

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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received

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# National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

## 1. Name

historic Gayer, Jacob M., House

and or common Slanczka, Richard, House

## 2. Location

street & number 406 Sumner Street \_\_\_\_\_ not for publication

city, town Akron \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of

state Ohio code 039 county Summit code 153

## 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

## 4. Owner of Property

name Richard J. Slanczka

street & number 406 Sumner Street

city, town Akron \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of state Ohio

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Courthouse Annex Recorders Office

street & number 175 S. Main Street

city, town Akron state OH 44308

## 6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Akron Historic Landmark has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date March 1980 \_\_\_\_\_ federal \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ county \_\_\_\_\_ local

depository for survey records Akron Public Library

city, town Akron state Ohio

## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Representing a transition from the Italianate to the Eastlake mode, the Gayer residence is a surviving example of the once commonplace. It is a vernacular interpretation of a high mode and while more ambitious than most workingmen's houses of its period, it contains features considered unique in its time. Both the interior and exterior possess an exceptional integrity to its original condition.

Occupying a corner lot, the long south front facing onto the side street is treated as the principal facade. The two story, irregular plan, structure is clad in shiplap siding, framed at its corners. The front is delineated by a central projection with a three bay window flanked by a pair of porches at the first story.

The elements of these porches are identical. Both have ornately turned post and balusters. Further enrichment is provided via archaded friezes of spindlework with acorn pendants and fret sawn spandrels and brackets.

The focus of this principle facade is a three sided bay window. Rising from the first to the second story this element is terminated in the attic by a projection of the gable's end, overhanging the angled sides of the bay window.

This gable end and the other three on this dwelling are distinguished by vertical siding. The south gable end is separated from the wall by a plain frieze. A similar frieze, narrow and unadorned except for a cyma molding, runs below the roof's deep eaves. The other gable ends are interrupted a quarter of the way up with siding. The siding corresponds to a saw-toothed band that occurs just below the molding containing these gabled ends.

The roof cornice is made up of a series of cymarecta and reversed moldings. Originally covered with imbricated slates, the gabled roof was covered over with asphalt shingles by the previous owner.

Elaborate interior woodwork in choice hardwoods remains unpainted and complete in the interior of the Gayer house. The two pair of arch double doors are made of contrasting cherry and walnut, the dining room's wainscoating of alternating boards are of cherry and oak. The pedimented entablatures of the back parlour from butternut all attest to two features that make this house highly significant. Mr. Gayer, a carpenter, like his father and his grandfather, appreciated fine wood and used it liberally in building his own home. He also seems to have appreciated the tenants of Charles Eastlake. His house employs a machine-made architecture. The reeding of the parlour pillasters is machine routed and, except for finishing, most other components of the house were made with the aid of machines.

The front parlour on the east front has a slate mantle piece dramatically marbled in black with an orange prophery inlay. It remains complete with a cast iron grate pierced in a diaper pattern and even the original screen is still found here.

# 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

**Specific dates** 1872 **Builder/Architect** Jacob, Gayer & Gayer

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

The Jacob Gayer house is significant under Criterion C as a good example of late nineteenth century working class housing in Akron, Ohio. Built by and lived in by the prolific local carpenter, Jacob Gayer, this two story, gable roof, wood sided building is typical in plan and form for workers housing. However, this home for Gayer displays an exception degree of detail and variety of materials noted in its ornate porch, variety of hardwoods used in the interior woodwork and elaborate faux marble mantle. Criteria B & C

The post Civil War industrialization of Akron transformed this area into one of Akron's four laborer neighborhoods. According to the family history, the Gayer family erected some 300 houses here. Two of these neighborhoods no longer exist, the other, on the near west side, is an area of more pervasive poverty than here. Like south central Akron, it exists in a much altered and diminished form. A victim of "rubber booms" during the world wars, and the Great Depression that transformed its single family dwellings into rooming houses, this section is today largely a student community. Increasingly, it is threatened by the expansion plans of the nearby University of Akron. In the early 1960's the University demolished numerous houses built by the Gayer brothers, to build an athletic field.

Jacob, William and Fredrich Gayer learned their trade as carpenters from their father, Gotleib Gayer, a German imigrant to Pennsylvania in the 1830's. Gotleib Gayer moved his family to Akron at the close of the Civil War, and while family tradition maintains that a firm "Gayer Brothers" existed as early as 1868, the tax records don't seem to bare this out. From 1879 until 1903 Gayers appear in the Akron City Directory as carpenters. In 1876 and 1877 Jacob is listed in the employ of the carpenters, Snyder and Blood. From 1886 until 1888, and then again in 1890-93 and 1897-1899, "Gayer Brothers" carpenters are listed, though not always in the trade section. In 1888, there are thirty-one carpenters listed in addition to the Gayers, and nine in 1900. In their capacity as carpenters, independently and in the employ of others, the Gayer family played a leading role in the development of south central Akron. Except for perhaps six other houses in this section which have been altered to varying degrees, the Jacob Gayer house is an intact example of their enterprise. The Jacob Gayer house represents a part of the past of workingmen who built Akron and especially, of a carpenter who built their homes. The style typical of their houses consisted of a rectangular central block with an attached kitchen wing resulting in an L-shaped plan. By the 1870s their houses received an increasing level of ornamentation. Jacob Gayer retired from carpentry in 1899.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Summit County, Ohio; Akron Map and Atlas Co.; 1891

Akron Beacon Journal October 9, 1928

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one

Quadrangle name Akron West

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A 

1	7	4	5	6	7	8	0	4	5	4	6	7	1	0
Zone			Easting					Northing						

B 

Zone			Easting					Northing						

C 

Zone			Easting					Northing						

D 

Zone			Easting					Northing						

E 

Zone			Easting					Northing						

F 

Zone			Easting					Northing						

G 

Zone			Easting					Northing						

H 

Zone			Easting					Northing						

Verbal boundary description and justification

South half of Lot 12 and the easterly 25.75 feet of the south half of Lot 11, in the Rentschler and Schoeninger addition as recorded in Plat Book 2, page 4, January 8, 1867

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code county code

state code county code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Michael Adams and Richard Slanczka

organization date

street & number 406 Sumner telephone 535-1767

city or town Akron state Ohio

# 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature W. Ray

title SHPO date 9/14/84

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date

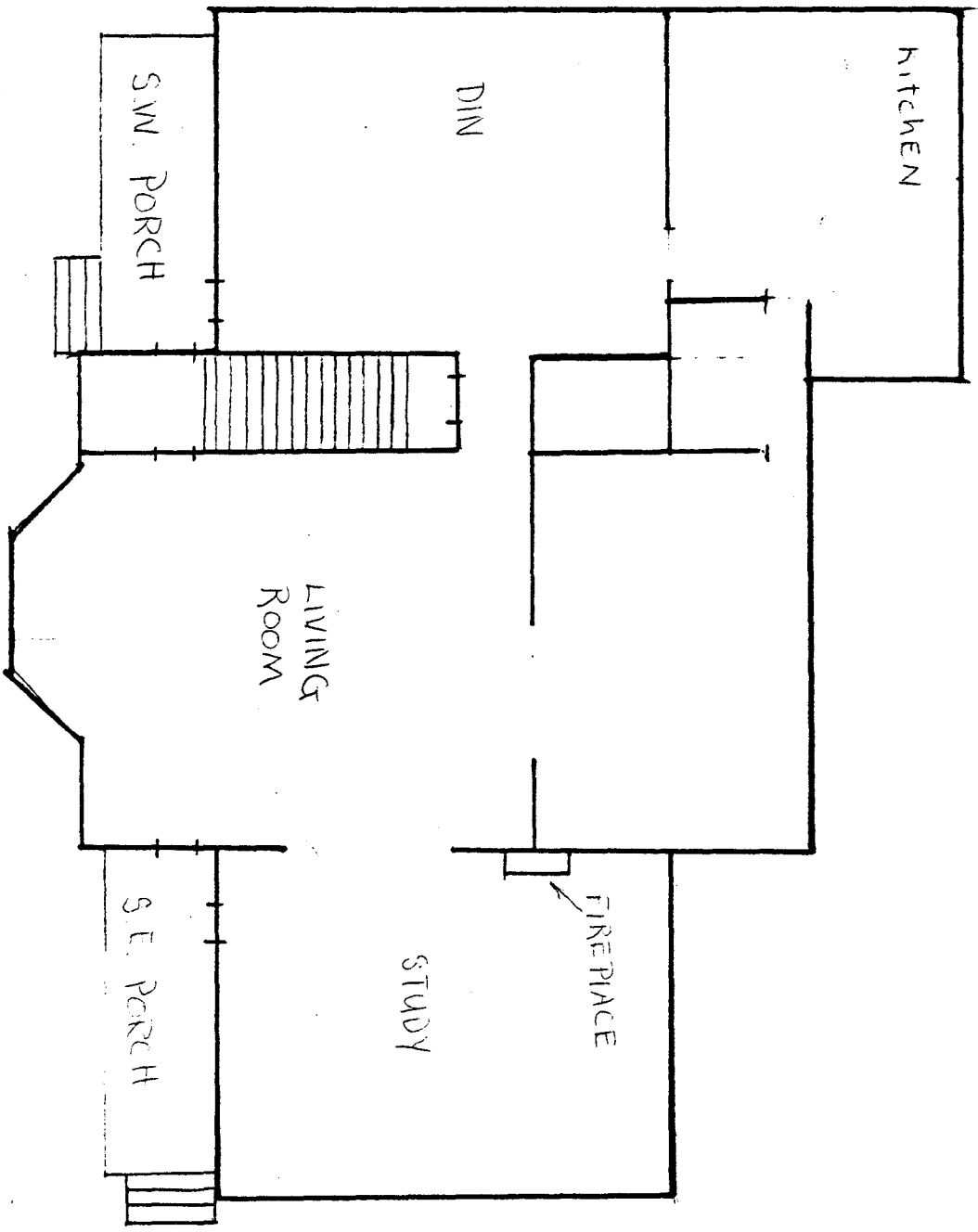
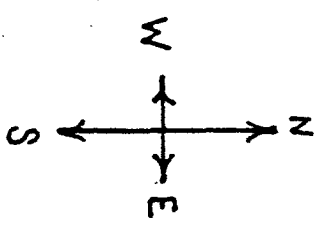
Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

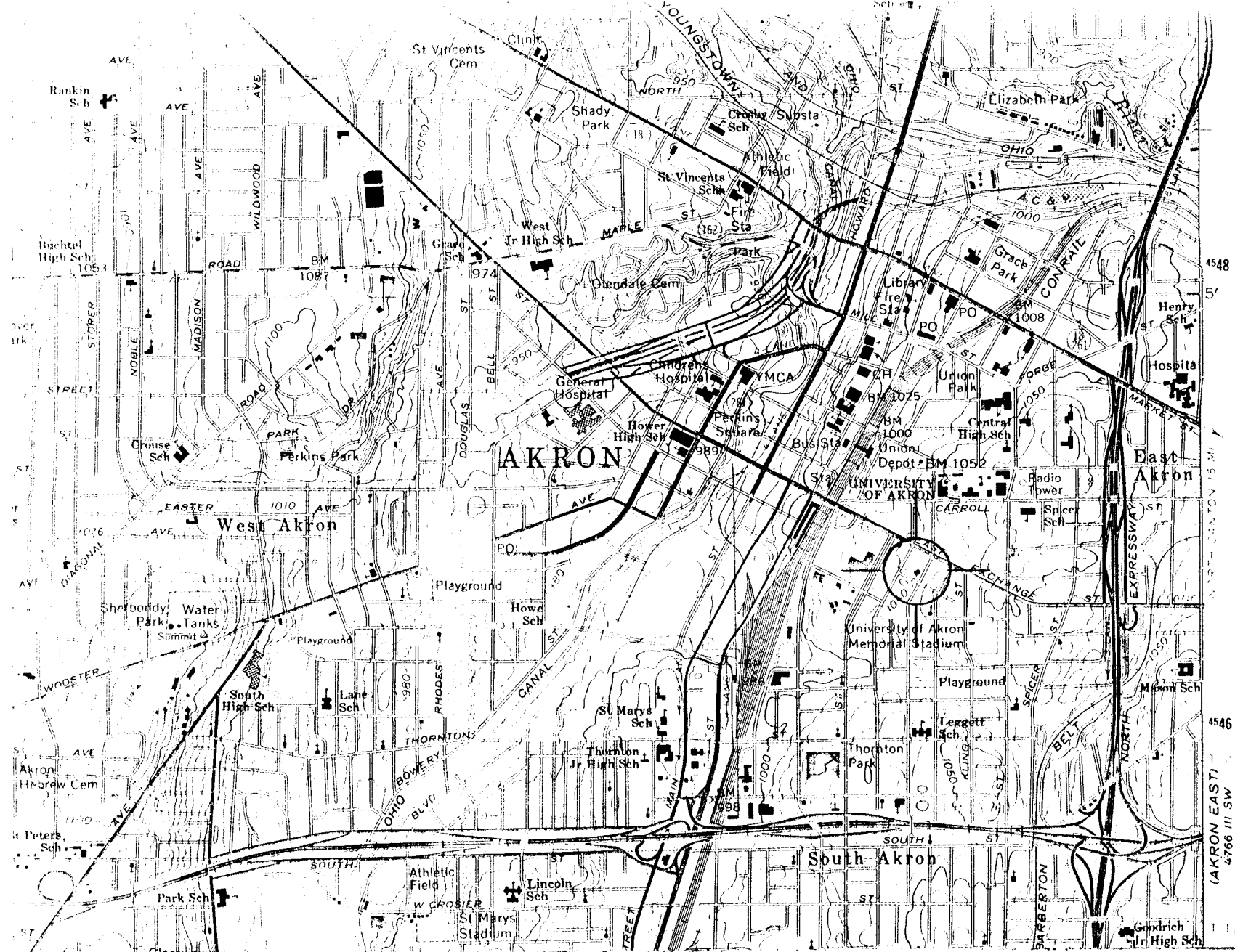
Chief of Registration

Gayer, Jacob M., House  
Akron, Summit County, Ohio



SUMMIT STREET

TORREY STREET



JACOB M. GAYER  
HOUSE

U.T.M.  
17/456710/4546710

4546  
4766 III SW  
(AKRON EAST)

# Ohio Historic Preservation Office

## National Register of Historic Places File Checklist

The following materials are contained in this file of the National Register form for:

Name: Gayer, Jacob M., House

County: Summit

Original National Register of Historic Places nomination form

Multiple Property Nomination form

Photograph(s)

Photograph(s) (copies)

USGS map(s)

USGS map(s) (copies)

Sketch map(s)/figure(s)/exhibit(s)

Correspondence

Other \_\_\_\_\_

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