

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORMSEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Seven Early Office Buildings at Central Square

Thematic Resources

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Federal Plaza

CITY, TOWN

Youngstown

VICINITY OF

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

19 - Lyle Williams

STATE

Ohio

CODE

039

COUNTY

Mahoning

CODE

099

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT
☒ BUILDING(S)
☐ STRUCTURE
☐ SITE
☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC
☒ PRIVATE
☐ BOTH
PUBLIC ACQUISITION
☐ IN PROCESS
☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED
☐ UNOCCUPIED
☐ WORK IN PROGRESS
ACCESSIBLE
☒ YES: RESTRICTED
☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED
☐ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE
☒ COMMERCIAL
☐ EDUCATIONAL
☐ ENTERTAINMENT
☐ GOVERNMENT
☐ INDUSTRIAL
☐ MILITARY
☐ MUSEUM
☐ PARK
☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE
☐ RELIGIOUS
☐ SCIENTIFIC
☐ TRANSPORTATION
☐ OTHER:**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Multiple private (See Ohio Historic Inventory forms)

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

VICINITY OF

STATE

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Mahoning County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

120 Market Street

CITY, TOWN

Youngstown

STATE

Ohio

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

☒ EXCELLENT
☒ GOOD
☐ FAIR
☐ DETERIORATED
☐ RUINS
☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☐ UNALTERED
☒ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This is a group of seven office buildings in the vicinity of the Central Square in Youngstown, Ohio. Distinguishing features of the individual buildings are described on the attached Ohio Historic Inventory forms. The Central Square was originally a rectangular space 250 feet by 400 feet. It is intersected on the north-south axis by Market Street and was formerly intersected on the east-west axis by Federal Street. In 1974 the Square was redesigned and paved in conjunction with portions of Federal Street to make a pedestrian plaza, and a large island embankment was constructed in the center.

The buildings around the Square and adjacent to it remain in their original relationship to one another and produce a unique configuration. On the east side of the Square stand the Stambaugh and Realty Buildings, both rectangular blocks twelve stories tall whose long dimension is north-south. Opposite them on the west side of the Square are the thirteen-story Union Bank Building and the eighteen-story Central Tower. At the southwest corner of the Square is the thirteen-story Mahoning Bank Building, which is physically connected to the Central Tower. To the west of the Union Bank, separated only by a department store, is the thirteen-story Wick Building. Across the narrow street from the Wick Building is the four-story Federal Building, related to the Wick Building by its Romanesque arches and brick facing and by their common architect, Daniel Burnham & Company.

Thus five of the buildings are twelve or thirteen stories tall and the Central Tower is eighteen stories, making a unique configuration of towers of comparable height and mass surrounding an open plaza. The four-story Federal Building is considered a part of this thematic group because of its physical and business relationships with the others, because it is the earliest in the group, and because of its architect.

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 type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input 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 type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES 1898-1929

BUILDER/ARCHITECT See Inventory forms

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This is a thematic group consisting of the early office buildings of Youngstown, Ohio, in the immediate vicinity of the Central Square. It includes seven office buildings erected between 1898 and 1929, the period when modern Youngstown was formed. Whereas northeastern Ohio contains many late eighteenth and early nineteenth century public squares, this is the only one whose four sides are dramatized by a group of landmark towers of approximately the same height and mass. In addition, all of the buildings are architecturally distinguished; four of them were designed by architects of national reputation, Daniel Burnham and Albert Kahn, and the remaining ^{two} ~~three~~ by important local architects, Morris W. Scheibel and Charles F. Owsley. ^{-after Walter & Owsley} The square itself is not eligible for inclusion in the National Register as part of a district, because it has been significantly altered by the intrusion of a whale-shaped embankment which is part of the pedestrian plaza created in 1974.

The Central Square was an example of late eighteenth century town planning; it was laid out in 1798 by John Young as a rectangle 250 feet by 400 feet. With remarkable foresight, the surveyors made the two streets intersecting at the square 100 feet wide. In 1876 Youngstown became the county seat, and by 1900 the city was established as the center of the iron and steel industry in the Mahoning Valley. However, its growth into the modern city of today dates from the first decades of the twentieth century. The consolidation of the steel industry by mergers began in 1898, the date of Burnham's Federal Building; prior to that time the rolling mills and blast furnaces were largely owned and operated by independent merchants.

According to Joseph G. Butler, the first decade of the century was "peaceful and uneventful," and was marked by "neither unusual prosperity nor especial adversity in the great steel making district." A "notable array" of new buildings included the Stambaugh Building (1906), the Wick Building (1907), and the Mahoning National Bank Building (1910). The Youngstown steel mills worked at capacity during the war years of 1914-1918, but the decade of 1910-1920 brought no new buildings on the square except for

(continued)

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INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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CONTINUATION SHEET

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Seven Early Office Buildings at Central Square

the four-story addition to the Stambaugh Building in 1913. The remaining buildings which complete the present configuration of the Central Square were constructed during the prosperous 1920s: the Realty Building (1924), the First National Bank (1925), and finally the tallest one--the modernistic Central Tower (1929).

The tenants of the buildings included four major banks; the coal, iron, steel, and gas companies of the Mahoning Valley, including the all-important Brier Hill and Youngstown Sheet and Tube Companies; the New York Central and Erie Railroads; real estate, land and mortgage companies; insurance, accounting, and securities businesses; and small service businesses and professionals, including many doctors.

The architectural styles of the buildings represent the various stages of classicism in commercial building over the three decades. All of the buildings have (or had) ornamental cornices of various degrees of elaboration, from the discreet dentils and bracketing of the Federal Building to the florid Beaux-Arts detail of the Realty Building and the geometric Art Deco roofline of the Central Tower. As a group, the buildings illustrate the transition from ceramic-clad (brick and terra cotta) exteriors to stone sheathing, but none of them represents any notable structural innovation. The two buildings by Albert Kahn (Stambaugh and Mahoning Bank Buildings) display the largest proportion of window to wall, a characteristic typical of Kahn's factory architecture. The wall treatments vary from the essentially flat plane of the Federal Building and the Union Bank to the clear expression of cage structure in the Kahn buildings, the boldly vertical Sullivan-esque piers of the Realty Building, and the emphatic perpendicular lines of the Central Tower. Judged purely as works of art, the finest architectural designs are the two by Youngstown architect Morris Scheibel, the Realty Building and the Central Tower.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Joseph G. Butler, Jr., History of Youngstown and the Mahoning Valley (Chicago, 1921).

William A. Brenner, Downtown and the University (Youngstown, 1976).

Howard C. Aley, A Heritage to Share (Youngstown, 1975).

Youngstown City Directories.

UTM NOT VERIFIED

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY ca. 1.5

QUADRANGLE NAME Youngstown

UTM REFERENCES

A
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

E

G

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

See individual Ohio Historic Inventory forms.

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24,000

B
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

D

F

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION The property boundaries are those of the lots occupied by the seven office buildings at the street addresses given, and located by the UTM coordinates.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE Eric Johannesen, Preservation Officer

ORGANIZATION Western Reserve Historical Society

DATE July 1979

STREET & NUMBER 10825 East Boulevard

TELEPHONE 216-721-5722

CITY OR TOWN Cleveland

STATE Ohio

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 National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE Chief, Division of Historic Preservation,
Ohio Historical Society

DATE 11/15/79

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I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST: William H. Braden

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

DATE 2-8-80

DATE 2-5-80

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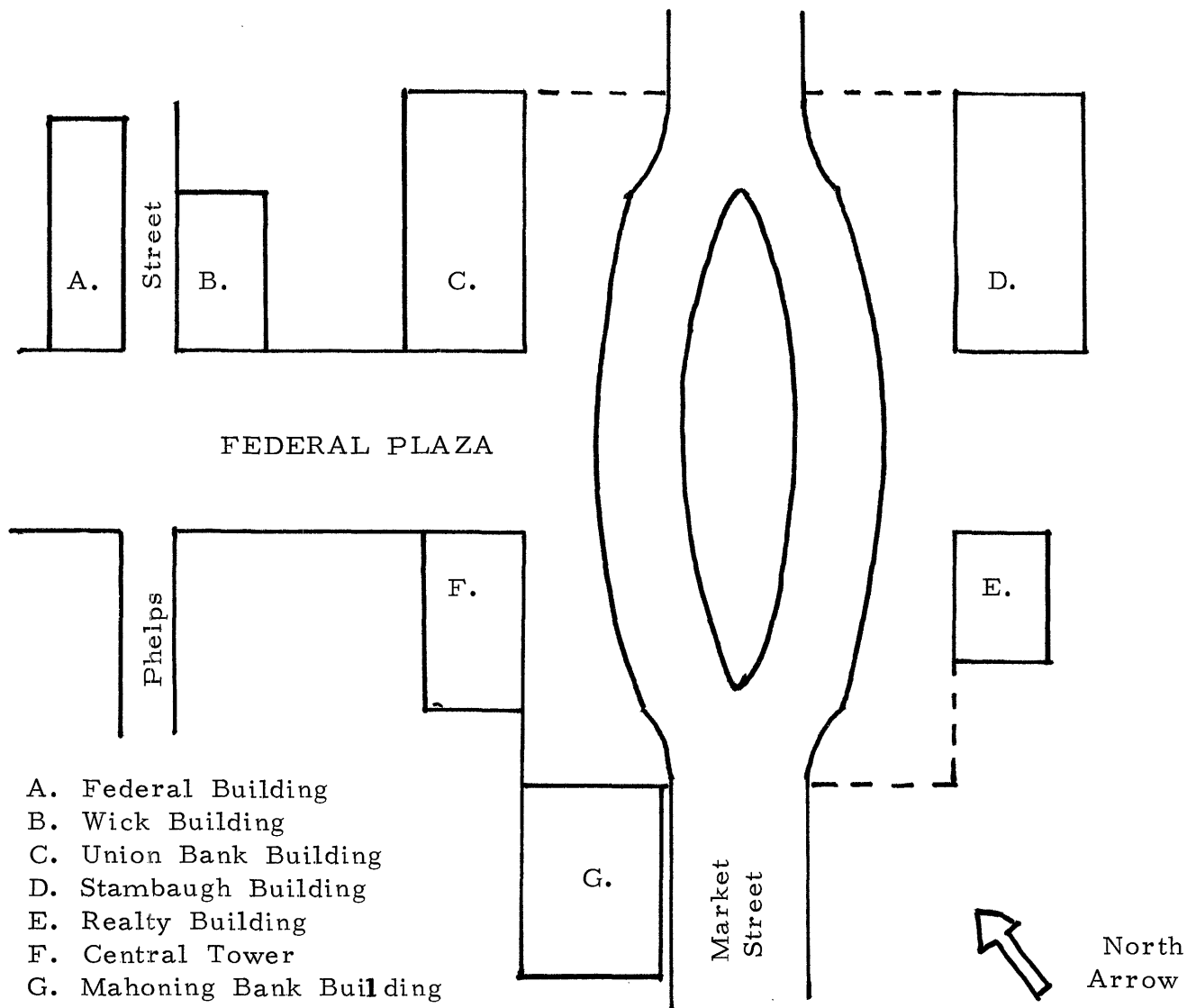
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FEB 8 1980

CONTINUATION SHEET

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Seven Early Office Buildings at Central Square



Original
Central Square

Scale: 1" = 100'