NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

1. NAME
COMMON: Summit County Courthouse and Annex
AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION
STREET AND NUMBER: 209 South High Street
CITY OR TOWN: Akron
STATE: Ohio
COUNTY: Summit

3. CLASSIFICATION
CATEGORY (Check One) | OWNERSHIP | STATUS | ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
--- | --- | --- | ---
District | Public | Occupied | Yes:
Site | Private | Unoccupied | Restricted
Object | Both | In Process | Unrestricted
 | Public Acquisition: | Preservation work in progress | Unrestricted
 | | | No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)
- Agricultural
- Commercial
- Educational
- Entertainment
- Government
- Industrial
- Military
- Museum
- Park
- Religious

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY
OWNER'S NAME: Summit County Commissioners
STREET AND NUMBER: 217 South High Street
CITY OR TOWN: Akron
STATE: Ohio

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:
DATE OF SURVEY:
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
STREET AND NUMBER:
CITY OR TOWN:
STATE: Ohio
CODE: 039

Ref: 74006-25
STATE: Ohio
COUNTY: Summit
ENTRY DATE: 10/15/74
This is a large steel, concrete and sandstone-faced structure in the Second Renaissance Revival style. It consists of three main stories above a high basement. The west entrance facing High Street is approached by a great flight of steps. In the 1960's the lower ranks of steps were eliminated and the approach was terraced as the west is no longer the main entrance. The annex building, facing east and constructed in identical style and materials, was completed sixteen years after the main building. The two are linked by two bridges at the second and third levels. The main story of both units consists of rusticated arches. The windows of the upper two stories are framed in vertical ranks between flat piers. The entablature, cornice and horizontal parapet are characteristic of the simpler interpretations of the Renaissance Revival style. The main building has a high hipped roof, and the annex a flat one.

On the interior, the east and west entrance halls lead to a central lobby three stories high surrounded by balconies. The various offices, services and courtrooms are arranged along corridors from the lobby space. Several of the offices have been considerably adapted for modern use with partitions, new lighting and so on. But the majority of the rooms retain the heavy walnut and oak woodwork and decorative elements of a rather sombre version of the Italian Renaissance style. The interiors of both buildings have the dignity characteristic of the public buildings of the period, in marked contrast to the relatively inhospitable interiors of the new city-county building immediately to the south.

Present long-range county planning calls for the restoration of the main building, and the demolition of the annex in about five years.
The Summit County Courthouse and Annex are excellent examples of the Second Renaissance Revival style. The courthouse was designed by one of Cleveland's premier architects of the period, J. Milton Dyer. The buildings are important elements in the new urban planning of central Akron, and they still serve much of their original functions well.

The plans for the main building were prepared in 1905. The building replaced an earlier courthouse on the same site. The contract went to George W. Carmichael & Co. at a bid of $238,250. The building was completed and occupied in January, 1908.

The architect J. Milton Dyer (1870-1957) was active in Cleveland from about 1898 to 1914. He had studied at the Ecole des Beaux-Arts in Paris, longer than most American students. Among his important works are the Cleveland City Hall (National Register), the Cleveland Athletic Club, the Coast Guard Station, and the U.S. Subtreasury Building in San Francisco.

The Summit County Courthouse is a clear example of the Italian Renaissance-inspired influence of McKim, Mead and White and Richard Hunt. The fact that the Annex was designed in the identical style and form a dozen years later shows the persistence and importance of the idiom.

Flanked by the new city-county building on the south and an open park on the north, the courthouse is the central element in a long-range projected government center.
Karl H. Grismer, Akron and Summit County (Akron, n.d.), 351-352

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

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LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES

EASTING: 4565460
NORTHING: 4547600

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: Two acres

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: Eric Johannesen, Preservationist

ORGANIZATION: Western Reserve Historical Society

DATE: February 1974

ADDRESS: 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 [x] Local [ ]

Name ____________________________

Title ____________________________

Date ____________________________

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

Director, Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation

Date ____________________________

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date ____________________________
**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES**  
**PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM**  
*(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)*

1. **NAME:**
   - **COMMON:** Summit County Courthouse and Annex

2. **LOCATION**
   - **STREET AND NUMBER:** 209 South High Street
   - **CITY OR TOWN:** Akron
   - **STATE:** Ohio
   - **CODE:** 039
   - **COUNTY:** Summit
   - **CODE:** 153

3. **PHOTO REFERENCE**
   - **PHOTO CREDIT:** Eric Johannesen
   - **DATE OF PHOTO:** February 1974
   - **NEGATIVE FILED AT:** Western Reserve Historical Society

4. **IDENTIFICATION**
   - **DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.:** Third floor lobby, showing balcony around central court.
Main facade of Courthouse, looking East.

South and east elevations of courthouse and Annex, looking Northwest. Courthouse on left, Annex on the right.
**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES**

**PROPERTY MAP FORM**

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

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<td>1. Property boundaries where required.</td>
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<td>2. North arrow.</td>
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<td>3. Latitude and longitude reference.</td>
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This map shows the building to the north of the courthouse labeled C H. If this means "courthouse," the map is in error.

* U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1973-729-148/1441 S1
October 25, 1974

Board of Summit County Commissioners
217 South High Street
Akron, Ohio 44308

Gentlemen:

I am pleased to inform you that the Summit County Courthouse and Annex, 209 South High Street, 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 Preservation 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: Summit County Courthouse & Annex
County: Summit

X Original National Register of Historic Places nomination form

X Photograph(s)
X Photograph(s) (copies)

X USGS map(s)
X USGS map(s) (copies)

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

X Correspondence

X Other news clips

CES: 9/01