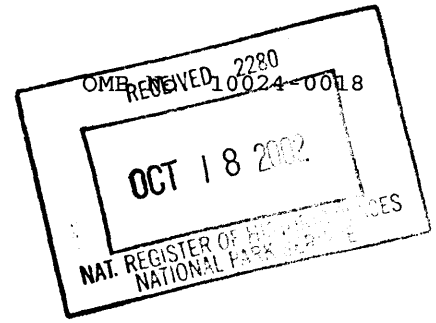


United States Department of Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900A). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name United States Post Office and Federal Courthouse
other names Madison Municipal Building

2. Location

street & number 215 Martin Luther King Junior Boulevard N/A not for publication
city or town Madison N/A vicinity
state Wisconsin code WI county Dane code 025 zip code 53703

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation for additional comments.)

Alicia T. Coak
Signature of certifying official/Title

October 15, 2002
Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

U.S. Post Office & Federal Courthouse
Name of Property

Dane County, Wisconsin
County and State

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:
 entered in the National Register.
 ___ See continuation sheet.
___ determined eligible for the
National Register.
 ___ See continuation sheet.
___ determined not eligible for the
National Register.
 ___ See continuation sheet.
___ removed from the National
Register.
___ other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action
Edson H Beall 11/27/02

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (check as many boxes as apply)
___ private
 public-local
___ public-state
___ public-federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)
 building(s)
___ district
___ site
___ structure
___ object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include listed resources within the count)

		Contributing	Noncontributing	
		1	0	buildings
		0	0	sites
		0	0	structures
		0	1	objects
		1	1	Total

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

GOVERNMENT: Post Office
GOVERNMENT: courthouse

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

GOVERNMENT: government office

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)
Classical Revival

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)
foundation CONCRETE
walls STONE
roof ASPHALT
other METAL

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on continuation sheet(s).)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section 7 Page 1

U.S. Post Office and Federal Courthouse
Madison, Dane County, Wisconsin

INTRODUCTION

The U.S. Post Office and Federal Courthouse (hereafter, Post Office), located at 215 Martin Luther King Boulevard, was erected in 1927-29.¹ James A. Wetmore, then Acting Supervising Architect for the U.S. Treasury Department, supervised the design of the building.² Madison's Post Office is a Neo-Classical Revival building finished with limestone ashlar veneer. A parapet hides the flat, built-up roof. A non-contributing loading dock addition, appended to the rear of the Post Office, was constructed sometime between 1942 and 1959.³ The Post Office property includes one non-contributing object. This is the 1993 Martin Luther King Junior Memorial, a sculpture that stands at the southwest corner of the property.

SETTING

The Post Office occupies one city block between the Capitol Square and the Monona Terrace Convention Center. The Post Office, now known as the Municipal Building, faces the City-County Building across Martin Luther King Boulevard. An open parking lot lies to the rear of the building. Sidewalks ring the property.

DESCRIPTION

The Post Office is composed of the 1927-1929 rectangular main block and a non-contributing loading dock addition appended to the rear of the main block. The main block of the Post Office measures about 205 feet along the front (Martin Luther King Boulevard) and 120 feet along the sides. It is composed of a U-shaped section,

¹ *The Master Builder*, October 1928, p. 28.

² Building inscription, dated 1927.

³ *Map of Madison*, (Pelham, New York: Sanborn Publishing Company, 1942, pasted over through 1959).

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section 7 Page 2

U.S. Post Office and Federal Courthouse
Madison, Dane County, Wisconsin

with the open end facing to the rear (east), and a one-story section that is inserted into the U at the rear of the building. The U-shaped section is three stories tall on a partially raised basement. It is of steel reinforced brick construction with limestone veneer. The one-story insert section is finished with cream brick and is original to the structure. Centered to the rear of the main block is the non-contributing loading dock, erected sometime between 1942 and 1959. The loading dock is finished with cream brick and has a flat, built-up roof. The loading dock measures 50 feet (north-south) by 75 feet and replaced an earlier, smaller loading dock.

Limestone ashlar veneer appears on the west- (front), north- and south-facing facades of the Post Office (see photo 1, showing the front-facing façade). It is rusticated up to the level of the first floor windows and enriched with a limestone water table, limestone belt courses beneath the first floor windows and between the first and second floors, and, above the third floor, a stone entablature. The entablature features a dentil molding and a projecting cornice surmounted by a balustraded parapet. Throughout the building, the basement and first floor windows have been replaced with dark aluminum windows holding fixed panes of dark glass. On the second and third floors, the original metal multipane windows have been retained. Most of these are casements.

A central projecting section 13 bays wide, featuring two-story Ionic columns, dominates the front (west-facing) facade. A one-bay section flanks either side of the central projecting section. In the central section, at basement level, a concrete retaining wall about 5 feet from the building lets light into the basement windows. A short flight of granite steps leads from the walkway up to the main entrance, composed of three doorways centered on the first floor. Each opening has a stone surround, featuring a narrow molding with raised flowers, floral corner blocks and a lintel enriched with a shield and a series of elongated S-shapes. Deeply set within each doorway is a pair of modern, black, metal-

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

U.S. Post Office and Federal Courthouse
Madison, Dane County, Wisconsin

Section 7 Page 3

and-glass doors with simple chrome hardware. The doors are set in a metal frame enriched with fluted pilasters and a denticulated cornice, surmounted by a transom with a black metal grille. At the second and third floors in the central section, the windows are recessed between simple two-story Ionic columns. Each column has a plain base and capital. Between each pair of columns, the second- and third-story windows are united within a frame enriched with fluted pilasters and a denticulated cornice. The windows themselves are multipane, in three parts. The second-story windows are tall, with a Roman window motif in each corner. The third-story windows are shorter. On either side of the central projecting section, the flanking bay displays the same first-story window as the central section, but at the second story, a round-arched multipane window with a plain stone cornice and a prominent scrolled keystone appears. Above this window is a stone panel enriched with swags. At the third floor in each of the flanking bays, the window opening holds three multipane casements.

The north- and south-facing facades are similar to the front facade, except that the central projecting section is five bays wide, and the entrance is in the western flanking bay (see photo 2). These side entrances are each composed of a single doorway with either one pair of doors (south), or one large door and one sidelight (north). The transoms and surrounds are configured and ornamented like those on the front facade.

On the east-facing (rear) facade of the U-section, the outer bay is stone, identical to the flanking bays on the other facades (see photo 3). The rest of the rear facade of the U-section, that is, the one-story insert within the U, is of cream brick. The transition is marked with stone quoining. Within the U, most of the windows are metal, four-over-four, double-hung sash with stone sills. There are two sets of three of these windows on the north- and south-facing walls within the U. In the center of the east-facing wall within the U, there are five, round-arched multipane windows. There is a small blind bull's-eye between each pair of

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

U.S. Post Office and Federal Courthouse
Madison, Dane County, Wisconsin

Section 7 Page 4

windows. On either side of this are six four-over-four double-hung sash.

The loading dock addition is utilitarian in appearance. On each of the north- and south-facing facades of the loading dock, replacement doors and windows appear. Both sides incorporate a full-façade, wide-eaved, cutaway porch, designed for mail trucks. There are no openings on the east-facing facade of this section.

The interior construction consists of concrete-encased steel columns and beams, which support concrete floors and brick partition walls. Originally, the interior floor plan consisted of a central U-shaped corridor, except in the basement. In the basement, there were storage rooms, restrooms and a large, open work space for mail carriers arranged along two parallel corridors. On the first floor, there was a public lobby across the front of the building. A large, workroom took up most of the space on this floor, separated from the lobby by postal service windows and post office boxes. The lobby featured ceramic tile flooring, green marble baseboards, and beige marble wainscot. The workroom had light wood wainscot. The basement and first floor were gutted in 1979 after the City of Madison purchased the building. New office space was created for various City departments on those floors, while the second and third floor plans and finishes were retained. This remodeling was completed in 1982. The Madison firm of Flad and Associates prepared the remodeling plans.⁴ The basement floor plan now consists of a corridor with several branches. There are various small rooms, and one very large room with short, moveable partitions. The loading dock section, originally the postal inspection workroom, was remodeled to provide additional office and meeting space in 1993. On the first floor, there is a large central lobby with a branch corridor on the north, and several large spaces with

⁴ Flad and Associates, plans for remodeling, June 1979.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section 7 Page 5

U.S. Post Office and Federal Courthouse
Madison, Dane County, Wisconsin

moveable partitions. On the first floor and in the basement, the floors are concrete, finished with rubberized tile in the corridors and restrooms, and carpet everywhere else. The walls are plastered and the ceiling fitted with acoustical tile and fluorescent lights. During the 1979-1982 remodeling, the building's two staircases were enclosed. The staircases are located at the northwest and southwest corners of the building. Each is a dog-leg concrete staircase with white marble treads and a wood handrail. The northwest staircase wraps around an elevator.

The second and third floor plans and finishes are relatively intact. On the second floor, there are offices and a large courtroom arranged along the central corridor. The corridor has white hexagonal tile flooring with a marble edge and green marble baseboard. The corridor walls are finished with paneled, wood wainscot; there is smooth plaster above. The corridor also has a plastered, beamed ceiling, enriched with classical moldings. The doorway into each office features a wood classical surround, enclosing a one-light transom, and a paneled wood door with opaque glass in the upper half. The offices themselves are carpeted, and have plastered walls and ceilings.

The courtroom is on the east side of the corridor. It is intact and elaborately decorated (see photo 4). Two sets of double doors lead into the courtroom. Each set has a classical surround with a denticulated cornice. Within each is a second set of doors. These are wood swinging doors encased in metal-studded leather. Inside the courtroom, the door surrounds feature fluted pilasters and an entablature with guttae, surmounted by a cartouche. The wall treatment consists of a series of paneled pilasters and an entablature with triglyphs. On the south end of the room, paneled wainscot appears. In the center of this wall, two pairs of fluted pilasters support a semi-circular pediment. In the center of the pediment is a cartouche with scales symbolizing justice. The pediment is further enriched with dentils, egg-and-dart and floral moldings. Below is the door into the judge's chambers (now a

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

U.S. Post Office and Federal Courthouse
Madison, Dane County, Wisconsin

Section 7 Page 6

storage room). The judge's bench sits in front of this door. The bench is imposing, and is decorated with two large cartouches, each with the scales of justice. Although there are suspended ceiling and light systems in the courtroom, the original ceiling can easily be seen above. Corbels enriched with acanthus leaves appear to support the plastered ceiling beams. Wooden benches for the public have also been retained. In 1986, the courtroom was renovated into a multi-use facility for CitiCable. The plans, by Flad and Associates, included a television studio, control room, storage and office space. The jury box, fixed seating and Clerk's desk and platform were removed. New gypsum board partitions were installed in the office area. New suspended ceilings, carpeting, electrical and heating and ventilating systems were installed in the office and studio area.⁵

The third floor is simpler. Tile and marble flooring are found in the corridor and the walls and ceilings are plastered. The offices exhibit dropped acoustical tile ceilings, and carpeting or asphalt tile flooring. Most of the building has fluorescent lighting, although there are a few original incandescent fixtures, composed of opaque globes either mounted on the ceiling (third floor) or suspended on chains (second floor). Other original fixtures that remain are the toilets, sinks and stalls in the second and third floor restrooms, and a porcelain drinking fountain on the third floor.

NON-CONTRIBUTING RESOURCE: THE MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. MEMORIAL

The memorial is a concrete marker about ten feet high and features a bronze bust of Martin Luther King surrounded by six sculptured bronze panels. It was erected in 1993 and so is not yet old enough to contribute to the significance of the Post Office.

⁵ Flad and Associates, specifications for courtroom remodeling, May 1986.

NPS Form 10-900-a
(Rev. 8-86)
Wisconsin Word Processing Format
(Approved 3/87)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section 7 Page 7

U.S. Post Office and Federal Courthouse
Madison, Dane County, Wisconsin

ALTERATIONS

The integrity of the Post Office has been affected by the 1979-1982 remodeling. On the exterior, the dark, fixed replacement windows are incompatible with the building. The first floor and basement have been gutted, losing all integrity. However, the second and third floors are intact. While the alterations do detract from the building's architectural character, enough of the original appearance has been retained to lend the Post Office architectural significance as a fine local example of Neo-Classical Revival design applied to a civic building. The changes to the exterior of the building are minimal in comparison to the size and scale of the building.

U.S. Post Office & Federal Courthouse
Name of Property

Dane County, Wisconsin
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria
(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the
criteria qualifying the property for the
National Register listing.)

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from
instructions)

Architecture

A Property is associated with events
that have made a significant
contribution to the broad patterns of
our history.

B Property is associated with the lives
of persons significant in our past.

C Property embodies the distinctive
characteristics of a type, period, or
method of construction or represents
the work of a master, or possesses
high artistic values, or represents a
significant and distinguishable entity
whose components lack individual
distinction.

D Property has yielded, or is likely to
yield, information important in
prehistory or history.

Period of Significance

1927-29

Significant Dates

1927-29

Significant Person
(Complete if Criterion B is
marked above)

N/A

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

A owned by a religious institution or
used for religious purposes.

B removed from its original location.

C a birthplace or grave.

D a cemetery.

E a reconstructed resource.

F a commemorative property.

G less than 50 years of age achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Wetmore, James A.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section 8 Page 1

U.S. Post Office and Federal Courthouse
Madison, Dane County, Wisconsin

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE: SUMMARY

The U.S. Post Office and Federal Courthouse is eligible for the National Register under Criterion C. It is a fine local example of a civic building designed in the Neo-Classical Revival style. The Post Office retains very good integrity, especially on the exterior. The period of significance coincides with the years of construction, 1927-1929.

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

The original plat for the Village of Madison was surveyed for James Duane Doty in 1836. Doty named the village in honor of the fourth president of the United States. Madison grew slowly during its first decade. It was incorporated as a village in 1846 with a population of 626. In 1848, Wisconsin became the 30th state and Madison was named the capital. The same year, the University of Wisconsin was founded. Tremendous growth followed, not only in government and at the university, but also in the population in general. When Madison was chartered as a city in 1856, its population was 6,864. By that time, the city's character as a center for government and as a college town was well established. Growth stalled during the Civil War, but boomed during the 1870s as excellent train service help the city to become a regional commercial center. In the 1880s and 1890s, Madison added another dimension, becoming a manufacturing center. At first, agricultural implements and machine tools were produced by such companies as Fuller and Johnson. In the early twentieth century, the French Battery Company (later known as Ray-O-Vac) and Oscar Mayer were established. The development of a vigorous manufacturing sector and the quadrupling of the student body at the University of Wisconsin between 1900 and 1925 were major factors spurring Madison's growth from the seventh largest city in the state in 1910 to the third largest by 1930.⁶

⁶ David V. Mollenhoff, *Madison: A History of the Formative Years*, (Dubuque: Kendall/Hunt Publishing Company, 1982), excerpted from entire book; and Robert C. Nesbit, *Wisconsin: A History*, (Madison: University of Wisconsin Press, 1973), p. 549.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section 8 Page 2

U.S. Post Office and Federal Courthouse
Madison, Dane County, Wisconsin

Today Madison remains a government and university town with thriving commercial and manufacturing enterprises. Detailed information on the history of Madison can be found in David V. Mollenhoff's excellent book, *Madison: A History of the Formative Years*, and in the 1994 report, "Intensive Survey of the Historic Resources of Madison," produced by the city's Department of Planning and Development.

HISTORY OF THE POST OFFICE IN MADISON

The first post office in what would become the city of Madison was established in 1837 in Eben Peck's log cabin on South Butler Street (demolished). Later in 1837, Simeon Mills erected a log building (demolished) at the northeast corner of East Main Street and South Webster streets, opening Madison's first store. Mills became postmaster and moved the post office into his building. In 1838, Mills erected a frame store (demolished) on the same site, where the post office was housed until 1840. In 1840, attorney David Brigham was named postmaster and moved the post office into a structure (demolished) on the east side of the 100-block of South Butler Street, where his law offices were located. The next postmaster, Steptoe Catlin (1843-45), kept the post office in a building (demolished) on the west side of the 100-block of King Street. From 1845 until 1848, postmaster David Holt, Jr. ran the post office out of an edifice (demolished) at the north end of King Street. The next postmaster, Chauncey Abbott, moved the post office to another building (demolished) on King Street. From 1853 until 1856, postmaster John N. Jones kept the post office in a structure (demolished) on South Pinckney Street. Jones relocated the post office into the Van Bergen block at 120-128 South Pinckney Street (demolished 1999) in 1856. The post office

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section 8 Page 3

U.S. Post Office and Federal Courthouse
Madison, Dane County, Wisconsin

remained in the Van Bergen block until 1871, when the first building erected specifically for Madison's post office was completed. Begun in 1867, this building was located at 4 East Mifflin Street and also housed the Western Wisconsin Branch of the U.S. Court, which was formed in 1870. The first U.S. Post Office and Federal Courthouse served its original purpose until 1929, when the building that is the subject of this nomination was ready for occupancy.⁷

Madison's Postmaster W.A. Devine recommended a new post office and federal courthouse as early as 1912. World War I intervened. In 1920, the present site on Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard (then Monona Avenue) was selected, and all of Block 88 was purchased at a cost of \$336,448. The new U.S. Post Office and Federal Courthouse cost about \$1 million to build. James A. Wetmore, Acting Supervising Architect for the Department of the Treasury, oversaw the project.⁸ The St. Louis firm of Murch Brothers was the general contractor.⁹ The city's first U.S. Post Office and Federal Courthouse was demolished after this one was built. All eight of the other buildings that housed the post office in Madison prior to 1871 have been demolished.

From 1929 until 1979, the main branch of the post office occupied the building on Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard. A new edifice was erected on Milwaukee Street to serve as the main branch of the

⁷ Katherine H. Rankin, *Intensive Survey of the Historic Resources of Madison*, prepared for the Madison Department of Planning and Development and the State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1994, no page numbers; and "Post Office was Moved 8 Times in 92 years," *Capital Times*, (CT), February 1929, Newspaper Clippings File, Madison Public Library.

⁸ Building inscription.

⁹ "City Ready to Dedicate Post Office," *Wisconsin State Journal*, February 14, 1929.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

U.S. Post Office and Federal Courthouse
Madison, Dane County, Wisconsin

Section 8 Page 4

post office in 1980. The City of Madison then acquired the building on Martin Luther King Junior Boulevard and remodeled the basement and first floor for municipal offices. Although the federal court remained in the building into the 1980s, and a branch post office remains there to this day, the building has been known as the Madison Municipal Building since 1980.

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

The Post Office is architecturally significant as a fine civic example of the Neo-Classical Revival style and exemplifies the image the federal government sought to project to the public.

Beginning in the mid-nineteenth century, a handful of American architects studied at the famed *Ecole des Beaux-Arts* in Paris. Among them was Charles Follen McKim (principal in the firm, McKim, Mead and White), whose experience in Paris inspired him to return to classicism in his designs for wealthy American clients. The style that was created was called "Beaux Arts" and featured grand compositions with exuberant classical ornament and statuary. The style was showcased at the 1893 Chicago World Columbian Exposition. Hundreds of thousands of visitors flocked to the "White City," as it was called, returning home with an appreciation for the classical forms derived from ancient Greece, and associating classicism with democracy.¹⁰ As a result, the Neo-Classical Revival style, which was a more subdued and more affordable version of classicism than the elaborate Beaux Arts, was widely built all over the U.S. between 1900 and 1935. Neo-Classical Revival designs are distinguished by formal compositions with a symmetrical facade, monumental columns (usually Greek order), and decorated moldings, entablatures and cornices

¹⁰ Marcus Whiffen and Frederick Koeper, *American Architecture*, (Cambridge, Massachusetts: MIT Press, 1981), II:269-283.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

U.S. Post Office and Federal Courthouse
Madison, Dane County, Wisconsin

Section 8 Page 5

surmounted by a parapet, attic story or balustrade.¹¹ This style, which symbolized democracy, permanence and wealth, was especially popular for civic and institutional buildings, and banks. The most high-style examples display a smooth-faced, stone finish.¹²

During the tenure of James Knox Taylor (Supervising Architect of the U.S. Department of Treasury from 1897 to 1912), the federal government began promoting the concept that government buildings should be monumental and beautiful. This description is almost synonymous with the classical style. In response, Taylor showed a preference for Neo-Classical Revival and Colonial Revival in post office design. Under Taylor, classical post offices, many of them individually designed, were built all over the United States.¹³

The 1913 Public Buildings Act authorized the construction of a large number of public buildings. In the interest of economy and efficiency, the Department of the Treasury instituted a classification system under which a post office's structural and ornamental quality were functions of the value of real estate and postal receipts in the city where it was to be located. First class post offices in large cities would still be monumental and elaborate. First class post offices were further divided into subclasses A and B, and the materials to be used in each specified. For subclass B post offices, such as Madison's, federal regulations specified a limestone or sandstone facing; fireproof construction; exterior frames and sash of metal; interior frames,

¹¹ John J.-G. Blumenson, *Identifying American Architecture*, (Nashville: American Association for State and Local History, 1977), p. 67.

¹² Barbara L. Wyatt, editor, *Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin*, (Madison: State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1986), II:2-18.

¹³ Beth Grosvenor, *How to Apply National Register Criteria to Post Offices*, (Washington, D.C.: National Park Service National Register Bulletin 13, 1994), pp. 3 and 14.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section 8 Page 6

U.S. Post Office and Federal Courthouse
Madison, Dane County, Wisconsin

sash and doors of wood; interior finishes to exclude the more expensive woods and marbles; and restricted ornament in public spaces. In addition, post offices were no longer designed individually. Instead, the Supervising Architect's office used the same designs and floor plans whenever possible. This continued until the early 1930s.¹⁴

Madison's Post Office's Neo-Classical Revival appearance exemplifies the image the federal government sought to project to the public, symbolizing democracy and representing the federal government in Madison. The Post Office also incorporates all of the elements found on high-style Neo-Classical Revival buildings. It exhibits a symmetrical façade with a central entrance, a polished stone finish, a monumental Ionic colonnade, restrained use of classical ornament, and a balustraded parapet.

Several other buildings in Madison display Neo-Classical Revival styling. The best commercial examples are the Bank of Madison (1 West Main Street, 1917-1919 with an addition in 1929-1930), with its two-story columns across the front, and the Bank of Wisconsin Branch (502 State Street, 1929-1930) with applied one-story pilasters. Another fine example of the style is the Masonic Temple on Wisconsin Avenue (1923-25), featuring a massive design with four two-story columns in antis on the front façade. The Bank of Madison, Bank of Wisconsin Branch and Masonic Temple were all designed by the Madison architectural firm of Law, Law and Potter. In comparison with these buildings, the Post Office is more high style than the banks, and more refined and elegant than the Masonic Temple. The Post Office retains more than enough integrity to convey its architectural significance.

It should be noted that Madison boasts an outstanding Beaux Arts building: the Wisconsin State Capitol (1907-1919, National Historic Landmark). Another good example of classically inspired

¹⁴ Ibid.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section 8 Page 7

U.S. Post Office and Federal Courthouse
Madison, Dane County, Wisconsin

design is the State Historical Society of Wisconsin (1900, NRHP). While this example has a monumental Ionic colonnade of the Neo-Classical Revival, it also displays elaborated areas of surface decoration which is more closely allied with Beaux Arts vocabulary. Because these examples are of the more elaborate and grand variants of classicism, they do not provide good comparisons for the Post Office.

The contribution of James Wetmore, Supervising Architect of the Department of Treasury when the Madison Post Office was built, to American architecture has not been evaluated. James A. Wetmore (1863-1940) was born and educated in New York State. He began work in Washington, D.C. as a court stenographer. Wetmore was associated with the Department of Treasury for 45 years, during which time at least 2,000 buildings were designed in his office. He retired in the 1930s.¹⁵

CONCLUSION

The integrity of the Post Office has been affected by the 1979-1982 remodeling, which gutted the first floor and basement, and saw the installation of incompatible replacement windows on the same floors. However, architectural significance is concerned primarily with exterior integrity and the fact that the replacement windows were installed in the original openings reduces their impact. In all, the integrity of the Post Office is more than sufficient to convey its architectural significance as an important local example of the federally sponsored Neo-Classical Revival style.

¹⁵ Henry F. Withey and Elsie Rathburn Withey, *Biographical Dictionary of American Architects (Deceased)*, (Los Angeles: Hennessy and Ingalls, 1970), p. 467.

U.S. Post Office & Federal Courthouse Dane County, Wisconsin
Name of Property County and State

9. Major Bibliographic References

(Cite the sources used in preparing this form on continuation sheet(s).)

Previous Documentation on File (NPS):	Primary location of additional data:
<input type="checkbox"/> preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State Historic Preservation Office
<input type="checkbox"/> previously listed in the National Register	<input type="checkbox"/> Other State Agency
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> previously determined eligible by the National Register	<input type="checkbox"/> Federal Agency
<input type="checkbox"/> designated a National Historic Landmark	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Local government
<input type="checkbox"/> recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____	<input type="checkbox"/> University
<input type="checkbox"/> recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Other
	Name of repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 2.0 acres

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>1/6</u>	<u>3/0/6/1/4/0</u>	<u>4/7/7/1/4/8/0</u>	2	<u>/</u>	<u>/</u>	<u>/</u>	<u>/</u>	<u>/</u>	<u>/</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing			

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Elizabeth L. Miller, Historic Preservation Consultant
organization for City of Madison (K. Rankin) date 3-9-2001
street & number 215 Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard telephone 608-266-6552
city or town Madison state WI zip code 53710

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional Items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

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(Approved 3/87)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section 9 Page 1

U.S. Post Office and Federal Courthouse
Madison, Dane County, Wisconsin

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section 9 Page 2

U.S. Post Office and Federal Courthouse
Madison, Dane County, Wisconsin

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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section 10 Page 1

U.S. Post Office and Federal Courthouse
Madison, Dane County, Wisconsin

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The U.S. Post Office and Federal Courthouse occupies all of Block 88, Original Plat, city of Madison, Dane County, Wisconsin. The parcel totals about 2 acres.

VERBAL BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundaries of the U.S. Post Office and Federal Courthouse coincide with the boundaries of the legal parcel on which it sits, and encompass all those resources historically associated with the U.S. Post Office and Federal Courthouse.

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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section photos Page 1

U.S. Post Office and Federal Courthouse
Madison, Dane County, Wisconsin

Photo 1 of 5

U.S. Post Office and Federal Courthouse
Oregon, Dane County, WI

Photo by Elizabeth L. Miller, March 2001

Negative on file at the State Historical Society of Wisconsin
View of the west-(front) and south-facing facades, looking
northeast.

Photo 2 of 5

View of the south-facing façade, looking northeast.

Photo 3 of 5

View of the east-facing (rear) façade, looking southwest.

Photo 4 of 5

View of the judge's bench and doors into the judge's chambers.

Photo 5 of 5

Detail of courtroom.

U.S. Post Office & Federal Courthouse
Name of Property

Dane County, Wisconsin
County and State

Property Owner

Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name City of Madison (contact: Mark Olinger)
street & number 215 Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard telephone 608-266-4635
city or town Madison state Wisconsin zip code 53710

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects, (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

215 MARTIN LUTHER KING JR BLVD



UNITED STATES POST OFFICE AND
FEDERAL COURTHOUSE
MADISON, DANE COUNTY, WISCONSIN

