

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received FEB 10 1987

date entered 3/17/87

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

## 1. Name *5 Prop.*

historic Mingo Junction Multiple Resource Area (History/Architecture)

and or common

## 2. Location

street & number Bounded by the corporate limits of Mingo Junction on \_\_\_\_\_ not for publication

city, town the north, west and south, and by the C&P Railroad on the east  
\_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of

Mingo Junction

state Ohio code 039 county Jefferson code 081

## 3. Classification

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>
___ district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	___ agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	___ unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial
___ structure	___ both	___ work in progress	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> educational
___ site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	___ entertainment
___ object	___ in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	___ government
	___ being considered	___ yes: unrestricted	___ industrial
	N/A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	___ military
			___ museum
			___ park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
			___ scientific
			___ transportation
			___ other:

## 4. Owner of Property

name Multiple (see attached list of property owners)

street & number

city, town \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_ state

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Jefferson County Courthouse

street & number Northwest corner of Third and Market Streets

city, town Steubenville state Ohio

## 6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Ohio Historic Inventory has this property been determined eligible? \_\_\_ yes ☒ no

date 1985 \_\_\_ federal ☒ state \_\_\_ county \_\_\_ local

depository for survey records Ohio Historical Center, 1985 Velma Avenue

city, town Columbus state Ohio 43211

## 7. Description

### Condition

☒ excellent  
☒ good  
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated  
☐ ruins  
☐ unexposed

### Check one

☒ unaltered  
☒ altered

### Check one

☒ original site  
☐ moved date \_\_\_\_\_

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The City of Mingo Junction is located on the Ohio River in Jefferson County in eastern Ohio. The city is topographically distinguished by its riverfront location, with steep hills rising beyond the river flats. The Ohio River was the focus for early development in this area, beginning with the Steubenville and Indiana Railroad which followed the river's course when it was built in 1853. Aided by railroad and river transportation, the earliest development in Mingo Junction focused on the river flats. The Mingo Iron Works was built on the flats in 1869, and Mingo Bottoms to its south developed as the first residential settlement. The development of Mingo Junction's commercial district also occurred on the flats, influenced by State Route 7, an early transportation route which traversed the foot of the hills along the river. Later residential development occurred on the city's hillsides, particularly in areas which came to be known as Church Hill and North Hill.

The densest area of development in Mingo Junction is seen in the mill complex and a small section of the downtown. The mill occupies an area of some 95 acres on the river flats and dominates the skyline of Mingo Junction. The downtown is most densely developed in the centrally-located block between McLister Avenue on the north and Ravine Street on the south. The city's older residential neighborhoods to the west of Commercial Street are less compact and consist primarily of working class housing which has been compromised through alteration and demolition. A major impact on Mingo Junction's residential areas was the 1958 relocation of State Route 7, which cut through the center of town from north to south. The city's most prominent residential street in the 19th century, Clifton Avenue, has lost its original character through demolition of the large houses which once stood there. Beyond Corporation Street, which serves as a reminder of the town's earlier boundaries, are the city's modern residential neighborhoods annexed and developed over the past 30 years.

The types of historic resources which are most prominent in Mingo Junction are the industrial mill building, commercial buildings in the business district, numerous frame working class houses (both single family and double, many altered), the Carnegie Steel housing development on North Hill, and a small number of institutional buildings. The commercial district retains its turn-of-the-century scale and density, but the city's older neighborhoods have lost cohesiveness. Several of the city's older institutional buildings, such as churches and schools, are clustered in the area known as Church Hill between Ravine Street on the north and Peller Street to the south.

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The land on which Mingo Junction is situated was part of a 600-acre riverfront tract bought in 1800 by Rev. Lyman Potter and Jasper Murdock. For many years, the land was split into two farms, the Potter farm along the river and the Murdock Farm on the hill to the north. In 1869 the Potter heirs sold 30 acres on the river flats and a tract on the hill to a group of capitalists for construction of a mill, marking the beginning of the town's development. Mingo Junction was platted in 1871, with the earliest homes being constructed to the south of the mill, in Mingo Bottoms. The success of the mill meant the growth of Mingo Junction and, by the 1890s, the town had a population of over 1,800, a second railroad had been constructed, and a business district had begun to develop on Commercial Street north of McLister Avenue.

According to an 1899 birdseye view, some of Mingo Junction's largest homes were built during the late 19th century on Clifton Avenue at the south end of town. Middle and working class neighborhoods were developed to the west of Commercial Street in two primary areas, North Hill to the north of McLister Avenue and Church Hill between Ravine and Peller Streets. Church Hill derived its name from the churches and schools located there during the late 19th century. The area known as Reservoir Hill between McLister and Ravine was still undeveloped by the turn of the century, and appears to have been under mill ownership. The area to the south of the mill was built up by this time as a residential neighborhood containing churches, schools and businesses.

By the turn of the century, Mingo Junction had grown to a population of nearly 3,000 people, with an increase to over 4,000 by 1910. To accommodate the influx of people to the community, a number of additions were platted on the hillsides for the construction of working class homes. Additional churches and schools were built in Church Hill to serve Mingo's residents. One of the more significant developments of the first decade of this century in Mingo Junction was extension of the Commercial Street business district to the south to Reservoir Hill and the development of the hill itself as a residential area. Built between 1899 and c. 1910, the business blocks at this location eventually replaced other Commercial Street buildings to the north and south, becoming the city's primary commercial district (Commercial Street Historic District, photos #1-24).

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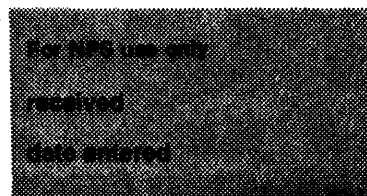
From 1910 to 1930, the community continued to grow, with as many as 14 new subdivisions being platted during this period. Among the more notable developments during this time was the North Hill Addition, platted by Carnegie Steel Co. in 1918 as a residential neighborhood for steel workers and their families. By 1930, Mingo Junction had grown large enough to attain city status with a population of 5030. To accommodate the increased population, some of the earlier churches and schools were replaced by buildings which remain standing today, such as Central Public School (1919) and Central High School (1929). Some additional commercial buildings were constructed during this period, such as the downtown theater, but the business district's form had been pretty much established by 1910.

Mingo Junction's growth was slowed during the 1930s, but was reactivated by the activity of the mill as part of the World War II effort. In 1945, Wheeling Steel purchased the mill complex and most of the land in the Mingo Bottoms area (the east end), demolishing the latter for expansion of the mill complex. Also during the 1940s, the city began annexing farm land outside the original corporate limits for development, drawing some residents to more suburban areas. The development which had the biggest impact upon the city's older neighborhoods, however, was the relocation of State Route 7 through its center beginning in 1958. Many homes were demolished, displacing residents and creating a gap between the older neighborhoods of the city and the newer developments to the west.

The boundaries of the Mingo Junction Multiple Resource Area are drawn at the corporate limits of the city, excluding only the mill complex to the east of Commercial Street. The buildings being nominated have been evaluated within the context of the city's historic resources and selected based upon their architectural and historical character within that context. The nomination includes the city's turn-of-the-century commercial district, the 1918 residential district built as mill company housing by Carnegie Steel, and the three individual church and schools from the early 20th century (St. Agnes Catholic Church, 1921, photo #35; Central Public School, 1919, photo #33-34; and Central High School, 1929, photo #23-24). Aside from the unique grouping of brick company housing on North Hill, no other residential buildings are included in the nomination. Mingo Junction's residential architecture is predominantly frame, working class housing which has suffered from alteration and demolitions over the years.

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Architectural styles found in the area are Gothic Revival in the church (photo 35) and Jacobethan Revival in the two schools (photo 23-24, 33-34). The two schools are particularly notable for their similar architectural treatment and their proximity to one another on Church Hill. The brick buildings in the Carnegie addition are both single family and multi-family units and unified by their vernacular variations of an English-derived early 20th style (photos #25-32). Commercial buildings in the business district are built of buff and red brick, and are individually restrained in ornamentation but present a cohesive streetscape illustrating early 20th century styles. Features such as bracketed cornices, decorative brickwork and projecting bays lend variety and interest to the district (photos #1-22).

Each of the two districts and three buildings being nominated have integrity of location, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association in Mingo Junction. The commercial district is located on the river flats, the company housing development is situated on North Hill, and all of the churches and schools are grouped together on Church Hill. Each of the proposed historic districts are described below, while the individual buildings are described on the attached Ohio Historic Inventory forms.

Commercial Street Historic District

The Commercial Street Historic District is an early 20th century business district which lies on the river flats of Mingo Junction, forming a linear division between the city's riverfront steel mill to the east and its hillside neighborhoods to the west. Railroad tracks skirt the rear property lines of the commercial buildings on the east side, separating the mill from the downtown, while buildings on the west side of the street abut a steep hillside with retaining wall. As a result, the downtown district is distinguished by geography and development patterns from the rest of the community.

The district is one block long, encompassing approximately 20 buildings from McLister Avenue on the north to Highland Avenue on the south. Rapidly developed during the first decade of the 20th century, the Commercial Street District consists of two to three-story commercial buildings built in a red or buff-colored brick, with the generally restrained ornamentation typical of the period. A number of buildings exhibit classical details, second story bays, decorative cornices, or round-arched window treatment, lending variety and interest to the streetscape. The Commercial Street district has few intrusions or gaps in the streetscape, remaining essentially as it was built from 1899 to about 1910.

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In the following discussion, the district is described from north to south on first the west side of Commercial Street and then the east (mill) side.

The north end of the district is anchored by the Hotel McDevitt (c. 1900, bldg. #1, photo #6), a three-story, buff-colored brick structure with contrasting brick belt coursing and corbelled cornice. The side elevation of the building is stepped to reflect its McLister Avenue orientation, with pediments and entrances at the angled corners. Immediately south of the hotel is the Weisberger Building (bldg. #2, photo #7), which repeats the hotel's three-story buff-colored facade treatment. The building features a Carrara glass storefront from the 1930s and original upper facade treatment, including the bracketed cornice which is intact beneath a recent covering. Continuing south on the west side of the street is a three story, two bay building (bldg. #3, photo #8) from about 1900, followed by a two story building (bldg. #4, photo #9) which dates from about 1905. Although its cornice has been removed, the first building displays an interesting window treatment and original storefront enframement. The building housing Milos is intact and features a stepped parapet, broad second story bay, and side entrances flanking a central display window. A vacant lot exists to the south of this building.

The three buildings at 633-649 Commercial Street (bldgs. #5, 6 and 7; photos #10-11) are identical in design and appear to have been built as a group about 1905. The builders used contrasting buff and red brick in lintels, belt courses and corbelled cornices, reversing the scheme on the middle building. This center building retains its original storefront and side entrances to the upper floor apartments. The next building (bldg. #8, photo #12), originally two structures, has had alterations to cornice and storefront but retains the overall scale and feeling of the district. The next building (bldg. #9, photo #13) is noted as an example of a c. 1920 theater, with oversized corbelled parapet and dentilled storefront cornice. The theater marks the southern edge of the district on the west side of Commercial Street at the point where a walkway (originally Highland Avenue) allows pedestrians to reach the business district from the hillside.

On the east side of Commercial Street, the north end of the district begins with two buff colored brick buildings built about 1910. The first (bldg. #10, photo #14) was built as a restaurant and hotel and features a restrained early 20th century treatment. The second building is the First National Bank (bldg. #11, photo #15), probably the most architecturally significant building in the district. The bank features a Neo-Classical

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design in its stone cornice, frieze inscription, and nine bay facade. The central three bays have round-arched openings separated by pilasters. Entrances are also located in the end bays. To the south of the bank are two early 20th century buff colored buildings (bldgs. #12 and 13) which replaced a gable-roofed brick building at this site sometime after 1910. Although unornamented architecturally, they lend continuity to the streetscape.

The next eight structures on Commercial Street comprise an intact streetscape of turn-of-the-century commercial buildings as they appeared in Mingo Junction. While some ground floors have been altered, these buildings retain their upper facade treatment and, in many cases, storefront enframing. The brick building at 624-28 (bldg. #14, photo #16) features an intact upper facade with handsome corbelled brickwork in the frieze and cornice. The two-story building to the south (bldg. #15, photo #17) features an intact north storefront and pair of oriel bays on the second floor. The Pelley Building (bldg. #16, photo #18) dates from 1902 and is noted for its elaborate metal cornice with "Pelley" in the frieze, round-arched windows with keystones on the second floor, and intact storefront cornice.

Adjacent to the Pelley Building are the Schutzen Club and James Brettel Buildings (bldgs. #17 and 18, photo #20), both constructed with buff brick, corbelled cornice and stone lintel courses. The Schutzen Club, built about 1905, retains its original storefront. The Brettel Building, which dates from 1899, is one of the most imposing buildings in the district. Its decorative facade features a central round-arched bay, rusticated stone sills and lintels, and a corbelled brick cornice with projecting piers. To the south is a brick building from c. 1940 (bldg. #19), followed by two buildings (bldgs. #20 and 21, photo #21) with decorative second story bays and corbelled parapets. The later Dempsey Building (#21, built c. 1907) was designed to complement its neighbor to the north, the Sharp Building (#20, built in 1902). These buildings mark the southern end of the proposed historic district. Beyond this point, the frequency of intrusions or vacant lots precluded extending the district to include the few early 20th century buildings that exist in this area.

North Hill Historic District

The North Hill Addition is a visually cohesive housing development laid out in the northern part of Mingo Junction in 1918. Built by the Carnegie Steel Co. beginning in 1918, the development contains 33 buildings,

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including single family and four family units. The area was developed around two main streets, Logan and Western Avenue, which run east and west. Connecting the two streets from north to south are George and Warren Streets, with Edward Street forming a east-west short connector between Warren and an alley to the west. The area is noted for its hilly contours and trees, with houses set back from the street on embankments. The area is characterized by sidewalks along the street and leading to each building.

Architecturally, North Hill is very distinctive within the context of Mingo Junction's residential neighborhoods. The buildings are consistent in scale (two stories), material (red or buff colored brick), and setback from the street. However, a good deal of variety exists in building details, such a gabled or hipped rooflines, chimney placement, entrance canopies, and one and two story porches. The use of brick as a construction material is highly unusual in Mingo Junction, where 90 percent of the housing is frame. The development retains a high degree of integrity, with no intrusions, demolitions or significant alterations since it was constructed in 1918.

The cohesive, planned quality of the area is enhanced by the grouping of buildings by type. Four-family units are located on George Street and Logan Avenue, while the remainder of the streets are built up with single family units only. The George Street units (photos #25-26) feature four separate entrances on the main facade to either side of a pair of gabled pavilions, and a gabled roof with clipped ends. The six units on Logan Avenue (photos #27-28) are among the most visually interesting buildings in the development. Three of the units feature a paired central entries with bracketed canopies flanked by two story porches with brick piers. The design of the next three Logan Avenue units features one story front and side porches containing the building entries. The sense of variety in all of these units is enhanced by the alternating use of gabled and hipped roofs.

Single family dwellings in the development located on Edwards Street (photos #29-30), Western Avenue (photo #31) and Warren Street (photo #32) are similarly characterized by variety in rooflines and porches. Porches are one story, but may be located to one side or across the entire main facade, or may be recessed into the building. Rooflines tend to lend the greatest amount of interest to these houses, with a variety of clipped gables, elongated gables, and bracketed eaves. Windows are generally six over one, but vary greatly in placement.



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Comprehensive Survey

The Mingo Junction Multiple Resource Area nomination is based on a comprehensive history/architecture survey of the City of Mingo Junction. The survey was conducted within the corporate boundaries of Mingo Junction, but did not include the mill complex. Sponsored by the City of Mingo Junction, the inventory was funded by a 50 percent matching Survey and Planning grant from the Ohio Historic Preservation Office. The firm of Benjamin D. Rickey & Co. of Columbus, Ohio, conducted the survey with research and field work supervised by Nancy Recchie, Judy Williams and Ann Eliot during the summer and fall of 1985. In addition, several inventory forms (description only) were prepared by OHPO intern Mark Stockman during the summer of 1985.

The survey included all property within the corporate boundaries of Mingo Junction, with the exception of the mill complex. Problems of access to the private property over the course of the survey were anticipated by the Jefferson County Regional Planning Commission, which excluded the mill from the survey area boundaries. The steel mill was, in fact, closed from July through October, 1985, due to a strike by employees of Wheeling-Pittsburgh Steel, current owners of the mill.

## 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates	1883–1929	Builder/Architect	N/A
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### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The historic resources of Mingo Junction, which include the downtown commercial district, a mill company residential development, and three individual churches and schools, are significant for their contribution to the history and development of Mingo Junction as an important steel town of the Ohio Valley. Only 30 years old at the turn of the century, Mingo Junction achieved its greatest significance after 1900 when the city grew rapidly to keep pace with its advancing steel mill. The early 20th century history of Mingo Junction is well represented in the nominated buildings which date primarily from 1900 to 1929. The buildings and districts are significant for their close association with events relating to the city's industrial, commercial, religious and cultural history. Architecturally, the individual buildings and districts exhibit a high degree of integrity, remaining much as they were originally constructed. Particularly when evaluated within the context of Mingo Junction's architecture (predominately frame buildings which have been extensively altered), the nominated resources stand out for their masonry construction and intact architectural treatment.

Mingo Junction was platted in 1871, just two years after the Mingo Iron Works was located on the river banks at this location in 1869. The community's growth from the late 19th century to the present has been inextricably tied to the development of the mill. The town grew up around the iron works, which met with great success from the start. In 1890 the Mingo works was merged into the Junction Iron and Steel Company and the plant was expanded with the addition of two blast furnaces, a bar mill and a nail factory. The population of Mingo Junction increased from 371 people in 1880 to over 1,800 ten years later. During the late 1890's, the steel mill was acquired by different companies who expanded its capacity even further. Aetna Standard Iron and Steel Co. purchased the mill in 1897, adding additional finishing mills in that year and a Bessemer steel works in 1899. The mill was acquired in 1901 by Carnegie-Illinois Corp., a subsidiary of U.S. Steel, who expanded the plant's rolling mill operations.

The growth of the steel mill throughout the late 19th and early 20th centuries is reflected in Mingo Junction's expanded population during this same period. The development of transportation advantages contributed to Mingo Junction's growth as a mill town during the late 19th century. Both the Ohio River and early railroad lines established in 1853 and 1882 were relied upon to ship freight as well as bring passengers to and from Mingo Junction. A population of 1,856 in 1890 increased to nearly 3,000 by the turn-of-the-century and over 4,000 a decade later in 1910. Many of the town's earliest immigrant groups came from Northern European countries, including Ireland, Scotland, England, Wales and Germany. While most came to work in the factory, many of these newcomers began establishing businesses to serve the growing steel town.

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Early commercial development in Mingo Junction focused on Commercial Street, the main thoroughfare through the community which developed as an early north-south transportation route along the Ohio River. The important role which Commercial Street has played in the life and livelihood of Mingo Junction is illustrated by the physical relationship of the business district to the steel mill on the east and the residential neighborhoods on the west. Laid out on the flats adjacent to the railroad tracks, the district served as a buffer between the mill and the city's residential neighborhoods, while at the same time facilitating their interaction and growth. Initially, commercial buildings were located to the north of McLister Avenue and the south of Ravine Street, with the block between being undeveloped as part of "Reservoir Hill." After 1899, however, this centrally-located block was developed as the prime commercial district in Mingo Junction (Commercial Street Historic District, photos 1-24)

Residential development in Mingo Junction kept pace with the development of the steel mill and the adjacent business district. The population of the town continued to grow after the turn-of-the-century as immigrants from Northern and Southern Europe arrived to work in the steel mill. The first area to be settled in Mingo Junction was the area south of the mill, originally called "Mingo Bottoms." Residential development soon spread to the hills west of Commercial Street, particularly North Hill and Church Hill.

Educational and religious development of Mingo Junction is represented by a cluster of buildings on Church Hill, the location of Mingo Junction's earliest churches. A survivor from the 19th century is the First Methodist Episcopal Church organized in 1874 as the second church in Mingo Junction. The existing building has been used by the Methodist congregation since it was constructed in 1883 and expanded in 1897. It is not included in the nomination due to a loss of integrity. Located nearby is a significant church from the early 20th century in Mingo Junction, St. Agnes Roman Catholic Church (bldg. #23, photo #35). Beginning in 1887, Catholic services attracted large numbers of Mingo Junction's European immigrants, particularly the Irish and Italians. To accommodate increased growth during the early 20th century, an earlier 1889 church was replaced by the existing building in 1922. The church also offered the city's only parochial school.

Mingo Junction's 19th century schools were well-located in relation to the city's residential neighborhoods, with school buildings built in Mingo Bottoms (Logan School), North Hill (Lincoln School) and Church Hill (Franklin School). Church Hill was the location for the first school building in Mingo Junction, and continued to provide a central site for the consolidated schools of the early 20th century. Central Public School (bldg. #24, photos #33-34) was

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built on the site of Franklin School in 1906 and replaced with the present building following a fire in 1918. Within ten years the need was clear for a separate high school, resulting in the construction of Central High School (bldg. #25, photos #23-24) in 1929. Located immediately adjacent to Central School, this new building was built in a complementary architectural style of the early 20th century.

Throughout Mingo Junction's history, residential neighborhoods have been built up with predominately frame, working class housing to accommodate the steel mill workers and their families. The early 20th century brought numerous new subdivisions to the hillsides of Mingo Junction, including developments on Reservoir Hill, North Hill, and Church Hill. As the steel industry continued to grow and expand in Mingo Junction, the mill company began to take responsibility for providing factory worker housing. Unique in Mingo Junction is the North Hill Addition, developed by Carnegie Steel as high quality mill housing in 1918 (North Hill Historic District, photos #25-32).

Overall, the buildings documented in this nomination reflect Mingo Junction's significant periods of development from the late 19th to the early 20th century. The growth period from 1900 to 1929 is particularly well represented in the commercial district, mill company housing, schools and St. Agnes Church. Various themes in the city's history are represented through buildings associated with commerce (Commercial Street district), industry (mill company housing), education (Central Public School and Central High School) and religion (St. Agnes Catholic Church). From a visual standpoint, the nominated buildings and districts stand out in the contest of Mingo Junction's remaining resources because of their architectural integrity and use of brick as a construction material. Nineteenth century styles are represented in the Victorian-influenced buildings in the commercial district, while the early 20th century is represented in the Jacobethen Revival schools and Late Gothic Revival church building constructed between 1919 and 1929, as well as the 1918 Carnegie Steel Co. development.

Statements of significance for the two historic districts follow. Separate significance statements for the individual buildings are attached to the Ohio Historic Inventory forms for these properties.

### Commercial Street Historic District

The Commercial Street Historic District represents an intact and cohesive collection of turn-of-the-century commercial buildings illustrating the rapid development of Mingo Junction at the beginning of the 20th century. The

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block-long district was completely built up during the 16-year period from 1899 to about 1915, a period of tremendous growth for the steel mill and the community as a whole. Fronting the main 19th and early 20th century transportation route through Mingo Junction, the district also serves as a transitional area between the mill on the east and the residential neighborhoods on the west. It remains today as the primary commercial district serving the Mingo Junction population.

Handsome brick business blocks, built to house retail businesses on the first floor and offices or apartments on upper floors, were built by a variety of business operators. Among the first of the existing commercial buildings to be constructed was the James Brettell Building (bldg. #18, photo #20), built in 1899. On of the more decorative buildings in the district, the building housed a butcher shop on the ground floor, the Brettell family apartment and offices on the second floor, and apartments on the third floor. Other buildings in the district which illustrate retail development are the McNeal Building (bldg. #2, photo #7), built in 1901 and occupied since 1907 by Weisberger's clothing store, the Pelley Building (bldg. #16, photo #18), constructed as a drug store in 1902, and the Sharp Building (bldg. #20, photo #21), also built in 1902 to house a furniture and undertaking business.

Because the city's railroad lines skirted the east side of Commercial Street, both the village depot and hotels serving railroad travelers were located at the north end of the commercial district near McLister Avenue. The depot is no longer standing, but a significant remnant of Mingo Junction's early 20th century hotel trade exists in the Hotel McDevill (bldg. #1, photo #6), a landmark building built about 1900, which also housed the Knights of Pythias lodge on the third floor. In addition, the building across the street from the hotel (c. 1910, #10, photo #14) originally housed a diner on the ground floor and offered rooms for railroaders on the upper floors.

Banking in Mingo Junction has been conducted by the First National Bank, organized in 1901. An important resource in the community, and one of the most architecturally significant buildings in the commercial district, is the bank building (bldg. #11, photo #15), built c. 1905. Other uses in the district over the years include entertainment in the form of restaurants and theaters. The only remaining theater in the downtown is included in the Commercial Street Historic District. The Nickelodeon Theater (bldg. #9, photo #13) was built about 1915 or 1916 and stands as a good example of the role of entertainment within the Mingo Junction business district. The building now functions as a senior citizen activity center.

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The Commercial Street Historic District is notable in the context of Mingo Junction's architecture as a cohesive collection of commercial buildings from the turn-of-the-century. With the exception of storefront alterations typical of most Ohio downtowns, the block-long district has remained essentially unchanged since these buildings were constructed between 1899 and about 1915. Placed against the dramatic backdrop of the Wheeling-Pittsburgh Steel Mill, as they have been for 86 years, the commercial streetscape forms a cohesive district which is indicative of Mingo Junction's history and development as a mill town. The simplicity of style and materials found in the district is characteristic of the early 20th century and in keeping with the overall appearance of the city's residential, religious and educational buildings, reflecting the working class character of Mingo Junction as a whole.

Buildings in the Commercial Street Historic District were simply designed and constructed using red or yellow brick as a facade material. Ornamentation is predominantly classical in influence, while some buildings exhibit elements drawn from the late 19th century. Most notable of the latter are the Pelley Building (photo #18) and the Brettell Building (photo #20). Neo-Classical Revival is best illustrated in the district by the First National Bank Building (photo #15), which is a fine example of the style and one of the most architecturally distinguished buildings in the district. Also of interest is the Nickelodeon Theater, a classic example of the small town early 20th century theater. The remaining commercial buildings contribute to the district in the use of corbelling, belt coursing, contrasting and patterned brickwork, and bay windows.

### North Hill Historic District

The North Hill Historic District is significant for its architectural integrity and association with the Mingo Junction steel industry as the city's only planned residential neighborhood of mill company housing. Platted as the "North Hill Addition" by the Carnegie Steel Co. in 1918, the neighborhood is visually cohesive and distinguished by its layout and brick construction from other Mingo Junction neighborhoods. Consisting of both single family and four-family housing units, the development was obviously carefully planned by the steel company to provide its employees with high quality housing in a pleasant, residential setting. Single-family units were reserved for factory supervisors, while the apartment buildings were occupied by steel workers.

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Mingo Junction MRA

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The North Hill development is unique in Mingo Junction as no other residential neighborhoods in the city display the same level of planning, quality of development, integrity, or uniformity of character. Although not far from the mill, the location of this housing development reflects the interest during this period in establishing homes in areas away from industry and commercial development. The Carnegie Steel Co. retained ownership of the buildings until the mid-1940s when the Mingo Junction plant was sold to Wheeling Steel Co., which began selling off individual parcels.

Architecturally, the district exhibits a high degree of integrity and variation in the design of its brick residential buildings. Details such as hip or gable roofs, overhanging eaves, front porches, brackets, dormers, and shaped windows are found in various combinations throughout the district. Uniformity of scale, setback and materials gives the area a special visual character which has been preserved today.

The Mingo Junction Multiple Resource Area is one components of a survey and planning project in the city which includes the completion of Ohio Historic Inventory forms and a Resource Protection Plan. With the help of the Jefferson County Regional Planning Agency, the City of Mingo Junction has sponsored this survey, nomination and plan as a means of incorporating preservation of historic resources into the city's revitalization efforts. Interest in historic buildings was generated through a 1970 bicentennial celebration which produced a publication about Mingo Junction history. The recognition of Mingo Junction's resources through this project will go a long way toward strengthening awareness of historic preservation in the community.

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Bicentennial History of Mingo Junction, Ohio: 1770-1970. Sugar Creek: Middaugh Printers, 1970. Doyle, Joseph B. 20th Century History of Steubenville and Jefferson Co. Chicago: 191 The New York Industrial Recorder. "Descriptive & Illustrating the Ohio Valley from Steubenville to East Liverpool, inclusive." 1905. Sanborn Insurance Maps of Mingo Junction, 1907, 1924, 1929, 1946.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property see attached.

Quadrangle name Steubenville East

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References Please see attached.

A 

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Zone Easting Northing

B 

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Zone Easting Northing

C 

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D 

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E 

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G 

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H 

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### Verbal boundary description and justification

Please see attached.

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
N/A			

state	code	county	code
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## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Judy Williams, Consultant

organization Benjamin D. Rickey & Co.

date January 31, 1986

street & number 391 Library Park South

telephone (614) 221-0358

city or town Columbus

state Ohio 43215

## 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

W. Ray Luce

title

SHPO

date 12/24/86

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

See continuation sheet for listing

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

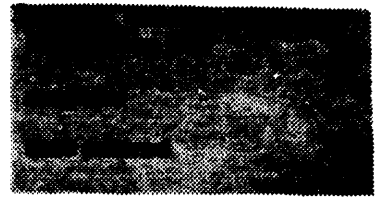
date

Chief of Registration



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form



Continuation sheet

Item number

Page

Multiple Resource Area  
Thematic Group

dnr-11

Name Mingo Junction MRA  
State Jefferson Co., OH

Nomination/Type of Review

1. Commercial Street  
Historic District

~~Substantive Review~~

*for* Keeper

Attest

Date/Signature

Patrick Andrus 3/17/87

2. North Hill Historic  
District

~~Entered in the  
National Register~~

*for* Keeper

Attest

Helene Byers 3/17/87

3. Central High School

~~Entered in the  
National Register~~

*for* Keeper

Attest

Helene Byers 3/17/87

4. Central Public School

~~Entered in the  
National Register~~

*for* Keeper

Attest

Helene Byers 3/17/87

5. St. Agnes Roman  
Catholic Church

~~DOE/OWNER OBJECTION~~

*for* Keeper

Attest

Eligible Patrick Andrus 3/17/87

~~Substantive Review~~

6.

Keeper

Attest

7.

Keeper

Attest

8.

Keeper

Attest

9.

Keeper

Attest

10.

Keeper

Attest