

WOLFE MUSIC BUILDING  
2112 Euclid Avenue  
Cleveland  
Cuyahoga County  
Ohio

HABS OH-55  
*HABS OH-55*

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA  
REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS  
FIELD RECORDS

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY  
National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street NW  
Washington, DC 20240-0001

**HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY**  
**Wolfe Music Building**  
**(Wolfe Music Store)**

**HABS No. OH-55**

**Location:** 2112 Euclid Avenue, Cleveland, Cleveland County, Ohio.

UTM coordinates for the building are Zone 17, Easting 443880, Northing 4594450. There is no restriction on the release of the locational data to the public.

**Present**

**Owner:** The building was demolished in 2012.

**Significance:** Built in 1927 and opened in 1928, the Wolfe Music Building was owned by land developer Anthony Carlin. The building constructed at 2112 Euclid Avenue embodied the distinctive characteristics representing the work of local masters Frank Walker and Harry Weeks. The building was part of a push of commercial construction on Cleveland's prestigious Euclid Avenue, taking the place of the disappearing residences on Millionaire's Row.

**Description:** The Wolfe Music Building was a handsome three story structure. An ornamented terra-cotta façade gave the commercial building a Neo-Classical styling with Adamesque detailing in the terra-cotta and copper storefront. The structure was approximately 34 feet wide and originally part of a zero-lot-line block of commercial structures. The only recent evidence of the context was the simplicity of the flat, unadorned east and west facades where shadows of the adjacent attached structures remained. Stretching 126 feet in length, no windows punched the sides where the adjoining structures supported this building. There were windows on the rear façade that addressed the middle of the block toward Prospect Avenue.

The entry to this commercial building was through a pressed copper clad storefront. A pair of slight and delicate Corinthian columns was set atop a granite base marking the recessed opening. The columns supported an ornamented pediment with a cartouche at the peak. The storefront glass was most recently covered with plywood, though the copper cladding remained exposed to reveal the delicate framing. While access to the interior was not possible and consequently observation of the framing from the inside was also not possible, it is likely that the framework was steel and the copper cladding was exclusively an exterior ornament.

The copper storefront was set within a simple surround made of Georgia Marble. The blocks of marble lined both sides articulating the façade and crossing the storefront at the top of the first floor.

**History:** Terra-cotta units, fired with a glaze to emulate the Georgia Marble, adorned the remainder of the façade. Four double hung wood windows on each of the second and third stories were separated by pairs of Corinthian columns fashioned from terra-cotta. Pilasters supported each pair just above a heavily ornamented band course that divided the marble and copper storefront from the upper levels. This classical composition lent a monumental impression to the façade that was really only 34 feet in width. Engaged columns, also in terra-cotta, wrapped the front corners of the building at the upper levels to further the impression of monumentality. This terra-cotta would have been visible above the roof of the adjoining buildings or as an end to this façade where the next building began. Atop the columns was an entablature and pediment that carried swags and ornament likened to that of Colonial Adamesque design. The pediment, acting as a parapet, was in keeping with the decorated façade.

The Wolfe Music Building was built by Irish born Anthony Carlin, whom developed and owned several properties along Euclid Avenue in Cleveland and initiated the Viaduct Foundry, the Standard Foundry and Manufacturing Company, and the Standard Steel Range Company.

The building was constructed primarily for Wolfe Music Company, founded in 1917 by Harry Wolfe. The building space allowed room for large sales, display space, repair shop, instrument demonstration, and piano sales in the basement. The company originally had a ten year lease, but by 1930 Wolfe Music had closed and the building remained empty for a decade. In the 1940s, National Cash Register occupied the building.

The building was designed by renowned Cleveland Architects Walker & Weeks. Massachusetts natives Frank R. Walker and Harry E. Weeks joined the Cleveland firm of J. Milton Dyer at the request of John M. Carrere, a member of the Cleveland Group Plan Commission. In 1911, Walker & Weeks established their own firm and became known as specialists in bank buildings but are also known for their religious, commercial, and public buildings in the Cleveland area. Walker & Weeks specialized in Classical and Beaux Arts revival styles, as in the Cleveland Public Library, Public Auditorium, Severance Hall, and the Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland.

Cleveland State University acquired the building in 1997 and the building was located adjacent to campus on their Viking Hall Block between East 21<sup>st</sup> and East 22<sup>nd</sup> Streets. Kinko's occupied the building until 1998 and the building was vacant until December 2012, when it was demolished.

**Sources:** Cleveland Planning Commission/Landmarks Commission: Legislation  
Cleveland Planning Commission: Meeting minutes.  
Encyclopedia of Cleveland History (Case Western Reserve University & Western Reserve Historical Society)  
Cleveland State University, Capital Planning

Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps  
National Register Nomination, Wolfe Music Building, written by Robert Kaiser.  
2002.  
Deeds. 2112 Euclid Avenue.

**Historians:** Chambers, Murphy and Burge Restoration Architects, Ltd.  
Michael R. Sanbury, Associate AIA  
Ashley Cramer Banbury, Associate IIDA  
Elizabeth Corbin Murphy, FAIA

**Project**

**Information:** Project documentation was performed by Michael R. Sanbury, Assoc AIA and Ashley Cramer Banbury, Assoc IIDA for Chambers, Murphy & Burge Restoration Architects, Ltd. on behalf of Cleveland State University.