

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

<b>FOR NPS USE ONLY</b>	
RECEIVED	OCT 30 1979
DATE ENTERED	NOV 30 1979

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

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC  
U.S. Post Office  
AND/OR COMMON

Federal Building United States Post Office and Court House

**LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER  
200 East Broadway

CITY, TOWN

Missoula

STATE  
Montana

VICINITY OF  
CODE

30

NOT FOR PUBLICATION  
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

01

COUNTY CODE  
Missoula 063

**CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**AGENCY**

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: *(If applicable)*

General Services Administration, Building 41

STREET & NUMBER

Denver Federal Center

CITY, TOWN

Denver

VICINITY OF

Colorado 80225

STATE

**LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Register of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER

200 West Broadway

CITY, TOWN

Missoula

Montana 59807

STATE

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

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

### SITE

The Federal Building/Post Office/Courthouse is a series of additions, annexes, and extensions to an original building situated at the corner of Broadway and Pattee Streets in Missoula, Montana. Comprising approximately two thirds of a city block, the 1911 - 1913 building and its annexes continue the low horizontal movements set forth in the Italian Renaissance Revival form.

Located just one block from the central business core, the building and its associated activity incorporates functionality and a distinct architectural statement to provide an ongoing living history in the midst of Missoula's commercial scene.

Bounded on the south by Broadway Street\*, a major arterial, the principal facade fronts to heavy traffic and new bank construction across the street which will course that block. This facade is set back 26' 6" from the curb, including a 14' 6" sidewalk and a 12' grassy area containing low shrubbery.

To the east is private property buffered by a large weeping birch tree and three tall coniferous trees behind which are a medical clinic and an automotive service facility. Pictorial evidence shows the existence of the weeping birch dating positively to the construction of Annex #1 in 1929 and a picture of the original building under construction suggests the birch existed in 1911 as well.

The west facade on Pattee Street courses the block and faces the architecturally significant Old Library Museum and commercial structures of minor architectural importance. Set back 22' 4" from the curb, the facade is abutted by a 10' 4" grassy area and a 12 sidewalk.

A tree lined parkway (Pine Street) provides a tranquil setting for the rear facade. Two buildings of minor architectural significance, the Christian Science Church and the Knights of Columbus Building, are in direct proximity to this facade and contribute to the general setting. The trees are located in grassy areas 8' from the 7' sidewalk and the facade is 25' from the street.

\*Broadway Street was originally named Cedar Street and was changed by the City of Missoula Resolution #767 on June 26, 1928.

### ORIGINAL BUILDING DIMENSIONS

Resting on a foundation varying from 1' 6" to 2' 3" in thickness, the three-storey building originally had overall dimensions of 101' 2" X 70'. At the second storey elevation, the rear facade featured a 27' 8" X 47' center recessment which created a light court featuring square skylights and metal ventilators.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	OCT 30 1979
DATE ENTERED	NOV 30 1979

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

Abutting the rear facade was a tin-roofed loading platform in two sections of 5' 4" and 9' and 4' 6" X 6' 10" from which 4' 6" X 10' concrete steps descended. The main entrance steps measured 27' 10' wide X 22' deep, and side entrance steps were 10' 6" wide X 10' deep with each displaying a 2' cheeking.

Vertical dimensions include a 4' 6" boiler room, 10' 6" basement, 15' first storey, 13' second storey, 10' third storey, 4' 6" entablature and 2' 6' parapet.

FLOOR SPACE

There are 100,010 square feet of occupiable floor space assignable by the General Services Administration.

OPENINGS

Fenestration on all street facades is rhythmic, cohesive, and is set forth in the attached chart indicating sequence by storey and number of openings.

ROOF STYLE

The original building has a low hip gravel composition roof and a flat gravel composition covered tin roof on the light court. Additions and annexes feature flat gravel composition roofs.

ADDITIONS

The enlargement progression has in the ensuing years coursed in a "C" direction, beginning 42' north on the east facade and continuing with the most recent annex to a 47' 2" opening behind the rear of the original building, nearly enclosing the entire property.

The first major addition was accomplished from 1927 - 1929 when the full width of the original building was extended 30' from its rear facade with the center 49' 8" projecting an additional 8'. Abutting the center projection was a 17' X 16' ash room over which was a new mail loading platform.

As the first addition was being completed, Annex #1 was attached to the east facade at a point 42' from the front. From this a connecting two-storey structure

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED OCT 30 1979

DATE ENTERED

NOV 30 1979

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 3

with a 6' 2" corridor and 28' 4" deep projection extended 40' east to the 42' 10" X 121' 3" three-storey Annex #1.

The next addition occurred in 1937 when Annex #1 was abutted and extended 153' 6" by Annex #2 which is a U-shaped three-storey building. Annex #2 has an overall width of 184' 8" at the Pine Street facade and is 44' wide and 127' 4" long on the Pattee Street facade. The center 66' of Annex #2 is 69' wide and has a 8' 6" X 16' 6" loading platform abutting its center.

A greenhouse was erected in 1938 over the connecting structure between the original building and Annex #1.

In 1952, the last major addition occurred when an area 97' 11" from the loading platform of the original building addition to Annex #1 was enclosed.

RELATIONSHIP TO THE ORIGINAL

As the original was drawn and built, the Broadway Street principal facade remains relatively undisturbed. Aluminum handrailings have been added to the main entrance steps and the wrought iron bracketed lamps flanking the doorways have been painted light gray to match the metal. Openings were not disturbed, but main entrance wooden doors have been replaced by aluminum-framed double-panel glass doors under the existing semi-circular arches. The wrought iron fanlight archwork has been removed above the doors.

The 1927 - 1929 addition primarily expanded the massing but remained on scale.

An elevator well off the main lobby of the original building has been entirely covered by a white fireproofing substance required by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration.

Annex #1 continued the original theme elements and massing but its principal facade also on Broadway Street departed slightly in its frontal wall design. Instead of engaged columns flanking each end, engaged pilasters are presented. Fenestration on Annex #1 remains rhythmic with the original building but window treatment departs from two-sash casement windows in the first storey to 12-over-12 light double sash on the second storey, and eight pane casement windows in the third storey. Decorative window trim is discontinued on Annex #1 but carved spandrels are displayed between the second and third storeys. Centered on the

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

OCT 30 1979

DATE ENTERED

NOV 30 1979

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 4

parapet above the Annex #1 principal facade is a spread-winged eagle relief not seen on the original building parapet. The Greek fret band and balusters displayed on the original are not used on Annex #1.

The attachment connecting the original building to Annex #1 rises two storeys and the greenhouse built over it extends to the upper area of the third storeys of the original building and Annex #1.

The east facade of Annex #1 is interrupted 44' from each end and cream-colored brick laid in the English bond style is used in the intervening 186'. Although the fenestration remains rhythmic, this area displays no decorative window treatment. Uniformity does appear, however, in the buff limestone beltcourse and the parapeted entablature. Due to the tree buffering next to this facade, limited street visibility reduces the effect of this departure.

The rear facade of Annex #2 on Pine Street differs in that one entrance has been slightly modified to accommodate the handicapped. A metal-railed ramp has been set in parallel to the sidewalk in addition to the two-step access.

As the building enlarged and nearly enclosed itself, an interior service court developed providing emphasis on functional utility rather than aesthetics. The result has been an irregular configuration which exhibits loading platforms, first storey extensions, the rear of the greenhouse, and plain brick wall finishes except on the original building addition.

INTERIOR

The most significant area is the courtroom which is one of four District courtrooms in Montana. Much of the original oak furniture remains although placement has been transposed. Sympathetically treated, the walls are now covered with fabric acoustical panels for noise reduction.

Other significant areas include the post office lobby which has been only slightly altered and the marbled lobby of Annex #2 which is undisturbed.

Remaining interior areas have been subjected to major renovation to accommodate greater space utilization.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

OCT 30 1979

DATE ENTERED

NOV 30 1979

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

7

PAGE

5

FACADE ANALYSIS

Consistent with Renaissance Revival form, the three-storey facade is organized into distinct horizontal divisions rising from its granite foundation.

The principal facade containing nine bays is symmetrically arranged from a center main entrance flanked by wide steps. In the basement, elevation which has been blocked in with granite, there are six short rectangular windows.

Surmounted above the foundation is a beveled water table introducing the first storey which features stone banding which has been rusticated in a beveled manner. Six recessed, two-sash, casement windows comprise the first storey window treatment. On a plane with the windows are 5" tall bronze letters which read, "FEDERAL BUILDING UNITED STATES COURT HOUSE POST OFFICE AND COURT HOUSE 59807." The rusticated banding courses to stepped arches over the main entrance and extends to a beltcourse exhibited on all exterior facades 4' 3" under the second storey elevation. The stepped arching contains three semi-circular arched doors comprising the main entrance. The aluminum-framed glass doors are flanked by bracketed decorative lamps.

Centered above the main entrance in the beltcourse is a Greek fret band extending to the width of the entrance enrichment.

Window treatment on the second storey elevation exhibits the Italian influence with pronounced mouldings and projecting cornices supported by consoles above and below the tall, narrow, two-sash, five-pane, casement windows. Rusticated aprons appear between the consoles except for three center windows which evidence balusters. The third storey displays shorter two-sash, three-pane, casement windows surrounded by architrave framing.

Visual deception occurs in these zones due to the second storey window height and ornamentation. However, a uniform balance effect is produced and draws attention to the focal interest of the facade which is the columnar detail. Stately engaged columns featuring Tuscan bases on plinths and displaying Corinthian capitals are interspersed between the windows spanning the second and third storeys. They project a strong vertical statement contrasting the building's low horizontal movements. The limestone of the second and third storeys has a smooth finish which creates a strong accentuation effect for the enrichments presented.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	OCT 30 1979
DATE ENTERED	NOV 30 1979

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 6

Girdling the building's upper zone is a plain entablature capped by a parapet slightly projected in its vertical alignment with the engaged columns. Annex #1 has a three-bay principal facade replicating the movements and articulation of the original building.

Other street facades continue the scale and general window treatment set forth in the principal facade but without the engaged columns.

The Pattee Street facade is presented in two sections, the eight-bay original building and the 10-bay Annex #2. An entrance replicating the main entrance style is located on each of these sections.

East facades of the original building and Annex #1 differ from each other and major differences are stated in the Relationship to the Original. Three bays remain visible from the street on the original while 20 exist on the Annex #1 east facade. Windows on the latter evidence nine over nine double sash with lug sills. Three stairwell windows occurring between storeys disrupt the fenestration on this facade. Metal railings enclose the basement window wells and steps for two entrances.

The 13-bay rear facade on Pine Street encompasses the width of Annex #2 yet produces the same continuing scale of the Broadway and Pattee Street facades. Two entrances are located on the first storey elevation and windows evidence six over six double sash.

Texture contrasts in the service court area are primarily the buff limestone on the original and cream-colored brick on the annex.

There are three penthouses on the roof elevation; one on the original building, one on Annex #1, and one on Annex #2. These projections provide color and texture contrast with white stucco exteriors and dark brown cornices capping them. Atop Annex #2 is a 25' X 64' 10" fan room.

MATERIALS

A skeletal steel framework is the building's basic unit from which emerges a concrete foundation on spread footings.

Concrete is used extensively in the sidewalks and in the service court area.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	OCT 30 1979
DATE ENTERED	NOV 30 1979

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 7

The visible foundation and entrance steps are granite and provide bland contrast to the buff-colored limestone used on the exterior facades.

Marble is evidenced throughout the building primarily as trim. California marble is used in the main lobby and on baseboard and stair treads with Tokean Alaskan marble used in the restrooms. Annex #2 lobby walls are of Travertine marble 50% rose tan and 50% Montana cream buff with filled honed finish.

Terrazo can still be seen in the Post Office lobby, Annex #2 lobby, and in the restrooms although carpeting covers the remainder of the flooring.

Providing uniform but also bland contrast is the aluminum evidenced in the entrance door framing and the numerous metal railings surrounding building entrances and window wells. The bracketed lamps are wrought iron which have been painted light gray.

Building identification letters are of polished bronze. Statuary bronze is used on grillework, the information window surround, and the elevator surround in the Annex #2 lobby.

Cream-colored brick laid in the English bond style comprises the service court facade as well as appearing on the center portion of the Annex #1 east facade.

Wood is used in the window casings and interior doors. Oak can be found extensively in the courtroom and oak hand railings are seen in the stairways.

Interior walls are plastered with acoustic plaster appearing in the Annex #2 lobby.

Clear plate glass is used in the exterior doors and windows with obscured glass panels seen in the interior doors.



# 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 type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input 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		

SPECIFIC DATES	1911-1913	1937	BUILDER/ARCHITECT	Original-James Knox Taylor
	1928-1929	1952		1937- James Wetmore

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

### SIGNIFICANCE

"A handsome structure, an ornament to the city" was the description afforded this building by The Daily Missoulian newspaper on November 4, 1912. Similar accolades would still be applicable to the Italian Renaissance Revival Federal Building/Post Office/Courthouse as it stands 65 years later. It continues to project a commanding Federal presence in the heart of Missoula which is a regional trading center for western Montana, northern Idaho, and eastern Washington.

Credit for securing the appropriation for this building has been attributed to the late Senator Joseph M. Dixon who was also responsible for the establishment of Region 1 headquarters of the U.S. Forest Service in Missoula. <sup>1</sup>

Original tenants were the U.S. Post Office headed by Postmaster Andrew Logan and the U.S. Forest Service whose Regional Forester was Ferdinand A. Silcox. <sup>2</sup> Mr. Silcox later became Chief of the U.S. Forest Service in Washington, D. C. on April 5, 1933 and served in that capacity until his death on December 20, 1939. <sup>3</sup>

Another important function for this building has been to house the District Court since December 5, 1929 when the distinguished Montana Judge C. M. Bourquin opened the first session. <sup>4</sup> Judge Bourquin was noted for his austerity and impatience with pettiness. Appointed by President Taft in 1912, the judge reputedly cleared court calendars with dispatch and remains one of the most colorful judges in Montana history. <sup>5</sup> Other district judges who sat on this court include C. N. Pray, James H. Baldwin, K. Lewis Brown, Wm. D. Murray, and the present Judge, Russell Evans Smith. Judge Smith was born in Butte, Montana on November 16, 1908 and is the only one of the district judges who has resided in Missoula. While a lawyer, one of Judge Smith's significant cases was Montana Power Co. vs. Rochester (127 F.2nd.189) regarding ownership of the Flathead Lake bed. Appointed by President Lyndon B. Johnson in April 1966, Judge Smith has sat on district and circuit courts throughout the United States, the northern Mariana Islands, and American Samoa. Recently Judge Smith assumed senior status upon the appointment of Judge Paul G. Hatfield for the District of Montana. <sup>6</sup>

Postal operations continue in the original portion of the building. Post office boxes exist in the same location with patrons observed using the facility daily. However, the bulk of postal activity was moved to a new facility in November 1974.

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

1. Consultation with James MacDonald, Historical Architect, Missoula, Montana, July 10, 1979.
2. Interview with Clyde P. Fickes (age 94), Missoula, Montana, July 10, 1979.
3. Microfilmed original drawings, GSA Archives, Denver Federal Center, Denver, CO.
4. Original construction photographs, GSA Archives, Operational Planning - PBS, Denver Federal Center, Denver, CO.

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

**UTM NOT VERIFIED**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1.5 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A	1, 2	27, 21, 00	5, 119, 511, 00	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

1. Site is 241' 6" X 297' overall; 241' 6" on the south, 297' on the west, 211' 6" on the north, 148' 6" on the east, then extended 30', and continues 148' 6" on the east.
2. Known as lots number five (5), six (6), seven (7), eight (8), nine (9), ten (10), eleven (11), twelve (12), thirteen (13), fourteen (14), fifteen (15), sixteen (16), seventeen (17), eighteen (18), and nineteen (19) in block "D" of C.P. Higgins' addition to the City of Missoula, Montana, and the west 241 1/2' of the alley (cont'd)

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Mary J. Kardoes, Planning Assistant

ORGANIZATION

GSA, PBS, Operational Planning Staff

DATE

234-4357

STREET & NUMBER

Building 41, Denver Federal Center

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Denver, Colorado 80225

STATE

## 12 CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

YES

NO

NONE

*Edue Venson for Ken Korte*

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

*W. Roth*

TITLE **DIRECTOR,**

**HISTORIC PRESERVATION STAFF - PUB. BLDGS. SERV.**

DATE

**24 OCTOBER 1979**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

*Cheryl D. Shull*

DATE

**11-30-79**

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

*Kristen O'Connell*

DATE

**11/29/79**

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

OCT 30 1979

NOV 30 1979

DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

The Forest Service has become the principal building tenant and its administrative functions cover support services for the surrounding states in Region 1. Administrative control from this building is extended to a dramatic aspect of the Forest Service - - the Smokejumpers, aerial fire control experts who parachute into areas inaccessible to ground personnel. Need for such a service was highlighted as early as 1910 when a big fire consumed 3,000,000 acres in the Region 1 area.<sup>7</sup> Sparse population and harsh terrain in vast forested areas of the Northwest justified the Smokejumper service which came under Region 1 jurisdiction officially in 1941.<sup>8</sup> Since that time, Smokejumpers have earned for Missoula the title, "Aerial Firefighting Capitol of the World."<sup>9</sup> Drama associated with the Smokejumpers was captured in a 1951 film, "Red Skies of Montana" starring Richard Widmark. Filmed in Missoula, one of the scenes focused on the Federal Building main entrance to await the emergence of Widmark.<sup>10</sup> This colorful event is pridefully recalled by Missoula citizens and has further engrained landmark ascription to the Federal Building by the residents.

The entire tract of land occupied by the Federal Building stemmed from a parcel owned by pioneer Christopher P. Higgins who was granted Patent #1884 from the U.S. Government on June 10, 1873. Subsequently, the land was purchased in the following increments:

1. Recorded 10-16-07    Lots 12-16 Block D-Price: \$19,850 (original building site)  
Purchased from:    Frank Vogel, Anna Vogel, W.P. Mills, and Elizabeth Mills
  2. Recorded 11-19-27    Lot 17 Block D-Price \$7,200 (Annex #1 site)  
Purchased from:    Agnes A. Lombard
  3. Recorded 11-19-27    Lots 18-19 Block D - Price: \$11,000 (Annex #1 site)  
Purchased from:    O. B. S. Orr and Berrie L. Orr
- 9-25-35    West 241 1/2 ft. of alley vacated and discontinued by City of Missoula.
- Recorded 4-4-36    Lot 5 Block D - Price: \$3,500 (Annex #2 site)  
Purchased from:    Mattie Peek
- Recorded 4-4-36    Lots 6-11 - Price: \$16,000 (Annex #2 site)  
Purchased from:    Annie M. Briggs

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED **OCT 30 1979**

DATE ENTERED

**NOV 30 1979**

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 3

Sound Construction and Engineering of Seattle, Washington was awarded the contract on January 13, 1911 for the original building with a projected cost of \$160,000 for the three-storey building. <sup>11</sup> Original design architect was James Knox Taylor, Supervisory Architect for the U.S. Treasury Department, who was noted for his design of U.S. Post Offices during the period 1897 - 1912.

The first addition was completed in 1929 at a cost of \$157,000. <sup>12</sup> General contractor for the project was the William MacDonald Construction Company. Design architect was James A. Wetmore of the U.S. Treasury Department and Construction Engineer was Joseph C. Johnson. Both individuals were also in charge of the first Annex which was constructed shortly after completion of the first addition. General contractor for Annex #1 was the W. D. Lovell Construction Co. of Minneapolis, Minnesota which was awarded the contract on March 30, 1928 for \$160,975. <sup>13</sup>

On October 13, 1937, Annex #2 was formally dedicated by U.S. Postmaster General James A. Farley. <sup>14</sup> This annex cost \$500,000 and was constructed by the A. D. Belanger and Company of Seattle, Washington. <sup>15</sup> Construction Engineer was J. C. Elliott and the architectural design was headed by Louis A. Simon of the Public Works Administration.

The last major addition enclosing building portions in the service court area occurred in 1952 and was designed by A. E. Sanderson of the Public Buildings Administration.

Most recently, the Baeten Construction Company of Denver, Colorado has been in the process of completing an interior renovation project costing in excess of \$2.1 million. <sup>16</sup>

1. "A Challenge to B. K. Wheeler," Daily Missoulian, Oct 31, 1928, p. 11.
2. "Plans for Occupancy of New Federal Building Announced by Forest Service and Post Office," Daily Missoulian, Feb 16, 1913, p. 1.
3. Steen, Harold K., The U.S. Forest Service - A History. University of Washington Press, Seattle, 1976, p. 327.
4. "New Courtroom in Federal Building Where First Term of Court Was Opened by Judge C. M. Bourquin," Daily Missoulian, Dec 6, 1928, p. 1.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED **OCT 30 1979**

DATE ENTERED

NOV 30 1979

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 4

5. "Judge Bourquin, Montana Federal Jurist 22 Years, Summoned at 95," Montana Standard, Nov 17, 1958, pp. 1 and 6.
6. Interview with Judge Russell E. Smith, Missoula, Montana, July 11, 1979.
7. Spencer, Betty Goodwin, The Big Blowup, Caxton Printers, Ltd., Caldwell, Idaho, 1956, Foreward.
8. U.S. Forest Service, The History of Smokejumping, Missoula, Montana, May 1, 1972, p. 4.
9. "Conservation Boosted by Forest Fire Picture," Daily Missoulian, Jan 20, 1952, Conservation Section, p. 1.
10. "Street Scene for Motion Picture Shot on Broadway", Daily Missoulian, July 14, 1951, p. 2.
11. "Good to Look Upon, Built to Endure and Serve, Missoula Federal Building Now Ready for Use," Daily Missoulian, Jan 19, 1913, Editorial Section, p. 1.
12. "Record of Building Progress in Garden City," Daily Missoulian, Mar 10, 1929, p. 2.
13. "Bids Opened for New Addition to Federal Building," Daily Missoulian, Mar 31, 1928, p. 1.
14. "Federal Building Will be Dedicated Tonight", Daily Missoulian, Oct 13, 1937, p. 1.
15. "Missoula Makes Large Growth During 1937 Building Program Big," Daily Missoulian, Editorial Section, Jan 2, 1938, p. 1.
16. Archives, GSA Construction Management Division, PBS, Denver Federal Center, Denver, Colorado.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

<b>FOR NPS USE ONLY</b>	
RECEIVED	OCT 30 1979
DATE ENTERED	30 1979

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 2

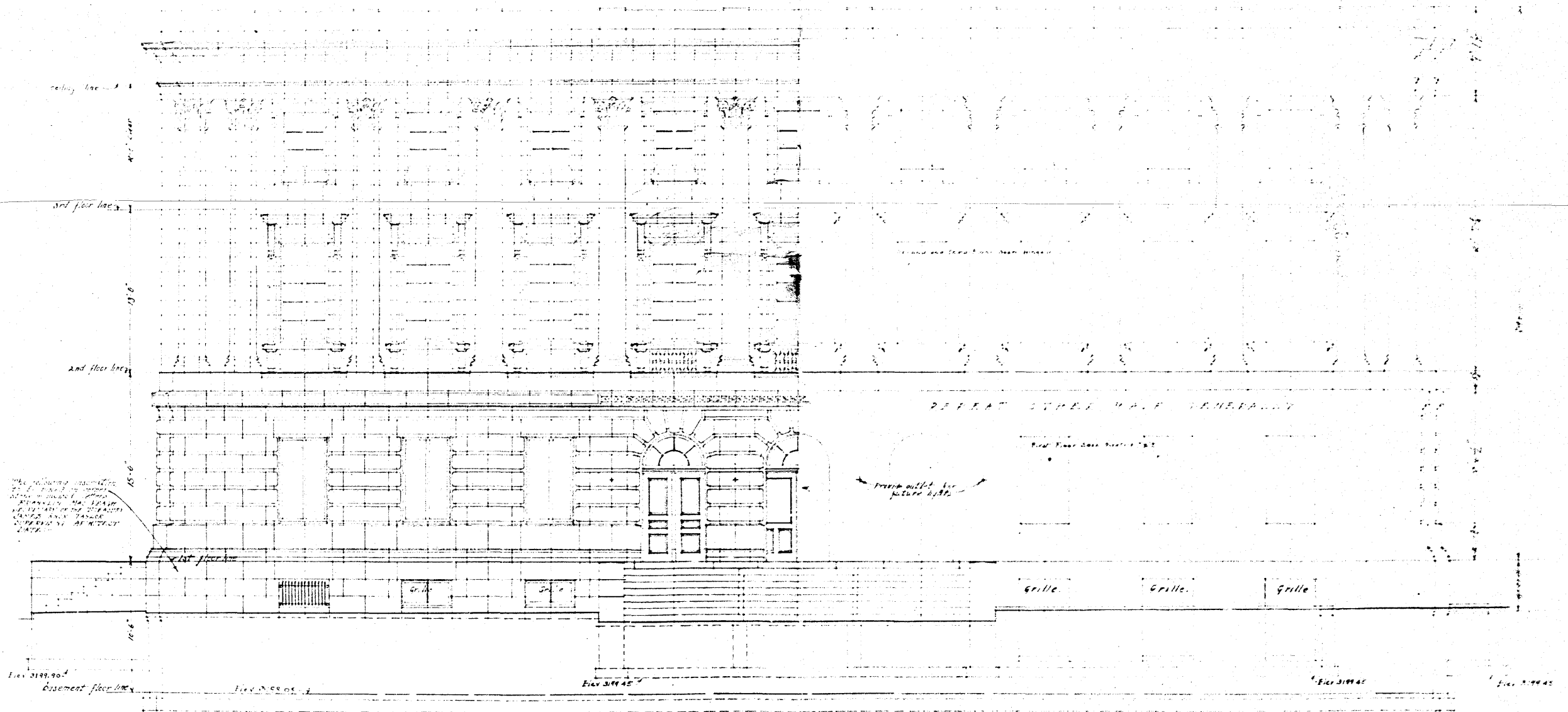
running through block "D" of C.P. Higgins' addition to the City of Missoula, Montana.

3. Location is indicated on attached 7.5 USGS Map of Missoula, Montana.

FEDERAL BUILDING/POST OFFICE/COURTHOUSE  
Missoula, Montana

WINDOW OPENINGS AND ENTRANCES

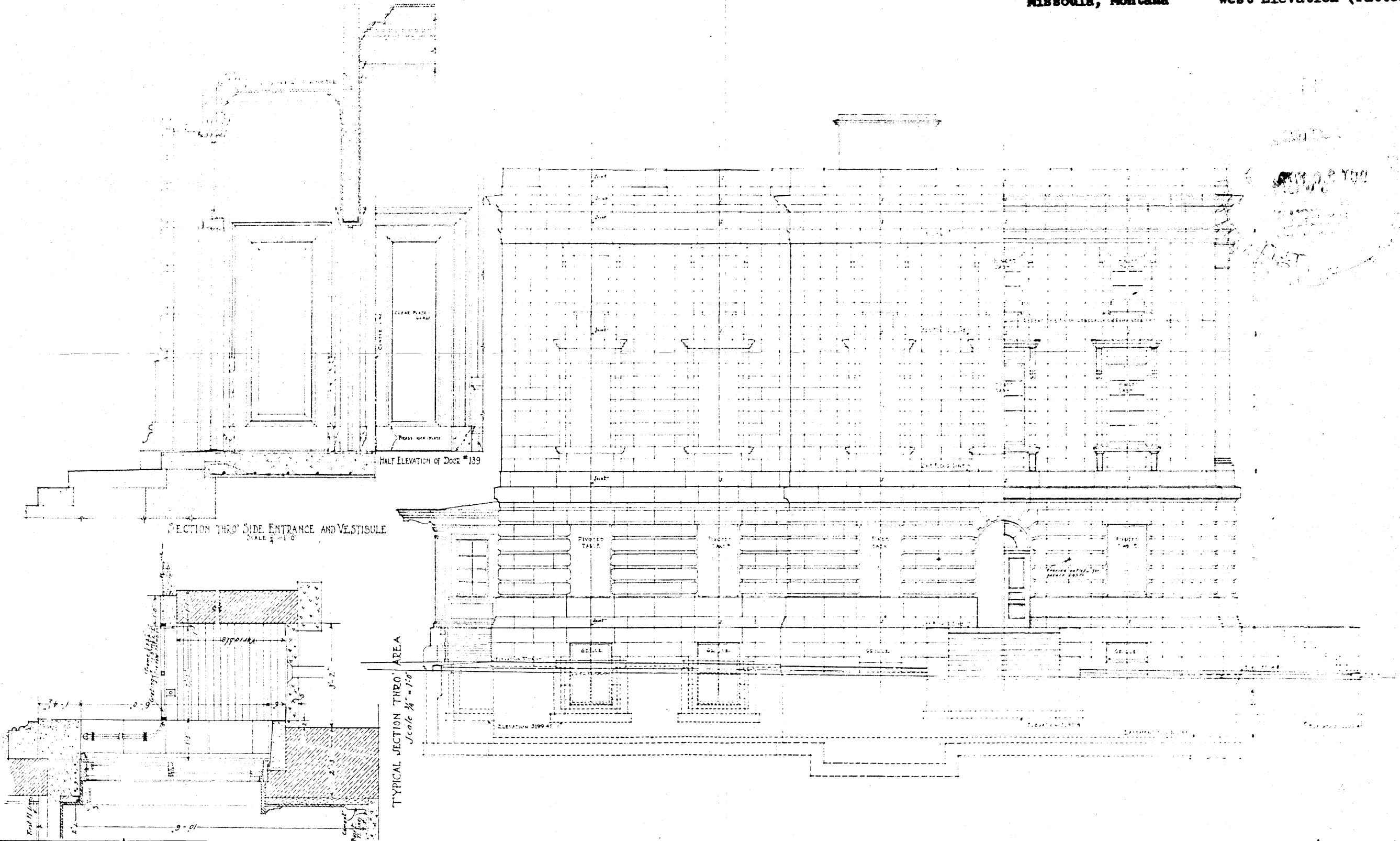
FACADE	STOREY	WINDOW OPENINGS		ENTRANCES	
		ORIGINAL	PRESENT	ORIGINAL	PRESENT
<u>ORIGINAL BUILDING</u>					
Principal (South) (Broadway)	Basement	6	Blocked In	-	-
	First	6	Same	3	Same
	Second	9	Same	-	-
	Third	9	Same	-	-
West (Pattee)	Basement	4	6	-	-
	First	4	7	1	Same
	Second	5	8	-	-
	Third	5	8	-	-
East	Basement	5	Blocked In	-	-
	First	5	3	-	-
	Second	5	3	-	-
	Third	5	3	-	-
Rear	Basement	3	0	1	0
1927-29 Addition	First	6	3	2	4
Present	Second	7	5*	-	-
*Plus toilet window.	Third	7	5	-	-
<u>CONNECTION TO ANNEX #1</u>					
Front (South)	Basement	3	Same	-	-
	First	5	Same	-	-
	Second	6	Same	-	-
<u>ANNEX #1**</u>					
Principal (South) (Broadway)	Basement	2	Same	-	-
	First	2	Same	1	Same
	Second	3	Same	-	-
	Third	3	Same	-	-
West	Basement	7	Same	-	-
	First	9	Same	-	-
	Second	9	8	-	-
	Third	9	Same	-	-
East	Basement	8	Same	-	-
	First	8	Same	1	Same
	Second	8	Same	-	-
	Third	8	Same	-	-
**Three stairwell windows exist on different levels than regular fenestration following the third vertical alignments. (The rear facade was removed with the 1937 addition and was abutted by Annex #2.)					
<u>ANNEX #2***</u>					
Pine St. (North)	Basement	12	11	-	-
	First	12	11	1	2
	Second	13	Same	-	-
	Third	13	Same	-	-
East	Basement	11	Same	2	Same
	First	11	10	-	-
	Second	11	Same	-	-
	Third	11	Same	-	-
***The east wing abutted Annex #1.					
West (Pattee)	Basement	9	Same	-	-
	First	9	Same	-	-
	Second	10	Same	-	-
	Third	10	Same	-	-



# FRONT ELEVATION

Scale 1/4" = One foot



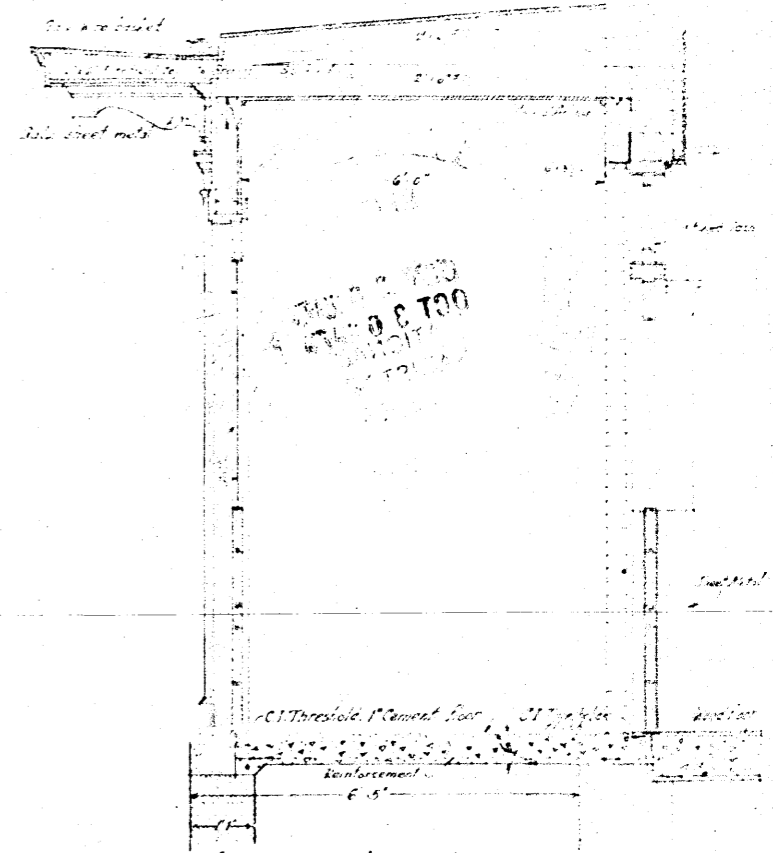
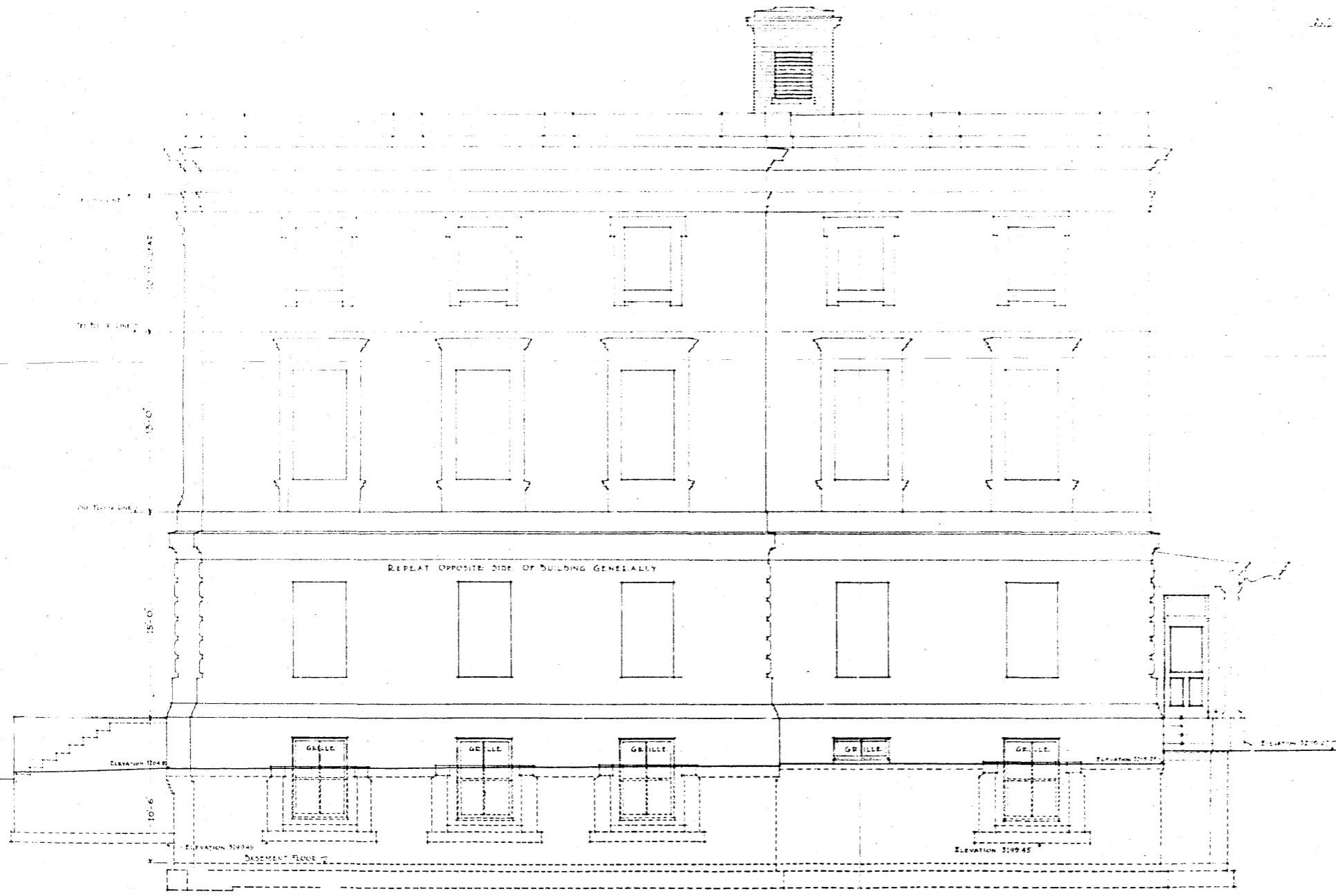


▲ PATTEE STREET ELEVATION ▲  
SCALE 1/4" = 1 FOOT

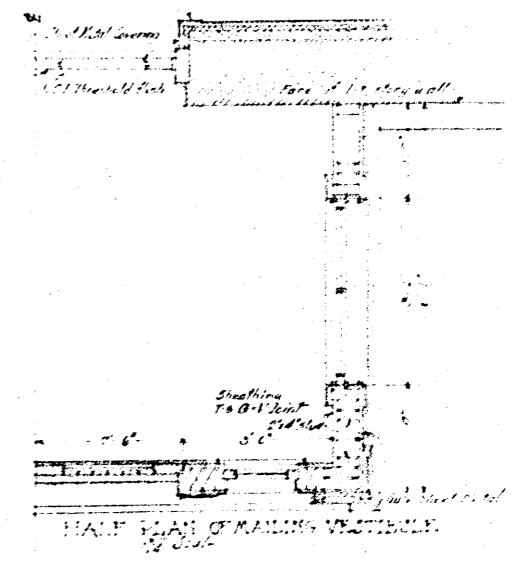
James R. ...  
SUPERVISOR ARCHITECT  
Treasury Department

U.S. POST OFFICE  
MISSOULA, MONT.  
No. 9

Federal Bldg/U.S. Post Office and Courthouse  
 Missoula, Montana  
 East Elevation



SECTION ON G, THRU  
 MAILING VESTIBULE  
 by Scale

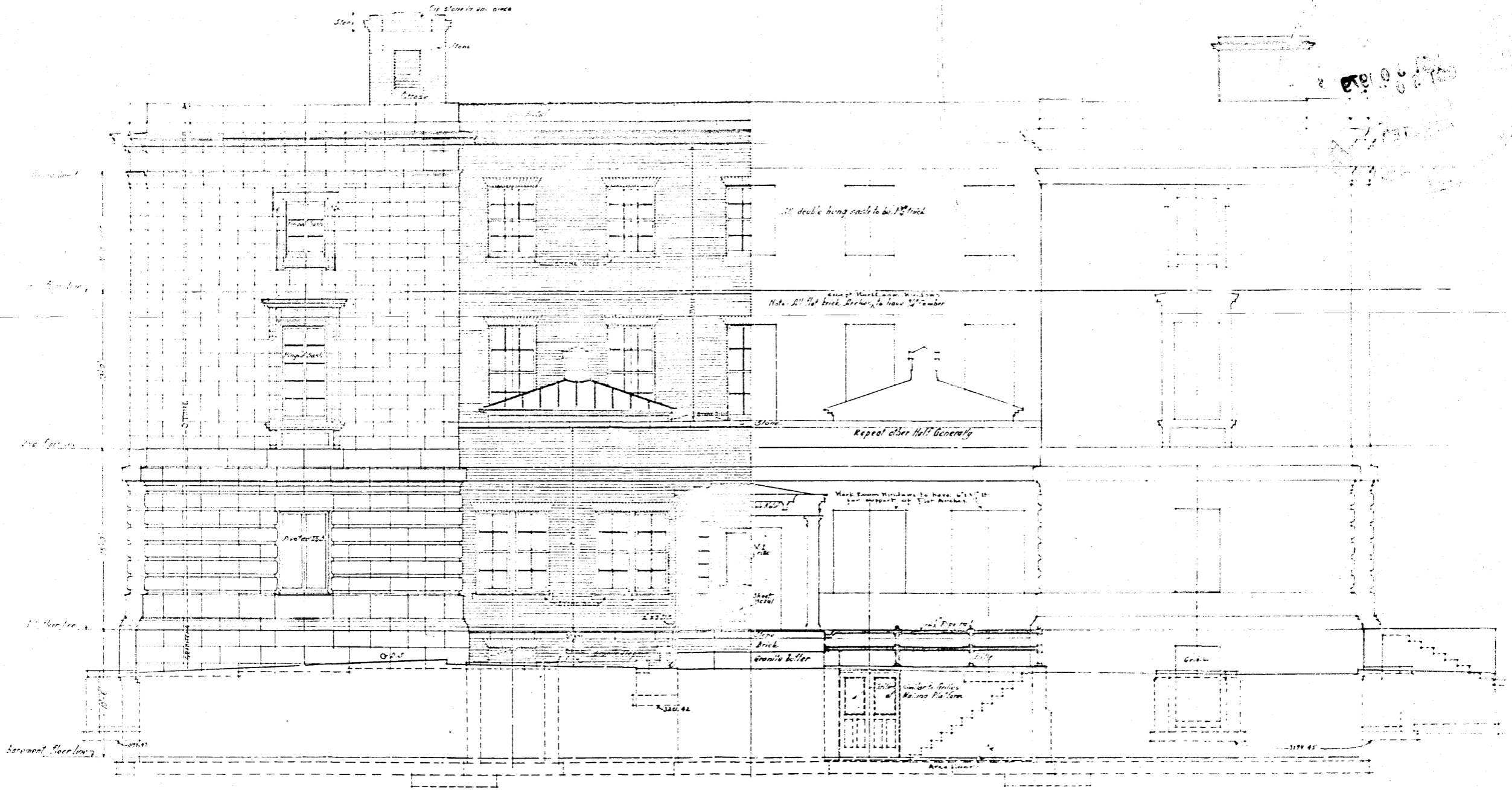


HALF PLAN OF MAILING VESTIBULE  
 by Scale

▲ EAST ELEVATION ▲  
 • SCALE 1/4" = 1 FOOT •

James Keegan  
 SUPERVISOR'S ARCHITECT  
 Treasury Department

POST OFFICE  
 MISSOULA, MONT.  
 No. 10



REAR ELEVATION

SCALE 1/4 IN = 1 FOOT

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

**FOR NPS USE ONLY**  
RECEIVED **OCT 30 1979**  
DATE ENTERED **NOV 30 1979**

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

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC  
U.S. Post Office  
AND/OR COMMON

Federal Building United States Post Office and Court House

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER  
200 East Broadway

CITY, TOWN  
Missoula

STATE  
Montana

VICINITY OF  
CODE  
30

NOT FOR PUBLICATION  
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

01  
COUNTY  
Missoula  
CODE  
063

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**4 AGENCY**

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: *(If applicable)*  
General Services Administration, Building 41

STREET & NUMBER  
Denver Federal Center

CITY, TOWN  
Denver

VICINITY OF  
Colorado 80225

STATE

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Register of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER  
200 West Broadway

CITY, TOWN

Missoula

STATE  
Montana 59807

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

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

### SITE

The Federal Building/Post Office/Courthouse is a series of additions, annexes, and extensions to an original building situated at the corner of Broadway and Pattee Streets in Missoula, Montana. Comprising approximately two thirds of a city block, the 1911 - 1913 building and its annexes continue the low horizontal movements set forth in the Italian Renaissance Revival form.

Located just one block from the central business core, the building and its associated activity incorporates functionality and a distinct architectural statement to provide an ongoing living history in the midst of Missoula's commercial scene.

Bounded on the south by Broadway Street\*, a major arterial, the principal facade fronts to heavy traffic and new bank construction across the street which will course that block. This facade is set back 26' 6" from the curb, including a 14' 6" sidewalk and a 12' grassy area containing low shrubbery.

To the east is private property buffered by a large weeping birch tree and three tall coniferous trees behind which are a medical clinic and an automotive service facility. Pictorial evidence shows the existence of the weeping birch dating positively to the construction of Annex #1 in 1929 and a picture of the original building under construction suggests the birch existed in 1911 as well.

The west facade on Pattee Street courses the block and faces the architecturally significant Old Library Museum and commercial structures of minor architectural importance. Set back 22' 4" from the curb, the facade is abutted by a 10' 4" grassy area and a 12 sidewalk.

A tree lined parkway (Pine Street) provides a tranquil setting for the rear facade. Two buildings of minor architectural significance, the Christian Science Church and the Knights of Columbus Building, are in direct proximity to this facade and contribute to the general setting. The trees are located in grassy areas 8' from the 7' sidewalk and the facade is 25' from the street.

\*Broadway Street was originally named Cedar Street and was changed by the City of Missoula Resolution #767 on June 26, 1928.

### ORIGINAL BUILDING DIMENSIONS

Resting on a foundation varying from 1' 6" to 2' 3" in thickness, the three-storey building originally had overall dimensions of 101' 2" X 70'. At the second storey elevation, the rear facade featured a 27' 8" X 47' center recessment which created a light court featuring square skylights and metal ventilators.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	OCT 30 1979
DATE ENTERED	NOV 30 1979

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

Abutting the rear facade was a tin-roofed loading platform in two sections of 5' 4" and 9' and 4' 6" X 6' 10" from which 4' 6" X 10' concrete steps descended. The main entrance steps measured 27' 10' wide X 22' deep, and side entrance steps were 10' 6" wide X 10' deep with each displaying a 2' cheeking.

Vertical dimensions include a 4' 6" boiler room, 10' 6" basement, 15' first storey, 13' second storey, 10' third storey, 4' 6" entablature and 2' 6' parapet.

FLOOR SPACE

There are 100,010 square feet of occupiable floor space assignable by the General Services Administration.

OPENINGS

Fenestration on all street facades is rhythmic, cohesive, and is set forth in the attached chart indicating sequence by storey and number of openings.

ROOF STYLE

The original building has a low hip gravel composition roof and a flat gravel composition covered tin roof on the light court. Additions and annexes feature flat gravel composition roofs.

ADDITIONS

The enlargement progression has in the ensuing years coursed in a "C" direction, beginning 42' north on the east facade and continuing with the most recent annex to a 47' 2" opening behind the rear of the original building, nearly enclosing the entire property.

The first major addition was accomplished from 1927 - 1929 when the full width of the original building was extended 30' from its rear facade with the center 49' 8" projecting an additional 8'. Abutting the center projection was a 17' X 16' ash room over which was a new mail loading platform.

As the first addition was being completed, Annex #1 was attached to the east facade at a point 42' from the front. From this a connecting two-storey structure

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED **OCT 30 1979**

DATE ENTERED **NOV 30 1979**

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 3

with a 6' 2" corridor and 28' 4" deep projection extended 40' east to the 42' 10" X 121' 3" three-storey Annex #1.

The next addition occurred in 1937 when Annex #1 was abutted and extended 153' 6" by Annex #2 which is a U-shaped three-storey building. Annex #2 has an overall width of 184' 8" at the Pine Street facade and is 44' wide and 127' 4" long on the Pattee Street facade. The center 66' of Annex #2 is 69' wide and has a 8' 6" X 16' 6" loading platform abutting its center.

A greenhouse was erected in 1938 over the connecting structure between the original building and Annex #1.

In 1952, the last major addition occurred when an area 97' 11" from the loading platform of the original building addition to Annex #1 was enclosed.

RELATIONSHIP TO THE ORIGINAL

As the original was drawn and built, the Broadway Street principal facade remains relatively undisturbed. Aluminum handrailings have been added to the main entrance steps and the wrought iron bracketed lamps flanking the doorways have been painted light gray to match the metal. Openings were not disturbed, but main entrance wooden doors have been replaced by aluminum-framed double-panel glass doors under the existing semi-circular arches. The wrought iron fanlight archwork has been removed above the doors.

The 1927 - 1929 addition primarily expanded the massing but remained on scale.

An elevator well off the main lobby of the original building has been entirely covered by a white fireproofing substance required by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration.

Annex #1 continued the original theme elements and massing but its principal facade also on Broadway Street departed slightly in its frontal wall design. Instead of engaged columns flanking each end, engaged pilasters are presented. Fenestration on Annex #1 remains rhythmic with the original building but window treatment departs from two-sash casement windows in the first storey to 12-over-12 light double sash on the second storey, and eight pane casement windows in the third storey. Decorative window trim is discontinued on Annex #1 but carved spandrels are displayed between the second and third storeys. Centered on the

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	OCT 30 1979
DATE ENTERED	NOV 30 1979

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 4

parapet above the Annex #1 principal facade is a spread-winged eagle relief not seen on the original building parapet. The Greek fret band and balusters displayed on the original are not used on Annex #1.

The attachment connecting the original building to Annex #1 rises two storeys and the greenhouse built over it extends to the upper area of the third storeys of the original building and Annex #1.

The east facade of Annex #1 is interrupted 44' from each end and cream-colored brick laid in the English bond style is used in the intervening 186'. Although the fenestration remains rhythmic, this area displays no decorative window treatment. Uniformity does appear, however, in the buff limestone beltcourse and the parapeted entablature. Due to the tree buffering next to this facade, limited street visibility reduces the effect of this departure.

The rear facade of Annex #2 on Pine Street differs in that one entrance has been slightly modified to accommodate the handicapped. A metal-railed ramp has been set in parallel to the sidewalk in addition to the two-step access.

As the building enlarged and nearly enclosed itself, an interior service court developed providing emphasis on functional utility rather than aesthetics. The result has been an irregular configuration which exhibits loading platforms, first storey extensions, the rear of the greenhouse, and plain brick wall finishes except on the original building addition.

INTERIOR

The most significant area is the courtroom which is one of four District courtrooms in Montana. Much of the original oak furniture remains although placement has been transposed. Sympathetically treated, the walls are now covered with fabric acoustical panels for noise reduction.

Other significant areas include the post office lobby which has been only slightly altered and the marbled lobby of Annex #2 which is undisturbed.

Remaining interior areas have been subjected to major renovation to accommodate greater space utilization.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED **OCT 30 1979**  
DATE ENTERED **NOV 30 1979**

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

7

PAGE

5

FACADE ANALYSIS

Consistent with Renaissance Revival form, the three-storey facade is organized into distinct horizontal divisions rising from its granite foundation.

The principal facade containing nine bays is symmetrically arranged from a center main entrance flanked by wide steps. In the basement, elevation which has been blocked in with granite, there are six short rectangular windows.

Surmounted above the foundation is a beveled water table introducing the first storey which features stone banding which has been rusticated in a beveled manner. Six recessed, two-sash, casement windows comprise the first storey window treatment. On a plane with the windows are 5" tall bronze letters which read, "FEDERAL BUILDING UNITED STATES COURT HOUSE POST OFFICE AND COURT HOUSE 59807." The rusticated banding courses to stepped arches over the main entrance and extends to a beltcourse exhibited on all exterior facades 4' 3" under the second storey elevation. The stepped arching contains three semi-circular arched doors comprising the main entrance. The aluminum-framed glass doors are flanked by bracketed decorative lamps.

Centered above the main entrance in the beltcourse is a Greek fret band extending to the width of the entrance enrichment.

Window treatment on the second storey elevation exhibits the Italian influence with pronounced mouldings and projecting cornices supported by consoles above and below the tall, narrow, two-sash, five-pane, casement windows. Rusticated aprons appear between the consoles except for three center windows which evidence balusters. The third storey displays shorter two-sash, three-pane, casement windows surrounded by architrave framing.

Visual deception occurs in these zones due to the second storey window height and ornamentation. However, a uniform balance effect is produced and draws attention to the focal interest of the facade which is the columnar detail. Stately engaged columns featuring Tuscan bases on plinths and displaying Corinthian capitals are interspersed between the windows spanning the second and third storeys. They project a strong vertical statement contrasting the building's low horizontal movements. The limestone of the second and third storeys has a smooth finish which creates a strong accentuation effect for the enrichments presented.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED **OCT 30 1979**

DATE ENTERED

**NOV 30 1979**

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 6

Girdling the building's upper zone is a plain entablature capped by a parapet slightly projected in its vertical alignment with the engaged columns. Annex #1 has a three-bay principal facade replicating the movements and articulation of the original building.

Other street facades continue the scale and general window treatment set forth in the principal facade but without the engaged columns.

The Pattee Street facade is presented in two sections, the eight-bay original building and the 10-bay Annex #2. An entrance replicating the main entrance style is located on each of these sections.

East facades of the original building and Annex #1 differ from each other and major differences are stated in the Relationship to the Original. Three bays remain visible from the street on the original while 20 exist on the Annex #1 east facade. Windows on the latter evidence nine over nine double sash with lug sills. Three stairwell windows occurring between storeys disrupt the fenestration on this facade. Metal railings enclose the basement window wells and steps for two entrances.

The 13-bay rear facade on Pine Street encompasses the width of Annex #2 yet produces the same continuing scale of the Broadway and Pattee Street facades. Two entrances are located on the first storey elevation and windows evidence six over six double sash.

Texture contrasts in the service court area are primarily the buff limestone on the original and cream-colored brick on the annex.

There are three penthouses on the roof elevation; one on the original building, one on Annex #1, and one on Annex #2. These projections provide color and texture contrast with white stucco exteriors and dark brown cornices capping them. Atop Annex #2 is a 25' X 64' 10" fan room.

MATERIALS

A skeletal steel framework is the building's basic unit from which emerges a concrete foundation on spread footings.

Concrete is used extensively in the sidewalks and in the service court area.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED **OCT 30 1979**

DATE ENTERED **NOV 30 1979**

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 7

The visible foundation and entrance steps are granite and provide bland contrast to the buff-colored limestone used on the exterior facades.

Marble is evidenced throughout the building primarily as trim. California marble is used in the main lobby and on baseboard and stair treads with Tokean Alaskan marble used in the restrooms. Annex #2 lobby walls are of Travertine marble 50% rose tan and 50% Montana cream buff with filled honed finish.

Terrazo can still be seen in the Post Office lobby, Annex #2 lobby, and in the restrooms although carpeting covers the remainder of the flooring.

Providing uniform but also bland contrast is the aluminum evidenced in the entrance door framing and the numerous metal railings surrounding building entrances and window wells. The bracketed lamps are wrought iron which have been painted light gray.

Building identification letters are of polished bronze. Staturary bronze is used on grillework, the information window surround, and the elevator surround in the Annex #2 lobby.

Cream-colored brick laid in the English bond style comprises the service court facade as well as appearing on the center portion of the Annex #1 east facade.

Wood is used in the window casings and interior doors. Oak can be found extensively in the courtroom and oak hand railings are seen in the stairways.

Interior walls are plastered with acoustic plaster appearing in the Annex #2 lobby.

Clear plate glass is used in the exterior doors and windows with obscured glass panels seen in the interior doors.

FEDERAL BUILDING/POST OFFICE/COURTHOUSE

Missoula, Montana

WINDOW OPENINGS AND ENTRANCES

FACADE	STOREY	WINDOW OPENINGS		ENTRANCES	
		ORIGINAL	PRESENT	ORIGINAL	PRESENT
<u>ORIGINAL BUILDING</u>					
Principal (South) (Broadway)	Basement	6	Blocked In	-	-
	First	6	Same	3	Same
	Second	9	Same	-	-
	Third	9	Same	-	-
West (Pattee)	Basement	4	6	-	-
	First	4	7	1	Same
	Second	5	8	-	-
	Third	5	8	-	-
East	Basement	5	Blocked In	-	-
	First	5	3	-	-
	Second	5	3	-	-
	Third	5	3	-	-
Rear 1927-29 Addition Present	Basement	3	0	1	0
	First	6	3	2	4
	Second	7	5*	-	-
*Plus toilet window.	Third	7	5	-	-
<u>CONNECTION TO ANNEX #1</u>					
Front (South)	Basement	3	Same	-	-
	First	5	Same	-	-
	Second	6	Same	-	-
<u>ANNEX #1**</u>					
Principal (South) (Broadway)	Basement	2	Same	-	-
	First	2	Same	1	Same
	Second	3	Same	-	-
	Third	3	Same	-	-
West	Basement	7	Same	-	-
	First	9	Same	-	-
	Second	9	8	-	-
	Third	9	Same	-	-
East	Basement	8	Same	-	-
	First	8	Same	1	Same
	Second	8	Same	-	-
	Third	8	Same	-	-
**Three stairwell windows exist on different levels than regular fenestration following the third vertical alignments. (The rear facade was removed with the 1937 addition and was abutted by Annex #2.					
<u>ANNEX #2***</u>					
Pine St. (North)	Basement	12	11	-	-
	First	12	11	1	2
	Second	13	Same	-	-
	Third	13	Same	-	-
East	Basement	11	Same	2	Same
	First	11	10	-	-
	Second	11	Same	-	-
	Third	11	Same	-	-
***The east wing abutted Annex #1.					
West (Pattee)	Basement	9	Same	-	-
	First	9	Same	-	-
	Second	10	Same	-	-
	Third	10	Same	-	-

# 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 type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input 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			

SPECIFIC DATES	1911-1913	1937	BUILDER/ARCHITECT	Original-James Knox Taylor
	1928-1929	1952		1937- James Wetmore

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

### SIGNIFICANCE

"A handsome structure, an ornament to the city" was the description afforded this building by The Daily Missoulian newspaper on November 4, 1912. Similar accolades would still be applicable to the Italian Renaissance Revival Federal Building/Post Office/Courthouse as it stands 65 years later. It continues to project a commanding Federal presence in the heart of Missoula which is a regional trading center for western Montana, northern Idaho, and eastern Washington.

Credit for securing the appropriation for this building has been attributed to the late Senator Joseph M. Dixon who was also responsible for the establishment of Region 1 headquarters of the U.S. Forest Service in Missoula. <sup>1</sup>

Original tenants were the U.S. Post Office headed by Postmaster Andrew Logan and the U.S. Forest Service whose Regional Forester was Ferdinand A. Silcox. <sup>2</sup> Mr. Silcox later became Chief of the U.S. Forest Service in Washington, D. C. on April 5, 1933 and served in that capacity until his death on December 20, 1939. <sup>3</sup>

Another important function for this building has been to house the District Court since December 5, 1929 when the distinguished Montana Judge C. M. Bourquin opened the first session. <sup>4</sup> Judge Bourquin was noted for his austerity and impatience with pettiness. Appointed by President Taft in 1912, the judge reputedly cleared court calendars with dispatch and remains one of the most colorful judges in Montana history. <sup>5</sup> Other district judges who sat on this court include C. N. Pray, James H. Baldwin, K. Lewis Brown, Wm. D. Murray, and the present Judge, Russell Evans Smith. Judge Smith was born in Butte, Montana on November 16, 1908 and is the only one of the district judges who has resided in Missoula. While a lawyer, one of Judge Smith's significant cases was Montana Power Co. vs. Rochester (127 F.2nd.189) regarding ownership of the Flathead Lake bed. Appointed by President Lyndon B. Johnson in April 1966, Judge Smith has sat on district and circuit courts throughout the United States, the northern Mariana Islands, and American Samoa. Recently Judge Smith assumed senior status upon the appointment of Judge Paul G. Hatfield for the District of Montana. <sup>6</sup>

Postal operations continue in the original portion of the building. Post office boxes exist in the same location with patrons observed using the facility daily. However, the bulk of postal activity was moved to a new facility in November 1974.

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

1. Consultation with James MacDonald, Historical Architect, Missoula, Montana, July 10, 1979.
2. Interview with Clyde P. Fickes (age 94), Missoula, Montana, July 10, 1979.
3. Microfilmed original drawings, GSA Archives, Denver Federal Center, Denver, CO.
4. Original construction photographs, GSA Archives, Operational Planning - PBS, Denver Federal Center, Denver, CO.

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

**UTM NOT VERIFIED**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1.5 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A	1, 2	27, 21, 00	5, 19, 51, 00	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

1. Site is 241' 6" X 297' overall; 241' 6" on the south, 297' on the west, 211' 6" on the north, 148' 6" on the east, then extended 30', and continues 148' 6" on the east.
2. Known as lots number five (5), six (6), seven (7), eight (8), nine (9), ten (10), eleven (11), twelve (12), thirteen (13), fourteen (14), fifteen (15), sixteen (16), seventeen (17), eighteen (18), and nineteen (19) in block "D" of C.P. Higgins' addition to the City of Missoula, Montana, and the west 241 1/2' of the alley (cont'd)

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Mary J. Kardoes, Planning Assistant

ORGANIZATION

GSA, PBS, Operational Planning Staff

DATE

234-4357

STREET & NUMBER

Building 41, Denver Federal Center

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Denver, Colorado 80225

STATE

## 12 CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

YES

NO

NONE

*Eddie Venson for Ken Korte*

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

*W. Roth*

TITLE DIRECTOR, HISTORIC PRESERVATION STAFF - PUB. BLDGS. SERV. DATE 24 OCTOBER 1979

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

*Carol D. Shull*

DATE

11-30-79

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

*Kristen O'Connell*

DATE

11/29/79

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	OCT 30 1979
DATE ENTERED	NOV 30 1979

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

The Forest Service has become the principal building tenant and its administrative functions cover support services for the surrounding states in Region 1. Administrative control from this building is extended to a dramatic aspect of the Forest Service - - the Smokejumpers, aerial fire control experts who parachute into areas inaccessible to ground personnel. Need for such a service was highlighted as early as 1910 when a big fire consumed 3,000,000 acres in the Region 1 area.<sup>7</sup> Sparse population and harsh terrain in vast forested areas of the Northwest justified the Smokejumper service which came under Region 1 jurisdiction officially in 1941.<sup>8</sup> Since that time, Smokejumpers have earned for Missoula the title, "Aerial Firefighting Capitol of the World."<sup>9</sup> Drama associated with the Smokejumpers was captured in a 1951 film, "Red Skies of Montana" starring Richard Widmark. Filmed in Missoula, one of the scenes focused on the Federal Building main entrance to await the emergence of Widmark.<sup>10</sup> This colorful event is pridefully recalled by Missoula citizens and has further engrained landmark ascription to the Federal Building by the residents.

The entire tract of land occupied by the Federal Building stemmed from a parcel owned by pioneer Christopher P. Higgins who was granted Patent #1884 from the U.S. Government on June 10, 1873. Subsequently, the land was purchased in the following increments:

1. Recorded 10-16-07 Lots 12-16 Block D-Price: \$19,850 (original building site)  
Purchased from: Frank Vogel, Anna Vogel, W.P. Mills, and Elizabeth Mills
  2. Recorded 11-19-27 Lot 17 Block D-Price \$7,200 (Annex #1 site)  
Purchased from: Agnes A. Lombard
  3. Recorded 11-19-27 Lots 18-19 Block D - Price: \$11,000 (Annex #1 site)  
Purchased from: O. B. S. Orr and Berrie L. Orr
- 9-25-35 West 241 1/2 ft. of alley vacated and discontinued by City of Missoula.
- Recorded 4-4-36 Lot 5 Block D - Price: \$3,500 (Annex #2 site)  
Purchased from: Mattie Peek
- Recorded 4-4-36 Lots 6-11 - Price: \$16,000 (Annex #2 site)  
Purchased from: Annie M. Briggs

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED OCT 30 1979

DATE ENTERED

NOV 30 1979

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 3

Sound Construction and Engineering of Seattle, Washington was awarded the contract on January 13, 1911 for the original building with a projected cost of \$160,000 for the three-storey building. <sup>11</sup> Original design architect was James Knox Taylor, Supervisory Architect for the U.S. Treasury Department, who was noted for his design of U.S. Post Offices during the period 1897 - 1912.

The first addition was completed in 1929 at a cost of \$157,000. <sup>12</sup> General contractor for the project was the William MacDonald Construction Company. Design architect was James A. Wetmore of the U.S. Treasury Department and Construction Engineer was Joseph C. Johnson. Both individuals were also in charge of the first Annex which was constructed shortly after completion of the first addition. General contractor for Annex #1 was the W. D. Lovell Construction Co. of Minneapolis, Minnesota which was awarded the contract on March 30, 1928 for \$160,975. <sup>13</sup>

On October 13, 1937, Annex #2 was formally dedicated by U.S. Postmaster General James A. Farley. <sup>14</sup> This annex cost \$500,000 and was constructed by the A. D. Belanger and Company of Seattle, Washington. <sup>15</sup> Construction Engineer was J. C. Elliott and the architectural design was headed by Louis A. Simon of the Public Works Administration.

The last major addition enclosing building portions in the service court area occurred in 1952 and was designed by A. E. Sanderson of the Public Buildings Administration.

Most recently, the Baeten Construction Company of Denver, Colorado has been in the process of completing an interior renovation project costing in excess of \$2.1 million. <sup>16</sup>

1. "A Challenge to B. K. Wheeler," Daily Missoulian, Oct 31, 1928, p. 11.
2. "Plans for Occupancy of New Federal Building Announced by Forest Service and Post Office," Daily Missoulian, Feb 16, 1913, p. 1.
3. Steen, Harold K., The U.S. Forest Service - A History. University of Washington Press, Seattle, 1976, p. 327.
4. "New Courtroom in Federal Building Where First Term of Court Was Opened by Judge C. M. Bourquin," Daily Missoulian, Dec 6, 1928, p. 1.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	OCT 30 1979
DATE ENTERED	NOV 30 1979

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 4

5. "Judge Bourquin, Montana Federal Jurist 22 Years, Summoned at 95," Montana Standard, Nov 17, 1958, pp, 1 and 6.
6. Interview with Judge Russell E. Smith, Missoula, Montana, July 11, 1979.
7. Spencer, Betty Goodwin, The Big Blowup, Caxton Printers, Ltd., Caldwell, Idaho, 1956, Foreward.
8. U.S. Forest Service, The History of Smokejumping, Missoula, Montana, May 1, 1972, p. 4.
9. "Conservation Boosted by Forest Fire Picture," Daily Missoulian, Jan 20, 1952, Conservation Section, p. 1.
10. "Street Scene for Motion Picture Shot on Broadway", Daily Missoulian, July 14, 1951, p. 2.
11. "Good to Look Upon, Built to Endure and Serve, Missoula Federal Building Now Ready for Use," Daily Missoulian, Jan 19, 1913, Editorial Section, p. 1.
12. "Record of Building Progress in Garden City," Daily Missoulian, Mar 10, 1929, p. 2.
13. "Bids Opened for New Addition to Federal Building," Daily Missoulian, Mar 31, 1928, p. 1.
14. "Federal Building Will be Dedicated Tonight", Daily Missoulian, Oct 13, 1937, p. 1.
15. "Missoula Makes Large Growth During 1937 Building Program Big," Daily Missoulian, Editorial Section, Jan 2, 1938, p. 1.
16. Archives, GSA Construction Management Division, PBS, Denver Federal Center, Denver, Colorado.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

OCT 30 1979

DATE ENTERED

30 1979

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

10

PAGE

2

running through block "D" of C.P. Higgins' addition to the City of Missoula, Montana.

3. Location is indicated on attached 7.5 USGS Map of Missoula, Montana.