

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

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

RECEIVED  
APR 12 1982  
OHP

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

~~United States~~ Post Office and Courthouse

AND/OR COMMON

Federal Building/U.S. Post Office and Courthouse

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

Fifth and H Streets

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Eureka

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

na 2nd

STATE

California

VICINITY OF

CODE

06

COUNTY

Humboldt

CODE

023

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

**CATEGORY**

DISTRICT

BUILDING(S)

STRUCTURE

SITE

OBJECT

**OWNERSHIP**

PUBLIC

PRIVATE

BOTH

**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**

IN PROCESS

BEING CONSIDERED

NA

**STATUS**

OCCUPIED

UNOCCUPIED

WORK IN PROGRESS

**ACCESSIBLE**

YES: RESTRICTED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

NO

**PRESENT USE**

AGRICULTURE

COMMERCIAL

EDUCATIONAL

GOVERNMENT

INDUSTRIAL

MILITARY

MUSEUM

PARK

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

RELIGIOUS

SCIENTIFIC

TRANSPORTATION

OTHER:

**4 AGENCY**

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (if applicable)

General Services Administration Region IX

STREET & NUMBER

525 Market Street

CITY, TOWN

San Francisco

VICINITY OF

STATE

California 94105

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Humboldt County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

825 Fifth Street

CITY, TOWN

Eureka

STATE

California 95501

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

None

DATE

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR

SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

# 7 DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Federal Building/United States Post Office and Courthouse (called Post Office in this nomination) is located within the central business district of the modestly sized northern California community of Eureka. Situated on the southwest corner of Fifth and H Streets - one of the town's busiest intersections - the building is sited facing east toward downtown and Humboldt Bay beyond. Eureka's business district consists primarily of low-rise commercial and institutional buildings of varying ages representing most of the architectural styles developed since the 1880s, with a concentration of brick and frame Late Victorian Functional structures. One block north is the heart of the downtown district; the Humboldt County Courthouse is two blocks west. Directly across Fifth Street from the Post Office is a parking lot, beside that a one-story commercial building. Across H Street is another single-story block adjoined on the south by a contemporary two-story office building. Across the intersection is the three-story Elks' Hall (now the Security Pacific National Bank), a neoclassical building similar to the Post Office and built at the same time. The Post Office shares the block with a variety of one- to three-story commercial structures built over a wide range of time.

It is massed as a great three-story block, resting on a full, raised basement and oriented with the front facade facing H Street. Set on a site which slopes away from the H Street entrance, the building is placed on a raised foundation - the classical pedestal - lifting the main lobby level several feet above street level and giving the Post Office a more impressive bearing. Main public access is via a broad set of granite steps and landings centered on the H Street facade; a secondary stair climbs the sloped site from Fifth Street to a corner entrance on the north facade, and a third, smaller and less grandiose stair climbs the hillside at the northwest corner of the site. There are at present no ramps for handicapped access to the building. The Post Office is, typically, set back from the sidewalks along Fifth and H Streets, a siting device which distinguishes it from its commercial neighbors. A small grass lawn surrounds the building on its north, east and west sides; planted in this lawn are foundation shrubs at several points along the building and a number of deciduous trees alongside the sidewalk. The requisite flagpole is situated in the northeast corner of the lot. The rear of the site is taken up by a small paved parking/loading area off of the public alley.

The building is supported by a structural steel frame which bears on a reinforced concrete foundation. It is covered with a flat composition roof with flat-seamed, terne metal sloping outer edges on all sides which give the impression that the roof is hipped. The flat section today contains a small stair penthouse and is studded with weather gauging equipment maintained by the Weather Service. The exterior walls are divided into three zones which correspond with the classical vertical divisions of base, body and cap. The base is formed by the raised foundation walls, sided with smooth dressed limestone slabs up to a moulded stone

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watertable and smooth dressed buff-colored sandstone (today painted beige) above. The major section of the walls - the body - is made up of pressed brick laid in common bond. The brick walls feature a series of horizontal inset corbels on the first floor level, the brick equivalent of the stone street level of Renaissance architecture, with a moulded stone or terra cotta spandrel above; the bricks of the second and third floor levels are laid in a series of flush panels outlined at the top and bottom with single-coursed soldier bricks. The cap is formed by the sloping roof with its massive terra cotta Italianate entablature. Components of the entablature include the moulded cornice with integrated gutters, coffered soffits with plain block modillions, large, paired decorative brackets with decorative brickwork in the frieze panels and a compound moulded architrave.

The front facade features the building's most striking exterior element, a series of five round arch Georgian windows which extend the height of the second and third stories. These windows, with their multi-paned double-hung sashes, fanlight heads, round brick arches, stone springers and oak interior trim, form the focal point for the facade - and the building - and further distinguish the Post Office as a neoclassical design. They make up the facade's central bay, which is flanked on both sides by slightly projecting corner bays; three smaller double-hung wood windows (one per floor) are centered in each corner bay. The north and south faces are symmetrically organized like the east, with a center main bay enframed by smaller end bays. The center bay, however, projects beyond the end bays and feature nine (three per floor) plainly framed double-hung windows with brick flat arch heads. The west facade is identical to the east in its bays and setbacks, but the large round arch windows are replaced with more modest rectangular openings.

Above the front entrance are the words "United States Post Office and Court House" in metal letters attached to the brick. The cornerstone, set in the northeast corner, reads:

Franklin MacVeagh Secretary of the Treasury

James Knox Taylor Supervising Architect

1909

The interior of the Post Office has undergone minor alterations since it was opened for business in early 1911, but the main spaces retain their original character. The Daily Humboldt Standard described the interior in a January 1911 article announcing the opening:

The entire lower floor is given over to the postoffice, which is large and roomy both for the employees of the department and the public. Over 1,000

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boxes of the latest design have been installed as against approximately 600 in the former postoffice. In the farther end of the corridor are two general delivery and money order windows, one for the sale of stamps, one for a registry clerk and two for the carriers. Offices for both the postmaster and his assistants are also located on that floor.

On the second floor is the court room, conceded to be as fine as any in the state, which is finished in plain white. On this floor also are also (sic) offices for the local custom house officials and the clerk of the court.

On the upper floor are the offices of the local Weather Bureau and the Register and Receiver of the Land Office, which are now occupied by Messrs. Kimball and Girard. Observer Aaron Bell has been taking observations from his new quarters for the past several days. In the basement is installed the big furnace which generates the heat for the new building in addition to other offices and rooms.

The whole building is is (sic) finished throughout with marble and presents a strictly up-to-date appearance. The woodwork throughout the building is stained a dark brown, and the lettering on the office doors being in gold. On the whole, the structure is the finest public building in Northern California.

The Post Office continues to occupy the entire first floor, with the public lobby extending the length of the building on the east side and the main open workroom, with its smaller ancillary spaces, occupying the remainder of the floor. The lobby is accessed through small vestibules in the middle of the east wall and in the north end; the lobby features all of its original components, including the tri-colored quarry tile floor with contrasting tile borders, marble wainscoting, plaster walls and ceiling with moulded plaster crown, wrought iron bracketed, cantilevered writing tables, original (and later) post office boxes, and window and door trim. The postal workroom, similarly, has undergone few changes in configuration and finishes and still has plaster walls and ceilings and maple strip flooring.

The upper two levels are dominated by the large two-story courtroom centered above the main lobby on the east wall. The courtroom, which was subdivided into a smaller court space and an office for the court clerks around 1964, still displays its paneled and pilastered plaster walls, moulded oak baseboards and wainscoting, paneled oak doorways and windows with original casings, jambs and sills and much of the original Mission style furniture. The plaster shows some damage from a recent earthquake, though there is no known structural damage to the building. The original tempera murals produced in 1937 by Thomas Iaman-Hardy

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are still in place along the walls and over the doorways (see Addendum, Item 8); these murals are an important part of the building. South of the courtroom, in the southeast corner of the second floor, is the judge's chamber, a small, relatively plain room featuring the same detailing as the courtroom. West of the judge's chamber, separated by a closet and toilet, is the jury room, also a rather plain space. Across the entry hall from the courtroom/clerk's office is the law library and offices of the U.S. Coast Guard. A large part of the third floor is taken up by the upper level of the courtroom. Aligned along a U-shaped hall on the west, north and south walls of the building is a series of offices now occupied by the FBI, the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Westher Service. These spaces have all undergone changes of finish and today are principally carpeted, with plaster or sheetrock walls, softwood trim and suspended ceilings.

Summary

The Federal Building/United States Post Office and Courthouse is located facing east on a corner lot in the central business district of Eureka. Massed as a great three-story neoclassical block on a raised foundation, it is covered with a flat roof with terne metal sloping outer edges which give the impression that the roof is hipped. Exterior walls are divided into three zones which correspond with the classical vertical divisions of base, body and cap - the base formed by the limestone-sided foundation walls, the body by the corbelled brick walls and the cap by the sloping roof with its massive terra cotta entablature. The front facade features the building's most striking exterior element, a series of round arch Georgian windows which extend the height of the second and third stories. Interior spaces have undergone some changes since the building's opening in 1911, but the main public lobby and postal workroom on the first floor and the courtroom which dominates the upper two levels retain their essential character. The social realist tempera murals painted in 1937 by Thomas Iaman-Hardy are still in place. The Eureka Federal Building/U.S. Post Office and Courthouse stands today essentially unaltered on the exterior with minor alteration of the interior spaces and finishes. The building is an important landmark for the city, a visual anchor for the central business district; it is one of the most refined and best preserved examples of early 20th century neoclassical architecture in the region.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

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

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SPECIFIC DATES	Designed: 1908	BUILDER/ <u>ARCHITECT</u>	James Knox Taylor
	Built: 1909-10		Supervising Architect

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The significance of the Federal Building/United States Post Office and Courthouse in Eureka rests upon the building's intrinsic and representational values on a local level to the city. These values lie in three areas: architecture, art and politics/government. Architecturally the Post Office is representative of the eclectic classicism which distinguished most public buildings designed by the Treasury Department's Supervising Architect's office in the early 20th century. Although it may not have succeeded in its role as exemplar of good taste to be imitated by subsequent private structures, the building is perhaps the most refined of the early public architecture of Eureka. It is an excellent and locally prominent example of its genre - a small early public building. Similarly, the tempera murals commissioned for the courtroom by the Treasury Department in 1937 are locally important examples - Eureka's only ones - of the type of federally sponsored decorative artwork executed during the Depression. The Eureka murals were more skillfully painted than most of their contemporaries - excellent examples of the widespread social realist art movement of the thirties and forties. Finally, the Post Office represents Eureka's part of the extensive building project at the turn of the century. As one of a very few such buildings erected in Northern California and one of the fewer survivors, it is a regionally important remnant of that early effort. As the first federal building in the city, the Post Office was a source of pride for Eureka and a locally prominent symbol of the federal government.

Addendum

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The Federal Building/Post Office and Courthouse in Eureka was designed and erected amidst a three-way imbroglio among the Supervising Architect's (SA) office in the Treasury Department, Congress and the American Institute of Architects. Representatives from each group regularly assailed the others, issuing reports and statements and writing articles for the trade publications. The Institute, ever protective of its membership, objected to in-house design of civil federal buildings by the SA's office, which between 1899 and 1912 had almost tripled the number of buildings under its aegis. AIA members railed against the movement

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See Addendum, Item 9

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY .48

UTM REFERENCES

A	1   0	4   10   1   9   0   0	4   5   1   7   2   1   5
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C			

B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
D			

### VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Property is located on southwest corner of Fifth and H Streets, with 140' frontage on Fifth Street and 150' frontage on H Street.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Clayton B. Fraser, Principal

ORGANIZATION

Fraserdesign

DATE

7 March 82

STREET & NUMBER

1269 Cleveland Avenue Suite Two

TELEPHONE

303-669-7969

CITY OR TOWN

Loveland

STATE

Colorado 80537

# 12 CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

YES

NO

NONE

4/20/82

*K M Ellen*

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

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

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

*J Roth*

J. WALTER ROTH

TITLE

DIRECTOR, HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

DATE

12 JAN 83

### FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

ATTEST

*Delores Byers*

2/10/83

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Entered in the  
National Register

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toward standardized design which the Treasury advocated as a means to hold down costs and what they regarded as substandard work produced by the SA's staff architects. Surely, the AIA argued, such projects would be better served by architects in the private sector. The Institute had successfully lobbied Congress for passage of the Tarnsey Act in 1893, which allowed the Treasury to secure private architects' services through competitions, and many of the larger federal buildings of the period were commissioned through Tarnsey Act provisions.

Congress during the first decade of this century responded to increasing pressure from emerging towns and cities across the country for more federal buildings by awarding hundreds of construction projects as part of the political spoils system. The first omnibus buildings legislation was enacted in 1902; this and those which followed in subsequent sessions authorized the wholesale construction of new post offices and courthouses in small towns throughout America. The AIA joined the national press with charges of porkbarrel politics with an article by Charles Harris Whitaker in the March 1916 AIA Journal. Entitled "Our Stupid and Blundering Policy of Providing Public Buildings," the article criticized Representative Frank Clark, Chairman of the Committee on Public Buildings, charging:

So long as public buildings are provided as a basis for political prestige and satisfying private greed, no one connected with their planning and construction has the slightest chance of escaping the result of the initial mistake in the method of making appropriations. There is no justification in this method. It is fundamentally and lamentably wrong, unbusinesslike and wasteful. The bare facts are enough to condemn in the eyes of any thinking person. Most of the appropriations made are for communities which are not entitled to a building.

Clark directed such criticisms back to the SA's office and the Treasury Department. The Treasury, for its part, also criticized the policy as wasteful and reacted by placing an annual ceiling on the amount spent for contracted buildings. Stated Secretary of Treasury William McAdoo later in his 1916 Annual Report on the State of the Finances:

I am convinced the methods pursued by the Congress for the past 15 years of providing Federal buildings through so-called omnibus public-building bills have resulted in the construction of many public buildings in small towns and localities where they are not needed, and at a cost which is clearly unjustified by any actual requirements of the communities in which they are erected. The conclusion is irresistible that authorizations for public buildings in these small communities are too frequently dictated by local reasons and without regard to the best interests of the government.



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In the past two decades Congress has authorized and appropriated approximately \$180,000,000 for public buildings, and the major part of this great sum has been expended on costly buildings in small localities where neither the Government business nor the convenience of the people justified their construction, and while the initial cost of these buildings represents a large waste of public funds, this is not the worst of it. The most serious aspect is this: the annual operation and maintenance of these buildings impose on the Treasury a permanent and consistantly increasing burden.

Congress had reacted to criticism from both the SA and the AIA, however, soon after construction of this building in 1911 by cutting back the SA's staff by fifteen percent and repealing the Tarnsey Act.

Although such bickering over the necessity of the hundreds of building projects marked the activities in Washington during the Roosevelt administration, there appeared no such devisiveness in Eureka. Boosting for a new building had begun in February 1896 with a petition to Congress by the Humboldt Chamber of Commerce. A second petition was submitted in November 1901 with a Chamber broadside entitled "Argument or Reasons Why a Public Building Should be Erected at Eureka, California." At that time the post office was housed in a rented 24'x 70' wood frame building on Second Street. According to the "Argument":

These quarters are entirely inadequate for transacting the present business of the office. At least double the present area should be provided, - say 4,000 square feet. Then the different departments of the office, now all crowded into one room, might be so separated as to permit of the orderly transaction of the business of each.

In addition to the post office, the building requested by the Chamber of Commerce would house the Customs Office, Land Office and Weather Bureau - all of the federal agencies then represented in town. On 15 December 1905, California Senator Flint introduced an appropriations bill to the Senate (S.1831) authorizing the "purchase of a site and erection of a public building at Eureka, California." The bill passed and the frustratingly long (for Eureka) design and construction process was initiated. After condemnation proceedings in which the Chamber of Commerce contributed \$3000, the site at the corner of Fifth and H streets was secured; late in 1908 the design was completed by staff members of the SA's office, then directed by James Knox Taylor, and was presented to local representatives for approval.

The proposed building was all the Chamber had hoped for, and more. In an emerging town which by the 1900 census contained some 7324 people, the federal government

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proposed to build a three-story brick edifice to house its offices, and despite the fact that the Ninth Circuit Court had conducted the area's business for the years during a two-week period each year, the building would contain an expansive two-story courtroom with attendant judge's, clerk's and jury's chambers. The design of the building, like the majority of those built under the supervision of James Knox Taylor, displayed the classicism of the sort espoused by the Ecole des Beaux Arts. Taylor, in his 1901 Report of the Supervising Architect of the Treasury, had presented a manifesto of sorts for federal design, stating:

The Department, after mature consideration of the subject, finally decided to adopt the classical style of architecture for all buildings as far as it was practicable to do so, and it is believed that this style is best suited for Government buildings. The experience of centuries has demonstrated that no form of architecture is so pleasing to the great mass of mankind as the classic, or some modified form of the classic, and it is hoped that the present policy may be followed in the future, in order that the public buildings of the United States may become distinctive in their character.

Although the Post Office in Eureka lacked the scale and grandeur presented by many of its federal contemporaries, perhaps best represented regionally by the 1905 Post Office and Courthouse in San Francisco, enrolled on the Register in 1971, it exhibits the return to classicism which marked federal architecture of the time. The government intended the building to serve not only as a symbol of its presence in the community, but as an arbiter of good taste, to influence the style of private buildings to follow. The Treasury Department stated in its 1912 annual report on the State of the Finances, somewhat presumptuously:

Our Federal Government is the largest builder of buildings ever known in the world - and its building enterprises are far more important still; and the fact that it builds in every part of our great country gives it an unexampled influence upon the architectural art of the entire people. It cannot avoid affecting in a pronounced degree the architectural taste, knowledge, and enjoyment of the nation. . . The Government, therefore, enjoys in its building operations a tremendous opportunity for good in the judgement of all who regard architecture as one of the important factors of the higher civilization.

Surprisingly, the local press received the long-awaited design critically and expressed exasperation over the plodding progress of the building, complaining in January 1909:

Comparatively little progress has been made in this matter (the federal building) during the past year. After having the lot probed and punched and

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mapped and photographed by contract, the authorities found some method of doing this work over again by private agreement; and in this profitable way succeeded in frittering away the summer without accomplishing anything tangible. And finally, after being urged to get a move on by our Congressman, they sent out to the Federal officers here a warmed-over set of floor plans, so manifestly unsuited to the needs of the important offices to be housed therein that the officers concerned were constrained to have them re-drawn by a local architect. Our latest information is that the Department will be ready to call for bids of the erection of the building some time in the latter part of this month. But what the building is to be, and what it will look like, is unknown, at least to the general public.

The changes suggested by the local federal agents in reality were minor, involving reassignment of spaces between agencies and reconfiguration of halls and stairs. Bids for construction were advertised on 14 April 1909, and the San Francisco-based Globe Construction Company was awarded the contract - out of a field of two bidders - with an initial bid of \$122,987. Globe had been founded in 1905 as the partnership between D.H. Duncanson and William H. Harrelson and was a relative newcomer to the area. C.F. Armstrong was designated Superintendent of Construction and was later succeeded by Sedley Chaplan, and the building lines were stretched in late July. Construction commenced soon after, and despite an array of government caused delays, materials rejections and attachments placed on the project by a disgruntled subcontractor, the work progressed through the rest of the year. On Christmas Eve of 1909 the cornerstone was laid in place. Announced the 22 December Daily Humboldt Standard:

(The day) will be an auspicious day for the City of Eureka. For years the citizens and business men of Eureka have worked to secure from the National Government a Federal building for our growing city. . . The time has come when the cornerstone of this splendid public building of which Eureka will be justly proud, is to be laid. The work of laying the corner stone involves much detail and considerable expense. Naturally all of our people desire that these ceremonies should be performed in a manner befitting the occasion and the importance to Eureka of the realization of this long hoped for building.

Emceed by Eureka Grand Senior Warden, soon to be Grand Master, A.J. Monroe of the Grand Lodge of Masons of the State of California, the laying ceremony displayed all of the pomp and splendor, parades and speeches by locally famous personages that could be mustered by the small town during a driving rainstorm. Within the cornerstone, in a copper box, were entombed such memorabilia as a list of officers of the Humboldt Chamber of Commerce, annual reports of exports from Humboldt

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County for the years 1907 and 1908, financial statements of the Humboldt County Bank and the Home Savings Bank, copies of three area newspapers, printed climatological data of Eureka and a penny minted in 1909 - "called the 'Lincoln penny'."

Construction continued without further report of incident throughout the following year, and in early January 1911 the building was occupied. It continued unaltered for over twenty-six years, and in 1937 five tempera murals were hung in the courtroom. These murals - three measuring 5½'x 10' and two 2'x 3' - were painted by Thomas Iaman-Hardy as part of a New Deal relief program to aid struggling artists and place works of original art in public buildings. He had been commissioned by the Treasury Department's Section of Fine Arts (one of some 1371 granted between 1934 and 1943); the murals illustrate pastoral scenes in the somewhat romanticized fashion favored at that time by the government.

The operational history of the Eureka Post Office and Courthouse over the past seventy years has been rather undistinguished - essentially a chronicle of the daily activities of the occupant agencies. Today the post office continues to occupy the entire first floor, although it was demoted from Main Office to Station status with the construction of a new post office in 1962. The second floor still houses the Customs Office and the courtroom with its ancillary chambers and offices. The District Court for the Northern California District was moved from the building, and in January 1959 the courtroom became a full-time bankruptcy court for the Northern California District. The Weather Service occupies most of the third floor spaces -with updated equipment; the original Land Office has been replaced with offices for the FBI and the Bureau of Indian Affairs. The building has undergone relatively minor physical or functional change since its construction and stands today much as it did in 1911.

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