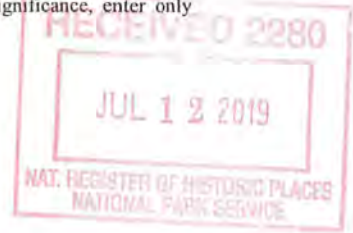


4307

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 National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. 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.



1. Name of Property

Historic name: United States Post Office

Other names/site number: Donald J. Pease Federal Building

Name of related multiple property listing:
N/A

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

2. Location

Street & number: 143 West Liberty Street

City or town: Medina State: Ohio County: Medina

Not For Publication: Vicinity:

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 at the following level(s) of significance:

 national statewide X local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

 X A B X C D

	7/11/2019
Signature of certifying official/Title:	Date
<u>Federal Preservation Officer, U.S. General Services Administration</u>	
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government	

In my opinion, the property <u> X </u> meets <u> </u> does not meet the National Register criteria.	
	June 19, 2019
Signature of commenting official:	Date
<u>DSHPO for Inventory & Registration</u>	
Title: <u>State Historic Preservation Office, Ohio History, Connecticut</u>	State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

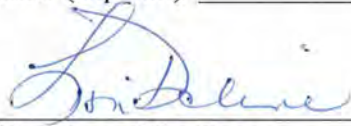
United States Post Office
Name of Property

Medina County, Ohio
County and State

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain:)



Signature of the Keeper

8/20/19

Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private:
- Public – Local
- Public – State
- Public – Federal

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

- Building(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

United States Post Office
Name of Property _____

Medina County, Ohio
County and State _____

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	_____	buildings
_____	_____	sites
_____	_____	structures
_____	_____	objects
<u>1</u>	_____	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

GOVERNMENT/post office

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

GOVERNMENT/government office

United States Post Office
Name of Property

Medina County, Ohio
County and State

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS/Colonial Revival

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: concrete, brick, limestone, wood, sheet metal

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

The United States Post Office is located on a corner lot in downtown Medina, Ohio. Its immediate neighbors are mid- to late-twentieth century commercial and residential buildings. The red brick Colonial Revival style building capped with a cupola has a symmetrical façade composed of brick pilasters, rectangular window openings set off with limestone sills and heads, an arched central entrance and a side-gable roof. The design of the United States Post Office represents the use of traditional architecture styles, usually Colonial Revival, for federal buildings in smaller communities. Red brick, limestone exterior elements such as window sills and heads, and light colored wood exterior elements all ground the building firmly in the Colonial Revival style palette of traditional materials. Other classical elements include a wide fascia and a raking cornice, both with dentil molding, pedimented gable faces and fanlight and lunette windows. The federal identity of the building is conveyed by the carved eagle mounted above the front entry. Although the interior has been substantially altered since the building's 1938 completion, the exterior of the building, through its form, style and iconography, still conveys its identity as a small town post office building of the New Deal era.

United States Post Office
Name of Property

Medina County, Ohio
County and State

Narrative Description

The United States Post Office is situated on a corner lot at the intersection of West Liberty Street and North Elmwood Avenue, in Medina, Ohio, and faces south onto West Liberty Street. Located on the northwestern edge of Medina's central business district and half a block west of the National Register-listed Medina Public Square Historic District,¹ the post office property was formerly bordered on the north by the Medina Masonic Temple and Medina Theater, a single large building, and on the east by the rear ell which provided access to the theater. Both the building and rear ell were demolished in 2016, leaving a vacant lot. A small, mid-twentieth century apartment building and a parking lot are located south of the building, across West Liberty Street. Late-twentieth century commercial buildings occupy the street corners to the west of the post office.

The red brick Colonial Revival style building has a symmetrical façade composed of brick pilasters, window openings set off with limestone sills and heads, and a central entrance under a side-gable roof capped with a cupola. Completed in 1938, the design of the United States Post Office represents the use of traditional architectural styles, usually Colonial Revival, for federal buildings in smaller communities. Red brick, limestone exterior elements such as window sills and heads, light colored wood exterior elements and a standing-seam metal roof ground the building firmly in the Colonial Revival style palette of traditional materials. A brick arch defines the entrance into which are set a wood column-supported entablature, an ornamental rectangular fanlight and paired doors. A wide fascia that incorporates a small-scale dentil molding edges the eaves of the gable roof over the front portion of the building and extends across the base of the parapet enclosing the flat roof over the north portion of the building. A raking cornice with dentil molding encloses the pedimented gable faces, which have lunette windows. A mailing vestibule and a loading dock extend from the north side of the building, adjacent to the small parking lot on the north edge of the property.

Exterior

A concrete sidewalk and steps, edged with a curb, extend from the public sidewalk to the granite steps that approach the West Liberty Street entrance (Photo 1). Lawn areas and planting beds containing deciduous and evergreen shrubs wrap the building on the front and sides, while evergreen trees flank the front entrance and extend in a line across the east side yard. A recent board fence also extends across the east side yard at the face of the building and along the eastern property line. A metal flag pole within a circular concrete pad approached by two concrete steps stands in the west side of the front yard. The flag pole's location and circular setting match that shown on the original site plan.² A concrete parking lot containing eight spaces is located at the rear of the property.

The one-story masonry building measures 67 feet on its south and north sides and 57 feet on its east and west sides, containing 4,284 gross square feet on the main floor and 4,541 gross square feet on the basement level. It is composed of two main masses: a gable-roofed front block with roof ridge oriented east-west, parallel to West Liberty Street, and a slightly larger, flat-roofed rear block. A third, smaller and

¹ The Medina Public Square Historic District (#75001483), listed in the National Register of Historic Places on June 11, 1975, includes the town's public square, the adjacent block faces, and portions of the blocks extending from the square, but does not include the United States Post Office. However, the building is located within the boundaries of the larger, locally-designated Medina Public Square Historic District.

² The original drawings, prepared by the Office of the Supervising Architect of the U.S. Treasury and dated April 1937, reside with the U.S. General Services Administration's Region 5.

United States Post Office

Medina County, Ohio

Name of Property

County and State

lower block extends from the center of the rear wall. The foundation and exterior walls of the post office are faced with blended shades of red face brick laid in Flemish bond. Two courses of limestone form a water table. The windows are double hung, multi-light wood windows installed in 1996. The basement windows are fronted by concrete window wells capped with iron grilles and railings. The gable roof on the front section of the building is covered with standing-seam metal roofing. A brick parapet wall capped with a limestone coping encloses the rear section's flat roof, which is covered in rubber membrane.

Wide, flat brick pilasters mark the corners and divide the south façade into three bays: a wide central bay flanked by narrower side bays (Photos 1 & 2). The entrance and flanking windows occupy the central bay while each side bay contains a single window. The projecting forms of the pilasters at the water table and at the fascia suggest bases and capitals. A limestone cornerstone set in the water table at the west corner of the south façade is inscribed as follows (Photo 3):

Henry Morgenthau Jr
Secretary of the Treasury
James A Farley
Postmaster General
Louis A Simon
Supervising Architect
Neal A Melick
Supervising Engineer
1937

Rectangular window openings have plain limestone sills and lintels. The brickwork below the windows forms recessed panels. The simple wood window frames contain twelve-over-twelve sash. A segmental brick arch defines the main entrance. Within the arch, an entablature is supported by a fluted column and an engaged pilaster on either side. A small-scale dentil molding enriches the upper portion of the entablature below a projecting crown molding. A bronze or bronze-finished eagle³ is positioned above the entablature in front of the arched wall, which is finished in stucco and painted. A pair of paneled wood doors with six-light windows in the upper half are set below a rectangular transom with decorative wood tracery in the form of a fan light; both the doors and transom were installed in 1996 and replicate the originals, which were removed in 1965. Iron railings edge the steps and curve to encircle the newel post which is topped with a ball finial. Standard lamps originally stood within the curve of the railing, but these were removed some time after 1966. A modern pipe-railing handrail has been added at the center of the granite steps. Woodwork and windows are painted buff while railings are painted black.

The brick wall of the building terminates in a wide wood fascia which is enriched with moldings on its lower edge and a dentil and additional moldings on the upper edge. Centered on the fascia over the entrance is bronze lettering reading, "Donald J. Pease Federal Building." The current signage was installed following the 2003 renaming of the building.⁴ A metal plaque installed circa 2003 on the wall to the east of the entrance provides biographical information about Pease. The side-gable roof is clad in standing seam metal painted green and edged with a fence-type snow guard. A small flat-roofed wood cupola rises from the center of the roof ridge. A molded base, pilasters, molded entablature and canted corners enrich the cupola, which has an arch with metal louvered vents at each of its four faces.

The east and west side elevations are nearly identical and are clad with the same brick as the front. Pilasters like those on the façade mark the gable end and frame a wide bay containing two window openings in the southern portion on each elevation (Photos 4, 6 & 7). The fascia seen on the front extends across the entire length of each side elevation. On the southern portion of each side elevation, the fascia and denticulated raking cornice enclose the gable face, which holds a lunette window. Three

³ The original drawings indicate that the eagle was to be of cast aluminum.

⁴ Originally, lettering in the same location read, "United States Post Office." This lettering was replaced in 1965 to read, "Federal Building."

United States Post Office

Medina County, Ohio

Name of Property

County and State

evenly spaced window openings pierce the walls under the flat-roofed northern portion of each side elevation. The windows on the side elevations are identical to those on the front and have the same recessed brick panel under the sill. An areaway at the north end of the east side elevation is enclosed on two sides by pipe railing. On its north side, concrete stairs lead to a metal clad door, which provides access to the basement.

The north (rear) elevation of the post office is clad with the same brick as the front and sides (Photo 5). Wide window openings containing paired double-hung sash are located at the east and west ends of this elevation, flanking the rear extension. Original to the building, this extension had on its north elevation, a single door for the postal carriers' entrance, a double door for the mailing vestibule and a small, six-over-six light window, lighting the stairway inside. The loading dock extended along the full width of the extension under a canopy supported on either end by metal pipe columns. Above the extension, three sets of paired, six-over-six windows originally lit the postal workroom within. These window openings are now filled with HVAC ductwork. A small addition with brick walls similar in color to the brick of the original construction was added to the east end of the extension to accommodate an elevator. Likely dating to 1996, the addition extends out from the area that held the carriers' and mailing vestibule entrances. A door opening containing a pair of solid double doors is now located in the west wall of this addition. The west wall of the original extension originally had two six-over-six windows. These windows were removed in 1965 and the area was infilled with brick. The concrete loading dock remains along the western portion of the original extension and is edged with a diamond-plate bumper. A concrete pedestrian ramp with metal picket railings was recently constructed at the west end of the loading dock, which is also accessed by concrete steps. The canopy over the loading dock has been replaced by a modern structure, which is edged with the same metal picket railing as the ramp and which supports mechanical equipment. An exterior brick chimney rises on the east side of the rear elevation at the junction of the rear wall and the extension.

Interior

The interior was extensively remodeled in 1965 to provide office space for several federal and state agencies, and again in 1996 to serve as the office of the Chief Judge of the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals. Consequently, little remains of the original floor plan or interior finishes.

The 1937 plans show the original interior of the United States Post Office in Medina to be similar to that of many post office buildings of the period and size. The main entrance on West Liberty Street gave access to a small vestibule enclosed with wood wainscoting and glazing and containing doors on its east and west sides. The vestibule led to a 14-foot wide public lobby running east-west across the front of the building. A separate postmaster's office was located at the west end of the lobby and a postal box lobby was located at the east end. A series of postal windows and mailing slots were located along the north wall of the postal lobby. The floor of the lobby was tiled and had a tile baseboard. The walls were plastered above a tile wainscot. The ceiling was 13 feet high and was finished in plaster with a plaster cornice. A mural titled, *Gathering the Apple Crop*, was located on the upper portion of the lobby walls, likely at the west end over the doorway to the postmaster's office. The postal window service area and postal workroom were located together in a single open area on the other side of the north wall of the postal lobby. This space had simple finishes and was lit by a skylight monitor. A walled finance section containing a vault and a bathroom were located on the west side of the open workroom. A mailing vestibule, stairway to the basement, janitors' closet and women's toilet were located in the rear extension, to the north of the workroom. Per the original plans, the basement contained a swing room, stamped envelope storage, general storage areas, fuel and boiler rooms and carriers' toilet, all uses common to post office buildings of the period. A July 30, 1937, newspaper article describes the basement as having

United States Post Office

Medina County, Ohio

Name of Property

County and State

five offices in addition to space for mechanical equipment and auxiliary postal functions,⁵ however, this cannot be verified.

Currently, the front door opens directly into a large open office, which comprises the majority of the first floor area (Photos 8 & 9). Enclosed office spaces are located along the east wall toward the front (Photo 10). Partitions along the north (rear) wall enclose office support areas. The large open area is interrupted by a single pier, which remains from the original construction. A stairway located immediately to the west of the entrance at the front of the first floor, which was added in 1965 to link the first floor and basement, is edged by a wood railing (Photo 8). Built-in wood book shelves line much of the wall area. The shelving and the interior trim date to the 1996 remodeling. The window trim is fluted and has rosette corner blocks. A wide molded cornice runs throughout just below the dropped ceiling. The current front doors replicate the originals, which were removed in 1965. The wood trim around the front entrance appears to be original; however, it lacks the cornice shown in the 1937 drawings.

The basement has been partitioned off into several enclosed spaces containing offices, restrooms, a mechanical room and a custodial area. A north-south corridor connects the 1965 front stairway with the original rear stairway and 1996 elevator (Photo 11). The basement ceilings are low, less than 8 feet, and only the perimeter spaces receive natural light via window wells.

Nearly all interior features and finishes date to 1996. On both the first floor and basement, the ceilings are dropped, composed of acoustic tiles and lay-in troffer lighting. The original plaster ceilings are presumed to remain above. The interior walls are drywall. The floors in the office areas and basement corridor are carpeted, while the bathrooms have quarry tile floors. The doors are solid core wood doors.

Alterations

Completed in 1938, the building was largely unaltered for more than two decades. However, after the post office vacated the building in 1962, it was acquired by GSA and in 1965 remodeled to serve as a small federal office building providing space for several different tenants. At this time, HVAC was added, various other systems were modernized and the interior was altered to provide enclosed office areas. Exterior alterations at this time included changing the name of the building above the front entrance and replacing the front doors and transom with storefront units of aluminum and glass. At the rear of the building, various alterations were made to accommodate the HVAC system, including installing a cooling tower on the roof and removing the original skylight over the postal workroom. In addition, windows on the west wall of the rear extension were removed and the openings infilled. On the interior, both the first floor and basement floor plans were totally reconfigured with nearly all original interior walls removed and new walls constructed. The first floor was divided into multiple enclosed offices, a large conference room and various office support spaces. The basement was also converted to have multiple enclosed offices and office support spaces. Movement between the two floors was facilitated by the addition of a second stairway at the front, just to the west of the front door.

Alterations completed in 1996 to convert the building for use as offices for the Chief Judge of the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals replaced or reversed nearly all of the 1965 alterations. Significant new alterations included the replacement of the original wood windows with new, insulated wood windows which replicate the appearance of the original windows. At the rear of the building, a small addition was added to accommodate an elevator and a handicapped ramp. The canopy over the loading dock was altered to accommodate updated HVAC equipment. On the front, the 1965 storefront door assembly was replaced with new doors and transom replicating the original. On the interior, both floors were substantially reconfigured, with new walls and finishes installed.

⁵ "Commence to Build Soon," *Medina County Gazette*, 30 July 1937.

United States Post Office

Medina County, Ohio

Name of Property

County and State

The building was renamed in 2003, occasioning new signage over the entrance. Following the 2016 removal of the adjacent Medina Theatre entry building, a board fence was installed along the east side property line.

Integrity

The United States Post Office remains in excellent condition with few significant alterations to the exterior of the building. It retains its original massing, with the exception of the small elevator addition at the rear and within the original loading dock area. Most exterior alterations are confined to the rear of the building. Other alterations, such as the windows and front doors and transom, replicate or restore original features. The interior has undergone two successive remodeling campaigns to adapt to changing tenants, allowing the building to remain in federal service.

The building's location, on a corner site one block from Medina's public square and the center of its business district, remains unchanged. The building is located within the local historic district and adjacent to the National-Register-listed Medina Public Square Historic District, which contain many buildings extant in 1938, the date the United States Post Office was completed. The building's design, materials and workmanship remain intact on the exterior, which continues to express the Colonial Revival style, as typically applied to small federal buildings. The form, style and iconography of the building, including the eagle above the door, lettering on the fascia board and flagpole, collectively convey the feeling of a post office building of the New Deal era. The building's continued use as a federal building reinforces its association with the New Deal federal construction program.

The significance and rarity of the United States Post Office within the context of Medina's history outweighs the loss of interior integrity. The United States Post Office is the only known property in Medina to have been constructed under a Public Works Administration, an important New Deal construction program, and is the town's earliest purpose-built federal building. While the interior no longer conveys the original function of the building, the exterior appearance is largely unaltered and strongly conveys its original identity as a Colonial Revival style, New Deal-era post office building.

United States Post Office
Name of Property

Medina County, Ohio
County and State

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.
- C. 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.
- 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 grave
- D. A cemetery
- E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F. A commemorative property
- G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

United States Post Office
Name of Property

Medina County, Ohio
County and State

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Politics/Government

Architecture

Period of Significance

1938

Significant Dates

1938

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Simon, Louis A., Supervising Architect of the Treasury

United States Post Office
Name of Property

Medina County, Ohio
County and State

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The United States Post Office in Medina, Ohio, is significant under National Register Criteria A and C for Politics/Government and Architecture at the local level. The period of significance is 1938, representing the completion of the building.

Under Criterion A for Politics/Government, the United States Post Office possesses local significance as the first permanent post office building in Medina after more than one hundred years of temporary locations throughout the town. The erection of the building was a symbol of community pride and achievement. In addition, the building possesses local significance as a notable example of a federal government building in Medina, Ohio, constructed under the New Deal-era federal programs designed in the 1930s to relieve the economic problems caused by the Great Depression. The Medina United States Post Office was one of hundreds of small, standard plan post offices designed and constructed by the United States Treasury Department under the Public Works Administration, through a program which sought to maximize economic benefits by delivering construction projects quickly, efficiently and in large numbers across the country, while utilizing local materials and labor.

Under Criterion C for Architecture, the United States Post Office is a significant local example of a period and type of construction—a standard-plan Colonial Revival style post office. Colonial Revival is one of the regional styles used for federal buildings and post offices during the 1930s. The Medina building is representative of the Colonial Revival style post offices, most commonly built in small towns. The Colonial Revival style was particularly well-suited for Medina, which is located in the Western Reserve, an area of Ohio settled by New Englanders. The style recalled the country's colonial origins and provided a traditional civic presence in small communities, which tended to change slowly over time. The style is expressed in the symmetrical brick façade divided by brick pilasters, the centered entrance detailed with columns and a fanlight, the denticulated fascia and the side-gable roof with cupola and pedimented gable faces. Symmetry established a formality and the eagle above the entrance provided federal iconography.

While the interior of the United States Post Office no longer possesses features representing its original use, the exterior retains a high degree of integrity and clearly communicates its historic function as a post office and its Colonial Revival design.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

Construction of Federal Buildings during the Public Works Administration Era, 1933-1939

The United States Treasury Department was the agency responsible for the construction of federal buildings—including, post offices, courthouses, custom houses, office buildings, border stations and many other building types—from the mid-nineteenth century until the Public Buildings Administration was created within the Federal Works Agency in 1939. The Office of Supervising Architect was established within the Treasury Department in 1853 to oversee design and construction of federal civilian facilities. The work of this office represents several eras defined by congressional authorizations, the Supervising Architect's stylistic preferences and the involvement of private architects. During the first fifteen years of the twentieth century, private architects provided designs for larger projects while the staff in the Office of the Supervising Architect produced plans for many smaller buildings. The period between 1915 and 1930, however, was characterized by efforts to develop a more standardized approach to the design of federal buildings. A system of four classes of buildings was defined, based on the value of annual post office receipts and the value of adjoining real estate in large cities; buildings in higher classes were

United States Post Office

Medina County, Ohio

Name of Property

County and State

allowed larger budgets for design and construction.⁶ However, relatively little new construction took place during this period due in part to the build-up to World War I, the war and post-war increases in the construction costs. The Public Buildings Act of 1926 sought to address the backlog of federal building needs and resulted in a more centralized and controlled federal building program through two significant changes: it required that the U.S. Treasury Department implement a policy of need and business consideration-based federal building construction; and it once again allowed the Treasury Department to contract outside architects and engineers.

The onset of the Great Depression after the stock market crash in 1929 ushered in a new era of federal building projects. The Hoover Administration and Congress had increased funding for the federal building program in 1928 and did so again in 1930 and 1931. The Federal Employment Stabilization Act of 1931 appropriated an additional \$100 million for that year and directed Federal agencies that oversaw construction projects to prepare six-year plans. As a result of this act, the staff of the Supervising Architect's office was significantly increased and over 130 private architectural firms were commissioned to design federal buildings in 1931.

Beginning in 1933, the Roosevelt Administration inaugurated the New Deal, a collection of programs and agencies intended to stimulate and stabilize the economy, which relied heavily on construction projects. By 1934, over 300 firms were involved in the federal construction program overseen by the Supervising Architect's office.⁷ However, in an effort to economize and regularize the building program, after June 1934, all design work was brought back into the Supervising Architect's office. Smaller buildings, generally those under 10,000 square feet, were designed by the staff of the Supervising Architect, while a handful of consulting architects, hired on a contract basis to work within the office, designed the largest buildings.⁸

The Public Works Administration (PWA) was established in 1933 to oversee the planning and construction of all federally funded public works projects, whether undertaken by state and local governments or federal agencies. The PWA funded projects, but did not become involved in the design of any buildings or projects, except to require that building materials be from the United States and manufactured by American firms.⁹ During the ten years of its existence, the PWA would contribute billions of dollars towards thousands of infrastructure projects all across the nation, including dams, roads, hospitals, schools and power plants, as well as federal buildings. Post office construction increased nearly three times during this period than in the previous fifty years. The PWA funded 406 post offices in the years from 1933 to 1939; this number represents more than one-eighth of the total 3,174 PWA construction projects built.¹⁰

As the main goals of the PWA program were to provide employment and to construct projects, standardization of design became an essential component of the federal building program. With its long-established building program, the Treasury Department shouldered much of the work of the New Deal construction programs. "Cabinet Sketches" produced by the Supervising Architect's office included

⁶ Lois Craig, ed., and the staff of the Federal Architecture Project, *The Federal Presence: Architecture, Politics, and Symbols in the United States Government Building* (Cambridge, Massachusetts: The MIT Press, 1979), pp. 99-105, 195; Emily Harris, "History of Federal Policy Concerning Post Office Construction, 1900-1940." Draft report for the National Park Service, printed by the U.S. Postal Service as *History of Post Office Construction, 1900-1940*, July 1982, pp. 1-11; Beth M. Boland, *National Register Bulletin 13: How to Apply the National Register Criteria to Post Offices*, originally published 1984, revised 1994, accessed online at: <https://www.nps.gov/nr/publications/bulletins/nrb13/>.

⁷ Harris, 14-15.

⁸ Antoinette Lee, *Architects to the Nation* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2000), 256.

⁹ C. W. Short and R. Stanley-Brown, *Public Buildings: Architecture Under the Public Works Administration, 1933-1939* (New York: Da Capo Press, 1986 reprint of a Government Printing Office 1939 publication), pp. VI, XII; Harris, pp. 16, 21-22.

¹⁰ Ellis L. Armstrong, *History of Public Works of the United States, 1776-1945* (Chicago, Illinois: American Public Works Association, 1976), 254.

United States Post Office

Medina County, Ohio

Name of Property

County and State

standard floor plans for post offices of various sizes. Individual treatment was limited mostly to exterior details. The 1938 Annual Report of the Secretary of the Treasury, summarizing the activities of its PWA-funded Emergency Construction Program, gives voice to the sense of urgency behind the New Deal's efforts to promote employment and jumpstart the economy:

A large portion of the program has consisted of small post-office buildings spread over the entire United States. Type designs were developed, and in order to meet the varying requirements of the Post Office Department and the sectional architectural traditions 11 designs were required. By thus standardizing the designs, there resulted a great saving in time and cost of production of the drawings and specifications, and the placing of these projects on the market was greatly expedited. The buildings which have been constructed from these type designs have proved economical and satisfactory...The policy of preparing drawings and specifications permitting to the greatest practicable extent the use of materials and products native to the localities has resulted in stimulating employment and spreading the benefits of the building program.¹¹

Despite the focus on expediency and economy, the Office of the Supervising Architect continually sought to improve the design of federal buildings in this period.¹² Even the simplest buildings were constructed of durable, high quality materials with a view to maximizing value and minimizing future maintenance.

Louis A. Simon, who served as Supervising Architect of the Treasury Department from 1933 to 1939, had long guided the stylistic development of federal buildings under James Wetmore, who was the Acting Supervising Architect from 1915 to 1933 and had no formal training in architecture. Under Simon's leadership, the design of post offices and other federal buildings conformed to one of two styles, a modernized classicism or the Colonial Revival.

Simon, like architects working in other federal agencies, considered the Colonial Revival style appropriate for smaller post offices and projects in small towns where a Colonial Revival style building could blend in with other public facilities, yet also have the formal presence expected of a federal building. The Treasury Department used the Colonial Revival style regionally, mostly in states along or near to the Atlantic seaboard. It built French Provincial designs in the Gulf States and Spanish Mission style buildings in the southwestern states. This acknowledgment of regional architecture during the 1930s implemented the goal of federal architects to have buildings "in harmony with the traditions of the locality."¹³

The Colonial Revival style honored the country's origin and history and served as an architectural symbol of the federal government. The style, which broadly interpreted Federal and Georgian prototypes, could be adapted for a building of any size. Symmetrical facades and pitched roofs prevailed in many Colonial Revival post office designs, and stylistic details were concentrated at their entrances. Cupolas were a common feature on the smaller buildings, adding presence and height to one-story buildings. Standard plans were used for Colonial Revival post offices of two sizes in small towns in Ohio, where the style was regionally appropriate. The Colonial Revival style was also used in Ohio for larger buildings during the PWA era, including a public library built in New Philadelphia and a hospital building erected in Dayton.¹⁴

Development of the United States Post Office in Medina

Medina County was included in the large land-holding that came to be known as the "Connecticut Western Reserve" or the "Western Reserve" of Ohio. This section of northeast Ohio, a 120-mile strip on

¹¹ *Annual Report of the Secretary of the Treasury on the State of the Finances for the Year Ended June 30, 1937* (Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1938), 182.

¹² *Ibid.*

¹³ Craig, 306-307.

¹⁴ Short and Stanley-Brown, pp. 121, 367, 585, and 589; Post Mark Collector's Club, Post Office Photos, accessed online at: <http://www.postmarks.org/photos/>.

United States Post Office

Medina County, Ohio

Name of Property

County and State

the south side of Lake Erie, was retained by the State of Connecticut when it gave up its western landholdings in 1786. As the U.S. Congress planned to regulate the sale and governance of western holdings of various states during the 1780s, it urged the states to cede the land. Connecticut followed the example of Virginia, which had retained some land for its Revolutionary War veterans, and decided to keep the Reserve as compensation for some land to the east which had been turned over to Pennsylvania. Congress reluctantly accepted the offer with the reserve two years later.¹⁵

The Connecticut Land Company, a group of investors, purchased the Western Reserve from the state in 1796. The company held a lottery for Western Reserve land, which it had surveyed and divided into townships, in 1807. Each investor was given land in proportion to his investment. Elijah Boardman received Medina Township in the area that became Medina County as part of his share. Medina County, established in 1812, was attached to Portage County until its own government was organized in 1818. At that time Boardman successfully maneuvered to have the county seat located at Medina on land he owned and he donated land for a public square and a county building.¹⁶

Easterners from New England states and German immigrants purchased most of the land in the county. Medina was incorporated as a village in 1835. The first county courthouse in Medina, which faced the Public Square, was completed in 1822. It was replaced by a building erected in 1841 on the southeast corner of Liberty Street and Broadway, at the northeast corner of the Public Square. A large portion of the business district that had developed at the perimeter of the Public Square was destroyed by fire in 1848 and rebuilt.¹⁷

Medina was a thriving county seat town during the mid-nineteenth century with a population of about 1,500 residents during the early 1880s. Medina's citizens left to fight in the Civil War while others operated stations on the Underground Railway. Medina became connected to the railroad system when the Lake Shore Railroad was constructed through it in 1871, and later a line of the Northern Ohio Railroad was extended to Medina in 1890. The A. I. Root Company, which manufactured bee-keeping supplies, and the Medina Foundry became important industries.¹⁸

A second fire, known locally as the "Great Fire," destroyed over 40 properties in the business district of Medina in 1870. The rebuilding effort produced buildings surrounding the Public Square that are of comparable age, quality and style, and the square remained the center of the city's civic and commercial life. Medina later became known for its Public Square and the buildings surrounding it. The quality of the architecture is the basis for the significance of the Medina Public Square Historic District, which was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1975 (NR #75001483). A Second Empire style county courthouse was erected in 1872 around the older building; this property is listed also in the National Register of Historic Places (NR #70000507).¹⁹

As Medina expanded during the early twentieth century, a number of new public and civic buildings, including the United States Post Office, were erected in the Colonial Revival style. A library erected at the southeast corner of the Public Square in 1907 was a red-brick Colonial Revival style building with a pedimented portico. A primary school built in 1912 made a similar stylistic statement as a brick Colonial

¹⁵ Cleveland State University, "First Maps of Cleveland and the Western Reserve," accessed online at: <http://web.ulib.csuohio.edu/speccoll/maps/firsts.html> and *Encyclopedia of Cleveland History*, "The Western Reserve," accessed online at: <http://ech.case.edu/ech-cgi/article.pl?id=WR2>.

¹⁶ Medina County Historical Society, "Medina County, a Brief History," accessed online at: <http://www.medinahistorical.com/MedinaCountyABriefHistory.htm>.

¹⁷ Eric Johannesen, *Medina Public Square Historic District National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form*. 1974.

¹⁸ Medina County Historical Society, "Medina County, a Brief History."

¹⁹ Johannesen, 1974.

United States Post Office

Medina County, Ohio

Name of Property

County and State

Revival style building. A large Colonial Revival private dwelling was enlarged to serve as the Medina Community Hospital in 1944.²⁰

The first post office in Medina, established in April 1819, is thought to have been in the home of Rufus Ferris, the first postmaster. By 1870, the post office was located in the main floor of the Phoenix National Bank building. It was moved to at least two other locations before 1938. Despite the moves, from 1845 to 1911, the Medina post office was consistently located on the south side of the Public Square. The post office was then moved "uptown" to the north side of the square.²¹

By 1905 the business transacted at the Medina Post Office had expanded significantly and residents began to discuss the need for a new post office building. Medina became a first-class post office in 1922 and maintained that status into the 1930s. Congressman Dow Harter began to seek funding for a new post office for Medina in 1932. Two years later Harter lobbied to have funding for new post offices in Medina and Wadsworth included in the 1934 appropriations. The Wadsworth project was funded, but not the Medina one. The *Medina County Gazette* announced the news on June 26, 1936, that the Treasury Department had approved Congressman Harter's third request for a new federal post office building in Medina. The project was funded under the authority of the Emergency Construction Program Act of 1936 at the amount of \$83,000.²²

Initial plans for the building projected that the structure would be known as the Medina Federal Building and house the post office, postal inspector's office, customs and other agencies. This plan seems to have been scaled back and subsequently the building was consistently referred to locally as the Post Office. The U.S. Post Office Department preferred a site within one block of the Public Square that would expand the business district. A property at the corner of North Elmwood and West Liberty streets, which met this criterion, was selected in September 1936. At that time a large two-and-a-half story house that had been used as the "Barry's Motel" occupied the site, one block from the northwest corner of the Public Square.²³

The drawings were approved by the Office of the Supervising Architect in April 1937 and the *Medina County Gazette* presented a rendering of the new post office in its June 25, 1937, issue. Construction on the post office began during the summer of 1937 by the Gibbons-Grable Company of Canton, Ohio. A description of the building noted that it would be in the "colonial style." The building included a 14-foot wide public lobby across the front of the building east of the postmaster's office and a skylight in the flat portion of the roof above the postal workroom to the north of the lobby. The basement had five offices in addition to space for mechanical equipment and some auxiliary postal functions.²⁴ The new Post Office building was complete by early April 1938. Dedication ceremonies, attended by hundreds of Medina residents, included the planting of a Japanese cherry tree by the Federation of Democratic Women's Club and a luncheon for the post office employees.²⁵

Shortly after the building was opened, a mural was installed on the upper portion of the lobby walls. A 1938 *Dayton Daily News* article announced that the Treasury Department invited Ohio artists to compete

²⁰ Gloria Brown, *Images of America, Medina* (Charleston, S.C.: Arcadia, 2007), pp. 52-53, 113.

²¹ Eleanor Iler Schapiro, ed., *Historical Highlights of Medina* (Alfred Meyers Lithographers, Medina, Ohio, 1966), p. 161; Maynard W. Schafer, "Medina County Postal Service," (Typescript, January 14, 1963), p. 5.

²² "14 Bids are Filed on P.O.," *Medina County Gazette*, 14 July 1936; "Post Office at Medina," *Medina County Gazette*, 26 June 1936; "Architect's Drawing of Medina's New Post Office," *Medina County Gazette*, 27 June 1937; "First Class Office Again," *Medina County Gazette*, 1 January 1937.

²³ "Advertise for P.O. Site," *Medina County Gazette*, 3 July 1936; "Views Sites," *Medina County Gazette*, 24 July 1936; "Barry Site is Selected," *Medina County Gazette*, 15 September 1936; "In the Name of Progress," *Medina Town Square Post*, October 1996.

²⁴ "Commence to Build Soon," *Medina County Gazette*, 30 July 1937.

²⁵ "Dedicate Post Office April 7," *Medina County Gazette*, 25 March 1938; "All Set for Dedication," *Medina County Gazette*, 5 April 1938; "Many Hundreds Attend the Post Office Dedication," *Medina County Gazette*, 8 April 1938.

United States Post Office

Medina County, Ohio

Name of Property

County and State

for a 12 feet wide and 4 feet high mural "of a suitable subject" to be placed in the Medina post office lobby.²⁶ According to The Living New Deal website, the artwork, titled, *Gathering the Apple Crop*, an oil-on-canvas mural by Richard Zoellner, was completed in 1938. Richard Zoellner (1908 – 2003), a native-Ohioan with a studio in Cincinnati, completed murals for at least five other post offices.²⁷ The mural was likely removed by the Post Office Department when it vacated the building in 1962 or by the U.S. General Services Administration (GSA) in its 1965 conversion of the building to offices, and is assumed to be lost.

A new United States Post Office was opened in Medina at North Court and North West streets in October 1962. Two blocks north of the former location, the modern new building was more spacious and offered substantially more parking. The building on West Liberty Street stood empty for a period of time before it was remodeled in 1965 to provide general purpose office space as the Medina County Federal Office Building. Ownership was transferred from the Post Office Department to GSA, which oversaw the conversion. Designed by J.E. Holland & Associates, an Akron, Ohio, architectural firm, in 1964 and projected to cost \$93,000, the remodeling project allowed the consolidation of government offices from various locations around town. The Medina County Selective Service Board, the United States Army and Air Force Recruiting Offices, the Social Security Office, the Soil Conservation Office, the Medina Agricultural Extension Office and the U.S. Farmers' Home Administration Office occupied the building by early 1966.²⁸ In 1993, the building was converted to court use and remodeled as offices of the Chief Judge of the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals in 1996. In 2003, the former post office was named the Donald J. Pease Federal Building in honor of Pease, a teacher, journalist, and member of the U.S. House of Representatives from 1977 to 1993.

Significance - Politics/Government

The construction of the United States Post Office in 1937-1938 represents the culmination of years of effort by Medina's congressional representatives and business leaders and official recognition of the town's stature. Having grown steadily from its establishment in 1818 as seat of the newly formed Medina County into a local commercial and manufacturing center of more than 4,000 residents by the 1930s, Medina sought a purpose-built post office building, which would provide modern conveniences, adequate mailing capacity and serve as a symbol of civic achievement. In 1936, an article in the *Akron Beacon* noted that "[r]eceipts of the Medina [post] office are more per capita of population than cities of large population, the office exceeding in per capita receipts even those of Cleveland."²⁹ Finally, in 1937, the town's request was acknowledged by the federal government with the authorization of \$83,000 to construct a modern post office building.

The United States Post Office is an excellent example of a PWA-funded federal building, and the only known building associated with the PWA in Medina. Congress approved emergency appropriation acts on June 19, 1934, August 12, 1935, June 22, 1936, and August 25, 1937, which authorized expenditures totaling \$255,000,000 for the emergency construction of public buildings, with the projects to be selected by the Secretary of the Treasury and Postmaster General. The Medina post office was authorized under the 1936 appropriation, the site purchased and plans approved by April 1937 and the building completed in early 1938. That year, the Office of the Supervising Architect oversaw 486 major projects totaling \$84,170,333. Of those projects, 438 were PWA-funded projects, totaling \$75,673,885.³⁰ Many of these were post offices. The hundreds of post office buildings constructed under the PWA are among the most widely recognized of the New Deal agency's achievements.

²⁶ "Ohio Artists May Contest for \$730," *Dayton Daily News*, 20 September 1938.

²⁷ "Artist: Richard Zoellner," accessed online at: <https://livingnewdeal.org/artists/richard-zoellner/>; "Renowned UA Artist Zoellner Dies," *Tuscaloosa News*, 8 March 2003.

²⁸ Schapiro, p. 51; "Will Put \$93,000 in Old Post Office," *Medina County Gazette*, 30 December 1963; Kelly, Joe, p. 1, "New Federal Building Opens in Medina City," *Medina County Gazette*, 19 January 1966.

²⁹ "Medina Post Office Rating is Advanced," *The Akron Beacon Journal*, 11 July 1936.

³⁰ *Annual Report of the Secretary of the Treasury on the State of the Finances for the Year Ended June 30, 1938* (Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1939), p. 53.

United States Post Office

Name of Property

Medina County, Ohio

County and State

The building is consistent with the tendency of PWA-funded projects toward classically-inspired designs-- either Colonial Revival or a modernized classicism, often referred to as PWA Moderne. The use of the Colonial Revival style in Medina reflects the efforts of the PWA and Office of the Supervising Architect of the Treasury to match the exterior design of the building to the "sectional architectural traditions" of the community, during a period of increased use of standard plans. Post office design provides a record of the federal government's self-image and the image which it wished to project to those it governed. The Colonial Revival style was intended to convey stability and democratic values.

Significance - Architecture

The Medina, Ohio, United States Post Office is a representative example of the use of the Colonial Revival style for small federal buildings and, in particular, for post offices in small cities. The style recalled colonial origins and provided a traditional civic presence in small communities, which tended to change slowly over time. Symmetry established a formality, and the bronze eagle over the entrance provided federal iconography. The Colonial Revival style was particularly well-suited for Medina, which is situated in the Western Reserve, an area of Ohio settled by New Englanders in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries.

Standard plans were used for Colonial Revival post offices of two sizes in small towns in Ohio and throughout the nation. The façade of the smaller building had five bays with a central entrance in a square-headed opening. The slightly larger building's façade had the same number of bays, but with pilasters dividing the wall and a central entrance in a segmental-arched opening. Both plans incorporated cupolas centered on a side-gabled front roofline and a flat-roofed work room at the rear. The cupola, which was truncated on the larger building, terminated in a peaked cap on the smaller building. Lunettes enriched the pedimented gable faces on buildings of both sizes.³¹

The larger standard design of the United States Post Office in Medina was used for postal operations with more volume than the smallest towns, likely first-class post offices. This design was used for buildings in Minerva, Marysville and Oxford, Ohio, as well as in Medina.³² An otherwise boxy massing was broken up with the side-gabled roof over the front half of the building. Plain brick pilasters divide the broad façade, but retain a simplified Colonial Revival appearance and do not introduce the full classical vocabulary. The gracious entrance set in a brick arch concentrates architectural detailing at that point and, with the cupola above, provides a vertical emphasis for an otherwise low building. The pedimented gable faces with lunettes establish an architectural presence for the sides of the post offices, which were often built on corner sites.³³

The United States Post Office represents the larger of two standard plans for small post office buildings in the Colonial Revival style, which appears to have been used less often than the smaller standard plan. Medina's United States Post Office, with its excellent exterior integrity, is a good example of this type of post office in Ohio. It meets the Treasury Department's design goal of being in harmony with local

³¹ These generalizations are based on the photographs included in the website of the Post Mark Collector's Club, Post Office Photos, accessed online at: <http://www.postmarks.org/photos/us.php?st=OH>; "All Set for Dedication." *Medina County Gazette*, 5 April 1938. The smaller buildings were erected in East Palestine, Mt. Gilead, Ottawa, and Nelsonville, Ohio.

³² The post offices in Minerva and Marysville remain in their original use. The building in Oxford is used as a courthouse. None of these are listed in the National Register of Historic Places. In addition to the three Ohio buildings, a review of post offices listed on the National Register of Historic Places yielded nine buildings employing the same plan as the Medina post office, including buildings in Maryland, Massachusetts, Mississippi, Nebraska and New York.

³³ Telephone conversations with the Postmasters in Minerva and Oxford, Ohio, September 2007; Marcus Whiffen, *American Architecture Since 1780: A Guide to the Styles* (Cambridge, Massachusetts: The MIT Press, 1969), pp. 159-160.

United States Post Office
Name of Property

Medina County, Ohio
County and State

building traditions since many of the public buildings erected during the first half of the twentieth century in Medina were Colonial Revival in style.

United States Post Office
Name of Property

Medina County, Ohio
County and State

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

- Armstrong, Ellis. *History of Public Works of the United States, 1776-1945*. Chicago: American Public Works Association, 1976.
- Boland, Beth M. *National Register of Historic Places Bulletin 13: How to Apply National Register Criteria to Post Offices*. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 1994. Electronic document, <https://www.nps.gov/nr/publications/bulletins/nrb13/>, accessed May 16, 2019.
- Brown, Gloria. *Images of America, Medina*. Charleston, S.C.: Arcadia, 2007.
- Cleveland State University. "First Maps of Cleveland and the Western Reserve," electronic document, <http://web.ulib.csuohio.edu/speccoll/maps/firsts.html>, accessed September 11, 2007.
- Craig, Lois, ed., and the staff of the Federal Architecture Project. *The Federal Presence: Architecture, Politics, and Symbols in the United States Government Building*. Cambridge, Massachusetts: The MIT Press, 1979.
- Encyclopedia of Cleveland History*, "The Western Reserve," electronic document, <http://ech.case.edu/ech-cgi/article.pl?id=WR2>, accessed May 16, 2019.
- Harris, Emily. "History of Federal Policy Concerning Post Office Construction, 1900-1940." Draft report for the National Park Service, printed by the U.S. Postal Service as *History of Post Office Construction, 1900-1940*, 1982.
- Johannesen, Eric. *Medina Public Square Historic District National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form*. 1974. Unpublished manuscript on file at the Ohio State Historic Preservation Office.
- Lee, Antoinette. *Architects to the Nation*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2000.
- Medina County Historical Society. "Medina County, a Brief History," electronic document, <http://www.medinahistorical.com/MedinaCountyABriefHistory.htm>, accessed September 11, 2007.
- Post Mark Collector's Club, Post Office Photos, electronic document, <http://www.postmarks.org/photos/oh.htm>, accessed May 16, 2019.
- Schafer, Maynard W. "Medina County Postal Service," Typescript, January 14, 1963. On file at the Medina County Historical Society.
- Schapiro, Eleanor Iler, ed. *Historical Highlights of Medina*. Alfred Meyers Lithographers, Medina, Ohio, 1966.
- Short, C. W. and R. Stanley-Brown. *Public Buildings: Architecture Under the Public Works Administration, 1933-1939*. New York: Da Capo Press, 1986.
- The Living New Deal, "Artist: Richard Zoellner," Electronic document. <https://livingnewdeal.org/artists/richard-zoellner/>, accessed May 16, 2019.
- U.S. Department of the Treasury, *Annual Report of the Secretary of the Treasury on the State of the Finances for the Year Ended June 30, 1937*. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC, 1938.

United States Post Office
Name of Property

Medina County, Ohio
County and State

U.S. Department of the Treasury, *Annual Report of the Secretary of the Treasury on the State of the Finances for the Year Ended June 30, 1938*. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC, 1939.

Whiffen, Marcus. *American Architecture Since 1780: A Guide to the Styles*. Cambridge, Massachusetts: The MIT Press, 1969.

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 # _____
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
 - Other State agency
 - Federal agency
 - Local government
 - University
 - Other
- Name of repository: U.S. General Services Administration, Great Lakes Region

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 0.34 acres

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates (decimal degrees)

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1. Latitude:

Longitude:

United States Post Office
Name of Property

Medina County, Ohio
County and State

- | | |
|--------------|------------|
| 2. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 3. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 4. Latitude: | Longitude: |

Or

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or NAD 1983

- | | | |
|-------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1. Zone: 17 | Easting: 427342 | Northing: 4554585 |
| 2. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 3. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 4. Zone: | Easting : | Northing: |

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The United States Post Office is located on Medina County, Ohio, parcel 28-19A-21-086. The legal description is the west part of Lot Number One Hundred and Forty-Seven (147) and the southwest part of Lot Number One Hundred and Forty-eight (148) on the Medina Township side of said Village and bounded as follows: Beginning at an iron pin set I the southwest corner of said Lot Number One Hundred and Forty-seven (147) in the north line of West Liberty Street; thence north on the west line of said Lot 147 and west line of Lot 148 a distance of 150 feet to an iron pin set in the west line of said Lot 148; thence east in a line parallel with the south line of said Lot 147 a distance of 100 feet to an iron pin; thence south parallel with the west line of said Lots 148 and 147 a distance of 150 feet to an iron pin set in the south line of said Lot 147; and thence west on said south line 100 feet to the point of beginning.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The nomination consists of the property historically associated with the building known by the address 143 West Liberty Street, Medina, Ohio.

United States Post Office
Name of Property

Medina County, Ohio
County and State

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Betsy H. Bradley and Andrew J. Schmidt/ Architectural Historians
organization: Summit Envirosolutions, Inc., prepared for the U.S General Services Administration
street & number: 1217 Bandana Boulevard North
city or town: Saint Paul state: MN zip code: 55108
date: September 2010

name/title: Elizabeth Hannold/Preservation Specialist
organization: U.S. General Services Administration/Center for Historic Buildings
street & number: 1800 F Street, NW, Suite 5400
city or town: Washington state: DC zip code: 20003
e-mail elizabeth.hannold@gsa.gov
telephone: 202-501-2863
date: May 2019

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

United States Post Office

Name of Property

Medina County, Ohio

County and State

Photo Log

Name of Property: United States Post Office

City or Vicinity: Medina

County: Medina

State: Ohio

Photographer: Mariah McGunigle, U.S. General Services Administration

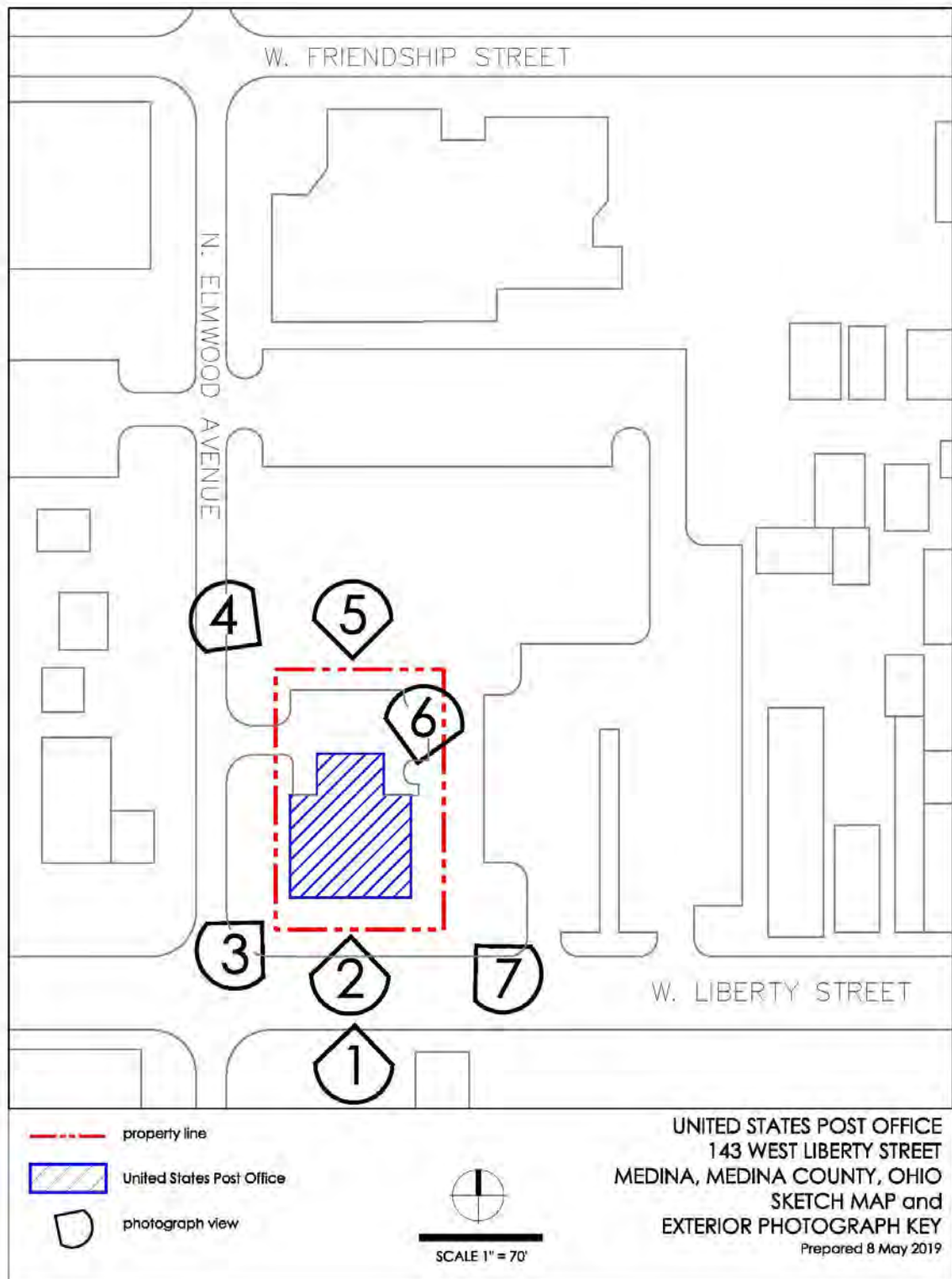
Date Photographed: March 11, 2019

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

- 0001 _ SOUTH FAÇADE, WEST LIBERTY STREET, FACING NORTH.
- 0002 _ DETAIL OF MAIN ENTRANCE, SOUTH FAÇADE, FACING NORTH.
- 0003 _ DETAIL OF CORNERSTONE, WEST CORNER OF SOUTH FAÇADE, FACING NORTH.
- 0004 _ NORTH AND WEST FAÇADES, FACING SOUTHEAST.
- 0005 _ NORTH FAÇADE, FACING SOUTH.
- 0006 _ NORTH AND EAST FAÇADES, FACING SOUTHWEST.
- 0007 _ EAST AND SOUTH FAÇADES, FACING NORTHWEST.
- 0008 _ INTERIOR, FIRST FLOOR, STAIR AND MAIN ENTRANCE, VIEW TO SOUTHEAST CORNER.
- 0009 _ INTERIOR, FIRST FLOOR, VIEW TO NORTHWEST CORNER.
- 0010 _ INTERIOR, FIRST FLOOR, VIEW TO EAST SIDE OFFICES.
- 0011 _ INTERIOR, BASEMENT, HALLWAY.

United States Post Office
Name of Property

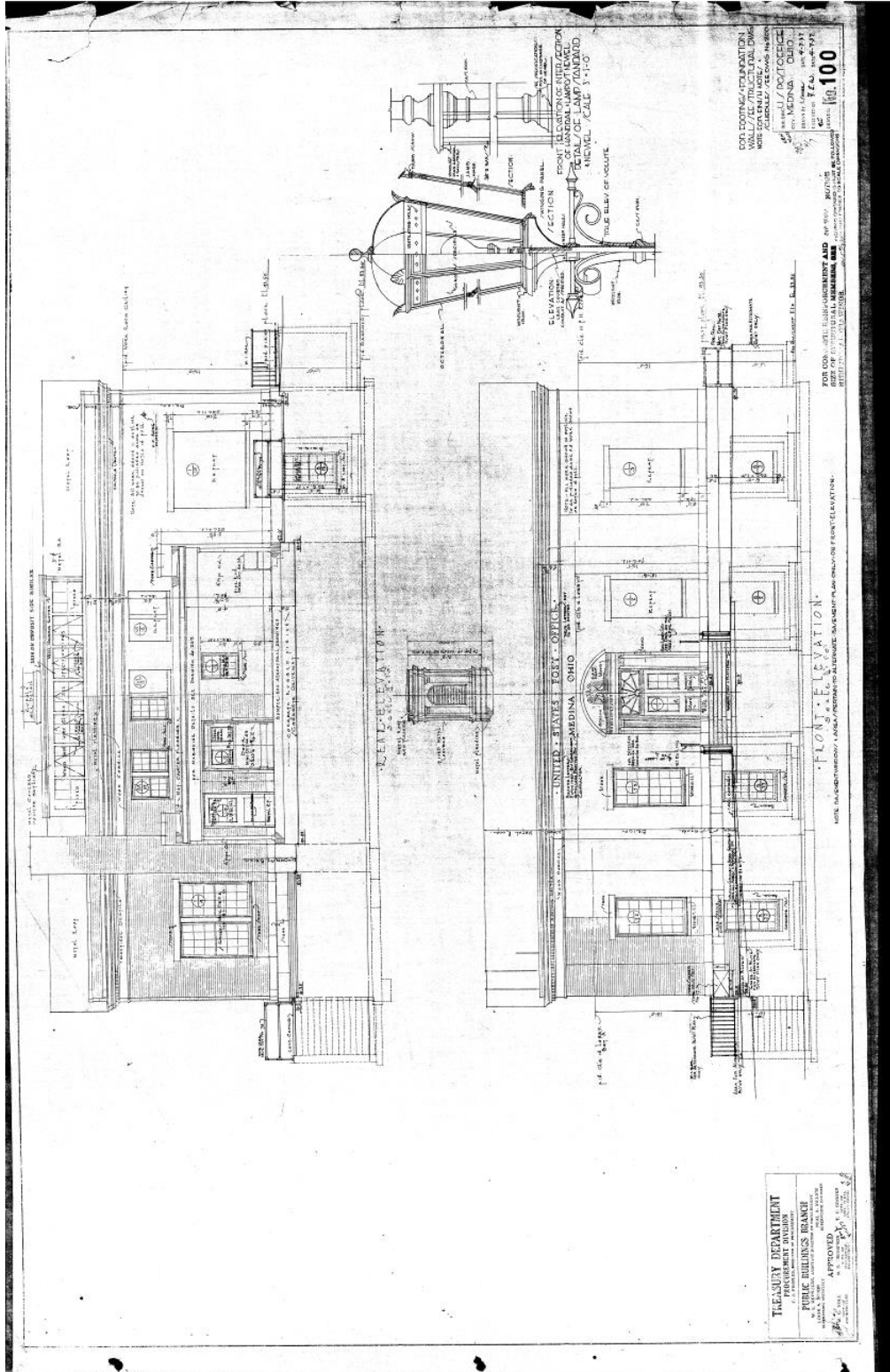
Medina County, Ohio
County and State



United States Post Office
Name of Property

Medina County, Ohio
County and State

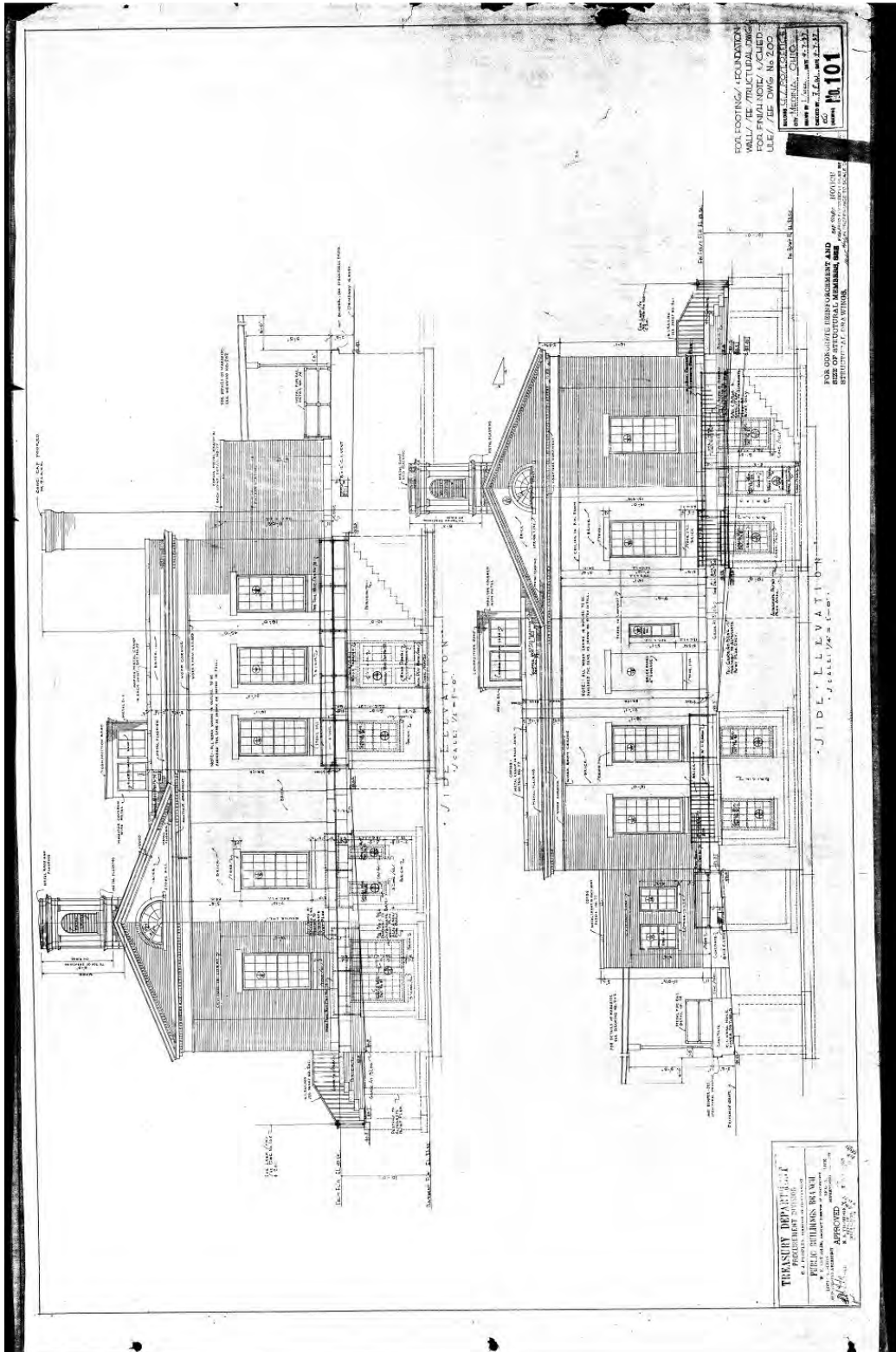
Figure 1 – 1937 Drawing of United States Post Office, Medina, Ohio, Front (South) and Rear (North) Elevations



United States Post Office
Name of Property

Medina County, Ohio
County and State

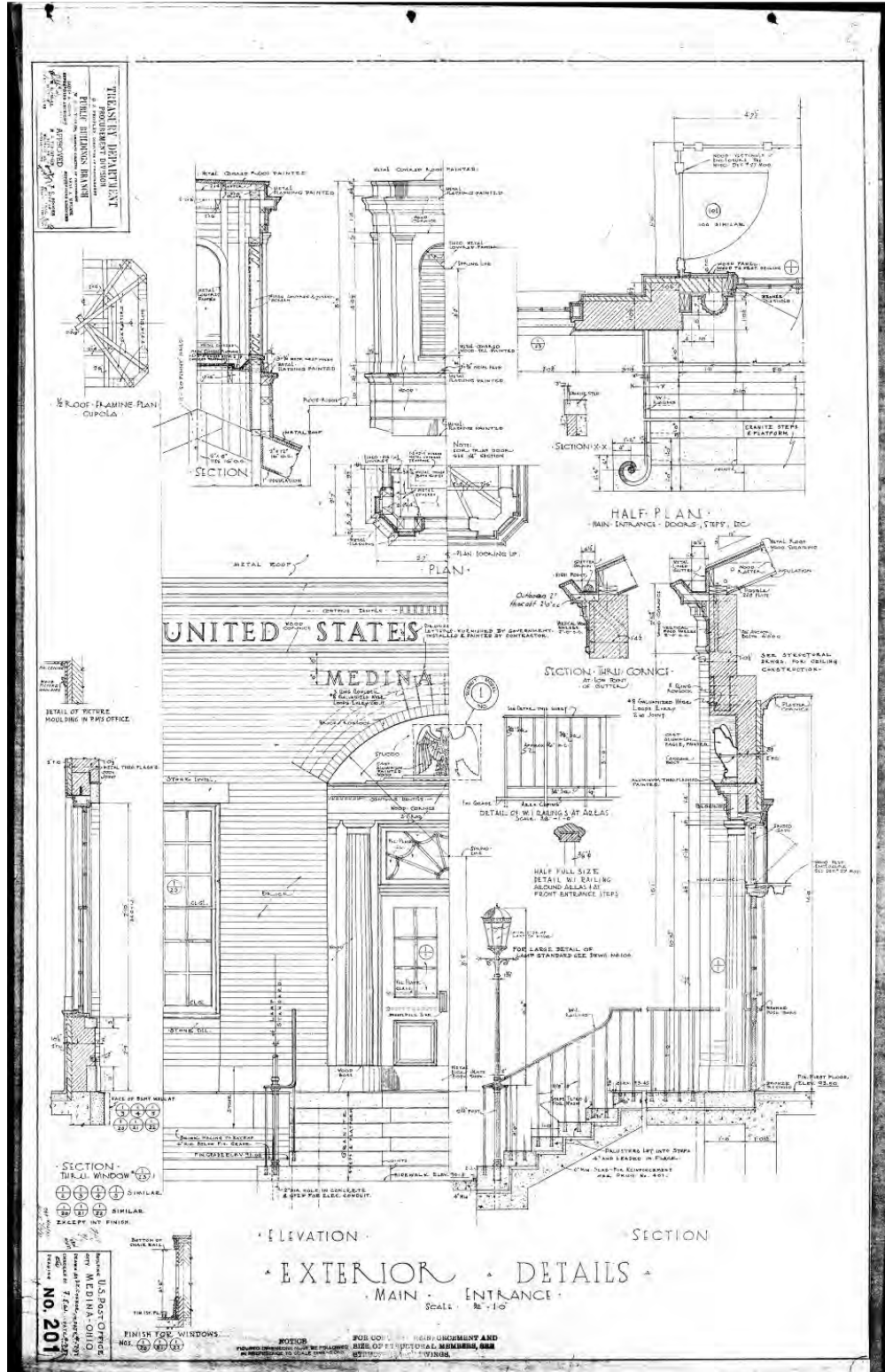
Figure 2 – 1937 Drawing of United States Post Office, Medina, Ohio, Side (East and West) Elevations



United States Post Office
Name of Property

Medina County, Ohio
County and State

Figure 3 – 1937 Drawing of United States Post Office, Medina, Ohio, Front (South) Elevation Details

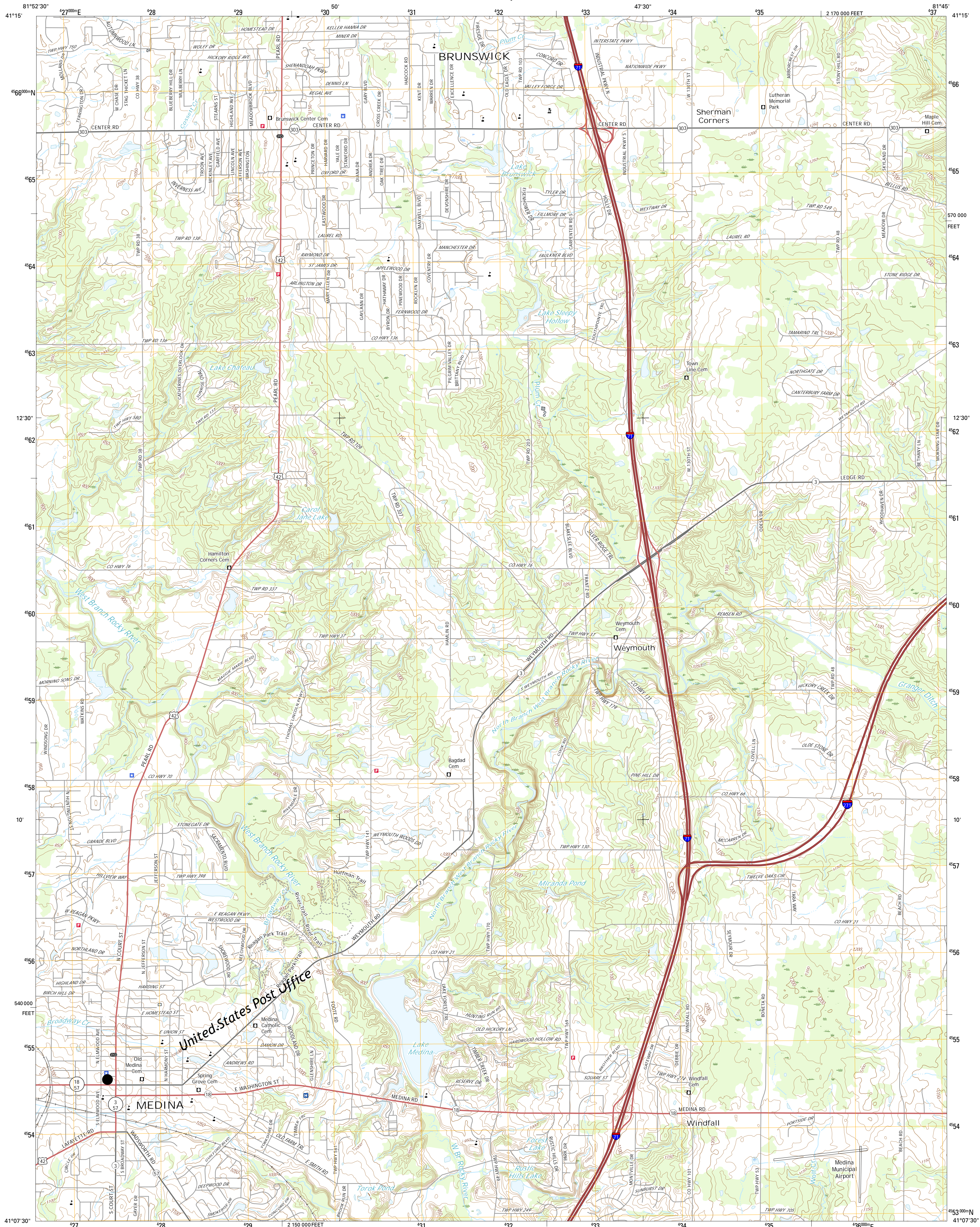




U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY



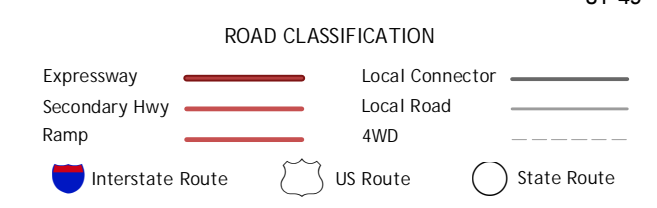
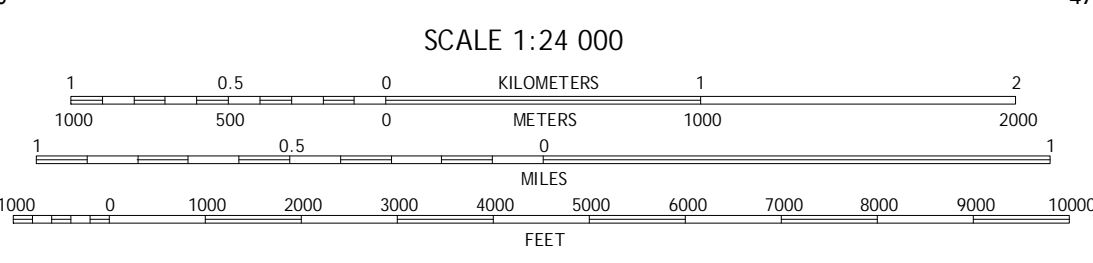
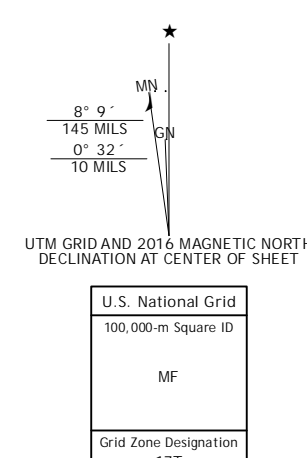
MEDINA QUADRANGLE
OHIO-MEDINA CO.
7.5-MINUTE SERIES



Produced by the United States Geological Survey
North American Datum of 1983 (NAD83)
World Geodetic System of 1984 (WGS84) Projection and
1 000-meter grid: Universal Transverse Mercator Zone 17T
10 000-foot ticks: Ohio Coordinate System of 1983 (north zone)

This map is not a legal document. Boundaries may be
generalized for this map scale. Private lands within government
reservations may not be shown. Obtain permission before
entering private lands.

Imagery.....NAIP, October 2015
Roads.....U.S. Census Bureau, 2015-2016
Names.....GNIS, 2016
Hydrography.....National Hydrography Dataset, 2015
Contours.....National Elevation Dataset, 2010
Boundaries.....Multiple sources; see metadata file 1972-2016
Public Land Survey System.....BLM, 2015
Wetlands.....FWS National Wetlands Inventory 1977-2014



1	2	3
4	5	6
7	8	

ADJOINING QUADRANGLES

- 1 West View
- 2 Berea
- 3 Broadview Heights
- 4 Mallet Creek
- 5 West Richfield
- 6 Westfield Center
- 7 Sewille
- 8 Wadsworth

MEDINA, OH
2016





DONALD J. PEASE FEDERAL BUILDING

MEDINA OHIO



DONALD J. PEASE FEDERAL BUILDING

MEDINA, OHIO



HENRY MORGENTHAU JR
SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY

JAMES A FARLEY
POSTMASTER GENERAL

LOUIS A SIMON
SUPERVISING ARCHITECT

NEAL A MELICK
SUPERVISING ENGINEER

1937



NO PARKING
IN FRONT OF
THIS BUILDING
EXCEPT FOR
EMERGENCY
VEHICLES
OR VEHICLES
WITH
PERMITS



PHD 2176

PHD 1600





DONALD J. PEASE FEDERAL BUILDING









UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action: Nomination

Property Name: United States Post Office

Multiple Name: _____

State & County: OHIO, Medina

Date Received: 7/12/2019 Date of Pending List: 8/9/2019 Date of 16th Day: 8/26/2019 Date of 45th Day: 8/26/2019 Date of Weekly List: _____

Reference number: SG100004307

Nominator: Federal Agency, SHPO

Reason For Review: _____

X Accept Return Reject 8/20/2019 Date

Abstract/Summary Comments: AOS: Architecture, Politics/Government; LOS: local; POS: 1938

Recommendation/ Criteria: NR Criterion: C

Reviewer Lisa Deline Discipline Historian

Telephone (202)354-2239 Date 8/20/19

DOCUMENTATION: see attached comments : No see attached SLR : No


If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.



July 12, 2019

Ms. Joy Beasley
Associate Director (acting), Cultural Resources, Partnerships, and Science
Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places
National Park Service
1849 C Street, NW
Room 3316
Washington, DC 20240



Dear Ms. Beasley: 

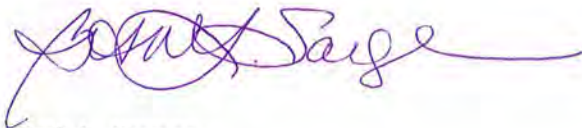
The U.S. General Services Administration (GSA) is pleased to nominate the United States Post Office (current name: Donald J. Pease Federal Building) located at 143 West Liberty Street, Medina, Ohio, for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. The nomination is hereby submitted on disk in accordance with the May 6, 2013 guidance and includes the following:

- Signed original first page of the National Register of Historic Places nomination form;
- Disk 1 - The enclosed disk contains the true and correct copy of the nomination for the United States Post Office, located in Medina, Ohio, to the National Register of Historic Places; and,
- Disk 2 - The enclosed disk contains the .tif image files for the above referenced nomination.

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 by letters dated May 24, 2019.

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
cc: Mr. Burt Logan, State Historic Preservation Officer
Regina Nally, Regional Historic Preservation Officer