

Form 10-300  
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Ohio	
COUNTY: Summit	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	6-19-77

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
Old Akron Post Office

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
United States Post Office

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
70 East Market Street

CITY OR TOWN:  
Akron

STATE Ohio	CODE 039	COUNTY: Summit	CODE 153
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**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered <input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress * Proposed -	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) unoccupied	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
City of Akron

STREET AND NUMBER:  
166 South High Street

CITY OR TOWN:  
Akron

STATE: Ohio	CODE 039
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**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
Summit County Court House

STREET AND NUMBER:  
209 South High Street

CITY OR TOWN:  
Akron

STATE: Ohio	CODE 039
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**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY:  Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE:	CODE:
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SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Ohio  
COUNTY: Summit  
ENTRY NUMBER  
DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

407-16

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This turn-of-the-20th-Century building illustrates the eclectic taste in American architecture which replaced the long Greek revival period and bequeathed to this generation an outstanding example of a designer's sensitive skill in the adaptive use of the Italian Renaissance idiom to modern requirements. Approximately 106 ft. wide, 68 ft. deep and rising 35 ft. to the exceptionally wide overhanging eaves of the low-pitched hip roof, the building stands on a corner lot and presents high-quality design, materials and craftsmanship on all four facades. Nine small breaks in the alignment of the walls create a pavillion-like form at each corner of the building.

Exterior: The deep red, hard-burned brick walls, laid in a neat Flemish bond are embellished by a high limestone base course which carries up to the main floor window sill line, limestone belt courses at the second floor and, at the cornice line (under the eaves), and a classically detailed first floor window treatment which includes brackets, architraves, consoles and full pediments, all in limestone.

The street facade is accented on the west by a limestone frontispiece at the entrance door surmounted by a three-arched loggia, in the Tuscan order, on the second floor. On the north the facade is accented by a three wide limestone-trimmed, circular-headed openings providing windows and an entrance door to the public space.

The marble steps, in opposing runs, to the platform at the north entrance are protected by a classical wrought-iron railing, and the entrance door is decorated by a pair of carved stone, eagle medallions and was originally lighted by two great wall brackets. Faint marks on the wall still show the outline of the wall plates of the lighting fixtures.

The second floor is lighted by small circular-headed windows in concentric brick reveals. All brick arches are carefully radially laid, most of which spring from limestone impost blocks. Window sills are also of limestone. The windows to the office spaces were originally fitted with wrought iron grilles. The remnants of the supporting horizontal bars still remain. Simply-decorated grilles are still in place, protecting most of the basement windows. All of the doors and windows are of wood, carefully detailed and trimmed in the classical manner.

While some deterioration is apparent, accurate restoration will present no problem. Rain water leaders, boots and supports appear to be incorrect replacement of original work. Hose bibbs through the base course are replacements of the forginal fitting, the design of which may be determined by the holes cut into the stone work to receive them. The stone work generally needs repointing but shows only neglible signs of deterioration. The brick work appears to be in perfect condition. The stone and the brick work need steam cleaning. All woodwork should be cleaned of old paint, repaired where necessary and repainted.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Ohio	
COUNTY	
Summit	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

Old Akron Post Office

7. The existing outside stair, door and addition on the south facade were later changes. The original loading platform and doorway still exist within the addition. The addition should be removed and the loading platform and service door should be restored.

The several basement window areaways on the south and east walls need only minor repair and guardrails. One areaway on the east has been enlarged to provide access to the basement. It is compatible with the original work and need not be "restored," since any use of the basement space will find the stairway access an advantage.

The wide-eaved overhang appears to be in reasonably good condition except on the east wall where deterioration, particularly near the north wall, may be observed from the ground.

Interior: The public spaces inside the building were well finished with a modest use of marble wainscoting, most of which remains in place. The floors in these areas are of terrazzo, trimmed with marble, some of which has been covered with asphalt tile. The public work space screen was originally a combination of standard post office counters, boxes, etc., trimmed with well-designed wood arches reflecting those on the facade. Enough of the architectural woodwork remains to permit accurate restoration.

The ceiling in the public area is decorated by a simple classical cornice and is subdivided into bays with transverse arches reflecting the arches on the facade of the building. The arches are decorated with carved plaster ornament. The walls are covered from the top of the wainscot to the spring line of the arches with wood paneling. Most of the woodwork has been painted, but some remains a dark-oak natural finish, which may have been the original treatment of it all. The airlock inside the north entrance door is largely original and well-designed. Enough remains to permit an authentic restoration after the removal of the work done to permit the installation of a revolving door.

Major alterations and changes have been made by removal of a flight of stairs which ran north from the west entrance doorway. Evidence no doubt will be found to permit authentic restoration.

The offices of the postmaster in the southwest corner and the money order clerk in the northeast corner are both decorated with 4'-6' high wood paneling.

The general workroom, which occupied the major part of the main floor, was originally a "great space" having a ceiling about 30' above the floor. It may be restored to its originally impressiveness by removal of the wood floor and balcony which have been added.

**3. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1895

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation			_____

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Statement by Orin M. Bullick, Jr. F.A.I.A., Restoration Consultant:

Research in my not inconsiderable library has convinced me that the Old Akron Post Office Building, built in 1895, is indeed an unusual and important example of turn-of-the-century eclectic architectural design in the United States. I have not found any building which matches its economical presentation of the formal Italian Renaissance idiom. In its free use of classical elements in a formal setting, with a minimum of personal invention of details, it reveals the skill of the designer in creating a character and well-adapted to the use of its day. Contemporary buildings of the period, also intended for public use and, having similar inspiration, tend to be more academic and made use of more columns, more stone carvings, and other architectural details of much greater cost.

The building is certainly an important statement of its period in the architectural history of Akron, and, I venture, of Ohio and the United States. It richly warrants every effort to insure its preservation. Its presence on such an important corner will continue to provide a creditable anchor in the area.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

United States Treasury Department, History of Public Buildings (Washington 1900), (contains a picture of the building).

**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		41° 5' 4"	81° 30' 55"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: .36

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE:  
J. Henry Chambers, A.I.A.

ORGANIZATION: Akron Chapter, A.I.A., Preservation Officer      DATE: Feb. 15, 1971

STREET AND NUMBER:  
595 E. Talmadge Avenue

CITY OR TOWN: Akron      STATE: Ohio 44310      CODE: 039

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION	NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION
<p>As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:</p> <p>National <input type="checkbox"/>    State <input type="checkbox"/>    Local <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Name _____</p> <p>Title _____</p> <p>Date _____</p>	<p>I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.</p> <p>_____ Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation</p> <p>Date _____</p> <p>ATTEST:</p> <p>_____ Keeper of The National Register</p> <p>Date _____</p>

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

Form 10-301  
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY MAP FORM**

*(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)*

STATE Ohio	
COUNTY Summit	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

<b>1. NAME</b>			
COMMON: Old Akron Post Office			
AND/OR HISTORIC: United States Post Office			
<b>2. LOCATION</b>			
STREET AND NUMBER: 70 East Market Street			
CITY OR TOWN: Akron			
STATE: Ohio	CODE 039	COUNTY: Summit	CODE 153
<b>3. MAP REFERENCE</b>			
SOURCE: U.S. Geological Survey: 7½' Akron West, Ohio Quadrangle			
SCALE: 1:24,000			
DATE: 1967			
<b>4. REQUIREMENTS</b>			
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS			
1. Property boundaries where required.			
2. North arrow.			
3. Latitude and longitude reference.			



OLD AKRON POST OFFICE

SLAT. N 41° 5' 4"  
LONG. W 81° 30' 55"

NORTH CANTON 16 MI.

4546  
T. 2 N.  
(AKRON EAST) 11 SW  
4756  
YOUNGSTOWN 40 MI.  
80s 18

T. 1 N.  
4545

4544

2'30"

2 MI. TO OHIO 24

# 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: Old Akron Post Office

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 news clippings

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