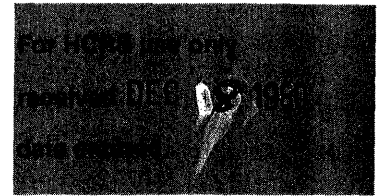


**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

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



1. Name

historic Lima Multiple Resources Area (Partial Inventory: Historic & Architectural Properties)
and/or common

2. Location

street & number The incorporation limits of Lima not for publication
city, town Lima vicinity of _____ congressional district 4th
state Ohio code 039 county Allen code 003

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Multiple Resources	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<u>NA</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Multiple ownership-see Ohio Historic Inventory Forms
street & number _____
city, town _____ vicinity of _____ state _____

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Allen County Courthouse
street & number North & Main Streets
city, town Lima state Ohio

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Ohio Historic Inventory has this property been determined eligible? ^{#6} yes no
date 1976; 1979-80 5 Properties on National Register
 federal state county local
depository for survey records Ohio Historic Preservation Office
city, town Columbus state Ohio

7. Description

Condition	<i>See OHI forms</i>	Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed	<i>See OHI forms</i>	

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

- A. Lima was founded at the southern end of the Great Black Swamp, an area inhabited by the Shawnee Indians until their removal to Kansas in the 1830's. Located on the banks of the Ottawa River (Hog Creek) it developed into the largest landlocked city in northwest Ohio with a population of 55,000. Historic resources most prominent are fine commercial and financial buildings erected following Lima's early industrial growth, particularly related to railroads and the oil industry.
- B. Lima's periods of significance relate to commercial and industrial development:
- (a) 1850-1860's: Lima became an agricultural center followed by the coming of the first railroad in 1858.
 - (b) 1870's: The first large industrial concerns including foundries and iron works countered commercial development of the Public Square.
 - (c) 1880-1900: The discovery of oil in 1885 led to Lima's population tripling by the turn of the century with much new construction, including South Lima.
 - (d) Early 20th century: Completion of the Texas oil pipeline, Standard Oil, banking and entertainment created new buildings up to the eve of the Depression.
 - (e) Post-Depression: New building styles--the end of the era of grand buildings.
- C. Buildings from period (a) were brick or frame, small-scale "canal-type" buildings and most were replaced in the 1870's and '80's by more substantial structures. Only one commercial building from this era remains on the Public Square which began as a haymarket. The Public Square, which also served as a parade ground during the Civil War, housed an early Greek Revival courthouse. Houses of this era were frame or brick and sat behind fenced lawns.

In the 1870's (b) buildings grew larger--three or four stories, with ornate Victorian cornices and trim and often composed entire streetscapes. Most commercial structures were brick, and growth continued to radiate from the Public Square. The Southeast quadrant of the Square remains intact from this period, although many of the buildings are neglected. Two of Lima's most elaborate buildings, the Allen County Courthouse (on the National Register) and the Fautot Opera House were built in 1874. The Opera House is gone.

The discovery of oil in 1885 led to the construction by 1889 of four large turreted (c) and towered 4-5 story Victorian buildings on the Square and North Main. They were of the highest quality. Growth in South Lima proceeded to the Kibby Corners neighborhood and beyond. Large Victorian houses lined streets west of Main, particularly West Market Street. Most of these homes were erased by rezoning after 1957. Most housing in north and south Lima was frame workers' housing created for the population increase.

During the early part of the 20th century (d) Lima became the "pipeline center of the world", and Standard Oil and Lima Locomotive Works were recognized national industries. Banks were thriving and built two skyscrapers in the 1920's, one on the Square. Commercial developments spread to Elizabeth Street, one block west, replacing early frame houses and first generation churches. Styles ranged from Neo-classic Revival to Art Deco to Prairie School. Most buildings were Chicago Commercial, often stone faced or with terra cotta and brick. Theaters were built as autos and public transportation made Lima an entertainment and shopping center for surrounding counties. This was the last era of substantial buildings within Lima's city limits.

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

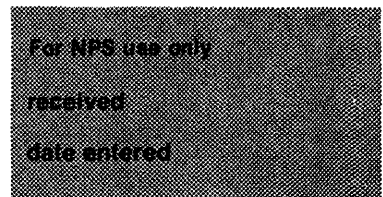
**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

Lima Multiple Resource Area, Allen County, Ohio

Continuation sheet

Item number 7

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The Lima multiple resource area nomination was originally developed for the "downtown" area. Extensive survey throughout the entire city revealed however, that while there had once been much fine historic architecture in the city, the community as a whole had been unusually brutal in its treatment of its collective historic fabric. A fine 19th century residential area known as the "Golden Block" on West Market leading from the square was rezoned in the 1960s resulting in its destruction (with the exception of the MacDonell House listed on the NR in 1978). A major historic transportation center just north of the downtown with railroad depots, roundhouse and hotel was very important in the city's history; but the neglect of decades and recent demolitions have reduced the integrity to the point that it no longer qualifies for the Register. Some downtown congregations that retained their historic churches have fled to the suburbs leaving their buildings for conversion to things like "a theatre-in-the-round" again raising questions of integrity. Educational buildings have been demolished as neighborhood schools were consolidated and closed. Looking at the entire community therefore, the few historic buildings in the downtown came to be perceived by the survey team as the historic resources for the whole community and were nominated with that in mind.

Technically however, there are several small early 20th century areas within the city limits that may qualify for the National Register. For the purposes of this nomination therefore, the resources area should be viewed as the downtown commercial district. It has been identified by the city planning department as a 42 block area bounded on the north by the Penn Central RR, on the east by the B&O RR, on the south by the Ottawa River, and on the west by MacDonel Street. This area was defined through an identification of land use in combination with "natural" features like the railroads and the river.

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Lima, Ohio, Multiple Resources Nomination

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Lima's central business district remains densely arranged, although recent buildings include "suburban drive-through" styles which disrupt the streetscape, particularly on the Public Square. Most construction since World War II has occurred in the suburbs and malls outside city limits.

- D. This survey is exclusive of any archaeological survey to date.
- E. Survey was initially conducted under contract between the Ohio Historic Preservation Office and Ray Schuch, present curator of the Allen County Historic Museum, in 1976. From 1976 to early 1979 ongoing survey, including National Register Nominations, was conducted through the Regional Office of the Ohio Historic Preservation Office, under the direction of Mary Ann Brown, Regional Officer, located at the Western Ohio Branch Campus of Wright State University. Since February 1979 intensive survey has been ongoing in Lima and Allen County through a contract with the Ohio Historic Preservation Office and established through the Regional Office. Survey coordinator is Phyllis Hopkins, adjunct instructor of art and architectural history at WOBC, Wright State University, in conjunction with Ohio State University-Lima, Allen County Historic Museum, Allen County Commissioners, City of Lima Planning Office, Midwestern Joint Regional Planning Office, and volunteers. The city of Lima has been surveyed for historic architecture.

8. Significance

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

Specific dates *c. 1860 - 1928*

Builder/Architect *Numerous - see inventory forms*

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Lima's buildings reflect the economic growth of the largest landlocked city in north-west Ohio. Platted by Capt. James Riley in 1831 around a public square, the growth radiated from this axis and Lima became a commercial, entertainment and business center for eight surrounding rural counties. In many instances the architecture reflects the only examples of architect-designed urban styles in this entire region.

The buildings are grouped below in historic chronology and individual Ohio Historic Inventory Forms are included in this nomination:

- A. Building #1 at 74 Public Square was constructed before the Civil War and appears in the earliest photographs of the Square. It reflects the agricultural era at the time the first narrow gauge railroad appears in the area.
- B. The second period saw the development of the commercial center in the 1870's and is best represented by ~~#2 Collins Block in 1874~~, #3 Thompson Block, and #4 Union Block, all located on the Public Square. With the coming of the railroads and expansion of the city northward the Allen County Courthouse, on the National Register, and #5 The Kraus Block represent this growth toward the rail lines.
- C. Very important in Lima's history is the discovery of oil in 1885. The population tripled between the 1880 and 1900 census. Several towered and turreted buildings were built on the eve of the "Gay '90's". The only remaining or unaltered of these elaborate structures is the Metropolitan Block, 1889, now on the National Register. Other outstanding buildings of this era include ~~#6, the Holland Block Annex~~; #7 Hetrick Block and #8 Wheeler Building, contiguous on West Market Street with outstanding oriel windows and details; and the Renz Block (#9) on North Main with the most elaborate parapet in the city. South Main grew rapidly and include #10, Martin & Kibby Block; #11 Beck and Cahill Building; #12 and #13, the Dorsey & Linnaeman Buildings; #14, the Adate; #15 and #16, the Armory and South Main commercial building next door. Two houses, the MacDonell house, now a museum, and the Frank X. Sieber house, now a Senior Citizen Center, are on the National Register.
- D. A great era of urban buildings occurred after Standard Oil made Lima the pipeline center of the world, and Lima Locomotive Works propelled the city toward further economic growth. This optimistic early 20th century period produced the National Trust Bank (#17) and the Sigma Theatre (#18) on the Public Square. Elizabeth Street, one block west of Main, developed as a new commercial center with the construction of the City Loan Building (#19), the Argonne Hotel (#20) named after the men who faced death in the Argonne Forest in France, the Eagles Lodge Building (#21) in the Prairie School style, and the Ohio Theater (#22), a Schine movie house built in the elegant fantasy style of theaters of the era. Memorial Hall, 1908, on the National Register, and the new Post Office (#23) completed in 1930, are on the far range of this period, but both were built in Neo-Classical Revival style with interiors of marble, brass and hardwoods.

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Lima, Ohio, Multiple Resources Nomination

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E. The last building, the Kewpee (#24), heralds a new era and the end of the age of grand building styles. A Streamline Modern building of porcelain enamel and stainless steel, it became a prototype of the fast food restaurant two decades later, and is a Lima landmark.

Lima has had few restoration projects or preservation activities. However, the City officials have been cooperative with the historic architecture survey and the planning office is utilizing the National Register nominations in redevelopment planning. A recent compromise involving one of the nominated buildings(#10) at the proposed new civic center site appears to be resolved with the historic building being incorporated in the architect's design.

Public education is crucial and currently Ohio State University-Lima, in conjunction with the Greater Lima Area Arts Council, Allen County Historic Museum and other groups, is sponsoring a public forum incorporating historic architectural and preservation programs. The forum has been underwritten by the Ohio Humanities Council.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Histories of Allen County, 1885, 1906, 1921, 1977
"A Walk Through Downtown Lima", Allen County Historical Society, 1976
Sanborn Maps, 1911, updated through 1950
Lima City Directories

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

10. Geographical Data

UTM NOT VERIFIED

Acreege of nominated property See individual inventory forms

Quadrangle name Lima, Ohio

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References See individual inventory forms

A

Zone	Easting			Northing					

B

Zone	Easting			Northing					

C

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

D

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

E

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F

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G

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

H

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Verbal boundary description and justification

See each individual inventory form for the lot number of each property. Lot numbers included as part of section 9, "Coordinates."

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

state	code	county	code
state <u>NA</u>			

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Phyllis G. Hopkins, Survey Coordinator

organization Ohio Historic Preservation Office date 5-15-80

street & number 420K Galvin Hall, OSU-Lima telephone (419) 228-2641, X222

city or town Lima state Ohio 45804

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

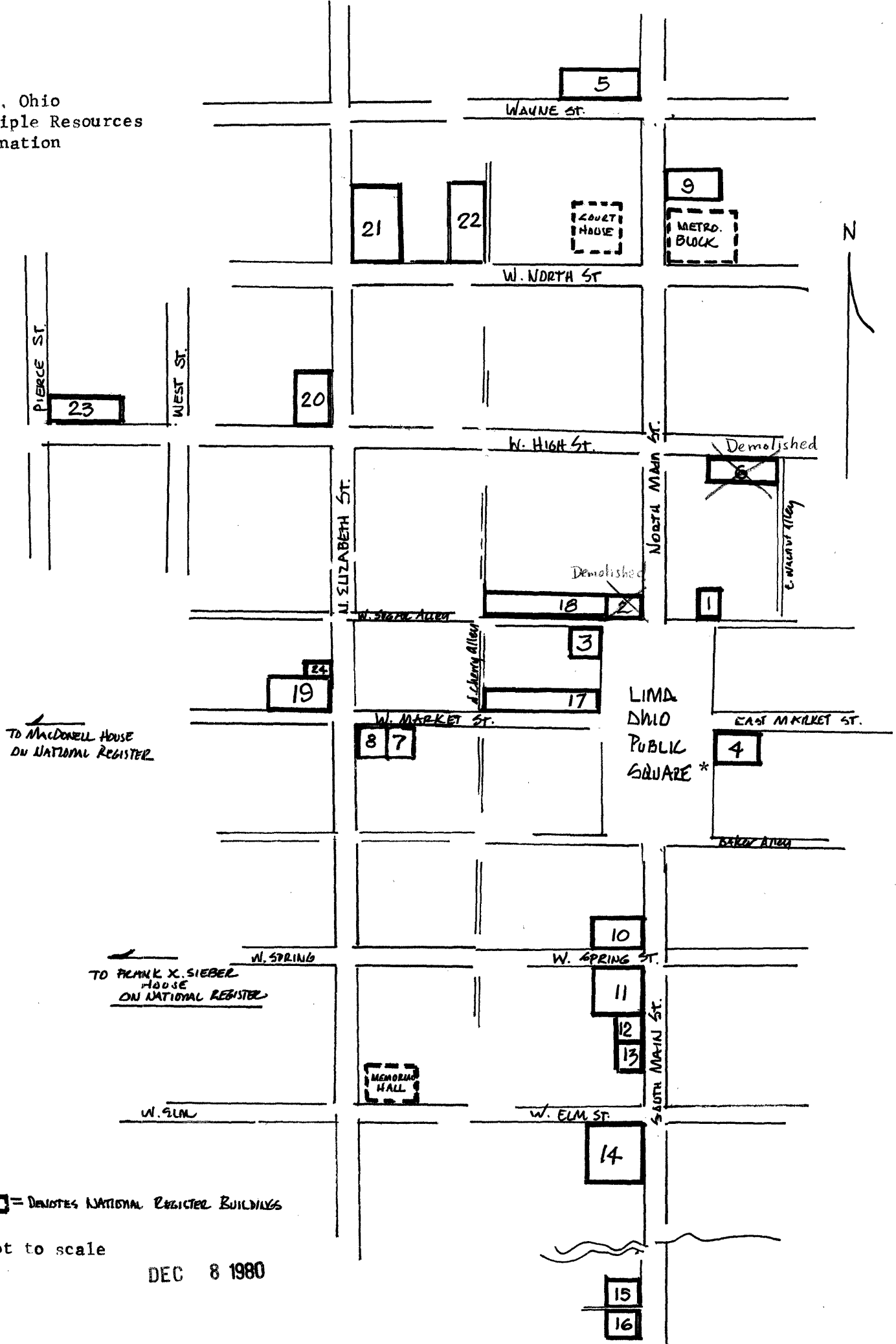
As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage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

State Historic Preservation Officer signature *Phyllis G. Hopkins*

title SHPO date 11/4/80

For HCRS use only	
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register	
<u><i>See previous sheet for listing</i></u>	date
Keeper of the National Register	
Attest:	date
Chief of Registration	

Lima, Ohio
Multiple Resources
Nomination



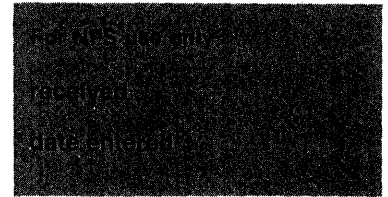
[-] = DENOTES NATIONAL REGISTER BUILDINGS

*Not to scale

DEC 8 1980

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

dnr-11

Name Lima Multiple Resource Area
State Ohio

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

- | | | | | |
|-----|---------------------------------------|---|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. | U. S. Post Office | Substantive Review | Keeper | <u>[Signature]</u> 10/7/82 |
| | | | Attest | _____ |
| 2. | Klaus Block | Entered in the
National Register | <u>[Signature]</u> Keeper | <u>[Signature]</u> 10/7/82 |
| | | | Attest | _____ |
| 3. | Kewpee Restaurant | DOE/OWNER OBJECTION
Substantive Review | Keeper | <u>[Signature]</u> 10/7/82 |
| | | | Attest | _____ |
| 4. | Union Block | Substantive Review | Keeper | <u>[Signature]</u> 10/7/82 |
| | | | Attest | _____ |
| X | 5. Wheeler Building | Substantive Review
Removed /
DOE Owner Object 7-12-85 | Keeper | <u>[Signature]</u> 10/7/82 |
| | | | Attest | _____ |
| 6. | Dorsey Building | Substantive Review | Keeper | <u>[Signature]</u> 10/7/82 |
| | | | Attest | _____ |
| 7. | Armory (LaTisona Building) | Substantive Review | Keeper | <u>[Signature]</u> 10/7/82 |
| | | | Attest | _____ |
| 8. | Hotel Argonne | Entered in the
National Register | <u>[Signature]</u> Keeper | <u>[Signature]</u> 10/7/82 |
| | | | Attest | _____ |
| 9. | Neal Clothing (Turners') | Entered in the
National Register | Keeper | <u>[Signature]</u> 10/7/82 |
| | | | Attest | _____ |
| 10. | Lima Cleaning and Pressing
Company | Substantive Review | Keeper | <u>[Signature]</u> 10/7/82 |
| | | | Attest | _____ |

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

Name Lima Multiple Resource Area
State Ohio

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

11. Sigma Theatre **DOE/OWNER OBJECTION**

Keeper

Bruce M. Dwyer 10/7/82

Attest

12. Collins Block **DOE/OWNER OBJECTION**

Keeper

Delores Byers 10/7/82

Attest

13. Renz Block

Substantive Review

Keeper

Bruce M. Dwyer 10/7/82

Attest

14. Elks Lodge

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

Delores Byers 10/7/82

Attest

15. Adgate Block

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

Delores Byers 10/7/82

Attest

16. Thomas Building
(Savings Bldg.)

Substantive Review

DOE/OWNER OBJECTION

Keeper

Bruce M. Dwyer 10/7/82

Attest

17. Ohio Theatre

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

Delores Byers 10/7/82

Attest

18. Martin Block and Kibby Block

Substantive Review

City requested Substantive Review

Keeper

Bruce M. Dwyer 10/7/82

Attest

19. Linneman Building

Substantive Review

Keeper

Bruce M. Dwyer 10/7/82

Attest

20. First National Bank and
Trust Building

Entered in the
National Register

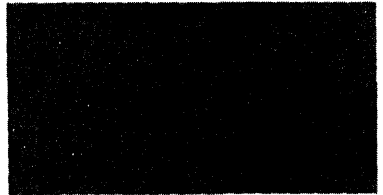
Keeper

Delores Byers 10/7/82

Attest

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Multiple Resource Area
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Name Lima Multiple Resource Area
State Ohio

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

21. Cahill, Beck and R. C.
Buildings

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

Delores Byers 7/17/82

Attest

22. Prescription Center-Madisons Substantive Review
DOE/OWNER OBJECTION

Keeper

Mae Le Boyd 11/7/82

Attest

23. Cardosi Building
(Hetrick Block) DOE/OWNER OBJECTION

Keeper

Mae Le Boyd 10/7/82

Attest

24. Holland Block (Demolished)

Keeper

Attest

25. Barr Hotel

Entered in the
National Register

for
Keeper

Delores Byers 5/15/86

Attest

26.

Keeper

Attest

27.

Keeper

Attest

28.

Keeper

Attest

29.

Keeper

Attest

30.

Keeper

Attest