

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## 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 Cashiers House and Coach House

and/or common N/A

### 2. Location

street & number 413 State Street; 11 East Fourth Street N/A not for publication

city, town ERIE N/A vicinity of N/A

state Pennsylvania code 42 county Erie code 049

### 3. Classification

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

### 4. Owner of Property

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

name Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission/Crower/King Architects

street & number Box 1026 / 1361 West Sixth Street

city, town Harrisburg 17120 Erie, Pa. 16505 N/A vicinity of state PA

### 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Erie County Courthouse

street & number West Sixth Street

city, town Erie state Pennsylvania

### 6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Pennsylvania Inventory of  
Historical Places has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1971/1981  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records

city, town Harrisburg state Pennsylvania

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date entered

## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>	<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date <u>N/A</u>

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

Built in 1839, the Cashiers House is a three story, plastered brick building. The fenestration consists of three half windows on the third floor, three full windows on the second floor and two full windows and a pilastered entrance on the first floor.

The austere exterior is contrasted to a rather ornate interior. The interior is an excellent example of the Egyptian Revival style. The ceilings are decorated with the same egg and dart anthemian and Greek fret circular patterns that appear in the nearby Custom's House (listed National Register of Historic Places, Jan. 13, 1972). Perfect harmony in the interior arrangement was sought even to the extent that doors, which could not be opened, were placed on a solid party wall, purely to effect a feeling of balance.

Very little has changed.

The Cashiers house is essentially the same as it was in 1839.

Originally built as an accessory building to the Cashiers House, the Coach house is a two story brick edifice with a hip roof.

The focal point of the Fourth Street facade is the stone entrance, the design of which reflects the wood framed interior openings of the Cashiers House. Brick ornamentation is limited to a simple raised panel that frames the Fourth Street entrance, and an overhang below the cornice at the perimeter of the building. The cornice at all four sides is ornamented with dentils.

While there are no significant interior partitions in the coach house, two additions to the rear have tripled the depth of the original building. The additions are approximately equal in size and equal in width to the coach house.

The Cashiers House at 413 State Street, Erie was listed in the National Register of Historic Places on January 13, 1972, The Old Customhouse, at 409 State Street was listed on the same date. At that time the registration of properties focused on the main buildings and neglected the accessory buildings. The value of these associated buildings is now recognized, therefore it is our intent to include the coach house in the registration of the Cashiers House.

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**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Inventory—Nomination Form**

Coach House for the Cashiers House, Erie County

Continuation sheet

Description

Item number 7

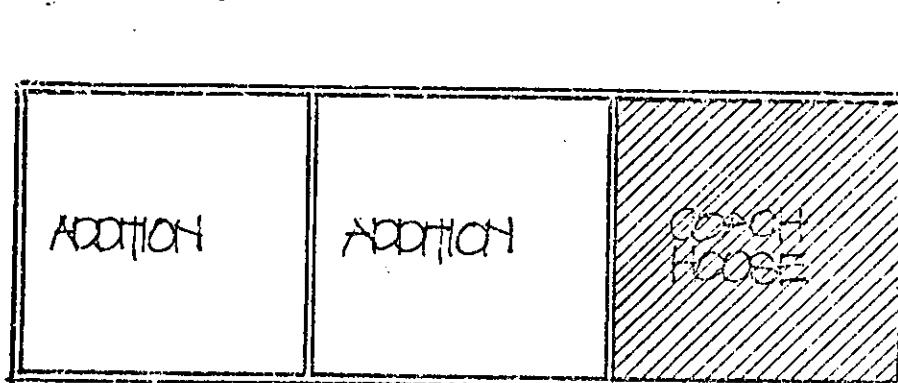
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Two additions, at the rear, have tripled the depth of the original building. These are approximately equal in size, and equal in width to the Coach House.



PLAN  
DOORS & WINDOWS  
NOT SHOWN

NORTH

EAST WEST

## 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below					
Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion		
1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science		
1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture		
1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/humanitarian		
1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater		
1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation		
1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)		
Date of con.	1839	<input type="checkbox"/> invention				

Specific dates	Builder/Architect	Notes
		N/A

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Cashier's house and coach house were built as part of a three building complex that included the Erie Branch of the United States Bank of Pennsylvania (listed in the National Register as the Old Customs House). Constructed in 1839, the Complex was an integral part of an emerging business district on State Street and remain rare survivors from that period. The three buildings are excellent examples of the Greek Revival architecture that characterized many of the structures built in Erie during the late 1830's. The interiors of the Cashiers house (and the bank) is also a rare example of the Egyptian Revival style in Pennsylvania.

The 1830's was a time of growth and development in Erie. New opportunities, new businesses, new residents and the ongoing construction of a canal that would link Erie with the Ohio River, all pointed to a future of abundance for the town. The Erie branch of the U.S. Bank of Pennsylvania was built to accomodate this growth in business and finance. However, the future of the bank became uncertain almost as soon as the bank opened. In 1839, the parent bank was not rechartered and, as a result, branches were forced to close. The Erie branch was able to survive for four years, but finally succumbed in 1843. For the next five years the building stood vacant while bank directors attempted to unravel the institution's complex financial affairs. In 1848 the building reopened as a post office and a year later became a custom's house as well. The building served as a post office until 1866 and as the custom's house for the port of Erie until 1888.

Located on a plot of land next to the bank, the Cashier's house reflects the same Greek Revival exterior and employs a similar interior design as does the bank. The house & coach house were built by the bank as a residence for the bank cashier. The first, and only, cashier, Peter Benson, and his family moved into the cashiers house in 1839 and remained occupants there until the early 1840's.

From the time Benson left until 1850 both the Cashiers house and coach house were vacant. In 1850 the buildings were sold as a private residence. Over the next twenty years the two structures went through a succession of owners. In 1872, the property was sold to Samuel Woodruff, an attorney, and used as his residence until 1913.

Ten years after Woodruff's purchase, the coach house was sold to Edward Pelten, a marble dealer. Pelten used the building as a marble shop. When Pelton died in 1904 the coach house was sold to Robert H. Chinnock, a blacksmith. During his ownership, Chinnock expanded the coach house to facilitate heavy equipment and machinery.

The Cashier's house and coach house were part of a complex that symbolized the mid-nineteenth hopes for the future and the rapid growth of Erie County. Constructed as part of a burgeoning business district, the buildings offer an interesting perspective into our past and a fine example of Greek Revival architecture in Pennsylvania.

## 9. Major Bibliographical Reference

See Continuation Sheet

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property .16 (Cashiers) .07 (Coach House)

Quadrangle name Erie North

Quadrangle scale 1/24,000

### UTM References

		(Coach)			
A	Zone	1 7	5 7 5	5 4 0	4 6 6 4 6 4 0
	Easting				Northing
C					
E					
G					

		(Cashiers)			
B	Zone	1 7	5 7 5	5 0 0	4 4 6 4 5 2 0
	Easting				Northing
D					
F					
H					

### Verbal boundary description and justification

See Continuation Sheet.

10.4

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

state	N/A	code	N/A	county	N/A	code	N/A
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state	N/A	code	N/A	county	N/A	code	N/A
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## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title J. Michael Sausman/Victor C. King, Jr.

Crowner/King Architects

organization PHMC 1361 W. 6th Street date 1971/1981

street & number Box 1026 telephone 814-452-4522

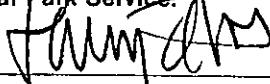
city or town Harrisburg PA 17120 state Pennsylvania

## 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

title Larry Tise, State Historic Preservation Officer date 11/10/83

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

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior**  
**National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Inventory—Nomination Form**

Continuation sheet Cashiers House & Coash House Item number

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Reed, John E.      The Old Custom's House of Erie, Penna. (Erie County  
Historical Society, Erie, Pennsylvania)  
Vol. 1, No. 7 (January 1937)

Erie Deed Book, # 979, pg. 102  
(Erie County Court House)

Bates, Samuel P., History of Erie County (Chicago, Ill, 1884), 602.



SCALE 1:24 000

PRESQUE ISLE (P.O.) 5.1 MI. (ERIE SOUTH)  
AVONIA 12 MI. 4968 11 SE

1 MILE

CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET  
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929  
DEPTH CURVES AND SOUNDINGS IN FEET—DATUM IS LOW WATER 570.5 FEET