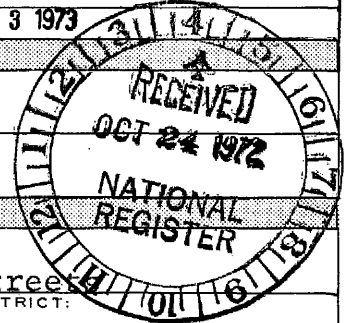


**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:  
New Hampshire  
COUNTY:  
Merrimack  
FOR NPS USE ONLY  
ENTRY DATE  
AUG 13 1973



**1. NAME**  
COMMON:  
Old Post Office  
AND/OR HISTORIC:  
U.S. Government Building and Post Office

**2. LOCATION**  
STREET AND NUMBER:  
North State Street between Capitol and Park Streets  
CITY OR TOWN:  
Concord  
STATE: New Hampshire  
CODE: 33  
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:  
Second, James C. Cleveland  
COUNTY:  
Merrimack  
CODE: 013

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	govt.
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious		storage
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		& priv. summer museum

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**  
OWNER'S NAME:  
State of New Hampshire  
Comptroller, Department of Administration and Control  
STREET AND NUMBER:  
120 State House Annex  
CITY OR TOWN:  
Concord  
STATE:  
New Hampshire  
CODE:  
33

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**  
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
Merrimack County Registry of Deeds  
STREET AND NUMBER:  
P.O. Box 248 Merrimack County Courthouse  
North Main Street  
CITY OR TOWN:  
Concord  
STATE:  
New Hampshire  
CODE:  
33

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**  
TITLE OF SURVEY:  
None  
DATE OF SURVEY:  
 Federal  State  County  Local  
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
STREET AND NUMBER:  
CITY OR TOWN:  
STATE:  
CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: New Hampshire  
COUNTY: Merrimack  
ENTRY NUMBER: AUG 13 1973  
DATE:

FOR NPS USE ONLY

## 7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input checked="" 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						
<p>The former United States Government Building and Post Office Property occupies a square bounded by State Street on the east, Capitol Street on the south, Green Street on the west, and Park Street on the north. The original building, constructed after plans of <u>James Riggs Hill</u>, Supervising Architect for the Treasury Department, was begun in 1884 and completed in 1889; the addition to the rear, carefully matching the original stonework, was completed in two stages, 1913 and 1938. The building was in continual use by the Federal Government until 1967, after which maintenance has been minimal.</p> <p>The original building, nearly centrally located on one and one-half acres, measured approximately one hundred sixteen by eighty feet. The two full stories above ground, which housed the Post Office, District Court, Pension Office, and Marshall's Office are surmounted by a steep, hipped roof through which eight dormer windows light a partial third storey. The outer foundation walls of brick and granite approach a thickness of three and one-half feet, and contain a full basement, in part above ground. The inner foundation walls, which divide the basement into many rooms, are of brick. Two chimneys near the front of the building have been removed to below roof level.</p> <p>The outside walls are of solid masonry, gray Concord granite backed by brick. <u>Most of the surface is rough-hewn in texture, in contrast with the smoothness of the lighter-colored architectural detail.</u> The two-storey, flat roofed addition, measuring eighty by sixty-five feet, is of essentially the same appearance in the shades and textures of the stonework. Considerable superficial damage from leakage has occurred here.</p> <p><u>A conspicuous feature of the east facade is the recessed porch with its three somewhat flattened Gothic arches supported at their junctures by two short polished columns set upon heavy square bases.</u> The porch floor and the base molding form a continuous horizontal line below which all stonework is smooth. The first-storey windows repeat the curves and molding of the entrance arches, and with their three recessed sash and deep mullions reveal the thickness of the walls. The large rectangular windows of the Courtroom above retain the same divisions as those of the lower storey and are capped by the first of several courses of the well defined cornice. The principal roof surfaces are interrupted by eight smooth-faced granite dormers with false gables and ball finials, and by three tall chimneys, whose stone is smooth-cut to the roof line rough-hewn above.</p> <p>Other ornamental features include the several courses of string molding of varying emphasis; the many sculptured bosses; the two sets of three small windows diagonally aligned in the south wall to light the stairs; the heavy ornamental grillwork of the two narrow windows in the entrance porch; the three</p> <p>(contd.)</p>						

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**SIGNIFICANCE**

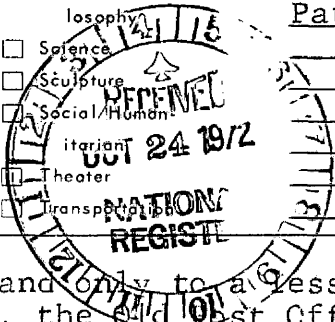
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian |  16th Century |  18th Century |  20th Century  
 15th Century |  17th Century |  19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1884-1889

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/Phi-  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Philosophy     | <u>Patriotic</u>                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention           | <input type="checkbox"/> Science        |   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape           | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture      |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture        | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human   |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature          | <input type="checkbox"/> Italian        |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Military            | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater        |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            | <input type="checkbox"/> Music               | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation |   |



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

To the people of Concord, and only to a lesser degree to many residents of New Hampshire, the Old Post Office has a peculiar significance, somewhat akin to that of the Concord Coach, for next to Lewis Downing's world-famous vehicle, Concord granite has brought more renown to this city than any other product. The granite industry at its height, in the middle to late nineteenth century, employed over one thousand Concord men, and furnished the stone for such well-known buildings as the Library of Congress, the Boston City Hall, and the U.S. Customs House in New Orleans. In 1889, Concord could still take especial pride in the products of its quarries and in the skill of its stone-cutters and masons. The Old Post Office is the most monumental expression of that period remaining in New Hampshire. The skills that built it are gone. It is then truly a monument.

The Old Post Office has another kind of significance to many people, whether they live in Concord or elsewhere in the State or in the Country at large. The building which housed the Federal District Court for over three quarters of a century has deep meaning for thousands of people, whether to take part as jurymen in the administration of justice, or as those called to be judged. To most of these this building represented their first experience with the United States Government, and there can be no doubt that the structure itself, by its very look and feel of ageless solidity, was able to leave a lasting impression. This last influence was, of course, experienced daily by the innumerable users of the Post Office.

The old U.S. Government Building is a valuable expression of the official taste of the age in which it was constructed. Reminiscent of the work of Henry Hobson Richardson, whose heavy stonework and ponderous forms seemed to bespeak a yearning for solidity in a time of rapid change, the building is a statement of permanence as meaningful today as nearly a century ago. Comparison of this structure with Richardson's Allegheny County Courthouse in Pittsburg, and the Marshall Field Warehouse in Chicago, reveals striking similarities. All three buildings, whose most prominent feature is their stonework, were erected during the same six-year period.

The Government Building epitomizes the Victorian  
(contd.)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

William E. Chandler Papers, Box 21, N.H. Historical Society Library, Concord, N.H.  
 William E. Chandler, Reminiscences and Events in Concord's History, An Address (Concord, N.H.: Rumford Printing Co., 1904), 21-22.  
 Giles Wheeler, Wheeler Genealogy (Concord, N.H.: Rumford Printing Co., 1908), 44.  
The Granite Monthly, 8(1885), 276; 23(1897), 208, 212.  
 (contd.)

**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		43° 12' 24"	71° 32' 23"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: One and one-half

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

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

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE:  
John Rexford

ORGANIZATION: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: July 24, 1972

STREET AND NUMBER:  
283 Pleasant Street

CITY OR TOWN: Concord STATE: New Hampshire 03301 CODE: 33

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION**

**NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name: George Gilman  
 Title: Commissioner  
Department of Resources and Economic Development  
 Date: October 12, 1972

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

Robert W. Utley  
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 8/13/73

ATTEST:  
William M. ...  
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: 1-8-73

U7M  
 19/293650  
 4786650  
 CD  
 SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)



STATE	New Hampshire	
COUNTY	Merrimack	
FOR NPS USE ONLY		
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE	
	AUG 13 1973	

(Number all entries)

7. (contd.)

wrought-iron lamps hanging there, and the two sculptured capitals of the polished columns. The south entrance to the original building, with its pair of bracket lamps, is not without interest.

The front half of the Post Office lot is in lawn, well curbed with granite, and landscaped with shrubberies, English hawthorn, Norway maples, and one American elm. The rear of the lot is paved. A loading platform on the south side of the annex has access through three doors to the former mailing room.

8. (contd.)

eclecticism characteristic of the latter half of the nineteenth century. The flattened Gothic arches of the entrance porch and the windows pierce thick, fortress-like walls more often associated with Romanesque architecture. A strong impression of the horizontal, created by the solidity of the first two stories, and reinforced by the ends of the hipped roof, the well defined cornice, and the string-course and base moldings, is offset by the vertical thrust of the Gothic arches, the tall casements, and the steeply pitched roof with its finials, wrought-iron ornamentations, and the tall granite chimneys.

Also characteristic of Victorian structures is the striking contrast of textures. The walls' rough-hewn granite is thrown into relief by smooth, lighter colored basement courses, by smooth moldings, polished columns, carved bosses (some humorously), and an elaborate cornice with substantial dentils. Perhaps the most conspicuous textural contrast is that of slate roof with granite masonry. Finally the heavy iron grillework of the two narrow windows within the entrance porch, the iron lamps hanging there, and the iron "gingerbread" on the several ridges, are flourishes representative of the time.

The Old Post Office stands at the heart of a cluster of attractive State and City buildings, and adjacent to that of the New Hampshire Historical Society. In their several styles they give witness and substance to New Hampshire's title, "The Granite State."

9. (contd.)

James Riggs Hill and others, Original architectural plans and drawings, N.H. Department of Public Works and Highways, Concord, N.S.

James O. Lyford, ed., History of Concord, N.H. (Concord, N.H.: The Rumford Press, 1903), I, 598-600.