### Oberlin Post Office

**Address:** 68 South Main

**Type:** Other Building

**Style:** Neo-Classical Revival

**Builder:** Alfred Hahn

**Original Use:** Post Office

**Present Use:** Post Office

**Original Architect:** Alfred Hahn

**Design Sources:** Dobson-Brown (92); Hayes (96)

**Foundation Material:** Stone

**Wall Construction:** Metal/Steel Frame

**Roof Type:** Flat

**Roof Pitch:** Flat

**Roof Material:** Unknown

**No. Bays:** Front 7

**No. Stories:** 1 and 1/2

**Property Acreage:** 0.947

**Endangered?** No

**Explain:**

**Owners Name & Address:**

- **Post Office:** United States of America Postal Service
- **Oberlin:** OH 44074

**Site Plan with North Arrow:**

- W/Cole
- E/Cole
- W/Vre
- E/Vre

**Historical Significance:**

When this building was completed and dedicated in August 1933, it marked the establishment of a fully professional mail service in Oberlin. Mail service was initiated in Oberlin in January 1834; the first postmaster was David C. Crocker. From then until 1896, the Post Office location was moved with every new postmaster to a building of his choice. Under the Postmaster (Judge) John W. Steele, postal carrier service was inaugurated in the village in October 1889. From 1896 to 1933 the post office was located in the Beckwith Block, where the Rex Theater and the Oberlin School of Commerce were located on South Main.

This building is located at the south end of the central business district on State Route 58, the principal north-south route through Oberlin. Parking is available at the street and this building anchors the governmental buildings in the area.

**Sources of Information:**

- Lorain County Courthouse: Lorain County tax records
- O.H.I.O. Resource Center: Oberlin Historic Preservation Commission Files
- Oberlin News-Tribune, March 29, 1935
The approach to the front entrance has a recent handicap entrance ramp.

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That building was destroyed to build what is today the AAA Travel Office at 49 South Main. When Postmaster Eugene Dick retired in February 1934, there were thirty postal employees. This reflected the city's significant growth since early days when mail was walked to Oberlin from Elyria and the postmaster was only employed part-time (Oberlin News-Tribune). Oberlin was able to receive federal funds for this building through the influence of Grove Patterson, editor of the Toledo Blade and a college trustee. The building was designed by Toledo architect Alfred Hahn (Blodgett).

This building is significant as an example of federal government architecture, unique in Oberlin, and for its evidence of federal support of a small town. It is also significant as it embodies the history of small town postal service. The Oberlin Post Office was listed by the City of Oberlin as an Oberlin City Landmark in November of 1997.