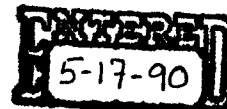


REFNUM 90000755

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name TUSCARAWAS AVENUE - ALEXANDER SQUARE COMMERCIAL HISTORIC DISTRICT

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number Bounded by Park Ave., Tuscarawas Ave., 4th & 5th N/A not for publication

city, town Barberton N/A vicinity

state Ohio code OH county Summit code 153 zip code 44203

3. Classification

Ownership of Property

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing	Total
<u>14</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>15</u>
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
<u>14</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>15</u>

Name of related multiple property listing:

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official W. Payne

Date 4/3/90

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official _____

Date _____

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register. See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper _____

Date of Action _____

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Commerce/Trade: Deapartment store
 Recreation: Theatre
 Social: Meeting Hall

Commerce/Trade: specialty store
 Recreation: Theatre
 Social: Meeting Hall

7. DescriptionArchitectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

Late 19th and 20th Century Revivals
 Classical Revival
 Art Moderne

foundation Stone
 walls Brick, Terra Cotta
 roof Asphalt
 other

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Tuscarawas Avenue - Alexander Square Commercial Historic District is a compact commercial district containing 15 buildings in the heart of the city of Barberton, Ohio. The district includes the facing sides of a one-block section of Tuscarawas Avenue and continues to the north to encompass the entire block fronting on the south side of Lake Anna Park. Twelve commercial buildings, including three early 20th century theaters, are located on Tuscarawas Avenue, which serves as the city's primary downtown street. This one-block section contains the most architecturally significant commercial streetscapes in Barberton, with few alterations and no intrusions. The remaining three buildings in the district face Park Avenue and overlook Lake Anna Park to the north. These free-standing buildings include the Masonic Temple, a funeral home, and the Barberton Municipal Building. The municipal building is the only non-contributing structure in the district, having been built in 1954.

The city of Barberton was developed as a planned industrial city. At its center is Lake Anna, a picturesque 20-acre natural lake surrounded on the north, east and west by residential and religious development. The south side developed differently, having been selected as the location for the Barberton Inn, a resort hotel, in the late 19th century. This commercial block, developed following the inn's demolition in 1915, retains a distinct character with buildings built for both Park Avenue and Tuscarawas Avenue frontage.

The historic district contains an intact collection of buildings constructed over a 47-year period from the town's founding in 1891 to 1938. The majority of the buildings were constructed during the 1920s, although important structures also pre-date and post-date this period.

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Tuscarawas Avenue - Alexander Square Commercial Historic District

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The buildings are predominantly commercial, the only exception being the Masonic Temple which is used as a fraternal hall. The commercial uses include theaters and the funeral home. The district has also historically been the home of the Barberton city offices, although the present municipal building is too recent to be a contributing structure.

Buildings on Tuscarawas Avenue are one to four stories in height, generally of brick construction, with ground floor storefronts and upper facades exhibiting stylistic features. The buildings have an even setback and complementary scale, forming cohesive streetscapes on both sides of Tuscarawas Avenue. Facade materials include brick, terra cotta, tile, and sandstone, lending variety to the district. This street includes Barberton's two largest commercial buildings: the Tracy Block, the city's first three-story brick business block built in 1891 (#1, photo 1), and the Weisberger Building, built to house the city's first department store in 1928 (#7, photo 11). Both occupy prominent corner locations at the east end of the district.

Also significant in this block is the presence of three early 20th century theaters which lend variety to the district in terms of both function and style. On the north side of the street are the Pastime Theater (1922, #8, photo 18) and the Park Theater (1919, #10, photo 20), with classically-inspired facades of terra cotta. The Lake Theater (1938, #6, photos 7 and 8) on the south side of the street exhibits a facade of Tennessee sandstone and glass block in a late 1930s Art Moderne style.

The buildings fronting on Park Avenue exhibit a similar cohesiveness of development which reflects their downtown location as well as their park setting. The three structures are brick, free-standing (although the city building abuts the Masonic Temple), two to four stories in height, with an even setback a few feet from the street. Although non-contributing, the municipal building blends extremely well with the materials, scale and character of the Park Avenue streetscape. The two contributing buildings were both constructed in 1925. The Campfield-Hickman Company (#13, photo 28) exhibits a Neo-classical Revival style and the Masonic Temple (#15, photo 30) was designed with elements of Second Renaissance Revival.

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The following description of the district begins with the Tracy Block on the south side of Tuscarawas Avenue, continues on the north side of the street, and concludes with the Park Avenue buildings.

The Tracy Block (#1, photos 1 and 4) is an outstanding three-story commercial block built in 1891 as Barberton's first brick business block. The building exhibits elements of Victorian Gothic in its central gable, cornice treatment, and sandstone trim. Below the metal cornice are diamondwork panels and corbelling. The building occupies four lots, as designated by the four upper story bays and storefronts. Windows are grouped in threes, with a central triangular sandstone lintel, and both lintel and sill courses. The store rooms of the building retain pressed metal ceilings, and the office and meeting hall configurations of upper stories remain intact.

To the west of the Tracy Block is the second building built in this district (#2, photo 2), constructed c. 1900 by Conrad Weigand for his furniture store and undertaking business. Maintaining the cornice height of the Tracy Block, this three-story building exhibits a simpler style with a corbelled cornice and panels created by piers. Windows have simple stone lintels and sills on the third floor. The recessed storefront appears to be original to the building. An addition to the west of this building was carried out sensitively in 1915 (#3, photo 2), repeating the cornice and window treatment of the original. Built to house the phonograph business and funeral parlor of the Weigand family, it also was apparently used as the residence of the funeral director for a time.

The next two buildings in the block are two-story brick buildings from the mid-1920s (photo 6). The first (#4) features a deeply-recessed storefront with vaulted opening and front facade of terra cotta and tile. It was built c. 1925 and used early on as a clothing and jewelry store. The second building (#5) was built by Frank J. Weigand in 1927 to house his growing electrical equipment and appliance business. It has a simple brick facade.

The last building to be built on the south side of the block was the Lake Theater (#6, photos 7 and 8), constructed in 1938. Built as a community recreation center, the complex

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included a 1,000 seat movie theater, bowling alleys, and a billiard room. The design for the building took advantage of the shallow lot by placing the auditorium across the rear of the lot with patrons facing east. "Lake Recreation" was located beneath the building, consisting of eight bowling alleys, four billiard tables, and snack bar. The Tuscarawas Avenue facade contained the theater entrance at its west end and five street level storefronts.

The facade of the Lake Theater is ashlar sandstone block, taken from Crab Orchard quarries in Tennessee. The western entrance to the theater is accentuated by a square projecting tower and second story with rounded corner and glass block, all features of the Art Moderne style. The framing for the original theater marquis is intact. The exterior theater lobby is recessed, and features both marble and granite trim and the original free-standing ticket booth. The commercial storefronts remain intact, including recessed entries and marble base.

Interior features of the theater also remain undisturbed, including the two original carbon-arc movie projectors in the original projection booth. Also significant is a series of eight wall murals in the theater that were painted by local artist Wilson Heller for its opening in 1938. Each painting shows a figure depicting a realm of the arts, including music, dance, education, travel, news, sports, tragedy and comedy.

On the north side of Tuscarawas Avenue, opposite the Tracy Building, is the Weisberger Building (#7, photo 11), built in 1928. This dominant four-story building occupies a corner location, with prominent elevations on two sides. Building details include a parapet cornice with central nameplate, upper stories with pier and spandrel design, and a recessed storefront with pair of free-standing display cases and original light fixtures.

Continuing to the west is a small two-story building originally built c. 1922 as the Pastime Theater (#8, photos 16 and 18). The significant feature of this building is the glazed terra cotta upper facade. Its classical elements include a central pediment decorated with shield and swags and central round-arched opening flanked by paired pilasters. The first floor was converted to a storefront during use as an annex to the adjacent department store.

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The next building in the commercial row was the first building to be built on the north side of the street when it was constructed in 1917 (#9, photos 16 and 19). Its features include a stepped parapet facade with decorative corbelled brick cornice, lintel and sill courses, and an altered storefront. It has been used as a grocery market since it was constructed.

Immediately west is the Park Theater, built in 1919 (#10, photos 17 and 20). The Park features an outstanding Neo-classical Revival upper facade which makes use of patterned brick, terra cotta, and glazed tile. Its classical features include a pair of rounded pediments at the cornice level which rest on paired Corinthian pilasters. Panels of blue-green glazed tile provide accents. The original recessed front lobby has been enclosed, but the remainder of the theater remains intact, including seats, ceiling medallions, parlor areas and lobby ticket booth. The theater remains in use today as a children's theater.

The remaining two buildings on the north side of Tuscarawas Avenue were built during the late 1920s. The Weigand Building (#11, photos 21 and 22) is a three-story brick business block built to house the Weigand Furniture Store in 1929, the third building to be built by the Weigand family in this single block of Tuscarawas. The building features a six-bay, buff brick facade divided into three sections by raised piers, and a stepped parapet cornice with decorative brickwork and central name plate. The storefront with recessed entry is original. The last building in the block (#12, photo 23) was built in two sections c. 1925 and c. 1928. Its features are typical of early 20th century commercial buildings, including parapet facade, corbelled brick, and inlaid brick panels. To the west of this building is a city-owned parking lot which is excluded from the district.

The Campfield-Hickman Funeral Home (#13, photos 25, 26 and 28) on Park Avenue is a building constructed originally for that purpose in 1925. An example of a Neo-classical influence, the building features a monumental entrance portico with fluted Doric columns. The building has a parapet roofline with dominant projecting cornice and wide, triglyph-ornamented frieze. Smaller porte cocheres to each side repeat the design of the main portico, and lead to a five-bay attached garage structure at the rear.

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On the west end of this block fronting Park Avenue is the Barberton Masonic Temple (#15, photos 30-33), also built in 1925. Exhibiting elements of a Second Renaissance Revival style, this building features a seven-bay main facade in which the central five bays are accentuated stylistically. Limestone pilasters separate the bays and support a full entablature above the third floor. A projecting hipped roof with modillions appears above the fourth floor. Other features of the building include original wrought iron balconies and railings, and copper lighting fixtures. The interior of the temple is very well preserved, including the ball room, lodge room, parlors, and billiard and card rooms.

Located between these two buildings on Park Avenue is the Barberton Municipal Building (#14, non-contributing, photo 29), completed in 1954. Designed with a buff-colored brick and buff stone trim, the building is three stories in height with a recessed main entrance flanked by projecting wings. Although of later construction, the building's three-story height, even setback, brick facade material, and overall character blends well with the adjacent buildings in this block.

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The following information is consistent for all photographs:

Tuscarawas Avenue - Alexander Square
Commerical Historic District
Barberton, Summit County, Ohio
Negative at 877 South Lazelle Street, Columbus, Ohio
Photo by Judy Williams, 3/1/90

DESCRIPTION OF VIEW

1. South side Tuscarawas Avenue, looking west from Fourth Street
2. South side Tuscarawas Avenue, looking east from #572.
3. Outside district: Looking southeast on Tuscarawas Avenue from Fourth Street (block shown is east of district)
4. Tracy Block, 554-562 W. Tuscarawas Avenue, looking southwest
5. Tracy Block, detail of upper facade
6. South side Tuscarawas Avenue, looking west from Tracy Block
7. Lake Theater, 578-588 W. Tuscarawas Avenue, looking southwest
8. Lake Theater, main entrance, looking south
- 8a. Lake Theatre, interior wall mural
9. Outside district: Looking southwest on Tuscarawas Avenue beyond Fifth Street
10. Looking east at both sides of Tuscarawas Avenue
11. Weisberger Co. (Marshall's) building, 553 W. Tuscarawas Avenue, looking northwest
12. Looking east on north side Tuscarawas Avenue at Weisberger Co. (Marshall's) and outside district
13. Outside district: Looking northwest on Tuscarawas Avenue toward the historic district (block shown is east of district)

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14. North side Tuscarawas Avenue, looking west from Fourth Street
15. North side Tuscarawas Avenue, looking west from Weisberger Co. (Marshall's) building
16. North side Tuscarawas Avenue, looking west from 561 W. Tuscarawas Avenue
17. North side Tuscarawas Avenue, looking east from 571 W. Tuscarawas Avenue
18. 561 W. Tuscarawas Avenue
19. 563 W. Tuscarawas Avenue
20. Park Theater, 565-67 W. Tuscarawas Avenue
21. Weigand Furniture Store, 571 W. Tuscarawas Avenue
22. North side Tuscarawas Avenue, looking east from #579
23. North side Tuscarawas Avenue, looking east from lot west of 579
24. Outside district: Looking northwest outside district on north side of Tuscarawas Avenue
25. South side Park Avenue, looking west from Campfield Hickman Co.
26. South side Park Avenue, looking west from Fourth Street
27. South side Park Avenue, looking southeast from Lake Anna Park
28. Campfield Hickman Funeral Home, 566 W. Park Avenue, looking south
29. Barberton Municipal Building, 576 W. Park Avenue (non-contributing), looking southwest
30. Barberton Masonic Temple, 107 Fifth Street, N.W., looking east

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31. Masonic Temple, looking south
32. Masonic Temple, upper facade detail, looking south
33. Masonic Temple, entry detail, looking south
34. Looking north on Fifth Street past Masonic Temple to Lake Anna
35. Outside district: View of Lake Anna from Park Avenue, looking north

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING
COMMERCE

Period of Significance

1891-1938

Significant Dates

1891

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

HARPSTER & BLISS, Akron; GEORGE HOWARD
BURROWS, Shaker Heights

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Tuscarawas Avenue - Alexander Square Commercial Historic District in Barberton, Ohio, qualifies for listing on the National Register of Historic Places under criteria A and C. The district is locally significant as the most intact and cohesive collection of late 19th and early 20th century commercial architecture remaining in the city of Barberton. Its development reflects the growth of the "Magic City," as Barberton came to be known, from its founding in 1891 through the steady growth years of the early 20th century to the post-Depression era of the late 1930s. The architecture in the district spans this period, presenting an evolution of style and function which is illustrative of the town's history and development. Occupying the important central square and commercial block to the south of Lake Anna, this district is historically, functionally and visually cohesive. Its development has played an important role in the history of Barberton.

The city of Barberton was founded in 1891 by Ohio Columbus Barber, a prominent Akron industrialist who was known as "Ohio's Match King" for his success with the Diamond Match Company. O. C. Barber, along with several other investors, organized the Barberton Land and Improvement Company to lay out a new industrial town on 550 acres of land to the south of Akron. As a planned town, Barberton was modeled after two Pennsylvania railroad towns which had been successfully "boomed" by M. J. Alexander, of Pittsburgh, in the 1880s. Alexander first established the industrial base of the town, then advertised and sold lots to the emerging residential population of the community. This formula

See continuation sheet

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Tuscarawas Avenue - Alexander Square Commercial Historic District
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resulted in the development of "magic cities," so-named because of their rapid growth. Barber retained Alexander to assist him in the development and marketing of Barberton.

Bordered by the Ohio Canal and two railroad trunk lines, the site of the new city already had exceptional transportation advantages in 1891. Barber himself had organized a number of new industries which he proposed to locate in the new town. Reasoning that shipping advantages were a key to industrial success, he also set out to build the Barberton Belt Line to give each industry ready access to railroad transportation.

The first year proved to be a success for the new town. By the fall of 1891, at least five industries were producing in Barberton and three others were in course of planning or construction. With a successful five-day sale of building lots in the spring, the new town of Barberton began to experience solid growth. According to the 1891 Atlas for Summit County, buildings in the city included several business structures, the Barberton Savings Bank, 300 homes, and a two-room school building. At the end of the year, Barberton had a population of nearly 2,000.

In promoting the new town of Barberton, the land company emphasized its attractive layout, which was focused around a spring-fed 20-acre natural lake:

"The sparkling lake, the undulating land and the forest-clad hills in the distance on every hand form a panorama of rare beauty. Around the lake will be a park of some extent. From the streets fronting on the lake the town will extend evenly back to the Belt Line. Fronting the lake will be the Barberton Inn, intended to be the best hotel in the Western Reserve..."

Early development of the 550 acres followed the original plan devised by William Johnston, an engineer brought to Barberton to survey and subdivide the lots. Homes and churches were built on the residential streets laid out surrounding Lake Anna (named for Barber's daughter). A linear downtown commercial district was developed on Tuscarawas Avenue to the south of the lake and Second Street to the east, a route followed by the electric streetcar in 1894. Encircling the whole was the industrial sector, with factories connected to all points by the belt line railroad.

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From the outset, the central focus of the plan was the property fronting the south side of Lake Anna. A full block was reserved by the land company for the location of the Barberton Inn, proposed by Barber to be the finest luxury hotel in northern Ohio. The inn was intended to be an important economic catalyst in the town, attracting both recreational visitors and business travelers to industrial Barberton. It was constructed beginning in 1892 and opened for business in 1895. Within five years, the success of the inn made expansion necessary and an annex was constructed on the property.

Because of its unique beginnings as the site of the Barberton Inn and the focal point of the town, the development of the proposed historic district can be divided into two distinct phases. The first phase is associated with the location of the Inn and its influence on the development of this portion of the downtown. The second phase occurred following the Inn's razing in 1915, when the block was subdivided into building lots and sold for commercial development as Alexander Square.

The proposed development of the inn and its prominent location in the layout of the town prompted the construction of Barberton's first three-story brick business building on Tuscarawas Avenue opposite this block in 1891. Pre-dating the inn, the Tracy Block was one of the first indications of the city's solid footing and faith in its future. Unlike construction in more typical "boom" towns where false-fronted buildings are built quickly to capitalize on business success, the Tracy Block was substantial and solidly built.

In the early years of Barberton's development, the Tracy Block and the Barberton Inn were at the center of important community activity. The village's incorporation papers were signed in the Tracy building in 1892, after which the building became home to the first municipal council of Barberton. Significantly, it remained the location of the Barberton city offices for the next 16 years, until being moved to the Moore Block (demolished) further east on Tuscarawas Avenue in 1909 or 1910. The halls of the Tracy Block were also used as the meeting place of the first Barberton Board of Education, as school rooms prior to completion of the first Central School, as offices of the Norton Township Trustees, and as the home of several

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fraternal organizations such as the Masons. First floor retail businesses in the early years included a grocery, drug, furniture and hardware store.

Owned by the land company, the Barberton Inn was a popular setting for social events as well as business transactions. It contained a large dining room, billiard and pool room, and 44 sleeping rooms on second and third floors. Guests were able to play tennis on the grounds or use Lake Anna for fishing or boating. Since it occupied the entire square, the inn presented main facades on both the Park Avenue and Tuscarawas Avenue sides. The inn was so successful that an annex with additional sleeping rooms was constructed on the Tuscarawas Avenue side in 1900.

During the city's first two decades, Tuscarawas Avenue and Second Street continued to develop with two and three-story commercial structures housing a variety of merchants and business professionals. Barberton had achieved a population of more than 4,300 in 1900, with an increase to over 9,400 by 1910. Significant residential growth had occurred to the east and northeast of the original town, with the result that the majority of the city's commercial development was concentrated in the blocks to the east of the Barberton Inn. In addition, the presence of the inn did not appear to encourage commercial development on the south side of Tuscarawas Avenue. The Tracy Block was actively used, however, for business and government purposes. It was joined c. 1900 by the furniture and undertaking business of Conrad Weigand, beginning a long association of the Weigand name with businesses in this block of Tuscarawas Avenue. An addition to this building was constructed about 1915.

The difficulty of competing with Akron hotels caused the Barberton Inn to become unprofitable after about 1905. It was purchased in 1906 by M. J. Alexander and closed for a brief time in 1907. After several more years of marginal profits, the inn was eventually sold and razed in 1915. The annex, however, remained standing and was adapted for use as the Barberton city hall.

With the demolition of the inn, the central block fronting Lake Anna became available for commercial construction, marking the second phase in the development of this site. The block was subdivided as Alexander Square

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Allotment, and was referred to on subsequent maps as Alexander Square. With the exception of the Tracy and Weigand buildings mentioned earlier, the buildings in this historic district were built following the demolition of the inn in 1915. Alexander Square presented opportunities for new development in Barberton during the 1910s and 1920s.

During the period from 1915 to 1930, Barberton continued to grow and thrive as an industrial community. The city's population increased from 18,800 in 1920 to approximately 24,000 in 1930. As a working class community connected by streetcar to Akron, the city obviously shared much of its business with its larger neighbor. Nevertheless, the 1920s were marked by the expansion of several pioneer Barberton businesses who were able to build large buildings on Alexander Square.

Among the existing Barberton businesses which expanded into larger buildings in the historic district during the 1920s are the F. J. Weigand Electrical and Appliance Store, Weigand Furniture Company, the Weisberger Company, Barberton Hardware, and Campfield Hickman Funeral Co. The Weisberger Company was started as a dry goods store in Barberton in 1900, keeping up with the city's growth by moving to larger quarters over the years. In 1928, the company built the large four-story building to house Barberton's first department store. Used continuously as a department store for 60-plus years, the building was only recently closed.

The Weigand family built a total of three major buildings in the historic district block between 1900 and 1929. Beginning as a furniture store and undertaking business in the building adjacent to the Tracy Block, the enterprise grew with Barberton and new business quarters were needed. Expanding into the electrical and appliance business, F. J. Weigand built a new building at 574 Tuscarawas Avenue in 1927. Conrad Weigand expanded his furniture store into the major new three-story business block on the north side of the street in 1929.

Also starting as a furniture store and undertaking business in 1904 was the Campfield Hickman Company, with initial quarters in the Tracy Block. Whereas the undertaking business was a sideline of the Weigand Company, secondary to the furniture store, it became the primary

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business of Campfield Hickman. Operating for many years at the corner of Tuscarawas and Fourth Street, this successful company decided to build a new and comfortable funeral home on the Alexander Square site in 1925. The grand but residential character of this building reflects the changing needs of the undertaking business during the 1920s as well as the Lake Anna location.

Another entity which was located for many years in the Tracy Block was the Masonic Temple. With nearly 600 members, the Masons also needed room to expand and selected a site on the square overlooking Lake Anna for construction of a new Masonic Temple. The building provided social facilities and meeting halls for its members, many of whom were prominent local business and industry managers. Completed in 1925, the Masonic Temple was designed by Harpster & Bliss, architects of Akron.

Sources of entertainment for the general public were not overlooked in early 20th century Barberton. In 1916, the city had the Barberton Opera House (demolished) and a small motion picture theater on Second Street. During the next few years, the city gained two new motion picture theaters, both of which were built on the north side of Tuscarawas Avenue. The Pastime Theater was built in 1919 and the Park Theater in 1922. Of these two, the Park Theater was the larger and grander, with a total of about 375 seats. It remains in use today with its interior and exterior features intact. Both of these theaters have Neo-classical revival terra cotta facades which contribute significantly to the character of the commercial district.

The movie theaters in downtown Barberton undoubtedly helped the community to weather the Great Depression of the early 1930s, as they did across the country. The success of these theaters appears to have led the Park Theater Company to propose construction of a new movie theater and recreation center on still-vacant land on the south side of Tuscarawas Avenue in 1937. When completed in 1938, the Lake Theater represented the very latest in theater equipment and design, including RCA sound and projection equipment. The original carbon-arc projectors remain in place in the projection room. In addition to the 1,000 seat theater, this facility was billed as a community center for Barberton. Included in the lower level were eight bowling alleys ("the most modern in

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all Ohio"), a billiard room, and soda fountain. Special provisions were made to address the accoustical problems presented by the combined theater and bowling use. The efficient layout of the building allowed for the inclusion of five storefronts which originally housed a restaurant, barber shop, and the Lake Nut Shop.

The Lake Theater was designed by Shaker Heights architect George Howard Burrows, considered a specialist in modern theater architecture at the time. The design of the building is representative of the late 1930s in its simplicity and Art Moderne features. Also significant and representative of the late 1930s period is the series of eight 13-foot high murals which line the theater auditorium and represent different artistic pursuits, such as music, dance, travel, sports, tragedy and comedy. The murals were painted by local artist Wilson Heller.

Architecturally, the Tuscarawas Avenue - Alexander Square Commercial Historic District exhibits many fine examples of turn-of-the-century and early 20th century commercial architecture. The city's 19th century beginnings are also very well represented by the Tracy Block (#1), built in 1891 with elements of a Victorian Gothic style. Buildings constructed during the period from 1900-1920 exhibit simple, balanced facades with decorative corbelled cornices which are typical of the period. Among the most notable are the original Weigand Furniture Company building and addition (#2 and #3) and the Acme No. 9 building (1917, #9). The district's outstanding theaters from the late teens and early 20s display Neo-classical Revival facades with glazed terra cotta (Pastime Theater, 1919, #8) and brick, terra cotta, and tile (The Park Theater, 1922, #10). The Lake Theater (1938, #6) represents a continuation of theater design into post-depression period and provides an example of Art Moderne architecture from this period. It is further distinguished by the use of sandstone, marble and glass block on its main facade.

Large-scale buildings constructed during the 1920s to house large-scale businesses are represented by the Weisberger Co. department store (1928, #7), and the Weigand Furniture building (1929, #11). Both of these buildings make use of the parapet facade and central nameplate typical of the period. The Weisberger store also uses a pier and

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Tuscarawas Avenue - Alexander Square Commercial Historic District

Barberton, Summit Co., Ohio

Section number 8 Page 8

spandrel design. Also architecturally significant buildings from the mid-1920s are the Campfield Hickman Funeral Home and the Masonic Temple on Park Avenue. The funeral home (1925, #13) makes use of a Neo-Classical Revival style in a free-standing commercial structure. The Masonic Temple (1925, #15) is an example of a Second Renaissance Revival influence in a fraternal-social building.

It should also be noted that the Barberton Municipal Building, while not a contributing structure to the district, has a history at this site which is being continued in its present location. Originally located in the Tracy Block and then the Moore Block, the city occupied the Barberton Inn Annex from about 1917 to 1954, when the present city hall was completed. The placement of the city hall overlooking Lake Anna was designed to complement the existing buildings on the site.

It is also interesting to note that many of the businesses built in the district during the 1920s and 1930s remained in business until only recently, exhibiting longevity and a strong local following. Little turnover has occurred over the years. As a result, the buildings in this district have been well maintained with few alterations. The district's buildings have a great deal of architectural integrity, including intact upper facades and original storefronts from both phases of its development. In contrast to this district, other sections of Barberton's downtown do not retain the same degree of cohesiveness or integrity. The block immediately east on Tuscarawas Avenue has had such severe building alterations that it was found to not be eligible for nomination to the National Register. Beyond this block, the downtown has had a number of demolitions which diminish its historic integrity and architectural significance.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Tuscarawas Avenue - Alexander Square Commercial Historic District
Barberton, Summit Co., Ohio
Section number 9 Page 1

Major Bibliographical References

Akron City Directories.

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The Rectigraph Abstract & Title Co. Atlas of Summit County,
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**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Tuscarawas Avenue - Alexander Square Commercial Historic District
Barberton, Summit Co., Ohio
Section number 10 Page 1

Verbal Boundary Description:

Beginning at the intersection of West Park Avenue and Fifth Street, N.W., go east to the east property line of 566 W. Park Avenue; go south along this property line to the rear alley; turn east to the intersection with Fourth Street, N.W.; from there, go south to the alley at the rear of 554 West Tuscarawas Avenue; go west along this alley to the west property line of 588 W. Tuscarawas Avenue and head north along this property line to Tuscarawas Avenue; turn east on Tuscarawas to the alley to the west of 579 W. Tuscarawas; go north on this alley to the rear property line of the Park Avenue properties; follow the rear property line of these buildings to the west to Fifth Street; turn north on Fifth Street to the point of beginning.

Boundary Justification:

The boundaries for this district are drawn to include the only remaining intact commercial block on Tuscarawas Avenue and the associated Park Avenue buildings which illustrate the development of the city of Barberton from its earliest days through the late 1930s. The Tuscarawas Avenue block and Alexander Square are linked historically, functionally and visually as a historic district.

The district boundaries exclude three parking lots which are located at Tuscarawas Avenue and Fifth Street (2) and at Park Avenue and Fourth Street (1). In addition, an adjacent commercial block of Tuscarawas Avenue to the east was evaluated but was found to lack sufficient character and integrity for National Register listing. With few exceptions, nearly every building in this block has been significantly altered and, in many cases, entire facades have been removed or covered over. The historic district boundaries could not justifiably be drawn to include this area. The resulting historic district represents the most cohesive and both architecturally and historically significant grouping of buildings in the downtown Barberton area.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 4 acres

UTM References

A

1	7
---	---

44	8	5	7	5
----	---	---	---	---

4	5	4	0	2	4	5
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Zone Easting Northing

C

1	7
---	---

4	4	8	7	1	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

4	5	4	0	1	0	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

B

1	7
---	---

4	4	8	7	1	9
---	---	---	---	---	---

4	5	4	0	2	4	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Zone Easting Northing

D

1	7
---	---

4	4	8	5	7	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

4	5	4	0	1	0	5
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

See continuation sheet.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

See continuation sheet.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

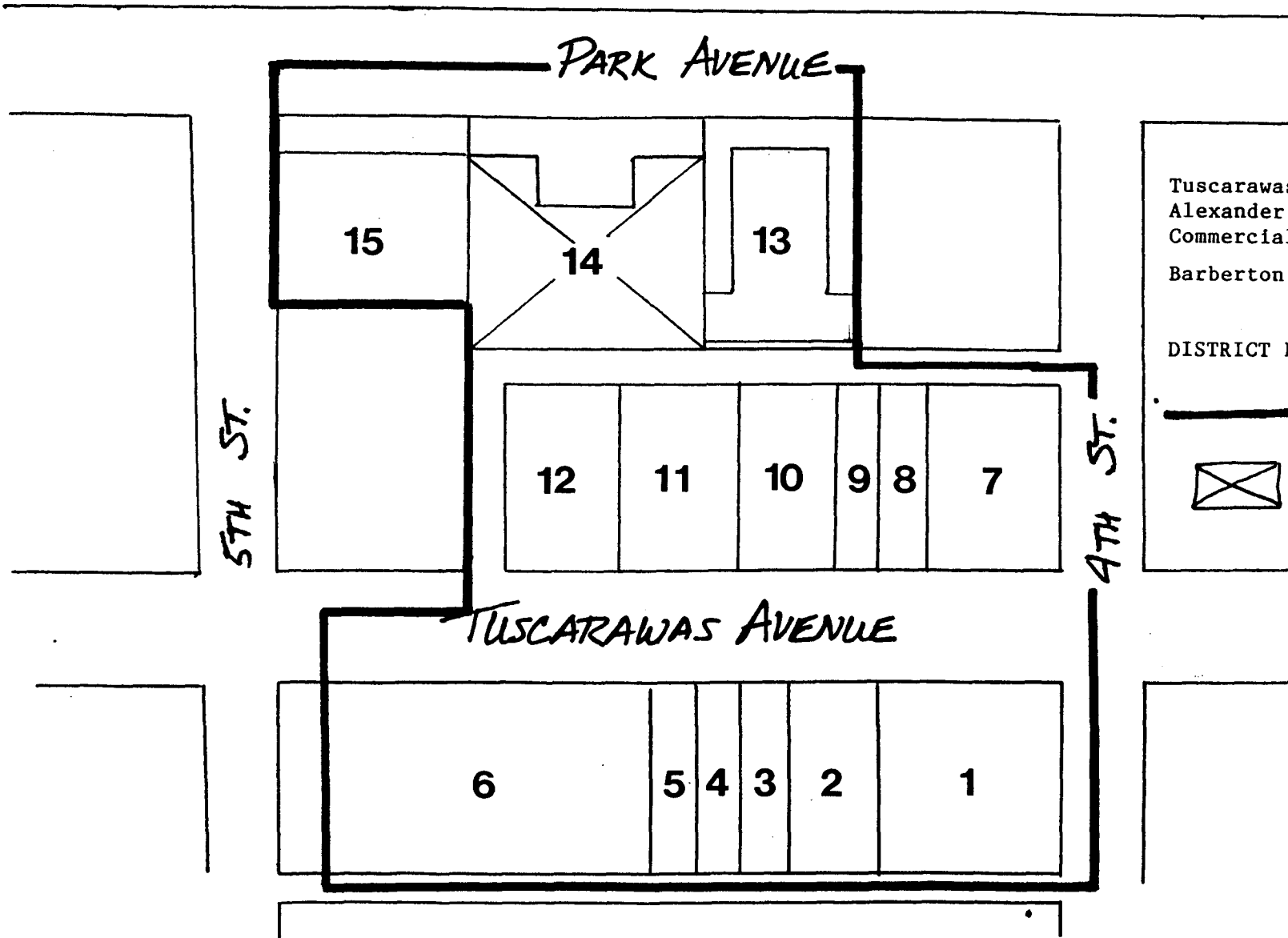
name/title Judith B. Williams

organization Historic Preservation Consultant date March 12, 1990

street & number 877 S. Lazelle Street telephone 614 - 443-6464

city or town Columbus, state Ohio zip code 43206


LAKE ANNA



Tuscarawas Avenue -
Alexander Square
Commercial Historic District
Barberton, Summit Co., Ohio

DISTRICT BOUNDARY MAP

 boundary

 non-contributin
structure

LAKE ANNA



PARK AVENUE

27

28

33

32

31

35

29

25

26

30

15

14

13

Tuscarawas Avenue -
Alexander Square
Commercial Historic District
Barberton, Summit Co., Ohio

34

5TH ST.

12

11

10

9

8

7

4TH ST.

PHOTO VIEW MAP

TUSCARAWAS AVENUE

9

10

8

23

24

22

7

2

21

17

20

19

18

6

16

12

5

15

11

3

14

13

4

6

5

4

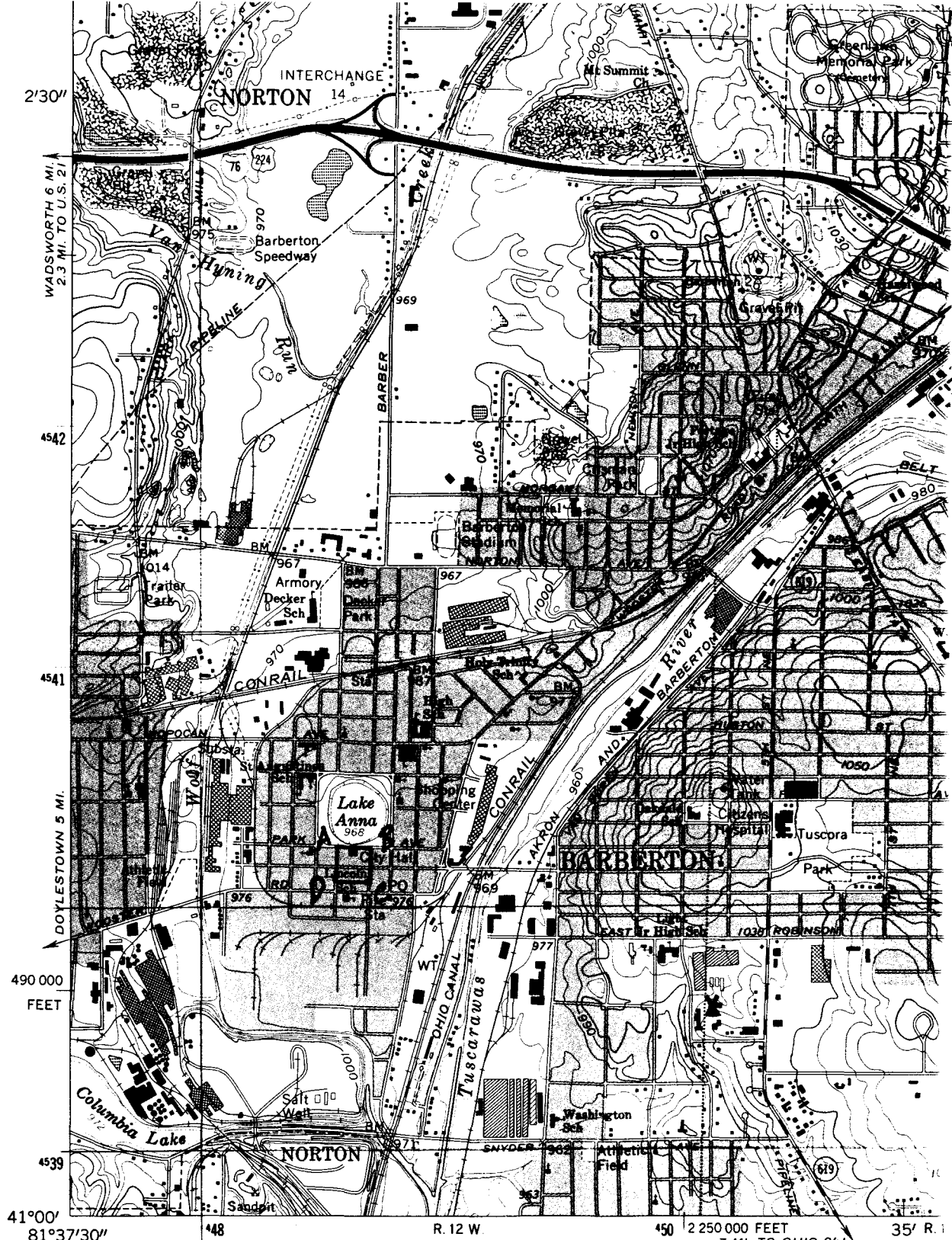
3

2

1

TUSCARAWAS AVE. - ALEXANDER SQUARE COMMERCIAL
 HISTORIC DISTRICT
 BARBERTON, SUMMIT COUNTY, OHIO

A - 17 448575 4540245 B - 17 448719 4540240
 C - 17 448710 4540100 D - 17 448570 4540105



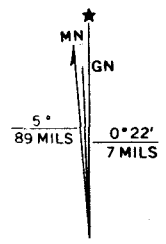
(DOYLESTOWN)
 4665 1 NW

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
 Revised in cooperation with State of Ohio Agencies
 Control by USGS and USC&GS

Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs
 taken 1957. Field checked 1958. Revised from aerial
 photographs taken 1966. Field checked 1967

Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
 10,000-foot grid based on Ohio coordinate system, north zone
 1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
 zone 17, shown in blue

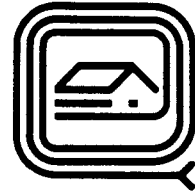
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where
 generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked
 Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown



UTM GRID AND 1979 MAGNETIC NORTH
 DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET

Ohio Historic Preservation Office

Ohio Historical Center
1982 Velma Avenue
Columbus, Ohio 43211-2497
(614) 297-2470



**OHIO
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY**
SINCE 1885

June 26, 1990

Mayor Arthur S. Bradnick
The City of Barberton
576 West Park Avenue
Barberton, Ohio 44203

Dear Mayor Bradnick:

Re: Tuscarawas Avenue - Alexander Square Commercial Historic District,
Barberton, Summit County, Ohio
576, 578-588 and 571 West Tuscarawas Avenue

This is to inform you that the Tuscarawas Avenue - Alexander Square Commercial Historic District nomination listed above has been entered into the National Register of Historic Places by the National Park Service, Department of the Interior (NR listed 05/17/90).

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 Preservation Act of 1966 as amended. All nominations are approved by the Ohio Historic Site Preservation Advisory Board.

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

Sincerely,

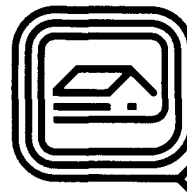
W. Ray Luce
State Historic Preservation Officer

WRL/JW:dh
Enclosure

x.c. Jeff Brown, Regional Coordinator
Northeast Four County Regional Planning & Development Org.
Steve Kelleher
State Senator Robert D. Nettie
State Representative Cliff Skeen

Ohio Historic Preservation Office

Ohio Historical Center
1982 Velma Avenue
Columbus, Ohio 43211-2497
(614) 297-2470



**OHIO
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY**
SINCE 1885

June 26, 1990

Albert V. Pramuka
563 West Tuscarawas Avenue
Barberton, Ohio 44203

Dear Mr. Pramuka:

Re: Tuscarawas Avenue - Alexander Square Commercial Historic District,
Barberton, Summit County, Ohio
563 West Tuscarawas Avenue

This is to inform you that the Tuscarawas Avenue - Alexander Square Commercial Historic District nomination listed above has been entered into the National Register of Historic Places by the National Park Service, Department of the Interior (NR listed 05/17/90).

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Sincerely,

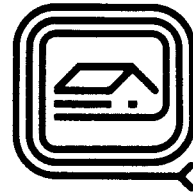
W. Ray Luce
State Historic Preservation Officer

WRL/JW:dh
Enclosure

x.c. Jeff Brown, Regional Coordinator
Northeast Four County Regional Planning & Development Org.
Steve Kelleher
State Senator Robert D. Nettle
State Representative Cliff Skeen

Ohio Historic Preservation Office

Ohio Historical Center
1982 Velma Avenue
Columbus, Ohio 43211-2497
(614) 297-2470



**OHIO
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY**
SINCE 1885

June 26, 1990

William E. Weigand
574-1/2 West Tuscarawas Avenue
Barberton, Ohio 44203

Dear Mr. Weigand:

Re: Tuscarawas Avenue - Alexander Square Commercial Historic District,
Barberton, Summit County, Ohio
574 West Tuscarawas Avenue

This is to inform you that the Tuscarawas Avenue - Alexander Square Commercial Historic District nomination listed above has been entered into the National Register of Historic Places by the National Park Service, Department of the Interior (NR listed 05/17/90).

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Sincerely,

W. Ray Luce
State Historic Preservation Officer

WRL/JW:dh
Enclosure

x.c. Jeff Brown, Regional Coordinator
Northeast Four County Regional Planning & Development Org.
Steve Kelleher
State Senator Robert D. Nettle
State Representative Cliff Skeen

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(614) 297-2470



**OHIO
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY**
SINCE 1885

June 26, 1990

Aleksandar Radenkovich
558 West Tuscarawas Avenue
Barberton, Ohio 44203

Dear Mr. Radenkovich:

Re: Tuscarawas Avenue - Alexander Square Commercial Historic District,
Barberton, Summit County, Ohio
554-562 West Tuscarawas Avenue

This is to inform you that the Tuscarawas Avenue - Alexander Square Commercial Historic District nomination listed above has been entered into the National Register of Historic Places by the National Park Service, Department of the Interior (NR listed 05/17/90).

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

Sincerely,

W. Ray Luce
State Historic Preservation Officer

WRL/JW:dh
Enclosure

x.c. Jeff Brown, Regional Coordinator
Northeast Four County Regional Planning & Development Org.
Steve Kelleher
State Senator Robert D. Nettle
State Representative Cliff Skeen

Ohio Historic Preservation Office

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Columbus, Ohio 43211-2497
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**OHIO
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY**
SINCE 1885

June 26, 1990

Mary E. Herwick
Herwick Floral Shop
579 West Tuscarawas Avenue
Barberton, Ohio 44203

Dear Ms. Herwick:

Re: Tuscarawas Avenue - Alexander Square Commercial Historic District,
Barberton, Summit County, Ohio
577-579 West Tuscarawas Avenue

This is to inform you that the Tuscarawas Avenue - Alexander Square Commercial Historic District nomination listed above has been entered into the National Register of Historic Places by the National Park Service, Department of the Interior (NR listed 05/17/90).

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

Sincerely,

W. Ray Luce
State Historic Preservation Officer

WRL/JW:dh
Enclosure

x.c. Jeff Brown, Regional Coordinator
Northeast Four County Regional Planning & Development Org.
Steve Kelleher
State Senator Robert D. Nettle
State Representative Cliff Skeen

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(614) 297-2470



**OHIO
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY**
SINCE 1885

June 26, 1990

Joseph Edwards
523 Long Drive
Norton, Ohio 44203

Dear Mr. Edwards:

Re: Tuscarawas Avenue - Alexander Square Commercial Historic District,
Barberton, Summit County, Ohio
572 West Tuscarawas Avenue

This is to inform you that the Tuscarawas Avenue - Alexander Square Commercial Historic District nomination listed above has been entered into the National Register of Historic Places by the National Park Service, Department of the Interior (NR listed 05/17/90).

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Sincerely,

W. Ray Luce
State Historic Preservation Officer

WRL/JW:dh
Enclosure

x.c. Jeff Brown, Regional Coordinator
Northeast Four County Regional Planning & Development Org.
Steve Kelleher
State Senator Robert D. Nettle
State Representative Cliff Skeen

Ohio Historic Preservation Office

Ohio Historical Center
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Columbus, Ohio 43211-2497
(614) 297-2470



**OHIO
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY**
SINCE 1885

June 26, 1990

Larry Cuckler
180 Cassell Avenue
Barberton, Ohio 44203

Dear Mr. Cuckler:

Re: Tuscarawas Avenue - Alexander Square Commercial Historic District,
Barberton, Summit County, Ohio
572 West Tuscarawas Avenue

This is to inform you that the Tuscarawas Avenue - Alexander Square Commercial Historic District nomination listed above has been entered into the National Register of Historic Places by the National Park Service, Department of the Interior (NR listed 05/17/90).

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

Sincerely,

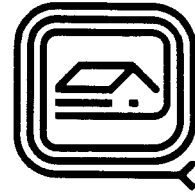
W. Ray Luce
State Historic Preservation Officer

WRL/JW:dh
Enclosure

x.c. Jeff Brown, Regional Coordinator
Northeast Four County Regional Planning & Development Org.
Steve Kelleher
State Senator Robert D. Nettle
State Representative Cliff Skeen

Ohio Historic Preservation Office

Ohio Historical Center
1982 Velma Avenue
Columbus, Ohio 43211-2497
(614) 297-2470



**OHIO
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY**
SINCE 1885

June 26, 1990

Todd N. Collier, President
Campfield Hickman Company
566 West Park Avenue
Barberton, Ohio 44203

Dear Mr. Collier:

Re: Tuscarawas Avenue - Alexander Square Commercial Historic District,
Barberton, Summit County, Ohio
566 West Park Avenue (Campfield Hickman Funeral Home)

This is to inform you that the Tuscarawas Avenue - Alexander Square Commercial Historic District nomination listed above has been entered into the National Register of Historic Places by the National Park Service, Department of the Interior (NR listed 05/17/90).

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Sincerely,

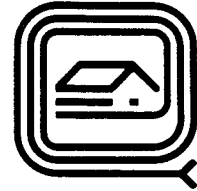
W. Ray Luce
State Historic Preservation Officer

WRL/JW:dh
Enclosure

x.c. Jeff Brown, Regional Coordinator
Northeast Four County Regional Planning & Development Org.
Steve Kelleher
State Senator Robert D. Nettle
State Representative Cliff Skeen

Ohio Historic Preservation Office

Ohio Historical Center
1982 Velma Avenue
Columbus, Ohio 43211-2497
(614) 297-2470



**OHIO
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY**
SINCE 1885

June 26, 1990

New Barberton Masonic Temple Co.
P.O. Box 630
Barberton, Ohio 44203

Dear Sir/Madam:

Re: Tuscarawas Avenue - Alexander Square Commercial Historic District,
Barberton, Summit County, Ohio
107 Fifth Street N.W.

This is to inform you that the Tuscarawas Avenue - Alexander Square Commercial Historic District nomination listed above has been entered into the National Register of Historic Places by the National Park Service, Department of the Interior (NR listed 05/17/90).

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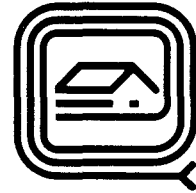
W. Ray Luce
State Historic Preservation Officer

WRL/JW:dh
Enclosure

x.c. Jeff Brown, Regional Coordinator
Northeast Four County Regional Planning & Development Org.
Steve Kelleher
State Senator Robert D. Nettle
State Representative Cliff Skeen

Ohio Historic Preservation Office

Ohio Historical Center
1982 Velma Avenue
Columbus, Ohio 43211-2497
(614) 297-2470



**OHIO
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY**
SINCE 1885

June 26, 1990

Jane E. Brandt
P.O. Box 311
Barberton, Ohio 44203

Dear Ms. Brandt:

Re: Tuscarawas Avenue - Alexander Square Commercial Historic District,
Barberton, Summit County, Ohio
553, 565 and 568 West Tuscarawas Avenue

This is to inform you that the Tuscarawas Avenue - Alexander Square Commercial Historic District nomination listed above has been entered into the National Register of Historic Places by the National Park Service, Department of the Interior (NR listed 05/17/90).

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

Sincerely,

W. Ray Luce
State Historic Preservation Officer

WRL/JW:dh
Enclosure

x.c. Jeff Brown, Regional Coordinator
Northeast Four County Regional Planning & Development Org.
Steve Kelleher
State Senator Robert D. Nettle
State Representative Cliff Skeen

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: Tuscarawas Avenue -- Alexander Square Commercial H.D.

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 _____

