

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

OMB NO.



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 of Historic Places Registration Form. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

1. Name of Property

Historic name: H.C. Godman Co. Building

Other names/site number: 35 N. 4th Street

Name of related multiple property listing:

N/A

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

2. Location

Street & number: 35 N. 4th Street

City or town: Columbus State: Ohio County: Franklin

Not For Publication: N/A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

<u>Barbara Powers</u> DSHPO for Inventory & Registration <u>April 12, 2018</u>	
Signature of certifying official/Title:	Date
State Historic Preservation Office, Ohio History Connection _____	
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government	
In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.	
Signature of commenting official:	Date
Title :	State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

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4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

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


Signature of the Keeper

6/14/18
Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

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

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

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

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE 19TH CENTURY AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVAL/BEAUX ARTS

LATE 19TH CENTURY AND EARLY 20TH CENTURY AMERICAN
MOVEMENTS/Commercial Style

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: BRICK; STONE

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 H.C. Godman Co. Building is a five-story, steel-frame and poured concrete building with a rectangular footprint at the corner of East Lynn and North Fourth streets in downtown Columbus, Ohio (Fig. 1). Designed by Columbus architectural firm Richards, McCarty and Bulford and completed in 1916, the building features a prominent one-story base with rectangular bays, decorative geometric patterns and Beaux Arts ornamentation with lozenges and rosettes. The first and second stories are separated by a belt course with a cornice and frieze. The primary entry is situated on the left side of the east façade, taking up the space of an entire bay, and includes steel and glass doors flanking a central revolving door. These are topped by a rectangular transom and covered with a metal marquee awning. The east façade bays are also covered with red fabric awnings – the south and west elevations have none, and the north elevation abuts an adjacent building on the first floor. A secondary entrance is accessible on the west side of the building. The original main lobby remains just inside the central entry, with marble tiled floors and painted metal stair banisters. With few changes to its exterior appearance and remaining primary interior space, the building retains historic and architectural integrity.

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Narrative Description

The H.C. Godman Co. Building – presently known only as 35 N. 4th Street – occupies the corner of East Lynn and North Fourth streets, in the middle of downtown Columbus, Ohio, three blocks away from the Ohio State House. Completed in 1916, the rectangular building is five stories tall with a raised basement level, with narrow rectangular lights at the streets and sidewalks level.

The Sanborn map from 1921 depicts the building's footprint at its current location, and is identified as The H.C. Godman Co. (Fig. 3). It takes up approximately one-third of the block upon which it is located. Also listed on the Sanborn map from 1921 are construction details: automatic sprinkler systems, steam heat, electric lighting, and fireproof construction c. 1916-1917. The map also specifies details of the building's construction, which featured a reinforced concrete frame and 40" by 40" brick piers spaced every 20' to create the major bays, subdivided with 12" brick columns between the window openings. Historic heating systems and sprinkler systems are no longer in use and have been largely removed: historic boilers remain in the basement, but are not currently functional.

Designed by the noted Columbus architectural firm of Richards, McCarty and Bulford, the primary (east) façade best demonstrates the hierarchy of spaces indicative of the Beaux Arts style, the first floor elevated in both material and design; and the exterior tripartite division of floors associated with the Commercial style in early 20th century office building design. The first story (and fraction of the raised basement level) is differentiated from the remaining upper floors by the polychromatic painting and a decorative cornice, which features diamond-shaped lozenges and rosettes. The first story on the east façade is comprised of three primary bays, the right one being the entrance to the building with a central revolving door flanked by two steel and glass doors. This configuration is historic, though the glass has been replaced within the building's lifetime. The building is topped by a projecting cornice and parapet.

The west façade similarly has three bays, the left-most one being the secondary entrance to the building, comprised of contemporary glass and aluminum doors. The south façade, comprised of nine bays, makes up the E. Lynn Street side of the building. The bay second from the left is a loading dock, original to the building. It currently features contemporary double-doors. The first story is made up of wide windows, two per bay: each window features two smaller plate glass panes over two larger plate glass panes. The sills of these windows are stone. Raised basement windows are set directly beneath the first floor windows and are comprised of two windows per bay, two slim panes of glass per window. The second story is made up of two windows per bay as well, set one over one and separated by simple pilasters. It is believed that all windows, including those in the basement, are contemporary replacements installed in the original rough masonry openings. The design elements and the use of polychromatic design and cornice allow the raised basement and first story to become a sturdy architectural base upon which the above four stories rest. The current paint scheme is based upon the building's historic appearance.

Shallow pilasters divide the upper four floors into double-window bays, each of which have two lights over two lights. This trend is repeated for every set of bays. The windows are fixed, and

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would have originally been double-hung sash windows. They are largely unadorned save for the windows on the fifth floor, each of which has a small decoration of diamond-shaped lozenges and cartouches in a frieze above it. The south, east, and west elevations facing Lynn, Fourth, and Lazelle streets, respectively, terminate in a low parapet instead of a cornice. The bays on the north façade are nondescript, one-over-one double windows which face a surface parking lot. They are set in unornamented brick and are utilitarian in nature. The entire north façade is unornamented, painted brick. The north side of the building also features a lightwell, which is two bays deep and six bays wide. It provides additional natural light to the third, fourth, and fifth floors.

The interior of the H.C. Godman Co. Building consists of largely similar floor plans: each series of corridors is stacked over the other, laying out each floor with a common stair and primary hallway that branches off into smaller corridors to accommodate the multiple businesses currently housed in the building. The exception to the rule is the main lobby, accessible from North Fourth Street on the first floor, which has a central “grand” stair that runs parallel to the north wall, and central access to an elevator across the lobby. The stair also accesses the basement along the north wall. The stair itself is historic, evidenced by the painted cast-iron banisters. These banisters are also on the south side of the lobby, leading up half of a floor to a raised first floor level believed to have served as a show room for the H.C. Godman Company.

The first floor has marble floors in the elevator lobby. As the building appeared to serve administrative purposes for the owners, it is likely that the informal spaces of floors 2-5 were less decorated: wood over reinforced concrete.

The interior spaces outside of the lobby on the first floor and the elevator lobbies on floors 2-5 have essentially been gutted at an unknown point in the building’s history, and little remaining historic fabric can be seen at present. The building currently houses numerous office tenants, and these tenant spaces consist of drop-ceilings, painted drywall, and contemporary office décor trim on every floor. Original concrete floors are still present, but covered with a sub-floor and carpeting. Exact original partition wall and corridor placement is unknown at this time, but based upon the arrangement of current office tenants there was a central corridor from which individual business units were accessed (more invasive investigation may determine exact corridor and partition placement concealed beneath new floor coverings, but these spaces are presently occupied.) Currently, no historic plans for the building (original or dated prior to contemporary renovations) have been located.

The design of the building – Beaux Arts, with subtle ornamental classical detailing is distinctive. The H.C. Godman Co. Building is a well-proportioned office building, steel-framed, with brick façades and limestone features. Its lowest floor echoes the broad storefront windows popular at the time, and its upper four floors are segmented into neat rows of double-window bays that feature attractive diamond motifs.

The H.C. Godman Co. Building has historic integrity, despite exterior and interior modifications. As stated before: the contemporary replacement windows are one such example; the glass lights in each window bay on every floor have all been replaced at some point in the building’s later

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history, as there does not appear to be any evidence of existing historic glass, and the upper office floors have been modified. Despite these changes, the H.C. Godman Co. Building retains all seven aspects of integrity: the building has never been moved, and its setting has been altered very little since its construction. While many surrounding buildings have been torn down or newly constructed in the area over the course of its lifetime the H.C. Godman Co. Building remains, still securely placed in Columbus' commercial core. Occupants have changed, but the purpose of the H.C. Godman Co. Building and other nearby commercial structures have not: its original intentions were of and related to the administrative work for a prominent shoe manufacturing company, its interior consisting of office and show space are evident. The exterior appearance and overall character of the building has remained intact, allowing it to clearly convey its significance.

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

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

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

Criteria Considerations

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

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

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Industry _____

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Period of Significance

1916-1932

Significant Dates

1916

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Richards, McCarty and Bulford, architects

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph

The H.C. Godman Co. Building, 35 N. Fourth Street in downtown Columbus, was the administrative headquarters for the company of the same name, a prominent shoe manufacturer from the late 19th through the mid-20th centuries that is credited with establishing Columbus as a significant force in the industry. Constructed in 1916 during a time of rapid growth for the company, the entire building was dedicated to H.C. Godman Co.'s administrative and sales functions, supporting the five factories then operated by the company in Columbus and Lancaster, Ohio. It was on its way to becoming the largest shoe manufacturer in Ohio, a status confirmed in the 1918 *Directory of Ohio Manufacturers*, which reported H.C. Godman Co. employing over 1,800 people. The company had grown rapidly since its founding in 1881 and continued to expand. In 1919 they established the H.C. Godman Co. Employees' Savings and Loan Association, which was also housed in the H.C. Godman Co. Building. In 1922, H.C. Godman Co. entered another phase of expansion, replacing existing factories and constructing additional new ones. At the same time, they announced that they had outgrown the H.C. Godman Co. Building and would also be constructing a new administration building at their primary factory complex on West Broad Street. The administration building was delayed for an unknown reason, however, and the headquarters remained at 35 N. Fourth Street until 1931. H.C. Godman Co. sold the building at 35 N. Fourth Street in 1932. The period in which the company occupied the H.C. Godman Co. Building (1916-1932) represents a highly significant era in its history, as H.C. Godman Co. cemented its place as the preeminent shoe manufacturer in Columbus and the

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state. Though they had already achieved some success, the construction of a sizable, 5-story administration building entirely for their use conveyed a new level of significance and clearly broadcast their position as a major force in local industry. Commissioning prominent local architects Richards, McCarty & Bulford for the design further reinforced the importance and gravity of the company's place in the city. As the company's subsequent headquarters along West Broad Street has been demolished, the H.C. Godman Co. Building represents its only remaining administration building in the city and also the remaining building most closely associated with the company. For its significant associations with the dominant local shoe manufacturer in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, the H.C. Godman Co. Building is nominated to the National Register under Criterion A in the area of industry. Its period of significance is 1916-1932, the time in which it was associated with H.C. Godman Co.

Narrative Statement of Significance

H.C. Godman Co. was a highly impactful manufacturer of shoes in Columbus that operated from 1881-1961. H.C. Godman Co.'s historic significance is best viewed through lens of Columbus industrial development during the same era. Columbus was a city established artificially for the express purpose of being Ohio's capital, thus, it was put in the center of the State. This geographic placement ended up highly impactful on the city's economic development. Industrial development in Columbus differed from other areas of the state because it was not a center of resource extraction. Its major advantage to manufacturers was several major rail lines allowing easy access to many of the nation's largest consumer markets. Columbus had several major industries develop in the late 19th century: buggies and shoes being two of the most prominent.¹ Light industries proliferated in the absence of easily accessible raw materials needed for heavy industry. The general pattern was a singular manufacturer would find profitability in a given industry within Columbus and soon other manufacturers of the same type of product would open. This pattern certainly applies to shoe manufacturing in Columbus.²

Company Origins 1876-1900

Henry Clay Godman (1832-1907) was born in Marion, Ohio, and in 1876 he acquired interest in a leather company in Lancaster, Ohio. That city had some of Ohio's earliest success with larger scale shoe manufacturing, as pioneered by a former Civil War Captain Albert Getz, which seems to have convinced Godman the potential profitability of the industry. At the time Massachusetts had a virtual monopoly on shoe manufacturing, but its profitability proved easily transferable to the Midwest. Thus acquiring leather interests in Lancaster's industrial sector began Godman's rapid ascent within his chosen field. His business interests grew so rapidly that by 1881 he targeted a new region with access both to a larger work force and faster, cost-efficient transportation, and the nearby capital of Columbus was an obvious choice.³ At that

¹ Ketter, Peter. "Julian and Kokenge Co." National Register of Historic Places Nomination, May 2012.

² Quimby, Harold R. *Pacemakers of Progress: The Story of Shoes and the Shoe Industry*. Chicago: Hide and Leather Publishing Co., 1946.

³ *Shoe Retailer and Boots and Shoes Weekly*, December 14, 1907, 55.

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time, shoe manufacturing was a relatively minor sector of the economy in Columbus. The 1883 Columbus City Directory listed Boots and Shoes Manufacturers and Wholesale Dealers together, with the five companies listed likely focused primarily on the latter. Henry C. Godman was listed separately under 'Boot and Shoe Uppers', with a location at 143 S. High Street, presumably an office used for sales of products he was producing in Lancaster. By 1898, Boot and Shoe Manufacturers were listed separately in the City Directory and five companies had been established, including H.C. Godman Co., which had established its first local factory at 347 W. Broad Street, between Belle and Starling. H.C. Godman was the oldest and largest shoe manufacturer in the city with 380 employees, but its primary competitor, Wolfe Brothers Shoe Co – which had itself been formed by former employees of H.C. Godman Co. – had 340 employees of its own.⁴ Led by the rise of these and other smaller firms, Columbus was producing 1/8 of all shoes in the United States by 1900.⁵

Growth and Expansion 1900-1920

The rapid growth of the local shoe industry continued into the early 20th century, with 12 manufacturers listed in the 1902 City Directory. In that same year, Wolfe Brothers Shoe Co. employed 1,446 people in Columbus, far more than the 460 employed at H.C. Godman Co.'s local factory, although that does not include the latter's presence in Lancaster, where the company still maintained four additional factories.⁶ As H.C. Godman Co. grew along with the local shoe industry, the company must have identified a need for administrative space outside the main factory on West Broad, and by 1913 the City Directory included reference to their 2nd-floor office in the Commercial Building at 100 N. Third Street. No other shoe companies were listed with separate offices, likely a function of H.C. Godman Co.'s larger size, as well as the fact that their administrative and sales functions were also serving multiple additional factories in Lancaster.

In December 1915, H.C. Godman Co. announced that they had commissioned architects Richards, McCarty & Bulford to prepare plans for "a four-story and basement brick and limestone office building to be constructed on N. Fourth Street."⁷ Richards, McCarty and Bulford was a prominent local firm who would go on to design such notable buildings as the 1930 Ohio National Bank (NR 1980), 1931 Columbus Gallery of Fine Arts (NR 1992), and the 1934 U.S. Courthouse and Post Office (NR 2012). Their selection for the H.C. Godman Co. Building combined with its large scale to convey the growing role and significance of H.C. Godman Co. in local industry. By the time the H.C. Godman Co. Building was completed in 1916, it had grown to 5-stories, as the company was working to keep pace with its rapid expansion.

⁴ "Fifteenth Annual Report of the Department of Inspection of Workshops, Factories and Public Buildings to the Governor of the State of Ohio for the Year 1898." Columbus: The Westbote Col, State Printers, 1899.

⁵ Hunker, Henry L. *Industrial evolution of Columbus, Ohio*. Columbus, OH 1958.

⁶ "Nineteenth Annual Report of the Department of Inspection of Workshops, Factories and Public Buildings to the Governor of the State of Ohio for the Year 1902." Springfield, OH: Springfield Publishing Co, State Printers, 1906.

⁷ "Building Projects and Work Awarded." *The Construction Record* 34, No. 19 (December 4, 1915): 10.

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H.C. Godman Co. continued to grow and by 1918 had established itself as the largest shoe manufacturer in Ohio, with over 1,800 employees, including 935 in Columbus.⁸ Wolfe Brothers was no longer in business and the next largest Columbus-based manufacturer, G. Edwin Smith Shoe Company, employed just 425 people.⁹ H.C. Godman Co. was also expanding their manufacturing footprint in Columbus, and was by then operating a total of three factories in the city: their main location at 347 W. Broad (known as Plant No. 1); a 5-story building at 241 N. Fifth Street (Plant No. 6) that had previously been used by G. Edwin Smith Shoe Company; and a 2-story building at 79 Thurman Avenue (Plant No. 7), while also maintaining their four factories in Lancaster. By 1922, another 3-story building had been added behind the Thurman Avenue plant on Nursery Lane, labeled as Plant No. 8 on the 1922 Sanborn Map.

In 1919, the company established their own bank to serve their employees, the H.C. Godman Co. Employees' Savings and Loan Association, which was also housed in the administration building on N. Fourth Street. Typical mortgages during the first decades of the 20th century required 40-50% down payments and had terms of only 5-7 years, making it much more difficult to acquire property.¹⁰ Columbus then had a work force making below the average in many fields including shoe manufacturing, compounding this issue.¹¹ Savings and Loan organizations proliferated nationally in an effort to resolve this fiscal impasse, allowing for lower down payments and longer term mortgages.¹² These benefits would have been especially significant to laborers in lower-wage industries like shoe manufacturing, and by creating its own Savings and Loan for its employees, H.C. Godman Co. provided an incentive to its workers to remain loyal to the company and allowed them to stretch their wages further. Labor stability and affordability were a major reason for the shoe industry's success in Columbus, which lacked a strong organized labor movement and historically had wages below the national average.¹³ Providing employee benefits like access to the Savings and Loan may well have been a proactive effort on the part of H.C. Godman Co. to prevent labor unrest.

This period of the mid 1910s through the 1920s represents the pinnacle of H.C. Godman Co., when the company was the unquestioned king of Columbus shoe manufacturing and also the dominant force in the industry for the entire state. The company was led during this time by longtime executive William Miller, who succeeded Henry Godman as president in 1902 and remained in that role until his death in 1921.¹⁴ During Miller's tenure he dramatically increased production, distribution, and the development of a nationally recognized brand, and upon his

⁸ The Industrial Commission of Ohio Department of Investigation and Statistics. "Directory of Ohio Manufacturers 1918." Columbus: The F.J. Herr Printing Co, 1918.

⁹ Ibid.

¹⁰ Leon, Carol. "The life of American workers in 1915." www.bls.gov. Accessed February 2016. https://www.bls.gov/opub/mlr/2016/article/the-life-of-american-workers-in-1915.htm#_edn29.

¹¹ Van Tine Warren R., *A History of Labor in Columbus, Ohio 1812-1992* (Columbus, OH: Ohio State Univ., Columbus. Center for Labor Research. 1993).

¹² ¹² Leon, Carol. "The life of American workers in 1915." www.bls.gov. Accessed February 2016. https://www.bls.gov/opub/mlr/2016/article/the-life-of-american-workers-in-1915.htm#_edn29.

¹³ Van Tine Warren R., *A History of Labor in Columbus, Ohio 1812-1992* (Columbus, OH: Ohio State Univ., Columbus. Center for Labor Research. 1993).

¹⁴ "Columbus Shoe Man Dies." *Boot and Shoe Recorder*, October 1, 1921, 96-97.

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death H.C. Godman Co. had 3,000 employees.¹⁵ His legacy with the firm outlasted his death in the form of his vice president and son, Frederick Miller, who succeeded him. By 1919, William Miller had delegated the majority of day-to-day operations to Frederick, as he had diversified his holdings and interests.¹⁶ Frederick Miller's grasp upon global equity markets, supply chains and the market inflation from the Great War was published to help the industry as a whole in the early 1920s.¹⁷ The shoe industry had faced significant difficulty recovering from inflated values caused by the necessities of war. However, H.C. Godman Co. weathered this period with relatively little financial pain and does not have appeared to have shed underwater assets or closed major production centers.

Big Plans Meet Harsh Realities 1920-1930

By April 1922, H.C. Godman Co. was announcing another major expansion and an associated building campaign at their existing site on West Broad Street, to include a new factory and a new administration building – both designed by Richards, McCarty & Bulford. The proposed factory was to be a large new 3-story building of approximately 175,000 square feet to be known upon completion as Plant No. 1, with the existing Plant No. 1 to be retained and rechristened Plant No. 6. (This suggests they had already vacated the building at 241 N. Fifth, which they had sold before 1920.) The new Plant No. 1 would have capacity to produce 18,000 pairs of shoes per day, giving the company a total capacity of 45,000 pairs per day, including the other factories in Lancaster and elsewhere in Columbus, reportedly making it one of the largest shoe manufacturing institutions in the world.¹⁸ Another report from November 1922 indicated that the plant was nearing completion and would be “one of the most modern plants in the Middle West.”¹⁹

A December 1922 trade article described the newly completed Plant No. 1, which had its main frontage on Belle and Capital Streets, just south of W. Broad Street (1922 Sanborn). “It covers 4 acres of floor space, is constructed of concrete with brick facing and is 3 stories high, with a daylight basement. The building is entirely fireproof.”²⁰ The same article indicated that H.C. Godman had also announced their intention to construct two additional buildings on the site, including a second new factory similar to the one just completed, to replace the existing original factory (then Plant No. 6) at the corner of W. Broad and Starling, which had been damaged in the 1913 flood and lacked the capacity to support heavier modern machinery. The new administration building was also discussed, described as a 5-story building to be set at the corner of W. Broad and Belle Streets, abutting each of the two factories to create an ‘L.’ According to the article, “The company has outgrown its office building at 35 N. 4th Street and plans to offer it for sale after the larger and more convenient structure has been finished.”²¹ It

¹⁵ Ibid.

¹⁶ "Columbus Shoe Man Dies." *Boot and Shoe Recorder*, October 1, 1921, 96-97.

¹⁷ "Shoe and Leather Facts." *Shoe and Leather Facts* 35:10.

¹⁸ "Godman Company Building Modern Shoe Plant at Columbus." *Hide and Leather* 63, No. 16 (April 22, 1922): 28.

¹⁹ "New Plant in Columbus." *Boot and Shoe Recorder* (November 25, 1922): 105.

²⁰ "Godman to Build New Plants." *Boot and Shoe Recorder* (December 2, 1922): 88.

²¹ Ibid.

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concluded, however, with a statement that "Work on these new additions to the factory unit will depend upon building conditions."²²

The final statement foreshadowed some delay in the next phases of construction, as the new administration building had previously been reported as scheduled for completion in 1923. No subsequent public announcements of construction activities have been found, but H.C. Godman Co. continued to use 35 N. Fourth Street as its address through 1930, and the building was not sold until 1932. There is no evidence that the full building plan for the W. Broad Street site was ever executed. The 1951 Sanborn Map shows a more modest addition to Plant No. 1 along Rush and Starling Streets constructed in 1925, but no significant construction along W. Broad Street. Once leaving the H.C. Godman Co. Building on N. Fourth, the company used 52 S. Starling as its administrative address, suggesting that those functions were absorbed within Plant No. 1 and its addition. The company also purchased a property at 433 W. State Street in December 1922 and constructed a smaller 2-story factory building there at an unknown date, presumably to add some additional capacity. In 1928, they purchased a small existing facility at 46 E. Fulton (between High and Third Streets, since demolished) that had previously been used by C&E Shoe Co. It is unclear why the company chose to invest in these other properties over additional construction at the W. Broad complex. Although the company remained strong and stable, it was not growing nearly as rapidly and employment peaked in the mid-1920s.

Decades of Decline 1930-1961

Beginning around the time they moved out of the H.C. Godman Co. Building on N. Fourth Street in 1931, the company began what started as a slow decline. In 1939, H.C. Godman Co. still employed a total of approximately 2,800 workers, including 1,267 based in Columbus. They retained their factories in Lancaster, where they employed 1,046 workers, and had also added smaller factories in Logan (349 employees) and Xenia (139 employees).²³ The company's decline accelerated rapidly in the 1940s, however. They sold the property at 433 W. State Street in 1941 and the Thurman Avenue site in 1943. Finally, in 1946 H.C. Godman Co. sold their W. Broad Street complex, which they had owned since soon after arriving in Columbus, to the U.S. Government. The only H.C. Godman Co. facilities remaining in Columbus on the 1951 Sanborn Maps were the small building on E. Fulton, and a leatherboard factory in the building at 433 W. State Street, where they remained a tenant but shared space with other leather companies.

Unfortunately for the domestic shoe manufacturing industry, they were one of the first sectors to be decimated by cheap foreign imports, and by the 1950s the writing was on the wall for H.C. Godman and the industry as a whole. H.C. Godman Co. eventually succumbed to global market forces and the earliest wave of industrial deleveraging, closing in 1961 after eight decades of operation.²⁴ The company's entire complex on West Broad has since been demolished. Four other factory buildings once occupied by H.C. Godman Co. remain in

²² Ibid.

²³ Department of Industrial Relations. "Directory of Ohio Manufacturers 1939." Columbus: Ohio Department of Industrial Relations, 1939.

²⁴ "Columbus Shoe Manufacturing." Omeka RSS. Accessed November 27, 2017.

<http://fashion2fiber.osu.edu/exhibits/show/columbus-fashion-story/introduction--ready-made-cloth/columbus-shoe-manufacturing>.

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Columbus. The former Plant No. 6 remains on N. Fifth Street, but it was built by another company and only briefly occupied by H.C. Godman Co. Plants No. 7 and No. 8 also remain at the Thurman Avenue site, which H.C. Godman sold in 1943, although the section that joined the two buildings has since been demolished. The building at 433 W. State also remains. It is the H.C. Godman Building at 35 N. Fourth, however, that best reflects the significant presence of the company at its height and its prominent role in local industry. For its associations with this significant local shoe manufacturer, the building is nominated under Criterion A in the area of industry at the local level of significance, with a period of significance of 1916-1932.

Columbus, Ohio Buildings Associated with H.C. Godman Company – c.1895-1961

Name	Address	Dates Occupied	Extant/Demolished
H.C. Godman Co. Building	35 N. Fourth Street	1916-1932	Extant
Plant No. 1	52 S. Starling Street	1922-1946	Demolished
Original Plant No. 1 (Renamed 'Plant No. 6,' 1922)	347 W. Broad Street	c1895-c1925	Demolished
Plant No. 6	241 N. Fifth Street	c1910-c1920	Extant
Plant No. 7	79 Thurman Avenue	c1915-1943	Extant
Plant No. 8	Nursery Lane (behind Plant No. 7)	c1920-1943	Extant
Unnamed Production (Tenant Only 1941-c1960)	433 W. State Street	1922-1961	Extant
Unnamed Production	46 E. Fulton Street	1928-1961	Demolished

(Note: Plants No. 2 - No. 5 located in Lancaster, OH)

H. C. Godman Co. Building
Name of Property

Franklin County, Ohio
County and State

9. Major Bibliographical References

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H. C. Godman Co. Building

Name of Property

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H. C. Godman Co. Building
Name of Property

Franklin County, Ohio
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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 .27

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: 39.963510 | Longitude: -82.996900 |
| 2. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 3. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 4. Latitude: | Longitude: |

H. C. Godman Co. Building
Name of Property

Franklin County, Ohio
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Or

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or NAD 1983

- | | | |
|-------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1. Zone: 17 | Easting: 329444 | Northing: 4425406 |
| 2. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 3. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 4. Zone: | Easting : | Northing: |

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

The nominated property consists of one parcel (Franklin County Parcel #010-017875), bounded by E. Lynn Street to the south, N. Fourth Street to the east, N. Lazelle Street to the west, and an adjacent building and surface parking lot to the north.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The proposed boundary includes all property historically associated with the H.C. Godman Co. Building.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Peter Ketter, Alex Green and Matthew Sandvick
organization: Sandvick Architects Inc.
street & number: 1265 W. Sixth Street
city or town: Cleveland state: Ohio zip code: 44113
e-mail agreen@sandvickarchitects.com
telephone: 216-621-8055
date: November 22, 2017

H. C. Godman Co. Building
Name of Property

Franklin County, Ohio
County and State

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

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

Photographs

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

Photo Log

Name of Property: H. C. Godman Co. Building

City or Vicinity: Columbus

County: Franklin

State: Ohio

Photographer: Peter Ketter

Date Photographed: January 2018

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

Photo #1 (OH_FranklinCounty_GodmanBuilding_0001)
Southeast oblique, camera facing northwest

Photo #2 (OH_FranklinCounty_GodmanBuilding_0002)
East façade, camera facing west

Photo #3 (OH_FranklinCounty_GodmanBuilding_0003)
Northeast oblique, camera facing southwest

Photo #4 (OH_FranklinCounty_GodmanBuilding_0004)

H. C. Godman Co. Building
Name of Property

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East façade, typical details at crown, camera facing west

Photo #5 (OH_FranklinCounty_GodmanBuilding_0005)
South elevation, typical details at base, camera facing north

Photo #6 (OH_FranklinCounty_GodmanBuilding_0006)
South elevation, camera facing northeast

Photo #7 (OH_FranklinCounty_GodmanBuilding_0007)
Southwest oblique, camera facing northeast

Photo #8 (OH_FranklinCounty_GodmanBuilding_0008)
Northwest oblique, camera facing southeast

Photo #9 (OH_FranklinCounty_GodmanBuilding_0009)
North lightwell, camera facing east

Photo #10 (OH_FranklinCounty_GodmanBuilding_0010)
First floor entry lobby, camera facing west

Photo #11 (OH_FranklinCounty_GodmanBuilding_0011)
First floor entry lobby, camera facing east

Photo #12 (OH_FranklinCounty_GodmanBuilding_0012)
First floor, primary (northeast) historic stair at entry lobby, camera facing northwest

Photo #13 (OH_FranklinCounty_GodmanBuilding_0013)
Typical upper floor, primary (northeast) historic stair, camera facing north

Photo #14 (OH_FranklinCounty_GodmanBuilding_0014)
Typical upper floor, secondary (northwest) historic stair, camera facing northeast

Photo #15 (OH_FranklinCounty_GodmanBuilding_0015)
Typical upper floor, elevator lobby, camera facing northeast

Photo #16 (OH_FranklinCounty_GodmanBuilding_0016)
Typical upper floor, non-historic corridor on north wall, camera facing west

Photo #17 (OH_FranklinCounty_GodmanBuilding_0017)
Typical upper floor, open office space, camera facing southwest

Photo #18 (OH_FranklinCounty_GodmanBuilding_0018)
Typical upper floor, private office space, camera facing south

H. C. Godman Co. Building
Name of Property

Franklin County, Ohio
County and State

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

H. C. Godman Co. Building
Name of Property

Franklin County, Ohio
County and State

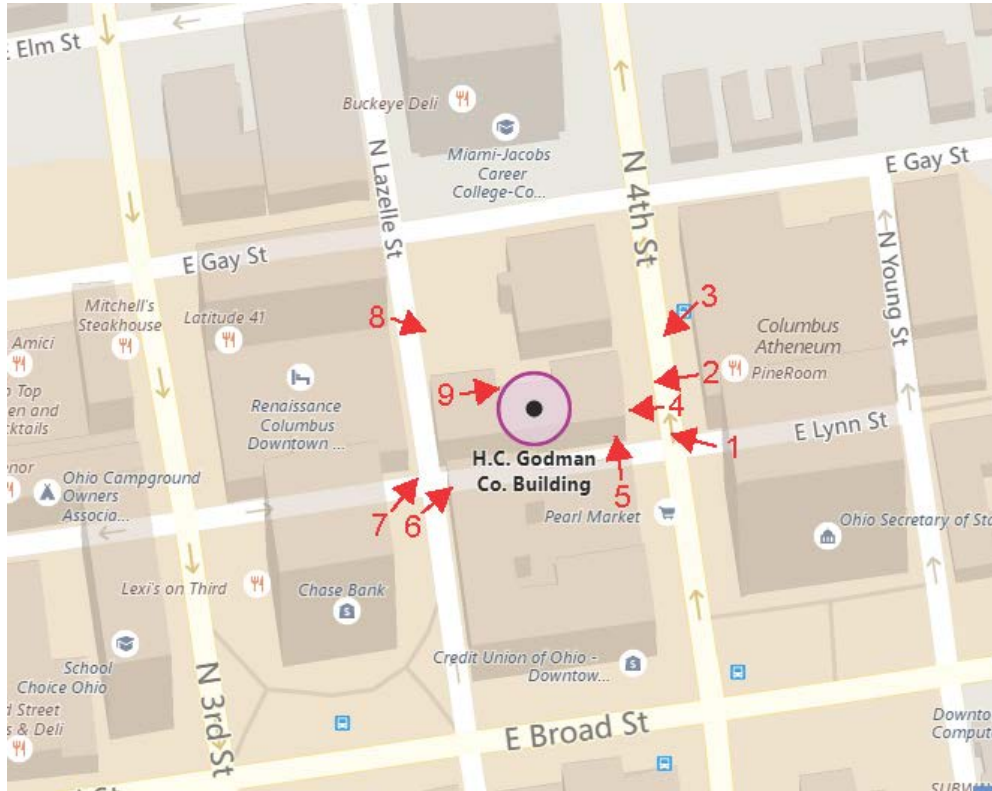


Fig. 1: H.C. Godman Co. location map and exterior photo key, Bing Maps.

H. C. Godman Co. Building
Name of Property

Franklin County, Ohio
County and State

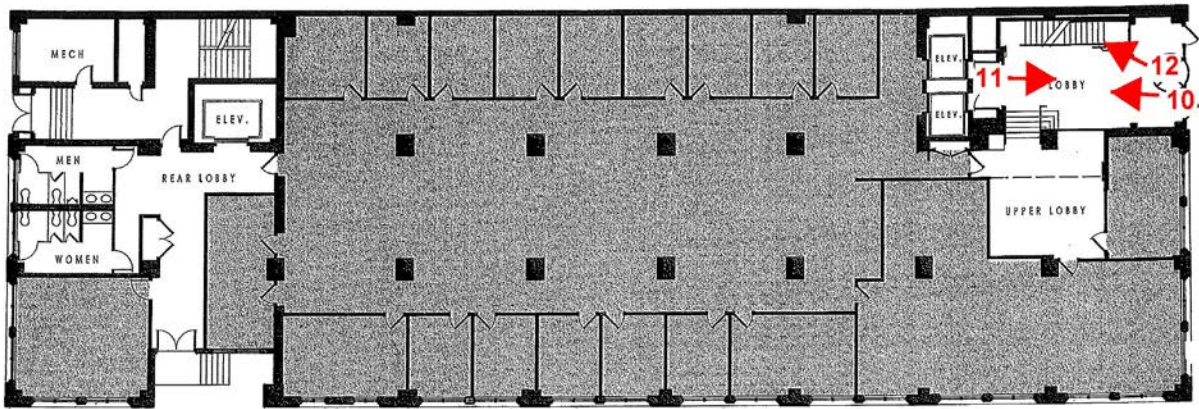


Fig. 2: First floor plan and photo key, *Continental Real Estate*.

H. C. Godman Co. Building
Name of Property

Franklin County, Ohio
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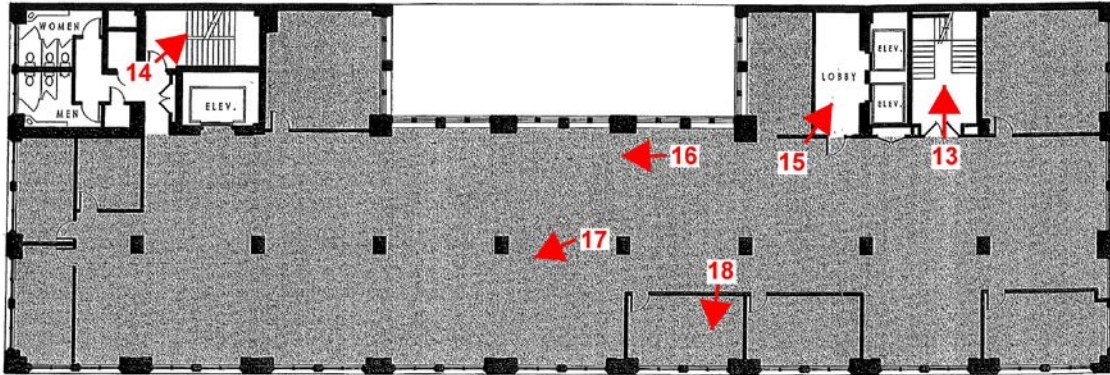


Fig. 3: Typical upper floor plan and photo key, *Continental Real Estate*.

H. C. Godman Co. Building
Name of Property

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Figure 4: Engraving of six H.C. Godman Co. factories (Lancaster and Columbus locations), 1912.
Columbus Metropolitan Library.

H. C. Godman Co. Building
Name of Property

Franklin County, Ohio
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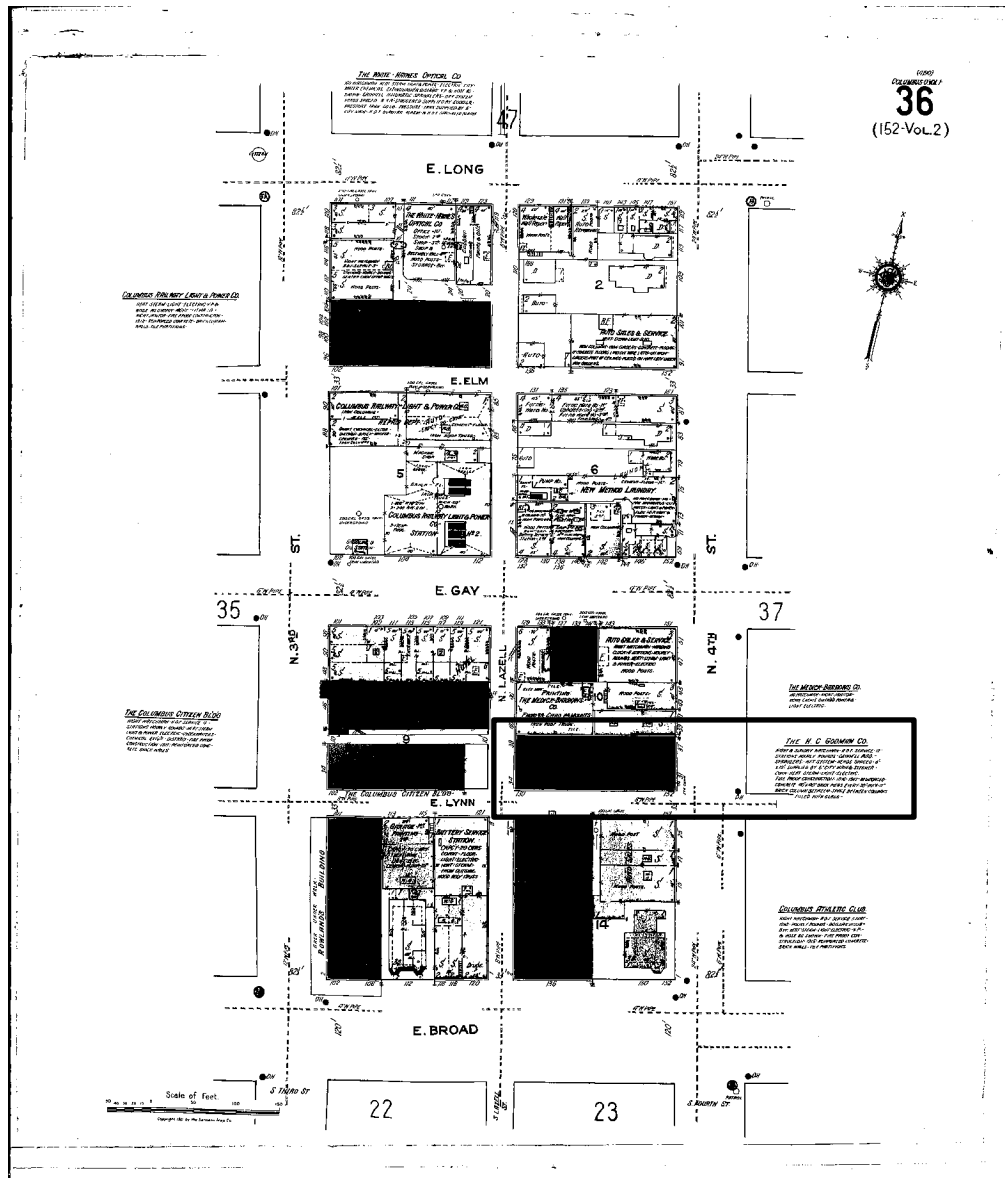
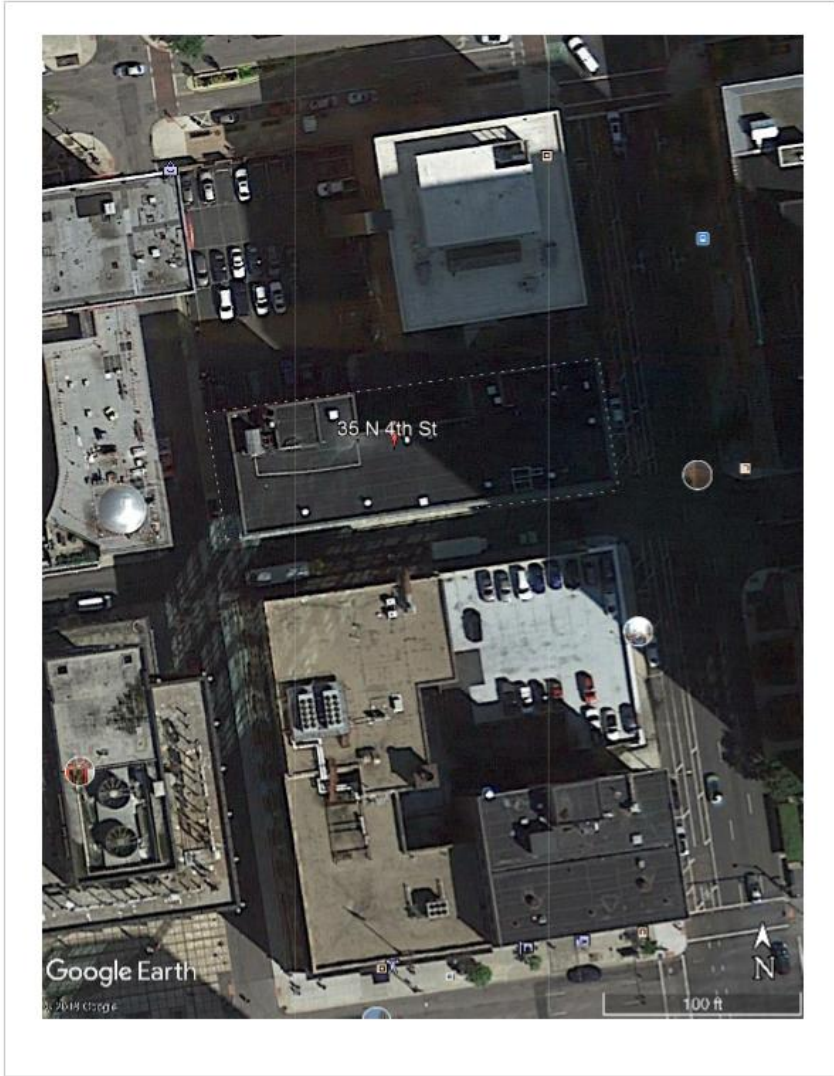
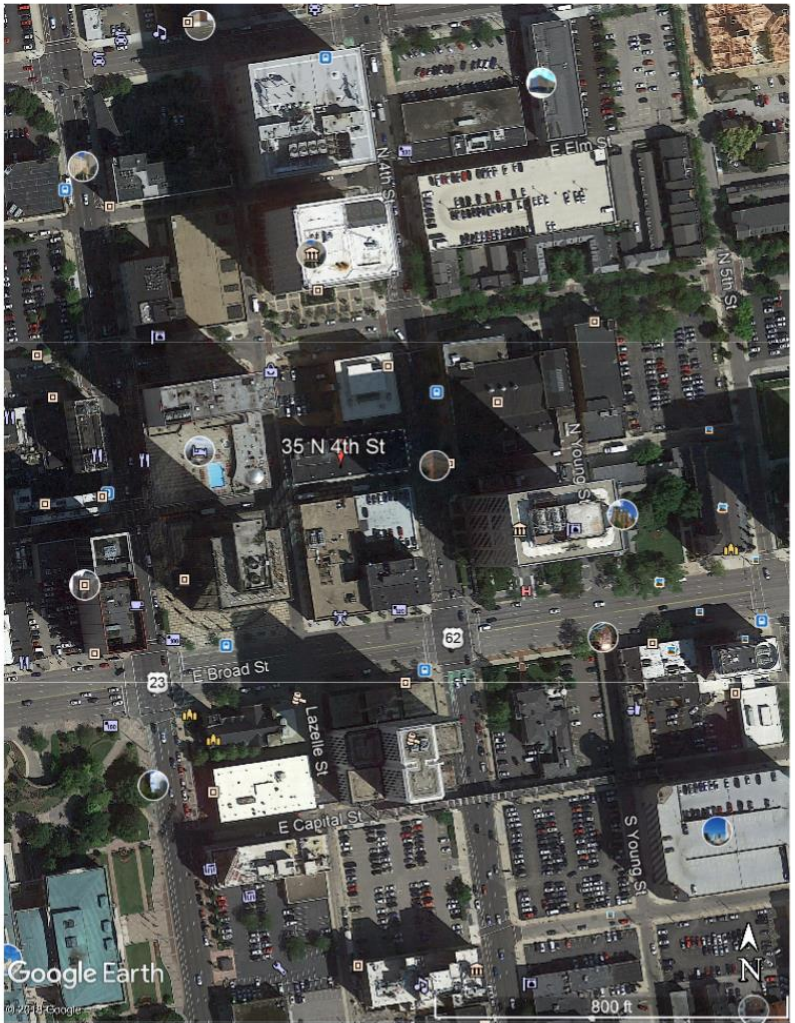


Figure 5: 1921 Sanborn map, Columbus, Ohio, Volume 2, Sheet 36. *Ohio Web Library.*



HC Godman Building
Columbus, Franklin Country, Ohio UTM Zone 17 Easting 329444 Northing 4425406



HC Godman Building
Columbus, Franklin Country, Ohio UTM Zone 17 Easting 329444 Northing 4425406



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UNIBUS

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ON RED LIGHT
OR BIKELANE
SPEED
LIMIT
35

35

North Fourth Street

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT



Onda Labin
Rankin & Rogers Law

35

North Fourth Street

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT 854-882-0000

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action: Nomination

Property Name: Godman, H.C., Co. Building

Multiple Name: _____

State & County: OHIO, Franklin

Date Received: 5/4/2018 Date of Pending List: 5/24/2018 Date of 16th Day: 6/8/2018 Date of 45th Day: 6/18/2018 Date of Weekly List: _____

Reference number: SG100002552

Nominator: State

Reason For Review: _____

Accept Return Reject 6/14/2018 Date

Abstract/Summary Comments: AOS: Industry, POS: 1916-1932, LOS: local

Recommendation/ Criteria: Criterion A

Reviewer Lisa Deline Discipline Historian

Telephone (202)354-2239 Date 6/14/18

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

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



April 20, 2018

J. Paul Loether, Deputy Keeper and Chief, National Register
and National Historic Landmark Programs
National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places
Mail Stop 7228
1849 C St, NW
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Mr. Loether:

Enclosed please find four (4) new National Register nominations for Ohio. All appropriate notification procedures have been followed for the nomination submissions.

NEW NOMINATION

J. Spang Baking Company
Urbana Country Club
H. C. Godman Company Building
Massillon Downtown Historic District

COUNTY


Cuyahoga
Champaign
Franklin
Stark

The enclosed disks contain the true and correct copy of the nominations to the National Register of Historic Places for the following: J. Spang Baking Company, Cuyahoga County and H. C. Godman Company Building, Franklin County.

Please have the control unit pass along the enclosed card to Patrick Andrus.

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,

for 

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

Enclosures

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
NPS TRANSMITTAL CHECK LIST

OHIO HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE

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

The following materials are submitted on April 20 2018
For nomination of the H.C. Goodman Co. Bldg to the National Register of
Historic Places: Franklin County, OH

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

COMMENTS:

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