



#17-5-18  
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FORUM

## Columbus Register of Historic Properties Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating individual properties and districts. Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented enter "N/A" for "not applicable." Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

### 1. Name of Property

Historic name McClure-Nesbitt Motor Company

Other name 1505 E Main Street

### 2. Location

Address 1505 E Main Street, Columbus, Ohio

Zip Code 43205

### 3. Historic Preservation Officer Certification

As the designated authority under the Columbus City Code Chapter 3116 and 3117, I hereby certify that this nomination meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the Columbus Register of Historic Properties and meets the procedural requirements set forth in Columbus City Code Chapter 3117. In my opinion, the property or properties ☐ meet(s) ☐ does not meet the Columbus Register criteria. I recommend that this property or properties be considered significant ☐ locally ☐ nationally ☐ statewide.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Historic Preservation Officer

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

In our opinion, the property or properties ☐ meet(s) ☐ does not meet the Columbus Register criteria.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Historic Resources Commission Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

### 4. Columbus City Council Certification

I hereby certify that this property or properties is/are:

- ☐ entered in the Columbus Register.  
☐ determined not eligible for the Columbus Register.  
☐ removed from the Columbus Register  
☐ other, (explain) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the City Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

I hereby certify that the Franklin County Recorder has been notified that this property or properties has/have been entered into the Columbus Register.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Historic Preservation Officer

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**5. Classification****Ownership of Property**  
(Check all boxes that apply)

☒ private  
☐ public – local  
☐ public – State  
☐ public - Federal

**Category of Property**  
(Check only one box)

☒ building(s)  
☐ district  
☐ site  
☐ structure  
☐ object

**Number of Resources within Property**  
(Do not include previously listed resources in count)

Contributing

Non-contributing

1 buildings

sites

structures

objects

**Total**

**Number of contributing resources previously  
listed in the Columbus Register**

**6. Function or Use****Historic Functions**

Automobile Sales

**Current Functions**

Vacant

**7. Description****Architectural Classification**Early 20<sup>th</sup> Century: Art Deco**Materials**

foundation: concrete

walls: terra cotta, brick

roof: flat &amp; curved membrane

other

**Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets)

*See Continuation Sheets*

## 8. Statement of Significance

### Applicable Columbus Register Criteria

☐ A. The design or style of the property's exterior and/or interior is of significance to the historical, architectural or cultural development of the city, state or nation.

☐ B. The property is closely and publicly identified with a person who has significantly contributed to the historical, architectural or cultural development of the city, state, or nation.

☒ C. The property is identified as a significant work of an architect, artisan, engineer, landscape architect or builder whose individual work has influenced the historical, architectural, or cultural development of the city, state, or nation.

☒ D. The property demonstrates significant craftsmanship in architectural design, detail, or use of materials.

☐ E. The property is closely and publicly identified with an event, or series of events, which has influenced the historical, architectural, or cultural development of the city, state, or nation.

### Period or Periods of Significance

1926-1964

### Significant Date or Dates

### Significant Person or Persons

(Complete if Criterion 2 is marked)

Ray Sims

### Architect/Builder

Ray Sims

### Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in the box if applicable.)

Property is:

☐ less than 40 years of age or achieved significance within past 40 years.

### Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

*See Continuation Sheets*

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

### Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

*See Continuation Sheets*

### Primary location of additional data

☐ Columbus Historic Preservation Office

☐ State Historic Preservation Office

☐ University

☒ Other

Name of repository

Columbus Metropolitan Library

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**10. Geographical Data**

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**Acreage of Property** .35 Acres**Verbal Boundary Description**

(Describe the boundaries of the property, or properties or district on a continuation sheet.)

*See Continuation Sheets***Boundary Justification**

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

*See Continuation Sheets*

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**11. Form Prepared By:**

---

Joshua Lapp / Principal  
Name/TitleDesigning Local  
Organization87 N 20<sup>th</sup> Street  
Street Address614.607.1557  
TelephoneColumbus  
CityOH 43203  
State Zip Code

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**12. Additional Documentation**

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Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Map (A to scale sketch map for individually listed property, or properties or historic district.)

Photographs (Representative black and white photographs of the property, or properties or historic district.)

Additional items (check with the Columbus Historic Preservation Officer for any additional items.)

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**13. Property Owner**

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(Use Continuation Sheets to list additional property owners.)

Community Threads  
Name/TitlePO BOX 13718  
Street AddressTelephoneColumbus  
CityOH 43213  
State Zip Code

1505 E Main

Name of Property

City of Columbus, Department of Development  
Planning Division, Historic Preservation Office

## Columbus Register of Historic Properties Registration Form

Section Number \_\_\_\_\_

Zip Code 43205

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### Narrative Description

SEE ATTACHED

## **Narrative Description**

In 1926, the McClure-Nesbitt Motor Company opened at 1503-1507 East Main Street. Located on the Near East Side of Columbus, the former dealership building is near the historically prosperous Franklin Park, Bryden Road, and Woodland Park neighborhoods. The building was part of the Main Street Commercial District. Another building abuts the east side of the McClure-Nesbitt building, at the southwest corner of East Main Street and Kelton Avenue but is not included in this nomination.

The McClure-Nesbitt Motor Company building was designed by architect Ray Sims and built by D.B. Hussey, Inc. Sims was a member of Columbus chapter of the American Institute of Architects and specialized in commercial and residential architecture.

The two-story brick and reinforced concrete building appears to have been built in two stages. The original portion faced both Main Street and Kelton Avenue. The Main Street (north) elevation measures 9 bays and has a decorative beige-colored glazed terra cotta façade. The first floor features a central entrance flanked by large display windows looking into the showroom. Historic photos show that the storefront design was simple, with a low bulkhead and no transoms, which maximized the glazed area. The central entrance featured double doors. At either end of the building are single entrances with an unusual half-hexagon design reflecting Art Deco influences seen elsewhere on this elevation. The south entrance led to a stairwell to the second floor that was lit by narrow second story windows. The end doorways are surrounded by vertically-oriented convex terra cotta elements that impart a fluted effect to the east and west ends of the building. The second story windows are 12-pane steel casement windows with four vertically proportioned divisions, each with three panes. The casement windows are separated by terra cotta ornamentation that incorporates an automobile tire within an Art Deco flourish. These panels are the most architecturally distinctive element of the building, reflecting its purpose as an automobile dealership.

The west elevation is surfaced in brick and measures 11 bays. Although some of the windows have been infilled with brick, the surviving windows are large steel industrial sash with a hopper design. Most of the glazing is missing, and the metal sash are covered with plywood. The south elevation is similar and measures 6 bays. These two elevations employ common brick and have no ornamentation or architectural detailing.

The three-bay east elevation of the building faces Kelton Avenue. It is surfaced in a face brick that differs from and is clearly of higher quality than the brick employed on the south and west elevations. This elevation also features a modified cornice with stone

coping. The windows are covered with plywood but match those on the other secondary elevations. The northernmost bay features a garage door opening that leads to an internal driving ramp leading to the second floor of the building. While the door is of recent date, the ramp is an original element that was typical of the era when upper floors often were used to store the dealership's stock of new cars. The spandrels between the first and second floors of the building are embellished with a brick and terra cotta rectangular design with a diamond pattern in the center.

The interior is utilitarian in design – concrete floors, structural columns, unfinished ceilings with exposed structural elements, and exposed brick walls. An infill section of the building is not visible from the street. It is a single story high, with wood roof trusses and an arched roofline that was built sometime before 1937.

## **Statement of Significance**

The McClure-Nesbitt Motor Company building, 1503-1507 East Main Street, is eligible for listing in the Columbus Register of Historic Properties under Criteria C and D. The building is a handsome early 20<sup>th</sup> century commercial building, designed with attention to detail and a high level of craftsmanship and it is clearly associated with automobile sales and service business in Columbus.

The McClure-Nesbitt Motor Company was opened by J. A. McClure, Jr., President and General Manager, and Hugh E. Nesbitt, Vice President. Prior to opening the dealership, McClure operated a Fordson Tractor dealership at 311 Cleveland Avenue in Columbus. Hugh E. Nesbitt was an Ohio State University alumnus and owner of multiple car dealerships in the Columbus area.

Initially the dealership sold Ford Vehicles, with Harry E Rosch, the firm's treasurer, in charge of Sales and Service. In the 1930s, the McClure-Nesbitt Motor Company sold Chevrolet automobiles and by the late 1940s, the dealership was selling Chrysler and Plymouth models at this location, as well as at the Wood-Nesbitt dealership at 611 East Broad Street. Advertising was on billboards and in Ohio State University football programs.

McClure and Nesbitt were prominent in Columbus. Nesbitt was on the Columbus Foundation's first Distribution Committee (now known as the Governing Committee), and he established a scholarship at The Ohio State University for baseball players. Both McClure and Nesbitt were graduates of The Ohio State University.

By 1961, the dealership's name was changed to McClure Main Motor Co. In 1964, the structure was listed as vacant, marking the end of its original ownership. The structure continued to be used as a dealership or as an automobile repair facility (off and on), with the most recent business being H&R Body Shop.

The structure retains its integrity and architectural significance despite some modifications over its 90-year life. On the lower level, the showroom windows have been bricked in, and the primary entry has been boarded up and lacks its original doors. However the openings are their original size, and both their bulkheads and some original interior trim survive and can be used to guide installation of compatible replacements. Though they are covered on the exterior, the transoms above the end doors survive. The doors do not, but the openings have not been altered. On the second floor the original stairwell windows are intact but are covered over on the



interior.

By the early 1900s, automobiles had risen in popularity and had become an integral part of American society. In 1900, there were 11 cars per 1,000 people; with the implementation of the assembly line, the car manufacturing process was able to lower the cost of vehicles and increase the number of car owners. The rise of the major automobile manufacturers popularized individual models and created ease of maintenance. By 1920, there were 86.78 cars per 1,000 people and 217.34 by 1930.

The growth of the car industry was reflected in the city of Columbus's growth. Following World War I, the city boomed and new automobile-dependent areas of the city were built in Clintonville, Old Beechwood, Linden, and Westgate, while the suburban communities of Grandview, Upper Arlington and Bexley also thrived. The Ohio State University saw growth in enrollment, and constructed a large football stadium; the Ohio Theater became a downtown cultural institution; and the Leveque Tower was constructed and became the fifth tallest building in the world at that time. The expanding footprint of the metropolitan area and new car-dependent suburbs led to the formation of car dealerships downtown and along the city's neighborhood commercial corridors.

By the 1920's, there were dozens of dealerships specializing in selling the various car manufacturers and offering automotive repair. The Avery Dealership built a building on Franklin Avenue in 1909; the Miller Van Horn Ford Showroom opened on Main Street in 1919; Winder's Chevrolet opened at Hubbard and High in 1924, and other dealerships around the city sold Oldsmobile, Plymouth, Pontiac, and Buick models.

The McClure-Nesbitt Motor Company's car dealership retains a high level of integrity, and is a unique example of early 20th century commercial architecture. Designed by Ray Sims, the structure features high-style architectural elements. The terra cotta facade with decorative automobile-themed elements identified its purpose and let it serve as an advertisement for the company. Terra cotta was a popular material during the Art Deco period; with its depictive imagery, geometric forms, and distinctively-shaped doorways, the McClure-Nesbitt building exemplifies the Art Deco movement as applied to architecture.

Ray Sims is known predominantly for his residential architecture in Columbus, which makes this commercial design a significant project in his portfolio. Sims is noted as a registered architect as early as 1914, according to the Columbus AIA annual (directory). Sims was an original partner in the firm that became Schooley Caldwell (founded 1944 as Sims, Cornelius, and Schooley). He designed the Berry House on East North

Broadway, which is individually listed in both the National Register of Historic Places and the Columbus Register of Historic Properties. He also assisted in the design of Sullivant Hall at The Ohio State University.

With only a handful of car showrooms from the early 1900s remaining in Columbus, the McClure-Nesbitt Motor Company helps define an era of Columbus' history. The period of significance is 1926-1964; these four decades span the evolution of the dealership under the guidance of original owners, McClure and Nesbitt. McClure and Nesbitt's business reflected the rise of automobile culture, and their personal lives thrived as prominent business owners in Columbus.

The McClure-Nesbitt building is worthy of recognition as an excellent and well-preserved example of early 20<sup>th</sup> century commercial architecture on the Near East Side of Columbus; its association with the city's automobile businesses; and as an excellent example of the work of Ray Sims – an architect who helped shape the city of today.

## **Sources**

Columbus City Directories

The Ohio State University football programs

Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps

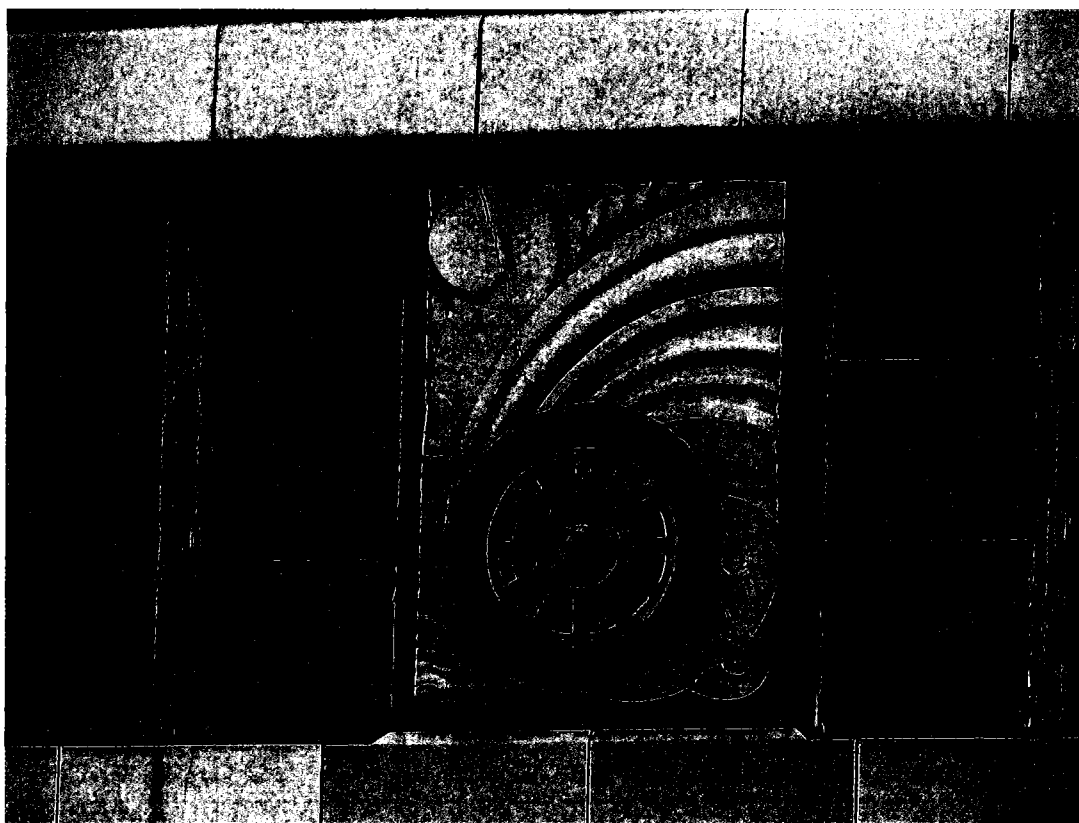
1914 AIA Annual (directory)

A Spirited Journey- A Portrait of The Columbus Foundation's First 70 Years

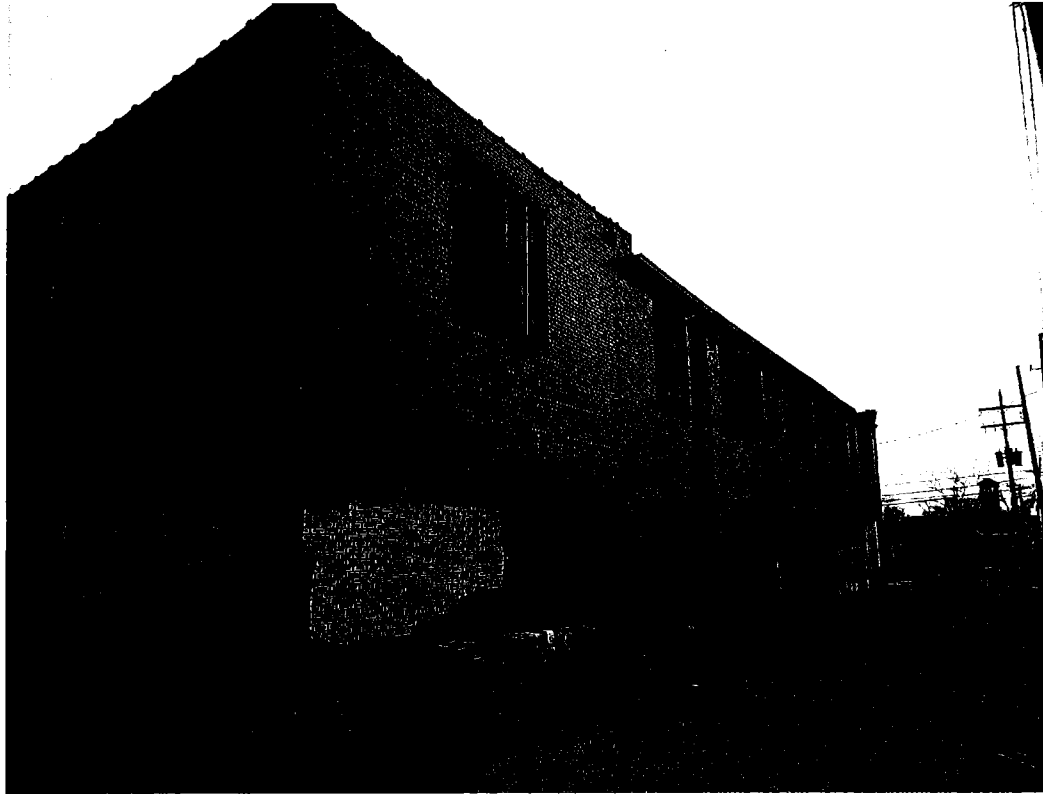
Duke University Libraries, photo archive

Ford Car Trade Journal, July-August 1920

A Concise History of Columbus, Ohio and Franklin County by Chester C Winter







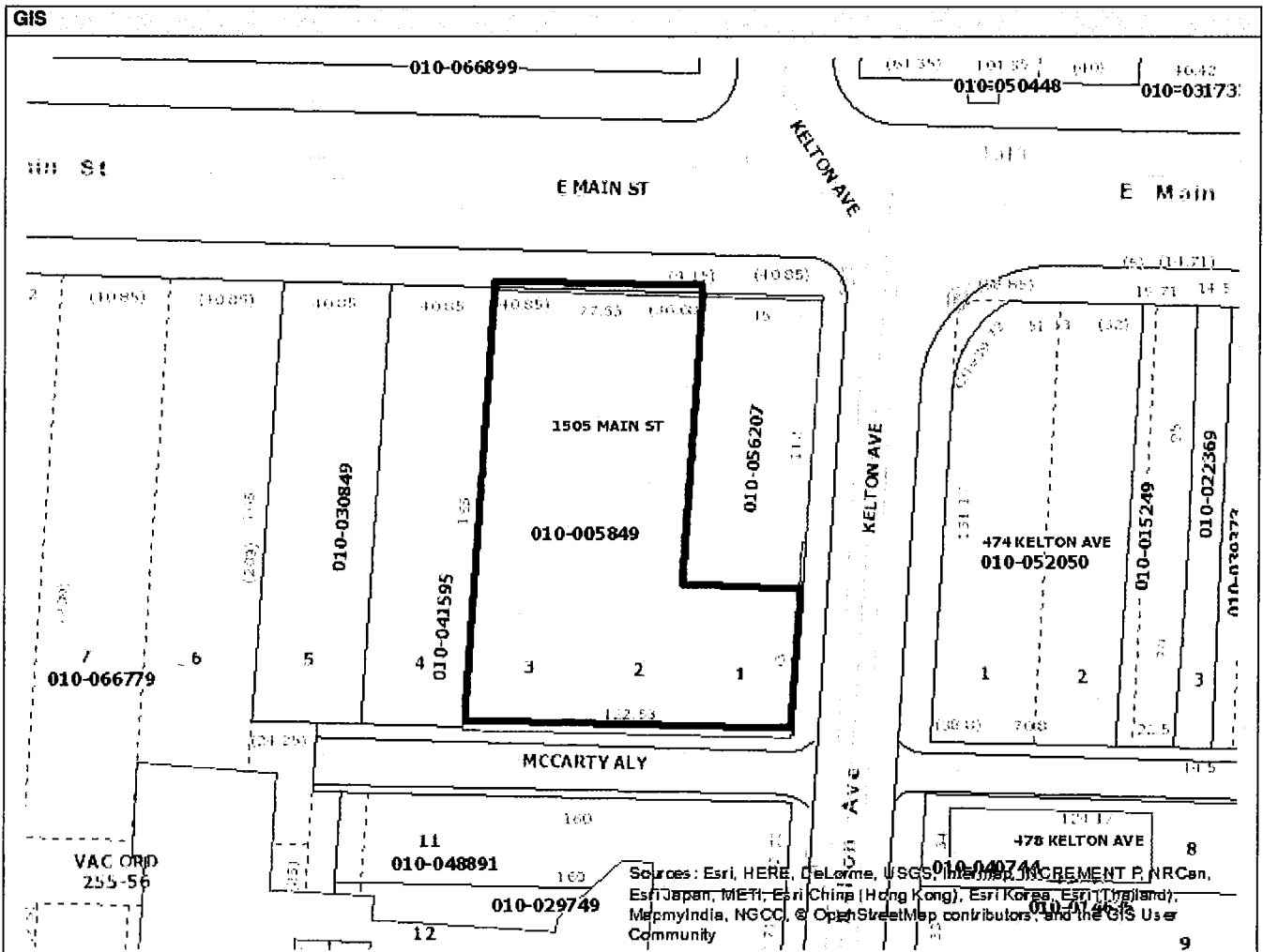




# MAP(GIS)

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Parcel ID	Map Routing No	Owner	Location
01000584900	010I047 11300	COMMUNITY THREADS	1505 MAIN ST E

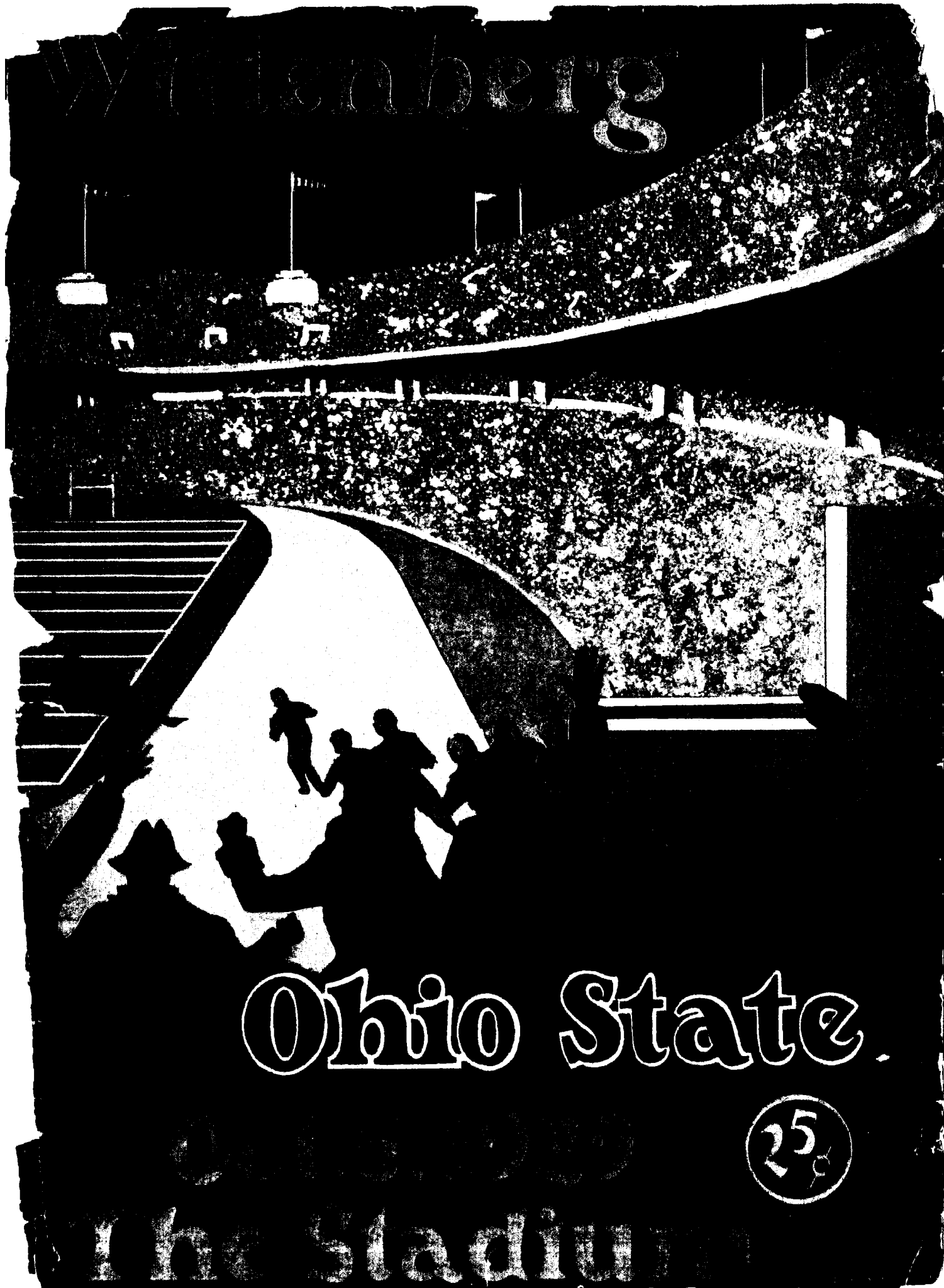


## Disclaimer

This drawing is prepared for the real property inventory within this county. It is compiled from recorded deeds, survey plats, and other public records and data. Users of this drawing are notified that the public primary information source should be consulted for verification of the information contained on this drawing. The county and the mapping companies assume no legal responsibilities for the information contained on this drawing. Please notify the Franklin County GIS Division of any discrepancies.

The information on this web site is prepared for the real property inventory within this county. Users of this data are notified that the public primary information source should be consulted for verification of the information contained on this site. The county and vendors assume no legal responsibilities for the information contained on this site. Please notify the Franklin County Auditor's Real Estate Division of any discrepancies.





Wittenberg

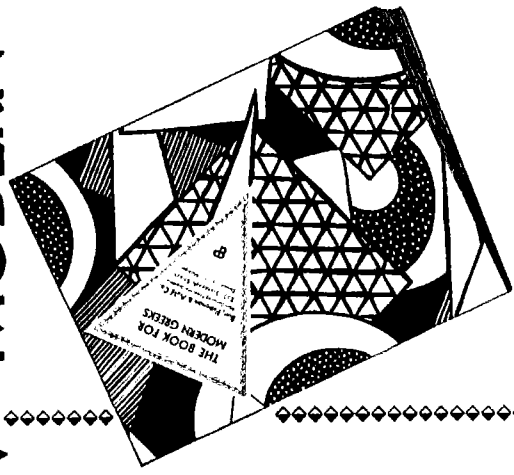
Ohio State

25¢

The Stadium

WITTENBERG: OCT 5, 1929

# NEW ♦ MODERN ♦ NEW



## THE BOOK FOR MODERN GREEKS

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED in the purchase of Fraternity Jewelry, we invite you to write for your copy of THE BOOK FOR MODERN GREEKS, forty-eight pages of carefully selected items to delight the Fraternity man and woman ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

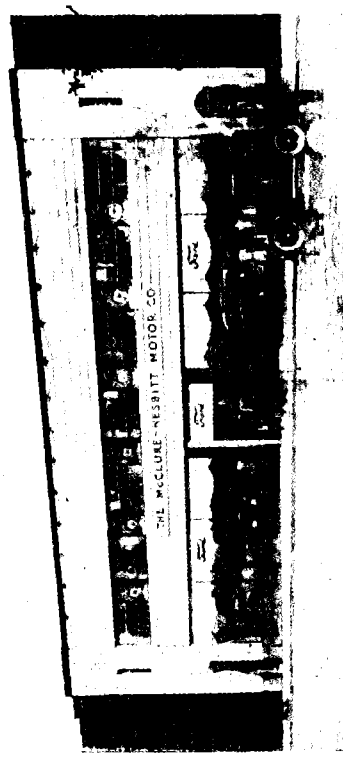


**BURR, PATTERSON & AULD COMPANY**  
1808 North High St.  
COLUMBUS, OHIO  
Barlow C. Naeve, Manager

Operated by Three Ohio State Men

# THE MCCLURE-NESBITT MOTOR COMPANY

East Main at Kelton



Call on F. H. Kautsky, Inc.

Call on F. H. Kautsky, Inc.



### SALES

F. J. "Fud" Patton  
C. A. "Doc" Howell, Jr.  
H. E. "Woodie" Wood

### SERVICE

J. W. Ketchum  
Paul E. Hossworth  
Warren C. Dunn

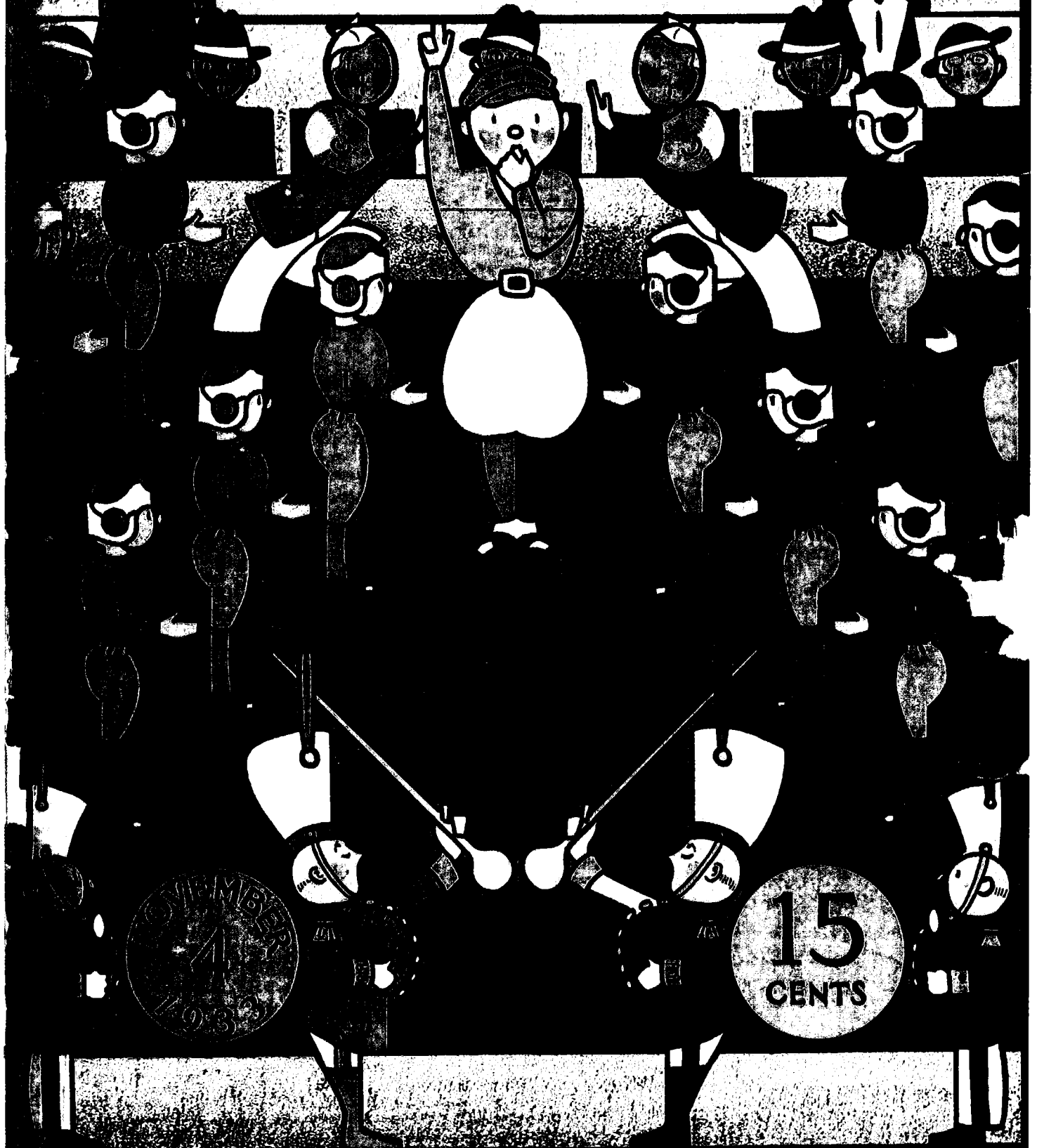
### SALESMEN

H. C. "Crabby" Norford  
A. E. "Art" Deffenbaugh  
E. H. Morris  
Frederick Rupp, Jr.

Franklin 0611

Franklin 0612

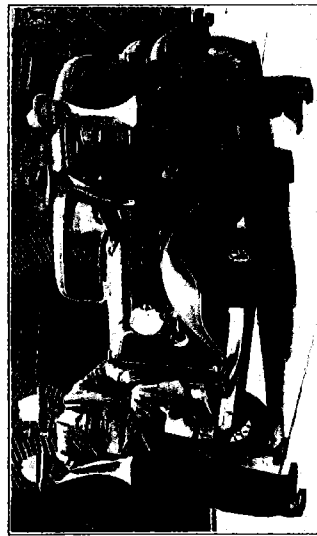
# INDIANA OHIO STATE



# THE McCLURE-NESBITT OPERATED BY OHIO STATE MEN MOTOR COMPANY HAS JOINED FORCES WITH



LEADERS DRIVE LEADERS



Ray Blades,  
Manager,  
Columbus Red Birds

"Red" Trautman  
'14  
President,  
Columbus Red Birds

L. W. St. John  
Athletic Director  
O. S. U.

I. A. McClure Jr.,  
'13  
President,  
McClure-Nesbitt

DEPEND ON A REPUTABLE FIRM

The most complete One-Stop Service Station  
in Central Ohio for Chevrolet and Ford cars.  
A fine selection of reconditioned used cars which  
carry the "Rigid McClure-Nesbitt Guarantee."

1505 EAST MAIN STREET

FA 1112 ♦ CALL ♦ FA 1113



UNIVERSITY OF  
OHIO  
ARCHIVES  
THE STATE COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE

## ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE MANAGEMENT

● A LOST AND FOUND DEPARTMENT has been established on the first floor in the Southeast Tower of the Stadium. Articles found should be turned over to the ushers or left at the office.

● ONLY ONE CONCESSION, that covering the sale of refreshments, is licensed by the Athletic Board and thereby privileged to sell within the Stadium.

● DOCTORS may leave their seat numbers with the clerk stationed in the southeast tower and will be notified in case a call is registered for them.

● REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION REGARDING TICKETS for games either at home or abroad should be addressed to Football Ticket Office, Ohio State University.

● MISCONDUCT OR DISCOURTESY on the part of attendants should be reported to L. W. St. John, Director of Athletics.

● THIS PROGRAM IS PUBLISHED under the direction of the Athletic Department. Address inquiries concerning information or space to the Director of Programs, Athletic Dept., Ohio State University.

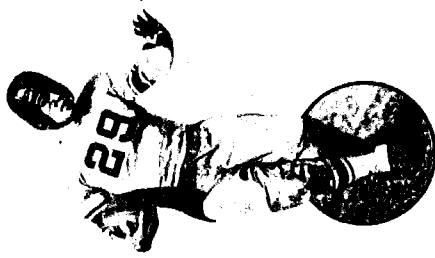
● COMFORT STATIONS are located on each floor level.

● A FIRST AID STATION with registered nurses in attendance is located on the second floor level of the northwest tower.

● A REST ROOM FOR WOMEN with a maid in attendance is located on the second floor of the northwest tower.

● ALL GAMES START promptly at 2:00 P. M., Eastern Standard Time.

● EIGHT PAY TELEPHONE STATIONS are located on the ground floor, four on each side of the Stadium.



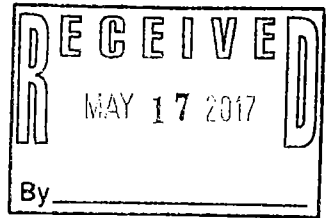
## Touchdown!

The Deshler-Wallick scores with football fans because it is their sort of a hotel . . . friendly . . . luxurious . . . yet economical as well. It is operated expressly for those who will be satisfied with nothing less than the best.

Four popular dining rooms to match your mood and your purse. The Crystal Room for exceptional a la carte service . . . the Spanish Room for home cooked food in a charming atmosphere . . . the Grill for quick service at moderate cost . . . and the Tap Room (after 5 P. M.) for fresh seafood and your favorite brew, together with good fellowship and intimate nightly entertainment. Alumni headquarters are located at the Deshler-Wallick. Meet your friends in our friendly atmosphere.

*The*  
**Deshler-Wallick**  
*The Hotel with the Football Spirit*  
JAMES H. MICHOS, Resident Manager

UNIVERSITY OF  
OHIO  
ARCHIVES  
THE STATE COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE



**COLUMBUS REGISTER OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES  
OWNER CONSENT/OBJECTION FORM**

As the owner(s) of the property located at 1505 E Main Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215

I have read and understand the COLUMBUS REGISTER OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION SHEET that is attached to this consent/objection form. After reviewing the information I/we

- ☒ consent to the listing of my/our property and understand the benefits and restrictions that will result from listing in the Columbus Register of Historic Properties.
- ☐ oppose the listing of my/our property in the Columbus Register of Historic Properties.
- ☐ have not decided whether to consent or oppose listing in the Columbus Register of Historic Properties.

Community Threads May 10, 2017  
Signature of Owner Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Owner

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

A. R. C. R. P.  
Signature of Notary

Seal

STATE OF Oh Date  
COUNTY OF Franklin

Please mail to:  
Randy Black  
Historic Preservation Officer  
City of Columbus  
Department of Development  
Planning Division  
50 West Gay Street, Fourth Floor  
Columbus, OH 43215

Sworn to (or affirmed) and subscribed before me  
this 10 day of May, 2017, by Randy Black / Community Threads  
A. R. C. R. P. JANETAN C. BERNARD  
Notary Public's Signature Notary Name  
Personally Known ✓ OR  
Type of Identification Produced \_\_\_\_\_