

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

RR 76001533

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED 12-12-76

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 The Werner Company

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 109 North Union

CITY, TOWN Akron
VICINITY OF 14 - John Seiberling

STATE Ohio CODE 039 COUNTY Summit CODE 153

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
			<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER: vacant

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME ~~Ralph E. Monk~~ FAMOUS REALTY CO.

STREET & NUMBER ~~109 North Union~~ 2136 BICKMORE AVENUE

CITY, TOWN Akron DAYTON VICINITY OF STATE Ohio 45404

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Summit County Building

STREET & NUMBER 72 South High Street

CITY, TOWN Akron STATE Ohio

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN STATE

252-13

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 three-story brick building with steep gabled roofs in an eclectic German medieval idiom. The most outstanding feature is the large stepped gables that are found at five places around the building. The massiveness of the brickwork is reinforced by the multiple sandstone courses that run in horizontal bands from the basement to the pinnacles of the gables. The masonry character is further emphasized by the alternating bands of brick and stone which form the voussoirs over the doorways and windows. Stone pinnacles cap the lowest and highest steps of the gables. At the southwest corner of the building, a square four-and-a-half story tower is placed at a 45 degree angle to the rest of the building. The top stage of the tower slightly overhangs the lower stories, and it has stone and brick turrets at each corner. All of the windows are rectangular, except that there are blind round arches above the gable windows. The main entrance to the building is placed half a story above grade level, and six stone steps lead to the door. Corner buttresses flank the arched doorway that extends in a small vestibule structure. Large voussoirs radiate above the fanlight over the doorway. The corners of the building have stone quoins which are the broken continuation of the banded courses mentioned above. The brickwork is Flemish bond.

The interior appears to be in a later architectural style than the exterior. The entrance leads into a large, high rectangular hall. It is surrounded by an arcade of both elliptical and round arches with heavy keystones, resting on square fluted columns. These are executed in dark stained woodwork, which contrasts with the plaster walls of the vestibule. The floor in the center of the hall contains a damaged stone mosaic. Opening from one side of the hall is a wide balustraded staircase to the upper floor. The stairwell is lit by a skylight. Arranged around the central hall are corridors and well-lit administrative offices, but they are architecturally undistinguished compared with the rest of the building.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input 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 1895-1909

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Frank Meade, Cleveland *

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This was the administration building of a business which claimed to be the largest and most complete book factory in the United States in 1900 and which published the New Werner Edition of the Encyclopedia Britannica. It is an excellent example of eclectic architecture in the German idiom and an unusually elaborate structure for a publishing house of its date and place.

Paul E. Werner was born in Wurttemberg, Germany, in 1850 and immigrated to the United States in 1867. In 1874 he purchased the Akron German-language newspaper Germania. He later founded the Sunday Gazette and the Akron Tribune. In 1884 he disposed of the newspapers but continued in the printing business, establishing the Werner Printing and lithographing Company in 1886.

In 1892 Werner was publishing art books, dictionaries, texts and the New Werner Edition of the Encyclopedia Britannica. The latter was evidently an unauthorized reprint of the famous 9th edition, compiled between 1875 and 1889. Scribner's, the American agents, obtained court orders banning the distribution of unauthorized reprints. Meanwhile, Werner's company was reorganized as the Werner Company in 1893, and the existing administration building was erected in 1895. By 1900 the factory was printing such quantities of books and educational materials that a history of 1908 relates statistics in the familiar terms of how many books would reach around the earth, etc. However, in 1908 the company experienced many financial difficulties, among which were the legal battles with Encyclopedia Britannica, resulting in a loss of \$1,000,000. In 1909 the company failed.

During the World War, Werner became vastly unpopular due to his pro-German sentiments. He moved to Kansas City in 1914 and remained there until 1926. He was brought back to Akron by friends and was given a dinner in his honor by F. A. Seiberling. He once again published the Akron Germania until his death in 1931.

"Illustrations of the Work of Meade & Garfield, Cleveland, O."
Interstate Architect & Bldr. (May 1902).

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Karl H. Grismer, Akron and Summit County (Akron, 1952), 692.
 William B. Doyle, Centennial History of Summit County, Ohio
 (Chicago, 1908), 811-812.
The Circle of Knowledge - Encyclopedias Past and Present
 (Chicago, 1968), 20.
 Akron City Directories, 1894-1896.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA less than one

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____
 UTM REFERENCES

A	1, 7	4, 5, 7, 5, 2, 0	4, 5, 4, 8, 0, 0, 0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE Eric Johannesen, Preservationist

ORGANIZATION Western Reserve Historical Society DATE December 1975


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

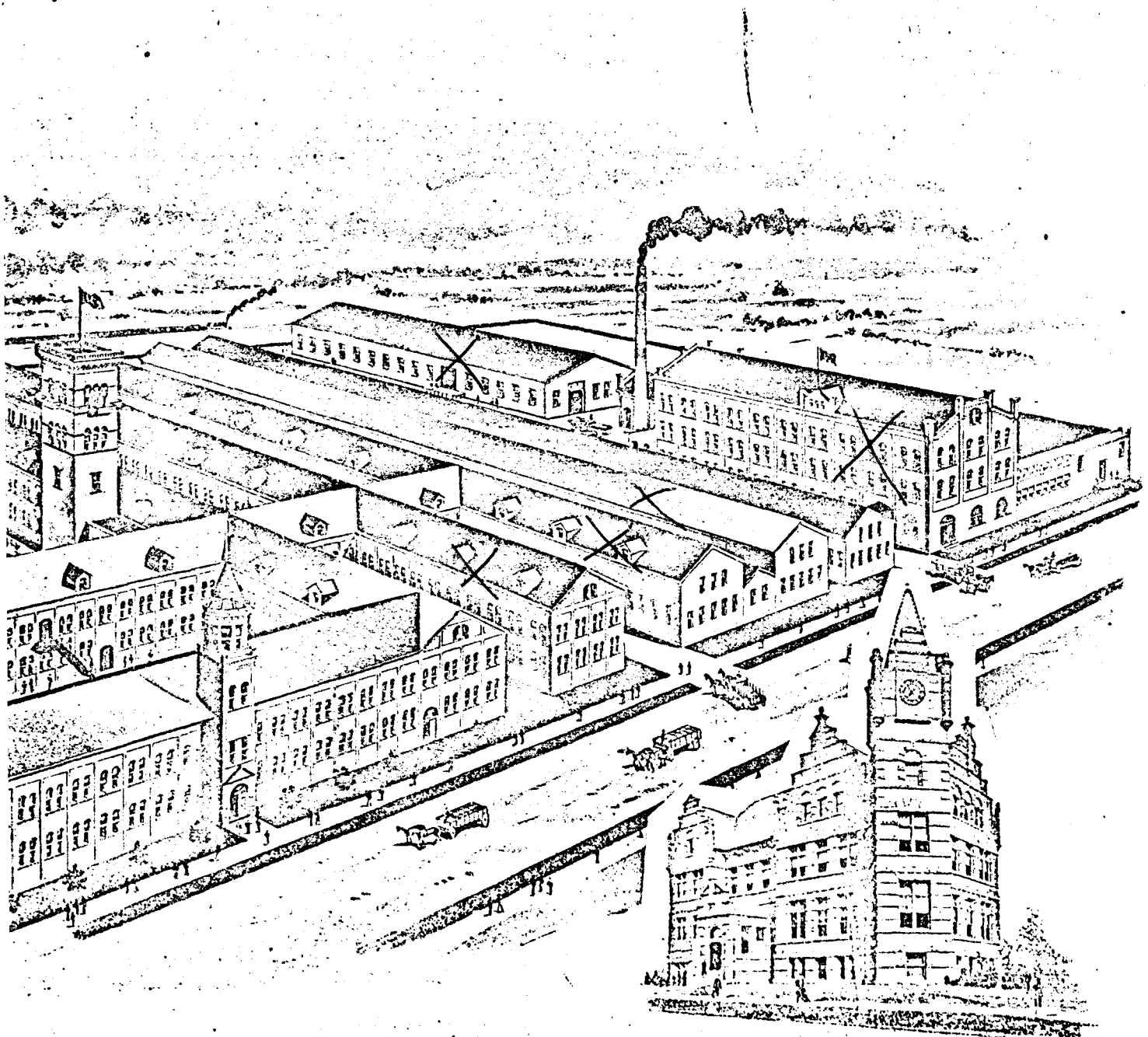
As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National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

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE 

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer DATE 10-8-76

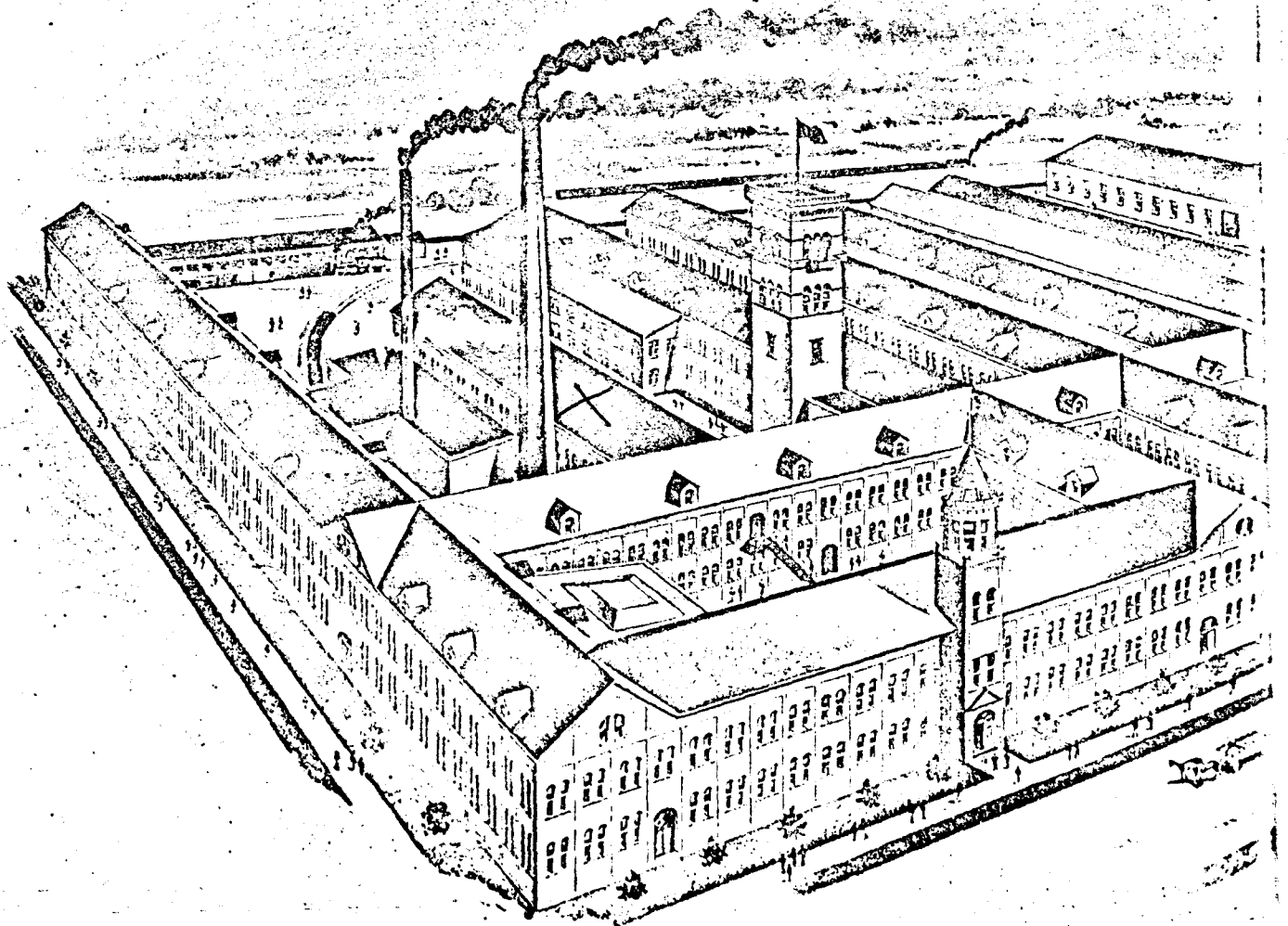
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER	
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION	DATE
ATTEST:	DATE
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER	

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All Graphic Arts and Trades.

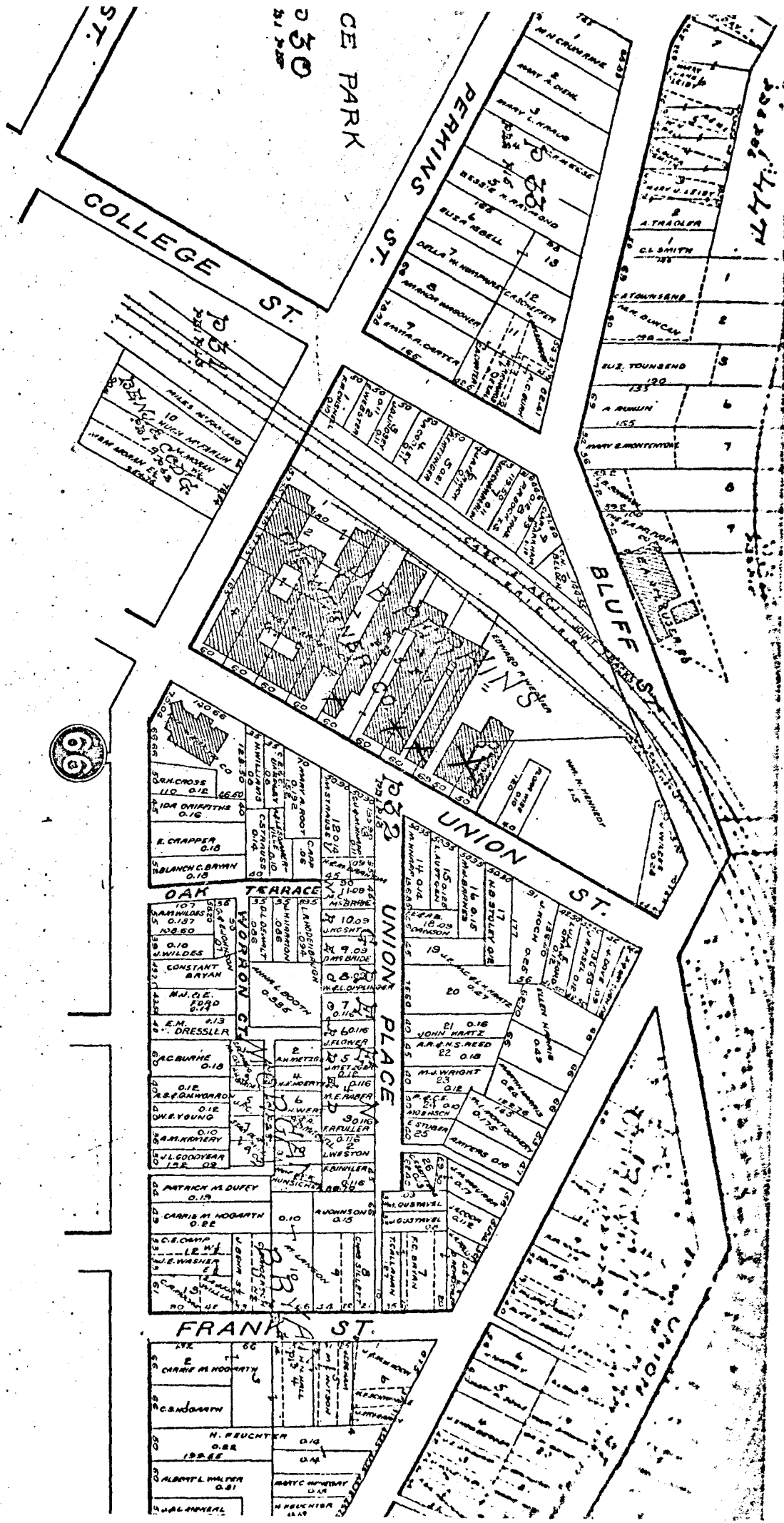


FACTORY AND OFFICE BUILDINGS

The Largest General Printing and
Establishment on the American Continent
Comprising All Graphic Arts



FACTORY AND OFFICE BUILDING



COLLEGE ST.

GE PARK

PERKINS ST.

BUFF ST.

UNION ST.

UNION PLACE

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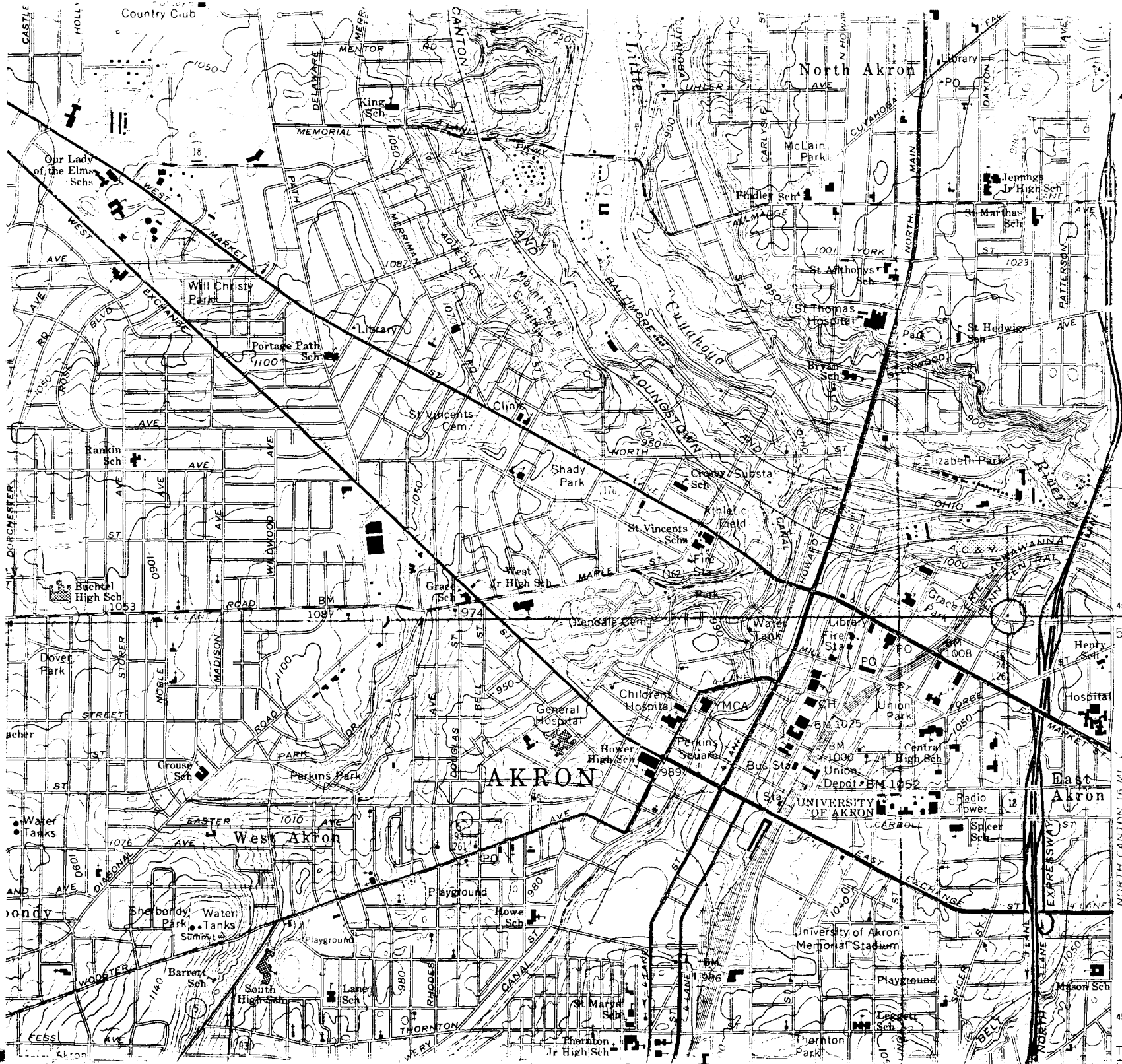
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Country Club



The Werner Company

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NORTH CANTON 16 MI

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January 5, 1977

Mr. Ralph E. Monk
402 Merriman Rd.
Akron, Ohio

Dear Mr. Monk:

I am pleased to inform you that the Werner Company, 109 N. Union, has been entered in the National Register of Historic Places by the National Park Service, United States Department of the Interior.

The nomination was made in connection with a state plan to identify and document prehistoric and historic places in Ohio which qualify for National Register status under provisions of the National Historic Site Preservation Advisory Board.

Enclosed is information explaining the purposes and goals of the National Register of Historic Places.

Sincerely,



Thomas H. Smith
State Historic Preservation Officer
Director, Ohio Historical Society

THS:jp
enclosure

X.c: Mayor of Akron
Tom Fisher, Regional Preservation Officer

Ohio Historic Preservation Office

National Register of Historic Places File Checklist

The following materials are contained in this file of the National Register form for:

Name: Werner Company Building

County: Summit

Original National Register of Historic Places nomination form

Multiple Property Nomination form

Photograph(s)

Photograph(s) (copies)

USGS map(s)

USGS map(s) (copies)

Sketch map(s)/figure(s)/exhibit(s)

Correspondence

Other _____

