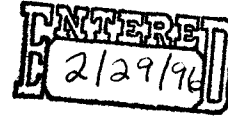


REFNUM 96000218

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 for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Diamond Match Historic District

other names/site number Diamond Match Engineering Department

2. Location

street & number 3 Fourth St., N.W.; 21 Fourth St., N.W.; 27 Fourth St., N.W. 8 Second St., N.W. not for publication n/a

city or town Barberton vicinity n/a

state Ohio code OH county Summit code 153 zip code 44203

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Barbara Lowe Dept. Head Planning, Inv. & Reg. 1-29-96
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Ohio Historic Preservation Office - OH SHPO
State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

<input type="checkbox"/> entered in the National Register. <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.	_____ Signature of the Keeper	_____ Date of Action
<input type="checkbox"/> determined eligible for the National Register <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined not eligible for the National Register.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> removed from the National Register.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> other, (explain:)	_____	_____

Diamond Match Historic District
Name of Property

Summit County, Ohio
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

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

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

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

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
4	0	buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
4	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

n/a

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

n/a

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

INDUSTRY/manufacturing facility

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

INDUSTRY/manufacturing facility

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE VICTORIAN/Italianate

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE (sandstone), CONCRETE

walls BRICK

roof SLATE, ASPHALT

other

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Diamond Match Historic District
Name of Property

Summit County, Ohio
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Industry _____
Architecture _____

Period of Significance

1894 - 1945

Significant Dates

1894, 1896, c. 1898, 1903

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Barber, Ohio Columbus

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

N/A

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS): N/A

- 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 # _____

Primary location of additional data: N/A

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

Diamond Match Historic District
Name of Property

Summit County, Ohio
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property approx. 3 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1

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

4	5	3	9	9	9	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Zone Easting Northing

3

1	7
---	---

4	4	8	8	4	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

4	5	3	9	8	9	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Zone Easting Northing

2

1	7
---	---

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

4	5	3	9	9	0	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

4

1	7
---	---

4	4	8	8	4	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

4	5	3	9	9	8	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Judy Williams

organization Historic Preservation Consultant date September 18, 1995

street & number 2237 Cambridge Boulevard telephone (614) 481-9444

city or town Columbus state Ohio zip code 43221

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Barberton Community Development Corporation

street & number 503 West Park Avenue telephone _____

city or town Barberton state OH zip code 44203

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Continuation SheetDIAMOND MATCH HISTORIC DISTRICT
BARBERTON, SUMMIT COUNTY, OHIOSection number 7 Page 1

The Diamond Match Historic District consists of four of the original five brick industrial buildings which formed the Engineering Department of the famed Diamond Match Company in Barberton, Ohio. The district's buildings include the north Machine Shop, built in two stages in 1894 and 1896; the Foundry, built in 1894; the Pattern Shop, built c. 1898; and the south Machine Shop, built in 1903. Only the 1905 Power House, the last building to be added to the complex, has been demolished. The four remaining Diamond Match buildings are located in close proximity to one another and were, at one time, connected via 2nd floor enclosed bridges (since removed). The buildings occupy a three-acre site which is located immediately adjacent to the Akron & Barberton Belt Railroad to the south of the city's downtown area.

The Diamond Match buildings share common design features of brick-bearing construction, two-story height, and elongated rectangular plan, with gabled roofs, raised piers between bays, corbelled brick at the roofline, and segmental arched window openings with original multi-paned wood windows. Each of the three earliest buildings has a sandstone block foundation and wood post and beam construction. The 1903 Machine Shop, an important new building at the time, has a concrete foundation and structural steel columns and beams on the interior.

The Diamond Match Engineering Department buildings combine to form a remarkably intact turn-of-the-century industrial complex. The buildings retain a great deal of integrity, both individually and as a group. Their shared materials and elements of design serve to strongly unify these buildings and present the image and character of an industrial historic district, with each building being visually as well as functionally related to the other. The district occupies a compact site, with the long machine shop buildings (each approximately 370 feet long) stretching from east to west along the railroad track and the southern edge of the property. Situated between these two buildings are the foundry, the pattern shop and the former location of the power house. Lying outside the district boundary to the east is a metal frame industrial building which was constructed by Babcock & Wilcox during their 1980s ownership of the property.

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To the southeast of the district, along the east side of Second Street, is the former location of the main factory buildings of the Diamond Match Company (see 1910 Atlas Map, Exhibit A). All of the original brick Diamond Match buildings on this site were demolished during the 1960s. The empty factory site is today marked only by a remaining water tower and a large four-story concrete factory building constructed c. 1920.

The buildings of the Diamond Match Engineering Department remain, however, as a cohesive representation of this extremely significant Barberton industry. These were the buildings used to manufacture the match-making machinery used in the Barberton factory and Diamond Match Company plants world wide. Each building has a great deal of integrity in terms of its form, massing, materials, workmanship, feeling and association. Each of the four buildings in the complex is described below.

North Machine Shop
27 Fourth Street, N.W.

The north Machine Shop is a long and narrow (370' by 40') two-story brick-bearing industrial building with gabled roof. Along with the foundry, it is the earliest of the Diamond Match engineering buildings. The Machine Shop was built in two phases, the oldest being the 12-bay section to the west, built in 1894. The eastern, 20-bay section of the building was added in 1896. Typical of the Diamond Match buildings, the architecture features raised piers between bays and corbelled brick at the roofline. Windows have segmental arched openings, with double rows of header bricks. Windows are blocked in on the ground floor, but remain with exterior coverings on the second floor. The entire building has a sandstone block foundation. The roof, which has been covered with asphalt shingles, has a raised brick fire wall at the mid-point between the two building sections. The two phases of construction are also characterized by differences in the spacing of bays, with the 1896 section having narrower bays, and by the use of sandstone sills in the original section and metal sills in the addition.

Attached to the building on its north side is the former blacksmith shop, also built in two sections in 1894 and 1896. One-story in height, this brick shed-roofed addition has a similar design to the main building, with piers between bays,

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DIAMOND MATCH HISTORIC DISTRICT
BARBERTON, SUMMIT COUNTY, OHIO

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segmental-arched openings and corbelled brick at the roofline. The west (1894) section has stone sills, while the later east section has metal sills. A recent one-story office addition also exists on the north elevation, located adjacent to the loading dock. On the west elevation, an early brick entrance vestibule exists, with original door and window treatment intact.

On the interior, the building has two floors, with wood post and beam construction. In the older western section, the posts are set 15' on center, and chamfered with wood bracket at the connection with the beam. Posts in the eastern section are set 11' on center and are unchamfered with metal bracket. Most walls and ceilings on the first floor are covered with a composite material and the floor is mostly concrete, although some areas of original wood flooring remain. The second level has its original wood floor and wood ceiling deck.

Foundry

21 Fourth Street, N.W.

The foundry is a two-story brick-bearing industrial building seven bays by three bays (100' by 60'), built in 1894. The building has a sandstone block foundation, a slate gabled roof, segmental arched windows with original triple-hung, 12/12/12 sash (covered on the outside), and sandstone window sills. Originally designed with a four-foot clerestory monitor, the building's roofline appears to have been changed between 1894 and 1903. The traditional raised pier and corbelled brick design exists to the bottom of the second story window sills; brick from this point to the eave is different from that below.

Additions to the foundry include an elongated shed-roofed one-story extension across the west elevation, added c. 1920. On the east side is a similar addition which wraps to the south; it appears to incorporate two early (pre-1904) wings at the southeast corner of the building which housed the core ovens and toilette room. To the north is a small wing which attaches to the North Machine Shop. It began as a one-story gable-roofed section in about 1894; a second floor was added in recent years.

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BARBERTON, SUMMIT COUNTY, OHIOSection number 7 Page 4

The interior of the building is clear span industrial space featuring exposed brick walls with piers every 15 feet and a wood truss system supporting the wood roof decking. The clerestory no longer exists. Tall triple-hung first floor windows and 12-pane upper windows were designed to admit adequate light into the space. The west addition has multi-paned steel sash. The floor in the main building, earthen when the building was first constructed, is concrete today.

Pattern Shop

8 Second Street, N.W.

Built c. 1898, the Pattern Shop is a two-story 82' by 40' brick-bearing industrial building with gabled roofline. The 8-bay by 3-bay building sits on a raised sandstone block foundation. It exhibits the typical Diamond Match architectural features of raised piers between bays and corbelled brick at the cornice. Original 12/12 double hung windows remain in segmental-arched openings; a small number of openings have been blocked in. These include 2nd story openings where this building was connected by enclosed bridges to the machine shop buildings to the north and south. Original wood loading dock and man doors are located on three sides. On the east side, a new entry occupies the former location of a window. This building does not have any additions.

On the interior, the Pattern Shop features exposed brick walls and wood post and beam construction, with the weight of the posts carried on brick piers in the basement. Original wood floors remain exposed on first and second floors, and consist of 2" by 8" boards stacked on end and covered with finish boards. Low-level partitions have been added on both floors to serve the current use, along with a new gas furnace and duct work. The wood roof truss system is still visible at the 2nd floor level, along with the original wood roof decking.

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South Machine Shop
3 Fourth Street, N.W.

The last building to be completed in the Diamond Match engineering complex was the Machine Shop located along the southern edge of the property. Built in 1903, this building (370' by 75') is the largest of the historic district buildings. Two stories in height, with a broad gabled roof, this machine shop is eight bays wide by 40 bays in length. The building displays the characteristic Diamond Match exterior design of bays set between raised piers with corbelled brick at the cornice. The machine shop retains its original wood windows set in segmental arched openings. They are triple hung, 6/6/6 on the first floor, and double hung, 6/6 on the 2nd floor. All windows have double-width brick headers and metal sills. At east and west gabled ends, the building has a central loading bay with squared opening. The east opening originally accommodated a railroad spur, evidence of which still exists. No additions have been added to this building.

The interior of the south Machine Shop building is a dramatic two-story space with central clear span from east to west that is surrounded by a mezzanine or balcony on four sides. The height from floor to roof trusses is 94'. The later date of this building is emphasized by the use of steel frame supports which allowed this clear span, versus the wooden post and beam construction in the earlier buildings. Evenly-spaced steel columns rest on concrete footers beneath the building. A small number of first floor bays have been filled in to create office space, but this has almost no impact on the volume of this space. A highly-visible steel truss system supports the wood roof deck and ties into the columns at the mezzanine level. The roof originally had flat skylights on both slopes, which were removed in a re-roofing. The mezzanine retains its original railings, wood floor, and evidence of a pulley system which served the machine shop.

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The Diamond Match Historic District is significant under National Register criteria A, B and C. Under criterion A, these buildings are significant for their role in the design and production of match-making machinery for the Diamond Match Company, as well as for their representation of the industry itself, which played an important role in the establishment of Barberton as an industrial center of northeastern Ohio. Under criterion B, the district is strongly associated with Barberton founder and match industry leader Ohio Columbus Barber, head of the Diamond Match Company's world-wide match-making conglomerate. Under criterion C, the district provides an excellent and intact local example of turn-of-the-century industrial architecture with buildings that retain a great deal of integrity and cohesiveness as a manufacturing complex.

The district represents the only remaining group of brick industrial buildings from Barberton's huge Diamond Match Company plant (1894-1960). The major portion of the plant was demolished during the 1960s, while this group of buildings was purchased by Diamond's industrial neighbor, the Babcock & Wilcox Company, for continuing industrial use. Built within a 10-year period, from 1894 to 1903, these buildings comprised the Engineering Department of the Diamond Match Company. They include the match company's original Machine Shop built in 1894 and 1896, the Foundry built in 1894, the Pattern Shop built c. 1898, and a second, larger Machine Shop built in 1903. Of the original buildings in this complex, all remain with the exception of the 1905 Power Plant, which has been demolished.

The four engineering department buildings combine to create a remarkably well-preserved district of industrial buildings that were designed to perform a single purpose: the design and manufacture of match-making and other machinery for the Diamond Match Company. Their significance goes beyond machine shop production for the Barberton plant, however. The buildings of the Barberton Engineering Department were used to engineer and manufacture the match- and box-making machinery used in Diamond's plants world-wide. In fact, the success of the Diamond Match Company's domination of the world market in production and sale of matches was credited, by Barber and others, to the technological advances that were continuously being made in the company's machinery, resulting in tremendous savings in labor costs and enabling the final product to be produced ever more cheaply.

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The Diamond Match Company

O. C. Barber's Diamond Match Company had its origins in the match factory of his father, George Barber, one of the pioneer match manufacturers of the Midwest. Started in 1847, the Barber Match Company was located in Middlebury, Ohio, later a part of Akron. O. C. Barber began working for the company at the age of 15 and became a partner in the business at the age of 20. In 1868, the Barber Match Company was incorporated as a joint stock company and capitalized at \$100,000 with George Barber as president and O. C. Barber as secretary-treasurer. During the 1860s and 1870s, Barber built his father's match company into one of the largest match manufacturers in the United States, and the only one in Ohio by 1880.

The genius of the son became most evident, however, in 1881 when O. C. Barber set out to consolidate a number of match companies into a single dominant corporation. At the time, some 30 different companies were in the business of producing matches in the United States. Barber succeeded in convincing 12 of them to join him in his new venture, which he named the Diamond Match Company. His intent was to replace what he saw as destructive competition with industry-wide cooperation and greater efficiency in the manufacture of matches. He adopted a policy of buying out his competitors, but always maintained that he was not trying to create a monopoly but a cooperative venture.

Barber became known as "America's Match King" for his achievements in the match industry during the period from 1881 until his death in 1920. Under his leadership, first as vice president (1881-1887), then as president (1888-1913), and finally as chairman, Diamond Match was a pioneer of efficiency, mass production and innovation in the match industry. Barber believed that a consolidated match industry allowed fewer plants to operate more efficiently, and provided the resources to achieve technical advances that would benefit the match industry as a whole. The company used these advances to invent and develop high-speed match-making machinery, allowing the product to be produced more cheaply and quickly. The Diamond Match Engineering Department, headquartered at Barberton after 1894, was the central location for the company's efforts in research and development.

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In 1883, Diamond's engineers completed the prototype for the modern, continuous, automatic match-making machine. The automatic machine cut the splints from a block of wood, forced them into plates, and carried the plates in a continuous chain to rollers that dipped the tips of the splints. After traveling some 500 feet to allow the heads to dry, the matches were punched free from this chain where they fell into boxes automatically. A major benefit of this machine was that it eliminated the worker's contact with phosphorous during the dipping process, and reduced the chance of contracting necrosis, a deadly disease resulting from phosphorous poisoning. Diamond continued to make improvements to its machinery, adapting to changes in its product or technological advances as they became available.

Diamond's innovations in the product itself included the book match which was patented in 1892 and first produced at the Barberton plant in 1894. Although Diamond's engineers had improved upon the original design by placing the striking surface on the outside of the book instead of on the inside flap, consumers still found it difficult to use the match book properly until Diamond printed the words "Close cover before striking" on each book. Another improvement was the development of a non-poisonous substitute for the white phosphorous which was used extensively in match making. Diamond deeded its patent for this substitute to the public in 1911 in order to rid the match industry of phosphorous necrosis. At the same time, Diamond developed the safety match, which had an ignition temperature about twice as high as that of the old white phosphorous match, making spontaneous combustion impossible.

In addition to its great success in research and development, Barber wanted his Diamond Match Company to be as self-sufficient and independent as possible. This included purchasing timberland to give the company an assured supply of the lumber needed for match production. It included production of the strawboard needed to make the match boxes. And, most importantly, it included the development and manufacture of nearly all of the machinery used to produce both the matches and the boxes they were packed in.

Toward the end of the 19th century, the Diamond Match Company embarked upon a program of plant expansion, both domestic and foreign. By the first decade of the 20th century, Diamond was a world-wide match conglomerate, with factories in

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Canada, England, Germany, Switzerland, Peru, Manila, and South Africa. Factories in the U.S., in addition to Barberton, included plants in Wisconsin, Maine, Michigan, New York and California. Of all of the Diamond Match Company plants, the one at Barberton was the company's largest, its flagship operation.

The Barberton Plant

When Barber became president of the match conglomerate in 1888, the company was still manufacturing in the best facilities of the companies that had merged in 1881. Barber began a program of modernization which included new plants in strategic locations. Important to his plan was the availability of water transportation for the shipment of lumber. In 1892, a site was selected at Oswego, New York, on the shores of Lake Ontario, for the first of Diamond's new match factories. Just one year later, in 1893, the decision was made to build a match factory in the new town of Barberton, Ohio. Here, lumber could be shipped from the company's timberland in Michigan to Cleveland by lake and then to Barberton by canal.

Barber would be closing the Diamond Match plant at Akron in order to make this move. When asked why he had decided to leave Akron, Barber explained, "When the Diamond Match Company was first organized in 1881, Akron had the model plant of the company, but since that date there have been such extensive improvements in the system of manufacturing matches that the company can no longer afford to run the Akron plant and its system of machinery. In looking around for a location we could find no place so well adapted for our purposes as the site decided upon at Barberton which will consist of about twenty acres located on the belt line railway and canal, south of the Chesapeake and Ohio depot." (Fleming, America's Match King, page 113.)

In fact, Barber had another reason for relocating his Diamond Match factory to Barberton, the town which he had founded just three years before, in 1890. Barber had planned the new community as a model of modern industrial enterprise and business development. By 1892, Barberton already had eight industries under construction or in operation, most of which were organized and capitalized by Barber himself. The population had reached 1,800, streets were being graded, homes and businesses were being built. But the community

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which he was in the process of building was badly shaken by the Panic of 1893. Several of the industries which Barber had established to give the town a solid economic footing were closed by the panic, while the others greatly reduced their production. Real estate values in Barberton were flattened, with the result that many investors became leery of the town's future. Barber was not willing to let the community wither and die. His decision to move the Diamond Match Company to Barberton was a crucial one which helped to ensure the economic future of the town.

In announcing his decision, Barber stated that "we are going to build a plant at Barberton which shall be the model match factory of the world" (Fleming, America's Match King, page 112.) This plant did, in fact, become the company's largest and most productive factory. Work on the Barberton match factory began in the winter of 1894, with O.C. Barber a frequent visitor to the construction site. The main building was a four-story brick structure with brownstone foundation. It was located to the east of Second Street and to the south of the Belt Line Railroad. Also built at the same time were the machine shop and foundry, located parallel to the railroad tracks on the west side of Second Street.

Role in Barberton Industry

At the start of production in early 1895, some 200 people were employed at Diamond Match in Barberton. The company's presence was a great boost to Barberton's economy, bringing additional workers to the community to live and do business at a time when other industries were failing or reducing workforces. By 1903, the Barberton plant had grown to 1,100 employees, representing more than one-fourth of the city's population in 1900. Daily output was 140 million matches, produced with 33 match-making machines. Products included the regulation or parlor match, book matches packed 20 to a pack, wax matches that could be lighted only on the boxes in which they were packed, and extra long matches for lighting gas stoves and ranges. The plant also produced match boxes in all shapes and sizes, along with the artwork which appeared on them.

The Diamond Match Company shares an industrial legacy with several other important companies which helped to shape Barberton's development as an industrial center of northeastern Ohio. These included the Babcock & Wilcox

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Company, Pittsburgh Plate Glass Company, Pittsburgh Valve & Fittings Company, Seiberling Rubber Company and Sun Rubber Company. Of these, the Diamond Match Company and Babcock & Wilcox Company were the leading employers in Barberton. B & W, which had purchased the Stirling Boiler Company (one of Barberton's founding industries) in 1906, remains the largest industry in Barberton today with employment of some 1,300. The two Pittsburgh-backed industries built their factories at Barberton in the early 1900s, while the rubber industries did not arrive in the community until the period of the 1910s and 1920s.

With its many factories and its great transportation advantages (the Akron & Barberton Belt Railroad connected these industries with the major trunk line railroads), Barberton grew rapidly and enjoyed great success as a manufacturing center. Barberton's 1900 population of 4,354 more than doubled by 1910 to 9,410; this number was nearly doubled again by 1920 to a population of 18,811. The population continued to climb, albeit more slowly, during the next 40 years, peaking at 33,805 in 1960. Throughout the first half of the 20th century, the Diamond Match Company remained a solid business enterprise and a mainstay industry in Barberton. As the largest plant and the flagship operation of the world-wide Diamond Match conglomerate, the Barberton plant was also a source of pride for Barberton residents. The proximity of the factory to the downtown area made it highly visible and symbolic of the community's turn-of-the-century roots and its ensuing industrial success.

The Engineering Department

From the start, the Barberton Diamond Match factory was equipped with the most modern match-making machinery available. The source of this machinery was the Engineering Department, the group of industrial factory buildings adjacent to the main plant, where the Diamond Match machinery was developed and produced. The North Machine Shop and Foundry were completed at the same time as the first buildings of the match factory, enabling production of these machines to begin immediately. The Barberton Engineering Department also produced the machinery for Diamond's first overseas plant, constructed in Liverpool, England, in 1895-96. In early 1896, Diamond received a contract to ship 30 match-making machines to the French government, which controlled the match industry in France.

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Continuation SheetDIAMOND MATCH HISTORIC DISTRICT
BARBERTON, SUMMIT COUNTY, OHIOSection number 8 Page 7

Eventually, these buildings would produce the machinery that would be used in Diamond plants world-wide. As stated by Barber biographer William Fleming, the purpose of the Barberton plant's engineering department was "to provide the armaments for Barber's company to capture the world match market." (Fleming, America's Match King, page 113.) As Barber himself told reporters in 1896, "It is only a matter of time until the Diamond Match Company by reason of its superior progress will make matches for the world. No country can compete with us at this time. With our machinery we save fully 75 percent on labor over any other process in use anywhere." (Fleming, America's Match King, page 122.)

Barber took great pride in the company's ability to manufacture its own machinery. In Diamond's 1908 Annual Report, he reports that: "At Barberton, Ohio, we have a machine shop completely equipped with special tools for the construction of match-making and other machinery used in our factories, equal, if not superior, to anything of its kind in the world,..." (Twenty Seven Years of the Diamond Match Company, 1881 to 1908).

The original 1894 buildings of the Engineering Department were expanded in 1896 by a major addition to the Machine Shop which doubled its size. A short time later, the Pattern Shop was built for the storage and production of patterns needed for development and manufacture of the company's machinery. In 1897, an article in the *Akron Beacon Journal* reported that the machine shops at Barberton were being run to their fullest capacity and additional help was needed. In 1901, 350 men were employed at Diamond Match building machines. The demands on machine shop production for the company were apparently so great by the turn of the century that a new, much larger and up-to-date Machine Shop was constructed in 1903. By 1916, the original north Machine Shop was used for pattern storage, stock room, and an engraving department. A Power Plant was added to the complex in 1905. With the exception of some minor one-story additions to the Foundry after 1905, the Engineering Department buildings remain as they were originally constructed. The complex continued to serve its original purpose up until the time that the entire factory was closed in 1959-60.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 8DIAMOND MATCH HISTORIC DISTRICT
BARBERTON, SUMMIT COUNTY, OHIOAssociation with O.C. Barber

The Engineering Department buildings of Barberton's Diamond Match Company provide an important representation of the contributions which Ohio Columbus Barber made to the match industry and to the development of the industrial city of Barberton, the town which he founded in 1891. As "America's Match King," Barber was responsible for a number of innovations, technological developments and expansions which made his Diamond Match Company a world-wide producer of matches. This important company was headquartered after 1894 in Barberton, where Barber built his flagship manufacturing facility and engineering department. The Engineering Department buildings are the only remaining buildings in the Barberton Diamond Match complex which are associated with Barber's active participation in the company. These buildings were constructed during a period of great innovation, between 1894 and 1903, when Barber was expanding the company's capabilities and its locations around the world. They represent the engineering and manufacture of the match-making machinery to which Barber credited much of his company's success.

In addition to the Diamond Match Company, O. C. Barber organized and capitalized a number of other industries in the late 1880s and early 1890s, which he also located in his new industrial town of Barberton. He was president of the American Strawboard Company, which included a Barberton plant among its 26 strawboard mills around the country (now demolished). He organized the Stirling Boiler Company which was acquired by Babcock & Wilcox in 1906. Another of his companies was the O. C. Barber Concrete Company, formed in 1914 to manufacture concrete block.

Aside from his manufacturing interests, which are best represented by the Diamond Match Company, Barber also engaged in other developments in Barberton. These included the Barberton Inn, a resort hotel which he built on the south shore of Lake Anna and where he entertained frequently (built 1895, demolished 1915). In about 1905, he turned his attention to developing his famed Anna Dean Farm as an experimental farm complex. His mansion on this farm, where he lived from 1911 until his death in 1920, was demolished in 1965. The eight farm buildings that remain were listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1977.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 9DIAMOND MATCH HISTORIC DISTRICT
BARBERTON, SUMMIT COUNTY, OHIOArchitecture

The buildings of the Engineering Department are architecturally significant because they provide an intact representation of the Diamond Match Company and turn-of-the-century industrial development in Barberton. O.C. Barber undoubtedly was involved to a great extent in the design of the buildings, as he was active in every other detail of his match company's existence. Barber insisted upon excellence in his plants and equipment. The fact that the buildings shared common elements of design was important to their functional and aesthetic relationship, which is maintained even today. The buildings are consistent in their use of materials (brick, stone, heavy timber framing) and in their overall features of design (brick piers between bays, corbelled brick cornices, segmental-arched, multi-paned windows). The interiors reflect turn-of-the-century industrial design, with relatively high floor-to-ceiling spaces, unpainted brick walls, and exposed structural systems.

The Engineering Department complex is unique in Barberton. It is the most significant remaining representation of the Diamond Match Company in Barberton. It has a great deal of architectural integrity as a collection of turn-of-the-century industrial buildings which still stands as a cohesive reminder of the significance of O.C. Barber and the Diamond Match Company to Barberton's history. Although Barberton has other early industrial buildings, they are absorbed by more recent construction which detracts from their historic character and integrity. The Diamond Match Engineering Department Buildings remain virtually unaltered, with no intrusive additions, and with their visual character intact.

Recent History

The Barberton plant of the Diamond Match Company continued to operate through the 1950s. Closing of the plant in 1959-60 was due to the declining wooden match market and changing requirements of book match manufacture. At the time, the match factory employed 276 and the foundry employed 56. Shortly after the closing, the main factory buildings were demolished. The Engineering Department was purchased by neighboring Babcock & Wilcox Company, who continued to use the buildings for industrial purposes. When B & W no longer was able to use the buildings, they were donated to the City

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

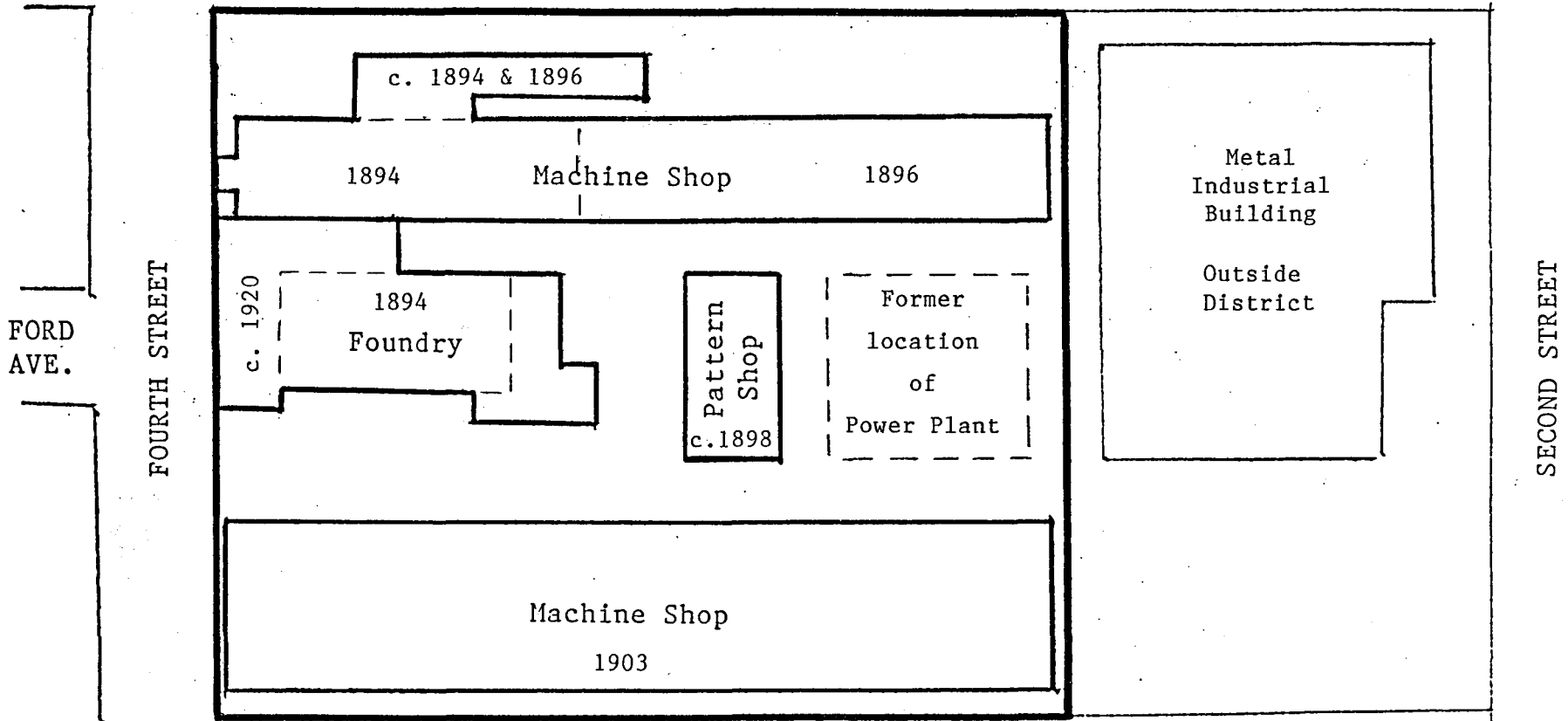
National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 10

DIAMOND MATCH HISTORIC DISTRICT
BARBERTON, SUMMIT COUNTY, OHIO

of Barberton. Today, under the control of the Barberton Community Development Corporation, the buildings are now occupied by several small industrial concerns.

AKRON & BARBERTON BELT LINE RAILROAD



BABCOCK & WILCOX PROPERTY

DIAMOND MATCH HISTORIC DISTRICT
BARBERTON, SUMMIT COUNTY, OHIO



NORTH

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

DIAMOND MATCH HISTORIC DISTRICT
BARBERTON, SUMMIT COUNTY, OHIO

Section number PHOTOS Page 1

PHOTOGRAPHS

The following information is the same for all photographs:

Diamond Match Historic District
Barberton, Summit County, Ohio
Photo by Judy Williams
Negative located at City of Barberton
September, 1995

1. North and South Machine Shops, looking southeast
2. North Machine Shop and Foundry, looking northeast
3. North Machine Shop, looking southeast
4. North Machine Shop, looking southwest
5. Blacksmith Shop, attached to north side of North Machine Shop, looking southwest
6. North and South Machine Shops, looking south at east elevations
7. South elevation of North Machine Shop, looking northeast
8. First floor interior of east section of North Machine Shop
9. First floor interior of west section of North Machine Shop
10. Foundry, looking northeast
11. Foundry, looking northwest
12. Interior of Foundry, looking southeast
13. Interior of Foundry, west addition, looking west
14. Pattern Shop, looking northwest
15. Pattern Shop, looking southeast

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

DIAMOND MATCH HISTORIC DISTRICT
BARBERTON, SUMMIT COUNTY, OHIO

Section number PHOTOS Page 2

16. Original door, west elevation of Pattern Shop
17. Basement interior of Pattern Shop, looking south
18. First floor interior of Pattern Shop, looking southwest
19. South Machine Shop, looking southeast
20. South Machine Shop, looking northwest
21. East elevation of South Machine Shop, looking west
22. North elevation of South Machine Shop, looking southeast
23. Window detail, north elevation of South Machine Shop
24. Original door, north elevation of South Machine Shop
25. Interior view of South Machine Shop, looking east
26. Mezzanine level of South Machine Shop, looking west
27. Structural detail, South Machine Shop
28. View of former Diamond Match Factory site, looking south from Second Street and Belt Line Railroad

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

DIAMOND MATCH HISTORIC DISTRICT
BARBERTON, SUMMIT COUNTY, OHIO

Section number 9, 10 Page 1

Major Bibliographic References

Akron Beacon Journal, miscellaneous articles, 1894-1912.

Barberton Leader, Industrial Supplement. 1903.

Fleming, William Franklin. America's Match King: Ohio
Columbus Barber, 1841-1920. Barberton Historical
Society, Barberton, Ohio: 1981.

Johnston, W.A. Barberton and Kenmore, Ohio: The Golden
Years. Barberton Historical Society, Barberton, Ohio:
1976.

Manchester, H.A. Matches were Made in Heaven and in
Barberton, Ohio: The Story of the Diamond Match
Company. 1935.

Sanborn Map Company, Insurance Maps of Barberton, Ohio, 1904,
1916, 1927, 1930.

Twenty-Seven Years of the Diamond Match Company: 1881 to
1908. Booklet, 1908.

Verbal Boundary Description

The district includes the western two-thirds of the property bounded by the Akron & Barberton Belt Line on the north, Fourth Street, N.W., on the west, the Babcock & Wilcox property on the south, and Second Street on the east. The district is drawn to extend approximately five feet beyond the east elevations of the north and south Machine Shop buildings, but to exclude the recent metal industrial building occupying the eastern third of the property.

Boundary Justification

The boundaries encompass all of the remaining buildings historically associated with the Engineering Department of the Diamond Match Company. They are drawn to include these buildings, while excluding a recent metal industrial building to the east. The resulting district is very compact and very cohesive, and clearly recognizable as the original complex of the Diamond Match Engineering Department.

1910 ATLAS OF SUMMIT COUNTY

DIAMOND MATCH ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT
SHOWN IN UPPER LEFT CENTER

DIAMOND MATCH HISTORIC DISTRICT
BARBERTON, SUMMIT COUNTY, OHIO

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W. H. MILLER	W. H. MILLER	W. H. MILLER	W. H. MILLER	W. H. MILLER	W. H. MILLER	W. H. MILLER	W. H. MILLER	W. H. MILLER	W. H. MILLER
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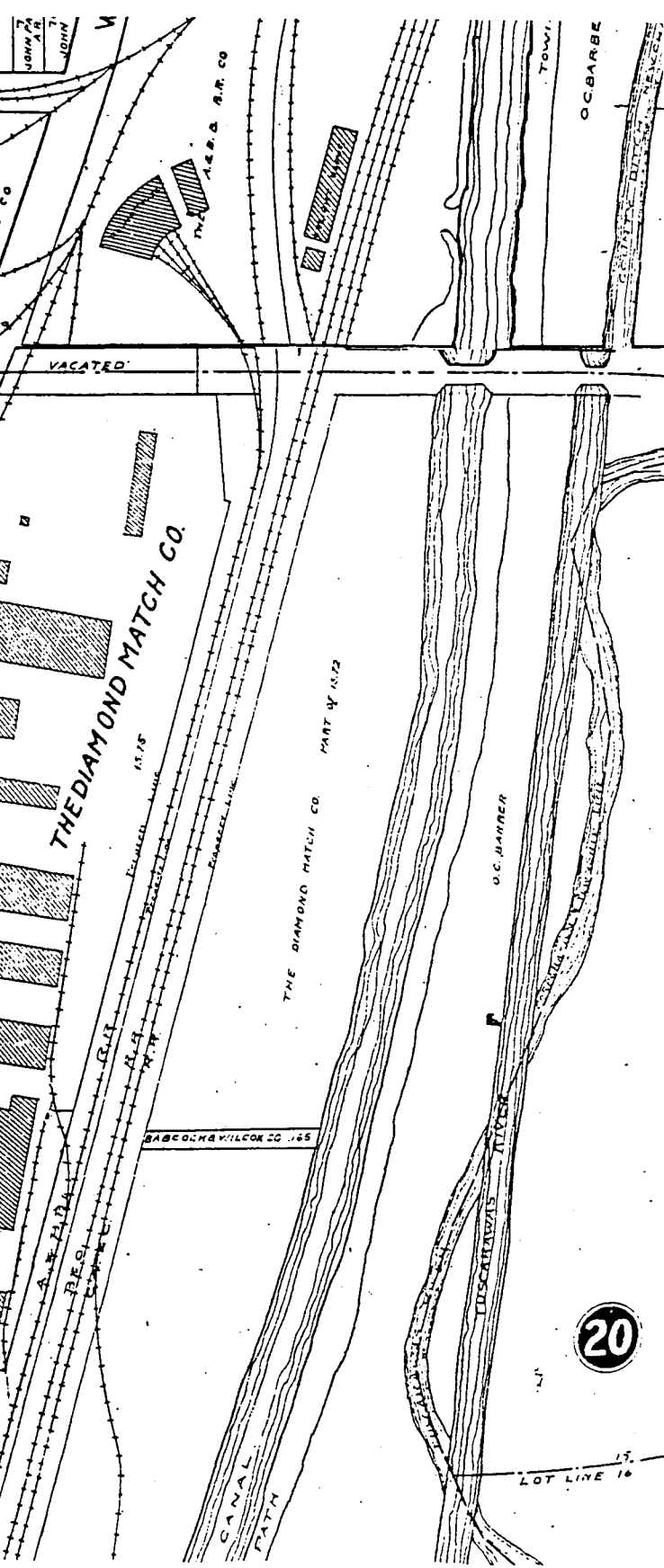
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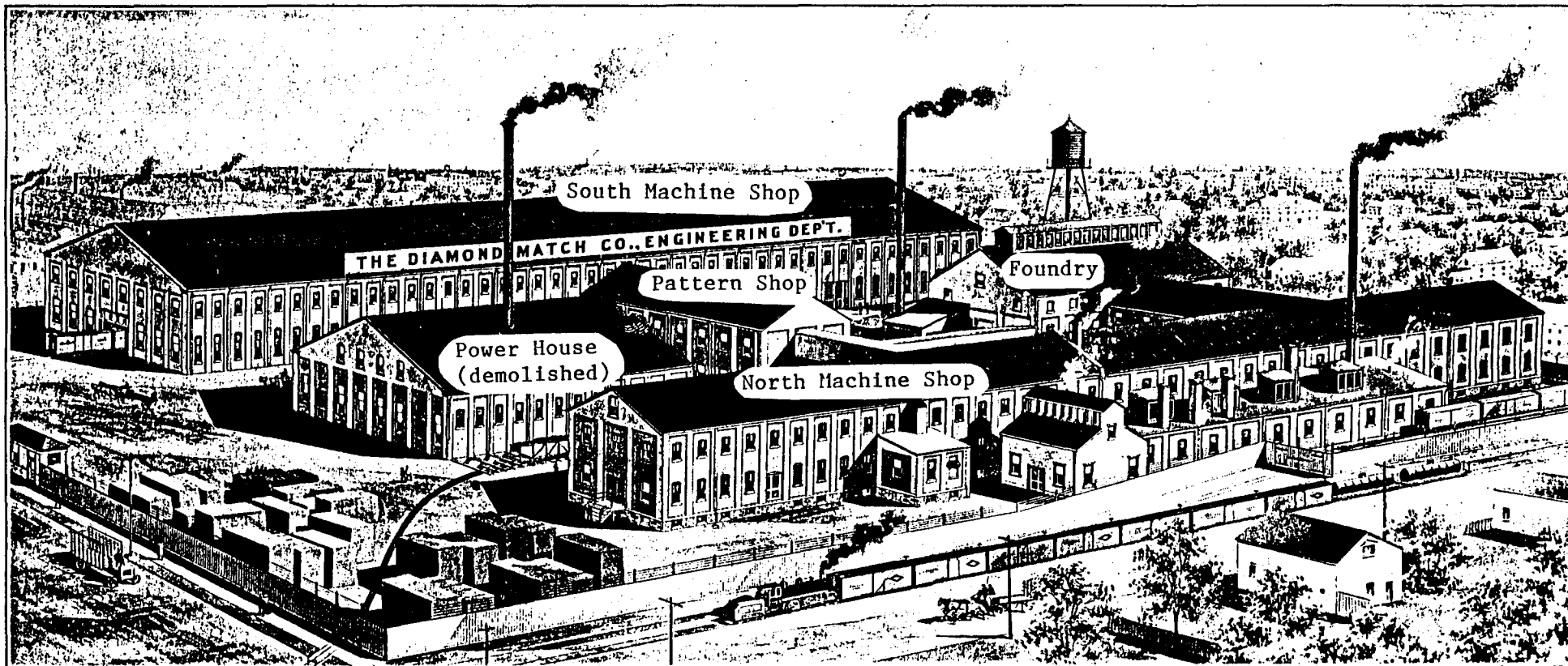
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DIAMOND MATCH HISTORIC DISTRICT
BARBERTON, SUMMIT COUNTY, OHIO



ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT DIAMOND MATCH COMPANY, BARBERTON, OHIO

VIEW LOOKING SOUTHWEST

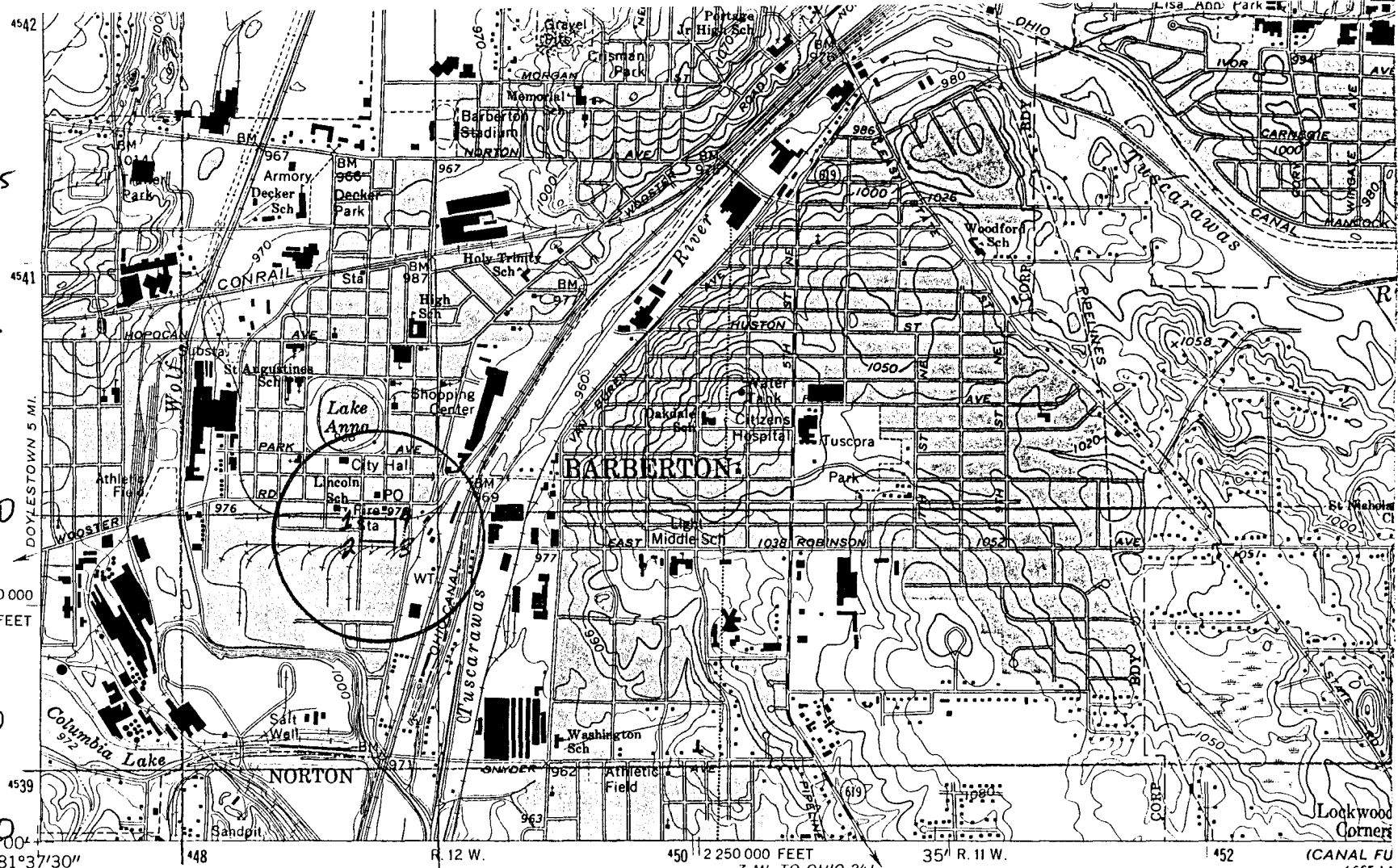
TAKEN FROM "TWENTY-SEVEN YEARS OF THE DIAMOND MATCH COMPANY"

1881 - 1908

AKRON WEST 7.5

Diamond Match
Historic District
UTM Listings

- 1:
17 448705 4534440
- 2:
17 448700 4534400
- 3:
17 448840 4534890
- 4:
17 448845 4534980



(DOYLESTOWN)
4665 1 NW

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Revised in cooperation with State of Ohio Agencies

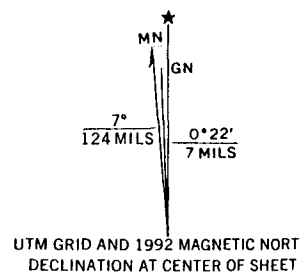
Control by USGS and USC&GS

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

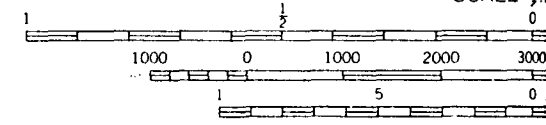
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Ohio coordinate system, north zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 17, shown in blue

The difference between 1927 North American Datum and North
American Datum of 1983 (NAD 83) for 7.5-minute intersections
is given in USGS Bulletin 1875. The NAD 83 is shown by
dashed corner ticks

Entire area lies within the Connecticut Western Reserve
Land lines established by private subdivision of the
Connecticut Western Reserve



UTM GRID AND 1992 MAGNETIC NORTH
DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET



CONTOUR INTER
NATIONAL GEODETIC VER

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATION
FOR SALE BY U. S. GE
DENVER, COLORADO 80225 OF
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS

Ohio Historic Preservation Office

567 East Hudson Street
Columbus, Ohio 43211-1030
614/297-2470
Fax: 297-2496



**OHIO
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY**
SINCE 1885

9 April, 1996

The Honorable Randy Hart
Mayor, City of Barberton
576 W. Park Avenue
Barberton, OH 44203

Re: Diamond Match Historic District, Barberton, Summit County, Ohio

Dear Mayor:

This is to inform you that the above has been entered into the National Register of Historic Places by the National Park Service, Department of the Interior (listed 2/29/96).

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 about the programs and services offered by the Ohio Historic Preservation Office.

Sincerely,

Barbara A. Powers
Department Head
Planning, Inventory and Registration

SCG/slw

Enclosure

xc: Jeff Brown, Regional Coordinator
Judith Williams, Form Preparer
Deborah Sanborn, Staff Planner
State Senator Roy Ray
State Representative Betty Sutton
NEFCO
Ohio Department of Transportation

Ohio Historic Preservation Office

567 East Hudson Street
Columbus, Ohio 43211-1030
614/297-2470
Fax: 297-2496



**OHIO
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY**
SINCE 1885

9 April, 1996

Barberton Community Development Corporation
503 W. Park Avenue
Barberton, OH 44203

Re: Diamond Match Historic District, Barberton, Summit County, Ohio, Property at 2 Fourth Street, Barberton

Dear Madam/Sir:

This is to inform you that the above has been entered into the National Register of Historic Places by the National Park Service, Department of the Interior (listed 2/29/96).

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 about the programs and services offered by the Ohio Historic Preservation Office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Barbara A. Powers".

Barbara A. Powers
Department Head
Planning, Inventory and Registration

SCG/slw

Enclosure

Ohio Historic Preservation Office

567 East Hudson Street
Columbus, Ohio 43211-1030
614/297-2470
Fax: 297-2496



**OHIO
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY**
SINCE 1885

9 April, 1996

Magnum Commercial Realty
P.O. Box 2043
Akron, OH 44309
Att: George Sobieraj

Re: Diamond Match Historic District, Barberton, Summit County, Ohio, Property at 21 Fourth Street, Barberton

Dear Mr. Sobieraj:

This is to inform you that the above has been entered into the National Register of Historic Places by the National Park Service, Department of the Interior (listed 2/29/96).

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 about the programs and services offered by the Ohio Historic Preservation Office.

Sincerely,

Barbara A. Powers
Department Head
Planning, Inventory and Registration

SCG/slw

Enclosure

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: Diamond Match Historic District

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 _____

