

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

Historic name U.S. Post Office and Courthouse
Other names/site number Harold Donahue Federal Building and Courthouse

2. Location

Street & Number 595 Main Street Not for Publication N/A
City or Town Worcester Vicinity N/A
State Massachusetts Code MA County Worcester Code 027 Zip Code 01601

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 ☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

[Signature] GSA, 2/18/11
Signature of certifying official Federal Preservation Officer Date

State or Federal Agency or Tribal government

In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Brona Simon SHPO February 9, 2011
Signature of commenting official/Title Date

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

☒ entered in the National Register

☐ See continuation sheet.

☐ determined eligible for the National Register

☐ See continuation sheet.

☐ determined not eligible for the National Register

☐ removed from the National Register

☐ other (explain):

[Signature] Edson H. Beall 4-8-11
Signature of Keeper Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)	Category of Property (Check only one box)	Number of Resources within Property	
		Contributing	Noncontributing
☐ private	☒ building(s)	<u>1</u>	☐ building(s)
☐ public-local	☐ district	☐	☐ sites
☐ public-state	☐ site	☐	☐ structures
☒ public-federal	☐ structure	☐	☐ objects
	☐ object	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

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

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: <u>Government</u>	Sub: <u>Courthouse—Federal Courthouse</u>
<u>Government</u>	<u>U.S. Post Office</u>
<u>Government</u>	<u>Government Office</u>
<u> </u>	<u> </u>

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: <u>Government</u>	Sub: <u>Courthouse—Federal Courthouse</u>
<u>Government</u>	<u>Government Office</u>
<u> </u>	<u> </u>

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19TH CENTURY AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALSNeo-Classical Revival

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation	<u>concrete</u>
roof	<u>(not visible) OTHER-neoprene membrane</u>
walls	<u>STONE/Granite</u>
walls	<u>STONE/Marble</u>
walls	<u>TERRA COTTA</u>
other	<u>(windows & doors) METAL/Steel</u>
	<u>(windows & doors) GLASS</u>
	<u>(cupola) TERRA COTTA</u>
	<u>(penthouse) BRICK</u>
	<u>(lanterns) METAL/Iron</u>
	<u>(flagpoles) METAL/Cast iron</u>

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Please see Section 7 Continuation Sheets.

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U. S. Post Office and Courthouse
Worcester County, MA

Description

The U.S. Post Office and Courthouse stands five stories high with a basement, and was designed in the Neo-Classical Revival style, combining both Greek and Renaissance Revival elements. Its building plan is quadrilateral, and placed on a triangular-shaped lot. The site dominates an important view corridor along Worcester's Main Street. When facing south from Worcester City Hall, the cupola, a terra cotta tempietto, may easily be seen. The exterior walls are clad with light gray granite from Rusk Quarries of West Townsend, Massachusetts, and feature heavy rustication along the first floor. The building's originally primary (north) elevation is the shortest in length and fronts along Burnside Court, now called Federal Plaza. It is dominated by a pair of monumental marble columns from Danby, Vermont, and three arched entrance openings. The secondary (west) elevation along Main Street now serves (2009) as the main entrance to the building, through three arched openings. The façade features a series of pilasters dividing the fenestration, which is further accentuated by joining the second and third story window units with bronze panels and granite lintels. The Myrtle Street (south) and Southbridge Street (east) elevations feature minimal classical ornament.

The building was substantially altered in 1972-1973 after the U.S. Postal Service vacated most of their mail processing spaces, and again in 1994-1995, when the light court running along Southbridge Street was filled in above the second floor, providing additional space for more courtrooms and offices. All the building's windows were replaced in the 1970s and again in the 1990s. The current windows are sympathetic to the materials and design of the original steel casements. However, the 1990s alteration compromised the exterior's integrity of materials. The exterior doors were all replaced with incompatible anodized aluminum frame units, some fixed and some movable. Also, in the 1970s and 1990s, the interior postal spaces, courtrooms and offices were substantially altered, leaving only the north elevator lobbies, the west corridors, and the two stairwells as the only interior areas that retain a majority of their historic materials.

The U.S. Post Office and Courthouse was designed in the Neo-Classical Revival style. The building is five stories in height, plus a basement, flat roof, and elevator penthouse. The tripartite design features a first floor base terminating in a granite water table, a central shaft comprised of floors two through four terminating in an entablature, and a fifth story attic. The exterior walls of the lower four stories are clad with light gray granite from Rusk Quarries of West Townsend, Massachusetts, and the fifth story is clad with ashlar terracotta. The first story base is heavily rusticated with dressed granite ashlar with margins. Floors two through four are faced with dressed granite ashlar without margins.

The deeply projecting entablature between the fourth and fifth stories consists of a granite Grecian cymatium with broad granite mutules above a frieze with granite triglyphs with guttae and terra cotta metopes with alternating raised-relief designs. The first design is a bull's skull, or bucranium, surrounded by oak leaves and ribbons (Model No. 6 on original plans). The second design contains a

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ram's head or aegricanes surrounded by fruit and nuts (Model No. 7 on original plans). The third design features a blank shield surrounded by a corn wreath, topped by a helmet and ribbons (Model No. 8 on original plans).

The fifth story attic is sheathed with flat terracotta. Raised-relief panels are framed between stylized palmettos and inverted waterleaf motifs that separate attic window units. The panels may be in a full width or half width configuration (Model Nos. 14 and 15 on original plans). The coping stones feature the inverted waterleaf motif (Model No. 16 on original plans.) The attic design is common to all fifth floor elevations, with a height variation along the southwest (Myrtle Street) elevation.

All of the original windows and exterior doors have been replaced. The metal casement windows are sympathetic to the design and materials of the original units they replaced. The replacement doors, however, are modern anodized aluminum frame and glass, and are the only features that compromise the original design and materials of the exterior.

Plan

The quadrilateral plan is oriented to the northeast elevation where the elevator lobbies are located, and to the northwest elevation, where the main entrance was relocated in the 1970s, after the U.S. Postal Service vacated their space. The primary (northeast) elevation along Burnside Court, now Federal Plaza, is five bays wide with an exterior dimension of 40 feet, 4 inches. The secondary (northwest) elevation along Main Street is thirteen bays wide with an exterior dimension of 149 feet, 6 inches. The two tertiary elevations, along Myrtle Street (southwest) and Southbridge Street (southeast), are ten and fourteen bays wide, respectively. The Myrtle Street façade measures 130 feet, 11 inches and the Southbridge Street façade measures 171 feet, 10 inches. There was a recessed mail truck-loading bay on the Myrtle Street façade near the building's southeast corner. This southeast corner is rounded, while the other building corners are angular.

Site

The site is bounded by: Burnside Court, now called Federal Plaza, along the northeast; Main Street along the northwest; Myrtle Street along the southwest; and Southbridge Street along the east. The building was sited as the only building on a triangular-shaped lot so that it would be visible from all four sides. The primary and secondary elevations are also sited to be seen as the termination of an important view corridor. As one passes south along Main Street, through the Worcester center at City Hall, a direct view of the northeast elevation and a partial view of the northwest elevation begins to dominate the streetscape. Visual interest is created by the imposing columns on the north elevation, the tempietto cupola atop the building, and the subtly increased mass afforded by views of the northwest elevation. As a result, the building is imposing without being massive. Until 1991, when the Federal Plaza colonnade and fountain were constructed, this view was unobstructed.

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Roof

The building has a flat roof, which is accentuated by a terracotta elevator penthouse disguised as a tempietto cupola. The penthouse recalls the Choragic monument of Lysicrates. It is a circular colonnade with composite terracotta capitals carrying a plain frieze and denticulated cornice. The roof is covered with lead sheathing and is topped by a bronze lantern, identified as Model No. 18 on the original plans. A circular core sheathed in ashlar terracotta conceals the elevators mechanical equipment. The tempietto cupola sits atop a slightly raised podium sheathed in lead, which rests upon a large base approximately eight feet in height. According to the original plans, the base was sheathed in ashlar terracotta with cast iron grilles, but the terracotta was removed and replaced by buff-colored glazed brick, probably in the early 1970s when the elevator equipment was updated. (See Worcester Public Library clippings file "Post Office: Mystery is Solved", n.d.) The elevator penthouse is most visible from the primary (northeast) elevation.

Exterior

Northeast Elevation (Burnside Court/Franklin Place)

Although the building can be viewed from all four sides, the northeast elevation was, by far, the most elaborate design, and is the principal architectural elevation. The northeast elevation is the shortest in length and fronts along Burnside Court, now Federal Plaza. This elevation originally contained the main entrance of the building, leading to the main elevator lobby. The three arched entrance openings are accentuated by elongated voussoirs, which break up the rhythm of the rusticated base. The central arch features an ornamental keystone with the scales of justice above a key, symbols of the court system and postal service (Model No. 10 on the original plans). Two iron lantern sconces are located between the arched openings, and bronze plaques proclaiming "POST OFFICE; COURT HOUSE" flank the outside of the arcade. Between the entrance arcade and the edge of the façade are a pair of granite panels with bas relief eagles (Model No. 13 on original plans). The original bronze, aluminum, and polished glass doors and arched transom have been removed and replaced with modern aluminum and glass units. The main entrance was relocated in 1993 to the northwest (Main Street) elevation.

The area bounded by the first and fifth window bays and the first and fifth floors is recessed within this elevation and breaks the vertical plane of the façade. Extending full height within this recessed area are two monumental, engaged columns, with granite bases, marble shafts from Danby, Vermont, and terracotta composite capitals filled with concrete. The rhythm of the capitals is extended beyond the recess by bas-relief panels that mimic pilaster caps. In the frieze above the columns, incised letters forming "UNITED STATES OF AMERICA" break the pattern of metopes and triglyphs. The center three windows of the second story are the only windows of the building that feature pediments and a decorative frieze. The final ornament on the northeast elevation is an iron flagpole with a brass finial, anchored to the water table and protruding at an angle above the central arched entrance.

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Northwest Elevation (Main Street)

The northwest or Main Street elevation was originally the entrance to the U.S. Post Office and since 1993 serves as the main entrance to the building. The center three of the thirteen bays along the ground floor level are arched entrances identical in size and ornamentation to those on the northeast elevation. The entrance area has been altered, however, by the addition of a steel and glass canopy. Pilasters, giving the impression of a colonnade, separate the fenestration on the second through fourth floors of this elevation. This is further accentuated by vertically lengthening the windows and visually decreasing the separation between them by passing cast iron mullions over recessed spandrel panel. The second story windows within the colonnade have lintels and a frieze that match those on the northeast elevation. However, these windows lack the pediments. In similar fashion to the northeast elevation, the rhythm of the capitals is extended beyond the recessed area by bas-relief panels that mimic pilaster caps. The outermost windows beyond the colonnade are finished as simple rectangular openings with margins at the stone reveals, matching all the windows on the remaining elevations.

Southwest Elevation (Myrtle Street)

The southwest or Myrtle Street elevation is one of the two secondary elevations. It features the truck-loading dock formerly used by the U.S. Post Office employees, and two minor entrances, located at its west end and southernmost corner. The design of the Myrtle Street elevation lacks any vertical elements such as columns or pilasters, and lacks any arched openings. The horizontal arrangement of rusticated base, course, and fenestration on the first through fourth stories, frieze and cornice are consistent with those used for the Main Street elevation (*i.e.*, the outermost two bays are slightly narrower than bays three through eight.) However, the fenestration along the fifth story departs from the design of the primary elevations by the use of much wider and taller windows for bays three through eight, and is further accentuated by a slight parapet.

The design of this elevation's western entrance features a simple rusticated surround with small circular medallions, topped by a lintel with striated scoring and a central medallion. The door frame features bronze pilasters and dentils with a transom covered by a decorative grille, but the original doors have been replaced.

The door at the southernmost acute corner entrance is a replacement, and the opening does not feature any surround or other ornamentation because it was designed for U.S. postal staff as a pedestrian entrance. The recessed truck-loading dock at the south end is filled in with security doors. While the curb cuts indicate the loading dock width is unchanged, the height of the opening appears to have been altered.

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East Elevation (Southbridge Street)

The east or Southbridge Street elevation matches the design, masonry treatment, and fenestration of the other secondary elevation, Myrtle Street, with the exception that this fifth story fenestration does not feature enlarged openings. Originally, the east elevation featured a light court above the second story, between the fourth through tenth bays. In 1994-1995, the light court was filled in with a protruding metal and glass enclosure, and three floors of courtrooms and offices enclosed the exterior space. The resulting pavilion is differentiated from, but sympathetic to, the historic design and materials of the east elevation. There are no entrances along the Southbridge Street elevation, with the exception of the southernmost corner entrance shared with the Myrtle Street elevation.

Interior

The interior spaces on all floors have largely lost their integrity of design and materials as a result of the 1972 removal of the post office functions and the 1994-1995 remodeling of the courtrooms. The only interior spaces that retain their integrity are the elevator lobbies along the north side of the building and the office corridors on floors two through five.

The first floor elevator lobby features American pavanazzo marble wainscot approximately 6 feet 8 inches in height, and finished by a 6 inch projecting course. The door surrounds are also marble and a black marble baseboard terminates the wainscot. The elevator surrounds are classically detailed polished brass, but the original elevator cabs and doors have been replaced. The terrazzo floor is a light gray field with 8 inch wide perimeter bands of black, gray, and rose, and features black diamond-shaped medallions along the centerline. The terrazzo floor pattern is carried along the other corridors. The plaster ceilings feature crown moldings, and are divided into panels by shallow box beams and deeper structural beams supported on twin corbels. On the upper floors' corridors, the terrazzo floor patterns and black marble baseboards are continued.

The north stairway original features include marble treads, wrought iron spindles, and an oak rail. Access was denied to the south stairway. Offices and courtrooms were completely remodeled in 1972 on the building's first floor and in 1994-1995 on the upper floors.

Integrity Statement

The Harold Donahue Federal Building and Courthouse is exemplary of the Neo-Classical Revival style, combining both Greek and Renaissance Revival elements that conveys a federal presence in 1931 government construction. The structure retains a large majority of its exterior integrity, and many ornamental features of the original interior construction.

Key modifications to the exterior of the building include:

- Window and door replacements

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- The removal of terracotta located on the cupola
- Canopy addition over Main Street entrance presently functioning as the building's main entry
- Light court infill of new construction offices and courtrooms

The original steel casement windows were replaced with duplicates; however the original bronze, aluminum and glass doors were replaced with aluminum and glass doors, without matching detailing. The terra cotta foundation for the cupola, which holds the elevators, was original but was replaced with buff-colored glazed brick. However, this is not visible from the street level. The steel and glass canopy on the northwest elevation stands out as new construction; as do the courtrooms and offices that filled the light court, located on the southwest elevation. The newer materials, of the canopy and the court infill, affect the integrity of the materials. However, the U.S. Courthouse does maintain its integrity overall with respect to design, materials, location, workmanship, association, and feeling.

Key modifications to the interior of the building include:

- The new construction that occurred in the original light court
- 1970s changes to U.S. Post Office spaces, courtrooms, and federal offices when a majority of postal functions were removed

Since several rooms have been altered during building renovations, only the north elevator lobbies, the west corridors, and the two stairwells still retain a majority of their historic materials. The main corridors of the structure still retain their historic integrity, maintaining their original configuration. Office and courtroom spaces have been altered. The interior of the building maintains its integrity through the continued use of original public spaces, as well as the integrity of design, materials, location, workmanship, association, and feeling.

Major renovation interventions to the Harold Donohue Federal Building and U.S. Courthouse building occurred in 1972-1973 and 1994-1995, when the interior of the building was modified because of the U.S. Postal Service's relocation and when the light court was filled with offices and courtrooms. These alterations are listed above. Although some new materials were introduced, the interior form has remained much the same as the original design, as constructed.

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.
- ☐ 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.
- ☒ C
- ☐ 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 a grave.
- ☐ D a cemetery.
- ☐ E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ F a commemorative property.
- ☐ G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Period of Significance

1930-1931

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Dates

N/A

Architect/Builder

Wetmore, James A.

Simon, Louis A., attributed to Murch Brothers
Construction Co., St. Louis

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Please see Section 8 Continuation Sheets.

9. Major Bibliographical References

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Please see Section 9 Continuation Sheets.

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 #

Primary Location of Additional Data

- ☐ State Historic Preservation Office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☒ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other

Name of repository: _____

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U. S. Post Office and Courthouse
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Significance

Summary Statement

The U.S. Post Office and Courthouse is a fine and monumental example of the Neo-Classical Revival style, combining both Greek and Renaissance Revival elements, that conveys the federal presence through monumental architecture. It was built on a triangular shaped lot that dominates an important view corridor along Main Street, facing south from Worcester City Hall. Prominent Neo-Classical Revival features include a terra cotta cupola, a heavily rusticated first floor, arched entrances along the two most important elevations, a pair of monumental engaged marble columns on the primary elevation, and an exterior sheathed in cut granite.

Grecian influence is evident in the deeply projecting entablature consisting of a cymatium with broad granite mutules above a frieze made up of granite triglyphs with guttae and terra cotta metopes with alternating raised relief designs, featuring a bull's skull, ram's head, and armor. The Worcester building was one of four federal buildings in Massachusetts authorized by the Public Buildings Act of 1926. Its authorization of \$650,000 was by far the largest in the state. The materials used, including granite, marble, and bronze, and the authorized cost indicates that it was a "Class B" building according to the 1915 classification system of Secretary of the Treasury William McAdoo. The building was designed in 1929-1930, and constructed in 1930-1931, under the direction of architect Louis A. Simon, in the office of the Supervising Architect of the U.S. Treasury James A. Wetmore. The Worcester building was one of the last federal buildings designed in the one of the classical styles prior to the more restrained modern movement in federal architecture that began in 1933. Although the exterior doors and some interior spaces lack their integrity, the important exterior Neo-Classical Revival features and materials retain all aspects of their integrity. Within the context of *U.S. Post Offices, Courthouses and Federal Buildings*, the authorization and design of the Worcester building falls within the Standardized Design era of 1915-1930. It meets Criterion C, at the local level of significance, with a period of significance of 1931.

History

The building was the second U.S. Post Office building specifically built for that purpose in Worcester, MA. The earliest post offices were located in buildings not built to meet the federal needs but rather owned or used by the postmaster at the time. The earliest was set up in postmaster Isaiah Thomas' print shop on Court Hill on November 15, 1775, when Worcester's population was approximately 1,000. The next was located in Deacon James Wilson's home on Main Street in 1801.¹ The site of the current building was selected for the post office in 1897, and a Romanesque Revival style building commonly called the Flatiron Building housed the post office until it was demolished in 1928 for the construction of the U.S. Post Office and Courthouse.

¹ "Dead Letters' Turn Up Trumps," *Worcester (MA) Telegraph*, September 23, 1959.

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Design of the U.S. Post Office and Courthouse in Worcester, Massachusetts was completed by the time a rendering was published in the *Worcester Gazette* on September 7, 1929. The final working drawings were dated February 1930. Construction was undertaken in 1930-1931, and the building was officially opened on January 17, 1932. The Supervising Architect of the U.S. Treasury Department designed the building during the tenure of "Judge" James A. Wetmore (1915-1933). Because Mr. Wetmore had no formal architectural training, the office during his tenure was under the direction of Mr. Louis A. Simon.

With passage of the Public Buildings Act of 1926, federal funding was authorized for four U.S. government buildings in Massachusetts at the following levels: Worcester, \$650,000; Fitchburg, \$95,000; Leominster, an increase of \$55,000 to a previous authorization of \$145,000; and Southbridge, an increase of \$18,000 to a previous authorization of \$80,000.² Until the Public Buildings Act of 1926, which authorized a total of \$100 million for buildings outside Washington, D.C., there was no federal funding for new public construction since the expiration of the 1893 Tarnsey Act in 1913.

In 1987, the building was named the Harold D. Donahue Building after the U.S. Representative who championed postal affairs for Worcester. All remaining postal functions were eliminated from the building on June 1, 1993, in preparation for the courthouse expansion construction which began in 1994.³

Application of Criterion A

Although the exterior still conveys the historical design, workmanship, and materials of the former postal service areas, the removal of the postal functions in 1993 and complete remodeling of the postal work spaces have diminished its integrity of feeling and association, and interior design. Because of this lack of integrity, the building does not appear eligible for the National Register under criterion A for its historic association as having served as the U.S. Post Office for 63 years.

Construction of the U.S. Post Office and Courthouse, was associated with the Public Buildings Act of 1926, which allocated \$650,000 for its construction. It was one of four federal buildings authorized in Massachusetts by the Act, and it was, by far, the most costly. Although the Public Buildings Act of 1926 may be construed as an important historic event, the Worcester building was not directly associated with its passage, only built as a result, and this indirect association would not meet criterion A.

² "Public Buildings Bill is Passed," *Worcester (MA) Gazette*, February 16, 1926, 1.

³ "Post Office to Change Its Address," *Worcester (MA) Telegraph & Gazette*, May 25, 1993.

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The building represents the first and only presence of the U.S. District Court in Worcester, and that function continues to the present time. The presence of a U.S. Courthouse represents an important development in any city's history. Although the exterior still conveys the historical design, workmanship, and materials of the U.S. Courthouse, the complete removal and replacement of all the interior courtrooms has diminished its integrity of feeling and association, and interior design. Because of this lack of integrity, the building does not appear eligible for the National Register under criterion A for its historic association as being the first and only U.S. Courthouse in Worcester.

Application of Criterion B

At the time of the design in which the Worcester building was completed in 1929, Congressman George R. Stobbs and Postmaster James F. Healy were the local officials. Mr. John A. Marshall was perhaps the single individual most directly associated with the U.S. Post Office and Courthouse. He had been a mail carrier for nearly 20 years when the building opened in 1932. After the building was constructed, he was named foreman in 1936, assistant superintendent of mails in 1945, acting postmaster in 1947, and postmaster in 1949, and remained in that office until at least 1957.⁴

Although the building was named after Harold D. Donohue, the U.S. Representative who championed postal affairs for Worcester, he was not in the U.S. Congress at the time of the building's design and construction, and there is no evidence that there is a direct association between Donohue's lifetime achievements and this specific building. Although the exterior still largely retains integrity, the interior spaces have been almost entirely remodeled in several stages within the last 50 years. The interior spaces, which would have been most closely related to important judges, federal officers, and postal officials, no longer retain their materials or appearance from the historic period, and do not convey the association with important persons who worked there. Because of this lack of integrity of interior spaces, the building does not appear eligible for the National Register under criterion B for its historic association with potentially important federal officials and administrators.

Application of Criterion C—Eligible for the National Register

The U.S. General Services Administration (GSA) determined this building eligible for the National Register of Historic Places in 1985. In a letter dated May 10, 1985, the Massachusetts State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) concurred with GSA's determination of eligibility by stating: "Federal Building/U.S. Courthouse; 595 Main Street, Worcester: Appears to meet criterion C as a distinguished and well-detailed monumental neoclassical public building that is exceptionally fine for its period and type." In a letter dated June 3, 1991, the Massachusetts SHPO stated "The Harold D. Donohue Federal Building and United States Courthouse, constructed in 1932, is a monumental neoclassical structure whose design and scale reflect the importance of this area of downtown Worcester. It is noted to be one of the most imposing post offices and courthouses in the state." However, in a letter dated January 17, 1992, the Massachusetts SHPO stated: "The [Massachusetts

⁴ "John A. Marshall completing 50 years in Worcester Post Office," *Worcester (MA) Telegraph*, March 27, 1949.

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Historical Commission] (MHC) understands that the GSA proposes to renovate the courthouse and construct three additional courtrooms in the light well of the existing building. The MHC has previously determined...that the proposed undertaking constitutes an adverse effect...The MHC has since had the opportunity to meet with the project design team to review alternatives that have been considered that would eliminate, minimize, or mitigate the adverse effect...The MHC agrees to accept the adverse effect provided the mitigation plan in the enclosed draft Memorandum of Agreement is met." The building was not re-evaluated under Criterion C after the 1991 renovation and light well infill alterations were completed.

Within the context of *U.S. Post Offices, Courthouses and Federal Buildings*, the authorization and design of the Worcester building falls within the era of Standardized Design 1915-1930. The authorized cost of the Worcester building indicates that it was a "Class B" building according to the classification system of Secretary of the U.S. Treasury, William McAdoo. "Class B" buildings included post offices with receipts between \$60,000 and \$800,000. The Worcester building was one of four federal buildings in Massachusetts authorized by the Public Buildings Act of 1926, but its authorization of \$650,000 was by far the largest in the state. The materials used, including granite, marble, and bronze, and the authorized cost indicate that it was a "Class B" building according to the 1915 classification system of Secretary of the Treasury William McAdoo.

As described in detail above, the U.S. Post Office and Courthouse is a fine and monumental example of the Neo-Classical Revival style, combining both Greek and Renaissance Revival elements that conveys the federal presence through monumental architecture. It was built on a triangular-shaped lot that dominates an important view corridor along Main Street, facing south from Worcester City Hall. Prominent Neo-Classical Revival elements include a terra cotta cupola, a heavily rusticated first floor, arched entrances along the two most important elevations, a pair of monumental engaged marble columns above the primary entrance, and an exterior primarily consisting of cut granite. Grecian influence is evident in the deeply projecting entablature consisting of a cymatium with broad granite mutules above a frieze with granite triglyphs with guttae and terra cotta metopes. The metope ornamentation has alternating raised relief designs, featuring a bull's skull, ram's head, and armor.

The building was designed in 1929-1930, and constructed in 1930-1931, under the direction of Mr. Louis A. Simon in the Office of Supervising Architect of the U.S. Treasury. The Worcester building was one of the last federal buildings designed in the one of the classical styles prior to the more restrained modern classical movement in federal architecture that began in 1933. Although the exterior doors and some interior spaces lack their integrity, the important exterior Neo-Classical Revival features and materials retain all aspects of architectural integrity. Within the context of *U.S. Post Offices, Courthouses and Federal Buildings*, the authorization and design of the Worcester building falls within the Standardized Design era of 1915-1930. It meets Criterion C, at the local level of significance, with a period of significance of 1931.

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"John A. Marshall completing 50 Years in Worcester Post Office Next Friday; Was Named Postmaster in 1949." Includes photograph of Post Office and Courthouse.
"Another Look at Worcester." Includes photograph of main entrance.
"Main Street, looking south, Franklin Square, 1930s." Photograph.
"Mystery Is Solved." Includes photograph of building cupola.

10. Geographical DataAcreage of Property Less than an acre

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1 19	268764	4682518	3 19	268761	4682448
2 19	268722	4682473	4		

☒ See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

See continuation sheet.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

See continuation sheet.

11. Form Prepared By

Name/Title	Richard Starzak, Senior Architectural Historian		
Organization	ICF Jones & Stokes Associates	Date	01/04/2006, rev. 8/17/2009
Street & Number	811 W. 7 th Street, Suite 800	Telephone	(213) 627-5376
City or Town	Los Angeles	State	CA Zip Code 90017

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

Photographs

Representative photographs of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

Name	U.S. General Services Administration		
Organization	Region 1	Telephone	(617) 565-5072
Street & Number	Ten Causeway Street 975		
City or Town	Boston	State	MA Zip Code 02222

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. 470 et seq.). A federal agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to range from approximately 18 hours to 36 hours depending on several factors including, but not limited to, how much documentation may already exist on the type of property being nominated and whether the property is being nominated as part of a Multiple Property Documentation Form. In most cases, it is estimated to average 36 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form to meet minimum National Register documentation requirements. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, 1849 C St., NW, Washington, DC 20240.

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*U. S. Post Office and Courthouse
Worcester County, MA*

Geographical Data

Boundary Description

The site is bounded by: Burnside Court, now Federal Plaza, along the northeast; Main Street along the northwest; Myrtle Street along the southwest; and Southbridge Street along the east.

Boundary Justification

The boundary was selected because it is consistent with the historical limits of the parcel, and because the building was sited as the only building on a triangular shaped lot so that it would be visible from all four sides.

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U. S. Post Office and Courthouse
Worcester County, MA

USGS Map

Image from USGS National Map Viewer, <http://nmviewogc.cr.usgs.gov/viewer.htm>, July 20, 2007.

Hard copy of original USGS Map to be submitted with registration form. USGS Quadrangle name: Worcester North.



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Historic Context—U.S. Post Offices, Courthouses and Federal Buildings designed and constructed by the Treasury Department, 1864-1939.

Treasury Department Design, 1864-1896.

The history of design and construction of Federal buildings falls into distinct eras typically defined by congressional authorizations for public buildings, the preferences of the Supervising Architect and the extent of involvement of private architects. In the nineteenth century, federal civilian facilities were designed and constructed by the U.S. Treasury Department and military facilities by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. In the first half of the nineteenth century, the U.S. Treasury Department primarily purchased existing buildings for its own use, typically custom houses and marine hospitals. Monumental buildings built for the U.S. Treasury Department at that time were designed in the Classical style by Robert Mills, the Federal Architect, including the U.S. Treasury Building (begun 1836), U.S. General Post Office (1836), U.S. Patent Office (1839), and four U.S. Custom Houses at New Bedford, MA; Newburyport, MA; New London, CT; and Middletown, CT (1836).

In 1854, increasing demand for new federal buildings caused Secretary of the U.S. Treasury James Guthrie to create the Office of Construction. Captain Alexander H. Bowman from the U.S. Corps of Engineers was named Engineer-in-charge and Ammi B. Young was named Supervising Architect of the Office of Construction. Young had previously assisted Federal Architect Robert Mills until 1842 and served as Architectural Advisor for the U.S. Treasury Department in 1842-1852.⁵ Young remained in the position of Supervising Architect when it was formally established in the U.S. Treasury Department in 1864. Young designed about 70 buildings from 1853-1862, mostly two- to three-story structures in remote locations, with standardized designs reviving the appearance of Renaissance villas.⁶ Until the 1890s, the design of federal buildings tended to follow the favorite style of the Supervising Architect.⁷ Alfred B. Mullet was the most notable among the early Supervising Architects, serving from 1865-1874. Mullet designed in a variety of classical styles, but his most well recognized works, such as the State, War, and Navy Building (1871-1888), were designed in the French Second Empire style and often were monumental in scale.⁸ Unfortunately, the post of Supervising Architect was not particularly well paid, which meant that it did not attract prominent architects, and the heavy burden of work often meant that the federal buildings, especially outside Washington D.C., were designed by assistants and apprentices.⁹ The responsibilities of the Supervising Architect had grown from its inventory of 23 buildings in 1853 to 297 buildings in 1892, with 95 in the process of completion, but the position was criticized for cost overruns and construction delays.¹⁰

In 1893, near the end of President Benjamin Harrison's administration, Congress passed the Tammey Act, which permitted the U.S. Treasury Department to contract out for private sector architectural services through

⁵ Lois Craig, ed., and the staff of the Federal Architecture Project, *The Federal Presence: Architecture, Politics, and Symbols in United States Government Building* (Cambridge: The MIT Press, 1978), 99, 195.

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ Beth M. Boland, *National Register Bulletin 13: How to Apply the National Register Criteria to Post Offices* (Washington, DC: U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 1994), 4-6.

⁸ Craig, *The Federal Presence*, 155, 162.

⁹ Thomas S. Hines, *Burnham of Chicago: Architect and Planner* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1974), 126 (hereafter cited as *Burnham of Chicago*).

¹⁰ Craig, *The Federal Presence*, 202.

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competition or to continue design within the Treasury.¹¹ Passage of the Tarnsey Act coincided with the successful construction and exhibition of the World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago in 1892-93. The Exposition was largely planned by one of Chicago's most influential architects, Daniel Burnham, who served as Director of Works. Featuring designs by Burnham & Root; Richard Morris Hunt; McKim, Mead & White; Adler & Sullivan; Peabody & Stearns; and George B. Post, it was so well received by the public that it would popularize the Beaux Arts and Neoclassical Revival styles for the design of monumental architecture for decades to follow. In 1893 and 1894, Burnham was elected President of the American Institute of Architects (AIA), which had long opposed the role of the Supervising Architect of the U.S. Treasury, and had lobbied for passage of the Tarnsey Act. In 1893, the AIA represented less than 20 percent of the nation's architects. In January 1894, Secretary of the U.S. Treasury John G. Carlisle of President Grover Cleveland's new administration announced that a new federal building in Buffalo, NY was to be designed by the Supervising Architect and not by a private sector architect. This caused a confrontation between Secretary Carlisle and the Burnham-led AIA that effectively stalled implementation of the Tarnsey Act until the McKinley administration took office in 1897.¹²

Individual Design, 1897-1914

In 1897, President McKinley appointed Lyman Gage as Secretary of the U.S. Treasury. Gage was one of the financiers of and served as President at the World's Columbian Exposition. Gage was also a good friend of Daniel Burnham and was aware of the AIA's issues.¹³ In 1897, Secretary Gage and the new Supervising Architect of the Treasury, James Knox Taylor, began implementing the Tarnsey Act, and the Beaux Arts and Neoclassical Revival style began to dominate the design of monumental federal buildings. The Colonial Revival style was also used for smaller scale buildings or where a more traditional American design was warranted. From 1897-1912, 35 buildings were designed under the provisions of the Tarnsey Act by some of the country's most prominent architects, including McKim, Mead and White; Albert Kahn; Cass Gilbert; and Daniel Burnham.¹⁴

As stated in *National Register Bulletin 13*, "During the tenure of James Knox Taylor (1897-1912) as Supervising Architect of the U.S. Treasury, the federal government promoted the concept that government buildings should be monumental and beautiful, and should represent the ideals of democracy and high standards of architectural sophistication in their communities. Taylor preferred styles derived from classical or early American traditions. Believing that federal buildings should be built to last, he also emphasized the use of high quality construction materials. Private architects worked on many of the larger projects, while the Office of the Supervising Architect produced mostly smaller buildings, including many of the post offices. In either case, the buildings were individually designed; Taylor firmly resisted suggestions that designs be standardized."¹⁵

In 1902, the first omnibus public buildings law was passed, which saved authorization time in Congress and allowed construction of vastly more Federal buildings. It provided an increased limit of cost on over 60

¹¹ Emily Harris, *History of Post Office Construction, 1900-1940* (Washington, DC: U.S. Postal Service, 1982, 3.

¹² Hines, *Burnham of Chicago*, 127-133.

¹³ Ibid.

¹⁴ Craig, *The Federal Presence*, 203.

¹⁵ Boland, *National Register Bulletin 13*, 2.

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buildings and authorized approximately 150 new projects.¹⁶ After an experiment by Taylor in 1903-1904, it was learned that smaller valued projects did not attract skilled architects. As a result, most post offices and federal buildings outside of major cities were designed within the U.S. Treasury Department after 1904.¹⁷ Five of Taylor's Treasury-designed smaller buildings were published in 1907, in the architectural journal *The Brickbuilder*, illustrating his Neoclassical Revival and Colonial Revival designs for buildings costing under \$100,000.¹⁸

Among the buildings designed and constructed during James Knox Taylor's tenure (1897-1912) were: Ellis Island Main Building (1898-1900, by Boring and Tilton); West Point improvements (by Cram, Goodhue and Ferguson); National War College Building, Washington D.C. (1903, by Stanford White); the U.S. Mint in Philadelphia (1898, by Cass Gilbert); U.S. Post Office and Courthouse, Chicago (1905 by Henry Ives Cobb); Customhouse, New York (1901-1907, by Cass Gilbert); Federal Building, Cleveland (1905, by Brunner and Tryon); Federal Building, Cheyenne, Wyoming (1906, by William Dubois); and the U.S. Post Office or Farley Building, New York (1913, by McKim, Mead and White).¹⁹ The vast majority of these buildings was designed in the Beaux Arts and Neoclassical Revival styles, and stressed the importance and permanence of the U.S. Government through their monumentality, prominent site selection, and quality of materials.

In 1911, a Congressional committee recommended that the Tarnsey Act be repealed because of "pork barrel" criticism and because the fees of private architects were considered greater than those for the same services rendered by the Supervising Architect.²⁰ In 1912, both the Tarnsey Act was repealed and Taylor resigned, signaling the beginning of the end of the emphasis on individual plan and design and high quality materials and construction used for federal architecture. In 1913-1914, however, Supervising Architect Oscar Wenderoth continued to design federal buildings in the individual manner of his predecessor, typically in the Renaissance Revival style with arcaded loggias, but legislative action and policies were developing that would end this era.²¹

¹⁶ Craig, *The Federal Presence*, 239.

¹⁷ Harris, *History of Post Office Construction*, 4.

¹⁸ *Ibid.*, 6.

¹⁹ Craig, *The Federal Presence*, 230-243.

²⁰ *Ibid.*, 203.

²¹ Harris, *History of Post Office Construction*, 7.

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Standardized Design, 1915-1930.

In 1913, an omnibus Public Buildings Act was enacted and the Public Buildings Commission was established, both of which sought to economize costs and led to the standardization of plans, specifications, and materials for different classes of Federal buildings. For example, while it authorized construction of a large number of public buildings, the Act stipulated that communities with postal receipts totaling less than \$10,000 would not receive authorization for a new post office building.²² This policy culminated in 1915, when William McAdoo, Secretary of the U.S. Treasury and Chairman of the Public Buildings Commission, established a classification system for four classes of federal buildings. McAdoo's classes were differentiated by the value of post office annual receipts and the value of metropolitan real estate adjoining the proposed site. The higher the class, the higher the quality of design and materials allowed, including exterior facing, windows and doors, interior finishes, and ornament in public spaces.²³

In 1916, standardized plans were developed under the direction of Acting Supervising Architect James Wetmore, and they typically retained the basic Beaux Arts and Neoclassical Revival style, massing, and plan, but with less detail on smaller buildings.²⁴ In actuality, between 1913 and 1926, Congress authorized no new spending for public buildings.²⁵ The Public Buildings Act of 1926, also known as the Keyes-Elliott Act, was a general enabling Act that allotted \$100 million for federal buildings outside the District of Columbia. This Act allowed the Secretary of the U.S. Treasury and the U.S. Postmaster General to select towns and cities and specific sites for new buildings. As a result, a survey report was prepared in 1927 that listed towns and cities with no federal buildings, including 799 with postal receipts over \$20,000 and 1,512 with postal receipts between \$10,000 and \$20,000. The estimated cost of implementing construction was \$170,420,000, but the actual construction was delayed by economic conditions, including the stock market crash of 1929.²⁶

Secretary of the Treasury McAdoo's Classification System for Federal buildings, 1915 ²⁷					
Class	Definition	Exterior	Windows and doors	Interior Finishes	Public spaces
A	Include a first class post office with annual receipts exceeding \$800,000 and would be sited as part of a city development plan or on an important thoroughfare of a great city with adjacent property reaching the higher valuation of metropolitan real estate.	marble or granite facing; fireproof throughout.	metal frames, sashes and doors	Interior finish to include the finer grades of marble, ornamental bronze work, mahogany, etc.	monumental treatment, mural decorations; special interior lighting fixtures.
B	Include a first class post office with receipts between \$60,000 to \$800,000 with adjacent property improvements somewhat below the higher valuation of metropolitan real estate.	Limestone or sandstone facing; fireproof throughout.	Exterior frames and sash metal; interior frames, sash and doors wood	Exclude the more expensive woods and marbles. ornamental metal to be used only where	Restricted ornament in public spaces.

²² Ibid.

²³ Ibid., 9-10.

²⁴ Ibid., 11.

²⁵ Craig, *The Federal Presence*, 281.

²⁶ Harris, *History of Post Office Construction*, 13-14.

²⁷ Ibid., 9-10.

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Secretary of the Treasury McAdoo's Classification System for Federal buildings, 1915 ²⁷					
Class	Definition	Exterior	Windows and doors	Interior Finishes	Public spaces
				iron is suitable.	
C	Include a second class post office with receipts over \$15,000 or of the first class to \$60,000, with surrounding property values that of a second-class city.	Brick facing with stone or terra-cotta trimmings; fireproof floors, nonfireproof roof.	Frames, sashes and doors wood	Exclude the more expensive wood and marbles; the latter used only where sanitary conditions demand	Public spaces restricted to very simple forms of ornament.
D	Include a post office having annual receipts of less than \$15,000 with real estate values meeting only a limited investment for improvements.	Brick facing, little stone or terra-cotta used; only first floor fireproof.	Stock sash, frames, doors, etc., where advisable	Ordinary class of building, such as any businessman would consider a reasonable investment in a small town.	

Public Works Administration Design, 1931-1939.

With the onset of the Great Depression, the architectural profession and construction trades were extremely hard hit by unemployment. On May 31, 1930, Congress amended the Public Buildings Act of 1926, with increased funding and further authorized the Secretary of the Treasury to contract with private firms and individuals.²⁸ To meet spatial requirements of the Treasury Department and the Post Office Department, the Hoover Administration and Congress increased funding for the Federal building program in 1928, 1930, and 1931, for a total of \$700 million.²⁹ The Federal Employment Stabilization Act of 1931, directed Federal construction agencies to prepare six-year building plans and increased appropriations for that year by \$100 million. As a result, 133 architectural firms were commissioned to design Federal Buildings in 1931, and this number increased to 301 by 1934.³⁰

This practice of commissioning private architects ended, however, on June 29, 1934, with an order that the Office of the Supervising Architect design all remaining Federal buildings.³¹ The Public Works Administration (PWA) was established in 1933 to oversee the planning and construction of public works projects. "In 1933, many of the properties of the Federal Government were in poor shape. In a number of cities, post offices were in disrepair, Federal justice was being dispensed in buildings with sagging floors and leaky roofs, and in scattered courthouses along our far-flung borders, customs men in some instances had to work in poorly heated and equipped buildings. Federal prisons failed to live up to the standards set by the Government's own penologists. There was a shortage of post offices, prisons, veteran's hospitals, and other facilities."³² As of February 28, 1939, PWA Federal building construction projects totaled 3,167 buildings at \$105,984,762, including 30 courthouses and city halls with an allotment of \$1,312,012, and 406 post offices with an allotment of \$43,607,814.³³

²⁸ Ibid., 17.

²⁹ Craig, *The Federal Presence*, 281.

³⁰ Harris, *History of Post Office Construction*, 15, 17, 19.

³¹ Boland, *National Register Bulletin* 13, 3.

³² *America Builds: The Record of the PWA*, 106 (hereafter cited as *America Builds*).

³³ Ibid., 290.

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Louis A. Simon was Supervising Architect of the U.S. Treasury from 1933-1939, but had been with the office continually since 1896. Simon had effectively directed the office during Judge James Wetmore's tenure (1915-1933) as Acting Supervising Architect, because Wetmore had no formal training in architecture.³⁴ Under the PWA and Simon's direction, government architecture in the 1930s was designed in either a simplified classical revival style, identified by Lois Craig et al as "Starved Classicism", or in the Colonial Revival style, and often-featured murals or sculptures.³⁵ "By the 1920s, the federal role in transforming the American environment was assuming immense proportions and implications. Massive dams, extensive highway systems, multitudinous new buildings pervaded the land. The antecedents were nineteenth-century, but the scale of endeavor was new, reflecting the burgeoning growth of the administrative style ... recalling scholar H.P. L'Orange's description of the change between the early and later Roman Empire: '...the new "block-style" in art emerged contemporary with the formation of massive structures in the state and community, and...in both contexts the traditional individualization and articulation of the various elements were gradually reduced or disappeared altogether.'"³⁶ Classical architecture had become the dominant style conveying the Federal presence across the nation. The need to provide government space but save the cost of unnecessary ornament during the 1930s fit well with the principles of Modern architecture being then introduced, stressing functionality, open plans with interchangeable work areas, and exterior surfaces in uninterrupted simple planes and volumes. Yet the Supervising Architect's Office did not adopt the Modernist vocabulary on the exterior, but held steadfast to references to the Classical style, albeit unelaborated in detail, to convey the underlying role of the U.S. Government. Today, typically it is this restrained Classicism, rather than the correct Roman forms advocated by Jefferson, the Greek temples of Robert Mills, or the ebullient Beaux-Arts style of the early 1900s, that most Americans think of when they think of federal architecture.

Buildings and structures constructed during the PWA era that convey this restrained classicism, also known as the PWA Moderne style, include: Hoover Dam (1933, by Gordon B. Kaufmann); U.S. Mint, San Francisco (1937); and U.S. Post Offices in Minneapolis, Minnesota; Waterbury, Connecticut; Norfolk, Virginia; Manchester, New Hampshire; and Memphis, Tennessee (1932 remodel).³⁷ The U.S. Government's architects embraced the Modern movement. The Association of Federal Architects (AFA) was organized late in 1927 with Louis A. Simon, Supervising Architect of the Treasury as its first president. The AFA held dinners with prominent Modernist speakers such as Frank Lloyd Wright, Eliel Saarinen, and Richard Neutra, and published a quarterly magazine from 1930 to 1946, which largely defended the U.S. Government's designs.³⁸ Throughout the 1950s and 1960s, Modernism became accepted and employed for federal buildings domestically as well as internationally.

³⁴ Craig, *The Federal Presence*, 328.

³⁵ Harris, *History of Post Office Construction*, 20, 25.

³⁶ Craig, *The Federal Presence*, 280.

³⁷ *Ibid.*, 280-287.

³⁸ *Ibid.*, 298.

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Federal Works Agency Design, 1940-1948.

The Reorganization Act of April 3, 1939, created the Public Buildings Administration as part of the Federal Works Agency (FWA), removing control of federal architecture out of the U.S. Treasury Department, and the title of Supervising Architect was abolished. According to National Register Bulletin 13, under FWA, "Although some variations to facades were allowed, standardized interior plans were well established by this time, and outlined in a publication entitled "Instructions to Private Architects Engaged on Public Buildings work under the Jurisdictions of the U.S. Treasury Department."³⁹ Federal building design and construction slowed during the war years.

General Services Administration, 1949-present.

In 1949, the new U.S. General Services Administration was established, and absorbed the design function of the Federal Works Agency. The Public Buildings Act of 1949 allowed the Office of the Supervising Architect to rely on private architecture firms to carry out public building designs. When the Office employed its standard designs, the result was extremely utilitarian with the emphasis on stripped modern design, functionality, and automobile access.

The table on the next page provides examples of representative properties from the contextual periods from 1897 through 1939.

³⁹ Boland, *National Register Bulletin* 13, 3.

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Historic Context Representative Properties

U.S. Post Offices, Courthouses and Federal Buildings designed and constructed by the Treasury Department, 1864-1939

Building Number	Building Name	Address	City/State/Zip	Date	Comments	Style/Architect
Treasury Department Design, 1864-1896						
None under consideration for National Register eligibility, 2005-2006						
Individual Design, 1897-1914						
MN0021ZZ	U.S. Post Office & Courthouse	118 S. Mill St.	Fergus Falls, MN	1903	Determined eligible/DOE process USPS/Keeper 04-29-1980	Second Renaissance Revival/ James Knox Taylor
WV0003ZZ	Elizabeth Kee Federal Building	601 Federal Street	Bluefield, WV	1909-11	Determined eligible/DOE process GSA/Keeper 10-18-1979	James Knox Taylor
MN0036ZZ	Federal Office Building	212 Third Avenue South	Minneapolis, MN 55401	1912-15		Neo-Classical Revival/
CT0024ZZ	(Richard C. Lee) New Haven US Courthouse	141 Church Street	New Haven, CT, 06510	1913-19	Determined eligible/DOE process GSA/Keeper 10-31-1974	Beaux Arts/ James Gamble Rogers
Standardized Design, 1915-1930						
TN0011ZZ	(L. Chure Morton) USPO/Courthouse	9 East Broad Street (at Walnut)	Cookeville, TN 38501	1916	NR eligible consensus determination GSA/SHPO	Renaissance Revival/Italianate Architect: N/A
NY0181ZZ	Federal Building	Margaret Street	Plattsburgh, NY 12901	1928		Colonial Revival/ James A. Wetmore
NY0218ZZ	Alexander Pirnie Federal Building	10 Broad Street John Street	Utica, NY 13501	1928-29	Determined eligible/DOE process GSA/Keeper 06-10-1982	Neo-Classical Revival/ James A. Wetmore
MA0113ZZ	Harold C. Donohue Federal Building and Courthouse	595 Main Street	Worcester, MA 01601	1930-32	hard copy BPP plans and photos received 2/15/05; HABS report received from GSA 4/15/05	Neo-Classical Revival with Greek elements/ James A. Wetmore
Public Works Administration and Federal Works Agency Design, 1931-1948						
NJ0088ZZ	Clarkson S. Fisher Courthouse	402 East State Street	Trenton, NJ 08608	1931-32	Eligible, Needs to be Nominated	Neo-Classical Revival/ James A. Wetmore
MA0013ZZ	Boston Federal Building John W. McCormack Post Office and Courthouse Building	5 Post Office Square	Boston, MA 02109	1931-1933	Determined eligible/DOE Process GSA/Keeper 11-14-1984	Modern Movement/Art Deco Ralph Adams Cram; James A. Wetmore
NJ0015ZZ	U.S. Post Office and Courthouse	4th and Market Streets	Camden, NJ 08101	1932	Eligible, Needs to be Nominated	Neo-Classical Revival/ James A. Wetmore
IA0087ZZ	Federal Building & U.S. Courthouse	316-20 6th Street	Sioux City, IA 51101	1931-34	Determined eligible/DOE process USPS/Keeper 10-31-1980	Art Deco; Art Moderne/ Beuttler & Arnold; James A. Wetmore
LA0034ZZ	F. Edward Hebert Federal Building	600 South Street	New Orleans, LA 70190	1935-39		Art Deco/ Howard Lovell Cheney
AK0005AK	Federal Building	648 Mission Street	Ketchikan, AK 99901	1938		Style: N/A Garfield, Stanley-Brown, Harris & Robinson

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet—Additional Documentation**

Section PHOTOS Page 23

*U. S. Post Office and Courthouse
Worcester County, MA*

Additional documentation: Photographs

Name: U.S. Post Office and Courthouse - Worcester

Location: 595 Main Street
City of Worcester
Massachusetts, 01601

Photographer: Richard Starzak, ICF Jones & Stokes

Date of Photographs: October 14, 2005

Location of Negatives: General Service Administration Headquarters, Office of Chief Architect

1. Streetscape, facing southwest down Main Street to primary (northeast) elevation.
2. Exterior view, facing south to primary elevations to northeast elevation along Burnside Court/Franklin Place and northwest elevation along Main Street.
3. Exterior view, facing northeast to Myrtle and Main street elevations.
4. Exterior view, facing north, of tertiary (east) elevation along Southbridge Street (right of frame), showing the 1994-1995 light court infill alteration.
5. Exterior view, facing southwest to primary (northeast) elevation.
6. Exterior view, detail, above northeast entrance, featuring column capitals and incised letters.
7. Exterior detail, northeast elevation, featuring entrance arch, ironwork in transom, rusticated voussoirs, and lantern.
8. Exterior detail, Main Street northeast entrance, keystone with scales of justice, quartermaster's keys, olive branch, and olive press.
9. Exterior detail, facing northeast, of Myrtle Street entrance.
10. Exterior view, detail of terracotta elevator penthouse disguised as a tempietto and its base.
11. Interior detail, first floor, north lobby, entrance arcade.
12. Interior detail, first floor, north lobby, elevator doors, marble wainscot and flooring.
13. Interior detail, typical upper floor elevator lobby, fifth floor.
14. Interior detail, Hearing Room, marble wainscot and door surround, fifth floor.
15. Historic view, facing south of Burnside Court/Franklin Place and Main Street elevations.
16. Historic view, facing southwest to Burnside Court/Franklin Place elevation.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY U.S. Post Office and Courthouse
NAME:

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: MASSACHUSETTS, Worcester

DATE RECEIVED: 2/23/11 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 3/17/11
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 4/01/11 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 4/10/11
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 11000161

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

COMMENT WAIVER: N

☒ ACCEPT ☐ RETURN ☐ REJECT 4.8.11 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

**Entered in
The National Register
of
Historic Places**

RECOM./CRITERIA _____

REVIEWER _____ DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

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



1/16

US Post Office and Courthouse ~~Worcester~~

Worcester, MA

Richard Starzak, ICF Jones & Stokes

October 14, 2005

GSA HQ, Office of Chief Architect

Streetscape, facing southwest down Main Street to primary (northeast) elevation.

MA - Worcester County - Courthouse 03. fifth



2/16

US Post Office and Courthouse ~~Worcester~~
Worcester, MA

Richard Starzak, ICF Jones & Stokes

October 14, 2005

GSA HQ, Office of Chief Architect

Exterior view, facing south to primary elevations. The northeast elevation is along Burnside Court/
Franklin Place and the Northwest elevation is along Main Street.

MA - Worcester County - Courthouse OS. tiff



3/16

US Post Office and Courthouse ~~Worcester~~

Worcester, MA

Richard Starzak, ICF Jones & Stokes

October 14, 2005

GSA HQ, Office of Chief Architect
Exterior views, facing northeast
Myrtle & Main Street elevations

MA - Worcester County - Courthouse 010. tiff



4/16

US Post Office and Courthouse ~~Worcester~~
Worcester, MA

Richard Starzak, ILF Jones & Stokes

October 14, 2005

GSA HQ, Office of Chief Architect

Exterior view, Facing north, of tertiary (east) elevation along Southbridge Street (right of frame),
showing the 1994-1995 light court infill alteration.

MA - Worcester County - Courthouse 011.tiff



5/16

US Post Office and Court house ~~Worcester~~

Worcester, MA

Richard Storzoh, ILF Jones & Stokes

October 14, 2005

GSA HQ, Office of Chief Architect

Exterior view, facing southwest to primary (northeast) elevation.

MA - Worcester County - Courthouse 06. tiff



6/16

US Post Office and Courthouse ~~to be~~

Worcester, MA

Richard Starzch, LLP Jones & Stokes

October 14, 2005

GSA HQ, Office of Chief Architect

Exterior view, detail, northwest entrance, featuring column
capitals and incised letters.

MA- Worcester County- Courthouse 015. tiff



7/16 US Post Office and Courthouse ~~Worcester~~
Worcester, MA

Richard Storozh, JLF Jones & Stokes

October 14, 2003

GSA HQ, Office of Chief Architect

Exterior view, detail, northeast elevation, featuring entrance arch, ironwork in transom,
rusticated voussairs, and lantern.

MA - Worcester County - Courthouse 017.tiff



8/16

US Post Office and Courthouse ~~Worcester~~

Worcester, MA

Richard Starzok, L.F. Jones & Stokes

October 14, 2005

GSA HQ, Office of Chief Architect

Exterior view, detail, Main Street entrance, Northwest elevation

MA - Worcester County - Courthouse 012. tiff



9/116

US Post Office and Courthouse ~~Worcester~~

Worcester, MA

Richard Starzak, ILF Jones & Stokes

October 14, 2005

GSA HQ, Office of Chief Architect

Exterior detail, facing northeast, of Myrtle Street entrance.

MA - Worcester County - Courthouse 013.4:ff



10/16

US Post Office and Courthouse - ~~Worcester~~

Worcester, MA

Richard Starzak, JLF Jones & Stokes

October 14, 2005

GSA HQ, Office of Christ Architect

Exterior view, detail of terracotta elevator penthouse disguised as a tempietto and its base

MA - Worcester County - Courthouse D2S. tiff



11/16

US Post Office and Courthouse - ~~Warner~~

Warner, MA

Richard Starzak, IIF Jones & Stokes

October 14, 2005

CSA HQ, Office of Chief Architect

Interior detail, first floor, north lobby, entrance arcade.

MA - Worcester County - Courthouse 026. fifth



12/16

US Post Office and Courthouse - ~~Worcester~~

Worcester, MA

Richard Starzak, IF Jones & Stokes

October 14, 2005

GSA MR, Office of Chief Architect

Interior detail, first floor, north lobby, elevator doors, marble
wainscot and flooring.

MA - Worcester County - Courthouse 029. first



13/16

US Post Office and Courthouse - ~~Worcester~~

Worcester, MA

Richard Starzak, ICF Jones & Stokes

October 14, 2005

GSA HQ, Office of Chief Architect

Interior detail, typical upper floor elevator lobby, fifth floor.

MA - Worcester County - Courthouse 020. tiff



14116

US Post Office and Courthouse ~~Worcester~~

Worcester, MA

Richard Starzak, IIF Jones & Stokes

October 14, 2005

GSA HQ, Office of Chief Architect

Interior detail. Hearing Room, marble wainscot and door surround, fifth floor.

MA - Worcester County - Courthouse 021.tiff



15/16

US Post Office and Courthouse, ~~Worcester~~

Worcester, MA

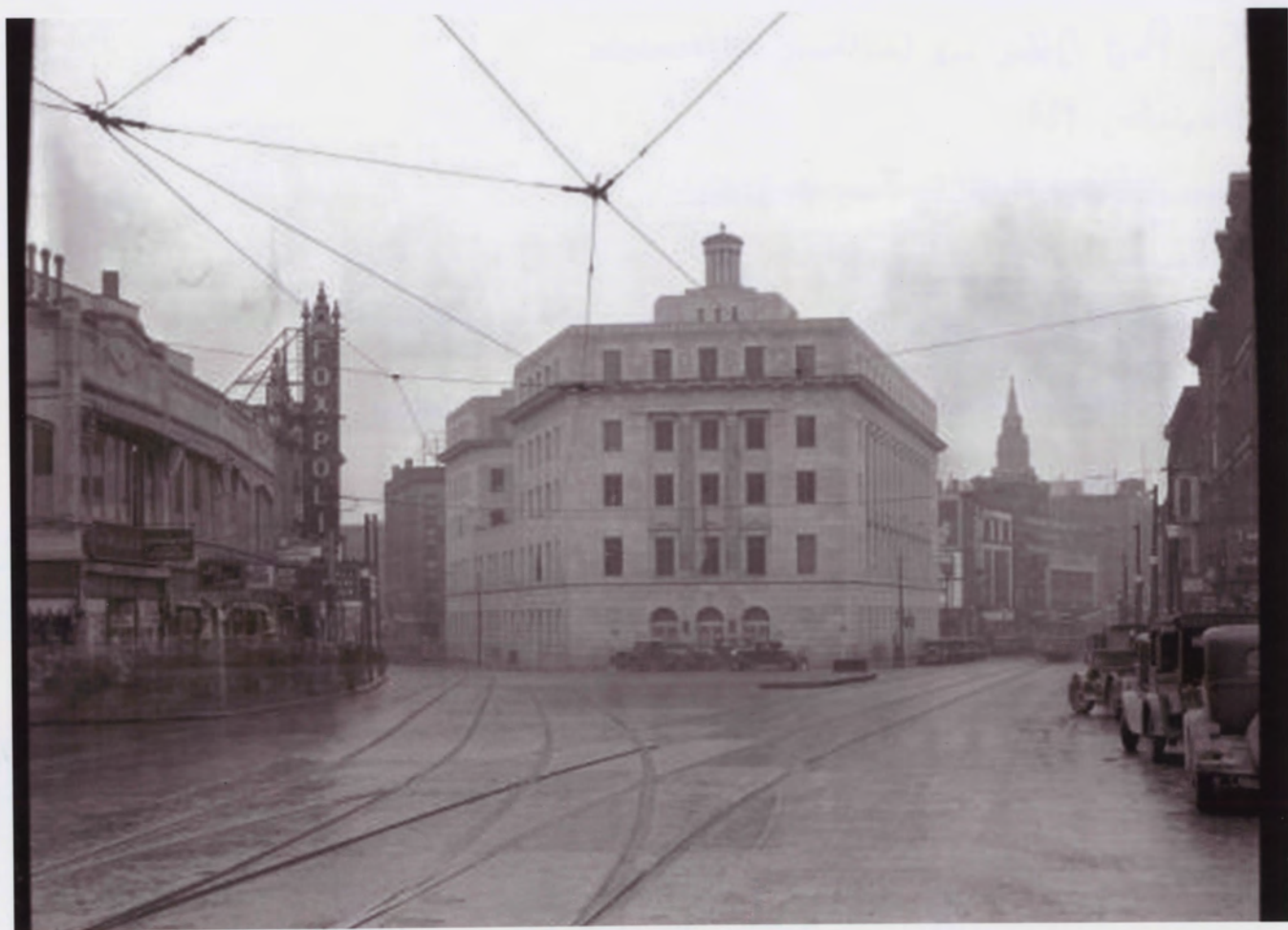
Unknown

Historic photo, N.D.

~~ESA HQ, Office of Chief Architect~~ EB Luce Corporation

Historic view, Facing south of Burnside Court / Franklin Place and Main Street elevations.

MA - Worcester County - Courthouse 02. tft



16/16

U.S. Post Office and Courthouse ~~Worcester~~

Worcester, MA

~~Richard Starzak, ICF Jones & Stokes~~

Unknown

Historic photo, N.D.

~~General Service Administration Headquarters, Office of Chief Architect~~ EB Luce Corporation

Historic view, facing southwest to Burnside Court / Franklin Place elevation

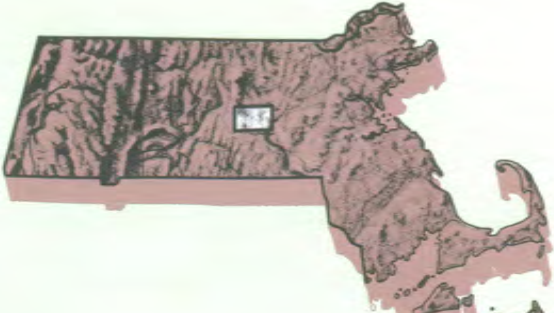
MA - Worcester County - Courthouse Ol. tiff



Worcester North

MASSACHUSETTS

1:25 000-scale metric
topographic map



7.5 X 15 MINUTE QUADRANGLE
SHOWING

- Contours and elevations in meters
- Highways, roads and other manmade structures
- Water features
- Woodland areas
- Geographic names



GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

1983

Produced by the United States Geological Survey
in cooperation with Massachusetts Department
of Public Works
Control by USGS, NOS/NOAA, and Massachusetts Geodetic Survey
Compiled by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs
taken 1960. Field checked 1982. Map edited 1983
Supersedes Paxton and Worcester North 1:25,000-scale
maps dated 1965 and 1974

Projection and 1000-meter grid, zone 19: Universal
Transverse Mercator
10,000-foot grid ticks based on Massachusetts coordinate
system, mainland zone. 1927 North American Datum
To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983
move the projection line 6 meters south and 40 meters
west as shown by dashed corner ticks
There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of
the National or State reservations shown on this map
CONTOUR INTERVAL 3 METERS
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929
CONTROL ELEVATIONS SHOWN TO THE NEAREST 0.1 METER
OTHER ELEVATIONS SHOWN TO THE NEAREST 0.5 METER

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS

CONVERSION TABLE

Meters	Feet
1	3.2808
2	6.5617
3	9.8425
4	13.1234
5	16.4042
6	19.6850
7	22.9659
8	26.2467
9	29.5275
10	32.8084

To convert meters to feet
multiply by 3.2808
To convert feet to meters
multiply by 0.3048

DECLINATION DIAGRAM

UTM grid convergence
(GTM and 1983 magnetic
declination (MN)
at center of map
Diagram is approximate

ADJOINING MAPS

1	2	3
1	2	3
4	5	6
7	8	

1 Barre
2 Sterling
3 Holden
4 North Brookfield
5 Marlborough
6 Uxbridge
7 Worcester South
8 Milford

FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092

Topographic Map Symbols

- Primary highway, hard surface
- Secondary highway, hard surface
- Light-duty road, hard or improved surface
- Unimproved road, trail
- Route marker: Interstate, U.S., State
- Railroad: standard gauge, narrow gauge
- Bridge, drawbridge
- Footbridge, overpass, underpass
- Built-up area: only selected landmark buildings shown
- House, barn, church, school, large structure
- Boundary:
 - National, with monument
 - State
 - County, parish
 - Civil township, precinct, district
 - Incorporated city, village, town
 - National or State reservation, small park
 - Land grant with monument; found section corner
 - U.S. public lands survey: range, township, section
 - Range, township, section line: location approximate
 - Fence or field line
 - Power transmission line, located tower
 - Dam; dam with lock
 - Cemetery, grave
 - Campground, picnic area; U.S. location monument
 - Windmill; water well; spring
 - Mine shaft; prospect; adit or cave
 - Control: horizontal section; vertical station; spot elevation
 - Contours: index; intermediate; supplementary; depression
 - Distorted surface: strip mine, lava, sand
 - Bathymetric contours: index; intermediate
 - Perennial lake and stream; intermittent lake and stream
 - Rapids, large and small; falls, large and small
 - Submerged marsh; marsh, swamp
 - Land subject to controlled inundation; woodland
 - Sands; mangrove
 - Golfcart; wayward

A pamphlet describing topographic maps is available on request

US Post Office
Hill Courthouse
Worcester County
MA
UTM:
19/268761/4682519
19/268761/4682448
19/268761/4682448