

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

REFNUM 84003618

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received

date entered

3-29-84

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Jennings Apartments

and or common Argonne Apartments

2. Location

street & number 2711 West Fourteenth Street

N/A not for publication

city, town Cleveland

N/A vicinity of

state Ohio

code 039

county Cuyahoga

code 035

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Midwest Evergreen Corporation

street & number 1847 S. Taylor Road

city, town Cleveland Heights

N/A vicinity of

state Ohio 44118

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Cuyahoga County Recorder's Office

street & number 1219 Ontario

city, town Cleveland

state Ohio

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Ohio Historical Inventory

has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1976

federal state county local

depository for survey records Ohio Historical Society

city, town Columbus

state Ohio 43211

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Argonne apartment house is a six story building on Cleveland's near west side which is representative of the early commercial style in architecture. The building is constructed of yellow brick with wood framed windows and main entranceway. Timber serves as the supporting structure of the floors and roof. At the front of the building the entrance is an arch surmounted by an architrave with two windows of identical size on either side. Five windows span each of the next four stories, with the center window on the second story surmounted by a triangular pediment. The windows on the top story are smaller than the others and eight in number.

The south side of the building is distinguished by a vertical rank of bay windows at both the front and rear of the structure. On this same side each of the second through fifth stories has twelve windows across with a smaller window being the third and the tenth. A fire escape runs the full height of the building on the south side, in effect, dividing the building in half. On the first story the windows in the front half match those on the stories above. The rear half has the windows interrupted by rounded arched brick entryways. Also, on the south side the windows across the sixth story are of equal size. Around the entire building above the sixth story is a corbelled parapet.

The north side is divided into four bays defined by recessed light wells.

The building is in a general state of disrepair with roof damage, peeling paint, broken glass and plaster damage. Although the building is suffering from deterioration none of its significant architectural details, overall massing or plan have been compromised.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1898 **Builder/Architect** John N. Richardson

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Jennings apartment building significantly illustrates the commercial style of architecture which evolved in the last half of the 19th and early part of the 20th century. The Jennings' architect, John N. Richardson, was one of the prominent professionals in this field in Cleveland. Furthermore, the building carries a social as well as an architectural significance. The Jennings, in fact, was one of the first "high rise" apartment houses to appear on the Cleveland scene, opening the way to a new style of living for Cleveland residents.

The commercial style in architecture flourished in the late 1800s. It is characterized by a functional simplicity in design which formerly appeared more often in warehouse and factory design. The Jennings demonstrates this characteristic with its simple yellow brick walls and bay windows.

John N. Richardson represented a new trend of architect for his period, the trained professional more frequently being employed to design larger buildings. Although he was born and educated in Scotland, Richardson emigrated to Cleveland in the 1860s. Richardson's association with architect Frank Edward Cudell in 1871 began what became the most prominent architectural firm in the city of Cleveland in the 1880s.

Cudell and Richardson designed some of the most significant buildings in Cleveland including the Root McBride Building on Lake Avenue and 6th Street now known as the Bradley Building and the Perry-Payne Building at 740 Superior Avenue N.W. The partnership was also responsible for the design of St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church at Woodland Avenue and East 23rd Street, St. Stephen's Roman Catholic Church on West 54th Street, and the Franklin Circle Christian Church. All of these buildings are listed in the National Register. Following the dissolution of the partnership, Richardson himself designed the Jennings and the Woodland Avenue and West Side Street Railway Powerhouse at Elm and Riverbed Streets. Clearly, John Richardson stands as a significant architect of commercial structures in the city of Cleveland in the late 19th century.

The Jennings stands at the forefront of a change in living style for Clevelanders. Prior to 1900 private homes afforded the major type of residential housing. Very few apartment houses were listed in the city business directory. By 1910 the listing contained 750 apartment buildings. The Jennings was clearly one of the first, with the date 1898 carved into the masonry. The building has served as an apartment house since its construction, continuing to be representative of the new form of residential living in the early 20th century.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Eric Johannesen, Cleveland Architecture, 1876-1976, (Cleveland, 1979), P. 90.

Mary-Peale Schofield, Landmark Architecture of Cleveland, (Pittsburgh, 1976), pp. 4, 26, 36, 61, 69.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property Less than one acre

Quadrangle name Cleveland South

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

1	7	4	4	2	2	8	0	4	5	9	1	5	2	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C

Zone		Easting				Northing								

D

Zone		Easting				Northing								

E

Zone		Easting				Northing								

F

Zone		Easting				Northing								

G

Zone		Easting				Northing								

H

Zone		Easting				Northing								

Verbal boundary description and justification

Cuyahoga County Parcel Number 4-21-29

A lot measuring 44' x 160'.

This is the lot on which the building stands.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Allan L. Rubinstein

organization N/A

date June 25, 1982

street & number 1847 So. Taylor Road

telephone (216) 932-5820

city or town Cleveland Heights

state Ohio 44118

12. 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 W. Ray Luce

title SHPO

date 3/16/84

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

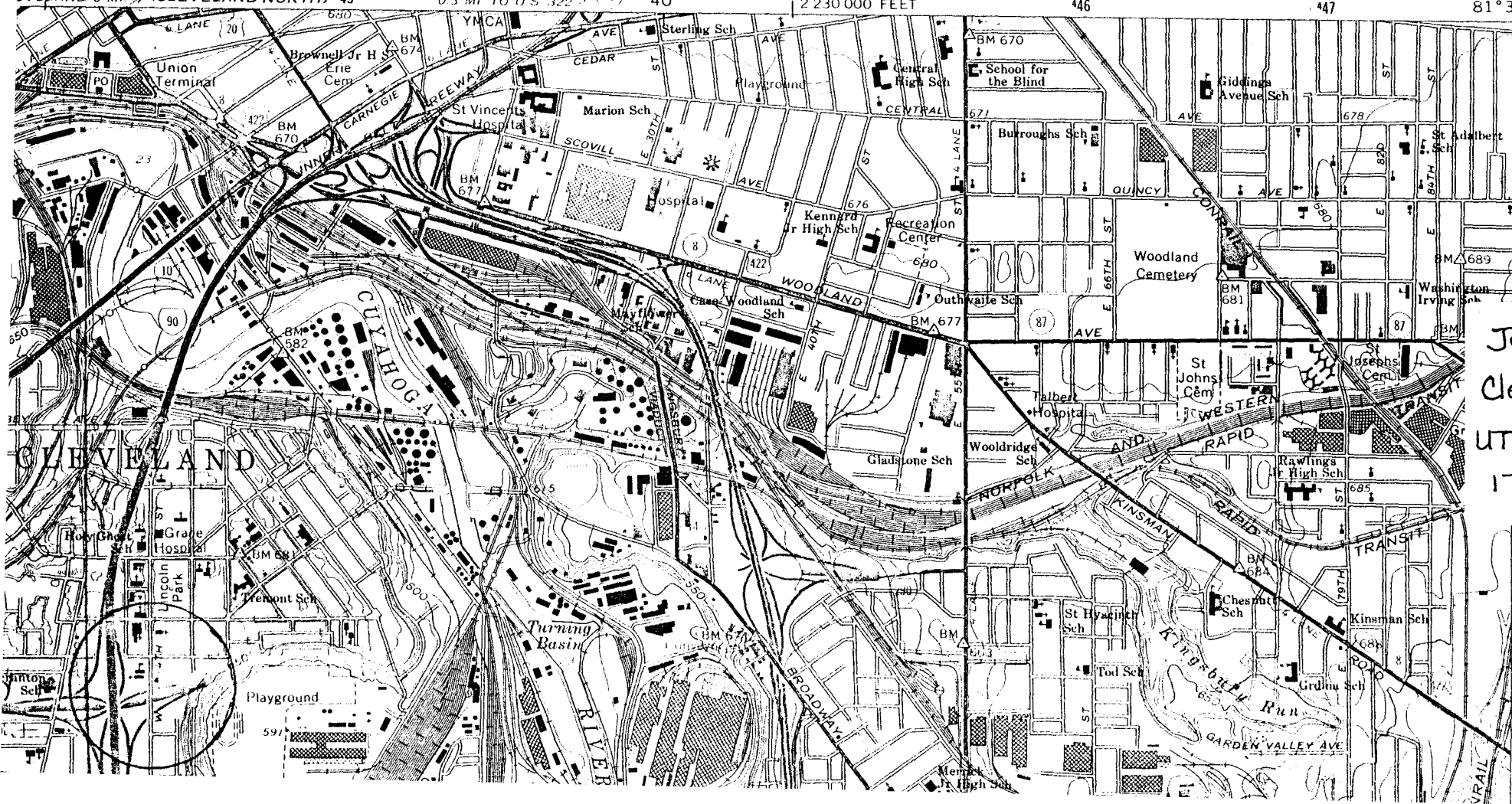
date

Chief of Registration

CLEVELAND SOUTH QUADRANGLE
OHIO-CUYAHOGA CO
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

4667 II ST
(EAST CLE)

EUCLID 10 MI. EVELAND 6 MI. (CLEVELAND NORTH) 443 1.3 MI. TO OHIO 2 0.3 MI. TO U.S. 322 40' 2 230 000 FEET 446 447 81° 37' 30" 41° 30'



Jennings
Cleveland
UTM Ref
17 442

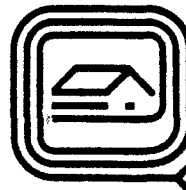
HIGHTS 4.7 MI.
MIL.

660 000
FEET

Ohio Historic Preservation Office

1985 Velma Avenue
Columbus, Ohio 43211
614/466-1500

copy



OHIO
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY
SINCE 1885

April 10, 1984

Midwest Evergreen Corporation
1847 S. Taylor Road
Cleveland Hts., OH 44118

Dear Sirs:

This is to inform you that the Jennings Apartments, 2711 W. 14th Street, have been entered in the National Register of Historic Places by the National Park 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 which 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,

W. Ray Luce
State Historic Preservation Officer

WRL:rs

enclosure

X.c: Mayor (Cleveland)
Representative Barbara Pringle
Senator Charles L. Butts
Jeff Brown
NOACA
John Cimperman, Cleveland Landmarks Commission

Ohio Historic Preservation Office

National Register of Historic Places File Checklist

The following materials are contained in this file of the National Register form for:

Name: Jennings Apartments

County: Cuyahoga

Original National Register of Historic Places nomination form

Multiple Property Nomination form

Photographs

Photographs (copies)

USGS maps

USGS maps (copies)

Sketch map(s)/figure(s)/exhibit(s)

Correspondence

Other _____