

4824

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

### 1. Name of Property

Historic name: Delaware Post Office

Other names/site number: Humphreys Art Hall; Ross Art Museum

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: 60 South Sandusky Street

City or town: Delaware State: OH County: Delaware

Not For Publication:  n/a Vicinity:  n/a

### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this X 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 X 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:

\_\_\_ A \_\_\_ B X C \_\_\_ D

<i>Barbara Powell</i>	
<b>DSHPO Inventory &amp; Registration</b>	<i>November 14, 2019</i>
<b>Signature of certifying official/Title:</b>	<b>Date</b>
<u>Ohio Historic Preservation Office, Ohio History Connection</u>	
<b>State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</b>	

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.	
<b>Signature of commenting official:</b>	<b>Date</b>
<b>Title :</b>	<b>State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</b>

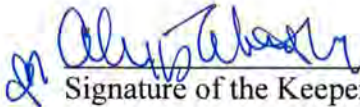
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**4. National Park Service Certification**

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

2/30/2019  
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

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**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>          </u>	buildings
<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	sites
<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	structures
<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</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.)

RECREATION & CULTURE: Museum

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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## 7. Description

### Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> CENTURY REVIVALS: Beaux Arts

**Materials:** (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property:

STONE: Granite, Sandstone; TERRA COTTA; CERAMIC TILE

### 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.)

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### Summary Paragraph

The 1911, one-story, former Delaware Post Office is situated in downtown Delaware, Ohio. Faced with stone and terra cotta, the fire proof building was constructed of steel, concrete, brick, and clay tile blocks. An addition was added in 1927 on the rear elevation; in 2001 another small one story addition was made to the south elevation of the 1927 section. Designed in the Beaux-Arts architectural style, it features a symmetrical façade, low-pitched hipped roof, an eagle sculpture, and classically-inspired dentils, Doric pilasters, an interior groin-vault ceiling, and arched window openings. The Delaware Post Office maintains historic integrity, illustrating a local example of the Beaux-Arts style that retains its stylistic characteristics. It also still reflects an early 20<sup>th</sup> century governmental building in Delaware, Ohio.

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### Narrative Description

#### Setting

Located on the southwest corner of South Sandusky and Spring Streets, the Delaware Post Office is just at the southern edge of Delaware's historic downtown. Since at least the late 1800s, Spring Street marked the southern boundary of the commercial core along Sandusky Street. A block of two and three story, c.1900 commercial buildings is still to the north of the post office (photo 1). By 1880, the brewery of F. Anthoni and Sons occupied the site of the future post office building. It was the only industrial type property in the area, with houses making up the blocks to the south, on the west side of S. Sandusky. The property evolved into an ice and coal company by the early 1900s, before it was vacated for the new post office building.

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The Ohio Wesleyan University campus is directly across Sandusky Street to the east, as it has been since the 1840s. Unlike the commercial buildings which are situated at the sidewalk, the campus buildings are deeply set back from the street and have expansive lawns. Reflecting its status as a new federal governmental building, the Delaware Post Office has a deeper set back than the commercial buildings, but not as much as the historic collegiate buildings. A poured concrete retaining wall defines the post office property on the north and east sides of the building. This raised area contains a landscaped lawn at the northeast corner of the parcel.

The building is slightly above grade and the parcel slopes downward from south to north. The entrance is accessed by a set of granite stairs. Historically, the stairs extended across the middle three bays of the façade, and granite cheek walls framed them on either end. In 2002, a handicap accessible ramp, with a simple black metal railing, was added to the front of the building, on the south end of the façade. It was constructed over part of the stairs, but a section of the stairs is intact, along with the cheek walls. Original decorative cast iron lamp posts are at the end of each cheek wall (photo 2). Because the lamp posts are small in scale and an integrated part of the stairs, they are not being counted as separate objects. However, they do add to the historic integrity of the building's setting.

### **Exterior**

The Delaware Post Office was completed in 1911. The Beaux-Arts Classicism style building has a granite block foundation and is faced with sandstone blocks with a sawed texture (photos 1-3). A cornerstone is set within the raised foundation, at the north end of the façade. It reads "Franklin Macveagh, Secretary of the Treasury – James Knox Taylor, Supervising Architect – 1910." The roof is clay tile, which is labeled as "Pompeian Red Mission Tile" on the original plans. A chimney is within the roof surface, near the rear of the building. It is faced with limestone and each side of the square chimney has a metal decorative grille for ventilation.

The five-bay symmetrical façade features a centered entrance bay, which has replacement doors (photo 3). The entrance is emphasized with a flat pediment, supported by decorative scrolled brackets. On top of the pediment, is a carved stone eagle standing upon a plinth framed by horizontal decorative scrolls. An arched transom window, with a stone surround, is behind the eagle. Cast iron globe light fixtures are attached to the façade, on each side of the entrance. These do not appear in any of the original blueprints, nor in photos of the building, until after 1954. The window bays have paired windows and an arched transom. Most windows throughout the building have been replaced. However, the replacements fit within the original opening and are very similar in configuration. Embedded Doric pilasters are at the building's corners and between each window bay. The pilasters support a simple cornice that encircles the building. In the eave below the roof cornice, there is a band of dentils and a band of egg and dart carving. The entablature is faced with terra cotta.

The north and south elevations are almost identical, with each having three window bays. The fenestration pattern, including the dividing pilasters, is the same on these elevations as the façade. On the north elevation, the first two window bays are the same as the façade, while the third bay has a smaller opening contained within the arched surround (photo 4). According to

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the original blueprints, this smaller window opening is original (See Attachment B – Historic Images). The original paired, four-over-four, wood basement windows are intact on this elevation, within the raised foundation. On the south elevation, the windows in the two end bays are smaller, while the central window bay is the same as the façade (photo 5). As with the north elevation, the blueprints show this to be an original configuration.

The original west, rear elevation is largely obscured by the 1927 addition (photos 4-5). This elevation has the same stone facing and details as the other three elevations, except for the ornate arched window openings. On the rear elevation, the two small window openings in the end bays remain in place. The ground slopes downward at the northwest corner of the lot, making the foundation more exposed in this area (photo 4).

The one-story 1927 addition on the rear of the post office rests on a raised basement, which retains its three-over-three wood windows. The window openings on the first floor of the addition were infilled in 2002. The window openings have precast concrete sills, and the continuous lintel is also precast concrete. The addition has a flat roof with a slightly raised parapet on the west elevation. The addition was faced with concrete “marked off in blocks to match work of present building,” according to the blueprints. The addition appears to have been painted more recently, but the scored ‘blocks’ are still evident. Stairs directly into the basement are situated at the center of the west elevation. The stairwell is framed by black metal railing, matching the ADA ramp on the front of the building.

In 2001, a small concrete block addition was added onto the south elevation of the addition (photo 5). It does not extend the full width of the addition. When the 1927 addition was constructed, this area contained a covered dock on the outside of the building. The 2001 addition created an interior dock area, and a garage door into it is on the south elevation of this addition. Stairs into the 1927 addition are recessed between the main building and the 2001 addition.

### **Interior**

The first floor of the post office contained a public lobby, offices for the postmaster and assistant postmaster, a large work room, a money order office, and secondary spaces, such as janitorial and restrooms. The public lobby extends across four window bays at the front of the building (photo 6). It has a red terrazzo floor, with contrasting marble (labeled as ‘gray Tennessee marble’ on the blueprints) detailing and baseboard. Like the exterior, the lobby has embedded Doric pilasters between window bays. A groin vault plaster ceiling springs from the pilasters, and an octagonal coffer for the hanging light fixtures is centered within each bay. The coffers have a decorative beaded pattern. While the fixtures currently in use are not original, the original fixtures are in storage on the premises. Doors on the north and south lobby walls are emphasized by a projecting flat pediment, with decorative scrolled brackets. The main entrance originally had a revolving door, and the concrete pad of the revolving door’s location is still visible. The south lobby wall has two original built-in display cabinets, with glass doors, recessed within the wall (photo 7). The west lobby wall has four arched bays, corresponding with the exterior window bays (photos 6, 11). The bay in line with the front entrance has doors leading into the rear portion of the building. This location appears to have always had a doorway, as the opening

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has a simple entablature with supporting pilasters. An arched panel is above the doorway's lintel. It is unknown if the arch was always solid, although it likely had a window matching the others. Elevated several feet above the floor, the west lobby wall retains large, multi-light, wood, arched transom windows in the other three openings. The customer counters were under with these windows. Below the windows, the openings were infilled with drywall in the 1969 remodel of the building. The southernmost opening served the banking section of the building, while the other three faced into the post office work room.

The northeast corner of the first floor contained the postmaster's office (photos 7-8). This room retains the original wood floor, wood doors and surround, and wood panel wainscot. It has a coved ceiling with plaster beams. An adjoining assistant postmaster's office is to the west (photos 9-10). It also retains the wood floor, wood doors with surround, and wood chair rail and baseboard. The west wall has a wood door leading into the former work room. The door is flanked by 12-light windows, and vertical board wainscoting is below each window. The assistant postmaster's office also retains the original ceiling height, but this room lacks the more decorative cove treatment that the postmaster's office has. An L-shaped private bathroom for the postmasters is accessed from the assistant's office. It retains marble and terrazzo flooring, as well as marble wainscot, but the fixtures have been removed. A small vault was located in the assistant postmaster's office. Now converted to a closet and accessed from the former restroom, the safe doors are intact and visible in the assistant's office (photo 10) and within the closet. The vault (closet) has a poured concrete floor raised a few inches above the surrounding floor level.

A large T-shaped postal work room was to the west of the lobby (photo 11). Now the main art gallery, the room maintains the original wood floor and ceiling height. A rear partition wall was added, likely in 1969, on the west side of the room. The later partition wall created a linear room to the west of the work room, now dubbed the center gallery. It also has original wood flooring, but a drop ceiling has been added in this space, and doors and door surrounds have been replaced in this room (photo 12). The wood baseboard in both of these rooms is a replacement baseboard.

Originally, the south end of the building had a room designated as 'money order & registry,' a large vault extending off of this room, and an L-shaped women's restroom that wrapped around the vault. This area of the building has been slightly reconfigured, with the former restroom now serving as a corridor, connecting to a new restroom corridor along the south wall (photo 13). The corridor has composite tile flooring, vinyl baseboards, and a drop ceiling. The original wood window frames and sills are intact in the corridor. The vault was converted to a janitor's closet. The metal safe doors are still intact and visible within the closet. The poured concrete floor within the vault is still exposed, and it is elevated a couple inches above the rest of the floor level.

The 1927 addition to the Delaware Post Office contained an extension for the work room and a vestibule to serve the exterior mailing platform. The first floor work room in the addition retains the original wood floor and ceiling height (photo 14). Additionally, the skylight along the eastern wall remains in place. Now the west gallery, a partition wall was added in the middle in the room to create more surface for hanging art. The rear 1927 vestibule, in the southwest corner

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of the building, retains the wood floor and original ceiling height (photo 15). In 2001, a small addition was added to the south wall, roughly in the footprint of the original exterior mailing platform. The 2001 addition contains an interior loading dock and a kitchen.

The original building has two of three staircases intact. Cast iron stairs are located at the rear of the building, in the northwest and southwest corners (photos 16-17). A cast iron spiral stair was located at the very southeast corner of the building, within a janitor's closet. These stairs were removed in 1969, and the stairwell opening was enclosed on the first floor. The rest of the closet was removed and the space was then incorporated into the south, restroom corridor.

The basement has poured concrete floors and plaster ceilings. Depending on the historic use of the rooms, some walls are finished with plaster, while others were exposed brick or concrete block (photo 18). Throughout the basement, wood window sills and framework remain intact, and most are unpainted. Also, several original doors, along with their wood surround, remain intact. Some doors have translucent glass panels. Door openings in the 1911 building are segmentally arched. The 1911 section of the basement contained janitorial and mechanical rooms, mailing rooms, a carrier's swing room, and a large restroom for the carriers. A janitor's room in the southeast corner of the basement contained the spiral staircase from the first floor. The concrete base and bottom metal tread are intact, although the stairs themselves are gone. This room retains original wood baseboard. The central east-west corridor also retains wood baseboards, along with original doors. The 1927 addition contained two large rooms and an extension of the east-west corridor. The new rooms housed a swing room and a civil service examination room (photo 19). The addition is similar in character and materials to the 1911 building, and steel I-beams are exposed. The western end of the 1911 basement was remodeled when the 1927 addition was added. Some of the larger rooms were subdivided with partition walls, creating smaller rooms or corridors. For example, the original 'carriers toilet' was relocated, and the old space became a storage room, which is now a cluster of smaller rooms.

An unusual feature of the building were the numerous lookouts, placed throughout the basement and first floor. The lookouts allowed the postmaster to covertly observe the postal workers. In the basement, a door on each side of the central east-west corridor led to a maze of lookout points into multiple rooms. In the basement, the lookout floor was 2 feet above the floor, and on the first floor, the lookouts were 13 feet above the first floor level, accessed by iron ladders attached to the wall. The 1927 remodel created a new men's restroom in the basement, which retains the wood partition walls. Serving the civil service exam room, it was within the location of the southern lookout, which provided views into the 1911 mailing room. In 1927, the mailing room was divided into a hall and storage room. Adjacent to the restroom door, a wood-framed lookout into the hall (former mailing room) remains in place (photo 20). The elevated lookout spaces, in both the basement and first floor, have been removed or blocked-off. For example, the new 1927 basement lookout, created in the original 'carriers toilet,' was removed, and as a result, the current hallway, between the central east-west corridor and the northwest stairs, has remnants of terrazzo flooring with marble trim, which corresponds with the former 1911 restroom function.



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Work and storage rooms have been added in the attic. This windowless second floor has low ceilings, which are curved around the exterior walls (photo 21). The rooms are situated along the west and south edges of the building.

### **Historic Integrity**

The Delaware Post Office maintains historic integrity, as the building largely retains its original appearance, on the exterior and interior, floor plan, decorative detailing, original material and functional elements that illustrate its past use. It is in its original location and the setting is intact. Located at the southern edge of Delaware's historic commercial center, the building's location continues to reflect the city's commercial and governmental center. The building illustrates the early 20<sup>th</sup> century streetscape. Also across from the Ohio Wesleyan University campus, the Delaware Post Office's setting reflects its decades-long association with this portion of downtown Delaware. The relationship to the campus setting is emphasized by the clay tile hipped roof, which echoes the tile roofs of Ohio Wesleyan University's 1893 Slocum Hall, almost directly across Sandusky Street, and the roof of the 1905 Edwards Gymnasium, located a little further down the street.

The Delaware Post Office reflects its original Beaux-Arts classically derived architectural design, with the building fundamentally appearing as it did in the original drawings (Attachment C). The building retains key design elements of the style, including the symmetrical façade, plain ashlar stone with sawed texture, low-pitched hipped roof, sculptured figure, and classical details such as dentils, Doric capitals, and round arches. The public lobby displays a lavish interior, which is a key design element that is still intact. At the line at the top of the exterior windows just below the fanlights, a heavy double cornice of Doric style weaves around the lobby, the underside of which has mutule blocks, resembling the dots of a domino. The plaster ceiling is a groin vault, with a coffered recess at the central points. Other intact design elements include the original ceiling height throughout of the building, configuration of circulation patterns and room arrangements, and the mostly open spaces of the former work rooms. And, specific to the post office building type, there are a few intact lookout windows. See Section 8 Criterion C discussion for more analysis on the design and style.

Historic materials are present on the exterior and interior of the building. On the exterior, the original 1911 building retains the exposed granite foundation, ashlar sandstone blocks, and terra cotta entablature. Additionally, the red clay tile roof is intact. The two cast iron lamp posts, each topped with a single glass globe, remain on the front stair cheek walls. The craftsmanship of the exterior materials is evident through their retention and is particularly notable through crafted details, such as the carved stone eagle. Inside the post office, the original lobby - a long narrow room extending across almost the entire front of the 1911 building from end to end - retains a great deal of its original materials. The gray Tennessee marble and red terrazzo are still intact, as is the circular brass "saddle" which prescribed the path of the original revolving front door. This circle is echoed in the pattern of the marble and terrazzo. Also still visible is the extensive terra cotta and plaster moldings at the top of each pilaster in the lobby. On the opposite wall, the postal clerk counters and individual mail boxes were removed, but the wooden, hinged windows topped with fanlights remain. Also remaining are the limestone pilasters with Doric

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capitals, straight pediments with scrolling brackets over the doorway at each end of the lobby, and two wooden-framed, locked display cabinets, one on either side of the south end door, opposite the door to the Postmaster's offices.

Other historic interior materials throughout the interior include original wood floors on the first floor, several wood doors at the first and basement levels, wood wainscot in the Post Masters' offices, wood window sills, door surrounds, and baseboard, and the cast iron staircases. Remnants of the Post Master's private bathroom can be seen in the gray terrazzo floor and 5' high marble wainscot on the walls. While the bathroom fixtures have been removed, their locations can still be discerned. There are a few "ghost" doors and windows in the offices, which no longer lead to another room, but have been retained as part of the original building. Also intact is the two-set door to one of the main safes, which still has its decal which reads "The Cleveland Safe Company, 1911". Parts of the other two original safe doors remain, but are now only visible from inside storage closets.

Exterior and interior alterations have not had a major impact on the nominated building. The main exterior alterations include replacement doors and windows, the addition of the ADA ramp to the front of the building, and the rear additions. Although replaced, the doors fit within the original openings, as do the windows, which also mimic the original muntin/mullion configuration. Historically, there was a sweeping front step approach to the central door, but in 2001-02, an ADA ramp was incorporated into the steps. However, a portion of the original steps still function as an access to the entrance, another portion of the steps remains intact in front of the ramp, and the cheek walls were retained. The ramp is small in scale in contrast to the height and proportion of the façade, and therefore does not detract from the historic elevation. The 1927 rear addition is stepped backed one bay from the corner of the building and lower in height, therefore it is not visually obtrusive to the 1911 building. The outer finish was a stucco coating that was scored to echo the original limestone block on the 1911 building. The driveway approach to the loading dock area was also widened. This was the last change to the structure of the building until its purchase by Ohio Wesleyan University in 1969. The 2002 addition is essentially in the footprint of an exterior dock that was part of the 1927 addition, and it too is tucked onto the back of the building, minimally visible from the street. Even with these exterior alterations, the former Delaware Post Office continues to illustrate it Beaux Arts architectural style, as well as its prominent place on the streetscape as an important local federal building.

The 1927 addition merely added a large workroom and small exterior loading dock onto the rear of the building on the first floor. This extension also added space in the basement for a Civil Service Examination room and a larger, redesigned locker room for the mail carriers. Comparing the 1927 plans to the original reveals a partial re-design of the basement space and relocated mechanical systems, as well as lavatory facilities. As this is a secondary space, the basement remodel does not impact the historic integrity of the 1911 building. In 1969, the building was adapted to classroom and studio space for Ohio Wesleyan University's Humphreys Art Hall. Some of the post office features were removed at that time, including the postal windows/counters in the lobby and the old "spy holes." The removal of the customer counters from the former public lobby represents the largest change to the most identifiable area of the

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post office. However, the large transom windows accompanying the customer counters are intact, allowing for the former location of them and the lobby's function to remain evident. Combined with the other intact materials and design features, described above, the room is still legible as a grand public space in a Beaux Arts style building. The spy holes, which had been used as vantage points from which to observe the movements of post office employees,<sup>1</sup> were never a publically seen feature of the building. However, a few do remain intact, illustrating a design feature specific to the building type.

In October 2002, the building became the Richard M. Ross Museum. In this conversion, some of the alterations made in 1969 were reversed, in a desire to return historic spaces to their original appearance, and care was taken to keep historic features. "Efforts were made to preserve the unique aspects and maintain its character. False ceilings were removed to reveal the original 20-foot ceilings; much of the building's woodwork was saved. Whenever possible, architects and contractors kept old cornices, plaster and radiators, which are still operational."<sup>2</sup>

Despite some alterations, the former Delaware Post Office still exhibits its Beaux-Arts Classicism style. It maintains an overall feeling of time and place. It remains a significant presence on Delaware's downtown streetscape. The Delaware Post Office's combination of early 20<sup>th</sup> century design, materials, and location continues to reflect an association with the city's status as a governmental center and growing county seat in the first decades of the 1900s.

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<sup>1</sup> Conrad, 'Art Hall Being Phased Out As Relocation Continues,' *Ohio Wesleyan Transcript*, February 12, 1969, Page 2.

<sup>2</sup> Bartlett, Margo, "'A Thousand Hounds' opens OWU museum', *The Delaware Gazette*, Delaware, Ohio, October 2002.

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## 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

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**Areas of Significance**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

ARCHITECTURE  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance**

1911  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates**

1911  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Cultural Affiliation**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Architect/Builder**

Knox, James Knox  
Wetmore, James A.  
The Collaborative, Inc.

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**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 Delaware Post Office is eligible for listing at the local level of significance under Criterion C, in the area of architecture as a significant local example of Beaux-Arts Classicism design. The building is also an important example of an early 20<sup>th</sup> century federal post office building type, designed and constructed by the United States Treasury - Office of Supervising Architect in small cities. When the nominated Post Office building was completed in 1911, it was the first time there was a permanent, established location for the operations of the local postmaster in Delaware. The Period of Significance is 1911, reflecting when the building was completed.

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

**Delaware, Ohio and Delaware Post Office – Background History**

Delaware County was created by the Ohio Legislature on February 10, 1808. Delaware, the village settlement, was platted on the west shore of the Olentangy River, by Henry Baldwin and another Delaware township landholder, Colonel Moses Byxbe. This plat was recorded with the state of Ohio on May 9, 1808. It included the layout of streets and lots, some being set aside for government buildings, religious purposes, and a cemetery. The city of Delaware was established as the county seat by a group of special commissioners.

By 1810, the population of the city of Delaware was recorded at 200 citizens. In 1815, the city contracted for the first court house, which stood until a Victorian-era building replaced it in 1870. The town itself was not incorporated until 1816 by a special act of the Ohio Legislature. The township officials continued to govern the city until 1849, when an act provided for a town council, which chose their own mayor, recorder, treasurer and assessor. The government of the village was administered from a variety of buildings, which originally had other purposes, until 1882, when a City Hall building was dedicated at the corner of William and Sandusky streets.

Prior to the construction of the nominated Delaware Post Office, post office operations were located in a variety of places, much like the activities of the local city government. Colonel Moses Byxbe, in addition to co-founding the town of Delaware in 1808, also served as its first postmaster. The original Byxbe residence was at 65 East William Street. A short distance east of there was a small brick building, “say about 20 feet square, used by Mr. Byxbe, Sr., for his office...In this office building the first post office was opened and continued there for several years.”<sup>3</sup> The job of postmaster was an important one; beginning in 1836, postmasters at the largest post offices were appointed by the U.S. President. The Postmaster General appointed postmasters at smaller offices, from candidates proposed by the outgoing postmaster, the local community, or local congressman. The post office was often kept as a sideline to the

<sup>3</sup> Graham, Thomas D., Editor, *Souvenir Program, Delaware County Sesquicentennial*, Published by The Delaware County Sesquicentennial, Inc., The Delaware County Historical Society, and The Delaware County Commissioners, 1958, p. 20.

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postmaster's primary occupation, such as storekeeper.<sup>4</sup> This was very much the case in the city of Delaware, with evidence in the published City Directories of the post office in different locations each time a new postmaster was appointed. For example, in 1880, Joseph F. Curren was listed as the Postmaster for the City of Delaware, with his office at East Winter, and for the next three decades, the post office of Delaware changed addresses, following each successive appointment of a new postmaster.

Along with local commerce and regional governmental functions, the formation of Ohio Wesleyan University greatly contributed to the growth of Delaware. Associated with the Methodist church, Ohio Wesleyan University's official charter was granted from the Ohio Legislature on March 7, 1842. By the 1850 census, the population of Delaware had grown to 2,074, and continued to increase rapidly until the 1900s.<sup>5</sup>

As the town of Delaware grew during the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, its population reached 9,076 by the 1910 census. At the same time, the receipts at the city post office increased, with *The Journal-Herald* reporting on January 1, 1909 that although the financial institutions over the country had been left weakened by the effects of an economic panic, Delaware seemed to suffer little from the financial disorder. The paper reported that the total receipts of 1908 were \$24,987.79 compared to \$22,717.96 in 1907.<sup>6</sup> In April 1910, the *Delaware Semi-Weekly Gazette* reported that the local post office receipts had been steadily increasing with each year, indicating a growing city, and remarked that the rating of post offices were based on the period from April to April, and reported that the Delaware post office total from April 1, 1908 to April 1, 1909 was \$25,348.54 and \$26,838.31 from April 1, 1909 to April 1, 1910.<sup>7</sup>

Due to the continued increased earnings, a large new building was planned. In 1910, a set of plans for a new post office building for the city of Delaware was signed by the Supervising Architect of the U.S. Treasury, James Knox Taylor. The plans were on display to the public at the 1910 post office as early as April 26<sup>th</sup> and were also displayed to attract construction bids, which were to be received no later than May 23<sup>rd</sup> at 3:00 p.m.<sup>8</sup> The plans for the new building required it to be complete and ready for business by July 1, 1911. On that same date, new mail wagon service to and from the town railway stations was to be installed, although the matching dates for completion were coincidence.<sup>9</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> Publication 100, The United States Postal Service – *An American History 1775-2006, The History of the United States Postal Service, Reaching Out to Everyone, The 20<sup>th</sup> Century – Postal Savings System.*

<sup>5</sup> Nelson, E. T., Editor, *Fifty Years of History of the Ohio Wesleyan University, Delaware, Ohio. 1844-1894* (The Cleveland Printing and Publishing Co., Cleveland, OH, 1895), p. 7.

<sup>6</sup> 'Surprising Feature – Was Increase at Delaware Postoffice During 1908,' *The Journal-Herald*, Delaware, Ohio, January 1, 1909.

<sup>7</sup> 'Postoffice Shows Gain In Receipts – Increase During The Year Was \$1,489.77,' *Delaware Semi-Weekly Gazette*, April 8, 1910.

<sup>8</sup> 'Building To Be Attractive One – New Postoffice of Stone with Granite Trimmings,' *Delaware Semi-Weekly Gazette*, April 26, 1910.

<sup>9</sup> 'New Postoffice by July 1, 1911 – Contractor Must Have Building Completed Then', *Delaware Semi-Weekly Gazette*, April 29, 1910.

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The intended completion date was not met, but on Monday evening, November 6, 1911, the new Post Office was “thrown open” for public inspection. The newspaper listed the total cost of the building as \$65,000 and remarked that scores of people visited the building, reflecting great interest in the structure. While some confusion regarding the assignment of new post office box numbers occurred, the final thoughts were that “Delaware patrons of Uncle Sam’s stamp store are assured service that which there is none better in Ohio.”<sup>10</sup>

The new post office building in Delaware was also intended to serve the residents as the site of the newly enacted Postal Savings System. On June 25, 1910, an Act of Congress established the Postal Savings System in designated post offices, effective January 1, 1911.<sup>11</sup> The legislation was partly in response to the Panic of 1907, which led the public to lose confidence in the banking system. The proposal for the postal savings idea was introduced at the 1908 Republican National Convention. It included “full faith and credit” backing by the Federal government, up to a limit, for savings deposited through the postal system. Following the convention, President Taft, a Republican from Ohio, called on Congress to propose a program for low-income savers. Senator Burton of Ohio was also in favor of the program, seeking to “aid the President in fight” for its passage.<sup>12</sup> The program kept deposits local and tried to limit direct competition with banks.<sup>13</sup> Initially the deposits were limited to \$500 per individual. Any person 10 years of age or older could make a deposit, and women were “free from any interference or control of her husband.”<sup>14</sup> The legislation aimed to get money out of hiding, attract the savings of immigrants accustomed to saving at Post Offices in their native countries, and furnish more convenient depositories for working people.

As construction of the new building was delayed from its original July completion date, the Postal Savings bank in Delaware, Ohio, opened at the stand on North Sandusky Street two months before the new building was finished. There were two depositors on the very first day. When the new Delaware Post Office finally opened in November 1911, there were three installed vaults to secure the cash, receipts and deposits of the citizens of Delaware.<sup>15</sup> Countrywide, the Postal Savings System had almost \$3.4 in savings by 1947.<sup>16</sup> Despite the interest in the program, it was quietly closed in 1967, under President Lyndon Johnson’s administration.

By law, the Post Office Department could not carry parcels weighing more than four pounds at the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Private express companies delivered large packages. Congress

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<sup>10</sup> ‘Delawareans Pay Visit To Stamp Store: Postmaster Jones and His Assistants Take Special Pains to explain Workings of Fine New Office’, *The Journal-Herald*, Delaware, Ohio, Tuesday Evening, November 7, 1911.

<sup>11</sup> Publication 100, The United States Postal Service.

<sup>12</sup> ‘Burton Takes Up Postal Bank Bill – Ohio Senator Seeks to Aid The President In Fight,’ *Delaware Semi-Weekly Gazette*, February 25, 1910.

<sup>13</sup> Miller, Stephen Matteo, “Postal Banking Didn’t Work in 1910 – and It Won’t Now,” March 17, 2016, *American Banker*.

<sup>14</sup> ‘Facts Concerning the POSTAL SAVINGS BANK To Be Opened Here Sept. 5, 1911,’ *The Journal-Herald*, Delaware, Ohio, Monday Evening, August 21, 1911.

<sup>15</sup> ‘Delawareans Pay Visit To Stamp Store: Postmaster Jones and His Assistants Take Special Pains to explain Workings of Fine New Office’, *The Journal-Herald*, Delaware, Ohio, Tuesday Evening, November 7, 1911.

<sup>16</sup> Holder, Sarah, “Why Cleveland Wants to Bring Back Postal Banking,” June 4, 2019.



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was hotly debating the question of parcel post in 1910, when one express company declared a large dividend to its stockholders, and the public indignation at their so-called exorbitant profits helped Congress decide the issue. On January 1, 1913, the Post Office Department began parcel post service, and it was an instant success. Over three million parcels were mailed in the first six months the service was offered. The size and weight limits of packages increased as did the volume of packages being sent through parcel post.<sup>17</sup> This increased volume of mail helped drive the need for an expansion of the 1911 Delaware Post Office building. The 1927 addition echoed the style of the original exterior by scoring the stucco coating to indicate large stone blocks.

Hovering just under 10,000, the population of the city of Delaware remained fairly stable from the 1920s until 1950, when there was a 32% increase over the 1940 census, and in 1960, the population increased by 12.5%. Since that time, the city and county have both seen increases in population at each census. Today, the estimated population of the city of Delaware is 40,000 and the population of the county is just over 200,000.

Following years of post-World War II growth and by the middle of the 1960s, increased volume and the need for better truck loading facilities led to the construction of a new post office building for Delaware. In 1966, the *Delaware Gazette* reported that a Blacklick building firm, Duris & Yates, was awarded the contract to build a new post office for the city of Delaware, a block west of the building on Sandusky Street. The new post office was completed in 1967, and the move from the 1911 building took place immediately. The old post office then remained closed and vacant for over a year. Unfortunately, months without central heating resulted in some damage to the interior, including warped woodwork and peeling walls.<sup>18</sup>

In 1968, Peter Kleist and the Buildings and Grounds Committee of Ohio Wesleyan University acquired the building to partially house the Fine Arts Department. It had been declared surplus by the General Services Administration of the federal government. The government was in need of an apartment house in London, Kentucky but had no budgeted funds, so the University bought the apartment house, then traded it to the government, and paid the difference between the two properties.<sup>19</sup> Miss Sallie T. Humphreys donated \$150,000 to renovate and convert the building, including installing a \$25,000 heating system, adding a dark room and kilns in the basement, as well as an exhibition space on the main floor. The exhibition space was stipulated with Miss Humphreys' gift.<sup>20</sup> Sallie Humphreys had been an art faculty member and chair of the Art Department from 1905 to 1943. The old post office building was renamed the Humphreys Art Hall, when it opened for classes in the spring of 1970. No architectural firm has been identified for the 1969 remodel of the building. Research and exploration of files at OWU's buildings and grounds department did not yield any information about the post office's conversion to

<sup>17</sup> Publication 100, The United States Postal Service.

<sup>18</sup> Conrad, Cathy. 'Art Hall Being Phased Out As Relocation Continues'

<sup>19</sup> Murchland, Bernard, ed., *Noble Achievements: The History of Ohio Wesleyan University from 1942 to 1992* (Ohio Wesleyan University, 1991), p.233-234.

<sup>20</sup> Conrad, 'Art Hall Being Phased Out As Relocation Continues'

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classroom spaces. Given that alterations were minimal, there may not have been an architect overseeing the project.

After 31 years, Humphreys Art Hall was vacated by the Fine Arts Department, relocating back onto the OWU campus proper. From 2000-2002, the building was renovated into an art museum. In October 2002, the Richard M. Ross Museum opened with an art exhibit shared with the Columbus Museum of Art. Richard Ross' widow Elizabeth provided the majority of funds for the Humphreys Art Hall renovation. For the 2001-02 conversion of the building from an OWU classroom facility to an art museum, the architectural firm was The Collaborative, Inc., a Toledo firm. Lincoln Construction served as the contractor.

### **Criteria C: Architecture: James Knox Taylor and Early 20<sup>th</sup> Century Federal Post Office Design**

The Office of the Supervising Architect, of the United States Treasury, designed federal government buildings from 1852 until 1939. In 1893, an act, known as the Tarsney Act, was passed that permitted the Secretary of the Treasury to advertise for and receive proposals to submit plans and specifications for public buildings from outside architects – those not employed in the government service. In 1902, the first omnibus public buildings law was passed, authorizing 150 new projects. This was a significant change from the nineteenth century practice of requiring individual legislation to authorize construction of each new federal building. This legislation, and subsequent omnibus bills, saved time in Congress and expedited the construction process. The number of buildings under Treasury Department control increased from 399 in 1899 to 1,126 in 1912, indicating the scope of these laws.<sup>21</sup> New federal buildings, including post offices, were constructed as the need for them arose, versus there being a comprehensive plan of development for each necessary building type.

With plans dating to 1910, the architect for the Delaware Post Office was James Knox Taylor, who served as Supervising Architect of the U.S. Treasury from 1897 to 1912. Taylor was a native of Knoxville, Illinois and was a classmate of his predecessor, William Martin Aiken, at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, where he learned architecture. He formed a partnership in St. Paul, Minnesota, but left for Philadelphia in 1893 due to an economic depression and his wife's health. Still struggling, he managed to get a position in the Office of the Supervising Architect as a temporary draftsman in April 1895. By October 1896, Taylor had been promoted to the position of temporary principal draftsman.<sup>22</sup> In 1897, following a Civil Service Commission examination, he became the Supervisory Architect, the first architect promoted from within.<sup>23</sup>

At the time Taylor was appointed Supervising Architect, it was assumed he would be primarily an administrator, and that most of the design work would shift to the private sector.<sup>24</sup> However,

<sup>21</sup> *History of Post Office Construction 1900-1940*, United States Postal Service, Office of Real Estate, July 1982, p. 4.

<sup>22</sup> Lee, Antoinette J., *Architects to the Nation: The Rise and Decline of the Supervising Architect's Office*, Oxford University Press, 2000.

<sup>23</sup> "James Knox Taylor likely to be appointed over New Yorkers", *The New York Times*, October 17, 1897.

<sup>24</sup> *D.C. Architects Directory*. Office of Planning, Washington, D.C.

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only the largest federal buildings were put out for bid, and Taylor inaugurated a new system of building design within the office. He let out for bids for plans on larger, more expensive buildings, reserving the design of smaller buildings, especially post offices, for himself and his staff.<sup>25</sup> He eliminated the position of chief designer and had four designer positions that the draftsmen could compete for, being convinced this system would result in better buildings and a “more diversified interpretation of his ideas.”<sup>26</sup>

In 1907, the architectural journal *The Brickbuilder* published an article on Taylor’s smaller buildings. The journal characterized his designs as “a splendid success in keeping abreast with the spirit of the times.” The examples of structures with construction costs under \$100,000 displayed and illustrated Taylor’s work. Described as “smaller types, which by reason of their moderate size and moderate cost, have come into local prominence only, the buildings incorporate the stylistic details and idealism of contemporary national trends...stone and terra cotta trim...Ornament and stylistic details are both Neo-Classical and Colonial.”<sup>27</sup> And a few years later, *The American Architect* magazine remarked in 1912 that “the average architectural worth of the designs for which Mr. Taylor is officially responsible has at least equaled the average worth of those prepared by private architects, under the workings of the Tarsney Act.”

Toward the end of his tenure as Supervising Architect, concern over the cost of government construction increased. In 1912, Taylor testified before the House of Representatives Committee on Expenditures on Public Buildings. In response to the question of why Government buildings were more expensive than commercial buildings he explained: “In the first place, Government buildings are essentially single propositions – that is, they are not similar, there is no similarity between them and other constructions. Each is individual in itself.”<sup>28</sup>

He further states that costs were high because, as opposed to commercial buildings where standard units dictated standard sized materials, “...there are no two buildings under the government service that are exactly the same in size...in the immediate vicinity of each other.”<sup>29</sup> As a result, a separate contract was required for each building. In addition, Taylor pointed out, Federal buildings must be built to last and so must be of high quality materials and construction.

James Knox Taylor maintained a firm resistance to the notion that designs for public buildings could be standardized, which set the period of his tenure apart from the following years.<sup>30</sup> He resigned in 1912. He was succeeded briefly by Supervising Architect Oscar Wenderoth. During Wenderoth’s two-year administration, legislative changes occurred that had a profound impact

<sup>25</sup> ‘Summary’, *American Architect and Builders News*, October 4, 1902, p.2.

<sup>26</sup> “First Annual Report of the Federal Works Administration, for Fiscal Year 1939,” United States Federal Works Administration, United States Government Printing Office, Washington, DC, 1940.

<sup>27</sup> ‘Work of the Supervising Architect Taylor’, *The Brickbuilder*, Vol. 16, No. 5, May 1907.

<sup>28</sup> *Testimony of the Supervising Architect, Hearings before the Committee on Expenditures on Public Buildings, House of Representatives, under House Resolution 103, 62<sup>nd</sup> Congress, First Session*, United States Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C., 1912.

<sup>29</sup> *Testimony of the Supervising Architect, Hearings before the Committee on Expenditures on Public Buildings*.

<sup>30</sup> *History of Post Office Construction 1900-1940*, p. 6.

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on government architecture, particularly small scale projects. However, the designs developed in 1913 and 1914 reflect little substantive change from Taylor's policies.

In 1927, the plans for an addition to the Delaware Post Office were signed by James A. Wetmore, who served as Acting Supervising Architect from 1915 to 1933. "Because he was not an architect, he would not allow his title to be other than Acting Supervising Architect, and as such, his name appears on some 2,000 Federal cornerstones."<sup>31</sup>

### **Criteria C: Architecture**

The Delaware Post Office meets Criterion C, in the area of architecture as the only identified example of Beaux-Arts Classicism in the city. The architectural style, which was popular in Ohio roughly 1890-1910, was particularly suited to large-scale public buildings, such as libraries, post offices, museums, and train stations. These types of public buildings in this style have a formal, monumental quality. At the time of its completion in 1911, there were no other federal buildings located in Delaware, so the new post office was a stately and important addition to the county seat.

The Beaux-Arts Classicism style is defined as "elaborate, historic, and eclectic architecture, design on a monumental scale, as taught at (and associated with) the Ecole des Beaux Arts in Paris in the 19<sup>th</sup> century...and having considerable influence on American architecture."<sup>32</sup> In the United States, it is also associated with the City Beautiful movement. It is further defined as stylistically emphasizing "both Greek and Roman idioms, especially through classical motifs...This style combined classical orders with exuberant decorative elements."<sup>33</sup>

The Delaware Post Office exhibits several elements of the Beaux-Arts Classicism style. Character defining exterior features include the symmetrical façade, low-pitched hipped roof, light-colored ashlar stone often accented with rustication, and classical details such as dentils, Doric capitals, and round arches. The Delaware Post Office has a raised basement (another feature) of smooth ashlar foundation, while the rest of the building has a light sandstone with vertically raised lines (sawed texture) providing accent, rather than rustication. The carved stone eagle over the entrance illustrates another style characteristic – that of sculptured figures. Doorways with flanking pilasters or columns is often seen in the style and is expressed in the nominated building. Finally, the large arched window openings are a feature of the style, and they are present on the façade and both side elevations. With its ornate public lobby, the Delaware Post Office demonstrates a grand interior. Rich materials, such as marble, and details, such as the elaborate Doric pilaster capitals with mutule blocks and groin vault ceiling, showcase a commitment to monumental design for public buildings.

<sup>31</sup> 'Art: Cornerstone Man', *Time Magazine*, December 10, 1934.

<sup>32</sup> Harris, Cyril M. *American Architecture: An Illustrated Encyclopedia* (New York: W.W. Norton & Company, 1998), p. 27.

<sup>33</sup> Gordon, Stephen C. *How to Complete the Ohio Historic Inventory* (Columbus, Ohio: Ohio Historical Society, Inc., 1992), p.97.

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Although there are other prominent public buildings in the city, they tend to be of the Neo-Classical Revival style, rather than the Beaux-Arts. Neo-Classical Revival examples include the old 1906 Carnegie Public Library on N. Sandusky Street, which has an imposing two-story pedimented portico, and buildings on the OWU campus. The three-story 1898 Slocum Hall features a Greek temple front entrance, while the 1905 Edwards Gymnasium has a Mediterranean Revival influence. And, the 2½ story, early 20<sup>th</sup> century city hall is Colonial Revival.

The Delaware Post Office is also a good example of a federal building type, constructed during the early 20<sup>th</sup> century era, when the United States Treasury, through the Office of Supervising Architect, was producing architectural designs for small cities. Although the passage of the Tarsney Act in 1893 allowed the Supervising Architect to have competitions among private architects for major structures, in practice, “a larger number of modest government buildings, usually post offices, located in small communities, were designed by the Office staff.”<sup>34</sup> Designed by James Knox Taylor and his staff, the 1911 Delaware Post Office was one of many small to medium sized post offices constructed across the country to serve similarly sized communities.

The buildings designed under James Knox Taylor, Supervising Architect 1897-1912, were standardized to some degree, according to their function and size, but varied in classical detail. They exhibit the strong symmetry, horizontal emphasis, and classical detailing typical of the Beaux Arts School. The buildings frequently were designed with a three-bay center section flanked by one bay projecting or receding pavilions. Roofs were generally flat or low hipped, often with a balustrade. The principal variations were in the architectural detail. By the end of Taylor’s tenure as Supervising Architect, the policy of designing federal office buildings in classical revival styles was firmly established.<sup>35</sup> As with exterior variation in expression of classical details, the interior layouts, under Taylor’s direction, varied according to the building’s design. Examination of sample plans show that the typical first floor post office configuration included a linear public lobby with customer counters; a large, open work room beyond the lobby, behind the counters; and a corner postmaster’s office. Other rooms/offices may have been present, depending on the building’s size and function (the presence of a postal savings bank generated the need for additional rooms). Aside from the consistent main components of a linear lobby, work room, and corner postmaster’s office, interior plans varied, due to Taylor’s rejection of the use of standardized plans. Designed by Taylor, the 1911 Delaware Post Office is a perfect illustration of these design trends.

Befitting its location in the county seat, the Delaware Post Office is the only post office building of its size and architectural detail within the county. Villages within Delaware County, such as Powell, Lewis Center, Sunbury, or Kilbourne, also had/have post offices. However, none of them are of the Beaux Arts style, of the same large scale, or have the same prominence on the streetscape. Other James Knox Taylor designed post offices in Ohio listed in the National Register include the 1909 Beaux Arts East Liverpool Post Office (NRHP 76001384), the 1910

<sup>34</sup> Lee, *Architects to the Nation: The Rise and Decline of the Supervising Architect’s Office*

<sup>35</sup> *D.C. Architects Directory*.

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Neo-Classical Revival Old U.S. Post Office in Marion (NRHP 90001777), the 1910 Beaux Arts Post Office and Federal Building in Ashtabula (NRHP SG100004053), and the 1911 Neo-Classical Revival Old Post Office in Athens (NRHP 79001782).

### **Conclusion**

The Delaware Post Office is a significant reflection of architect James Knox Taylor's belief that federal buildings should convey a sense of dignity. Architectural historian Lois Craig quoted Taylor as writing in 1901 that, "The [Treasury] Department after mature consideration of the subject, finally decided to adopt the classic style of architecture for all buildings so far as it was practicable to do so, and it is believed that this style is best suited for government buildings. The experience of centuries has demonstrated that no form of architecture is so pleasing to the great mass of mankind as the classic, or some modified form of the classic, and it is hoped that the present policy may be followed in the future, in order that the public buildings of the United States may become distinctive in their character."<sup>36</sup> Further, *The Architect*, a professional journal, describes the intended impact of small post office buildings constructed under Taylor and his successor, Wenderoth: "They are generally the most important of local buildings, and taken together, seen daily by thousands, who have little opportunity to feel the influence of the great architectural works in the large cities."<sup>37</sup> It was within this context of commitment to high style architecture for all types of federal buildings that the Delaware Post Office was constructed. Under the direction of James Knox Taylor in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, new federal buildings across the country were built to serve growing post office needs, and they were designed to be distinguishable edifices within their respective community, utilizing classical revival styles. The Delaware Post Office is locally significant for its Beaux Arts architectural style and as the only federal building built in Delaware during this identifiable era of construction.

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<sup>36</sup> Craig, Lois and the staff of the Federal Architecture Project, *The Federal presence: architecture, politics, and symbols in United States government building*, MIT Press, Cambridge, MA, 1978, page 236.

<sup>37</sup> Newman, William Arthur; "The Largest Architectural Office in The World: The Office of The Supervising Architect of the Treasury", *The Architect*, March 1918.

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Delaware Post Office

Name of Property

Delaware, Ohio

County and State

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#### Websites

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(<http://www.time.com/time/magazine/article/0,9171,748133,00.html#ixzz0c5Mdkyp1>).  
Retrieved 2019-02-15

*The Brickbuilder* magazine, April 1912, page 23, photo: “Post Office, Norwich, Conn. Architectural Terra Cotta furnished by the South Amboy Terra Cotta Company, James Knox Taylor, Architect.” Hathi Trust Digital Library. Retrieved 2018-12-11 [showing post office building nearly identical to Delaware’s, except Delaware’s does not have the massive columned porch/portico on the front]

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Delaware Post Office  
Name of Property

Delaware, Ohio  
County and State

*The Brickbuilder* magazine, April 1912, page 113, photo: "Gray brick furnished by the Hydraulic Press Brick Company, James Knox Taylor, Architect." Hathi Trust Digital Library. [showing doorway with nearly identical eagle over it] Retrieved 2018-12-11 <https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=iau.31858033649074;view=1up;seq=9>

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Smith, Darrell Hevenor, *The Office of the Supervising Architect of the Treasury: Its History, Activities and Organization*, Baltimore, Johns Hopkins Press, 1923, Hathi Trust Digital Library. Retrieved 2018-1-7 <https://hdl.handle.net/2027/uva.x001795158>

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**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

Delaware Post Office  
Name of Property

Delaware, Ohio  
County and State

- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other
- Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

**Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):** \_\_\_\_\_

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### 10. Geographical Data

**Acreage of Property** .451

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

#### Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: \_\_\_\_\_

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- |                        |                       |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Latitude: 40.296926 | Longitude: -83.068282 |
| 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: 324208 | Northing: 4462545 |
| 2. Zone:    | Easting:        | Northing:         |
| 3. Zone:    | Easting:        | Northing:         |
| 4. Zone:    | Easting :       | Northing:         |

Delaware Post Office  
Name of Property

Delaware, Ohio  
County and State

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

The nominated boundary includes Parcel#: 519-433-07-021-000, as defined by the Delaware County Auditor.

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The nominated boundary includes the parcel historically associated with the Delaware Post Office, during the Period of Significance (1911).

---

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title: Nathalie Wright and Tammy Wallace (Ross Art Museum)  
organization: Historic Preservation Consultant  
street & number: 1535B Lafayette Dr.  
city or town: Columbus state: OH zip code: 43220  
e-mail nwright66@yahoo.com  
telephone: 614-447-8832  
date: March 19, 2019

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**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.

Delaware Post Office  
Name of Property

Delaware, Ohio  
County and State

### Photo Log

Photographer: Nathalie Wright

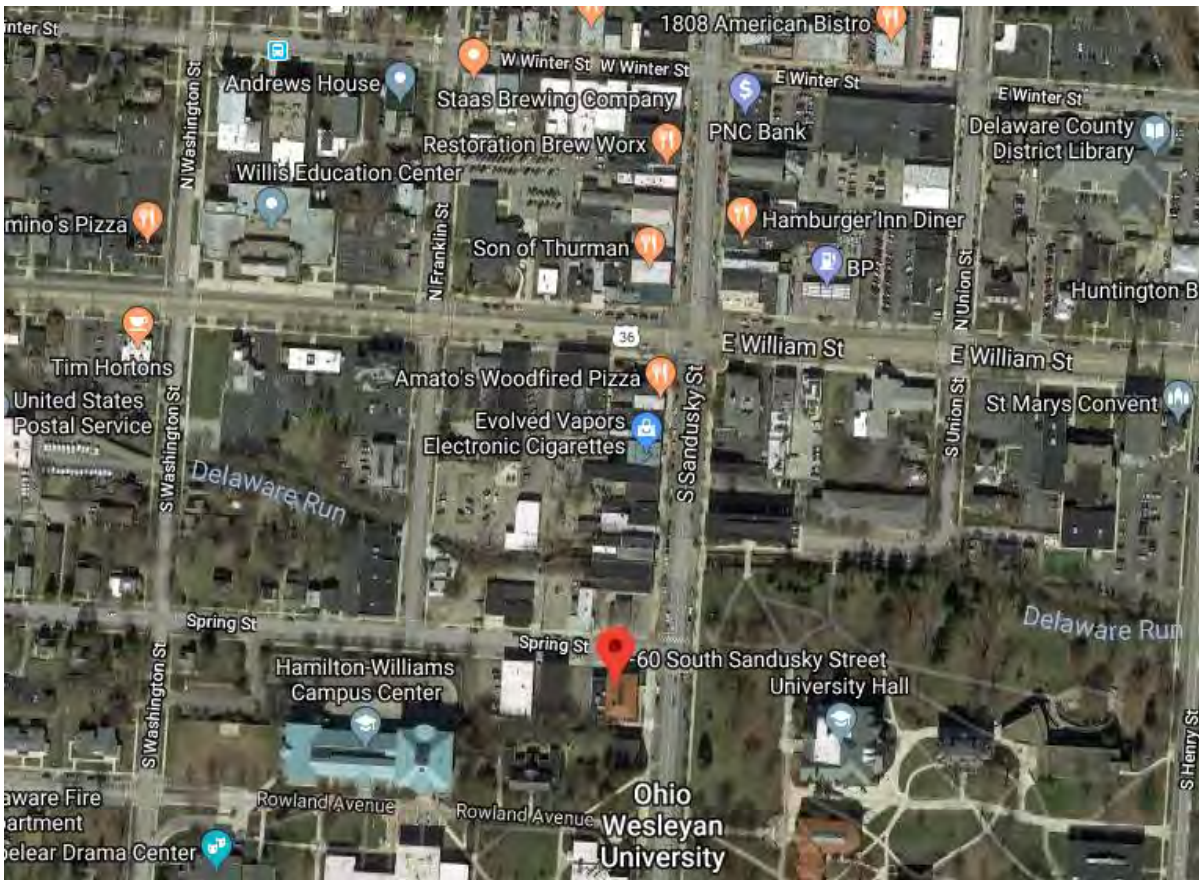
Date Photographed: January 16, 2019 and September 22, 2019

1. Façade and south elevation, looking northwest
2. Façade and site, looking south
3. Façade, looking west
4. North and rear elevations, looking southeast
5. South and rear elevations, looking northeast
6. 1<sup>st</sup> floor, lobby, looking north
7. 1<sup>st</sup> floor, office (postmaster's), looking south
8. 1<sup>st</sup> floor, office (postmaster's), looking northeast
9. 1<sup>st</sup> floor, office (asst. postmasters), looking southeast
10. 1<sup>st</sup> floor, office (asst. postmasters), looking northwest
11. 1<sup>st</sup> floor, main gallery, looking east
12. 1<sup>st</sup> floor, center gallery, looking south
13. 1<sup>st</sup> floor, restroom corridor, looking east
14. 1<sup>st</sup> floor, west gallery, looking northwest
15. 1<sup>st</sup> floor, rear corridor, looking west
16. 1<sup>st</sup> floor, stair landing, looking north
17. Basement, stairs, looking north
18. Basement, looking northeast
19. Basement, stairs, looking northwest
20. Basement, lookout window, looking south
21. 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, looking north

**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.460 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

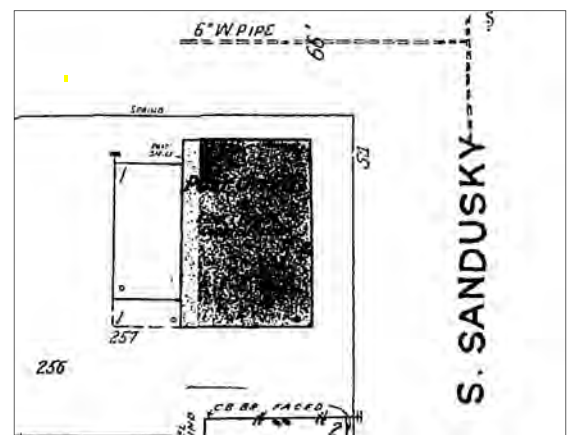
Attachment A - Maps



Aerial View, 60 S. Sandusky Street. From Google Maps



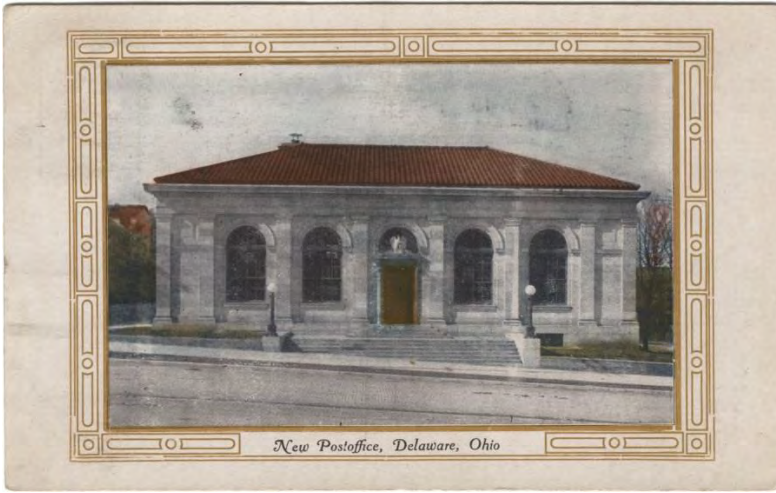
Parcel ID: 519-433-07-021-000. From Delaware County Auditor.



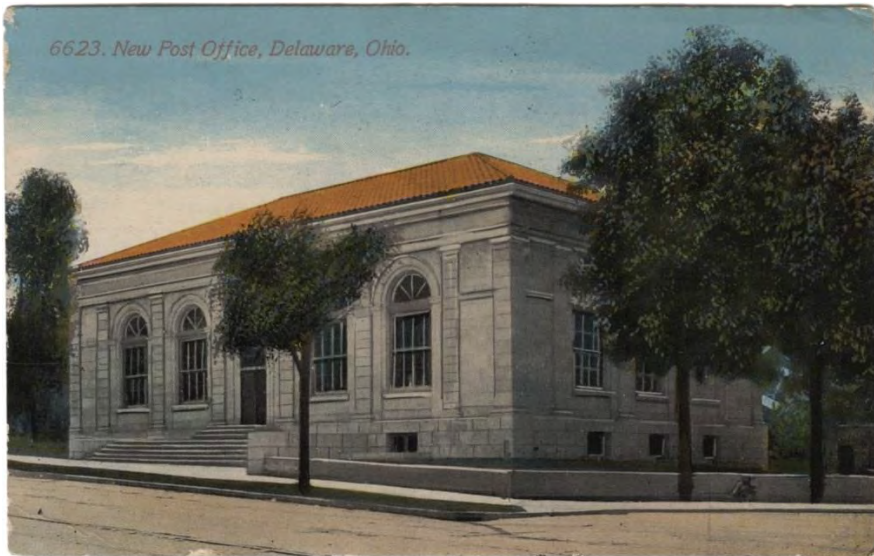
1950 Sanborn map

Attachment B – Historic Images

From Ohio Wesleyan University (<https://www.owu.edu/about/ross-art-museum/about/about-the-ross/>)



c.1911



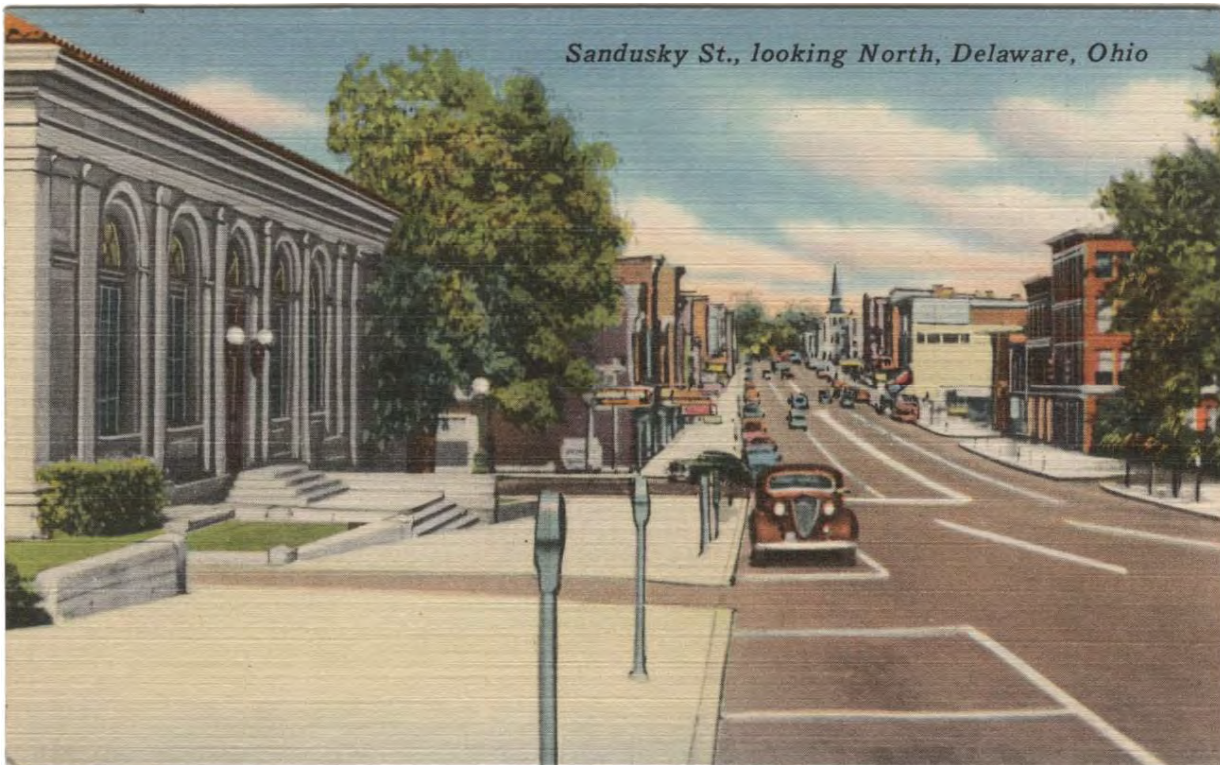
c.1911



1915



Attachment B – Historic Images



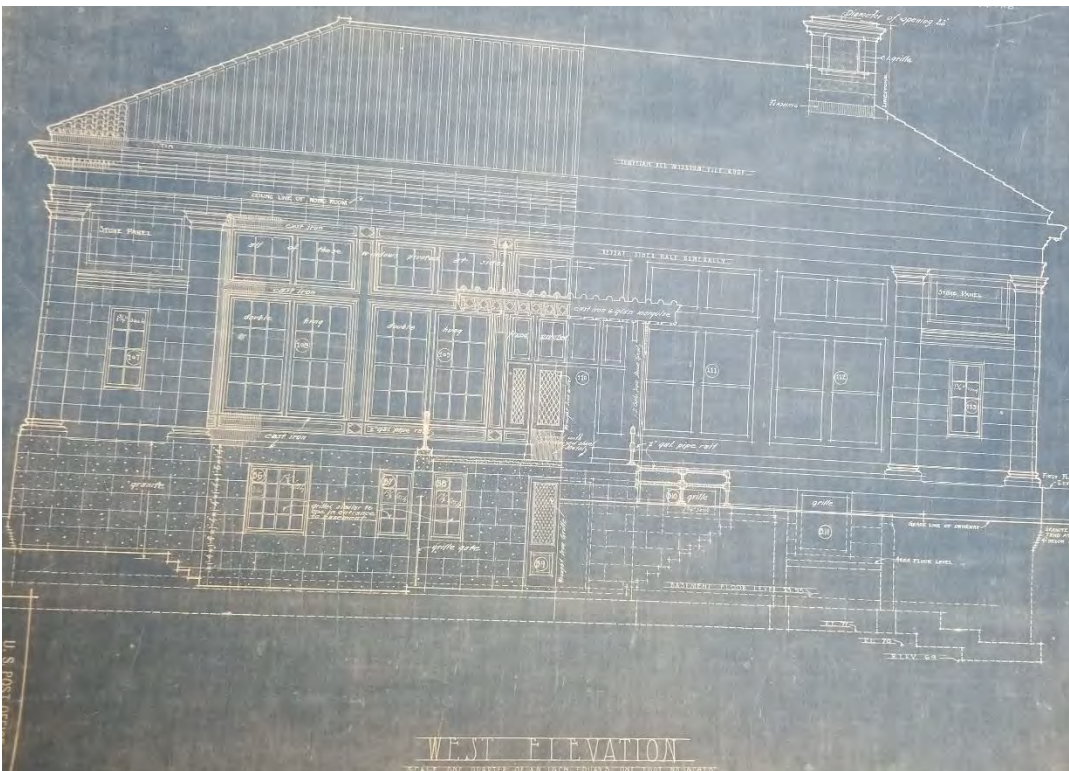
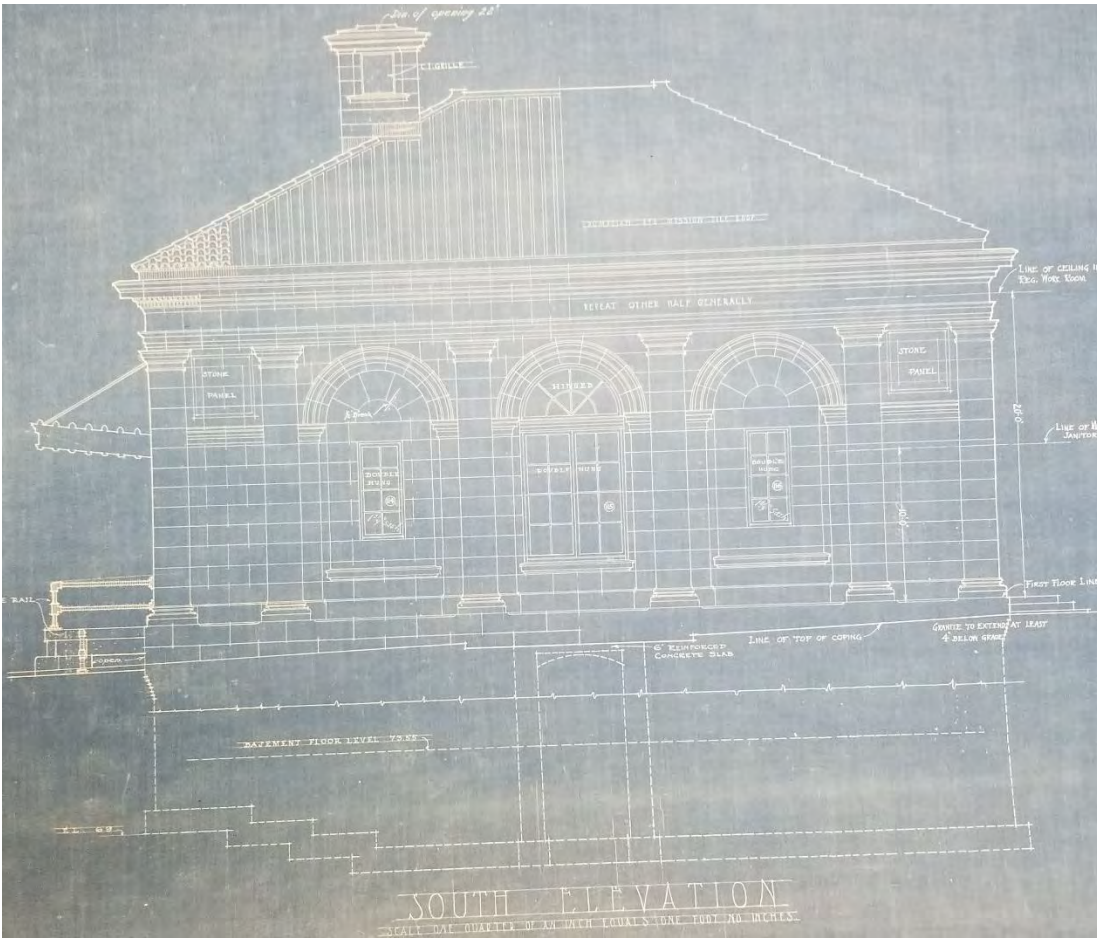
Date unknown



c.1970



Attachment C – Historic Blueprints



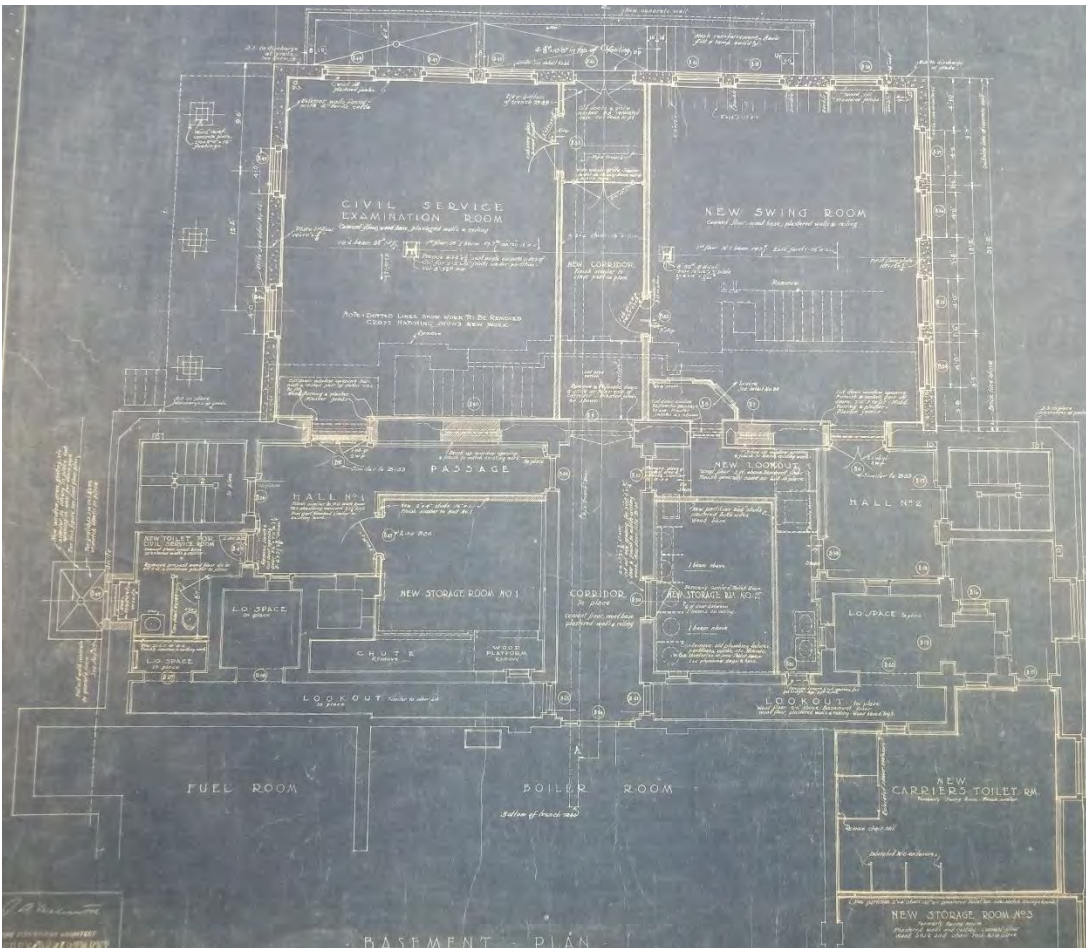
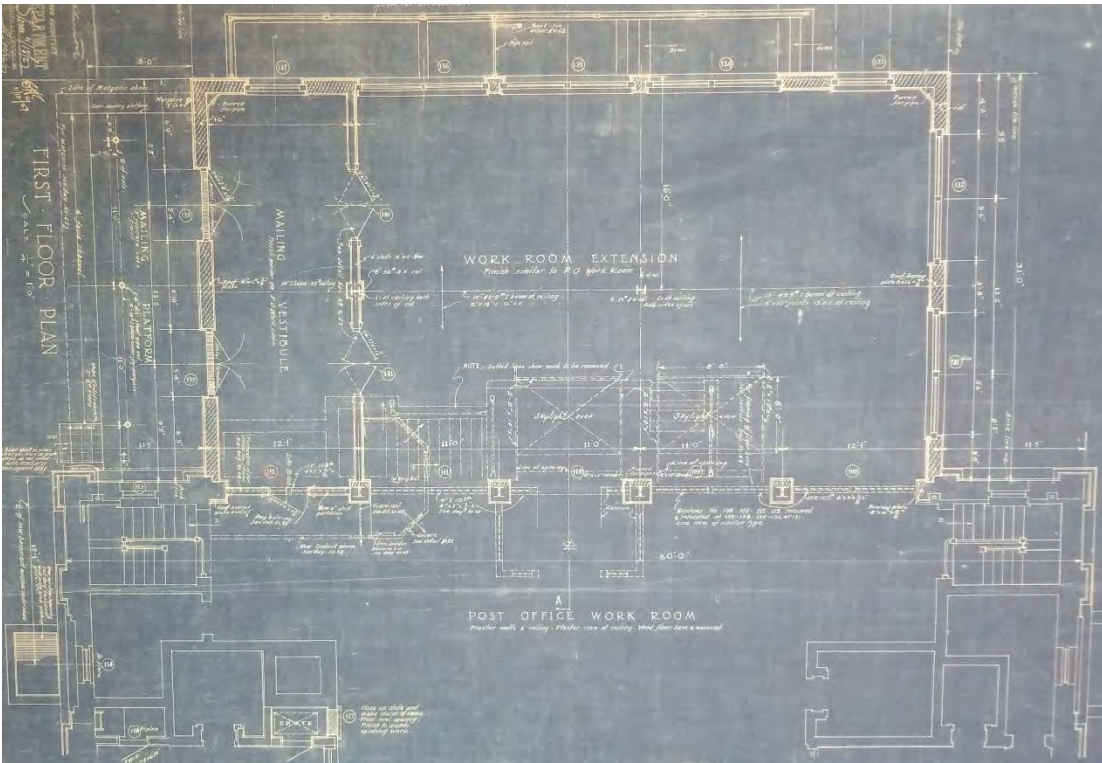


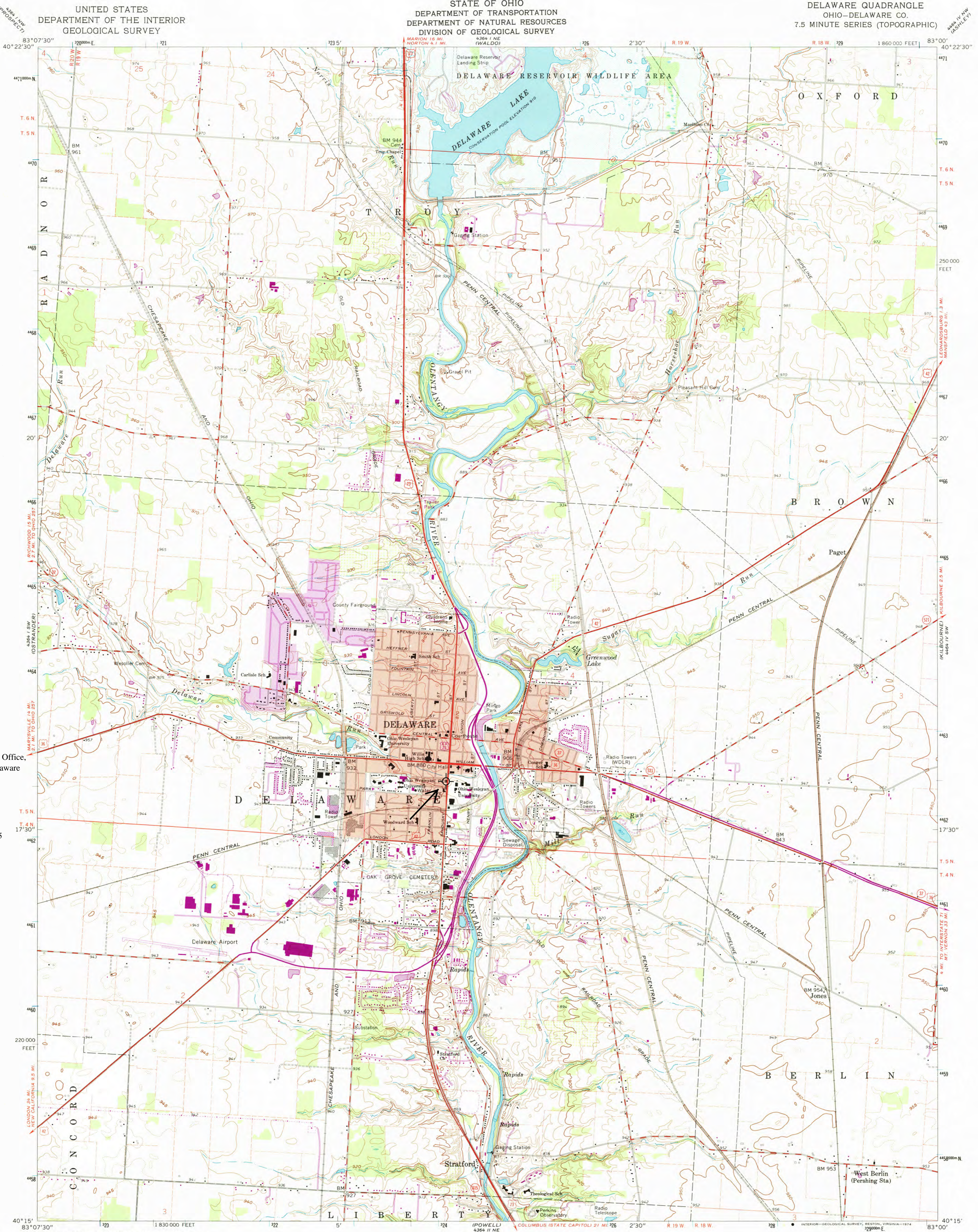
Attachment C – Historic Blueprints

1927 Addition - Drawings



Attachment C – Historic Blueprints





Delaware Post Office,  
Delaware, Delaware  
County, Ohio

NAD 27  
Zone 17  
East 324208  
North 4462545

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey

Control by USGS and USC&GS

Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial  
photographs taken 1959-60. Field checked 1960

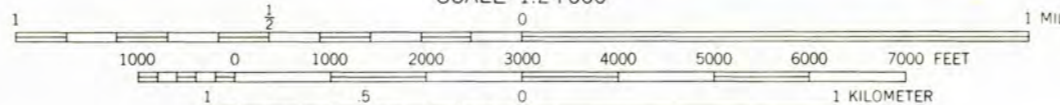
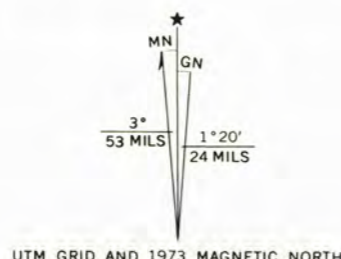
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum.  
10,000-foot grid based on Ohio coordinate system, north zone  
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,  
zone 17, shown in blue

Entire area lies within the United States Military District  
Land lines based on the Base Line of the United States  
Military District

Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown

Areas covered by dashed light-blue pattern  
are subject to controlled inundation to 947 feet

Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where  
generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked



CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET  
DOTTED LINES REPRESENT 5-FOOT CONTOURS  
DA'UM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL



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

DELAWARE, OHIO

N4015-W8300/7.5

1960  
PHOTOREVISED 1973  
AMS 4364 1 SE-SERIES V852

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
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  
1973. This information not field checked  
Purple tint indicates extension of urban areas









ROSS ART MUSEUM  
Humphreys Hall  
60

ROSS ART MUSEUM

Ohio Wesleyan





Ohio Wesleyan

OLDS HALL RENOVATION

Handicapped parking sign

Handicapped parking sign

















EXIT





Text block on the right wall, likely a descriptive label for the adjacent exhibit.

Text block on the right wall, likely a descriptive label for the adjacent exhibit.

Small black sign on the wall at the end of the hallway.



After / Before

















10

MEN







November 15, 2019

Julie Ernstein, Acting Chief, National Register of Historic Places  
National Park Service  
National Register of Historic Places  
1849 C Street, NW, Mail Stop 7228  
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Ms. Ernstein:

Enclosed please find four new National Register nominations for Ohio. All appropriate notification procedures have been followed for the new nomination submissions.


NEW NOMINATIONS  
Scotfield, Levi House  
Delaware Post Office

COUNTY  
Cuyahoga  
Delaware

The enclosed disks contain the true and correct copy of the information to the National Register of Historic Places nominations for Scotfield, Levi House and Delaware Post Office.

If you have questions or comments about these documents, please contact the National Register staff in the Ohio Historic Preservation Office at (614) 298-2000.

Sincerely,

*for* 

Lox A. Logan, Jr.  
Executive Director and CEO  
State Historic Preservation Officer  
Ohio History Connection

Enclosures



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
NPS TRANSMITTAL CHECK LIST

OHIO HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE  
800 E. 17<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Columbus, OH 43211  
(614)-298-2000

The following materials are submitted on Nov. 15, 2019  
For nomination of the Delaware Post Office to the National Register of  
Historic Places: Delaware County, OH

- Original National Register of Historic Places nomination form  
 Paper  PDF
- Multiple Property Nomination Cover Document  
 Paper  PDF
- Multiple Property Nomination form  
 Paper  PDF
- Photographs  
 Prints  TIFFs
- CD with electronic images
- Original USGS map(s)  
 Paper  Digital
- Sketch map(s)/Photograph view map(s)/Floor plan(s)  
 Paper  PDF
- Piece(s) of correspondence  
 Paper  PDF
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

COMMENTS:

- Please provide a substantive review of this nomination
- This property has been certified under 36 CFR 67
- The enclosed owner objection(s) do \_\_\_\_\_ do not \_\_\_\_\_  
Constitute a majority of property owners
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_