

Field Survey Techniques

The project principals conducted multiple windshield surveys of the Dayton metropolitan area. Guided tours with city representatives occurred in Dayton, Kettering, and Huber Heights. Observations from the windshield surveys, along with suggestions from the city representatives, were used to determine the list of properties to survey.

The City of Dayton provided a neighborhood map with the average date of construction indicated. This map was the basis for further investigation of Dayton's mid-20th century neighborhoods. Residential properties were chosen on the basis of historic integrity, as well as the potential for illustrating different house types and styles from the era. In a few instances, a house with minimal historic integrity was chosen either to illustrate a house type that had not been identified elsewhere or to facilitate the discussion of historic integrity within the survey report.

Special attention was paid to historic corridors leading into and out of downtown Dayton. Most of these corridors, some state routes, define the boundaries of Dayton's mid-20th-century neighborhoods. Major roads and state routes also linked Dayton with the surrounding suburbs. A wealth of religious and commercial properties was found along these corridors. In particular, the physical pattern of commercial development within the metropolitan area became evident when traveling these transportation arteries.

Research and historic photographs also provided examples of buildings and sites that were considered important to Dayton's development when constructed. Such properties were investigated and included as their existence and integrity warranted.

Interviews with builders and contractors revealed neighborhoods and individual buildings that should be explored. These interviews also provided insight into materials and stylistic features that were considered standard at the time.

Finally, a few properties were identified and included based upon the materials used in their construction. It was considered important to take account of typical materials popular, even if briefly, during the mid-20th century, such as lava rock. Some buildings, while not outstanding in their style or typology, were included for the information they conveyed about materials.

Discussion of Added OHI Terminology

One of the Ohio Modern project's objectives was to identify vocabulary related to mid-century modern architectural styles, types, construction techniques and building parts that was absent from the Ohio Historic Inventory data base. Throughout the project, as buildings were surveyed

and information entered into the I-form, recommended terminology was forwarded to OHPO in periodic progress reports. Added terms included Googie (architectural style), skyscraper (building type), hopper, horizontal slider, awning, plate glass, glass block, spandrel system, (windows), tile, curtain wall, stacked bond brick, exposed aggregate finish (exterior wall), and canopy (porches). “Post WWII Suburbanization” was also added by OHPO as an additional thematic category.