

Political/Social Welfare

Within the context of the broad theme of Political/Social Welfare, this survey identified twenty-seven properties built between 1940 and 1970 relating to several sub-themes. Included were buildings relating to government (7), public safety (4), public social services (4), private social services (2), funerary (3), and fraternal, trade and labor unions (7). These properties built in Dayton, Kettering, Vandalia, and Trotwood spanned the full spectrum of the project time period, ranging in date from 1940 to 1970. They were designed in Colonial Revival, Wrightian, Modern Movements, International, Brutalism, Miesian and New Formalism styles. Architects identified with Political/Social Welfare themed buildings included Eugene W. Betz, Freeman A. Pretzinger, Howard Templin, Roger W. Williams and Wilbur W. Wurst.

Below are examples of the sub-themes associated with political and social welfare.

Government buildings at the local, county, state and federal levels were surveyed in Dayton and its suburbs. They included municipal or agency offices, post offices, and court buildings. The **Trotwood Government Center** (MOT-05469-08) was built in 1970 and has served as the city building since 1973. The larger municipal facility was needed as city government grew in response to suburban expansion.



Trotwood Government Center
3035 Olive Rd., Trotwood

The Dayton Safety Building designed by Freeman A. Pretzinger (1955) is both local government and Public Safety related. Three fire stations were surveyed; two in Dayton and one in Trotwood. Those stations built in Dayton, including **Fire Station #18** (MOT-05198-59), were constructed in the 1950s; the one in Trotwood in 1966. New fire stations were needed as equipment changed and to keep pace with expanding neighborhoods after World War II. The overhead doors and the entrance windows have been replaced; otherwise Fire Station #18 retains its 1950s appearance.



Fire Station #18, 1958
207 S. Smithville Rd., Dayton
(Historic Image 19)

Related to the Public Social theme in Dayton, a 1970 senior citizens center and a public housing project built in 1939-1940 were surveyed. In addition, a 1940 band shell in Dayton and a 1941-42 planned community development in Kettering were built with New Deal federal assistance. Completed in 1969, the Dayton **Senior Citizens Center** (MOT-05302-15) was constructed to provide a permanent, state-of-the-art facility for local senior citizens. The 26,000 square foot building was designed to house several functions, including a clinic, game rooms, art space, meeting rooms, and a library. Designed by architect Richard Donald Levin, the new center also had an outdoor courtyard and an auditorium with a stage.



Senior Citizens Center
105 S. Wilkinson St., Dayton

Private Social theme-related buildings in Dayton include two social service agency buildings built in 1955 and 1963. Funerary-related resources included two funeral homes, and the **Calvary Cemetery Office Building** (MOT-05643-06), built in 1970-71 and designed by Wilbur W. Wurst.



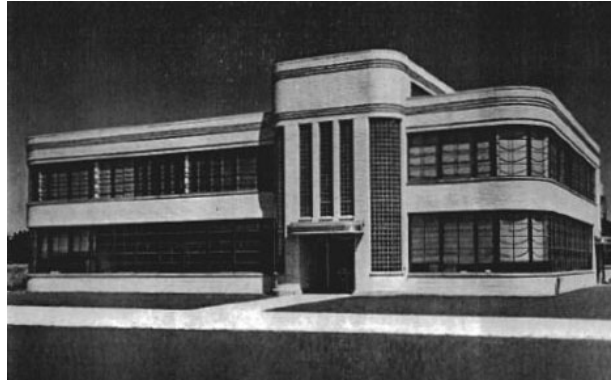
Calvary Cemetery Office Building
1625 Calvary Dr., Dayton

Fraternal, Trade, and Labor Union-related facilities surveyed were built or modified between 1955 and 1967 and served the Shriners (Dayton), the Masons (Kettering, Vandalia), the Catholic Order of Foresters (Dayton), the Electricians Union (Dayton), and the **International Union of Electrical, Radio & Machine Workers (IUE)** (MOT-05648-06) in Kettering, constructed 1965. Because of its many auto-related industries, Dayton has a strong union presence, and union halls were noted throughout the metropolitan area. Now known as the **IUE-CWA**, this building was constructed to serve as the IUE Region 7 headquarters. As of 2004, the IUE-CWA was the largest union in the Miami Valley, with 12,000 members.



International Union of Electrical, Radio & Machine
Workers
3461 Office Park, Kettering

The **Univis Corporation/Univis Lens Company** (MOT-05507-48) headquarters was built in 1941. Univis was involved in a lengthy and violent strike by the United Electrical Workers between May and August of 1948, when Univis employees were joined by thousands of other union members on the picket line. By late July, violence escalated and the police could no longer handle the situation, resulting in Governor Thomas Herbert calling in the National Guard. It was the first time troops had been sent to Dayton as a result of a labor dispute.



Univis Corporation/Univis Lens Company, 1950
401 Leo St., Dayton
(Historic Image 20)