

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	Ohio
COUNTY:	Stark
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE	

1. NAME

COMMON:
William McKinley Tomb

AND/OR HISTORIC:
William McKinley Tomb

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Westlawn Cemetery, Seventh Street N.W.

CITY OR TOWN:
Canton

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:
16

STATE: Ohio CODE: 39 COUNTY: Stark CODE: 151

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) Tomb

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Stark County Historical Society

STREET AND NUMBER:
749 Haylett Avenue N.W.; P.O. Box 483

CITY OR TOWN:
Canton

STATE:
Ohio

CODE:
39

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
Office of the County Recorder

STREET AND NUMBER:
Stark County Courthouse

CITY OR TOWN:
Canton

STATE:
Ohio

CODE:
39

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Ohio Historic Survey; National Register

DATE OF SURVEY: 1967; 1971 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
The Ohio Historical Society;
National Register of Historic Places

STREET AND NUMBER:
1982 Velmo Avenue; 1100 L Street, N.W.

CITY OR TOWN:
Columbus; Washington

STATE:
Ohio; D.C.

CODE:
39/11
446

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The McKinley Tomb was dedicated on September 30, 1907. It stands on a 75-foot-high, grass-covered hill in Westlawn Cemetery and overlooks the city of Canton. The mausoleum is circular and domed, has a pink granite ashlar exterior, rises 96 feet above the ground, and measures 79 feet in diameter. Designed by Harold Van Buren Magonigle and financed by public subscription, the tomb cost \$558,452.91 to build.

Originally, in front of the structure, a reflecting pool stretched some 750 feet from the base of the hill. This feature, together with the 108 stone steps that lead up to the circular, 178-foot-side mausoleum platform, was intended to symbolize the blade of the President's sword in time of war. The pool was replaced with a depressed lawn during the 1930's, but the sword effect remains. A tree-lined drive passes around the pool site to a parking area at the foot of the tomb. Midway up the steps, on a 13-foot-high pedestal, is a 9 1/2-foot-high bronze statue of McKinley delivering his last speech in Buffalo. The work was rendered by sculptor Charles Henry Niehaus.

The exterior of the double-walled tomb is little ornamented. Festoons of ivy decorate the frieze, and a civic crown with a laurel wreath of gilded bronze surmounts the dome. Entrance is through double bronze doors set in a semicircularly arched opening. Each door measures 12 by 24 feet, and at the time of their installation, they were the largest in the Nation.

Inside, to the right of the entrance, there is a small office between the inner and outer walls, and to the left there is a storage area with metal steps that lead to a full basement. The floor of the mausoleum is formed by different-hued marble laid in a cross pattern. At the center, two polished dark-green granite sarcophagi rest atop a 10-foot-square polished dark-maroon granite base and contain the bodies of McKinley and his wife.

Each axis of the cross pattern on the floor leads to a semicircularly arched recess or bay. Each arch has a keystone on which an eagle is sculptured. Doric columns flank each bay and support an entablature and frieze that extend around the bottom of the dome and bear an inscription from McKinley's last speech. The interior walls are faced with light-grey marble.

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SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **1843-1901**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Historian	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation			

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

William McKinley was the 25th President of the United States. A liberal Republican, he enjoyed 12 productive years in Congress between 1877 and 1891 and served as Governor of Ohio from 1892 to 1896. After obtaining his party's nomination for the Presidency in the latter year, he ran against Democrat William Jennings Bryan and received the first popular majority since 1872. As historian H. Wayne Morgan has pointed out, McKinley's victory, coming on the heels of a decisive GOP triumph in 1894, ended a generation of political equilibrium and launched an era of Republican dominance that lasted until the onset of the Great Depression.¹ In addition, his support, while President, for the annexation of Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Philippines marked the beginning of 20th-century American involvement in Caribbean and Far Eastern affairs.

At present no National Historic Landmark honors William McKinley, and according to the Ohio Historical Society, his tomb is the only remaining Ohio structure that is associated directly with him. Neither his birthplace nor his adult home are extant. Completed in 1907, the circular, domed mausoleum has a pink granite ashlar exterior, stands on a 75-foot-high hill, rises 96 feet above the ground, and measures 79 feet in diameter. Inside, polished dark-green granite sarcophagi rest atop a polished dark-maroon granite base and contain the bodies of the former President and his wife.

Biography

The seventh of nine children, William McKinley, Jr., was born to Scotch-Irish parents in Niles, Ohio, in 1843

(continued)

¹ H. Wayne Morgan, From Hayes to McKinley: National Party Politics, 1877-1896 (Syracuse, 1969), 525-26.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Bailey, Thomas A., A Diplomatic History of the American People, 7th edition (New York, 1964).
 Glad, Paul W., McKinley, Bryan, and the People (Philadelphia, 1964).
 Leech, Margaret, In the Days of McKinley (New York, 1959).
 Morgan, H. Wayne, From Hayes to McKinley: National Party Politics, 1877-1896 (Syracuse, 1969).
 Morgan, H. Wayne, William McKinley and His America (Syracuse, 1963).

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	40° 48' 27"	81° 23' 45"		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	40° 48' 33"	81° 23' 33"				
SE	40° 48' 15"	81° 23' 21"				
SW	40° 48' 15"	81° 23' 28"				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: ca. 22 acres

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
George R. Adams, Managing Editor

ORGANIZATION: **American Association for State and Local History** DATE: **Dec. 1, 1974**

STREET AND NUMBER:
1315 Eighth Avenue South

CITY OR TOWN: **Nashville** STATE: **Tennessee** CODE: **47**

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name _____

Title _____

Date _____

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date _____

ATTEST:

 Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

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7. Description (cont'd.)

The William McKinley Memorial Association owned and maintained the tomb until 1943, then turned it and approximately 20 surrounding acres over to the State. The Stark County Historical Society acquired the memorial in 1973.

Boundary. The boundary includes the tomb and landscaped grounds. Below are two boundary descriptions of the property. They include roughly the same area, but the second is a legal description furnished by the Stark County Historical Society.

1. As shown in red on the accompanying maps, a line beginning at the intersection of Seventh Avenue NW. and the entrance to the memorial park and running northwestward about 200 feet along the entrance road to the first intersection; thence north-northwestward about 1,200 feet to the northeast base of the hill on which the tomb is situated; thence counterclockwise around the base of the hill, roughly following a line of trees at the rear of the tomb, crossing a rear access road, and passing to another access road at the southwest base of the hill; thence along that access road continuing around the hill to a point immediately in front of the Stark County Historical Society building; thence due southeast approximately 1,000 feet, passing to the extreme right of the tree line that parallels the reflecting pool site, to Seventh Avenue NW.; thence along Seventh Avenue NW. to the starting point.

2. "Beginning at the Southwest corner of said Lot number 5414 and being the true place of beginning for the tract of land herein to be described; thence NO°-19'-00"W along the East line of Wolf Court N.W. a distance of 386.95 feet to an iron pin at the termination point of Wolf Court N.W.; thence N85°-20'-40"W and along the North line of Lot Number 5398 in the City of Canton, a distance of 125.00 feet to an iron pin at the Northwest corner of said Lot No. 5398; thence NO°-19'-00"W along the East line of Hazlett Avenue N.W. a distance of 57.25 feet to an iron pin at the termination point of said Hazlett Avenue N.W. and also on the South line of Out Lot 218; thence N87°-12'W along the South line of Out Lot 218 and the North line of City Lot 4860 and a portion of City Lot 30305 a distance of 446.20 feet to an iron pin at the Southwest corner of Out Lot 218; thence N4°-30'E along the West line of Out Lot 218 and along the East line of West Lawn Cemetery a distance of 266.50 feet to an iron pin at the Northwest corner of Out Lot 218; (thence continuing along the boundary of West Lawn Cemetery the following eight (8) courses); N5°-15'E--56.90 feet; N67°-04'-40"W--93.72

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7. Description (cont'd.)

feet; N63°-21'-20"W--100.22 feet; N7°-40'W--88.80 feet; N11°-05'W--100.00 feet; N20°-27'W--75.05 feet; N31°-39'E--402.00 feet; S83°-18'E--538.80 feet to an iron pin in the West line of the Water Works Race; (thence in a southwardly direction along said West line of the Water Works Race, the following four (4) courses); S7°-02'E--101.30 feet; S1°-32'E--170.00 feet; S24°-27'E--110.00 feet; S4°-09'E--144.00 feet to an iron pin on the North line of Out Lot No. 218; thence N44°-30'E along the North line of Out Lot 218 a distance of 160.43 feet to a point on the East line of the Water Works Race; thence S17°-14'-05"E along the East line of said Race, and the West line of property owned by the City of Canton, a distance of 616.17 feet to an iron pin on the North line of Out Lot 229; thence S86°-41'-05"E along a portion of the North line of Out Lot 229 a distance of 17.95 feet to an iron pin; (thence in a southerly direction along the West line of property owned by the City of Canton, the following four (4) courses; S2°-53'-20"W--154.90 feet; S24°-36'-40"E--90.07 feet; S3°-06'-40"E--56.00 feet; S31°-06'-40"E--203.05 feet to a point on the North line of Seventh Street N.W.; thence N85°-20'-40"W along the North line of Seventh Street N.W. a distance of 491.15 feet to the true place of beginning and containing a total of 21.90 acres of land more or less, of which 11.25 acres in Out Lot 230, 5.66 acres in Out Lot 218, 3.86 acres in Out Lot 229, 0.80 acres in Water Works Race, 0.11 acres in Lot No. 5414, 0.11 acres in Lot No. 5413 and 0.11 acres in Lot No. 54.12." (No corresponding Survey map available at time of site visitation.)

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8. Significance (cont'd.)

William's father had to struggle to make a living as an ironfounder, but he managed to provide his children with a good education. In 1852 the family moved to Poland, near Youngstown, so that the younger McKinley offspring could attend high school. At Poland Academy William proved an average student in most subjects but excelled in public speaking. About 1859 he joined the Methodist Church, and a short time later, he enrolled in Allegheny College in Meadville, Pa., to prepare for the ministry.

Family financial difficulties and his own ill health forced William to leave college after one term. He taught school briefly, then following the fall of Fort Sumter, he enlisted in the 23rd Ohio Volunteer Regiment, commanded by Rutherford B. Hayes. A commissary sergeant, McKinley demonstrated particular valor during the Battle of Antietam Creek and received a second lieutenant's commission. During the remainder of the war, he served first as aide-de-camp for Hayes and then as a staff officer for various generals. Promoted eventually to captain, McKinley was brevetted a major and mustered out of service in 1865.

Upon returning home McKinley decided to pursue a legal career. He read law with a local attorney for a time then completed his studies at Albany Law School in Albany, N.Y. After passing the Ohio bar exam in 1867, McKinley opened a law office in Canton and became involved immediately in Republican politics. He campaigned hard for party tickets in both State and national races, and in 1869 he won election as prosecuting attorney of Stark County. Following his marriage in 1871 to Ida Saxton, daughter of a prominent Canton citizen, McKinley resumed private practice. During the next few years, he took an active role in community affairs and built a substantial law business, but he never lost interest in politics.

In 1876 McKinley sought and won a seat in the U.S. House of Representatives, and despite having his district gerrymandered twice by Democratic Ohio Legislatures, he gained reelection six consecutive times. He did not get to serve one of those terms, though. In 1882 he had a plurality of only 8 out of 33,000 votes, and the Democratic House unseated him.

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8. Significance (cont'd.)

While in Congress, McKinley earned a reputation as a liberal Republican. He supported civil service reform, Federal protection of voting rights, workable regulation of business, and other measures particularly helpful to the middle and lower classes. At the same time, he became a leading proponent of high protective tariff, arguing that the elimination of foreign competition benefited industry and created jobs for workingmen.

After serving on the powerful House Ways and Means Committee for several years, McKinley was made its chairman in 1889, and according to biographer Margaret Leech, he, Speaker Thomas B. Reed, and Appropriations Committee chairman Joseph G. Cannon "controlled the House in the Fifty-first Congress."² From this vantage point, the Congressman from Canton engineered passage of the McKinley Tariff Act of 1890. Designed both to aid industry and labor and to reduce Government revenue by discouraging imports, this law raised an already high tariff even higher. It was a controversial measure that resulted primarily in increased prices for American consumers, but as Leech has noted, it made McKinley's name "a household word."³ In addition congressional compromises necessary for enactment of the tariff bill prompted passage of the important Sherman Silver Purchase Act of 1890.

Another gerrymander of his congressional district spoiled McKinley's bid for reelection in 1890. The following year, however, he won the first of two consecutive 2-year terms as Governor of Ohio. His administration was not especially notable, but he discharged his duties competently and conscientiously, supporting tax revision and labor legislation, among other measures. Perhaps more important, McKinley rose steadily in party prominence. Having already chaired the committee on resolutions at two Republican National Conventions, those of 1884 and 1886, he served as

(continued)

² Margaret Leech, In the Days of McKinley (New York, 1959), 44.

³ Ibid., 48.

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8. Significance (cont'd.)

permanent chairman of the party's 1892 gathering. Also, prior to the election that year, and again in 1894, he stumped the Nation in behalf of Republican candidates. By 1896 he loomed as the leading contender for the party's Presidential nomination.

With "The People Against the Bosses" as his slogan and wealthy Ohio businessman Marcus A. Hanna as his chief advisor, McKinley built a strong national organization and captured the Republican standard easily. The Democrats, stung by the depression of 1893, countered with free silver advocate William Jennings Bryan. During the ensuing campaign, Bryan crisscrossed the country, made over 600 speeches, and emphasized free coinage of silver. McKinley remained at home, received delegations from every corner of the land, criticized Bryan as a one-issue candidate, and called for bimetallism, protectionism, and the restoration of confidence in Government and the economy. When the votes were cast, McKinley received the first popular majority since Ulysses S. Grant's second term. Coming on the heels of a Republican triumph in the congressional election of 1894, McKinley's victory marked the end of a generation of political equilibrium. With one exception, every State that went for McKinley remained unalterably Republican for the next 20 years. Scholar Paul Glad has labeled this shift "one of the most far-reaching political realignments in American history."⁴

McKinley's Presidency contributed immensely to maintaining this trend. In the words of historian H. Wayne Morgan, "prosperity, overseas expansion, [and] a growing feeling of national pride and destiny illuminated McKinley's administration, and solidified Republican control of national politics."⁵ Soon after McKinley entered the White House, the economy took an upturn. This development had little to do with the President, but it increased his popularity nevertheless. He gained additional favor with the business community by insisting upon passage of the Dingley Tariff Act of 1897, which raised import duties to new heights, and

(continued)

⁴ Paul W. Glad, McKinley, Bryan, and the People (Philadelphia, 1964), 199.

⁵ Morgan, From Hayes to McKinley, 525.

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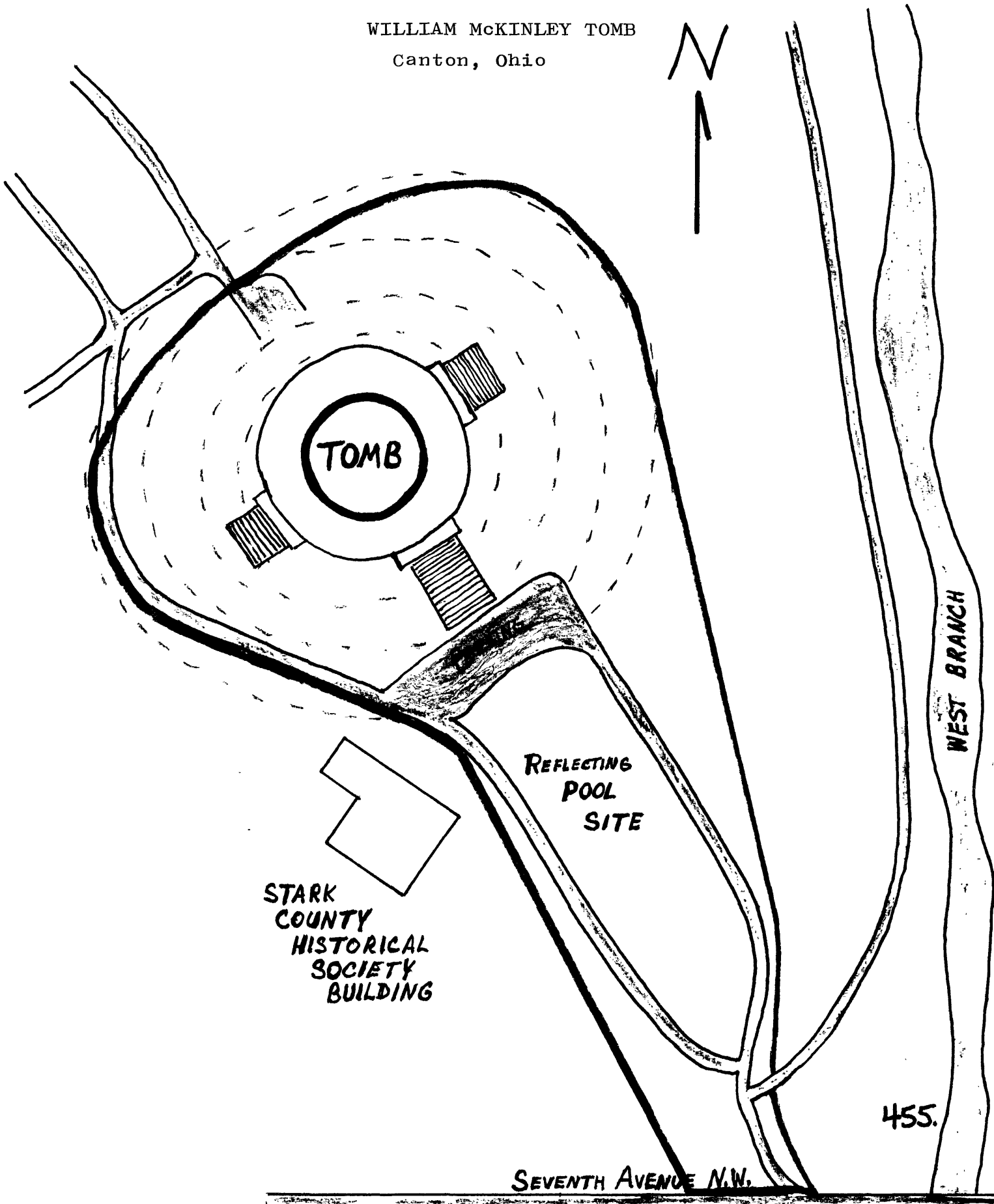
8. Significance (cont'd.)

the Gold Standard Act of 1900, which made the gold dollar the sole standard of currency.

Despite the political impact of his election and the economic importance of his domestic program, McKinley may have had an even greater effect on U.S. foreign policy. When Cuba rebelled against Spain in 1894, many Americans favored U.S. intervention. This sentiment increased sharply after the battleship U.S.S. Maine exploded in Havana Harbor on February 15, 1898. Appalled by the thought of war and fearful that armed conflict would upset the American economy, McKinley resisted interventionist pressure until April 11, 1898, when he sent a war message to Congress. During the brief hostilities that followed, U.S. forces defeated the Spanish soundly both in the Caribbean and the Pacific. On August 12, 1898, McKinley signed a protocol in which Spain recognized Cuban independence, ceded Puerto Rico and Guam to the United States, and agreed to peace talks to determine the destiny of the Philippines. For several months afterward Americans debated the Philippine question heatedly, and eventually the Senate, with the support of the President, approved a treaty of annexation. This agreement, along with McKinley's protocol and the so-called Platt Amendment of 1901, marked the beginning of 20th-century American involvement in Caribbean and Far Eastern affairs.

In 1900 McKinley ran for a second term in the White House and again defeated Bryan. On September 6, 1901, anarchist Leon Czolgosz shot the President as he and Mrs. McKinley stood in a reception line at the Pan-American Exposition in Buffalo, N.Y. Fatally wounded, McKinley died a week later.

WILLIAM McKINLEY TOMB
Canton, Ohio



Prepared by: George R. Adams
AASLH
December 1, 1974
(not to scale)