



Proposed site to be included in National Register of Historic Places

Shooting for historic register

East Dayton project eyed

By **BETTE OWENS**
Daily News Staff Writer

The Montgomery County Historical Society is considering nominating a two- or three block area west from Linden Ave. for placement on the National Register of Historic Places, Loren Gannon, preservation officer for the society, said today.

Gannon said there are enough buildings of quality architecture in the section, commonly known as TALS Corner, East Dayton, to warrant the nomination.

"Chances of it getting on the National Register of Historic Places are very high," said Gannon.

GANNON SAID that a survey of houses taken over the past three months turned up a scattering of interesting buildings of Queen Anne, High Victorian Italianate and Eastlake architectural styles.

Queen Anne style features fish-

scale shingles and generally has a tower and lattice work. High Victorian Italianate architecture usually has metal window caps with flowerlike patterns cut into the caps, bracketed cornices and a cupola (widow's watch). Eastlake is similar to Queen Anne style.

"The architecture," said Gannon, "is a representation of residential neighborhoods of the 1880s in Dayton."

He said the historical houses in the area include the Harris Funeral Home, 49 Linden Ave.; the Linda Zavakos residence, 55 Linden; a nursing home at 42 Linden, and a multi-family brick dwelling at 35 Linden.

Should the nomination be accepted, commercial properties in the area would be eligible for benefits under the federal Tax Reform Act of 1976. Houses would become available for 50 per cent matching grants

for rehabilitation under the federal Preservation Act of 1966 and for low interest home rehabilitation loans from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

MEANWHILE, GANNON said the boundaries have not been firmly established, but probably will not extend any further than east of both sides of Linden Ave.

April 6, 1978

2 more for Dayton

Huffman District, Grafton Hill area gain status as national

By CILLA BOSNAK
Staff Writer

Dayton has two new entries into the National Register of Historic Places — the Huffman Historic District and Central Avenue in Grafton Hill.

Representatives from both areas said they recently were notified that their applications for historic status were approved, apparently months ago.

William Snyder, president of the Huffman Historic Area Council, said the new Huffman national register area includes the neighborhood roughly bounded by East Third Street to the north, East Fifth Street to the south, Terry Street to the east and Van Lear Street to the west.

THE 52-BLOCK area includes about 400 homes whose architecture is considered representative of houses built in the late 19th Century, said Sharon Snyder, recording secretary of the council.

The area has been home to a variety of social classes and professions, she said.

Mrs. Snyder said the area was founded by William Huffman in the late 1800s when he moved the Davis Sewing Machine Co. and about 50 families to settle there. The area's growth and subsequent rail service to it was

important to the development of East Dayton, she said.

Mr. Snyder said the neighborhood will probably commemorate the designation with a celebration this year, possibly connected with its annual house tour.

"I don't want to make a big deal about it, but we are kind of proud," she said.

The Central Avenue designation is much smaller, including about 10 houses on the 200 to 300 block of the street between Superior and Grand avenues in the Grafton Hill district.

ED FRANK, past president of the Grafton Hill Association, said the area has national significance because it was the original site of Deeds Barn, where Charles F. Kettering had an experimental laboratory.

The barn is now in Kettering, Frank said, but the association hopes to place an historic marker on the vacant lot where it once stood.

Frank said most of the houses remaining on the street have been renovated with only one, dating to 1840, standing vacant.

"There are beautiful houses there. They've turned that street around and we're very proud of it," Frank said.

He added that the street has much local historic significance because many prominent families moved there — to higher ground —

after the city's devastating 1913 flood.

Many of the families — the Kumlers, the Elders and the Schantz — lived in large homes downtown until the time of the flood, he said.

"This (the register designation) will give some people who own property a tax benefit. And it will control what they do with the exterior. It puts a few restrictions on and makes it more difficult to tear down a building in the district," Frank said.

ENTRY INTO THE national register means a 25 percent federal tax credit for renovation of income-producing properties in the area, according to Leslee Keys of the city's Historic Architecture Committee.

Keys said there is also significant psychological benefits to development when an area wins national recognition for its historic significance.

Other national register areas in Dayton include most of the Oregon Historic District, which has been on the register since 1974; a block of downtown commercial buildings on East Second Street between Main and Jefferson streets; the Kossuth Colony in Old North Dayton and several blocks around the Paul Laurence Dunbar house on Summit Street near West Third Street.

