

PH0012726

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

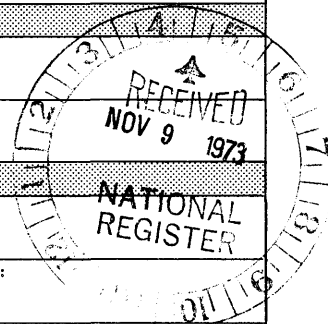
(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:
Georgia

COUNTY:
Chatham

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY DATE:
JUN 7 1974



1. NAME

COMMON:
Federal Building and United States Courthouse

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Post Office

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Wright Square

CITY OR TOWN:
Savannah

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:
First

STATE:
Georgia

CODE
10

COUNTY:
Chatham

CODE
051

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

4. AGENCY

General Services Administration

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (If applicable)

STREET AND NUMBER:
1776 Peachtree

CITY OR TOWN:
Savannah

STATE:
Georgia

CODE
10

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
Chatham County Courthouse, Registry of Deeds

STREET AND NUMBER:
Wright Square

CITY OR TOWN:
Savannah

STATE:
Georgia

CODE
10

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Historic Savannah Inventory

DATE OF SURVEY: 1962

Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Historic Savannah Foundation, Inc.

STREET AND NUMBER:
P. O. Box 1733

CITY OR TOWN:
Savannah

STATE:
Georgia

CODE
10

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:

COUNTY:

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

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1974

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 Federal Building and United States Courthouse in Savannah, Georgia, is a U-shaped marble building which fronts Wright Square on the east. Covering a downtown city block, its boundaries are defined by State Street on the north, Whitaker Street on the west, and York Street on the south. The three-story structure is built in what would be termed most correctly the Second Renaissance Revival style.

When first built, the Federal Building, then the Post Office, was less than half the size of its present-day appearance. President Street ran into Wright Square at the time of its construction in the 1890's. The main facade of the Post Office, with its five arched entrance doors with leaded and stained glass and its centrally placed square tower, opened onto President Street. When the building was enlarged in the early 1930's, President Street was closed and the structure extended north to State Street.

The 1930's addition successfully reproduced not only the style but also the details of the earlier section. Wall surfaces are white marble. On the rusticated first floor, stone has a slightly rough texture to contrast with the smoother walls of the upper stories. Elevations are symmetrical and have very slight projecting and receding planes.

A variety of openings have been used. All those on the first floor have rounded arches, including the two main entrances now located on the east facade. Second floor openings are flat across the east front and on the end bays of both sides. Other openings on the second story, as well as those on the third floor, are arched. Openings are often grouped in two's and three's. Openings in the central mass of both sides and in the entrance bays on the east front are recessed and pillared with balconies, creating a loggia or gallery effect. Second floor windows are connected by a stringcourse. There is elaborate carving over many openings, including one face of "Uncle Sam" with the initials "US", "CH", and "PO".

The cornice is both heavily carved and inset with medallions of varying colors of marble. Shading the cornice is a projecting, bracketed eave. The roof has only a slight pitch.

At the rear of the building on Whitaker Street is the covered loading and service area.

When completed in 1899, the Post Office had thirty-two rooms occupied by various federal agencies. It was heated by steam and open fireplaces with gas logs. Due to extensive renovations, few evidences of the early appearance of the interior are visible, although some of the original oak paneling and mantels remain intact. The courtroom has been altered considerably.

The building dimensions are 154'0" x 154'0".



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8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) Completed 1899; addition completed 1932

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

The Federal Building and United States Courthouse in Savannah is prominently located on Wright Square in the downtown section. Although "historic" Savannah is identified generally with an earlier period, the Federal Building makes an important visual contribution to the city architecturally. A notable representation of its period and built in the Second Renaissance Revival style, it is one of the more distinguished and imposing structures of the late nineteenth and twentieth centuries in Savannah.

The site of the Federal Building is historically important. James Edward Oglethorpe, the founder of Georgia, erected a courthouse on the site, where, among other events, John Wesley preached during 1736 and 1737.

According to a government printed history, work on a post office at the corner of York and Abercon Streets had begun in 1889, but was suspended because Savannah citizens wanted "a more suitable structure." Congress was persuaded to appropriate more funds and on June 15, 1894, a local newspaper reported that excavations had begun the day before at the President Street site. It noted that local men were being employed for the project. On July 31, 1899, the paper announced that the following day all departments of the post office were to be in the "new government building," which is "an ornament and a pride to the city." It also housed the United States Courts, the United States Engineers, and the Weather Bureau. The building was probably designed in 1893-1894 when W. J. Edbrooke was Supervising Architect.

The building was enlarged between 1930 and 1932, when President Street was closed and the structure extended to include a full city block. Today, it serves as a postal station as well as offices for numerous federal agencies.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

A History of Public Buildings under the Control of the Treasury Department.
 Washington: Government Printing Office, 1901, pp. 108-109.
 Historic Savannah Foundation, Inc. File on the Federal Building and United States Courthouse.
 Records of The National Archives, Atlanta Regional Office of The National Archives, Federal Records Center. Record Group RG121, Accession Number 68A1380.
Savannah Morning News, June 15, 1894, and July 31, 1899.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

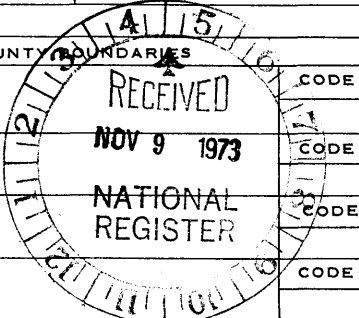
LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "	32°	04'	41"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "	81°	05'	39"	
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

NO UTM
CX

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: about 3/4 acre

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

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



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Ellen Beasley DATE: March 26, 1973

BUSINESS ADDRESS:

STREET AND NUMBER: 2516 Belmont Boulevard PHONE: 615-297-6637

CITY OR TOWN: Nashville STATE: Tennessee CODE: 11

12. CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

State Liaison Officer recommendation:

- Yes
- No
- None

Mary Eugary Jewett
 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. Ritterbaum 10/24/73
 Federal Representative Signature Date

Historic Preservation Liaison Officer

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

Ernest Allen Connally
 Associate Director, Professional Services

Date JUN 7 1974

ATTEST:
Charles A. ...
 Acting Keeper of The National Register

Date 6-4-74