

## **APPENDIX C: RESOURCE FORM**



# OHIO HISTORIC INVENTORY

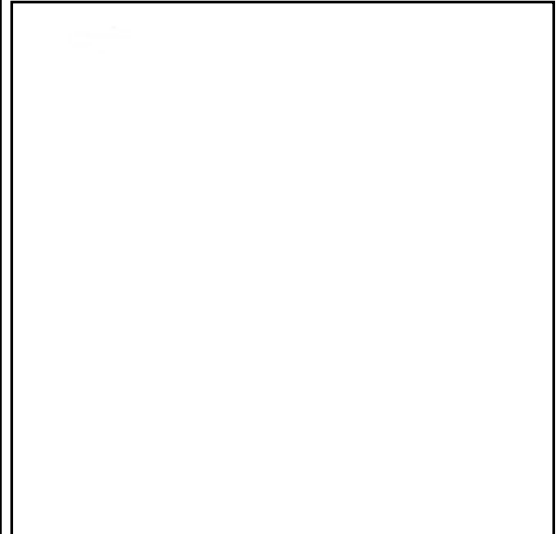
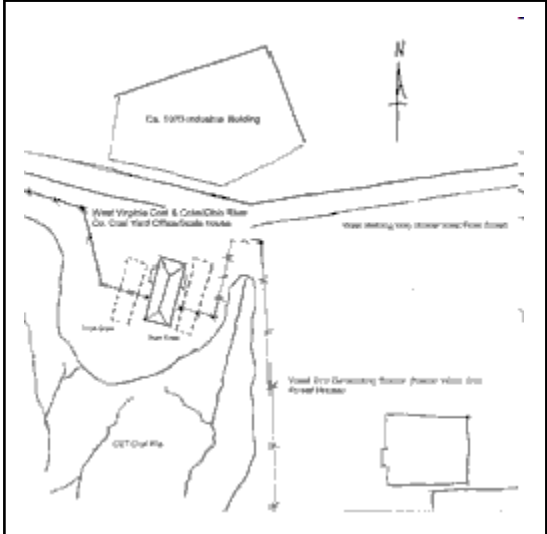
RPR Number:

1. No. <b>HAM-07934-43</b>		4. Present Name(s) <b>Ohio River Company Coal Yard Office/Scale House</b>		4-43 HAM-07939
2. County <b>Hamilton</b>		5. Historic or Other Name(s) <b>Ohio River Company Coal Yard Office Building</b>		
6. Specific Address or Location <b>725 West Mehring Way</b>		19a. Design Sources		2. County <b>Hamilton</b>
6a. Lot, Section or VMD Number <b>57-60 and 2.33 feet of 56</b>		20. Contractor or Builder <b>Unknown</b>		
7. City or Village <b>Cincinnati</b>		21. Building Type or Plan <b>Office</b>		4. Present or Historic Name(s) <b>Ohio River Company Coal Yard Office/Scale House</b>
9. U.T.M. Reference Quadrangle Name: <b>Covington (Ky.)</b> <b>16 713947 4330143</b> Zone Easting Northing		22. Original Use, if apparent <b>Office</b>		
10. Classification: <b>Building</b>		23. Present Use <b>VACANT/NOT IN USE</b>		35. Plan Shape <b>Rectangular</b>
11. On National Register? <b>NO</b>		24. Ownership <b>Private</b>		
13. Part of Established Hist. Dist? <b>NO</b>		25. Owner's Name & Address, if known <b>Tri State Improvement Company</b> <b>1000 East Main Street</b> <b>Plainfield, Indiana 46168</b>		36. Changes associated with 17/17b Dates: 17. <b>Original/Most significant construct</b>
15. Other Designation (NR or Local)		26. Property Acreage <b>1.090</b>		
16. Thematic Associations: <b>Bulk Products Industries</b>		27. Other Surveys		17b.
17. Date(s) or Period <b>1931</b>		28. No. of Stories <b>One story</b>		
18. Style Class and Design <b>None</b>		29. Basement? <b>Yes</b>		37. Window Type(s) <b>Altered</b>
18a. Style of Addition or Elements(s)		30. Foundation Material <b>Concrete frame</b>		
19. Architect or Engineer <b>Unknown</b>		31. Wall Construction <b>Balloon/western/platform frame</b>		38. Building Dimensions <b>20'x50'</b>
42. Further Description of Important Interior and Exterior Features (Continued on Reverse if Necessary) <b>Built 1931, the Ohio Rive Company office/scale house is a small one-story, rectangular-shaped building with a green tile-covered hipped roof, red brick-clad walls, and a concrete foundation. A single, red brick chimney with concrete or limestone coping extends above the roof line just east of the center of the south facade. The roof includes matching green hip and ridge tiles with simple, rounded finials atop the juncture of the hip and ridge. A green-painted rain gutter skirts the lower perimeter of the roof, with downspouts located at each of the four corners. A narrow, rectangular-shaped sign board extends along the length of the north side of the hipped roof. A small, rectangular-shaped sign reading 'CBT Good Reasons to Work Safe' is currently located in the center of the sign board. With the exception of two of the windows, all of the fenestration has been covered with green-painted sheet metal. It is not known what type of windows exist under the coverings, but the two uncovered windows, located on the east facade, feature multi-light, aluminum, replacement sash. Each window opening features a green-painted, concrete or limestone sill. A series of small, continued...</b>		32. Roof Type <b>Hip</b> Roof Material <b>Clay tile</b>		
43. History and Significance (Continue on Reverse if necessary) <b>One of the more recent coal yards established on Cincinnati's waterfront was that of the Ohio River Company. Organized by Albert Converse Ingersoll in 1925, the Ohio River Company (ORCO) was organized for the purpose of moving coal from West Virginia mines to Cincinnati's waterfront. Using a chartered boat and four barges, the ORCO got its start by delivering coal to the Cincinnati Gas &amp; Electric Company (CG&amp;E), which operated the West End Power House on West Front Street (now West Mehring Way). This business relationship was so successful that Ingersoll found it necessary to locate additional capital for much needed expansion. After negotiating a deal with C.E. Hutchinson, president of the Omar, West Virginia based West Virginia Coal &amp; Coke Company the fledgling transportation company</b>		33. No. of Bays <b>3</b> Side Bays <b>4</b>		39. Endangered? <b>NO</b> By What?
44. Description of Environment and Outbuildings (See #52) <b>The office/scale house is located in a heavily industrialized area along Cincinnati's waterfront. The real estate along this section of the river has been used by coal companies for at least 120 years. The land between the south end of the office and the river is occupied by immense piles of coal, which stretch along the river for over half a mile. Development north of the office consists of scattered industrial and commercial buildings that date from the late nineteenth to mid-twentieth continued...</b>		34. Exterior Wall Material(s) <b>Brick</b>		
45. Sources of Information <b>All Business 2002, Ingram Unit to Acquire Midland Enterprises, Inc. All Business, January 24, 2002. www.allbusiness.com. Accessed July 24, 2009. Giglierano, Geoffrey J. and Deborah A. Overmyer 1988, The Bicentennial Guide to Greater Cincinnati: A Portrait of Two Hundred Years, Cincinnati Historical Society, Cincinnati, Ohio. Sanborn Insurance &amp; Publishing Company 1934, Sanborn Fire Insurance Map of Cincinnati, Ohio. New York. 1950 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map of Cincinnati, Ohio. New continued...</b>		40. Chimney Placement <b>Center</b>		41. Distance from & Frontage on Road <b>75 feet/102 feet</b>
46. Prepared By: <b>Donald Burden</b>		47. Organization: <b>Gray &amp; Pape, Inc.</b>		
49. PIR Reviewer:		48. Date Recorded: <b>08/12/2009</b>		51. Condition of Property:
		49. PIR Review Date:		

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8. Site Plan with North Arrow

54. Farmstead Plan :



Door Selection:  
**Altered**

Door Position:  
**Recessed**

Orientation:  
**Gable end axis**

Symmetry:  
**Bilateral asymmetry**

Report Associated With Project:  
NADB #:



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*42. Further Description of Important Interior and Exterior Features (Con't)*

rectangular three-light windows are located in the concrete foundation at grade level, providing natural light for the basement. The window glass, however, has been painted green. A pair of bays project from the east and west facades near the north end of the building. The bays provided visibility of the truck scales located on either side of the building. Concrete bumpers, which project from the four corners of the foundation, provided collision protection against trucks entering the scales from either end of the building. The visible portion of the scales consists of long, rectangular concrete covered pads with narrow, steel frames around the pads and the concrete foundation that surrounds the pads. The scale pad on the east side of the building is roughly twelve feet longer than the pad on the west side of the building. The smaller scale on the west side of the building is largely covered with gravel and dirt. The larger scale to the east remains an active entrance point for the CBT coal yard. An entrance is located in the center of the north (front) facade. The current metal entry door appears to be a replacement. Replacement wooden steps and handrails have been anchored to the foundation at the north entrance. The area which currently serves as a parking lot is paved with concrete from the front entrance of the office to West Mehring Way. The parking lot's concrete matches the concrete found around the scales, indicating that it was likely poured when the building was built.

*43. History and Significance (Con't)*

became a wholly owned subsidiary of the coal company (Giglierano and Overmyer 1988:27-28; Marinelink.com 2000). With backing from West Virginia Coal & Coke, the ORCO commissioned construction of its first boat. Completed in 1926, the E.D. Kenna went to work moving coal from West Virginia Coal & Coke Company mines in West Virginia to the CG&E power plant on West Front Street. Ingersoll's contract with the power company eventually led to the construction of a coal yard just west of the power house (Marinelink.com 2002). Built in 1931, the coal yard at 725 West Front Street included facilities for transloading coal from barges to either railroad hopper cars or trucks. Although the power house appears to have been the main impetus for the yard's construction, the coal yard also sold coal to other customers in the area (Giglierano and Overmyer 1988:27-28). In 1938, Ingersoll left the Ohio River Company to form the Central Barge Company in Chicago. Ingersoll's partner, W.W. Marting, assumed control of the ORCO. Marting remained with the ORCO until his death in 1945. Thereafter, the company underwent numerous changes. The most significant of these changes transpired in 1954 when a group of New York investors acquired the West Virginia Coal & Coke Company. Intent on shifting the company's focus toward barging, the organization divested itself of all coal mine holdings. Renamed Midland Enterprises in 1955, the reorganized company expanded its towing business through its subsidiary the Ohio River Company (Marinelink.com 2002). By 1961, Midland Enterprises employed at least 900 people and was moving 15 billion tons of cargo a year for an annual income of \$24 million. The company continued to expand through the 1960s, with formation of the Orgulf and Red Circle divisions. By 1969, the Midland conglomeration was responsible for moving more than 25 million tons of cargo each year, making it the largest tonnage carrier on the inland waterways at that time (Marinelink.com 2002). Expansion continued through the 1970s and early 1980s, as company president John D. Geary increased the size of the Midland fleet and added barge construction to the company's capabilities. In 1982, Midland acquired the Paducah, Kentucky companies, Walker Boat Yard and R&W Marine. Two years later, Midland purchased Federal Barge Lines, giving the company a foothold in the grain transportation market (Marinelink.com 2002). By 2002, the Midland fleet included approximately 2,300 barges and 80 towboats, which delivered more than 50 million tons of coal, grain, iron, steel, ores and other dry bulk commodities each year. In early 2002, Nashville-based, Ingram Industries Incorporated acquired Midland Enterprises (All Business 2009). Ingram now controls the Ohio River Company, whose Cincinnati office is located at 300 Pike Street. The West Virginia Coal & Coke Company coal yard first appears in the city directory in 1931 and on a Sanborn map in 1934 (Williams City Directory 1931-32:1839; Sanborn Insurance Map 1934:24). Located on land formerly owned by neighboring Standard Marble Works, the West Virginia Coal & Coke Company's waterfront coal yard included an incline from the river, a hoist house, tipple, two batteries of silos, and a small office/scale house (Exhibit A3; Plate B1). The hoist house raised incoming coal and coke to a conveyor system, which delivered material to either a tipple, located over the top of three railroad spurs, or one of two batteries of silos, which were positioned perpendicular to one another immediately west of the tipple. The yard office was located near the north end of the yard at West Front Street. The 1950 Sanborn map reveals that the West Virginia Coal & Coke Company yard had expanded eastward onto land previously occupied by the Standard Marble Works (Sanborn Insurance Map 1950:24; Exhibit A4). Coal piles now covered the area where the marble factory's buildings once stood, and a conveyor extended from the yard's tipple to a furnace at the neighboring Cincinnati Gas & Electric Company's West End Power House. A long and narrow, one-story parking structure had been built just west of the office, and a small, square-shaped blacksmith shop was now located near the river at the southern end of the yard. Also, a small pattern storage building had been built just east of the black smith shop. The blacksmith shop and pattern storage building indicate that the yard was capable of making castings, which presumably would have been used to replace worn out or broken pulleys, sheaves, bearings, or any other castings used within the coal conveyor and storage system. After the West Virginia Coal & Coke Company was renamed Midland Enterprises in 1955, the property at 725 West Front Street was listed in the city directories as the Ohio River Company Coal Yard (Williams City Directory 1956:1297). After 1955 the company no longer owned coal mines, but they did continue to operate their yard on West Front Street, which they supplied with coal transported by Ohio River Company barges. The yard remained listed in the city directories until 1989. The following year, Cincinnati Gas & Electric Company subsidiary Tri State Improvement Company purchased the property from the Ohio River Company. Duke Energy is currently listed as the main contact for the former coal yard property and power house, which was converted to a substation in the mid-1970s (Hamilton County Auditor 2009).

*44. Description of Environment and Outbuildings (Con't)*

centuries. The skyline east of the office is dominated by the Brent Spence Bridge.

*45. Sources (Con't)*

York. Williams Cincinnati Directory 1931-32 Williams Cincinnati Directory, Press of Williams Directory Company, Cincinnati, Ohio. 1955 Williams Cincinnati Directory, Press of Williams Directory Company, Cincinnati, Ohio.