

Ref# 74001624

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	Ohio
COUNTY:	Summit
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE	8-13-74

1. NAME

COMMON:	Perkins, Colonel Simon, Mansion
AND/OR HISTORIC:	

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:		550 Copley Road	
CITY OR TOWN:		Akron	
STATE:		CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:	14- John Seiberling
OHIO	CODE	COUNTY:	Summit
	039		
		CODE	153

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input checked="" 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 (Specify) <input type="checkbox"/> Comments

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:	Summit County Historical Society		
STREET AND NUMBER:	550 Copley Road		
CITY OR TOWN:	STATE:	CODE	
Akron	Ohio	039	

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:	Summit County Building		
STREET AND NUMBER:	72 South High Street		
CITY OR TOWN:	STATE:	CODE	
Akron	Ohio	039	

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:	Historic American Buildings Survey		
DATE OF SURVEY:	1934	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> State
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:	Library of Congress		
STREET AND NUMBER:			
CITY OR TOWN:	STATE:	CODE	
Washington	D. C.	010	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Ohio  
COUNTY: Summit  
ENTRY NUMBER:  
DATE:

FOR NPS USE ONLY

261-11

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

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.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian;       16th Century       18th Century       20th Century  
 15th Century       17th Century       19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1837

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |                                      |   |  |
|--|--------------------------------------|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input type="checkbox"/> Education   | <input type="checkbox"/> Political      | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric             | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi-  | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry    | losophy                                 | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention   | <input type="checkbox"/> Science        | _____                                    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape   | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture      | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | Architecture                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human-  | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature  | itarian                                 | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Military    | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater        | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            | <input type="checkbox"/> Music       | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____                                    |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

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.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

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

Walter Kidney, Historic Buildings of Ohio. (Pittsburgh, 1972), pg. 29.  
Summit County Historical Society records.

**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		41 ° 05 ' 06 "	81 ° 32 ' 30 "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 2.5 acres

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE: Eric Johannesen, Preservationist

ORGANIZATION: Western Reserve Historical Society DATE: Sept. 1973

STREET AND NUMBER: 10825 East Boulevard

CITY OR TOWN: Cleveland STATE: Ohio CODE: 039

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION**      **NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

<p>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:</p> <p>National <input type="checkbox"/> State <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Local <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Name _____</p> <p>Title _____</p> <p>Date _____</p>	<p>I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.</p> <p>_____ Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation</p> <p>Date _____</p> <p>ATTEST:</p> <p>_____ Keeper of The National Register</p> <p>Date _____</p>
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Form 10-301  
(July 1968)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES**  
**PROPERTY MAP FORM**  
(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

1. NAME		
COMMON	AND/OR HISTORIC	NUMERIC CODE (Assigned by NPS)
Perkins, Colonel Simon, Mansion		
2. LOCATION		
STATE	COUNTY	TOWN
Ohio	Summit	Akron
STREET AND NUMBER		
550 Copley Road		
3. MAP REFERENCE		
SOURCE	DATE	SCALE
U.S.G.S. Akron West	1967	1:24,000

REQUIREMENTS: PROPERTY BOUNDARIES, WHERE REQUIRED, AND NORTH ARROW.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES**  
**PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM**  
*(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)*

1. NAME		NUMERIC CODE <i>(Assigned by NPS)</i>
COMMON	AND/OR HISTORIC	
Perkins, Colonel Simon, Mansion		
2. LOCATION		
STATE	COUNTY	TOWN
Ohio	Summit	Akron
STREET AND NUMBER		
550 Copley Road		
3. PHOTO REFERENCE		
PHOTO CREDIT	DATE	NEGATIVE FILED AT
Summit County Historical Society	1973	Summit County Historical Society
4. IDENTIFICATION		
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.		

rear of laundry house, looking north.

GPO 932-009

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

STATE		Ohio
COUNTY		Summit
FOR NPS USE ONLY		
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME			
COMMON:		Perkins, Colonel Simon, Mansion	
AND/OR HISTORIC:			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
550 Copley Road			
CITY OR TOWN:			
Akron			
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Ohio	039	Summit	153
3. PHOTO REFERENCE			
PHOTO CREDIT:		Summit County Historical Society	
DATE OF PHOTO:		1973	
NEGATIVE FILED AT:		Summit County Historical Society	
4. IDENTIFICATION			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.			
Northeast corner of mansion, looking southwest.			

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

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

1. NAME COMMON Perkins, Colonel Simon, Mansion		AND/OR HISTORIC	NUMERIC CODE (Assigned by NPS)
2. LOCATION STATE Ohio		COUNTY Summit	TOWN Akron
STREET AND NUMBER 550 Copley Road			
3. PHOTO REFERENCE PHOTO CREDIT Summit County Historical Society		DATE 1973	NEGATIVE FILED AT Summit County Historical Society
4. IDENTIFICATION DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.			

Laundry house, looking northwest.

Form No. 10-301a  
(6/72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

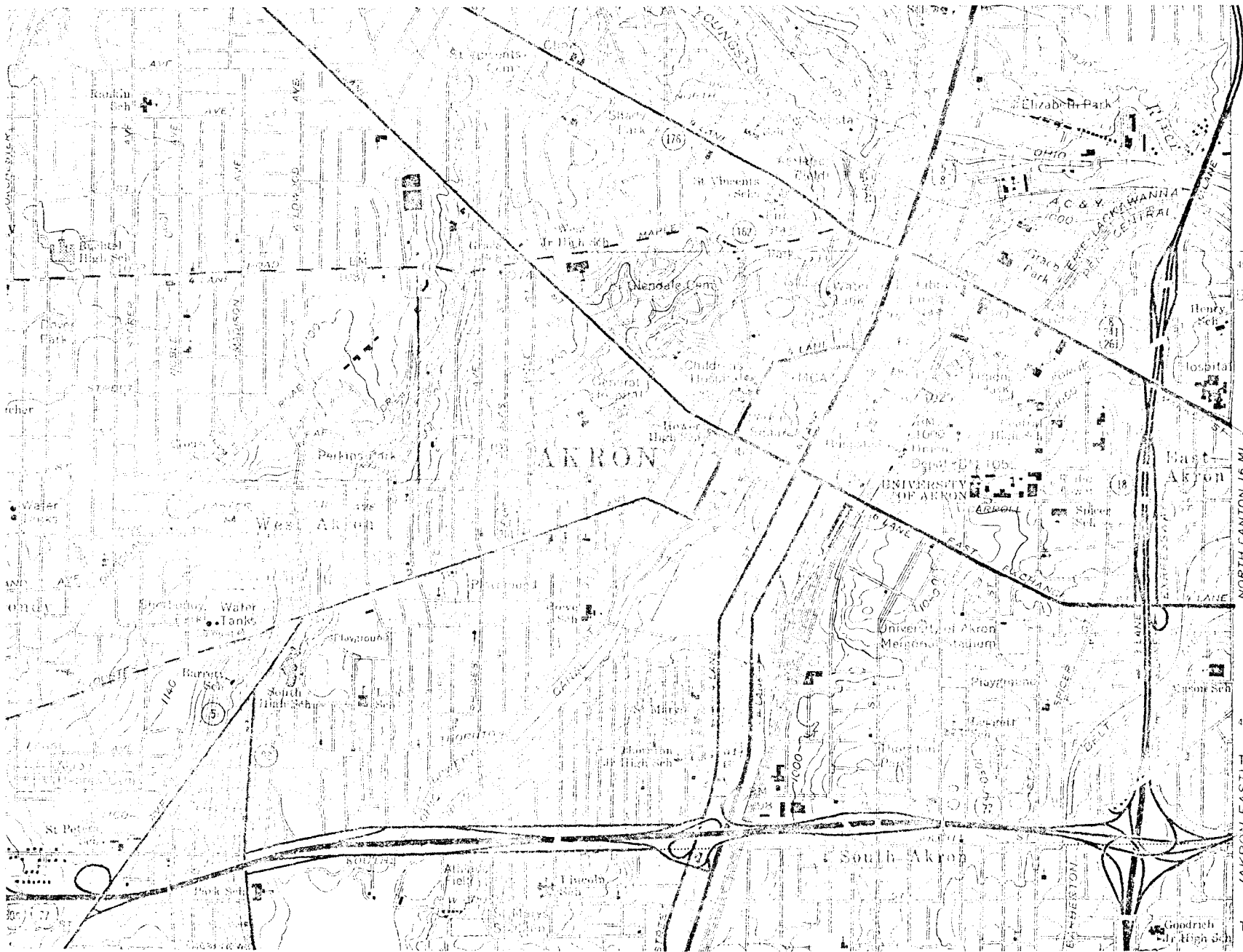
(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

STATE
COUNTY
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY NUMBER

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME		
COMMON: Perkins, Colonel Simon, Mansion		
AND/OR HISTORIC:		
2. LOCATION		
STREET AND NUMBER: 550 Copley Road		
CITY OR TOWN: Akron		
STATE: Ohio	CODE 039	COUNTY: Summit
3. PHOTO REFERENCE		
PHOTO CREDIT: Summit County Historical Society		
DATE OF PHOTO: 1973		
NEGATIVE FILED AT: Summit County Historical Society		
4. IDENTIFICATION		
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.		

Southwest corner of mansion, looking northeast.



Perkins, Colonel  
Simon, Mansion

41° 05' 06"

81° 32' 30"

NORTH CANTON 16 MI

4546

T 2 N

(AKRON EAST)

4766 (W SW)

80°

T. 1 N.

YOUNGSTOWN 40 MI.

18



XXXXXX

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, 500 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 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

# 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: 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, news clip

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