

I. IDENTIFICATION	<p>PROPERTY NAME: U. S. Post Office and Federal Court Building STREET ADDRESS: 120 12th Street PRESENT OWNER: U. S. Government c/o Mr. Donald G. Trost CITY: Washington CURRENT USE: U. S. Post Office, U. S. District Courthouse and office of various other Federal Agencies U.S.G.S. QUADRANGLE: Columbus, GA-AL V.B.D. OR TAX MAP NUMBER: 4/13/6</p>	<p>HISTORIC NAME: U. S. Post Office and Courthouse CITY: Columbus COUNTY: Muscogee MAILING ADDRESS: Office of Real Estate U. S. Postal Service STATE: D.C. ZIP CODE: 20260 ACREAGE: approx. 1.3 acres U.T.M. REFERENCE: 16-688830-3593930</p>
II. DESCRIPTION	<p>ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION AND PRESENT CONDITION: Second Renaissance Revival, steel framing with sandstone exterior walls. Three story square building on high basement, light well in center of building is two stories in height. Facade is nine bays wide with the seven center panels recessed. Each of these seven bays is vertically divided by 3/4 engaged Ionic columns. The three center bays of the seven have large entrance doors with heavily carved pediments. The columns visually support a frieze and cornice. Above the frieze is a small parapet of carved sandstone with red and blue paint on the recessed sections making the carving stand out. (CONT. ON BACK)</p>	
III. HISTORY	<p>ORIGINAL OWNER: U. S. Government ARCHITECT/BUILDER: E. Oren Smith, Edwards and Sayward Associate Architects DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: Built in 1933 HISTORICAL NARRATIVE (FROM ORIGINS TO PRESENT): Built in 1933, this Post Office opened its doors to customers in Oct. of 1934, serving as the third "main" Post Office in Columbus' history. This building has also functioned as a U. S. District Courthouse and an office area for various other Federal Agencies. Today it serves as a downtown branch of the Columbus Post Office, and continues to be the U. S. District Office Courthouse.</p>	<p>ORIGINAL USE: Same as the present HISTORIC ACREAGE: DATE(S) OF ALTERATIONS: In order to insure security, a glass and metal frame wall has been installed in the lobby c. 1950.</p>
IV. SIGNIFICANCE	<p>N.R. AREA(S) OF SIGNIFICANCE: Archeology-Historic, Local History, Architecture LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: Local Archeology-Historic STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL): In the early 1880's, on the site of the present Post Office, there was a blacksmith shop and adjoining stables. The home of George P. Swift, II replaced the blacksmith shop and stables, and finally, the present U. S. Post Office and Courthouse replaced the Swift home. Archeological "digs" on this site could lead to a better understanding of life in Victorian Columbus. Local History: This building is significant as it was erected to serve as the city's third "main" Post Office. It is a recognized downtown landmark. (CONT. ON BACK)</p>	
V. SOURCES	<p>FORM PREPARED BY: a) Nancy Alexander Roger Harris b) Janice P. Biggers ADDRESS: a) P. O. Box 1908, Colts, GA 31994 b) 700 Broadway, Colts, GA 31901 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS: Historic Structures Field Survey: Columbus-Muscogee County, Georgia. 1976 state survey, Historic Preservation Section, DNR, Atlanta, Georgia. SOURCES OF INFORMATION: Worsley, Etta Blanchard. <u>Columbus on the Chattahoochee</u>. Columbus, Georgia: Columbus Office Supply Co., 1951, pp. 368 and 369 (CONT. ON BACK)</p>	



PHOTOGRAPHER: F. Clason Kyle

DATE: June 26, 1978

ROLL NO. 1 FRAME NO. 144 NEGATIVES FILED: Historic Columbus Foundation

DIRECTION PHOTOGRAPHER FACING: Southwest 700 Broadway
Columbus, Georgia 31901

USE SPACE BELOW FOR CONTINUATION FROM FRONT, SKETCH PLANS OR MAPS, ADDITIONAL COMMENTS, ETC.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION: The parapet motif is carried out elsewhere on the building simulating terra cotta tiles of the Renaissance period. The roof appears to be hipped and is red tile. From the interior of the second floor, however, the roof slopes down toward the courtyard and is seamed copper.

First floor interior is post-office with marble and bronze trim. Other floors contain offices which look out on center light well. The Federal Courtroom has oak paneling and a stencilled ceiling.

Plantings around the building are large shrubs and trees, to East-Church Square, To West-parking lot, To North-one, two and three story commercial buildings, To South-Masonic Hall and small business. Structure in fair condition. Integrity is maintained.

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: Architecture: This building is significant as the best example of government architecture in Columbus. Second Renaissance Revival in style it exudes an air of governmental stability which was very important in the years following the crash of the stock market. This building stands as a reminder of governmental strength in Columbus during the Depression years through its imposing, official architecture.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION: "United States Post Office and Courthouse (12th Street and 2nd Avenue, Columbus, Georgia)", Architectural and Historical Inventory, July, 1977, (copy of which is in files of Historic Columbus Foundation).

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