

739



National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions, National Register of Historic Places Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being nominated, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

1. Name of Property

Historic name: Federal Office Building

Other names/site number: Estes Kefauver Federal Building and U.S. Courthouse; Kefauver Federal Building

Name of related multiple property listing:

N/A

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

2. Location

Street & number: 801 Broadway

City or town: Nashville State: TN County: Davidson

Not For Publication: Vicinity:

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

Applicable National Register Criteria:

A B C D

Signature of certifying official/Title: <u>Federal Preservation Officer</u> <u>U.S. General Services Administration</u>	Date: <u>9/6/2016</u>
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government	
<p>In my opinion, the property <input type="checkbox"/> meets <input type="checkbox"/> does not meet the National Register criteria.</p>	
<hr/>	
Signature of commenting official: 	Date: <u>8/12/16</u>
Title: <u>DSHPD</u>	State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

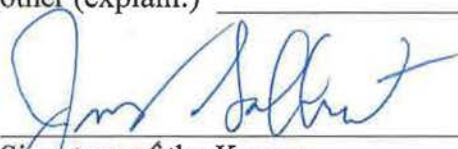
Federal Office Building
Name of Property

Davidson County, TN
County and State

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 of the Keeper

10.24.2016

Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private:
- Public – Local
- Public – State
- Public – Federal

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

- Building(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

Federal Office Building
Name of Property _____

Davidson County, TN
County and State _____

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	_____	buildings
_____	_____	sites
_____	_____	structures
_____	_____	objects
<u>1</u>	_____	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Government: Government Offices/Court House

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Government: Government Offices/Court House

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Modern Movement

Federal Office Building
Name of Property

Davidson County, TN
County and State

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: STONE: Limestone; Granite; OTHER: Built-up Tar

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

The Federal Office Building (renamed the Estes Kefauver Federal Building and U.S. Courthouse and herein referred to as the Estes Kefauver Federal Building), located at 801 Broadway in downtown Nashville, Tennessee, is an eight-story, box-shaped building built between 1949 and 1952. The limestone-clad building displays elements of the Simplified Classical style and Modern design principles. It is dominated by its fenestration pattern. The building was constructed to house federal agency office space and courtrooms as the federal government expanded in the years following World War II. It continues to be used as federal office space and to house the district court. The building is surrounded by both historic and modern buildings, most of which are primarily large-scale, multi-story public, commercial, and religious structures. The Estes Kefauver Federal Building retains a high level of integrity, most notably in its public areas and character-defining spaces. .

The associated annex (1974) is considered noncontributing at this time. The federal parking garage (1974) is located outside of the historic boundary.

Narrative Description

Setting

The Estes Kefauver Federal Building is located in downtown Nashville and is surrounded by both historic and modern buildings, most of which are large-scale, multi-story commercial,

Federal Office Building

Davidson County, TN

Name of Property

County and State

public, and religious buildings. The building is situated across the north half of its block. An annex to the Estes Kefauver Federal Building occupies the southwest corner of block, while a small church, constructed around the same time as the federal building, occupies the southeast corner of the block. Two small parking lots that serve both the Estes Kefauver Federal Building and the church are located between the church and the south elevation of the original building. A parking garage serving the federal building is located on the block to the south. The Estes Kefauver Federal Building is located between two former federal buildings. The former custom house, a large and ornate Gothic Revival building constructed circa 1882, is located at 701 Broadway, across Eighth Avenue South to the east. The former post office, a 1930s Art Deco building that now serves as the Frist Visual Arts Center, is located to the west at 901 Broadway, across Ninth Avenue South to the west.

Exterior Description of Original Federal Building¹

The eight-story Estes Kefauver Federal Building, built between 1949 and 1952, is best categorized as a transitional building that spans the design philosophy of the Simplified Classical style and Modernism. It retains the classically inspired form, light color, and high-quality materials of earlier eras of federal design. However, its complete lack of ornament, severely geometric form, emphatically repetitious fenestration, and use of new materials, such as aluminum, reflect the influences of Modernism.

The concrete-and-steel-frame building has pre-cast concrete exterior walls and is capped by a flat roof. In addition to the eight above-ground stories, it has a basement. A hyphen connects a large 1974 annex to the rear elevation. The original building has a rectangular footprint. It is 188' high and it measures 327', 4" across and is 120', 4" deep. The first story is clad in dark-mahogany, polished granite and the remaining stories are covered in buff-colored, shot-sawn finish, standard oolitic limestone panels. The top of the dark granite is beveled, and a beveled beltcourse, also executed in mahogany granite, tops the granite first-story cladding. A recessed joint is formed where the beveled edges meet.

The building's primary elevation faces north onto Broadway. Attached to the building's south (rear) elevation is a large annex that equals the original building's height. The annex was constructed between 1968 and 1974 to accommodate additional federal agency office space as the government expanded services in Nashville. The original building and the annex occupy approximately seventy percent of the parcel bounded by Broadway, McGavock Street, and Eighth and Ninth avenues south, an area that constitutes approximately 2.1 acres. A narrow hyphen connects the original building and the annex, and together the two buildings form an L-shaped footprint. The First Lutheran Church, sited within the arms of the "L" and facing Eighth Avenue South, occupies the remainder of the block. The Estes Kefauver Federal Building continues to serve as a federal courthouse and provides federal office space for a number of agencies.

The building has no ornamentation, but is dominated by its repetitive fenestration pattern, which is unaltered and retains the original window units. There are twenty-four windows at each story across its front elevation, which faces north. The east and west (side) elevations feature eight

¹ Because of the secure and/or private nature of the work of the federal tenants and courts, some spaces could not be viewed and photography was permitted in select office spaces only. In addition, floor plans, while available to the authors, could not be reproduced in the document.

Federal Office Building

Davidson County, TN

Name of Property

County and State

windows at each story. All are regularly spaced tripartite windows with vertically oriented panes. Upper-level fenestration includes aluminum casement windows with aluminum sills and surrounds. Granite surrounds encompass the first-story aluminum casement windows. The facade's smooth plane is interrupted by a projecting, articulated entrance. A modest, unadorned cornice tops the building, extending slightly beyond the wall plane.

The centrally placed main entrance is located on the north elevation. The entry is articulated with the dark granite that encircles the first story; the granite entrance extends to a slightly higher level than the first story and forms a canopy that protrudes from the facade. The granite surround's walls are angled inward to the doors. A bronze medallion with the seal of the United States is located on each side of the entrance on these angled walls. One seal features an eagle with a banner reading "E Pluribus Unum" (Out of Many, One) held in its beak. One talon clutches arrows, while the other clutches an olive branch, symbolizing the balance between war and peace. The eagle's chest is protected by a striped shield, while a sunburst surrounds a star-filled cloud above its head. The other seal contains a pyramid topped by the eye of God. The year 1776 is executed in Roman numerals at the pyramid's base. The words "Annuit Cœptis" (Providence Favors Our Undertakings) are arranged in an arc above the pyramid, while a banner below the pyramid reads "Novus Ordo Seclorum" (A New Order of the Ages).

The words ESTES KEFAUVER/FEDERAL BUILDING/U.S. COURTHOUSE are executed in seven-inch-high aluminum letters above the entrance. The lettering dates to the rededication of the building in 1979. Originally, aluminum letters spelled out FEDERAL OFFICE BUILDING in the same location. The entrance consists of a revolving door separated from flanking standard glass doors by glass panes. All of the doors have bronze surrounds and handles. These doors were installed in 2004 and replace original aluminum framed doors.² Above the doors, rectangular, flush-mounted, aluminum-frame light fixtures illuminate the entrance.

The cornerstone is located on the east corner of the north elevation. It reads:

HARRY S TRUMAN
PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

JESS LARSON
GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATOR

ENGLEBERT REYNOLDS
COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC BUILDINGS

GILBERT STANLEY UNDERWOOD
DEPUTY COMMISSIONER FOR DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION

ALLAN STEWART THORN
SUPERVISING ARCHITECT

ALBERT SANDERSON
SUPERVISING ENGINEER

² Discussion with Jim Fleming, March 18, 2008.

Federal Office Building
Name of Property

Davidson County, TN
County and State

MARR AND HOLMAN
ARCHITECTS

BEERS CONSTRUCTION COMPANY
CONTRACTOR

1949

The remaining elevations of the original building similarly lack architectural ornamentation. As on the north (primary) elevation, the window fenestration is the primary feature, and windows on all elevations are nearly identical; the only exception being that the two southernmost windows on the eighth floor of the west elevation are blind, infilled with limestone cladding. The west and east (side) elevations each contain an off-center entrance, located on the northern end of the elevation; the double, glass doors are recessed behind a projecting granite surround. These doors are bronze-framed replacements set within the original aluminum and glass entry assemblies and likely date to circa 2004. The south (rear) elevation contains a loading dock. The annex, described separately below, connects to the original building's south elevation at its west end.

The building's flat roof is covered with tar and gravel. An iron pipe railing, which is four feet tall, surrounds the roof. A penthouse clad in limestone panels is set back from the wall plane of the building. Separate HVAC components, including fans are also located on the roof. Although it rises to a height of twenty-four feet, it is not visible from street level. The penthouse contains the building's mechanical systems.

Landscape

Grass panels encompassed by polished granite curbing are located adjacent to the Estes Kefauver Federal Building's north (primary) elevation. The curbing extends to flagpoles that flank the entrance. The steel flagpoles rest in anodized aluminum plates with rounded granite bases. Each flagpole is topped with a cast, bronze eagle. Grass panels, deciduous trees, and evergreen shrubs surround the building and annex. Sidewalks separate the building from the encompassing streets. Bollards protect the entrances into the original building and annex on all elevations. A historical marker recognizing Nashville native Albert Gleaves' military accomplishments is located on the east end of the north elevation within the grass panel. The marker is not associated with the history of the building or the federal government.

Interior Description of Original Federal Building

The Estes Kefauver Federal Building contains eight floors plus a basement. The interior square footage is 328,110, the majority of which comprises office space. The interior of the Estes Kefauver Federal Building contains both public and secondary spaces. As expected in federal buildings, the public spaces, such as lobbies and courtrooms, contain higher-quality materials than the private spaces, which are primarily offices for federal tenants. Spaces retaining original materials include the first-floor lobby, elevator lobbies, courtrooms, and first- and eighth-floor corridors. The second- through seventh-floor spaces have been substantially altered during various renovations to accommodate changing tenant needs; consequently few original finishes remain. Like the exterior, the interior spaces throughout are devoid of elaborate ornamentation. Generally, the interior floor plan consists of centrally located interior elevators and their accompanying lobbies surrounded by office space. With the exception of the eighth floor where

Federal Office Building

Name of Property

Davidson County, TN

County and State

the courtrooms are located, the floor plan is reasonably consistent among floors, although minor variations do exist.

Entrance Lobby

The entrance lobby, which is accessed through the main entrance on the north elevation, is relatively small and modest, reflecting the shift from buildings of earlier eras that contained large and elaborate lobbies. The lobby's original circulation pattern and elevator and office access has been substantially reconfigured to accommodate new security equipment; however, some original materials and finishes remain in the space. Terrazzo floors in the entrance vestibule are carried through to the first floor elevator lobbies. Walls are clad with marble from floor to ceiling. The original aluminum directory frame remains on the lobby wall. Ceilings are covered in acoustic tile. Currently, the entrance lobby is dominated by a security checkpoint and related equipment, added in recent years.

Three bronze relief sculptures titled, *Three Presidents from Tennessee*, depicting Andrew Jackson, James Knox, and Andrew Johnson, hang in the lobby on the east wall. Commissioned by GSA's Art in Architecture program, they were sculpted by Leonard Baskin in 1977.

The secondary entrances at the east and west elevations do not have large lobbies, but do contain entrance vestibules that contain similar finishes to the entrance lobby, including terrazzo flooring, marble walls, and plaster ceilings.

Elevator Lobbies

The first-floor elevator lobby spans the center of the building from north to south. The elevator lobby has terrazzo flooring. Walls are clad to full height with highly polished, joint-matched roseal marble, which is quarried near Knoxville, Tennessee. Ceilings are covered with dropped acoustic tiles that obscure the original ceiling and lighting. Banks of four elevators are located on each side of the lobby; several elevators are non-operational. The elevators that are not in use retain original annunciators, while operational elevators have replacement annunciators. Elevator doors are clad in aluminum and have aluminum surrounds.

The eighth-floor elevator lobby also features terrazzo flooring and full-height roseal marble walls. Aluminum elevator doors and surrounds are also present.

On the second through seventh floors, elevator lobbies have terrazzo floors and marble walls. The second-floor elevator lobby retains the original plaster ceiling and lighting, which consists of a dropped panel with a troffer lighting system. Elevator lobbies on other floors have acoustic tile ceilings. Elevator doors and surrounds are painted steel.

Corridors

Corridors on the first and eighth floors retain terrazzo flooring. On the first floor, corridors have marble wainscot to a height of five feet. The north side corridor is on an east-west axis and connects the secondary entrances of the east and west entrance vestibules. On the first floor, marble phone niches remain at the east and west ends of the building. The south side corridor is truncated and primarily serves the west end of the building.

Federal Office Building

Name of Property

Davidson County, TN

County and State

The upper-story corridors generally surround the central core that contains the elevators and offices. On most floors, two parallel corridors are situated on an east-west axis and provide access to the perimeter offices. On the second through the seventh floors, the corridors do not display high-quality, more expensive materials because these spaces were not frequented by the public. Instead, walls are covered with painted plaster or vinyl paper, and floors are covered with vinyl tiles. Ceilings are covered with dropped acoustical tiles. Eighth-floor corridors have roseal marble wainscot to a height of five feet.

Courtrooms and Courtroom Vestibules

The eighth floor contains two original courtrooms that retain original materials and finishes. Both courtrooms are located on the interior core of the building, adjacent to and on either side of the elevator lobby. The entrance vestibules that lead to the doors to Courtroom No. 1 and Courtroom No. 2 have full-height marble walls. Aluminum lettering reading DISTRICT COURT OF THE UNITED STATES is displayed over each door. Both have simple rectangular floor plans, and each contains typical features such as the judge's bench, gallery, witness stands, and jury box. Courtroom No. 1, the ceremonial courtroom, is located in the east portion of the building. The judge's bench is located in the eastern portion of the room, while the gallery benches occupy the western area. Courtroom No. 2 is located in the west portion of the building. In this courtroom, the judge's bench is located in the western portion of the room, while the gallery benches occupy the eastern area.

The two courtrooms have many features in common. In both rooms, original cork floor tiles remain in place, but are covered with carpet. Walnut veneer wainscot covers the walls to a height of eight feet. Above the wainscot, quarter-sawn, book-matched oak panels are present. The panels are separated with ebonized holly strips, creating a grid pattern. Acoustical panels cover the area surrounding the public entrances on the rear walls. Cast-bronze court seals decorate the walls behind the judges' benches and above the entrance doors. Aluminum grilles in decorative geometric patterns cover air return openings. All doors and surrounds are walnut. Double wood doors with aluminum handles and kickplates provide entrance from the vestibule. On the opposite wall, single doors flank the judges' benches. The ceiling is covered with plaster with acoustical panels at the center. The plaster cornice is decorated with gilded stars. Original suspended bar lights have been replaced with fluorescent box lights. Furnishings, including the judges' benches, spectator benches, witness boxes, jury boxes, attorneys' tables, and the court rail, are built from white oak. An original aluminum flag shafts rest on the corner of each judges' bench.

In Courtroom No. 1, aluminum molding accents the walls' and furnishings' bases. Oil portraits of senior judges line the walls of the spectator area.

During renovations to the seventh floor, six new courtrooms were installed. These were not available for viewing as part of this survey.

All judges' chambers have been modernized in recent years.

Office Space

Office space comprises the majority of the interior of the original portion of the building. Generally, office spaces have new commercial-grade carpet, acoustic tile ceilings, and movable cubicle walls. The building's office spaces retain few original materials due to numerous renovations since original construction. Typical light fixtures are fluorescent boxes.

Federal Office Building
Name of Property

Davidson County, TN
County and State

Restrooms

Restrooms are located on each floor. Many have been renovated and contain new finishes. However, eighth-floor restrooms retain original marble wall finishes.

Basement, Penthouse, and Stairwells

The basement and penthouse area of the Estes Kefauver Federal Building retain their original utilitarian functions. The basement level has vinyl floors and painted concrete-block walls. The boiler and chiller rooms occupy the majority of the basement level.

The original elevator mechanisms are located in the penthouse. The interior features painted concrete block and is not accessible to the public.

Stairwells throughout the building are unfinished areas with concrete stairs and pipe railings.

Exterior Description of Annex

The annex is attached to the original building's south (rear) elevation by a hyphen that essentially serves as a bridge between the original building and the annex. Although the annex is attached to the original building by a hyphen, it was designed to essentially appear and function as a separate building. Construction of the annex commenced in 1968 and was completed in 1974. It is currently considered noncontributing at this time.

The annex has nine stories plus a basement and contains 299,718 square feet. Although nine stories, it is equal in height to the eight-story original building. It has a nearly square footprint and a flat roof. Its orientation is along Ninth Avenue South, with the primary elevation facing west. The first story is clad in rough-hewn, mahogany granite blocks with square configurations. The upper stories are cantilevered slightly beyond the first-story plane and are faced with pre-cast, reinforced, concrete panels. Thin, evenly spaced, vertical windows with painted metal frames sit atop painted metal panels on the first story. Upper-story windows are single, fixed, metal-frame, vertical, rectangular configurations that are slightly recessed and then surrounded by projecting concrete frames. These recessed windows and projecting frames result in a facade with much more texture than the original building's smooth planes.

A central entrance is located on the annex's west (primary) elevation. A small, plain, concrete canopy shelters the entrance. The words ESTES KEFAUVER/FEDERAL BUILDING/U.S. COURTHOUSE are spelled out in aluminum block lettering above the entry. A revolving door is flanked by single entrance doors. All doors have bronze frames and were installed in 2004, at the same time as the new entrance doors on the original building. Small United States seals similar to those on the original portion of the building flank the annex's entrance. Raised polished granite planters also flank the entrance. The remaining elevations of the annex are nearly identical to the west elevation and are dominated by the fenestration pattern, which includes projecting concrete framing around the windows.

All interior spaces of the annex feature modern finishes and features. Granite panels cover the walls of the entrance lobby. Elevator lobbies contain vinyl flooring in light and dark colors laid in geometric patterns. The walls are clad alternately in vinyl paper or textured stone aggregate. The annex contains two modern courtrooms with wood paneling and carpeting. Courtroom lobbies have terrazzo floors and wood veneer paneling. The majority of the annex comprises

Federal Office Building
Name of Property

Davidson County, TN
County and State

federal office space. The office space has been altered since the annex's construction to meet the needs of various tenants and consists primarily of cubicles with movable walls. Commercial-grade carpet and acoustical tile ceilings are located consistently throughout the office space.

Hyphen

A narrow hyphen equal in height to the original building and the annex and provides access between the two on all floors. The hyphen is located on the south elevation of the original building, recessed substantially from the southwest corner. It is clad in rough-hewn, mahogany granite blocks on the first story and the upper stories, which are further recessed, are clad in rectangular, pale grey, limestone panels. The hyphen's interior features modern finishes such as vinyl flooring and dropped ceilings. Along with the annex, the hyphen is considered noncontributing at this time.

Alterations

The Estes Kefauver Federal Building retains much of its original exterior appearance. Original aluminum doors have been replaced on the primary elevation with a revolving door and bronze-frame doors, while those on the sides have been replaced by double-leaf bronze doors within the original aluminum and glass entryways. Most notably, the addition of the attached, noncontributing annex is a substantial alteration to the parcel. However, the area of attachment of the annex is minimal and the majority of the rear elevation of the original building is readily visible. The interior of the original building is in good condition; however, interior alterations have been ongoing since the building's erection in order to accommodate tenant needs. Many of the spaces have new interior finishes that include industrial carpeting and acoustic-tile ceilings and the construction of movable and drywall wall partitions has altered the original space configurations. The most substantial changes have occurred within tenant offices. Public and character-defining spaces, including the first floor lobby and two eighth floor courtrooms, retain high levels of integrity.

Federal Office Building
Name of Property

Davidson County, TN
County and State

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.

Criteria Considerations

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

- 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

Federal Office Building
Name of Property

Davidson County, TN
County and State

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Politics/Government

Architecture

Period of Significance

1952

Significant Dates

1952

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Marr and Holman (Joseph Holman), Architect
Gilbert S. Underwood, Deputy Commissioner
Allan S. Thorne, Supervising Architect

Federal Office Building
Name of Property

Davidson County, TN
County and State

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

Completed in 1952, the Estes Kefauver Federal Building is significant on the local level under Criterion A for its association with the federal presence in Nashville and the growing city's need for expanded federal services in the years following World War II. It joined two existing federal buildings, reinforcing the federal government's commitment to providing services to Nashville's citizens. Its location between the two other federal buildings provides a physical demonstration of the continuum of the federal presence with the earlier dignified buildings of the late-nineteenth and early twentieth centuries and the more contemporary appearance of the Estes Kefauver Federal Building. The Estes Kefauver Federal Building is a notable example of a building completed during a transitional period in the federal government's history when the U.S. General Services Administration was being established as the lead agency responsible for federal building design.

The building is also significant on the local level under Criterion C as a notable example of a federal design that transitions from the Simplified Classical style, popular for federal buildings during the Great Depression, New Deal, and World War II eras, to the Modern mode, which was not actively supported by the federal government for its building design until later in the 1950s. The building is an example of a mid-twentieth-century federal building that was constructed at a time when demand for federal office space was increasing and the newly established U.S. General Services Administration aimed to construct buildings efficiently and cost effectively. Generally, these buildings reflect a more modest design vocabulary than federal buildings from earlier eras. The locally prominent firm of Marr and Holman designed the Estes Kefauver Federal Building, which displays a thoughtful and cohesive design sensibility. The firm's work is widely recognized within Nashville today.

The period of significance is 1952, the date of the building's completion.

Federal Office Building
Name of Property

Davidson County, TN
County and State

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

Introduction

Planning for the Estes Kefauver Federal Building commenced in 1946, shortly after the end of World War II. It was designed and built at a time when architects abandoned ornate designs common in earlier federal buildings and embraced more modest designs which were appropriate for a modern country that had recently endured the Great Depression and World War II. Completed in 1952, the building still employs high-quality materials in public spaces, common to earlier federal buildings, but its secondary spaces use typical, mass-produced, mid-twentieth-century materials. All spaces lack the ornate, high-style architectural flourishes, which were commonly omitted from federal architecture beginning with the Great Depression. In addition, the building exhibits features that would become common to the Modern-era office building, including the use of fluorescent lighting and central air conditioning. The Estes Kefauver Federal Building is an interesting example of a building planned and constructed during a period in which the federal government's building program was transitioning from the depression and war-era Federal Works Agency to the U.S. General Services Administration, established in 1949. This early post-war building spans both agencies and points to the future of federal office design in the Modern era.

The Estes Kefauver Federal Building is one of three adjacent buildings in the 700, 800 and 900 blocks of Broadway in downtown Nashville that served as the primary federal buildings for the city. The Gothic Revival former Custom House and U.S. Post Office, completed in 1882, is located to the east of the Estes Kefauver Federal Building and the Art Deco former U.S. Post Office (now the Frist Center for the Visual Arts), completed in 1934, is located to the west.³ These three buildings together are highly visible symbols of the federal government's presence in Nashville and represent a continuum of federal design over a period of seventy years. The Kefauver building is the only one of the three to maintain its connection to the federal government.

The Estes Kefauver Federal Building is significant under Criterion A for its association with the federal presence in Nashville and under Criterion C as a notable example in Nashville of a federal design that transitions from the Simplified Classical style, popular during the Great Depression, New Deal, and World War II eras, to the Modern mode, which the government did not fully embrace until later in the 1950s. It is an example of a mid-twentieth-century federal building that was constructed at a time great pent up demand for federal office space and the government aimed to construct buildings efficiently and cost effectively. Generally, these buildings are architecturally unornamented and reflect a more modest design vocabulary than federal buildings from earlier eras and the Estes Kefauver Federal Building is an example of design from this transitional time.

³ The Custom House and Post Office was listed in the National Register of Historic Places 1972 as Federal Office Building (72001232), while the U.S. Post Office was listed 1984 (84000580).

Federal Office Building

Name of Property

Davidson County, TN

County and State

The period of significance is 1952, the date of the Estes Kefauver Federal Building's completion.⁴

Federal Building Program at Mid-Century

Since the mid-nineteenth century, the federal building program had been managed by the Supervising Architect's Office within the Department of the Treasury. The office's architects designed and managed the construction of post offices, courthouses, custom houses and other federal buildings, as well as oversaw federal projects designed by private architects, striving to produce landmark buildings that would embody the federal presence in each locale. However, the Great Depression brought new challenges and priorities for the federal building program. As many of President Franklin Roosevelt's New Deal programs turned to public construction projects to stimulate the failing economy, an emphasis on production, rather than design, was required. In 1933, Roosevelt placed the Office of the Supervising Architect into a newly formed Public Buildings Branch situated within the Treasury Department's newly organized Procurement Division. During the New Deal, approximately 1,300 federally funded buildings would be constructed across the nation.

In 1939, with war looming, President Roosevelt again reorganized the federal buildings program, consolidating a number of discrete construction programs within the Public Buildings Administration (PBA) in the newly created Federal Works Agency (FWA). This new agency managed massive construction projects, including industrial and military facilities, hospitals and war worker housing, in the period leading up to and during World War II. The FWA described itself as primarily an organization for building.⁴ Its engineers and architects were concerned with the provision of facilities, the economies of construction and the role of construction projects in providing for the common welfare.⁵ With materials and manpower diverted to the war effort, few permanent federal office buildings or courthouses were constructed during World War II, resulting in a backlog of new construction projects.

In 1949, in an effort to streamline post-war organization of federal agencies, President Harry Truman established the General Services Administration (GSA) and tasked it with administering supplies and providing workplaces for federal employees. The PBA, renamed the Public Buildings Service, was one of four services placed within the GSA. From this time forward, the federal government gave up its role as designer, turning its attention instead to administering contracts. The question was no longer the maintenance of high design standards through the employment of talented architects, but the encouragement of such standards through the careful development of building requirements and the selection of capable architects.⁶ The Estes Kefauver Federal Building is among the first buildings constructed by the new agency.

Gilbert Stanley Underwood (1890-1961) served as the Supervising Architect within FWA from 1945 to 1949. After a highly successful private career, Underwood moved to Washington, D.C. in 1934 to serve as a consulting architect with the Office of the Supervising Architect when the

⁴ By letter dated August 12, 1997, the Tennessee Historical Commission concurred with GSA that the Estes Kefauver Federal Building is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A and C. The annex, completed in 1974 and less than 50 years old, is not at this time considered to be eligible on its own or as a contributing resource to the Estes Kefauver Federal Building.

⁵ Antoinette Lee, *Architects to the Nation: The Rise and Decline of the Supervising Architect's Office*, (New York: Oxford University Press, 2000), 279

⁶ Ibid.

Federal Office Building

Davidson County, TN

Name of Property

County and State

office still resided in the Treasury Department. As consulting architect, Underwood designed more than twenty post offices, courthouses and other federal buildings. Among his most notable federal buildings are the U.S. Court House and Post Office, Los Angeles (1937-1940), the War Department (now Department of State) (1939-1941) and the headquarters for the General Accounting Office (1949-1951), both in Washington, D.C.⁷ The later building shares many similarities in design with the Estes Kefauver Federal Building. In 1949, with the establishment of the GSA, Underwood assumed the position of Deputy Commissioner for Design and Construction.⁸

Allan Stewart Thorn (1892-1965) succeeded Underwood as Supervising Architect, a position he held from 1949 until his retirement in 1954. Thorne joined the Office of the Supervising Architect in 1933. As the Supervising Architect for GSA, he oversaw the renovation of the White House, which was completed in 1952.⁹

Marr and Holman, Architects

The architectural firm Marr and Holman served as architect for the new federal building. One of Nashville's most distinguished firms, partners Thomas Marr (1866-1936) and Joseph Holman (1890-1952) designed a number of Nashville's most notable buildings during the 1930s. The two men had an illustrious design history in Nashville. Holman developed the plans for the federal building after Marr passed away, although he maintained Marr's status as a name partner.

Nashville native Thomas Marr, who developed hearing problems as a youngster, studied engineering at Gallaudet College in Washington, D.C., graduating in 1889. He returned to Nashville and secured a position at the architectural office of Thompson and Giebel, where he worked for three years before enrolling in the Massachusetts Institute of Technology to take their architectural coursework. He returned to Thompson and Giebel and saved money to open his own office, a goal he achieved after five years. Although he struggled during the early years, he soon gained a reputation as a talented designer, winning many important commissions and was one of the South's first technically trained architects.¹⁰

Marr employed Joseph W. Holman, Sr., in 1904 as a fourteen-year-old office boy for the company's workplace in the Exchange Building. Holman quickly took a keen interest in architecture and also served as Marr's interpreter with clients. Although Holman briefly studied design at Vanderbilt University, he soon abandoned formal academia to learn his trade in Marr's office. Marr was impressed with Holman's ability to secure business and his affability in dealing with the public and clients, and Holman became a partner in 1910.¹¹ Early in his career, Holman applied his drafting skills to most projects, but in later years focused on business

⁷ Numerous Underwood-designed buildings have been listed in the National Register of Historic Places, including: United States Court House and Post Office, Los Angeles, listed 2006 (06000001); and, the United States General Accounting Office Building, listed 1995 (9500186).

⁸ Underwood's position in GSA is reported variously as Deputy Commissioner of Design and Construction, as on the cornerstone of the Estes Kefauver Federal Building; Director of Design Branch; and Chief Architect.

⁹ Allan Thorn, "Supervised White House Renovation," *Washington Post, Times Herald*, July 23, 1965.

¹⁰ "Thomas Scott Marr, Our Alumnus and Architect" from a centennial publication of the Tennessee School for the Deaf, 1845-1945. Located in the vertical subject file for Marr & Holman at the Nashville Public Library, Nashville Room, Nashville, Tennessee.

¹¹ "Holman's Body to be Flown Back," *Tennessean*, October 16, 1952.

Federal Office Building

Davidson County, TN

Name of Property

County and State

development of the firm more than the technical side. However, he still generated the initial visions for projects, although junior staff executed the detailed plans.¹²

As a team, Marr and Holman designed many impressive local landmarks, including the Warner (Sudekum) Building; East Nashville Junior High School; Tennessee Supreme Court building; U.S. Post Office in Nashville; Noel Hotel; Rich-Schwartz Building; and James Robertson Hotel. The firm's significant design era was the 1920s and 1930s. Following the popular design tenets of the era, the partners designed numerous buildings in the Neoclassical and Art Deco styles. Their work from the 1920s and 1930s is recognized in the National Register Thematic Resources Nomination "Marr and Holman Buildings in Downtown Nashville."

Marr passed away in 1936, and Holman continued the firm, keeping Marr as a name partner. After Marr's death, Holman's sons joined him in the practice, which by then had an office in the Stahlman Building in Nashville.¹³ The Estes Kefauver Federal Building was designed during the period after Marr's death when the firm's designs were less ornate than those completed while Marr was the lead designer. Holman's strength was primarily as a businessman and while his designs were solid, they were not as exuberant as those that the firm created in prior eras. This may have been due to the loss of Marr as the primary design force and also due to the changing tastes in federal architecture, which was becoming less elaborate to follow design trends and to save on construction costs.¹⁴

Holman's notable buildings completed after Marr's death include the Republic Aviation Corporation Plant in Evansville, Indiana (circa 1942) and the Miami Stadium (1949). Between 1938 and his death in 1952, Holman designed fourteen courthouses within Tennessee. He was a founding member of the Nashville chapter of the American Institute of Architects.¹⁵ Holman passed away in 1952 on a business trip to Switzerland, shortly after the completion of the Estes Kefauver Federal Building. His body was transported back to Nashville.¹⁶

Site Selection, Construction and Occupation of the Estes Kefauver Federal Building

Prior to the construction of the Federal Office Building, the federal government leased office space at various locations within Nashville. While all of the leased offices were in downtown Nashville, they were scattered throughout the area roughly bounded by Broadway, Union Street, and Fourth and Eighth avenues. These multiple locations made it difficult for citizens who needed to conduct business with more than one federal agency. After officials determined that Nashville would receive a new federal building to centralize federal activities, they conducted a building site study in February 1946.¹⁷ In October 1946, federal officials selected a site at Broadway and Eighth Avenue, between the existing custom house and post office.¹⁸ The firm of

¹² Ibid.

¹³ Ibid.

¹⁴ "Marr and Holman Buildings in Downtown Nashville," National Register of Historic Places Thematic Resources Nomination, completed by Philip Thomason and James Draeger, p. 8.4. This thematic resources nomination, listed 1984 (64000807), assesses buildings designed by the firm from 1913-1936. The Estes Kefauver Federal Building was not included in this documentation because of its later construction date.

¹⁵ "Holman's Body to be Flown Back," *Tennessean*, October 16, 1952.

¹⁶ Ibid.

¹⁷ *Tennessean*, February 19, 1946.

¹⁸ *Tennessean*, October 18, 1946.

Federal Office Building

Davidson County, TN

Name of Property

County and State

Marr and Holman was retained to design the building, with Joseph Holman serving as the lead designer. On February 26, 1949, federal officials unveiled floor plans.¹⁹

Holman attempted to respect the design of the existing post office on Broadway directly to the west of the new federal building. Marr & Holman, with Marr as the lead designer, completed the plans for the striking Art Deco post office early in the 1930s. Only fifteen years later, Holman developed a building that had a similar box-like shape and a pale cladding material. However, the new federal building's space needs required a much larger structure and design trends had changed since the Art Deco style was in fashion. The new building reflected a contemporary lack of ornamentation.²⁰

On June 20, 1949, workers completed the demolition of existing buildings on the block planned to contain the new federal building. Buildings removed included the Broadway Hardware Company, the Vauxhall Building (the 1882 Nashville College for Young Ladies), and the Nashville Centennial Building.²¹ Demolition cost \$22,000. On July 14, 1949, city officials issued a building permit for the site, allowing the federal government to proceed with their plans to build a new federal building in Nashville. The permit allowed for a \$6 million building to be constructed. At the time, it was the largest amount ever spent for a single building in Nashville.²²

Workers completed the building's exterior on May 29, 1951.²³ However, the government experienced a delay in completing interior spaces because of a shortage of steel for corridors and office partitions. Engineers also planned to install steam jets for the coal combustion system, which would result in less smoke as the coal burned.²⁴

The planned building, which was estimated to cost \$7.2 million and contain 7 acres of floor space, was to be one of the "most modern office buildings in America." Among the modern features officials touted were air conditioning and fluorescent lighting.²⁵ These innovations allowed the elimination of light courts, which had previously been necessary in the design of large office buildings to ensure light and ventilation, resulting in a more efficient floor plan.

The *Tennessean* reported on August 8, 1951, that New York sculptor Edward Ratti arrived in Nashville to begin carving two large mezzo reliefs on either side of the main entrance on Broadway. Ratti, who worked on the U.S. Supreme Court, National Archives, and the U.S. House chamber, planned to execute the sculptures in granite over the course of six to eight weeks using the assistance of local artisans. The sculptures, entitled *State Pride* and *Justice*, were to be 7' x 10' reliefs reproduced from plaster casts developed by artist Leo Friedlander of White Plains, New York. Officials commissioned Friedlander to complete the artwork in 1950. *State Pride* depicted Tennessee-related themes, including the Tennessee Valley Authority, navigation, industry, and education. *Justice* evoked the nation's capital, with an allegorical female figure balancing good or evil. However, Ratti complained that he was finding it difficult to identify skilled artisans in the Nashville area to assist him, yet the government would not pay for

¹⁹ *Tennessean*, February 26, 1949.

²⁰ *Nashville Banner*, June 25, 1949.

²¹ *Nashville Banner*, June 20, 1949.

²² *Nashville Banner*, July 14, 1949.

²³ *Tennessean*, May 29, 1951.

²⁴ *Tennessean*, September 26, 1951.

²⁵ *Nashville Banner*, June 21, 1951.

Federal Office Building

Davidson County, TN

Name of Property

County and State

him to bring staff from New York to the work site.²⁶ The reliefs were never executed, perhaps because of Ratti's difficulty in securing skilled help.

Beers Construction of Atlanta executed Holman's design, expending \$5 million on steel, concrete, brick, tile, aluminum, marble, and buff-limestone. Five hundred tons of structural steel and 1,480 tons of reinforcing steel were used to construct the new federal building, which also contained more than 19,000 cubic yards of concrete, 6,650 fluorescent lights, and 11 miles of plumbing, heating, and air-conditioning pipe. J.M. Gallagher & Sons installed acoustical insulating board. Edenfield Electric installed 146,000 feet of conduit, 100 miles of wiring, 1770 light switches, 1650 outlets, 143 clocks, and 44 fire alarms. Flower City Ornamental Iron Company of Minnesota supplied approximately 500 aluminum-frame windows, all exterior doors, and other aluminum work. Western Electric Elevator Company supplied fast, automated elevators.²⁷

Building inspectors evaluated the structure on April 22, 1952, and deemed it safe for occupation.²⁸ The new federal building was completed on May 1, 1952. Court was convened for the first time on June 17, 1952.²⁹ The Attorney General and the U.S. Department of Agriculture occupied spaces on the fifth floor.³⁰ Other original tenants included the Federal Bureau of Investigations, Customs Service, and Secret Service.³¹ In all, twenty-one agencies occupied the new federal building.³² The Veterans Administration Medical Unit and regional office was planned for the first four floors.³³ The Department of Justice was located on the seventh floor, and two courtrooms were present on the eighth floor.

Post World-War Federal Building Design

The Estes Kefauver Federal Building displays an unornamented design that incorporates design tenets found in both the Simplified Classical style and Modern mode of architecture. Following World War II, Modernism would become the prominent style for architecture—both public and private. The Estes Kefauver Federal Building was built at a time when the federal government had already shifted from a reliance on classical design and ornament or regional design motifs to convey architectural distinction and was seeking new efficiencies. Post-World War II federal buildings were designed and constructed to save both time and money. According to *Growth, Efficiency, and Modernism: GSA Buildings of the 1950s, 60s, and 70s*, the majority of federal buildings constructed in the late 1940s and early 1950s are undistinguished architecturally. While some buildings of this era, such as the Estes Kefauver Federal Building contain high-quality building materials, most lack the notable design features of earlier eras that distinguished federal buildings from private structures.

The era in which the Estes Kefauver Federal Building was planned and constructed was a period of great transition for federal architectural design. In the years immediately following

²⁶ *Tennessean*, August 8, 1951.

²⁷ *Nashville Banner*, June 21, 1951.

²⁸ *Tennessean*, April 23, 1952.

²⁹ *Tennessean*, June 17, 1952.

³⁰ *Tennessean*, n.d.

³¹ *Tennessean*, May 2, 1952.

³² *Tennessean*, May 24, 1952.

³³ *Tennessean*, May 22, 1951.

Federal Office Building

Davidson County, TN

Name of Property

County and State

World War II, the federal government had become ~~the~~ the most gigantic business on earth."³⁴ In 1949, in response to this rapid growth, GSA was established to direct the federal government's immense building management and general procurement functions. GSA responded to the government's growing needs by embarking on a massive building campaign. However, the Estes Kefauver Federal Building design and site selection was completed under the FWA, prior to GSA's establishment and also prior to the passage of the Public Buildings Act of 1949, which allocated \$40 million of funding for the site purchase and preplanning for 575 building sites throughout the country.³⁵ Thus, begun in 1949 and completed in 1952, the Estes Kefauver Federal Building was at the forefront of the massive mid-twentieth century federal construction boom.

The Estes Kefauver Federal Building was designed at a time when architects were exploring the second wave of Modernism's aesthetics and advances in building technology and new materials. Although the design and groundbreaking predated GSA's establishment, it is a representative example of mid-century federal design. While a small subset of federal buildings from the 1950s, 60s, and 70s are considered Modern masterpieces, usually designed by internationally renowned architects and incorporating designed plaza and notable public art, the majority of federal buildings from the era are simply a reflection of the government's massive growth in the post-war era. As GSA sought to house legions of Federal employees and bring efficiency to the Federal building process, economy was often a stronger driving force than architectural and physical distinction. The majority of buildings GSA constructed during the period reflect typical office building design of their time."³⁶

One change in the post-war years was the inclusion of private architects for federal building design. This policy produced a few masterpieces of Modern architecture and an extensive collection of undistinguished buildings."³⁷ The most notable buildings are nearly all by internationally respected masters such as Marcel Breuer, Ludwig Mies van der Rohe, Walter Gropius, Victor Lundy, and William Pereira. Private firms were selected based on their professional credentials and prior experience, which, argued critics, led to conservative designs by established firms, leaving little room for innovative work by emerging firms. Compounding this issue was the federal government's reluctance to embrace new forms of architecture, such as those with Modern influences, immediately following World War II. Only later in the 1950s would the federal government actively support and encourage Modern design for its buildings.³⁸

Federal buildings, previously distinguished as landmarks in towns and cities because of their size, scale, high-quality building materials, and federal iconography were reduced to ubiquitous monolithic white boxes, imitating private office building design and making it difficult to distinguish private buildings from public ones. No longer were federal buildings at the forefront

³⁴ The phrase was used by the Commission on Organization of the Executive Branch of the Government, commonly called the Hoover Commission, for former President Herbert Hoover, its chair. The commission appointed by President Harry S. Truman in 1947 to recommend administrative changes in the federal government of the United States, issued its findings in early 1949, leading to the establishment of the U.S. General Services Administration.

³⁵ Antoinette Lee, *Architects to the Nation: The Rise and Decline of the Supervising Architect's Office*, (New York: Oxford University Press, 2000), 285-286.

³⁶ Judith H. Robinson and Stephanie S. Foell, *Growth, Efficiency, and Modernism: GSA Buildings of the 1950s, 60s, and 70s*, (Washington, D.C.: U.S. General Services Administration, 2003, reprinted 2005), 6, 9.

³⁷ *Ibid.*, 36.

³⁸ *Ibid.*

Federal Office Building

Davidson County, TN

Name of Property

County and State

of innovative design.³⁹ Public and private buildings increasingly were used for the same function—office space—and became indistinguishable, particularly because of their nearly identical uses.⁴⁰

Estes Kefauver

C. Estes Kefauver was born in Madisonville, Tennessee in 1903. In 1939, he won election to the U.S. House of Representatives, serving as a Democratic U.S. Congressman representing Tennessee for nearly ten years. He then served as a U.S. Senator from 1948 until his death in 1963, when he suffered a heart attack on the Senate floor. Kefauver was also the 1956 Vice Presidential nominee under running mate Adlai Stevenson. During his illustrious career, he assumed pivotal roles in creating critical foreign and domestic policies. He supported civil rights legislation and consumer protection while opposing political corruption.⁴¹ The federal building was named Estes Kefauver Federal Building and U.S. Courthouse in his honor in April 1979.⁴²

Alterations to the Estes Kefauver Federal Building

The Estes Kefauver Federal Building was not executed exactly to architect Joseph Holman's design, perhaps in an effort to economize. According to original architectural plans, windows were intended to have aluminum casement windows with glass-block transoms, but were not completed according to this plan.⁴³ Additionally, the two dramatic bas relief sculptures planned for the building, potentially distinguishing features, were never executed.

Numerous changes and upgrades have been made to the interior and exterior of the Estes Kefauver Federal Building since its construction in 1952; however, the major, public, character-defining spaces do retain integrity. In 2010, the courts and numerous federal agencies occupy the building. Primary occupants include the U.S. District Court, U.S. Corps of Engineers, Veterans Administration, U.S. Attorney, U.S. Marshals Service, and Internal Revenue Service.

In 1957, the elevators were automated at a cost of \$105,000, and the elevator operators were no longer needed.⁴⁴ In 1960, the walls were replastered and repainted and air conditioning was upgraded.⁴⁵ Improvements in 1961 included repainting and retrofitting to switch the systems from coal to gas functions.⁴⁶ Repairs in 1969 included new roofing materials, plaster and paint repairs, and remodeling of office spaces.⁴⁷ In 1977, GSA initiated a \$1.2 million renovation and promised the massive project would bring the older courthouse's outdated appearance and

³⁹ Ibid., 37.

⁴⁰ Francis D. Lethbridge, FAIA, "The Architecture of Washington, D.C.," introduction to *The AIA Guide to the Architecture of Washington, D.C.*, 2nd ed., by Christopher Weeks, (Baltimore and London: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1994), 14.

⁴¹ "Carey Estes Kefauver" by Theodore Brown, Jr., in *Tennessee Encyclopedia*, Nashville, Tennessee: Tennessee Historical Society, 1998. Despite Kefauver's fervent civil rights support, research did not indicate that the building that bears his name was the site of significant civil rights trials.

⁴² *Tennessean*, April 27, 1979.

⁴³ Marr and Holman, Original architectural plans for the Nashville Federal Building, 1948. Located at the Estes Kefauver Federal Building, 801 Broadway, Nashville, Tennessee.

⁴⁴ *Tennessean*, July 14, 1957.

⁴⁵ *Nashville Banner*, May 17, 1960.

⁴⁶ *Nashville Banner*, February 16, 1961.

⁴⁷ *Tennessean*, July 26, 1969.

Federal Office Building

Name of Property

Davidson County, TN

County and State

function in line with the newly completed annex. Work in the original building included the installation of new carpet, acoustic tile ceiling, new lighting, and a snack bar in the basement. Architects Gresham & Smith and contractor Shelby Skipwith completed the project.⁴⁸

In 1985, security upgrades altered the lobby space as metal detectors and X-ray machines were added.⁴⁹ Five years later, a \$4.6 million upgrade included fire and life safety improvements, asbestos removal, and elevator upgrades.⁵⁰

Other alterations to the 1952 building include the installation of new doors at the main and side entrances in 2004. Originally, a bank of eight contiguous aluminum-framed doors with eight-inch aluminum kick plates occupied the main entrance. These doors were replaced by bronze framed doors, including a central revolving door. Several of the original, flush-mounted aluminum-frame light fixtures were removed to accommodate the revolving door.

Statement of Significance and Integrity

The Estes Kefauver Federal Building is significant at a local level under Criterion A for its association with the federal presence in Nashville. This is highlighted by its location between two significant former federal buildings; this close geographical comparison shows the continuum of the federal presence with the earlier dignified buildings of the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries and the more contemporary appearance of the Estes Kefauver Federal Building. The building is also significant at a local level under Criterion C as a notable example of a federal design that transitions from the Simplified Classical style popular during the Great Depression, New Deal, and World War II eras to the Modern mode, which the government did not embrace until later in the 1950s. It is an example of a mid-twentieth-century federal building that was constructed at a time when requirements for federal office space were increasing and the newly established U.S. General Services Administration aimed to construct buildings efficiently and cost effectively. Generally, these buildings are architecturally unornamented and reflect a more modest design vocabulary than federal buildings from earlier eras. The Estes Kefauver Federal Building displays a thoughtful and cohesive design sensibility. It was designed by the locally prominent firm, Marr and Holman, whose design work is widely recognized within Nashville.

The period of significance is 1952, the date of the building's completion.

Integrity

The Estes Kefauver Federal Building retains a high level of integrity, most notably in its public areas and character-defining spaces. The federal building remains in its original location in downtown Nashville surrounded by numerous historic buildings, including two adjacent federal buildings from earlier eras, and therefore retains integrity of location and setting. The building itself retains its original form, building materials and finishes, and displays craftsmanship of the 1940s and early 1950s and therefore, retains its integrity of design, materials, and workmanship. Collectively, these other aspects of integrity, coupled with the building's continued use as a federal office building and courthouse, contribute to the overall integrity of feeling and association.

⁴⁸ *Tennessean*, June 19, 1977.

⁴⁹ *Tennessean*, June 22, 1985.

⁵⁰ *Tennessean*, July 23, 1990.

Federal Office Building
Name of Property

Davidson County, TN
County and State

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Federal Office Building

Davidson County, TN
County and State

Name of Property

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Tennessean (Nashville), September 26, 1951.
Tennessean (Nashville), April 23, 1952.
Tennessean (Nashville), May 2, 1952.
Tennessean (Nashville), May 24, 1952.
Tennessean (Nashville), June 17, 1952.
Tennessean (Nashville), October 16, 1952.
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Washington Post, Times Herald, July 23, 1965.

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 # _____
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

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

Federal Office Building
Name of Property

Davidson County, TN
County and State

Name of repository: Nashville Public Library

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property 2.1 acres

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates (decimal degrees)

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

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| 1. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 2. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 3. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 4. Latitude: | Longitude: |

Or

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or NAD 1983

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| 1. Zone: 16 | Easting: 519560.1 | Northing: 4001528.26 |
| 2. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 3. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 4. Zone: | Easting : | Northing: |

Federal Office Building
Name of Property

Davidson County, TN
County and State

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The Estes Kefauver Federal Building and annex are contained on the block bounded by Broadway, McGavock Street, and Eighth and Ninth avenues south, composed of two tax parcels: Map & Parcel: 093 09 0 312.00 and Map & Parcel: 093 09 0 311.00, constituting approximately 2.1 acres. The area containing the federal parking garage is not included in the National Register boundary.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The National Register boundary is limited to the property that contains the Estes Kefauver Federal Building and annex. This is the property historically associated with the Estes Kefauver Federal Building during its period of significance and with its annex. While the annex is included within the boundaries of the property, and is attached to the original building, the annex is considered noncontributing at this time.

11. Form Prepared By

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date: September 2010; revised June 2016

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

Federal Office Building
Name of Property

Davidson County, TN
County and State

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: Federal Office Building

City or Vicinity: Nashville

County: Davidson

State: TN

Photographer: S. Foell

Date Photographed: March 2008*

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

Photo # 1 (TN_Davidson County_Federal Office Building_0001)
Facade and northeast elevation, view to southwest

Photo # 2 (TN_Davidson County_Federal Office Building _0002)
Facade and southwest elevation, view to east

Photo # 3 (TN_Davidson County_Federal Office Building _0003)
Facade entrance, view to southeast

Photo # 4 (TN_Davidson County_Federal Building 0004)
Entrance, northeast elevation, view to west

Photo # 5 (TN_Davidson County_Federal Office Building _0005)
First floor elevator lobby, view to southeast

Photo # 6 (TN_Davidson County_Federal Office Building _0006)
Eighth floor elevator lobby, view to southeast

Photo # 7 (TN_Davidson County_Federal Office Building _0007)
Eighth floor corridor, view to east

*Although the photographs date to 2008, they accurately reflect the current condition of the building.

Federal Office Building
Name of Property

Davidson County, TN
County and State

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 100 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.

Federal Office Building
Name of Property

Davidson County, TN
County and State

Figure 1 – Federal Office Building, north and west elevations, circa 1952
Source: National Archives, RG 121-BS, Box 82, Folder Z



Federal Office Building
Name of Property

Davidson County, TN
County and State

Figure 2 – Federal Office Building, entrance, circa 1952
Source: National Archives, RG 121-BS, Box 82, Folder Z



Federal Office Building
Name of Property

Davidson County, TN
County and State

Figure 3 – Federal Office Building, Courtroom No.1, circa 1952
Source: National Archives, RG 121-BS, Box 82, Folder Z



Federal Office Building
Name of Property

Davidson County, TN
County and State

Figure 4 – Federal Office Building, Courtroom No. 2, circa 1952
Source: National Archives, RG 121-BS, Box 82, Folder Z

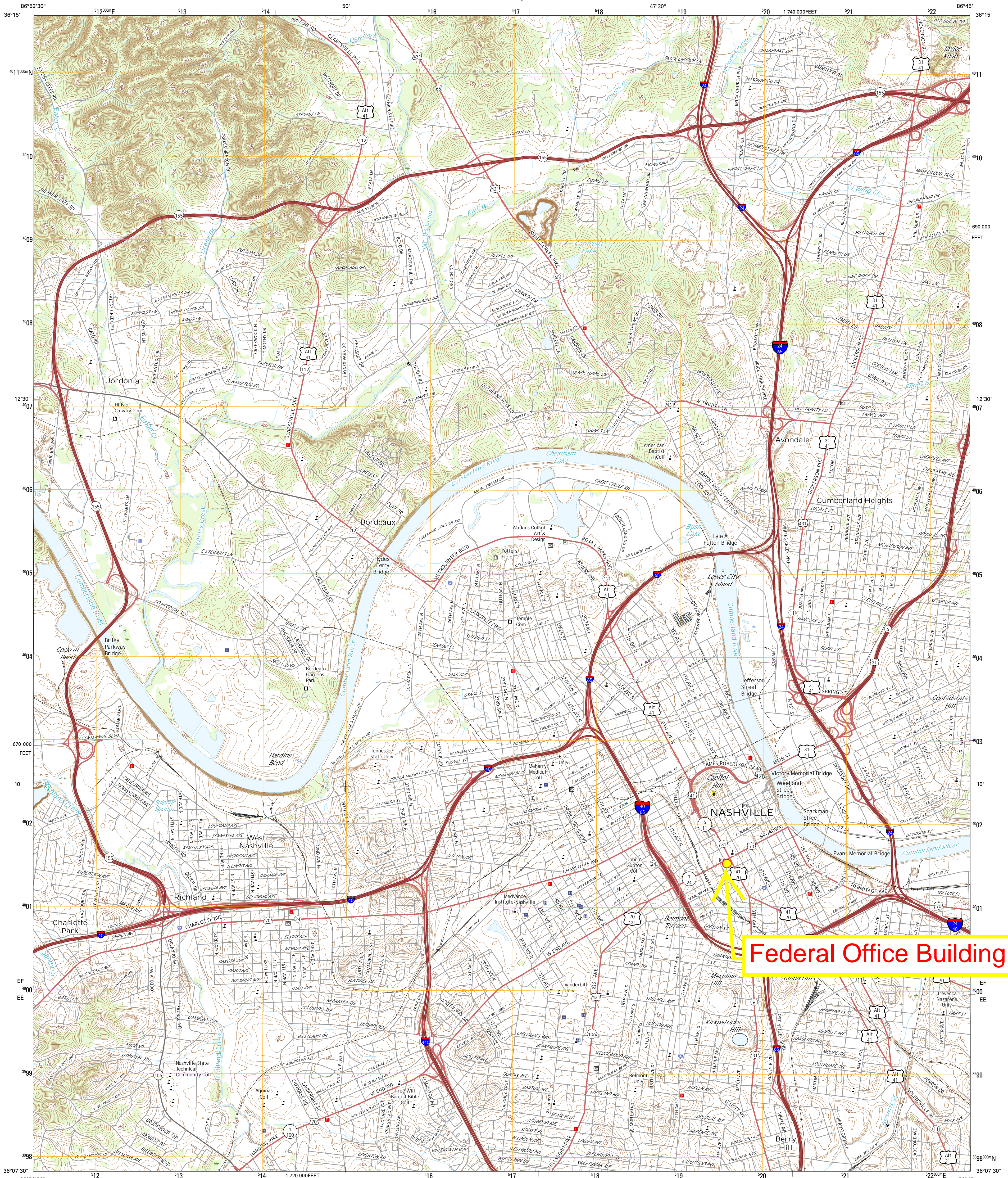


Federal Office Building
Name of Property

Davidson County, TN
County and State

Location Map



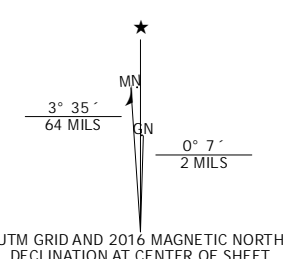


Federal Office Building

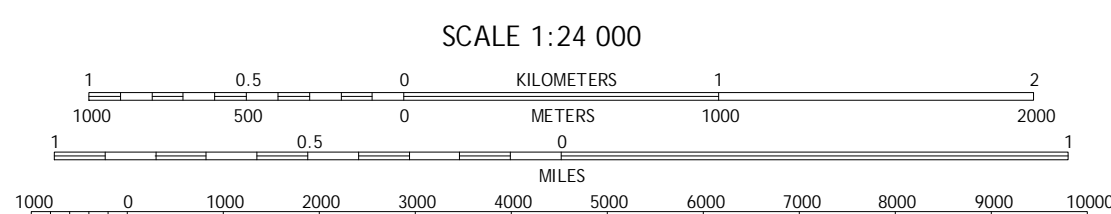
Produced by the United States Geological Survey North American Datum of 1983 (NAD83) World Geodetic System of 1984 (WGS84) Projection and 1000-meter grid: Universal Transverse Mercator, Zone 16S 10 000-foot ticks: Tennessee Coordinate System of 1983

This map is not a legal document. Boundaries may be generalized for this map scale. Private lands within government reservations may not be shown. Obtain permission before entering private lands.

Imagery: NADP June 2014 U.S. Census Bureau, 2015 2016 Names: GNIS, 2016 Hydrography: National Hydrography Dataset, 2014 Contours: National Elevation Dataset, 2012 Boundaries: Multiple sources; see metadata file 1972 - 2016 Wetlands: FWS National Wetlands Inventory 1977 - 2014



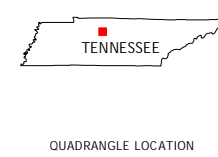
U.S. National Grid 100,000-m Square ID EF EE



SCALE 1:24 000

CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET NORTH AMERICAN VERTICAL DATUM OF 1988

This map was produced to conform with the National Geospatial Program US Topo Product Standard, 2011. A metadata file associated with this product is draft version 0.6.19



ADJOINING QUADRANGLES grid with numbers 1-8

ROAD CLASSIFICATION legend: Expressway, Secondary Hwy, Ramp, Local Connector, Local Road, 4WD, Interstate Route, US Route, State Route

ADJOINING QUADRANGLES legend: 1 Forest Grove, 2 Whites Creek, 3 Goodlettsville, 4 Scottsboro, 5 Nashville East, 6 Bellevue, 7 Oak Hill, 8 Antioch









Broadway



RIGHT
TURN
ONLY

ESTES KEFAUVER
FEDERAL BUILDING
U.S. COURTHOUSE









EXIT



CITY ASSEMBLY ROOM
8-101

8

8

8



EXIT

EXIT

EXIT

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Federal Office Building
NAME:

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: TENNESSEE, Davidson

DATE RECEIVED: 9/09/16 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 10/07/16
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 10/24/16 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 10/25/16
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 16000739

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: Y SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: Y NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 10-24-2016 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

*Confirmed with Both Savage, FPO, that this nomination
meets the criteria & checked appropriate box.*

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept A & C

REVIEWER J. Gabbert DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/ see attached SLR Y/

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

METROPOLITAN GOVERNMENT OF NASHVILLE AND DAVIDSON COUNTY



**MEGAN BARRY
MAYOR**

**OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
METROPOLITAN COURTHOUSE
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37201
PHONE: (615) 862-6000
EMAIL: mayor@nashville.gov**

July 29, 2016

**Ms. Beth L. Savage
Federal Preservation Officer
Director, Center for Historic Buildings
GSA Public Buildings Service
1800 F Street, NW
Washington, DC 20405-0002**

Dear Ms. Savage,

Thank you for your recent letter and notification that your agency plans to nominate the Estes Kefauver Federal Building and U.S. Courthouse for placement to the National Register of Historic Places. This is great news for Nashville and we appreciate your consideration.

Again, thank you for the notification and for the nomination package.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Megan Barry".

**Megan Barry
Mayor**



September 6, 2016

Mr. Paul Loether
Chief, NRHP & NHL Program
National Park Service
1201 Eye Street, NW (2280), 8th Floor
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Mr. Loether:

Paul

The U.S. General Services Administration (GSA) is pleased to nominate the Federal Office Building (current name: Estes Kefauver Federal Building and U.S. Courthouse) located at 801 Broadway, Nashville, Tennessee, 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 Federal Office Building, located in Nashville, TN, to the National Register of Historic Place; 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 July 19, 2016. A copy of a letter received from the Mayor of the Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County, supporting the nomination is included on Disk 1. Comments provided via email from the Nashville Metropolitan Historical Commission were incorporated in the final nomination.

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: Audrey Entorf, Regional Historic Preservation Officer
Claudette Stager, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer