

NPS Form 10-900  
(Rev. 10-90)

OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM

NATIONAL  
REGISTER

1. Name of Property

historic name      The Wadsworth Electric Manufacturing Company

other names/site number      Packaging Un-Limited, Inc.

2. Location

street & number      20 West 11th Street      not for publication N/A  
city or town      Covington      vicinity N/A  
state      Kentucky      code KY      county      Kenton      code 117  
zip code      41011

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination     request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets     does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that X this property be considered significant     nationally     statewide     locally. (     See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

David L. Morgan      David L. Morgan, Executive Director and  
State Historic Preservation Officer  
Signature of certifying official      Date  
Kentucky Heritage Council/State Historic Preservation Office  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property     meets     does not meet the National Register criteria. (     See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting or other official      Date  
\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

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4. National Park Service Certification

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I, hereby certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register

Gregory M. Lapsley 1/28/94

entered in the  
National Register

See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the  
National Register

See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the  
National Register

removed from the National Register

other (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
for Signature of Keeper Date  
of Action

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5. Classification

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Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as 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

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>1</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> sites
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> structures
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form  
The Wadsworth Electric Manufacturing Company  
Covington, Kenton County, Kentucky

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Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part  
of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

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6. Function or Use

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Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Industry/Processing/  
Extraction

Sub: Manufacturing Facility

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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Industry/Processing/  
Extraction

Sub: Manufacturing Facility  
(WORK IN PROGRESS)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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7. Description

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Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Late Nineteenth and Early Twentieth  
Century American Movements

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation      concrete  
roof              plastic  
walls             brick veneer  
other             stone trim

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

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The Wadsworth Electric Company building is located at 22 West 11th Street in Covington, Kentucky. It is an office/industrial building from the early twentieth century. The two-story building has a main block of wire cut brick with adjoining wings and later additions.

The Wadsworth Electric Manufacturing Company occupied the building from its construction in 1923 until 1990. It is located on 11th Street between Madison Avenue, the major north-south commercial street, and a complex of below grade railroad tracks one-half block to the west. As a result, the building sits by itself, although it is located between a dense urban residential district and the city's main commercial area. One-half block to the east is the Seminary Square National Register Historic District (NR 1980), a residential neighborhood with a significant collection of mid-nineteenth century Italianate, Queen Anne and Renaissance Revival townhouses. One half block to the west is Madison Avenue, the principal commercial thoroughfare running north-south through Covington. The Wadsworth building seems physically removed from either of these districts due in part to the topography of the land and in part to the railroad tracks located to the west of the site.

From the front, the building appears to be rectangular, although it is irregular in plan. The main block of the building facing Eleventh Street is two stories tall and is finished in wire cut red brick with stone trim. Stone coping delineates a parapet wall. The facade is divided into 11 bays; it is asymmetrical, with the entrance located in the third bay from the east. This entry bay projects both horizontally and vertically from the main facade, and the entrance is articulated by a neo-classically inspired stone pediment resting on a stone base and applied columns. The original entrance doors remain in place; they consist of two pairs of wooden doors with full lights flanking a fixed glass panel with a similar wood surround. An exterior staircase, which accommodates a change in grade from the street to the building, reinforces the entrance, as does the stone identification sign above the second floor windows.

The remaining bays are set off by the use of the brick to create an arcaded effect. Each vertical bay is divided horizontally by stone sills to delineate the two floors of the building. Each bay contains two sets of paired five part hopper windows with steel frames and sash. Many individual panes have been replaced with green or opaque plexiglass over the years, but overall the character of the facade has been maintained. The side elevations of the original portion of the structure feature similar detail.

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The main block of the building is high-ceilinged one-story manufacturing space. An addition to the second floor in the mid-1950s created additional office space; this portion of the building is faced in orange brick. It is not easily seen, and therefore does not detract from the historic character of the building. Over the years, a variety of concrete block additions have also been added to the building, first lengthening the original side elevations and later adding loading area to the center block. Because of the building's site, these additions are not highly visible from the front historic portion of the building and as a result do not detract from the historic character of the building. These additions were added throughout the life of the company.

The interior of the building is for the most part unfinished industrial space, with exposed mechanicals and support columns and concrete floors and walls. However, the main entrance leads off of 11th Street into a entry foyer with a grand staircase. This area retains the original stair, centered in the foyer, with a switchback to either side. Also found in the main foyer, on the steps and at the second floor is original linoleum with the company's logo incorporated at the top of the stairs. Although there are a few places where the linoleum has been patched, it is basically intact.

At the second floor, office space on either side of the stairs features unpainted, stained woodwork at doors and windows and partition walls with glass on the top half of the partitions. The northern portion of this office space is a c. 1952 addition, and the finishes reflect this more recent construction. Beyond the main block of office space is additional unfinished manufacturing space.

The sides and rear of the original building are similar in design to the main facade, with large expanses of glass divided horizontally into hopper windows, brick arcades and stone coping. Additions, which are not visible from 11th Street, are of concrete, brick or concrete block. Adjoining the main building are an assortment of small buildings also developed by The Wadsworth Electric Manufacturing Company for additional manufacturing and storage space. These buildings are metal sheds and are considered non-contributing; they are not part of this nomination. A two-story mixed use building at the corner of Madison and 11th Street also part of the complex is of wire cut brick and appears to date from the early twentieth century. It is also not part of this nomination because it was purchased by Wadsworth after the ending date for significance.

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8. Statement of Significance

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Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or a grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)  
Industry

Period of Significance 1923-1937

Significant Dates 1923

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)  
N/A

Cultural Affiliation N/A

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Architect/Builder **George Lubrecht, General Contractor**

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

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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

Previous documentation on file (NPS)

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Location of Additional Data

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: **City of Covington**

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10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of Property **3.0**

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	16	715390	4328300	3	_____	_____
2	_____	_____	_____	4	_____	_____

\_\_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

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

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The Wadsworth Electric Manufacturing Company

The Wadsworth Electric Manufacturing Company building is a noteworthy example of industrial architecture dating from 1923. It is significant under criterion "A" as the home of a leading manufacturer of electrical switches, the Wadsworth Electric Manufacturing Company, which was an innovator in safety switches in the early twentieth century. The period of significance is from 1923, when the present building was completed to 1937, when the Wadsworth family was no longer involved with the company. The Wadsworth Electric Manufacturing Company building is also significant as it is representative of Covington, Kentucky's industrial success in the period 1910-1945.

The period of significance established for the Wadsworth Electric Manufacturing Company, 1923 to 1937, is based on the following: The Wadsworth Electric Manufacturing Company was instrumental in developing electrical safety switches from the company's inception in 1918 until at least the 1970s. During that time, the company had four locations. The first two have been demolished; the fourth is a c. 1972 industrial building located in the suburbs. The 1923 industrial building under consideration for National Register listing is the only remaining historic building associated with this industrial innovator. The Wadsworth Electric Manufacturing Company was successful before the construction of the 1923 building, and its success continued at least through the early 1970s, when the suburban expansion occurred.

There were two major phases of innovation associated with the Wadsworth Electric Manufacturing Company: first, in the early twentieth century during the period of significance when it developed and refined electrical safety switches used nationwide; and again in the 1940s and '50s when the company was instrumental in developing and refining the next advancement in electricity, circuit breakers. Because this second phase of innovation occurred after an acceptable date for the ending of the period of significance, a second layer of information, company leadership, was utilized to select an end date. Two families have been associated with the company since its creation, the Wadsworths and the Kuhlman family. The Wadsworth family ceased to be involved in the company in 1937 when the founder George B. Wadsworth's brother David, vice president of the company, died. Therefore, the ending date for significance is 1937, when the Wadsworth family ceased to be involved. The Kuhlman family is associated primarily with the company's later growth. In addition, the

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Kuhlman family is very private and little has been written about the company's later growth and success.

The nominated property was occupied by the Wadsworth Electric Manufacturing Company from the time it was constructed in 1923 until 1990, when the company went out of business. During Wadsworth's initial growth, it was touted in at least two early twentieth century publications as the largest manufacturer of external electric operating switches in the United States" (Leonard, 1927: p. 792; Northern Kentucky Review, 1923, p. 18). These publications of the period prepared by various business organizations were apparently intended as tools to recruit new industry to Covington; the references to the Wadsworth Electric Manufacturing Company as one of the city's leading companies provides a 1920s view of the Company's importance to the community.

The Wadsworth Electric Manufacturing Company is composed of a complex consisting of four separate but adjacent buildings; only the main structure is being nominated to the National Register. This building was built in 1923 for the offices and manufacturing plant for the Wadsworth company; subsequent additions to the building, although outside the period of significance, do not detract from the character of the original structure.

The Wadsworth Electric Manufacturing Company had its beginnings in the early 1900s. George B. Wadsworth, for whom the company is named, was born in Campbell County, Kentucky, in 1872, one of 9 children of George W. and Margaret Wadsworth. He held a variety of jobs in the late 1890s, when he would have been in his mid-20s. In 1900, he is listed in City Directories of the period as an "electrician" with an address in Newport, Kentucky. In 1904, George Wadsworth formed a company, Wadsworth Brothers Electrical Contractors, with his brother Harry. This business was located on Madison Avenue in Covington.

In 1907, George Wadsworth received his first patent for an electrical safety switch. This was not a switch used to turn on electrical lights, but a switching device for controlling current at the point it enters an individual property. Because electricity is so commonplace today, it is perhaps difficult to comprehend just how important this breakthrough was. According to a 1927 newspaper account, Wadsworth's safety switch did several things: it reduced the possibility for accident and fire; and it reduced the possibility of theft of electrical current. Perhaps most important, however, this switch

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made it possible for homeowners to change their own fuses (KP, 4/10/27); before this invention, it was necessary to have the electric company send a representative to change fuses in the case of a power outage. Between 1907 and 1925, George Wadsworth received 16 patents; 14 were related to safety switches (KP, 6/7/25).

Wadsworth seems to have gotten involved with electricity fairly early; although electricity was invented in the late 1800s, its use did not become widespread until the tungsten filament bulb, which was more reliable than earlier incandescent bulbs, was perfected in 1907-1911. According to Roger Moss in Lighting for Historic Buildings, prior to 1907, new homes were fitted with both gas and electrical fixtures, reflecting the unreliability of electricity as a light source (Moss, 1988, p.125). Wadsworth's first patent was issued at about the same time.

Harry Wadsworth dropped out of the business in 1910, but George Wadsworth continued in the electrical business through 1916, always located on Madison Avenue in Covington. In 1918, the Wadsworth Electric Manufacturing Company was incorporated for the purpose of mass producing Wadsworth's safety switch with George Wadsworth as a principal. At the time of incorporation, the company had 16 employees and was worth \$100,000. The new company moved to 405 Madison Avenue, now the site of a parking lot. In January 1919, the Wadsworth Electric Manufacturing Company had outgrown its Madison Avenue property and moved to a four story building at 18-22 West Pike Street; this building was later replaced by a c. 1925 commercial building.

The company continued to grow, both in terms of employees and production. In 1922, an announcement was made that the Wadsworth Electric company was to build a new plant. The site that was chosen, Eleventh Street just west of Madison in Covington, was the former site of St. Elizabeth's Hospital. According to a newspaper account announcing the new building, in 1922 the company had 100 employees and gross business worth \$1,500,000, 50 times that of its first year of operation. Despite its size, according to the article, the company was unable to fill 50 percent of the orders it received. This article also states that "Rulings governing electrical switches thruout [sic] the country now include the Wadsworth type of switch, and in some large cities, such as Boston, the Wadsworth type has the exclusive sale in the city." (KP, 5/16/22, p.1) In late 1922, the Wadsworth Electric Manufacturing

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Company made its first foreign shipment of safety switches, which brought the company national notoriety (KP, 9/22/23).

The completion of Wadsworth's new facility was greeted by a full page advertisement in The Kentucky Post on Friday, March 30, 1923. Most of the page was devoted to ads from the contractors that participated in the construction of the building. The majority of the materials and labor were supplied from the immediate Covington market. The ad lists George Lubrecht of Covington as the general contractor; he also supplied the architectural design, cement and concrete work, and carpenter work. Other advertisements celebrating the opening of the new building provide the following information about its construction: painting and decorating were done by Joe Kampsen of Covington; millwork was furnished by The Advance Millwork Company of Covington; Taylor & Hayes of Covington did the brick work; rugs and linoleum were ordered from The John R. Coppin Co., a Covington department store; stairs were built by Wissman Bros, Stair Builders, also of Covington, and so on (KP, 3/30/23). The advertisement included a photograph of the newly completed building, which shows it much as it appears today.

In 1925, George B. Wadsworth signed over exclusive rights to his 16 patents for electrical devices to a Cincinnati company for \$800,000. After this date, Wadsworth apparently resigned from the company; his name no longer appears in city directories as an officer of the company. The Company, however, continued in business. George Wadsworth lived until the age of 82; he died in December 1954 (CE, 12/18/54). Nothing is known of his activities for the period 1925-1954; no will has been found and his obituary simply mentioned that he had founded the Wadsworth Electric Manufacturing Company.

In 1927, David T. Wadsworth, a brother of George, was appointed vice president and chief engineer of the Wadsworth Electric Manufacturing Company. David Wadsworth joined the company in 1922; during his involvement with the company, he was responsible for a number of inventions and "was regarded as a national authority on many phases of the business." In 1934 he was presented by Kentucky Governor Happy Chandler with a bronze plaque commemorating his 50 years of service to the field of electricity. In late 1937, at the age of 67, David Wadsworth died unexpectedly (KP, 1/15/37, p. 1). After his death, no members of the founding family were involved with the Wadsworth Electric Manufacturing Company.

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The president of the company at the time of David Wadsworth's death was Joseph Feltman; he had been appointed president in 1926 after George Wadsworth's resignation. Feltman, a local banker, had in fact been involved with the company since at least 1922 when he purchased the land on which Wadsworth's new facility was built. Feltman was president for only about 10 years; however, he continued to own the land and lease it to the Wadsworth Electric Manufacturing Company until his death in 1945, when the company purchased it outright. Feltman's successor as president of Wadsworth was his son-in-law Leo G. Kuhlman. Leo Kuhlman continued as president of Wadsworth for 55 years, until 1981. During Leo Kuhlman's presidency, the company's growth and productivity continued. In the late 1940s, the Wadsworth Electric Manufacturing Company was a leader in the design and manufacture of circuit breakers. As a result, the company experienced growth in sales and personnel. To accommodate this growth, several additions were made to the building in 1956. A second floor addition provided additional office space; rear concrete buildings provided additional manufacturing space. During the 1950s, Wadsworth employed 300 people.

Under the leadership of Leo Kuhlman, the Wadsworth Electric Manufacturing Company was apparently highly successful; it has been difficult to learn much about this period because the Kuhlman's are very private and operated the company accordingly. Wadsworth manufactured and sold electrical boxes, panels and switches, and seems never to have done much in the way of self-promotion and to have shunned publicity. The Wadsworth company did pay for modest advertisements in two local publications, souvenir programs from the city's sesqui-centennial in 1965 and the county's centennial in 1940. While other companies used ads in these publications as an opportunity to tout their wares or tell their histories, Wadsworth did not. No historic or contemporary biographies or histories contain any references to the Kuhlman's or, for that matter, George or David Wadsworth.

The Company prospered at least through 1972, when a decision was made to add additional manufacturing space. Because the Covington site was determined to be too small, a second plant was built in Erlanger, Kentucky. After Leo Kuhlman's departure from the company in 1982 and his subsequent death in 1984, his sons John and Joseph (who had been involved with the company since at least the 1940s) took over. The company continued to make breaker boxes, fuses, wiring ducts, power outlets, and all manner of electrical devices until December of 1990. At that time, a decision was made to liquidate the assets

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of the company and disband. The manufacturing facilities and offices were closed and the building placed on the market. It was purchased in early 1993 for use by a manufacturer of cardboard boxes, Packaging Un-Limited; the building is being rehabilitated by that company for its manufacturing facility. Packaging Un-Limited hopes to utilize the 20 percent Investment Tax Credit for Historic Preservation in the renovation of the building.

Industry in Covington

A comprehensive study of industry in Covington has not been written, but the histories of dozens of individual companies have been thoroughly documented in the papers of the Kenton County Historical Society by John Boh, local historian. From his studies, it is possible to draw some conclusions. At the time it was created and building its new plant, the Wadsworth Electric Manufacturing Company was part of Covington's most successful industrial period, from c. 1910 through World War II. Industry has been essential to Covington's development almost from the beginning. Covington was laid out in 1815, but initially sales of lots were sluggish. It was not until a cotton factory was established on the riverfront west of Madison Avenue c. 1821 that the city began to grow (Ohio Riverside Extension NR Nomination, 1986). After that, other industries sprang up; the city grew in part as people settled here because there were jobs.

In the early nineteenth century, industry was concentrated along the Ohio and Licking riverfronts, due largely to the importance of the rivers in providing a means of transporting raw goods in and finished products out. In the mid-nineteenth century, Covington and the entire Cincinnati area was growing rapidly; in fact, Cincinnati was the largest city west of the Alleghenies and the fifth largest city in the U.S. at that time. Industry was an important part of that growth and prosperity. The completion of the railroads into Covington from the Bluegrass in the mid-1800s enabled the focus of the city to move inland, as it was no longer necessary to be located along the river to transport goods (Downtown Commercial District NR Nomination, 1983). As a result, manufacturers began to locate along the rail lines in Covington. The completion of the railroad bridge across the Ohio River in 1888 connected Covington to Cincinnati and a much larger rail network; the result was even greater opportunities for industrial concerns.

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By the early twentieth century, Covington's industrial base was extremely diverse. Rather than being dominated by one or two giant manufacturers, there were a great variety of small companies that were responsible for making well-built and well respected products. The 1910s and '20s were a period of industrial growth and success for the City of Covington, which was due in part to the efforts of local businessmen and manufacturers to promote the city and its assets. A list of manufacturers in Covington published in 1927 (Leonard) includes the names of 108 incorporated companies. Although not all of these were manufacturing concerns, the majority of them were. The Wadsworth Electric Company was among these companies, as was Kelley-Koett Manufacturing Company, manufacturers of X-ray equipment; the Moeschell-Edwards Corrugating Company, which made metal soffits, cornices and architectural trim, ceilings and rolling doors; Mosler Lock; Lovell & Buffington Tobacco Co.; New England Distilling Company, and Stewart Iron Works, to name just a few. A publication of the Covington Industrial Club from 1921 brags about Covington's industry as follows:

"As a manufacturing City, has the largest X-ray machine factory, largest iron fence works in the world, largest tile works, largest wood carving plant, finest inlaid furniture factory in the United States, one of the largest automobile truck manufacturing plants, largest manufacturing external electric operating switches, largest sheet metal corrugating plant in the South, third largest engine and boiler plant, center for tobacco market." (The Industrial Club, 1921).

In 1920, Pike Street through Covington and beyond became part of the federal highway system and was paved with concrete. This reliable road provided yet another means of transportation for people and goods to and from Covington. The city continued to thrive as the regional center for industry through World War II; after that time, for a variety of reasons, manufacturers began to leave the city, many by closing their doors and going out of business. The period 1910 through World War II was the golden age of industry in Covington. The Wadsworth Electric Manufacturing Company was an integral component of that early twentieth century industrial development in Covington. The Wadsworth Electric Manufacturing building is significant as the last remaining historic structure associated with this company, which was a pioneer in providing safe delivery of electric current to American homes via its safety switches, and as a reminder of Covington's most prosperous industrial period, c. 1910-1945.

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Books

- Industrial Club of Covington, Kentucky. Covington Kentucky Seen Through the Camera. n.p., n.d. but probably c. 1916.
- Industrial Club of Covington, Kentucky. The Industrial Club: Covington, Kentucky. Covington: n.p., 1921.
- Kenton County, Kentucky Centennial: June 14-23, 1940 Souvenir Booklet. Covington, 1940.
- Leonard, Lewis Alexander, ed. Greater Cincinnati and its People: A History, Vol. II. Cincinnati: Lewis Historical Publications, Inc., 1927.
- Moss, Roger W. Lighting for Historic Buildings. Washington, D.C.: The Preservation Press, 1988.
- Northern Kentucky Review. Pictorial and Industrial Review of Northern Kentucky: Historic Souvenir: Nineteen Hundred and Twenty-three: Kenton and Campbell Counties. Newport, Kentucky: The Northern Kentucky Review, 1923.
- Processes Research, Inc. "Survey Report for Projected Manufacturing Facilities, The Wadsworth Electric Manufacturing Company, Inc., Covington, Kentucky", June 1955.
- Sesqui-Centennial: Souvenir Program, 150th Anniversary, City of Covington, Kentucky, August 21-29, 1965. Covington: 1965.
- Williams' City Directories 1890 - 1942

Interviews

- Boh, John, President, Kenton County Historical Society, various dates.
- Kuhlman, John, last President of The Wadsworth Electric Manufacturing Company, July 23, 1993.
- Perrazzo, John, General Manager, Packaging Un-Limited, various dates.

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Interviews (cont'd.)

Spare, Ron, Treasurer, The Wadsworth Electric Manufacturing Company,  
July 2, 1993.

Newspaper Articles:

"Wadsworth Electric Company Will Build New Plant", Kentucky Post, May 16,  
1922. p. 1.

"New Home of The Wadsworth Electric Company", Kentucky Post, September 23,  
1922, p. 1.

"New Home Wadsworth Electric Manufacturing Company", Kentucky Post, March 30,  
1923, p. 9.

"Wadsworth in Patent Deal", Kentucky Post, June 7, 1925, p. 5.

"Switches Made in Covington Used in Every State of the Union", Kentucky Post,  
April 10, 1927, p. 9.

"Electric Firm Head is Dead: David T. Wadsworth, President of Covington  
Company, Stricken in Louisville", Kentucky Post, January 15, 1937, p. 1.

"Death Comes To George B. Wadsworth, Founder of Electric Firm in Covington",  
Kentucky Edition Cincinnati Enquirer, December 18, 1954.

"Wadsworth Electric plans to close down two plants", Kentucky Post, October  
10, 1990, p. 1.

"Vacant Covington buiding revived as packaging plant", Kentucky Post,  
October 30, 1992, p. 1.

National Register Nominations

Langsam, Walter E., Jr. "Downtown Commercial District" National Register  
Nomination, 1983.

Thomason, Philip. "Ohio Riverside Extension" National Register Nomination,  
1986.

NPS Form 10-900-a  
(8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 9      Page 3

The Wadsworth Electric  
Manufacturing Company  
Kenton County, Kentucky

=====

Other

Deed and Will Records, Kenton County Clerk's Office, Kenton County Courthouse,  
Covington, Kentucky.

Papers, Kenton County Historical Society, Kenton County, Kentucky.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 10 Page 1

The Wadsworth Electric  
Manufacturing Company  
Kenton County, Kentucky

=====  
Verbal Boundary Description

Located on the North side of 11th Street, beginning at a point on the northeast intersection of the CSX Railroad, but known and designated on the plat of the City of Covington as Washington Street, with 11th Street: running thence eastwardly on the north side of 11th Street and binding thereon two hundred and fifty-two (252) feet, more or less, to an alley running north and south from Eleventh to Robbins Street: thence north with said alley and binding thereon on the west side thereof three hundred and seventy (370) feet to the south edge of Robbins Street; thence west with the south side of Robbins Street and binding thereon two hundred and fifty-two (252) feet, more or less, to the east edge of said road or street and binding thereon three hundred and seventy (370) feet, to the place of beginning, excepting therefrom a parcel of land 17.4 feet in width immediately east of and adjacent to the present easterly right-of-way line of the Louisville & Nashville Railroad Company, and extending from the northerly line of 11th Street to the southerly line of Robbins Street.

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the building constructed by The Wadsworth Electric Manufacturing Company in 1923. The boundary omits several adjacent parcels that are part of the property owned first by Wadsworth and now by Packaging Un-Limited. The buildings on these parcels were either acquired by Wadsworth after the period of significance, or are non-contributing metal structures.

=====  
11. Form Prepared By  
=====

name/title Leah J. Konicki, Preservation Specialist  
organization City of Covington date July 30, 1993  
street & number 638 Madison Avenue telephone 606/292-2111  
city or town Covington state KY zip code 41011  
=====

Additional Documentation  
=====

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

- A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

- Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

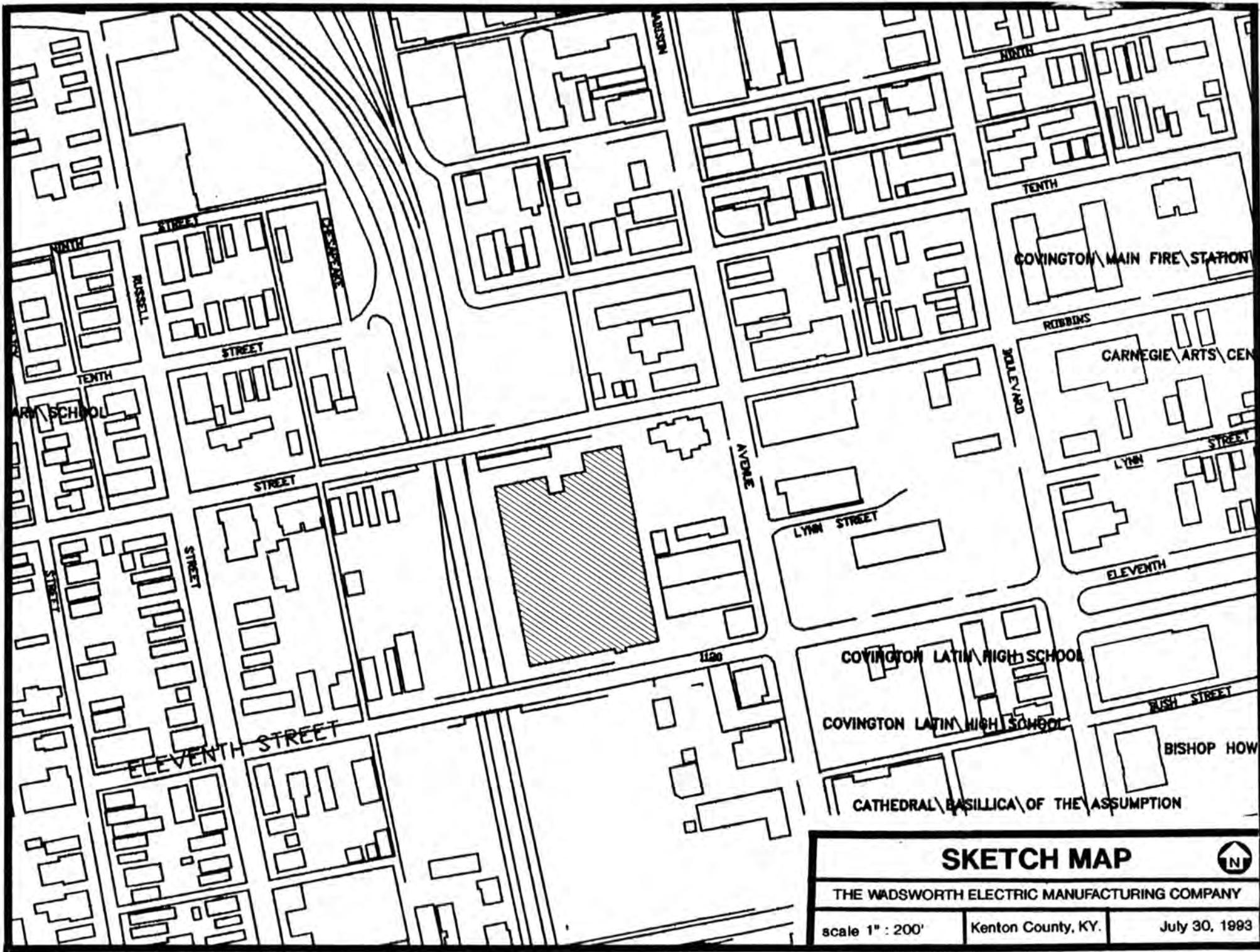
=====  
Property Owner  
=====

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Robert Hanekamp, Packaging Un-Limited, Inc.  
street & number 1121 West Kentucky Street telephone 502/584-4331  
city or town Louisville state KY zip code 40210 41011  
=====

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.  
=====



**SKETCH MAP**

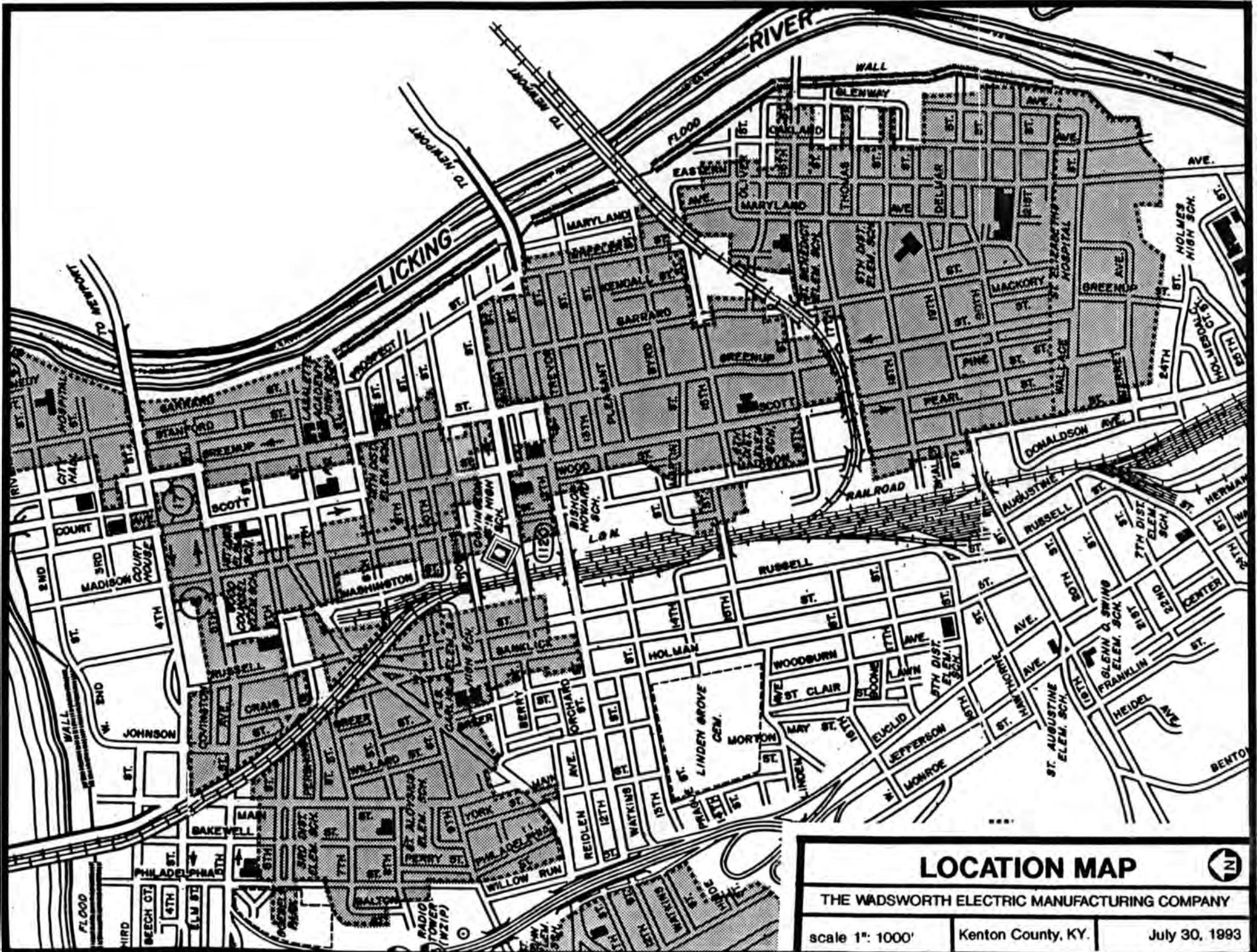


THE WADSWORTH ELECTRIC MANUFACTURING COMPANY

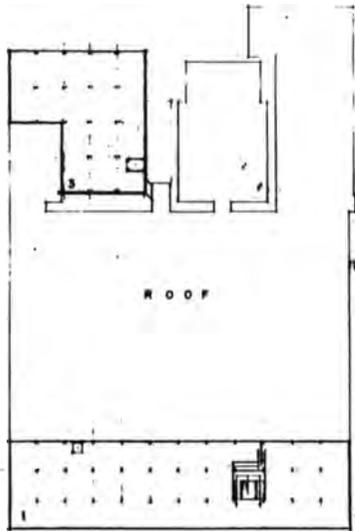
scale 1" : 200'

Kenton County, KY.

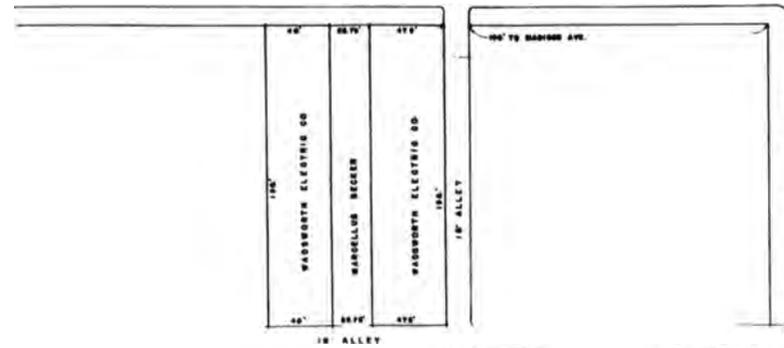
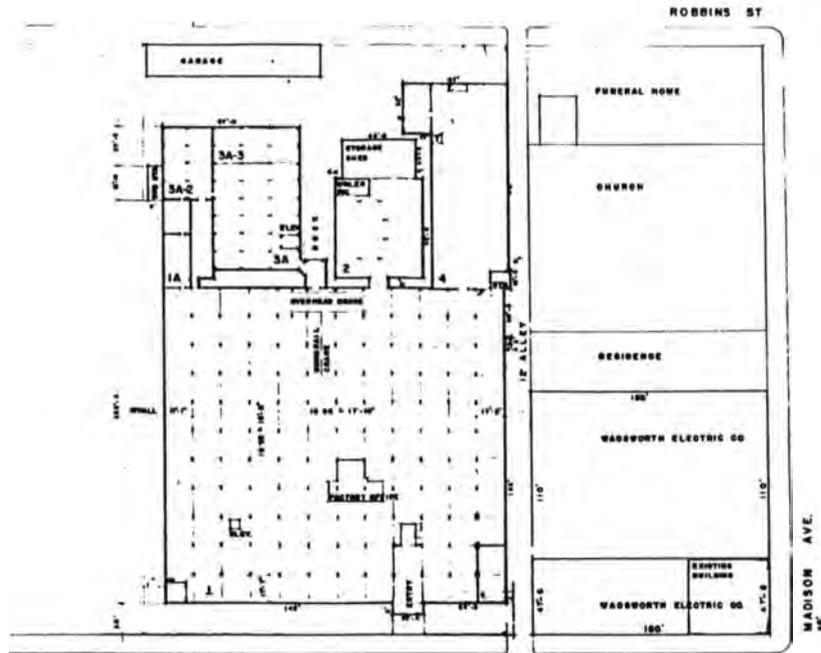
July 30, 1993



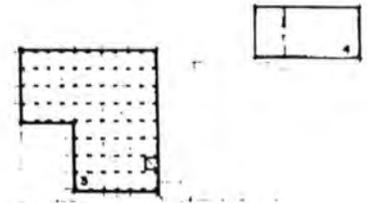
<b>LOCATION MAP</b>		
THE WADSWORTH ELECTRIC MANUFACTURING COMPANY		
scale 1" = 100'	Kenton County, KY.	July 30, 1993



SECOND FLOOR PLAN - BUILDING NO. 1  
1" = 30'



PLOT 4 FIRST FLOOR PLAN  
1" = 30'



BASEMENT FLOOR PLAN - BUILDING NO. 2  
1" = 30'

<b>SITE PLAN</b>			
THE WADSWORTH ELECTRIC MANUFACTURING COMPANY			
scale 1" : 30'	Kenton County, KY.	July 30, 1993	

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

The Wadsworth Electric  
Manufacturing Company  
Kenton County, Kentucky

=====

LIST OF PHOTOGRAPHS

Photographs were taken in May 1993 by John Perazzo, General Manager, Packaging Un-Limited. The negatives are on file in the offices of Packaging Un-Limited, 20 West 11th Street, Covington, Kentucky 41011.

1. View of The Wadsworth Electric Manufacturing Company main facade, looking west.
2. View of The Wadsworth Electric Manufacturing Company main facade, looking west.
3. View of the southeast corner of The Wadsworth Electric Manufacturing Company showing the 1956 second floor addition.
4. View of southwest corner looking southeast at front and west elevations.
5. View of rear additions from Robbins Street.
6. View of rear additions from Robbins Street.
7. View of main entrance from inside.
8. View of main staircase.
9. View of second floor landing leading to offices.
10. View of second floor office space from original 1923 construction.
11. View of second floor office space from original 1923 construction.
12. View of manufacturing space.
13. View of manufacturing space.
14. View of manufacturing space.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Wadsworth Electric Manufacturing Company

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: KENTUCKY, Kenton

DATE RECEIVED: 12/28/93      DATE OF PENDING LIST: 1/11/94  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 1/27/94      DATE OF 45TH DAY: 2/11/94  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 93001585

NOMINATOR: STATE

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N    DATA PROBLEM: N    LANDSCAPE: N    LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N  
OTHER: N    PDIL: Y    PERIOD: N    PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N  
REQUEST: N    SAMPLE: N    SLR DRAFT: N    NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT     RETURN     REJECT    1/28/94 DATE    Entered in the  
National Register

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

RECOM. /CRITERIA \_\_\_\_\_  
REVIEWER \_\_\_\_\_  
DISCIPLINE \_\_\_\_\_  
DATE \_\_\_\_\_

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

---

CLASSIFICATION

count       resource type

---

STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

---

FUNCTION

historic       current

---

DESCRIPTION

architectural classification  
 materials  
 descriptive text

---

SIGNIFICANCE

Period      Areas of Significance--Check and justify below

Specific dates      Builder/Architect  
Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

summary paragraph  
 completeness  
 clarity  
 applicable criteria  
 justification of areas checked  
 relating significance to the resource  
 context  
 relationship of integrity to significance  
 justification of exception  
 other

---

BIBLIOGRAPHY

---

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

acreage       verbal boundary description  
 UTM's       boundary justification

---

ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTATION/PRESENTATION

sketch maps     USGS maps     photographs     presentation

---

OTHER COMMENTS

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to

\_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_









THE  
WADSWORTH  
ELECTRIC MFG. CO.

WADSWORTH  
ELECTRIC MFG. CO.

















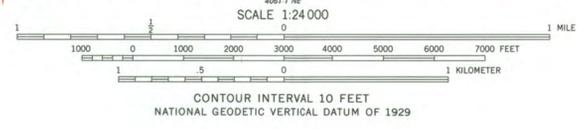
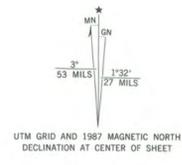






Wadsworth Electric  
Manufacturing Company  
Kenton Co., Ky  
Zone: 16  
Easting: 715 390  
Northing: 4328

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey  
Control by USGS, NOS/NOAA, USCE, and the city of Cincinnati  
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1949, and  
in part by the city of Cincinnati. Field checked 1950 and 1953. Revised from  
aerial photographs taken 1977. Field checked 1978. Map edited 1981  
Polyconic projection. 10,000-foot grid ticks based on Kentucky coordinate system,  
north zone, and Ohio coordinate system, south zone  
1927 North American Datum  
To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983  
move the projection lines 3 meters south and  
15 meters west as shown by dashed corner ticks  
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where  
generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked  
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown  
Ohio area lies within the Between the Miamis Land lines based on the  
Great Miami River Base. Dotted land lines established by private  
subdivision of the Symmes Purchase



THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY  
DENVER, COLORADO 80225 OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092  
KENTUCKY GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, LEXINGTON, KENTUCKY 40506,  
AND KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, FRANKFORT, KENTUCKY 40601  
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

Revisions shown in purple and woodland compiled in cooperation  
with State of Kentucky agencies from aerial photographs taken 1984  
and other sources. Contours not revised. This information not field checked  
Map edited 1987  
Purple tint indicates extension of urban areas

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Primary highway, hard surface	Light-duty road, hard or improved surface
Secondary highway, hard surface	Unimproved road

Interstate Route U.S. Route State Route

COVINGTON, KY.-OHIO  
QUADRANGLE LOCATION  
8E/4 WEST CINCINNATI 15' QUADRANGLE  
39084-A5-TF-024  
1981  
PHOTOREVISED 1987  
DMA 4062 II SE-SERIES 1985



Education and Humanities Cabinet

**KENTUCKY HERITAGE COUNCIL**

The State Historic Preservation Office

RECEIVED  
DEC 28 1993  
NATIONAL  
REGISTER

**Brereton C. Jones**  
Governor  
**Sherry K. Jelsma**  
Cabinet Secretary

**David L. Morgan**  
Executive Director  
and SHPO

December 20, 1993

RECEIVED 413  
DEC 28 1993

Mr. Jerry Rogers, Keeper  
National Register of Historic Places  
National Park Service, U. S. Department of Interior  
1100 L Street, N. W.  
Washington, D. C. 20204

Dear Mr. Rogers:

The following Kentucky properties were approved at the December 7, 1993 State Historic Preservation Review Board meeting. I request that they be listed in the National Register of Historic Places:

- St. Mildred's Court--West Lexington Avenue Historic District, Boyle Co.
- Huddleston, Judge Killis, House, Clinton County
- Fort Duffield, Hardin County
- Wadsworth Electric Manufacturing Company, Kenton County
- Russell Lodge #284, Russell County

Multiple Property Submission:

- Cover Title: Historic Resources of Spencer County, Kentucky
- Individual Properties: Camp Branch Historic District, Spencer County
- Miller, Isaac Farm, Spencer County
- Riverview School, Spencer County

Thank you for considering these forms and these properties for listing.

Sincerely,

David L. Morgan  
State Historic Preservation Officer



300 Washington Street  
Frankfort, Kentucky 40601

Telephone (502) 564-7005  
FAX (502) 564-5820

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