

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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

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

32

## 1. Name

historic State Office Building

and/or common 1 W. Wilson Street

## 2. Location

street & number 1 W. Wilson Street \_\_\_\_\_ not for publication

city, town Madison \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_ congressional district Second

state Wisconsin code 55 county Dane code 025

## 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> government
	<input 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 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 State of Wisconsin Department of Administration; Kenneth E. Lindner, Secretary

street & number 101 S. Webster Street

city, town Madison \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_ state Wisconsin 53702

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. City-County Building

street & number

city, town Madison \_\_\_\_\_ state Wisconsin 53709

## 6. Representation in Existing Surveys (continued)

title Wisconsin Inventory of Historic Places has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1977 \_\_\_\_\_ federal  state \_\_\_\_\_ county \_\_\_\_\_ local

depository for survey records State Historical Society of Wisconsin

city, town Madison \_\_\_\_\_ state Wisconsin 53706

## 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"/> original site
<input checked="" 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

Constructed in three stages from a 1929 design and 1930 plan (see Figure 1), the Wisconsin State Office Building is a granite-faced reinforced-concrete building, with eleven-story center unit and six-story side wings. The spine of the E-shaped plan forms the front (northwest) facade on West Wilson Street, and the arms of each sequential unit extend toward Lake Monona to the southeast. Windows, recently replaced with aluminum-framed glazed panels topped by opaque panels, are stacked in paired vertical columns, separated by thin granite piers in the three projecting portions of the front facade. The paired columns break the facade into regular units in a rhythm of three, five, three, five, and three across the front and nine regular units across the northeast and southwest sides. Terra cotta panels installed between openings on the sixth story of the side units and tenth story of the center; in spandrels between the fourth and fifth, sixth and seventh, and eighth and ninth; above the two-story center entrance; and around the top edge of the center unit and its penthouse form decorative borders of stylized medallions, shields, acanthus plants and leaves, and chevrons. Cast-bronze lamps are hung to the sides of the bronze doors in the center entrance of each side unit. Four standing bronze lamps mark the principal entrance in the center of the eleven-story unit. Colossal fluted (distyle-in-antis) columns enclose the bronze swinging and revolving doors; a large bronze lamp hangs before the colossal transom overhead.

Vestibules inside each of the entrances differ. As the center colossal portal suggests, inside is a two-story lobby, faced with Appalachian Fossil Gray,<sup>1</sup> Appalachian Dark, Kasota Yellow, and Westfield Green marbles. Tall bronze floor lamps light the corners of the rectangular room to the sides of the glass and bronze doors on the northwest wall and along the bronze stair rails opposite. Marble seats are set against the side walls. Casement windows open from the Royal Red marble-trimmed gallery over the stair; a corresponding Royal Red marble course separates plaster panels on the upper side walls from the marble facing below. The plaster panel recessed in the ceiling is framed by compound borders of pierced terra cotta in stylized gold and green fans, coffers, and shells. Ends of the plaster panels in the upper side walls are framed by bands of stylized terra cotta anthemions flanked by fluting. The floor of the lobby, like those in other entries and halls, is of patterned terrazzo. The entrance to the east (1930) unit leads to a long barrel-vaulted hall; the wall above the high, pale marble wainscoting and chevron-cut Royal Red marble border is painted in green anthemions against a gold ground. That stencil pattern is characteristic of halls throughout the ground story.

At the west (1956) end, the entrance to the western unit in the first basement story (visible above grade) is decoratively treated. Patterned terrazzo floors, pale marble walls, and plaster ceilings are bordered by fan-cut Royal Red marble and green and gold pierced terra cotta. Corners are defined by fluted Royal Red marble pilasters with flat Corinthian capitals, and hall ceilings intersect at carved Royal Red marble beams. Bronze elevator doors cast with the state seal fill the side walls of the center and west unit lobbies; frames are compound bands of fan-cut Royal Red marble.

<sup>1</sup>Building Specifications, Wisconsin Department of Administration (Bureau of Facilities Management) records, 101 S. Webster St., Madison.

## 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/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

**Specific dates** 1929;<sup>1</sup> 1930,<sup>2</sup> 1938,<sup>2</sup> & **Builder/Architect** Arthur Peabody, State Architect<sup>3</sup>

1956<sup>2</sup>

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

Constructed essentially as designed by State Architect Arthur Peabody in 1929, the State Office Building in Madison is an extraordinary representative of the Art Deco period of construction. (Although none of the completed portions of the building is fifty years old, the extraordinary significance of the building merits National Register listing.

In a 1977-78 survey of state-owned facilities, the State Office Building was identified as the best representative of its period of construction. In scale, detail and integrity it is unrivaled by any other state-sponsored project of the time, or by any other building of its kind in the city of Madison. To date, it retains its sheer prismatic form and Art Deco ornament, even to the preservation of splendid lobby and halls inside. As a work in a recognized historical style partially sponsored by the Public Works Administration (1956 unit - see Figure 2), its significance can be evaluated in the context of known information. Given the continuing minor alterations made to the building, recognition of that significance through National Register listing seems warranted in promoting its preservation.

Architect Arthur Peabody (1858-1942), an Eau Claire native, served as University of Wisconsin architect from 1905-1915, and as the first state architect from 1915 through the 1930s.<sup>3</sup> Peabody was educated at the University of Illinois, and received the B.S. degree in architecture and engineering in 1882. Credited with the design of some sixty buildings on the Madison campus, his listed works include the Memorial Union Building (1926) and Carillon Tower (1934) in the Bascom Hill Historic District, and the Lappin Hayes Block (1899) in Janesville. Other works include the Wisconsin General Hospital, Camp Randall Stadium, St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, and the Adams County Courthouse in Friendship.

After Peabody's retirement, State Architect Roger C. Kirschhoff supervised construction of the final unit of the design (see Figure 3). J. P. Cullen & Sons were hired as general contractors<sup>2</sup> for the latter portions of the building, and J.H. Findorff & Sons for the first.

Of the \$1,832,000 cost of the construction of the first two units (1930 and 1938), forty-five percent was reclaimed through a PWA grant of \$824,400.<sup>4</sup> The state's share of the cost was met through annual appropriations of amounts varying from \$37,980 to \$70,625, beginning in 1931, to repay loans from the State Insurance Fund.

<sup>1</sup>Signed and dated architect's renderings (photos at State Historical Society of Wisconsin).

<sup>2</sup>Plans and drawings, Wisconsin Department of Administration (Bureau of Facilities Management) records; cornerstone of 1930 unit, 1933.

<sup>3</sup>Henry F. and Elsie Rathburn Withey, Biographical Dictionary of American Architects (Deceased), 1970, p. 461.

<sup>4</sup>The Wisconsin Taxpayer, Vol. 6, no. 14, July 15, 1938.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Withey, Henry F. and Elsie R., Biographical Dictionary of American Architects (Deceased), Hennessey & Ingalls, Inc., Los Angeles, 1970.

UTM NOT VERIFIED  
ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property approx. 1.5

Quadrangle name Madison West, Wis.

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

### UTM References

A 

1	6	3	0	6	1	0	0	4	7	7	1	3	4	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

The Original Plat of the City of Madison, Lots 1-5, except part for the railroad, Block 86.

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

state code county code

state code county code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Diane H. Filipowicz/Architectural Historian

organization State Historical Society of Wisconsin date September, 1981

street & number 816 State Street telephone 608/262-2970

city or town Madison state Wisconsin 53706

# 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

*Frederick Newey*

title Director, State Historical Society of Wisconsin

date 12/2/81

For HCRS use only

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

*Sally G. Alden*

date 1/25/82

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

*Ann McClelland*

date 1/28/82

Chief of Registration

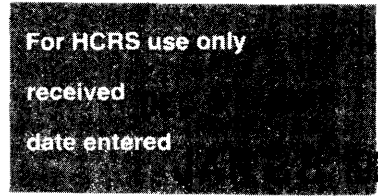
**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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

STATE OFFICE BUILDING, Madison, Dane County, Wisconsin  
Continuation sheet

Item number 6

Page 1



Representation in Existing Surveys:

Wisconsin State Facilities Survey  
1977-78  
State Historical Society of Wisconsin  
Madison

state  
Wisconsin 53706

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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

STATE OFFICE BUILDING, Madison, Dane County, Wisconsin

Continuation sheet

Item number 7

Page 1

For HCRS use only

received

date entered

1982

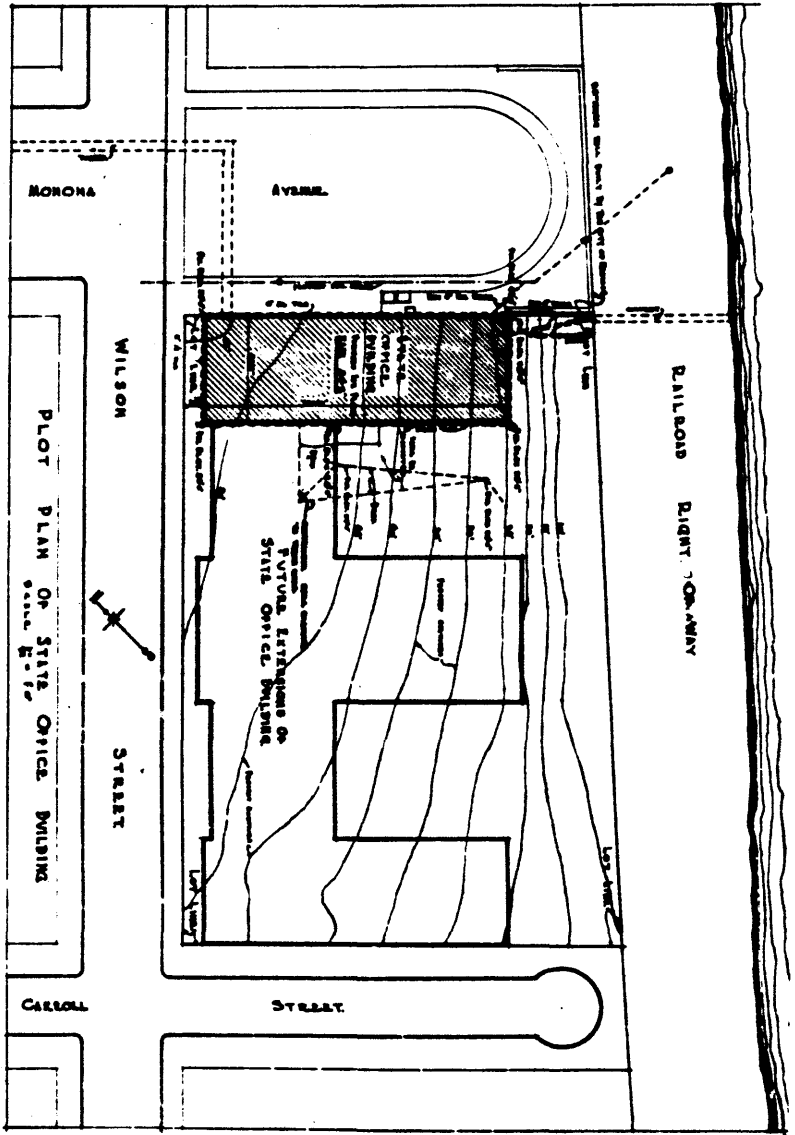
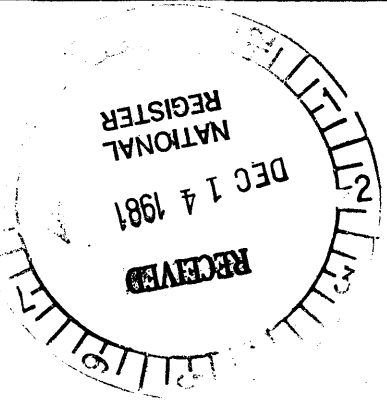
Description (cont.):

Finial-trimmed bronze lamps are suspended from the stencil-trimmed plaster ceilings in the halls. Miscellaneous appointments include bronze letter boxes, bronze-framed directories, and a Belgian Black marble wall font in the north corner of the center lobby. The disposition of rooms and offices is regular throughout the fourteen-story (including three basement stories) center unit and nine-story side wings. In offices, ceilings are plaster, walls are plaster with wooden chair rails, and floors are rubber or asphalt tile; most have been renewed with acoustical tiles or panels, moveable partitions, and carpeting. In the service rooms, plaster walls and ceilings and concrete or ceramic tile floors are characteristic. Elevator doors and stairs on the upper stories are steel, in contrast to the bronze and marble counterparts in the public spaces.

Narrow bands of landscaping skirt the front of the building. A pocket park on the northwest, overlooking Lake Monona, terminates the short boulevard from the State Capitol Square. Buildings in the immediate area are large-scale civic, commercial and multi-unit residential structures, enhanced by landscaping and a formal plan.

Portions of the rear (between arms of the E-shaped plan) are of brick. From John Nolen Drive along Lake Monona, the "unfinished" brick parts are not apparent, and the building rises sheer from a concrete retaining wall. The power and symbolism of the building are most evident from that aspect; there, the association with the Constructivist spirit of the late 1930s is patent.

*Book 25-1st 4 1982*



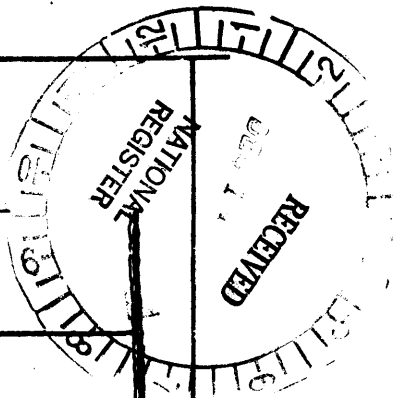
# GENERAL PLANS for STATE OFFICE BLDG

JAN 28 1982

STATE OFFICE BUILDING

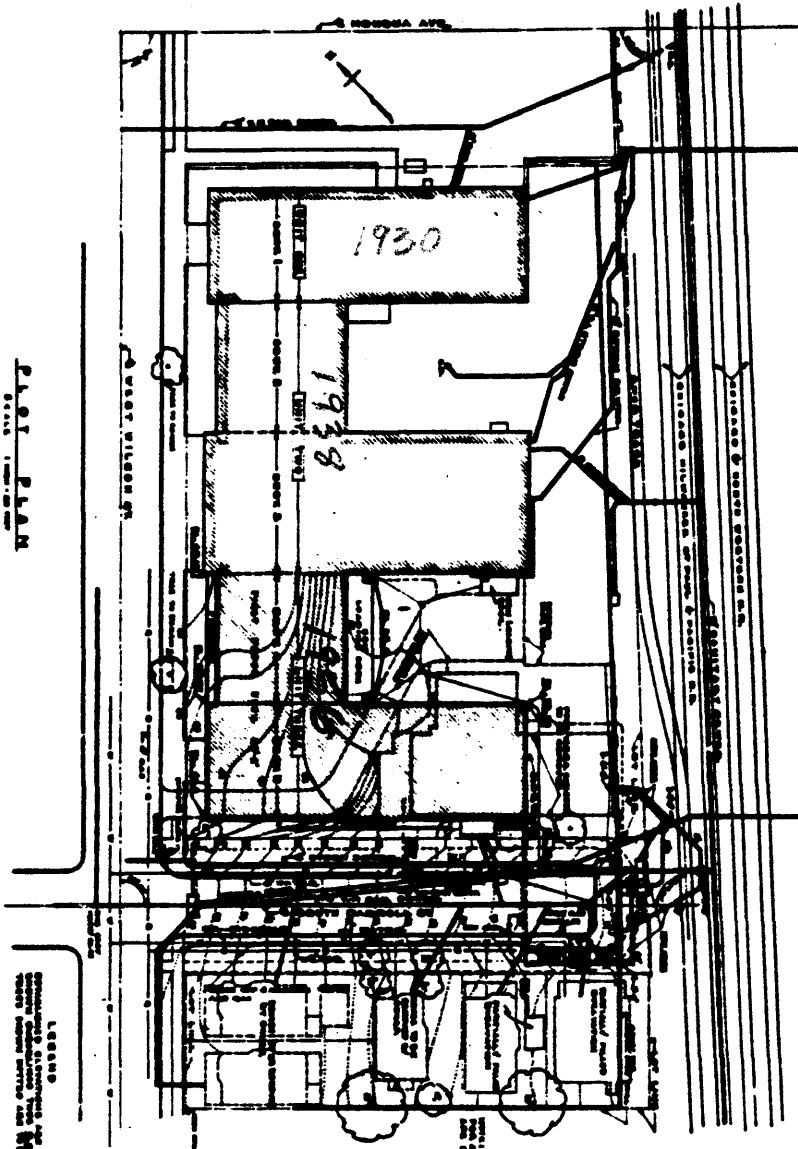
DESIGNED BY JOHN B. STUBBS, INC.

DATE OF REVISION: 1-27-82



JAN 28 1982

LAKE MONONA



PART PLAN  
SCALE 1/8" = 1'-0"

STATE OFFICE BUILDING UNIT NO. 3  
STATE OF WISCONSIN, MADISON WISCONSIN

Drawn by: A. J. ...  
Checked by: A. J. ...

LEGEND  
CONCRETE  
BRICK  
GLASS  
WOOD  
METAL  
...  
SEE SHEET 1930 FOR DETAILS

**SYMBOL SCHEDULE**

[Symbol]	CONCRETE
[Symbol]	BRICK
[Symbol]	GLASS
[Symbol]	WOOD
[Symbol]	METAL
[Symbol]	... SEE SHEET 1930 FOR DETAILS

**MATERIAL SCHEDULE**

1	CONCRETE
2	BRICK
3	GLASS
4	WOOD
5	METAL
6	... SEE SHEET 1930 FOR DETAILS

**SHEET INDEX**

1	GENERAL NOTES
2	FOUNDATION
3	FLOOR PLAN
4	... SEE SHEET 1930 FOR DETAILS

OFFICE OF ARCHITECTURE  
STATE OF WISCONSIN  
MADISON, WISCONSIN  
TEL: 608-261-1111  
FAX: 608-261-1111

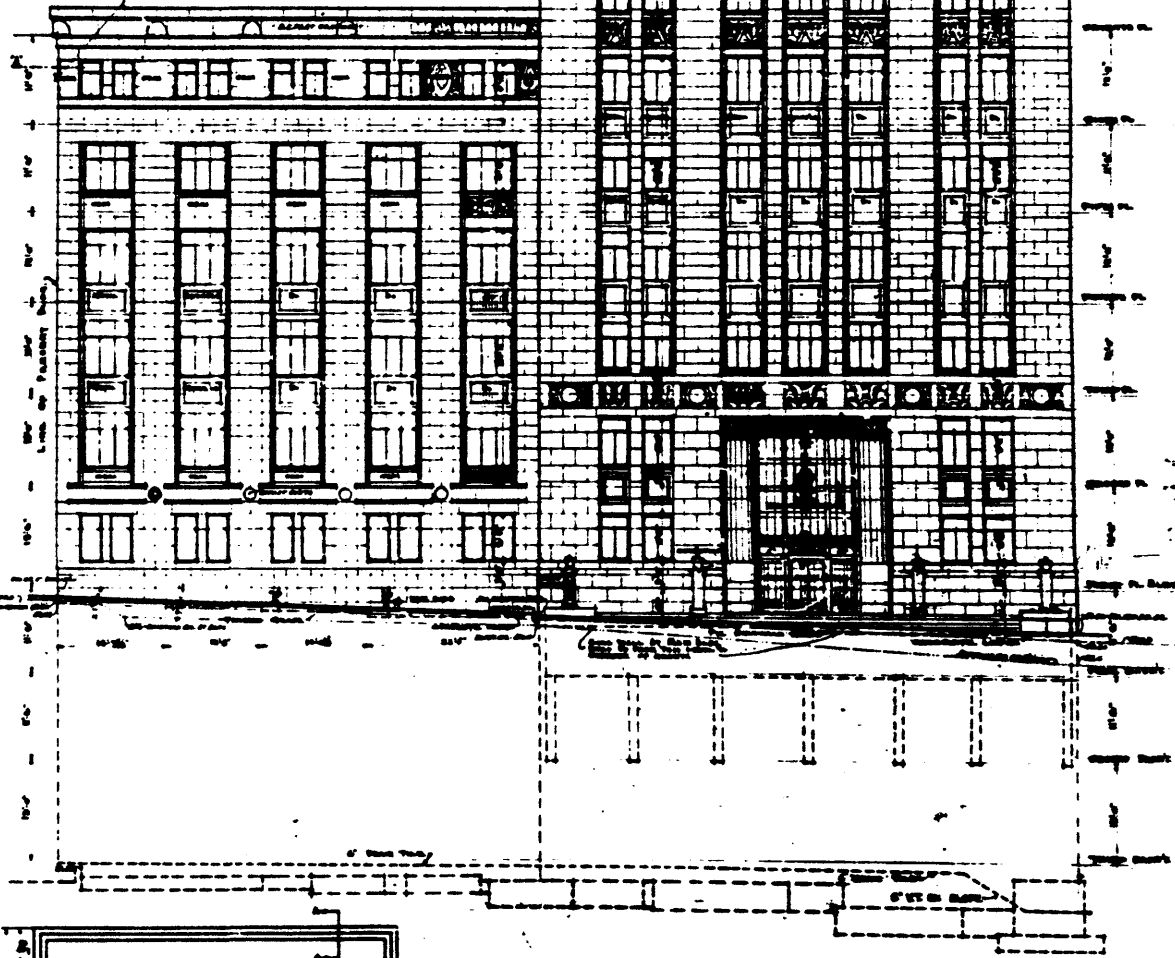
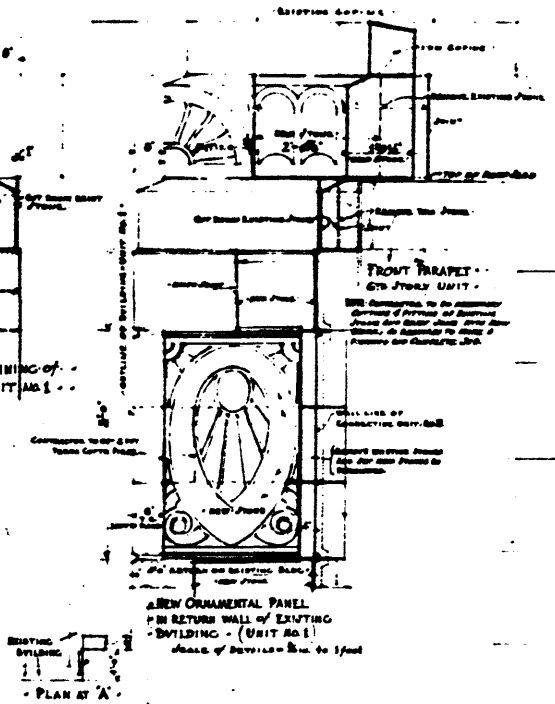


RECEIVED

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NATIONAL REGISTER

JAN 28 1982

STATE OFFICE BUILDING UNIT NO. 2



ISSUE NUMBER OF PLAN SETS

**P.W.A.**  
FEDERAL EMERGENCY  
ADMINISTRATION OF PUBLIC WORKS  
ADDITION TO STATE OFFICE BLDG. PHOENIX, ARIZ.  
PROJECT NO. W-100-1007

WILSON STREET ELEVATION  
SCALE 1/8" = 1'-0"



Figure 2.