



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

Historic name United States Courthouse and Custom House
Other names/site number Federal Building, James M. Ashley and Thomas W.L. Ashley United States Courthouse

2. Location

Street & Number 1716 Spielbusch Avenue Not for Publication N/A
City or Town Toledo Vicinity N/A
State Ohio Code OH County Lucas Code 095
Zip Code 43624

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

[Signature] Date 5/23/13
Signature of certifying official
Beth L. Savage, U.S. General Services Administration Federal Preservation officer
State or Federal Agency or Tribal government

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Barbara Power Dept. Head May 1, 2013
Signature of commenting official/Title Inventor, Registration Date
Ohio Historic Preservation Office, Ohio Historical Society
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:
 entered in the National Register [Signature] Signature of Keeper 7-17-13 Date of Action
 See continuation sheet.
 determined eligible for the National Register
 See continuation sheet.
 determined not eligible for the National Register
 removed from the National Register
 other (explain): _____

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)	Category of Property (Check only one box)	Number of Resources within Property Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	1	<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	—	<input type="checkbox"/> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-state	<input type="checkbox"/> site	—	<input type="checkbox"/> structures
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	—	<input type="checkbox"/> objects
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	1	0 total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)
N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: <u>GOVERNMENT</u>	Sub: <u>Custom House</u>
<u>GOVERNMENT</u>	<u>Courthouse</u>
<u>GOVERNMENT</u>	<u>Government Office</u>
_____	_____

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: <u>GOVERNMENT</u>	Sub: <u>Courthouse</u>
<u>GOVERNMENT</u>	<u>Government Office</u>
_____	_____
_____	_____

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19th and 20th CENTURY REVIVALS: Neoclassical Revival

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation	<u>STONE: Sandstone</u>
roof	<u>METAL: Copper</u>
walls	<u>STONE: Sandstone</u>
walls	_____
other	<u>TERRA COTTA, STONE: Limestone</u>

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

See Continuation Sheet.

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- C
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or a grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Period of Significance

1932

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Dates

N/A

Architect/Builder

Graham H. Woolfall

James A. Wetmore, Acting Supervising Architect

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

See Continuation Sheet.

9. Major Bibliographical References

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Please see Section 9 Continuation Sheets.

Previous documentation on file (NPS)

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

Primary Location of Additional Data

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 1.971

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	17	288845	4614628	3		
2				4		

See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description

The site is bounded on the north by the Civic Center Mall S of Constitution Avenue, on the east by the Civic Center Mall and Toledo Municipal Court W of North Erie Street, on the south by Lucas County Sheriff's Office and a residence N of Jackson Street, and on the west by Spielbusch Avenue. Legal Description: 7 9 36 NE ¼ PT LAWRENCE LANDS TRAPEZOIDAL PCE 175 FT IN CEN BEECH ST VAC EXTNDG NLY 338 FT PAR WITH ONTARIO ST VAC WHOSE SWLY COR IS ON SE R/WSPIELBUSCH AVE.

Boundary Justification

The boundary was selected because it is consistent with the historical limits of the building site, which is still intact from the period of significance.

11. Form Prepared By

Name/Title Barbara Lamprecht, Architectural historian
 Organization ICF Jones & Stokes Date August 27, 2009, rev. March 2013
 Street & Number 2600 V Street Telephone 916.737.3000
 City or Town Sacramento State CA Zip Code 95822

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- Continuation Sheets
- Maps
 - A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- Photographs
 - Representative photographs of the property.

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

Name _____
 Organization U.S. General Services Administration – Great Lakes Region Telephone 312 353 5572
 Street & Number 230 S Dearborn Street, Room 3500
 City or Town Chicago State IL Zip Code 60603

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.). A federal agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to range from approximately 18 hours to 36 hours depending on several factors including, but not limited to, how much documentation may already exist on the type of property being nominated and whether the property is being nominated as part of a Multiple Property Documentation Form. In most cases, it is estimated to average 36 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form to meet minimum National Register documentation requirements. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, 1849 C St., NW, Washington, DC 20240.

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Section 7 Page 1

*United States Courthouse and Custom House
Lucas County, Ohio*

Description

Summary Statement

The United States Courthouse and Custom House is located at 1716 Spielbusch Avenue at the northern end of Toledo's Civic Mall in a park-like setting with other large civic buildings. An authoritative, well-executed example of the monumental Neoclassical style, the four-story plus basement, steel-framed, structural cast concrete building is clad in a buff-colored sandstone veneer. Its first floor has rusticated stone walls with round arched windows and doors while the second and third stories have engaged columns and pilasters separating regularly spaced bays with rectangular windows. The two primary facades, facing Spielbusch Avenue and the Civic Center Mall, feature centered, raised, entry pavilions with round-arched doorways, two-story columns and triangular pediments. The fourth story and copper clad roof are hidden behind a balustraded parapet. The interior plan of the building is arranged around two large interior courts which provide light to the second through fourth floors. The lobbies, corridors and courtrooms exhibit rich finishes and classical details. The exterior and most significant interior spaces exhibit a high level of integrity.

Detailed Description

The east and west elevations of the building are seventeen bays in width while the north and south are seven bays wide. The building sits atop a smooth sandstone base at the basement level with punched window openings. The wall surfaces of the first floor are rusticated with round-arched window and door openings. A continuous belt course caps the first floor and serves as a base for the second and third floors. The smooth sandstone surfaces of these two upper stories are divided into slightly recessed bays by fluted columns and flat pilasters stretching two stories in height. The columns and pilasters are topped with Corinthian capitals of terra cotta that support a continuous entablature. The entablature is composed of architrave, frieze, and cornice. Atop the cornice is a balustraded parapet wall that obscures the fourth floor from view. The building is capped by a copper standing-seam shallow mansard roof at its perimeter that is hipped at the north and south ends. The center portion of the building has a flat roof surface.

The building has identical entry pavilions centered on its east and west (long) elevations. The entrances are accessed via wide granite steps. An older accessible ramp leads down to a basement level entrance under the east set of steps while a new accessible ramp on the left side of the west elevation leads up to the main entrance on the first floor. The new concrete ramp is faced with sandstone veneer and has bronze finish metal railings. The slightly projecting pavilions at the center of the east and west elevations are three bays wide and have round-arched doorways with bronze doors and frames. These two pavilions are crowned by bracketed triangular pediments. The bronze doors have decorative floral panels, and the transom bars are equally ornate. The building's original name, "UNITED STATES COURT HOUSE AND CUSTOM HOUSE," is incised in the third floor entablature's frieze band under the pediment.

The building's windows are multi-light, double-hung wood sash rectangular windows on the second and third floors. The windows of the third floor are identical to those on the second except that the top sash has an additional pair of lights for an overall larger window. Round-arched, multi-light transom wood windows are used for the first floor level. The basement three-over-three double-hung sash wood windows are set behind protective iron grilles. The fourth floor windows are multi-light, aluminum frame windows that are replacements dating to circa 1971.

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The plan of the building features two large light courts, internal double-height spaces that provide daylight into the center portions of the building above the first floor. Offices surround these internal courts. Other significant interior spaces include original marble-clad and bronze-detailed lobbies and corridors, two original courtrooms on the second floor and staircases with ornate bronze railings.

As originally designed, the building had main entrances on the east and west elevations. However, only the west lobby (facing away from the mall) is presently used for building access. Immediately inside both elevations' sets of exterior doors are narrow entrance vestibules with original terrazzo floors with marble borders. The walls are clad floor-to-ceiling with pink marble panels. The ceilings are plaster with recessed panels trimmed with floral leaf moldings. Surface-mounted fluorescent light fixtures have been added in each of the flat panels. The interior walls of the vestibules feature three arched door openings which contain bronze frames with glazed transoms and three pairs of glazed bronze doors. The six doors have decorative floral panels and the transom bars are equally ornate.

The doorways lead to the highly similar east and west lobbies. The same terrazzo floors, marble wall panels and decorative plaster panel-and-beam ceilings continue into the lobby spaces. Each lobby features free-standing octagonal-shaped marble columns with decorative plaster and gold-leaf capitals. The marble columns continue throughout the corridor which connects the two lobbies. The east lobby includes two elevators and the building's main stairway.

The two elevators are situated on the north end of the east lobby and feature panelized bronze doors. Each pair of elevator doors has eight inset panels bordered by Greek fillets with a raised rosette in each panel's center. Directly above each pair of elevator doors is a horizontal frontispiece of bronze that features a Greek wave pattern. Each pair of doors is set within wide, marble surrounds with cyma reversa molding. Within the surrounds, above each elevator entry is a decorative transom panel of gold-painted plaster. Each panel has a symmetrical, *bas-relief* arabesque pattern of fauna encircling floral medallions.

At the ground floor lobby, gold leaf and/or paint are used for the heavily articulated, ornamented cornice running the perimeter of the rectangular lobby area; in the manner of Egyptian temple interiors, columns and their flat-topped capitals are offset from the cornice they appear to support. The partially enclosed stairway is situated on the south end of the lobby and features a decorative bronze stringer and railing. An original bronze letter box is mounted to the marble wall surface below the stair railing. Simple wood handrails have been added to both sides of the stairway. The treads and risers of the stairway are marble. The suspended acoustical tile ceiling with fluorescent lights is an alteration.

The second floor east lobby is virtually the same as the first floor elevator/stair lobby, with the exception of the doorways to Courtroom 204. While the west wall of the lobby has three sets of doors leading into the courtroom, only the middle set are operable. The wood door frames are set in slightly recessed marble arches with bas relief seals of the U.S. District Court in their transom areas. The doors themselves are multi-paneled and solid wood.

The third floor lobby is not as richly ornamented as those on the lower floors but still features terrazzo floors; marble base, door, and window surrounds; decorative plaster tablets and a plaster panel-and-beam ceiling. The elevators continue to the fourth floor. Relatively unadorned, the fourth floor lobby has many of the same features as the third floor, including terrazzo floors plus base, door and window surrounds of marble. Its walls are white-painted gypsum plaster. Corridors at the fourth floor feature paired, original two and three panel wood doors. The two panel doors have a small, square security glass viewing window within them, and some of the three-panel doors have large upper

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glazing and bronze mail slots. The latter doors are the doors to various tenant spaces on the fourth floor. Many of these spaces appear to have drop acoustic tile ceilings that are a later alteration.

Courtroom 204, a two-story volume centrally located in the building, is accessed from the second floor lobby via a vestibule with a pair of leather-covered wood doors on its east wall. Two arched door openings with multi-paneled wood doors in its west wall provide access to the original judge's chambers. Single, arched door openings with multi-paneled wood doors in the north and south walls provide access to a stairway to the jury room and a secondary corridor, respectively. The floor of the courtroom is carpeted. The walls are of gypsum plaster with periodic narrow wood paneling at the lower third of the wall height. At the upper two-thirds of the wall, above each of these panels are fluted marble pilasters that continue the verticality of the wood panels directly below them. Several decorative bronze air grilles are located in the lower half of the wall. The north and south walls of the courtroom have four arched window openings with keystones. The window openings provided natural light into the courtroom from the two flanking light courts. Currently, only the two middle window openings on each wall are functioning while the outer two openings have been blocked. However, the original arched openings are still expressed within the courtroom and are filled with acoustical fabric material. The marble pilasters support a wide entablature with a plain architrave, fretwork frieze and egg-and-dart molding. The plaster ceiling consists of recessed panels and decorative beams. In 1998 there was an extensive renovation of this space, which included the removal of wood paneling (not original), on the lower half of the wall, marble base, and inappropriate ceiling tiles and box fluorescent light fixtures. New finishes, wood trim and light fixtures were added in keeping with the historic period of the interior. In addition, alterations to the built-in furnishings included the construction of a newly elevated bench and witness stands, and applying new raised moldings to the existing spectator and jury rails.¹

Courtroom 209, only one-story in height, is located on the south end of the second floor and is accessed on the room's north wall via two vestibules with pairs of leather-covered wood doors. Single door openings with multi-paneled wood doors in its east and west walls lead to the adjacent judge's chambers and jury room. The floor of the courtroom is carpeted. The walls feature wood wainscot panels below flat plaster surfaces. Several decorative bronze air grilles are located about the room. The south wall of the courtroom has five window openings. The ceiling consists of recessed panels and a grid of plaster-clad cross beams. The ends of the cross beam running the width of the courtroom feature Classical ornamental brackets (modillions). The recessed panels are trimmed with a simple crown molding. Period-style light fixtures, both ceiling-hung pendants and wall-mounted sconces illuminate the room.²

The furniture in Courtroom 209 was relocated from the Federal Building in Youngstown, Ohio. The judge's bench, recorder's stand, jury box and bar, and spectator rail all include a green marble base. The six (6) spectator pews were also relocated. Once the relocated furniture was installed, additional furniture was built to match these pieces including the witness stand, counsel tables, and wings flanking the bench.³

With the exception of the finishes, furnishings and lighting in Courtroom 204, which does retain its original internal plan, door and window locations, and spatial relationships with other spaces in the building, the building's most important interior spaces retain their architectural integrity and continue to convey the building's historically significant appearance. Due to functional changes over the years, the office spaces have undergone extensive renovations and, for the most part, resemble modern offices with few original materials or elements. Typically, the renovated

¹ Ratio Architects, *Building Preservation Plan: United States Courthouse and Custom House, Toledo, Ohio* (Washington, DC: U.S. General Services Administration, 2000), 5-4.

² *Ibid.*

³ *Ibid.*

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offices feature carpeted floors, plaster or gypsum board walls, and suspended acoustical tile ceilings with fluorescent light fixtures. Unlike the offices, the building's restrooms, while updated with new fixtures, do retain most of their original features including: marble wainscot, terrazzo floor surfaces, marble stall partitions with wood doors, and plaster ceilings. The exterior also retains its architectural integrity and continues to convey its historic character and significance. The few exterior alterations have been designed to be compatible with the original design.

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*United States Courthouse and Custom House
Lucas County, Ohio*

Significance

Summary Statement

The 1932 United States Courthouse and Custom House, Toledo is a well-executed authoritative example of the Neoclassical Revival style in its massing, exterior detailing, and internal planning, while its rich interior displays custom features reflecting classical vocabulary. The large, imposing structure was built to accommodate overcrowded federal agencies previously housed in a variety of buildings scattered throughout downtown Toledo. Situated at the northern end of the Toledo Civic Center Mall and built of high-quality materials, the building dominates an important view corridor along Spielbusch Avenue from the north and also anchors the Mall itself. Using the tenets of the City Beautiful movement, the Toledo building was designed to be the centerpiece of the expansive lawns of the Toledo Mall. The courthouse's somber presence and monumentality still confer a calm sense of dignity and order to the mall, the civic center and downtown, as the proponents of the movement intended. It shows its allegiance to Neoclassical Revival in its distribution of conventional exterior ornament neither lavish nor paltry. In contrast, its exuberant interior, richly detailed with ornate detailing rendered in brass, gold leaf, and pink marble, indicates a financial investment rarely seen in Midwestern federal buildings executed during the Great Depression.

Originally known as the Federal Building because it accommodated many federal agencies in its early decades, the U.S. Courthouse and Custom House embodies the "grand tradition" of early twentieth century federal buildings that were built in prominent downtown locations in most major American cities during this era. Its style was used for public buildings of the late 1920s and '30s funded under the Public Buildings Act of 1926. Under President Herbert Hoover, a large construction program was accomplished between 1928 and 1931. As designed by Graham H. Woolfall, a senior architect of the United States Treasury Department's Supervising Architect's Office, the U.S. Courthouse and Custom House retains a high level of all aspects of its integrity that conveys the characteristics of the monumental civic Neoclassical Revival style. For these reasons, the U.S. Courthouse and Custom House, Toledo, meets Criterion C of the National Register of Historic Places at the local level of significance. The period of significance is 1932, the date of the building's completion.

History

The U.S. Courthouse and Custom House building is set within the Toledo Civic Center in downtown Toledo, Ohio. In 1904, Mayor Brand Whitlock appointed a commission to study general civic needs. This committee was headed by Henry W. Ashley and included James P. Eagan, W.H. Maher, Edward D. Libbey and S.P. Jermain. In 1916, the Toledo City Council authorized the commission to study the design and construction of a civic center that would include government facilities, a civic auditorium, and a library to serve the greater Toledo population. Following months of study, the commission recommended the acquisition of land then known as Armory Park, an asymmetric site bounded by Erie, Beech and Orange streets and Southard, Canton and Jackson avenues, for the location of the civic center. Successive city administrations purchased land in the area over the next few years, and by 1925 bonds were issued in the amount of \$350,000 to purchase the site of the future U.S. Courthouse and Custom House building. Some 10 years later, the city formally owned the area bounded by Jackson, Erie, Orange and Spielbusch streets. The City Planning Commission's proposed vision as of 1924 included the placement of several other substantial buildings in the Neoclassical style. The completion of the center took over 50 years. Although the

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complex was never completed as originally envisioned, it did finally include a few of the originally envisioned buildings.

In September of 1929, one month before the stock market crashed and precipitated the Great Depression of the 1930s, local officials unveiled the plans for the new U.S. Courthouse and Custom House. The building, designed to replace the outdated 1888 federal building located at Madison Avenue and St. Clair Street, was to house all of Toledo's federal agencies under one roof. Graham H. Woolfall, a senior architect of the United States Treasury Department's Supervising Architect's Office, arrived in Toledo to present the design of the building. It was planned to be 208 feet long and 96 feet wide, and budgeted at \$1,150,000. It featured three stories with a raised basement (a total of four floors), "fireproof" construction, and sandstone exterior cladding. The first floor was to house U.S. Treasury Department offices, including the Internal Revenue Service and Customs Service Departments. The two courtrooms were to occupy the second and third stories along with a suite of ancillary offices. The Treasury Department's Immigration and Naturalization Services, United States Marshall, Prohibition, and Engineer departments were also planned for location within the building. The design also included a tunnel from the building to transport prisoners to the nearby county jail. Construction was set for the beginning of spring 1930.⁴

In May 1932, the United States Courthouse and Custom House passed inspection and opened to the public. No less than 11 federal government offices occupied the new building along with courtrooms for Judge John Killits and Judge George P. Hahn.⁵

While the Toledo U.S. Courthouse and Custom House was an important initial contributor to the envisioned Toledo Civic Center, much of the city's plan languished as it confronted the financial effects of the Great Depression and then the demands of World War II. During this time, efforts to bring the vision to complete realization were hampered by the city's inability to match the funds and human resources needed for the major components of the Work Projects Administration-assisted project⁶. Instead, the Civic Center appears to have slowly evolved out of various individual projects over the span of many years.⁷ A war memorial was completed in 1948. By mid-twentieth century, the subject building still remained as the most recent building addition to the Civic Center.⁸ In more recent years, various city and county governmental buildings have been constructed, primarily facing the Civic Mall between Jackson, Spielbusch, Cherry and Erie streets.

In 1962, the Federal Government completed a new Modernist-style federal office building on Summit Street, which prompted the relocation of several agencies, so that only agencies related to the U.S. District Court and the U.S. Custom Service would remain in the older building.⁹ One year later, federal officials began a renovation project on behalf of the reconfigured use of the 1932 building; by 1964, contractors completed approximately \$727,000 for

⁴ "New Federal Building to Be 3 Stories," *Toledo (OH) Blade*, September 25, 1929.

⁵ "New Federal Building 'Dresses Up' Civic Center," *Toledo (OH) Times*, May 22, 1932.

⁶ "Weed Crop Saddens Officials," *Toledo (OH) Times*, May 30, 1941; "Landscaping of Civic Center Planned; Fall Planting Likely," *Toledo (OH) Times*, June 5, 1941.

⁷ "Weed Crop Saddens Officials," *Toledo (OH) Times*, May 30, 1941.

⁸ Ralph Phelps, "Civic Center Designed Nearly Fifty Years Ago," *Toledo (OH) Times*, July 22, 1951.

⁹ "After 30 Years, U.S. Court and Customs House becomes Just That," *Toledo (OH) Times*, October 17, 1962.; "Facelifting Task Begins," *Toledo (OH) Times*, August 3, 1963.; "727,000 to Repair Federal Building Nearly Matches Original Cost in '32," *Toledo (OH) Blade*, May 1, 1962.; *Toledo (OH) Blade*, April 15, 1964.

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repair and upgrades including the replacement of the steps along the east and west elevations to correct the faulty brick foundations, roof repairs, tiling of wooden floors in some offices, heating and lighting upgrades, sandblasting of the exterior, and the erection of twin flag poles at the Spielbusch Avenue entrance.

Between 1969 and 1997 a number of other modifications took place, largely in the form of upgrades in infrastructure. In 1971, the government spent \$330,000 in repairs to restore a number of damaged features to their original condition, including window repairs and the replacement of 41 windows on the fourth floor; mortar replacement; and interior and exterior bronze door rehabilitation. Few perceptible alterations were done to the building's exterior with the exception of some subtle setting modifications over time as the city worked towards completing the Civic Center vision. One of the more apparent visual changes was the augmentation of the northern surface-level parking lot with an underground facility in 1975. This change can be seen at the access ramp north of the aforementioned aboveground lot.¹⁰

In 2008, the building was named in honor of two prominent and Toledo political leaders, James M. Ashley and Thomas W.L. Ashley. James M. Ashley, U.S. Representative from Ohio (1859-1869), was the prime sponsor of the 13th Amendment, outlawing slavery. A century later, from 1955-1981, his great grandson, Thomas W.L. Ashley, also served as a member of the U.S. House of Representatives from Ohio.

Eligible for Listing under Criterion C

The U.S. Courthouse and Custom House, Toledo is significant at the local level as an example of federal architecture executed in the City of Toledo during the 1930s, one of many federal buildings erected in an important expansion of federal presence in cities across the nation. The subject building's scale and style represent the government's commitment to overall design quality that characterized federal public works conceived towards the end of the 1920s, before the stock market crash. During the sustained impact of the Great Depression, a more restrained Classical style was used.

As earlier described, the Toledo U.S. Courthouse and Custom House is an authoritative, well-executed example of the monumental Neoclassical style, popularized for large-scale civic architecture in the last half of the nineteenth century and the preferred style for American federal architecture throughout the early twentieth century. In addition, it is also an example of the civic design principles of the City Beautiful movement that became prevalent in American civic centers at the turn of the twentieth century and beyond.

The movement, inspired by the "White City" of the World's Columbian Exposition of 1893, brightened the urban core. The rigorous ordering of buildings, carefully sited in a larger civic center, also amplified the sense of visual cohesiveness and lack of clutter in a strategic public area. Such symmetrical ordering symbolized civic as well as architectural "virtue," manifest in formal, well-ordered environments characterized by extensive parks and boulevards lined with landmark buildings.

¹⁰ "U.S. Putting Parking Lot 60 Feet From New Civic Center Sculpture," *Toledo (OH) Blade*, September 18, 1979.

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The subject building dominates an important view corridor along Spielbusch Avenue and also enjoys a prominent location on the Civic Center Mall itself, a mall unusually expansive for a city of Toledo's size and means. Although never fully realized, the mall continues to demonstrate the city's concern for and pride in the political, economic and cultural importance of its civic core and accompanying green and open space. This concern dates back at least to 1916, when city officials first envisioned a mall based on the famous Mall at Buckingham Palace. This concern has continued at least through the early years of the twenty-first century as various additions, intrusions and changes to the Toledo Mall have continued to be the topic of editorials and public debate.

The City Beautiful Movement was often paired with the Beaux Arts Classicism of the late nineteenth century, and later with classically derived styles, like the Neoclassical Revival, a style favored by government officials because it readily conveyed a strong but reassuring federal or state presence. The style's primary character-defining features, seen here, include the harmonious distribution of elements; a clearly organized hierarchy of spaces throughout a building; and symmetrical massing in both form and plan. Other features include regularly spaced, proportioned windows, the hierarchical employment of the Classical Orders, a raised *piano nobile* above a rusticated base, arcades, triangular pediments, elongated roof parapets with turned balustrades, projecting or receding volumes balanced against overall massing, strong cornice lines, and use of light stone such as limestone or sandstone above the more textured cladding used for the rusticated base.

The design of the new sandstone veneer building was unveiled in September 1929. It was constructed in 1932 under the direction of Graham H. Woolfall and James A. Wetmore in the Supervising Architect's Office of the Treasury Department. Here, both primary (long) facades feature a series of double-height engaged Corinthian pilasters and smooth, dressed walls above an arcaded, rusticated lower story with more massive stones, alluding to the strength of Roman aqueducts and fortified walls. These three stories are visually lifted into greater civic prominence by the raised basement. On both primary facades, the long series of columns are interrupted by one centrally positioned projecting volume comprised of three bays featuring four free-standing round columns and crowned with a triangular pediment (tympanum).

The history of design and construction of federal buildings falls into distinct eras typically defined by congressional authorizations for public buildings, the preferences of the Supervising Architect of the Treasury Department, and the extent of involvement of private architects. Designed in 1929, the U.S. Courthouse and Custom House, Toledo, falls within the Treasury Department Design context of the standardized design era of 1915–1930. In 1913, an omnibus Public Buildings Act was enacted and the Public Buildings Commission was established, both of which sought to economize costs and led to the standardization of plans, specifications, and materials for different classes of federal buildings. For example, while it authorized construction of a large number of public buildings, the act stipulated that communities with postal receipts totaling less than \$10,000 would not receive authorization for a new post office building.¹¹ This policy culminated in 1915, when William McAdoo, Secretary of the Treasury and Chairman of the Public Buildings Commission, established a classification system for four classes of federal buildings. McAdoo's classes were differentiated by the value of post office annual receipts and the value of metropolitan real estate adjoining the proposed site. The higher the class, the higher quality of the design and materials allowed, including exterior facing, windows and doors, interior finishes, and ornament in public spaces.¹²

¹¹ Harris, *History of Post Office Construction*, 7.

¹² *Ibid.*, 9-10

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Section 8 Page 9

*United States Courthouse and Custom House
Lucas County, Ohio*

While designed in the standardized design era of 1915-1930, the U.S Courthouse and Custom House was constructed within the era of the Public Works Administration Design, 1931-1939. With the onset of the Great Depression, the architectural profession and construction trades were extremely hard hit by unemployment. On May 31, 1930, the U.S. Congress amended the Public Buildings Act of 1926, with increased funding and further authorized the Secretary of the Treasury Department to contract with private firms and individuals for design services.¹³ To meet spatial requirements of the Treasury Department and the Post Office Department, the Hoover administration and the U.S. Congress increased funding for the federal building program in 1928, 1930, and 1931, for a total of \$700 million.¹⁴ The Federal Employment Stabilization Act of 1931 directed federal construction agencies to prepare six-year building plans and increased appropriations for that year by \$100 million. The Public Works Administration (PWA) was established in 1933 to oversee the planning and construction of public works projects. As of February 28, 1939, PWA federal building construction projects totaled 3,167 buildings at \$105,984,762, including 30 courthouses and city halls with an allotment of \$1,312,012 and 406 post offices with an allotment of \$43,607,814.¹⁵

¹³Ibid., 17.

¹⁴Craig, et al., *The Federal Presence*, 281.

¹⁵United States Federal Emergency Administration of Public Works (PWA), *America Builds : The Record of the PWA* (Washington, DC : U.S. Government Printing Office, 1939), 106.

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National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Photos Page 10

*United States Courthouse and Custom House
Lucas County, OH*

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES

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U.S. Federal Emergency Administration of Public Works (PWA). *America Builds: The Record of the PWA*. Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1939.

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National Park Service

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Section Photos Page 1

*United States Courthouse and Custom House
Lucas County, OH*

PhotoLog:

United States Courthouse and Custom House
Toledo, Ohio
Photographer: GSA.
Date of photograph: November 19, 2012
Negative: GSA, Center for Historic Buildings

1. West (front) elevation with new accessible ramp

Photographer: David Greenwood, ICF Jones & Stokes
Date of photograph: September 26-28, 2006
Negative: GSA, Center for Historic Buildings

2. West (front) elevation before accessible ramp
3. West and south elevations before accessible ramp
4. North elevation
5. East and south elevations
6. East elevation
7. East elevation, entrance (closed) in central pavilion, with round arched doorways, and bronze doors
8. Central pavilion with bracketed pediment, frieze band, and fluted columns with Corinthian capitals
9. South wing of east elevation
10. Typical round arched window
11. Balustraded parapet above fluted column supported entablature
12. South elevation
13. Arched door opening containing bronze frame with glazed transom and bronze door, 1st floor elevator lobby
14. Bronze letterbox on marble wall surface below main stairway, 1st floor elevator lobby
15. Directory board flanked by marble columns with decorative plaster capitals, 1st floor elevator lobby
16. Elevator featuring panelized bronze doors set within marble surrounds, 1st floor elevator lobby
17. Octagonal-shaped marble columns with decorative plaster capitals, 1st floor hallway between security screening and elevator lobby
18. Entrance framed and trimmed in wood with glazed transom and sidelights, 1st floor, security screening and elevator lobby
19. Decorative plaster capital set below floral leaf trimmed entablature, 2nd floor lobby
20. Multi-paneled solid wood door and frame set within recessed marble arch, 2nd floor lobby, Courtroom 204 door
21. Partially enclosed stairway featuring decorative bronze railing, 2nd floor lobby
22. Solid wood door in wood frame with eagle design in transom, 2nd floor non-operational doors to Courtroom 209
23. Leather covered courtroom entrance door, Courtroom 209
24. Overall view of Courtroom 209
25. Beam featuring decorative modillion, Courtroom 209
26. Decorative bronze radiator cover, 2nd floor, Judicial Conference Room, behind Courtroom 204
27. Wood doors set within marble recessed arch with raised seal in transom area, entrance to Courtroom 204
28. Overall view of Courtroom 204
29. Fluted pilaster supporting decorative entablature flanked by arched window openings, Courtroom 204
30. Decorative beams and recessed panel ceiling, Courtroom 204
31. Arched windows, Courtroom 204
32. Decorative bronze air grille, Courtroom 204
33. Court emblem, hanging light fixture, and judges bench, Courtroom 204
34. General view of hanging light fixtures, decorative ceiling, and fluted pilasters, Courtroom 204

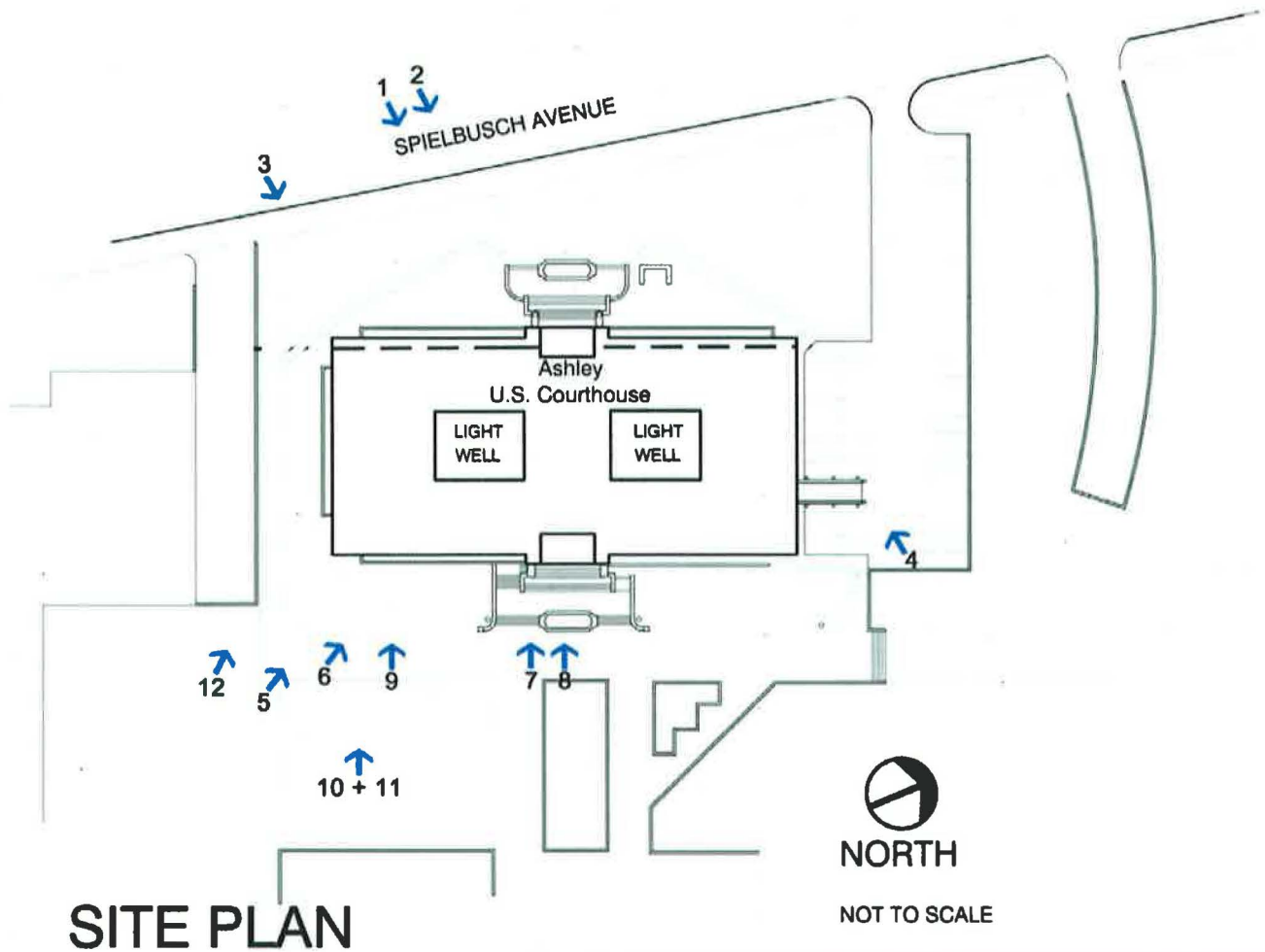
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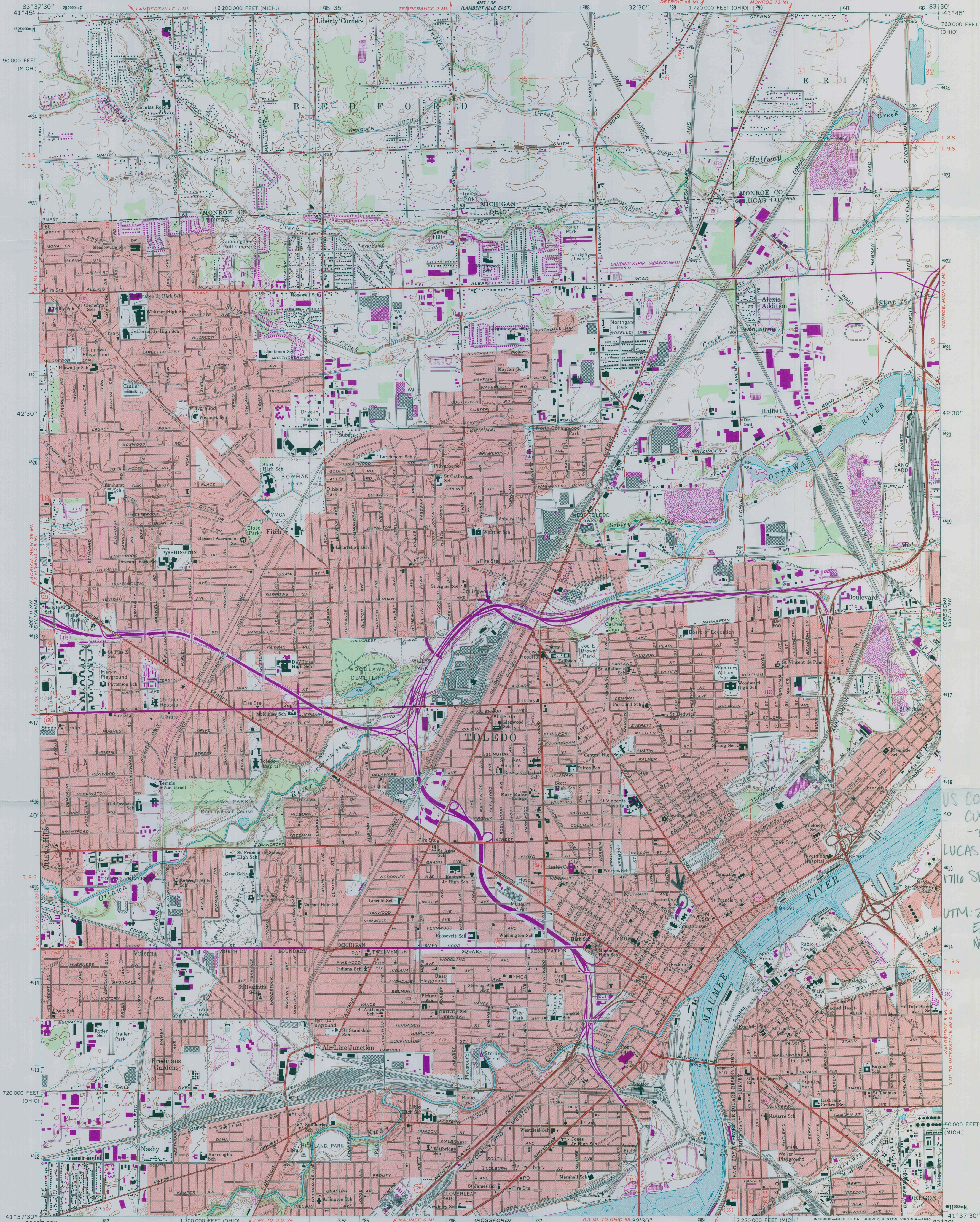
National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Photos Page 2

*United States Courthouse and Custom House
Lucas County, OH*

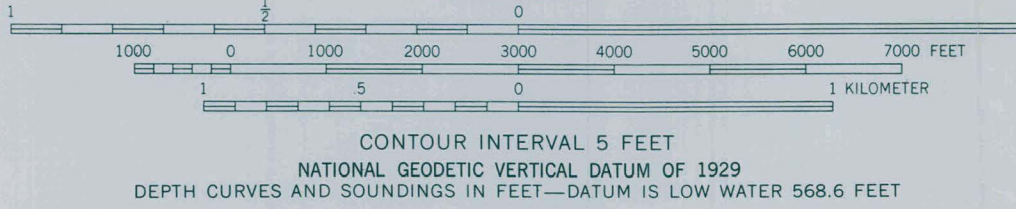
Exterior Photo Key:





US COURTHOUSE &
CUSTOMS HOUSE
-TOLEDO
LUCAS COUNTY, OH
1716 SPELLRUSCH
AVENUE
UTM: ZONE 17
EASTING 288845
NORTHING 4614628

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Revised in cooperation with State of Ohio agencies
Control by USGS and NOS/NOAA
Topography by planetable surveys 1934. Revised 1965
Selected hydrographic data compiled from U. S. Lake Survey chart 374
(1965). This information is not intended for navigational purposes
Polyconic projection. 10,000-foot grid based on Ohio coordinate
system, north zone, and Michigan coordinate system, south zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 17, shown in blue. 1927 North American Datum
To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983
move the projection lines 1 meter south and
6 meters west as shown by dashed corner ticks
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where
generally visible on aerial photographs. This information not checked
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown
Land lines within the Michigan Survey based on the Michigan meridian



SCALE 1:24,000
CONTOUR INTERVAL 5 FEET
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929
DEPTH CURVES AND SOUNDINGS IN FEET-DATUM IS LOW WATER 568.6 FEET



ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Heavy-duty	Light-duty
Medium-duty	Unimproved dirt
Interstate Route	U. S. Route
	State Route

FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

Revisions shown in purple compiled in cooperation with State of
Ohio agencies from aerial photographs taken 1977 and other
source data. This information not field checked. Map edited 1980

TOLEDO, OHIO-MICH.
N4137.5-W8330/7.5
1965
PHOTOREVISED 1980
DMA 4267 II NE-SERIES V852





1716

JAMES M. ASHLEY AND
THOMAS W. ASHLEY
UNITED STATES COURTHOUSE



1716

0000











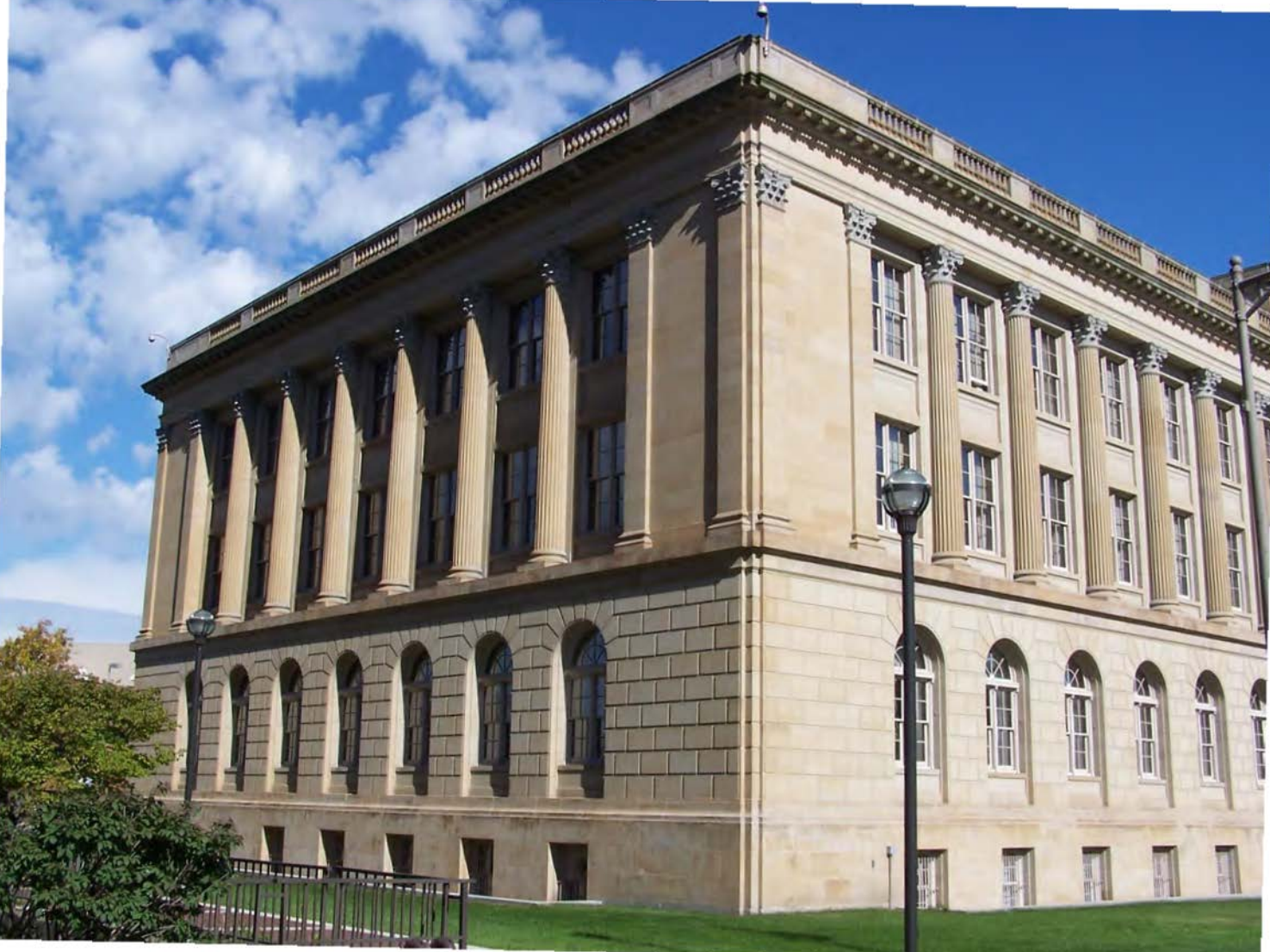


UNITED STATES COURT HOUSE AND CUSTOM HOUSE













AGENCY DIRECTORY

CLERK OF COURTS	114
JURY AND NATURALIZATION	403
COURTS US DISTRICT COURTS 6TH CIRCUIT	
HON DAVID A KATZ	DISTR 307
HON JACK ZOUHARY	DISTR 203
HON JAMES G GARR	CHIEF 210
HON VENEZIA & ARMSTRONG	MAGISTRATE 318
COURT REPORTER	118
COURT REPORTER	120
COURT ROOM No.1	204
COURT ROOM No.2	205
US BANKRUPTCY COURT	
HON RICHARD L SPEER	BANKRUPTCY JUDGE 113
COURT ROOM No.1	119
HON MARY ANN WHIPPLE	BANKRUPTCY JUDGE 111
COURT ROOM No.2	103
BANKRUPTCY CLERK	11
ATTORNEYS ROOM	108
PRETRIAL SERVICES	305
LAW LIBRARY	418
MARSHALS OFFICE	313
GSA	301
CREDIT UNION	405
SNACK BAR	123
— ODD NUMBERS	EVEN NUM





100



1

NOTICE
Cell phones and pagers
should be turned off
within 30 feet of
this entrance.

Carroll, Dickerson,
Parks and Swenson
ARCHITECTS P.C.
WASHINGTON





ator Lobby

UNITED STATES
BANKRUPTCY
COURT

DIRECTORY

CLERK	101
DEPUTY CLERK	102
RECORDS & COMM.	103
ADMIN. ASST.	104
RECEPTION	105
SECURITY	106
PLANT	107
PROPERTY	108
TRAINING	109
LEGAL COUNSEL	110
PROBATION	111
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ADMIN. ASST.	113
RECEPTION	114
SECURITY	115
PLANT	116
PROPERTY	117
TRAINING	118
LEGAL COUNSEL	119
PROBATION	120







Stair A
(BASEMENT TO 8th FLOOR)
Floor **2**
EXIT DISCHARGE ON FLOOR 1
↓ (No Roof Access)



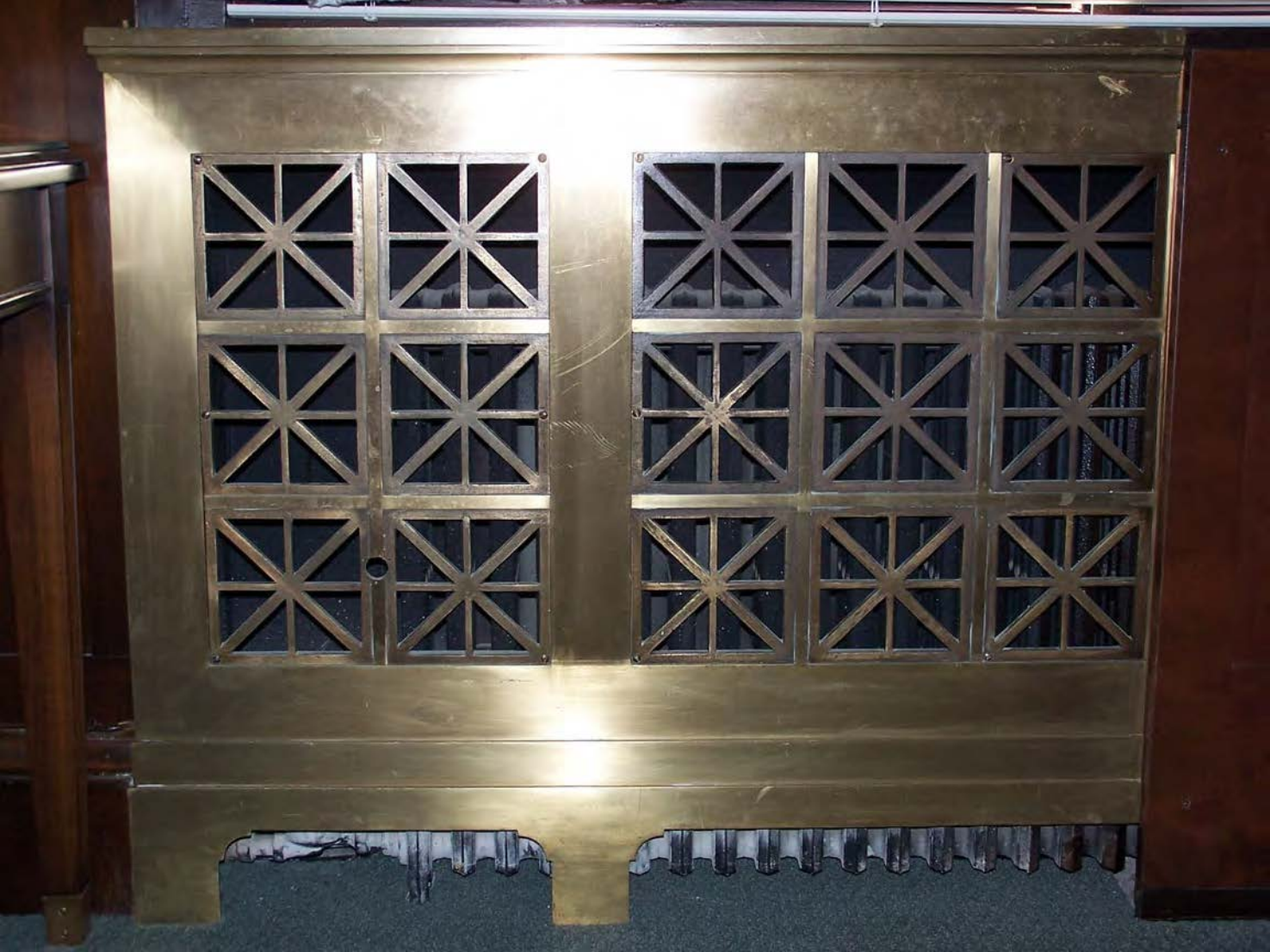


207











ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 08-14-2013 BY 60322 UCBAW















EXIT



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY United States Courthouse and Custom House
NAME:

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: OHIO, Lucas

DATE RECEIVED: 5/31/13 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 6/18/13
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 7/03/13 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 7/17/13
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 13000501

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 7-17-13 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

**Entered in
The National Register
of
Historic Places**

RECOM./CRITERIA _____

REVIEWER _____ DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



GSA Public Buildings Service



May 23, 2013

Ms. Carol Shull
Interim Keeper, National Register of Historic Places
National Park Service
1849 C Street, NW (2280)
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Ms. Shull: *Carol*

The U.S. General Services Administration (GSA) is pleased to nominate the United States Courthouse and Custom House (current name James M. Ashley and Thomas W.L. Ashley United States Courthouse) located at 1716 Spielbusch Avenue, Toledo, Ohio, for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places.

The following documents are enclosed:

- Signed original National Register of Historic Places Registration form;
- U.S.G.S. Map; and
- Original labeled black and white photographs along with a disk of TIFF images.

In accordance with 36 CFR Part 60.9(c), the appropriate local elected officials were notified of GSA's intent to nominate the above referenced property to the National Register of Historic Places. No comments were received within the 45-day response period.

If for any reason any nomination package that GSA submits needs to be returned, please do so by a delivery service as items returned to our offices via regular mail are irradiated and the materials severely damaged. Should you have any questions or concerns regarding this nomination package, please contact Elizabeth Hannold at (202) 501-2863 or elizabeth.hannold@gsa.gov.

Sincerely,

Beth L. Savage
Federal Preservation Officer
Director, Center for Historic Buildings

Enclosures