United States Department of the Interior
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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

NAME

PUBLIC

OWNERSHIP

PRIVATE

X

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

PRESENT USE

AGRICULTURE

COMMERCIAL

PUBLIC

WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

YES RESTRICTED

YES UNRESTRICTED

X

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

STATUS

UNOCCUPIED

UNOCCUPIED

X

NORTH

X

Y

SITE

STRUCTURE

BUILDING(S)

X

STATE

VIGNETTE OF

4520

032

COUNTY

Monogomery

CODE

113

CITY TOWN

Dayton

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Third

LOCATION

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

NONE

X

Ohio

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

MULTIPLE OWNERSHIP

See continuation sheet

STREET & NUMBER

CITY TOWN

STATE

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC

Montgomery County Recorders Office

ADDRESS

451 West Third Street

CITY TOWN

Dayton

STATE

45402

REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Ohio historic Inventory

DATE

April, May 1978

FEDERAL

X

STATE

COUNTY

LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

Ohio Historic Preservation Office - Ohio Historical Center

CITY TOWN

Columbus

STATE

43211

For NPS Use Only

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED
DESCRIPTION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CONDITION</th>
<th>CHECK ONE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EXCELLENT</td>
<td>UNALTERED</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GOOD</td>
<td>X ALTERED</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FAIR</td>
<td>MOVED</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DETERIORATED</td>
<td>ORIGINAL SITE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAUNGS</td>
<td>GATE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNEXPOSED</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Forty of the original houses of the Kossuth Colony still stand lining three streets, Back Avenue, Notre Dame Avenue and Baltimore Street in a mixed working-class and industrial pocket in Northeast Layton. 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. One 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.
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 unusualexperiment 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 R. 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 exotically 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 or 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 store, 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.

See continuation sheet
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 watchmen 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 YWCA at a local grammar school.

Routine life in the Kosuth 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
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 Markowitz 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.
Reports


Unpublished Materials


Public Documents


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. Ervina 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.
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, 544-536, 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


See continuation sheet

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 10.1 acres

QUADREANGLE  DAYTON NORTH

ZONE EASTING NORTHING ZONE EASTING NORTHING

A 1 1,416 1,320 1 1,416 1,320
C 0 1,640 1,100 0 1,640 1,100
E 1 1,870 1,300

VERB AL 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STATE</th>
<th>CODE</th>
<th>COUNTY</th>
<th>CODE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

FORM PREPARED BY

NAME TITLE
Carolyn Louise Beauregard Survey Technician

ORGANIZATION
Montgomery County Historical Society

DATE
June 1978

STREET & NUMBER
P.O. Box 461 The Old Courthouse

TELEPHONE
513-225-6271

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

A TEST

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

CHIEF REGISTRATION
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
State Historic Preservation Officer

DLB:ew

X. e: Dayton City Planning Commission
Loren Cannon, RPO