

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

56-665

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

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



1. Name of Property

Historic name: The Edna

Other names/site number: _____

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

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

2. Location

Street & number: 877-881 East Long 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Not For Publication: N/A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 Inventory & Registration	<u>December 29, 2016</u>
Signature of certifying official/Title:	Date
State Historic Preservation Office/Ohio Historical Society _____	
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 Colson H. Beall
Signature of the Keeper

2-21-17
Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

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

Category of Property

(Check only one box.)

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

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Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Commerce/Trade

Domestic/Multiple dwelling

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Vacant/Not in use

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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: stone, brick

Narrative Description

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

Summary Paragraph

The Edna Building, located at 877-881 East Long Street, is a three-story brick commercial vernacular building, constructed in 1905. The facade faces north and has two commercial spaces with recessed entrances on the first story along with a central entrance leading to the second and third stories. The facade also features a decorative corbelled brick parapet. The side and rear walls of the building are plain with windows and doors but no ornamental features. The interior contains two commercial spaces on the first floor, two meeting spaces and smaller associated rooms on the second floor, and two apartments on the third floor. The building has a sufficient integrity to convey its historic significance. The exterior is intact and the interior retains its historic layout and some historic materials, such as wood flooring, plaster walls and wood window and door finishes in the third floor apartments, despite some deterioration.

The building is east of East Long Street's intersection with North Monroe Avenue, within the Long Street commercial corridor that sits east of downtown Columbus, Ohio. The building is surrounded by residential and commercial buildings and some empty lots. While East Long Street, which runs east-west, is mixed residential and commercial in character, the surrounding north-south streets adjacent to the Edna contain predominantly late nineteenth and early twentieth century residential properties.

The Edna's real estate parcel is bordered by East Long Street on the north, a brick alley on the west, an asphalt parking lot on the south, and a commercial building and associated parking lot on the east. The nominated property includes the entire parcel that the building occupies; no parts of the parcel have been excluded. The original building has zero setback from the sidewalk and occupies the north half of the real estate parcel. The nominated property contains no non-contributing buildings or structures.

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There are two periods of significance for the property. Both periods reflect its significance associated with African American settlement and development of the neighborhood. The periods of significance are the year 1919, which reflects the occupancy of the building by the Fireside Mutual Aid Association, an African American owned and operated insurance company and the second period of significance; 1950 to 1963, when the *Ohio Sentinel*, an African-American focused newspaper and the Dukes Club, an African American social group was housed there.

Narrative Description

The Edna is a three-story brick commercial vernacular architecture, being fairly plain in design with a minimum of exterior decoration. Although the building is not heavily ornamented, the facade has a corbelled brick parapet, and also features two commercial storefronts on the first floor and five bays of windows on the second and third floors. (Photograph 1-2) The building sits on a rough fieldstone foundation and has brick structural walls. Its interior structure is composed of wood stud walls and posts, and wood floor joists supporting wood flooring and subfloors. The flat roof deck was replaced several years ago and consists of a series of wood joists supporting a plywood deck that is covered with asphalt-based roofing material.

The facade consists of two ground-floor storefronts on the first floor and red brick walls punctuated with window openings on the second and third floors. The storefront configuration, based on the style, fenestration pattern, and interior room configuration, appears to be original.

The fenestration pattern is also intact, reflecting five windows each on the second and third floors. These windows are rectangular in shape and have limestone sills and lintels. They originally contained one-over-one wood sash, but now each is fitted with a single Plexiglas panel. The first floor has a central doorway leading to the second floor, flanked on each side by a commercial storefront. The storefronts and the central doorway are separated by a series of dark red pressed brick posts that are decorated with several limestone belt courses. (Photographs 1-2)

The commercial storefronts are mostly boarded up; some features are visible on the exterior and others are visible on the inside of the building. A 2007 photograph indicates that the exterior façade components were individually covered, indicating they were intact at the time. (Figure 14) The bulkheads, the western bay transom windows and the storefront display windows are separately boarded and delineated. The original recessed entries are intact and in their original configuration, although some components are covered with plywood. This is repeated in the interior with more plywood and drywall in the western bay. (Photograph 1-2, 10)

Both storefronts feature an entrance door and a band of transom windows running along the entire width of the storefront. The two storefronts appear to have had plate glass display windows originally, but the windows of the west storefront have been partially filled in with plywood, leaving small horizontal window openings, while the windows on the east storefront have been blocked in, for the most part, with drywall. The display window portion of both commercial facades has a section of diagonally angled wall next to the storefront's door. Neither of the commercial storefront doors is original, and both are recessed with a small sheltered area above.

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The east storefront does retain original leaded glass in some transom panels. (Photograph 3) The transom panels are clear Condie-Neale prism glass windows produced in St. Louis, Missouri. Prism glass was designed to focus incoming light to the rear of the retail space. The central entrance between the storefronts features a flat wood replacement door and a transom that has been boarded up on the outside and blocked off on the inside by a utility chase. (Photograph 10)

The facade's second and third floors are composed of the same dark red pressed brick as the posts on the first floor. The top of the third floor features a dark red pressed brick parapet with decorative brickwork throughout. The parapet includes four large brick posts with corbelled bottoms, two corbelled brick friezes, and a band of recessed brick panels. In the center of the parapet, the words "THE EDNA" have been spelled out in white bricks. The parapet is capped with stone coping. (Photograph 1-2)

The west and east walls of the Edna are very similar. Both walls are composed of pressed brick, but the brick is an orange-pink shade that is much lighter than the dark red brick of the north wall (façade). Both east and west walls contain one jack-arched door opening on the first floor and seven jack-arched windows each on the second and third floors. A plain brick parapet tops both the east and west walls, and the parapets on both east and west walls contain four short brick chimneys. All window and door openings on the building's side walls are boarded up on the outside. (Photographs 4-5)

The building's rear wall faces south and is composed of the same orange-pink pressed brick as the east and west walls. The first floor contains two jack-arched door openings and four large and two small jack-arched window openings, although the window openings have been in some cases bricked in or partially filled in with wood or metal. The second floor features two doors and four windows, and the third floor also has two doors and four windows. Most of the windows are boarded up and missing the original glass and sashes, although one window on the third floor retains the original one-over-one wood sash with some original glass. The south wall is capped by a plain brick parapet with four small chimneys. (Photograph 5)

A large steel fire escape sits on the building's south wall. The fire escape is composed of small, thin cuts of steel welded together and extends to the bottom of the building's third floor. The depth of the fire escape is very shallow. The fire escape has a railing on the second and third floors composed of thin steel strips. A steep steel staircase descends down from the fire escape beginning on the east end of the fire escape and moving to the center as it goes down. This current fire escape appears to be a later addition, but due to the presence of older wood rear doors on the third floor, it is thought that some type of rear balcony, veranda, or fire escape was probably included in the design of the original building. (Photograph 5) A set of double cellar-type doors on the ground at the southwest corner of the building leads to a concrete staircase giving outside access to the building's basement.

The interior of the building consists of a rough basement, two first-floor commercial spaces, two large meeting rooms and affiliated smaller rooms on the second floor, and two nearly identical apartments on the third floor. The basement is fairly rough in character, but the first, second, and third floors are more finished, with drywall and plaster walls and wood flooring and trim.

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Walls in the basement are composed of fieldstone or wood studs clad in flush horizontal boards, and the floor is poured concrete. The basement is divided into a series of small spaces by the wood stud walls mentioned above and also by two large fieldstone internal support walls that sit on either side of the building's central staircase. Ceilings in the basement are composed of the floor joists and undersides of the subflooring of the first floor. (Photographs 6-7)

The first floor has two commercial spaces divided in the center by a central entrance with a small foyer, and a staircase leading to the second floor. The central entrance is composed of a flat wood replacement door with a blocked-off transom above. The entrance foyer has plaster walls and some remaining original wood trim. The staircase has oak risers and treads with the treads covered over in rubber. The staircase walls are composed of plaster, and a mid-twentieth century iron railing runs up the center of the stairs. The stair area also retains original heavy oak baseboards and chair rail-like moldings on the plaster walls. (Photograph 8)

The first floor's west commercial space consists of one large room and has original plaster walls, but the original ceiling is missing, exposing the floor joists and underside of the second floor subfloor. (Photographs 9-10) Most of the moldings have been removed except for a few painted sections of original heavy wood baseboard. The north wall is characterized by a plywood mid-twentieth century commercial facade with a flat metal replacement door and some sections of transom above that have been covered over for the most part with plywood. The east wall has two doorways; one that leads to the central staircase vestibule, and a second that leads to a small room underneath the main staircase. The west wall has no windows but the rear (south) portion of the wall has one five-panel wood door that appears to be original, but is boarded over on the outside. A ceiling-mounted heater dating to the mid-twentieth century sits near the west wall and is vented through a pipe that goes through the west wall and connects to a small outdoor stack. (Photograph 10) The south wall has two full-size window openings that have been boarded up and a smaller window opening that has been partially bricked in to accommodate an exhaust fan. The rear windows retain their original wood casings, which are mostly plain in design except for molded wood cornices at the tops. The space also retains its original wood flooring in most areas, except the south portion of the space where the floors have deteriorated due to water damage that occurred before the building's roof was replaced.

The east commercial space consists of a large, open space on the north and a series of small rooms at the rear that are divided off by what are now fairly heavily deteriorated wood stud walls with lathe and plaster. Most of the original storefront on the north wall has been covered over in drywall, except for the transoms above, which are open and retain a mixture of leaded glass in a grid pattern, and also some larger sections of plate glass. The east and west side walls of the space are covered in plaster that has been applied directly to the structural brick. (Photograph 11-12) Very little original wood trim remains in this space, but it does retain its original wood floors, except in the rear of the space where they have deteriorated. The original ceilings of the space have been removed, exposing the second floor's joists and undersides of the wood subflooring. Of the three window openings on the south wall, two have been bricked in and the third, smaller opening contains a steel industrial replacement window that appears to date to the mid-twentieth century. The west central portion of this commercial space also contains a staircase that leads down to the basement. Doorways on the west side of the space lead to the

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central staircase vestibule and to a small room underneath the main staircase. The small room under the staircase is finished in a brown coat of plaster but is marked with historic graffiti. One phone number, "FN 0321," penciled on the plaster with the words "One Fresh Bre.." The number is listed in the 1933-1934 Ohio State University Faculty and Staff Directory. The number's location and directory date is most likely related to occupancy of the space by a Kroger store during that year. (Photograph 13)

The main staircase leads up to the second floor, where there is a heavy oak balustrade on the landing. The balustrade retains the original oak railing and newel posts with incised decoration and an egg-and-dart molding, but some of the turned oak balusters are missing. A landing space at the top of the stairs is missing its ceiling, but is otherwise highly intact, featuring original plaster walls, wood flooring, and oak baseboards and door casings. (Photograph 14)

The landing opens into two large meeting spaces, one on each side. The west meeting space has older wood floors, no ceiling, and a series of pilasters on the west wall. Wall surfaces in many areas have been covered in drywall, and a stage has been built along the north wall. Original woodwork was replaced ca. 1950 with plainer, thin wood door and window casings. Original one-over-one wood window sashes on the west wall have been removed, and the openings are now filled in with Plexiglas and boarded up. (Photographs 15-16)

The east meeting space is divided into a large meeting space in the center, a series of smaller rooms on the north side of the space, and another group of small rooms on the south side. (Photographs 17-19) One of the north rooms retains the sides and bottoms of the original wood window casings, but the tops of the casings were removed during the mid-to-late twentieth century in the interest of accommodating a drop ceiling that no longer exists. Otherwise this room is clad in mid-to-late twentieth century drywall. The second floor east bay appears to have been altered in the late 1960s. Before 1968 the apartment had a residential tenant. The top plates of the front small rooms have a pattern of originally horizontal, now vertical, marks from previous plaster lathe, indicating that they are repurposed studs and not the original plates from the original apartment walls. (See photograph 18, upper left) Judging from the construction style and material, the mechanical room at the top of the stair appears to be a similar vintage, and the wall behind the stage in the west bay appears to be a contemporaneous addition.

Aside from the fragmentary original window casings in the front room, the rest of the east meeting space has thin, plain wood door and window casings added post 1963. The partition walls on the south end of the space have wood studs and plaster and lathe and thus appear to be original or early modifications, but are deteriorated. The east spaces retain their original wood floors, but their ceilings are missing. The windows on the east wall are boarded up and do not have any remaining glass or window sash. (Photograph 19-20)

The central staircase continues up from the second floor landing to the third floor. The third floor staircase is highly intact, with oak risers, treads, baseboards, and railing with balusters and newel posts. (Photograph 16) Walls are intact original plaster with traces of older paint. The third floor stair landing is similarly intact with ceilings missing but original floors and oak baseboards and door casings intact. An original ceiling-mounted iron lighting fixture is still in place, and other

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early twentieth century lighting fixtures remain elsewhere on the third floor. (Photographs 20-23, See also light fixture in photograph 28, upper right) The landing leads to two apartment spaces with similar layouts.

The west apartment has a parlor with fireplace on the north and a rectangular room south of the parlor, followed by a second rectangular room similar in character and size to the first; at the rear are a kitchen and bathroom, forming the south end of the apartment. The bathroom and kitchen are largely destroyed due to past water damage, but the other rooms of the apartment are highly intact and retain original wood floors, plaster walls with traces of older paint, and unpainted oak woodwork including transoms, five- and six-paneled doors, door and window casings, baseboards, and chair rails. The parlor is missing its fireplace mantel, although the parlor's south wall retains an original set of oak six-panel pocket doors. (Photograph 24-25) The two similar rooms south of the parlor each contain two boarded-up window openings. (Photographs 26-27) The east side of the apartment is dominated by a long hallway that runs from the stairwell back to the kitchen/bath area at the rear. Like the rest of the apartment the hallway contains original plaster walls and oak trim, and an outside corner in the hallway contains a small vertical piece of turned decorative oak trim. The kitchen does retain a wood rear door on the south wall that has a single large light at the top and three panels at the bottom, with a transom above. (Photograph 28-30) This door appears to be original. The bathroom contains a cast-iron wall-mounted sink that has fallen onto the floor, and also retains one original one-over-one wood window with original textured glass. (Photograph 31)

The east apartment is for the most part a mirror image of the west apartment, with a few subtle differences. The main difference is that the east apartment has two closets off the hallway. One closet was fitted with oak and glass double doors; one door panel has survived. The apartment has the same arrangement of north parlor with fireplace, two rectangular rooms lined up south of the parlor, and kitchen and bath in the rear. (Photographs 33-38) Features of the east apartment such as wall plaster and oak woodwork are somewhat less intact than those in the west apartment, due to past water damage, but a fairly good amount of the original oak trim remains. Like the west apartment, the east apartment's parlor fireplace mantel is missing, although a decorative piece of iron trim is still in place around the fireplace opening. Original oak pocket doors also survive on the parlor's south wall although the surrounding wall plaster has mostly eroded away. (Photograph 32) The east apartment also retains one damaged original one-over-one wood sash window on the east wall, and a second original one-over-one window in the bathroom on the south wall.

The Edna Building has good integrity relating to the periods of significance. The storefronts retain their original fenestration patterns, albeit secured under plywood, and recessed entrance storefront configuration. The first-floor retail bays are intact and are not sub-divided. This is consistent with the building's uses during its period of significance. The Fireside Mutual Aid Insurance Company use would have been consistent with a retail space. The commercial space would have also been consistent with the Ohio Sentinel newsroom. Since the newspaper did not print their paper there would be no need to subdivide the space.

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The second-floor west bay, home of the Dukes club room, appears to have high integrity. The woodwork is consistent with an early 1950s renovation date when the club room was converted from an apartment. The east bay, an apartment during the period of significance, has been altered but was a private residence during the period of significance, so would not have been accessible to club members or the public.

The third-floor apartments have good integrity. The original circulation patterns are intact. Workmanship, materials, and association are well represented through original woodwork, interior and exterior doors, and lighting fixtures.

The setting and the building's location have not changed. Workmanship is reflected through architectural details in the apartments, club space and the building's exterior. The apartments, retail spaces and club space have good integrity in regard to association and feeling. Overall, the building has good historic integrity that effectively conveys the period of 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

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Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Ethnic heritage/Black

Period of Significance

1919
1950-1963

Significant Dates

1919
1950

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

unknown

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Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Edna Building is locally significant under Criterion A for its role in Columbus African American history. The Great Migration, between 1910 and 1930, ushered in an era of racial segregation in Columbus, Ohio. African Americans started their own social, cultural and business institutions when denied entrance or service from white establishments. Together, these businesses and clubs formed a vibrant African American neighborhood on Long Street which provided opportunities for advancement and building community. This important historic context is represented by the Edna Building.

There are two periods of significance for this property; 1919 represents when the Fireside Mutual Aid Association was housed in the Edna Building by Truman Kella Gibson Sr., an African American insurance executive from Atlanta who theorized that African American migrants from the south would need insurance when they reached northern states.

The Edna Building also contained the offices of the *Ohio Sentinel*, an African American weekly newspaper, from 1950–1953. In addition, from 1950–1963, the second floor housed the social room of the Dukes and Duchesses Clubs, a private social and charitable club for men and women in Columbus’ black professional class. In each instance, institutions were founded by and for Columbus’ African Americans in response to the historical forces, predominately segregation. This time span-1950-1963 represents the second period of significance for the nominated property and includes the period when both the private club and the newspaper were building tenants.

These entities; an insurance company, a newspaper and a social club fulfilled important roles in the community. They allowed African Americans to socialize without discrimination, disseminate information ignored by white newspapers and promoted fair business dealing. Together, they made the Edna an integral part of Columbus’ vibrant African American community that was centered on East Long Street.

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

Historic Context

The Long Street area in Columbus, Ohio, was initially developed in the 1870s and 1880s. Streetcar lines were extended into the area in the 1870s with some portions of the Long Street line being installed surreptitiously at night to avoid court injunctions from competing companies. The trunk sewer line was installed in 1883, completing infrastructure improvements.¹ African Americans originally settled the part of Long Street between High Street (on the west) and North Fourth Street (on the east).² East of North Fourth Street, affluent whites who were moving out of the center city built Victorian homes on Long Street between North Fourth Street and Jefferson Avenue in the 1880s and 1890s as streetcar suburbs expanded. In the early 1890s, when African American Pennsylvania Railroad workers rented houses near the intersection of Mt. Vernon Avenue and Champion Avenue near the Pennsylvania Railroad yard, it brought African Americans to the edge of the affluent, white, streetcar suburb that had developed.³ African Americans were also encouraged to move to the Long Street and Mt. Vernon Avenue area by white residents who lived on Broad Street and below and needed domestic help. Having domestic employees living near Long Street ensured they would be close enough to walk to work, but still far enough away not to cause racial discomfort.

As African American population of the near east side slowly grew, white residents became uncomfortable. Initially, they attempted to confine blacks to certain streets. However, African Americans realized around the turn of the century that buying a house on an otherwise entirely white block, while costing an inflated price, would prompt the remainder of the block to sell at fire-sale prices, enabling them to accumulate additional properties at lower costs, a strategy they started to use to great effect in the area.⁴ A bank official noted that when a house was purchased by an African American family on nearby 22nd Street between Long Street and Mt. Vernon Avenue, seven other houses on the street went on sale the next day.⁵

However, one part of the neighborhood where white flight did not occur was the business district on nearby Mt. Vernon Avenue. There, eastern European Jews settled and opened businesses in the early 1900s with many maintained until racially

¹ Alfred Emory Lee, *History of Columbus: Capital of Ohio*. Munsell & Co. New York, 1892

² Richard Clyde Minor, "The Negro in Columbus" (Ph.D diss. Ohio State University, 1936) p. 24

³ Mary Louise Mark, *Negroes in Columbus*. Columbus: Ohio State University Press, 1928, p. 17

⁴ Mark, p. 17

⁵ Marks, p. 17

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motivated riots destroyed businesses and buildings in the late 1960s.⁶ Consequently, the bulk of black-owned business and professional activity was concentrated on East Long Street, near where the Edna Building would be constructed.

In 1904, African Americans built St. Paul A.M.E. Church at the corner of Jefferson Avenue and Long Street, prompting increased eastward African American migration in the city. An additional impact on African American movement came in 1908, when Mayor George S. Marshall instituted an anti-vice campaign in the “Bad Lands” area of eastern downtown. An original African American enclave in Columbus centered on Third Street and Naughten and extending to Fourth Street between Long and Naughten, the Bad Lands were a hotbed of prostitution, gambling and opium dens. While the campaign did not entirely eliminate vice in the area, it did force a portion of the African-American community to move eastward.⁷

Concurrently, the national Great Migration began: the mass movement of African Americans from the rural south to northern cities. European immigration was largely curtailed by the advent of the First World War, opening many job opportunities in heavy industry in northern cities. Growing racial segregation in the south, political disenfranchisement, a boll weevil infestation that destroyed the already meager prospects of tenant farming, and a southern labor depression in 1915 pushed African Americans north in search of jobs and a less restrictive social and political environment.⁸ New African American enclaves formed and grew in the north, defined by racial covenants and informal segregation. New York’s Harlem, Chicago’s Black Metropolis and Indianapolis’ Indiana Avenue became the locations of a northern black renaissance. Letters from friends and relatives and black newspapers such as the *Chicago Defender* and the *Pittsburgh Courier* spread the word in the south about northern job opportunities.

In Ohio, the Great Migration was most pronounced between 1915 and 1920, and in Cleveland, Columbus and Cincinnati the black population grew. The African American population in Columbus increased from 12,739 in 1910 to 32,774 by 1930.⁹ Foundries and manufacturing concerns provided jobs, albeit often dirty and dangerous, for new arrivals, with labor agents scouring the south for Columbus companies such as Ohio Malleable Iron. Long Street, east of Jefferson Avenue became the main entry point for new arrivals from parts south, and the East Long Street District became the premier African American section of the city.

⁶ Marvin Bonovitz, *Mt. Vernon Avenue: Jewish Businesses in a Changing Neighborhood, 1918-1999*. Grove City, Ohio: Z-Enterprises/Columbus Jewish Historical Society, 1999, p. 11

⁷ Minor, p. 178

⁸ Giffin, pp. 10-11

⁹ Giffin, p. 232

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While many of the new arrivals came from eastern seaboard states such as North Carolina and Virginia, large numbers also came from southern Ohio.¹⁰ The new residents' sudden arrival disrupted the delicate racial social fabric of Columbus for both blacks and whites. Newly arrived southerners imagined that northern states were paradisiacal places of freedom and opportunity. As noted in 1921:

“He has been anxious to leave his supposed bondage and enjoy the freedom that the north affords. Upon his arrival he is confronted with similar rules and customs that held him so closely suppressed while in the South and in his attempt to try out his newly acquired freedom runs into the solid roots of the well-established northern social order.”¹¹

The new arrivals tested what they thought were newly acquired, but were in reality non-existent, freedoms. This caused social frictions among new arrivals, whites, and long-term black residents. Among long-term black residents, recent African American arrivals were reputed to have both capital and business acumen, which caused animosity between new and longer-term residents as new class divisions were created. Education, not money was the ticket to the local black upper class.¹² African American class distinctions were very present in the late nineteenth-century and beyond. Columbus resident Ralph Tyler noted in his 1891 nationally published newspaper article, “Colored Aristocracy” that elite African Americans were distinguished by their personal appearance, refinement, and education. They always lived in fashionable neighborhoods. Columbus' black upper class spoke flawless English devoid of dialect. He also noted that black social mobility was not that high.¹³ Working-class Great Migration arrivals were thought to be too boisterous on Columbus streetcars, which caused discomfort for both whites and long-term black residents. Some whites felt it was the duty of black residents to get out of whites' way on the sidewalks and would push newly arrived blacks into the street if they were not quick to comply.¹⁴ Consequently, segregation became the force that re-delineated social, economic, and political boundaries in the African American community.

Institutional segregation was quickly implemented. The Columbus Public Schools' board member and Ohio State University president, William Oxley Thompson, advocated segregated schools in 1907 by stating, “It is in the interest of both [races] that they be educated in separate schools.” The statement prompted a gathering of 800

¹⁰ J. S. Himes Jr. “Forty Years of Negro Life in Columbus, Ohio.” *The Journal of Negro History* Vol. 27, No. 2 (April 1942) p. 135

¹¹ Ralph Garling Harshman, “Race Contact in Columbus, Ohio” (master's thesis, Ohio State University, 1921) p. 13

¹² Willard B. Gatewood, *Aristocrats of Color: The Black Elite, 1880-1920* Fayetteville: University of Arkansas Press, 2000, p. 27

¹³ Gatewood, p. 27

¹⁴ Harshman, p. 39

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African Americans protesting the plan.¹⁵ Changes to the Columbus City Charter in 1912 effectively curtailed black political power.¹⁶ Settlement houses were segregated by 1920. Movie houses and theaters implemented varying degrees of seating policies based on race. Tony downtown hotels began to refuse service to African Americans.¹⁷ Northern segregation, unlike the southern version, was not clearly defined. It was mercurial, fluid and inconsistent. Future civil rights leader, Truman Kella Gibson Jr., attended Columbus East High School with a small number of other African Americans in the late teens. Although his grades were exemplary he was not invited to join any honor societies. He had no white school friends. A trip to the movies and theater meant a trip to Cleveland where segregation was not as strict. Family friends who visited from the south, including W.E.B. Du Bois, stayed at the family home at 1221 East Long Street since no hotel would serve them.¹⁸

White-led grass-roots efforts at racial containment were initiated. The Long Street Improvement Association was formed by white businessmen with real estate interests in the immediate area to discourage blacks from continuing to move to the Long Street area east of Jefferson Avenue.¹⁹ In addition, the Association lobbied to change the name of Long Street to Commerce Street east of Jefferson Avenue to avoid any association with African Americans. During the 1920 election season, state Democrats capitalized on white anxiety about the Great Migration by distributing pamphlets that stated a Republican vote was a vote “for Negro domination.”²⁰

The burgeoning segregation forced African Americans to form a parallel economy and social society, which was physically centered on Long Street and Mt. Vernon Avenue. Many recent arrivals in the Great Migration had owned businesses in the South or been engaged in trades. Their message and actions of black self-determination, especially economic, caused friction between long-term black residents and recently arrived southerners. Nonetheless, in 1918 African American businessmen formed the Business and Professional Men’s Club at the black Spring Street YMCA.²¹ The Columbus chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) was founded in 1915 followed by the Columbus Urban League in 1918.

¹⁵ Jacobs, Gregory. *Getting Around Brown: Desegregation, Development and the Columbus Public Schools*. Columbus: Ohio State University Press, 1998, p. 13-14

¹⁶ Himes, p. 137

¹⁷ Harshman, p. 32

¹⁸ Truman K. Gibson Jr. and Steve Huntley, *Knocking Down Barriers: My Fight for Black America*, Evanston: Northwestern University Press, 2005, p. 26-27

¹⁹ Nimrod Allen. “East Long Street” *The Crisis Magazine*, November, 1922, p. 13

²⁰ William Giffin, “Black Insurgency in the Republican Party of Ohio, 1920-1932” *Ohio History Journal* Vol. 82, No. 1 & 2, 1973, p. 29

²¹ Minor, *The Negro in Columbus*, p. 42

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In approximately 1920, African American businessman James E. Williams constructed an eponymous office building at 679-681 East Long Street. In 1922, the Adelphi Savings and Loan, a black lending institution, built an office for itself at 922 East Long Street. It was noted that over one hundred African American businesses, including haberdasheries, photographers, music studios, optometrists and corporations, were clustered on East Long Street although this may have extended farther towards the east towards downtown than to the more residential west.²²

Intellectually, Columbus African Americans, like those around the nation, subscribed to three major schools of thought about African Americans' place in society. Booker T. Washington advocated an end to social integration and focus on industrial education for blacks. W.E.B. Du Bois advocated a classical education for a "Talented Tenth" of the African American population. These people would provide the best chance for African American representation in business and politics. In Columbus, southern insurance executive Truman K. Gibson Sr., a Du Bois protégé, would found two new insurance companies on East Long Street-one of which was located in the Edna Building.

Marcus Garvey provided a third path: Black Nationalism. Garvey was highly popular in Columbus during the 1920s and 1930s. There, thousands turned out on September 25, 1923, for a parade led by Marcus Garvey and the officers of the Universal Negro Improvement Association down Mt. Vernon Avenue. Approximately 2,300 people, including leading business and professional community members, turned out to see Garvey speak in Columbus the same day.²³ Normally a workingman's movement, Garvey's Black Nationalism crossed economic and class lines in Columbus. Local attorney W.S. Lyman and Rev. D. W. Bowen of Mt. Pilgrim Baptist Church both gave impassioned speeches supporting Garvey.²⁴

The Great Depression started a slow decline on the east side. However, the African American community continued to build new social and political institutions to take the place of those from which they were banned by segregation. For example, in 1936 a Bronzeville movement started in Columbus. The Bronzeville movement had begun in the Bronzeville neighborhood of Chicago as a sales booster for the *Chicago Defender*, an African American newspaper. When the Depression severely curbed newspaper sales, the *Chicago Defender* hit upon the idea of electing a mayor and cabinet for the Bronzeville neighborhood. The election would serve two purposes. First, it sold newspapers: the election ballot was only available in the *Chicago*

²² Allen, p. 14

²³ Mark Christian, "Marcus Garvey and the Universal Negro Improvement Association (UNIA): With Special Reference to the "Lost" Parade in Columbus, Ohio, September 25, 1923. *The Western Journal of Black Studies*. Vol. 28, No. 3, p. 431

²⁴ Christian, p. 429 (Conversely, W.E.B. Du Bois would address Shiloh Baptist Church in later years indicating a possible congregational division.)

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Defender. Second, it was a clear poke at the white political establishment: Bronzeville had to elect its own mayor to achieve political representation in a segregated northern city. The *Defender*, which was essentially a national newspaper for blacks, encouraged other African American neighborhoods around the country to follow suit. Doing so would instill racial pride and challenge white political authority by electing African American mayors, even if only symbolically. Milwaukee quickly did so, and Columbus followed in 1938 after delineating the Bronzeville neighborhood—which included East Long Street and thus the Edna Building.

Social and charitable clubs also provided an alternative space for African Americans denied memberships at white fraternal organizations and social clubs. So-called “old line” clubs such as the Odd Fellows and the Pythians were popular before World War I, but declined in membership afterward.²⁵ The demise of these clubs was hastened by their ambitious building programs in the 1920s, which burdened the membership financially. In Columbus, both groups built theaters, the Pythian and Ogden Theaters respectively. Both financially hampered their organizations.²⁶

During the early 1930s the Odd Fellows and the Pythians both installed dance halls to subsidize their facilities.²⁷ By 1936, approximately ten African American social clubs had existed for more than ten years; however, only three of these organizations maintained their own club room.²⁸ The remainder usually met in member’s homes.

An exception to the segregated club model was the so-called “black and tan” club where whites and blacks could mix. Three were present in Columbus during the 1920s, but only one survived to the mid-1930s. Known as the Washington Club, it was located at Mt. Vernon Avenue and 17th Street. Contemporary accounts noted that frequent late-night disturbances made it unpopular with nearby residents.²⁹

Columbus also had a series of African American newspapers. White establishment newspapers carried little news about minority communities, and that coverage was often negative.³⁰ African American newspapers provided positive news and positive examples for African Americans, and responded to the imposition of segregation. They covered advances in civil rights and setbacks in housing and employment that were left out of the white press. Black newspapers also presented manners of proper behavior that, if transgressed, would set back the quest for integration and equal treatment. Beauty contest coverage and social columns were other staples of the black

²⁵ Minor, p. 227

²⁶ Minor, p. 227

²⁷ Minor, p. 208

²⁸ Minor, p. 179

²⁹ Minor, p. 208

³⁰ Edward C. Pease “Kerner Plus 20: Minority News Coverage in the Columbus Dispatch, A Comparative Content Study” *Newspaper Research Journal*, 10(3) 1989

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press.³¹ White papers did publish an African American society column, but other news stories were scarce. Black newspapers not only covered news that white papers wouldn't, but they later also advocated for better treatment regarding housing and jobs—topics ignored by the white establishment press.

Columbus African American newspapers in the 1920s were often short-lived, lasting two or three years at the most. They included the *Ohio State Monitor*, published by a group of African Methodist Episcopal ministers. While the focus was religious the paper did cover local news.

An integral part of many of these newspapers was Columbus newspaperman Amos Lynch. Lynch began his career with the *Columbus Advocate* in the 1930s, first working as a paper boy and later writing a column in 1937. He worked for the *Ohio State News* before and after World War II. He helped found the *Ohio Sentinel* and later founded the *Columbus Call & Post* in 1962.

Jack Coles began to publish the *Ohio State News* during the late 1930s. The *Ohio State News* was a “protest journal.” Such papers protested on behalf of the black community and mirrored their concerns and proposed solutions.³² The *Ohio State News* opposed segregation and discrimination in housing and jobs. Coles was a member of the Columbus Vanguard League, a local civil rights organization that vehemently protested housing, employment, and service discrimination. The Vanguard League was radical in Columbus circles, and membership carried a hint of Communist-sympathizing in the late 1940s. All these qualities failed to endear the paper to white advertisers. The lack of white advertising revenue led to the demise of the *Ohio State News* in 1952. A group of reporters from the *Ohio State News* started the *Ohio Sentinel* in 1949 after a “dispute with management.”³³

African American newspapers hit a circulation peak in the 1940s. Civil rights successes, promoted by the black press, paradoxically caused African American newspapers circulation rates to decline as larger, mainstream papers hired black reporters and began to cater to a black audience.³⁴ The *Ohio Sentinel* closed in 1962 due to gradually increased printing costs. The paper did not own its own press. The changing political climate also affected the newspaper. Editorially, the *Ohio Sentinel* represented a more conservative approach to civil rights, envisioning that incremental and gradual change could be achieved by accommodation and working with the white establishment. At the same time in the early 1960s, younger members of the African American community advocated protests and direct action to achieve civil rights and

³¹ Craig, p. 59

³² Virgil Vincent Hollingsworth, *The Columbus Call & Post: The Founding of a Local Black Community Newspaper, 1962-1966*. Masters Thesis, The Ohio State University, 1975, p. 65

³³ Hollingsworth, p. 68

³⁴ “Review: A Black National News Service: The Associated Negro Press and Claude Barnett” *The Crisis*, January, 1985, p. 26

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supported groups such as the Congress for Racial Equality rather than the more conservative NAACP or Columbus Urban League.³⁵

The *Columbus Call & Post* replaced the *Ohio Sentinel* as the community's African American weekly and continues to this day.

Civil rights advances also affected the residential nature of the neighborhood around the Edna. Black middle class residents began to move away from the area in the 1960s as subdivisions were constructed that were open to African American residency. Civil rights legislation also opened more opportunities for social engagement. As integration advanced and more opportunities opened, the need for parallel African American institutions decreased. Interstate highway construction and urban renewal activities also caused severe strain on the near east side. During the 1960s, over 14,000 residents were displaced by interstate highway construction through the area, rending the social fabric.³⁶

In 1967, a civil rights demonstration turned violent and numerous stores were destroyed on nearby Mt. Vernon Avenue, prefacing a sharper rate of decline for the neighborhood through the 1970s. Revitalization efforts began in the 1980s. The historic Lincoln Theatre was restored. Today public and private investment continues to revitalize the area. However, the sheer number of residents, businesses, and institutions, white and black, during the period from the 1920s to the 1960s has yet to be replicated.

History of the Edna Building

The Edna Building was constructed in 1905. It was owned by Emma and Thomas Callahan and Anna Uhrig and named after Edna Callahan, the Emma and Thomas's daughter. Edna Callahan attended Ohio State University, where she majored in home economics. Beyond being the Edna Building's namesake, she appears to have had little if anything to do with it. She became a county agricultural extension agent specializing in textiles and clothing. She appeared to have had expert knowledge of removing stains from clothing.³⁷ The Callahan family, of German and Irish descent, was associated with the earlier, white settlement of East Long Street and did not live in the area. (Figure 8)

The first floor of the building was reserved for retail purposes, while the second and third floors were apartments. Initial residents were lower middle class whites: clerks,

³⁵ Virgil Vincnet Hollingsworth, "The Columbus Call & Post: The Founding of a Local Black Community Newspaper" master's thesis, Ohio State University, 1975 p. 70

³⁶ Kenneth J. Groves and Gordon Braithewait. *Lincoln Theatre Economic Impact Study*. Columbus: Feinknopf, Macioce, Schappa, 1982, p. 11

³⁷ "Clothing Club Leaders to Meet" *The Circleville Herald*, May 10, 1927, p. 1 and see also "Three Extension Workers Retire" *The Sandusky Register*. December 28, 1957, p. 9

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fire department employees, and widows. The apartments provided a genteel domicile in an upper class neighborhood for those without the means to purchase the area's typically large homes.

The neighborhood included commercial or recreational amenities. Thaddeus Troy operated a billiards parlor and cigar store at 881 East Long Street in 1913. In 1916, shoemaker Fred Witting rented 881 East Long Street; he was replaced by W. S. Hall, an upholsterer, in 1917. Hall would remain in the eastern retail bay until 1924. Nathan Morganroth, who sold furniture, briefly replaced Hall in 1925. Wheeling Antique Upholstery rented the bay in 1926, and Fred Moore Tires rented it from 1928 to 1933.

Until the late 1920s, the Edna Building's residential occupants were largely white and often had clerical positions. In 1928, the racial and economic make-up of the Edna residents changed; new occupants were African American with blue-collar occupations, including laborers and a carpenter. Other black residents worked in services, with occupations such as chauffeur, waiter, or domestic. One resident in the 1930s was a medium.

The first period of significance for the Edna Building begins in 1919 with the opening of the African American owned and operated Fireside Mutual Aid Association. This period lasts through the year 1919 and coincides to the time when the insurance company occupied the Edna. The second period of significance, 1950-1963, includes the period when two African American enterprises occupied the building. The Ohio Sentinel occupied the building from 1950-1953 and the Dukes Club occupied the building from 1950-1963. Every African American business or club housed in the Edna Building was started as an alternative to white institutions that denied blacks entrance or service. Whether insurance, newspaper, or social club, each entity was a direct product of segregation's historical forces. These clubs and businesses formed a vibrant alternative business district in Columbus that not only served but gave voice and a deep sense of community to the African American residents.

Fireside Mutual Aid Association

The Fireside Mutual Aid Association was established and housed in 1919 at the Edna Building. (Figure 9) Founder Truman Kella Gibson Sr. was born in Atlanta, Georgia. Gibson put himself through school at Atlanta University, where he befriended W.E.B. Du Bois. He then attended Harvard College, where he graduated in 1908. He began his career by working for the Atlanta Mutual Insurance Company for six years. Gibson realized during the Great Migration that if migrants' pastors and physicians were moving away from the South, their insurance company should also move. Racial tensions and riots in Atlanta hastened Gibson's decision to move. Consequently, he founded the Fireside Mutual Aid Association, whose first Columbus office was in the Edna Building for a year. (Figure 9) The company later moved to the no-longer-extant Williams Building on East Long Street. Gibson was a political adherent of both

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Du Bois and Booker T. Washington, both of whom he knew personally.³⁸ He maintained the relationships in Columbus. When Du Bois visited Columbus, he would stay at the Gibson residence at 1221 East Long Street.³⁹

Du Bois and Gibson corresponded in July, 1920, when Du Bois was concerned about Marcus Garvey's influence in Ohio. Gibson promised to ask his Cleveland agents about Garvey's activities and send future reports, but noted he hadn't paid close attention to Garvey himself, "knowing all along he was engaged in a questionable enterprise."⁴⁰

In 1921, Gibson formed another insurance company, the Supreme Life and Casualty Insurance Company, which he moved to Chicago in 1929 and merged with another company to form the Supreme Liberty Life Insurance Co. Supreme Liberty expanded at a rapid pace and at the time of Gibson's death in 1972 was the largest black-owned insurance concern in the country.⁴¹

Gibson's son Truman Kella Gibson Jr. was born in 1912. Gibson Jr., who sold *The Crisis* on the street in Columbus as a child, later became a civil rights leader and a member of Franklin Delano Roosevelt and Harry Truman's "black cabinet" before taking over as boxer Joe Louis's manager. Louis, known as "the Brown Bomber," held the world heavyweight title from 1937-1949 and is considered by many to be the first African American to achieve the status of a national hero in the United States.

A Kroger grocery and bakery rented the retail bay of the Edna in 1920 and stayed until 1937. In 1938, the west retail bay became the East Side Non-partisan Club and lasted until 1945. And in 1950, two black institutions rented in the Edna: *The Ohio Sentinel*, an African American newspaper, rented the retail bay of 881 East Long, and Apartment #1 on the second floor was switched to commercial use when the Dukes Club of Ohio Inc. rented it as their social room.

³⁸ Vernon Jarrett, "Pioneer Insurer Ranked as Giant" *The Chicago Tribune*, September 1, 1972, Section 1, p. 10

³⁹ Gibson, p. 26

⁴⁰ Marcus Garvey, Robert Hill, ed. *The Marcus Garvey and the Universal Negro Improvement Association Papers, Vol. 2, 27 August 1919-31 August 1920*, Berkeley, University of California Press, p. 434-435

⁴¹ T. K. Gibson, Sr., Insurance Pioneer, Dies at Age 90. *Jet Magazine*, September 14, 1972, p. 14

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The Ohio Sentinel

The Ohio Sentinel newspaper was located in the Edna Building from 1950–1953. Amos Lynch Jr. and Russell Jackson had co-founded the paper in 1949.⁴² Lynch, who served as managing editor at *The Ohio Sentinel*, would go on to establish two more Columbus African American newspapers, *The Call and Post* in 1962 and *The Columbus Post* in 1995. He was a lifelong advocate for better job opportunities for African Americans and integration in schools and housing.⁴³ *The Ohio Sentinel* was a “protest journal” in the model of the earlier *Ohio State News*, but with the demise of the Columbus Vanguard League during the Red Scare of the early 1950s the *Sentinel* supported the more moderate NAACP and Columbus Urban League.⁴⁴ The paper garnered broad community support through their even-handed political coverage; it did not endorse candidates.

The black press, including *The Ohio Sentinel*, served a number of purposes for Columbus African Americans. It promoted the idea of African American economic self-sufficiency. In its editorial pages, it supported local black businesses against charges of promoting segregation when they opened in the neighborhood. Black papers also took a hard stand against police brutality. *The Ohio Sentinel* served as a community sounding board. But it took a more accommodating approach when it pressed for community standards that would further integration. The paper advocated genteel behavior and polite general interaction with whites. Its society pages enforced and publicized social position and standing in the African American community. It also disseminated news stories to the black community that would not be covered in the white press.⁴⁵ In 1954, the paper broke stories that major newspapers subsequently could not ignore. The state was forced to act and white papers picked up the story when *The Ohio Sentinel* published copies of work orders from six Ohio state government departments that asked for white workers only when hiring for state jobs.⁴⁶ Rising printing costs eventually doomed the *Sentinel* in 1962. As Lynch noted, “the cash in-flow from the black community was going right through our hands into the hands of a white printer.”⁴⁷ However, during the newspaper’s tenure at the Edna it was an invaluable asset that provided a voice and influence in a community ignored by the white press.

⁴² “Veteran Ohio Editor Resigns Post at Columbus. *Jet*, December 24, 1954, p. 44

⁴³ Editorial, “Amos Lynch Made Columbus Better” *The Columbus Dispatch*, July 29, 2015, p.

⁴⁴ Hollingsworth, p. 68-69

⁴⁵ Lewis H. Fenderson, “The Negro Press as Social Instrument” *The Journal of Negro Education* Vol. 20, No. 2 (Spring 1951)p. 181

⁴⁶ “Lausche Disclaims Hiring Ban” *Akron Beacon Journal*, July 3, 1954, p. 15

⁴⁷ Hollingsworth, p. 70

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Dukes Club

The Dukes Club was a nationwide organization formed in 1935 in Indianapolis by African Americans for the “express purpose of paying tribute to the wives and sweethearts of the men of the Dukes Club.” Wives and sweethearts were not surprisingly referred to as Duchesses.⁴⁸ However, the club also had a strong service and civic focus; it supported a scholarship fund and searched for other charitable causes such as cancer and tuberculosis research.⁴⁹ City clubs represented at the first national confab, as it was called, in 1937 were from Chicago, Marion, Toledo, Cleveland, Fort Wayne, Indianapolis, and Columbus. The national headquarters was located in Indianapolis.⁵⁰

African American social clubs of the period were sorted by class within the black community; one’s elite status was usually dictated by educational attainment.⁵¹ Black newspaper social pages chronicled the clubs’ parties and gatherings in detail. White newspapers carried a weekly or bi-weekly African American social column usually a bare-bones listing of events without photographs. Columbus African American journalist Blanche M. Van Hook, who wrote for the white *Citizen-Journal* as well as the *Ohio State News* and the *Ohio State Sentinel*, was a Duchess Club member as well as the official reporter for the club during the early 1950s. (Figure 10)

The white establishment did not seem to be overly familiar with the organization. While the club’s 1949 national gathering in Louisville was front-page news in the *Courier-Journal*, it was described “as a gathering of 300 Negro Chefs.”⁵² A retraction the next day noted that members were comprised of many professions.⁵³ However, a Columbus formal event received regional coverage in the black press when Blanche Van Hook’s *Ohio State News* society column was reprinted in the *Indianapolis Recorder*. The article recounted a Midwestern gathering of the region’s growing African American elite, who enjoyed a cocktail party before dancing to Bob Madison’s Orchestra at Lincoln Hall.⁵⁴ Other club affairs included seasonal events such as the Valentine’s Day soiree at the Leveque Tower that featured a cocktail party in the “Observation Tower” on the 44th floor followed by “an elaborate four course

⁴⁸ “Dukes Celebrate 51st Anniversary” *Indianapolis Recorder*, March 1, 1986, p. 5

⁴⁹ “National Dukes Plan Confab in Louisville” *Indianapolis Recorder*, July 9, 1949, p. 5

⁵⁰ “Popular Dukes sponsor Annual Convention at Fox Lake Resort” *Indianapolis Recorder*, August 13, 1938, p. 4

⁵¹ Lawrence Otis Graham. *Our Kind of People: Inside America’s Black Upper Class*. New York: Harper Perennial, 2000, p. 11

⁵² “300 Negro Chefs to Attend Parley of Dukes Clubs” *Courier-Journal*, 28 July 1949.

⁵³ “Negro Social Groups Open Meeting Today” *Courier-Journal*, 29 July, 1949. p. 9

⁵⁴ Blanche Van Hook “Columbus Dukes and Duchesses Have 9th Annual Formal Ball” *Indianapolis Recorder*, 15 January, 1949, p. 5

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dinner served in elegant style” on the 43rd floor. “The long banquet tables had place cards in a valentines motif and were centered with yellow jonquils flanked by lighted white tapers in crystal holders,” according to an article in the *Ohio State News*.⁵⁵

Like many African American social clubs of the era, Dukes Club members initially used each other’s homes for meetings and functions. But in 1950, the Dukes Club moved to Apartment #1 on the second floor on the west side of the Edna Building. Although the apartment had been used as an office in 1943 and a photography studio in 1945, the woodwork indicates it was renovated for use as a club room in the early 1950s: The interior dividing walls were removed to make an open space suitable for dances, social gatherings and charitable events.

The Dukes club room became a gathering spot for the Columbus African American upper crust. The officers of the 137th Ohio National Guard, an African American unit, followed their dinner party at Fort Hayes with additional merriment at the Dukes club room in July, 1951.⁵⁶ Recording member and society columnist Blanche Van Hook used the space to entertain visitors of equal social station. In 1951, Miss Van Hook gave a party at the Dukes club room for the sister of a member who was a school teacher in Charleston, West Virginia. Miss Van Hook not only invited the Duchesses but members of other clubs she was associated with, including the Junior Leaguers, the Will Do Charity Club, the Modernistic Matrons, Inc, and the Jolly Sixteeners.⁵⁷

While charitable events such as charity bingo were held, a major impetus for the Dukes Club’s existence was social. Columbus members were the black elite of the community: professionals such as attorneys, doctors, and businessmen. Members often traveled to other cities’ clubs for conventions and dances, where they visited with like-minded professionals in carefully chosen settings usually listed in the *Negro Motorist Green Book*, which guaranteed that no social situations would be disrupted on account of race. (Figure 11) The club was a completely parallel institution to its white counterparts. However, one important aspect of traveling to national conventions in other cities was taking the “fight” against discrimination to local hotels.

However, social clubs were not all buffets and boutonnieres—they represented one component of a complex effort by the African American community to cope with institutionalized segregation . A number of books about social clubs generated considerable controversy in the African American community during the 1940s and 1950s. African American sociologist E. Franklin Frazier’s 1957 *Black Bourgeoisie*, a scathing book on the black elite, called their social clubs “a world of make believe”

⁵⁵ “Duchesses Honor Dukes” *Ohio State News*, 26 February, 1949, p. 18

⁵⁶ “Gwen”s Angle” *The Ohio State News*” 21 July 1951, p. 3B

⁵⁷ “Miss Blanche M. Van Hook Entertains at Dukes Club” *The Ohio State News*, 15 January, 1949, p. 5

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centered on superficial social activities rather than the struggle for civil rights.⁵⁸ Frazier also excoriated the black press for participating by publishing society pages that highlighted club member's activities. Worse, according to Frazier, was the black press's promotion of African American businesses. Frazier postulated that black economic self-determination was nothing but a "myth" that could not solve any black economic problems.⁵⁹

The *Ohio Sentinel* editorial staff disagreed with Frazier's premise; it ardently supported establishing and patronizing African American businesses in Columbus and continued to publish society columns. And contrary to Frazier's claim, clubs were quite cognizant of the need for African American progress in civil rights. Attorney William Brooks reminded newly installed members in 1957 about social and civic balance, remarking, "No club today can make its entire program social when there is so much yet to be done...we must all join together for the betterment of our race, work harder in our communities, and as a consequence make things better for ourselves."⁶⁰ (Figure 12)

Dukes Club members were involved in advances in housing in Columbus. Local attorney, former Garvey supporter, and Dukes member Webster S. Lyman was the sales agent for the National Register listed, nationally significant Hanford Village George Washington Carver Addition Historic District (NR 13000980), an African American veteran's preference suburb.

Late Developments and Conclusion

The *Ohio Sentinel* moved from the Edna in 1954 and ceased publication in 1962. The cost of using other companies' presses became an untenable cost. Lynch started the *Columbus Call & Post* the same year. The Dukes Club remained at the Edna Building until 1963.

A series of stores and beauty parlors began to use the commercial bays. The C and G Carryout occupied a storefront from 1947 to 1956. (Figure 13) The Hazelwood Beauty Salon moved into 881 East Long in 1963 and stayed until 1972. The next tenant was the Franklin County Elks Lodge No. 203, which came in 1976 and stayed until 1986. Long Street vibrancy waned after the late 1960s riot. The building was largely vacant from 1986 to the present day. The building was in danger of collapse in the late 1990s, and emergency interior shoring and a new roof were added.

⁵⁸ Walter A. Jackson. *Gunnar Myrdal and America's Conscience: Social Engineering and Racial Liberalism, 1938-1987*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1990, p. 291

⁵⁹ E. Franklin Frazier, *Black Bourgeoisie*, New York: Free Press Paperbacks, 1957, p. 26

⁶⁰ Eunice Wood "High Society" *The Ohio Sentinel* 19 January 1957, Sec. 2 p. 11

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All three significant organizations housed in the nominated property—the Fireside Mutual Aid Association, the *Ohio Sentinel* newspaper, and the Dukes Club—were parallel organizations formed in response to segregation and discrimination. These businesses and clubs were an integral part of the vibrant African American community in Columbus. They provided economic and social opportunities. Together, they formed a community and helped change Columbus. The Edna Building is an important physical and visual representation of this important aspect of the development of the city.

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Lee, Emory Alfred, *History of Columbus: Capital of Ohio* Munsell & Co.. New York, 1892

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Minor, Richard Clyde. "Negro Recreation in Columbus, Ohio" (master's thesis, Ohio State University) 1926

Minor, Richard Clyde. "The Negro in Columbus." Ph.D. diss., Ohio State University, 1936

Pease, Edward C. "Kerner Plus 20: Minority News Coverage in the Columbus Dispatch, A Comparative Content Study" *Newspaper Research Journal*, 10(3) 1989

The Edna
Name of Property

Franklin, Ohio
County and State

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): FRA00485-19

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property Less than one acre (.17 acre)

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

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or NAD 1983

1. Zone: 17 Easting: 333271 Northing: 4426100

The Edna
Name of Property

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

The property consists of Lot 126 of the East Grove Plat, Parcel No, 010-052142-00. The building is located at the southeast corner of East Long Street and Australia Street.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary matches the legal parcel boundary. The Edna and the undeveloped portion of the lot correspond to the legal parcel boundary. The parcel boundary reflects the historical extent of the property

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Rory Krupp/historian and Roy Hampton/architectural
historian

organization: Owen & Eastlake Ltd

street & number: P.O. Box 10774

city or town: Columbus state: Ohio zip

code: 43201

e-mail rkrupp@oweneastlake.com

telephone: 614-439-9068

date: September 29, 2016

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.)

Photo Log

Name of Property: Edna Building

City or Vicinity: Columbus

County: Franklin

State: Ohio

Photographer: Rory Krupp

Owen & Eastlake Ltd, P.O. Box 10774, Columbus, Ohio 43201

The Edna
Name of Property

Franklin, Ohio
County and State

Date Photographed: June 16, 2016

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

1 of 38 (OH_Franklin County_The Edna_0001)

The Edna, exterior, front elevation (north) and west elevation, view looking southeast

2 of 38 (OH_Franklin County_The Edna_0002)

The Edna, exterior, front elevation, view looking south

3 of 38 (OH_Franklin County_The Edna_0003)

The Edna, exterior, front elevation, eastern retail bay, leaded transom display window, view looking south

4 of 38 (OH_Franklin County_The Edna_0004)

The Edna, exterior, west and south elevations, fire escape, view looking northeast

5 of 38 (OH_Franklin County_The Edna_0005)

The Edna, exterior, south and east elevation, fire escape, view looking northwest

6 of 38 (OH_Franklin County_The Edna_0006)

The Edna, basement, western bay, view looking south

7 of 38 (OH_Franklin County_The Edna_0007)

The Edna, basement, eastern bay, view looking north.

8 of 38 (OH_Franklin County_The Edna_0008)

The Edna, second floor land, looking down stairs to first floor entrance, view looking north

9 of 38 (OH_Franklin County_The Edna_0009)

The Edna, first floor retail space, western bay, view looking south

10 of 38 (OH_Franklin County_The Edna_0010)

The Edna, first floor retail space, western bay, view looking north.

11 of 38 (OH_Franklin County_The Edna_0011)

The Edna, first floor retail space, eastern bay, view looking north.

12 of 38 (OH_Franklin County_The Edna_0012)

The Edna, first floor retail space, eastern bay, view looking south

13 of 38 OH_Franklin County_The Edna_0013)

The Edna, interior room under central stairs showing historic graffiti

The Edna
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- 14 of 38 (OH_Franklin County_The Edna_0014)
The Edna, second floor, corridor and stair to third floor, view looking north
- 15 of 38 (OH_Franklin County_The Edna_0015)
The Edna, second floor, western bay, view looking south
- 16 of 38 (OH_Franklin County_The Edna_0016)
The Edna, second floor, western bay, stage at north end of club space, view looking north.
- 17 of 38 (OH_Franklin County_The Edna_0017)
The Edna, second floor, eastern bay, front room overlooking Long Street, view looking east
- 18 of 38 (OH_Franklin County_The Edna_0018)
The Edna, second floor, eastern bay, room behind room overlooking Long Street, view looking east.
- 19 of 38 (OH_Franklin County_The Edna_0019)
The Edna, second floor eastern bay, view looking south
- 20 of 38 (OH_Franklin County_The Edna_0020)
The Edna, second floor, eastern bay, view looking west
- 21 of 38 (OH_Franklin County_The Edna_0021)
The Edna, second floor, corridor, looking up stairs to third floor, view looking north
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The Edna, second floor, newel post detail, view looking south
- 23 of 38 (OH_Franklin County_The Edna_0023)
The Edna, second floor, light fixture in hallway at top of stairs
- 24 of 38 (OH_Franklin County_The Edna_0024)
The Edna, third floor, western bay, front parlor overlooking E. Long Street, view looking southeast
- 25 of 38 (OH_Franklin County_The Edna_0025)
The Edna, third floor, western bay, front parlor overlooking E. Long Street, view looking northeast
- 26 of 38 (OH_Franklin County_The Edna_0026)
The Edna, third floor, western bay, view looking southwest
- 27 of 38 (OH_Franklin County_The Edna_0027)
The Edna, third floor, western bay, view looking west

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28 of 38 (OH_Franklin County_The Edna_0028)

The Edna, third floor, western bay, kitchen and rear door, view looking southwest

29 of 38 (OH_Franklin County_The Edna_0029)

The Edna, third floor, western bay, kitchen, view looking southeast

30 of 38 (OH_Franklin County_The Edna_0030)

The Edna, third floor, western bay, back door to fire escape, view looking southwest

31 of 38 (OH_Franklin County_The Edna_0031)

The Edna, third floor, western bay, bathroom, view looking south

32 of 38 (OH_Franklin County_The Edna_0032)

The Edna, third floor, eastern bay, front parlor overlooking E. Long Street, view looking southeast

33 of 38 (OH_Franklin County_The Edna_0033)

The Edna, second floor, eastern bay, room behind front room overlooking E. Long Street, view looking east

34 of 38 (OH_Franklin County_The Edna_0034)

The Edna, third floor, eastern bay, front parlor overlooking E. Long Street, view looking north

35 of 38 (OH_Franklin County_The Edna_0035)

The Edna, third floor, eastern bay, view looking northeast

36 of 38 (OH_Franklin County_The Edna_0036)

The Edna, third floor, eastern bay, view looking southwest

37 of 38 (OH_Franklin County_The Edna_0037)

The Edna, third floor, eastern bay, view looking southeast

38 of 38 (OH_Franklin County_The Edna_0038)

The Edna, third floor, eastern bay, view looking southeast

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1958 installation of officers at the Dukes Club room (Photo: Ohio Sentinel)

Figure 13

Matchbook cover from the C and G Carryout, 1947-1957

The Edna
Name of Property

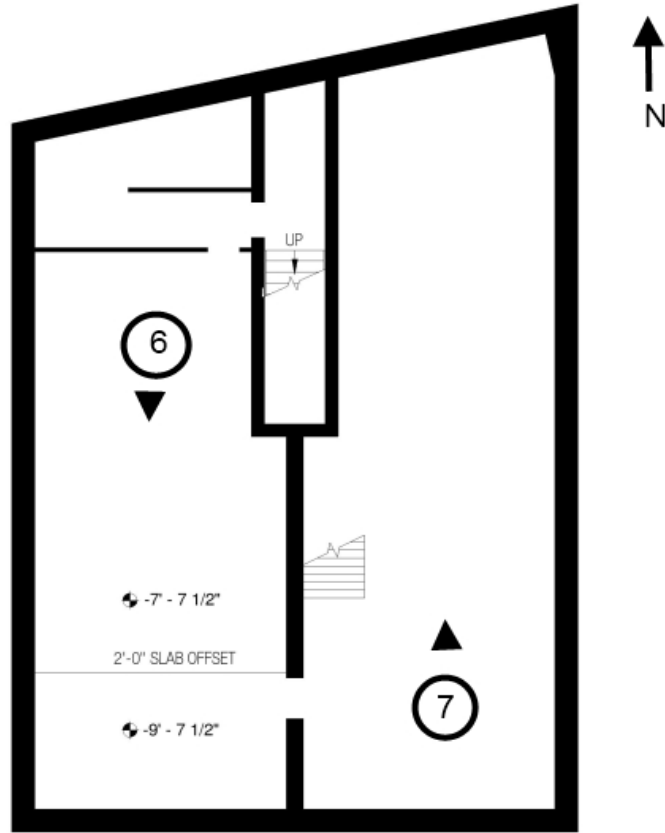
Franklin, Ohio
County and State



Figure 1 Exterior Photo Key

The Edna
Name of Property

Franklin, Ohio
County and State



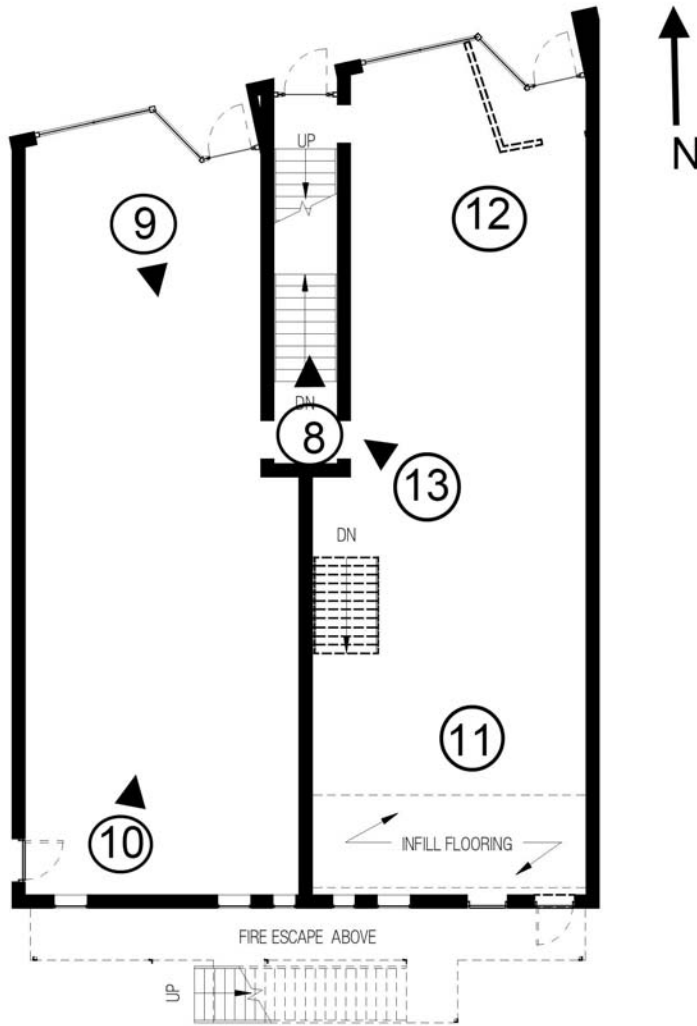
1 BASEMENT FLOOR PLAN ⌚
3/32" = 1'-0"

TLA

Figure 2: Basement Photograph Key

The Edna
Name of Property

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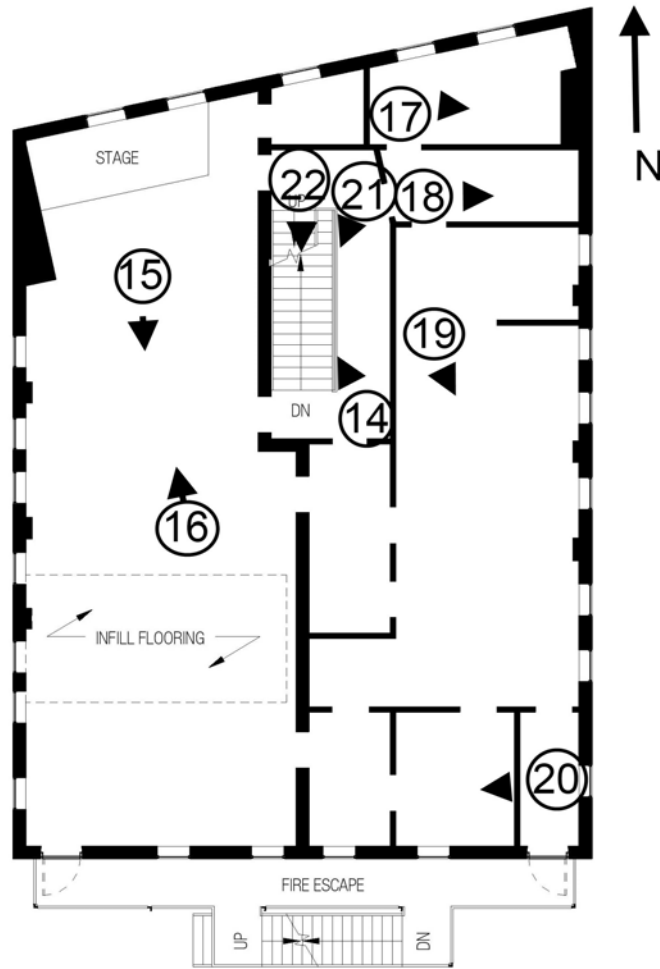
2 FIRST FLOOR PLAN ①
3/32" = 1'-0"

THE EDNA | EXISTING FLOOR PLANS | 160624 | P1
© Tim Lai Architect

Figure 3: First Floor Photo Key

The Edna
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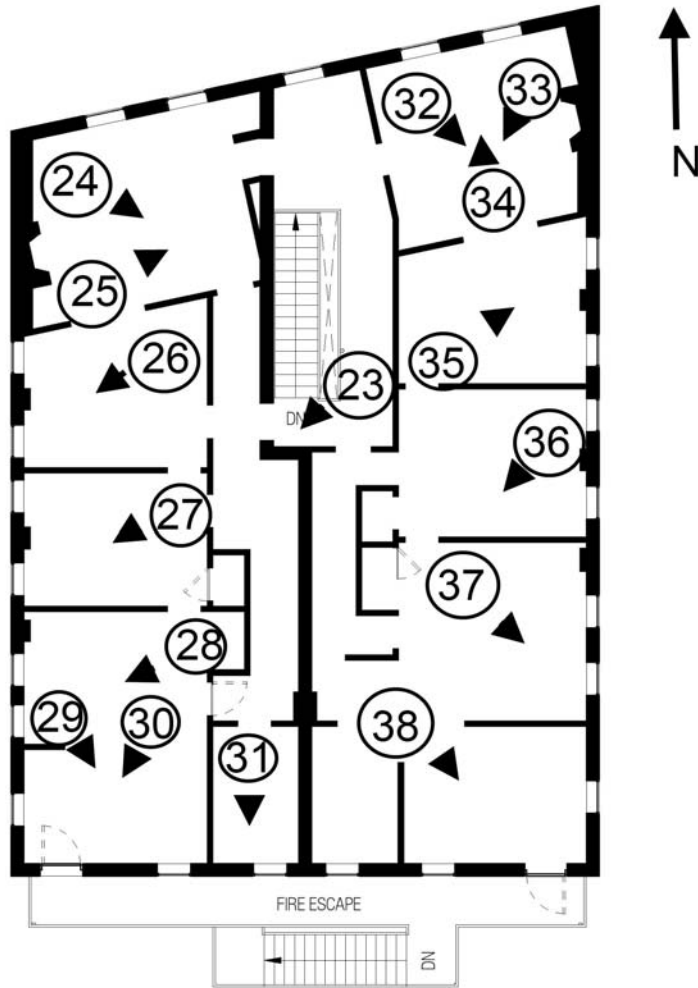
3 SECOND FLOOR PLAN ⌚
3/32" = 1'-0"



Figure 4 Second Floor Photo Key

The Edna
Name of Property

Franklin, Ohio
County and State



4 THIRD FLOOR PLAN ⌚
3/32" = 1'-0"

THE EDNA | EXISTING FLOOR PLANS | 160624 | P2
© Tim Lai Architect

Figure 5 Third Floor Photo Key

The Edna
Name of Property

Franklin, Ohio
County and State

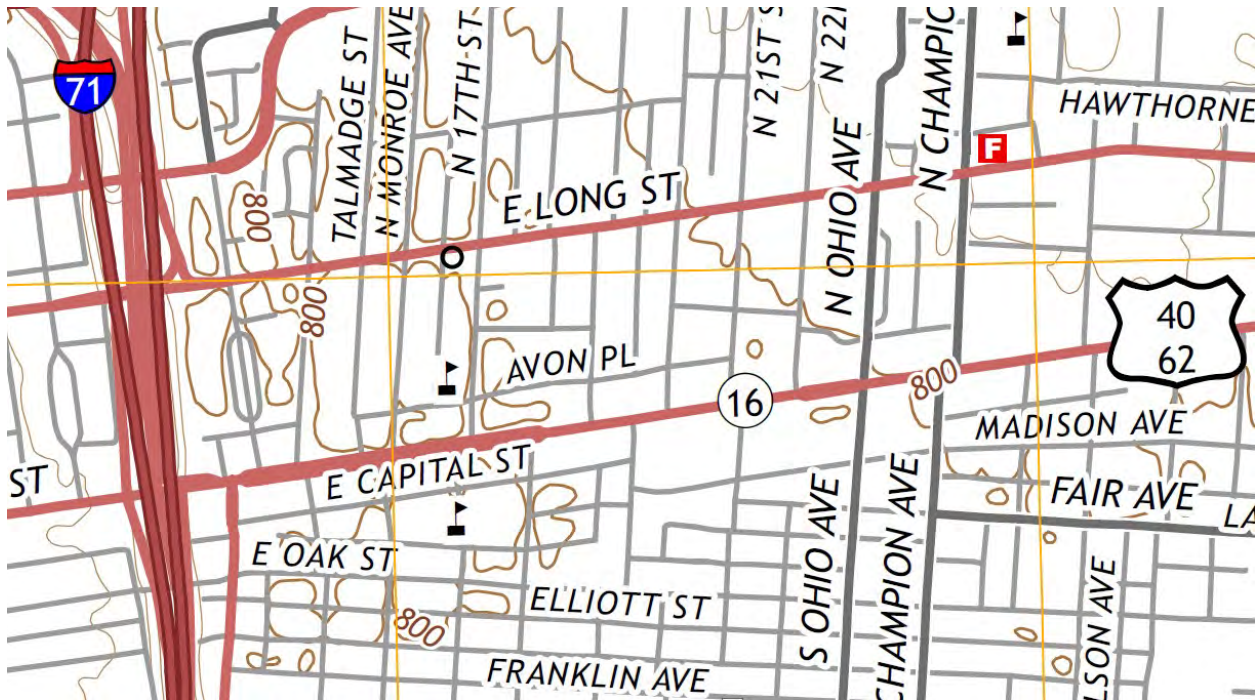


Figure 6: Southeast Columbus USGS 7.5 Minute Quadrangle Map

NAD 1927 Zone 17 Easting: 333271 Northing: 4426100

The Edna
Name of Property

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County and State

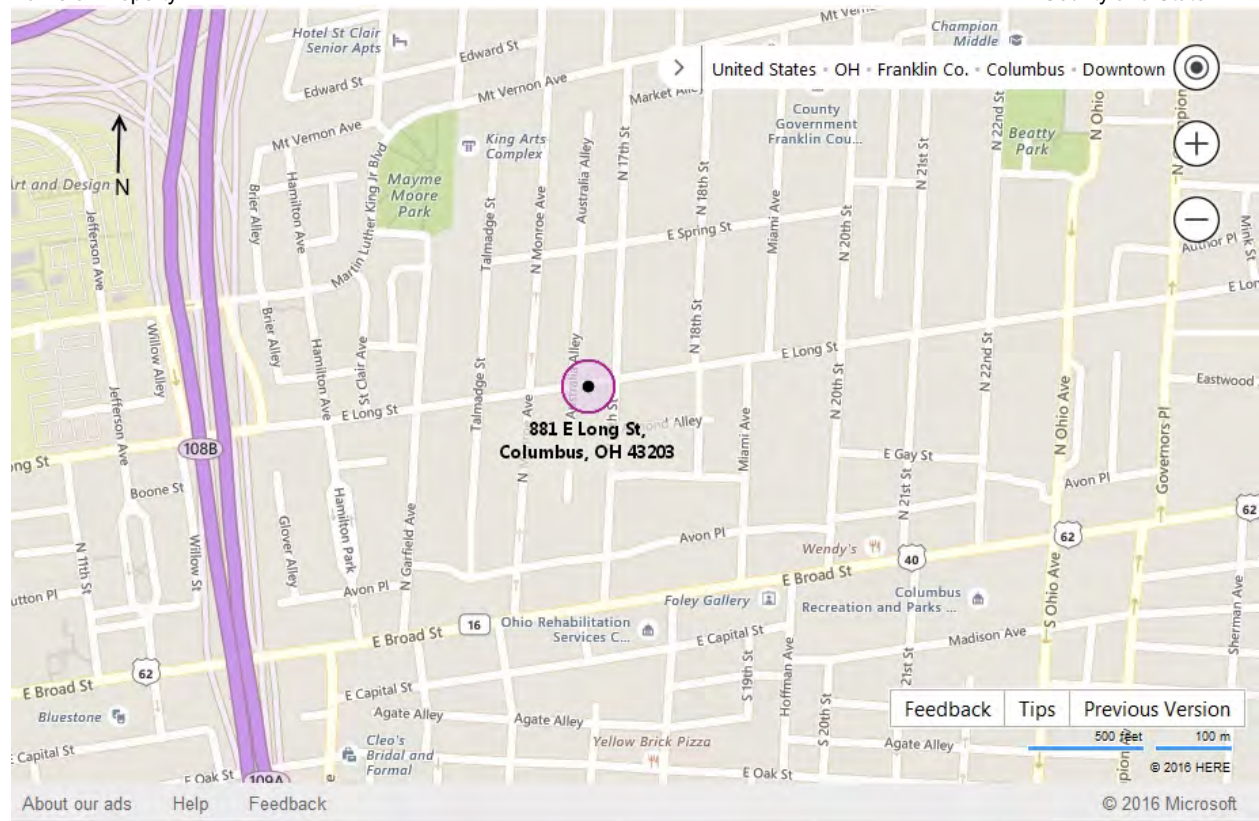


Figure 7: Bing Map showing location of the Edna Building
NAD 1927 Zone 17 Easting: 333271 Northing: 4426100

The Edna
Name of Property

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Figure 8: The Edna namesake, Edna Callahan, in 1914, (The Makio, the Ohio State University yearbook)

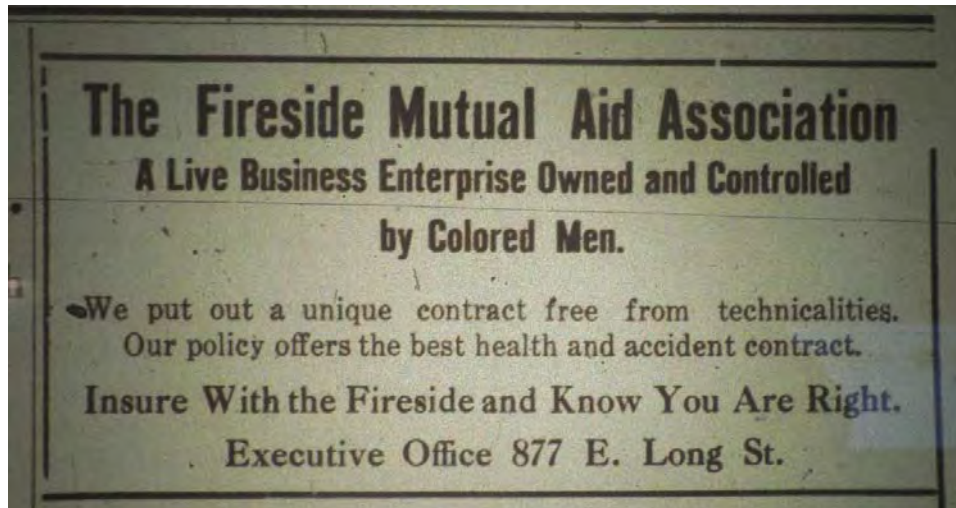


Figure 9: Fireside Mutual Aid Association advertisement from the July, 1919 *Ohio Monitor*

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**Figure 10: *Ohio Sentinel* managing editor, Amos Lynch, in 1958.
(Photo: Columbus Citizen-Journal)**

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Figure 11: Blanche M. Van Hook, *Ohio Sentinel* and *Columbus Citizens Journal* society columnist and Dukes Club reporter

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Figure 11: Columbus Dukes Club officer, Firman Wright, front row left, at a national convention in Indianapolis, Indiana, 1956

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Figure 12: 1958 installation of officers at the Dukes Club room
(Photo: Ohio Sentinel)

The Edna
Name of Property

Franklin, Ohio
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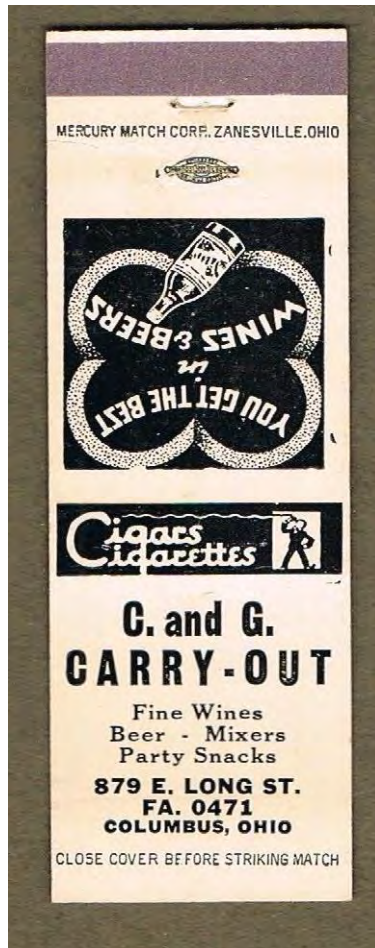


Figure 13: Matchbook cover from the C and G Carryout, 1947-1957

THE EDNA

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THE EDNA























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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action:

Property Name:

Multiple Name:

State & County:

Date Received: Date of Pending List: Date of 16th Day: Date of 45th Day: Date of Weekly List:

Reference number:

Nominator:

Reason For Review:

Accept Return Reject Date

Abstract/Summary Comments:

Recommendation/ Criteria

Reviewer Discipline

Telephone Date

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

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

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
NPS TRANSMITTAL CHECK LIST

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

The following materials are submitted on Dec. 30, 2016
For nomination of the The Edna to the National Register of
Historic Places: Franklin Co, 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: _____



December 30, 2016

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:

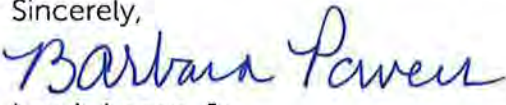
Enclosed please find five (5) new National Register nominations for Ohio. All appropriate notification procedures have been followed for the new nominations submission.

<u>NEW NOMINATION</u>	<u>COUNTY</u>
William Kelley Hardware-Hayesville Odd Fellows Hall	Ashland
Tinnerman Steel Range Company	Cuyahoga
Budd Dairy Company	Franklin
The Edna	Franklin
Lowrie, S. Gale and Agnes P., House	Hamilton

The enclosed disks contain the true and correct copies of the nominations to the National Register of Historic Places for the following: Tinnerman Steel Range Company, Cuyahoga County and The Edna, Franklin County.

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
2000
State Historic Preservation Officer
Ohio History Connection

Enclosures