

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Louisville Historic District
Stark County, Ohio**

Section 8
Page 1

Statement of Significance

The Louisville Historic District is locally significant for its collection of historic resources illustrating the establishment and growth of a small northeastern Ohio township center from the mid-19th century to the mid-20th century. It meets Criterion A for its association with broad patterns of local history, including community settlement, commerce, and industry. The district also meets Criterion C for architecture, as it contains intact examples of mid-1800s to mid-1900s architectural styles and building types. Popular late 19th century and early-mid 20th century architectural styles, as well as vernacular building types, are present within the district.

The nominated district is comprised of Louisville's historic commercial downtown, adjacent residential streets and a significant religious complex associated with St. Louis Catholic Church. The district's 223 contributing resources include 24 commercial buildings, 114 residential buildings, five institutional buildings (plus one previously-listed church building), 2 industrial buildings, 77 contributing garages, and one contributing structure. In addition to prominent residential neighborhoods, the district also includes early 1920s working-class subdivisions which illustrate an important industrial boom period in the city's history. The Period of Significance, 1845-1960, begins with the construction date of the Union Hotel (Vignos Tavern), the earliest building in the district. Three eras of development occurred in Louisville during the Period of Significance and historic district properties reflect these eras and the predominant themes associated with those time periods. Louisville's development and history can be roughly divided into the eras of early settlement, the railroad and early industry, and steel production.

BACKGROUND HISTORY OF LOUISVILLE

Early Settlement Period: 1834-1851

Located in Nimishillen Township in eastern Stark County, Louisville was founded in 1834 by Henry Loutzenheiser and Frederick Fainot. Originally named Lewisville after one of Loutzenheiser's sons, Lewis, the name had to be altered to Louisville due to name duplication within Ohio. The original plat of Louisville had 33 lots, arranged along east-west Main Street and north-south Chapel Street (See Attachment A, Figure 1 – 1834 Plat).

Henry Loutzenheiser arrived in the area in 1807, two years before Stark County and Nimishillen Township were organized. Loutzenheiser was part of a group of Pennsylvania German settlers that were making the Louisville vicinity home in the early years of the 19th century. In 1825, he constructed a two-story tavern "At the Sign of the Spread Eagle," the first brick building in the township (demolished in the 1890s). Loutzenheiser's tavern was located on the site of an abandoned 1806 village plat known as Nimishillentown, and along the Thomas Road which led to the county seat of Canton six miles away. Frederick Fainot had emigrated from France and was part of a group of French Huguenots that began establishing residence near the Louisville settlement in the 1820s. French Catholics soon followed, and by 1834, Bishop John Baptist Purcell (of the Cincinnati diocese, which covered all of Ohio) stated that Louisville was "principally a French settlement." (Heald, p. 274) Other European ethnicities, in addition to the Pennsylvania Germans and the French Huguenots, were represented in Louisville's early years. A cluster of Irish Catholic pioneers had been living in the area since the 1810s. Joseph Gorgas, a Spanish immigrant, arrived in Louisville in 1836. He became a merchant and respected community leader.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Louisville Historic District
Stark County, Ohio**

Section 8
Page 2

After official platting, the community grew with a post office, a blacksmith and a store, all being added in the latter 1830s. Dr. John Schilling, a German immigrant, settled in Louisville in 1837-38. He practiced medicine in the nascent town until 1841, when he left for a number of years later, returning in 1853. Dr. Schilling was one of the first, if not the first, physicians of Louisville.

Louisville gained a second tavern in 1830, when Henry Wolf built a log tavern at the northeast corner of Main and Chapel streets. Joseph Vignos purchased the Wolf Tavern and replaced the log structure with a brick tavern and hotel in 1845. Vignos was a French immigrant who had arrived in the United States in 1831, settling in Louisville in 1833. Vignos' Union Hotel is the oldest known building in Louisville (STA-0756-06). In less than ten years, the Louisville settlement had grown enough to gain its first addition in 1841. It was added southwest of the original plat and contained Gorgas Street, named for the Gorgas family. Other small additions were made in the 1840s, including one in 1849 by Joseph Vignos, who had gained prosperity through his tavern and hotel establishment.

The establishment of institutional properties naturally followed the village's residential growth. An early public school was conducted in a log cabin, east of the town center at the northeast corner of Main and Nickel Plate streets. It was replaced in the 1850s with a one-story brick school, closer to the center of the village on the northeast corner of Broad and Mill streets. Additionally, three church denominations were founded in the fledgling village during its early years.

The oldest and largest congregation was the St. Louis Catholic Church. First meeting in a member's house, the congregation was started in 1834 by a conglomeration of Irish, French, and German Catholics. Town founder Henry Loutzenheiser donated land for a church building, which was completed in 1836. Irish brothers Richard and James Moffitt were also instrumental in establishing the congregation. Initially organized as a mission church of St. John's Church in Canton, the congregation became a parish in 1838 with 72 families, most of whom were French. The church drew members from the village, as well as the surrounding farmsteads.

The French Huguenots, who had continued to arrive into the 1840s, built a church on what is now Washington Avenue. Their congregation was also known as the French-Baptist Church. The Huguenots were Protestants who followed the doctrine of John Calvin. Persecuted under France's Catholic theocratic government, Huguenots fled the country in the late 16th century and again in the late 17th century through most of the 18th century. Many went to Germany, the Netherlands, Switzerland, and England, and a sizeable number of Huguenots migrated to the British colonial regions of the Carolinas, Virginia, Pennsylvania, and New York.

The Railroad and Early Industrial Era: 1852-1919

Although it was overshadowed by the stagecoach crossroads of Harrisburg to the northeast during the early years of settlement, Louisville blossomed after the arrival of the Pittsburgh, Fort Wayne, and Chicago Railroad to the community in 1852. "During this year alone, 129 new lots were added to the Village in four additions." (Stark County Regional Planning Commission, p. 119.) Previous to the railroad, surplus goods from the Louisville area, particularly wheat, were hauled to Massillon for shipment on the Ohio & Erie Canal. Having a railroad depot was a great boon for the community.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Louisville Historic District
Stark County, Ohio**

Section 8
Page 3

Taking advantage of easy shipping, many new businesses were established in the 1850s. Industrial and warehouse concerns began to locate beside the railroad line, near its crossing with N. Chapel Street to the north and west of the original plat. Anticipating the railroad, the first such business was a linseed (later converted to flouring) mill founded in 1848, by Daniel Chappius (See Attachment B, Figure 2 – Flouring Mill, 1875). In 1852, Chappius wisely platted his railroad-adjacent property, creating the opportunity for other businesses to be established near the line. John Klippert, an entrepreneurial merchant, established a warehouse in 1852 for the storage of surplus wheat, which would be shipped via the railroad. This shifted transport of agricultural goods from surrounding farms into Louisville directly, rather than to Massillon, which contributed to the overall commercial growth of the town.

In addition to its growing industrial and commercial concerns, the 1850s brought more professional and institutional growth to Louisville. Dr. John Schilling returned to Louisville after a 12-year absence in 1853 and opened a drug store, J. Schilling and Son. Dr. William Overholt Baker settled in Louisville in 1858, establishing a residence and office. Supplementing the public school offerings, the St. Louis Catholic Church added a school building to its grounds in 1854. The United Brethren congregation, which had existed since the 1830s, built a church in 1859.

In 1860, Gustavus F. Bauman arrived in Louisville. A tin smith by trade, Bauman opened a small shop upon his arrival. Other than Bauman's tin shop, commercial expansion in the town was halted during the Civil War years. The community remained small, with a population of only 350 in 1861. Institutionally, the Reformed Church was organized in 1863. The congregation built a Greek Revival frame church in 1869 on Main Street east of the commercial center.

At the end of the Civil War, new businesses began to again be established in Louisville, representing a wide variety of commercial enterprises. Within the commercial district, a small hotel and livery stable were established c. 1865 at the southwest corner of E. Main and Mill streets. Also in 1865, Jacob Freedy and Peter Beuchat established a boot and shoe business. The enterprise was very successful and by the 1880s the company was the largest of its kind in Louisville and had \$4,000-\$5,000 worth of stock. Stephen Paquelet arrived in Louisville in 1867 and started a funeral home business. He was also a furniture maker and built a shop at the southwest corner of Gorgas and Chapel streets. After 144 years, the Paquelet family continues to operate a funeral home at that location.

Joseph M. D'Ostroph, a Frenchman, joined Louisville's professional class in 1866. A well-educated man, he came to teach at the St. Louis Catholic Church School. He is credited with improving the operations of the school, "so that at the end of a year it was considered among the best of its kind in the State." (Perrin, p.904) D'Ostroph also operated a provisions store and was ranked among the town's leading businessmen.

Among the new industries of the post-War period were a brewery, established in 1865, and a basket factory, founded in 1868. The basket factory, located off N. Chapel Street, was begun by Daniel M. Slusser and J.W. Wertenberger. Unlike the other industries situated near the railroad and N. Chapel Street crossing, the brewery was located west of the railroad tracks on W. Main Street. The brewery's location spawned a new cluster of industrial enterprises west of the village center. Additionally, Louisville's standing in the railroad industry expanded in the late 1860s when the village served as the headquarters for the construction and wreck-train operations running between Salem and Wooster.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Louisville Historic District
Stark County, Ohio**

Section 8
Page 4

In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, Stark County had a sizeable brick-making industry. The first known brickyard in the county was established in 1813 in the settlement that would become Massillon. By the late 1860s, Louisville had joined the countywide trend. Three brickyards were in the immediate area by 1867, two of them being located at the eastern edge of the village. The Hoffer Brick Yard was located on the south side of E. Main Street halfway between the commercial core and Nickel Plate Street. The L. Cheveraux Brick Yard was located south of Hoffer's on Cottar Street (present Broad Street). (See Attachment A, Figure 2 – 1870 Atlas) By the mid 1870s, brick manufacture was the leading industry in Louisville. (Smith, 1984)

New commerce and industry drew more residents to the community and by the early 1870s, 800 people were living in Louisville. The 1870 Stark County Atlas (Attachment A, Figure 2 – 1870 Atlas) shows how the town had developed in the 36 years following its founding. Buildings were located on East and West Main Street, along Chapel Street and Gorgas Street to the south of Main, and on Mill Street to the north and south of Main. The railroad, which cut a diagonal line along Nimishillen Creek to the west of town, was the location of the depot, warehouses and industrial concerns. St. Louis Catholic Church, its parochial school and St. Louis College occupied large tracts of land to the north of Main Street. Other churches and the public school were in scattered locations in the community.

In 1872, Louisville was incorporated and a fire department was immediately established. Shortly after incorporation Louisville's young Village Council began a series of infrastructure improvements. The extra wide intersection of Mill and Gorgas, once meant to be the village square, was reduced. E. Main Street was graded down by four feet between Chapel Street and Nickel Plate Road in 1874. A new public school was built in 1876 at a cost of \$8,000. The growing community gained a Masonic chapter in 1871, known as the Juilliard Lodge No. 460. The Masons, comprised of 12 initial members, met in the Bauman Block upon its completion in 1873. Louisville had become the largest village in Nimishillen Township, as well as its commercial center.

During the early-mid 1870s, new commercial enterprises began to change the face of East Main Street. This block developed as the primary business district, even though a few commercial enterprises were also located on Main Street to the west of Chapel Street. One new business from this period was R. T. Rothrock's tailoring shop, started in 1873. J. C. Nunamaker's store, specializing in ironware, roofing, and farming implements, was present in the business center in the mid-1870s. Daniel Slusser, former owner of the basket factory, started the D. M. Slusser & Son grocery store in 1879. Joseph Vignos' 1845 tavern and hotel had become the St. Julian Hotel by 1875, operated by J. O. Myers (see Attachment B, Figure 1 – St. Julian Hotel, 1875). Probably most significant were the two large-scale brick commercial blocks that were built by 1875. The Bauman Block, a three-story brick Italianate-style building with three storefronts, was built in 1873. It was followed two years later by the Keim Block, a building of similar size and style built on the northwest corner of Main and Mill Streets.

Louisville's professional ranks continued to expand during this period. Dr. A. C. Pontius arrived in Louisville in 1876, establishing a dental practice. Josiah L. Coy, a teacher in the winter months, located in Louisville in 1878. In 1878, Dr. J. H. Rogers settled in Louisville, opening a medical practice. Dr. Rogers partnered with L. Warstler in 1880, founding Rogers & Warstler, a druggist company which produced the Peerless Condition Powder.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Louisville Historic District
Stark County, Ohio**

Section 8
Page 5

The 1870s also witnessed new industrial concerns such as the woolen mill, built by a stock company in 1872 for \$17,000. The woolen mill passed through a succession of owners, but continued to enjoy a good reputation for the quality of flannel fabric produced in the facility. A planing-mill was established adjacent to the basket factory in 1875. Formed by Jacob Shengle and Elias Essig, the planing-mill also did a general lumber business, handling items like doors, sash, and lath.

The St. Louis Catholic Church continued to expand during the 19th century, necessitating replacement of its 1836 building. Beginning in 1869, the present church (NR listed 1979) was constructed over a six-year period at a cost of \$31,000. Bricks for the church's construction were made in Louisville. (Smith, 1984, p.67) Cleveland architect Frank Walsh is credited with designing the building's interior. Completed in 1875, St. Louis Church was built in the French Gothic style, copied from the Cathedral of Belfort, the vicinity of France from which many of the parishioners had come. The decision to mimic a French building indicates the extent to which Louisville, and the surrounding township, continued to attract French immigrants. It was noted in the 1881 *History of Stark County* that "there must be, at this time, several hundred French families residing in Nimishillen Township, forming an observable feature of the population." (Perrin, p.466) An 1885 newspaper article in the *Cleveland Plain Dealer* discussed the work of the priest, Louis Hoffer, a French immigrant who arrived at the church in 1861. In 1885, services in the church were conducted in French and English on alternate Sundays. The church was listed in the National Register, in part, due to its link with Louisville's French heritage.

At the printing of the 1881 *History of Stark County*, Louisville was a bustling village, and its author claimed that "Louisville can truly be said to be one of the leading towns of its size in the State." (Perrin, p.468) The village had been incorporated, it was experiencing continuous growth, and several institutions had been established. The railroad continued to aid the growth of the village, with seven trains per day stopping in Louisville by 1887. Adding to the existing retail businesses, the commercial center gained two restaurants and its first bank, the Louisville Deposit Bank. Established in 1881 by the Keims, the bank was located in the Keim Block at 225-231 E. Main Street. Two hotels were operating in the commercial district during this period, the Commercial and the Washington House. Two livery stables were founded in the 1880s. In 1880, Lycurgus Wilson began operation of a stable with a first-class line of horses and buggies. Mathias Walker settled in Louisville in 1881, establishing a stable that year which was operated in conjunction with the Commercial Hotel.

Industrially, the village gained a cigar maker and a new grist mill, designed to serve as a merchant mill, in the early 1880s. John L. Warstler started the community's first tile factory in 1880, producing hollow brick and drain tile at a location roughly one mile east of the village center. Warstler's factory operated until 1890. Brick-making continued with two new businesses started in the 1880s. A. V. Pontius, who had settled in Louisville in 1875, began operation of the Buckeye brick yard in 1881, employing 12 men. Another clay products plant, known as the Stoneware Tile Company, was started by a group of local investors in 1886 with a plant built adjacent to the railroad tracks on the east side of N. Chapel Street. The Stoneware Tile Company manufactured bricks, drain tiles, hollow steps, and chimney tops. In addition to Louisville's brick and tile production, circa 1880, Charles Bonnot and his sons added the manufacture of clay-related machinery to their established wagon and carriage manufacturing business.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Louisville Historic District
Stark County, Ohio**

Section 8
Page 6

In 1890, Louisville's population was 1,323. The 1896 *Atlas of Stark County* estimated Louisville's population at 1500 in that year. While not explosive growth since incorporation, it was respectable, steady growth. The 1896 Atlas contended that Louisville was experiencing a recession during the mid-1890s. Industrial pursuits, in particular, seemed to be most affected, with the flouring mills, the brewery, and the woolen mill all struggling financially. Additionally, the basket factory and adjoining planing mill were lost to fire and not rebuilt and the Bonnot Company relocated their factory and its 50 employees to Canton in 1891.

Clay-product manufacturing remained healthy however. The Stoneware Tile Company was still operating and a new firm, the Empire Clay Company, was established to its east by 1895. Among the many clay products manufactured in Louisville, hollow tiles for foundation walls were a specialty. Also, the Louisville Shoe Manufacturing Company, located on N. Chapel Street just north of the St. Louis Church, began production in the spring of 1891. By November, the factory produced nearly 1,000 pairs of shoes per week.

Despite the slight industrial slump of the 1890s, the village and its commercial center were healthy. The village built a steam-powered water works in 1894 across from the brewery on W. Main Street. Schilling & Son was expanded in 1889-1890 with the construction of a major new downtown commercial building to house the company's drug store. Located at 200-210 E. Main, the building also housed the village Post Office. Institutionally, the Reformed Church congregation replaced its 1869 church with a new building on E. Main Street, completed in 1893.

The first two decades of the 1900s brought continued, steady population growth. Louisville enumerated 1,678 people in 1910 and 2,008 in 1920. As the community matured, civic improvement projects were completed. Electric streets lights were installed in 1903, replacing the older gas ones. The town's sewer system was completed in 1911. Main Street was the first street paved in 1913-14, with the remainder paved during the 1920s. In 1907, the Louisville Machine Company made the village's first street signs of cast iron. Louisville's 1876 school, which had been enlarged in 1897 with capacity for 300 students, received high school accreditation in 1910.

Louisville gained social and entertainment facilities during the early 1900s, as well. Two new fraternal organizations were established, the Order of the Eastern Star, chartered in 1917 with 45 members (an organization of families of Master Masons) and an Independent Order of Odd Fellows, founded in 1919 with 31 members. The Louisville Theatorium opened in 1907, bringing motion pictures to the town. The theater was located in the Myers Building, 135 E. Main Street, at the northwest corner of Bauman Court.

A new transportation system also arrived at the turn-of-the-century. After ten years of negotiations, the Stark Electric Railroad finally completed a line through Louisville in 1903. Interurban stops were at Main and Depot on the west side and on Nickel Plate on the east. A trip to Canton took 20 minutes and was cheaper than the railroad. To the east, the line connected Louisville with Alliance. Upon the interurban's arrival, the *Louisville Herald* asserted that "the town is in better shape since the trolley car arrived." (Smith, 1984, p.165)

New buildings and businesses were added to the commercial center, some replacing older structures. Among the new buildings were the Empire Opera House, completed in 1908, and an early bowling alley, completed in 1904. Two automobile businesses made a debut in the 1910s: the 1913 Louisville Motor Car Company and the 1915 Star Motor Car

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Louisville Historic District
Stark County, Ohio**

Section 8
Page 7

Co. Despite the varied commercial core and establishment of new businesses, the town's business leaders felt the need to promote Louisville's advantages. In 1916, "The businessmen decided to enter into an advertising campaign to encourage businesses to establish in Louisville." (Smith, 1984, p.188)

With respect to industry, several changes took place on the local landscape. Louisville lost a number of its 19th century factories. The brewery, which had operated since 1865, closed c. 1900. The 1886 Stoneware Tile Company operated until c.1915, when the property was vacated. Despite the quick success of the 1891 Louisville Shoe Manufacturing Company and the *Louisville Herald's* encouragement for shoppers to "patronize home industries and get the most for your money," the company relocated to Michigan in 1902 (The Shoe Factory, *Louisville Herald*, 11/20/1891). Additionally, the 1890s Louisville Steam Pump Company, under new ownership, was relocated to Canton in 1908 and the 1904 Buckeye Jack Company relocated to Alliance c. 1910.

Through the arrival of John A. Martig to the community in 1905, Louisville became part of northeast Ohio's cheese production industry. Newly married that year, Martig and his bride chose Louisville to be their new home. John Martig was just 20 years old when he started his first cheese factory in 1897 outside of Hudson, Ohio, and by the time of his relocation to Louisville was "recognized as the leading cheese producer of Ohio." (Heald, *The Stark County Story, Volume III*, p. 431) Martig took over the vacant brewery property in Louisville and used it for a cheese warehouse. By 1912 at the age of 35, he owned or controlled 80 cheese making factories throughout northeast Ohio. Martig dealt in large volume, selling his cheese by railcar loads to customers such as J.L. Kraft. The Martigs kept their business enterprise simple, with John serving as the sole salesman and Mary overseeing the warehouse and office. In part due to the diversified interests of John Martig, a factory of the United Garment Company was established in Louisville in 1914. Located on N. Depot Street, the company manufactured ladies garments.

Louisville began an overall shift to steel and machine works production in the early years of the 20th century. The steel industry rapidly expanded in northeastern Ohio during the post-Civil War period, as continued railroad expansion and the need for improved industrial machinery drove its development. Many of the larger producers began as iron makers earlier in the nineteenth century and then expanded into steel making as the process evolved; steel soon eclipsed iron production. Cleveland, Youngstown, and nearby Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, quickly formed a nucleus for the steel industry. As a result, steel factories sprang up in several northeast Ohio cities, towns, and villages. Canton had numerous steel and steel-related plants by the early 1900s. These factories pulled workers from surrounding municipalities, including Louisville, a mere 20 minutes away by train or interurban. An example is the United Engineering & Foundry Company, formed in 1910 from an earlier enterprise known as the American Roll & Foundry Company. This Canton company, in particular, drew half of its employees from Louisville. (Heald, *The Stark County Story, Volume III: Industry Comes of Age*, p.63)

Two early 1900s examples of steel and machine works production in Louisville include the Louisville Machine Company and the Colonial Foundry. The Louisville Machine Company began operations on the former Empire Clay property in 1904-05. Specializing in the manufacture of clay working machinery, the company built a new building on the site. In 1911 the building was enlarged to the east to also accommodate the production of swings for Cleveland Swing. The Louisville Machine Company was incorporated in 1918. The Colonial Foundry took over the former Bonnot

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Louisville Historic District
Stark County, Ohio**

Section 8
Page 8

Manufacturing Company property c. 1908 and incorporated in 1919. The company was founded to produce castings for several area steel factories.

During the first two decades of the 20th century, Louisville's residential development continued along its principal streets, while larger properties at the village's edges were slowly being subdivided into smaller house lots. Between 1900 and 1917, the village gained 112 new lots. Louisville's economic and population stability was directly proportional to its industrial health, as well as its proximity to larger industrial cities such as Canton and Alliance. By the 1910s, the relationship between Louisville and Canton was so strong that a push to combine the two cities occurred. The *Louisville Herald* advocated for such a merger in a 1916 article, saying "Years ago, people talked of how Louisville and Canton would be one town. The time is now." (Smith, 1984, p.189)

The Steel Industrial Era: 1920-1960

Louisville joined the ranks of neighboring steel towns in August, 1920, when the Superior Sheet and Steel Company began production. Having a steel factory was important to the community. Its location in Louisville, perhaps a result of earlier promotion efforts by business leaders, was supported village-wide. "In order to have a steel company in town, which was the Louisville [Superior] Sheet and Steel Company, citizens bought stock at \$100 a share." (Smith, 1984, p.192) Upon opening, Superior Steel's monthly payroll was \$100,000. At its peak the company averaged 1,000 employees. From its founding, the company and its employees were heavily involved in Louisville's civic activities. In 1928, Superior's employees bought playground equipment for the city parks and in 1938 employees donated money for recreation programs, including a new football scoreboard. In 1929, the company paid for club rooms at the YMCA.

Located on W. Main Street, west of the village center, the \$4,000,000 steel company's establishment caused the town's largest population jump of any previous decade. Louisville's population rose by 64 percent during the 1920s, which in turn spurred the town's largest housing boom. Anticipating the need to house the new workers that would come to Louisville, several new additions were recorded with Stark County in 1920 and 1921. The largest was recorded by Zettler Realty, a prominent 1910s Canton firm that was responsible for many subdivisions in that city. Zettler Realty's Louisville plat created aptly-named Superior Street and included 62 lots at the southwest corner of E. Gorgas Street and Nickel Plate Avenue. Two smaller additions, recorded by John B. Metzger and George Cherdron, soon abutted Zettler's on the west, creating Virginia Street and an entire neighborhood of working-class bungalows. Additionally, Zettler Realty platted the 110-lot East Main Heights addition in 1920 at the northeast corner of E. Main and Nickel Plate. On a smaller scale, but also desiring to take advantage of Louisville's impending housing shortage, property owners that still had larger parcels within the village began to divide them. One such example was Ernest Schafer, who divided his property into four new residential lots in 1920, creating Schafer Court.

Residential and population expansion naturally had an impact on the village's school system. In 1920, the Louisville Board of Education needed more space due to overcrowded conditions in the high school. After renting rooms throughout the city for two years, the community approved a \$225,000 ballot in 1922 for a new building. The cornerstone was laid on October 31, 1922, and the new state-of-the-art school was completed a year later. The new building was located on the east side of Mill, opposite the 1876 school building, which then became city hall. Within just a few years, however, the new school became overcrowded once again due to continued village growth. Large numbers

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Louisville Historic District
Stark County, Ohio**

Section 8
Page 9

of houses were built in Louisville through the 1920s, with the result that a third floor was added to the 1923 school building in 1930. As with the public school, the parochial school was also experiencing growing pains. The St. Louis Catholic Church, which had had a separate school building since 1854, constructed a new school building in 1922-24, the third to be located on the St. Louis Church property.

Other examples of growth within the community include at least three new buildings constructed in the business district during the 1920s. In addition, another fraternal organization was established in Louisville in 1924. Associated with the Catholic Church, Louisville Council No. 2530 of the Knights of Columbus met in the Empire Opera House from its founding until 1954, when they purchased a house.

The Superior Sheet and Steel Company was the big news of the 1920s, but other industries, albeit smaller, were founded during the decade. Commercial and industrial endeavors incorporated during the 1920s included Louisville Lumber & Supply Company, located on N. Chapel north of the railroad, 1921; Louisville Hardware & Supply Co., located on E. Main, 1922; and the Louisville Brass & Steel Foundry, on N. Depot, 1925. Louisville also gained a second steel plant. The Hiner Structural Steel Company, a Canton firm, opened Canton and Louisville factories in 1925. The Louisville plant was located north of W. Main Street, just west of the railroad tracks and Nimishillen Creek. The company was self-described as designers, fabricators and erectors of steel construction. Hiner Structural Steel did not survive the Depression and the company dissolved in 1933-34.

John Martig's cheese business peaked by 1920. Improved roads and the ability to deliver by truck changed the dairy business. Dairy farmers could more easily transport fresh milk, which created a greater demand for milk and higher prices for cheese production. From a peak of 80-plus factories, Martig was down to 15 in 1928 and that year he sold or closed them. The Martigs remained in Louisville though, purchasing the 1897 John Keim house, on East Main Street, in 1922. Following his retirement from the cheese business, John Martig was president of the Louisville Bank, founder and president of the Canton Pure Milk Co., vice president of the Isaly Dairy Company, and ran several Louisville area dairy farms. Martig's influence in the dairy industry remained significant, as is represented by the choice to hold the 1930 Milk Producers' Association annual meeting in Louisville. Over 1,000 people attended (half the village's population). (Heald, *The Stark County Story, Volume IV, Part II*, p. 165)

Despite the Great Depression, many older businesses survived and a surprising number of new businesses were started in Louisville during the 1930s. The commercial district remained healthy; the 1932 city directory indicates that only four storefronts were vacant. Louisville's 200-seat motion picture theater continued showing movies, operating as the Louis Theater in 1938. The theater operated until about 1950. Industrial firms such as Superior Steel, the Colonial Foundry, and the Louisville Machine Company maintained production. Louisville Machine, long-time manufacturers of clay working machinery, added electri-cut coffee mills and meat choppers to their portfolio. In 1933, George Hess purchased the United Garment Company and continued the manufacture of women's clothing. Included among the new enterprises were the Kandel Clothing Store (1931), Zwick Department Store (1932), Stark Hardware & Supply (1933), Yoder Oldsmobile (1935), Sefert Chevrolet (1936), Dougherty Feed Company (1936), and Louisville Elevator Company (1939). Relocating from Pittsburgh, the Dougherty Feed Company took over the vacant Hiner Steel facility, producing animal feed.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Louisville Historic District
Stark County, Ohio**

Section 8
Page 10

A few new businesses were established in the 1940s. The Hagen Pattern Co. (1941), Louisville Aluminum Foundry (1944), H-P Products, Inc. (1945), and the Old King Cole Company (1949) were among those new enterprises. The Louisville Aluminum Foundry was a small company that produced aluminum castings. H-P Products manufactured gas conversion burners and central cleaning systems, known as VACU-FLO. The plant was destroyed by fire in 1953, but local residents purchased \$30,000 worth of bonds for construction of a new factory. The Old King Cole Company, established in Canton in 1907, produced papier mache products. The company was reorganized in 1946 and relocated to Louisville three years later.

Louisville's population in the 1950 census reached 3,801. Except for a few isolated examples, Louisville's residential development during the 1940s and 1950s tended to be on the fringes of the village's older neighborhoods. During the same period, new commercial buildings were constructed in the historic commercial core. Interestingly, commercial buildings on E. Main, within the nominated district, tended to be built at the sidewalk, like the adjacent buildings, maintaining a pedestrian scale. Conversely, new commercial properties constructed on W. Main tended to be set back with large parking lots, creating a suburban roadside scale to that portion of the town. Louisville had constructed a modern sewage disposal plant in 1924, during the early 20th century residential boom. During post-WWII suburban growth, the city reconstructed and modernized it in 1951-52 for \$205,000. In 1953, a \$600,000 addition was made to the centralized village school. The addition incorporated the former John Keim-John Martig House on E. Main Street, which was then used as the library. The village and township school systems merged in 1956, greatly increasing Louisville's student population. As a result, a new elementary school was constructed in the early 1960s and a new high school was completed in 1967. Junior high students remained in the 1920s village school, until 2008-09 when that building was demolished, along with the Keim residence.

Although still an independent entity, Louisville was considered to be a suburb of Canton by the late 1950s. It was among the many small communities comprising the metro Canton area. Due to increased automobile ownership, new highways, and changing lifestyle patterns, suburban sprawl was pushing residential development to the rural countryside and the outlying villages. The metro area was entwined enough that in 1957 Canton's mayor advocated for annexation of Louisville, East Canton, and North Canton. Annexation didn't materialize for any of the communities, but the notion illustrates how closely the communities had physically grown together.

Since 1957, Louisville has been known as Constitution Town. In 1951, a local citizen, Olga T. Weber, initiated celebration of the Constitution in the local schools. The following year, it was made a city-wide event and, in 1953, the Ohio General Assembly proclaimed September 17th as Constitution Day. Through local initiative, Louisville is considered the founding location of Ohio's Constitution Day, as well as the impetus for national recognition of Constitution Week, as enacted by President Eisenhower in 1956. Mrs. Weber was instrumental in advocating for both the state and national recognition of Constitution Day.

The Superior Sheet and Steel Company was prosperous and one of the best plants of its kind during its peak. By the late 1930s, the company began to struggle, as its machinery was becoming outdated and clients were choosing its competitors for more economical galvanized sheet steel. The company changed hands twice in the 1940s: first to Borg-Warner Corp in 1946 and then to Louis Berkman Steel Company in 1949. Neither of the succeeding owners had a great deal of success with the venture. Berkman used the plant for about five years, before it was idle. In 1959 the new owner,

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Louisville Historic District
Stark County, Ohio**

Section 8
Page 11

the Jones and Laughlin Steel Corporation, began production of stainless steel sheets at the former Superior plant. That year Jones and Laughlin, the nation's fourth largest manufacturer of steel, employed 300 people at the Louisville plant and had a total of 40,000 employees nationwide. The re-opening of the factory was an important event in Louisville, so much so that five community organizations sponsored a "J & L Welcome Day" on January 21, 1959. Allegheny Ludlum purchased the old Superior plant from Jones and Laughlin in 2003. As of 2005, the company employed 115 people.

In 1960, Louisville's population reached over 5,000 residents, giving it city status. Much of the population gain was attributed to annexation of acreage at the town's edges. Some of Louisville's oldest industries were still operating, as the 20th century approached its waning decades. The Louisville Machine Company was still fabricating clay-related machines and specialty dies, which it continues to do today. The G. H. Hess Company (formerly the 1914 United Garment Company) was still producing women's dresses. In 1959, the company employed between 80-100 people and stores across the U.S. were carrying Hess made dresses, such as the All American Playgirl Bowler and the Junior Coed. Employing up to 200 people in 1959, the Colonial Foundry was manufacturing a variety of products for national companies, such as Armco, Allis-Chalmers, and Fisher Body. The Old King Cole Company continued to produce papier mache items at its Louisville factory.

The Period of Significance ends with 1960. Although that dates essentially correlates with the fifty-year cutoff, it also represents changes within the community. Louisville gained city status that year and began to take on more suburban characteristics during the 1960s. The c. 1960 elementary school and the 1967 high school were both constructed at the edge of the village, closer to the growing post World War II residential developments. Beginning in the 1960s, the area to the west of the historic commercial core began to change as well. A gas station was built at the northwest corner of Chapel and Main streets. Over the next few decades, historic commercial and industrial buildings were demolished on the west side of N. Chapel, between Main and the railroad, and on W. Main Street, west from Chapel. Some were replaced with suburban style commercial buildings, thus changing commercial development trends in Louisville.

HISTORIC DISTRICT ASSOCIATIONS

Each era of Louisville's historic development is well represented within the proposed Louisville Historic District. Buildings representing broad patterns of local history such as settlement, commerce, and industry, as well as examples of popular architectural styles, are located within the district boundaries. This collection of buildings forms a cohesive illustration of the city's history and significant built environment. Consisting of the historic commercial core and adjacent residential streets, the Louisville Historic District is a significant representative of a northeastern Ohio township center. In addition to the commercial blocks, and residential neighborhoods, the district includes significant institutional buildings in the St. Louis Catholic Church complex, the Reformed Church and the former Louisville Post Office.

In the following examples, the Louisville Historic District's associations under Criteria A and C are discussed according to the era of development that they represent. Although Louisville has a strong Irish, German, and French ethnic heritage, the historic district is not being nominated for that Area of Significance. Aside from the St. Louis Catholic Church, the district does not exhibit architectural building traditions of the identified ethnic groups. The 1979 nomination for the St. Louis Church states that the edifice is "the most notable manifestation of the French heritage of

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Louisville Historic District
Stark County, Ohio**

Section 8
Page 12

Louisville.” As such, it was determined that the individual National Register listing for the church best represents the French settlement of Louisville, and it is not a suitable Area of Significance for the district nomination.

District Associations with Criterion A: Settlement, Commerce, Industry

Early Settlement Period: 1834-1851

Louisville’s intact commercial core illustrates the settlement pattern of an early 19th century crossroads village. The settlement was established on the east-west Thomas Road (present-day Main Street) to the east of Nimishillen Creek and centered on the north-south road (present-day Chapel Street) leading to the older village of Harrisburg to the north. Thomas Road was formed from an old Indian trail and considered to be “the first highway through the county.” (Perrin, p.463) Louisville’s recorded 1834 street grid is evident today, as later additions followed the predominant east-west grid pattern established at the start.

The district’s Period of Significance begins with the construction of the Union Hotel building at the northeast corner of Main and Chapel Streets (101 E. Main Street, photos 20, 21). In 1845, Joseph Vignos acquired the property and built the two-story brick building, replacing an older frame tavern on the site (Heald, *Volume I: The Cities, Towns and Villages of Stark County, 1805-1875*, p. 515). With its location a day’s horseback ride from the county seat in Canton, the Union Hotel and tavern was quickly successful. Vignos operated the Union Hotel until the Civil War. The property then changed hands, becoming known as the Lesh Hotel by 1870 and then the St. Julian Hotel by 1872. A rendering of the building was included in the 1875 Stark County Atlas (Attachment A, Figure 3). Upon the town’s incorporation in 1872, the village’s first elections were held in the hotel. In 1892, the building was remodeled to include two business rooms, as the use of the building evolved. It continued to house a tavern through the years, although it also was the location for the Louisville First National Bank for a few years starting in 1909. The building is historically significant for its role in the community, serving as a gathering place throughout most of its history. It also represents a typical settlement-era building type, commonly found along early roads and trails in the pre-Civil War period.

Another significant property illustrating early industry from the settlement period is the Star Mills building (200 Lincoln Avenue, photos 30-33), which was constructed by Daniel Chappius in 1848 (Heald, *Volume I: The Cities, Towns and Villages of Stark County, 1805-1875*, p. 516). Initially built as a linseed mill, it was thereafter converted to flouring. The mill has had a succession of owners through the years. In 1870 it was operating as a grist mill under the ownership of Flickinger and Newhouse, then Flickinger alone in 1875. It acquired the Star Mills name as early as 1895. The mill went out of business from about 1918 until being purchased by Don and Charles Lothamer of the Canton Feed Milling Company in 1926. It continues to be used as a feed mill to the present day. The Star Mills building represents Louisville’s oldest remaining industrial building.

The Railroad and Early Industrial Era: 1852-1919

With the arrival of the railroad line in 1852, and the subsequent establishment of the clay products industry and other industrial and commercial concerns, Louisville experienced growth and overall community development during this period. A variety of industries were established, the Main Street commercial district began to take on its current form,

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Louisville Historic District
Stark County, Ohio**

Section 8
Page 13

and brick and frame single family homes were built along the primary streets of East and West Main, South Chapel, and East and West Gorgas Streets. Many of the residential, institutional, and commercial buildings of the era reflect the overall economic health of the city during this period. The post-Civil War period of the late 1860s and 1870s brought more substantial and "better homes" were starting to be built in the town (Smith, 1984), along with civic improvements.

A number of important buildings within the commercial downtown were constructed during this period, changing the face of Louisville's downtown from its pre-railroad days. The post-Civil War period was the most significant in terms of construction, with two major commercial blocks added in the early-mid 1870s. The trend continued with additional substantive structures constructed in 1890 and 1908. Significant commercial buildings from this period in the historic district include the following, listed chronologically:

- A hotel was established c. 1865 at the southwest corner of E. Main and Mill streets (STA-0172-06, **230-234 E. Main**, photos 1, 2). A frame two-story structure with flat roof, this hotel was known as the American House in 1870. By the early 1880s, the name had been changed to the Washington House and it was operated by George Nunamaker, a local merchant. Then, in 1887, a re-opening was held for the enterprise, with a third name change to Lesh House. At that time, it featured 26 rooms, a dining room, and a ladies' reception room. A livery stable, under separate ownership and operation, was at the rear of the property. The property remained the Lesh House until c.1905, when it became the Arlington Hotel for a number of years. The present rear addition, containing a bowling alley, was added to the building c. 1945.
- An example of a combined commercial and residential property constructed as a frame gable-roofed I-house is the building built c. 1870 at **201-205 E. Main** (STA-3323-06, photo 17). The west portion of the building was home to Jacob Freedy's boot and shoe store in 1870, with the shoe store use continuing here through at least 1929. The east portion housed a dwelling unit and is shown as continuing this use through the early 1940s.
- The first of three large brick commercial buildings constructed before 1900 in the downtown (the **Bauman Block, 126-132 E. Main**, photo 9) was built by Gustavus Bauman in 1873, enlarging his 1860 tin ware business. Partnering with his sons, the enterprise became known as G. F. Bauman and Sons. The company carried general tin products and stoves, and specialized in tin roofing and galvanized cornices. Bauman and Sons was a well respected enterprise. "It would be safe to say, there are no firms of this kind in Stark County that do a more extensive business, or have the confidence of the public any more than G. F. Bauman and Sons." (Perrin, p. 902) In addition to the tin ware business in the east storefront, the building's other two storefronts housed M. Gantz & Son Dry Goods, and Pierson & Merley Hardware. The upper floor was the home for Louisville's first Masonic Hall. The 1881 Stark County history indicates that Gustavus Bauman was a Mason. The Bauman Block was pictured in the 1875 Atlas of Stark County (see Attachment B, Figure 3). The original tin cornice, window hoodmolds and belt courses on the building's façade, no doubt made by Bauman and Sons, remain intact.
- The Keim Block was constructed next, in 1875 at the northwest corner of E. Main and Mill Streets (**225-231 E. Main**, STA-0171-06, photos 13-15). In 1869, Moses Keim joined his son, John, who was already operating a hardware store. The Keims soon operated the largest hardware store in Louisville and were a very prominent family of the community. "Since their arrival in Louisville, the Keims have taken an active and leading part in building up the town, and they are considered among the most substantial men of the place." (Perrin, p. 901) They were also responsible for establishing Louisville Deposit Bank in the building in 1881, the village's first bank. An opera house was on the third floor of the Keim Block.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Louisville Historic District
Stark County, Ohio**

Section 8
Page 14

- Schilling & Son, pharmacists, expanded in 1889-1890 with the construction of a new large-scale commercial building to house the company's drug store. Located at **200-210 E. Main** (STA-0174-06, photos 8, 9), the building also housed four additional businesses, second floor apartments, and the post office.
- The three-and-one-half story Empire Opera House (**109-113 E. Main**, photos 20-22) was completed in 1908, a major new building at the western end of the downtown block, immediately next door to the Union Hotel building. The Empire building was constructed by Frank Gladieux, a restaurateur who operated the new restaurant in the building. Completed five years after the arrival of the interurban line to Louisville, the building's second floor dance hall was a popular regional draw, resulting in the Stark Electric Railroad making late-night runs on Saturdays.
- At the southeast corner of Main and Chapel Streets, a new bank building (**100 E. Main**, photos 11, 12) was built in 1915-16 to replace the gable-roofed frame building that had stood on the site since the mid-19th century. This was built by the First National Bank of Louisville, organized in 1910. The building became a branch of Canton's George D. Harter Bank in 1931. A bank remodeling in 1954 resulted in the present modern appearance with porcelain steel panels.
- The building at **134 S. Chapel Street** (photo 12), represents an early automotive building. Built in 1914, the building has its original first floor openings intact, including a pair of auto entries and a pair of storefronts, and retains sufficient integrity to convey its automotive use. During the 1920s, it was known as the Maloney-Zwick Motor Company, dealers in Chevrolet, Oldsmobile and Rickenbacker autos and general auto repair. In 1938, the building housed Sefert Chevrolet Sales, established in 1936 by Herman Sefert and Dorr Johnson. In the 1940s, the company became known as Johnson Chevrolet Co., after Johnson bought out Sefert.
- The Wertemberger Building at **120 E. Main** (photo 10) was built in 1916 by Joseph Wertemberger, who had a clothing store here until 1931. In that year, it was purchased by H. F. and Ted Kandel and became the Kandel Clothing store.

Churches and schools paralleled the residential growth of the city. Of these building types, only ecclesiastical are represented during the 1852-1919 era of development. The nominated district includes two churches, both of which are contributing resources. Church construction in central Louisville during the late 19th century reflects the increased population of the city, as well as the prosperity of the religious community during that time period.

- St. Louis Catholic Church (NR, 1979; **300 N. Chapel Street**, photos 23, 24) was built between 1869 and 1875. Established in 1834, the congregation historically has been Louisville's largest, resulting in new buildings being constructed on the property north of downtown as the church expanded. The existing church replaced an earlier building on the site that had been built in 1836. Also present during the pre-1920 period was a brick parochial school to the south of the church built in 1867 (removed to make way for the present school building's construction in about 1920). Across Chapel Street to the west, a preparatory college known as St. Louis College was built between 1863 and 1866 for the Cleveland diocese. The building was used for educational purposes until 1884, when it was converted to a Catholic orphanage. St. Joseph Hospice for the Aged took over the building c. 1930, and it was demolished about 1960. (The existing complex of buildings associated with St. Louis Catholic Church dates from the post-1920 period, so is addressed in that section.)
- The Paradise Evangelical and Reformed Church, at **619 E. Main Street** (photos 60, 61), was constructed in 1893. The congregation was formed in 1863 as the Reformed Church, and the present building replaced an 1869

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Louisville Historic District
Stark County, Ohio**

Section 8
Page 15

structure. The church served the largest Protestant congregation in Louisville. A Bible school addition was added in 1925, reflecting the congregation's growth during the village's 1920s population boom. An educational wing was added in 1959, illustrating Louisville's post WWII suburban expansion. In 1959, 1,250 people worshipped at the Paradise Reformed Church.

The advantages of rail transportation attracted several industrial concerns to locate along the railroad line in Louisville during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Nearly all of these buildings were removed in the mid-20th century as these industries ceased to exist and the property to the west of Chapel Street underwent major redevelopment. One historic industrial building from this period is included in the historic district boundaries.

- The Louisville Machine Company was established in 1904 and built a new factory building on the former Empire Clay property near the railroad crossing with North Chapel Street in 1904-05 (**205 Lincoln Avenue**, photos 34-36). Coincidentally, the new manufacturing building was constructed with hollow tile blocks, perhaps leftover product from Empire Clay. The company specialized in the manufacture of clay screens, responding to the demands of the clay industry. In 1911, the building was enlarged to the east for another production line, followed by construction of a front office by 1915 and a shipping room addition to the west by 1923.
- Two tile houses from the 1890s at **513 and 517 N. Mill Street** (photos 43, 44) illustrate the use of locally manufactured clay products in an architectural application. "The hollow tile for foundation walls is a feature, and houses have been in some cases built of them, these blocks being made quite ornamental and attractive." (1896 Stark County Atlas, p. 161) Constructed in 1895 and 1890 respectively, the nearly identical houses are just to the south of the 1895 location of both the Stoneware Tile Company and the Empire Clay Company properties.

In addition to commercial and industrial buildings, other resources related to themes of commerce and industry in the 1852-1919 period include homes that were occupied by owners, managers, downtown merchants and local businessmen, and their families. Favored locations to build these homes included East and West Main Street, North Mill Street, South Chapel Street, and East Gorgas Street during this period. Because of intrusions or significant alterations, however, West Main, South Chapel and sections of East Gorgas cannot be included in the district boundaries. Residences within the nominated district that are associated with some of Louisville's industrialists, merchants or local business owners during this period are enumerated below.

- Elias Essig lived at **502 N. Mill**, an I House constructed c. 1870 (photo 40). Essig was an investor in the 1868 basket factory and the 1872 woolen mill in Louisville. His primary business was a planing mill, which he formed in partnership with Jacob Shengle in 1875. Located beside the railroad tracks a block away from Essig's house, the planing mill dealt in lumber supplies, lath, shingles, and sash doors.
- The brick Italianate side hallway house at **509 N. Mill Street** (photo 45) was the home of Simon Flickinger in 1870, shortly after it was constructed in c. 1865. During the 1870s, Flickinger owned and operated the flour mill (Star Mills) built by Daniel Chappius in 1848. The business was known as Louisville Flouring Mills in 1875, when it was shown in the Stark County Atlas as being owned by Flickinger (Attachment B, Figure 2).
- The Juilliard house, **523 East Main Street** (photo 59) was built in the spring of 1872 by Charles L. Juilliard. His father, John N. Juilliard, brought his family from France to Stark County in 1836, establishing a farm outside of Louisville. In addition to farming and other business pursuits, his son Charles eventually moved to Louisville,

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Louisville Historic District
Stark County, Ohio**

Section 8
Page 16

becoming active in the community. He organized the first Masonic Lodge in 1872-73, which was named the Juilliard Lodge in his honor. He also served as the town's postmaster and purchased the town newspaper, the Louisville Herald. Charles's younger brother Augustus D. Juilliard lived in Stark County until 1866, when at the age of 30 relocated to New York City to work in textile manufacturing. Augustus acquired great wealth in his adulthood and bequeathed the money to form the now world-famous Juilliard School of Music.

- The brick Italianate house at **318 E. Main Street** (photo 73), also built c. 1885, was the home of Jonas Keim. Keim was one of the sons of Moses Keim, builder of the Keim Block at the corner of Main and Mill Streets in 1875. The family operated a successful stove and hardware business, and opened the Louisville Deposit Bank in 1881. John Keim, another brother, built a house nearby at 418 East Main in 1905, but this building was later connected to the Louisville school and demolished along with that building in 2009.
- The Louis Bonnot house at **917 E. Main** (photos 67, 68) is a significant representative of an industrialist's home. In the late 19th century, the Bonnot family manufactured wagons. Entrepreneurial by nature, the family took advantage of the local clay industry and also began manufacturing clay-related machinery. Known as the Bonnot Company, the business was relocated to Canton in the early 1890s. However, Louis Bonnot continued to reside in Louisville while serving as president of the company, and built this home in 1902. He also served as president of the United Garment Company, another Louisville industry, during the 1920s.

The Steel Industrial Era: 1920-1960

With the arrival of the Superior Sheet Steel Company to Louisville, the community experienced a renewed commercial and residential boom. The 1920s brought several new commercial buildings to the downtown, although these were generally smaller and more modest than earlier commercial construction. Included were two-story retail shops that filled in gaps or replaced earlier buildings on Main Street. Examples of commercial buildings that gained significance during this period are described below:

- William H. Kagey constructed the building at **125 E. Main**, in 1925 (photo 19). The building housed his grocery store business, which he had established in 1893. The Kagey Grocery was Louisville's longest-operating grocery. It operated into the mid 20th century, under Kagey's son's ownership. William Kagey also constructed the abutting building at **121 E. Main** in 1902.
- The two-story Schafer Building at **212-218 E. Main** (photos 4, 5) was added to the downtown in 1926. For a number of years, Kandel Brothers clothing store occupied the building. In the late 1930s, a Kroger grocery store occupied the storefront, removing the interior partition wall.
- Also built in 1926 is the second auto-related building in the district, located at **134 North Chapel Street** (photo 22). In 1929, this was the Maloney-Zwick Motor Company, which had been relocated here from its earlier location at 134 South Chapel Street in 1925.
- The commercial building at **117 E. Main Street** (STA-0755-06, photos 19-20) was built c. 1885, but was owned by the John Martig family during the 1930s. In 1936, a new Isaly Dairy Store was opened at this location. What is significant about this is that John Martig, the prominent Louisville citizen, self-made millionaire, and founder of Ohio's modern cheese and dairy industry, was vice president of the Isaly Company and its major stockholder in 1931. A resident of Louisville at the time, he was no doubt instrumental in bringing the store to town. Upon his death in 1948, John Martig's widow Mary sold their house (the former Keim Residence, demolished 2009) to the

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Louisville Historic District
Stark County, Ohio**

Section 8
Page 17

school board for use as a library and then moved into an apartment above the Isaly store. Neither Martig's home nor his cheese warehouse is extant, and although built by another owner, the building at 117 E. Main is the last known property associated with the significant Louisville entrepreneur.

- While there had been a telephone exchange in the downtown earlier, dial telephone service came to Louisville in 1934 with the construction of a new telephone building at the northeast corner of Main and Mill Streets. This is the rear portion of the existing building, with the front piece added in 1950, at **301 East Main** (photo 51).
- The last commercial building constructed before the 1960 end of the Period of Significance for the district is the bank building at **315 E. Main** (photo 52), constructed in 1960 for the First Federal Savings and Loan Association.

Churches, schools, and governmental buildings paralleled the residential growth of the city. Of these building types, a parochial school and other church-related buildings and a governmental building are represented during the 1920-1960 era of development. The construction of the city's new Louisville School building in 1922-23 was a significant event, but this building was demolished in 2009 after standing vacant for many years.

- St. Louis Catholic Church constructed three contributing buildings on its property during this period, beginning with the St. Louis School in 1922 at **214 N. Chapel** (photos 25, 26). The school had an addition in 1959 and served 500 students in that year. Built to the north of the church is the Rectory, located at **314 N. Chapel** and completed in 1926 (photo 27). A Sisters' convent was completed in 1956 at **307 N. Mill** Street, to the rear of the church. In 1959, St. Louis Church was serving 800 families and had 2,000 congregants, and remained the largest church in the community.
- A new U.S. Post Office was completed in Louisville in 1940. Since the mid 1800s, the post office had been located in a variety of commercial buildings. As the village grew, its postal volume increased, necessitating the construction of an independent building dedicated to mail-related services. This building is located at **504 East Main Street**, just east of downtown and located in an area of residential buildings (photos 74, 75).

Houses built in Louisville during the period from 1920 to 1960 included some built for local business owners and managers, and many that were built for workers at local industrial concerns, particularly the steel mill and local foundries that had come to dominate the industrial sector of Louisville. This section identifies some of the prominent new homes built in the historic during this period. Following this is a discussion of the significant working class housing developments from the 1920s that are included within the historic district boundaries

- The Colonial Revival residence at **600 E. Main** (photo 79) was built in 1926 and occupied by H. C. Grim. Grim was a contractor and builder, likely building this house. Located just to the rear of the house is a matching two-car garage faced in the same brick, with cornice returns at the front gable. Walnut Street, south of E. Main, was historically called Grim Court.
- Located at **520 E. Main** (photos 77-78) is a large English Tudor Revival house built for Daniel W. Krabill in 1927. Krabill was cashier for the First State Bank of Louisville, located in the Keim Block at **225 and 227 East Main**.
- The manager and treasurer of the Louisville Machine Company, Paul Loichot, occupied the house at **414 E. Gorgas** (photo 100, built in 1890) during the 1920s and 1930s.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Louisville Historic District
Stark County, Ohio**

Section 8
Page 18

- The house at **202 Church** (photo 94) was occupied by George A. Balsler in the 1920s. Balsler was the secretary of the Louisville Brass & Steel Foundry Corp. The last of Louisville's large central parcels were subdivided c.1920, in anticipation of the housing shortage that would be created by the arrival of Superior Sheet Steel Company. The house at **202 Church** is part of a small grouping of houses illustrating that trend. The lots at **202 and 206 Church** and **506 and 512 Center Court** were all carved from larger lots facing E. Gorgas Street about 1920.
- The English Tudor Revival house at **903 E. Main** (photo 64) was constructed by Frank A. Grisez. Built in 1930, the house is an example of the later Revival-style homes that were built to replace earlier houses on East Main Street during this period. It has a matching garage to the rear. Frank Grisez was the owner of Frank Grisez & Sons, contractors and builders of quality homes. Frank lived in the house through at least the late 1940s.
- In 1938, Herman Sefert, president and treasurer of Sefert Chevrolet, lived at **413 N. Mill** (photo 47). Constructed in 1912, the frame cottage is located in a residential area that historically housed local business owners. Sefert Chevrolet was located nearby at **134 N. Chapel St.**

The neighborhood centered on East Gorgas Street in the vicinity of Silver, Virginia, and Superior Streets in southeastern Louisville was platted as a result of the establishment of Superior Sheet and Steel on the west side of Louisville in 1920. Although the neighborhood does not have an identifying name, it does have a visually identifiable presence on the landscape. Comprised of three separate allotments (Zettler Realty's Superior Addition, J.B. Metzger Addition and G. C. Cherdron's Addition) that were recorded 1920-1921, the neighborhood has a sense of time and place, as well as visual cohesiveness that distinguishes it from other Louisville neighborhoods. The Zettler Realty Company recorded a 62-lot plat, creating north-south Superior Street and including lots on Gorgas Street and Nickel Plate Avenue. The addition, and even the new street, was named in anticipation of an influx of new workers coming to work at the Superior Sheet & Steel Company. Zettler Realty was a Canton firm, founded by two brothers, William N. and Vincent V. Zettler. The company specialized in real estate, investments and allotments, as well as contracting and building. Their 1929 city directory advertisement stated "For your new home, see Zettler." The two smaller additions, recorded by John B. Metzger and George Cherdron, abutted Zettler's on the west, creating an entire neighborhood of working-class bungalows, all of similar appearance. While the neighborhood was not exclusive to Superior factory workers, examination of city directories reveals that a large number of residents did work at Superior Sheet and Steel Company.

The houses in these additions were typically bungalows, containing six rooms and costing \$600 per room (Smith, 1984, p.192). Section 7 provides an examination of the four predominant house types that were built in these subdivisions, primarily between 1920 and 1926. During this period, Superior Steel employed as many as 1,000, spawning a population boom in Louisville. According to local historian Ken Smith, 62 houses were built in the year 1924 alone to meet Louisville's housing shortage.

District Associations with Criterion C

The Louisville Historic District retains a late 19th – early 20th century appearance, representing its greatest period of growth and development. Several important architectural styles of the era are represented in the district including commercial, institutional, and residential styles, as well as different building types. Below is a representative sampling of building types and styles found in the district, discussed according to their era of construction.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Louisville Historic District
Stark County, Ohio**

Section 8
Page 19

Early Settlement Period: 1834-1851

The two remaining buildings from this period are significant as early period examples of architectural development:

- The Union Hotel (St. Julian Hotel), **101-105 E. Main Street** (photos 20, 21), displays the early 19th century Greek Revival form of a side-gabled building with two-stories. Four bays across the front and a wide frieze with gable end return are important features. While the façade was remodeled in 1892 and more recently updated, the building's presence in the streetscape still conveys its early date and style.
- The Star Mills Building, **200 Lincoln Avenue** (photos 30-33) is important as an example of a vernacular brick-bearing industrial building type from the mid-19th century. It retains original fenestration, modest cornice returns, and sandstone block foundation, along with historic painted signage.

The Railroad and Early Industrial Era: 1852-1919

Commercial construction during this period includes four significant commercial blocks displaying the Italianate and Neo-Classical Revival styles, along with more modest buildings with original elements of style and building type.

- A notable building type from the period is seen at **201-205 E. Main**, built c. 1870 (photos 17, 18). Side-gabled frame buildings with side-by-side commercial-residential uses were a common early building type. This example is a four-bay I House with storeroom on the west and dwelling unit on the east. The existing copper storefront is intact from the early 1900s, with recessed entry and prism glass transom.
- The Bauman Block, built 1873 at **126-132 E. Main** (photo 9; Attachment B, Figure 3) is noteworthy as one of two large-scale brick blocks built in downtown Louisville during the early 1870s. This three-story, nine-bay Italianate style building is noted for its intact pressed metal bracketed cornice, window hoodmolds, historic two-over-two windows, and two of three intact storefronts.
- Keim Block, built 1875 at **225-31 E. Main** (photos 13, 14), the second large-scale brick business block to be added to the business section. Features of the Italianate style on this three-story corner building include the nine-bay façade, pressed metal bracketed cornice and decorative hoodmolds. A unique feature in Louisville is the residential appearance of the first floor western bay, including a door and two window openings with round-arches.
- **213-217 E. Main** (photo 16), built c. 1885, a two-story brick building with four-bay façade with intact pressed metal bracketed cornice and shaped hoodmolds over the 2nd floor window bays.
- The Schilling Block, built 1890 at **200-210 E. Main** (photo 8), is an example of a Neo-Classical Revival style commercial building. It is distinguished by its upper story with raised pavilions with projecting window bays and its intact commercial storefront from the early 1900s.
- The Empire Opera House, built 1908 at **109-113 E. Main** (photos 20-22), is a tall gable-roofed building with front parapet façade that exhibits Italianate features, most notably the segmental arched windows with hoodmolds outlined in raised contrasting brick.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Louisville Historic District
Stark County, Ohio**

Section 8
Page 20

- The vernacular two story building at **226-228 E. Main** (built 1916, photos 5-7) is an example of a vernacular brick-faced two-story building from the early 1900s with significant storefronts from the period. Both exhibit central recessed entries with flanking display windows and large prism glass transoms.
- The Wertenberger Building at **120 E. Main** (photo 10), built in 1916 is another example of the simple two-story buildings with face-brick facades that were built during this period in downtown Louisville. While vernacular, they nevertheless repeated the traditional commercial building design of flat roofline, first floor storefront and upper floor fenestration.

The historic district contains a significant number of homes from this period of community growth, the most common architectural styles being Italianate, popular c. 1860-1890, and Queen Anne, popular c. 1880-1905. Italianate houses are mostly brick constructed, reflecting the prominence of the brick-making industry in Louisville during the 1870s and 1880s. Conversely, the Queen Anne homes included in the district are frame. One remaining example of a Greek Revival style house still stands from c. 1860. As the 19th century progressed, the most prominent residential area developed to the east, north and south of the downtown. Representing the first two decades of the 1900s are examples of the American Foursquare house type and the Craftsman Bungalow.

- The house at **126 Church** (photo 89), built c. 1860, is an example of a Greek Revival style residence, with wide frieze, cornice returns and side hall entry with transom and sidelights. Originally located on Main Street, this house was moved to this location c. 1929.
- The Flickinger House at **509 N. Mill** (photo 45) is a brick Italianate house from c. 1865. With low-pitched hip roof and paired brackets at the eaves, the house is a good early example of the style.
- A four-over-four plan brick Italianate built c. 1875 at **414 E. Gorgas** (photo 102) has a four-bay façade with paired entry doors and an original Italianate wood porch.
- Two similar frame Italianate T-plan houses are located at **408 and 412 N. Mill** (photos 41, 42). Built in 1880 and 1875, respectively, these houses display the verticality, low-pitched hipped roofline and fenestration of the Italianate style.
- Two brick Italianate houses with similar features from the mid-1880s are located in the first block of Main Street east of downtown. Both exhibit a Gabled Ell form, with steeply-pitched cross gabled roof. The house at **318 E. Main** (photo 73) is the more elaborate of the two, with large decorative bargeboard at front and side gables, and shaped hoodmolds at windows and doors. It retains original Italianate porches at the two front entries. The house at **419 E. Main** (photo 53) is more simply detailed, with plain eaves and shaped stone hoodmolds. It does have a two-story projecting bay window on the east elevation.
- The Juilliard House at **523 E. Main** (photo 59) is a brick Italianate house built in 1872 that was modified with Queen Anne features in 1905. The Italianate style is seen in the overall T-plan form of the house, the projecting side two-story bay, paired eave brackets, and the segmental arched window openings. Added Queen Anne features include the corner bay with turret at the southwest corner and the front gable with Palladian-style window.
- The house at **503 E. Main** (photo 54) is a good example of a simple frame-constructed Queen Anne with corner projecting bay and turret. The second floor retains Queen Anne-style windows (multi-colored panes framing clear glass). The brick front porch across the front is an early 20th century addition.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Louisville Historic District
Stark County, Ohio**

Section 8
Page 21

- The frame Queen Anne house at **802 E. Main** (photo 85), built in 1886, is perhaps the best representative of the style in the district. It has an asymmetrical mass, with dominant three-story tower with pyramidal slate roof at the east side. Below the tower is a balcony with porch, and across the front of the house is an Eastlake style porch.
- The façade of the house at **408 E. Gorgas** (photo 100), built 1890, features two bays with Queen Anne features. The square east bay terminates in a half-round blind wall dormer, while the west projecting bay is capped by a conical roof with finial. Both bays have Queen Anne style (multi-colored panes framing clear glass) windows at each story.
- The most elaborately designed house from this period is the Bonnot House, built 1902 at **917 E. Main** (photos 67-68). Although an architect could not be identified, the building combines Queen Anne and English Tudor Revival styles in a way that appears to be architect-designed. Fieldstone, stucco, half-timbering, original windows, porches, and tile roof combine to create a fashionable residential building from the period.
- A good example of a Craftsman Bungalow is located at **902 Washington Avenue** (photo 70). Built 1918, the house has intact features that include a gabled porch with brick piers, wide roof eaves with dormers and triangular brackets, and bands of horizontal windows with multi-light transom on the main façade. A matching garage is at the rear.
- American Foursquare houses appeared in Louisville during the early 1900s, including the brick example at **500 E. Gorgas**, built in 1913 (photo 104).

It is important to note the influence of the tile and brick making industry in Louisville during this period. In addition to foundations of tile block or brick, which are nearly ubiquitous in the district after 1865, there are three houses constructed of tile block in the historic district that are worth noting. In addition, tile block was used as a garage material in a couple of cases and several houses had new brick porches added in the early years of the 20th century.

- The nearly identical houses at **513 and 517 N. Mill Street** (photos 43, 44) were built in the early 1890s using variegated tile block with pebble tile block quoins and ornamental tile coursework. Both houses have molded concrete block porches that were added after 1915.
- The vernacular Queen Anne house at **517 E. Main** (photo 57) was constructed of tile blocks in 1906. The lower story is faced with rock-faced tile, while the upper floor has smooth tile blocks. Like the N. Mill Street houses, there is a belt course between stories made of ornamental tile. The block front porch is original, and there is a contributing tile block one-car garage on the lot (photo 58).

The Steel Industrial Era: 1920-1960

The steel-making period of the 1920s brought a boom in residential construction to Louisville, as new housing stock was added to accommodate the influx of workers and increased population. In addition, the community was beginning to be viewed in a suburban context, as more and more workers could live in Louisville while working in other areas. Still, the downtown commercial district and churches remained a draw for local residents as well as the surrounding population, with the result that new business and religious buildings were built during this period.

New construction at St. Louis Catholic Church included the parochial school, a rectory and a convent, as the parish continued to expand. Both the school, built in 1922 (**214 N. Chapel**, photos 25, 26), and the rectory, built in 1926 (**314**,

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Louisville Historic District
Stark County, Ohio**

Section 8
Page 22

N. Chapel, photo 27), use the pointed arch motif at their main entries, continuing a feature that defined the 1875 Late Gothic Revival St. Louis Church. These buildings were designed in a Jacobethan Revival style that related well to the earlier church but also clearly defined them as products of the 1920s. The convent, located behind the church at **307 N. Mill** (photo 29), is a product of the 1950s and displays the minimalist form and detail associated with that period.

Examples of downtown construction during this period are the result of modest new buildings constructed to replace some of the earlier 19th century structures, as well as renovations of some existing buildings.

- Built in 1926, the building at **212-218 E. Main** (photo 5) has an upper façade ornamented with contrasting brick patterns, including corbels at the cornice, soldier brick lintels, and courses above the storefront. A stone 1926 date plate in the upper façade is outlined in contrasting brick as well.
- Modern architectural treatments from the mid-20th century in downtown Louisville include the building at **112 E. Main** (photo 10), built in 1949. Constructed of concrete block, it still has its Carrara glass storefront, a popular mid-20th century storefront material.
- In 1954, the Harter Bank at **100 East Main** was streamlined with porcelain steel and aluminum panels, another mid-20th century architectural treatment that was gaining popularity (photos 11, 12).
- The last commercial building constructed before the end of the period of significance for the district is the bank building at **315 E. Main** (photo 52). Built in 1960, this building's linear form and aluminum and glass construction make it an example of mid-20th century modern design.

Residential buildings from the post-1920 period in the historic district include notable examples of the American Foursquare house type, the Craftsman Bungalow, and the English Tudor and Colonial Revival as it appeared in the 1920s through the 1940s. In addition, the district includes the 1920s subdivisions that resulted in dozens of modest working class frame houses that were built using repeated house types within a definable area.

- The house at **612 E. Main** built in 1921 (photo 81) is a good example of the American Foursquare house type, with hipped roof, roof dormers to front and sides, broad front porch constructed of brick, and original windows with multi-pane upper sash.
- An interesting example of a Craftsman Bungalow built as a duplex is the house at **400-402 East Gorgas** (photo 99). A classic example of the style, with a broad overhanging roof with triangular brackets, the house is symmetrical with a pair of gabled dormers, two doors flanked by windows, and the brick porch with two entries.
- The Krabill House, at **520 E. Main** (photo 77), is a good example of the English Tudor Revival style. Completed in 1927, the house employs an eclectic use of materials, including its steeply-pitched slate roof with dormers and gables, and its multi-colored brick, stone and tile facing.
- Although this style is not common in the historic district, the house at **600 E. Main** (photo 79) is a good example of the Colonial Revival. Built in 1926, it has a three-bay façade and distinctive fanlight entrance with a stylized projecting portico with fluted Doric posts. A matching two-car garage faced in the same brick is on the property (photo 80).

The working-class subdivision housing centered on East Gorgas Street between Silver Street and Nickelplate Avenue is included in the district for its illustration of Louisville's boom period of growth in the 1920s and because it represents a

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Louisville Historic District
Stark County, Ohio**

Section 8
Page 23

definable area with consistent patterns of development and unity of scale and design. The four predominant house types that are contained in this area, defined and described in Section 7, have common characteristics that create a sense of place and time. Included are the ubiquitous front porches, with common use of brick piers. In addition, large numbers of contributing garages are also associated with these buildings, as driveways (often shared) were incorporated into the plat's design. The pattern of repeated house types in a cohesive setting remains unchanged from original 1920s construction, and the area as a whole is architecturally significant under Criterion C as a result.

Taken as a whole, the Louisville Historic District contains a representative collection of residential, commercial, institutional buildings and industrial buildings, illustrating multiple architectural styles and building types from significant eras in the city's history. Collectively the buildings paint a picture of late 19th – early 20th century life in a small, but industrious community in the northeast region of Ohio. Nineteenth and 20th century commercial buildings lining the main street, churches representing some of Louisville's historic denominations, and residential streets that spread out from the core in nearly all directions combine to create a sense of the community's history and architectural legacy.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Louisville Historic District
Stark County, Ohio**

Section 9
Page 1

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Louisville Historic District
Stark County, Ohio**

Section 9
Page 2

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Louisville Historic District
Stark County, Ohio**

Section 9
Page 3

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