

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED JUN 27 1978
DATE ENTERED FEB 9 1979

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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC GOVERNMENT BUILDING

AND/OR COMMON
CARSON CITY POST OFFICE

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
401 N. CARSON STREET

CITY, TOWN
CARSON CITY

STATE
NEVADA

VICINITY OF
CODE
32

NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
STATE-AT-LARGE
COUNTY
CARSON CITY
CODE
0050

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
STATE OF NEVADA, GENERAL SERVICES DIVISION

STREET & NUMBER
BLAISDEL BUILDING, ROOM 305

CITY, TOWN
CARSON CITY

VICINITY OF
STATE
NEVADA 89710

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. CARSON CITY COURTHOUSE

STREET & NUMBER
150 NORTH CARSON STREET

CITY, TOWN
CARSON CITY

STATE
NEVADA

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DATE
1972 HABS No. NEV-13-8 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

WASHINGTON, D.C.
STATE

CITY, TOWN

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The following information is excerpted in part from research done by Harley J. McKee, Supervisory Architect, HABS, National Park Service. SHPO staff comments are also included.

The cornerstone of the former U.S. Post Office was laid on September 29, 1888. The structure was completed and occupied by May 19, 1891. The initial architect was M.E. Bell, Supervising Architect of the Treasury Department. Later Will Frost and James Windrum each served as Supervising Architects of the Treasury Department of the project.

The structure originally housed the offices of the Post Office, Land Office, the Weather Bureau, and the U.S. Court.

Alterations to Structure:

- 1908 - Lavatories replaced
- 1935 - An elevator installed and wooden stairs replaced with metal staircase.
- 1955 - A brick loading dock installed at the southeast rear of building (HABS simply states "recent times"). Lobby enlarged & chimney removed.
- 1972 - Extensive renovation to interior to accommodate State Library facilities, eg, lowered ceilings, additional pipe columns, additional office spaces and hallways, and lighting fixtures.

Original wood trim around doors and windows, the large cast iron columns, safes by National Safe and Lock Company and the clock tower remain today.

General Description of Structure:

- Overall
- Dimensions : 85 feet X 73 feet; 3 1/2 stories high with a full basement.
 - Plan : T-shaped with major axis aligned east-west. Structure faces to west.
 - Foundations : Granite ashlar blocks with moulded water table.
 - Walls : Moulded red brick laid in stretcher bond. Belt courses and corbeling are employed. Yellow sand stone trim and lintels.
 - Main Entry : Entry is set behind a four-bay arcade. Access is via ten granite steps which span width of arcade.
 - Roof : The roof is a complex combination of gabled and hipped roofs, plus a conical roof topping the clock tower. Roof covering is sheet metal, painted.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES 1891, 1965 and 1971

BUILDER/ARCHITECT O'CONNOR / M.E. BELL

The Government Building has significance to Nevada as the first Federal building to be constructed in the state and the only one of its particular style.

With its extensive use of red brick, interesting textural qualities and employment of a clock tower, this massive-appearing building differs from all other governmental and civil buildings in the state.

This structure possesses architectural significance as an excellent example of the Romanesque Revival style mixed with the Chateau style massing and silhouette. The structure's mass and scale continues to provide the community with a focal point and visual landmark since its opening in 1890.

As an example of the Romanesque style, the former post office offers the public an example of an architectural mode which is unique and rare to Nevada; no similar structure is known to exist within the state.

Historical significance is self-explanatory as the building was the site of Carson City's third post office from the time of the building's opening in 1890 until the post office was closed in 1970. During these same years the building served as the offices of the United States District Court and was the seat of legal decisions affecting the entire State of Nevada.

Further, local significance can be attributed to this building as having the first elevator installation within Carson City and being the location of its first and only clock tower. State Historical Marker No. 75 is located on the grounds.

NOV 30 1972

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Stewart, William, Reminiscences of (U.S.) Senator Stewart, Edited by George Rothwell Brown and published by Neale Publishing Co., 1908.
 Hickson, Howard, Mint Mark "CC", Carson City: Nevada State Museum, 1972.
 Nevada Tribune - various issues from January 19 to June 28, 1886, Carson City Nevada.
 Nevada Appeal - issues of October 12, 1970 and May 4, 1971, Carson City, Nevada.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 0.92 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A	<u>11</u>	<u>261050</u>	<u>4338700</u>	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The Government Building occupies a full 200' x 200' block in downtown Carson City, bounded by Carson, Spear, Plaza and Telegraph Streets. The building faces West towards Carson Street.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
N/A			

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME/TITLE ROBERT FINK, ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN
 WILBUR E. WIEPRECHT, HISTORIAN

ORGANIZATION	DATE
Dept. of Conservation, Div. Historic Pres. and Archeology	Dec. 1977
STREET & NUMBER	TELEPHONE
201 South Fall Street, Room 116	885-5138
CITY OR TOWN	STATE
Carson City	Nevada 89710

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL STATE LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE *Kimberly Wood*

TITLE *Administrator SHPO* DATE *6/20/78*

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER	
<i>Charles A. ...</i>	DATE <i>2-9-79</i>
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHITECTURE AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION	KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER
ATTEST <i>[Signature]</i>	DATE <i>2/9/79</i>
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER	

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	JUN 27 1978
DATE ENTERED	

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7

PAGE 2

Interior Features of Note:

Wood trim around doors and windows is flat, fluted and pilaster-like; stained darkly.

Cast iron columns have ornamental base grilles which served to distribute heated air to the rooms.

Clock tower contains a 7 day movement which originally operated four faces simultaneously. Today, only the west face is operational.

Safes are walk-in types employing ornamented doors and mechanisms.

Several of the doors appear to have suffered damage to their painted scenes through careless attempts to clean them.

Architectural Style Description:

In its extensive use of red brick, interesting textural qualities, and employment of a clock tower, apparent great mass, and its use of rectangular and arched fenestrations, the former U.S. Post Office appears representative of the style known as Richardsonian Romanesque. Its exterior features are virtually unchanged from the original; making the structure a very imposing edifice in Carson City's downtown area.