

PH0055166

STATE:	Hawaii
COUNTY:	Hawaii
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE	OCT 1 1974

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM
FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

1. NAME

COMMON: U.S.
United States Post Office and Office Building
AND/OR HISTORIC:
Federal Building

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Kinoole and Waiuanuenue Streets
CITY OR TOWN:
Hilo
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:
Rep. Patsy T. Mink - 2nd
STATE: **Hawaii** CODE **51** COUNTY: **Hawaii** CODE **001**

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____ _____
Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No			

4. AGENCY

General Service Administration, Region 9
REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (If applicable)
CITY OR TOWN: **San Francisco**
STREET AND NUMBER: **49 Fourth Street**
STATE: **California** CODE **04**

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
Bureau of Conveyances, State of Hawaii
STREET AND NUMBER:
403 Queen Street
CITY OR TOWN: **Honolulu** STATE: **Hawaii** CODE **51**

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
STREET AND NUMBER:
CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The present United States Post Office and Office Building in Hilo was originally designed in 1915 by architect Henry O. Whitfield of New York City in a neo-classic style with certain modifications. The modifications include open circulation in the building and the use of a first floor arcade as a place to conduct postal business. The original portion of the building, as built in 1915-17, is a rectangular structure with a portico on the main (south) side and a projecting wing on the north side. The original portion has a full basement, a raised first floor two stories in height which contains the post office, a second floor one story in height which contains the court functions, and a fourth-story clerestory with oriel windows above the original courtroom.

In 1936 the Treasury Department designed two 3-story wing additions for the main (south) side of the building. These were constructed in 1937-38 forming a "U"-shaped peristyle court. These wings have three floors used for office space and contain open circulation balconies on the first and third floors. The exterior walls facing the court contain 2-story columns with doric capitals which support a lanai above. All the roofs are tiled, with ornamental downspouts used in the court. The courtyard, eight steps below the first floor, contains a flag pole, a mosaic-tiled fountain, and two concrete urns. The paved courtyard is opened toward the street. The overall building dimensions are approximately 292' x 312'.

The functions of the building have not basically changed since it was constructed. Both the original structure and the addition were constructed using poured in place concrete bearing walls with stucco finish, spread footings, concrete beams, ribbed floor slabs, and tile roofs.

The architectural character of this building has been retained in spite of minor changes. It is unfortunate that a contemporary entrance vestibule has been added at the east (Kekaulike Street) entrance to the building. It is a minor element, however, and could easily be modified to better suit the overall architectural design. There appear to be no structures of historical significance and there are no other important public buildings in the vicinity.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

After the annexation of the Hawaiian Islands by the United States in 1898, a need was expressed in governmental correspondence for new federal and Territorial offices. Successive early Territorial governors agreed that a new federal office building should be constructed in Hilo. Their efforts culminated in the erection of the original portion of the present United States Post Office and Office Building, completed in 1917.

This building is particularly noteworthy for its early substantial use of structural reinforced concrete in this particular locale. The Post Office is one of the few historical buildings in Hilo constructed of lasting materials.

It is a good example of the neo-classic architectural style adapted to another geographical area, that is, adapted to the Hawaiian climate and life style. The building's setting is presently significant because of the spacial relationship of the open court area to Kalakaua Park immediately across the street.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Stanley Hirashi, Maintenance Supervisor, GSA, private tour and interview held March 16, 1973.
 Henry D. Whitfield, Architect, New York, blueprints (July 1915) in office of maintenance supervisor.
 Department of the Treasury, blueprints (July 1936) in office of maintenance supervisor.
 Seventy construction photographs (August 1914-April 1917) in office of maintenance supervisor.
 Thirty nine construction photos (April 1937-February 1938) in office of maintenance supervisor. (continued)

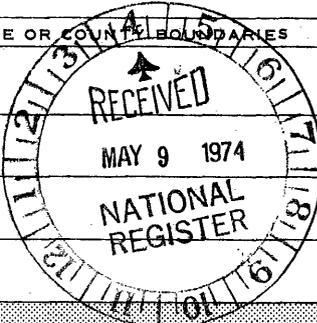
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10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
NW	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	
NE	° ' "	° ' "	19°	43'	40"	
SE	° ' "	° ' "	155°	5'	31"	
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: *+ - 1 acre*

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES			
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Hawaii	51		
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: **Randall J. Biallas, Gerron S. Hite for** DATE: revised 7 August 1973

BUSINESS ADDRESS: **Geoffrey W. Fairfax A.I.A., Architect and Planner**

STREET AND NUMBER: **1210 Ward Avenue** PHONE: **808-521-3005**

CITY OR TOWN: **Honolulu** STATE: **Hawaii** CODE: **51**

12. CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

State Liaison Officer recommendation:
 Yes
 No
 None

Sunao Kido
 State Liaison Officer Signature

In compliance with Executive Order 11593, I hereby nominate this property to the National Register, certifying that the State Liaison Officer has been allowed 90 days in which to present the nomination to the State Review Board and to evaluate its significance. The recommended level of significance is National State Local

Steven R. Bitterbaum **2/6/74**
 Federal Representative Signature Date

Historic Preservation
 Liaison Officer

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

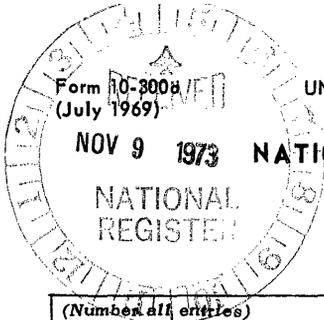
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

AR Mortensen
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: **10/1/74**

ATTEST: *Wm. H. ...*
 Keeper of the National Register

Date: **9.13.74**



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Hawaii	
COUNTY Honolulu	
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ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	OCT 1 1974

(Number all entries)

- "Post Office Now Working at Palatial New Stand," The Honolulu Advertiser, May 1, 1922, pp. 1-2.
- "Honolulu Firm Wins Federal Building Job, Gets \$310,764 for Post Office Addition," The Honolulu Advertiser, January 30, 1930, p. 1.
- "New Post Office for Honolulu Seen Likely," The Honolulu Star-Bulletin, August 29, 1940, p. 1.
- "Now Has a Name," The Honolulu Advertiser, October 24, 1955, p. A7.
- "Day Here, Says Need New Post Office," The Honolulu Star-Bulletin, May 31, 1961, p. 1A.
- "Post Office Jalousie Job Draws Architect's Fire," The Honolulu Advertiser, October 26, 1972, p. A9.
- "Work on Post Office Ordered Halted," The Honolulu Star-Bulletin, February 21, 1963, pp. 1-1A.
- "Uncle Sam's Shack," Editorial, The Honolulu Star-Bulletin, February 21, 1963, p. 10.
- "Order to Alter Post Office Tracked Down," The Honolulu Star-Bulletin, February 22, 1963, pp. 1-1A.
- "Thanks to Senator Inouye," The Honolulu Star-Bulletin, February 23, 1963, p. 4.
- "Hara on the Post Office," Letters to the Editor, The Honolulu Star-Bulletin, February 23, 1963, p. 4.
- "Star Bulletin, Inouye Praised for P.O. Stand," The Honolulu Star-Bulletin, February 26, 1963, pp. 1-1A.
- "Uncle Sam's Shack: Part II," Editorial, The Honolulu Star-Bulletin, April 20, 1963, p. 4, p. 11.
- "Inouye Says P.O. Will Be Restored," The Honolulu Star-Bulletin, April 23, 1963, p. 1.
- "Archways at P.O. To Be Fixed Soon," The Honolulu Star-Bulletin, August 8, 1963, pp. 1-1A.
- "Federal Building Gets a New 'Leafy' Outlook." The Honolulu Star-Bulletin, January 25, 1967, p. C4.
- "The Post Office Fight." The Friend, December 1910, p. 3.
- "Will Honolulu Stand For IT?" The Friend, January 1920, p. 11.
- MacAdam, D.H. "'Selling' the Post Office." The Friend, April 1922, pp. 77-79.
- "Mid-Civic in Mid-Pacific." Paradise of the Pacific, April 1922, pp. 2-5.
- Photograph. Paradise of the Pacific, March 1923, p. 20
- MacAdam, D.H. "Growth of Hawaii Shown in Post Office Business-- Beautifully Housed." Paradise of the Pacific, December 1925, pp. 83-85.
- Fairfax, Geoffrey W. The Architecture of Honolulu. Honolulu: Island Heritage Limited, 1972.
- Jackson, Francis; Conrad, Agnes, Bannick, Nancy; ed. Old Honolulu, A Guide to Oahu's Historic Buildings. Honolulu: Historic Buildings Task Force, 1969, #37.

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GSA factsheet in office of Hawaii Buildings Manager, Honolulu. Executive Letter Books and Folders, 1902-1912, Hawaii State Archives.

Chelson, Bert D., "History of the Hilo Post Office," April 8, 1934 (typewritten), Historical File, Hawaii State Archives.

"Hilo's Post Office, Urgent Necessity for a new building," The Pacific Commercial Advertiser, July 2, 1900, p. 6.

"New Hilo Post Office is Open for Business at Last," The Pacific Commercial Advertiser, April 2, 1917, p. 5.

