United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service  
National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form  
See instructions in How to Complete National Register Forms  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections  

1. Name  

historic  Akron Post Office and Federal Building  
and or common  

2. Location  

street & number  168 East Market Street  
city, town  Akron  
state  Ohio  44308  
N/A not for publication  
county  Summit  
code  039  

3. Classification  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Ownership</th>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Present Use</th>
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<td>___ public</td>
<td>___ occupied</td>
<td>___ agriculture</td>
<td>___ museum</td>
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<tr>
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<td>___ private</td>
<td>___ unoccupied</td>
<td>___ commercial</td>
<td>___ park</td>
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<tr>
<td>___ structure</td>
<td>___ both</td>
<td>___ work in progress</td>
<td>___ educational</td>
<td>___ private residence</td>
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<tr>
<td>___ site</td>
<td>___ Public Acquisition</td>
<td>___ Accessible</td>
<td>___ entertainment</td>
<td>___ religious</td>
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<tr>
<td>___ object</td>
<td>___ in process</td>
<td>___ yes: restricted</td>
<td>___ government</td>
<td>___ scientific</td>
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<tr>
<td>___ being considered</td>
<td>___ yes: unrestricted</td>
<td>___ no</td>
<td>___ industrial</td>
<td>___ transportation</td>
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</table>

4. Owner of Property  

name  Mayer Investment Company  
street & number  168 East Market Street  
city, town  Akron  
N/A not for publication  
state  Ohio  44308  

county  Summit  
code  039  

5. Location of Legal Description  

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc.  Summit County Recorder's Office  
street & number  175 South Main Street  
city, town  Akron  
state  Ohio  44308  

county  Summit  
code  039  

6. Representation in Existing Surveys  

title  Ohio Historic Inventory  
has this property been determined eligible? ___ yes  x no  
date  July 1978  
   federal  x state  county  local  

depository for survey records  Ohio Historical Society  

city, town  Columbus  
state  Ohio  43211  

county  Summit  
code  039  

(For NPS use only)  
received  5/26/83  
date entered  5/26/83  

7. Description

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Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

A large, basically square structure of steel frame, the second former United States Post Office building in Akron is completely faced and trimmed in smooth limestone in a Roman Neo-Classical Revival style. It is approached at the front by wide, terraced granite steps leading to an entrance court formed by projecting corner pavilions. The court is further defined at a break in the ascending steps by a pair of matching piers on which rest giant metal urn-shaped lanterns. A balustrade extends from each pier to the adjacent pavilion.

Apparent from the building’s exterior is the piano nobile treatment of its interior space. The recessed central block is an arcade of five glazed colossal round arches of deep reveal, each supported by Tuscan columns set on pedestals. Panels of geometric designs alternate with plain panels in the arched soffits. Scrolled modillion keystones on all five arches contain escutcheons. Fronting an interior vestibule, the center arch has a metal-frame double-door entrance with curvilinear cresting set with acroteria and a center cartouche. The arch on either side is treated with the same entrance doors; the end arches have balancing metal screens with balusters. The glazed upper areas have metal sash repeating the outline of the arch.

The flanking pavilions are treated identically, each with an arch matching those in the entry block, but having only a glazed lunette in the tympanum. Set between the arch columns, whose pedestals are joined by a balustrade of urn-like members, is a large vertical window having a pedimented architrave with dentils. The pediment rests on a wide frieze centered with an escutcheon. The sides of each pavilion are given a pedimented window as on the front, but it is not set in an arch. A glazed lunette with a keystone is above the window. The slightly indented pavilion corners are faced in rusticated ashlar.

A blind parapet of flat, slightly raised panels without delineating mouldings surmounts all four elevations, ostensibly resting on a prominent embellished cornice with dentilation. Below this, coinciding with the arch impost, a stringcourse of lesser rank engirdles the building. In alignment with the arches of the facade the roof parapet is pierced with balusters. On either side, immediately behind the corner wing, the wall is projected to feature a window such as that on the facade of the wing, set in a deep arch supported by columns, with balustrading below and in the parapet above.

Extending from this projecting bay to the back corner is an arcade of seven windows separated by pilasters, reiterating in a less fully developed form the fenestration of the facade. These windows are joined with a sill course moulding, below which are translucent dado windows reaching to a continuing water table. Each of the full-height windows has a simple stone-mould enframement with a wide metal frieze panel above the sash with a center escutcheon. Above each window, set on the stringcourse, is a glazed lunette outlined by low-relief mouldings.
8. Significance

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Specific dates 1927-1929  
Builder/Architect James A. Wetmore

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The second former United States Post Office building was designed in 1927 by James A. Wetmore, then acting supervising government architect, and has particular significance as an outstanding example of Roman Neo-Classical Revival architecture in Summit County. Unlike many buildings, it is consistently finished and detailed on all four elevations and remains today exactly as designed by its architect.

Due to the increase in Akron's population before and during World War I, from 69,000 to more than 208,000, the previous post office at the southeast corner of Market and High Streets had become inadequate after only twenty years. An appropriation for funds for a new building was begun in 1913, but because of economic conditions construction did not commence until 1927, with the official opening taking place on Monday, February 11, 1929.

The ground and main floors were used for postal operations, while the large second floor housed other government related agencies: military recruiting offices, the Internal Revenue department, customs offices, and training rooms for the civil service commission.

This building served the Akron area as post office for forty-six years, until it again was outgrown. Postal operations were moved to a new and much larger structure on Wolf Ledges in 1975. The following year, after being purchased by the Mayer Investment Company of Akron, it became the home of the Charles Mayer Studios.

Due to this building's long standing architectural and historical significance within the community, it has remained a highly recognizable Akron landmark.
9. Major Bibliographical References
Ohio Historic Inventory (1978), #SUM 409-16 (David Moore)
Original Blueprint Copies, James A. Wetmore, Acting Supervising Architect
AKRON AND SUMMIT COUNTY, Karl H. Grismer (1952), pp 435, 591, 596
Akron Beacon Journal,

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 1.16
Quadrangle name Akron West
UTM References

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Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification
Perkins Allotment; Block 9; All of Lot 3, Part of Lot 4
Pl. 1; Page 13

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Cynthia M. Pramuk, Director of Public Relations
organization Charles Mayer Studios, Inc.
date May 8, 1982
street & number 168 East Market Street
telephone 1-216-535-6121

city or town Akron
state Ohio 44308.

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

_ national _ state _ local

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

For NPS use only
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Keeper of the National Register

Chief of Registration
June 7, 1983

Mayer Investment Company
168 East Market Street
Akron, Ohio 44308

Dear Sirs:

I am pleased to inform you that the Akron Post Office and Federal Building 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 information explaining the purposes and goals of the National Register of Historic Places.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

W. Ray Luce
State Historic Preservation Officer

WR:dd
enclosure

xc: Mayor Roy L. Ray
NEFCO
Senator Kenneth Cox
Representative Pete Crossland
Jeff Brown
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: Akron Post Office & Federal Building
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 __________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

CES: 9/01