

Glendale Steps
Name of Property

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4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain:) _____

Lisa Delina
Signature of the Keeper

8/21/2023
Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private:
- Public – Local
- Public – State
- Public – Federal

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

- Building(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

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Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
_____	_____	buildings
_____	_____	sites
<u>1</u>	_____	structures
_____	_____	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

LANDSCAPE
GOVERNMENT/Public Works
TRANSPORTATION/Pedestrian-related

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

LANDSCAPE
TRANSPORTATION/Pedestrian-related

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE VICTORIAN/Romanesque Revival

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Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: Sandstone

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

The Glendale Steps is a sandstone stairway consisting of 242 steps and sandstone ashlar walls that connect South Walnut Street with Glendale Avenue. It was constructed by the Works Progress Administration in 1936 and 1937. The Works Progress Administration was a New Deal Program designed to employ unemployed workers on work relief projects. Landscape architect and environmental planner Warren Henry Manning originally designed the Romanesque Revival style steps as part of a larger public park plan in 1929. The stairway exhibits characteristic features of the style, including rusticated block sandstone walls and a blind arched doorway. The Glendale Steps are part of Glendale Park, a 6.5-acre park situated on both sides of Glendale Avenue in the City of Akron, Ohio. The steps were built into a steep hillside on the northern side of Glendale Avenue and across the street from Glendale Park. The structure is surrounded by the West Hill neighborhood, a working-class residential neighborhood to the north, Glendale Park to the south, and Glendale Cemetery to the west. The Akron Innerbelt Route 59, also known as Martin Luther King Boulevard, and downtown Akron are located beyond Glendale Park to the south. This nomination is limited to the Glendale Steps structure and does not include any portion of Glendale Park south of Glendale Avenue. This larger portion of the original park has experienced alteration and is no longer an active park space.

Narrative Description

Glendale Steps, 1936-1937

Setting

The Glendale Steps (Photo 1) is a 242-sandstone step stairway constructed on a steep slope. It is oriented facing south towards Glendale Avenue. Four connected sections comprise the stairway, with green spaces and flower beds situated between the sandstone walls and steps. The central section of the stairway has a massive sandstone wall with an arched doorway and is centered

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behind two sandstone railing walls. Access to the Glendale Steps includes South Walnut Street at the top and Glendale Avenue at the bottom. Although the site is located in close proximity to downtown Akron, the immediate surrounding area is wooded with minimal urban development. The steps are surrounded by trees and vegetation to the immediate east and west, three low-scale commercial buildings to the east along Glendale Avenue, and the entrance to Glendale Cemetery to the west. A wooded area to the south across Glendale Avenue was designated Glendale Park in the 1920s but is not currently used as a park. Parts of this parcel are currently in use by the City of Akron as a parking lot and construction staging area.

Exterior

The base of the Glendale Steps is located along Glendale Avenue. This section consists of a straight, two-flight stairway centered between two flowerbeds. The rectangular flowerbeds are surrounded by loose decorative stones and a sandstone retaining wall at the rear that supports the walkway at the first landing (Level 1). The flowerbeds contain mulch and a variety of shrubbery and flowers. The first stairway consists of two flights: three wide steps and a riser followed by four wide steps and a landing. Each step consists of a riser of recessed sandstones beneath treaders of long sandstone slabs. On each side of the steps are retaining walls with long sandstone coping stones.

The next section of the Glendale Steps is fan-shaped in plan and has a large open green space in the center. This green space contains a row of stacked sandstones and a variety of plants. The outer walkway is level and splits in an eastern and western direction at the first landing. The walkway is covered with large sandstone pavers. Approximately halfway along each walkway, two symmetrical flights of sandstone steps lead to a landing at the outer corners of the fan. The walkways on each side then turn approximately 60 degrees towards the center and continue rising to a central landing (Level 2a, Photo 2) via two flights of stairs, a gently sloping length of the walkway, and another short staircase. The walkways and staircase are enclosed by stone railing walls on the outer edges and stone retaining walls on the inner edges. These walls are laid in random rubble with stone coping.

At the top of the stairways, the sandstone-lined paths meet behind a trapezoid-shaped sandstone wall that follows the rise of the stairs (Photo 5). This wall is random rubble at the top and random coursed ashlar at the bottom. The central landing at this level (Level 2b) contains a large random coursed ashlar three-sided structure supporting a patio. Two steps lead to the central sandstone structure (Photos 3 and 4), which features a large blind arch in the center featuring voussoirs and a keystone. The archway is filled in with concrete blocks; a 1991 photo shows the archway surrounding a niche that was slightly more recessed (Photo 11). A historic newspaper photo dating to the steps' completion also indicates that the arch did not contain an opening to an interior space (Figure 3). Two symmetrical L-shaped staircases rise from either side of the landing and wrap around the outer sides of the central stone structure. Random coursed ashlar railing walls with coping stones follow the slope of the stairs to the outer edges of the structure.

The stairways on either side of the central structure lead to the next level (Level 3) of the Glendale Steps. These uppermost sections are not visible from Glendale Avenue. The level

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landing continues behind the sandstone wall containing the central arch, forming a patio paved with random coursed stone slabs and surrounded by a coursed stone ashlar retaining wall. At the rear (north) of the patio, a pair of parallel stairways ascend to the next level of the Glendale Steps. The parallel stairways (Photo 6) consist of two flights of steps with a landing halfway up connecting the two. There are rectangular flowerboxes situated between each flight of the stairways below and above the landing. The flowerboxes and staircases are enclosed by large sandstones with an inverted V-top surface. At the top of the parallel stairways, there is a flat landing (Level 4, Photo 7) and a large curved and sloping sandstone wall (Photo 9). Two symmetrical curved stairways rise around each side of the center sandstone wall and are enclosed on the outer edges with full-height curving stone walls. At the top of these stairways (Photo 8) is the brick-paved cul-de-sac of South Walnut Street (Level 5, Photo 10), demarcated along its south edge by a low concrete barrier wall.

Integrity

The Glendale Steps retain historic integrity of design, materials, workmanship, location, setting, and association. The stonework and paths of the Glendale Steps are original and remain intact with the exception of some missing paver slabs and stair treads. The original hand dressing of the stones and workmanship of the masonry is still visible. The focal point is a massive sandstone wall featuring a rusticated blind arch. Although the original niche has been made shallower with in-fill of concrete blocks, the alteration is reversible and does not substantially alter the overall design and appearance of the structure. The Glendale Steps remain in their original location on the north side of Glendale Avenue. The structure continues to convey its historic design, materials, workmanship, setting, feeling, and association.

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- B. Removed from its original location
- C. A birthplace or grave
- D. A cemetery
- E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F. A commemorative property
- G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

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Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

POLITICS & GOVERNMENT/New Deal

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1935-1937

Significant Dates

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Works Progress Administration (WPA)

Manning, Warren Henry, Landscape Architect

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Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Glendale Steps are significant at the local level under National Register of Historic Places Criterion A as an Akron project of the Works Progress Administration (WPA) and Criterion C for landscape architecture for their Romanesque Revival style park design reflecting an original design by landscape architect Warren H. Manning. The period of significance for the Glendale Steps is 1935-1937, beginning with the city's application for WPA funds through the completion of construction for the stairway structure.

The Glendale Steps were from a design originally by landscape architect Warren H. Manning in 1929 for improvements to Glendale Park, commissioned by Gertrude Seiberling, president of the Akron Garden Club and wife of Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company founder Frank A. Seiberling. Funding for the Glendale Steps was finally secured in 1936 under the Works Progress Administration program, a New Deal program that employed workers for local work relief projects, including roads, highways, and streets, public buildings, and other facilities such as athletic fields, parks, and swimming pools. The Glendale Steps were the only feature of the original plan for Glendale Park to be constructed.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

Significance Summary: Criterion A

The Glendale Steps are significant under Criterion A for their association with Politics & Government: the New Deal. In 1935, President Roosevelt issued Executive Order 7034, creating the Works Progress Administration (WPA). The WPA was a work relief program designed to put back to work unemployed workers on useful projects such as constructing roads, public buildings, and facilities. In December 1935, the City of Akron submitted a project application for park improvements to the WPA. Local groups, including the Akron Garden Club, approached the city about funding improvements to local parks. The City of Akron requested \$1 million to make improvements to parks, including construction of the Glendale Steps, and their application was approved in March 1936. WPA hired local stonemasons to construct the Glendale Steps between 1936 and 1937. The selected stonemasons were listed on the local relief rolls and had relevant skills and experience. The Glendale Steps were planned and designed prior to the Great Depression by nationally known landscape architect Warren H. Manning in partnership with the Akron Garden Club and Gertrude Seiberling but ultimately constructed with WPA assistance. The structure is unique among local WPA projects because it links earlier design initiatives led by the Seiberling family and Manning with the extensive building program implemented by the WPA.

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Significance Summary: Criterion C

The Glendale Steps are significant under Criterion C as a local example of the Romanesque Revival style stone park architecture. In 1929, landscape architect Warren Henry Manning designed the Glendale Steps in the Romanesque Revival style. The structure exhibits characteristic features of the Romanesque Revival style, including massive, rusticated stone walls and arched openings. The structure retains historic integrity of location, setting, design, workmanship, materials, feeling, and association. Warren Henry Manning (1860-1938) was a landscape architect and environmental planner who worked with Frederick Law Olmstead before establishing his own landscape architecture firm in Boston, Massachusetts. Manning's specialty was designing parks in industrial areas like Akron. He examined the site's topography, views, and vegetation as well as considering the recreational and transportation needs of the residents. The Glendale Steps are an intact version of one of his designs, realized roughly a decade after their design.

History and Context

Akron History and the New Deal

The Glendale Steps in Akron, Ohio, were completed in 1937 by the Works Progress Administration (WPA). On May 6, 1935, President Franklin D. Roosevelt issued Executive Order 7034, creating the WPA, a work relief program designed to employ unemployed workers on small, useful relief projects. The WPA constructed streets, roads and highways, public buildings, and other facilities. Local, state, regional, and national offices were established to administer the program. Cities, towns, and counties were responsible for planning projects, paying part of the total cost, and hiring workers with matching skills and experience from the local relief rolls.

At the time of the Glendale Steps' construction, Akron was the fifth largest city in Ohio with a large number of cereal, stoneware, sewer pipe, and rubber manufacturers. Akron had developed from a small township in 1825 when General Simon Perkins laid out 300 lots in the township of Akron to an industrial center with a population of over 200,000 by the 1930s. Its early boundaries included Summit Street, Center Street, Chestnut Street, and Pine Street, all in present-day downtown Akron.¹ The construction of the nearby Ohio and Erie Canal contributed to an increase in population and new structures, including residences that were constructed along the canal. After the canal was completed in 1827, the township developed as a commercial and industrial center producing and transporting goods. New businesses were constructed along Main and Exchange Streets in the downtown commercial area as well as residences. A second canal,

¹ Lane, Samuel. *Fifty Years and Over of Akron and Summit County*. Akron, Ohio, 1892. page 3.

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the Pennsylvania and Ohio Canal, and the Cleveland and Pittsburg Railroad and Akron Branch, followed in the late 1830s and 1850s. Manufacturers established businesses along the canal and railroad routes in the northern section of Akron.

In the 1870s, officials began marketing Akron and encouraged manufacturers to establish new businesses in the growing city. One of the most important industries to develop in Akron was the rubber industry. The first rubber factory opened on Rubber Street in 1871.² Other rubber

companies, including the B. F. Goodrich Company (1880), Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company (1898), and Firestone Tire and Rubber Company (1900), followed. The rubber industry provided job opportunities and brought new residents, including young men from nearby farms, African Americans from the American South, and immigrants to Akron. The population increased from 10,006 in 1870 to 69,097 by 1910. By 1920, Akron's population had increased to 208,435, and new buildings were being constructed.³

In the early 1900s, one of the residential neighborhoods that developed was the West Hill neighborhood, located west of downtown Akron and north of Glendale Avenue. A 1904 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map (Figure 1) refers to the future location of the Glendale Steps as "Steep Hooded Bluff." The map also shows single family dwellings located on South Walnut Street. The 1910 Summit County Atlas was the first time Glendale Park was included on a map (Figure 2); this tract of land was owned by Lewis Miller.⁴ Glendale Park was an open green space and one of seventeen existing parks in Akron.

City Planner John Nolen of Cambridge, Massachusetts, discussed existing parks as well as a proposed park system in the 1919 Akron City Plan. In 1919, Akron featured 17 parks, including Glendale Park, and totaled 219 acres. These were private and semi-public parks that were located throughout the city and provided residents with some form of recreation. Nolen expressed concerns that the current parks were inadequate for the city's increasing population. He proposed acquiring park lands and including at least one in each new residential neighborhood. The park system would include parks and playgrounds consisting of 10 to 15 acres that are connected by streets.⁵ Nolen also proposed the formation of a park system. This system would include large parks of 100 acres or more, small local parks in residential areas, squares and triangles located near important intersections, and park streets and parkways.⁶ Two years later in 1921, the Metropolitan Park District was formed; it later became known as the Summit Metro Parks.

Akron was experiencing the effects of the Great Depression (1929-1941) when the Glendale Steps were constructed in 1936-1937. The depression reached its peak in the 1930s leaving thousands of Akron workers unemployed. The city's industrial economy meant that it was hit

² Historical Committee. *A Centennial History of Akron, 1825-1925*. Summit County Historical Society, 1925. Page 90

³ *Ibid*, 119

⁴ Combination Atlas Map of Akron and Summit County, 1874 and Atlas and Industrial Geography of Summit County, 1910.

⁵ Nolen, John. *City Plan for Akron, Ohio*. Akron Chamber of Commerce: 1919. Page 29.

⁶ *Ibid*, page 51.

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especially hard; the industrial unemployment rate in Akron reached 60%, compared to 24.9% general unemployment in the United States and 37.3% in Ohio.⁷ Businesses laid off many

workers while others had their hours and wages reduced. Workers and their families were unable to pay their rent and faced eviction as well as malnutrition. Unemployed workers registered at their local relief agency, which provided eligible workers with direct relief including groceries, clothing, rent, and medical treatment.⁸

When the depression began, local charities and state agencies were responsible for providing resources such as food and clothing to the unemployed. Ohio's "poor laws" provided relief to specific groups of people, including the disabled, veterans (soldiers and sailors), the elderly, and orphans. This relief was raised locally through taxes. As Akron's economic situation worsened and unemployment increased, the amount raised through taxes decreased. Local charitable efforts could no longer meet the demands of the unemployed. Ohio Governor George White (1931-1935) also believed relief was a local problem. However, he "recommended the immediate appropriation of a reasonable sum be used wherever distress was most acute."⁹

At the state level, the Ohio legislature began passing bills in 1931 to provide emergency relief. The first effort was a bill for boards of education to provide shoes, clothing, and medical attention to needy children. The legislature appropriated \$65,000 for this effort.¹⁰ This legislation was followed by a second bill that authorized cities, towns, and counties to borrow money and issue bonds to support poor relief. In 1932, the Ohio legislature created the State Relief Commission, also known as the Ohio Relief Commission to help Ohioans cope with the Great Depression. The Ohio Relief Commission also coordinated state efforts by distributing funds raised through gas and motor vehicle taxes to various relief efforts. They distributed funds under the Federal Emergency Relief Act (FERA) and determined which projects should be completed by the Civil Works Administration (CWA). The Ohio Relief Commission operated until March 1, 1935, when the federal government took control of relief efforts in Ohio.

At the federal level, President Herbert Hoover also believed state and local governments were responsible for providing relief to the unemployed. He opposed providing federal assistance and called on each state to solve its unemployment problem. As the depression worsened and unemployment increased, Congress passed the first federal program in July 1932, the Emergency Relief and Construction Act, also known as the Reconstruction Finance Corporation (RFC). The RFC loaned \$300 million to local businesses to provide relief to the unemployed. However, many communities were unable to repay the loan, and the program ended in 1934.¹¹ In 1932, newly elected President Franklin D. Roosevelt introduced a different philosophy regarding the role of the federal government. He believed the federal government was needed to get the United States out of the depression. In his first days as president, Roosevelt created a number of new

⁷ "Akron, Ohio" *Ohio History Central*.

⁸ Garber, J. Otis. "Depression Activities" *History of the State of Ohio Volume VI: Ohio in the Twentieth Century*. Page 449

⁹ *Ibid*, page 55.

¹⁰ *Ibid*, page 439.

¹¹ *Ibid*, page 441.

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programs, including the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), Federal Emergency Relief Administration (FERA), Federal Surplus Relief Corporation (FSRC), and Public Works Administration (PWA). These programs became known as the New Deal.

On May 6, 1935, President Franklin D. Roosevelt issued Executive Order 7034 creating the Works Progress Administration (WPA). It was designed to employ workers on useful projects such as constructing roads, public buildings, and recreational facilities as well as to administer the work relief program. The WPA employed unskilled, semiskilled, skilled, and professional workers who were listed on the local work relief rolls. Unemployed workers were required to

submit applications at their local relief office in order to qualify for direct aid and local WPA projects. Each applicant's needs were investigated by the local relief office. The local WPA also reviewed project applications submitted by local government agencies. In December 1935, the City of Akron submitted a project application to the WPA for improvements at 12 parks. The WPA approved their project application in March 1936. This was just one of several rounds of WPA projects and funding that were conducted in Akron during the course of the program. The WPA hired approximately 8,000 Summit County residents to work on local projects such as the Glendale Steps.¹²

The WPA completed a number of projects in Akron, including the Glendale Steps, Chestnut Ridge Park Amphitheater, Rubber Bowl football stadium, Derby Downs racetrack, and improvements to the J. Edward Good Park Golf Course.¹³ Thousands of jobs were created by the WPA and the program reached its peak employment in 1938. Twenty-five percent of Summit County residents had a family member working for the WPA.¹⁴ Job opportunities and the number of projects with the WPA began to decline in the late 1930s as more workers found private employment and by June 1943, the program ended.¹⁵

Warren H. Manning and the Development of the Glendale Steps

Although the Glendale Steps were ultimately built by the WPA in 1937, the original plans for the structure had been drawn 7 years earlier by landscape architect and environmental planner Warren Henry Manning (1860-1938). In 1860, Manning was born in Reading, Massachusetts, to Jacob Warren Manning and Lydia Brooks Chandler Manning. His father was a well-known nurseryman and taught his son about plants. Manning developed a fascination with plants as he spent his summers working at his grandfather's farm fields and greenhouses in Concord, New Hampshire. He graduated from Reading Public High School and attended one semester at French's Business School in Boston. In 1884, Warren Manning began advertising his design services in the Reading Nursery Business Circular. He received his first two commissions the

¹² "Glendale Steps Nearly Finished." *The Akron Beacon Journal*. 21 October 1937. Page 35

¹³ "Projects in Akron" *The Living New Deal*. Accessed 18 November 2022

¹⁴ Garber, Page 466.

¹⁵ United States Federal Works Agency. (1947) *Final report on the WPA program*, -43. [Washington, D.C., U.S. Govt. Print Off] [Pdf] Retrieved from the Library of Congress, <https://www.loc.gov/item/47032199/>. Page 30. Accessed April 5, 2023.

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following year. Manning also worked as a lecturer to horticulture organizations and for a magazine that encouraged residents to have home gardens.

In January 1888, Manning was hired as a planting assistant by Landscape Architect Frederick Law Olmstead, who taught Manning the importance of planning. Manning worked on a variety

of projects, including the Biltmore Estate in Asheville, North Carolina, and the World's Columbian Expedition in Chicago, Illinois.¹⁶ He worked for Olmstead until 1896, when he established his own office in Boston, Massachusetts. One of his first projects was restoring the Manning family homestead in Massachusetts. Manning's specialty was designing parks. In his

designs, Manning considered the site's topography, views, and vegetation and combined them with a utilitarian purpose such as recreation, circulation, and transportation, a concept known as resource-based design. Manning also used the concept of Community Days, events where volunteers would plant trees at project sites. He first used this community-based idea in Reading, Massachusetts, when residents planted elm trees along the town's Main Street.¹⁷

Manning had a prolific career as a landscape designer. His 1,600 plus projects included parks, subdivisions, golf courses, cemeteries, college campuses, master plans, and industrial towns. His design firm grew to become one of the largest in the country and served as the training ground for many upcoming significant landscape architects. Manning was also one of the founding members of the American Society of Landscape Architects.

In 1911, Franklin A Seiberling, founder of the Goodyear Rubber Company, and his wife Gertrude Seiberling commissioned Manning to design formal gardens and the landscaping for the entire estate grounds at their Stan Hywet Hall Estate in Akron, Ohio. This first commission from the Seiberlings was followed by others. The following year, Manning designed the industrial housing neighborhood Goodyear Heights subdivision also in Akron, Ohio. Manning's plan (Project no. 960) included a 28-acre park with play areas, ball fields, and a pond. His plan also included a 7-mile transportation route that connected Goodyear Heights to Main Street.¹⁸ Manning also designed the upscale subdivision Fairlawn Heights (Project 1108), where Goodyear executives resided.

In 1928, Gertrude Seiberling, President of the Akron Garden Club, hired Manning to design improvements to Glendale Park (Project 1583). Seiberling saw the property as an opportunity for the Akron Garden Club to beautify the entrance of the Glendale Cemetery. On January 8, 1929, Manning presented his plan for Glendale Park to the Akron Garden Club. Manning's plans for Glendale Park included a parking area, walking paths, and a stairway that zigzagged across the park's steep incline; this stairway feature became the Glendale Steps. Around the same time, the Akron Garden Club purchased some land on the northern side of Glendale Avenue for \$500 from

¹⁶ Birnbaum, Charles A. and Lisa E. Crowder. "Warren Henry Manning" *Pioneers of American Landscape Design*.

¹⁷ Ibid, 5.

¹⁸ Ibid, 20.

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Mary Pauline Edgerton. In 1929, the Akron Garden Club transferred ownership to the City of Akron.¹⁹

References are made in newspaper articles to at least two different version of plans for the Glendale Steps, including plans drawn by Manning and L.B. Hiebel, a landscape architect with the city planning commission²⁰, and revisions made by WPA engineers to improve the

foundation and drainage.²¹ Despite an exhaustive search by local community groups and preservation organizations, no sets of plans have been located.

Construction of the Glendale Steps was delayed due to the onset of the Great Depression in 1929. However, in April 1931, work began on some features included in Manning's design. Under the supervision of Roy Knox, the Akron Garden Club planted 60 memorial elm trees, 1,000 locust trees, and 1,000 pine trees in Glendale Park. Workers were also clearing both banks of the ravine and the City of Akron had ordered additional shrubbery, plants, and flowers.²² In preparation for the construction of the steps, laborers removed trees and roots and added drainage.

In December 1935, the City of Akron submitted a \$1 million project application to the Works Progress Administration. Several groups, including the Akron Garden Club, approached the city with project ideas. The application included improvements to the Glendale Park, Waters Park, Chestnut Ridge Park, and 9 other sites including sports fields, parks, a stadium, and a golf course.²³ Three months later in March 1936, the Works Progress Administration approved the application. Akron contributed \$300,000 in bonds for their share of the projects.²⁴ Of these concurrent projects, Waters Park and Chestnut Ridge Park also featured cut stone structures including a large, rusticated stone amphitheater in Chestnut Ridge Park and a more modest stone stage and amphitheater in Waters Park.

Construction of the Glendale Steps began in July 1936. The local Works Progress Administration office hired experienced stonemasons to construct the steps at \$1.25 per hour. Due to the steep hillside and small site, a limited number of stonemasons could work at any given time. The sandstones used in the project were locally cut from a site near East Tallmadge Avenue in northern Akron. Construction of the Glendale Steps was completed in 1937, and over the next decade, theatrical performances took place on the Glendale Steps.²⁵

¹⁹ "Glendale Steps 1928" University of Akron Special Collection: Akron Garden Club Box 502B

²⁰ "Garden Club Starts Beautifying Project About Glendale Park." *The Akron Beacon Journal*. 14 April 1931. Page 6.

²¹ "Glendale Steps Nearly Finished."

²² "Garden Club Starts Beautifying Project About Glendale Park."

²³ "\$1,000,000 Park Program Revealed," *Akron Beacon Journal*, 23 Dec 1935, p 23.

²⁴ Gaffney, Tessa. "Chestnut Ridge Amphitheater" *The Living New Deal* webpage. 5 November 2014. Accessed 12 October 2022.

²⁵ Schreiber, Gloria. "Glendale Park: Akron, Ohio" *Warren H. Manning: Landscape Architect and Environmental Planner*. Page 249

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The December 1935 WPA funding application represented only a small portion of WPA work completed throughout Akron during the New Deal era, ranging from a concrete stadium at Barberton High School (no longer extant) to infrastructure such as roads and water treatment plants to park features like steps, curbs, trails, and pavilions. Examples of WPA-funded improvements large and small can be found throughout the city, but Glendale Steps and the amphitheaters at Chestnut Ridge and Waters parks are the only large outdoor cut stone structures of the era in Akron, with the Glendale Steps having the singular distinction of functioning as a pedestrian transportation structure. Sets of stone staircases constructed by the WPA and CCC are

found in parks throughout Summit County, including Cascade Valley Park (recorded in the Ohio Historic Inventory, No. SUM0381312), and Virginia Kendall Ledges, but are smaller in scale and more utilitarian.

The Glendale Steps were the only feature of Glendale Park to be constructed. Over the years, the main portion of the park, located south of Glendale Avenue, became primarily used for parking. The disuse of the area as a park and the construction of the Inner Belt multi-lane highway between Glendale Avenue and downtown Akron contributed to low foot traffic on the steps. However, recent initiatives to revitalize downtown Akron, remove the Inner Belt, and reconnect parts of the city may prove favorable to the Glendale Steps' renewed use as a public thoroughfare and gathering space.

Architecture and Landscape Design of the Glendale Steps

The Glendale Steps is an intact local example of the Romanesque Revival style and an uncommon application of the style to this structure type. The Romanesque Revival style emerged in the United States in the mid-1800s. It was imported from Europe and based on the buildings of Ancient Rome. A number of architects experimented with this style, including James Renwick, Thomas A. Tefft, and Henry Hobson Richardson. Henry Hobson Richardson (1838-1886) was an American architect who studied architecture at the Ecole des Beaux Arts in Paris, France.²⁶ Richardson designed public buildings and residences, including the Crane Memorial Library in Quincy, Massachusetts; Cheney Block in Hartford, Connecticut; and Marshall Field Wholesale in Chicago, Illinois. His designs emphasized mass, proportions, and function. Richardson's designs featured masonry, horizontal bands of stones, and round arches. He inspired the design of hundreds of public buildings such as courthouses, churches, city halls, prisons, and collegiate buildings in the Romanesque Revival style.²⁷

The Romanesque Revival style emerged during the rapid industrialization of the United States. Between the mid-1800s and early 1900s, urban areas quickly grew as a result of newly constructed transportation routes and the emergence of manufacturing and industrial centers. At the same time, advances in technology contributed to the mass production of goods such as balloon framing and other architectural details. Workers, both domestic and immigrants, migrated to these urban areas in search of job opportunities, and the population in cities quickly

²⁶ Roth, Leland M. *American Architecture: A History*. Page 182.

²⁷ Ibid, 260.

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increased. Mass-produced goods from the cities were transported on the railroads and canals, and new infrastructure, including businesses and residences, were being constructed in cities. In contrast to other highly ornamental styles of the Victorian era such as Second Empire, Gothic

Revival, and exotic revivals, Richardsonian Romanesque represented a return to a simpler and more ordered aesthetic.²⁸

A movement to create public green spaces in cities, also in response to rapid industrialization, population growth, and urbanization, emerged in the mid-1800s and continued into the early 1900s. Frederick Law Olmstead, A.J. Downing, and others feared that the development of large cities would result in the loss of green spaces leaving workers and their families without a place for recreation or fresh air. A.J. Downing advocated for a park in New York City and wrote a number of editorials in *The Horticulturalist*. A large tract of land was purchased in the center of the island and in 1857, a competition to develop this tract of land was held. Landscape architects Frederick Law Olmstead and Calvert Vaux submitted a project design under the code name “Greenswald.” Their design of Central Park worked in concert with the natural topography and included curved walking paths, carriage drives, a pond, and wooded areas.²⁹ A contrasting approach to promoting social well-being and countering the ills of industrialization was the City Beautiful movement, which sought to impose order on the landscape with formal axial landscape plans punctuated by monumental classical structures. Though influences from both these approaches can be seen in Manning’s work, his signature style emphasized naturalistic and informal design.

Glendale Steps is representative of Manning’s use of hardscaping and structures to enhance the natural environment and increase access and utility. The grounds at Stan Hywet, for example, include a patio with twin cut stone pavilions (the Teahouses) at the grade level of the house that are linked to a swimming pond at a lower elevation by a set of sweeping stone stairs. An arcade beneath the patio contained changing rooms. This structure allowed the family to more easily access a different part of the estate and engage in outdoor activities. Stan Hywet has multiple additional examples of the use of stone walks, walls, railings, and stairs to allow people closer access to nature, rather than separate them from it. Like the Glendale Steps, landscape structures at Stan Hywet were constructed of stone quarried near the site, further linking the manmade structures to their natural surroundings. Other examples of Manning’s work reveal his frequent use of plantings interspersed with walkways and stairs to bring nature and the built environment together.

Other cities began including parks and park systems in their town plans as a way to provide recreational opportunities to residents. In Akron, city planner John Nolen wrote about preserving the natural beauty of the Gorge, Cuyahoga River valley, and Summit Lake as well as creating public parks. Nolen advocated for the creation of a park system with parks ranging in size from squares and triangles to parkways. In 1921, the Akron Metropolitan Park District was established

²⁸ Marcus Whiffen and Frederick Koeper, *American Architecture*, v. 2, 227.

²⁹ Ibid, 231

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under the guidance of Frank A Seiberling; it later became known as the Summit Metro Parks. Four years later in 1925, Joseph Courtney, a local farmer, donated the first tract of land. Seiberling followed in donating approximately 500 acres of land between Merriman Road to

Ghent Road. It later became the Sand Run Parkway.³⁰ The Summit Metro Park includes 20 parks located throughout the City of Akron; Goodyear Heights designed by landscape architect Warren Henry Manning includes one of the parks. Manning's influence on Akron parks extended well beyond his personal involvement in local projects. Manning's employee Harold S. Wagner accompanied him to Akron in 1917 to assist with the design of Fairlawn Heights. Wagner stayed in Akron, became the superintendent of municipal parks, and established the metropolitan parks district in 1926, now Summit Metro Parks. He served as the secretary/director of parks until 1958 and was instrumental in the development of the park system.³¹

Comparable Properties and Conclusions

A search of the Ohio Historic Preservation Office's National Register database indicates that there are no listed properties in Summit County classified as a Landscape: Park. Three listed properties are classified under Landscape Architecture: Glendale Cemetery in Akron, Stan Hywet-Frank A. Seiberling House in Akron, and the Virginia Kendall State Park Historic District in Peninsula. Landscape architect Warren H. Manning designed the formal gardens at Stan Hywet. Manning lined the walking paths with trees, flowers, and other plants; his design also included a small amphitheater, vistas, and stone pavilions. Properties comparable to the Glendale Steps appear to be underrepresented under Landscape in Summit County National Register listings.

A second search revealed no properties listed on the National Register of Historic Places for significance in Politics/Government or specifically New Deal era in Akron. Comparable Works Progress Administration projects in Akron include the Chestnut Ridge Park Amphitheater (OHI No. SUM-354-16) and the Waters Park Amphitheater. The design and materials used in the Glendale Steps are similar to the Chestnut Ridge Park Amphitheater. This amphitheater was constructed by the Works Progress Administration between 1935 and 1936 and features a single stairway leading to a large, curved sandstone wall where the path splits to either side. From each side, a second set of stairs lead to the stage. Chestnut Ridge Park is located near East Avenue in Akron, Ohio. The following year, in 1937, the Works Progress Administration constructed a stone amphitheater at Waters Park in the North Hill neighborhood. This amphitheater was much smaller and lacked the curved sandstone wall found in both Chestnut Ridge Park Amphitheater and the Glendale Steps.

A review of Warren Henry Manning's digitized papers at The Iowa State University Special Collections and University Archives revealed his use of walkways lined with plants, large

³⁰ "A Century of Memories: Summit Metro Parks Through the Ages" Summit Metro Parks

³¹ "We Wish You a Happy Birthday: Harold S. Wagner," *Akron Beacon Journal*, 17 Dec 1940, p 8.

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planting beds, and staircases. Although he frequently used natural stone walls, walkways, stairs, pavilions, and other structures as components in his designs, large-scale formal elements like the Glendale Steps are uncommon in Manning's work. When formal elements were part of a design, Manning often tempered them with more naturalistic plantings and rustic materials. A 1905

drawing for the Mill Pond Plantation in Thomasville, Georgia, includes formal gardens with walking paths and large flower beds surrounding a basin.³² In 1925, Warren Manning sketched a wall fountain and staircase for the John Gates William Estate in Saint Louis County, Missouri. The drawings show a small, curved staircase flanked by stone walls leading to a wall fountain with an arched opening.³³ Within the context of Manning's work, the Glendale Steps stand out as a distinct design solution for this particular site and function.

Conclusion

The Glendale Steps are significant under Criterion A for their association with Politics & Government: New Deal. In 1936-1937, the Glendale Steps were constructed by the Works Progress Administration, a New Deal program designed to employ unemployed workers listed on work relief rolls. During the Great Depression, the City of Akron submitted an application for park improvements to the Works Progress Administration. A portion of the funding received from this New Deal program was used to construct the Glendale Steps, a project that had been planned prior to the Depression. The Glendale Steps are also significant under Criterion C as a local example of the Romanesque Revival style park structure. Landscape architect and environmental planner Warren Henry Manning originally designed the steps in the Romanesque Revival style. The structure exhibits characteristic features of the Romanesque Revival style, including massive rusticated stone walls and arched openings. Landscape architect Manning specialized in designing parks in industrial areas like Akron and examined the site's topography, views, and vegetation. The Glendale Steps realized Manning's original design and is a significant example of public park landscape architecture.

³² "Site plan, showing basin and surrounding paths in the formal garden (602-60)" Warren Henry Manning Papers. Iowa State University, Special Collections and University Archives. 7 January 1905. Accessed 23 March 2023. https://digitalcollections.lib.iastate.edu/islandora/object/isu%3AManningWarren_602-60

³³ "Two Sketches of wall, fountain, and stairway for John Gates Williams Estate, Saint Louis County, Missouri, 1925." Warren Henry Manning Papers. Iowa State University. Special Collections and University Archives. 12 December 1925. Accessed 23 March 2023. https://digitalcollections.lib.iastate.edu/islandora/object/isu%3AManningWarren_7696

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9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

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Congress, <www.loc.gov/item/47032199/>.

Warren Henry Manning Papers. Iowa State University, Special Collections & University
Archives. <https://n2t.net/ark:/87292/w92804z4t>

[Whiffen, Marcus and Frederick Koeper. *American Architecture, Vols. 1 and 2*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 1981.](#)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: University of Akron, Progress Through Preservation

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

Glendale Steps
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10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 0.78

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1. Latitude: 41.085789 Longitude: -81.523158

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The boundary includes the portions of the South Walnut Street right-of-way and Tax Parcels 6717440 and 6716585 that contain the Glendale Steps. Tax Parcels 6717440 and 6716585 are steep, primarily wooded lots owned by the City of Akron; the wooded portions of these lots that do not contain the Glendale Steps were excluded. The boundary also excludes any adjacent private land.

The boundary begins at the southwest corner of Tax Parcel 6830518 and proceeds northeast along the parcel boundary a distance of 160 feet, thence across South Walnut Street to the property boundary of Tax Parcel 6748600, thence southwest along the South Walnut Street right-of-way boundary a distance of 157 feet to the southeast corner of Tax Parcel 6717439, thence northwest along the parcel boundary a distance of 50 feet, thence to the southeast corner of Tax Parcel 6717440, thence east 167.6 feet along the northern right-of-way limit of Glendale Avenue, thence north-northeast back to a point on the southern boundary of Tax Parcel 6830518, then 60 feet back to the point of beginning. See Boundary and Photo Key map.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary was selected to encompass the Glendale Steps structure and the brick cul-de-sac at the south end of South Walnut Street. The boundary contains the design elements, structure, and landscaping related to the steps, as well as the access point and connection to South Walnut Street. Tax parcels 6717440 and 6716585 are steep, primarily wood lots owned by the City of Akron; the wooded portions of these lots outside of the Glendale Steps were excluded. The boundary also excludes any adjacent private land.

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11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Sarah Elswick, Architectural Historian and Courtney Zimmerman, Architectural Historian
organization: Aurora Research Associates, L.L.C.
street & number: 1436 Graham Road
city or town: Silver Lake state: Ohio zip code: 44224
e-mail sarah@aurora-llc.com; courtney@aurora-llc.com
telephone: 304-685-7410
date: January 2023

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A USGS map or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: Glendale Steps

City or Vicinity: Akron

County: Summit

State: Ohio

Photographer: Courtney Zimmerman

Glendale Steps

Name of Property

Summit County, OH

County and State

Date Photographed: September 5, 2022

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

Photo 1: Overall view, looking north

Photo 2: Level 2a landing, looking east

Photo 3: Level 2b landing and west staircase, looking northwest

Photo 4: Level 2b central structure and east staircase, looking northeast

Photo 5: Level 2a landing looking south towards bottom of steps

Photo 6: Level 3 patio and stairs leading to Level 4, looking north

Photo 7: Level 4 landing and west curved staircase, looking northwest

Photo 8: Level 4 landing and east curved staircase, looking south from Level 5

Photo 9: Level 4 curved retaining walls, looking west

Photo 10: Level 5, South Walnut Street cul-de-sac, looking southwest.

Photo 11: Historic Photo, Akon Beacon Journal, ca. 1991.

Figure 1: 1904 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map

Figure 2. Atlas and Industrial Geography of Summit County, 1910

Figure 3. Excerpt, "Glendale Steps Nearly Finished," *Akron Beacon Journal*

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for nominations to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.). We may not conduct or sponsor and you are not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for each response using this form is estimated to be between the Tier 1 and Tier 4 levels with the estimate of the time for each tier as follows:

Tier 1 – 60-100 hours
Tier 2 – 120 hours
Tier 3 – 230 hours
Tier 4 – 280 hours

The above estimates include time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and preparing and transmitting nominations. Send comments regarding these estimates or any other aspect of the requirement(s) to the Service Information Collection Clearance Officer, National Park Service, 1201 Oakridge Drive Fort Collins, CO 80525.

Glendale Steps
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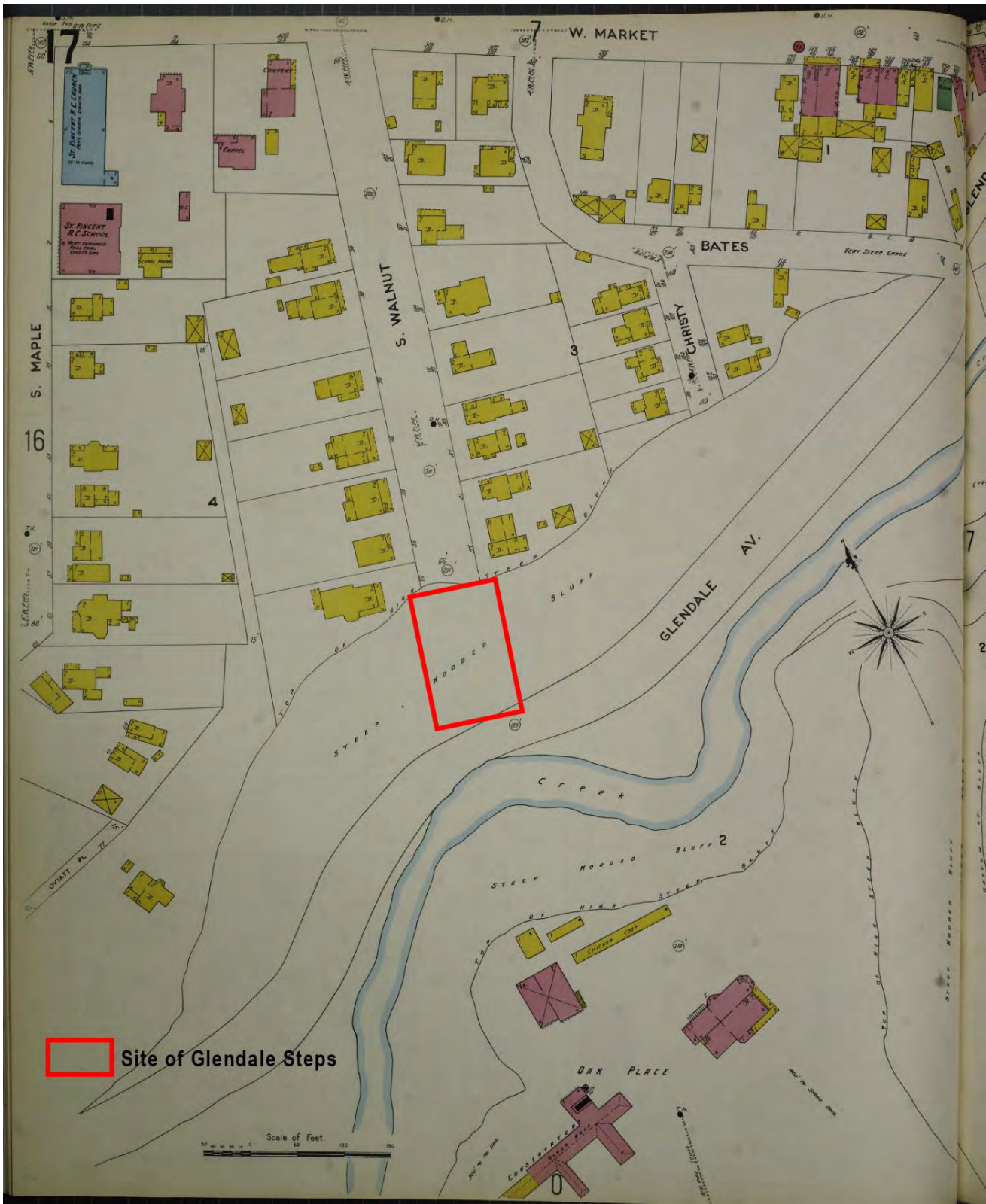


Figure 1. 1904 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map (Library of Congress)

Glendale Steps
Name of Property

Summit County, Ohio
County and State



Figure 2. Atlas and Industrial Geography of Summit County, 1910 (SummitMemory.org)

Glendale Steps

Name of Property

Summit County, Ohio

County and State

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 21, 1937 AKRON BEA

GLENDALE STEPS NEARLY FINISHED

Cost Of WPA 'Monument' Project Undisclosed; Task Started In July, 1936

The works progress administration, employer of nearly 6,000 Summit county residents, is leaving Akron a monument to the program—that is, if the rambling stone steps from Walnut st. down to Glendale av. are ever finished.

A lot of people can't understand just how the project will be of much benefit to the city, although those residents on top of the hill may value it as a short cut down to the lower level—if they feel like braving the steep descent.

The project was started early in July, 1936, as part of a park program. Workmen still are busy there, but Fred L. Roose, WPA director for this district, believes the work will be finished in a few weeks.

Cost Is Undisclosed

No one seems to know just how much the beautification project has cost to date. WPA officials explain the cost is figured as part of a larger park project which includes several different undertakings.

They explain the time taken on the steps by citing four factors:

- 1—Plans were drawn by the city park board after several garden clubs had advanced the project for inclusion in WPA activities. But WPA engineers felt revision of the plans was necessary to provide for better foundation and drainage on the hill.
- 2—All of the stone that has gone into the steps was hewn from rock at the side of a proposed future reservoir for the city off E. Tallmadge av. and experienced

'Short Cut' Project Pretty, But Steep



The unfinished works progress administration project on Glendale av., at the end of Walnut st., is a decorative program, as the photo here shows.

But the steps are pretty steep, residents of the neighborhood who have tried them say. The project will be completed soon, WPA officials report. It is intended to serve a two-fold purpose, as a short cut down from the hill to the lower level and as an artistic work of stone to beautify the valley.

Figure 3. Excerpt, "Glendale Steps Nearly Finished," *Akron Beacon Journal*, 21 October 1937, p 35. (Newspapers.com)

Glendale Steps National Register Nomination

Akron, Summit County, Ohio

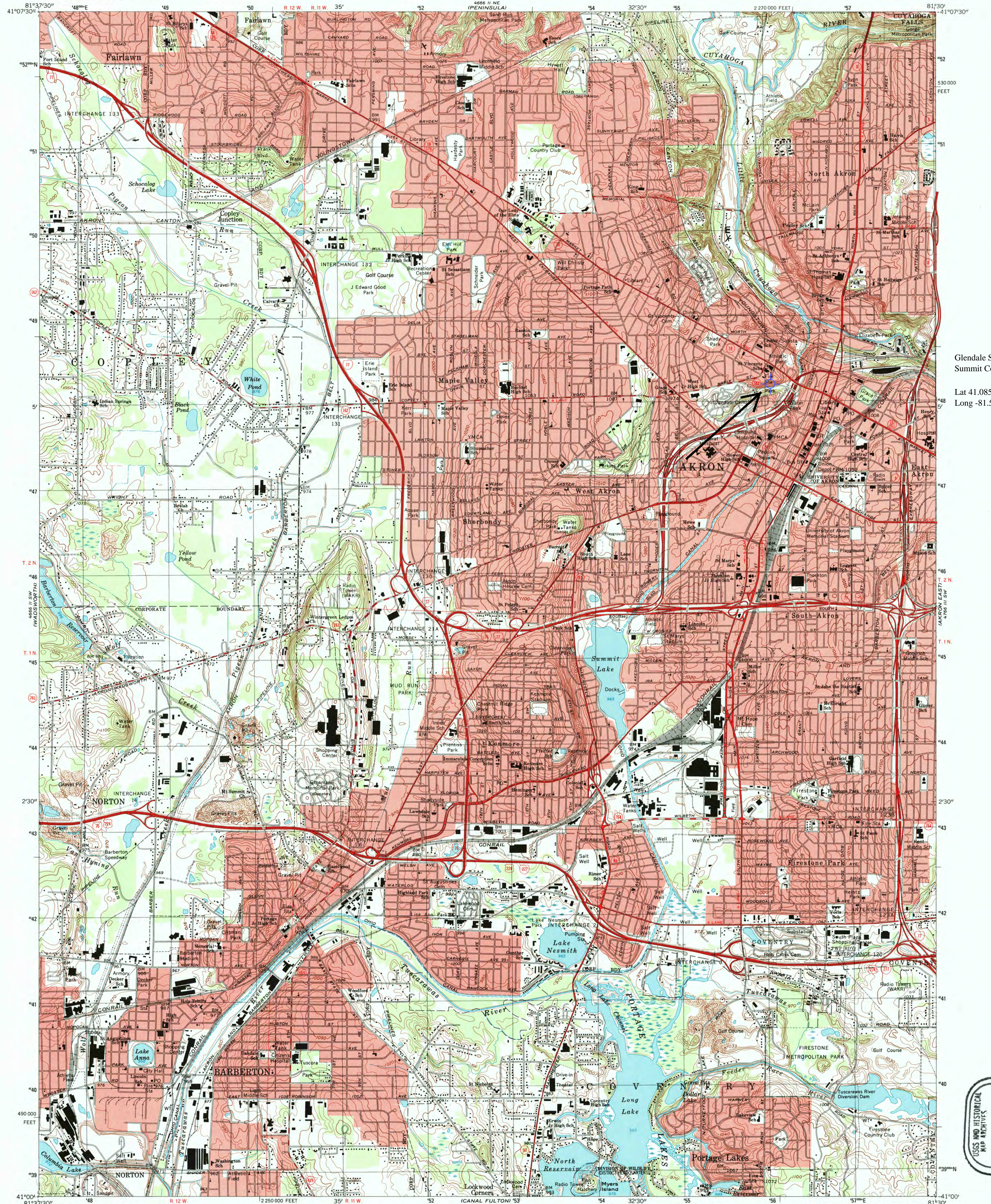
6 National Register Boundary and Photo Key
January 2023



Glendale Steps National Register Nomination

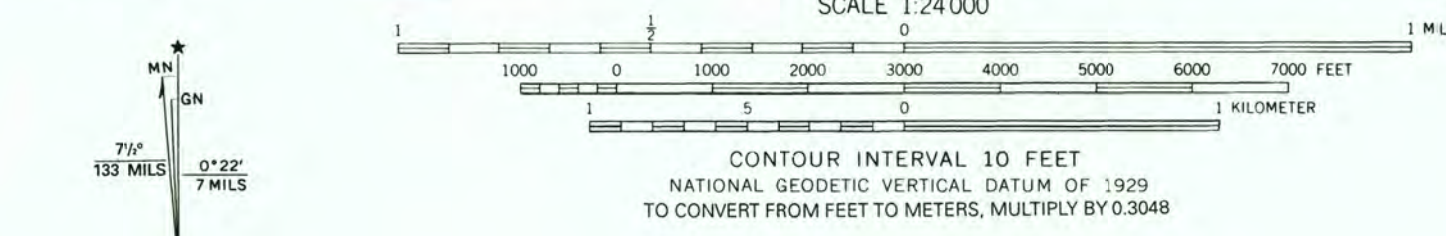
Vicinity Map
Summit County, Ohio
April 2023





Glendale Steps, Akron,
Summit Co, Ohio
Lat 41.085789
Long -81.523158

Produced by the United States Geological Survey
Topography compiled 1957. Planimetry derived from imagery taken 1988. Photoinspected using imagery dated 1994; no major culture or drainage changes observed. Survey control current as of 1967
Boundaries, other than corporate, revised 1997
North American Datum of 1927 (NAD 27). Projection and 10 000-foot ticks: Ohio coordinate system, north zone (Lambert conformal conic)
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid, zone 17
North American Datum of 1983 (NAD 83) is shown by dashed corner ticks. The values of the shift between NAD 27 and NAD 83 for 7.5-minute intersections are obtainable from National Geodetic Survey NADCON software
Entire area lies within the Connecticut Western Reserve. Land lines established by private subdivision of the Connecticut Western Reserve
There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of the National or State reservations shown on this map



ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Primary highway, all weather, hard surface
Secondary highway, all weather, hard surface
Light-duty road, all weather, improved surface
Unimproved road, fair or dry weather
Interstate Route U.S. Route State Route



USGS AND HISTORICAL
MAP ARCHIVES
MAR 3 1998
REC'D FILE COPY

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, P.O. BOX 25286, DENVER, COLORADO 80225
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

AKRON WEST, OHIO

1994

DMA 4666 II SE - SERIES V852

ISBN 0-607-87326-4
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THIS
PARK
CLOSES
AT 10:00 P.M.







JUSTICE
FOR
JAYLAND













UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action:

Property Name:

Multiple Name:

State & County:

Date Received: 7/6/2023 Date of Pending List: 7/21/2023 Date of 16th Day: 8/7/2023 Date of 45th Day: 8/21/2023 Date of Weekly List:

Reference number:

Nominator:

Reason For Review:

- | | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal | <input type="checkbox"/> PDIL | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Text/Data Issue |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SHPO Request | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Photo |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Waiver | <input type="checkbox"/> National | <input type="checkbox"/> Map/Boundary |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Resubmission | <input type="checkbox"/> Mobile Resource | <input type="checkbox"/> Period |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other | <input type="checkbox"/> TCP | <input type="checkbox"/> Less than 50 years |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> CLG | |

Accept Return Reject 8/21/2023 Date

Abstract/Summary Comments:

Recommendation/ Criteria:

Reviewer Lisa Deline Discipline Historian

Telephone (202)354-2239

Date _____

DOCUMENTATION: see attached comments : No see attached SLR : No

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.



July 6, 2023

Joy Beasley, Keeper, National Register of Historic Places
National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places
1849 C Street, NW, Mail Stop 7228
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Ms. Beasley:

Enclosed please find one National Register nomination for Ohio. All appropriate notification procedures have been followed for the new nomination submission.

NOMINATION
Glendale Steps

COUNTY
Summit

The enclosed PDFs contain the true and correct copy of the information to the National Register of Historic Places nomination for the Glendale Steps.

The submission includes: 1 PDF of nomination, supplemental materials, and USGS map; 1 PDF correspondence including Transmittal letter and letter of support, and zip folder of current TIFF images.

If you have questions or comments about these documents, please contact Barbara Powers, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer/Department Head for Inventory & Registration in the Ohio State Historic Preservation Office at bpowers@ohiohistory.org.

Sincerely,

For --
Mary Beth Hirsch
Interim Director
State Historic Preservation Office, Ohio History Connection

Enclosures

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
NPS TRANSMITTAL CHECK LIST

OHIO HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE
800 E. 17th Avenue
Columbus, OH 43211
(614)-298-2000

The following materials are submitted on July 6, 2023
For nomination of the Glendale Steps, Summit County, OH to the National Register of
Historic Places:

- Original National Register of Historic Places nomination form
 Paper PDF
- Multiple Property Nomination Cover Document
 Paper PDF
- Multiple Property Nomination form
 Paper PDF
- Photographs
 Prints TIFFs/JPEGs PDF (current images)
- Zip folder with electronic images
- Original USGS map(s)
 Paper Digital PDF
- Sketch map(s)/Photograph view map(s)/Floor plan(s)
 Paper PDF
- Piece(s) of correspondence = National Register Transmittal Letter
 Paper PDF
- Other Letter of support _____

COMMENTS:

- _____ Please provide a substantive review of this nomination
- _____ This property has been certified under 36 CFR 67
- _____ The enclosed owner objection(s) do _____ do not _____
Constitute a majority of property owners
- _____ Other: _____



Ohio Senate
Senate Building
1 Capitol Square
Columbus, Ohio 43215
(614) 466-7041

Dr. Vernon Sykes
Ohio State Senator
28th Senate District

June 15, 2023

Re: Support for Consideration of the Glendale Steps Nomination

Abby Marshall
Survey & National Register Manager
Ohio History Connection
800 E. 17th Ave.
Columbus, OH 43211

Dear Ms. Marshall,

I am writing to express my support for the nomination of the Glendale Steps in Akron to the National Register of Historic Places. These steps are an important part of not just the Akron's history and American history.

Originally constructed as a Works Progress Administration project in the mid-1930s, the construction of the Glendale Steps allowed Akron workers to weather the Great Depression. As automotive sales plummeted and local rubber factories laid off their workers, this project provided a lifeline for Akron. Not only did this project connect neighborhoods, but it also connected the community to their government. These stairs stand as a monument to the resiliency of the people of Akron and to good government.

Despite years of disuse, we have not allowed this important landmark to be forgotten. Recognizing its prominence in our history, the community has previously banded together to clear debris and vegetation and restore the steps to their former glory. In 2006, the state also acknowledged the importance of this site with an Ohio Historical Marker. I respectfully encourage the Ohio Historic Site Preservation Advisory Board to give the Glendale Steps full and fair consideration for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Vernon Sykes", written over a light blue rectangular background.

Senator Vernon Sykes
Ohio Senate District 28