1. NAME
COMMON: Perkins, Colonel Simon, Mansion

2. LOCATION
STREET AND NUMBER: 550 Copley Road
CITY OR TOWN: Akron
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: 14- John Seiberling

3. CLASSIFICATION
CATEGORY (Check One)
- District [X]
- Building [ ]
- Site [ ]
- Structure [ ]
- Object [ ]

OWNERSHIP
- Public [ ]
- Private [X]
- Both [ ]

PUBLIC ACQUISITION:
- In Process [ ]
- Being Considered [ ]

PRESENT USE (Check One or More As Appropriate)
- Agricultural [ ]
- Commercial [ ]
- Educational [ ]
- Entertainment [X] Museum
- Government [ ]
- Industrial [ ]
- Military [ ]
- Park [ ]
- Private Residence [ ]
- Religious [ ]
- Scientific [ ]

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY
OWNER'S NAME:
Summit County Historical Society

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
Summit County Building

STREET AND NUMBER:
72 South High Street
CITY OR TOWN: Akron
STATE: Ohio

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS
TITLE OF SURVEY:
Historic American Buildings Survey
DATE OF SURVEY: 1934 [X] Federal [ ] State [ ] County [ ] Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:
Library of Congress
CITY OR TOWN: Washington
STATE: D. C.
CODE: 010
This is a very large two-story mansion of coursed sandstone ashlar construction, in the Greek revival style. The house stands on a commanding site overlooking the city of Akron, surrounded by more than ten acres of beautiful grounds. It is much larger than photographs suggest, as the handling of classical scale is deceptive. Its dominant feature is a full two-story portico of four Tuscan columns. The east facade has five bays, with a monumental Greek doorway, and massive stone lintels over the window and door openings. A kitchen wing of the same construction projects to the rear of the house.

The interior has a central hall plan, with four large main rooms on each floor. The interior woodwork is in one of the simplest late Federal patterns, a fluted pilaster with squares containing circles at the corners. The simple stair balustrade is also a late Federal design. The mantelpieces are nearly unornamented. The rooms contain some of the original Perkins furnishings, as well as other nineteenth century items for display. The main floor rear hall has been partitioned to provide a bath. The kitchen was completely modernized, but is now being restored by the historical society. Basically, however, the structure of the house is unaltered.

Adjoining the house is a frame structure formerly used as a laundry house. Its date is unknown. It is one and a half stories, the lower story having wooden siding and the upper parts shingled. The roof is a combination of hip and gable. At the east end there is a steeple tower with a concave pyramidal roof, surmounted by a windmill. The north and south elevations have symmetrical porch stoops whose roofs are a continuation of the main roof line. The interior has been remodeled for the offices of the Summit County Historical Society. The ground floor houses the reception and publication offices, and the upper floor the office of the director.
This is unequivocally one of the great houses in Ohio. It is large in scale and at the same time simple, where a lesser client might have been tempted to ostentation. The deceptive simplicity gradually leads to an appreciation of a masterful handling of scale, proportion and detail.

Colonel Simon Perkins was born in Warren, Ohio, in 1805. His father General Simon Perkins was one of the founders of the village of Akron in 1825. Colonel Perkins purchased 115 acres there in 1832. He and his wife moved to Akron in 1835. The mansion was constructed between 1835 and 1837. Colonel Perkins was largely instrumental in the formation of Summit County in 1840, and was one of the active promoters of the Cleveland, Zanesville and Cincinnati Railroad. The mansion was occupied by descendants of the Perkins family until 1945, when it was purchased by the Summit County Historical Society.

The Greek revival mansion, including its accessory building on the half-acre fronting on Copley Road and Portage Path, constitutes a major architectural and historical Ohio landmark.
9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Ohio Historic Landmarks (Columbus, 1967), pg. 47.

Summit County Historical Society records.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

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<tr>
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Approximate acreage of nominated property: 2.5 acres

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries.

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<tr>
<th>STATE</th>
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11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Eric Johannessen, Preservationist

ORGANIZATION: Western Reserve Historical Society

DATE: Sept. 1973

STREET AND NUMBER: 10825 East Boulevard

CITY OR TOWN: Cleveland

STATE: Ohio

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 [ ]

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

Director, 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)*

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<tr>
<th>1. NAME</th>
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<td>AND/OR HISTORIC</td>
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**REQUIREMENTS:** PROPERTY BOUNDARIES, WHERE REQUIRED, AND NORTH ARROW
PERKINS, Colonel Simon, Mansion

2. LOCATION
STATE: Ohio
COUNTY: Akron

3. PHOTO REFERENCE
DATE: 1973
NEGATIVE FILED AT: Summit County Historical Society

4. IDENTIFICATION
Describe view, direction, etc.
rear of laundry house, looking north.

Northeast corner of mansion, looking southwest.
Laundry house, looking northwest.
August 26, 1974

Summit County Historical Society
550 Copley Road
Akron, Ohio  44320

Gentlemen:

I am pleased to inform you that the Colonel Simon Perkins Mansion, 580
Copley Road, Akron, has been entered in the National Register of Historic
Places by the National Park Service, United States Department of the
Interior.

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. All nominations are approved by the Ohio Historic Site Preserva-
tion Advisory Board.

Enclosed is a brochure explaining the purposes and goals of the National
Register of Historic Places.

Congratulations for recognizing the importance of, and the need for, the
careful and sensible preservation of Ohio's landmarks. Your farsightedness
will surely serve as an example to other individuals and organizations in
this state.

Sincerely,

Judith Kitchen
Architectural Historian and Administrator
Historic Preservation Office

JK: dal
enclosure
National Register of Historic Places File Checklist

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

Name: Perkins, Col. Simon, Mansion

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 oversize plans, newsclip