

Piggly Wiggly Grocery Store  
Steele's Hill-Grafton Hill  
537-541 Salem Avenue  
Dayton  
Montgomery County  
Ohio

HABS No. OH-2463

HABS  
OHIO  
57-DAYT,  
9-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
Great Lakes System Support Office  
1709 Jackson Street  
Omaha, Nebraska 68102

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

Piggly Wiggly Grocery Store

HABS No. OH-2463

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57-DAYT  
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Location: Steele's Hill-Grafton Hill  
537-541 Salem Avenue  
Dayton  
Montgomery County  
Ohio  
UTM: 16.738920.4405960

Significance: This building is significant for its contribution to the commercial development of the Steele's Hill-Grafton Hill Historic District; a district which was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1986. The district is composed mainly of late nineteenth and early twentieth century residential buildings expressed with a mix of architectural styles. For a description of the Steele's Hill-Grafton Hill Historic District, refer to HABS No. OH-2467.

Description: This is a low scale, one story brick building that incorporates some elements of the Art Deco style into its architecture. The main facade is divided into two retail bays which have been extensively altered. Originally, the building was plain in its architectural detail, but at some point in time was embellished with the use of Art Deco style geometric motifs and fluting located at the piers and a geometrical curve band extending across the main facade at the parapet. Above each of the storefronts is found a large rectangular bay that has been previously blocked off with plywood. The building abuts the adjacent construction at the side facades and has a brick one story addition that extends off of the rear facade. The interior has been extensively altered over the years with the result being the loss of any significant details.

History: This commercial building was constructed in 1921 during a period when commercial activity along Salem Avenue was expanding. It was built by William Needs as an investment. Mr. Needs was the owner of a furniture company that was located in downtown Dayton. The first tenant into the building was the Piggly Wiggly Grocery Store who occupied one half of the first floor. The company maintained this location until 1938 when it succumbed to the competition of the adjacent Kroger Company grocery store. Throughout the years, a variety of small businesses have occupied space within the building. Tenants have included a small restaurant, gift shop, clothes cleaner, medical balm manufacturing, and stationary store. From the 1960s to the 1980s, a variety of uses were housed that did not remain long within the building. This was a period when the surrounding neighborhood and Salem Avenue was in social and economic transition. Demolition of the building is required so that the lot can be incorporated into the

site of a new post office building.

Sources: Information used to prepare this documentation included the following:

Montgomery County Recorder's Office, Title Search.

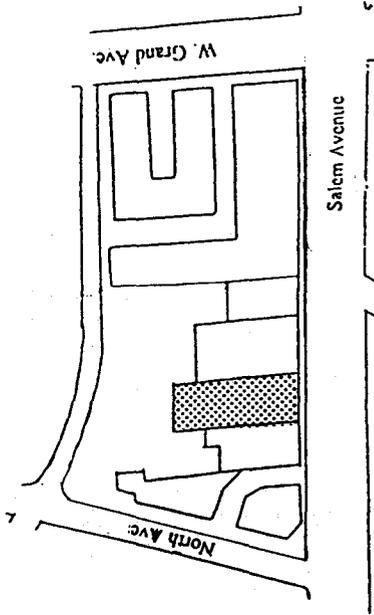
Prosser, Teresa, National Register of Historic Places Inventory-Nomination Form, *Grafton Hill Historic District*, 1986.

Sanborn Insurance Map Company, *Insurance Map of Dayton, Ohio*, Volume 2, 1919 and revisions.

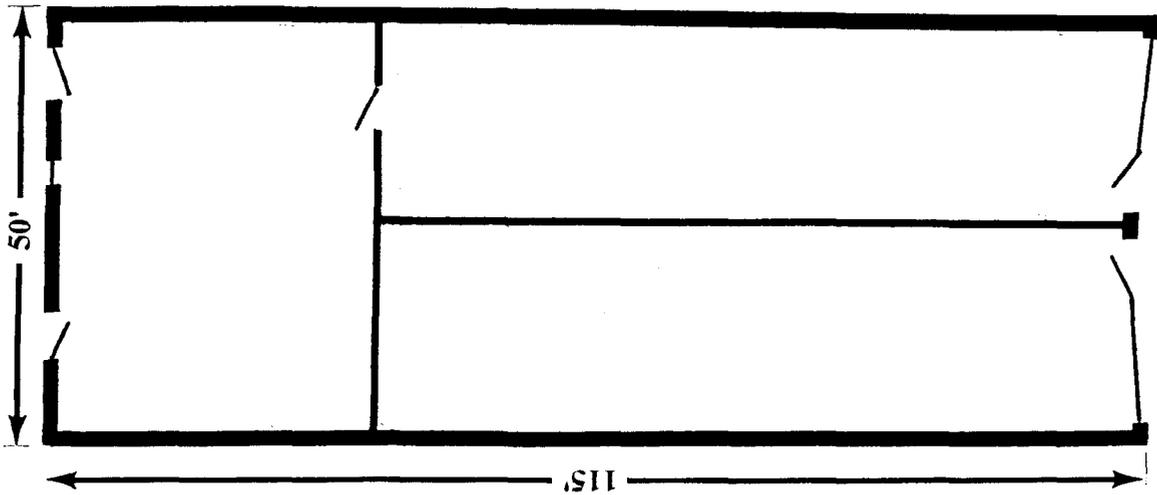
William's Publishing Company, *William's Dayton City Directory*, various dates.

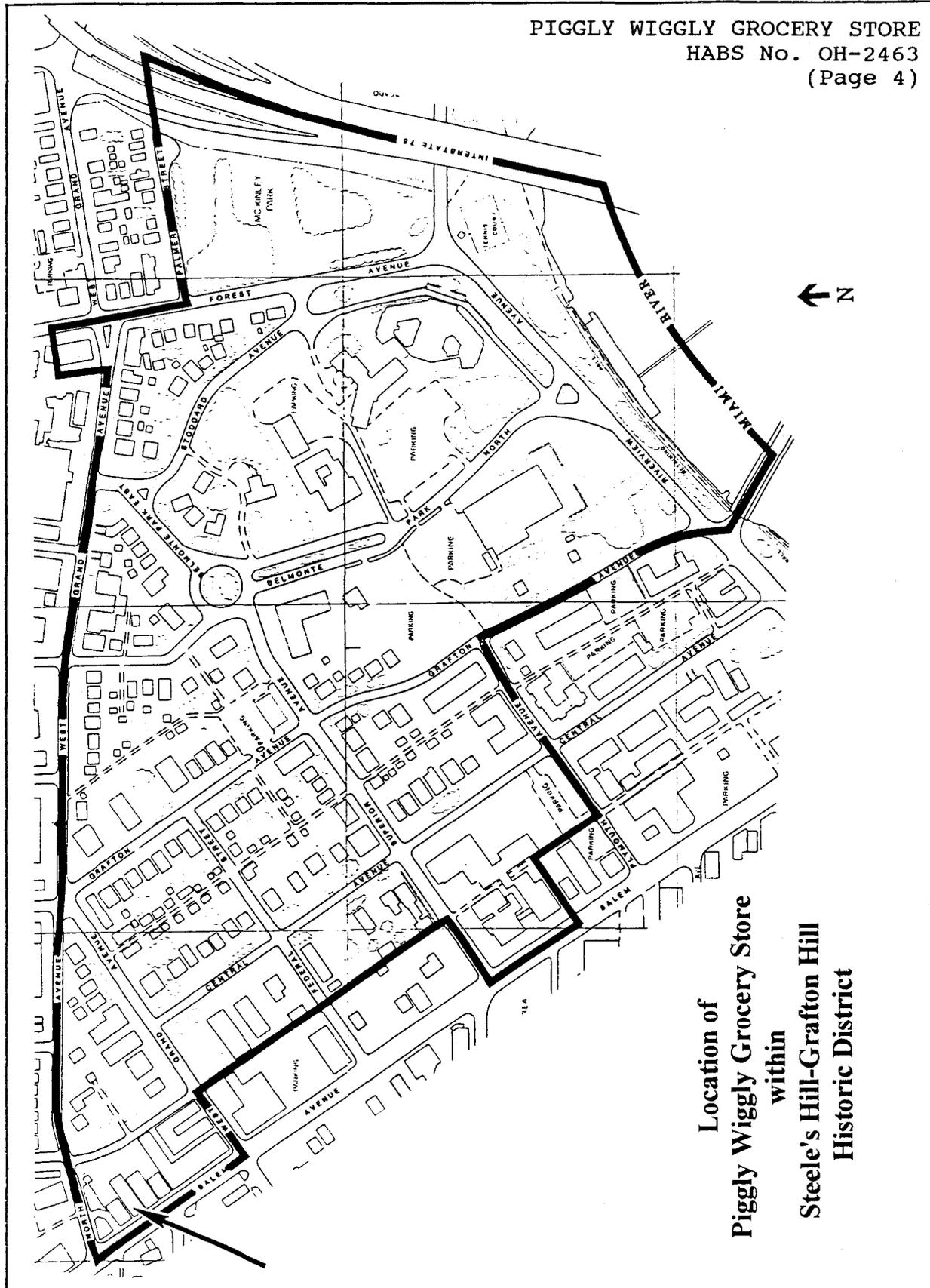
Historian: Fred Mitchell  
Historic Preservation Associates  
1026 Lenox Place  
Cincinnati, Ohio 45229  
September, 1997

Not to Scale



**Overall Dimensions and Interior Floor Plan**





Location of  
Piggly Wiggly Grocery Store  
within  
Steele's Hill-Grafton Hill  
Historic District