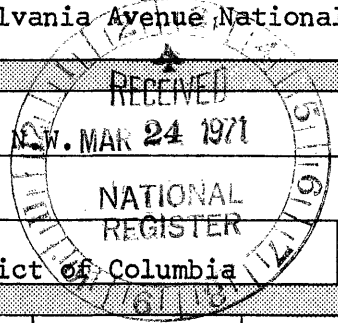


P40001808

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: District of Columbia	
COUNTY:	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
91.5.11.0010	5/29/71



1. NAME

COMMON:
The National Archives
AND/OR HISTORIC: (Within the boundaries of the Pennsylvania Avenue National Historic Site)

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Constitution Avenue between 7th and 9th Streets
CITY OR TOWN:
Washington
STATE: Washington CODE: 11 COUNTY: District of Columbia CODE: 001

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <u>Archives (US Government)</u>

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
United States of America, RSA
STREET AND NUMBER:
CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Recorder of Deeds
STREET AND NUMBER:
6th and D Streets, N.W.
CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:
Washington District of Columbia 11

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: Proposed District of Columbia Additions to the National Register of Historic Properties recommended by the Joint Committee on Landmarks
DATE OF SURVEY: March 7, 1968 Federal State County Local
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
National Capital Planning Commission
STREET AND NUMBER:
1325 G Street, N.W.
CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:
Washington District of Columbia 11

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:
COUNTY:
ENTRY NUMBER: 91.5.11.0010
DATE: 5/29/71
FOR NPS USE ONLY

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The National Archives, designed in the Neo-Classical manner by John Russell Pope and part of the Federal Triangle, is located on a hexagonal tract bounded by Constitution Avenue, 7th Street, Pennsylvania Avenue, and 9th Street; the main entrance faces south on Constitution. The building was constructed in two stages: ground was broken for the building in 1931, and the exterior was completed by 1935; an interior extension which filled the inner court was begun in 1935 and completed in 1937. The steel-framed structure is of limestone with a base of Milford granite. It measures approximately 330 feet (east to west) by 206 feet (north to south) and is 160 feet high, containing five stories (21 tiers). Large pumps were built beneath the structure to safeguard the foundations from flooding by the Old Tiber Creek, whose bed runs under the building.

The Archives Building has been described as a building within a building. The outer structure with its Corinthian columns and porticos enclose the inner core which rises above it in the form of a monumental attic. At grade level, the basement story is treated as a podium composed of several courses of Milford granite fronted by a smooth wall forming a moat that surrounds the building. The main facade is entered through a flight of steps flanked by two large granite pedestals surmounted by figures of "Heritage" and "Guardianship" by James Earle Fraser. The stairs lead to a portico containing a double row of 8 Corinthian columns which projects 20 feet from the facade. On the main facade, on either side of this projecting portico, is a row of 5 Corinthian columns. The columns are 53 feet high and support an entablature (containing a frieze with the inscription ARCHIVES OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA) on which rests a pediment with figures also created by Fraser. Here is depicted the transfer of the documents of history to the recorder of the Archives. At the ends of the pediment are griffins, guardians of the Archives.

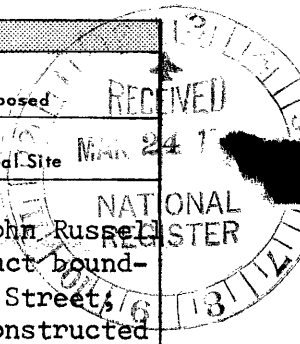
A paved terrace flanked by pedestals holding seated figures representing the "Past" and the "Future" leads to the ground level entrance on the Pennsylvania Avenue facade. This doorway is flanked by two high relief figures representing "Guardians of the Portal" and were created by Robert Aitken as were the pedestal figures. Above the entrance is a colonnade of 8 Corinthian columns supporting a pediment. The colonnade is flanked by five similar columns recessed about five feet. The pedimental figures by Adolph Weinman portray "Density" flanked on the left by the "Arts of Peace" and the "Song of Achievement" and on the right by the "Arts of War" and the "Romance of History." The pediment is terminated by two griffins.

On the east and west facades are colonnades, each with 10 Corinthian columns supporting a full entablature. The corners of the building are of solid masonry balancing the openness of the colonnades and giving stability to the building.

Rising above the colonnade is a solid mass broken by an ornamental frieze containing 13 medallions emblematic of the Departments of Government whose archives are stored in this building. This wall terminates in a cornice of ornamented cresting and above this, but recessed several feet, the building terminates in a plain cornice.

The Constitution Avenue entrance leads into a foyer on the main floor. Directly behind this is the exhibition hall in the form of half-rotunda which is separated from the foyer by a low flight of steps and a metal screen. The

(Continued on Form 10-300a)



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
COUNTY	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
715.1110010	5/27/71

(Number all entries)

7. Description - The National Archives Building

Hall, with its coffered half dome rising 75 feet, contains a shrine which displays the Constitution, the Declaration of Independence and the Bill of Rights in specially designed heat and light resistant and air-conditioned bronze exhibit cases which can be lowered into a bomb proof vault. Flanking the shrine are two large murals depicting the signing of the "Declaration of Independence" and the "Constitution" by muralist Barry Faulkner. The north portion of the building is occupied by administrative offices including three large conference rooms, a cataloging unit, projection room, main conference room and theater. The storage space is located in 21 tiers protected from natural light, with specially regulated humidity, and an elaborate burglar alarm system.

8. Significance.

Although a bill to create the office of US Archivist was first submitted in 1930, Congress did not establish the National Archives as an independent executive agency until 1934 and Dr. R.D.W. Conner was appointed Archivist by President Roosevelt. In 1949, the National Archives became a part of General Services Administration, and its name was changed to National Archives and Records Services. Among the important records housed in the archives are the records of the Continental Congress and the Constitutional Convention, records of both Houses of Congress and captured war records.



5. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) constructed 1931-35; interior extension 1935-37

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry		<u>Archives, US</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	<u>Government</u>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Music	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation			_____

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Joint Committee on Landmarks has designated the National Archives a Category II Landmark of importance which contributes significantly to the cultural heritage and visual beauty of the District of Columbia. The Archives, occupied in 1935, is the repository of the more valuable and rare documents of this Government as well as a reference library. On display in the Exhibition Hall are the Constitution, the Declaration of Independence, and the Bill of Rights. The seventh building to be constructed in the Federal Triangle, the Archives Building is a monumental structure designed in the 20th century Neo-Classical manner by John Russell Pope. The Archives Building occupies a dominant position in the Federal Triangle as a focal point on the 8th Street axis between the National Portrait Gallery and National Collection (Old Patent Office) to the north, and the site of the new Hirshhorn Gallery to the south. (The Federal Triangle itself has been designated a Category II Landmark by the Joint Committee.)

Archival problems existed in this country as far back as the first meeting of the Continental Congress. The history of attempts to establish a "hall of records" for the mounting archives can be traced to 1810 when Congress passed the first Archives Act with an appropriation of \$20,000.000 for a simple storehouse. Congress then ignored the subject, and throughout the 19th century, records were lost by fire, through effects of climate, inept handling, and insects. Many valuable documents were mutilated by stamp collectors, autograph dealers, or thieves and one government official sold 400 tons of official records to a junk dealer to create more office space. The records, which were kept in the buildings of the various government departments to which they were directly related, were almost inaccessible to historians. By the 20th century, the need for a central repository was urgent, and the Public Buildings Act passed by the Congress in 1926 appropriated funds for plans and for acquisition of the site between 7th and 9th Sts. and Pennsylvania and Constitution Avenues. Planned as a square with fountains by L'Enfant, this site was the location of the Marsh Market constructed in 1801 and known as Center Market following the Civil War. The Archives Building was part of the Pennsylvania Avenue Federal Triangle Plan, which was originally planned between 1928 and 1930 by a group of architectural consultants under the direction of Andrew Mellon, Secretary of the Treasury. John Russell Pope (1874-1937), a New York architect who designed many Neo-Classical buildings in the District, including the Jefferson Memorial, Constitution Hall, and the National Gallery of Art, was invited to serve on the Board without compensation, and in 1930 was selected by Mellon to design the Archives building. Ground was broken for the building in 1931, and by 1937 the building was completed and occupied.

NOV 24 1971
NATIONAL ARCHIVES

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Brochures published by the National Archives.

"Facts for Visitors to the National Archives," General Services Administration, National Archives and Records Service, The National Archives (mimeographed).

Information from the Office of Donald S. Lehman, Information Officer Public Buildings Service, General Services Administration, Washington, City and Capital, American Guide Services, Federal Writers Project, Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1937.

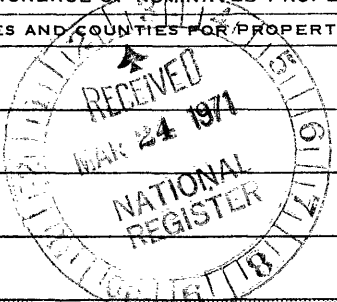
10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		38° 53' 34" N	77° 01' 23" W	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 203,902 sq. ft.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Suzanne Ganschietz, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION: National Capital Planning Commission DATE: February 15, 1971

STREET AND NUMBER:
1325 G Street, N.W.

CITY OR TOWN: Washington STATE: District of Columbia CODE: 11

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name [Signature]

Title Deputy-Mayor Commissioner

Date _____

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

[Signature]
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

MAY 27 1971

Date _____

ATTEST:
[Signature]
Keeper of The National Register

MAY 4 1971

Date _____

18/3245201/4306600

SEE INSTRUCTIONS