

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form



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This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. 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 certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).

1. Name of Property

historic name United States Post Office and Courthouse

other names/site number Melvin Price Federal Building and United States Courthouse

2. Location

street & number 750 Missouri Avenue not for publication

city or town East Saint Louis vicinity

state Illinois code IL county St. Clair code 163 zip code 62201

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 at the following level(s) of significance:
 national statewide local

[Signature] Date 6/24/14
 Signature of certifying official U.S. General Services Administration
 Federal Preservation Officer
 Title State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.

[Signature] Date 05-08-14
 Signature of commenting official
 DSHPO
 Title State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register determined eligible for the National Register
 determined not eligible for the National Register removed from the National Register
 other (explain:)

[Signature] Date of Action 8-8-14
 Signature of the Keeper

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		buildings
		district
		site
		structure
		object
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)

GOVERNMENT/ Courthouse

GOVERNMENT/ Post Office

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

GOVERNMENT/ Courthouse

GOVERNMENT/ Offices

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Late 19th and 20th Century Revivals/

Beaux-Arts Classicism

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation: Concrete

walls: Granite

Limestone

Brick

roof:

other:

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

Summary Paragraph

The United States Post Office and Courthouse is located in downtown East St. Louis, Illinois, on Missouri Avenue, a few blocks from the main commercial area. It is a four story classically-styled building constructed of brick, stone, steel, and clay tile that exhibits the influence of the Beaux-Arts style. A two story projecting three bay pavilion with Ionic paired columns creates a three bay arcade at the *piano nobile*. Above the pavilion, its pediment is flanked by a prominent cornice and balustraded parapet. These details establish the formality and classical references of the federal building. The first floor post office lobby is a significant interior space finished with terrazzo, marble, ornamental plaster, and stained woodwork. A courthouse annex was completed in 1988 and the building was renamed the Melvin Price Federal Building and United States Courthouse. The annex is located south and immediately adjacent to the rear elevation of the historic courthouse. The annex is a compatible addition that was part of a rehabilitation project that meets the U.S. Secretary of Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation although it more than doubles the size of the historic structure.

Narrative Description

See Continuation Sheets 7.1 through 7.5

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 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.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1909-1918

Significant Dates

1909, 1918

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Taylor, James Knox, Supervising Architect of the Treasury

Wetmore, James A., Acting Supervising Architect of the

Treasury

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 old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

Period of Significance (justification)

The United States Post Office and Courthouse is the richest expression of the Beaux-Arts style of architecture among civic buildings in East St Louis. The formal, symmetrical composition displays many typical Beaux-Arts elements and has a monumental quality due to the fact that it occupies an entire block. Therefore, the period of significance is 1909-1918, representing the period during which the building was erected and expanded ten years later with side wings that replicated the original design.

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria)

The United States Post Office and Courthouse is eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. The building meets Criterion C as a distinctive example of the Beaux-Arts style of architecture. The period of significance is 1909-1918, representing the period during which the building was erected and expanded ten years later with side wings that replicated features of the original design. The building retains its architectural integrity of design, materials, and workmanship. The presence of the courthouse annex at the rear of the building alters its historic setting and integrity of feeling, although it is an architecturally compatible addition to the historic building.

Narrative Statement of Significance (provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance)

The United States Post Office and Courthouse is the richest expression of the Beaux-Arts style of architecture among civic buildings in East St Louis. The formal, symmetrical composition displays many typical Beaux-Arts elements and has a monumental quality due to the fact that it occupies an entire block. A robust colonnade forms a raised *piano nobile* level that highlights the importance of the district courtroom. The formality and richness of the building exterior is carried into the public interior spaces, particularly the original post office lobby, which features elements of classical architecture and is finished with terrazzo, marble, ornamental plaster, and darkened oak wood. The United States Post Office and Courthouse stands as the most important example of the early twentieth-century civic architecture of East St. Louis and evokes the period during which East St. Louis rose to prominence as the city in southern Illinois with a federal presence and a strong base of industry and commerce. The United States Post Office and Courthouse is the only remaining building in downtown East St. Louis that demonstrates how the monumentality and formality of the classical revival movement characterized civic architecture during the first decades of the twentieth century.

Developmental history/additional historic context information (if appropriate)

See Continuation Sheets 8.1 through 8.9

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form)
See Continuation Sheet 9.1

Previous documentation on file (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: **General Services Administration**

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Approx. 1.74 acre
(Do not include previously listed resource acreage)

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

1	<u>15</u>	<u>747695</u>	<u>4279002</u>	3	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	4	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing

Verbal Boundary Description (describe the boundaries of the property)

The United States Post Office and Courthouse is located on the northeast 253 feet of Block 178 in the East St. Louis Platted Town, consisting of the tax parcels #01-13.0-177-001 and #01-13.0-177-003 owned by the U.S. Government upon which the historic United States Post Office and Courthouse and the 1988 courthouse annex are located.

Boundary Justification (explain why the boundaries were selected)

The nomination consists of the property historically associated with the building known by the address 750 Missouri Avenue, East St. Louis, Illinois. It excludes tax parcel #01-13.0-177-004, which was acquired by the U.S. Government in 1998 for additional parking and is located immediately adjacent to the subject property and the entrance to the 1988 courthouse annex.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Betsy H. Bradley and Andrew J. Schmidt/ Architectural Historians

organization Summit Envirosolutions, Inc., prepared for the U. S. Date September 2010, rev. May 1, 2014
General Services Administration

street & number 1217 Bandana Blvd. N. telephone 651-842-4202

city or town St. Paul state MN zip code 55108

e-mail aschmidt@summite.com

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **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. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Continuation Sheets**
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Photographs:

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

Name of Property: United States Post Office and Courthouse

City or Vicinity: East Saint Louis

County: St. Claire **State:** Illinois

Photographer: Betsy H. Bradley

Date Photographed: June 2007

Description of Photograph(s) and number:

- 1 of 13. STREET VIEW, MISSOURI AVENUE, FACING SOUTH.
- 2 of 13. NORTH FAÇADE, MISSOURI AVENUE, FACING SOUTH.
- 3 of 13. NORTH FAÇADE, MISSOURI AVENUE, FACING NORTHEAST.
- 4 of 13. DETAIL OF PEDIMENT, FACING SOUTHWEST.
- 5 of 13. WEST FAÇADE, FACING SOUTH.
- 6 of 13. EAST FAÇADE, FACING NORTH.
- 7 of 13. SOUTH FAÇADE (ANNEX), FACING NORTH.
- 8 of 13. INTERIOR, PUBLIC LOBBY.
- 9 of 13. INTERIOR, PUBLIC LOBBY, POSTAL SCREEN.
- 10 of 13. INTERIOR, COURTROOM ENTRANCE.
- 11 of 13. INTERIOR, COURTROOM.
- 12 of 13. INTERIOR, LOBBY.
- 13 of 13. INTERIOR, SECOND FLOOR CORRIDOR.

Property Owner:

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

name U. S. General Services Administration, Great Lakes Region
street & number 230 South Dearborn Street, Suite 3600 telephone 312.353.4886
city or town Chicago state IL zip code 60604

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.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 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 Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

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Continuation Sheet

United States Post Office and Courthouse
Name of Property
St. Clair County, Illinois
County and State
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

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Description

The United States Post Office and Courthouse is located in downtown East St. Louis, Illinois, on Missouri Avenue, a few blocks from the main commercial area. It is a four story classically-styled building constructed of brick, stone, steel, and clay tile that exhibits the influence of the Beaux-Arts style. A two story projecting three bay pavilion with Ionic paired columns creates a three bay arcade at the *piano nobile*. Above the pavilion, its pediment is flanked by a prominent cornice and balustraded parapet. These details establish the formality and classical references of the federal building. The first floor post office lobby is a significant interior space finished with terrazzo, marble, ornamental plaster, and stained woodwork. A courthouse annex was completed in 1988 and the building was renamed the Melvin Price Federal Building and U.S. Courthouse. The annex is located south and immediately adjacent to the rear elevation of the historic courthouse. The annex is a compatible addition that was part of a rehabilitation project that meets the U.S. Secretary of Interior’s Standards for Rehabilitation although it more than doubles the size of the historic structure.

The United States Post Office and Courthouse is located in the central business district of East St. Louis on the southwest side of Missouri Avenue, which extends in a northwest to southeast direction; for purposes of this description, northeast is considered to be north. The courthouse occupies the northern one-third of the block bounded by Missouri Avenue, North Seventh and North Eighth streets, and East Broadway. North Seventh Street adjacent to the United States Post Office and Courthouse has been closed to traffic. The building is set back several feet from the sidewalk along Missouri Avenue and has wider side lawns on the east and west sides. The widened pavement in front of the central portion of the building has a pattern of red-tinted-scored concrete set off by natural-colored borders. There is a parking lot south of the Post Office and Courthouse annex and another parking lot at Seventh Street. A mid-twentieth century federal building is located immediately to the west of the Seventh Street parking lot. Commercial buildings occupy most of the block directly across Missouri Avenue. The former St. Mary’s Hospital is located in the center of the block east of the United States Post Office and Courthouse. The prominence of the United States Post Office and Courthouse in the Missouri Avenue streetscape is maintained by the setback of the modern Federal Building and the orientation of the hospital.

The United States Post Office and Courthouse is comprised of two main portions—the main volume as delineated by the central five bays of the north façade, which was completed in 1909, and the flanking wings added in 1918. These east and west wings, each one bay wide, were designed to replicate the architectural detailing of the original construction and to maintain the symmetry of the façade. The original building illustrates classicism with Beaux-Arts influences. The façade features a Beaux-Arts-inspired projecting pavilion with a colonnade of four paired Ionic columns framing the three bay arcade of double-height courtroom windows. This impressive assemblage at the raised *piano nobile* level highlights the importance of the federal courtroom at that location. The direct references to the neo-classical palazzo vocabulary include the rusticated ground story, alternating pedimented and arched window heads at the second story, quoined pilasters, and a prominent cornice and balustrade at the parapet. The Beaux-Arts interpretation of classical architecture is evident in the isolated setting for the building, the formality of the primary and secondary facades, and the richness of the exterior and interior materials. Marble walls, terrazzo and marble floors, and ornamental plastered ceilings in the first floor postal lobby establish a formal and richly-ornamented interior public space.

The United States Post Office and Courthouse has a three story central five bay mass and a barely visible fourth story largely concealed from view by the balustraded parapet. The building has an interior light court facing south and, consequently, the stories above the ground floor have a U-shaped floor plan. This light court is now an atrium between the historic United States Post Office and Courthouse and its newer annex. The building rests on a slightly raised basement faced with granite above grade. The structural system of the building consists of a clay tile arch and structural steel beam floor supported on interior structural steel columns. The exterior walls are load-bearing masonry. The exterior walls are a light gray face brick somewhat darker than the limestone used for the rusticated ground story and for elements on the upper floors, including the columns, pediment, cornice,

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balustrade and window framing elements. Window openings have double-hung wood sash set below transoms on the first and second stories. Prominent mullions divide the sash into thirds on the first story.

Architectural drawings for the original portion of the United States Post Office and Courthouse as well as the annex are available at the U. S. General Services Administration’s Great Lakes Regional Office. Original drawings dating to 1907 were produced by the U.S. Treasury’s Office of Supervising Architect and approved by James Knox Taylor. Drawings for the addition completed in 1918 were produced also by the Office of Supervising Architect and approved by James A. Wetmore.

Alterations to the United States Post Office and Courthouse prior to the 1980s were limited mostly to interior projects. The HVAC system was upgraded in 1959. Changes were made to the configuration and use of space on the second and third floors during the late 1960s. The interior of the federal courtroom was updated with wood paneling that covers the plaster walls below the vaulted ceiling and alterations to the doors that provide universal access to the courtroom. A suspended ceiling was installed in the second floor hallway outside the courtroom. In 1970 the arched windows of the courtroom on the main façade were blocked with limestone that matches the original stone on the building. This is the only alteration to affect the exterior of the building. The reconfiguration of the space in the southeast corner of the second floor for the use of the Bankruptcy Court was completed in 1970. In 1979 the United States Post Office vacated its space on the first floor and basement and the Bankruptcy Court was relocated to the first floor while the larger district court took over the second floor.

Plans were completed circa 1986 for a courthouse annex. The former light court area enclosed by the east and west wings of the historic United States Post Office and Courthouse was converted into an atrium and stairhall. The brick and limestone upper walls of the original building enclose this space on three sides and remain intact and visible. The conversion of window openings to doorways to provide access to the atrium is the major alteration to the once exterior walls of the second story. A glazed tile gabled roof affords views of the fourth story roof and balustraded parapet. The south walls of the original and the 1918 east and west wings are visible in the narrow circulation corridor that rises for three stories between the two portions of the facility. Square windows carried by a gridded muntin pattern establish the corridor as a somewhat transparent “hyphen” that separates the annex from the historic building. The three story annex has a slightly larger footprint than the historic United States Post Office and Courthouse. Designed to be compatible with the historic building, the annex maintains story heights and has a similar fenestration pattern to the historic building. The use of slightly different stone cladding materials and the lack of ornament on the annex distinguish the two portions of the complex. The façade and main entrance into the annex face south and do not compete with the primary (north) historic façade.

The changes made during the late 1980s included alterations to the historic United States Post Office and Courthouse interior. A new central hallway that connects the former postal lobby with the new atrium cuts through the space that was originally the post office work room. This change affected one of the postal window screens. The historic components were used to rehabilitate the east postal window assembly. Two glass wall assemblies with double doors were inserted to separate the main lobby space now used by the Bankruptcy Court. The offices of the Postmaster and Assistant Postmaster located at the northwest corner of the first floor remain intact.

The courthouse annex is compatible in size and scale, materials, and design details to the historic United States Post Office and Courthouse, yet is recognizable as a modern annex. The interior alterations made for a new circulation plan and to house court functions in new spaces retained as much historic fabric as possible and incorporated new elements, such as the glass wall assemblies in the former postal lobby, that have a limited impact on the historic spaces and materials.

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Exterior

The historic exterior walls on the north, south, and west elevations have a water table of smooth light gray granite that faces the basement, which is pierced by rectangular window openings in each bay. The first story is faced with deeply rusticated limestone, which forms voussoirs above segmentally-arched window openings. A limestone architrave supporting a frieze denotes the third floor level. The walls of the second and third stories are clad with gray face brick. Limestone flush corner pilasters set off the central pavilions of the main façade and east and west secondary facades are edged with quoins. The windows on these stories are square-headed. A broad frieze terminates the upper walls below a denticulated cornice. A parapet wall of piers and balustrade sections edges the roof at the fourth floor. The mansard roof of the fourth story is clad with slate on the sloped surfaces and built-up roofing on the uppermost flat surface.

The main (north) façade is dominated by a three bay, three story central pavilion. Two bays on both the east and west sides of the pavilion form a symmetrical façade. Only the bays flanking the pavilion are original. The outermost bays were added in 1918. These end bays, are wider and create corner piers. The main building entrance, in the central bay of the pavilion, is approached by a set of eight limestone steps with three sets of metal handrails. The steps are flanked by cheek walls surmounted by plinths supporting cast-iron lampposts that hold a single globe. Bronze plaques identifying the building are attached to the fronts of the cheek walls. The segmentally-arched entrance opening is set off by sections of a carved limestone surround that is overlaid with rusticated voussoirs and banding. An ornamental iron grille is slightly recessed behind the exterior wall. A pair of replacement entrance doors of anodized aluminum and glass with a transom, are further inset into the main entrance opening. Uncarved limestone plaques, set high in the wall and flanking the entrance, are "held" by carved limestone bay leaf garlands. All six first floor windows have segmentally-arched heads and recessed limestone panels below the sills.

The central three bays of the second and third stories form a pavilion, treated as a *piano nobile* that indicates the location of the district courtroom. A colonnade of eight paired Ionic columns rest on plinths supported by a beltcourse that marks the second floor level. The plinths are linked by balustrades. The columns support a blank frieze and a pediment, which is enriched with denticulated molding. The pediment's tympanum features a granite rondel surrounded by a limestone bay leaf wreath and acanthus leaf foliate forms. The rear wall of the two story pavilion has three blind arched "openings" with voussoirs and keystones surmounted by heavily carved festooned limestone panels. The windows are now blocked with matching limestone.

The eight window openings in the flanking bays of the second and third stories relate to the façade hierarchy established by the pavilion *piano nobile*. The second story's four square-headed windows are emphasized with pedimented heads supported by ornamental brackets that complete the limestone surrounds. Windows 2 and 6 are detailed with console brackets supporting their sills which connect to a wide limestone band above the projecting beltcourse. Windows 1 and 7 are detailed with balustrades beneath the windows' sills which hide the wide limestone band and rest on the beltcourse. All four window openings on the third story are identical and shorter than the first two stories' windows to visually accommodate the entablature. These openings have unadorned limestone surrounds.

The two-over-two double-hung wood sash in the first and second story windows are set below glass transoms. The third floor's four two-over-two wood sash completely fill the smaller third story window openings.

The identical east and west five bay secondary facades have a slightly projecting three bay pavilion. This area is set off by flush pilasters edged with quoins. The fenestration pattern established on the main façade's flanking bays is repeated on these two elevations, although triangular and segmentally-arched pediments supported by ornamental brackets alternate as window heads at the second story windows

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The original light court elevations of the second and third stories now enclose the atrium between the historic courthouse and the annex. Limestone banding at the second floor level, flush pilasters at the outer corners, and a frieze and denticulated cornice frame these walls of gray face brick. The punched window openings on the second story use flush brick flat arches above for ornamentation. They rest on flush limestone aprons slightly projecting from a wider limestone band. The third story windows also have flush brick flat arches as well as limestone sills. The replicated wood window sash installed in the current exterior walls were installed in the light court elevations as well. Several of the window openings in the second floor have been converted into doorways and are filled with paired wood and glass doors below the original transom levels. They provide access to the new hallway that encircles the atrium. The second floor window openings in the original south end walls that flank the light court have been in-filled or converted into doorways.

The former light court has become an atrium that connects the historic building with the annex. A free-standing stairway in the atrium has two lower flights that rise to a central landing. One run of steps leads up to the hallway encircling the atrium at the second floor level and the entrance to the hallway outside of the District courtroom. The stairs and hallway adjacent to the historic building are edged with a traditionally styled metal and wood railing. A sculpture, *Jurisprudents*, hangs in the upper portion of the atrium. The work by artists Ralph Helmick and Stuart Schechter consists of small casts of male and female heads that are hung from nylon line to create two larger heads, one female and one male. The project won a GSA design award for art in 2001.

Interior

The ground floor interior space consists of the original post office lobby extending for five bays along the north face of the building and an extension of the lobby by two bays into the western half of the building, the former mail processing area, and offices. The post office lobby retains its architectural integrity as the public portion of the post office and as the formal entrance to the building. The lobby flooring is composed of a light gray-colored terrazzo set off with verde antique green and white marble bands that create geometric patterns. Green marble forms the base trim, wainscot, and pilasters that separate both the north and south lobby walls into bays. White marble faces the lobby's north walls.

Along the north face of the building, two angled alcoves extend into the window bays formed by the central pavilion's projection. Oak tables with circular tops stand on green marble bases in both alcoves. Oak wall-mounted cabinets with pedimented caps and glass doors, one a "Directory" and the other a "Bulletin," hang in the west alcove.

White plaster Ionic capitals cap the verde marble pilasters and support the transverse beams that divide the lobby ceiling. The upper walls and transverse bay beams are edged with a series of ornamental moldings that extend onto the ceiling. A scroll molding edges the upper wall. A circular bay leaf wreath surrounds the center of each ceiling panel where an acanthus leaf medallion is set off by egg and dart molding. Bronze light fixtures with frosted glass globes hang from the center of each medallion. Added glass walls that separate the two end bays of the post office lobby are placed between paired pilasters and extend floor to ceiling.

The southern lobby wall is now bisected by a hallway added in 1988 that occupies the center two bays of a central post office window section. Panels with brass plates inscribed "Packages" flank the hallway opening. The former post office window assembly on the lobby's west wall is intact with four windows with grilles set into surrounds of dark oak. The post office window assembly on the east wall, which was altered with a door, has been rehabilitated to approximate its original appearance. The three bays of post office service windows have tall glass and wood transoms rising above the service window assemblies to meet the ceiling. These transoms are divided into thirds by wood mullions and metal grilles for the air circulation system are located in the upper corners of each transom.

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The post office lobby has always extended south along the western side of the building. This extension had two interior bays with post office service windows that have been removed below their original wood and glass transoms. Another transom assembly forms the upper portion of the south wall of the postal lobby extension. White marble sheathes the walls of the post office lobby extension and the square piers that frame the lobby as it turns south. Ornate modillion brackets support the transverse beam that runs parallel to the interior wall of the main lobby. Green marble sheathes the base of a new counter that continues at the height of the adjacent postal window's wainscot. The entrances to the postmaster's and assistant postmaster's offices replicate the exterior window sash assembly, with oak mullions separating the doors from flanking windows and extending into the transoms. Bronze pendant light fixtures hang in the main lobby and the postmaster's office.

The original terrazzo and marble floor, marble wainscot, and other historic finishes also remain intact in an elevator lobby at the center of the western extension. The stairway that wraps around the elevator shaft retains its original materials as well.

One bay at each end of the main post office lobby is set off by a glass wall to form small lobbies adjacent to Bankruptcy Court spaces. New entrance assemblies that provide access to a courtroom and offices at the eastern end of the lobby have paired wood doors flanked by panels similar to those of the post office service windows and are set below transoms. An historic free-standing oak notice board is positioned in the east lobby.

The Melvin Price Federal Building and United States Courthouse

An annex to the United States Post Office and Courthouse, completed in 1988, stands immediately south of the older building. A narrow circulation corridor rises three stories between the original and the 1988 buildings. Square windows carried by a gridded metal framework establish this corridor as a semi-transparent "hyphen" that separates the historic building and its annex. The end walls of the corridor are recessed from the planes of the east and west walls of the flanking buildings. An entrance in the base of the west end of the corridor gives access to the main security desk. A loading dock is located adjacent to the east end of the corridor. A vehicular door in the east basement wall gives access to an underground parking area.

The three story courthouse annex has a slightly larger footprint than the original building. It was designed to be compatible with the historic building and maintains the same floor-to-ceiling ratios with its parapet coping set at the lower edge of the original cornice. The light gray limestone walls are rusticated on all stories and the narrower bands of the first story are aligned with those on the historic United States Post Office and Courthouse. The fenestration pattern maintains the ratio of voids to solids while replicating window sizes and bay widths of the historic building. All openings have square heads and the sash have a modern configuration of nearly square panes and solid panels.

The central three bays of the south annex's façade are set off as a main entrance. They are clad with an ochre stone, presumably Kasota limestone. Rusticated pillars frame recessed entrance doors on the ground story. Above, a simplified first floor pavilion is formed by two story paired pilasters with minimal bases and capital blocks that support a plain freeze. A metal pediment extends above the roofline. The annex houses three courtrooms and office space.

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Statement of Significance

The United States Post Office and Courthouse is eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. The building meets Criterion C as a distinctive example of the Beaux-Arts style of architecture. The period of significance is 1909-1918, representing the period during which the building was erected and expanded ten years later with side wings that replicated features of the original design. The building retains its architectural integrity of design, materials, and workmanship. The presence of the courthouse annex at the rear of the building alters its historic setting and integrity of feeling, although it is an architecturally compatible addition to the historic building.

The United States Post Office and Courthouse is the richest expression of the Beaux-Arts style of architecture among civic buildings in East St Louis. The formal, symmetrical composition displays many typical Beaux-Arts elements and has a monumental quality due to the fact that it occupies an entire block. A robust colonnade forms a raised *piano nobile* level that highlights the importance of the district courtroom. The formality and richness of the building exterior is carried into the public interior spaces, particularly the original post office lobby, which features elements of classical architecture and is finished with terrazzo, marble, ornamental plaster, and darkened oak wood. The United States Post Office and Courthouse stands as the most important example of East St. Louis' early twentieth-century civic architecture and evokes the period during which East St. Louis rose to prominence as the city in southern Illinois with a federal presence and a strong base of industry and commerce. The United States Post Office and Courthouse is the only remaining building in downtown East St. Louis that demonstrates how the monumentality and formality of the classical revival movement characterized civic architecture during the first decades of the twentieth century.

Historic Context: Construction of Federal Buildings

Despite its laissez-faire image, the late-nineteenth century was a time of growth for the federal government, as institutions were established or expanded to administer the growing national economy. The number of federal civilian employees grew steadily from approximately 36,700 in 1861 to roughly 157,400 in 1891. To house the growing federal workforce, the United States Treasury Department, which was responsible for federal buildings, constructed mints, post offices, and courthouses in cities and towns around the country during the second half of the nineteenth century. The U.S. Treasury Department oversaw design and construction of the federal civilian facilities. From the 1860s to the 1890s, the number of buildings constructed and operated by the Treasury Department increased 17-fold.¹

Federal buildings were the public façade of the federal government. Because the buildings embodied the federal presence at the local level, U.S. Treasury Department's Office of the Supervising Architect consistently sought to convey dignity and refinement in their designs through the proportions, setting, materials, and overall monumentality of the buildings. The design of federal buildings tended to follow the favorite style of the Supervising Architect, however, and consistency in quality of design and stylistic direction was plagued by a high turnover rate in leadership, with six different Supervising Architects serving from 1884 to 1896.²

From 1895 through World War I, the federal government grew at an even faster pace than previously, as Progressive Era reformers advocated government intervention to address problems that emerged as American society transformed from primarily rural and agrarian to urban and industrial. As the role of the federal

¹ Lois Craig, ed., and the staff of the Federal Architecture Project, *The Federal Presence: Architecture, Politics, and Symbols in United States Government Building* (Cambridge, Massachusetts: The MIT Press, 1979); Beth M. Boland, , *National Register Bulletin 13: How to Apply the National Register Criteria to Post Offices*, originally published 1984, revised 1994, <http://www.cr.nps.gov/nr/publications/bulletings/nrb13/>.

² Craig, et al., *The Federal Presence*, 195.

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government increased, so too did the number of buildings to house it. In 1899, the Supervising Architect's Office was responsible for 399 buildings, and by 1912, the number had grown to 1,126.³ The federal building campaign followed the successful construction and exhibition of the World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago in 1892-93. Featuring building designs by some of the most noted architects of the time, the unifying style of the Exposition was the Beaux-Arts, a style that returned to classical motifs and emphasized symmetrical plans, monumentality, and highly ornamented façades. The architecture of the Exposition was so well received by the public that it would popularize classical revival designs in public buildings for decades to follow.

By the turn of the twentieth century, Beaux-Arts, Neo-Classical, and, to a lesser extent, revival styles executed in formal, symmetrical Classical Revival and Neo-Classical forms, dominated public building design. James Knox Taylor, who served as Supervising Architect from 1897 to 1912 and oversaw the design and construction of many federal buildings, was an advocate for Beaux-Arts and Neo-Classical-influenced designs. Through classical architecture, Taylor sought to provide the symbolic appearance of federal authority at the local level, as well as architectural sophistication in local communities. In 1901, Taylor declared that classical style architecture would be the standard for federal buildings. In some cases, the classically designed federal courthouses and post offices also inspired the design of local government buildings.

The first omnibus public buildings law, passed in 1902, increased the limit of cost on over 60 planned buildings, saved authorization time in Congress, and allowed construction of vastly more federal buildings.⁴ The United States Post Office and Courthouse authorized in 1905 and completed in 1909, is representative of this federal building boom. The Beaux-Arts design of the East St. Louis building illustrates Taylor's commitment that federal architecture should be in the classical styles.

In 1912, Taylor resigned, signaling the end of the emphasis on individual plan and design and high-quality materials and construction used for federal architecture. In 1913-1914, however, Supervising Architect Oscar Wenderoth continued to design federal buildings in the individual manner of his predecessor, but legislative action and policies were proceeding that would end this era.⁵ The Public Buildings Act of 1913 directed the U.S. Treasury Department to economize costs and led to the standardization of plans, specifications, and materials for different classes of federal buildings. After 1916, standardized plans were commonly used under the direction of Acting Supervising Architect James Wetmore, and they typically retained the basic Beaux-Arts style, massing, and plan, but with fewer architectural details on the smaller buildings.⁶

The trend of standardized designs continued during the 1920s and 1930s. With the onset of the Great Depression, the U.S. Public Works Administration (PWA) was established in 1933 to oversee planning and construction of public works projects.⁷ Under the PWA, government architecture was designed in a simplified classical revival style, which has been termed "PWA Moderne," and which often featured murals or sculpture to employ artists as well as architects.⁸ The Reorganization Act of 1939 created the U.S. Public Buildings Administration within the Federal Works Agency (FWA), removing control of federal architecture from the U.S. Treasury Department and abolishing the title Supervising Architect. The Public Buildings Act of 1949 established the new U.S. General Services Administration to accomplish federal construction.

Within the context of the construction of federal buildings, the 1907 design of the East St. Louis building represents an example of Supervising Architect James Knox Taylor's commitment that federal architecture be

³ Ibid., 213.

⁴ Emily Harris, "History of Federal Policy Concerning Post Office Construction, 1900-1940," draft report for the National Park Service, printed by the U.S. Postal Service as *History of Post Office Construction, 1900-1940*, July 1982, 4.

⁵ Harris, *History of Post Office Construction*, 7.

⁶ Ibid., 11.

⁷ Boland, *NR Bulletin* 13, online version part 2, p. 3 of 5.

⁸ Harris, 20, 25.

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classical in style. James Wetmore, Taylor's successor, made sure that the addition to the building completed in 1918 perpetuated the original design concept.

Development of the United States Post Office and Courthouse

The development of the Mississippi River bank across the river from St. Louis, Missouri dates from the operation of a river ferry in 1797. Samuel Wiggins gained control of the ferry business and secured a charter monopoly from the Territory of Illinois legislature for this important transportation link. Soon after the state of Illinois was admitted to the Union in 1818, a group of several small settlements on the Illinois side of the river near the ferry became collectively known as Illinoistown. The residents of this area developed a commerce based on the provision of supplies – mainly food, raw materials, and coal – for the growing city of St. Louis. Coal was mined from the river bluffs, and a six-mile rail line constructed in 1836, the first rail line built in Illinois, transported the coal to the shipping point.⁹

Residents selected East St. Louis as the name for their community when they took action to incorporate a village in 1861. Commerce flourished in East St. Louis, which had a population of approximately 5,000. The physical area that became East St. Louis had been expanded when a series of dikes constructed by the Army Corps of Engineers had resulted in linking Bloody Island in the Mississippi River to the Illinois shore. Although floods washed away the initial dikes in 1844, they were rebuilt. The expansion of the Ohio & Mississippi Railroad, (which later became part of the Baltimore & Ohio railroad system), to the east bank of the Mississippi River in 1857 inaugurated the role of East St. Louis as the western terminus for eastern railroads. By the time East St. Louis was rechartered as a city in 1865, five railroads terminated there. The city's location on the Mississippi River near the Illinois, Ohio, Tennessee, and Missouri rivers gave it a geographic advantage as a transportation hub. In time, 27 railroads radiated from East St. Louis.¹⁰

East St. Louis grew and gained prominence on the Illinois side of the Mississippi through the 1860s and 1870s. A group of Eastern investors established the National Stock Yards in 1871 and this operation remained prominent in the commerce of the city into the last quarter of the twentieth century. The completion of the Eads Bridge, a combined road and railroad bridge completed across the Mississippi River in 1874, was an important link between the eastern and western railroad systems. The influx of many railroad workers and immigrant laborers swelled the city's population and led to the development of residential enclaves for the various ethnic groups and African Americans. East St. Louis developed a reputation for rough living and corrupt local politics as its commerce expanded. Nevertheless, the civic and commercial institutions associated with the growth of a city – churches, schools, banks, and a library – appeared in East St. Louis during this period.

East St. Louis experienced a golden age from 1890 to 1920, a period when it was referred to as the "Pittsburgh of the West" and the "Queen City." During this time, the city's industrial base and steady growth provided East St. Louis with an identity and visibility separate from the much larger St. Louis across the river. East St. Louis, which had a population of over 15,000 in 1890, became one of the fastest growing cities in the United States and its population doubled every ten years during this time. In 1900 it was the fourth largest city in Illinois, and by 1920 it held the second position. Much of this prosperity was due to the development of industry and plants for processing steel, brass, iron, and other metals, flour mills and elevators, lumber yards, packing houses,

⁹Bill Nunes, *History of East St. Louis*, East St. Louis Action Research Project web site,

<http://www.eslarp.uiuc.edu/ibex/archive/nunes/esl%20history/cover.htm>

Pictorial East St. Louis, Illinois, 1906, e East St. Louis Action Research Project web site,

<http://www.eslarp.uiuc.edu/ibex/archive/nunes/esl%20history/cover.htm>

¹⁰ Nunes, *History of East St. Louis*; Elliott M. Rudwick, *Race Riot at East St. Louis, July 2, 1917* (Carbondale: Southern Illinois University Press, 1964), 5.

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breweries, and factories. The city's laborers produced a variety of products, from soap and syrup to roofing materials and paint pigments.¹¹

The industrial, commercial, and population growth in East St. Louis, along with the raising of city streets as much as 20 feet in 1890 to protect against floods, propelled a real estate boom in the city and many new buildings were constructed. The city could point with pride to civic improvements such as brick and granite streets, granite sidewalks, a water system, and a Park and Boulevard Commission to oversee the development of a park and street beautification program. St. Mary's Hospital was founded and a public library building was completed. A new City Hall was opened at the intersection of Missouri Avenue and Main Street in 1900 after a cyclone destroyed an older building.¹²

State and federal government agency operations were established in East St. Louis as it became a commercial and industrial center in southern Illinois. An office for the collector of internal revenue for the Thirteenth District of Illinois was established in the city circa 1900. East St. Louis became a site where the Illinois northern federal court district held terms of court in 1904. During this period the East St. Louis post office was located in the Hauss Building, a commercial block positioned at one of the busiest downtown corners, the intersection of Missouri and Collinsville Avenues.¹³

Local politicians began lobbying for a permanent federal facility circa 1900. James Knox Taylor, Supervising Architect of the U.S. Treasury Department, inquired about space needs of federal agencies in 1904. Henry Bader, the East St. Louis postmaster, requested 5,800 square feet and looked ahead to the need for nearly double that area within ten years. The U.S. Department of Justice requested a courtroom and numerous offices. A House of Representative's bill passed during late 1905 funded the East St. Louis federal building at \$350,000. After a visit to East St. Louis to inspect possible sites, Taylor recommended the purchase of a property on Missouri Avenue between Seventh and Eighth streets. This site was near the St. Mary's Hospital and the public library. This first step towards the construction of a federal building erupted in a controversy based on the location of the property several blocks from the center of the commercial center of East St. Louis and allegations of political cronyism. A U.S. Treasury Department investigation revealed little opposition to the site and the matter was dropped.¹⁴

James Knox Taylor's office prepared plans for the building dated 1907, which include his signature, indicating approval. The construction contract was let during the fall of 1907 to Hiram Lloyd Building and Construction Co. of St. Louis. Thomas Appleton served as the site superintendent and oversaw construction. Charles S. Deneen, the Governor of Illinois, participated in the cornerstone laying ceremony on July 23, 1908.

The completion of the building in 1909 (Figure 1) was marked with a dedication ceremony that featured President William Howard Taft. The president's travel schedule during the fall of 1909 brought him to East St. Louis for the occasion and he gave a dedication address at the federal building during the late afternoon. The president's participation in the dedication, unusual for a building of this type, was recorded with much fanfare in the local press and with photographs that hang in the building.¹⁵

The new federal building allowed the city to boast that its post office had the latest facilities for the quick handling of mail. Yet the post office and district court both needed more space for their operations well before the projected ten years. The House of Representatives funded expansion of the "Federal Court Building" in East St.

¹¹ Nunes, *History of East St. Louis*.

¹² Nunes, *History of East St. Louis and Pictorial East St. Louis Illinois*.

¹³ Holabird & Root, "Historic Structures Report, U.S. Post Office and Courthouse (Federal Building), East St. Louis, Illinois" (Unpublished report prepared for U.S. General Services Administration, 1988), 6.

¹⁴ *Ibid.*, 19-20.

¹⁵ *Ibid.*, 20, 28-34; Henry F. Pringle, *The Life and Times of William Howard Taft* (New York: Farrar & Rinehart, Inc.), 461-467.

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Louis in December 1912. By December 1916 arrangements had been made to lease space for the operations in the federal building during the construction period. R. P. Farnsworth Construction Co. built the additions to plans supplied by the Supervising Architect's office and approved by James A. Wetmore. The materials used on the original building were matched as closely as possible for the additions, which were completed in 1918 as single bay extensions on the east and west sides of the original building (Figure 2).¹⁶

The East St. Louis federal building had a formal exterior and public post office lobby that were standard in federal buildings of the decade. The public lobby occupied the Missouri Avenue side of the building, and work spaces and offices associated with this function occupied the first floor. The *piano nobile* on the façade marked the location of the district courtroom, which had a high ceiling and occupied the second and third stories of the building. The addition of one bay on each side of the original building maintained its façade's symmetrical design and added a series of offices on each end of the building from the basement to the fourth story for the entire length of the building.

One of the most violent of the nearly twenty race riots that took place in the United States between 1915 and 1919 marred the heyday of East St. Louis. During the two-day July riot of 1917, 39 African Americans and nine whites were killed. The United States Post Office and Courthouse was located at the edge of the downtown area where the riots took place. The building was unoccupied because the addition to the building was under construction during the summer of 1917, and it appears to have played no role in, nor suffered any damage from, the riots.¹⁷

East St. Louis flourished during the 1920s, but suffered from the economic depression of the 1930s. The city actually fared better than many since the National Stock Yards remained open and none of its banks failed, although many businesses closed and jobs were lost. World War II revived the industrial economy of the city. Then a number of widespread patterns of industry and transportation affected the industrial prosperity of East St. Louis. The city lost its geographic advantages as truck and air transportation diminished the dominance of rail freight shipping, and the demand for coal decreased. Some industries relocated to make use of a labor pool cheaper than the city's unionized workers. Nine major industrial operations left the area between 1960 and 1964. The loss of jobs was accompanied by an increase in unemployment and related social problems. East St. Louis entered a period of economic collapse as jobs disappeared, the tax base declined, and the population decreased. During this period, many of the buildings erected during the early twentieth century were demolished.

The United States Post Office and Courthouse is the only remaining major governmental building from East St. Louis' boom time during the early twentieth century. It stands as a reminder of East St. Louis' once prominent role in commerce and government in southern Illinois.¹⁸

Architectural Significance

The United States Post Office and Courthouse is a distinguished example of a federal building with the characteristics of the Beaux Arts architectural style. It was one of the richest expressions of classically inspired architecture in East St. Louis and represented the quality of design and materials used in the federal building program.

The Classical Revival in architecture, which peaked during the decades between 1900 and 1920, is reflected in many types of buildings, but is particularly evident in civic buildings. The works of Charles Follen McKim, Richard

¹⁶ F. A. Reid, *Picturesque St. Louis* (St. Louis: Finkenbinder-Reid Publishing Co., 1909), Holabird & Root, *Historic Structures Report*, 22-26.

¹⁷ Nunes, *History of East St. Louis*; Rudwick, *Race Riot at East St. Louis*, 3, 23.

¹⁸ Bill Nunes, *St. Louis: 56 Nostalgic Postcards from the Collection of Harold Fiebig*. 1997. East St. Louis Action Research Project web site, <http://www.eslarp.uiuc.edu/ibex/archive/nunes/esl%20history/cover.htm>

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Morris Hunt and Stanford White and the buildings of the Columbian Exposition of 1893 were influential in the widespread use and popularity of the style. Although the forms of Greek and Roman classical architecture had long been used in American building, the revival of these elements and presentation, often with the opulence of the Beaux-Arts and the inclusion of Renaissance elements, at the end of the nineteenth century coincided with a time when monumentality and formality characterized the civic realm. The use of the same styles for commercial buildings and grand homes linked these buildings to another important aspect of the era – the rise of big business and American capitalism.¹⁹

As the popularity of the Classical Revival in architecture held sway, East St. Louis was experiencing a building boom. The growth and increasing importance of the city was expressed in its architecture. Two civic buildings built in downtown East St. Louis represented the aspirations of the city's leaders. The library completed in 1896 at Eighth Street and Broadway was a three story building in the Second Renaissance Revival style with strong references to Italian Renaissance forms and ornament. This building, which stood at Eighth Street and Broadway, has been demolished.

The City Hall completed in 1900 had a five-part design for its two story mass and was terminated by a very steep mansard roof from which a small tower projected. This roofline gave the City Hall a Chateausque and picturesque quality rather than the strict formality of the classical revival styles (Figure 3). The classical revival is evident also in the designs of the Knights of Columbus Building and the combination Elk's Club and public library, both built circa 1905 and located at the corner of Illinois Avenue and Ninth Street. The Union Trust Company, the First National Bank, the Broadview Hotel and the Murphy Building, all located in the central business district near the intersection of Collinsville and Missouri avenues, are some of the more prominent examples of commercial buildings in the Classical Revival style. These buildings feature facades divided by pilasters, ranges of arched openings, and entrances framed with entablatures and pediments.

The United States Post Office and Courthouse in East St. Louis is a carefully designed example of the Beaux-Arts style. The subtle modulation of the massing of the building in the 1907 design was retained when side bays were added to the main façade and new east and west facades were constructed during the enlargement of the building in 1918 (see Figures 1 and 2). The skillful design of the additions conceals the fact that the building was expanded a few years after it was built. The formal, symmetrical composition displays many typical Renaissance Revival and Beaux-Arts elements. The façade features a Beaux-Arts inspired projecting pavilion with a colonnade of four paired columns framing the three-bay arcade of double-height courtroom windows. This impressive assemblage at the raised *piano nobile* level highlights the importance of the district courtroom at that location. The restraint of the Second Renaissance Revival and direct references to the neo-classical palazzo vocabulary include the rusticated first floor, alternating pedimented and arched window heads at the second story, quoined pilasters at the second and third stories, and the prominent cornice and balustrade at the parapet. These architectural elements enrich all three exterior walls of the building while the walls of the former light court were always less formally articulated. The formality and richness of the building exterior is carried into the major public interior space, the former post office lobby, which features classical elements and is finished with terrazzo, marble, ornamental plaster, and darkened oak woodwork.

When it was constructed, the United States Post Office and Courthouse represented one of the richest expressions of classical revival architecture in East St. Louis. Its monumentality, strict formality, and Beaux-Arts-inspired *piano nobile* distinguish the United States Post Office and Courthouse from the other buildings in the city influenced by the Classical Revival movement. Only the City Hall, which no longer stands, rivaled the federal building as a statement of civic authority. The U.S. Post Office and Courthouse is the only surviving civic building of the Classical Revival period in downtown East St. Louis, although some of the classical revival-styled

¹⁹ Marcus Whiffen, *American Architecture Since 1780: A Guide to the Styles* (Cambridge, MA: The M.I.T. Press, 1969), 149-154.

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institutional and commercial buildings, smaller in scale and more modest in design, remain standing.

Summary of Significance

The United States Post Office and Courthouse represents Beaux-Arts style in federal construction as well as the use of high quality materials, as was the policy of the United States Treasury Department's Supervising Architect James Knox Taylor. The U.S. Post Office and Courthouse stands as the most important example of East St. Louis' early twentieth-century civic architecture and the period during which the city rose to prominence as a center of industry and commerce with a federal presence. The building, although expanded with a modern courthouse annex, has the integrity to convey the characteristics of the Beaux-Arts style that provides its civic authority. For these reasons, it meets the National Register of Historic Place's Criterion C.

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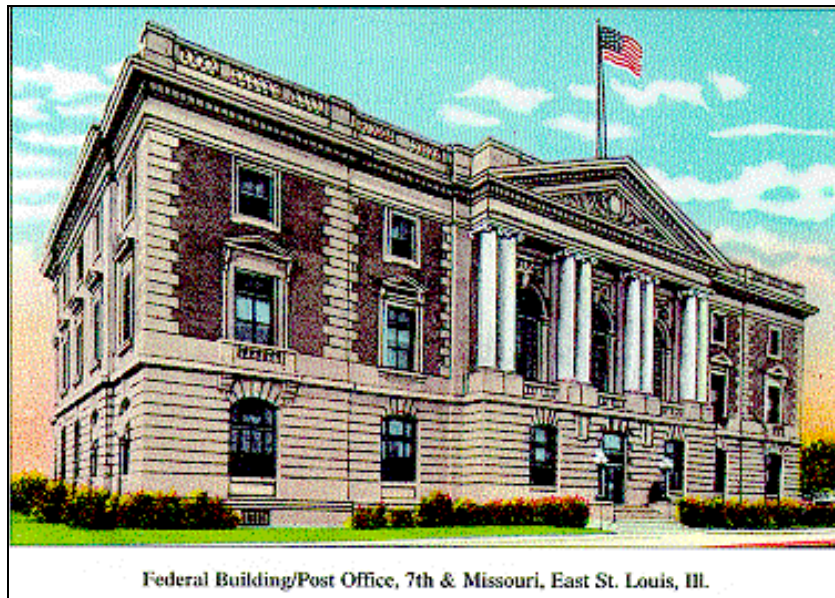
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Photo source: F. A. Reid, *Picturesque St. Louis*. 1909

Figure 1. Post Office and Courthouse, East St. Louis, as completed in 1909



Federal Building/Post Office, 7th & Missouri, East St. Louis, Ill.

Photo source: Bill Nunes, *East St. Louis: 56 Nostalgic Postcards*.

Figure 2. Post Office and Courthouse, East St. Louis, as expanded in 1918.

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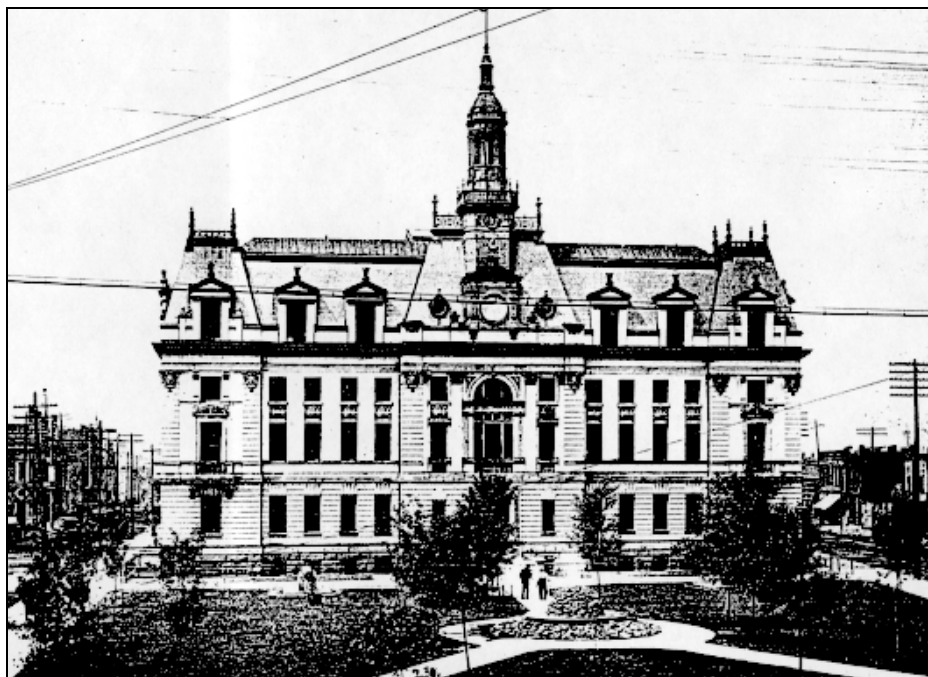


Photo source: *Pictorial East St. Louis, Illinois, 1906*

Figure 3. East St. Louis City Hall, 1900.

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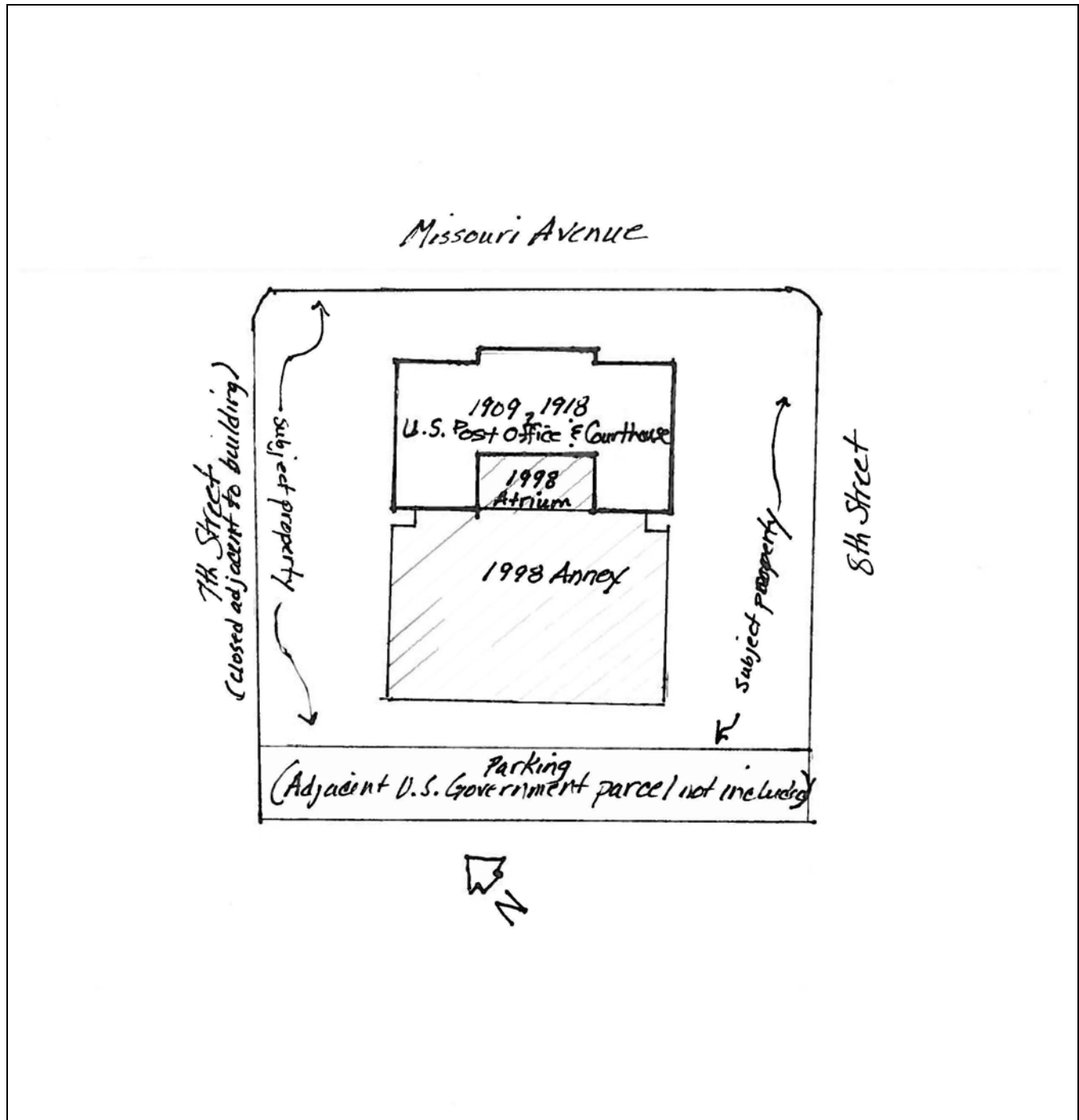
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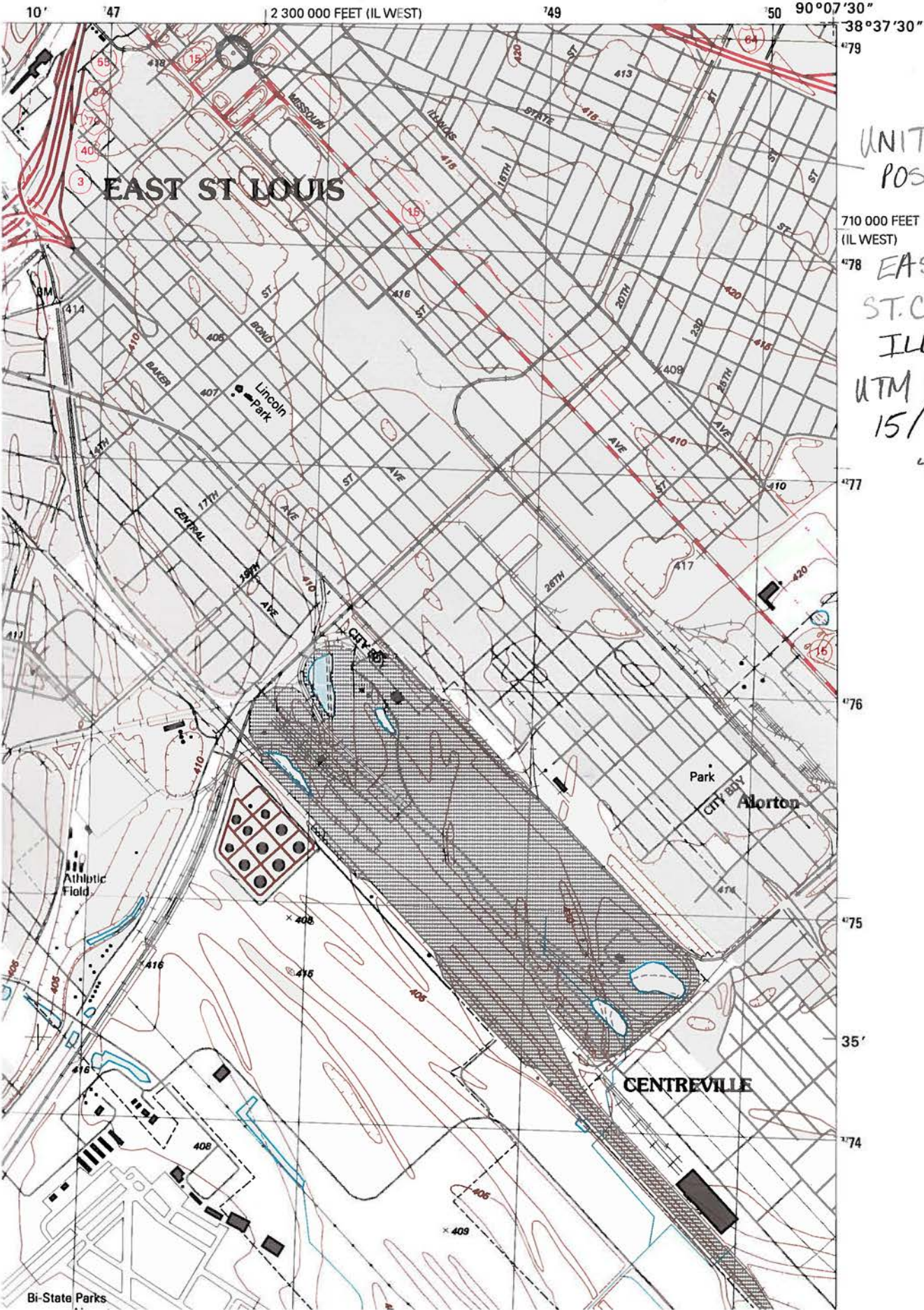
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CAHOKIA QUADRANGLE
ILLINOIS-MISSOURI
7.5-MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)



UNITED STATES
POST OFFICE and
COURTHOUSE
710 000 FEET
(IL WEST)
EAST ST. LOUIS,
ST. CLAIR CO.,
ILLINOIS
UTM REFERENCE:
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STOP

Handicap parking sign

U.S. A
Other Ow











United States Bankruptcy Court
Courtroom
Chief Judge Kenneth J. Meyers









UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY United States Post Office and Courthouse
NAME:

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: ILLINOIS, St. Clair

DATE RECEIVED: 6/25/14 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 7/22/14
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 8/06/14 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 8/11/14
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 14000478

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: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 8.8.14 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in
The National Register
of
Historic Places

RECOM./CRITERIA _____

REVIEWER _____ DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

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.



June 24, 2014

Ms. Carol Shull
Interim Keeper, National Register of Historic Places
National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places
1201 Eye Street, NW (2280)
Washington , DC 20005

Dear Ms. Shull: *Carol*

The U.S. General Services Administration (GSA) is pleased to nominate the United States Post Office and Courthouse (current name Melvin Price Federal Building and United States Courthouse) located at 750 Missouri Avenue, East St. Louis, Illinois, for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. The nomination is hereby submitted on disk in accordance with the May 6, 2013 guidance and includes the following:

- Signed original first page of the National Register of Historic Places nomination form;
- Disk 1 - The enclosed disk contains the true and correct copy of the nomination for the United States Post Office and Courthouse, located in East St. Louis, Illinois, to the National Register of Historic; and,
- Disk 2 - The enclosed disk contains the .tif image files for the above referenced nomination.

In accordance with 36 CFR Part 60.9(c), the appropriate local elected officials were notified of GSA's intent to nominate the above referenced property to the National Register of Historic Places by letters dated May 7, 2014. No comments have been received.

If for any reason any nomination package that GSA submits needs to be returned, please do so by a delivery service as items returned to our offices via regular mail are irradiated and the materials severely damaged. Should you have any questions or concerns regarding this nomination package, please contact Elizabeth Hannold at (202) 501-2863 or elizabeth.hannold@gsa.gov.

Sincerely,

Beth L. Savage
Federal Preservation Officer
Director, Center for Historic Buildings

Enclosures

cc: Regina Nally, Regional Historic Preservation Officer

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