

THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE COLLEGE
The Graduate School
Department of Earth Sciences
Division of Geography

A GEOGRAPHIC ANALYSIS OF THE
MAJOR FUNCTIONS OF CANTON, OHIO

A Thesis
by
Robert Earl Gabler

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E. Willard Miller
E. Willard Miller
Chief, Division of Geography

PREFACE

This thesis was suggested through a close association with Canton during 1948 and 1949 when the author became interested in and began to investigate the unique specialization of the city's major industries. Its final form was influenced by subsequent course work undertaken with the guidance of Dr. E. Willard Miller, Chief of the Division of Geography, The Pennsylvania State College.

This study is a geographic analysis of the major functions of Canton, Ohio. It was undertaken in order to illustrate the interrelationship of the separate functions within Canton, the primary importance of the industrial function and the influence exerted by each of the three functions upon areas outside of the incorporated city limits. A resume of the city's historical development is included to show the major steps in the evolution of the present cultural landscape. The functional distribution of the industrial, commercial and residential functions has been mapped and described in detail. An attempt has been made to disclose the major factors influencing the functional distribution, existing trends and present structure of each function.

Much of the information concerning the three major functions is of a primary nature. The distributional patterns are prepared from actual field observations. Industrial information and separate figures for individual establishments were compiled from a series of personal interviews with company officials. Factual data for the functional development of Canton was accumulated from various historical sources and is mainly secondary source material. Illustrative tables for the commercial and residential chapters are adapted from informa-

tion supplied by the Canton Repository, the Canton Chamber of Commerce, and the Canton Development Corporation and are also of a secondary nature.

I wish to express my sincerest appreciation to Dr. E. Willard Miller, Chief of Division of Geography, The Pennsylvania State College for his careful consideration and constructive criticisms throughout the course of this study.

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