

HISTORIC RESOURCES OF COLUMBUS, MUSCOGEE COUNTY, GEORGIA  
 GEORGIA ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORIC PROPERTIES SURVEY-INVENTORY FORM

NO. 329

I. IDENTIFICATION

PROPERTY NAME: The Ledger-Enquirer Bldg. HISTORIC NAME: The Ledger-Enquirer Building  
 STREET ADDRESS: 17 W. 12th Street CITY: Columbus COUNTY: Muscogee  
 PRESENT OWNER: The R. W. Page Corp. MAILING ADDRESS: 17 W. 12th Street  
 ATTN: President  
 CITY: Columbus STATE: Georgia ZIP CODE: 31902  
 CURRENT USE: Office for both Columbus daily newspapers ACREAGE: Less than one acre  
 U.S.G.S. QUADRANGLE: Columbus, GA-AL U.T.M. REFERENCE: 16-688475-3593921  
 V.B.D. OR TAX MAP NUMBER: 4/11/18

II. DESCRIPTION

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION AND PRESENT CONDITION: Mediterranean. Built on a sloping lot, this building is two stories at the East end and three at the West end. It is a steel skeleton with stucco on brick exterior walls. Detailing is of terra cotta.  
 Facade of the building is eight bays wide, the bay at each end being a pavilion. All of the windows except those on the East pavilion are tripartite 1/1 in configuration with transoms. Those on the East pavilion are two part. The top floor windows on both pavilions have rounded arch lentils, while the rest are flat. (CONT. ON BACK)

III. HISTORY

ORIGINAL OWNER: The R. W. Page Corp. ORIGINAL USE: Same  
 ARCHITECT/BUILDER: Smith and Biggers, HISTORIC ACREAGE:  
 Architects (of Columbus)  
 DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: Completed April 5, 1931 DATE(S) OF ALTERATIONS: Addition of the R. W. Page Building in 1972.  
 HISTORICAL NARRATIVE (FROM ORIGINS TO PRESENT): Since this building's completion in 1931, it has housed both of Columbus' daily newspapers--The Columbus Enquirer and The Columbus Ledger. "The Enquirer's" origins date back to 1828--the year Columbus was founded, while "The Ledger" was established in 1886.  
 By 1931, the R. W. Page Corp. had gained ownership of both Columbus newspapers, and, as a result, the present "Ledger-Enquirer Building" was constructed as a home for the two growing "dailies."

IV. SIGNIFICANCE

N.R. AREA(S) OF SIGNIFICANCE: Architecture, Communications LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: Local  
 STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL): Architecture: This is the finest Mediterranean building in Columbus. Designed by a local architect after he toured California and Florida, it incorporates the organic decorative panels, and vertical lines of Sullivan with the stucco, tile, and parapet treatment of Mediterranean architecture.  
Communications: The two newspapers now housed in this building have informed Columbusites of local, national and foreign affairs since the early and mid-nineteenth century. Both papers are Pulitzer Prize winners. They have been associated with this building by community members (CONT. ON BACK)

V. SOURCES

FORM PREPARED BY: a) Nancy Alexander ORGANIZATION: a) Lower Chattahoochee APDC  
 Roger Harris b) Historic Columbus Foundation  
 b) Janice P. Biggers  
 ADDRESS: a) P. O. Box 1908, Cols, GA 31994 TELEPHONE NUMBER: a) (404)324-4221  
 b) 700 Broadway, Cols, GA 31901 b) (404)322-0756  
 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS: Historic Structures Field Survey: Columbus-Muscogee County, Georgia. 1976 state survey, Historic Preservation Section, DNR, Atlanta, Georgia.  
 SOURCES OF INFORMATION: Kyle, Clason. "R. W. Page Corporation Built on Firm Foundation of Energy, Vision." 75th Anniversary Edition, The Columbus Ledger, 30 July 1961.  
 Timm, Paul. "Knight Takes Over Illustrious Heritage." The Columbus Ledger, 21 Sept., 1973.



PHOTOGRAPHER: F. Clason Kyle

DATE: 26 June 1978

ROLL NO. 2 FRAME NO. 22A NEGATIVES FILED: Historic Columbus Foundation  
700 Broadway

DIRECTION PHOTOGRAPHER FACING: Southwest Columbus, Georgia 31901

USE SPACE BELOW FOR CONTINUATION FROM FRONT, SKETCH PLANS OR MAPS, ADDITIONAL COMMENTS, ETC.  
ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION: The floors of the building are divided horizontally by panels of carved terra cotta with designs similar to Louis Sullivan. Vertically they are divided by pilasters which run to the top of the 2nd story windows and are capped by a terra cotta capital carved in the shape of a shell. The pilasters are horizontally tied together by a string course of terra cotta directly below the capitals.

The parapet continues the upward thrust of the pilasters in square stucco supports that break through the mansard like tile roof of the parapet.

The main entrance to the building is a double leafed glass door with a transom. Above this is an arched doorway which opens onto a sandstone balcony. This doorway is surrounded by carved terra cotta.

The Western pavilion is a continuation of the facade proportioning, but is topped with a Carolingian parapet and carved sandstone detailing on the top. The eastern pavilion has an octagonal bell tower with rounded arch openings and a tile roof. It too has terra cotta detailing in the form of urns and supports for the bell tower.

Integrity Intact.

North: 12th Street and parking lot.

South: parking lot.

East: one story commercial buildings c. 1920 and 6 story Ledger-Enquirer Annex

West: Front Street and parking lot.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION: Barbara Bogart and Margaret Laney Whitehead. City of Progress: A History of Columbus, Georgia. Columbus, Georgia: Columbus Office Supply Co., 1979, pp. 377-385.

Woodall, Walter J. The Industrial Index-Columbus, Georgia, February 25, 1931, page 11.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE: since 1931, when it was built as the first structure to be used exclusively for the publishing industry in Columbus.

JUL 9 1980

Addendum to #329  
The Ledger-Enquirer Building  
17 W. 12th Street

### III. History

Dates of Alterations: In 1950, the original designer of the Ledger-Enquirer Building, James J.W. Biggers, Sr., designed an addition to the rear of that building incorporating the proportioning and materials used on the original structure. The addition has no adverse affect on the original structure.