

292

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form



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

### 1. Name of Property

Historic name: High Street Commercial Block (Boundary Increase)  
Other names/site number: Strauss Department Store/Mehrum Building & Lindley Building  
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: 216-226 High Street  
City or town: Hamilton State: Ohio County: Butler  
Not For Publication:  NA Vicinity:  NA

### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

I hereby certify that this  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  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  local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

A  B  C  D

<u>Barbara Power</u>	DSHPO for Inventory & Registration	4/17/2014
<b>Signature of certifying official/Title:</b>		<b>Date</b>
<u>Ohio Historic Preservation Office, Ohio Historical Society</u>		
<b>State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</b>		
In my opinion, the property <input type="checkbox"/> meets <input type="checkbox"/> does not meet the National Register criteria.		
<b>Signature of commenting official:</b>		<b>Date</b>
<b>Title :</b>		<b>State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</b>

High Street Commercial Block (Boundary Increase)  
Name of Property

Butler County, Ohio  
County and State

**4. National Park Service Certification**

I hereby certify that this property is:

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

Patrick Andrews  
Signature of the Keeper

5/23/2014  
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



High Street Commercial Block (Boundary Increase)  
Name of Property

Butler County, Ohio  
County and State

## 7. Description

### Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE 19<sup>TH</sup> AND 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY REVIVALS: French Renaissance

LATE 19<sup>TH</sup> AND EARLY 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENTS: Commercial  
Style

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Materials:** (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: STONE: sandstone, limestone; BRICK;  
STUCCO; CAST IRON; SYNTHETIC: rubber

### 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 boundary increase comprises two historically functionally related early 20<sup>th</sup> century four-story commercial buildings—the Mehrum Building (220-226 High Street) and the Lindley Building (216-218 High Street), which are immediately west of the existing High Street Commercial Block (NR 2004) on the north side of High Street in the heart of Hamilton's central business district. (See site plan.) The Mehrum and Lindley buildings were internally connected in 1922 when the Strauss Department Store, which began in the Mehrum Building in 1907, expanded into the Lindley Building. Together these buildings were renovated into The Hamilton Center, an office and convention complex, in the 1970s. At this time, the storefronts were renovated and the upper facade covered with a metal screen. In April 2013, this screen was removed, revealing the original facades. The Mehrum Building has a 5-bay-wide limestone French Renaissance façade with gabled wall dormers and slate mansard roof; the Lindley Building has a simpler brick façade with a single bay of windows and parapet. Both buildings have brick walls on side and rear. The Mehrum Building extends through the block, while the Lindley Building extends about a third of the way back. The increase also includes a narrow passage known as Journal Alley between the existing district and the two structures to be added.

High Street Commercial Block (Boundary Increase)  
Name of Property

Butler County, Ohio  
County and State

---

## Narrative Description

As described above, the boundary increase includes two four-story red brick commercial buildings. The larger and older building, at 220-226 High Street, was historically known as the Mehrum Building. Originally built circa 1900, burned in 1906 and rebuilt in 1907, it is 70 feet and five bays wide by 202 feet and 11 bays deep. The Lindley Building, built between 1906 and 1913 at 216-218 High Street, is 23 feet and one bay wide by 74 feet deep.

The Mehrum Building is an excellent example of the French Renaissance Revival style. The storefronts have been completely remodeled but the upper façade is still substantially intact. The exuberant sandstone façade features two-story window bays with large paired window openings at the second and third floors, a rusticated fourth floor with paired one-over-one windows, and a patterned slate mansard roof dramatized by steeply gabled wall dormers with oculus windows. The façade is anchored by the more-solid center bay, which features paired windows with an entablature on the second floor and a keystone flat arch on the third. The central dormer above has a shaped parapet and displays the date in raised letters, "A. 1900 D." The space within the mansard was never occupied, thus the mansard was probably added to draw attention to the building within the streetscape.

The Lindley Building displays an early Commercial-style façade with the typical three-part façade—storefront base, unified two-story mid-section and a distinct top, with a lower frieze-like floor topped by a high parapet. The storefront has been completely remodeled; similar to the Mehrum Building, but most of the masonry façade still exists, with the exception of the cornice. Openings above the storefront are focused in a single bay in the center. The fourth floor is refined by corbelled brick panels flanking the central window. Historically the building was capped by a modillioned cornice (missing) and the parapet was punctuated in the center by a stone plaque with "LINDLEY" spelled out in raised lettering (currently hidden).

The side elevations of the Mehrum Block are simpler red brick walls; the east wall abuts Journal Alley (photos 8-11), and the west wall, a windowless party wall, is exposed behind the Lindley Building. On the east wall, all openings at the basement and most openings at the first floor on this elevation have been filled in with brick and painted over. Smooth stone lintels remain, marking the location of these former openings. The third and fourth floor openings are intact, with large two-over-two steel windows as well as some replacements.

On the north, a concrete parking garage extends over Market Street to within 40 inches of the Mehrum Building's rear elevation. The east section of the rear, at 224-226 High Street, has buff face brick and large single-pane aluminum windows with transoms (photo 12). The west section, at the rear of 220-222 High Street, has been refaced with pre-cast concrete panels and stucco, and the openings altered substantially. The basement was most recently occupied by a Mexican restaurant known as "Pedro's." The upper façade has pre-cast concrete panels (photo 13), and a fire escape provides a connection to the parking garage (photos 15-17).

Both buildings have coursed ashlar stone basements, which are exposed at the north end where the grade slopes down. The side elevations of both the Mehrum and Lindley Blocks are windowless (photos 18-20). The rear elevation of the Lindley Block has a windowless shed-

High Street Commercial Block (Boundary Increase)

Butler County, Ohio

Name of Property

County and State

roofed extension at the first and second floors and two bays of aluminum replacement windows at the third and fourth floors (photos 18, 21).

On the interior, both buildings probably had open floor plans. Interior spaces have been subdivided and refinished for conventions and office use with ceramic and wood tile floors, carpet, drywall, and suspended acoustic tile ceilings, except for the third and fourth floors of the 224-226 High Street (photos 22-73). The latter spaces, which are only about 100-feet-deep, were left unoccupied for many years and retain original wood floors, plaster walls, pressed metal ceilings (photos 52-56, 63-64) and two-over-two steel windows (photo 65). In addition, a cast-iron stair with an ornamental metal and wood railing is intact toward the rear of the building (photo 51). There is evidence also of an intact pressed metal ceiling, which appears to be intact above all or most of the suspended ceilings in the Mehrum Building.

#### Alterations

In the mid-1970s, as mentioned above, the buildings were renovated and converted into the Hamilton Center, which housed retail, meeting space, offices, and a restaurant. (The complex is entirely vacant at present and proposed for rehabilitation as artists' lofts.) At this time a louvered metal screen was installed, unifying the front elevations. The original storefronts were replaced with stucco, aluminum and glass, and pre-fabricated stone facing. Most of the original windows, with some exceptions on the east elevation of the Mehrum Block, were replaced with aluminum. As mentioned above, most of the upper floors were subdivided for offices.

The alley was recently enhanced with brick paving, planters and metal archways to create an attractive walkway to the municipal parking garage which extends over most of the street on the north. At that time, the lower floors of the east elevation of the Mehrum Block were painted to cover patches where window openings were filled in with brick masonry. The rear elevation of the Mehrum Block has been altered with pre-cast concrete panels and stucco, and the west elevations of both buildings are previously unexposed party walls left after the adjoining Beckett Block at the northeast corner of Second and High streets was demolished in 2005.

#### Integrity

The recent removal of the 1970s-era metal screen has revealed that the buildings' original character is substantially intact, particularly the highly decorative sandstone façade of the Mehrum Building with its dramatic dormered roofline and slate mansard. The more restrained Lindley building retains its smooth brick façade, stone trim, and basic composition. Both buildings have altered storefronts and replacement windows, although the Mehrum Building appears to retain original two-over-two wood windows in the two right bays on the second floor. Historic photographs show storefronts with fluted cast-iron columns, large display windows shaded with canvas awnings and transoms filled with Luxfer prism glass above. The transoms are gone, but the fluted cast-iron columns, which were covered with Perma-stone, remain on the Mehrum Building. An upcoming rehabilitation will restore the appearance of the original windows and provide new aluminum and glass storefronts based on historic photographs. As mentioned above, most of the interior spaces have been subdivided for offices on the upper floors, but the third and fourth floors of 224-226 High Street retain their original wood floors, plaster walls, and pressed metal ceilings. While the integrity of the buildings has suffered it is sufficient to convey their significance; moreover excellent photographic and physical evidence remains, which will serve as the basis for rehabilitation based on their original designs.

High Street Commercial Block (Boundary Increase)  
Name of Property

Butler County, Ohio  
County and State

## 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

High Street Commercial Block (Boundary Increase)  
Name of Property

Butler County, Ohio  
County and State

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

COMMERCE/TRADE: business/department store

ARCHITECTURE

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance**

1900-1958

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates**

1900, 1907, 1922

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Cultural Affiliation**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Architect/Builder**

Mueller, Frederick (Lindley Building)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



High Street Commercial Block (Boundary Increase)  
Name of Property

Butler County, Ohio  
County and State

**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.)

This amendment proposes to add two historically functionally related buildings contiguous on the west to the existing High Street Commercial Block (Historic District). Like the existing High Street Commercial Block, the buildings at 216-226 High Street are eligible at the local level for the National Register under Criterion A in the area of Commerce. The buildings are also eligible in the area of Architecture as examples of early 20<sup>th</sup> century mercantile buildings in the French Renaissance and Commercial styles. The buildings in the increase represent the same theme of commerce—the transition from dry goods to department stores—and reflect a period of significance from 1900, the date of initial construction of the Mehrum Building, to 1958 when Kresge's vacated it. Thus the period of significance of the original district, 1874-1953, would be expanded by this boundary increase to 1874-1958. (The end date for the original historic district nomination reflected the 50-year cut off; this slightly expanded end date reflects a more meaningful date applicable to the existing commercial grouping and added buildings)

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

#### Commerce

Like the three buildings that make up the High Street Commercial Block, the Mehrum and Lindley Blocks were part of the substantial dry goods and retail industry on High Street, sharing its associations with the commercial development of Hamilton along High Street. The Mehrum Block is exemplary of the transition of dry goods shops into department stores in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Similarly in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the Mehrum Block was occupied by S. S. Kresge's while the High Street Commercial Block housed national chains such as A & P Grocery stores, J. C. Penney and McCrory's discount stores. Like many older buildings along High Street, they were covered with a metal screen in the 1970s, while others have been demolished. However, the screen was recently removed in anticipation of their rehabilitation, revealing their original character.

#### Architecture

The Mehrum and Lindley buildings are excellent examples of early-twentieth-century French Renaissance and Commercial style architecture as applied to the three-part commercial block building type. The Mehrum Block is an excellent example of the French Renaissance Revival style. The storefronts have been completely remodeled but the upper façade is still substantially intact. The exuberant sandstone façade features two-story window bays with large paired window openings at the second and third floors, a rusticated fourth floor with paired one-over-one windows, and a patterned slate mansard roof dramatized by steeply gabled wall dormers with oculus windows. The façade is anchored by the more-solid center bay, which features paired windows with an entablature on the second floor and a keystone flat arch on the third. The central dormer above has a shaped parapet and displays the date in raised

High Street Commercial Block (Boundary Increase)

Butler County, Ohio

Name of Property

County and State

letters, "A.1900 D." The space within the mansard was never occupied, thus the mansard was probably added to draw attention to the building within the streetscape.

The Lindley Block, designed by Frederick Mueller, displays an early Commercial-style façade with the typical tripartite façade—storefront base, unified two-story mid-section and a distinct top, with a lower frieze-like floor topped by a high parapet. The storefront has been completely remodeled; similar to the Mehrum Building, but most of the masonry façade still exists, with the exception of the cornice. Openings above the storefront are focused in a single bay in the center. The fourth floor is refined by corbelled brick panels flanking the central window. Historically the building was capped by a modillioned cornice (missing) and parapet was punctuated in the center by a stone plaque with "LINDLEY" spelled out in raised lettering (hidden).

The Mehrum and Lindley Blocks also represent the transition to the three-part commercial block. Richard Longstreth in *The Buildings of Main Street* compares this building type to a classical column with divisions of base, shaft and capital. Fully realized examples occurred by the early 1890s, but for the most part commercial buildings remained transitional until the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Though only four-stories-tall, the Mehrum and Lindley Blocks both display the clear divisions of storefronts at the base, extended vertical window bays in the middle, and attic stories articulated in a different way from the lower floors. They exemplify a later phase of commercial architecture than the High Street Commercial Block, which are two-part commercial buildings. They also display the vertical emphasis of the upper floors through the use of continuous piers and wall surfaces.

The Mehrum Building was built in 1900 by Henry Frechtling, whose family invested in several businesses in Hamilton, including a dairy on Front Street and the Globe Opera House at 221 High Street. He named the building after his hometown, Mehrum, Germany. On November 6, 1906 a massive fire destroyed most of the building except for the ornamental façade (figure 3). Secured by a lease to the Strauss Clothing Company, the Mathes-Sohngen Company rebuilt and enlarged the building.

The Mathes-Sohngen Company was also a department store, which was located at 232 High Street and expanded into the upper floors of 228 High Street in the 1930s. George P. Sohngen, who was vice president of the Second National Bank and president of the C. D. Mathes Dry Goods Company, was a member of the Sohngen family, which had located to Hamilton in 1850 and established a thriving malting house in 1858. It is likely that the Mathes-Sohngen Department Store partnered with Strauss to contend with the Robinson-Schwenn Department store in 1919, the date the store left 232 High Street.

The Strauss Clothing Company was founded in 1874 by Meyer Strauss, who was born in Germany in 1813 and came to America at age 13. He found work in a wholesale clothing house, and attended school at night. The business began as a small store, which occupied various locations on High Street, including 240 High Street which is part of the High Street Commercial Block. The Strauss & Company clothing store occupied 240 High Street from approximately 1884 until 1907 when their growth required larger quarters. When the Mehrum Building was rebuilt after the 1906 fire, the Strauss family combined their clothing store and shoe store, which then was at Third and High, creating the Strauss Clothing and Shoe Company to fill the new larger location.

High Street Commercial Block (Boundary Increase)

Butler County, Ohio

Name of Property

County and State

The family took great pride in their building and installed electric lights all across the façade, using the latest technology to draw attention to their store and enliven High Street. A circa 1909 post card (figure 4) shows the name "Strauss" was displayed prominently in multiple locations—in light-bulb laden letters billboard-style on the rooftop, and repeated three times in vertical rows between the window bays. The name was also painted in large letters at the top of the west side elevation. The Lindley Block, a narrow, red brick structure was designed by architect Frederick Mueller and constructed to the west of the Mehrum Building sometime between 1906 and 1913. The Lindley Block saw a variety of uses until 1922, when renovations connected it with the Mehrum Building, and the Strauss Clothing Company expanded into it. Both buildings appears draped with bunting in a circa 1922 photograph (figure 5).

A 1924 pamphlet celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the Strauss company states their storefront was "as recognizable as the courthouse," which stood within sight on High Street between Second and Front streets. City directories indicate that the Strauss Company continued at this location until the mid-1930s, when H. R. Green, a 5- and 10-cent store took over their space in the complex. (A 1930s photograph, figure 6, shows the Strauss Company had vacated the building.) The space at 224-226 High Street was occupied from 1908 until approximately 1930 by the Holbrook Brothers dry goods store, followed by the S. S. Kresge Company, a national 5- and 10-cent store, which remained until at least 1958.

Both the Mehrum and Lindley Blocks hold dominant positions along the north side of High Street. The stretch of block buildings between Front and Third Streets were the grandest and seemingly most photographed in Hamilton's business district, yet today, less than half of the buildings remain.

High Street Commercial Block (Boundary Increase)  
Name of Property

Butler County, Ohio  
County and State

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

**Bibliography** (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Butler County (Ohio) Recorder. Deed index of conveyances and encumbrances and various specific deeds between 1806 and 1973.

*Combination Atlas Map of Butler County, OH.* Philadelphia: L. H. Everts Co., 1875.

*County of Butler, Ohio: an Imperial Atlas and Art Folio.* Richmond, IN: Rerick Bros., 1895.

Cummins Photograph Collection, Lane Public Library

Photograph Collection and Clippings Files, Butler County Historical Society

*Insurance Maps of Hamilton, Ohio.* New York: Sanborn Insurance Map Company, 1927.

Kaelin, Nathaniel, "Hamilton Center (Mehrum & Lindley Blocks, Official Nomination Form, Ohio's Most Endangered Historic Sites, 2006."

Longstreth, Richard. *The Buildings of Main Street: A Guide to American Commercial Architecture.* Washington, DC: Preservation Press, 1987.

Previll, Laura and Diana Wellman, Sandvick Architects, Inc. "High Street Commercial Block," Nomination to the National Register of Historic Places, 2003.

McClung, D. W. ed. *The Centennial Anniversary of the City of Hamilton, Ohio.* Hamilton, 1892.

Schwartz, James. *Hamilton, Ohio: Its Architecture and History.* Hamilton: American Press, 1986.

"Strauss' Golden Jubilee, Our Fiftieth Anniversary." Strauss Company: 1924.

---

### 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 # \_\_\_\_\_

High Street Commercial Block (Boundary Increase)  
Name of Property

Butler County, Ohio  
County and State

**Primary location of additional data:**

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

**Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):** \_\_\_\_\_

---

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreeage of Property** .43 –Less than one acre \_\_\_\_\_

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

**UTM References**

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or  NAD 1983

- |             |                  |                   |
|-------------|------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Zone: 16 | Eastings: 710009 | Northing: 4363767 |
| 2. Zone:    | Eastings:        | Northing:         |
| 3. Zone:    | Eastings:        | Northing:         |
| 4. Zone:    | Eastings :       | Northing:         |

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

The buildings occupy the entire Lot No. 112 in the City of Hamilton, designated on the Hamilton County plat, and also known after July 11, 1983 as Lot #27048. The boundary increase also includes Journal Alley, a pedestrian passage between the existing High Street Commercial Block and the buildings to be added. Boundary includes Parcel No. P6421002000064 and Parcel No. P6421002000064 (alley).

High Street Commercial Block (Boundary Increase)  
Name of Property

Butler County, Ohio  
County and State

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

There are several properties in the vicinity that are individually listed in the National Register—the Hamilton Historic Civic Center (NR 1994), bounded by High, Front, Market and Monument streets, the Butler County Courthouse, which occupies the block bordered by High, Front, Second and Court streets; the Dixon/Globe Opera House/ Robinson Schwenn Building (NR 2000) at 221 High Street, directly opposite on the south across the street. However, the existing High Street Commercial Block and the proposed additions are immediately surrounded on the west, north and east sides by vacant lots and intrusions such as the concrete parking garage built over Market Street circa 1975. The three buildings to the east of the original Commercial Block Historic District, at 242-246, 250 High Street, and 254 East High Street at the corner of North Third Street, have been altered and were thus not included at the time. They remain altered and thus are not included in the currently proposed boundary increase.

While there are additional buildings identified in the Ohio Historic Inventory as eligible—such as the 1906 Rentschler Building (BUT-726-9) at the southeast corner of High and Second streets and the 1931 Second National Bank Building (BUT-737-9) at the northeast corner of High and Third streets, they are not contiguous. Therefore, the proposed boundaries of the increase are limited to the two buildings at 216-226 High Street and Journal Alley.

---

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title: Beth Sullebarger, Principal  
organization: Sullebarger Associates  
street & number: 1080 Morse Avenue  
city or town: Glendale state: Ohio zip code: 45246  
e-mail sullebarger@fuse.net  
telephone: (513) 772-1088  
date: January 30, 2014

---

**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.** See Continuation Sheet for Sketch Map and Exterior Photo Key, 1<sup>st</sup> floor and 2<sup>nd</sup> floor photo keys.
- **Additional items:**

High Street Commercial Block (Boundary Increase)  
Name of Property

Butler County, Ohio  
County and State

### Aerial and Historic Photographs

- Figure 1: Aerial view of High Street, looking west, 2010
- Figure 2: High Street, looking southwest from Third Street, early 1900s
- Figure 3: Ruins of the Mehrum Block after the fire, November 1906
- Figure 4: Strauss Department Store, circa 1909
- Figure 5: High Street, looking north, circa 1922
- Figure 6: High Street, looking north from Second Street, circa 1935

### Photographs

#### Photo Log

Name of Property: Strauss Department Store/Mehrum and Lindley buildings

City or Vicinity: Hamilton

County: Butler State: Ohio

Photographer: Beth A. Sullebarger

Date Photographed: May and November 2013

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

- 1 of 15. Side (west) and Front (south) elevations, looking northeast
- 2 of 15. Side (west) and Front (south) elevations, looking northeast
- 3 of 15. Front (south) and side (east) elevations, looking northwest
- 4 of 15. Front (south elevation, Lindley (on left) and Mehrum (on right) buildings
- 5 of 15. Detail showing date, (1900 A.D.) in gable
- 6 of 15. East elevation, looking northwest along Journal Alley
- 7 of 15. Rear elevations, High Street Commercial Block, looking southwest
- 8 of 15. Rear elevation, Mehrum Building
- 9 of 15. Wall sign on west elevation, looking northeast
- 10 of 15. First floor, central entrance lobby, looking northwest
- 11 of 15. First floor, front stair detail, looking north
- 12 of 15. First floor, rear stair detail, looking north
- 13 of 15. Fourth floor, looking southeast toward light well
- 14 of 15. Fourth floor, looking southeast
- 15 of 15. Fourth floor, detail of stamped metal ceiling and cornice molding, looking west

**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.).

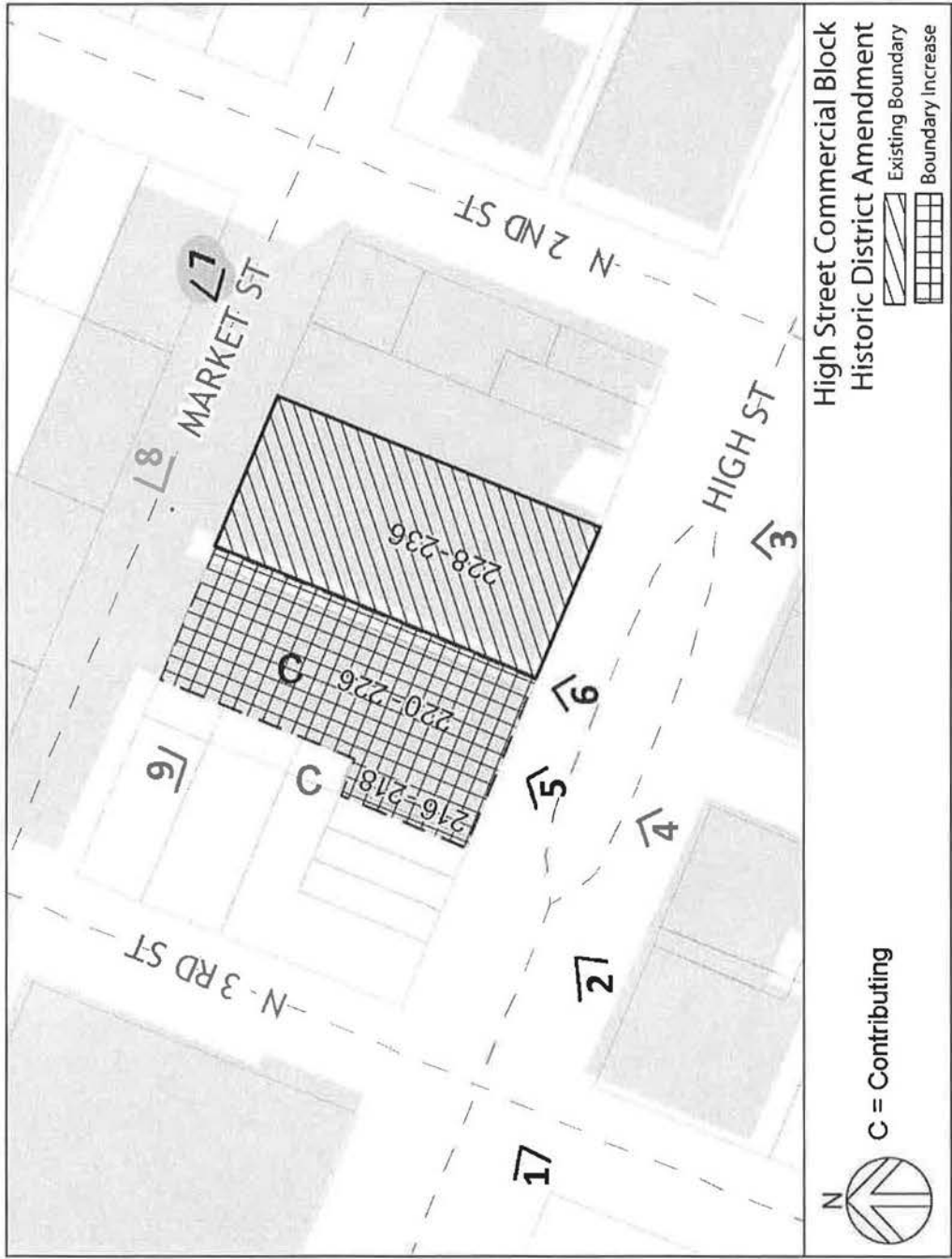
**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form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

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number Additional Information Page 1

High St Commercial Block (Boundary Increase)
Name of Property Butler County, Ohio
County and State N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)



Sketch Map and Exterior Photo Key



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

High St Commercial Block (Boundary Increase)
Name of Property Butler County, Ohio
County and State N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional Information Page 2

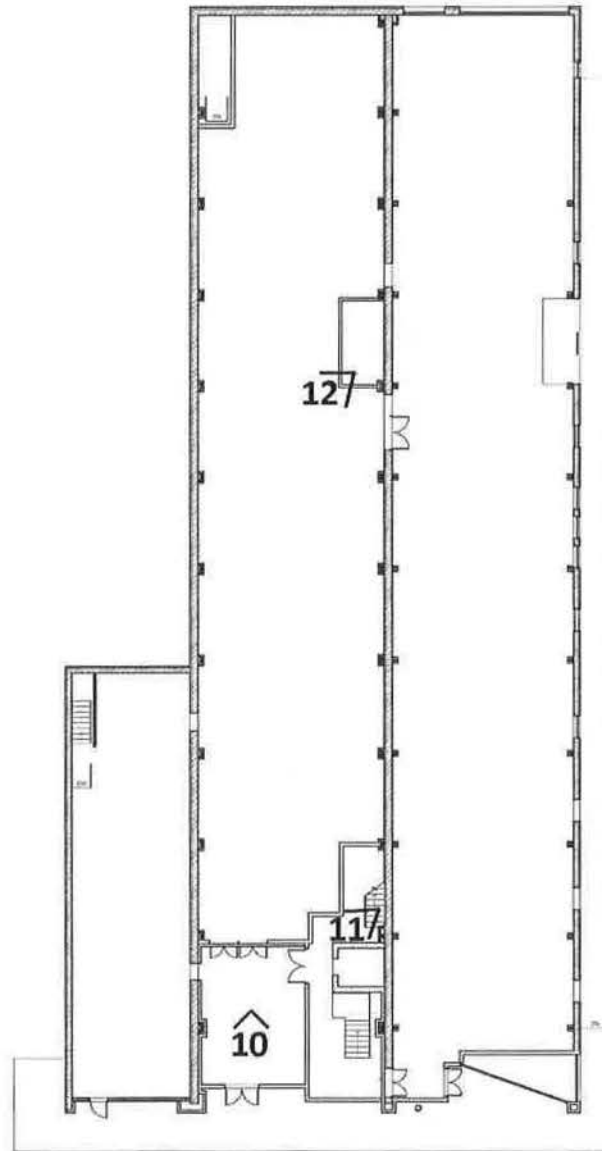


Photo Key, 1<sup>st</sup> floor

**United States Department of the Interior**  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

High St Commercial Block (Boundary Increase)
Name of Property
Butler County, Ohio
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional Information Page 3

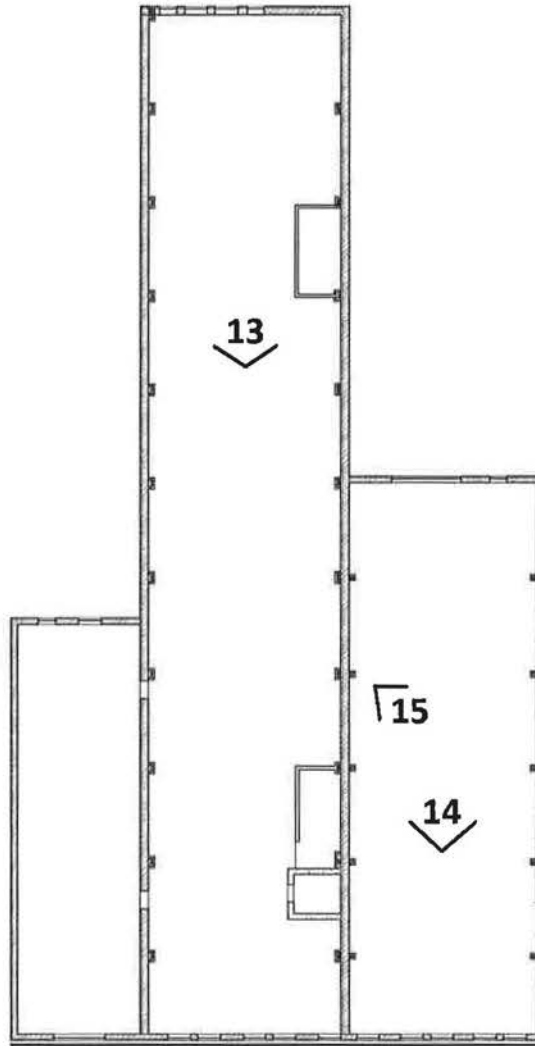


Photo Key, 4<sup>th</sup> floor

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

High St Commercial Block (Boundary Increase)

Name of Property  
Butler County, Ohio

County and State  
N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional Information Page 4



Figure 1. Aerial view of High Street, looking west, 2010, Bing Maps



Figure 2. High Street, looking southwest from Third Street, early 1900s, Butler County Historical Society

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

High St Commercial Block (Boundary Increase)

Name of Property  
Butler County, Ohio

County and State  
N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional Information Page 5



Figure 3: Ruins of the Mehrum Block after the fire, November 1906,  
Butler County Historical Society

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number Additional Information Page 6

High St Commercial Block (Boundary Increase)
Name of Property Butler County, Ohio
County and State N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)



Figure 4: Strauss Department Store, circa 1909  
Butler County Historical Society

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number Additional Information Page 7

High St Commercial Block (Boundary Increase)

Name of Property  
Butler County, Ohio

County and State  
N/A

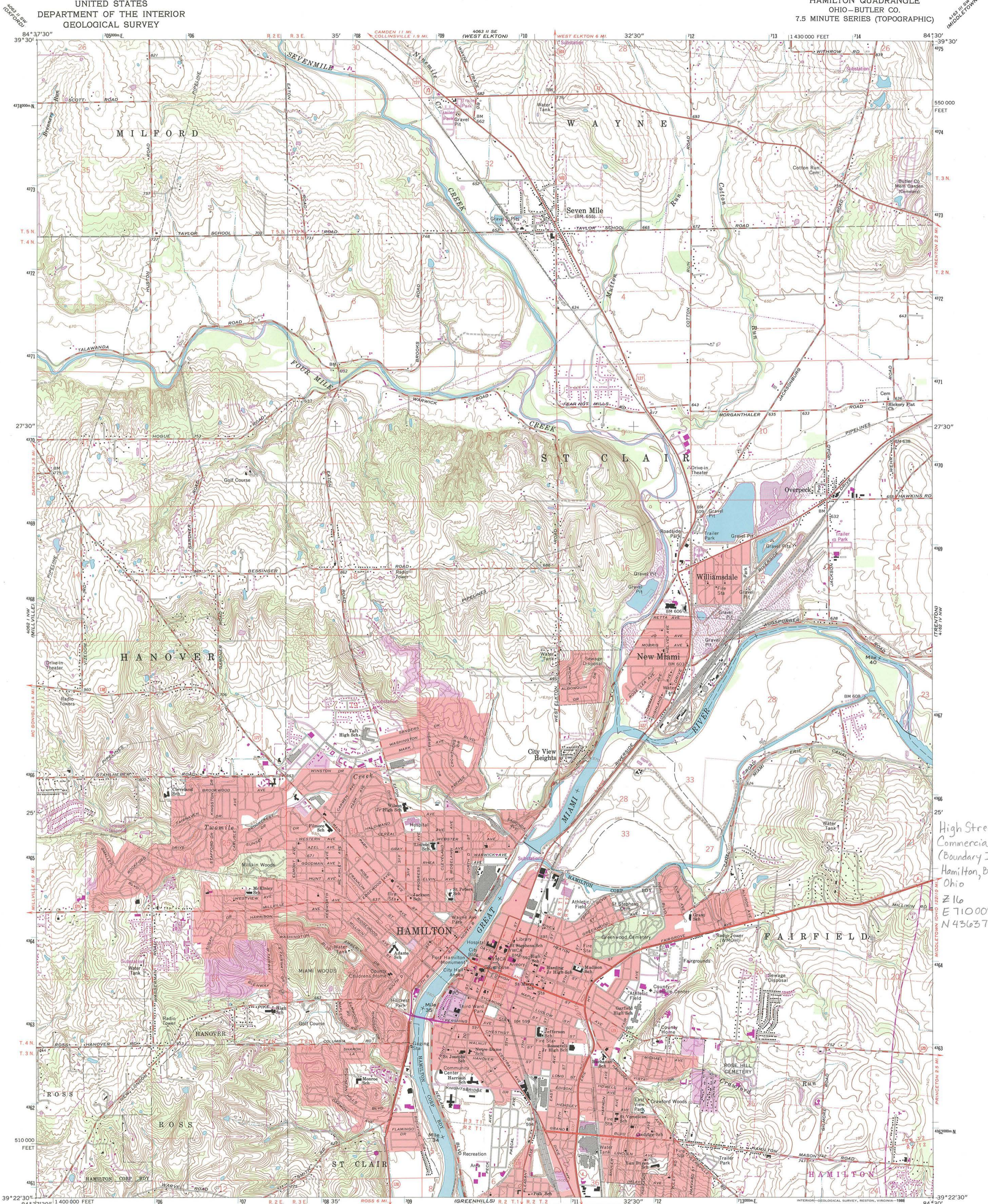
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)



Figure 5: High Street, looking north, circa 1922,  
Butler County Historical Society



Figure 6: High Street, looking north from Second Street, circa 1935,  
Butler County Historical Society

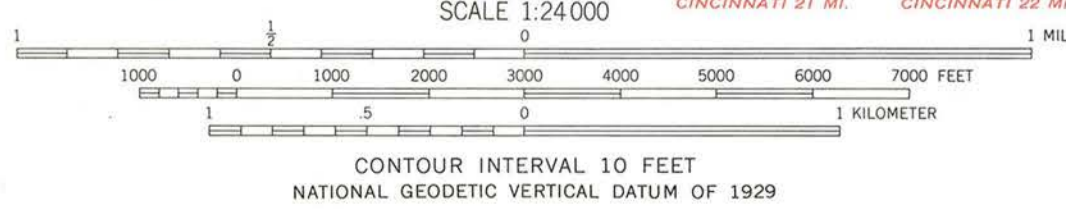


High Street  
Commercial Block  
(Boundary Increase)  
Hamilton, Butler Co.,  
Ohio  
Z 16  
E 710009  
N 4363767

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey  
in cooperation with the Army Map Service  
Revised in cooperation with State of Ohio agencies  
Control by USGS and USC&GS

Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs  
taken 1954. Field checked 1955. Revised 1965  
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum  
10,000-foot grid based on Ohio coordinate system, south zone  
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 16, shown in blue  
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where  
generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked  
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown  
Area west of the Great Miami River lies within the Miami River Survey  
Area east of the Great Miami River lies within the Miamis  
Land lines based on the Great Miami River Base. Dotted land lines  
established by private subdivision of the Symmes Purchase

UTM GRID AND 1983 MAGNETIC NORTH  
DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET



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

Revisions shown in purple and landmark compiled in cooperation  
with State of Ohio agencies from aerial photographs taken  
1984 and other sources. This information not field checked  
Map edited 1988  
Purple tint indicates extension of urban areas

ROAD CLASSIFICATION  
Heavy-duty ——— Light-duty ———  
Medium-duty ——— Unimproved dirt - - - - -  
U. S. Route ——— State Route ———

HAMILTON, OHIO  
39084-D5-TF-024

1965  
PHOTOREVISED 1988  
DMA 4062 1 NE—SERIES V852







High Street Commercial Pollock Foundation Increase  
Strauss Dept. Stone

Hamilton, OH

1 of 15, Side (west) and Front (south) elevations  
looking north



High St. Commercial Block Boundary Increase

Strauss Dept. Store

Hamilton, OH

2 of 13. Side (west) and Front (south) elevations  
looking north



High St Commercial Block Boundary Increase

Strauss Dept. Store  
Hamilton, OH

3 of 15. Front (south) and side (east) elevations,  
looking west



High St Commercial Block Boundary Increase

Street Dept Stone

Hamilton, OH

4 of 15. Front (south) elevation, looking northwest





High St Commercial Block boundary increase  
Strauss Dept. Store  
Hamilton, OH

5 of 15. Detail showing date "1900 A.D." in gable,  
looking northwest



The  
Future

www.ofpa.org

High St. Commercial Block Boundary Increase

STRAUSS DEPT STORE

HAMILTON OH

6 of 15. East elevation, looking west along  
Journal Alley



High St Commercial Block Boundary Increase

Strauss Dept. Store

Hamilton OH

7 of 15, Rear elevations, High St Commercial  
Block, looking south



High St Commercial Block Boundary Increase

Strauss Dept. Store

Hamilton OH

8 of 15, Rear elevation, looking south



THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO  
LIBRARY  
310 EAST 5TH STREET  
CHICAGO, ILL. 60607  
TEL. 773-936-3000  
WWW.CHICAGO.EDU



High St Commercial Block Boundary Increase

Strauss Dept. Store

Hamilton OH

9 of 15. Wall sign on West elevation, looking east



High St. Commercial Block Boundary Increase

Strauss Dept. Store

Hamilton OH

10 of 15, 1st floor, central entrance lobby

looking northwest



High St Commercial Block Boundary Increase

Strauss Dept. Store

Hamilton OH

11 of 15, 1<sup>st</sup> floor, front stair detail, looking north



High St Commercial Block Boundary Increase

Strauss Dept. Store

Hamilton OH

12 of 15, 1<sup>st</sup> floor, near stair detail, looking north





High St Commercial Block Boundary Increase

Straness Dept. Store

Hamilton OH

13 of 15. 4th floor, looking Southeast toward



High St Commercial Block Boundary Increase

Strauss Dept. Store

Hamilton OH

14 of 15. 4th floor, looking southeast



High St Commercial Block Boundary Increase

Strauss Dept. Store

Hamilton OH

15 of 15. 4th floor, detail of stamped metal ceiling  
and cornice molding, looking west

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: High Street Commercial Block (Boundary Increase)

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: OHIO, Butler

DATE RECEIVED: 04/22/14 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 05/20/14  
DATE OF 16<sup>th</sup> DAY: 06/04/14 DATE OF 45<sup>th</sup> DAY: 06/08/14

REFERENCE NUMBER: 14000292

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

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

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT  RETURN  REJECT 5/23/2014 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

3 day comment period in Federal Register to assist in the preservation of the properties.

This boundary expansion adds two early 20th century commercial buildings to the previously-listed High Street Commercial Block

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept A&C  
REVIEWER Patrick Anderson DISCIPLINE Historian  
TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE 5/23/2014

DOCUMENTATION see attsched comments Y/N

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



April 17, 2014

Ms. Carol D. Shull, Interim Keeper of the  
National Register  
National Park Service  
National Register of Historic Places  
1201 Eye Street, NW (2280)  
Washington DC 20005

Dear Ms. Shull:

Enclosed please find one (1) new National Register nomination for Ohio. All appropriate notification procedures have been followed for the new nomination submission.

NEW NOMINATION  
High Street Commercial Block (Boundary Increase)

COUNTY  
Butler

**The nomination for the High Street Commercial Block (Boundary Increase) must be listed before June 1, 2014 in order to qualify for funding necessary to move the renovation project forward. In order to expedite the listing of this property I am requesting waiving the 15-day commenting period in the Federal Register for the nomination and that the nomination is listed as soon as possible. The chief elected official and the Certified Local Government contact for the community have received the appropriate notification from the Ohio Historic Preservation Office and the single property owner is in full support of the nomination of their property. This nomination for two buildings has a single private property owner.**

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,

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

Enclosures

**OHIO HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

*Ohio Historic Preservation Office*

800 East 17th Avenue, Columbus, Ohio 43211 ph: 614.298.2000 fx: 614.298.2037

[www.ohiohistory.org](http://www.ohiohistory.org)



Founded in 1791

**Department of Community  
Development**  
City of Hamilton, Ohio  
Municipal Building  
345 High Street  
Hamilton, Ohio 45011  
Tele (513) 785-7350  
Fax (513) 785-7349

---

February 25, 2014

## **RESOLUTION**

Be it resolved, that on February 18, 2014, the Architectural Design Review Board reviewed the nomination of 216-226 High Street, currently known as the Hamilton Center, to the National Register of Historic Places, having been previously recognized as a local historic landmark.

Upon due consideration, the Architectural Design Review Board, by unanimous vote, supports the nomination and urges the Ohio Historic Site Preservation Review Board to accept the Application, joining other historic landmarks in downtown Hamilton, Ohio and preserving our nation's heritage.

Architectural Design Review Board

February 18<sup>th</sup> 2014



**St. Bernard Parish**  
Ducros, Dr. Louis A., House, 1345 Bayou Ave., St. Bernard, 14000315

**NEW YORK**

**Ulster County**  
Brown—Ellis House, 382 Crescent Ave., Highland, 14000316  
[FR Doc. 2014–11569 Filed 5–19–14; 8:45 am]  
BILLING CODE 4312–51–P

**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**

**National Park Service**

[NPS–WASO–NRNHL–15705; PPWOCRADIO, PCU00RP14.R50000]

**National Register of Historic Places; Notification of Pending Nominations and Related Actions**

Nominations for the following properties being considered for listing or related actions in the National Register were received by the National Park Service before April 26, 2014. Pursuant to § 60.13 of 36 CFR part 60, written comments are being accepted concerning the significance of the nominated properties under the National Register criteria for evaluation. Comments may be forwarded by United States Postal Service, to the National Register of Historic Places, National Park Service, 1849 C St. NW., MS 2280, Washington, DC 20240; by all other carriers, National Register of Historic Places, National Park Service, 1201 Eye St. NW., 8th Floor, Washington, DC 20005; or by fax, 202–371–6447. Written or faxed comments should be submitted by June 4, 2014. Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

Dated: April 30, 2014.  
**J. Paul Loether,**  
Chief, National Register of Historic Places/, National Historic Landmarks Program.

**FLORIDA**

**Columbia County**  
O'Leno State Park, 410 SE. O'Leno Park Rd., High Springs, 14000282

**Pinellas County**  
Dunedin Isles Golf Club Golf Course, 1050 Palm Blvd., Dunedin, 14000283

**IOWA**

**Bremer County**  
Harmon and LeValley Northwest Historic District, Roughly Cedar R., 1st, 7th & 6th Aves., NW., Waverly, 14000284

**Clayton County**  
Motor Mill Historic District (Boundary Increase), (Flour Milling in Iowa MPS) Address Restricted, Elkader, 14000285

**Pottawattamie County**  
Hotel Chieftain, 38 Pearl St., Council Bluffs, 14000286

**MASSACHUSETTS**

**Plymouth County**  
Duxbury Pier Light, (Light Stations of the United States MPS) Mouth of Duxbury Bay at Plymouth Bay, 5.1 mi. NNE. of Plymouth Rock, Plymouth, 14000287

**NEBRASKA**

**Lancaster County**  
Lincoln Haymarket Historic District, Generally 7th to 9th & N to R Sts., Lincoln, 14000288

**NEW YORK**

**New York County**  
Anshe Chesed Synagogue, 1883 Adam Clayton Powell Jr. Blvd., New York, 14000289

**Washington County**  
Martin—Fitch House & Asa Fitch, Jr. Laboratory, 4183 NY 29, Salem, 14000290

**NORTH CAROLINA**

**Alamance County**  
Oneida Cotton Mills and Scott—Mebane Manufacturing Company Complex, 219 & 220 W. Harden St., Graham, 14000291

**OHIO**

**Hamilton County**  
Alameda Flats, The, (Apartment Buildings in Ohio Urban Centers, 1870–1970 MPS) 3580–3586 Reading Rd., Cincinnati, 14000293

Poinciana Flats, (Apartment Buildings in Ohio Urban Centers, 1870–1970 MPS) 3522 Reading Rd., Cincinnati, 14000294

**Mahoning County**  
Gallagher Building, 23 N. Hazel & 131 Commerce Sts., Youngstown, 14000295

**OKLAHOMA**

**Adair County**  
Breadtown, (Cherokee Trail of Tears MPS) Address Restricted, Westville, 14000296

**Grady County**  
Griffin House, 1402 W. Kansas Ave., Chickasha, 14000297

**Payne County**  
Cross, Hamilton, House, 1509 W. 9th, Stillwater, 14000298

**Tulsa County**

McGregor House, (Bruce Goff Designed Resources in Oklahoma MPS) 1401 S. Quaker Ave., Tulsa, 14000299

**SOUTH CAROLINA**

**Greenville County**  
U.S. Post Office and Courthouse, 300 E. Washington St., Greenville, 14000300

**VIRGINIA**

**Giles County**  
Narrows Commercial Historic District, 100–300 blk. Main, 100 blk. Mary, 100 blk. Monroe & 100 blk. Center Sts., 100 blk. MacArthur Ln., Narrows, 14000301

**Richmond Independent city**  
Hermitage Road Warehouse Historic District, Bounded by Hermitage & Overbrook Rds., Sherwood Ave., I–95, Richmond (Independent City), 14000302

In the interest of preservation a three day comment period has been requested for the following resource:

**OHIO**

**Butler County**  
High Street Commercial Block (Boundary Increase), 216–226 High St., Hamilton, 14000292

[FR Doc. 2014–11578 Filed 5–19–14; 8:45 am]  
BILLING CODE 4312–51–P

**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**

**Office of Natural Resources Revenue**  
[Docket No. ONRR–2011–0006; DS63610000 DR2PS0000.CH7000 145D0102R2]

**Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection, Comment Request**

**AGENCY:** Office of Natural Resources Revenue (ONRR), Interior.  
**ACTION:** Notice of extension, OMB Control Number 1012–0009.

**SUMMARY:** To comply with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA), ONRR is inviting comments on a collection of information requests that we will submit to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and approval. This Information Collection Request (ICR) covers the paperwork requirements in the regulations under title 30, *Code of Federal Regulations* (CFR), part 1220. Also, this ICR pertains to royalties or net profit share payments from oil and gas leases on submerged Federal lands on the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS).  
**DATES:** Submit written comments on or before July 21, 2014.  
**ADDRESSES:** You may submit comments on this ICR to ONRR by using one of the following three methods: