where the railroad cars were inside the building. The railroad tracks are still present inside the dock area. The tracks curve at the corner of the dock and angle out through the enormous overhead door. (Photo 35) Sanborn maps never indicate the

⁴ "New Factory Addition Opened"

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associated railroad tracks: the 1928 Sanborn was likely published before the tracks were installed, and it is possible that the tracks had been removed by printing of the 1950 Sanborn.

The 2nd floor is similar to the 1st floor and is predominately open space. (Photo 31-32) Two office rooms are in the southeast corner. (Photo 33) Like the downstairs offices, the walls have multi-light windows within the partition walls. One of the offices overlooks the double-height railroad bay along the east wall. (Photo 34) A second two-story bay extends the length of the west elevation. The crane runway system, noted in the 1929 description of the building, is present in the western double-height volume space. This materials transport system, which is elevated above the 2nd floor level just below the 3rd floor ceiling, is partially intact. (Photo 35) The moveable mechanism has wheels similar to a railroad car that roll on a track.

The 3rd floor also is mostly open space, except an office enclosure is in the center of this floor. (Photo 36-37) The center office area has a metal wall at the bottom and windows above. The window pattern is different than other office areas and this enclosure may have been a later addition. A second office enclosure is in the northeast corner. (Photo 38) This office has multi-light windows within metal partition walls. Johnson's 1936 report on the company mentions a northern exposure art room, which may be this enclosure, based upon physical evidence. In the southeast corner of the 3rd floor is a rolling door, which once opened to a bridge between the original factory building and this building. A second bridge was near the northwest corner of the building, connecting it to another factory building to the west. (Photo 39)

The 4th floor is almost all open space, except for a small office space near the center. (Photos 40-42) This office space is similar to the one on the 3rd floor, but smaller in scale.

The 5th floor is mostly open space, except for a section of wood partition walls in the northeast corner and another section near the southwest corner. (Photo 43) The northeast partition walls are constructed of horizontal wood boards. (Photo 44) The partitioned area on the west wall is likely a later addition, as the wall material is plywood. The 5th floor differs from the lower floors in that the support columns are wood rather than steel I-beams and the ceiling joists are wood instead of a steel grid, most likely since it did not have to bear the weight of machinery above it. (Photo 45) There are three historic sky lights aligned down the center of the 5th floor. The skylights are raised, in the manner of a monitor roof, with side walls of metal twelve-light windows, matching the exterior of the building. A magazine article written shortly after the building was completed mentions that the 5th floor originally had a photographic room for taking pictures of the finished product. The skylights may have been specifically in this area to provide light for the photographic room, although that is not confirmed.

Historic Integrity

Individually and collectively, the Springfield Metallic Casket Company buildings retain historic integrity. The three nominated buildings contain original architectural fabric such as windows, wood trim, and floor plans. None of the buildings have had any major exterior alterations, such as additions, and interior alterations have been very minimal.

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The power plant maintains historic integrity. On the exterior, it retains character defining features, such as the gable end cornice returns, fenestration pattern, and windows. The interior largely remains an open space. Although two concrete block partition walls were added later, they do not extend the full height of the original walls. They are minimal in scale, could easily be removed, and do not impact the essence of the original volume space, which functionally represents the historic use of the building as an engine room. The large open space, with high ceiling, was necessary to accommodate the mechanical equipment that supplied power to the casket factory. Constructed of later materials, it is obvious that they are later additions, and therefore do not detract from the historic materials of the building.

The office building also maintains historic integrity, through its exterior character defining features, such as the decorative entrance, fenestration pattern, and windows. The interior retains original materials, such as the stairwell, with wood banister, mosaic tile floor, and marble steps and baseboards. Other remaining materials include wood baseboards, floor, and door and window trim. The 2nd floor has a coved plaster ceiling and defined ceiling panels. The intact architectural materials, some of which are decorative, reflect the office and public use of the building. Additionally, the floor plan still exhibits large rooms on the 2nd floor and in the basement, reflecting the eras when these spaces respectively housed the casket sales and display room.

Like the other two buildings, the factory exhibits historic integrity through its retention of historic materials and interior configuration. On the exterior, it retains character defining features, such as fenestration pattern and industrial-style windows. The interior retains the open floor plan on each level, illustrating the historic function of the building as a factory, which required large open spaces to house the company's huge machinery. Exposed materials on the interior, including concrete, brick, and glazed tile block, reflect the utilitarian quality of the factory building. Office enclosures were added in some locations, but they are small in scale, could easily be removed, and do not impact the essence of the original volume space. Finally, the double-height areas at the first/second floors, where the materials transport crane (west wall) and the loading dock (east wall) are located, are intact, representing the historic function of those spaces.

A sense of time and place is present within the nominated property. The property's scale and presence on the streetscape continues to convey its early 20th century appearance and the importance of Springfield's industrial heritage.

Evolution of the Property

See Sanborn maps in Attachment A and historic images in Attachment B.

The Springfield Metallic Casket Company rented various spaces in downtown Springfield until 1890. In December 1899, the former P.P. Mast Buggy Co. factory, at the northeast corner of Columbia and Center streets, was purchased. After readying the building to accommodate new offices and the production of caskets, the company occupied it in 1900. An image from 1900

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indicates that the Springfield Metallic Casket Company occupied the six-story former buggy factory and a three-story factory on the west side of N. Center Street. This building may have been the Patent Steel Whip Co. building shown on the 1894 Sanborn map. Also shown on the 1894 Sanborn is the property belonging to the Springfield Silver Plate Co., on N. Center Street between Columbia and North streets. It was also purchased in 1899, the associated building demolished, and the nominated power plant building constructed between 1900 and 1910.

Due to continued company growth and a desire to have all departments under one roof, additions were quickly added to the recently acquired factory. In an effort to achieve the goal of having all manufacturing functions within one building, a decision was made to build an addition for the newly acquired silver plate functions. In 1902, an addition was completed on the east side of the factory for the production of casket hardware. Until its completion, a 1900 image indicates that casket hardware manufacture was taking place in the former Patent Steel Whip Co. building.

In 1906, more land was acquired, allowing the massive casket factory to be expanded to the east, all the way to Fisher Street. As noted in the previous section, this factory building, and its numerous additions, have all been demolished. The 1910 Sanborn map shows that the three-story casket hardware factory on the west side of N. Center Street (the former Patent Steel Whip Co. building) was gone and a storefront and residential properties in its place. The Springfield Metallic Casket Company was then mostly surrounded by houses, duplexes, and an apartment building. A carpenter's shop and lumber sheds were immediately behind the power plant. The company also had a large lumber yard and carpenter's shop four blocks south, at the intersection of Jefferson and S. Center. None of which are still extant.

The office building was constructed 1919-1920, at the northwest corner of Center and Columbia streets. A bridge was constructed to connect it to the factory on the northeast corner of Center and Columbia streets. Additional land was purchased on the west side of N. Center in 1920, and a new, rectangular brick factory building was constructed by 1924. Facing W. North Street, it was utilized for the grave vault department. A lateral wing, along North Street, was added to it, as seen on the 1928 Sanborn map, giving the building its present day L-shape by that year. This three-story, L-shaped wood, brick, and concrete building is still extant, but not included with this nomination. In the 1920s, it was connected, via an enclosure in the alley, to a one-story building to the east, which contained the punch press room. The punch press building, shown on the 1928 Sanborn, was demolished for construction of the 1928-29 factory building. A lumber yard and dry kiln were located directly south of the L-shaped factory building.

The 1928 Sanborn map also shows that the Springfield Metallic Casket Co. had demolished the adjacent early 1900s residential buildings to the north of the power plant. The five-story factory building constructed 1928-29 abutted the extant power plant on its north elevation and took up the half block between N. Center St. and the alley to the west. In discussing the new building, the Springfield Builder noted that it constituted the seventh addition to the overall plant.

A paper on the Springfield Metallic Casket Company indicated that "they purchased the nucleus of their present plant (1936), which has been enlarged to cover about three city blocks, and is

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comprised of several separate buildings connected by ramps and Rialto-like bridges.” Likening the elevated, enclosed bridges to the Rialto Bridge in Venice was probably a bit fanciful, but the connectors are clearly shown on the 1928, 1950 and 1955 Sanborn maps, and in a 1924 image.

The original Springfield Metallic Casket Company building located on the north east corner of Center and Columbia Streets remained part of the company’s manufacturing complex until the 1950s. The 1955 Sanborn map indicates that the building still existed at that time. However, it was no longer labeled as being part of the company’s property. Furthermore, newspaper articles from the 1950s cease mentioning the former P.P. Mast Buggy Co. factory as part of the Springfield Metallic Casket complex. A 1958 Springfield Daily News article mentions that the company occupied most of the block west of Center Street, and a 1959 Springfield News-Sun rendering does not include the former P.P. Mast Buggy Co. factory as part of the Springfield Metallic Casket Company complex, and instead calls the 1929 factory the main building of the complex. Historic newspaper images indicate that the building was demolished by the mid-1970s.

The lumber buildings that were once associated with the property are still indicated on the 1955 Sanborn map. They have since been demolished. The L-shaped brick grave vault factory building that was constructed c.1924-28 for the Springfield Metallic Casket Company is still extant. (Photos 24, 46-48) In 1971, the Springfield City Directory designates the building with its own address for the first time. Then denoted as 109 W. North Street, the building was occupied by the Rhodes Paper Box company. It is probable that the building parcel was separated from the remaining Metallic Casket Co. buildings at the same time. The factory was under ownership of the Rhodes Paper Box company until 2015. The elevated enclosure that once connected this building to the 1929 factory building is no longer in place. It was present into the 1950s, but it is unknown when it was removed. The windows on the façade, side, and rear elevations have been bricked-in with concrete block. In a few locations, upper floor window openings have intact window remnants of metal multi-light industrial sash. Although these remnants provide a hint as to the historic appearance of the factory, it is not enough to fully convey the building’s early 20th century visage. The exterior of the c.1924-28 grave vault factory has lost the contrasting texture of solid/void, because of the blocking-in of the window openings. The factory’s streetscape presence has been altered, and it now has a “blank” expression. Currently, the L-shaped building is not part of the nominated property, due to lack of historic integrity. (See Boundary Justification for more detail)

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

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

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

Criteria Considerations

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

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

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Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Industry

Period of Significance

c.1905-1962

Significant Dates

c.1905
1920
1929

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Eastman & Budke

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph

In operation for 90 years, the Springfield Metallic Casket Company was one of Springfield, Ohio's prominent industrial firms. Its associated buildings are nominated under Criterion A for significance in local manufacturing. The Period of Significance is c.1905, when the Power Plant was constructed, to 1962, when the independently owned company was sold to a larger manufacturing conglomerate.

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Narrative Statement of Significance

The Springfield Metallic Casket Company was established in May 1884, by Dr. A.A. Baker, D.R. Hosterman, and Daniel Hiser. The company's initial assembly shop was in a 40x40 foot room over Banroth's Machine Shop in Walnut Alley, between Main and High streets. The first year of existence was spent creating patterns from which to begin production. First, wooden patterns were made, and then iron patterns were made from those. Grey iron castings were produced from the iron patterns. The sectional cast metal caskets were built based upon Charles Hiser's (son of Daniel) patent.⁵ Following swift response to its product, the Springfield Metallic Casket Company moved to the larger Tibbetts Building on North Fountain Avenue.⁶

In 1886, the Springfield Metallic Casket Company was incorporated with \$50,000 in capital stock.⁷ Charter stockholders were Dr. A.A. Baker, D.R. Hosterman, Ross Mitchell, Scipio E. Baker, and Edgar N. Lupfer. Charles H. Hiser, son of original founder Daniel Hiser, served as the first superintendent. Many of the firm's officers were prominent men in Springfield's industrial and business community. For example, an 1891 publication described Ross Mitchell as "a heavy capitalist and representative man, whose name is a tower of strength to any enterprise in which he may engage."⁸ In the early 1900s, company secretary, Edgar Lupfer, was also the director of the Mad River National Bank, director of the Ohio State Life Insurance Co., and vice president of the Simmons Publishing Co. C.E. Patric, president in 1908, was also vice president of the Foos Gas Engine Company.⁹

Also around 1886, the company relocated again to W. Main St. and Lowry Ave (known as N. Mechanic St. in 1886). The Springfield Metallic Casket Company was rapidly successful. Within five years of incorporation, it was selling and shipping caskets throughout the United States, Canada, and South America.¹⁰ It expanded "by adding to its line of cast metal caskets a small line of sheet metal caskets, with cast metal top, a bronze casket, and metal hermetically sealed inner linings for wooden caskets, and a steel grave vault."¹¹

By the 1890s, a removable face glass was introduced to the patented cast iron and rolled steel casket. This novel feature was "the greatest convenience ever applied to metallic caskets, and commends them highly to undertakers."¹² A second specialty product, also introduced by the 1890s, was the Baker Burglar Proof Grave Vault, formed by two interlocking metal cases.

The company continued to refine its metal caskets, whether constructed of sheet or cast metal. In March 1897, Charles Hiser, superintendent, and Edgar N. Lupfer, secretary, applied for a patent

⁵ "Casket Firm Marks 53rd Anniversary," Springfield News-Sun, November 14, 1937.

⁶ "New Factory Addition Opened."

⁷ *The Industries and Wealth of Ohio* (New York: American Printing and Engraving Co., 1891), p.122.

⁸ *The Industries and Wealth of Ohio*, p.122.

⁹ Information about Lupfer and Patric found in the Springfield Metallic Casket Co. subject file at the *Clark County Historical Society – Library and Archives*.

¹⁰ *The Industries and Wealth of Ohio*, p.122.

¹¹ "Casket Firm Marks 53rd Anniversary."

¹² *Industrial Advance of Springfield, Ohio and Environs* (Springfield, Ohio: Jas. P. McKinney, 1893), p.126.

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on their invention for improved metallic caskets. The patent application, approved for a U.S. patent on September 13, 1898, stated "Our invention relates to improvements in metallic caskets; and the object of our invention is to provide a casket which may be made of either sheet or cast metal and be so constructed that the casket proper may be hermetically sealed, while at the same time the interior of the casket may be exposed to view by removing the outer lid or casing, either for its entire length or for a portion thereof, without breaking the seal of the casket proper."¹³

Reflecting on the company's 75 years of history, a 1959 newspaper article asserted that "one of the most important steps in the company's success occurred at the turn of the century when the decision was made to pioneer the use of sheet metal instead of iron in the manufacture of metal caskets. The local firm is credited with using this method first."¹⁴ Sheet metal caskets were significantly lighter than cast iron ones, which represented another evolution in casket design. The lighter weight was helpful in the transport of caskets and in cases where burial grounds needed to be relocated. Although sheet metal eventually surpassed and replaced cast iron caskets, iron caskets remained a part of the company's list of offerings into the 1930s.

The years 1898 and 1899 witnessed expansive growth for the Springfield Metallic Casket Company, both in products offered and in its physical plant. In July 1898, the company purchased the Pairpoint Manufacturing Company of New Bedford, Massachusetts. This company manufactured casket hardware, and by July 1899, the acquired company was fully consolidated into the Springfield Metallic Casket Company. The hardware portion of the business was located on N. Center Street.¹⁵ The Springfield Metallic Casket Company also purchased the nearby Springfield Silver Plate Co. in 1899. The purchase of these two companies enabled the Springfield Metallic Casket Company to add casket hardware to its already growing line of products. The Springfield Metallic Casket Company "soon won a reputation, not only in the United States, but in foreign countries, for making a high grade of silver plated casket hardware."¹⁶ (See Attachment B - Historic Images 4)

By the turn of the century, the company was again in need of larger quarters, and it acquired the James Driscoll & Sons Co. building (later associated with the P.P. Mast Buggy Co.). The Springfield Silver Plate Co. was just across N. Center Street from the vacant P.P. Mast Buggy Co. building. This convenient proximity instigated the Springfield Metallic Casket Company to acquire the former buggy plant and combine all of its departments and offices within one building. The new location could easily accommodate the Springfield Metallic Casket Company's 200 employees.

In 1918, the firm had increased employment to 350 people. That same year, the influenza epidemic caused a surge in business for the Springfield Metallic Casket Company. This spurred the acquisition of adjacent land and the construction of new buildings and additions to existing ones. For example, the company's new office building was completed in 1920, at the northwest

¹³ <http://www.google.com/patents/US610537>

¹⁴ "Metallic Casket Company, Founded In 1884, Observing Diamond Jubilee."

¹⁵ *Springfield Illustrated* (Springfield, Ohio: Springfield Publishing Co., 1900), p.51.

¹⁶ "Casket Firm Marks 53rd Anniversary."

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corner of N. Center and W. Columbia Streets. A new three-story, brick factory building was constructed by 1924 for the grave vault department. It is seen in a rendering from that year, and the 1928 Sanborn map shows that the factory had gained its L-shaped configuration by then.

On September 6, 1928, excavation was begun for a new five-story manufacturing building, at the southwest corner of N. Center and W. North Streets. Completed in June 1929, the \$250,000 building provided 50% more working space for the company. The new plant was designed by the architectural firm of Eastman & Budke, and A.G. Samuelson, Inc., a Springfield company, served as the contractor. The building was constructed with a railroad spur, which could accommodate four freight cars. This large-scale factory represented the last major construction project for the Springfield Metallic Casket Company. It, plus the c.1905 power plant and 1920 office building comprise the nominated property (the c.1924-1928 L-shaped factory has since lost sufficient historic integrity for listing and therefore not included within the nomination). See Evolution of the Property discussion in Section 7 and Attachments A and B for detailed information on the physical development of the Springfield Metallic Casket Company.

By 1929, when the new factory building was completed, the Springfield Metallic Casket Company employed about 400 craftsmen, constructing 100 different metal caskets and burial vaults. The concern also had 40 office workers and a sales team of 30, which covered the U.S.¹⁷ The company had sufficient manpower and capability to construct and ship a rush order within twenty-four hours. Also, by 1929, the Springfield Metallic Casket Co. was producing a multitude of funeral-related goods, in addition to the caskets, casket hardware, and vaults. These items included pedestals and burial clothing. Because styles changed frequently, a full-time designer was on staff. (See Attachment B - Historic Images 4)

Manufacture of the metal caskets, which typically had over 1,000 parts, constituted a combination of machine production and small detail work completed by hand. Massive presses formed metal sheets into the required sections, which were then bolted or welded together. (See Attachment B - Historic Images 3 & 4) Especially because it had the capability to produce casket hardware, the Springfield Metallic Casket Co. was “one of the few manufacturers in the field who build the entire casket...”¹⁸

Despite the Great Depression, the Springfield Metallic Casket Co. remained financially stable. Its sales volume increased between the company’s 1932 and 1933 fiscal year, enabling it to provide 10% raises for all employees in August 1933. Three years later, it still had the same work-force level as it did in 1929. According to a 1936 report, the firm had “a working capacity of 500 man-power, 16% of which is woman.”¹⁹ This also included employees at branch offices in Philadelphia, Detroit, Omaha, Kansas City, and Los Angeles. (See Attachment B - Historic Images 4) And, a network of storage warehouses across the country had been established. In addition to the national, Canadian, and South American exports that it had had since the 1890s,

¹⁷ “New Factory Addition Opened”

¹⁸ “Builders of the Best Obtainable In Metal Burial Caskets, Vaults,” *The Springfielder* (Springfield Chamber of Commerce, Vol. 2, No. 7, July 1948), p.4.

¹⁹ Johnson, “The Springfield Metallic Casket Company,” p.6.

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the Springfield Metallic Casket Co. was also trading in Cuba, Puerto Rico, and Australia by the 1930s.

Products manufactured by the Springfield Metallic Casket Co. in the late 1930s included cloth-covered wood caskets, cast bronze caskets, copper caskets, and wrought iron caskets. Six different designs of metal grave vaults were produced. Cloth-covered caskets were constructed of a particle/composite wood or a corrugated product, which was then wrapped in a cloth finish. Casket hardware, for its own use and to be sold to other manufacturers, was made. Men's and women's burial clothing was created and tailored. By the 1930s, the Springfield Metallic Casket Co. was heavily using Armco, of Middletown, Ohio, as its primary source for raw metal materials.²⁰ The company was utilizing metal sheets from Armco Rolling Mills for the production of caskets, and the wrought iron caskets were known as the Armco brand. Additionally, the grave vaults were made of Armco ingot iron and solid copper.

Trouble plagued the Springfield Metallic Casket Co. briefly in 1937. On Monday, March 8th, 300 employees, including 75 women, staged a sit-down strike. The workers were protesting a new payment schedule, created by efficiency experts that would pay on a piece-work system, rather than hourly wages, and demanding collective bargaining rights. Newspaper articles generally noted that the women left by noon the first day of the strike. After two meetings between company management and a committee representing the Casket Workers Industrial Union, no resolution was reached and the workers continued to occupy the building eleven days later. On March 19th, company president, Charles H. Hiser requested that the strikers evacuate the building, asserting that they were willfully trespassing. The workers did not leave and on March 29, a conciliator from the United States Department of Labor arrived in Springfield to settle the dispute.

Business soon returned to normal following the strike. In November 1938, a four-day conference for casket salesmen, from 38 states, was sponsored by the Springfield Metallic Casket Co. At the annual stockholders meeting in July 1941, it was reported by the general manager that "the year ended for the company as an improvement over the previous year and our present business is very good."²¹

During World War II, the Springfield Metallic Casket Co. was forced to halt production on its metal caskets and vaults, due to material shortages. Although it did continue production of wood caskets, the loss of available product forced the closure of the company's branch offices in other cities. Like many WWII era manufacturers, the Springfield Metallic Casket Co. began production of war related products. At a special stockholders meeting in September 1942, the general manager reported "that the process of conversion has been practically completed and that the company will be actively engaged in war work production in a very short time."²² From late

²⁰ Johnson, "The Springfield Metallic Casket Company," p.2 and "Casket Firm Marks 53rd Anniversary."

²¹ "Reelected," *Springfield News-Sun*, July 24, 1941.

²² "Casket Company Board Is Chosen," *Springfield News-Sun*, September 16, 1942.

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1942 to August 1945, the company made airplane doors, adapter clusters, 40mm ammunition boxes, and 75mm tubes, comprising 97% of its production.²³

After WWII ended, the Springfield Metallic Casket Co. returned to civilian production. In 1948, it employed 181 people and was producing over 10,000 metal caskets annually. Fourteen basic metallic models were produced in 1948, plus wood caskets were still offered by the company.²⁴

Fred M. Whipple, Springfield Metallic Casket Company president and general manager, died unexpectedly on June 13, 1958. On August 18, 1958, Robert N. Lupfer, vice president, presented a report to the shareholders regarding a bid from the Thermometer Corp. of America to purchase all common stock of the company.²⁵ Purchasing the outstanding company stock in September 1958 with a group of associates, Henry C. Greene became the new Springfield Metallic Casket Co. president. Greene, also president of Thermometer Corp., sought the Springfield Metallic Casket Co. as part of broad diversification plan for TCA. Under his plan, nationally important companies, such as the Kimble Glass Co., purchased in August 1958 and relocated from New Jersey to Springfield, and Level-X, Inc, compass makers, were acquired.

In 1959, as the company celebrated its 75th anniversary, the *Springfield News-Sun* noted that the Springfield Metallic Casket Co. had grown to be “one of the giants in the casket manufacturing industry.”²⁶ At that point, it had 230 employees.²⁷ The company celebrated its diamond jubilee with a special anniversary line of caskets. Introduced the year before, 300 of the special units were sold in December 1958.²⁸

By the late 1950s, the company was no longer producing wood or cloth-covered caskets or burial clothes. During the diamond jubilee, the Springfield Metallic Casket Co. only denoted metallic caskets (in bronze, steel, or copper), metal burial vaults, and casket hardware as its primary products. It employed an engineering staff in a materials testing laboratory. “Springfield Metallic is unique in that it reportedly is the nation’s only casket manufacturer with a complete testing laboratory. These facilities recently were added to aid in research, engineering and product control.”²⁹

In 1962, the Springfield Greene Industries, Inc. acquired the Springfield Metallic Casket Co., making it a subsidiary, marking the ending date for the period of significance for the company. In 1963, the City Directory listed Springfield Greene Industries, Inc., instrument manufacturers,

²³ “Springfield Metallic Casket Co. Supplies Needs Of Funeral Directors In All Parts Of Nation”

²⁴ “Builders of the Best Obtainable In Metal Burial Caskets, Vaults,” *The Springfielder*, p.11.

²⁵ Lupfer’s report can be found in the Springfield Metallic Casket Co. subject file at the *Clark County Historical Society – Library and Archives*.

²⁶ “Metallic Casket Company, Founded In 1884, Observing Diamond Jubilee”

²⁷ “Springfield Industries: The Springfield Metallic Casket Co.,” *Springfield News-Sun*, May 10, 1959. A newspaper article (“Metallic Casket Company, Founded In 1884, Observing Diamond Jubilee”) from a few months earlier noted only 160 employees.

²⁸ “Metallic Casket Company, Founded In 1884, Observing Diamond Jubilee.”

²⁹ “Springfield Industries: The Springfield Metallic Casket Co.”

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as being at the same location as the casket company. Both companies subsequently became a division of Mid-Con, Inc. in the mid-1960s, which was merged into A-T-O, Inc. in 1969. The Springfield Metallic Casket Co. was then a subsidiary of A-T-O, Inc., headquartered in Willoughby, Ohio. This company also owned Springfield concerns Omco Products and the Thermometer Corp. of America.

Unfavorable economic conditions caused A-T-O, Inc. to seek a buyer for its casket subsidiary. It was unsuccessful, and with 60 employees remaining, the Springfield Metallic Casket Co. ceased operation in November 1974. In June 1975, the Dixie International Co. and the Dixie Manufacturing Co., Inc. purchased the Metallic Casket Co. buildings from A-T-O, Inc. for \$147,000. The Dixie companies manufactured motorcycle parts.

No longer using the building, the Dixie Manufacturing Co., Inc. sold the property in 2004 to Wellington Square, LLC, which is associated with the Turner Foundation. At some point in the late 20th century, the office building was separated from the factory building parcel. The office building was privately owned in the early 2000s and was operated as a bar and nightclub. In 2009, it was sold to Wellington Square, LLC. Both buildings are vacant, although the first floor of the factory is used for storage.

Funerary Industry – Background History

American funeral customs evolved during the late 19th and early 20th centuries, changing with scientific advances and social attitudes. The scientific advance that made shifting social traditions allowable was the creation of embalming fluid, which preserved a body for a longer period of time. Allotted to J. Anthony Gaussardia of Washington D.C., United States Patent Office issued the first patent for embalming solution, also called “a method of preserving dead bodies” in 1856.³⁰ Heavily used during the Civil War to ship deceased northern soldiers home, and shortly after, to transport Abraham Lincoln’s body, during a lengthy multi-state processional, public resistance to the concept eased.

Slowly, the public’s stance on embalming shifted, embracing “the practice as an integral component of a successful funeral. This should not be surprising since the public viewing of the dead had become a desired moment for many Americans over the course of the nineteenth century. The expectation that survivors would have a last look at the deceased before or during funeral services, a meaningful ritual act in the struggle to make sense of death, had significant symbolic weight in the American imagination before embalming appeared on the scene.”³¹

In the United States, cabinet and furniture makers produced coffins as needed. The thousands of soldier deaths during the Civil War, created a need for a stockpile of premade coffins both for burials and transport. This began the era of mass-production for caskets. “According to the Casket & Funeral Supply Association of America (CFSA), casket manufacturing developed as a

³⁰ D’Amato, Michael P., ed., *Horse-Drawn Funeral Vehicles: 19th Century Funerals* (Bird-In-Hand, Pennsylvania: Carriage Museum of America, 2004), p.287.

³¹ Laderman, Gary. *Rest In Peace: A Cultural History of Death and the Funeral Home in Twentieth-Century America* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2003), p.6.

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distinct business in the late 19th century. However, most companies only operated in local and regional markets.”³²

Coffins were generally constructed of wood, but as early as the 1840s, metal ones were introduced. Credited with this innovation, “Dr. Almond Fisk received a U.S. patent for a cast-iron casket that he claimed was airtight and indestructible.”³³ The Egyptian sarcophagus-shaped iron caskets had an oval glass window for viewing the face. Subsequently, iron works manufacturers added cast iron burial cases to their product line, competing with the wooden coffin maker. Metal burial cases were considered advantageous, because they could provide better protection from plagues and epidemics and they were easy to move for re-burial. “Re-burial was important because it was not uncommon for urban cemeteries to be moved frequently. Also, bodies could be transported easily by steamboat or rail.”³⁴

The Fisk caskets, as the early metal ones were often known, were exhibited at the New York State Agricultural Society Fair in 1849. The innovation was well received and famous early 19th century orator and U.S. Congressman, Daniel Webster, was buried in one in 1852.³⁵ Crane, Breed, & Co., of Cincinnati, is noted as making the first true sheet metal casket in the 1870s.³⁶ Despite the interest, wood coffins remained the standard, until later in the century when another famous politician was buried in a metal casket. “That change in the manufacturing of caskets was part of a gradual modernization, which culminated in 1885 when legendary general Ulysses S. Grant was buried in a metal casket with a full plate glass top. While wood caskets were the most popular, and for a long while the only available, steel caskets became common throughout the 1800’s, and eventually outsold their wood counterparts.”³⁷ Suggesting a jewel box, the word casket was in common usage by the 1890s.

The concept of grave or burial vaults “started from the desire of permanent protection of the body from ghouls and the elements. Original materials used during the 19th century were grave liners of rock, stone, and brick. Later concrete slabs were used in sectionals. They were called burial safes and mort-safes. The concrete vault as we know it today was not common until after 1900. During 1900-1920 the number of vault patents granted were the greatest in history...By 1915, 5% to 10% of all funerals included a vault, nearly all metal. They became used for protection of the casket and the remains.”³⁸ Grave robbers were a concern for a couple of reasons during the 19th century. One concern was the obvious fear of robbers stealing valuable objects that were buried with the deceased. The second reason occurred with the rise of medical science. In this case, grave robbers removed bodies and sold them for use as cadavers in anatomical studies. Grave robbers doing this were also called body snatchers and

³² Weber, Austin. “The History of Caskets,” *Assembly Magazine*, October 2, 2009.

³³ Weber, “The History of Caskets.”

³⁴ <https://quizlet.com/17108976/mortuary-science-history-final-flash-cards/>

³⁵ D’Amato, *Horse-Drawn Funeral Vehicles: 19th Century Funerals*, p.340.

³⁶ http://www.coachbuilt.com/bui/c/crane_breed/crane_breed.htm and <https://quizlet.com/17108976/mortuary-science-history-final-flash-cards/>

³⁷ <http://www.memorials.com/Caskets-History-of-Caskets-information.php>

³⁸ <https://quizlet.com/17108976/mortuary-science-history-final-flash-cards/>

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resurrectionists. By the late 1800s, grave vaults were also being utilized to protect the caskets themselves, as they had become increasingly more ornate and expensive.

Many people during the turn of the century decades were critical of the concept of profiting from death, and many rural inhabitants were still resistant to the use of embalming fluid during this era. Despite these skepticisms, the funeral home and the role of a funeral director steadily became the American custom in dealing with death. In 1928, the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company commissioned a study on the industry, looking to uncover practices of unscrupulous funeral directors. The author summarized, "the chief reason behind the commercialization of death: Embalming. Gebhart continued, 'Embalming was introduced about 1875 and has spread until it is now almost universally used. With embalming has come a demand for more elaborate and expensive merchandise - caskets, grave vaults, burial clothes and funeral paraphernalia.'"³⁹ For better or for worse, funeral traditions had changed and progressed into an established business by the early 1900s. It was in this specific emergent commercial climate that the Springfield Metallic Casket Co. thrived.

Springfield Industrial History

Founded in 1801, Springfield had steady population growth during the 19th century. Its early growth can be attributed to being named the Clark County seat in 1818 and the arrival of the National Road (the United States' first federally funded highway) in 1838. By the late 1840s, the railroad had reached Springfield, and two lines were operating there by 1851. Springfield was designated a city in 1850, with a population of 5,100.

"Springfield was surrounded by rich agricultural lands and 1850 brought a new industry to the city, with the establishment of the Warder & Brokaw Company. The company produced reapers, which made the cutting of wheat and other small grains quicker. The production of agricultural implements quickly came to dominate the city's industrial concerns after the success of the Warder & Brokaw Company. The 1850s saw the establishment of other significant agriculture-related industries. The Whitely & Fassler Company began production of a mechanized mower in 1856. This company eventually evolved into the Champion Machine Company and was so prosperous that a network of factories was spread throughout the city to produce the machine and subsidiary parts. At its peak in the early 1880s, it was the second largest factory complex in the world, with up to 12,000 machines manufactured in a year. A bank failure in 1887 brought the Champion Machine Company to a sudden end."⁴⁰

James Leffel, owner of the city's first foundry, joined the burgeoning entrepreneurial and industrial base with his turbine invention in 1862. Leffel's turbines were sold internationally within two years and locally, his invention helped to increase water power on Buck Creek. The James Leffel & Co. still manufactures hydraulic turbines. Another important international Springfield company was Mast, Crowell & Kirkpatrick, a publishing company begun in 1880.

³⁹ Laderman, Gary. *Rest In Peace*, p.31. Gebhart quote is from John C. Gebhart, *Funeral Costs: What They Average; Are They Too High? Can They Be Reduced?* (New York: G.P. Putnam's Sons, 1928).

⁴⁰ Kane, Kathy Mast and Nathalie Wright. *North Side Historic District National Register of Historic Places Nominations [Draft]*, 2009, p.8-2.

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The company published two nationally popular magazines, *Farm and Fireside* and *The Ladies Home Companion*. Later changing its name to Crowell & Collier, the company expanded its popular periodicals, including *Collier's Weekly*. By 1924, the Crowell-Collier Publishing Company was the largest magazine publisher in the world.⁴¹ It closed in 1956, although most of the buildings remain.

“The 1880s were the peak decade for agricultural implement manufacturing. It accounted for 78% of all industrial production in the city, and Springfield was the leading producer of such products in the United States.⁴²....The city’s leadership in the manufacture of farm-machine equipment crossed into the 20th century, although it had slipped into the number two position nationally, after Chicago, in 1890....Springfield continued to be an important industrial city in Ohio, but the types of products being manufactured began to shift away from agricultural equipment after 1900.”⁴³

Other late 19th and early 20th century manufacturing concerns included production of piano plates, motors, incubators, electric signs, and tires. Many of these companies had nationwide distribution, such as the Kelly-Springfield Tire Company, which began production of pneumatic automobile tires in 1900. The International Harvester Company took over the Warder, Bushnell, and Glessner Company in 1902, switching from production of agricultural implements to trucks in 1908.

Because it was well diversified, Springfield’s industrial base remained fairly stable during the Great Depression. And, “by 1938 Springfield was doing well and had ten firms employing more than 200 each. Agricultural machinery went down to sixth place in value. Motor trucks, magazines, electrical machinery, steel products, auto bumpers, road rollers, incubators and brooders, engines, and metallic caskets brought the greatest amount of business and activity to the city.”⁴⁴

“Manufacturing was still healthy in the early 1960s, with nearly 230 firms operating in the city. Having had a presence in Springfield for many decades, International Harvester was the largest company and employer. However, the loss of Crowell-Collier’s 2,000 jobs in 1956 signaled a gradual decline in Springfield’s manufacturing base.”⁴⁵ Like many other industrial cities in the late 20th century, Springfield began to struggle with the challenge of keeping businesses in the central city and maintaining a healthy downtown.

Historic Significance

The Springfield Metallic Casket Co. meets Criterion A for its association with broad patterns of local industry. Springfield was once one of Ohio’s dominant manufacturing cities, and the

⁴¹ *Springfield, Ohio: In the Heart of the Mad River Valley*, Springfield (Ohio): Chamber of Commerce, 1924. p.29.

⁴² Darbee, Jeff. *Thomas Manufacturing Company Warehouse National Register Nomination*, 2001, p.8-12.

⁴³ Kane, *North Side Historic District*, p.8-2.

⁴⁴ Shreevastava, Mahavira Prasada. “The Industrial Development of Springfield, Ohio: A Study in Economic Geography,” Diss. The Ohio State University, 1956, p.171.

⁴⁵ Kane, *North Side Historic District*, p.8-3.

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Springfield Metallic Casket Co. represents the diverse range of manufactured products within the city. "This company is one of the most solid and substantial industrial organizations in Springfield... With widespread commercial relations, unequalled facilities and desirable connections this enterprise is a lasting source of credit to Springfield and one of Ohio's most important industrial establishments."⁴⁶

Aside from the Springfield Metallic Casket Co., there were a few other late 19th and early 20th century funeral-related manufacturing companies in Springfield. According to city directory research, the 1920s through late 1930s appear to be the time period when the greatest number of casket and grave vault manufacturers were operating in Springfield, with most disappearing by the early 1950s. The Albin Casket Co. operated during this time period. Established in 1888, the Springfield Coffin and Casket Company employed 35 people in 1918 and produced cloth-covered caskets, robes, linings, and hardware. This company lasted into the early 1930s, but was gone by 1954. The S.N. Hiser Co. was in business from the late 1920s into the early 1960s.

In addition to Springfield Metallic Casket, two other grave vault companies operated in the city, Neher Burial Vault Company and the Champion Company. Neher was established in the 1920s, advertised concrete burial vaults in the 1950s, and is still in operation today. The Champion Company was founded in 1878, as the Hill Fluid Company. Ten years later, it was incorporated as the Champion Chemical Company by Dr. A.A. Baker, who was also a founding partner of the Springfield Metallic Casket Company. The Champion Company eventually added vaults to its production line, and one source notes that "The Champion Company and the Springfield Metallic Casket Company made most of the vaults in the 1890's."⁴⁷ In the 1940s, the Champion Company added a separate cemetery division, and its vaults were under the name Sozonian Vault Company. The Champion Company is still a family-owned business in Springfield, producing embalming chemicals.

A *Springfield News-Sun* article, highlighting the history of coffin-making in the city, noted that "Springfield later became a center of coffin manufacturing. The old Springfield Metallic Casket Co. offices and building still stand. Springfield's Champion Chemical also became a source of embalming fluid, which also changed the world of the undertaker."⁴⁸ While there were other local casket manufacturers, none achieved the same level of international renown. A 1949 article noted that "Probably few Springfielders are aware, when they daily pass the doors of The Springfield Metallic Casket Co., Inc., that here is a company which holds a world-wide reputation as builder of the best obtainable in metal burial cases."⁴⁹ By the 1930s, the Springfield Metallic Casket Co. was exporting to Canada, South America, Cuba, and Australia. By mid-1949, the company was selling its products in Panama, the Dutch West Indies, New

⁴⁶ *Industrial Advance of Springfield, Ohio and Environs*, p.127.

⁴⁷ <https://quizlet.com/17108976/mortuary-science-history-final-flash-cards/>

⁴⁸ Stafford, Tom. "Business of death has changed since 1840," *Springfield News-Sun*, April 14, 2013.

⁴⁹ "Builders of the Best Obtainable In Metal Burial Caskets, Vaults," *The Springfielder*, p.4.

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Zealand, and Great Britain. Additionally, it had begun extensive marketing campaign in South Africa.⁵⁰

While Crane, Breed, & Co., of Cincinnati, is credited with making the first true sheet metal casket in the 1870s, Springfield sources often cite the Springfield Metallic Casket Co. as the first. "This company was the first to make and market the sheet metal casket."⁵¹ Patents for metal caskets during the late 1800s were numerous, and it seems plausible that claims for the Springfield Metallic Casket Co. being the first are more about the company's refinements in design and manufacturing process. A 1937 newspaper article about the company's anniversary specifically mentions the difference in the Springfield Metallic Casket Company's caskets. "Mr. Hiser was the patentee of a sectional cast metal casket, which was made to seal hermetically. Heretofore, most of the metallic caskets on the market were cast in two pieces-body and top. By being made in sections, a great improvement was effected."⁵²

Industrial publications, of the late 1800s and early 1900s, paint the Springfield Metallic Casket Co. in a very favorable light, whether they were the first to pioneer sheet metal or not. The 1893 *Industrial Advance of Springfield, Ohio and Environs*, stated that "the marvelous progress that has been made in the improvement of burial cases for the dead, in this country during the past quarter of a century, may be said to have reached its highest development in the metallic burial caskets manufactured by the Springfield Metallic Casket Co. of this city."⁵³ And, the 1918 *Annual Labor Review: A Review of the Miami Valley Financial, Industrial and Commercial Enterprises*, which mostly focused on Dayton, Ohio, gave the Springfield Metallic Casket Co. a glowing review. "This concern stands at the forefront among the establishments in Ohio engaged in the manufacture of caskets...The fame of the above mentioned concern is nationwide and extends from coast to coast, from the Canadian boundary on the north to the Gulf of Mexico on the south. It is a modern, up-to-date plant that has made an enviable name for itself in a business way and we have no hesitancy in recommending to the trade in need of such products. They have kept abreast of the times at all times and guarantee their products to be first class in every respect. Give them a liberal share of your patronage and be assured of the best the market affords. This concern is reliable and trustworthy in every respect."⁵⁴

The Springfield Metallic Casket Company's numerous factory expansions occurred during times when the funerary industry was also expanding. The company was immediately successful and, within five years of incorporation, had a national and international presence on the market. This corresponds to the post-Civil War rise in the pre-manufacture of caskets.

⁵⁰ "Springfield Metallic Casket Company, Inc. - Sixty-five Years of Service, Progress is Company Story," *The Springfielder* (Springfield Chamber of Commerce, June 1949), p.19.

⁵¹ "Springfield Industries: The Springfield Metallic Casket Co."

⁵² "Casket Firm Marks 53rd Anniversary."

⁵³ *Industrial Advance of Springfield, Ohio and Environs*, p.126.

⁵⁴ Lewis, Herbert. ed. *Annual Labor Review: A Review of the Miami Valley Financial, Industrial and Commercial Enterprises* (Dayton, Ohio, April 19, 1918), page unknown.

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In 1891, the *The Industries and Wealth of Ohio* noted that “the demand for cloth covered metallic caskets is rapidly increasing.”⁵⁵ During these early company years, the firm continued to relocate to larger, more efficient quarters for production requirements. Then, in 1899, the firm acquired the large, former buggy factory to meet continually increasing sales demands. The relocation also allowed the Springfield Metallic Casket Co. to add additional products to its line, such as casket hardware, which was sold to other casket manufacturers. This too coincided with the growing expansion of the industry. By the early 1900s, funerals, and funeral homes, were an established business in America. The Springfield Metallic Casket Company’s property expansions during these decades parallels the growth of this new professional field. For example, the company had added burial clothes and casket pedestals to its production line. All of their products were sold directly to funeral directors.

Upon completion of the new five-story factory building in 1929, the *Springfield Builder* described the business context for the Springfield Metallic Casket Co. “As there are more than three hundred manufacturers of burial goods in the United States, most of whom adequately handle the demand for cheaper and medium-priced caskets in their respective territories, the Metallic Casket Co. has from its inception concentrated its efforts on better grade products, and there is now a nation-wide demand for its goods.”⁵⁶ One example, in the 1910s, of the nationwide demand for the Springfield Metallic Casket Company’s product was when it supplied the casket for Queen Liliuokalani. “Queen Liliuokalani, constitutional Queen of Hawaii, the famous ‘Queen Lil’ of American territorial history and newspaper headlines, was laid to rest in a Springfield bronze casket in 1917.”⁵⁷ The Springfield Metallic Casket Company was prominent enough in the industry that its product was chosen for a historically important U.S. territorial leader and symbolic head of state.

In July 1933, another prominent governmental leader, the first Governor of Oklahoma, was buried in a casket from the Springfield Metallic Casket Company. Noted as being a Springfield Tru-Urn Casket, the company’s internal bulletin, *The Pioneer Line*, included a photo of the casket for Governor E.N. Haskell lying in state in the Oklahoma State Capitol.⁵⁸ The March 1936 *Pioneer Line* also included an article that John Mills, a member of the internationally famous Mills Brothers, had died in January. The Mills Brothers were an African-American jazz and pop vocal quartet, from Piqua, Ohio, that gained radio fame in the 1930s. *The Pioneer Line* made special note that John Mills was laid to rest in a Springfield Darlington Casket.⁵⁹

The Springfield Metallic Casket Company was selling and shipping caskets across the country, to Canada and South America as early as 1891. An early international presence in the casket market, the firm was atypical. “Manufacturers and their markets generally were locally based

⁵⁵ *The Industries and Wealth of Ohio*, p.122.

⁵⁶ “New Factory Addition Opened.”

⁵⁷ Johnson, “The Springfield Metallic Casket Company,” p.7.

⁵⁸ *Springfield’s Bulletin: The Pioneer Line* (Springfield, Ohio: Springfield Metallic Casket Co., No. 40, March 1936), p.12.

⁵⁹ *Springfield’s Bulletin: The Pioneer Line*, p.30.

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and small. This was the norm for the industry well into the 20th century.”⁶⁰ The Springfield Chamber of Commerce, naturally, actively promoted the city’s most prominent manufacturers. (See Attachment B – Historic Images 5) Though a small city, Springfield was once among the state’s industrial leaders. Like the Champion Machine Company before it, and the contemporaneous Crowell-Collier and Kelly-Springfield Tire companies, the Springfield Metallic Casket Company was not only a significant local concern, but a company that brought the world’s attention to Springfield.

⁶⁰ <http://casketinfo.com/History.htm>

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Archives

Clark County Historical Society – Library and Archives
117 S. Fountain Ave., Springfield, Ohio 45502
Subject Files: Springfield Metallic Casket Company

Clark County Public Library
201 S. Fountain Ave., Springfield, Ohio 45506
Subject Files: Springfield Metallic Casket Company

Springfield Metallic Casket Company
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Websites

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Previous documentation on file (NPS):

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

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other
- Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 1.05

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- | | |
|--------------|------------|
| 1. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 2. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 3. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 4. Latitude: | Longitude: |

Or

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UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or NAD 1983

1. Zone: 17 Easting: 259692 Northing: 4423181
2. Zone: Easting: Northing:

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

The nominated property consists of two Clark County Auditor's parcels. The office building is on parcel number 3400700035316027 and the factory and power plant buildings are on parcel number 3400700035316026.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

Boundaries for the nominated property are based upon the historically associated buildings related to the Springfield Metallic Casket Company that retain historic integrity. The three buildings included within the boundary are the c.1905 power plant, the 1920 office building, and the 1929 factory.

The historically associated L-shaped former grave vault factory building, west of the alley, is not being included within the boundary of the nominated property. Due to the blocking-in of the window openings, the building does not maintain historic integrity. A utilitarian factory building, its primary character defining feature on the exterior has been altered. Additionally, no interior access has been permitted into the building; therefore its overall historic integrity is unknown.⁶¹ Future investigation may warrant a different assessment of historic integrity. However, based upon the information at hand, it is presently being considered a noncontributing building. As it would be a noncontributing resource to the nominated property and it is across the alley, it is logical to not include it within the nominated boundary. The alley creates a definable boundary for the Springfield Metallic Casket property, just as the streets on the other three sides of the property do.

⁶¹ The nomination author did speak with the property owner (October 2, 2015) of the grave vault factory building, which is separate ownership from the three nominated buildings. The property owner did not offer or provide access to building. Additionally, a recent site visit to the area (November 23, 2015) revealed that demolition and new construction is actively taking place at the grave vault factory building, further enhancing the uncertainty of the building's historic integrity.

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11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Nathalie Wright
organization: Historic Preservation Consultant
street & number: 349 E. Tulane Rd.
city or town: Columbus state: OH zip code: 43202
e-mail nwright66@yahoo.com
telephone: 614-447-8832
date: December 9, 2015

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A USGS map or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

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Photo Log

Name of Property: Springfield Metallic Casket Company

City or Vicinity: Springfield

County: Clark State: Ohio

Photographer: Nathalie Wright

Date Photographed: May 27, 2015

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

1 of 48 .

PHOTOS

1. Office building, Power Plant, Factory, looking northwest along N. Center Street
2. Power Plant, façade and south elevation, looking west
3. Power Plant, south and rear elevations, looking north
4. Power Plant, interior, looking west
5. Office building, façade, looking west
6. Office building, façade door, looking west
7. Office building, north elevation, looking southeast
8. Office building interior, vestibule stairs, looking west
9. Office building interior, vestibule floor, looking west
10. Office building interior, basement stairs, looking east
11. Office building interior, basement, looking southeast
12. Office building interior, basement, looking west
13. Office building interior, basement secondary entrance stairs, looking east
14. Office building interior, basement, looking south
15. Office building interior, 1st floor, looking southeast
16. Office building interior, 1st floor, looking northwest
17. Office building interior, 1st floor, looking south
18. Office building interior, 1st floor, looking northeast
19. Office building interior, 2nd floor, looking west
20. Office building interior, 2nd floor, looking south
21. Office building interior, 2nd floor, looking southeast
22. Office building interior, 2nd floor, looking east
23. Factory building, east elevation, looking northwest

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24. Factory building, north elevation (smaller building to the right is the c.1925 grave vault factory), looking southwest
25. Factory building, west elevation, looking south
26. Factory building interior, 1st floor entry corridor, looking east
27. Factory building interior, 1st floor elevator with Power Plant beyond, looking south
28. Factory building interior, 1st floor, looking northeast
29. Factory building interior, 1st floor, looking south
30. Factory building interior, 1st floor stairs, looking east
31. Factory building interior, 2nd floor, looking south
32. Factory building interior, 2nd floor freight elevator, looking southwest
33. Factory building interior, 2nd floor offices, looking northwest
34. Factory building interior, 2nd floor overlooking 1st floor dock area, looking north
35. Factory building interior, 2nd floor, looking southwest
36. Factory building interior, 3rd floor, looking south
37. Factory building interior, 3rd floor, looking north
38. Factory building interior, 3rd floor, looking northeast
39. Factory building interior, 3rd floor, door to former elevated connector, looking west
40. Factory building interior, 4th floor, looking west
41. Factory building interior, 4th floor, looking northwest
42. Factory building interior, 4th floor, looking southwest
43. Factory building interior, 5th floor, looking south
44. Factory building interior, 5th floor, looking northeast
45. Factory building interior, 5th floor, looking south
46. Former grave vault factory (outside nominated area), façade, looking southwest
47. Former grave vault factory (outside nominated area), façade & west elevation, looking east
48. Former grave vault factory (outside nominated area), rear elevation, looking northeast

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Attachment A – Maps

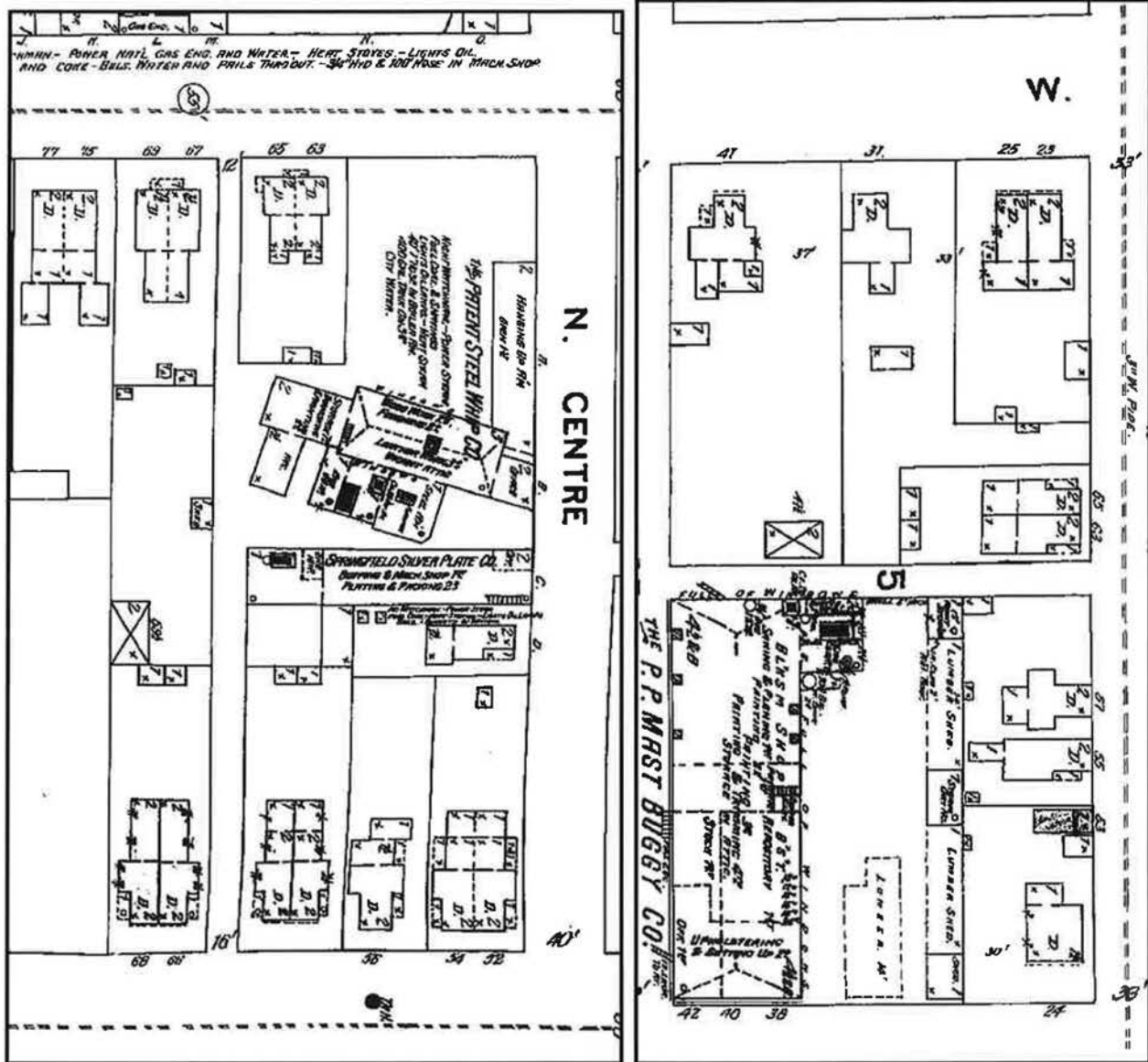


Locational Map Detail - 105 N. Center Street, Springfield, Ohio. From: Google Maps

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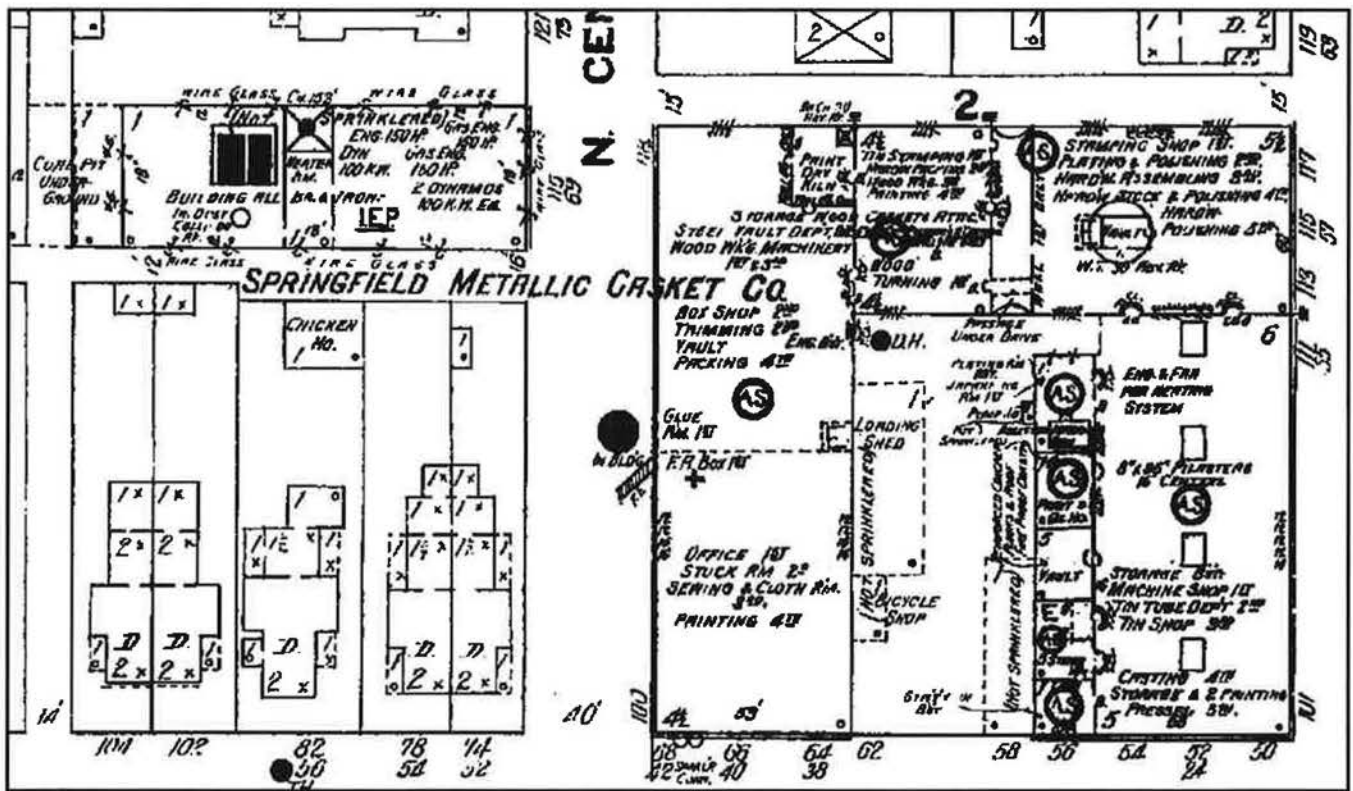


1894 Sanborn Map showing N. Center Street with the initial casket factory (previously Mast) on the right, which has since been demolished.

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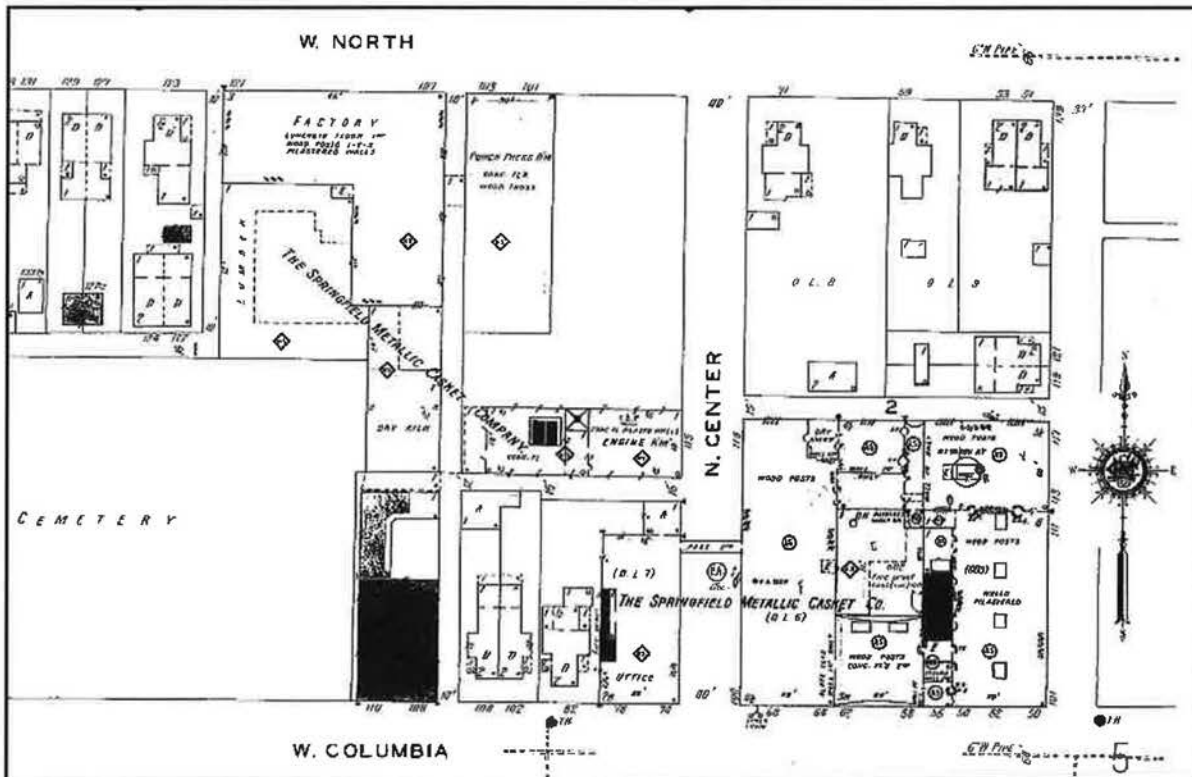
Attachment A – Maps



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Attachment A – Maps

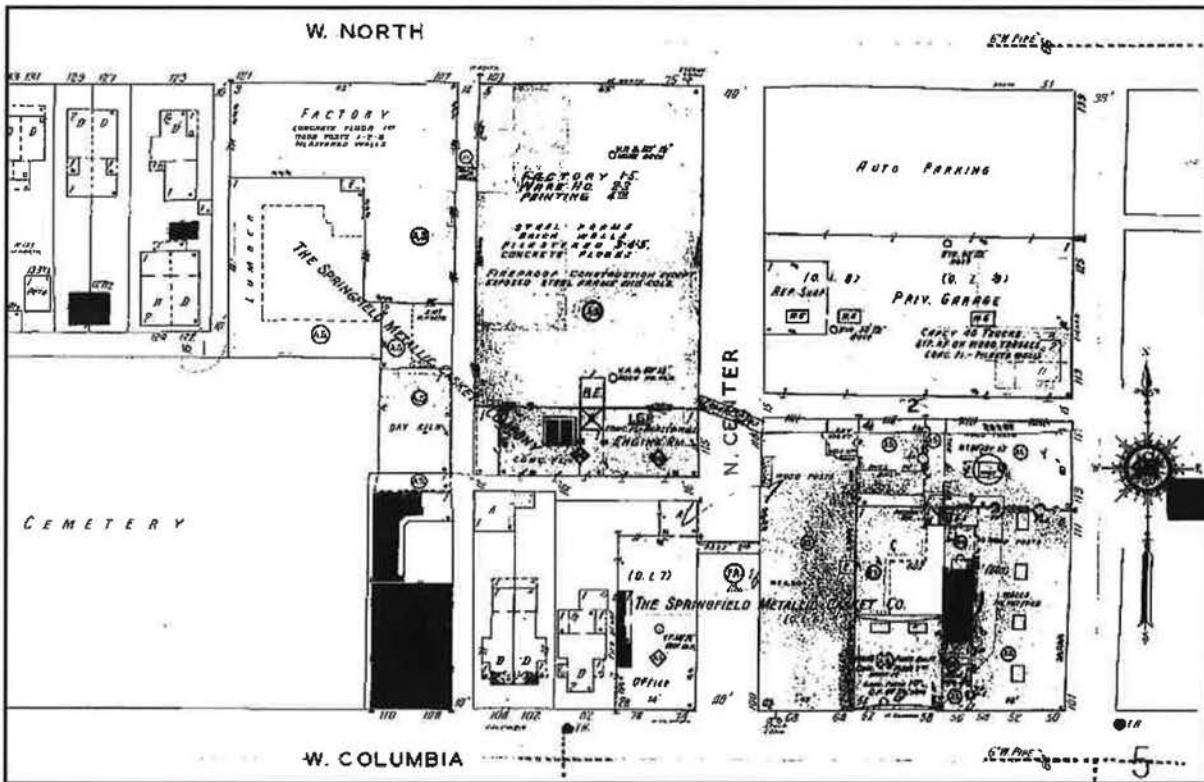


1928 Sanborn Map showing the Power Plant and 1920 office on the NW corner of Columbia & Center. Connector from the Office and the factory is indicated. The c.1924-28 grave vault factory and lumber yards are present by 1928.

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Attachment A – Maps

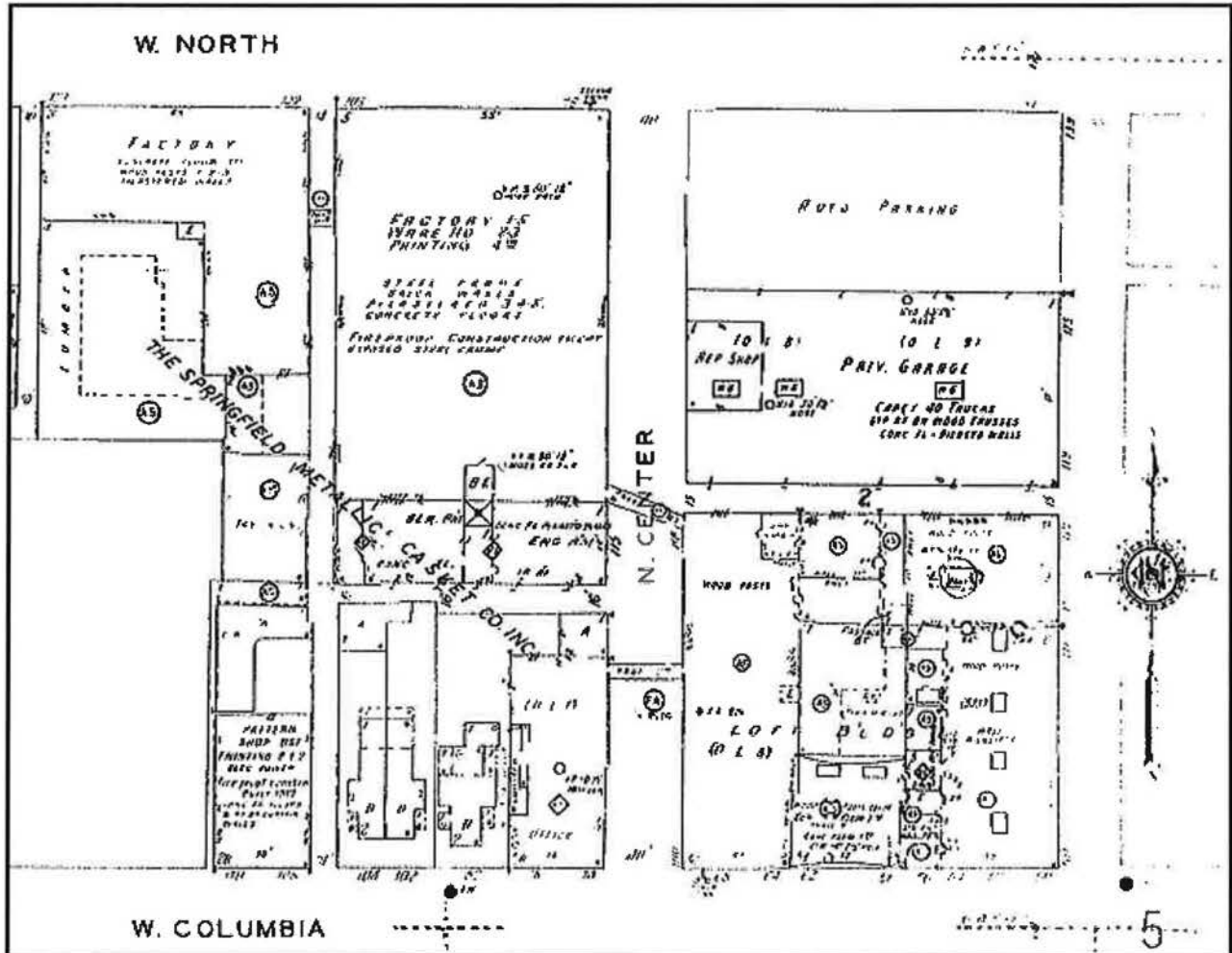


1950 Sanborn Map showing the Power Plant, Office, and 1929 Factory, on the SW corner of North & Center. Multiple elevated connectors are indicated.

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Attachment A – Maps



1955 Sanborn Map showing the Springfield Metallic Casket Co. complex. The initial factory is no longer labeled as being part of the complex, although the elevated connectors are still indicated.

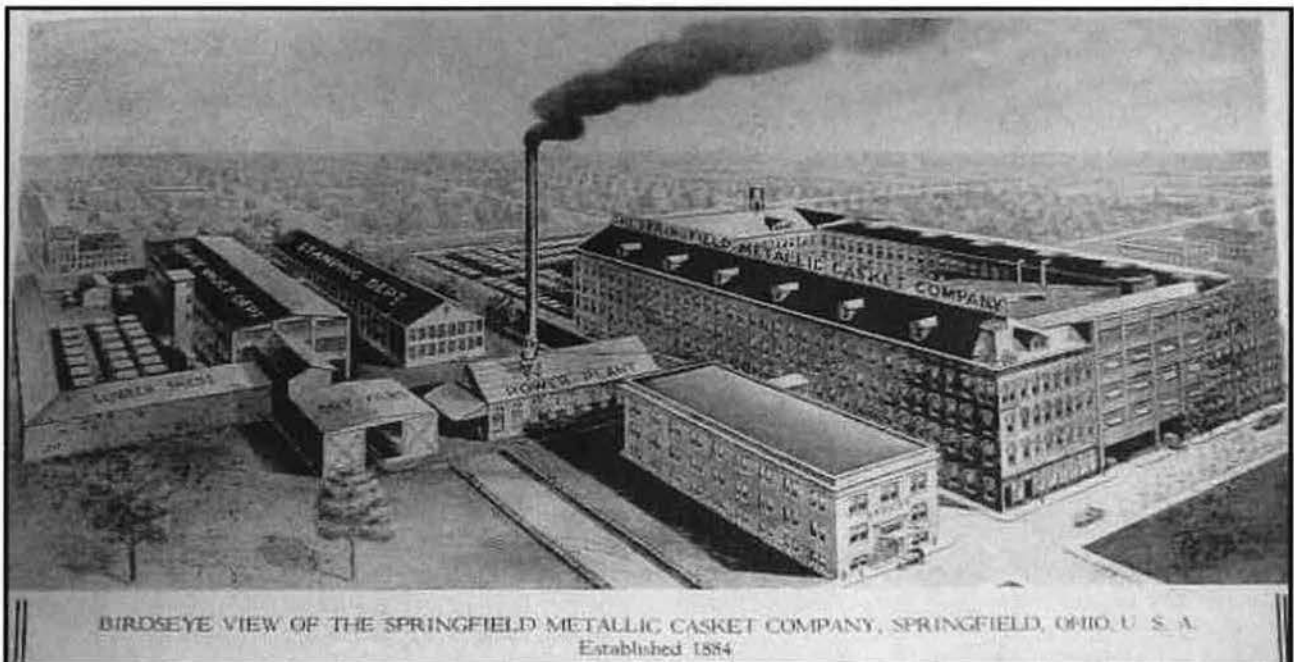
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Attachment B - Historic Images 1



1900 view of factory complex, before construction of c.1905 power plant. From: *Springfield Illustrated*.



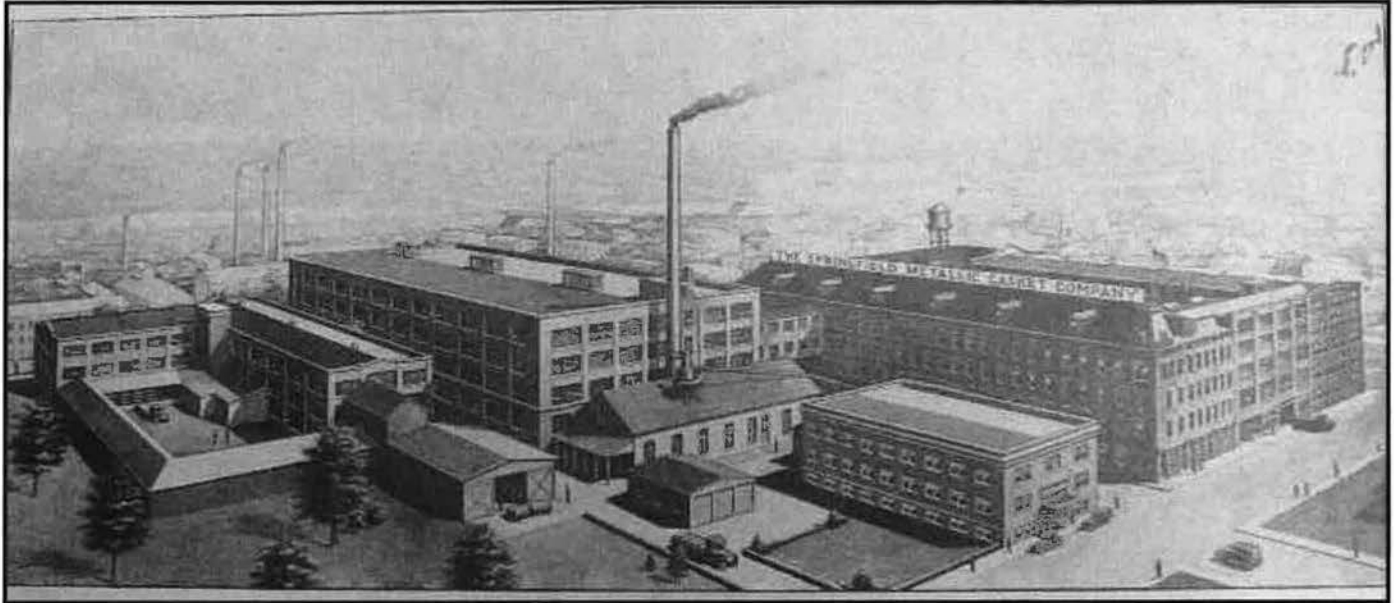
BIRDSEYE VIEW OF THE SPRINGFIELD METALLIC CASSET COMPANY, SPRINGFIELD, OHIO, U. S. A.
Established 1884

1924 view of factory complex, before construction of 1929 factory building. From: *Springfield, Ohio: In the Heart of the Mad River Valley*.

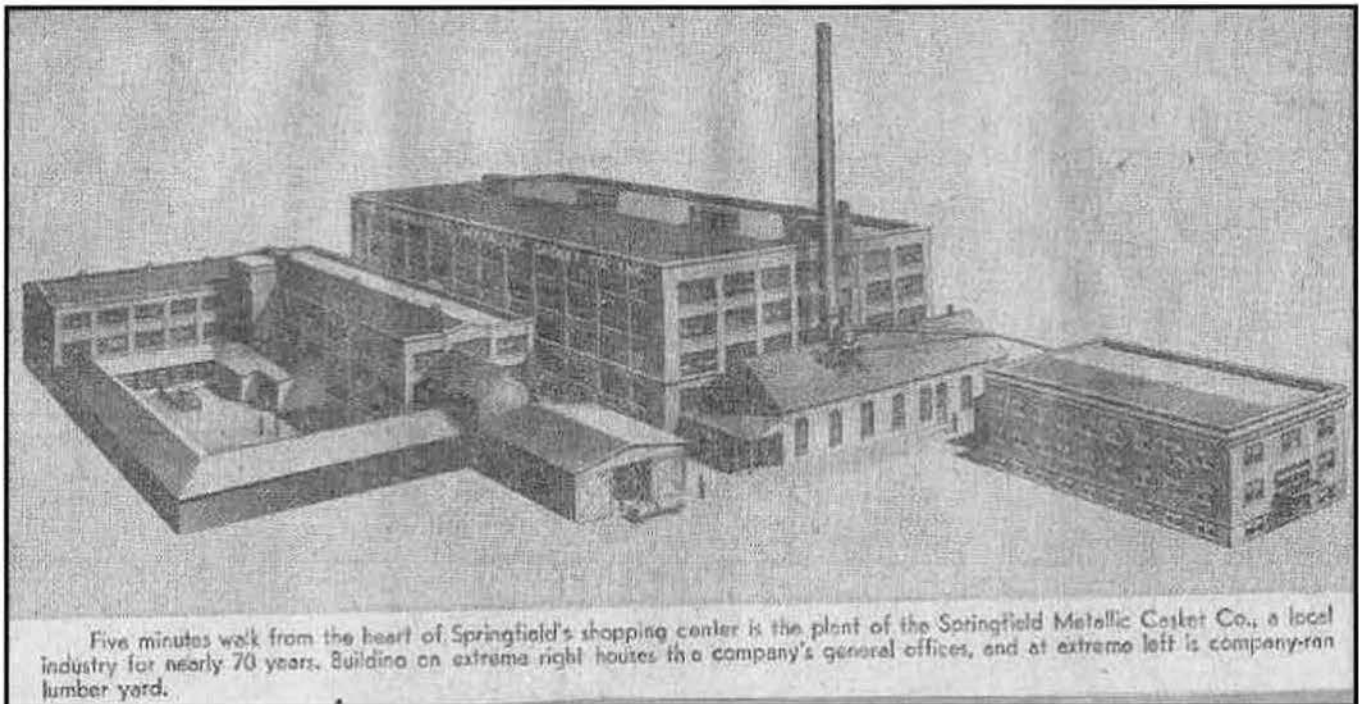
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Attachment B – Historic Images 2



1934 view of entire factory complex. From: "Metallic Casket Company Marks 50th Anniversary," *Springfield News-Sun*, May 13, 1934.

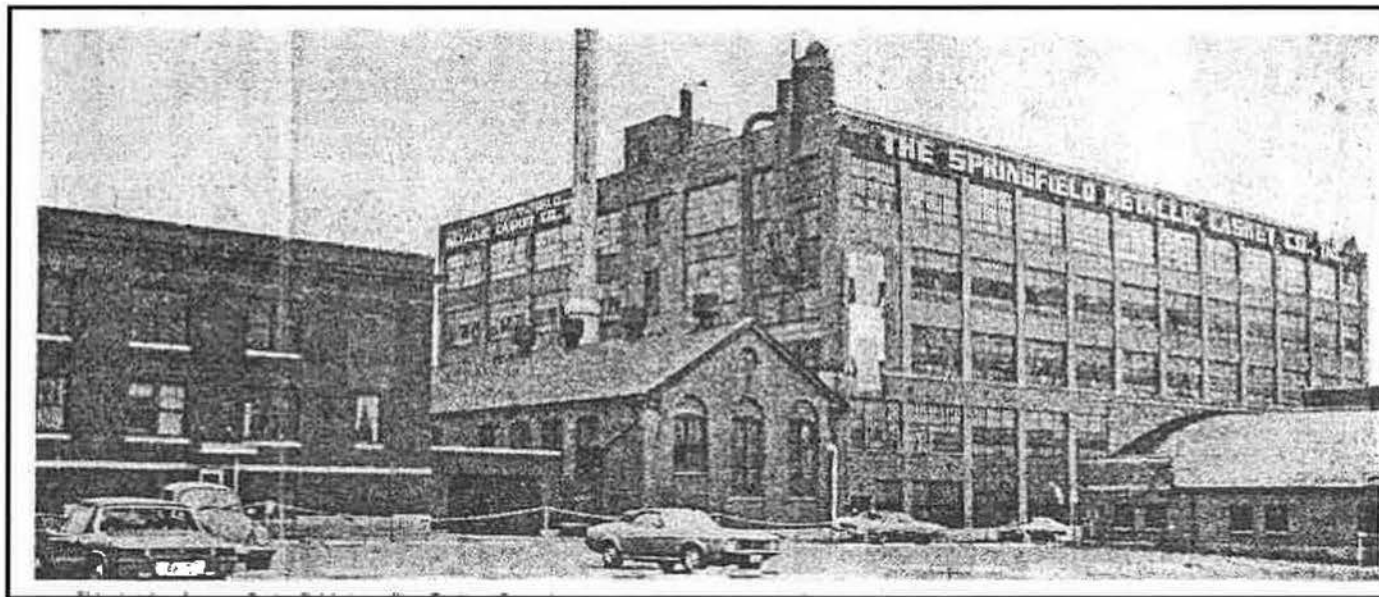


1953 view of factory complex – by this time the initial factory building across N. Center Street is no longer indicated as being part of the property. From: "Springfield Metallic Casket Co. Supplies Needs Of Funeral Directors In All Parts Of Nation," *Springfield News-Sun*, March 1, 1953.

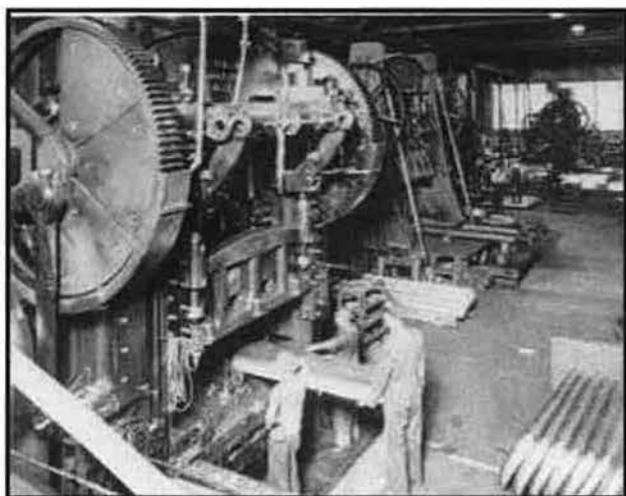
Springfield Metallic Casket Company
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Attachment B – Historic Images 3



1975 view of factory complex, taken from location of the initial factory building, looking northwest. From: Norman, "Metallic Casket Building Is Sold," *Springfield Daily News*, June 18, 1975.



Double casket press, c.1940. From: Ohio History – Ohio Memory Online Project, <http://ohsweb.ohiohistory.org/ohiopix>

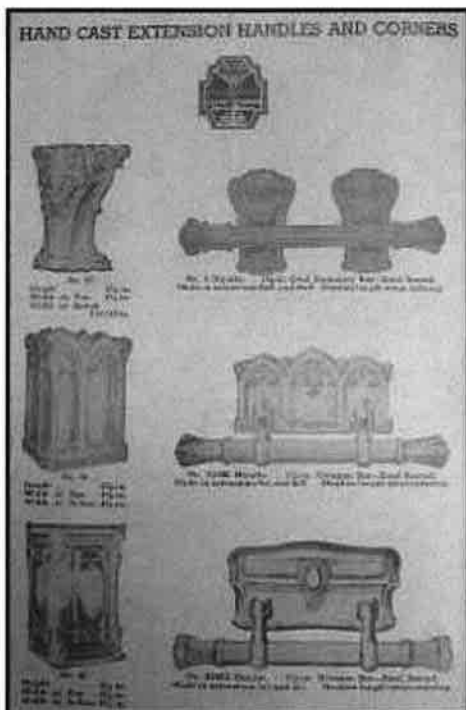
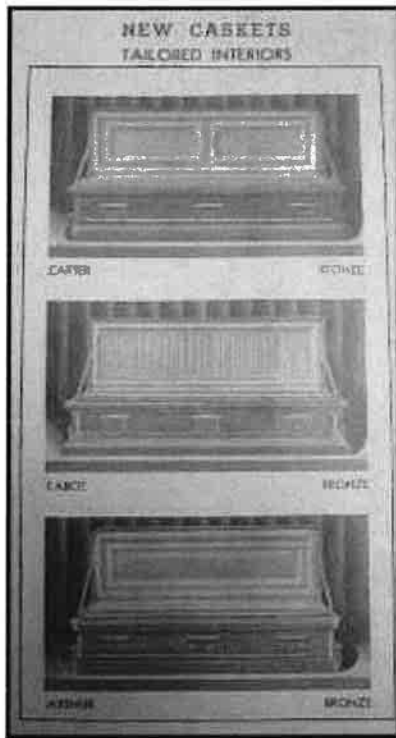


Springfield Metallic Casket Co. Detroit Sales Office and Warehouse, built 1930 and used by the company until 1943. Then used by Wayne State University in the late 20th century for its Mortuary Science program. From: <http://www.detroit1701.org/Springfield%20Casket-Lofts.html>

Springfield Metallic Casket Company
 Name of Property

Clark, Ohio
 County, State

Attachment B – Historic Images 4



Above four pages from Springfield Metallic Casket Company's bulletin, *The Pioneer Line*, March 1936.

Springfield Metallic Casket Company
Name of Property

Clark, Ohio
County, State

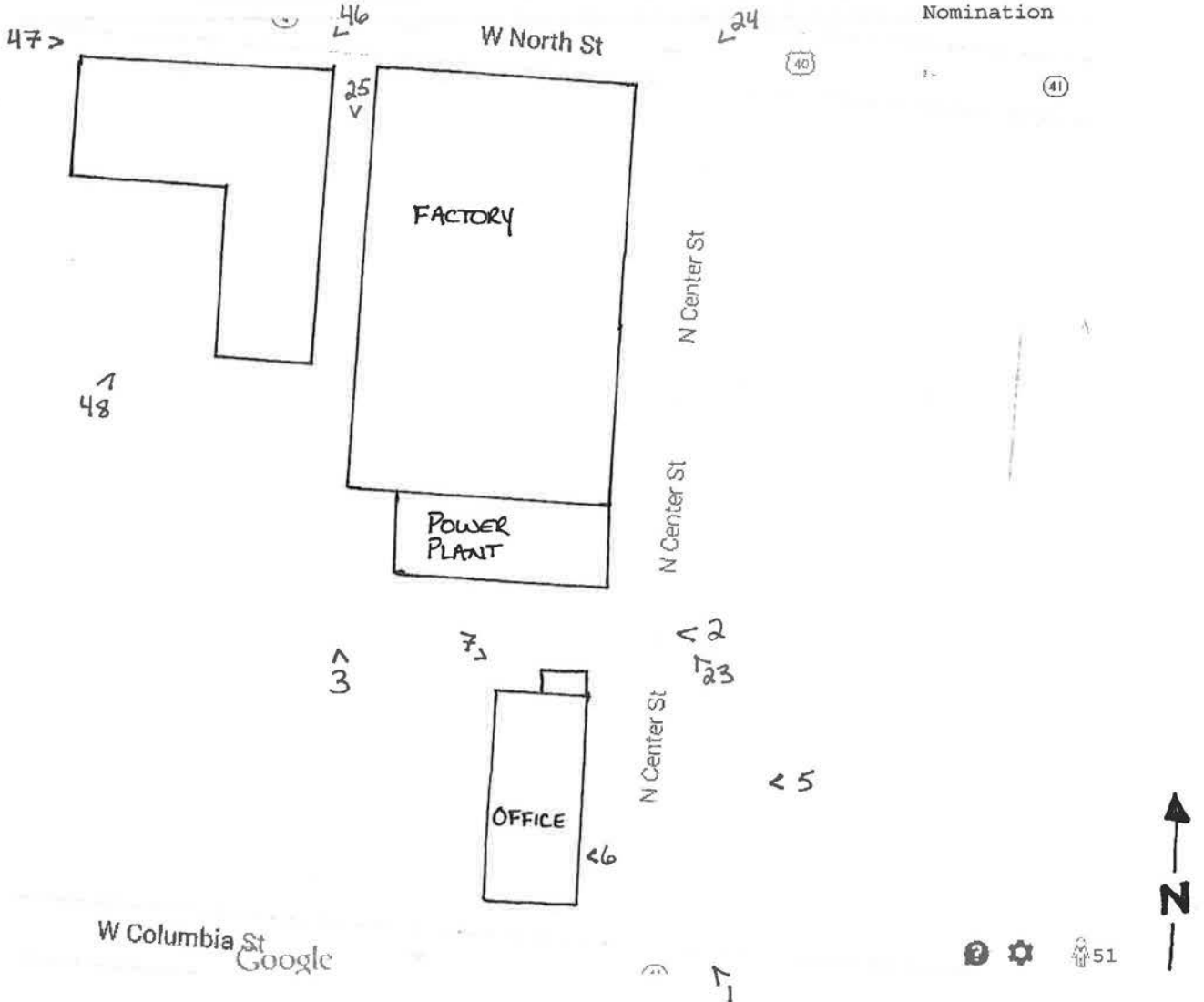
Attachment B – Historic Images 5

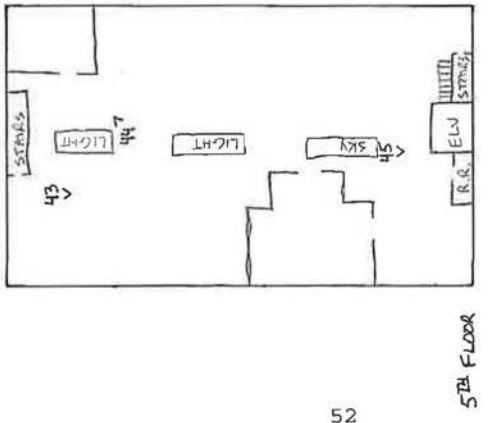
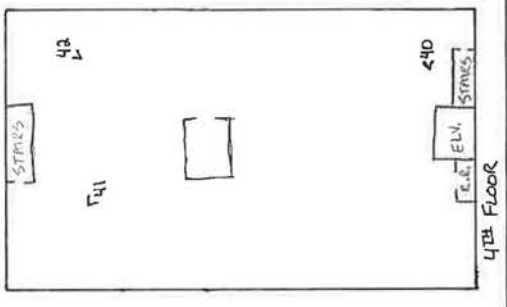
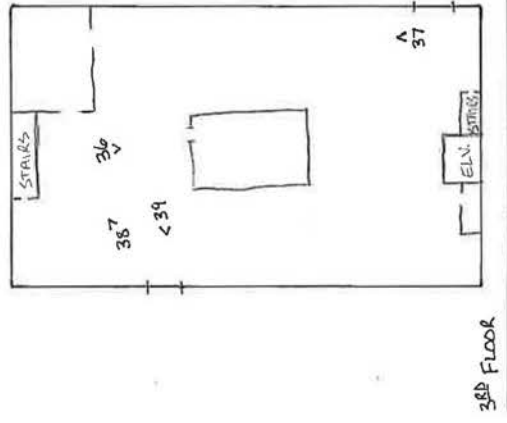
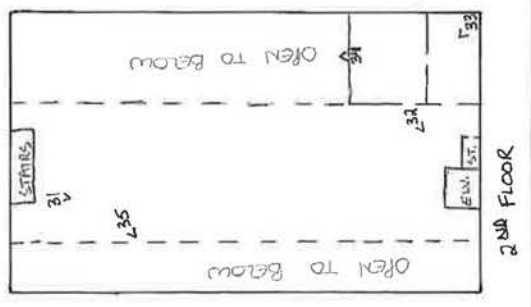
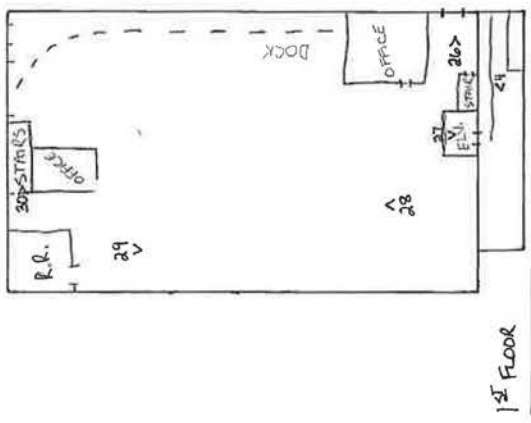


The *The Springfielder*, a publication of the Springfield Chamber of Commerce, promoted the community's most prominent industries, including ones with an international presence. Image on right is from July 1948 and on the left is from December 1948.

Springfield Metallic Casket Co., Clark County, Ohio - Exterior Photo Key

National Register
Nomination



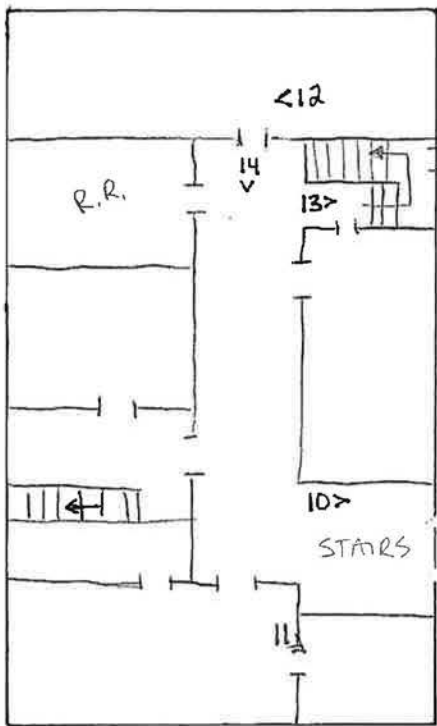


SPRINGFIELD METALLIC CASSET CO.
 CLARK CO., OH
 PHOTO KEY - INTERIORS
 FACTORY + POWER PLANT

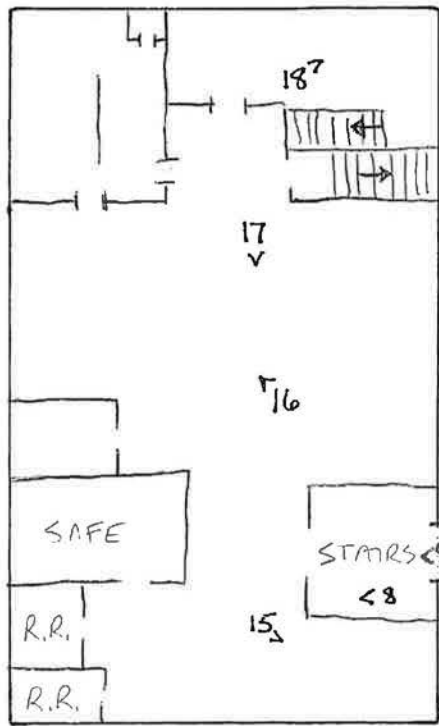


NOT TO SCALE

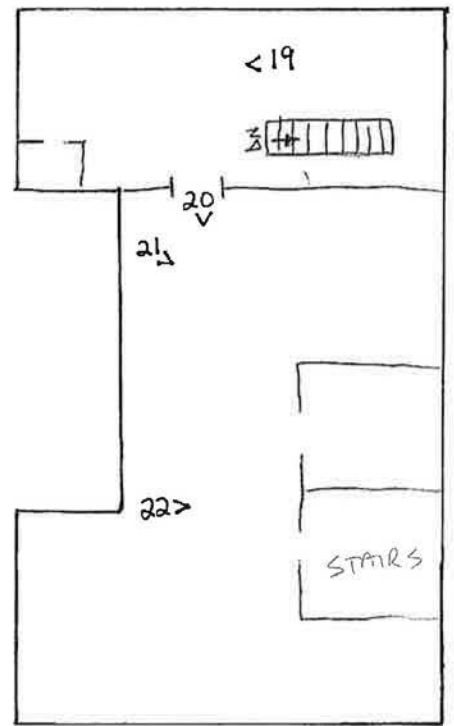
SPRINGFIELD METALLIC CASKET CO., CLARK COUNTY, OH
 PHOTO KEY INTERIOR - OFFICE BUILDING
 NOT TO SCALE



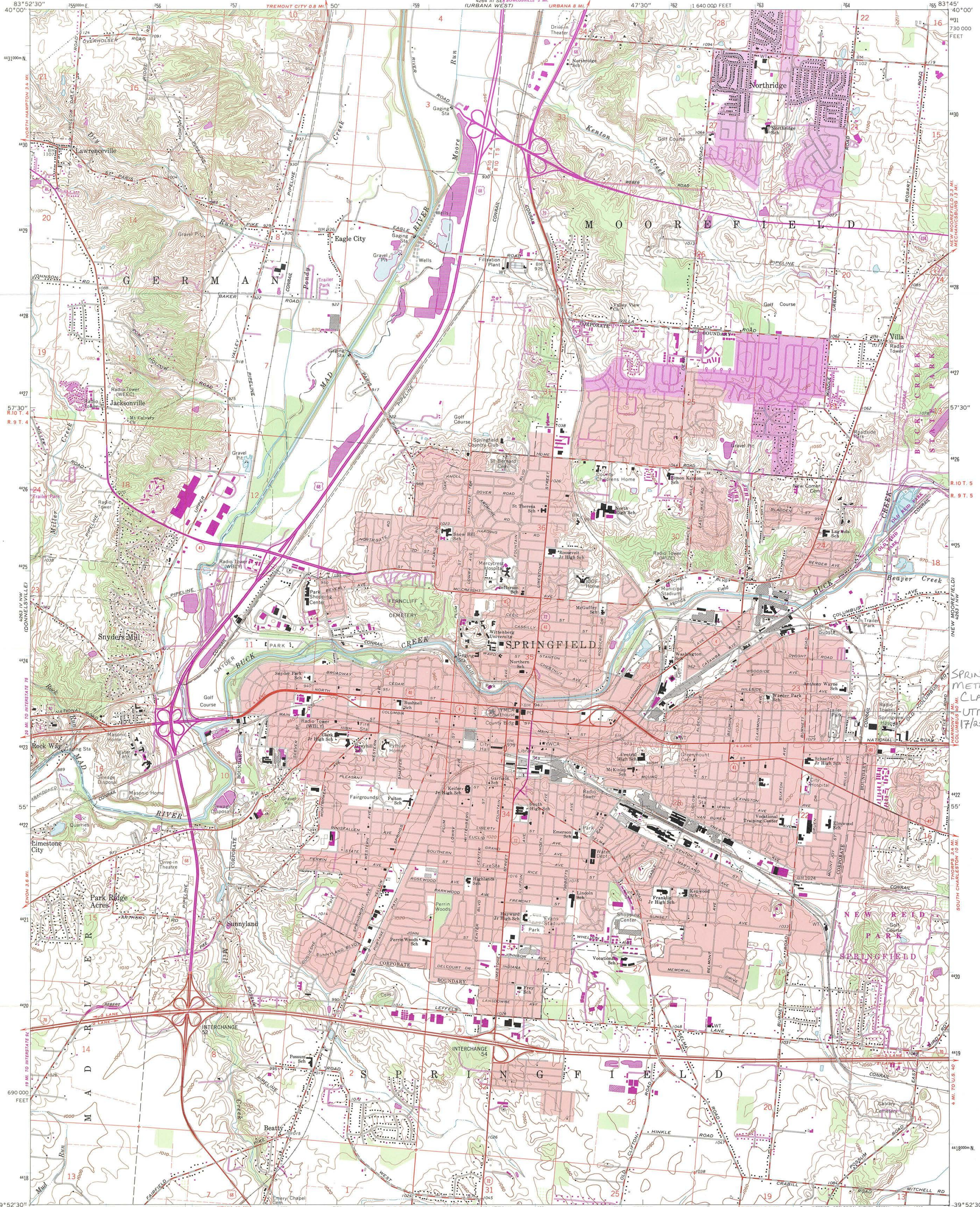
BASMENT



1ST FLOOR

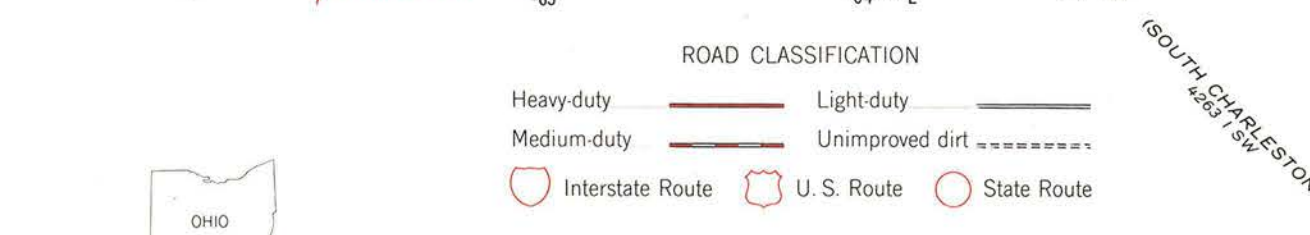
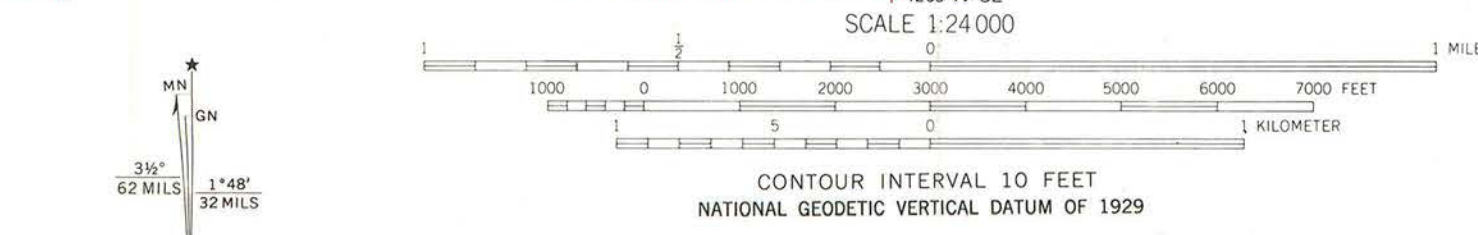


2ND FLOOR



SPRINGFIELD
METALLIC CASSET
CLARK CO., OH
UTM:
17/259692/4423181

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
in cooperation with Defense Mapping Agency
Revised in cooperation with State of Ohio agencies
Control by USGS and NOS/NOAA
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs
taken 1954. Field checked 1955. Revised 1966
Polyconic projection. 10,000-foot grid ticks based on Ohio
coordinate system, south zone. 1000-meter Universal Transverse
Mercator grid ticks, zone 17, shown in blue. 1927 North American
Datum. To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983
move the projection lines 2 meters south and 7 meters west as
shown by dashed corner ticks
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where
generally visible on aerial photographs. This information unchecked
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown
Entire area lies within the Between the Miamis
Land lines based on the Great Miami River Base
There may be private inholdings within the boundaries
of the National or State reservations shown on this map



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

Revisions shown in purple and woodland compiled in cooperation
with State of Ohio agencies from aerial photographs taken
1979 and other sources. This information not field checked
Map edited 1981
Purple tint indicates extension of urban areas

SPRINGFIELD, OHIO
39083-H7-TF-024
1966
PHOTOREVISED 1981
DMA 4263 IV NE—SERIES V852

















S. M. C. C.













Springfield
Metallic
Casket

SPRINGFIELD
MASS.

















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NO
SMOKING















SAFETY APPL

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ONE WAY
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FOR SALE
325-5503





UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Springfield Metallic Casket Company

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: OHIO, Clark

DATE RECEIVED: 1/08/16 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 2/09/16
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 2/23/16 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 2/23/16
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 16000040

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

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

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 2-23-16 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

JAN 08 2016

Nat. Register of Historic Places
National Park Service

December 29, 2015

J. Paul Loether, Deputy Keeper and Chief, National Register
and National Historic Landmark Programs
National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places
1201 Eye St. NW, 8th Fl. (2280)
Washington D.C. 20005

Dear Mr. Loether:

Enclosed please find six (6) new National Register nominations for Ohio. All appropriate notification procedures have been followed for the new nomination submissions.

NEW NOMINATION

Springfield Metallic Casket Company
Greenwood Farm
Mueller Electric Company Building
Baldwin Piano Building
Grant-Deneau Tower
Falls Stamping and Welding Building

COUNTY

Clark
Cuyahoga
Cuyahoga
Hamilton
Montgomery
Summit

The enclosed disks contain the true and correct copy of the nominations for the Mueller Electric Company Building and Grant-Deneau Tower nominations to the National Register of Historic Places.

If you have questions or comments about these documents, please contact the National Register staff in the Ohio Historic Preservation Office at (614) 298-2000.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Barbara Power".

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

for

Enclosures

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
NPS TRANSMITTAL CHECK LIST

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

The following materials are submitted on Dec. 29, 2015
For nomination of the Springfield Metallic to the National Register of
Historic Places: Casket Co., Clark comty, OH

- Original National Register of Historic Places nomination form
 Paper PDF
- Multiple Property Nomination Cover Document
 Paper PDF
- Multiple Property Nomination form
 Paper PDF
- Photographs
 Prints TIFFs
- CD with electronic images
- Original USGS map(s)
 Paper Digital
- Sketch map(s)/Photograph view map(s)/Floor plan(s)
 Paper PDF
- Piece(s) of correspondence
 Paper PDF
- Other _____

COMMENTS:

- Please provide a substantive review of this nomination
- This property has been certified under 36 CFR 67
- The enclosed owner objection(s) do _____ do not _____
Constitute a majority of property owners
- Other: _____