1. NAME
   COMMON: Goodyear Airdock
   AND/OR HISTORIC: 

2. LOCATION
   STREET AND NUMBER: South side of the Akron Airport
   CITY OR TOWN: Akron
   STATE: Ohio
   CODE: 039
   COUNTY: Summit
   CODE: 153
   CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: 14
   JOHN F. SEIBERLING, JR.

3. CLASSIFICATION
   CATEGORY (CHECK ONE)
   □ District □ Building □ Site □ Structure □ Object
   ■ Public □ Private □ Both
   OWNERSHIP
   PUBLIC ACQUISITION:
   □ In Process □ Being Considered
   STATUS
   □ Occupied □ Unoccupied □ Preservation work in progress
   ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
   □ Yes: □ Restricted □ Unoccupied □ No
   PRESENT USE (CHECK ONE OR MORE AS APPROPRIATE)
   □ Agricultural □ Government □ Park □ Transportation
   □ Commercial □ Industrial □ Private Residence □ Other (Specify)
   □ Educational □ Military □ Religious □ Other (Specify)
   □ Entertainment □ Museum □ Scientific

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY
   OWNER'S NAME: Goodyear Aerospace Corporation
   STREET AND NUMBER: 1210 Massillon Road
   CITY OR TOWN: Akron
   STATE: Ohio
   CODE: 039

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION
   COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
   Summit County Courthouse
   STREET AND NUMBER: 53 E. Center Street
   CITY OR TOWN: Akron
   STATE: Ohio
   CODE: 039

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS
   TITLE OF SURVEY: Ohio Historic Landmarks--Phase I
   DATE OF SURVEY: 1967
   DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
   The Ohio Historical Society
   STREET AND NUMBER: 1982 Velma Avenue
   CITY OR TOWN: Columbus
   STATE: Ohio
   CODE: 039
The building under consideration is a semi-paraboloid shaped structure which has been described as "half a silkworm's cocoon, cut in half the long way." The structure's maximum length is 1,175 feet, its maximum width is 325 feet and its maximum height is 211 feet. The building is constructed of sheet metal attached to eleven parabolic arches, spaced at 80-foot intervals.

At both ends of the building are identical spherical doors. The doors are two-piece and shaped somewhat like one-quarter of an orange peel. Each door weighs 600 tons. The doors are fastened at the top by hollow forged pins 17 inches in diameter and six feet long. The doors rest on 40 wheels set radially on curved railroad tracks.

On either side of the building approximately 100 feet above ground level is a row of 12 windows. Atop the structure at the northeast end is a control tower and radio aerial.

The airdock may be said to "breathe", since it is mounted on rollers to compensate for expansion and contraction due to temperature changes. At the time it was built, it was the largest building in the world without interior supports.
### SIGNIFICANCE

**PERIOD** (Check One or More as Appropriate)
- [ ] Pre-Columbian
- [x] 16th Century
- [ ] 18th Century
- [x] 20th Century
- [ ] 15th Century
- [ ] 17th Century
- [ ] 19th Century

**SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)** 1929

**AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE** (Check One or More as Appropriate)
- [ ] Aboriginal
- [x] Prehistoric
- [ ] Historic
- [x] Engineering
- [ ] Industry
- [ ] Agriculture
- [ ] Invention
- [ ] Architecture
- [ ] Landscape
- [ ] Art
- [ ] Literature
- [ ] Conservation
- [ ] Commerce
- [ ] Communications
- [ ] Music
- [ ] Education
- [ ] Industry
- [ ] Architecture
- [ ] Political
- [ ] Religion/Philosophy
- [ ] Science
- [ ] Sculpture
- [ ] Social/Humanitarian
- [ ] Theater
- [ ] Transportation
- [ ] Other (Specify)
- [ ] Urban Planning

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

The Goodyear Airdock was constructed in 1929 by the Goodyear Zeppelin Corporation from plans created by the Wilbur Watson Engineering Company of Cleveland, Ohio. Work began on April 20, 1929 and by November 25 the Airdock was completed at a cost of 2.2 million dollars.

With the construction of the Airdock, Akron became one of the centers for development and construction of lighter-than-air ships. Among the first large airships to be constructed was the Navy dirigible ZRS-4 (U.S.S. Akron - 1929-1931). In 1934 another dirigible, the U.S.S. Macon was built in the Airdock.

At the present time the building is a part of the Goodyear Aerospace complex. The structure is no longer used for its original purpose. It houses the photographic division of the Goodyear Aerospace Corporation.
Goodyear Aerospace Corporation, "Goodyear Aerospace Airdock."

Grlsmer, K. H., Akron and Summit County. Akron, 1959 (?).
pp. 444-448.

Latitudes and Longitudes:

- NW: 41° 01'. 54" W 81° 28'. 19"
- NE: 41° 01'. 54" W 81° 28'. 19"
- SE: 41° 01'. 54" W 81° 28'. 19"
- SW: 41° 01'. 54" W 81° 28'. 19"

Approximate acreage of nominated property: 9.0

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries:

- State: Code: County: Code
- State: Code: County: Code
- State: Code: County: Code
- State: Code: County: Code

Form prepared by:

Amos J. Loveday, Jr.

Organizational name:

5479-B Rockwood Court

City or town: State: Code: 

Columbus: Ohio: 039

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

National [ ] State [ ] Local [ ]

Name

Title

Date

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

__________________________
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date

ATTEST:

__________________________
Keeper of The National Register

Date
1. NAME
   COMMON: Goodyear Airdock

2. LOCATION
   STREET AND NUMBER: South side of the Akron Airport
   CITY OR TOWN: Akron
   STATE: Ohio

3. PHOTO REFERENCE
   PHOTO CREDIT: Goodyear Aerospace Corporation
   DATE OF PHOTO: 1967
   NEGATIVE FILED AT: Goodyear Aerospace Corporation

4. IDENTIFICATION
   DESCRIPTION: View of Airdock from the east.

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1. NAME
   COMMON: Goodyear Airdock

2. LOCATION
   STREET AND NUMBER: South side of the Akron Airport
   CITY OR TOWN: Akron
   STATE: Ohio

3. PHOTO REFERENCE
   PHOTO CREDIT: Goodyear Aerospace Corporation
   DATE OF PHOTO: ?
   NEGATIVE FILED AT: Goodyear Aerospace Corporation

4. IDENTIFICATION
   DESCRIPTION: View of Airdock doors at the northeast end of the building.
Goodyear Airdock

South side of the Akron Airport

Akron

Ohio 039 Summit 153

Goodyear Aerospace Corporation

1210 Massillon Road Akron, Ohio

View of Airdock looking north, from the air.

Goodyear Airdock

South side of the Akron Airport

Akron

Ohio 039 Summit 153

U.S.G.S. 7.5' Quadrangle Akron East, Ohio

1:24,000

1967

1. Property boundaries where required.
2. North arrow.
3. Latitude and longitude reference.
April 26, 1973

Goodyear Aerospace Corporation
1219 Massillon Road
Akron, Ohio

Gentlemen:

I am pleased to inform you that the Goodyear Airdock has been entered in the National Register of Historic Places by the National Park Service, United States Department of Interior.

The nomination was made in connection with a state plan to identify and document prehistoric and historic places in Ohio which qualify for National Register status under provisions of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966. All nominations are approved by the Ohio Historic Site Preservation Advisory Board.

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

Congratulations for recognizing the importance of, and the need for, the careful and sensible preservation of Ohio's landmarks. Your farsightedness will surely serve as an example to other individuals and organizations in this state.

Sincerely,

Judith Kitchen
Architectural Historian

JK/glk
enclosure
National Register of Historic Places File Checklist

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

Name: Goodyear Airdock

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 news clippings, SLA newsletters, negative

CES: 9/01