

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

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**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

received APR 21 1987

date entered MAY 21 1987

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

**1. Name**

historic Ritte's Corner Historic District, Latonia

and or common Ritte's Corner

**2. Location**

street & number Along sections of DeCoursey, Southern, Inez and  
Winston Avenues in Latonia.

N/A not for publication

city, town Covington

N/A vicinity of

state Kentucky

code 021

county Kenton

code 117

**3. Classification**

| Category                                     | Ownership                                     | Status  | Present Use                                       |   |
|--|---|---|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district | <input type="checkbox"/> public               | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied          | <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture              | <input type="checkbox"/> museum                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> building(s)         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private   | <input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied                   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial    | <input type="checkbox"/> park                         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> structure           | <input type="checkbox"/> both                 | <input type="checkbox"/> work in progress             | <input type="checkbox"/> educational              | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence |
| <input type="checkbox"/> site                | <b>Public Acquisition</b>                     | <b>Accessible</b>                                     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> entertainment | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> object              | <input type="checkbox"/> N/A in process       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> government    | <input type="checkbox"/> scientific                   |
|  | <input type="checkbox"/> N/A being considered | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted | <input type="checkbox"/> industrial               | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation               |
|  |   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no                | <input type="checkbox"/> military                 | <input type="checkbox"/> other:                       |

**4. Owner of Property**

name Multiple Ownership

street & number N/A

city, town N/A

N/A vicinity of

N/A state

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Kenton County Courthouse

street & number 303 Court Place

city, town Covington

state Kentucky

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title The Covington Legacy

has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1977

federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records City of Covington

city, town Covington

state Kentucky

## 7. Description

### Condition

excellent

good

fair

deteriorated

ruins

unexposed

### Check one

unaltered

altered

### Check one

original site

moved date \_\_\_\_\_

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Ritte's Corner Historic District is located in the community of Latonia which is part of Covington, Kentucky. The district encompasses the oldest commercial area of the community at the intersection of DeCoursey, Southern and Winston Avenues. Latonia is in a relatively level valley with hills rising on the edge of the community. The district contains primarily commercial structures and is bounded on all sides by residential areas. It is the historic center of commerce in Latonia and continues to be an important shopping center for the community. Within the district are 30 contributing structures and 8 non-contributing structures.

The majority of buildings in the district were constructed between 1880 and 1930 as Latonia grew and prospered at the turn of the century. The Ritte's Corner crossroads has been the site of major road intersections since the early 1800s. It was not until after the development of the Latonia racetrack in the 1880s that substantial growth occurred in the community. Most buildings are of brick construction and are one to three stories in height and sited on deep, narrow urban lots.

The oldest buildings in the district are early frame residences and commercial structures built between 1880 and 1900. Several of these remain in good condition although most storefronts or first floor levels have been altered. After 1890 many brick structures were also constructed with substantial Italianate, Arts and Crafts, Neo-Classical and Art Deco styles represented. After 1930 few buildings were constructed in the district and demolition has been minimal. Alterations to storefronts and applications of artificial sidings constitute the most frequent changes in the district in the last fifty years.

Most buildings are rectangular plans oriented towards the street. Exceptions are the Boeckley and Mattern Buildings which are located at the angled intersection of Southern, DeCoursey and Winston. These buildings are designed to fit the odd angles of the corner lot. Decorative details such as glazed brick, prism glass transoms and sheet metal cornices are found throughout the district. Most buildings are occupied by commercial establishments and there are few vacancies in the district.

The historical and architectural integrity of the district is substantial with few modern intrusions. Most non-contributing structures are pre-1930 buildings which have been altered. While many storefronts have been changed most properties retain their upper facade characteristics and detailing. The 30 contributing structures in the district represent the best remaining collection of historic commercial architecture in Latonia.

Within the district are thirty contributing buildings and eight non-contributing buildings.

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Note: The photographs are arranged to follow the text, providing general views of the five corners of the Ritte's Corner intersection, followed by treatment of individual or groups of buildings. Photos 6 and 25 show areas on the outskirts of the boundaries not included in the district. Odd-numbered addresses, on the west and south sides of streets in Covington, precede even.

DeCoursey Avenue

3611 (southwest corner of W. 36th St.; formerly 911 Main St.; Photo 11, right), ca. 1909. Leucht/Carr House. Fine two-and-a-half-story Colonial Revival brick residence on large wooded lot at prominent intersection (only the south half of the lot containing the house is included in the district). Exterior of house basically intact except for replacement of (slate) roof. Pyramidal-roof type with switch-line traceried round-arched window with keystone in high parlor gable; tripartite dormer over entrance consists only of traceried windows, suggesting a "Palladian" feature without pediment (like several on mansions on Wallace Avenue in the Wallace Woods Historic District, listed on the Register August 11, 1983). Hard brick surfaces, brick quoins, raised-edge stone lintels which have incised squares with inturned curved corners at the ends; one-over-one-pane sash except parlor "picture window" with bevelled transom. Front porch has low gable over entrance, curves out beyond northeast corner into pavilion facing side yard; sunburst panel in gable; Tuscan columns under corbels; refined railing; Property is currently for sale and there has been some consideration of use of the north yard for public parking.

Louis Leucht, Sr. and Jr., had a saloon and grocery at this intersection (probably not this site) in the early 1890s. By 1908-1909 the house is shown on the Sanborn map and Louis Leucht (Jr.) is listed as living here with his widowed mother, Barbara Leucht. Also living here were in-laws, Leroy and Edith Carr, whose descendants still own the property. Leroy Carr was a partner in Depauw & Carr, druggist, whose store was in Leucht's Hall, formerly (by 1904) on the southeast corner of Decoursey and Winston Avenues (see Illus. V and VI). (Contributing).

3613-15 (now northwest corner of Inez Avenue; Photos 11, left; 12, right). Levina Apartments. Two-story brick Arts & Crafts double house; rectangular with recessed central entrance under canopy on heavy brackets; deep eaves with paired brackets under hipped roof with extruded louvered gables; grouped windows on front and sides. Named Levina (or LaVina) Apartments for Levina Wheeler, a member of the Leucht-Carr family who lived next door at 3611 and for whose two daughters this building is said to have been constructed around World War I. (The parking lot to the south was the location of the popular Latonia Sweet Shop for several decades; see Litzler, p. 10; Ills. VII, right distance). (Contributing).

3625 (southwest corner of Inez Avenue; Photos 2, right; 7; 8; 13; 1929. Latonia Deposit Bank/Runyan Memorial Church. Three-and-a-half-story rectangular

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stone-trimmed brick Neo-Classical bank building converted into church. Wire-brick surface laid with alternating light and dark bricks is articulated by a colossal three-story Corinthian order, with low ashlar foundations as base, finely detailed entablature under refined cornice of dentils and modillions; by three-dimensional fluted columns with superb capitals flanking the entrance on DeCoursey, which is recessed just far enough behind the main surface to accommodate the columns; by a pair of flat Corinthian unfluted pilasters marking the center bay of the seven-bay north elevation; and by alternating quoins at the front corners and dividing the outer pairs of bays on the north side. The three center north bays have large two-story round-arched Adamesque windows, with strip windows above; windows are mostly steel casements. The surface behind the recessed front bay is ashlar-faced with a round-arched entrance and three windows above on the third story.

The main divisions are further accented by the stone pedestals of the brick parapet above the cornice, with single balusters over the front columns. "The Latonia Deposit Bank and Trust Co." (with V for U in the antique fashion) is still inscribed in the front frieze, although the center part of the parapet above is gone. The north arches have keystones, but the other openings are simply as if punched out of the wall surface, except for the molded main entrance frame.

Very handsome and monumental (in spite of the warm brick surface), this building was erected in 1929 by the Carl Brothers of Covington (see DSG 1910, p. 35), according to the 1938 Sanborn map.

The arched north windows have been altered and probably the main banking room as well, in converting the bank to a church, but an exquisite Adamesque sunburst ceiling remains in the vestibule, as well as much of the original trim, including bronze grills there and in the former main banking room (now the sanctuary/auditorium). Its ill-fated move on the brink of the Depression led to the bank's failure, and possibly also that of the succeeding Southern Exchange Bank (still here in 1938). The Runyan Memorial Church was named for Brother Harlan S. Runyan, formerly pastor of the Latonia Christian Church (see Litzler, p.4, and histories of the Christian Church, originally located on the north side of E. 36th St. between DeCoursey and Church Sts. and later on the south-east corner of DeCoursey and 39th Street). The bank is on the site of the office and residence of Dr. Edward N. Simpson in the first decade of the century. In 1938 dentist Lucas J. Lee also had an office in the building, several barber shops are said to have been located in the basement, and there may have been apartments as well. (Contributing).

3627 formerly 927; Photos 2, 7, 8, 13), probably before 1890. Senour's Drug Store/Keller's Hall. Two-story frame building at street level with shingled forward gable which originally had gable trim (see Illus. VII); first floor front faced in brick with central display window flanked by north entrance to stairhall and recessed south entrance to first floor with small "colonial" door; paired two-story front windows. There is a curious stone wall with a parapet of

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upright slabs and other stone features at the rear.

Present on the 1894 Sanborn map, this is one of the older structures remaining in the district, and originally had a short projection on the north side. According to Boeckley, the drug store physician and surgeon U.G. Senour was located here; he is listed at a plausibly corresponding address in 1890 and 1892. The building is referred to as Keller's Hall in the 1904 and 1908 directories; possibly it was named for toll-collector Peter Keller, who also had a saloon at DeCoursey and Keller Avenues in the Rosedale section of south Latonia. In 1904 Henry S. Connely, justice of the peace and notary public, grocer J.N. Riddell occupied the store, with the Latonia Smoking Casino meeting here every Tuesday evening! According to Litzler (p.9.), this was later the shop of "Harry Rosen - the tailor who specialized in trousers with leather seats for the jockeys who came to old Latonia race track." By 1938 it was (Fermin and Waldron) Evans' Jewelry Store, having been occupied by the Latonia Dry Cleaners in 1932. (Altered but Contributing).

3629 (formerly 929; Photos 2, 7, 8, 14), before 1938. Two-story pressed-brick facade articulated by raised single brick courses, a continuous stone second-story sill, a superimposed plain cornice, and a pedimental brick parapet with raised cornerblocks containing stone circles and a row of raised brick creating a regular rhythm above the storefront, with an entrance to the upper story at the north end, retains prismatic transoms flanking the recessed entrance. The second floor has a tile fireplace and other evidences of residential use. Albert J. Bresch may have had a saloon on this site in 1904, but the lot was vacant in 1909.

A series of "five and dime" or "5c to \$1.00" and other establishments and stores were located here in the 1930s according to Litzler (p. 9.). (Contributing).

3631-33 (formerly 931-33; northwest corner of West Southern Avenue; Photos 2, 7, 8, 14; and Illus. VII, ca. 1902. First National Bank of Latonia and Latonia Branch, U.S. Post Office/now Peoples Liberty Bank. This is the most (consciously) picturesque building in Latonia, and makes the most of its conspicuous location at Ritte's corner, with its slightly angled shape bent along the south side, its curvaceous Flemish gables against a hipped roof (now asphalt shingle), and its polygonal oriel with ogival pinnacled roof over the canted corner entrance. The molded round arches resting on rusticated stone piers of the original first floor were mostly covered with corrugated metal siding in the 1950s, and recently replaced by blind arches defined by slender applied moldings, although the piers were re-exposed (compare Illus. VI). The second-story openings are edged with brick quoins, with paired round-arched windows under raised stone moldings under the gables, which have small stone-framed lancet openings. A frieze with metal garlands and a modillioned cornice breaks for the gables but continues around the oriel, which is panelled below the second-floor windows. Chimneys also punctuate the skyline. As far as

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is known, all the interiors have been remodelled, but the outside retains most of its original effect. Although the architect is unknown, the builders were the Carl Brothers of Covington, who also erected the Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption, Kenton County Infirmary (now Rosedale Manor) in Latonia, and many other important Northern Kentucky buildings (see DSG 1910, p. 35).

The (Charles P.) Draddy & (Jere) Daven Feed Store was located on this prominent site in the early 1890s, and it is possible that the "Milldate Post Office" located on "Taylor Mill Pike near Southern Avenue" in 1890 and 1892 was already on or near this site, although Boeckley suggests it may have been at what is now 3618-20 DeCoursey. The present quaint Flemish Renaissance Revival structure is believed to have been erected about 1902, when the First National Bank of Latonia was organized (see biographies of two of the founders of the bank, Joseph Lillard Elliston and Robert E. Carlton, in Johnson, II, 917 and 832, respectively). The First National Bank of Latonia and Covington merged into the latter in 1963, but this branch was recently replaced by the Peoples Liberty Bank, with the Vera Angel Realty office there in between. The Latonia Post Office was located in the western half of the building along W. Southern Avenue in 1909 and as late as 1938. (On the purchase of the lot and proposal to build a two-story brick and stone building with the bank on the first floor and offices in a town hall upstairs, see Ky. Post, May 15, 1902, p. 3.)

The building seems to have contained desirable office space on the second floor; attorney and notary public W.H. Dye and Drs. Robert E. and Palmer L. Carlton, physicians, were here in 1904, for instance (see Johnson, loc. cit.; also Poweleit and Schroer, Medicine, p. 99; and 8 below); Logan M. Westerfield and dentist S. Ralph Antle in 1938 (see also Litzler, p. 6). (Information and old views courtesy of Vera Angel). (Contributing).

East side of DeCoursey Avenue

3612 (formerly 916; Photos 9 and 10), (shortly) after 1909. The Latonia Bakery. Two story brick Arts & Crafts building with remodelled storefront. Second-floor front retains buff-brick corner pilaster strips, three one-over-one-pane windows with flush (now painted) stone lintels, superimposed deep eaves on paired brackets. With a parking lot and one-story "Williamsburg-inspired" branch bank on the corner of E. 36th St. to the north, the Latonia Bakery Building is a landmark of the approach to the Ritte's Corner commercial center. The bakery itself is also an institution, having been founded early in the century, according to Litzler (p. 8), by Carl Barfknecht, who was succeeded by Carl E. Schlipf in the 1930s, and later by Charlie Petty and Melvin Biddle, surviving as a neighborhood bakery until the present. (Altered but Contributing).

3614 (formerly 918), 1909-1938 and later. One-story brick store with high windows flanking central entrance (now painted to suggest half-timbering); asphalt-shingled false front roof; round-arched brick opening with brick keystone at northern end of facade leading to an open passage. According to Litzler (p.8), this was the site of an "Open Airdome" where early hand-cranked

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motion pictures were shown (possibly by Henry Ritte and Henry Kruse; the site is shown as vacant on the 1909 Sanborn map, however); it was converted into a plumbing store by A.J. Dehlinger, who sold the property in 1918 to Frank Carroll (the latter's restaurant is listed here in 1938; he also had a barber shop). The building recently burned and was at least partially rebuilt. (Non-Contributing).

3616 (formerly 920; Photos 9, 10, 15), 1909-1938. Martin Hardware Store Building. One-story brick double-width store with recently remodelled storefront. A diapered red and buff brick panel remains above the storefront under a false shed roof on paired Arts & Crafts brackets and diminutive dentil-course. A one-story L-shaped dwelling was near the front of this lot in 1894, and apparently was setback toward the alley at the rear by 1909. The present building was listed as occupied by The Martin Hardware Co. in 1938, and is referred to as Martin's & Holian's by Litzler (p.8). (Contributing).

3618-20 (formerly 922-24; Photos 9, 10, 15), possibly before 1883. Two-story frame double building with much-altered storefronts; gabled entrance to upper story at south end, leading to enclosed exterior staircase. Six two-over-two-pane windows are grouped on the front second story, with three closely-spaced openings in the north half, three more widely-spaced in the south, with a chimney between the second and third bays from the south. The cornice is plain and the front lacks stylistic features, but the rear massing is still irregular. The present structure may correspond to a building with a south ell shown as on Lot 507 of Williamson's Sub-Division on the 1883 Atlas map (see Map V), although that appears to be slightly farther south. It is clearly shown (labelled "M.") on the 1894 Sanborn map, and may well be one of the oldest buildings in the area. Boeckley suggests that the Milldale Post Office may have been here; John Moss was Post Master in the early 1890's. Although the other 1890's occupants have not been identified, several were listed here (then 920 Main Street) in the early 20th century: plumber and gas-fitter William Aker and the Mills Brothers, booksellers, stationers, and dealers in cigars and tobacco, in 1904; and attorney James W. Lily and George A. Ramsey, builder of cement pavements, in 1908. Litzler (pp.8-9) lists a number of later occupants. In 1938 H.W. Stephens sold radio sets at 3618 and the Great Atlantic & Pacific Tea Company had a store at 3620. (Contributing).

3622-24 (formerly 922-24; Photos 9, 15), between 1894 and 1904. Walter H. Ritte Building. Tall two-story brick austere turn-of-the-century double store building, with a remodelled storefront retaining recessed entries. The upper facade is articulated by vertical brick pilaster strips corbelled out over the windows to suggest panels; plain paired brackets between the four bays; two-over-two pane sash with raised-edge lintels on front, flush stone elsewhere.

The 1894 Sanborn map shows a vacant lot here, but the present structure is on the 1909 map. Boeckley indicates that it was built for Walter Ritte. Then 922

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Main, the northern half was occupied in 1904 by Richard S. Ferguson, a house and sign painter, and Mary Ferguson had a confectionery here; in 1908 it was the grocery of William Carroll; Henry Brand, dealer in boots and shoes, was in the south half (924 Main) in both years. In 1938 the Kroger Grocery & Baking Co. branch store was at 3622.

The lot to the south, now a parking lot, was the site of the early one-story "Grand Theatre," a motion-picture theatre owned by a Mr. Rice (or Ritte and Huff according to Boeckley), and later owned and renamed "The Latonia" by William Vance (it was so-called in 1938; see Litzler, p. 809; on 1909 Sanborn map, a one-story "Movie Theatre" is shown at 926 Main St). It eventually burned and was replaced on another location by the Kentucky Theatre (see 16 W. Southern Avenue below). (Contributing).

3628-30-32 (Photos 1, 9, 16 left), possibly ca. 1910; before 1938. Ritte Bowling Alley. According to Litzler (p.9), this large one-story buff-brick building with a remodelled storefront and stepped front parapet with a blank recessed center panel originally served as a bowling alley and billiard parlor for Henry and Walter Ritte's saloon next door (see 3634 DeCoursey). Boeckley dates it 1910, although it was not present on the 1909 Sanborn map. Litzler recalls that it was later Mergard's Bowling Alley, K & K Furniture Store; the 1938 Sanborn map labels it a furniture store, but the 1938 directory lists the Albers Super Markets, Inc. It now serves as a dance-hall. Boeckley recalled that a "Judge Schoberg" had a cobbler shop on this site at some early date. (Altered but Contributing).

3634 (formerly 932; northeast corner of East Southern Avenue; Photos 1, 16, 30 in distance), before 1890. Weber/Ritte Building. Three-story, three-bay tall brick corner store building with basically intact original iron storefront; originally two story wing at rear, continuing east as 4-6-8-E. Southern Avenue. The storefront indicates lowered ceilings through blind transoms, but retains incised piers with moldings "sliced off" at the sides in the late or High Victorian manner, with incised consoles on the first-floor cornice; the usual shields at the base of the piers indicate that they were supplied by The Fred. J. Meyers Architectural Iron Works, located on the northwest corner of 4th and Madison Sts. in Covington until a disastrous fire in March 1883 (see illustrated Cincinnati; 1886, p. 238; Perrin, History of Kentucky, 1887, p. 84a, for a biography of Meyers; Ky. Post, March 18, 1893, p. 7; the 1893 Covington Fire Department brochure, pp. 48, 61, for description of the fire).

The two-over-two-pane sash windows of the Weber/Ritte Building have pediment-shaped incised lintels with simple consoles and sills with consoles on the front, flush stone lintels on the side. The front cornice is bold, with paired brackets, pyramidal panels between, and a dentil course. Display windows have been inserted on the first floor south side.

This severe but striking late Victorian building gave Ritte's Corner its present

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name, and the earlier name, Weber's Corner, that has been all but forgotten. There is no building on this or any other corner of the intersection on the 1883 Atlas, but the present structure is clearly shown on the 1894 Sanborn map, and listings for the corner site as early as 1890 indicate that it was already present. The original occupant seems to have been John W. Weber, who advertised in 1890 (p. 426) his "Grocery, Beer, and Wine Saloon, Also, Sole Agent for Applegate & Sons' 'Rose-Bud' Whiskey, Received Direct from the Distillery, and can therefore be guaranteed for its absolute purity. N.E. Corner of Taylor Mill Road and Southern Avenue"; his residence was in the same building. Weber is also listed here in the 1892 directory and he advertised in the 1893 Fire Department History of Covington (p.6). The building seems to have been fully occupied in the early 1890s, as not only Boniface and William N. Weber, clerks, boarded here, but also a whole series of carpenters, including Richard Cugler, foremen carpenter, were listed on this corner in 1890, with Augusta Denschler serving as a "domestic." In 1892 a hostler, two coopers, and a barber, John Leisler, were listed here, and the Milldale Building and Loan Co. met here every Saturday evening.

Henry Ritte had his saloon here by 1904, when Walter H. Ritte, who later took over the business and became a prominent representative of Latonia, still served as clerk. Boeckley mentions that Walter Ritte was elected City Treasurer of Latonia in 1906, but soon lost his position because of the annexation of the short-lived town by Covington. He also had an undertaking establishment with J.W. Huff at what is now Swindler's Funeral Home, 214 W. Southern Avenue; they are said to have held the first "automobile funeral" in Covington, in the early 20th century. In 1910-11 Henry Ritte was also listed as the proprietor of the adjacent Grand Theatre. Frank Diamond also had a restaurant at (then) 934 Main in 1904. By 1938 the Latonia Liquor Store was on the corner, with a series of lunch-rooms and small stores and services located in the storefronts along E. Southern in the rear (see Litzler, pp. 4, 9, 22). (Contributing).

3700 Block of DeCoursey Avenue. See 1-3, 5 East Southern Avenue.

Inez Avenue

6-8 (photos 8 right, 11, 12). after 1909, before 1938. Two-story brick double house (with garage underneath) set quite close to the street and the alley to the west. Roof with wide eaves has clipped or jerkin-headed gables at ends, extends over two-story bay-window on front, is broken by two-story entrance porch, which has square brick piers on first floor, battered wood pillars on second story with "Chinese Chippendale" railing, half timbering in gable over segmental arches. A small round-arched second-story window repeats the form of the entrance of 6 Inez, which has a round-arched hood on brackets; single and double windows have six-over-one panes. This well-preserved Arts & Crafts dwelling double is said by Litzler to have been built for three daughters of the Klein family, original owners of the Latonia Sweet Shop formerly on the northwest corner of DeCoursey and Inez (now a parking lot). Possibly the name

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is Steib rather than Klein, as Mrs. Lena Steib had a dry-goods store on the corner in 1904 and 1908, and August Steib had had a confectionery there in 1890 and 1892. (Contributing).

Southern Avenue

## East Southern Avenue

1-3 (and 3702-3704 DeCoursey Avenue, southeast corner; Photos 1, 3, 17, 18, 20) 1930. The Boeckley Building. Combining Arts & Crafts and refined Neo-Classical elements, this wedge-shaped three-story pale buff brick commercial and residential building is set directly on the acute angled corner; green tile (possibly metal tile) token roofs are superimposed on parapets of north and south sides, resting on paired suave brackets; a square tower with a hipped roof, housing the elevator shaft, emerges above the east end. The surface of the narrow single-bay canted entrance wall on the corner is articulated by subtle vertical pilaster strips, with a gable suggested at the peak; one-over-one-pane windows are set directly in the wall plane except for modest flush keystones and brick jackarches. A narrow horizontal stone course runs across the top of the first story and defines both the corner entrance and the round-arched entrance to the upper stories at the east end of the south facade facing DeCoursey (3704); the latter has plain but well-modelled moldings with a keystone around the tympanum, which is inscribed "Boeckley, A.D. 1930." The main corner entrance has a similar but open round arch within a shallow pedimented aedicule with delicate relief carving in the spandrels of the arch and tympanum of the low pediment, including laurel and oak leaves and cornucopiae. It is set against rusticated stone piers that frame side entrances into an open corner vestibule that in turn leads into the Boeckley Drug Store, which retains some early display cases and pressed-metal ceiling.

The building is exceptionally well-designed, well-maintained, and intact (although a photograph probably taken shortly after completion of construction shows tiny pinnacles accenting the corner pilaster strips, as well as contrasting coloration to bring out the relief sculpture in the corner entrance; Illus. VI).

The Boeckley firm, founded in 1917 according to Poweleit & Schroer (1970, p. 69), moved to their new building from the Leucht Building which was formerly on the adjacent south-east corner of DeCoursey and Winston Avenues. A 1932 Boeckley advertisement in the first issue of The Latonia News (now The Kentuckian; March 12, 1932, p. 3) offers a "Regulation Football FREE with the purchase of a full pint of MI 31 Solution, the Mouth Tested Antiseptic, 59c"! Four apartments are listed in the Boeckley Building at 3704 Decoursey in the 1938 directory. The early photo also shows a physician and an insurance agent as located in offices on the upper stories of the corner. The Boeckley Building was located on the site of a large-two frame pentagonal structure, shown as a tall pyramidal roof at the corner in an old postcard (Illus. V.; see also Litzler, p. 22). Boeckley remembered that a Mr. Shawe had a cigar factory there, and

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that later Frank Carroll's barbershop was located in the building. (Contributing).

5 (and 3708 DeCoursey Avenue; Photos 3, 17, 18), before 1909. Mattern Building. Three-story brick building with third story in steep Mansard roof; faces both E. Southern and DeCoursey Avenues, which run at somewhat different angles; the DeCoursey front is somewhat wider, with four closely-spaced bays rather than the two wide bays on Southern. Both facades have storefronts with recessed central entrances, plus doorways to the upper stories set in plain brick walls at the east end of the fronts. A dentillated cornice separates the first from the second story, with a heavier dentillated cornice with bolder bracket-blocks between bays below the Mansard roofs. The unbonded second-story walls are varied by extensive buff brick trim, including flush alternating quoins at the corners and framing the windows, and a band under the upper cornice. The wider windows facing Southern Avenue have fine bevelled-glass transoms. There is a single wide dormer with double window against the north Mansard roof, and a pair of single dormers on the south; their red brick faces rise into low pediments, with buff brick lintel courses closed by incised stone blocks, and they are flanked by Baroque stone volutes whose lower scrolls contain tassels of stone. The overall effect is rich in color, plasticity, and detail. Erected in the early 20th century, this building is remembered (see Litzler, p.22) as the George Mattern Meat Market, although as late as 1910-11 Mattern's store was still located at 13 E. Southern Avenue next door, which was described as "To be removed" on the 1909 Sanborn map, on which 5 Southern is already present. It later housed the Monarch Ice Cream Co. and Jack Berman's Clothing Store, although the stores were described as vacant in 1938, when Rose E. Mattern and several others still lived upstairs. (Contributing).

6-8-10 (Photos 1, 16), after 1909, before 1938. Two-story wire-brick building continuing the roof-line of 2-4 E. Southern (the rear wing of 3634 DeCoursey), although constructed much later. There are three storefronts, of which 6 is the most altered; the other two retain their original display windows and transoms; all three have colored tiles below the storefront windows. 6 1/2 is the plain entrance to the second floor, with two recessed balconies with iron railings above; the balconies are flanked by single and double one-over-one-pane windows. The upper surface of the front is panelled with upright bricks accented by small blocks at the corners and defining three main units. Although plain, this group sustains the urban character of DeCoursey around the corner. Litzler (p. 22) lists several occupants of this building, including the Belmont Luncheon and Moore's Cafe in the 1930's; in 1938 the fully-occupied structure included a realtor, barber, clothes cleaner, delicatessen, and several residential tenants upstairs. (Contributing).

14 (Photo 16), after 1909, before 1938. Slightly lower than its neighbors to the west, this two-story, three-bay brick building is defined by a projecting cornice

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on triangular brackets. The entrance to both stories is at the west end. The building terminates this commercial block at the alley.

According to Litzler (p.22), the Bergman Brothers Dairy (as listed in the 1938 directory) replaced the Crescent Dairy in this building, which is shown as having a "Creamery" at the rear on the 1938 Sanborn map. Boeckley recalls the brick ice house (ice was cut out of Banklick Creek in winter and stored for hot-weather use) shown here on the 1894 and 1909 Sanborn maps. (Contributing)

West Southern Avenue

1-3 (also 3701-3707 Winston Avenue; Photos 3, 4, 26), ca. 1900. The Bird Building. Three-story rectangular brown brick Neo-Classical multi-use building, the most prominent structure in scale and location at Ritte's Corner. On the north side, facing West Southern, two double bays flank a blind single bay, with two storefronts (now combined) street-level. The longer east flank, facing Winston, has two pairs of double bays with single bays at the ends and near the center. Entrances are at the base of these three single bays: the south entrance is labelled "Lodges," with "Flats" in the center, and there is a recessed entrance to the corner store at the north end. The building as a whole is identified as the "Bird" Building by an inscription in the broken-forward parapet over the central east entrance. An oddity of the overall design is the lack of flanking pilasters on the northernmost single bay of the east side, to conform with the bays on the north side which also do not break forward.

The first floor serves as a base for the colossal two-story pilaster order above; the piers flanking the entrances and display windows are of rusticated brick (i.e., with horizontal shadow-lines), with a continuous cornice. This cornice breaks forward over the west entrances and is supported by consoles over the central entrance. The display windows have borders of exquisite (probably bronze) Grecian meanders, and there are other fine details on the storefronts, as well as some remaining mosaic tile in the vestibules. The south and central Winston Avenue single bays are flanked by projecting square brick two-story pilasters with stone capitals, and similar capitals are at the northeast and northwest corners, with bold single or double consoles against the brick entablature above; but all the other single and double bays are defined by a very slight recession of the surface only. Other details include small stone circles above the pilaster strips and on the capitals, and raised brick panels between second and third story windows. The staircase to the lodges has a handsome newel featuring a Doric triglyph and there remains some plain but well-designed interior woodwork.

Although this corner was vacant in 1883, by 1890 the Bird family had their drugstore in a two-story frame building on this site, as shown in the 1896 Sanborn map. Boeckley recalls the earlier structure as having had a "porch about five feet high around it, so that farmers could get off this porch and hitch their houses while they shopped around town." The frame building is said

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to have been moved back to the site of 3715 Winston Avenue (the Frank Flake Hardware Store) and later "was blown down by a bad wind storm" which left nothing there but the foundation!

There seem to have been two concurrent families named Bird, both with drugstores, in Covington in the 19th and early 20th centuries. A Thomas Bird, born in England about 1815, is listed in the 1860 Census (p. 25, 1.27), and there is a reference to his having had a pharmacy downtown since well before the Civil War (see Kenton County Public Library Newspaper Index). On the other hand, a biography of Dr. R. Lee Bird in Kerr (IV, 479-50) provides a different lineage, indicating that his direct forebears were farmers rather than druggists: Thomas Bird (1802-1883), born in Virginia, came to Kenton County, Kentucky, as a young man and farmed until his death. His son, Thomas Jefferson Bird (1842-1920), is also described as a local farmer, having served in the Confederate Army under General Kirby Smith (who led the aborted attack on Cincinnati through Northern Kentucky in 1862). Thomas J. Bird was one of the early settlers of Latonia, listed in 1890 as living with several other members of the family on DeCoursey near Southern Avenue. He is not, however, listed in the 1892 directory, when the family had apparently already moved to their residence on the northwest corner of East Southern Avenue and Church Street, the site of the former Holy Cross Sisters' Convent (now the Catholic Social Service Bureau; see the Holy Cross Church and School Complex nomination).

Dr. R. Lee Bird (born 1863) received his M.D. from the Ohio Medical College of Cincinnati in 1886 and began practice immediately in Covington. By 1890 he was listed in the precursor of the Bird Building as a "Physician and Surgeon; also, Dealer in Drugs, Chemicals and Perfumery, Taylor Mill Road nr. Southern Avenue." In 1892 this list was expanded to include "Fancy and Toilet Articles, Sponges, Brushes," and the address is specified as the southwest corner of what is now West Southern and Winston Avenues. R. Lee Bird was on the staff of the Booth Memorial Hospital formerly in Covington (see the Ohio Riverside National Register District), was local surgeon for the L & N Railroad, county health officer for ten years, and active in medical work during World War I. He was organizer of the Latonia Deposit Bank, which was established in the storefront on the west side of the Bird Building in 1906 (see Illus. II, III right) with a capital of \$25,000 (see the KCPL Newspaper Index and description of its own building, constructed in 1929, at 3625 DeCoursey).

In 1892 the manager of Bird's Drug Store was Will C. Harris, and in both 1890 and 1892 a clerk was Forrest A. Pope (born 1872; see Kerr, III, 115-116). Born in Kenton Co., F.A. Pope was a son of Francis M. Pope (1848- ), a turn-of-the-century settler in Latonia who served as its town clerk and assessor 1908-1910. Forrest Pope worked in Bird's drug store in Latonia 1889-93 and, after getting a degree in Cincinnati, returned to the store about 1895, acquiring the business in 1902—possibly when the present building was erected, as Bird's Hall is so listed in the 1904 directory. Pope was also a director of the Latonia Deposit Bank, and a stockholder in the First National Bank of Latonia, served

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on the Latonia School Board, and was active in local civic organizations, according to Kerr. The building also housed Webber & Pope, plumbers and gasfitters, in 1908, as well as E. and H. Beermann, electricians, and Claude E. Harris, street contractor. The pharmaceutical tradition has been carried on to the present by Schulte's Drug Store, who acquired the business in 1947 from the widow of F.A. Pope, who had managed it for some years after his death. (Contributing).

5-7 (Photos 19, 20, 21); rear building before 1904; front after 1938. Hotel De Ryle/Landwehr's Hardware Store. A one-story modern store building with diagonally-set store-front behind a plain glazed-tile facade has been constructed in front of a cross-shaped two-story frame turn-of-the-century residence or boarding house. The latter is barely visible except from a narrow space on the east side between it and the much taller Bird Building; its main surviving exterior feature is an attractive Queen Anne entrance door, but its position and survival are quaintly unexpected.

George W. Cadwallader, a horse trainer (no doubt at the nearby Latonia Race Track), is listed as residing at 7 W. Southern Avenue in 1940. By 1908 it was the boarding house of Etta M. Tanner. In 1938 it is listed as occupied by Courtney C. Ryle, confirming Litzler's memory of it (p.4) as the "Hotel de Ryle," a respectable railroad man's hotel. Its front porch is shown on old photographs of the Bird Building, under trees. (see Illus. II). (Non-Contributing).

9-11 (Photos 19, 20), probably after World War II. Landwehr Hardware Store. One-story green modern store building with glazed-tile facade rising through low crow-steps in the center to accommodate a rather striking geometric neon sign. The present structure, built for the Landwehr Hardware Store, is on the site of a pre-1894 residence occupied in 1938 by Edward R. Manson, justice of the peace, locomotive engineer, and member of a prominent and early local family; he was a brother of Judge Lewis Lee Manson (see Kerr, III, 134-35). (Contributing).

15 (Photos 19, 20), shortly before 1938. The Kentucky Theatre. Two-story movie theater with altered first floor extending across street-level with deeply recessed entrance. The upper facade, which now appears set back is of tawny brick with pairs of modest double windows and a dramatic central feature rising above its flat parapet. This feature consists of a red wirebrick (laid with stretchers only) quadrant-curved vertical form with horizontal bands of buff brick set diagonally on edge; this "fin" extends back and above a recessed section of vertically-ribbed or corrugated large orange tiles. In spite of the remodelling, this feature provides a note of Art-Deco style to the streetscape and counteracts the low suburban-style storefronts on this block. It is shown on the ca. 1940 Sanborn map, but the Southside Realty Co. was still listed at 15 W. Southern in 1938. (Contributing).

17 (Photos 19, 20), before 1908. W.H. Dye House. Two-story gable-forward

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re-sided (aluminum) frame dwelling with recent storefront continuing that of 15 Southern Avenue. Aside from a large window with transom centered on the second-floor front, the only remaining architectural feature is the pierced front gable trim and brackets at the corners.

This area is not included in the 1894 Sanborn map. The address is listed in 1908 as the office of W.H. Dye (died before 1910-11), attorney at law, notary public, and real estate agent, who had been assistant postmaster in Latonia 1904. (Non-Contributing).

19 (Photo 22 left), before 1938. T. & W. Printing Co. This one-story tile-faced structure is located behind 17 W. Southern Avenue, with access through a parking lot on the site of the former 19 Southern, a long narrow one-story store that housed the Crawford Furniture Co. in the 1930s. The T & W (originally True & Walker's) Printing Co. was established in 1921 and originally located in the building on the site of 1-3 E. Southern Avenue, according to Litzler (p. 3). (Contributing).

21-23 (Photo 22), ca. 1916. Dr. Fenton F. Adams Office and Residence. One-and-a-half-story "Tudor" cottage with wirebrick first floor, "Half-timbered" gables, and added and/or re-sided shed dormers. There is a large parlor gable with diamond-paned casement-and-transom parlor window, a gable with flared eaves over the round arched entrance vestibule, a heavy timber porte-cochere on the west, and bracketted hoods over secondary entrances. The picturesque silhouette has been considerably compromised by the dormers, but attractive details remain, such as a pretty wrought-iron arch at the northeast corner.

A confectioner and a dressmaker were listed on this site in 1904 and 1908, respectively. In 1916 (see Ky. Post, 2/18/1916, p. 3) Dr. and Mrs. Fenton F. Adams had this residence constructed. Still listed here in 1938 (as well as Mrs. Rosalie Schwerin), he was a popular but colorful physician (see last page of 7. below). The building has been adapted as professional offices. (Contributing).

25 (Photo 23, left), after 1909, before 1938. This two-story gable-forward asphalt-shingled frame dwelling with a bungaloid one story porch across the front has no distinction in its own right, but helps make the transition from the commercial core of Ritte's corner to the more residential blocks to the west and south. George McManis and Walter Smith lived here in 1938. (Contributing).

27-31 (southwest corner of Tibbatts Avenue; Photos 23, 24) ca. 1938. Fire Department Engine Company No. 2. Two-story buff brick fire station with vaguely Art-Deco styling; basically a rectangle, with a truncated tower and one-story aisle along the west side (facing Tibbatts Avenue). The walls are striped horizontally in wide bands of two tones of light and dark brick that incorporate the five strip windows on the second-story front and others along the sides; the facade is flanked by brick pilaster strips or buttresses with

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vertical fluted stone—courses running up the center, perhaps to suggest the mere vestiges of classical columns; flat on the sides of the two-story main block articulate the structural bay-system. An entrance and vertical narrow window emphasize the verticality of the northwest staircase tower. Wide large-paned aluminum garage doors flank a central brick pier under an aluminum strip. Recently the flat roof and surrounding parapet were replaced by a low gabled standing-seam metal roof, with the gables also clad in metal, thus reducing the "modern" character of the design.

The Latonia Fire Department was formerly located in a quaint two-story brick building on the opposite, southwest corner of West Southern and Tibbatts Avenues; the Calvary Baptist Church replaced it about the time the present station was erected, just before World War II. The 1883 Atlas map shows a T-shaped building labelled "Public School" on the southwest corner. Boeckley recalls that it originally had only two rooms, but an old photograph (Illus. VIII) shows it as enlarged to include the fire station on the front; this no doubt corresponds to the building shown on the 1909 Sanborn map as including Fire Co. No. 8, courtrooms on the second floor, and a first-story Jail at the rear; it probably also served as the Latonia Town Hall.

The present firehouse was designed by Chester H. Disque (ca. 1894-1971), a Covington architect who worked on many public buildings between the world wars. He was a colleague and neighbor of architect Bernard T. Wisenall, for whom he originally worked. It seems likely, for instance, that Disque had a hand in designing the John G. Carlisle Elementary School, also about 1938 and attributed to Wisenall, in the West Side/Main Strasse Historic District, listed on the National Register November 10, 1983), and several other contemporary School buildings which have similar horizontal stripes, pale brick coloring, and simplified Deco details.

Disque's son Chester also attributes to him the 4th District School in Covington, the addition to the 11th District School in West Covington (listed on the Register June 16, 1983), a fire station in Warsaw, Ky., a nursing home in Sparta, Ky., and the Glenn Schmitt Bowling Lanes in Newport, Ky. Disque designed the handsome and consistently stylized Covington Board of Education Administration Building on East 7th. Street (listed on the Register as part of the Downtown Commercial District, June 9, 1983). He was associated with several developer/contractors and with Stuart K. Weber, successor to the noted Weber Brothers firm of Ft. Thomas, Ky. in the 1960s, also working on his own near the beginning and end of his long career. During World War II, according to his son, Disque worked at the Wright Aeronautical Plant (now General Electric) in Evendale, Ohio. (Contributing).

10-12 (northeast corner of alley; Photos 2, 14, left), probably before 1938. Plain two-story wirebrick building with one-story rear section; widely-spaced pairs of windows with flush lintels on second-story front, others on sides; slender, plain widely-spaced open brackets under flat front; plain display windows and

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entrances on front under horizontal canopy; somewhat altered side openings; now vacant.

The ca. 1938 Sanborn map shows a restaurant with a roofing warehouse across the rear here. According to the 1938 directory, it was occupied by the Fielding Appliance and Realty Co. and the G & M Meat Market. Litzler (p.5) lists the Latonia Chevrolet Co. at this location in 1932; also the Cox, K & K, and Len Connor's Furniture Stores; and Mrs. Shaller's restaurant. The well-known Turf Club was formerly on the parking lot now to the east. (Contributing).

Winston Avenue

3709 (Photos 4, 26), after 1909, before 1938. This tiny two-story refaced commercial building is squeezed between the Bird Building (see 1-3 W. Southern Avenue) and its neighbor to the south. (Non-Contributing).

3711 (Photos 4, 26), after 1909, before 1938. The Latonian Cafe. One-story tile-faced restaurant with cream and orange glazed-tile facade. According to Litzler (p.12), "The Latonian" was originally operated by the Ryan Brothers (also listed in the 1938 directory), who moved here from the Boeckley Building after Prohibition. (Contributing).

3715 (Photo 26), after 1909, before 1938. Frank Flake's Hardware Store. Two-story pressed brick combined store and residence with setback north two-story wing; glass-enclosed porch on square brick piers fills in northeast corner. Storefront with recessed central entrance has been recently remodelled. Two wide one-over-one-pane windows above have buff upright brick flush lintels under a cornice with paired brackets. There are two fine small Art-glass windows set high in the parlor wall on the south side. According to Litzler (p. 12), this was built for Frank Flake as his hardware store; he is still listed here in 1938. It is on the site to which the original two-story frame Bird Building was moved before being destroyed in a storm, according to Boeckley. (Contributing).

3712 (formerly 1010; Photos 27, 28), before 1909. John Leisler Barber Shop. Two-story gable-forward frame building set directly at sidewalk level, with a recently remodelled storefront; otherwise front is intact except for the shutters shown on an old photograph (see Illus. IV). A two-story setback frame wing on the north side was added between 1909 and 1938; its front corner rests on a square brick pier under the second story; The facade has a pair of long one-over-one-pane sash windows against the original narrow weatherboarding; the upper two-thirds of the front gable has sawtooth shingles and a small louvered round-arched attic vent with "keystone"; there are Italianate brackets at the corners of the gable.

The 1894 Sanborn map does not cover the east side of Winston, but the present

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building is shown as a store (without the north wing) in 1909. In 1904 and 1908 it is listed as John Leisler's barber shop, although it may have had an earlier use. Litzler (p. 13) recalls that it was Mrs. May Clare's restaurant, as is confirmed by the 1938 directory.

Note: In a survey update in September, 1986 it was noted that the entire building had been encased in metal siding. The building is therefore considered non-contributing (see photo no. 31). (Non-Contributing).

3714 (Photos 27, 28), after 1938. Two-story brick-faced building with plain modern storefront and two windows on the second-floor front under a tile parapet. The present building, compatible with others in the district, was built after 1938, when the site is shown as vacant on the Sanborn map and not listed in the directory. A smaller one-story frame structure (1012 Winston) on the site earlier and shown in the old photograph of the block (Illus. IV) apparently housed C.B. Schobers, boot and shoe maker, in both 1904 and 1908; Stella Momper's confectionery in 1908; and John N. Middendorf & Son's undertaking branch office (perhaps in the garage at the rear; see also 917 Main Street in the West Side district), also in 1908. (Non-Contributing).

3716 (formerly 1016; Photos 27, 28, 29, far left), before 1909. Ida Wood's Grocery. Tall two-story, three-bay frame rectangular structure with Italianate bracketed cornice across the front. The old photograph (Illus. IV) shows a projecting canopy labelled "Cash Grocery" extending over the deep sidewalk to the muddy street, and a complete set of upstairs shutters, but otherwise the building seems intact; it may, however, have had larger display windows rather than the small pair of windows and central entrance now on the first-floor front. Present in 1904, when it was listed as Ida Wood's Grocery, and possibly a good deal older, this late Italianate building was later Mrs. Anna E. Schlapp's restaurant (see 1938 directory and Litzler, p. 13). (Contributing).

3718 (Photos 27, 28, 29), after 1938. This one-story brick structure, now used as a church, was built since the 1938 Sanborn map, which shows a vacancy here. Its low stepped parapet is compatible with the block, which alternates older two-story buildings with recent one-story replacements for older buildings of a similar low scale. (Non-Contributing).

3722 (formerly 1022; Photos 27, 28, far right, 29, 30) before 1909. Fredericka Scheper's Saloon. Probably built at the turn of the century, this long two-story brick building with many side openings, all with flush stone lintels, has a bold late Italianate cornice across the front above a double window. The somewhat altered storefront retains fluted castiron end-piers with austere "capitals". The Scheper saloon was listed here in 1908, and John J. Haberbusch's cafe in 1938. (Contributing).

3728 (formerly 1024-26; northeast corner of E. 38th St.; Photos 29, 30), perhaps before 1909, but thoroughly remodelled, if not replaced, recently. One-story

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brick wedge-shaped restaurant conforming to the angled corner site; rear is brick, front clad in stone veneer with a wood-shingled "Mansard" false roof. Although somewhat intrusive in its present form, this popular restaurant is a local institution. Amanda Lewis had a restaurant on this site as early as 1904 and 1908, and Mrs. Catherine Bridges in 1938. (Non-Contributing).

3802 (formerly 1100 or 1102; southeast corner of E. 38th St.; Photos 29, 20), perhaps before 1892. Dennler's Saloon and Daily Market. Two-story brick gable-forward corner building with an angled facade, given a minimal Richardsonian Romanesque character by the rough stone continuous lintel and sill course that define the second-story two-over-two-pane sash front windows; the storefront has been altered.

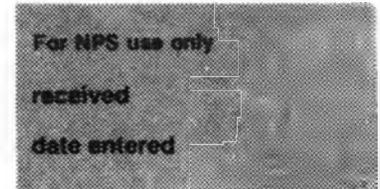
Although the 1894 Sanborn map does not include this block, Fred Dennler's saloon and daily market is listed as on the southeast corner of Taylor Mill Pike (now Winston south of Ritte's Corner) and Golding (now 38th) St. in the 1892 directory; this may, of course, have been in an earlier, more modest building on the site. Fred, August (a laborer), and Anna Dennler had been listed at a saloon on the southeast corner of Taylor Mill (now DeCoursey) and Franklin (36th) St. in 1890. In 1904 and 1908 Henry Dennler occupied the saloon at 1102 Main, as 3802 Winston was then called. Litzler recalls the building as Pat Cushing's Saloon (p. 26) before it was John Murchinson's (p.13); Herman Ostendorf's cafe was listed here in 1938. (Contributing).

Near the northeast corner of DeCoursey and East Southern in front of 3628-30-32 DeCoursey is a handsome Neo-Classical cast-iron lamp standard made and/or set up by the Cincinnati and Covington Electric Railway Company, as a label on the base indicates (barely visible in Photo 1, far left).

The major piece of "street furniture" in Latonia, alas long-gone, was the elegant fountain erected by Dr. Robert E. Carlton for the benefit of dogs and horses, and possibly also human beings, in the intersection at Ritte's Corner, apparently near the Bird Building (see Illus. II and III) about 1915. Dr. R.E. Carlton (born 1856) had a varied career, beginning as a farmer in his native Gallatin County, Kentucky; taking a license as a Baptist Minister; and attending the Kentucky School of Medicine before he was twenty-one years old, according to Poweleit and Schroer (History of Medicine, p. 99, with portrait). He moved to Latonia in 1901, where his office was at 3631-33 DeCoursey Avenue. He also served as a member of the Board of Education 1906-1908. He and a partner, Dr. S.Y. Cully, applied for a patent on an oiling attachment for street sprinklers, in the hope of controlling the supposedly deleterious effect of oil fumes on tuberculosis cases! Dr. Carlton intended to name the fountain, which was especially popular with stableboys and race-track fans according to Geaslen (III, 56), for the first soldier from the Latonia area to return from World War I, but the first to return was Leo Flake, son of Frank Flake (see 3715 Winston

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Avenue), who had served as a camp cook in Alabama and never left the country, according to legend!

Still more legendary is the double-demise of the fountain owing to ministrations of the popular but far-from-sober "Doc" Fenton Adams (see 21-23 West Southern Avenue above), who had not yet fully made the transition from the horse-drawn vehicle to his "Reo" automobile. (Such much-repeated anecdotes may help convey the flavor of Ritte's Corner in its heyday.)

## 8. Significance

| Period  | Areas of Significance—Check and justify below    |   |   |   |
|---|--|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric          | <input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric  | <input type="checkbox"/> community planning     | <input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> religion                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499            | <input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic     | <input type="checkbox"/> conservation           | <input type="checkbox"/> law                    | <input type="checkbox"/> science                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599            | <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> economics              | <input type="checkbox"/> literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> sculpture                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> education              | <input type="checkbox"/> military               | <input type="checkbox"/> social/<br>humanitarian    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799            | <input type="checkbox"/> art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> engineering            | <input type="checkbox"/> music                  | <input type="checkbox"/> theater                    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce     | <input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement | <input type="checkbox"/> philosophy             | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation             |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-     | <input type="checkbox"/> communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> politics/government    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) |
|   |  | <input type="checkbox"/> invention              |   |   |

**Specific dates** Ca. 1880 - 1940      **Builder/Architect** See Description

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Ritte's Corner Historic District contains thirty-eight properties which are significant in the growth and development of the community of Latonia in Covington, Kentucky. The district is the historic commercial center of the community with most buildings constructed between 1880 and 1940. Commercial buildings comprise most of the district with some residences and churches also represented. Found within the district are excellent commercial examples of the Italianate, Arts and Crafts, Neo-Classical and Art Deco styles. Modern intrusions in the district have been few and it retains a high degree of integrity. The area has been nominated under criteria A and C.

The district is significant under criterion A with respect to the themes of commerce and transportation. This corner was named for the Ritte family which constructed the three-story Italianate building at 3634 DeCoursey Avenue, ca. 1885. This imposing structure was one of the earliest and largest brick structures in the commercial area of the community and it housed the popular Ritte saloon for many years. With the growth of the nearby Latonia racetrack the commercial area grew and thrived with many businesses locating around the intersection of Southern, DeCoursey and Winston Avenues by the turn of the century. These businesses included banks, saloons, clothing stores and grocery stores. The area was the commercial center of Latonia for many years and continues to be a vital shopping area.

In addition to the important commercial function of the district it was also a center for other community activities. At 3631-33 DeCoursey was the site of the U.S. Post Office for the community between 1909 and 1938. Fire protection for the area has been provided since ca. 1938 by Engine Company No. 2 located at 27-31 W. Southern Avenue. The Bird Building at 1-3 W. Southern Avenue was the home of several Latonia social lodges for many years. Since the early 1930s the Runyan Memorial Church has served its congregation in the building at 3625 DeCoursey Avenue. All of these uses illustrate the importance of the Ritte's Corner area to the community during the late 19th and early 20th centuries and the diversity of the district's development. The area is also important in transportation as an historical intersection of major roads leading into the Covington and Cincinnati area. The important Banklick Pike which connected Cincinnati with much of Kentucky ran through or near this intersection.

The Ritte's Corner Historic District has also been nominated under criterion C with respect to the theme of architecture. The area contains a significant collection of urban architectural styles built between 1880 and 1940. Within the district are examples of the Italianate, Arts and Crafts, Queen Anne,

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

(See continuation sheet)

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property Approx. 8.2 acres

Quadrangle name Covington, KY

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

### UTM References

|   |                   |   |  |
|---|-------------------|---|--|
| A | <u>1</u> <u>6</u> | <u>7</u> <u>1</u> <u>5</u> <u>9</u> <u>5</u> <u>0</u> | <u>4</u> <u>3</u> <u>2</u> <u>4</u> <u>7</u> <u>9</u> <u>5</u> |
|   | Zone              | Easting   | Northing   |

|   |                   |   |  |
|---|-------------------|---|--|
| B | <u>1</u> <u>6</u> | <u>7</u> <u>1</u> <u>6</u> <u>0</u> <u>2</u> <u>0</u> | <u>4</u> <u>3</u> <u>2</u> <u>4</u> <u>9</u> <u>1</u> <u>0</u> |
|   | Zone              | Easting   | Northing   |

|   |                   |   |  |
|---|-------------------|---|--|
| C | <u>1</u> <u>6</u> | <u>7</u> <u>1</u> <u>6</u> <u>1</u> <u>6</u> <u>2</u> | <u>4</u> <u>3</u> <u>2</u> <u>4</u> <u>9</u> <u>0</u> <u>0</u> |
|---|-------------------|---|--|

|   |                   |   |  |
|---|-------------------|---|--|
| D | <u>1</u> <u>6</u> | <u>7</u> <u>1</u> <u>6</u> <u>1</u> <u>5</u> <u>0</u> | <u>4</u> <u>3</u> <u>2</u> <u>4</u> <u>7</u> <u>4</u> <u>0</u> |
|---|-------------------|---|--|

|   |                   |   |  |
|---|-------------------|---|--|
| E | <u>1</u> <u>6</u> | <u>7</u> <u>1</u> <u>6</u> <u>1</u> <u>0</u> <u>5</u> | <u>4</u> <u>3</u> <u>2</u> <u>4</u> <u>6</u> <u>5</u> <u>0</u> |
|---|-------------------|---|--|

|   |                   |   |  |
|---|-------------------|---|--|
| F | <u>1</u> <u>6</u> | <u>7</u> <u>1</u> <u>6</u> <u>0</u> <u>1</u> <u>5</u> | <u>4</u> <u>3</u> <u>2</u> <u>4</u> <u>6</u> <u>4</u> <u>0</u> |
|---|-------------------|---|--|

|   |                   |   |   |
|---|-------------------|---|---|
| G | <u> </u> <u> </u> | <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> | <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> |
|---|-------------------|---|---|

|   |                   |   |   |
|---|-------------------|---|---|
| H | <u> </u> <u> </u> | <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> | <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> |
|---|-------------------|---|---|

### Verbal boundary description and justification

See continuation sheet

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

|       |     |      |     |        |     |      |     |
|-------|-----|------|-----|--------|-----|------|-----|
| state | N/A | code | N/A | county | N/A | code | N/A |
|-------|-----|------|-----|--------|-----|------|-----|

|       |     |      |     |        |     |      |     |
|-------|-----|------|-----|--------|-----|------|-----|
| state | N/A | code | N/A | county | N/A | code | N/A |
|-------|-----|------|-----|--------|-----|------|-----|

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Walter E. Langsam, Historical Surveyor

organization City of Covington

date May, 1984

street & number 303 Court Place

telephone (606) 292-2111

city or town Covington

state Kentucky

# 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national     state     local

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

*David L. Morgan*

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date 4-14-87

### For NPS use only

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

*Amy Schlager*

date 5/21/87

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

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received

date entered

Continuation sheet      Ritte's Corner  
   Historic District, KY      Item number      8      Page      2

Neo-Classical and Art Deco styles. The majority of properties in the district have not been altered and they retain their original character. Several original storefronts are also intact. Together the buildings represent the best collection of historic commercial architecture in Latonia.

Addition Information

For almost a century Ritte's Corner has been the traditional commercial, professional, financial and social core of Latonia, a community within the City of Covington. At the angled intersection of five major streets, the corner represents the cross-roads of a valley criss-crossed by major transportation systems since the early 19th century. Located in the second valley southwest of the junction of the Licking and Ohio Rivers opposite Cincinnati, Latonia was named for a nearby spring and ante-bellum spa that in turn gave its name to the famous race track located a block from Ritte's Corner from about 1880 until the 1930s. At an early date the area contained mills, a ferry to Campbell County on the east side of the Licking, the main road to Lexington and central Kentucky called the Banklick Pike, and several roads along the Licking, and distilleries and other industry along the river banks. The Kentucky Central Railway connection with the Blue Grass dates from the 1850s, while links with Louisville, the East, and Cincinnati developed during the 1870s and '80s, all crossing within a few blocks of Ritte's Corner. Even with nearby interstate connectors, several roads used by through traffic meet at the corner. Nevertheless, Latonia remains in essence an independent community, with its center at Ritte's Corner, which is surrounded by churches that provide (along with an adjacent American Legion Post), the heart of the area's social and educational, as well as religious life.

This intersection became the focus of development in the late 1880s, with a group of frame structures on or near the angles of the intersection, of which perhaps three (one possibly an early post office) remain in the district. Most of the earliest surviving brick and frame structures belong to the gable-forward "homestead" type, and probably served primarily the race track, although the surrounding residential areas were beginning to develop.

By the turn of the century, however, a population explosion began in the vicinity, which had been known as Milldale or South Covington with ambiguous governmental status. By the time of the controversial annexation as Latonia by Covington in 1909, the rapid growth of population and sub-divisions was reflected by the replacement of the original modest structures at the Corner by handsome two-or three-story stone-trimmed brick buildings, and the building up of adjacent streets. The Corner, originally called Weber's, was renamed Ritte's for the popular proprietors of a saloon in the oldest surviving building on the Corner itself, which retains its locally-made 1890s storefront. On the adjacent corners two banks, professional offices, and essential stores dominated the intersection in buildings of Neo-Classical or Flemish style dating from about 1900 to 1930, of which all but one remain. Smaller buildings in their vicinity

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

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Ritte's Corner

Continuation sheet Historic District, KY

Item number 8

Page 3

housed other offices, a variety of stores and services, restaurants and bars, and entertainment facilities, most in typical Arts and Crafts style, but tending toward the Art Deco in several World War II-era commercial buildings, as well as the former Kentucky Theater, Fire Station No. 2, and (outside the district) American Legion Post that all contributed to the significance of the area for the community.

The replacement of the race track with a shopping center, changes in the industrial base and railroad and highway configuration since World War II, have all had an impact on Latonia and Ritte's Corner. Nevertheless, thanks to the efforts of local business and professional leaders and the conservative nature of the local residents, many of them of German origin with strong ties to the churches and their schools, Ritte's Corner has retained its identity, vitality, and much of its visual, urbanistic and architectural character.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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Continuation sheet      Ritte's Corner Historic  
District, KY

Item number      9

Page      1

Major Bibliographical Sources

Beehan, Thomas. Interview. 15, September, 1986. Latonia, Kentucky.

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**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
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received

date entered

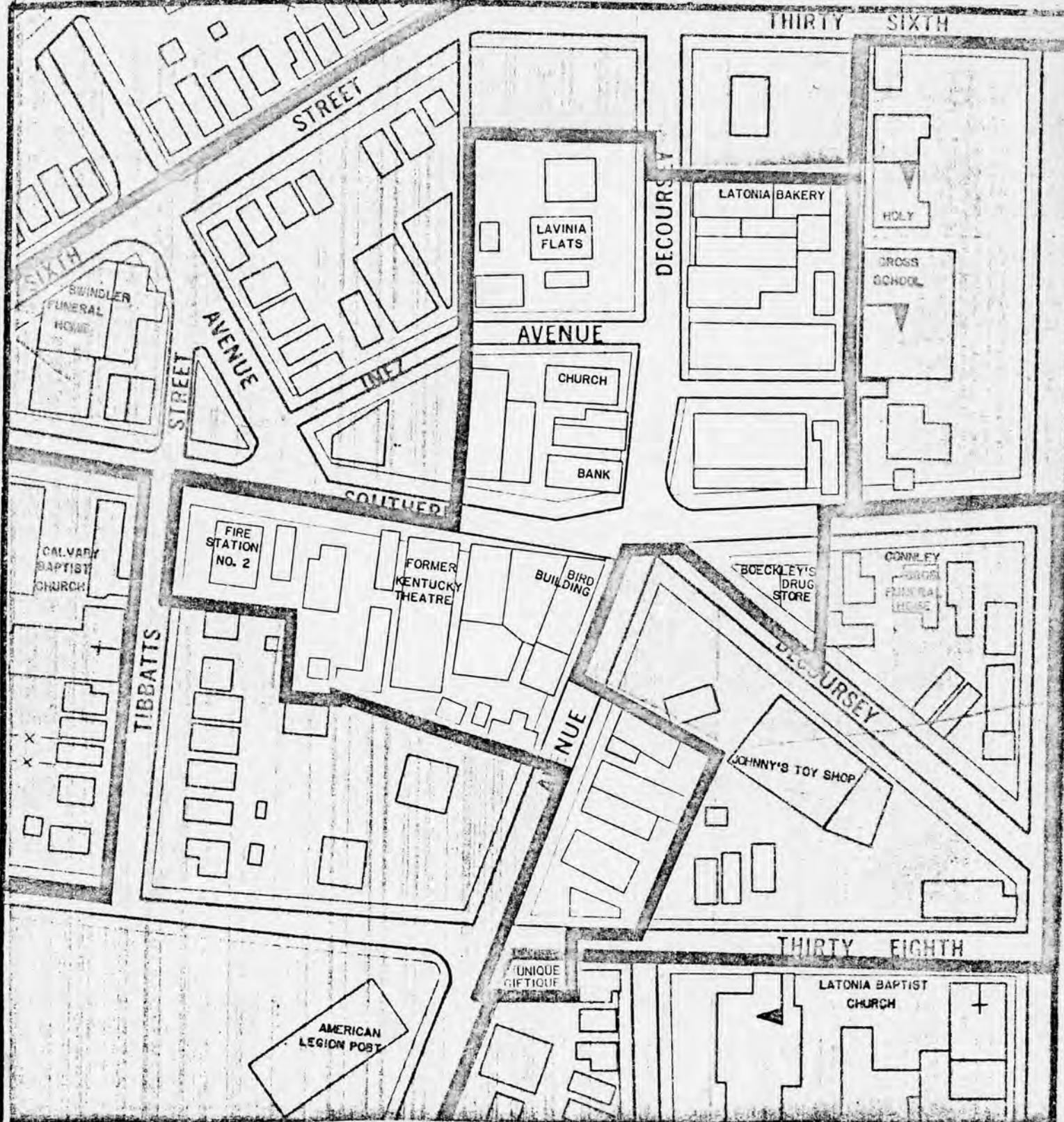
Continuation sheet Ritte's Corner  
Historic District, KY

Item number 10

Page 1

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary for the Ritte's Corner Historic District is shown as the solid line on the accompanying map of Latonia at a scale of 1" = 200'. The boundary is drawn to include all commercial properties in the Ritte's Corner area which have not been significantly altered. The boundary excludes the southern corner at the intersection of Winston and DeCoursey Avenues which is the site of a modern building and parking area. The boundary includes all major commercial buildings associated with Ritte's Corner. Buildings outside the district boundaries are modern structures or part of residential neighborhoods.



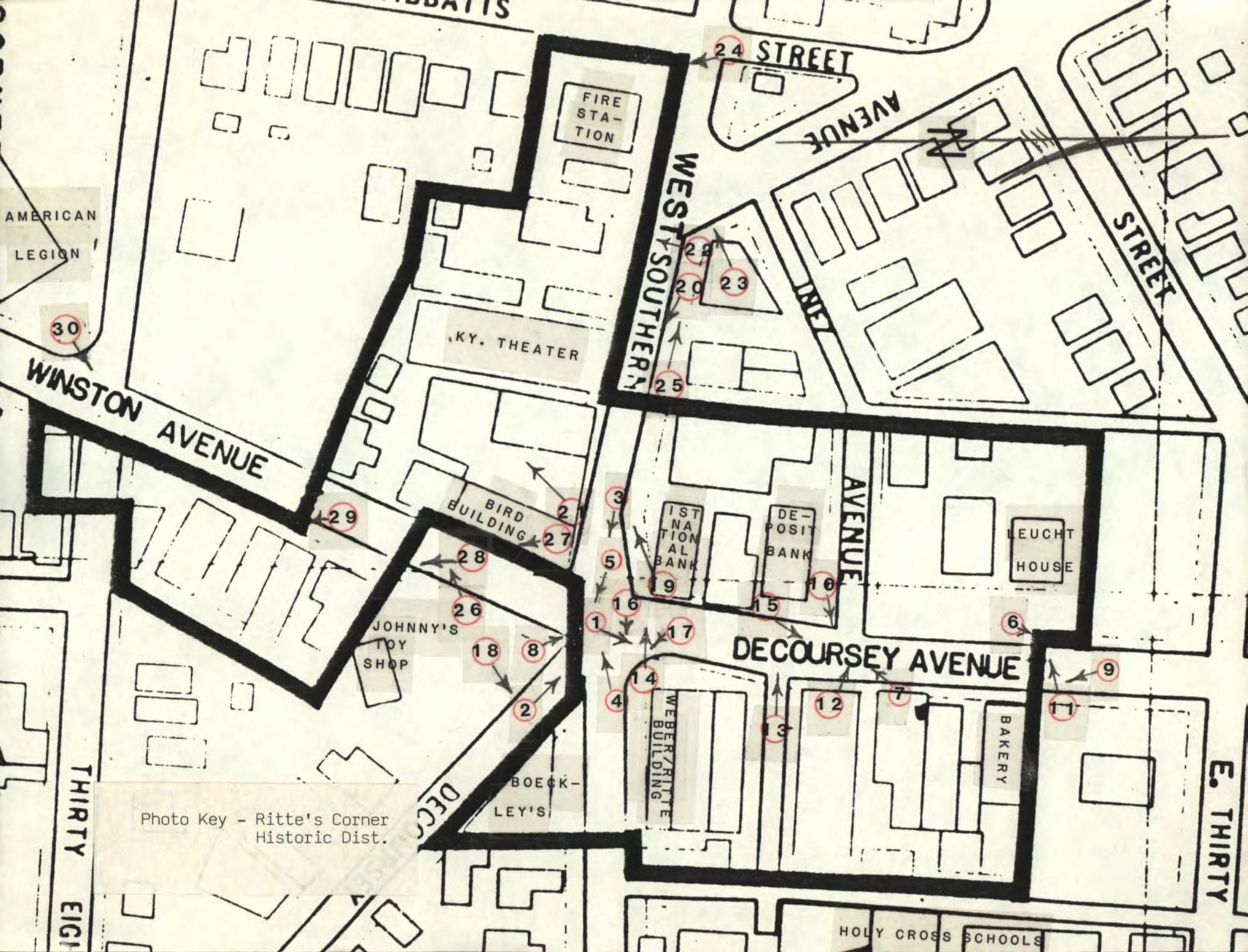
**PROPOSED BOUNDARIES FOR NATIONAL REGISTER  
OF HISTORIC PLACES**

**RITTE'S CORNER COMMERCIAL DISTRICT  
LATONIA, COVINGTON, KENTUCKY**

**MARCH 1984**

APR 21 1984

THIRTY NINTH



AMERICAN  
LEGION

30

WINSTON AVENUE

FIRE  
STATION

24 STREET

AVENUE

STREET

WEST SOUTHERN

KY. THEATER

28

23

20

25

29

BIRD BUILDING

27

3

5

16

1

4

FIRST NATIONAL BANK

19

DEPOSIT BANK

10

15

LEUCHT HOUSE

6

JOHNNY'S TOY SHOP

26

18

8

2

DECOURSEY AVENUE

WEBER/RITTE BUILDING

14

17

13

12

7

BAKERY

11

9

E. THIRTY

BOECKLEY'S

Photo Key - Ritte's Corner  
Historic Dist.

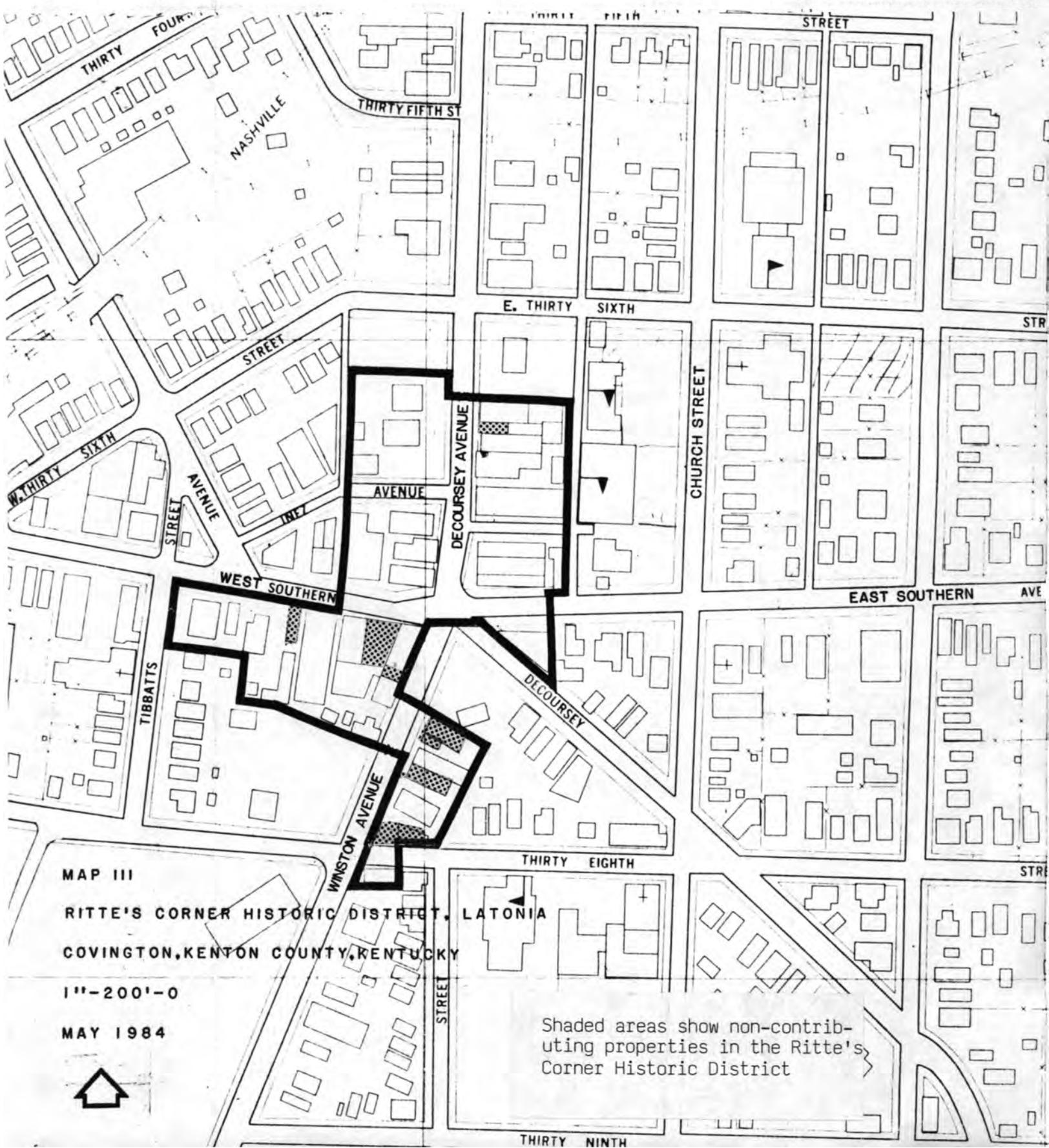
HOLY CROSS SCHOOLS

THIRTY

EIGHT



APR 21 1987



MAP III  
 RITTE'S CORNER HISTORIC DISTRICT, LATONIA  
 COVINGTON, KENTON COUNTY, KENTUCKY

1" = 200' - 0  
 MAY 1984



Shaded areas show non-contributing properties in the Ritte's Corner Historic District

87000776  
Less - 50 yrs?

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Rittels Corner Historic District, Latonia Kenton  
County  
KENTUCKY

Substantive Review

APR 21 1987

Working No. \_\_\_\_\_  
Fed. Reg. Date: 2/2/88  
Date Due: 5/21/87 - 6/5/87  
Action:  ACCEPT 5-21-87  
 RETURN  
 REJECT  
Federal Agency: \_\_\_\_\_

- resubmission
- nomination by person or local government
- owner objection
- appeal

Substantive Review:  sample  request  appeal  NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

*Marginally acceptable HD -  
Properties are documented as historically  
signif within context of Covington and  
this section of town with ethnic ties.  
As examples of*

Recom./Criteria Accept A,C  
Reviewer A. Schlegel  
Discipline Arch History  
Date 5/21/87  
\_\_\_\_\_ see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for:  technical corrections cited below  
 substantive reasons discussed below

*styles, few buildings are architecturally  
distinctive and gd examples of  
period of construction. District  
boundaries were designed to leave  
out important corner historically because  
of alteration - new bldg - Johnny's Toys.  
disc w/ Bill Bushong 5/20/87  
disc w/ C. Skell - JR OK*

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

Category Ownership  
Public Acquisition

4. Owner of Property

5. Location of Legal Description

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

7. Description

Condition  excellent  good  fair  deteriorated  ruins  unexposed

Check one  unaltered  altered

Check one  original site  moved date \_\_\_\_\_

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- alterations/integrity
- dates
- boundary selection

---

**8. Significance**

Period      Areas of Significance—Check and justify below

Specific dates                      Builder/Architect  
Statement of Significance (*in one paragraph*)

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- applicable criteria
- justification of areas checked
- relating significance to the resource
- context
- relationship of integrity to significance
- justification of exception
- other

---

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

---

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of nominated property \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle name \_\_\_\_\_

UTM References \_\_\_\_\_

---

Verbal boundary description and justification

---

**11. Form Prepared By**

---

**12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification**

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

    \_\_\_ national      \_\_\_ state      \_\_\_ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title                      date

---

**13. Other**

- Maps
- Photographs
- Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_



























TOWN & COUNTRY  
INC.  
WOMEN'S WEAR  
TRENCHES  
Dresses  
Evening  
Suits & Accessories

WOMEN'S WEAR  
Dresses  
Accessories

Gifts  
Compliments  
231-2549

JAMES GEE  
OPENING STORE































PAINT & GLASS  
B C E PAINT & GLASS

PAINT & GLASS

THE HOME REALTY COMPANY

PAINT & GLASS





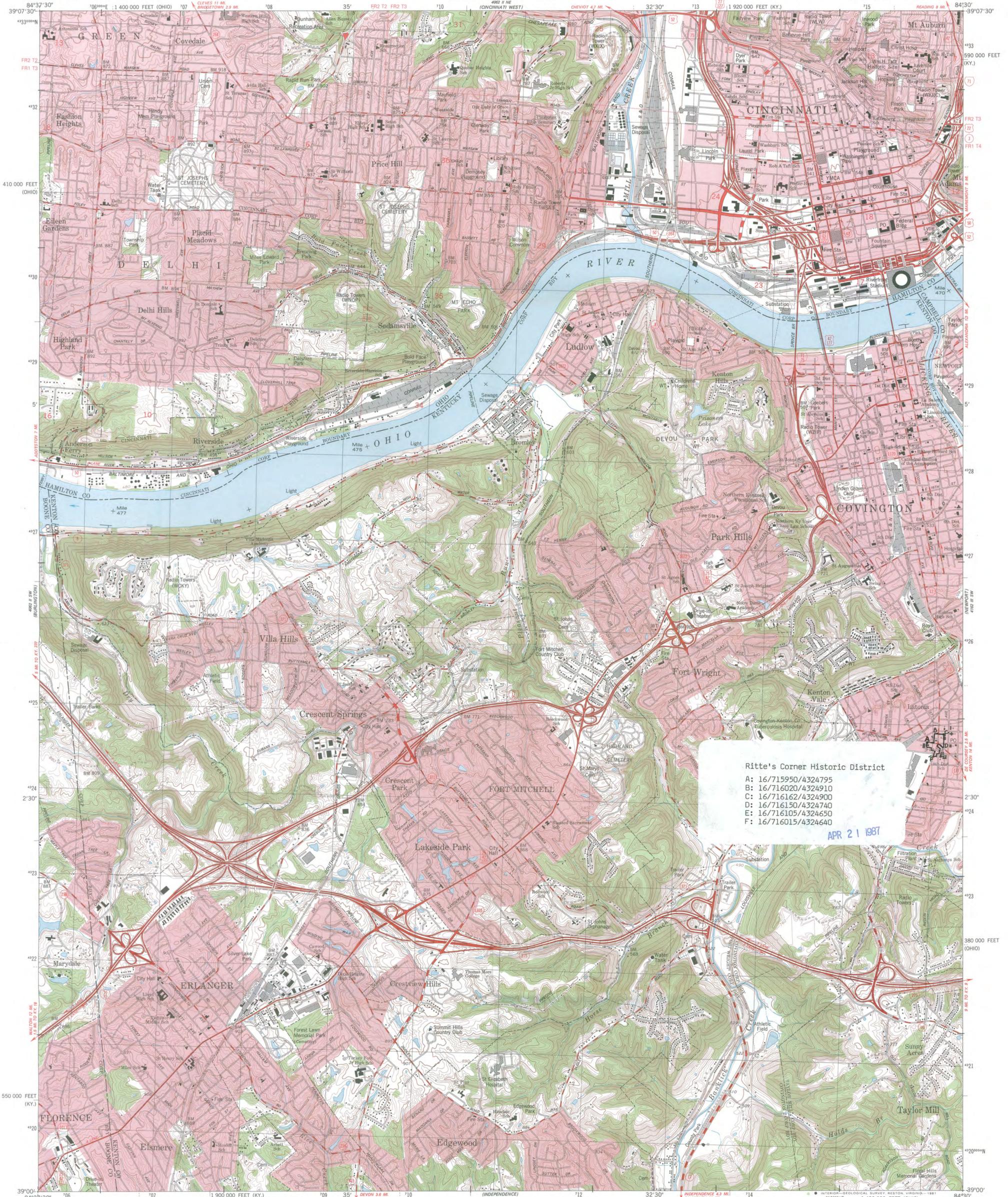


B & B

PROPERTY  
SALES & SERVICE  
B & B  
REALTY & SALES

B & B  
REALTY

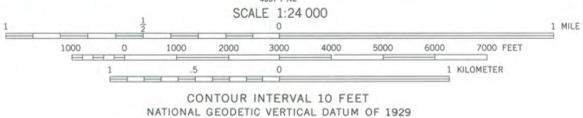
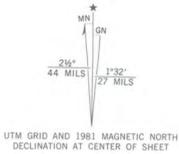
AMERICAN  
SALES & SERVICE



Ritte's Corner Historic District  
A: 16/715950/4324795  
B: 16/716020/4324910  
C: 16/716162/4324900  
D: 16/716150/4324740  
E: 16/716105/4324650  
F: 16/716015/4324640

APR 21 1987

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey  
Control by USGS, NOS/NOAA, USCE, and the city of Cincinnati  
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1949, and  
in part by the city of Cincinnati. Field checked 1950 and 1953. Revised from  
aerial photographs taken 1977. Field checked 1978. Map edited 1981.  
Polyconic projection. 10,000-foot grid ticks based on Kentucky coordinate system,  
north zone, and Ohio coordinate system, south zone.  
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid, zone 16  
1927 North American Datum  
To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983  
move the projection lines 3 meters south and  
5 meters west as shown by dashed corner ticks  
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where  
generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked  
The state boundary as shown represents the approximate position of the  
low water line as determined from U. S. Corps of Engineers  
Ohio River charts, surveyed 1914, and supplementary information  
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown  
Ohio area lies within the Miami. Land lines based on the  
Great Miami River Base. Dotted land lines established by private  
subdivision of the Symmes Purchase



THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092,  
KENTUCKY GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, LEXINGTON, KENTUCKY 40506,  
AND KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, FRANKFORT, KENTUCKY 40601  
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



COVINGTON, KY.-OHIO  
8E4 WEST CINCINNATI 15' QUADRANGLE  
N3900-W8430/7.5  
1981  
DMA 4082 II SE-SERIES V853



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KENTUCKY HERITAGE COUNCIL  
The State Historic Preservation Office

---

April 14, 1987

Mr. Jerry Rogers, Keeper  
National Register of Historic Places  
National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
1100 L Street, N.W.  
Washington, D. C. 20240

Dear Mr. Rogers:

The following nomination to the National Register of Historic Places was approved at the state level by the Kentucky Historic Preservation Review Board on May 10, 1984. As State Historic Preservation Officer, I recommend it be entered in the National Register.

Name & Location of Site

**Ritte's Corner Historic District, Latonia  
Covington, Kenton County, Kentucky**

Your early consideration of this nomination will be appreciated.

Sincerely,

David L. Morgan, Director  
Kentucky Heritage Council and  
State Historic Preservation Officer

DLM:RMP/bsc

Enclosures