NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

1. NAME
   COMMON: Barber, O. C., Machine Barn

2. LOCATION
   STREET AND NUMBER: Austin Drive
   CITY OR TOWN: Barberton
   STATE: Ohio

3. CLASSIFICATION
   CATEGORY (Check One)
   - District
   - Site
   - Building
   - 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
     - Unrestricted
     - No

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY
   OWNER'S NAME: Robert Gormley
   STREET AND NUMBER: 640 Austin Drive
   CITY OR TOWN: Barberton
   STATE: Ohio

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION
   COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: Summit County Courthouse
   STREET AND NUMBER: 209 South High
   CITY OR TOWN: Akron
   STATE: Ohio

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS
   TITLE OF SURVEY:
   DATE OF SURVEY:
   DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
   STREET AND NUMBER:
   CITY OR TOWN:
The Machine Barn is constructed of concrete and red brick and has a hipped roof of red tile and denticular cornices. The superstructure is steel. The building measures approximately 70' x 120'. The first story has eight sets of large double doors on the north and south sides and was used to store farm machinery. The red brick on the second story is in a diamond pattern, a reminder of the fact that Barber was the owner of the Diamond Match company. The Machine Barn is the only remaining building with this pattern as the Mansion, Carriage House, Apiary and Barn No. 2 have all been destroyed. On the west side of the Machine Barn, a concrete ramp leads up to a large second-story double door which is topped by stepped gable. Rectangular double-hung windows all around the building at the second-story level admit sunlight to a large open area where machinery was serviced. There is a blacksmith shop near the southeast corner and small rooms on the far east side which contain wooden bins for machinery parts.

There are three chimneys on the east side. Large windows in the gable on the east and west sides of the building admit light to the catwalk area near the roof. The Machine Barn is one of the very few buildings on the Anna Dean Farm that does not symmetrical facades. It is located just north of the site of the Barber Mansion.
The 2000 acre estate containing the Anna Dean Farm was laid out in 1905 by Michael Alexander, who had been commissioned by Ohio Columbus Barber, a wealthy industrialist. Barber had moved his Akron-based Diamond Company from that city in 1894 after being sued for non-payment of taxes. He founded a town near New Portage and called it Barberton.

The Anna Dean Farm, named for his daughter Anna and her husband Dean, was the fulfillment of Barber's dream to build the world's greatest farm. When it was finished in 1915, it contained twenty-three buildings, including a forty-room mansion and twelve acres of greenhouse space. Barber, a great advocate of scientific farming, invested in a great deal of farm machinery in the hope that this would increase the output of the farm. Thus, the Machine Barn was vital structure on the farm. It was completed in 1911 and was designed so that even the largest piece of machinery could be driven up the ramp to the second story service area.

The Machine Barn, along with the Colt Barn, is one of the ten remaining Anna Dean Farm buildings, and one of the last two on what was the main section of the farm. Three others, Barn No. 1, the Piggery and the Creamery, have already been placed on the National Register. A nearby housing development, the Austin Estates, is threatening to crowd out the Machine Barn. It is hoped that the owners might consider donating this area to the Barberton Parks Department for much needed park space if this building is accepted to the National Register.
9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Freudenheim, Milt, "They Still Gasp Over O.C. Barber, the Man Who Started A City", Akron Beacon Journal, 1951.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

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APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: less than one

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

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11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Steve Kelleher

ORGANIZATION

STREET AND NUMBER: 706 Wisteria Drive

CITY OR TOWN: Barberton

STATE: Ohio

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

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 [X] Local [ ]

Name [Blank]

Title Ohio Hist. Presse of

Date 10 July 1974

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

Director, Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation

Date

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date
1. NAME
COMMON: Barber, O. C. Machine Barn
AND/OR HISTORIC: 

2. LOCATION
STREET AND NUMBER: Austin Drive
CITY OR TOWN: Barberton
STATE: Ohio

3. PHOTO REFERENCE
PHOTO CREDIT: Steve Kelleher
DATE OF PHOTO: May 18, 1974
NEGATIVE FILED AT: 706 Wisteria Drive
Barberton, Ohio

4. IDENTIFICATION
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.
South side of O. C. Barber Machine Barn, as photographed from lower doors on the northern end of the Colt Barn.

This is a view of the west end of the Machine Barn. Through these doors was the equipment entrance to the barn.
1. NAME
   COMMON: Barber, O. C. Machine Barn

2. LOCATION
   STREET AND NUMBER: Austin Drive
   CITY OR TOWN: Barborton
   STATE: Ohio
   SOURCE: U.S.G.S. 7-1/2' Series Akron Quadrangle

3. MAP REFERENCE
   SCALE: 1:24000
   DATE: 1967

4. REQUIREMENTS
   TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS
   1. Property boundaries where required.
   2. North arrow.
   3. Latitude and longitude reference.
October 22, 1974

Mr. Robert Gormley  
640 Austin Drive  
Barberton, Ohio  44203  

Dear Mr. Gormley:

I am pleased to inform you that the O.C. Barber Machine Barn, Austin Drive, Barberton, has been entered in the National Register of Historic Places by the National Park Service, United States Department of the Interior.

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

JK: dal  
enclosure
National Register of Historic Places File Checklist

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

Name: Barber, O.C., Machine Barn

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

______________________________

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CES: 9/01