

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

The Kossuth Colony

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

502-541 Baltimore Street, 1608-1627 Mack Avenue, 1701-1703,
1705-1707, 1709-1711, 1713-1715, 1717-1719 and 1721-1723 Mack Avenue
516-540 Notre Dame Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Dayton

VICINITY OF

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Third

STATE

Ohio

CODE

039

COUNTY

Montgomery

CODE

113

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES RESTRICTED
- YES UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- COMMERICAL
- EDUCATIONAL
- ENTERTAINMENT
- GOVERNMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MILITARY
- MUSEUM
- PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- RELIGIOUS
- SCIENTIFIC
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Multiple ownership

See continuation sheet

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

VICINITY OF

STATE

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC

Montgomery County Recorders Office

STREET & NUMBER

451 West Third Street

CITY, TOWN

Dayton

STATE

Ohio

45402

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Ohio Historic Inventory

DATE

April, May 1978

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Ohio Historic Preservation Office - Ohio Historical Center

CITY, TOWN

Columbus

STATE

OHIO

43211

77 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
X GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE
X FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Forty of the original houses of the Kossuth Colony still stand lining three streets, Mack Avenue, Notre Dame Avenue and Baltimore Street in a mixed workingclass and industrial pocket in Northeast Dayton. Thirty of the remaining residences are two story vernacular multiple dwellings having four bay facades with two entries off either a singular porch or two small entrance porches. All the buildings are constructed of frame or have been altered with asbestos siding. The remaining ten buildings which line the eastern border of Baltimore Street are one story multiple unit residences identical to the two story houses.

The residences are quite similar to their original appearance. Gone are the original white picket fences that surrounded each house. Small garages have been added to the rear of many of the houses. The dirt streets original to the Kossuth Colony have been replaced by paved streets and sidewalks.

3 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE		CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW	
PRE-HISTORIC	ARCHAEOLOGY PRE-HISTORIC	X COMMUNITY PLANNING	LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	RELIGION
1400-1499	ARCHAEOLOGY HISTORIC	CONSERVATION	LAW	SCIENCE
1500-1599	AGRICULTURE	ECONOMICS	LITERATURE	TELEPHONE
1600-1699	ARCHITECTURE	EDUCATION	MILITARY	X SOCIAL HUMAN INTEREST
1700-1799	ART	ENGINEERING	MUSIC	THEATER
1800-1899	COMMERCE	EXPLORATION SETTLEMENT	PHILOSOPHY	TRANSPORTATION
1900	COMMUNICATIONS	INDUSTRY	POLITICS GOVERNMENT	X OTHER SPECIAL
		INVENTION	History- Immigration and Ethnic History	

SPECIFIC DATES 1906-1915

BUILDER ARCHITECT Jacob Doffee Moskowitz

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The city of Dayton, with its expanding factories attracted a great influx of European immigrants into its population during the final decade of the nineteenth century and the first twenty years of the twentieth century. An unusual experiment in human living conditions involved a number of Hungarians, one of these newly arrived immigrant groups.

Between 1906 and 1915 there existed a small settlement occupying about fourteen acres of ground just north of Leo Street in North Dayton. The Kossuth Colony, named in honor of the Hungarian patriot-statesman, was established by Jacob E. Moskowitz, a foreign-labor contractor, to house Hungarian immigrant workers for one of Dayton's oldest and largest industries, the Barney and Smith Car Works.

This company was known internationally for its manufacture of ornately decorated wooden railroad cars. In 1904 the management of Barney and Smith, looking forward to a demand for metal railroad cars, decided to enlarge their Keowee Street plant for the construction of steel passenger and freight railroad cars. Because there was a shortage of unskilled workers in Dayton at the time, Moskowitz who had experienced considerable success in starting other colonies for foreign workers on Dayton's West Side and in Pennsylvania, was hired to recruit and settle immigrant workers in Dayton.

Moskowitz, a capable and energetic organizer formed the Dayton Realty Company. By 1906 he had built about forty houses just north of the then Dayton city limits on a tract of land which extended from Baltimore Street to Troy Street and north from Leo Street for the distance of two city blocks. The structures were identical double houses with five rooms per family on each side. Attics were dormitories for unmarried men who boarded with the families. Each house was surrounded by its own fence. Water purchased from the city of Dayton was piped into fire hydrants located in each backyard.

Moskowitz also built a large two story structure called the Clubhouse. This building occupied a whole city block and contained stores, offices, a post office, banking facilities and a large beerhall. The colony was surrounded by a twelve foot high wooden fence with the only entrance guarded by a watchman's shack at the present day junction of Notre Dame Avenue and Leo Street. The public was invited to enter the colony and many nearby residents did, bringing picnic baskets and visiting with the residents on Sundays and holidays.

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As director and proprietor of this enterprise, Moskowitz extended certain conditions to the workers who, responding to his advertisements in Hungarian newspapers on the East Coast, soon filled the colony. Residents had to be employed at the Barney and Smith Car Works. Loss of a job there usually meant eviction from the colony. Brass script money was issued and all purchases had to be made at Moskowitz's store unless the workers required some article he did not stock.

Prices were high and many tried to evade this rule but when entering the gate were frequently caught by the watchman who scrutinized all parcels. In some instances workers accused of smuggling were evicted from the colony and also lost their jobs at the car works. This requirement to purchase at the store using script money remained in force until 1915 when after the Dayton Flood most of the fence deteriorated and was never replaced. Inhabitants then came and went freely and purchased where they pleased.

Each day the assembled workers walked the mile from the colony to the car works. Their wages were equivalent to the national average for unskilled labor, about \$10.00 for a fifty-five hour work week. Payment of wages was handled by the labor broker, Moskowitz. On Saturday evenings he would call all the men out into the street in front of the Clubhouse. Using a list of names, he would itemize for each man the amount of expenses incurred during the preceding week. Amounts for rent and various purchases would be deducted and the man was handed the balance, usually only a few dollars.

In spite of these stringent conditions life in the colony flourished. Families were close knit, frugal and continued to observe their native customs and prepare their traditional foods. The entire community participated in the lavish and ritualistic Christmas, Easter and wedding celebrations. Church services for the predominantly Roman Catholic inhabitants were held in one of the houses which had been set aside by Moskowitz for this purpose.

Language barriers were gradually broken down as the children attended school, either Allen School, then located at Troy and Leo Streets or Our Lady of the Rosary School. Some adults attended classes in English sponsored by the Dayton YMCA at a local grammar school.

Routine life in the Kossuth Colony was changed by an event which horrified all Dayton. The catastrophic Flood of 1913 caused considerable loss of life and property. Although the colony was not itself flooded, life there was never the same again. Dramatically, boards from the fence which surrounded the colony were torn out for use as rafts in rescue work. The Barney and Smith

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Car Works was inundated with fourteen feet of water which caused millions of dollars worth of damage. Forced into receivership, the company never recovered and the Kossuth Colony workers gradually found other employment.

By 1921 the Barney and Smith Car Works was sold at public auction. Jacob Moskowitz sold his properties and left the colony. Some of the inhabitants purchased their homes. Others left the city or were assimilated into other sections of the Dayton area. The Kossuth Colony was indeed a unique chapter in the history of Dayton.

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Reports

Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, Industrial Survey of Dayton and Montgomery County
A report prepared by the Traffic Department of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad.
(1918: Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, Baltimore, Maryland).

Unpublished Materials

Deem, Warren H., "The Barney and Smith Company: A Study of Business, Growth and
Decline."
A paper prepared for a class in American Economic History at Harvard University
April 30, 1953. Dayton Public Library, Dayton, Ohio

Public Documents

U.S. Department of Justice, Our Immigration: A Brief Account of Immigration to the
United States, M-85
(1962: U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C.).

Interviews

Interview with Mrs. Frank Dely, 1617 Mack Avenue, Dayton, Ohio 45404 3/77
Mrs. Dely moved to the Kossuth Colony in 1909 from Western Pennsylvania at
the age of eight. She has lived in the colony all her life with the exception of
two years, 1911-1913.

Interview with Mrs. Ervine Moore, 2122 Bushwick Drive, Dayton, Ohio 45409 4/77
Mrs. Moore is a granddaughter of Jacob Moskowitz. She lived with Jacob
Moskowitz during the last twenty years of his life.

Interview with Mrs. Virginia Zapoleon, Redondo Beach, California. 4/77
Mrs. Zapoleon is the only surviving child of Jacob Moskowitz.

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

property lines of the houses on the western portion of Notre Dame Avenue (517-519, 521-523, 525-527, 529-531, 533-535 and 537-539 Notre Dame Avenue). Then turning eastward continuing along the northern property line of 537-539 Notre Dame Avenue across through the northern property line of 540 Notre Dame Avenue, through the northern property line of 541 Baltimore Street and through the northern property line of 538-540 Baltimore Street. Proceed southward along the eastern property lines of the houses to the east side of Baltimore Street (538-540, 534-536, 530, 526-528, 522-524, 518, 514-516, 510-512, 506-508, 502-504 Baltimore Street) to the last property line on Baltimore Street (502-504) north of Mack Avenue. Then turning westward continuing along the southern property lines of the houses on the northern side of Mack Avenue to the northwest curb line of Mack and Notre Dame Avenues. Then continue south along the west side of Notre Dame Avenue to the rear property lines of the Mack Avenue homes (1624-1626, 1620-1622, 1616-1618, 1612-1614, 1608-1610). Proceed west to the western edge of the 1600 Mack Avenue property line which is the point of beginning.

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Books

Erury, A.W., History of the City of Dayton and Montgomery County, 2 volumes, (1910: S.J. Clarke Publishing Company, Dayton, Ohio).

The City of Dayton and Vicinity and their Resources, (1904: The Dayton Daily News, Dayton, Ohio).

See continuation sheet

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 10 1/2 acres

QUADRANGLE NAME Dayton North

QUADRANGLE SCALE _____

U.T.M. REFERENCES

A

10	742320	4407420
ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

B

10	742320	4407420
ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Beginning at a line north and south on the western property lines of 1608-1610 Mack Avenue and 1609-1611 Mack Avenue. Proceed north on the western

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

FORM PREPARED BY

NAME TITLE

Carolyn Louise Beauregard Survey Technician

June 1978

ORGANIZATION

Montgomery County Historical Society

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

P.O. Box 461 The Old Courthouse

TELEPHONE

513-228-6271

CITY OR TOWN

Dayton

STATE

Ohio 45402

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

ATTEST: KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

Ohio Historic Preservation Office

Ohio Historical Center I-71 & 17th Avenue Columbus, Ohio 43211 (614) 466-1500

*File & memo to
H.R. file*

January 14, 1980

Office of the Mayor
City of Dayton
City Hall
Dayton, Ohio 45402

Dear Sir:

I am pleased to inform you that the Kossuth Colony Historic District, Dayton, has been entered in the National Register of Historic Places by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service, United States Department of the Interior.

The nomination was made in connection with a state plan to identify and document prehistoric and historic places in Ohio that qualify for National Register status under provisions of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966. All nominations are approved by the Ohio Historic Site Preservation Advisory Board.

Enclosed is information explaining the purposes and goals of the National Register of Historic Places.

Sincerely,

David L. Brook

David L. Brook
State Historic Preservation Officer

DLB:cw

X. c: Dayton City Planning Commission
Loren Gannon, RPO

JL