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 for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name  Copley Depot

other names/site number

2. Location

street & number  3772 Copley Road (State Route 162)  N/A  □ not for publication

city or town  Copley  □ vicinity

state  Ohio  code  OH  county  Summit  code  153  zip code  44321

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant □ nationally □ statewide □ locally. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

[Signature]

[Date]

[Deputy Head]

[OHIO Historic Preservation Office -- OH SHPO]

[State of Federal agency and bureau]

In my opinion, the property □ meets □ does not meet the National Register criteria. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

[Signature]

[Date]

[State or Federal agency and bureau]

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the 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]
Copley Depot

Name of Property

Summit County, Ohio

County and State

5. Classification

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)</th>
<th>Category of Property (Check only one box)</th>
<th>Number of Resources within Property (Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>☑ private</td>
<td>☑ building(s)</td>
<td>Contributing 1 Noncontributing 1 buildings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>☐ public-local</td>
<td>☐ district</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>☐ public-State</td>
<td>☐ site</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>☐ public-Federal</td>
<td>☐ structure</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>☐ object</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

6. Function or Use

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)</th>
<th>Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TRANSPORTATION/rail-related</td>
<td>RECREATION AND CULTURE/museum</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Stick/Eastlake

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation concrete block
walls wood
roof asphalt shingle
other wood

Narrative Description
(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)
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.)

Property is:

☐ 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 commemoratory property.

☐ G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance
1891

Significant Dates
1891

Significant Person
(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation
N/A

Architect/Builder
unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance
(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography
(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

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

Name of repository:
10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property: one

UTM References
(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1  
Zone: 117, 414, 50, 80
Easting: 415, 419, 741
Northing: 

3
Zone: 
Easting: 
Northing: 

4

Verbal Boundary Description
(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification
(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Jeff Brown/Historic Preservation Administrator
organization: Stark County Regional Planning Commission
street & number: 201 3rd Street NE
city or town: Canton
state: Ohio
zip code: 44702-1211

Additional Documentation
Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps
A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs
Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items
(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner
(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name: Copley Township Historical Society
street & number: 3737 Copley Road, P.O. Box 4037
city or town: Copley
state: Ohio
zip code: 44321

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications 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. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.
Narrative Description

The Copley Depot is a small, Stick style, combination passenger and freight railroad station built in 1891. Situated next to a cemetery, with open space to the south and west and an area of mixed commercial uses to the north and east, it is about thirty feet south of the former Akron, Canton & Youngstown (AC&Y) Railroad line and one-half mile west of Copley's central square. The depot was moved in 1974 from its original location on the AC&Y one-half mile north of the square to preserve it from demolition by its previous railroad owners.

Copley Depot conforms to a layout common in most small town combination stations. Its rectangular plan measures 16 x 40 feet, with a gabled roof and a centrally situated station agent's office between the passenger waiting room and the freight room. A projecting semi-polygonal agent's bay on the trackside facade contains three double-hung wood windows with plain surrounds (photo 7). The center window has two-over-two panes, while the two side windows are now one-over-one. Most of the other station windows are identical two-over-two double-hung sash, except for a double two-light window high in the freight room gable (photo 5). A four-panel entry door is located on the north side, and matching freight doors on the north and south sides are decorated with diagonal cross trim. Vertical wood siding is enhanced by a narrow wood watertable and applied sawtooth wood ornamentation under the gables and eaves (photos 2, 5). Distinctive stickwork, with braced arches, angled beveled struts, and knee braces with pendant drops, accentuates the extended roof gables and a lower cross gable over the agent's bay (photos 5, 7). Wide projecting eaves are supported by exposed rafters with carved ends (photo 9).

Interior features of the Copley Depot are also largely intact. Wood floors, tongue and groove ceilings and walls, wainscoting rails, simple crown moldings, and four-panel doors are original (photos 13, 16). A built-in desk, semaphore controls, and a large cupboard are preserved in the agent's office (photos 11, 16). The freight room is three steps up from the agent's office, and retains its original shelving for packages (photos 12, 14). Alterations to the building include the installation of a drop ceiling in the freight room, removal of a half wall separating the waiting room from the agent's, and sealing the trackside freight door shut. Freight platforms and a shed addition off of the freight room were demolished prior to its relocation in 1974, and the brick chimney on the roof ridge has been rebuilt.

Located immediately in front of the agent's bay is a 1924 semaphore which was moved with the station and is considered a contributing structure (photo 6). Also on the property are a circa 1850s outhouse, relocated from the adjacent township cemetery in 1974, and an AC&Y 60-series metal caboose acquired in 1983 (photos 19-20). They have no historical
Narrative Description

relationship to the depot and are therefore considered non-contributing resources, although both are compatible to an early railroad station setting.

The present location of the Copley Depot provides a setting similar to its original site on Sawmill Road (photos 17-18), about an equal distance west from Copley's square as it formerly was to the north. The depot is aligned with the same railroad line, but on the opposite side of the track and about 30 feet back from it. It is still along one of the community's main roads, and adjacent commercial land uses are similar. Relocating the depot was necessary to prevent its demolition by the railroad, as no space was available at its original location to move it back from the tracks and off of the railroad's right-of-way.
Route of the Akron, Canton, & Youngstown Railroad (formerly Pittsburgh, Akron & Western RR; Northern Ohio Ry).
Copley Depot
Summit County, Ohio

Statement of Significance

The Copley Depot is nominated under Criterion C as a distinctive building type, a late nineteenth century, small town combination railroad station. Its Stick style is unusual among Ohio's combination stations, many of which were designed with elements of more common Victorian styles, primarily Gothic Revival and Italianate. Although moved from its original location, the building retains its integrity of architecture and setting, and therefore meets Criteria Consideration B.

Rapid expansion of American railroads following the Civil War fostered the need for a quick, cost effective way to erect depots. Many railroads utilized one or several stock plans that minimized design delays and construction costs, while also creating a consistent image for the company. The volume of traffic in larger cities usually required separate freight and passenger facilities. However, combination depots were particularly favored for smaller towns where freight and passenger services could be merged under one roof, with an agent's office in the middle separating the passenger waiting room from the freight room. With minor modifications in decorative elements such as roof brackets, railroads could customize standard stations at little cost while satisfying local desires for a fancier building. The design of the Copley Depot adheres to the floor plan, one story height, gable roof, and projecting bay that typify combination stations, and it is also notable for the amount of architectural embellishment found in its Stick style detailing.

Copley Depot possesses many of the architectural elements that distinguish the Stick style. Stick designs emphasized external wall treatments and applied decoration as a reflection of the wooden structural character of the building (Gordon 1992). Exposed stickwork of braced arches, beveled struts, and knee braces under deep overhangs and gables on the Copley Depot is a distinctive reflection of the style. Applied sawtooth ornamentation, decorative cross-bracing on the freight doors, and exposed rafters with shaped ends are additional elements that contribute to the depot's architectural design.

The Pittsburgh, Akron & Western (PA&W) Railroad was founded in 1887 and began train operations in the spring of 1891. The line ran 169 miles westward from Akron through Copley, Medina, New London and Greenwich in Huron County, Bluffton, and other small towns, terminating at Delphos in Allen County. In 1895 the PA&W was renamed the Northern Ohio Railway, in 1901 it was leased to the Lake Erie and Western, and in 1920 the line was leased to the Akron, Canton & Youngstown (AC&Y) Railroad. Despite its name, the AC&Y never ran to Canton or Youngstown. Inclusion of the old PA&W line was the key to the AC&Y's development as an important bridge line across northern Ohio. It carried
Statement of Significance

much of Akron's rubber products for interchange to the Detroit auto industry, and remained profitable through most of its history. In 1964 the AC&Y was purchased by the Norfolk & Western Railroad, and some of its former lines are currently operated by the new Wheeling & Lake Erie Railway. Passenger service at the Copley Depot ended in 1951, after which the building saw little or no use until it was moved in 1974 to prevent its demolition.

With the exception of the Akron and Delphos terminal stations, which were put into old houses, all of the nineteen other stations on the Northern Ohio line in 1900 were built as combination stations of similar design, and fourteen of those were erected between 1889 and 1891 (Goltra 1900). Copley's is the only remaining PA&W/AC&Y depot in Summit County, but several stations from the line still survive in other counties. The original New London (Huron County) station, almost identical to the Copley Depot, was destroyed by fire and replaced in 1921 by the relocated Greenwich station. Moved again to a park setting in 1972, that station's roof braces are simpler in design, the gable trim is entirely gone, and the exterior is covered with asbestos siding. Bluffton station (Hancock County) has lost most of its architectural detailing. The New Washington station (Crawford County) stands on its original location but is deteriorated. Plymouth's station (Huron County) was moved to the grounds of the Plymouth Locomotive works, and the Jenera station (Hancock County) is a small, nondescript building with no architectural style that is in deteriorated condition.
Bibliography

Anonymous

Anonymous

Ensworth, Clint, Jr.

Goltra, W.F.
1900 Characteristics of the Lake Erie & Western Railroad. Indianapolis, IN: LE&W RR.
(LE&W controlled the Northern Ohio Ry at that time; includes list and dimensions of all stations on the line).

Gordon, Stephen C.
1992 How to Complete the Ohio Historic Inventory. Columbus: Ohio Historic Preservation Office.

Grant, H. Roger, and Charles W. Bohi

Grant, H. Roger, and William D. Edson

Lane, Samuel A.
1892 Fifty Years and Over of Akron and Summit County. Akron, OH: The Beacon Job Department.

Wiley, Mel, and Robert Smelser
n.d. "AC&Y is a misnomer: Sixty-year history of railroad." Photo story, Landmark files, book 9, p.34, Medina County Public Library.
Verbal Boundary Description

Situated on the south side of State Route 162, between State Route 21 and the central square of Copley, Copley Depot sits on 2.7 acres of land leased for 99 years from Copley Township. The site is part of Township Lot 29, as recorded in Plat Book 48, pp. 21-24. The depot is located at the north end of this parcel, so the boundary is drawn to encompass only the northern one-third portion of the parcel.

Boundary Justification

Boundary includes approximately one acre of the legally recorded parcel leased to the Copley Historical Society as a setting for the Copley Depot. As this is not the historic setting for the depot, this boundary encompasses only the immediate setting of the building and not the entire 2.7 acre parcel.
The following information is the same for all photographs:

Name: Copley Depot
Address: 3772 Copley Road, Copley, Summit County, Ohio 44321

For photographs 1-2, 5-15, 17-21
Photographer: Suzanne Wasick
Negative location: 1888 Jacoby Road, Copley, OH 44321-2236
Date of photograph: March 30, 2000

For photographs 3-4, 16
Photographer: Jeff Brown
Negative location: Ohio Historic Preservation Office, Columbus, OH
Date of photograph: September 1997 (views have not changed since date of photo)

Description of Views
1. Facade and east elevation, looking southwest.
2. Rear elevation, looking north.
3. Facade and east side, looking southwest.
4. West and south elevations, looking northeast.
5. Stick detailing, freight room gable.
6. Agent's bay and semaphore.
7. Facade, looking southeast.
8. Passenger end of depot, looking southwest.
9. Detail of Stick trim and exposed rafters, looking north.
10. Interior: wall bench in passenger waiting room.
12. Interior: view from agent's office past original cabinet into the freight room.
13. Interior: agent's office, showing wood floors, walls, and wainscoting rail.
15. Interior: freight room doors.
16. Interior: agent's office; note the wood ceiling, crown moldings, semaphore controls.
17. Copley Depot at its original site on Sawmill Road, looking east.
18. Copley Depot at its original site, looking west.
19. Outhouse moved to the depot grounds from the adjacent cemetery.
20. AC&Y caboose on the depot grounds.
21. View of depot from across Copley Road, looking southwest.
June 11, 2001

Andre Sams
President
Copley Township Historical Society
P.O. Box 4037
Copley, Ohio 44320-1438

Dear President Sams:

Congratulations on the recent listing of your property into the National Register of Historic Places!

The National Park Service, United States Department of the Interior listed the Copley Depot at 3772 Copley Road in Copley, Ohio on May 21, 2001. The nomination was made in connection with a state plan to identify and document prehistoric and historic places in Ohio which qualify for National Register status under provisions of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 as amended.

The Ohio Historic Preservation Office (OHPO) is available to advise you in maintaining the historic character of your property. As you know from previous mailings received from this office, there are no restrictions placed on your property following the National Register listing. However, the OHPO strongly encourages owners of historic properties to consider all options before completing work that could damage the structure or impair its historic integrity. Careful planning can facilitate the sensitive incorporation of contemporary alterations with the historic fabric. The OHPO provides free information on how to sensitively rehabilitate and repair historic properties, upon request.

Thank you for your interest in historic preservation and the National Register of Historic Places.

Sincerely,

Barbara A. Powers
Department Head
Planning, Inventory, and Registration

Cc: Dale Panovich, Township Trustee
    Patrick Fick, Township Trustee
    Scott Dressler, Township Trustee
    Senator Roy Ray, District # 27
    Representative Brian Williams, District # 45
    Akron Metropolitan Area Transportation Study
    Paul Graham, Ohio Department of Transportation
The Ohio Historical Society
Ohio Historic Preservation Office

National Register of Historic Places File Checklist

The following materials are contained in this file of the National Register form for:

Name: Copley Depot
County: Summit

☐ Original National Register of Historic Places nomination form

☐ Multiple Property Nomination form

☐ Photograph(s)
☐ Photograph(s) (copies)

☐ USGS map(s)
☐ USGS map(s) (copies)

☐ Sketch map(s)/figure(s)/exhibit(s)

☐ Correspondence

☐ Other negatives, news clips

CES: 9/01