FORM 10-300
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY – NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries – complete applicable sections)

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

3. CLASSIFICATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CATEGORY (Check One)</th>
<th>OWNERSHIP</th>
<th>STATUS</th>
<th>ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>District</td>
<td>Public</td>
<td>☐ Occupied</td>
<td>☐ Restricted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Site</td>
<td>Private</td>
<td>☐ Unoccupied</td>
<td>☐ Unrestricted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Structure</td>
<td>Both</td>
<td>☐ Preservation work in progress</td>
<td>☐ No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Object</td>
<td></td>
<td>☐ Transportation</td>
<td>☐ Comments</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)
☐ Agricultural
☐ Government
☐ Park
☐ Private Residence
☐ Religious
☐ Other (Specify)

☐ Commercial
☐ Industrial
☐ Military
☐ Museum
☐ Scientific

☐ Educational

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
City of Akron

STREET AND NUMBER:
166 South High Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Akron

STATE:
Ohio

CODE:
44308

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

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:

407-16
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 pavilion-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. Paint 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 bibs through the base course are replacements of the forged 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 negligible 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.
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.
**SIGNIFICANCE**

**PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)**
- [ ] Pre-Columbian
- [ ] 16th Century
- [ ] 18th Century
- [ ] 20th Century
- [ ] 19th Century

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

- 1895

**AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)**

- [ ] Aboriginal
- [ ] Prehistoric
- [ ] Historic
- [ ] Agriculture
- [ ] Architecture
- [ ] Art
- [ ] Commerce
- [ ] Communications
- [ ] Conservation
- [ ] Education
- [ ] Engineering
- [ ] Industry
- [ ] Invention
- [ ] Landscape
- [ ] Architecture
- [ ] Literature
- [ ] Military
- [ ] Music
- [ ] Political
- [ ] Religion/Philosophy
- [ ] Science
- [ ] Sculpture
- [ ] Social/Humanitarian
- [ ] Theatre
- [ ] Transportation
- [ ] Urban Planning
- [ ] Other (Specify)

**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.
9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

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

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CORNER</th>
<th>LATITUDE</th>
<th>LONGITUDE</th>
<th>CORNER</th>
<th>LATITUDE</th>
<th>LONGITUDE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NW</td>
<td>Degrees Minutes Seconds</td>
<td>Degrees Minutes Seconds</td>
<td>41° 5′ 4″</td>
<td>Degrees Minutes Seconds</td>
<td>81° 30′ 55″</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NE</td>
<td>Degrees Minutes Seconds</td>
<td>Degrees Minutes Seconds</td>
<td></td>
<td>Degrees Minutes Seconds</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SE</td>
<td>Degrees Minutes Seconds</td>
<td>Degrees Minutes Seconds</td>
<td></td>
<td>Degrees Minutes Seconds</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SW</td>
<td>Degrees Minutes Seconds</td>
<td>Degrees Minutes Seconds</td>
<td></td>
<td>Degrees Minutes Seconds</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 36

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

STATE: CODE COUNTY CODE
STATE: CODE COUNTY CODE
STATE: CODE COUNTY CODE
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
STREET AND NUMBER: 595 E. Tal Imadge Avenue
CITY OR TOWN: Akron
STATE: Ohio CODE 44310

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

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:

National [ ] State [ ] Local [ ]

Name

Title

Date

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date
**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES**

**PROPERTY MAP FORM**

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1. NAME</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>COMMON:</td>
<td>Old Akron Post Office</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AND/OR HISTORIC:</td>
<td>United States Post Office</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| 2. LOCATION |  |
| STREET AND NUMBER: | 70 East Market Street |
| CITY OR TOWN: | Akron |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STATE:</th>
<th>CODE</th>
<th>COUNTY:</th>
<th>CODE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ohio</td>
<td>039</td>
<td>Summit</td>
<td>153</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| 3. MAP REFERENCE |  |
| SOURCE: | U.S. Geological Survey: 7½' Akron West, Ohio Quadrangle |
| SCALE: | 1:24,000 |
| DATE: | 1967 |

| 4. REQUIREMENTS |  |
| **TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS** |  |
| 1. Property boundaries where required. |
| 2. North arrow. |
| 3. Latitude and longitude reference. |
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

X Original National Register of Historic Places nomination form

_____ Multiple Property Nomination form

X Photograph(s)

_____ Photograph(s) (copies)

_____ USGS map(s)

X USGS map(s) (copies)

_____ Sketch map(s)/figure(s)/exhibit(s)

X Correspondence

X Other news clippings

________________________________________

________________________________________

CES: 9/01