

United States Department of the 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 any 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 U.S. Public Health Service Building

other names / site number Department of the Interior South Building

2. Location

street & number 1951 Constitution Avenue, NW not for publication

city or town Washington vicinity

state District of Columbia code DC county District of Columbia code 001 zip code 20240

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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 sheet for additional comments).

[Signature] Date 5-23-2007

FEDERAL PRESERVATION OFFICER
GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

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

[Signature] DAVID MALONEY, ACTING SHPO Date 5-15-2007

DC HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this 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
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain): _____

[Signature] 7/5/2007
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

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 previously listed resources in the count)

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

Cat: Government Sub: Offices

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Government Sub: Offices

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Classical Revival: Neo Classical Revival

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Limestone

roof Tile

walls Georgia Marble

Limestone

other _____

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets)

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U.S. Public Health Service Building

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Summary:

The U.S. Public Health Service (PHS) building is located at 1951 Constitution Avenue, NW on a site bounded by C Street to the north, 19th Street to the east, 20th Street to the west, and Constitution Avenue to the South. Designed by Jules Henri de Sibour, a prominent Washington, D.C. architect, the E-shaped building is three stories high and composed of a white Georgia marble façade and features a thirteen-bay, engaged double height colonnade of fluted Doric pilasters.

Since its completion in 1933, the PHS Building has served as the home of various federal agencies including, the Public Health Service, Surgeon General, Atomic Energy Commission, National Science Foundation as well as the Department of the Interior. The exterior and principal interior spaces remain relatively unaltered, contributing to the building's high level of integrity.

Narrative Description:

The U.S. Public Health Service building, now Department of the Interior South building, is a three story E-shaped building with a raised basement, shallow projecting corner pavilions, and a gabled tile roof. The building was conceived as a two-part structure that consisted of an E-shaped south portion and a U-shaped north portion – only the south section of the building was completed. The building is located on the north half of the site, set back from Constitution Avenue on a raised terrace. Its primary elevation faces Constitution Avenue and is approached by a formal walkway that leads to the main building entrance and crosses a lawn terrace slope that continues around the east and west sides of the building. The main building entrance begins with a small forecourt aligned on the centerline of the south elevation and is defined by a pair of low curved walls faced in white Georgia marble. At the north end of the forecourt, a broad staircase, consisting of six marble-faced risers leads to an exposed concrete aggregate walkway flanked by wide, low marble curbs. A 9-foot-wide marble-paved landing is located at the upper end of the concrete walkway and a second, four-riser, staircase is flanked by low white Georgia marble pylons that give access to the raised white marble-faced terrace, which surrounds the east, south, and west sides of the building. A concealed areaway around the building provides light to the basement level rooms. On the street-facing walls of the raised terrace sits a balustrade that separates the terrace from the areaway. The inner railing is composed of cast aluminum panels framed on top and bottom by marble rails and each side by marble posts. The tripartite aluminum panels consist of an open fretwork with central rosettes. Decorative paving on the raised terrace consists of colored exposed aggregate concrete above a structural concrete slabs.

The primary (south) elevation is classically arranged in tripartite composition consisting of base, body and attic and is faced in white Georgia marble. The elevation is divided vertically into five planar sections; a thirteen bay colonnade with a three bay central entrance pavilion and two flanking end pavilions. The colonnade consists of double-height fluted Doric pilasters and terminates at a large entablature – separating the second floor from the attic space above. The continuous entablature supported by the pilasters contains a 3-foot-high frieze panel without metopes or tryglyphs and consists of smooth blocks situated below a cavetto cornice enriched with carved anthemion leaf ornament. The

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attic story located above the entablature is faced in white Georgia marble and is defined by two smaller windows in each bay. The attic is capped with its own carved cornice and is surmounted by a blue-green Greek tile roof.

The single-height central pavilion is composed of three pedimented, evenly spaced doorways and is the primary entrance to the building. The surrounds feature a cavetto cornice with carved frieze and antifixae with anthemion leaf motif. The fascia of the central pediment contains a carved circular medallion with an anchor and caduceus – the emblem of the Public Health Service – while similarly sized blank medallions are located in the flanking pediments. Each doorway contains double-leaved doors capped by a transom window and cast aluminum trim is applied to the door faces and transoms. Directly above each of the pediments are small square windows that further delineate the central focus to the main entrance. Flanking either side of the central pavilion are five bays of vertically arranged first and second floor windows. Mullions on the first and second floor windows are ornamental cast aluminum separated between floors by a cast aluminum spandrel – creating two-story vertical bands of fenestration. The projecting end pavilion contains one bay of windows on the first, second and third floors.

The east and west elevations are similar in design to the façade, differing primarily in size. Both the east and west elevations extend seven bays beyond the shallow projecting end pavilion located at the south end of each side. The north ends of each side terminate abruptly, without corner pavilions.¹

The north elevation is composed of the three end-wall façades of the east and central and west wings that are separated by two exterior courtyards. The elevation is secondary to the other three sides, and was intended to be hidden by a planned wing addition that would enclose the two courtyards. Each wing contains a central entrance door and is identical with simple gabled ends. Simplified ornamentation adorns the north-facing wings, which are composed of marble and limestone quoins and stucco bands that outline the pediment and form a beltcourse below the third floor windows. Fenestration consists of simple multi-light casement windows situated three bays across on all four floors and the raised basement. A small round opening is situated in each pediment and provides ventilation to the attic. The central wing is slightly different from the east and west, in that it is faced in limestone instead of stucco, and contains a projecting stair tower between the basement and second floor.² The change in material shows the permanence of this wing in relationship to the east and west, which would presumably have been incorporated into the proposed addition. Limestone stairways with railings flank either side of the central wing, and serve as emergency exits. The east and west courtyards are mirror images of each other and are completely clad in limestone. Each is four bays wide and six bays deep, with a continuing pattern of windows from the wings on all four floors. Both courtyards are paved in asphalt and open into a parking lot behind the building.

¹ An addition was originally planned for the north side of the building, but was never built.

² The stair tower, along with third floor and attic space (1943) were later additions to the wing.

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Interior

Notable interior spaces include an elaborate marble entrance lobby, marble stair and elevator lobbies and an auditorium space on the first floor. Another prominent space in the PHS building is an elaborate wood-paneled executive office suite on the second floor. Each of these spaces is highly ornamental and contributes to the overall character and integrity of the building. Typical interior features include primary corridors and the southeast and southwest stairs. Primary circulation on all floors consists of a major east-west double-loaded corridor through the main block along Constitution Avenue, extending north at 45 degrees in the southeast and southwest corners. All corridors originally contained high ceilings, but were later lowered to their current height of nine feet. Flooring generally consists of grey and yellow terrazzo divided by brass strips.

The main lobby is one of the most prominent spaces in the Interior Department South. The lobby contains highly ornamental classical features with detailing that is indicative of prevailing architectural styles during the 1930s – in the case of the Public Health Service building, the prevailing style was depicted through the combination of traditional design motifs and the use of contemporary materials such as cast aluminum. The main lobby is rectangular in plan and is divided into upper and lower sections that are separated by three full-width steps and a Doric colonnade. Three entrance doors lead from the south terrace and open into the lower section of the lobby. The lobby flooring consists of grey and yellow diamond shaped marble tiles set within three rectangular fields and are surrounded by a marble mosaic in a Greek fret pattern. Baseboards are a golden-veined St. Genevieve marble, which is predominantly gray. The columns, pilasters and walls are constructed of a yellow veined dolomitic marble and extend to an ornamental plaster entablature that is painted to match the walls below. Ornamental plaster beams extend from the entry doors to the plaster entablature and intersect with each of the Doric columns that separate the upper and lower lobby areas. Three marble steps lead to the upper level, which is formed by the intersection of the lobby and south wing corridor. The two lobby levels are unified by a common ceiling height and continuous decorative entablature based on the Greek Doric order. The main lobby was originally lit with cast aluminum torcheres, each with a tapered, fluted aluminum shaft and translucent glass bowl.³

The first floor main stair and elevator lobby aligns with the center of the main lobby and is identical in form and ornament. Together with the corridor and main entrance lobby, this space constitutes the most ornamental and architecturally significant space in the building. Composed of a rectangular area with two elevators to the east and a staircase to the west, the lobby walls and u-shaped stairway are clad in yellow dolomitic marble from floor to ceiling on the first floor. The lobby floors are marble on the first floor with yellow and grey terrazzo on the other three levels. Originally to the east, two pair of satin-finished aluminum elevator doors were situated below a cast aluminum transom with an amber-colored dolomitic marble surround. The face of each door was divided into two columns of five equally sized rectangular panels, each with a rosette.⁴ The west side of the lobby provides access to the main building staircase. Treads, risers and landings on the stairway are marble with highly ornamental cast aluminum

³ The torcheres are no longer located in the lobby.

⁴ The elevator doors have been replaced with modern standard doors.

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handrails that are similar to the cast aluminum terrace railing. A non-original partition wall separates the elevator/stair lobby from the corridor on the north end. Lighting fixtures in the elevator lobbies are custom aluminum fixtures composed of cylindrical wall sconces on the main stair landings, and an elaborate pendant fixture at the first floor.

Also located on the first floor at the north end of the central wing, beyond the main lobby and central staircase, is the Conference Room/Auditorium. The space is preceded by a small vestibule that is flanked by a suite of ancillary rooms located beneath a projection room mezzanine. The Conference Room/Auditorium is a large rectangular space with a high ceiling divided horizontally into four bays by ornamental plaster beams. The floor is oak parquet in a diagonal basket weave pattern within a perimeter border. The walls are plaster and composed of a wooden baseboard, ornamented chair-rail ornamental plaster entablature above. Directly below each plaster beam are wooden fluted pilasters with geometric floral patterned plaster capitals. The north wall is fitted with a built-in projection screen with an ornamental wood surround. The auditorium is substantially intact from its original construction, with the exception of modifications made to the south wall in 1943 to accommodate multiple projection ports.⁵

With very few exceptions, the second and third floors of the building consist largely of standard offices and filing areas. The Primary Executive Office Suite, located on the second floor, is the most ornamental and historic private office space in the building. The space is octagonal in shape and the flooring consists of oak parquet set in a diagonal basket weave pattern within a perimeter border. A series of raised knotty pine wood panels cover the walls, and are capped by a dentiled molding. A formal fireplace is located on the north wall, which is composed of an iron firebox set within a marble face and molded wood surround. Carved foliated ornament decorates the over mantle above. Built in bookcases are located on the southeast and southwest wall, which contains a concealed vault behind a hinged shelving unit. The office's plaster ceiling features a series of seven concentric octagonal rings and is enriched with paneled areas, foliated ornament and laurel wreath medallions. The smaller Executive Office room is similar in decoration with the exception of the plaster ceiling ornament, which is composed of a single, heavy floriated molding. A small bathroom and closet area separate the primary and smaller offices, which are accessed via a small passage between the two rooms. The Executive Office Suite is substantially unaltered and in generally good condition. Most of the remaining interior space in the east, south and west wings is devoted to office and filing areas that are separated by a double-loaded corridor. Many of the office spaces have since been subdivided by gypsum board partition walls and are now carpeted.

Alterations / Modifications

⁵ John Millner & Assoc., *Historic Building Preservation Plan: Department of the Interior, South*, (U.S. General Services Administration: Washington, DC, 1992) 14.

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The building retains much of the same architectural fabric as when it was constructed in 1933. Ceiling heights and lighting in the main corridors have changed, which included adding a dropped ceiling with fluorescent fixtures. In the elevator lobbies on each floor, partition walls and doors have been added to separate the lobby from corridors – presumably as a smoke stop in the case of fire. The partition walls pose a negative impact on the historic spaces. The main lobby functions primarily as a guard station and display area. Two display cases have been added in the east and west wall recessed door openings, but have been sensitively applied and only minimally affect the historic character of the lobby. Many of the office spaces throughout the building have been altered by adding partition walls, carpeting and lowered ceilings. Despite these changes, many of the alterations are reversible, and the Interior Department South building retains a high level of historic integrity in its public spaces and exterior arrangement.

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

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

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad pattern of our history.
- B** Property 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.

Criteria Considerations

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

Property is:

- 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 building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

Area of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Government: Public Health Service, Planning

Architecture: Jules Henri de Sibour and the Office of the Supervising Architect of the Treasury Department

Period of Significance

1931-1947

Significant Dates

1931-1933, 1947

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Jules Henri de Sibour
Office of the Supervising Architect of the Treasury Dept.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets)

Previous documentation on files (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

U.S. General Services Administration

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Summary Statement of Significance:

The U.S. Public Health Service building is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for its association with the growth of the United States Public Health Service and broader patterns of city development in Washington, D.C.; as well as Criterion C as an excellent and largely unaltered example of classically-inspired federal architecture in the 1930s. Throughout its history, the U.S. Public Health Service building has housed several federal agencies and retains a high level of integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship and feeling from the period 1931-1947.

Resource History and Historic Context:

The origins of the U.S. Public Health Service date to the establishment of the Marine Hospital Service in 1798, which provided medical facilities for sick and disabled merchant seamen. By the 1870s, the responsibilities of the Marine Hospital Service functioned under the Supervising Surgeon General and were later reorganized into the Public Health Service in 1902.⁶ At the time the United States entered World War I, the federal government lacked a system to provide medical care to veterans. PHS assumed veteran care responsibilities, which increased the need for staff and larger physical facilities. Following World War I, the added responsibility of caring for war veterans increased the need for a new facility for the newly organized PHS. As the U.S. Public Health Service continued to grow during the 1920s, the agency was forced to locate its administrative offices in five different buildings scattered across Washington, D.C.⁷ The Public Health Service was not the only agency experiencing growing pains during this time period. Between World War I and World War II, Washington, D.C. was transformed by the rapid growth of the federal government, which established a critical need for space to house federal workers.

As a result of World War I, a severe delay in federal building and construction led to a crisis in the Office of the Supervising Architect of the Treasury. The Public Health Service building was a product of a federal building program initiated under the Public Buildings Act of 1926. The Act enabled the Public Buildings Service (PBS) to hire private architects for the design of federal buildings, and was the precursor to one of the country's largest construction programs.⁸ However, the Office of the Supervising Architect of the Treasury continued to design projects and supervised all projects for federal construction programs. During this time period, more than any other, the ideals of the McMillan Plan of 1902 were realized and the monumental core of the city was formed. In the immediate vicinity of the Mall, the Department of Agriculture Administration Building (1930) and South Building (1936), and the Central Power Plant (1934) were constructed. North, across the Mall, the Federal Triangle (1928-1938) was also

⁶ U.S. Public Health Service, "History of the U.S. Public Health Services Commissioned Corps," <http://www.usphs.gov/html/history.html>.

⁷ John Millner & Assoc., *Historic Structures Report*, 7-8.

⁸ Antoinette J. Lee, *Architects to the Nation: The Rise and Decline of the Supervising Architect's Office* (Oxford University Press, 2000), 238-241.

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underway and the largest building project undertaken by the federal government. On Capitol Hill, the Supreme Court (1935) and the Library of Congress Annex (1938-39) were built, and west of the Ellipse the Department of the Interior Building (1936), the Federal Reserve Board (1937), and the Public Health Service building (1931-33).

Initially in 1926, Congress authorized \$175,000,000, over a period of seven years for the construction of federal buildings across the United States. As a result of a nation-wide survey of the needs of federal agencies, Congress allocated an additional \$125,000,000 in 1927 and \$300,000,000 in 1930-31. The funds for design and construction of the PHS building were allocated in July 1930.⁹ The building at 1951 Connecticut Avenue was the first structure erected solely for the administrative purposes of the Public Health Service.¹⁰ The site for the new PHS building was approved in 1930, and construction began the following year.

Jules Henri de Sibour was selected to prepare building plans and designed a three-story building with a tall basement and was modeled after the Hygienic Laboratory's Science building – an earlier adjacent site proposal for the PHS building.¹¹ Much of the final design for the PHS building was dictated by its surroundings. Because of its close proximity to the Lincoln Memorial and other monumental sites along the National Mall, the Commission of Fine Arts required that the building be “conservative design and possessing individual architectural merit.” The building had to be moderate in height, setback from Constitution Avenue, and have generous landscape treatment to conform to the neighboring building schemes of the Pan American Union Building and the Academy of Science building.¹² Given de Sibour's reputation in Washington, D.C. as an architect of prominent Beaux Arts homes and Embassies, his original design sketches for the PHS building were largely unaltered after the Commission of Fine Arts review.

Excavation for the building was started in July 1931 and due to budgetary constraints, construction did not begin until the following year in December. Construction continued throughout 1932-33, but without one of the key elements of de Sibour's original plan. Throughout the design and construction of the PHS building, de Sibour requested that proper landscaping treatment be given to the stepped terrace grounds. Landscaping, including the permanent platforms and steps at the main entrance and a main entrance walk, were not executed in the initial construction of the building, and were not completed until December 1940.¹³

Following the passage of the Social Security Act in 1935, the Public Health Service's responsibilities increased greatly. Only three years after the building was completed, the Surgeon General complained of lack of space within the existing facilities. A north wing addition in 1937 was proposed, and would enclose the open courtyards to the

⁹ John Millner & Assoc., *Historic Structures Report*, 9.

¹⁰ *Ibid.*, 6.

¹¹ *Ibid.*, 13-14.

¹² *Ibid.*, 15.

¹³ *Ibid.*, 22-26.

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building's rear. Lack of appropriations prevented the additional office space, and as a result the PHS building remained an E-shaped building. Beginning in 1938, the Public Health Service began relocating some of its workers to temporary offices, and had completely moved out of the building by 1947.

During World War II, the PHS Building was selected by President Roosevelt to house the offices of the Combined Chiefs of Staff and the Joint Chiefs of Staff for its prominent location on Constitution Avenue (directly across the street from the War Department offices.)¹⁴ Following the war, the building housed a number of federal agencies including; the Atomic Energy Commission in 1947, the National Science Foundation in 1954, and finally the Department of the Interior's Bureau of Indian Affairs in 1968. In 1972 the building was the site for the Trial of Broken Treaties demonstration and was occupied for nearly a week by protestors in 1972.¹⁵ The Headquarters for Surface Mining made the building its headquarters in 1977 and are currently still in the building.

Architectural Significance:

The U.S. Public Health Service building was designed by Jules Henri de Sibour (1872-1938) under the supervision of the Office of the Supervising Architect between 1930-31. De Sibour was prominently known in Washington, D.C. during the early decades of the 20th century for his design of grand, Beaux Arts houses and embassies along Massachusetts Avenue. Jules Henri de Sibour was trained as an architect at the Ecole des Beaux Arts and came to Washington, D.C. in 1901 as an experienced architect – having practiced previously in New York City.¹⁶ De Sibour's commissions include the Moore House (1906) at 1746 Massachusetts Ave., NW, the Peruvian Embassy (1908) at 1700 Massachusetts Ave., NW, and the National Trust for Historic Preservation Headquarters (1917) – formerly the McCormick apartment house – at 1785 Massachusetts Ave., NW.¹⁷ The U.S. Public Health Service Headquarters represents de Sibour's last completed work in Washington.

The 1930s and 40s were periods when the federal government was straying from the Beaux Arts style seen in the Supreme Court building, the Jefferson Memorial and the Federal Triangle, but still working within the classical vocabulary. Unlike other buildings constructed contemporarily with the U.S. Public Health Service Building, such as the U.S. Department of Agriculture (1930-36) South building and the Central Heating Plant (1931-33), the prominent location of the building on Constitution Avenue required de Sibour to provide a building that was not only

¹⁴ John Millner & Associates, *Historic Structures Report*, 27-28.

¹⁵ *Ibid*, 30.

¹⁶ "J. Henri de Sibour, Noted Architect," *New York Times* 5 Nov 1938: L.

¹⁷ Warren Cox, Hugh Newell Jacobsen, Francis D. Lethbridge, and David Rosenthal, *A Guide to The Architecture of Washington, D.C.* (Washington, D.C.: McGraw-Hill, 1974), 70,116-118.

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monumental in design, but also fit into the constraints of the site and the surrounding buildings. As mentioned earlier, much of the final design for the PHS building was dictated by its surroundings. Because of its close proximity to the Lincoln Memorial and other monumental sites along the National Mall de Sibour incorporated classical materials and composition with more modern details and materials that were prevailing during the period. The building is classically arranged with base, body and attic and features a monumental with Georgia marble façade. The exterior decorative vocabulary features Neo-Grec motifs, which is firmly rooted in the architectural traditions of the Ecole des Beaux Arts, but was also a less rigidly classical form.¹⁸ The combination of traditional motifs in combination with contemporary materials such as cast aluminum detailing seen in the street-facing windows, exterior railings, as well as interior details make the Public Health Service building a unique example of classically inspired federal building in the 1930s.

As mentioned in the building's history, few changes have occurred to the building since its completion in 1933. The exterior is all but unscathed, and interior functions are consistent with the original intentions of Jules Henri de Sibour and the Office of the Supervising Architect.

¹⁸ Neil Levine, "The Romantic Idea of Architectural Legibility Henri Labrouste and the Neo-Grec," in *The Architecture of the Ecole des Beaux Arts*, ed. A. Drexler (New York: Museum of Modern Art, 1977), pp. 325-416.

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Major Bibliographical References:

Cox, Warren, Hugh Newell Jacobsen, Francis D. Lethbridge, and David Rosenthal. *A Guide to The Architecture of Washington, D.C.* Washington, D.C.: McGraw-Hill, 1974.

"J. Henri De Sibour, Noted Architect." *New York Times* 5 Nov 1938: L.

John Millner & Assoc. *Historic Building Preservation Plan: Department of the Interior, South.* General Services Administration: Washington, DC, 1992.

Lee, Antoinette J. *Architects to the Nation: The Rise and Decline of the Supervising Architect's Office.* Oxford University Press, 2000.

Levine, Neil. "The Romantic Idea of Architectural Legibility Henri Labrouste and the Neo-Grec." *The Architecture of the Ecole des Beaux Arts*, ed. A. Drexler. New York: Museum of Modern Art, 1977.

U.S. Public Health Service. "History of the U.S. Public Health Services Commissioned Corps." <http://www.usphs.gov/html/history.html> .

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property 1 acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

1	1 8	3 2 2 6 8 5	4 3 0 6 6 7 0	3			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2				4			

See continuation sheet

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 Erin E. Brasell, Architectural Historian

organization Earth Tech, Inc. date May 12, 2006

street & number 7 St. Paul Street, Suite 900 telephone 410.637.1600

city or town Baltimore state MD zip code 21202

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)

Property Owner

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

name U.S. General Services Administration, National Capital Region

street & number 7th & D Streets, SW telephone 202.708.5891

city or town Washington state DC zip code 20407

Paperwork Reduction 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.*). A federal agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to range from approximately 18 hours to 36 hours depending on several factors including, but not limited to, how much documentation may already exist on the type of property being nominated and whether the property is being nominated as part of a Multiple Property Documentation Form. In most cases, it is estimated to average 36 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form to meet minimum National Register documentation requirements. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, 1849 C St., NW, Washington, DC 20240.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

U.S. Public Health Service Building

Name of Property

District of Columbia

County and State

Section 10 Page 1

Verbal Boundary Description:

The U.S. Public Health Service Building and its grounds at 1951 Constitution Avenue, NW occupy the block bounded by Constitution Avenue, C Street, 19th Street and 20th Street, NW in Washington, D.C., on Square 128.

Boundary Justification:

All property lines are as they existed at the time of the building's construction. The nomination includes all property historically associated with the building.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

U.S. Public Health Service Building

Name of Property

District of Columbia

County and State

Section 10 Page 2

Photographs:

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY US Public Health Service Building
NAME:

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, District of Columbia

DATE RECEIVED: 5/25/07 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 6/08/07
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 6/23/07 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 7/08/07
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 07000641

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: Y NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 7/5/2007 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

*Historically & architecturally significant 1930s Federal
office building fronting on the national Mall.*

RECOM./CRITERIA accept A&C

REVIEWER Patrick Andrews

DISCIPLINE Historian

TELEPHONE _____

DATE 7/5/2007

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



Interior South
1451 Constitution Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20009

Helen Hanssen, photographer
4/2006

Negative resides at the General Services Administration
7th + D Sts, SW
Washington, DC 20407

View Looking North
DC003222-1



Interior South
1951 Constitution Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20009

Helen Haussen, photographer
4/2006

Negative resides at the General Services Admin.
7th + D sts, SW
Washington, DC 20407

View looking South

DC 003222-2



Interior South
1951 Constitution Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20009

Helen Haussen, photographer
4/2006

Negative resides at the General Services Administration
7th + D Sts, SW
Washington, DC 20407

Looking Southwest

DC003222-3



Interior South

1951 Constitution Ave., NW

Washington, DC 20009

photographer unknown

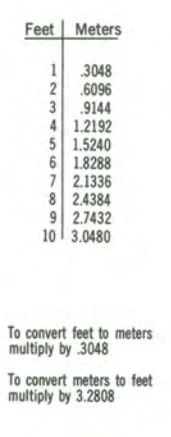
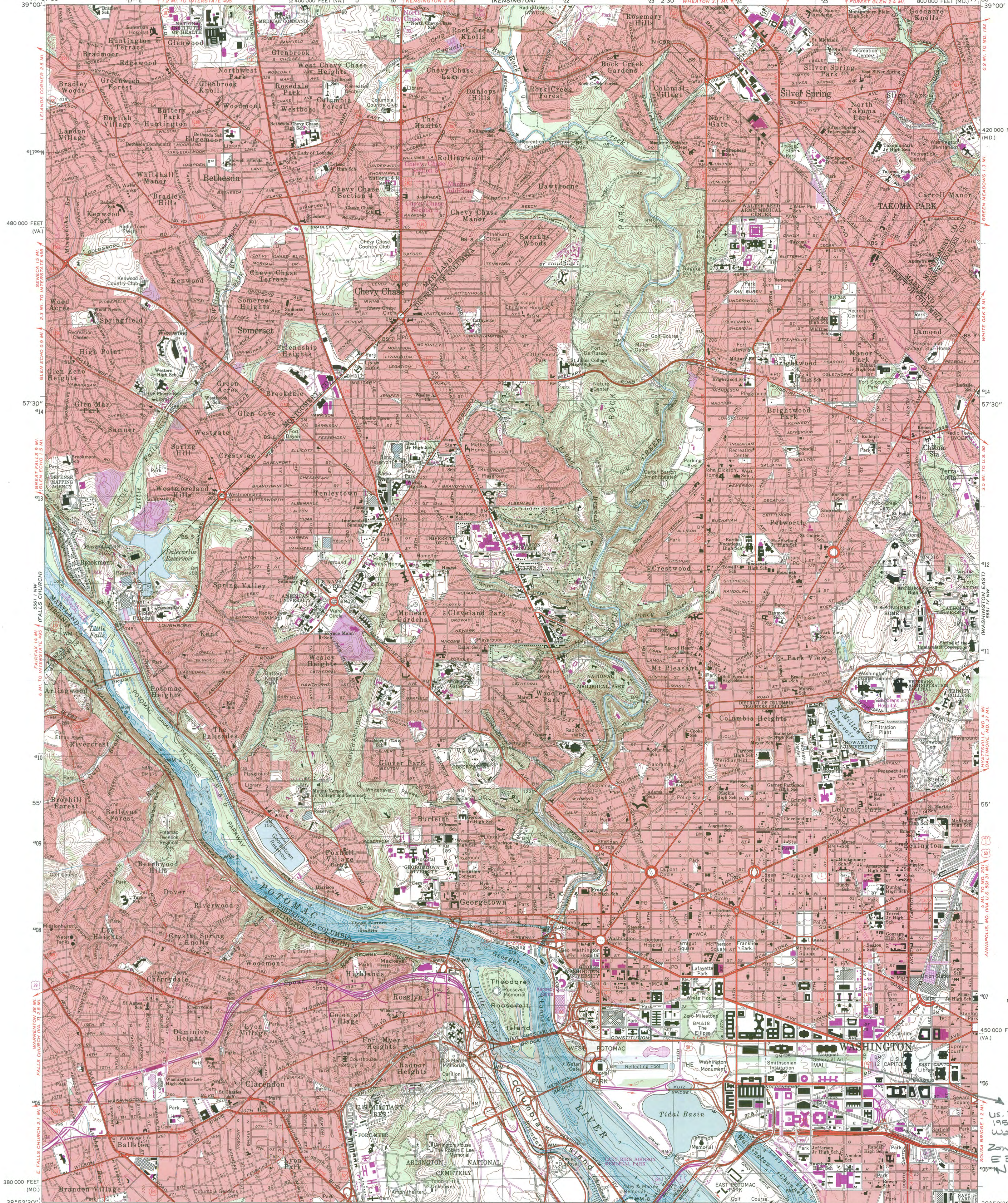
Negative resides at the General Services Admin.

7th + D sts., SW

Washington, DC 20407

Interior Lobby

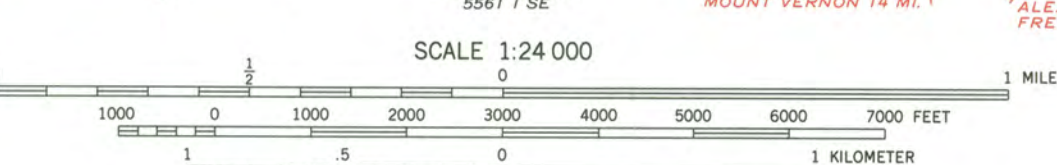
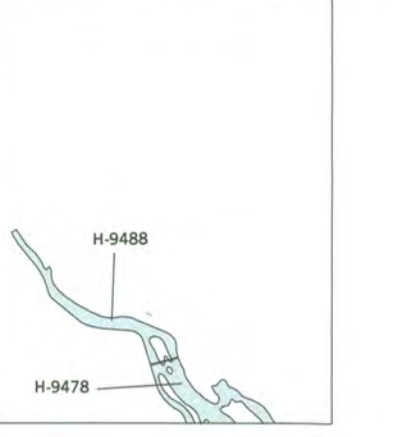
PC 003222 - 4



U.S. Public Health Service
1951 Constitution, Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20240
Zone 18
E 322 695
N 1205 340

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey and the National Ocean Service
Control by USGS, NOS/NOAA, NCS, and WSSC
Compiled by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1965. Field checked 1966. Revised 1965.
Bathymetry compiled by the National Ocean Service from tide-coordinated hydrographic surveys. This information is not intended for navigational purposes.
Mean low water (dotted line) and mean high water (heavy solid line) compiled by NOS from tide-coordinated aerial photographs. Apparent shoreline (outer edge of vegetation) shown by light solid line.
Polyconic projection. 10,000-foot grid ticks based on Maryland coordinate system, and Virginia coordinate system, north zone 18 1927 North American Datum.
To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983 move the projection lines 8 meters south and 26 meters west as shown by dashed corner ticks.
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown. There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of the National or State reservations shown on this map.
Revisions shown in purple and woodland compiled in cooperation with Commonwealth of Virginia agencies from aerial photographs taken 1981 and other sources. This information not field checked.
Map edited 1983.
Purple tint indicates extension of urban areas.

NATIONAL OCEAN SERVICE
HYDROGRAPHIC SURVEY INDEX



CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929
BATHYMETRIC CONTOUR INTERVAL 1 METER WITH SUPPLEMENTARY 0.5 METER CONTOURS-DATUM IS MEAN LOW WATER
THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE TWO DATUMS IS VARIABLE
THE MEAN RANGE OF TIDE IS APPROXIMATELY 0.4 METER

BASE MAP COMPILES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
BATHYMETRIC SURVEY DATA COMPILES WITH INTERNATIONAL HYDROGRAPHIC ORGANIZATION (IHO) SPECIAL PUBLICATION 44 ACCURACY STANDARDS AND/OR STANDARDS USED AT THE DATE OF THE SURVEY
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
NATIONAL OCEAN SERVICE, ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND 20852
AND VIRGINIA DIVISION OF MINERAL RESOURCES, CHARLOTTESVILLE, VIRGINIA 22903
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Heavy-duty ——— Light-duty ———
Medium-duty ——— Unimproved dirt ———
○ Interstate Route ○ U.S. Route ○ State Route

QUADRANGLE LOCATION

WASHINGTON WEST, D. C.—MD.—VA.
38077-H1-TB-024
1985
PHOTOREVISED 1983
BATHYMETRY ADDED 1982
DMA 5561 I NE—SERIES V833

UTM GRID AND 1983 MAGNETIC NORTH DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET





GSA Public Buildings Service

May 23, 2007

Janet Snyder Matthews, Ph.D.
Keeper, National Register of Historic Places
National Park Service 2280
1201 Eye Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005



Dear Dr. Matthews:

The U.S. General Services Administration (GSA) is pleased to nominate the following properties, under the authority of GSA, for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. GSA is recommending that these buildings be listed at the local level of significance with the exception of the Central Heating Plant which we recommend for listing at a level of state significance.

- U.S. Department of Agriculture, South Building - 14th St. & Independence Ave., SW
- Federal Home Loan Bank Board Building – 320 First St., NW
- U.S. Public Health Service Building (Dept. of Interior South) – 1951 Constitution Ave., NW
- U.S. Courthouse (Prettyman) – 333 Constitution Ave., NW
- Social Security Administration Building (Cohen) – 330 Independence Avenue, SW
- Railroad Retirement Board Building (Switzer) – 330 C Street, SW
- Central Heating Plant – 325 13th St., SW

For each property, the following documents are enclosed for your review:

- Signed original National Register of Historic Places Registration;
- U.S.G.S. Map; and
- Original labeled black and white photographs.

Should you have any questions or concerns regarding the nomination, please contact Claire Hosker, Assoc. AIA, at (202) 501-1578.

Sincerely,

Rolando Rivas-Camp, FAIA
Federal Preservation Officer
Director, Center for Historic Buildings

Enclosures

U.S. General Services Administration
1800 F Street, NW
Washington, DC 20405-0002
www.gsa.gov