

Commercial Block  
Steele's Hill-Grafton Hill  
551-555 Salem Avenue  
Dayton  
Montgomery County  
Ohio

HABS No. OH-2465

HABS  
OH10  
57-DAYT  
6-

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

Commercial Block

HABS No. OH-2465

HABS  
OHIO  
57-DAYT  
6-

Location: Steele's Hill-Grafton Hill  
551-555 Salem Avenue  
Dayton  
Montgomery County  
Ohio  
UTM: 16.738900.4405980

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 one story, asymmetrical in plan, brick, Commercial style building. The original storefronts located along Salem Avenue have been extensively altered with the use of incompatible brick infill at one storefront bay and the removal of original materials and use of plywood at the second storefront bay. A smaller storefront bay and companion entry is located towards the rear of the building along North Avenue. The main entry bay at the corner is truncated at an angle to the intersection. A decorative cornice extends across both the Salem and North Avenue facades. This is surmounted with a moderate parapet wall. The rear walls conform to a property line which has resulted in the building having been constructed with a truncated plan. Several windows, located along the rear walls, have been blocked up with wood. Several doors have been permanently closed. The interior spaces have been extensively altered over the years with no significant details having survived.

History: This building was constructed in 1929 by William Barnes as an investment. Mr. Barnes was the owner of several drug stores in Dayton. The first tenants were a tire sales business and a candy store. Throughout the years, the building housed a variety of retail uses which have included a tailor, sewing shop, beauty shop, bakery, liquor store, bar, novelties, and herb sales company. At the present time, an appliance re-sale store and beauty shop are the tenants. The building will be demolished in order for the site to be incorporated into a new postal facility.

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

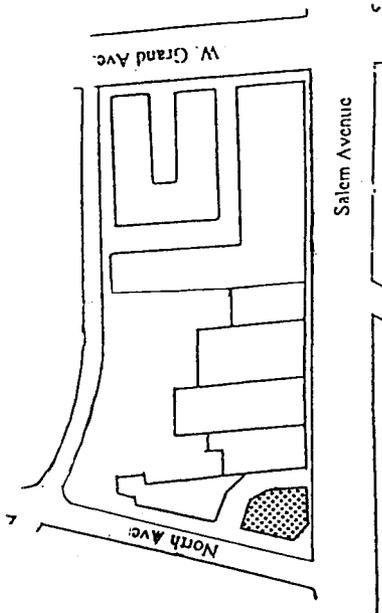
Montgomery County Recorder's Office, Title Search.

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

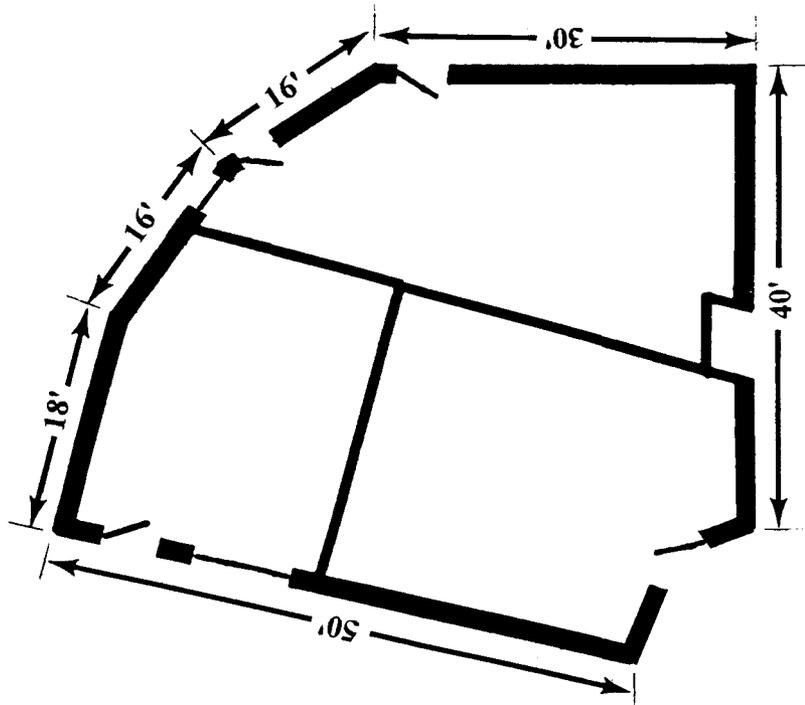
Sanborn Insurance Map Company, *Insurance Map of Dayton, Ohio*, Volume 2, 1919 and revisions.

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

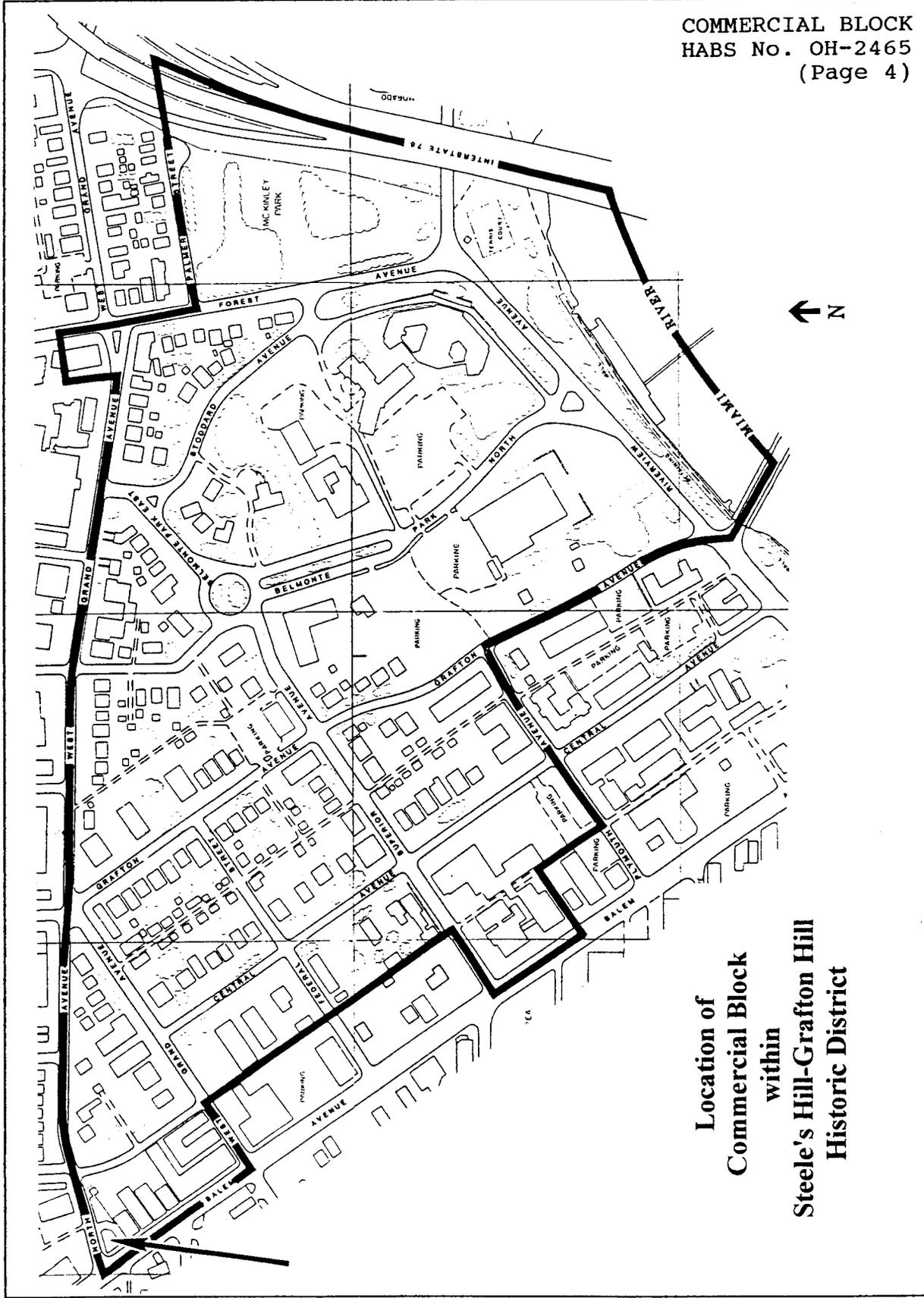
Historian: Fred Mitchell  
Historic Preservation Associates  
1026 Lenox Place  
Cincinnati, Ohio 45229  
September, 1997



**Overall Dimensions  
and Interior Floor Plan**



Not to Scale



**Location of  
Commercial Block  
within  
Steele's Hill-Grafton Hill  
Historic District**