

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

### 1. Name of Property

historic name The Cantol Wax Company Building  
other names/site number Oakes Manufacturing Company Building; Wylie's Furniture Warehouse; 105-055-80043

### 2. Location

street & number 211 North Washington Street N/A not for publication  
city, town Bloomington N/A vicinity  
state Indiana code IN county Monroe code 105 zip code 47408

### 3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	_____ buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	_____	_____ sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	_____	_____ structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>1</u>	_____ objects
			_____ Total

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register N/A

### 4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.

[Signature] 4-9-90  
Signature of certifying official Date  
Indiana Department of Natural Resources  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting or other official Date  
\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

### 5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register.  
 See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the National Register.  See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register.

removed from the National Register.

other, (explain:)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

**6. Function or Use**

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

INDUSTRY/manufacturing  
facility

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

VACANT

**7. Description**Architectural Classification  
(enter categories from instructions)

CLASSICAL REVIVAL

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation LIMESTONE

walls TERRA COTTA

CERAMIC TILE

roof ASPHALT

other

**Describe present and historic physical appearance.**

The Cantol Wax Company Building, originally built for the Oakes Manufacturing Company, is a small yet fanciful industrial building located one block from the courthouse square in Bloomington, Indiana. When built circa 1905, the original structure was a nearly square (30 feet x 39 feet) freestanding building. Sometime before 1907, an addition was built onto the east or front facade making the building rectangular in plan (30 feet x 77 feet). A one story brick commercial structure was added onto the entire length of the south facade in the late 1940's. The north facade of the building adjoins an alley, the west or rear facade is approximately one foot from a structure built circa 1960 and a parking lot and the east or main facade fronts on North Washington Street.

The easternmost or front portion of the historic building is three and one half stories in height and has two bays on the east or main facade and four bays along the north and south facades. The westernmost or rear portion of the historic building is two and one half stories in height with four bays along the north and south facades. The building is a load bearing structure with a large, cut, rubble face limestone foundation, colored, vermiculated-texture, terra cotta block walls, wood frame floors and interior support columns and a built-up, asphalt roof.

The east or main facade of the historic building is divided into two bays. The raised basement has two equally sized window openings in the southernmost bay and a window opening of the same size and a wider door opening in the northernmost bay. All four openings are currently boarded up, the window openings with wood and the door opening with concrete block. The first floor southernmost bay has one double hung, four over one, wood frame window to the south and a wood paneled door (one panel above and three panels below) with a transom above to the north. The first floor northernmost bay has two double hung, four over one, wood frame windows identical to the window in the southernmost bay. The second floor has two double hung, four over four, wood frame windows, the same size as the windows on the first floor, in each of its two bays. The third floor has two four paned, wood frame windows, hinged above in each of its two bays. All the window and door lintels, window sills and door

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

The Cantol Wax Company Building

Section number 7 Page 1

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sills are of uniform heights within but differ between the two sections of the historic building. All lintels and sills on the east or main facade are cut, rubble face limestone.

The north or alley facade of the easternmost portion of the historic building has one window opening in the easternmost bay of the raised basement, which is currently boarded up with wood. The first floor has a double hung, four over one, wood frame window (same size as first and second floor windows on the main facade) in three of the four bays. The third bay counting over from east to west has a double fold door opening currently boarded up with wood. The second floor has a double hung, four over four, wood frame window in each of its four bays (same size as first and second floor windows on the main facade). The third floor has a four paned, wood frame window, hinged above in each of its four bays (same size as third floor windows on the main facade). All window lintels and sills on the first and second floors and the sill of the window in the easternmost bay of the third floor are of the same vermiculated-texture, terra cotta block as the main facade wall. The door lintel is cut rubble face limestone. The lintels and remaining sills of the third floor windows are of a smooth faced, colored terra cotta block.

The north or alley facade of the westernmost portion of the historic building has one window opening in its easternmost bay of the raised basement, which has a rough faced limestone lintel and is currently boarded up with concrete block. The first floor has a double hung, six over six, wood frame window in the first and second bays counting from east to west, a boarded up window opening of the same size in the third bay and a large wood stockade door in the fourth or westernmost bay. The second floor has a double hung, six over six, wood frame window in the first, second and third bays and a boarded up window opening in the fourth or westernmost bay, all of the same size as the first floor window openings. All of the window sills on the first and second floors are molded wood. The first floor window lintels are of a smooth faced, flesh colored terra cotta block. The door lintel is of a material covered with sheet metal. The second floor window lintels are of a rough faced, flesh colored terra cotta block.

The south facade of the historic building is configured similarly to the north facade with most of the window units boarded up from within and/or from the outside. The upper two floors of the easternmost portion and the uppermost floor of the westernmost portion of the historic building are visible from Sixth Street, one half block to the south.

The most decorative feature of this small manufacturing facility is the pink hued, vermiculated-texture terra cotta block walls laid in running bond. The entire east or main facade wall is composed of these colored, textured blocks with a matte finish, except for the limestone lintels, sills,



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

The Cantol Wax Company Building

Section number 7 Page 2

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foundation and parapet courses, which are all of unpainted limestone, and the wood door and windows. The parapet extends several feet above the roof across the width of the main facade. It is constructed of the same pink, textured terra cotta block with three simple horizontal courses, one at the very top of rough faced limestone, one at the roof line also of rough faced limestone and one of smooth faced limestone directly below the second. A parapet also extends this same height across the rear facade of the easternmost portion of the historic building and is constructed of the terra cotta block with no limestone courses. There is one red brick chimney at the rear of the south facade of the easternmost portion of the historic building, which is visible only from Sixth Street, one half block to the south. The roof slopes from north to south at approximately one inch per 15 inches.

The walls of the north or alley facade, the south facade and the third floor west facade of the easternmost portion of the historic building are composed of the same pink hued, terra cotta block laid in running bond without the texture. The third floor west facade is currently covered with a layer of concrete stucco.

The walls of the westernmost portion of the historic building are constructed of a light brown, smooth faced ceramic tile block with a glazed finish giving this original portion of the building a much more utilitarian look in contrast to the softer more charming appearance of the historic addition. The interior wall which separates the two historic portions of the building appears to be the former east facade of the original building. It is composed of the same materials and has window units identical to those in the other facades of the westernmost portion of the historical building.

The interior of the historic building has almost no interior finish materials. The interior walls are the back side of the exterior terra cotta blocks, the floors are rough wood flooring, the ceilings are the exposed wood framing of the floor above and there is a single center column line of two wood beam columns on each floor. The easternmost section of the first floor of the historic building has more interior finish materials and appears to have been the office area. There is another layer of wood finish flooring, paneled, fiber board walls and a wood paneled partition separating this space from the rest of the building. There is an interior stairway along the east side of the central dividing wall of the two parts of the historic building and a hand operated freight elevator in the northwest corner of the easternmost portion of the historic building.

Originally there was a small wood porch directly off of the main door on the east facade with a wood stairway leading down to the street level (visible in a 1909 photograph). Some sections of the terra cotta block walls were painted at one time, including the front facade, but the paint is almost

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

The Cantol Wax Company Building

Section number 7 Page 3

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completely gone at this time. The northwest corner of the building has suffered a fair amount deterioration due to water damage from the roof, however this damage does not detract significantly from the building's integrity.

The Cantol Wax Company building stands a full story higher than the other buildings on this block of North Washington Street. Its height, its unique pink hue and stately, classical revival massing qualify the building as the most distinctive structure on this block.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

The Cantol Wax Company Building  
Section number 8 Page 1

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Bloomington listed in The Bloomington Business Woman, May 1925, and in city directories during this time period included:

The Nurre Mirror Plate Company, which produced mirror, plate, automotive and ornamental glass and had four other branches in the midwest; The Bloomington Milling Company, a flour, meal, feed and seed mill; The Field Glove Company, which manufactured cloth gloves and mittens and shipped its products across the country; The Johnson Creamery Company, which produced butter, ice cream, milk and ice and underwent a period of expansion and consolidation between 1912 and 1924; The Indianapolis Basket Company; The Harry G. Harris sheet metal works; The Coca-Cola Bottling Works; Bloomington Brick and Tile Company; Bloomington Boiler Works; three bakeries; six blacksmiths; a bookbindery; two builders; two cigar manufacturers; two printers; another feed mill; eleven stone companies; and several commercial laundries.

Structures associated with historic industrial uses in Bloomington which were identified in the Indiana Historic Sites and Structures Inventory: City of Bloomington, Interim Report include a portion of the Shower Brothers Furniture Company building (1909-1924; 80001-153-064; rated "outstanding") at North Morton and Ninth Streets, the Coca-Cola Bottling Company building (c. 1930; 80001-153-113; rated "notable") at 318 South Washington Street, the Bloomington Wholesale Foods Warehouse (1920; 80001-153-068; rated "contributing") at 300 West Seventh Street and the Cantol Wax Company Building (c. 1905; 80001-153-043; rated "contributing") at 211 North Washington Street. Despite the ratings of the Interim Report, the Cantol Wax Company Building is the oldest, retains the most architectural integrity and was the only small facility wherein products were manufactured, among these four buildings.

The Cantol Wax Company Building can also be evaluated in the historic context of industrial/commercial architecture in Bloomington in the first part of this century. The Shower Brothers Furniture Company factory building was built of brick in an unassuming functional style with the multi-gable roof shape with skylights typical of turn of the century factory buildings. The Bloomington Wholesale Foods Warehouse was also built of brick in a nondescript functional style. The Coca-Cola Bottling Company building was built of brick and limestone in the art deco style. Among these buildings the Cantol Wax Company Building is unique both in its use of materials and in its architectural style.

Unfortunately, not only do few examples of properties associated with historic industrial uses in Bloomington remain, but little photographic evidence of historic industrial properties in Bloomington are available. The

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

The Cantol Wax Company Building

Section number 8 Page 2

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properties listed above, along with historic commercial buildings in downtown Bloomington, can be examined as an architectural context for the Cantol Wax Company Building. Most historic commercial buildings in downtown Bloomington were built of brick and/or limestone. Many of the brick structures built shortly before the turn of the century, were built in the Italianate style such as, the commercial building at 200 North Walnut Street built in 1892. Among the historic commercial buildings built or substantially remodeled in downtown Bloomington, limestone proliferates as a building material. The earlier examples display elements of classical revival architecture (the Knights of Pythias Building at 114 North Walnut Street, 1907, John Nichols, architect), while the later examples display elements of the more modern art deco and Chicago architecture (the J.C. Penney Building at 115 North College Avenue, 1929 and the Wicks Building at 116 West Sixth Street, new facade c. 1915). The Cantol Wax Company Building is unique in its use of textured, terra cotta block as both a structural and decorative building material within this historic context. The building also attempts, despite its industrial use, to be decorative and employs elements of classical revival architecture, which gives it a historic identity and association with the downtown commercial structures of its day.

The Cantol Wax Company Building is significant for its association with industry in Bloomington between 1920 and 1938, the historic context for which is outlined above. The building was constructed between 1900 and 1907 for the Oakes Manufacturing Company, manufacturers of incubators, incubator supplies and, according to some sources, also washing machines. The building replaced a tin and machine shop on the same site where the owner, Lucian R. Oakes, started the business. A 1909 photograph of the Oakes Manufacturing Company employees in front of the building shows approximately 75 people. The 1916-19 Bloomington city directory listed the Captain J.F.A. Mitchell fish market and poultry at the 211 North Washington Street address with Oakes Storage at 209 North Washington Street. In 1920, the Cantol Wax Company was established in the building and was to become the business most associated with the building.

Harry N. Timolat, who was originally from New York City, started the Cantol Wax Company in 1909 near Bustamente, Mexico where he extracted the juice of the candelilla cactus plant to manufacture furniture polish. He fled to Lajitas, Texas around 1913 after his plant was destroyed during revolutionary revolts led by Venustiano Carranza. He later established his factory in San Antonio, Texas where in 1917 his daughter, Kathleen, met and soon married Paul Vories McNutt of Martinsville and Bloomington, Indiana, who was serving in the army near San Antonio. In 1920, Timolat moved his business to Bloomington at 211 North Washington Street with an arrangement to have the needed cactus shipped. McNutt, who later became the governor of Indiana (1933-1937) and then High Commissioner to the Philippine Islands in 1937,



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

The Cantol Wax Company Building

Section number 8 Page 3

served as treasurer to the Cantol Wax Company and induced friends to invest in the company. However, according to a 1922 tax statement, the company was not flourishing, having suffered financially from the expense of the move from Texas. The finances apparently improved enough to sustain the business until Timolat's death in 1937, while his daughter and son-in-law were in the Philippines, and beyond under new ownership until around 1950.

Thomas L. Lemon, who worked for Timolat first as an office boy right out of high school, bought the company after Timolat's death. Lemon, who later served as mayor of Bloomington (1948-1952 and 1956-1962), owned and operated the business from 1937 until the business folded around 1950. According to Lemon's widow, Bettie Silverstein, the company's two main products during his tenure were "belt pressing", used to soften leather belts in factory machinery and paste wax, used primarily for waxing floors. The principal ingredient for these products changed from the candelilla from cactus of Timolat's day to carnauba, a derivative from the fan-leaved palm of Brazil of the same name. Belknap Hardware of Louisville, Kentucky was the biggest customer, serving as a wholesaler for the Cantol products. Silverstein also told of around-the-clock shifts during World War II when Lemon's high priority products, used in war-related factories, kept him (and most likely his employees) out of wartime military service. A change in factory machinery along with competition from bigger companies, such as the Johnson Wax Company, were undoubtedly factors in the company's disappearance by 1952.

The presence of a business that folded by 1952 and only experienced great success during World War II is probably the reason the Cantol Wax Company Building survives in such a pristine state. The building tangibly reflects its industrial history in its simplicity, lack of adornment and virtually unchanged state. The one story brick addition, added by Lemon in the 1940's to the south attaches onto the historic structure with a minimum of physical intervention. The original exterior south wall of the historic structure is visible inside the addition and serves as the north wall to the addition. Other changes to the historic structure include boarded up ground floor windows and doors, the removal of sinks, evident along the south wall on the second floor, later layers of roofing compound on the roof and stuccoing of the exposed exterior west wall of the third floor of the easternmost portion of the historic structure. Observation of both the remaining exposed exterior and the interior affords the observer a clear identification of the building's association with and contribution to industry in the history of Bloomington.

The Cantol Wax Company Building is also significant because it embodies the distinctive characteristics of industrial/commercial architecture in Bloomington in the 1900's, the historic context for which is also discussed



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

The Cantol Wax Company Building

Section number 8 Page 4

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above. The use of textured, pink, terra cotta block as a primary building material is a departure from its predominantly brick counterparts and remained unique among subsequent, predominantly limestone, counterparts. The terra cotta block was undoubtedly a cheaper material that achieved a level of beauty and stylishness through the use of texture and color. Perhaps the textured blocks were meant to imitate stone from a distance with the color adding a touch of exoticism. This feature remains virtually unchanged except for some intermittent spalling, a gross need for proper repointing and the obfuscation of a mere 15% of the exterior by the 1940's addition. The dominant, textured, pink, terra cotta blocks, accented with limestone lintels, parapet courses and foundation, identify the structure as a significant contribution to the body of historic industrial/commercial Bloomington architecture which survives. This is apparent both by its relative effort to present an aesthetically pleasing facade and for its uniqueness in accomplishing that effort.

The building's architectural significance can also be evaluated by the architectural style it represents. The style of the building can best be expressed as classical revival. The facade is orderly and symmetrical, except for the placement of the doors. The east or main facade of the structure has a three part composition of a solid foundation of large limestone units, which houses the basement, a central or main section, with the upper three floors and a parapet. The central portion is adorned by the concrete blocks, detailed above, the evenly spaced and aligned window and door openings and the limestone lintels and sills. The parapet is composed of the terra cotta blocks and three courses of limestone; the whole unit sedately completes the composition. The north and south or secondary facades are similarly composed without a parapet, but are graced with "quoins" of the textured blocks that contrast with smooth blocks composing the remainder of the secondary facades. These classical revival elements are retained virtually intact and with minimum intervention from the 1940's addition. These elements identify the building as a graceful and logical addition to the body of historic industrial/commercial Bloomington architecture which survives today.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

The Cantol Wax Company Building

Section number   9   Page   1  

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Hall, Forest M. "Pop. Historic Treasures: True Tales and Deeds with Interesting Data in the Life of Bloomington, Indiana University and Monroe County - Written in Simple Language About Real People, with Other Important Things and Illustrations. Bloomington: Forest M. "Pop" Hall, 1922.

Indiana Historic Sites and Structures Inventory: City of Bloomington, Interim Report. City of Bloomington, Indiana, 1986.

National's Bloomington Indiana Directory. 1940.

Oakes, Minnie Belle, obituary. The World Telephone. August 23, 1948.

Orelup, Margaret. Summary of Preliminary Research on Johnson's Creamery. From an Interview with Dick Huffman, partial owner of Johnson's Creamery, Bloomington, Indiana, February 2, 1987.

Page's Bloomington Indiana City Directory. 1925-26.

Polk's Bloomington City Directory. 1945-60, 1962-65.

Post, Margaret Moore. First Ladies of Indiana and the Governors 1816-1984. Indianapolis: Pierson Printing Company, 1984.

Residence and Business Directory of Bloomington, Indiana. 1900.

Sanborn Insurance Maps. Bloomington, Indiana. September, 1892; November, 1898; September, 1907; and April, 1927.

Silverstein, Bettie, former officer of The Cantol Wax Company. Telephone Interview. December 9, 1988.

Timolat, H. N., obituary. "H. N. Timolat dies at his home here". Bloomington Daily Telephone. June 21, 1937.

William's Bloomington Indiana City Directory. 1927-28.

**8. Statement of Significance**

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally  statewide  locally

Applicable National Register Criteria  A  B  C  D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)  A  B  C  D  E  F  G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

INDUSTRY

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1920-1939

c.1905

Significant Dates

1920

c.1905

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

UNKNOWN

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Cantol Wax Company Building is significant for its association with industry in Bloomington between 1920 and 1939, because it was the site of the Cantol Wax Company, manufacturers of wax products, from 1920 until around 1950. The building is constructed primarily of a textured, pink, terra cotta block, unusual for industrial/commercial architecture in Bloomington in the first decade of this century and is of a classical revival architectural style, fitting for industrial/commercial architecture in Bloomington in the first decade of this century. The structure survives as a fully intact factory building, a unique icon representative of Bloomington's prosperous days in the 1920's when industries flourished. It combines the practical needs of a manufacturing facility on the interior with an impressive classical revival exterior, which allowed the building to fit gracefully into the architectural vocabulary of its contemporary downtown Bloomington. The Cantol Wax Company Building is a tangible link to Bloomington's industrial past and the corresponding desire to present the mundane needs of industry in an aesthetically pleasing architectural form.

The Cantol Wax Company Building can be evaluated in the historic context of industry in Bloomington between 1920 and 1939. Bloomington in the 1920's supported and was supported by a host of manufacturing concerns. The two most well known and most successful companies were the Shower Brothers Furniture Company and the Seward and Company foundry. A Shower Brothers Company Furniture postcard, postmarked in 1912, touted the company as the "world's largest producer of bedroom and dining room furniture". According to a 1925 publication, the company also had factories in Bloomfield, Indiana and Burlington, Iowa and the Bloomington plant produced 700,000 pieces of furniture annually. The Seward and Company foundry and machine works celebrated its 100th anniversary in September, 1921. In the 1920's the foundry was producing metal products with metal shipped into town on the Monon Railroad line next to the West 8th Street plant. Other industries in

See continuation sheet

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

Abstract of Title, In Lot 232, City of Bloomington, Indiana.  
Blake, I. George. Paul V. McNutt; Portrait of a Hoosier Statesman.  
Indianapolis: Central Publishing Company, Inc., 1966.  
The Bloomington Business Woman. May 1925, Volume 1, Number 1.  
Bloomington City Directory and Monroe County Gazetteer. 1909-1010.  
Caron's Bloomington Indiana City Directory. 1920-24, 1929-39.  
Caron's Directory of the City of Bloomington, Indiana. 1916-19.

See continuation sheet

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 # \_\_\_\_\_

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository:

Monroe County Library

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of property LESS THAN ONE ACRE

UTM References

A 16 540380 4335300  
 Zone Easting Northing  
 C \_\_\_\_\_

B \_\_\_\_\_  
 Zone Easting Northing  
 D \_\_\_\_\_

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property occupies In Lot Number Two Hundred Thirty-two (232) in the City of Bloomington, Indiana, according to the Original Plat thereof, and also, all that part of Washington Street in said City of Bloomington, lying between the East line of said In Lot Number 232 and the West line of the cement sidewalk, as now constructed

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes that portion of the city lot that has historically been associated with the property.

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Cynthia Brubaker, Architectural Conservator  
 organization Portfolio Design Inc. date April 5, 1989  
 street & number 115 North College Avenue, Suite 113 telephone 812/334-2488  
 city or town Bloomington state Indiana zip code 47401



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

The Cantol Wax Company Building  
Section number photo- Page 1  
graphs

## PHOTOGRAPH INFORMATION

The following information is identical for all photographs:

The Cantol Wax Company Building  
Bloomington, Indiana  
Cynthia J. Brubaker  
December 8, 1988

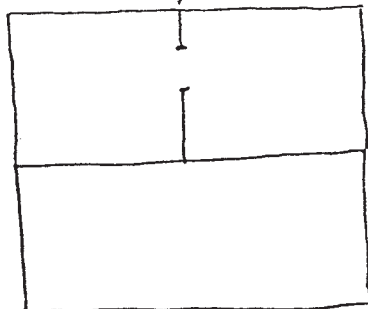
Portfolio Design Inc., 115 N. College Ave., Suite 113, Bloomington,  
Indiana, 47401

## PHOTOGRAPH SKETCH MAP

② →

NORTH

ALLEY



①

③

④

⑤

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

The Cantol Wax Company Building

Section number 10 Page 1

along the West side of said Washington Street, EXCEPTING THEREFROM, a part of In Lot Number 232 in the City of Bloomington, Indiana, bounded and described as follows, to-wit: Beginning at the Southwest corner of said In Lot Number 232, running thence North Forty-four (44) feet, thence East Fourteen (14) feet, thence South Four (4) feet, thence East to the West line of the sidewalk along North Washington Street in said city, thence South along the West line of said sidewalk a distance of Forty (40) feet, thence West to the place of beginning.

