

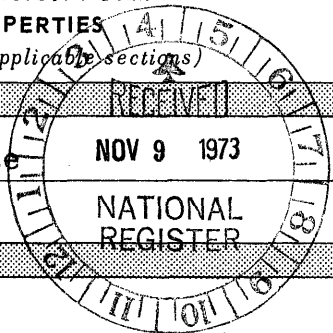
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STATE: Maine
COUNTY: Cumberland
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE FEB 12 1974

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

FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)



1. NAME

COMMON:
United States Courthouse

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
156 Federal Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Portland

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:
First: Hon. Peter N. Kyros

STATE: **Maine** CODE: **23** COUNTY: **Cumberland** CODE: **005**

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 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	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 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) _____ _____ _____

4. AGENCY

General Services Administration

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (If applicable)

CITY OR TOWN:
Washington

STREET AND NUMBER:
18th and F Streets, N.W.

STATE: **D. C.** CODE: **11**

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
Cumberland County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:
142 Federal Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Portland

STATE: **Maine** CODE: **23**

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Greater Portland Landmarks Survey of Portland, Maine

DATE OF SURVEY: **1969** Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Greater Portland Landmarks, Inc.

STREET AND NUMBER:
Station A Box 4197

CITY OR TOWN:
Portland

STATE: **Maine** CODE: **04101**

STATE: **Maine**

COUNTY: **Cumberland**

ENTRY NUMBER: **FEB 12 1974**

DATE: _____

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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"/> ^{slightly} Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Construction of the United States Courthouse began in November, 1908. The building was completed in February, 1911, and dedicated on July 20, 1911. James Knox Taylor (1857-1929), the Supervising Architect of the United States Treasury from 1897 to 1912, designed the building in the Second Renaissance Revival style. The superintendent of construction was Frederick A. Hills.

The courthouse occupied the southwestern half of the lot bounded on the northwest by Federal Street, on the northeast by Pearl Street, on the southeast by Newbury Street, and on the southwest by Market Street. The main entrance was at the western corner, facing the junction of Market and Federal Streets. The building was a "u" shape, open toward Pearl Street. The remainder of the block was vacant.

An addition was made to the courthouse: a "u" shaped wing was added to the existing building on the northeastern end. The United States Courthouse became a trapezoid, enclosing a courtyard, which filled the entire block. The cornerstone for the addition was laid in September, 1931. James A. Wetmore (1863-1940) was the Supervising Architect of the United States Treasury at the time. Construction was completed by November, 1932.

The original section of the courthouse is currently used by the United States Courts. It contains the U. S. Courtroom, the Grand Jury Room, the U. S. Bankruptcy Courtroom, offices for the officials connected with the courts, and a General Services Administration office. The addition houses the Pearl Street Station branch of the U. S. Postal Service and the offices of various Federal agencies.

The United States Courthouse is two stories high with a hip roof which encloses a third story. It has a full basement. The exterior is granite. The granite of the original building came from North Jay, Maine; that of the addition from Vermont. The roof is slate and tar and gravel.

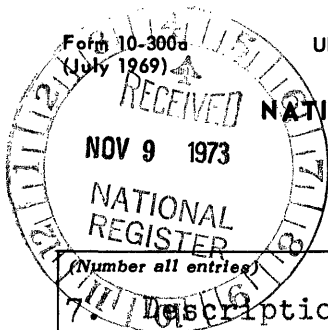
The addition was designed to match the original building in all exterior detailing. The two parts act as an integral unit. The floor levels are marked by stringcourses on the exterior. The first floor is raised a few feet above street level; the basement level revealed has small rectangular windows and is finished with smooth ashlar. More of this level shows on the southeastern facade as the ground level drops toward Newbury Street. The first floor level has recessed windows in rectangular openings with simple moldings. The joints between each block of ashlar on this level are recessed. The ashlar of the wider second floor level is smooth. The windows are elaborately treated. They are rectangular and have a bal-
(see Continuation Sheet p. 1)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Maine	
COUNTY	
Cumberland	
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ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	FEB 12 1974



7. Description

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ustrade segment below them. They are surmounted by a raised triangular or arched pediment. Groups of windows are set in rectangular niches and enclosed by raised arches and simple pilasters. Above a continuous frieze and dentil cornice, a balustrade of open balusters and solid panels runs around the entire building at the roof line. The roof slopes back to reveal dormer windows surmounted by arched pediments.

Because the United States Courthouse fills an entire block, all the facades of the building are important. Each facade contains several bays and is modulated by the slight projections of groups of bays. The Pearl Street facade contains the entrance to the post office. The main entrance to the courthouse is a single bay on a diagonal, joining the Federal and Market Street facades. The double entrance door is recessed in an arched opening framed by round Doric pilasters carrying a triangular pediment with dentil molding. The second floor window above the entrance matches those of the adjoining facades.

The interior courtyard has a yellow brick exterior. The windows of the original building have granite sills and lintels with keystones; the floor levels are articulated with granite stringcourses. The windows of the addition have granite sills; there are no stringcourses. The courtyard is currently used as a loading area for the post office, as it was when the addition was built, and as a parking area for the U. S. Court.

The only alterations to the original exteriors of the courthouse have been the conversion of the lawn on the Newbury Street side to a parking lot in 1956, and the replacement of exterior wooden doors with aluminum and glass doors in 1965. In the early 1960's the granite of the courthouse was sandblasted and cleaned.

The interior of the United States Courthouse has been very little changed. The original finishes are intact: marble and terrazzo flooring, molded wood trim, marble trim, molded plaster cornices. Work is currently underway (March 1973) to modernize the building. Heating and airconditioning ducts are being installed in the corridors; they will be hidden behind suspended ceilings which will contain new lighting fixtures. Of special note on the interior are the elliptical main entrance area and stairway, an elegant space finished with bold, almost architectural, Federal details; and the United States Courtroom, which has Federal detail, with the exception of the ceiling, intact.

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) 1911 main building; 1932 addition.

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input checked="" 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 United States Courthouse is a well designed building. The facades employ the same design elements in slightly varied arrangements; they relate well to form a distinct whole, united particularly by the continuous stringcourses, cornice, balustrade, and ashlar surfaces. The scale of the building is not overpowering for its location. The exterior detail gives the building visual impact.

The courthouse has an important place in the urban fabric of Portland, Maine. It is one of several government buildings which form a distinguished group near Lincoln Park in the center of the city, giving a real focus to municipal and government activity. Adjacent to the courthouse is the Cumberland County Courthouse, a Neo-Classical Revival building designed by George Burnham and completed in 1910, facing Lincoln Park. Across from the courthouse is the Portland Fire Department Headquarters, beside Lincoln Park. The United States Post Office Building, a Renaissance Revival building completed in 1868, stood nearby until it was torn down in 1964. One block to the northwest of the courthouse is the Portland City Hall, a Second Renaissance Revival building designed by Carrere and Hastings and completed in 1912. A short distance southeast on Pearl Street is the United States Custom House, a Baroque Revival building designed by Alfred B. Mullett and completed in 1872.

Intertwined with this group of government buildings is the Exchange Street district, an intact historic area of the city comprised of handsome Victorian commercial blocks and business buildings. The resulting neighborhood forms an architecturally distinguished section of Portland.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Daily Eastern Argus, Portland, Maine, July 21, 1911, "New Federal Court", p. 10-11.

Withey, Henry F. and Elsie Rathburn Withey: Biographical Dictionary of American Architects, Los Angeles, 1970, p. 592, p. 647.

Writers' Program of the Works Projects Administration: Portland City Guide, Portland, 1940, p. 231.

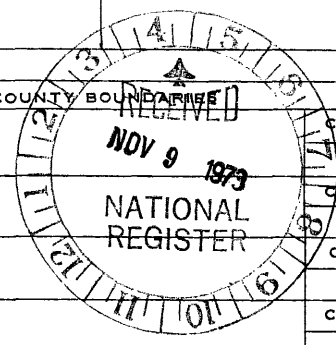
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

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	° ' "	° ' "	43 °	39 ' 31.0"	70 ° 15 ' 19.5"	
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **0.65 acres**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Mary-Eliza Wengren, Consultant		DATE: March 1973
BUSINESS ADDRESS:		
STREET AND NUMBER: Main Street		PHONE: 207-865-3024
CITY OR TOWN: South Freeport	STATE: Maine	CODE: 04078
		23

12. CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

<p>State Liaison Officer recommendation:</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> None</p> <p><i>James H. Mundy</i> State Liaison Officer Signature</p> <p>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 <input type="checkbox"/> National <input type="checkbox"/> State</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Local</p> <p><i>Aven R. Rittenbaum</i> 10/24/73 Federal Representative Signature Date Historic Preservation Liaison Title</p>	<p>NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION</p> <p>I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.</p> <p><i>W. R. Madsen</i> Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation</p> <p>Date 2/17/74</p> <p>ATTEST:</p> <p><i>Wm J. Montague</i> Keeper of The National Register</p> <p>Date 2-6-74</p>
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