

Joseph Weber and Brothers Wagon Works  
Steele's Hill-Grafton Hill  
543-549 Salem Avenue  
Dayton  
Montgomery County  
Ohio

HABS No. OH-2464

HABS  
OHIO  
57-DAYT,  
12-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

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

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY  
Joseph Weber and Brothers Wagon Works

HABS  
OHIO  
57-DAYT,  
12-

HABS No. OH-2464

Location: Steele's Hill-Grafton Hill  
543-549 Salem Avenue  
Dayton  
Montgomery County  
Ohio  
UTM: 16.738910.4405970

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

Description: This is a large two story building that has been extensively altered over the years. Original exterior architectural detailing has been lost at the main facade due to unsympathetic changes to the first floor and stucco wall treatment at the second floor. Original windows have been replaced with aluminum 1/1 sashes. The only surviving older detail is the plain metal cornice which terminates at the corner of the main facade with large metal brackets. A small dormer pierces the slope of the hip at the roof. Later construction of adjacent buildings has partially blocked off portions of the original side facades. The surviving wall treatment is composed of common bond brick and the windows are 1/1 double hung wooden sash. Side facade windows are enframed with brick segmental lintels and plain stone lug sills. The rear facade exhibits original window bays with similar enframing as found on the side windows. Several additions obscure portions the rear facade. These include a one bay freight tower that extends the height of the building and a small one story shed addition extending off a portion of the first floor. A steel staircase also extends from the rear facade. The interior of the first floor has been altered to create a large open room and several smaller rear rooms. No original details have survived. A side stair leads from the main facade up to the second floor that contains eight apartments which were created in 1968. With the apartment construction, extensive rehabilitation work was undertaken that resulted in the loss of all historic architectural details.

History: This building was constructed in 1872 to house the Joseph Weber and Brothers Wagon Works. This company was also known as the Dayton View Wagon Works. The company manufactured and repaired wagons and carriages, painted decorative trim, and

undertook general blacksmith activities. It was a family business with Joseph and his brothers, Henry and George, as the proprietors. The company remained in operation until 1921 when it ceased business due to the decline in wagon sales and blacksmith activity. This wagon works was one of several that undertook business in Dayton. As the result of increased use of the automobile, most had ceased operation by the time this one had closed. Following the closing of the wagon works, the building was occupied by a number of businesses that required the large space offered by the building's two floors. Included among these were a soft drink distributor, a plumbing supply company, a storage company, and an automobile parts supply company. In 1968, the second floor was remodeled to incorporate eight apartments. These were small in size and were rented out to low income individuals. By 1989, the first floor was occupied by a charitable organization known as the House of Bread. This is an organization which continues today to provide free lunches to low income patrons. The building will be demolished in order for the site to be incorporated into a new post office facility.

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

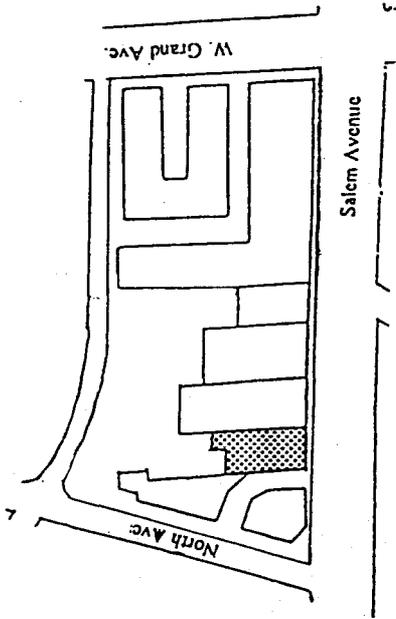
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Prosser, Teresa, National Register of Historic Places Nomination-Inventory Form, *Grafton Hill Historic District*, 1986.

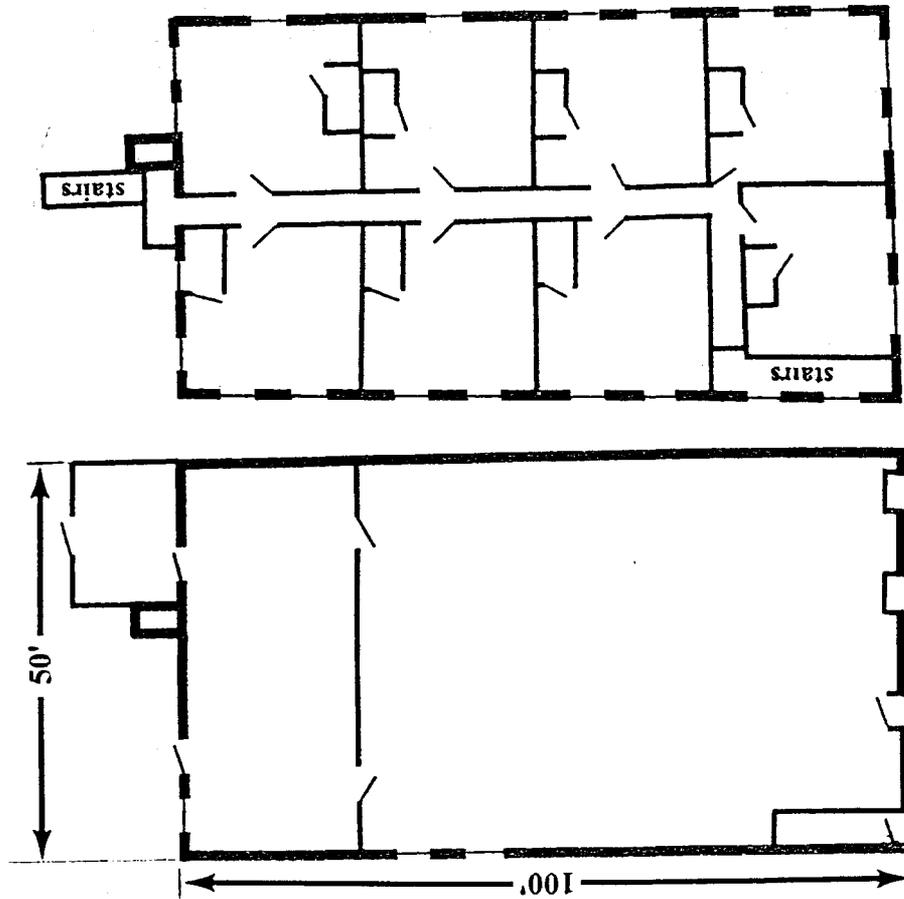
Sanborn Insurance Map Company, *Insurance Map of Dayton, Ohio*, Volume 2, 1919 and revisions.

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

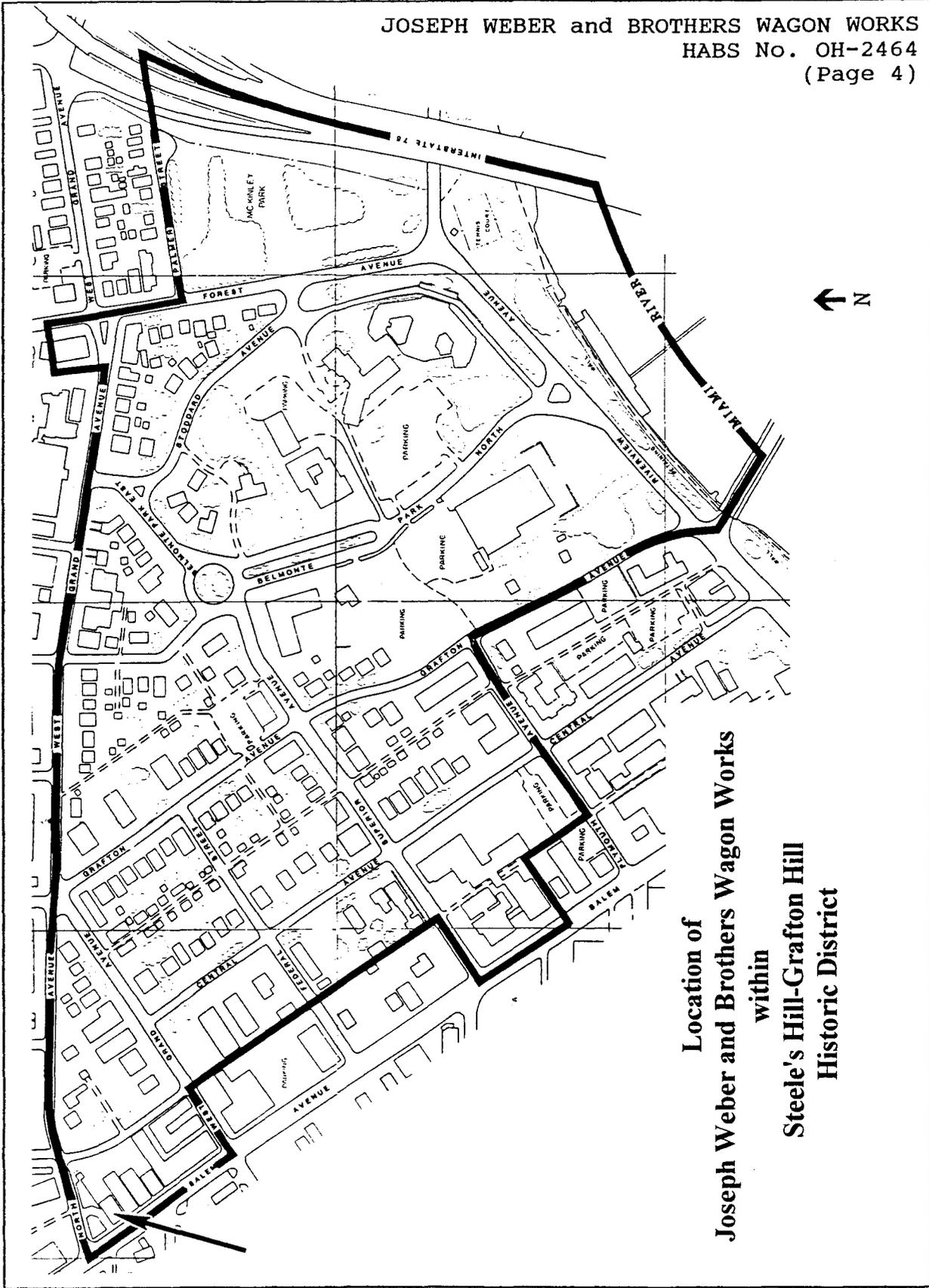
Historian: Fred Mitchell  
Historic Preservation Associates  
1026 Lenox Place  
Cincinnati, Ohio 45229  
September, 1997



**Overall Dimensions  
and Interior Floor Plan**



Not to Scale



**Location of  
Joseph Weber and Brothers Wagon Works  
within  
Steele's Hill-Grafton Hill  
Historic District**