

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

REFNUM 830020591

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received

date entered 5/26/83

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street & number 168 East Market Street N/A not for publication

city, town Akron N/A vicinity of

state Ohio 44308 code 039 county Summit code 153

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Mayer Investment Company

street & number 168 East Market Street

city, town Akron N/A vicinity of state Ohio 44308

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

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Ohio Historic Inventory has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date July 1978 federal state county local

depository for survey records Ohio Historical Society

city, town Columbus state Ohio 43211

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date _____

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 denticulation. 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 enframingent 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

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> communications (postal services)	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

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

Acreege of nominated property 1.16

Quadrangle name Akron West

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

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Verbal boundary description and justification

Perkins Allotment; Block 9; All of Lot 3, Part of Lot 4
Pl. 1; Page 13

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

state N/A code county code

state code county code

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 W. Ray Luce

title SHPO date 4/5/83

For NPS use only

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

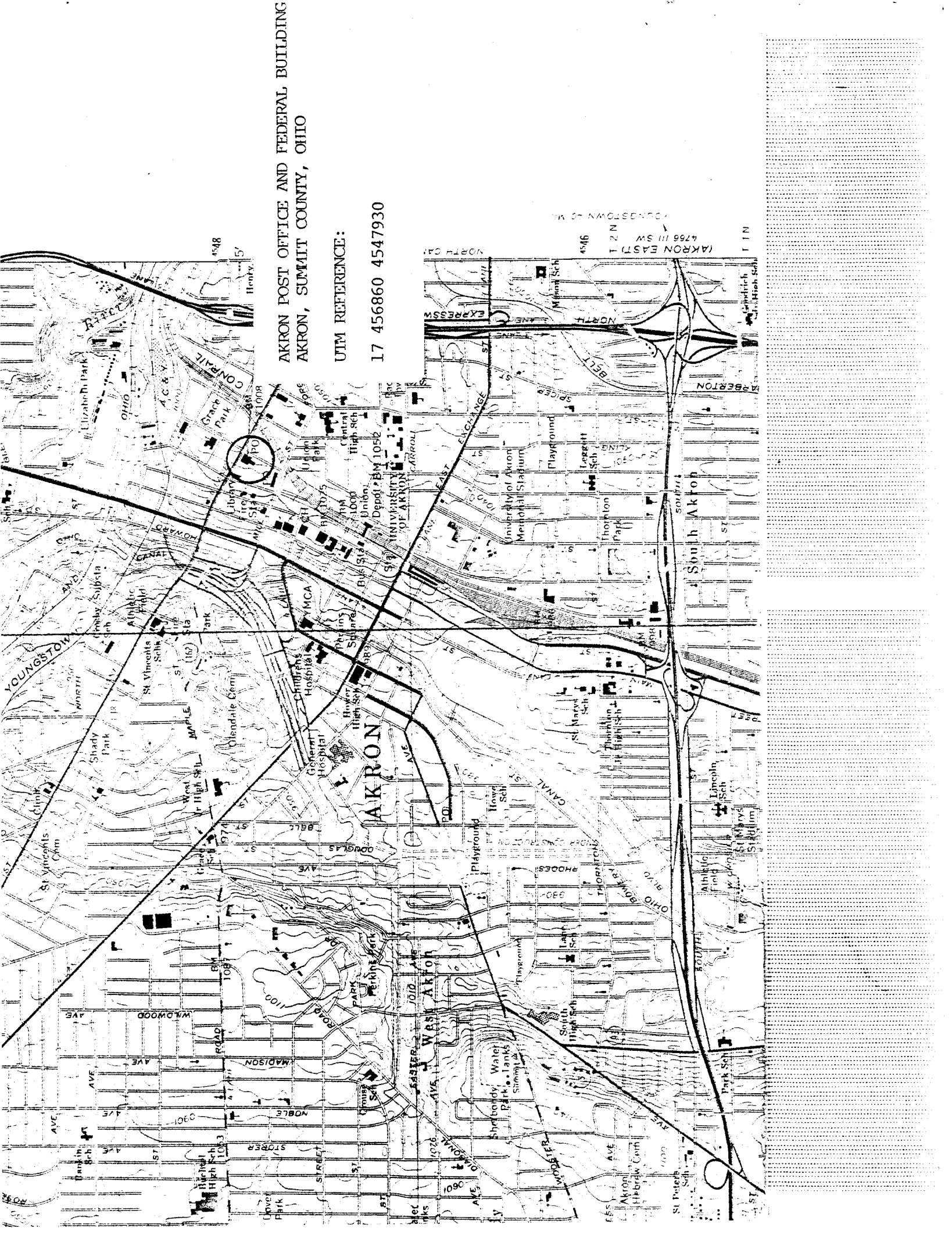
date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration



AKRON POST OFFICE AND FEDERAL BUILDING
AKRON, SUMMIT COUNTY, OHIO

UTM REFERENCE:

17 456860 4547930

AKRON EAST
T 2 N
4766 111 SW
4948
BOUNDARY TOWNSHIP

T 1 N

Depository BM 10952

AKRON

AKRON
OLD AKRON

South Akron

OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

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Henry

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Ohio Historic Preservation Office

Ohio Historical Center I-71 & 17th Avenue Columbus, Ohio 43211 (614) 466-1500

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,



W. Ray Luce
State Historic Preservation Officer

WRL: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 _____
