

P40012459

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:
Florida

COUNTY:
Monroe

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY DATE
SEP 20 1973

HZ
No
UTM

1. NAME

COMMON:
Old Post Office and Customs House

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Front Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Key West

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:
Twelfth District

STATE: Florida CODE: 12 COUNTY: Monroe CODE: 087

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	Navy Labor
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious		& Employ-
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		ment Office

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
United States Navy

STREET AND NUMBER:
Front Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Key West

STATE:
Florida

CODE:
12

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Monroe County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:
Whitehead Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Key West

STATE:
Florida

CODE:
12

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: 8/23/65 Federal State County Local

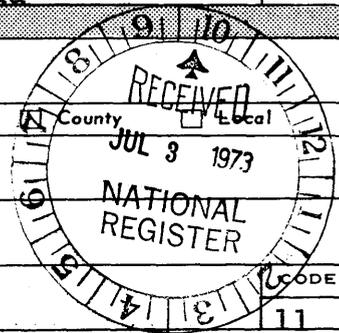
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:
Washington

CITY OR TOWN:
Washington

STATE:
D.C.

CODE:
11



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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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Old Post Office and Customs House is a three and a half story building consisting of a central block with two wings. The building rests on brick piers with granite bases. There are segmental arches between piers and cisterns in the basement. The wall construction is of red brick laid in common bond. There is a brick and checker-board pattern over three arches on the front and back porches. On the front of the building in the peak of the gable, there is a patterned terra cotta area in the center of which is a plaque, also terra cotta, with an eagle and foliate ornamentation in low relief.

The structural system of the building consists of solid brick walls with timbered roof framing. Short Romanesque columns, single and coupled, support arches of the front and back porches. These columns are based on granite blocks. Within the arches granite steps descend to ground level. There are three brick chimneys with stone trim, two on the south front and back and one on the north, back.

Galleries exist behind the Romanesque arches on the ground floor. Wings in the form of galleries have been added to create additional office space. There are front and back entrances only, each consisting of double wood paneled doors with semi-circular heads. All windows are wood framed and double-hung with brick mullions. The windows have semi-circular heads that are covered with wood and painted white. In some instances these were added as a wartime blackout device. There are five unglazed slits in the attic on the front.

The main entrance of the building, front to back, has a pitched roof. The two side wings have hipped roofs with upswept ends. All roofs are covered with metal shingles. There are cornices and wide eaves. Wooden dormers are located on the north and south hipped roofs and there are small ventilating dormers on the main roof.

The building has a minimum of landscaping and it is divided from the road by a wire fence. The fabric of the building is in excellent condition. The Old Post Office is the purest example of the Romanesque Revival style of architecture and the finest example in the Florida Keys.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **1889-1891**

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 type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

"A contract for the erection of the present building was awarded December 15, 1888 and the building was completed and occupied in the latter part of 1891, the cost of construction together with building and sea wall, being \$107,955.96. The building was used for the U.S. Customs House, Post Office, Courthouse and Lighthouse Quarters." In September of 1932, the New Federal Building was opened and the Customs House, Post Office and U.S. Court were moved to this building. The Lighthouse Department remained in the old building. On December 15, 1932, the Secretaries of the Navy and the Department of Commerce entered into an agreement by which the building known as #1 and the former Naval Administration Building were exchanged for the Lighthouse Quarters and the Old Post Office became known as the Naval Administration Building or #91.

Designed by architect William Kerr, whose work is noted throughout Key West with particular emphasis on the city's municipal buildings, the Old Post Office is perhaps the finest example of the Romanesque Revival style of architecture in the state.



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9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Browne, Jefferson B. Key West, the Old and the New. St. Augustine: The Record Co., 1912.
 Carter, Clarence E. (ed.). Territorial Papers of the United States. Vols. XXII-XXVI, Florida. Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1956-1965.
 Monroe County Courthouse, Key West, Florida. Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court. Monroe County Records. (Subgroup: deeds).

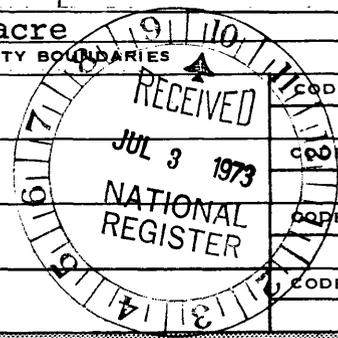
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			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	° ' "	° ' "	N24° 33' 30"	W81° 48' 27"
NE	° ' "	° ' "		
SE	° ' "	° ' "		
SW	° ' "	° ' "		

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **less than one acre**

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



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: **Diane D. Greer, Historic Sites Specialist**
~~Mary K. Evans, Historic Sites Specialist~~
 ORGANIZATION: **Division of Archives, History, & Records Mgt.** DATE: **3/20/71**
 STREET AND NUMBER: **Department of State, The Capitol**
 CITY OR TOWN: **Tallahassee** STATE: **Florida** CODE: **12**

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

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 *Robert Williams*

Title State Liaison Officer

Date June 26, 1973

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

Robert Utley
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 9/20/73

ATTEST: *Wm. [Signature]*
 Keeper of The National Register

Date 9 19 73