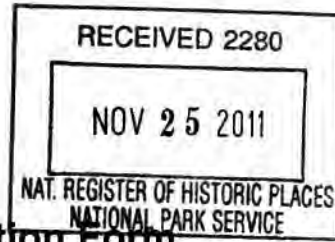


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National Park Service



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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 Federal Building and Courthouse
Other names/site number U.S. Post Office and Courthouse, NJ0015ZZ

2. Location

Street & Number 401 Market Street Not for Publication N/A
City or Town Camden Vicinity N/A
State New Jersey Code NJ County Camden Code 007
Zip Code 08102

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 of certifying official [Signature] Date 11/9/11

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.)
Signature of commenting official/Title _____ Date _____

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:
 entered in the National Register [Signature] Signature of Keeper Date of Action 1.4.12
 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): _____

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 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> private | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s) | <u>1</u> | <input type="checkbox"/> building(s) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> public-local | <input type="checkbox"/> district | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> sites |
| <input type="checkbox"/> public-state | <input type="checkbox"/> site | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> structures |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-federal | <input type="checkbox"/> structure | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> objects |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> 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>Post Office</u> |
| <u>Government</u> | <u>Courthouse</u> |
| <u></u> | <u>Government office</u> |
| <u></u> | <u></u> |

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

| | |
|------------------------|--------------------------|
| Cat: <u>Government</u> | Sub: <u>Post Office</u> |
| <u>Government</u> | <u>Courthouse</u> |
| <u></u> | <u>Government office</u> |
| <u></u> | <u></u> |

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS: Italian Renaissance

Neo-classical Revival, Spanish Revival (interior)

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

| | |
|------------|--------------------------------------|
| foundation | <u>CONCRETE</u> |
| roof | <u>ASPHALT</u> |
| walls | <u>STONE: limestone</u> |
| walls | <u>BRICK</u> |
| other | <u>STONE: limestone (foundation)</u> |
| | <u></u> |
| | <u></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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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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*Federal Building and Courthouse
Camden County, New Jersey*

Description

General

Dating from the time of its completion in 1932, the Federal Building and Courthouse has been a visual landmark in its setting along Market Street in downtown Camden, Camden County, New Jersey. Located at 401 Market Street, at the northeast corner of Fourth and Market Streets, it is an excellent example of work produced by the Office of Supervising Architect of the U.S. Treasury Department during the early 1930s in the Neo-classical style. Handsome iron grille work further embellishes the design. Despite the reversible alterations that have occurred on the exterior and other more extensive alterations made on the interior, the Camden Federal Building and Courthouse retains a high degree of its architectural integrity with respect to its setting, location, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. As an active post office, courthouse, and federal office enclave, the building also retains its integrity of use.

Boundary Justification

The subject building is bordered by Market Street on the south, Fourth Street on the west, Markley Place (alley) on the north, and by the narrow walkway separating the subject building from 423-425 Market Street on the east. Immediately across Markley Place to the north is the newer Mitchell H. Cohen Federal Courthouse annex (1993). The six-story annex, located approximately 180 feet north of Market Street, which was constructed in 1993 (Oliver & Beca, Architects and Engineers), is not a contributing structure to the federal property and is not proposed for inclusion in the current National Register nomination.

Exterior

The Camden Federal Building and Courthouse is expressed as four stories in height on its exterior but includes a basement and a fifth floor penthouse. The building's fifth floor penthouse is set back from the building's south-facing façade and is unseen at street level. It occupies only the building's main pavilion fronting Market Street and not the building's wings. The subject building contains a total of approximately 102,140 square feet of floor area. Symmetrical in organization on each elevation, it forms a large square in plan at the basement and ground floor levels. At the rear, above the first floor level, the floor plan transitions from a square-shaped plan to an "E" shaped plan, framed by a large open light well (north façade) that wraps around the projecting center courtroom ell (second, third and fourth floors).

Of steel-frame and concrete construction, the exterior's facing material is limestone ashlar. Buff-colored brick sheathes the north facade. The first floor stonework is rusticated. Approximately 18-inch-tall courses of limestone extend across the building's first-floor exterior on each elevation. Continuous, shallow-raked horizontal joints delineate each of these courses. The limestone coursing includes carved decorative elements such as the spandrels separating the entrance doors and transom windows, as well as the entrance vestibule reveals on the south elevation. The design of an eagle with spread wings of carved limestone adorns the wall above the west entrance (Fourth Street) between the doorway and the terra cotta belt course.

Terra cotta decoration enlivens each of the building's four facades. This low-relief terra cotta decoration consists of four key elements, including the belt course separating the first and second floor; pilaster capitals; spandrel panels

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*Federal Building and Courthouse
Camden County, New Jersey*

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between windows; and the roofline's cornice, bed molding, and frieze elements. The belt course, though not highly articulated, is decorated with chalice, rosette, and escutcheon patterning. The cornice bed molding is comprised of a repeated Greek fret pattern. Its frieze contains a pattern of baton and fasces-adorned panels, separated, in turn, by three unadorned square-shaped blocks of smooth limestone ashlar.

Principal Elevation (South Elevation)

The south elevation of the Camden Federal Building and Courthouse serves as its principal elevation and includes three centrally placed public entrances. To distinguish it from the upper floors, the first floor exterior walls have a rusticated architectural treatment consisting of courses of horizontally aligned smooth limestone ashlar separated by shallow-raked recessed joints. These give the first floor a strongly horizontal articulation. The dominant use of solitary windows, equidistant to one another, with fixed, clear-finished anodized aluminum sash with a cruciform pattern of intersecting transoms and mullions, further emphasizes the horizontal lines of the first floor in contrast with the upper floors.

A belt course between the first and second floors runs horizontally across the entire symmetrically organized façade. A series of ten, three-story-high pilasters spring from the belt course framing the nine vertically aligned, recessed window bays from the second through fourth floors. The pilasters lend a subtle vertical articulation to the window treatment above the ground floor that contrasts with the treatment below.

Entrance to the building occurs from five low concrete and white granite sheathed steps that are pyramidally organized so that the lowest step is the largest in area while the top step is smallest in area. Adjoining the original steps to the west are newer (circa 1995) concrete steps that provide supplemental access to the building. The newer steps are bordered with clear anodized aluminum railings. From the steps, one enters the building through three identical paired sets of deeply recessed, polished aluminum doors with a clear finish. The doors have full-height clear, vertically aligned divided lights (glazing units) embellished at the upper center with an escutcheon. Above each doorway is an aluminum lintel decorated with an eagle with fully spread wings and an escutcheon. Above each aluminum door lintel is a large, square-shaped fixed sash window, screened with elaborate metal grille work of stylized anthemion and escutcheon motifs. The reveals of the doorway entrances are decorated with plain rectangular paneling and borders, with one narrow panel aligned with each aluminum door lintel, decorated with urn and scroll motifs.

A light well runs along the base of the primary elevation just east of the main entrance. Another light well runs along the east elevation adjoining the lobby's east steps. These light wells enable sunlight to reach the windows along a portion of the basement. Ornamental black steel fencing secures the light well along the property line on the east elevation. A total of four clear glass lanterns flank the three doorways. These elaborate wall sconces consist of pendant shaped globes with domed tops suspended by bronze scrolled brackets. These are secured to the wall, in turn, by two bronze modillions: one at the base, the other near the top of the bracket. Individual bronze letters spell out the name of the building, and are centered above the three doorways below the belt course.

The central nine of the elevation's eleven window bays are comprised of shallow-inset, three-story-tall expanses of steel-framed fixed sash windows in which each window is divided vertically into three units. Separating the window sash at the third and fourth floors are terra cotta spandrel panels. The spandrel panels are blue and decorated with non-repeating stylized motifs drawn from the history of European colonization of North America (viz., Maltese Crosses, seventeenth century sailing ships, maces, Viking sailing vessels), and are further embellished with a border

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*Federal Building and Courthouse
Camden County, New Jersey*

of small medallions. In contrast, the area directly above the belt course and the second floor windows has stone lintels that bear low-relief panel-like patterning.

Flanking each of the central nine-window bays are colossal fluted pilasters with low relief terra cotta capitals. The pilasters have more of a flattened appearance than a three-dimensional sculptural quality. The capitals share the appearance of the pilasters, references to the Corinthian capital. They consist of a plain rectangular border framing two *cyma recta* volutes linked by an anthemion motif.

On all floors, the corner bays are wider than the adjoining bays, are roughly one-and-a-half times wider than any of the central nine bays.

The roofline of the Camden Federal Building and Courthouse includes a frieze of terra cotta panels alternating with three blank limestone ashlar panels, a bed molding with a Greek fret-pattern, and a limestone cornice with copper flashing. The cornice's profile is comprised of a plain corona and *cyma reversa* cymatium. The low-raking hipped roof of the fifth floor penthouse centered above the building's main pavilion is sheathed with replacement red-painted standing seam metal in place of original red mission tile roofing.

Side Elevations (West and East Elevations)

The two side elevations (east and west elevations) are similar but not identical to each other. There are eight window bays—the southernmost three having windows framed by fluted pilasters and an expanse of blank wall that serves to highlight the building's main (south) pavilion and distinguish it from the ells to the north. In contrast, the wall plane along the remaining portion of the side elevations is stepped back slightly in plan from the three southernmost bays, and its window bays are not framed by pilasters. The side elevations continue some of the architectural treatment found on the principal façade, including the use of an identical terra cotta belt course. The spandrel, frieze, and cornice decorative treatment, however, is implied rather than articulated in the block-like massing of the roofline on the northernmost five bays.

Secondary entrances occur on the side elevations (both the west and east elevations) through the first and second bays. The east entrance is solitary and reached from low white granite steps while the west entrance is accessed at grade, with the lobby steps occurring within the building. Their doors have full-height vertically-divided lights. Above each doorway is an aluminum lintel decorated with an eagle-with fully spread wings and an escutcheon. Above each aluminum lintel is a large square-shaped fixed sash window screened with elaborate metalwork including stylized anthemion and escutcheon motifs. The reveals of the entrance recesses are decorated with plain rectangular paneling and one narrow panel aligned with the aluminum door lintel that is decorated with urn and scroll motifs.

Rear Elevation (North Elevation)

The rear elevation continues much of the architectural treatment found on the other elevations while accommodating the building's loading dock, mechanical equipment, and other service functions. It provides unencumbered views into the light wells between the ell sections of the building and the mechanical equipment penthouse (second floor level). It is thirteen bays wide and features limestone quoins and buff-colored brickwork (floors one through five), including each wall of the courtroom ell. Window treatments consist of solitary, mullioned metal sash with a cruciform pattern of intersecting mullions and transoms. Like the windows on the other elevations, these feature two tall

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rectangular-shaped bottom lights and two short square-shaped upper lights. A small surface parking lot adjoins the building on the north, with the 1993 courthouse annex abutting it along Markley Place.

Interior

Significant interior spaces are identified as follows:

Lobby and First Floor

There are three public entrance locations into the Camden Federal Building and Courthouse: on the south (front) elevation, through a grouping of three sets of paired steel and glass doors, and at the west and east ends of the south pavilion. A large square-shaped transom window is featured above these two doorways. Each doorsill is bronze while the doorframe and window mullions are steel, surrounded by limestone.

The three sets of paired entrance doors open into a vestibule of aluminum and glass construction with glass doors on each end added in 2002. It is eight feet deep and twenty feet wide, providing a weather lock from the outside.

Character-defining elements in the first floor lobby include richly colored floor tile, marble, a coffered and decoratively painted ceiling treatment, ornamental iron work (upper walls), and dark-colored oak door trim. U.S. Post Office mail lock-boxes occupy more than half the lower wall space on the north side of the lobby. Lobby floors are comprised of red quarry tile with a white marble border. By contrast, a decorative floor treatment is employed in the elevator lobby of jade-green, gray-blue, and red tile that form a basket weave pattern. The lower wall cladding consists of Verde antique marble that is approximately seven feet tall, capped with dark-stained oak moldings with *cyma recta* profiles. Some of the piers in the elevator lobby area are clad with new wood with a dark-stain finish wainscoting and a white marble base molding.

The lobby's upper walls are smooth, off-white plaster with shallow, incised line detailing intended to suggest piers and panels. Doorways are defined by wide, dark-stained oak trim with cornice moldings, and white marble thresholds. A grid of concrete girders and smaller concrete crossbeams gives the ceiling its coffered appearance. The bottom surfaces of the ceiling beams have stenciled foliate and straight-line border decoration.¹ Floor-to-ceiling heights are approximately fourteen feet. Replacement opaque, shallow-bowl light fixtures have been installed. Though not original to the building, they are sympathetic to the building design. Contemporary inset ceiling lighting has also been added.

Two elevators are located near the southwest corner of the lobby area. The elevators feature bronze doors with burnished bronze reveals. Wide dark-stained oak trim—with cornice moldings—frame the elevator openings. The elevators are grouped in a bank of two on the lobby's west wall. Above each elevator is an internally illuminated bronze elevator up/down indicator. Simple, bronze, rectangular-shaped replacement elevator call button plates are located on the wall adjoining the elevators. The Fourth Street exit door also has wide dark-stained oak trim with cornice moldings. Flanking this doorway are large bronze and glass wall directory boards, reading "Bulletin" in their top panels. The directory boards are aligned with the marble wainscoting, and are approximately forty-two inches

1. Noble Preservation Services, Inc. *Historic Preservation Projects: Camden United States Courthouse Finishes Conservation/Specifications Consultation* (Washington, DC: U.S. General Services Administration, 2005), <http://noblepreservation.com/consulting/services/archcons/archconscmd.html>.

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tall. On the upper wall above the doorway is a large plaster eagle with spread- wings wall decoration executed in high relief. The eagle is depicted standing within a star-studded ring atop an unfurled faceted ribbon.

Over the years, new features have been added to the lobby spaces to meet current communication, fire code, and security requirements, including wall-mounted fire call boxes, wall-mounted surveillance cameras, fire/smoke detection devices, and recessed ceiling spotlights. Major renovation interventions to the subject building occurred in 1950, 1965, and 1977, and again in 2002 when safety and security systems were updated. These modifications include the previously referenced security glass-enclosed vestibule between the building's main entrance and lobby space. Nonetheless, all alterations noted in the first floor lobby are reversible in nature, and the first floor lobbies and the lobbies on floors two through three retain their integrity of use as public spaces.

Floors Two Through Three – Corridors, Elevator Lobbies, and Offices

On floors two through three, space is divided between public and private areas. Areas on these floors that are accessible to the public, such as elevator lobbies, corridors, and courtrooms, have retained key original character-defining features.) Offices that do not typically allow public access have been rehabilitated rather than restored (e.g. the U.S. Bankruptcy Court, U.S. District Court, U.S. Marshall's Office, and other federal agency spaces). Utilitarian spaces, such as the stairways found within the exit stairwells near the northwest corner of the building, also were rehabilitated: original marble-clad stairs treads and risers between the first and second floors were preserved and new stainless steel balustrades, wood handrails were added.

The elevator corridor on the second floor has been updated (viz., new plaster walls, beech wood doors and door trim, replacement suspended bowl light fixtures). The corridor that once ran east-west from one end of the building to the other has been incorporated as part of the Bankruptcy Court Clerk's offices. By contrast, the third floor has retained its original corridors and wall alignments, as well as a majority of its original distinctive character-defining features: earth-colored ceramic tile wainscoting and tile flooring (arrayed in a Flemish bond pattern); smooth plaster wall finishes and ceilings; and coved plaster ceiling treatments. A drinking fountain set within an aedicule, adorns the north elevator lobby wall.

Most doors on the second and third floors have replacement wood door trim. However, the third floor doors leading to the courtroom retain their original dark-stained oak architrave trim and original dark-stained three-panel wood doors and brass hardware. The third floor corridor retains its original configuration in terms of its floor plan. The elevator lobbies retain their bronze elevator doors and thresholds, and decorative elements, such as ceiling crown moldings. Replacement brass door hardware of sympathetic design has been installed on corridor doors. The original paired, swinging courtroom inner doors, with their distinctive brass tack-studded leather finish and brass push plates, have also been retained. Some functional elements in the corridor and elevator lobby spaces have been removed and replaced with compatible new features such as elevator call buttons and plates, internally illuminated bronze elevator indicators, and new wall-affixed metal drinking fountains.

New pendant light fixtures with large opaque white glass bowls have been installed on the second and third floors and new supplemental recessed ceiling lighting has been installed on all floor levels (double-row, equidistantly spaced).

Remodeling of the office spaces has occurred over the years, including altering intra-office demising walls, and installing suspended ceilings with integral fluorescent lighting fixtures. A majority of the intra-office doors have been

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Camden County, New Jersey*

replaced with flush wood doors. Offices also have been rehabilitated in terms of wall finishes, flooring, and door trim. As previously noted, original three-paneled, dark-stained wood doors leading to the corridors have been retained; however, new brass hardware has been installed on those doors.

Ceremonial Courtroom, Jury Rooms and Judge's Chamber

The Camden Federal Building and Courthouse contains only one official courtroom and its associated jury space and judge's chamber on the third floor. This ceremonial courtroom mirrors in most respects the design of the courtrooms in the Clarkson J. Fisher Federal Building and Courthouse in Trenton, New Jersey. Its entrance is a shallow alcove, courtroom-width in its length, off the main third floor corridor. There are two matching, paired, paneled, dark-stained-oak wood doors leading into two shallow vestibules whose doors have dark-stained oak architrave surrounds. Paired, paneled oak doors, with brass tack-studded black pantasote (a leather substitute material) cushioned sections and small oval-shaped, beveled glass lead into the large rectangular-shaped courtroom.

The judge's bench/desk is flanked by the witness box to its east and the court secretary's desk to its west. Together, this forms the dominant visual element in the courtroom. The room is constructed of polished, medium-dark-stained walnut wood with quarter-sawn oak flooring. It includes three desks (judge, witness, and secretary) framed by sidewalls that are constructed of walnut and decorated with square-shaped relief dado, pilasters, and cornice moldings. The judge's dais is nearly 5 feet tall, and five dado panel widths across while, by contrast, the court clerk and witness desks that flank it are slightly lower in height (approximately four-and-half feet tall) and are two dado panel widths across. Centered behind the judge's dais is a large, twelve foot tall semi-round panel of white marble with green and gold veining, bordered with brass trim. This panel is further embellished with a brass, filigreed scrolled decoration along its borders. A cast bronze seal of the United States, featuring an eagle with spread wings, is hung on the marble panel.

Courtroom wall treatments include continuous, seven foot tall oak wainscot paneling stained a medium-dark-brown with a glossy finish. This wood wainscoting features a plain frieze with fillet molding border, a repeating pattern of carved woodwork correlating to inset paneling below, and a continuous bottom rail. The carved woodwork alternates a pair of Attic (Greek) vents with an escutcheon flanked by scrolled figures. Above the wood wainscoting are smooth plaster walls painted off-white.

The painted plaster ceiling has a coffered appearance because its continuous beams form a grid with the lateral intersecting girders. The bottoms of the beams and girders are enlivened with straight-line borders and foliate decoration. Centered in the flat panels between the beams are opaque Neo-classical, 16 inch diameter cast-bronze pendant light fixtures, suspended by four metal chains. The elaborately ornamented fixtures provide indirect lighting. Late twentieth century spotlights have been added on the beams near the judge's dais.

The judge's chamber and jury rooms retain many original features, including ceramic tile wainscot paneling, wood wainscot paneling in the judge's chamber, red, six inch square salt tile flooring, matching the first floor corridor and lobby areas, and paneled wood doors with architrave surrounds.

Fourth and Fifth Floors

The fourth and fifth floor interiors have few original architectural finishes. The fourth floor's original six inch square red salt tile corridor flooring remains exposed. By contrast, the fifth floor corridors have wall-to-wall carpeting that

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overlays the original vinyl floor tile (over concrete) flooring. Non-original, flat, gypsum plaster walls define the office spaces, along the fifth and fourth floor corridors, and feature non-original beech wood doors and door trim. The ceilings feature recessed spotlights in a double-row alignment, equidistantly spaced. A non-original staircase connects the fourth and fifth floors where no stair originally existed, and supplements the two stairwells (original to the building) at each end of the corridor. The new staircase makes a strong modern architectural statement.

Basement

The basement is not accessible to the public, and has a utilitarian character befitting its use for storage and utility systems installations. Flooring and ceilings are painted concrete with some added suspended ceilings with integral fluorescent lighting. No significant architectural or decorative elements are present in the basement.

Integrity

Key modifications to the exterior of the building include the following items:

- Market Street entrance (south elevation): added concrete stairs off the west side of the original steps
- fifth floor penthouse roofing modification: standing seam metal roof replacing original mission tile roof
- construction of the Ben Shahn-William Lipkin Gallery building rear, second floor
- building identification signage: original individual bronze lettering that read "United States Post Office" has been replaced
- security camera affixed to the belt course (west corner of south elevation)

With the exception of the Gallery addition, the previously referenced design interventions are minor in character. The Camden Federal Building and Courthouse continues to retain a high degree of exterior architectural integrity with respect to design, materials, location, workmanship, association, and feeling. Related communications, fire safety, and security improvements are reversible in nature. The Ben Shahn-William Lipkin Gallery addition at the rear of the building is sandwiched between the building's east and west ends at the second floor level. Because of its placement, the Gallery is not easily seen from the public right-of-way and has not altered the building's design integrity.

Major interior alterations occurred in 1950, 1965, 1977, and 2002, when safety and security systems were updated. Changes to office space may have occurred in 1938, 1939, 1962, 1963, 1971 and 1977, based on GSA records.² In 2002, in response to heightened national security and surveillance concerns, the main entrance area was redesigned to incorporate a vestibule between the original entrance and the lobby.

The key interior spaces include the elevator lobbies and corridors on all floors, and the ceremonial courtroom on the third floor. These spaces retain their functional integrity as public and semi-public spaces, as well as their architectural integrity of design, materials, location, workmanship, association, and feeling. Although reversible changes to corridor lighting have occurred, the replacement fixtures are easily replaced with historically correct fixtures. Related communications, fire safety, and security improvements to lobbies (viz., smoke/fire detection devices, wall-mounted security cameras, and replacement elevator call buttons) are reversible in nature and have not altered the building's integrity with respect to location, design, feeling and association.

² Short and Ford, Architects, *Historic Building Preservation Plan: U.S. Post Office and Courthouse, Camden New Jersey* (Washington, DC: U.S. General Services Administration, 1992), 6-7.

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Office spaces above the first floor have been extensively altered, using a rehabilitation rather than preservation approach. Although the first large-scale effort at modernizing the office interiors began in the early 1990s at the time the courthouse annex was under construction, smaller interventions were likely ongoing from the time the building was constructed. These include intra-office wall alignments, new doors and door trim, new suspended ceilings with integral fluorescent lighting, and removal of original wood flooring and plaster wall finishes. Originally, the office portions of the building were very simple in décor; however, they were intended to be updated periodically to meet changing work needs and evolving mechanical technologies. Therefore, design changes to these spaces have not resulted in a significant loss of integrity with respect to design, feeling, and association.

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
POLITICS/ GOVERNMENT

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)
N/A

Period of Significance
1932

Cultural Affiliation
N/A

Significant Dates
N/A

Architect/Builder
James Wetmore (Supervising Architect)
Agostini Brothers (Builder)

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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*Federal Building and Courthouse
Camden County, New Jersey*

Significance

Summary Statement

The Camden Federal Building and Courthouse, located at Fourth and Market Streets in Camden, Camden County, New Jersey, is eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places under criteria A and C at a local level of significance. The subject building is eligible under criterion A as one of the important U.S. Public Works Administration-funded projects in Camden, N.J.; it represents the expansion of the federal government during the 1930s in response to the Great Depression. The Camden Federal Building and Courthouse is also eligible under criterion C because as an excellent example in New Jersey of federal buildings constructed under the aegis of the U.S. Public Works Administration. Its Neo-classical design is a significant type, period, and style of architectural expression that became emblematic of federal architecture during the early 1930s.

The subject building continues to be used as a post office, courthouse, and federal office building, which retains its architectural integrity and strongly relates to a nationwide thematic context concerning the expansion of the federal government during the Great Depression.

Historic Significance – Camden Political-Economic Context

The Great Depression had a pronounced impact on Camden, N.J. area residents. Camden, along with other industrial cities in New Jersey, slumped into a state of slow economic decline during the 1920s as companies closed their doors, moved operations outside of New Jersey, or were consolidated into large corporations headquartered in other locations.¹ Describing the political and economic conditions in Camden during the early twentieth century, local historian Jeffrey Dorwart writes:

*The Great Depression of the 1930s revealed the underlying flaws in Camden County's urban fabric. Years of poor management, unrestrained development, and political corruption left scars on the city. Moreover, pressed against the river to the west and deep tidal creeks north and south, the city had no place to grow. Smoky factories and railroad lines cut through gritty, overcrowded ethnic working-class neighborhoods. Meanwhile, the approach to the Camden-Philadelphia Bridge had split the city in half and gutted one of its most historic and affluent neighborhoods.*²

In March 1933, 25,682 Camden residents of approximately 119,000 persons,—nearly one in five—were receiving either state or city aid under the aegis of the New Jersey Emergency Relief Administration.³ Also, only six out of 36 municipalities in Camden County were able to meet the tax and relief demands placed upon them. The need placed a strain on already stretched public resources and prompted local business leaders, elected officials, and other community stakeholders to vigorously lobby for an increased state and federal role in providing new financial aid and employment opportunities. Among the responses at the state level was the institution of a temporary 2 percent retail sales tax. Through its Reconstruction Finance Corporation, Emergency Relief Administration, and

3. John T. Cumbler, *A Social History of Economic Decline: Business, Politics, and Work In Trenton* (New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press, 1989), 4.

4. Jeffrey M. Dorwart, *Camden County, New Jersey: The Making of a Metropolitan Community, 1626-2000* (New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press, 2001), 8.

5. Paul F. Cranston, *Camden County, 1681-1931: Two Hundred and Fiftieth Anniversary* (Camden, NJ: Camden County Chamber of Commerce, 1931), 6.

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*Federal Building and Courthouse
Camden County, New Jersey*

the Works Progress Administration, the federal government provided gap funding to address public relief needs. It also supplied funds for public works projects that could put local people back to work.⁴

Architectural Significance – Federal Building Construction Program, 1930-1939

As a direct manifestation of the U. S. Treasury Department's facilities construction campaign, the Camden Federal Building and Courthouse is an expression of the federal government's expansion during the 1930s. 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, providing increased funding and further authorizing the Secretary of the U.S. Treasury to contract with private firms and individuals.⁶ To meet the spatial requirements of the U.S. Treasury Department and the U.S. Post Office Department, the Hoover administration and the U.S. Congress increased funding for the federal building program in 1928, 1930, and 1931 for a total of \$700 million.⁷ 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. This number increased to 301 by 1934.⁸ This practice ended, however, on June 29, 1934, with an order that all remaining federal buildings be designed by the U.S. Treasury Department's Office of Supervising Architect.⁹

The U.S. 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, U.S. Customs Service 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 federal government's own penologists. There was a shortage of post offices, prisons, veteran's hospitals, and other federal facilities.¹⁰

Ultimately, the Reorganization Act of April 3, 1939, created by the U.S. Public Buildings Administration as part of the Federal Works Agency (FWA), removed control of federal architecture out of the U.S. Treasury Department, and the title of Supervising Architect was abolished. Federal building design and construction slowed further during the Second World War years.¹¹

During the 1930s, the federal role in transforming the American environment was assuming immense proportions and implications. Massive dams, an extensive network of highways, and numerous new buildings were being built all across the United States. Classical architecture had become the dominant style conveying the federal presence across the nation. Between 1933 and late 1941, approximately 1,100 U.S. post offices were built across the United

⁴Cumbler, *A Social History*, 254.

⁶ Emily J. Harris, *History of Post Office Construction 1900-1940* (Washington, DC: U.S. Postal Service, 1982), 7.

⁷ *Ibid.*, 13, 14.

⁸ Lois Craig, ed., and the staff of the Federal Architecture Project, *The Federal Presence: Architecture, Politics, and Symbols in United States Government Building* (Cambridge MA: MIT Press, 1979), 281.

⁹ Harris, *History of Post Office Construction*, 15, 17, 19.

¹⁰ 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, 1994), 2.

¹¹ *Ibid.*, 3.

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*Federal Building and Courthouse
Camden County, New Jersey*

States, making it the U.S. Postal Service's most prolific construction period. Approximately 50 U.S. post offices were built in New Jersey in those eight years.¹² The subject building was among a dozen similar construction projects in New Jersey that came to fruition due to diligent lobbying by elected officials for federal public works funding, including Bayonne, East Orange, Metuchen, Sayreville, Montclair, Red Bank, Camden, Newark, Hoboken, Passaic, Paterson, and Salem.¹³

During the final years of Judge James Wetmore's term as U.S. Treasury Department Office of Supervising Architect (1915-1933) and the early years of Louis A. Simon's term in the position (1933-1939), federal architecture was often designed in period revival styles, or a simplified Classical Revival style. In most instances, the Supervising Architect's Office did not adopt the Modernist vocabulary on the exterior, but held steadfast to references to the Classical Style to convey the underlying role of the government. In the state of New Jersey, a few of the federal buildings dating from the early 1930s combine period revival elements with Neo-classical details. However, the majority continued being designed in period revival styles that had been popular during the 1920s (viz., French Renaissance Revival, Gothic Revival, Dutch Colonial Revival, etc.). A still smaller number of others jump forward stylistically to embrace a version of Modernism often termed "Public Works Administration (PWA) or PWA Moderne."¹⁶ Always, the locale's design setting was considered when selecting the architectural style for new construction. Perhaps a more traditional design approach was taken in New Jersey by the U.S. Treasury's Office of the Supervising Architect because of the esteem that New Jersey's eighteenth and early-nineteenth-century architecture enjoyed.¹⁷

The Camden Federal Building and Courthouse projects the federal government's desired image of the 1930s. It is an excellent example in Camden of a transitional design treatment from the early 1930s foreshadowing the PWA Moderne designs of the late 1930s and early 1940s (e.g., West New York, New Jersey Post Office-1936, 1937), while referencing the older Beaux Arts design of the Newark Post Office of 1931, designed with consulting architects George O. Totten and William E. Lehman.¹⁸ The Camden design contrasts with more expressly Moderne-styled PWA funded projects found in other communities throughout the 1930s, including Hoover Dam (1933), Nevada; the U.S. Mint (1937), San Francisco; Federal Reserve Bank (1931-35), Philadelphia; and the Los Angeles Federal Courthouse (1938).¹⁹

Completion of the subject building was the subject of substantial local news coverage as well as labor agitation during the Depression. Made possible with a congressional appropriation of \$410,000, approval to purchase the

¹² Kevin M. Hale, "National Register Nomination for the United States Post Office, Metuchen New Jersey" (Washington, DC: U.S. Postal Service, 2004).

¹³ "New Post Office Dedicated with Impressive Ceremony: Trenton's Spirit is Lauded," *Trenton (NJ) Sunday Times Advertiser*, October 16, 1932, 1-4.

¹⁶ Ulana D Zakalak, Marilyn Fish, and Robert E. Meadows, "Thematic Resources National Register Nomination for Significant U.S. Post Offices in New Jersey: 1900 to 1941" (Trenton, N.J.: State Department of Environmental Protection-Office of Historic Preservation, 1985).

¹⁷ Alan Gowans, *Architecture in New Jersey: A Record of American Civilization* (Princeton: D. Van Nostrand Company, 1964), 135-136.

¹⁸ Ibid.

¹⁹ John Andrew Gallery, ed. *Philadelphia Architecture: A Guide to the City* (Philadelphia: Foundation for Architecture, 1994), 109.; William L. Lebovich, *America's City Halls* (Washington DC: The Preservation Press, 1984), 32, 168, 170.; Joyce Zeitlin, A.I.A., *Gilbert Stanley Underwood; His Rustic, Art Deco, and Federal Architecture* (Malibu, CA: Pangloss Press, 1989), 133-144.

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Camden County, New Jersey*

property for the Camden Federal Building was granted on December 22, 1928.²⁰ However, land acquisition followed months of wrangling by local officials over whether to locate the new facility at the existing post office site on Third Street or at a new site at Fourth and Market Street—the location favored by Congressional Representative Charles A. Wolverton and the Camden Chamber of Commerce.²¹ The combined process of land purchase and demolition took more than two years. On April 10, 1931, the New York City-based construction firm of Agostini Brothers was selected to direct the construction effort, with the stipulation that a local labor force be used for the project.²² Work on the building began on May 22, 1931; however, a six week labor strike was launched against the project in June 1931 when local labor officials challenged the concrete subcontractor for underpayment of laborers and for hiring a number of Philadelphia workers rather than unemployed Camden workers.²³ The dispute ultimately was resolved in favor of the Camden United Building Trades Council.

As an indication of the project's significance to the Camden community, key stages of the project development and construction process were recorded in the local newspaper, often as front page news stories; thus, the project's groundbreaking ceremony on May 22, 1931, as well as the September 15, 1932 dedication ceremony, were dutifully reported by the local press.²⁴

Criterion A

Under criterion A, the subject building is significant as a demonstration of the federal government's public works policies, devised to respond to the social-economic problems caused by the Great Depression. In addition, it is the culmination of sustained economic revitalization efforts on the part of Camden area business leaders, elected officials, and stakeholders during the 1930s to bring a key federally funded public works architecture project to fruition in Camden, New Jersey.

Criterion C

Under criterion C, the Camden Federal Building and Courthouse is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places at a local level of significance as an excellent, example of federal architecture from the 1930s as well as for its associative value as a record of the federal government's self-image during the 1930s.

²⁰ "List of Dates in Post Office History," *Camden (NJ) Courier-Post*, October 29, 1932, 10.

²¹ John Milner Associates, Inc., *Historic Structures Report: Federal Office Building & Courthouse*, (Washington, DC: U.S. General Services Administration, 1986), section A, 6-7.

²² "List of Dates in Post Office History," *Camden (NJ) Courier-Post*, October 29, 1932, 10.

²³ John Milner Associates, Inc., *Historic Structures Report: Federal Office Building & Courthouse*, (Washington, DC: U.S. General Services Administration, 1986), 9.

²⁴ "New Camden U.S. Post Office Opens Monday Without Ceremony," *Camden (NJ) Courier-Post*, October 29, 1932; "List of Dates in Post Office History," *Camden (NJ) Courier-Post*, October 29, 1932; "Local News," *West Jersey Press*, July 2, 1932.

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*Federal Building and Courthouse
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10. Geographical DataAcreage of Property .5

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

| | Zone | Easting | Northing | Zone | Easting | Northing |
|---|------|---------|----------|------|---------|----------|
| 1 | 18 | 489584 | 4421789 | 3 | | |
| 2 | | | | 4 | | |

 See continuation sheet.

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

The property is bounded by Market Street on the north, Fourth Street on the west, Markley Place on the north, and by the narrow walkway separating the subject building from 423-425 Market Street on the east.

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

The boundaries include the property owned by the U.S. Government.

11. Form Prepared By

| | | | |
|-----------------|--|-----------|-------------------|
| Name/Title | Carson Anderson, Architectural Historian | | |
| Organization | ICF Jones & Stokes, on behalf of GSA | Date | March 2011 |
| 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 | | | |
| Organization | U.S. General Services Administration, Mid-Atlantic Region (Region 3) | Telephone | 215.446.4900 |
| Street & Number | Strawbridge Building 20 N. 8th Street | | |
| City or Town | Philadelphia | State | PA Zip Code 19107 |

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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*Federal Building and Courthouse
Camden County, New Jersey*

Additional documentation: Photographs

Name: Federal Building and Courthouse

Location: 401 Market Street
City of Camden
New Jersey, 08102

Photographer: Carson Anderson, ICF Jones & Stokes

Date of Photographs: October 14, 2005

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

Number of Photographs: 15

Photo #1. (NJ_Camden_Federal Building & Courthouse_0001)
Exterior, south and west elevations, view northeast.

Photos #2. (NJ_Camden_Federal Building & Courthouse_0002)
Exterior, west elevation, view north.

Photo #3. (NJ_Camden_Federal Building & Courthouse_0003)
Exterior, east elevation, view north.

Photo #4. (NJ_Camden_Federal Building & Courthouse_0004)
Exterior, detail, window spandrel and pilaster details.

Photo #5. (NJ_Camden_Federal Building & Courthouse_0005)
Interior, first floor lobby, view east.

Photo #6. (NJ_Camden_Federal Building & Courthouse_0006)
Interior, first floor elevator lobby.

Photo #7. (NJ_Camden_Federal Building & Courthouse_0007)
Interior, west lobby exit to 4th Street.

Photo #8. (NJ_Camden_Federal Building & Courthouse_0008)
Interior, third floor corridor from elevator lobby, view east.

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National Park Service

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*Federal Building and Courthouse
Camden County, New Jersey*

Photo #9. (NJ_Camden_Federal Building & Courthouse_0009)
Interior, third floor detail, terra cotta aedicule drinking fountain.

Photo #10. (NJ_Camden_Federal Building & Courthouse_0010)
Interior, third floor detail, terra cotta wainscoting.

Photo #11. (NJ_Camden_Federal Building & Courthouse_0011)
Interior, third floor, ceremonial courtroom.

Photo #12. (NJ_Camden_Federal Building & Courthouse_0012)
Interior, detail of oak wainscoting, used in both Trenton and Camden Federal Buildings.

Photo #13. (NJ_Camden_Federal Building & Courthouse_0013)
Interior, fourth floor, original wood floor, view east.

Photo #14. (NJ_Camden_Federal Building & Courthouse_0014)
Interior, second floor, floor detail, view north.

Photo #15. (NJ_Camden_Federal Building & Courthouse_0015)
Interior, second floor, Ben Shahn/William Lipkin Gallery, at rear of building.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Federal Building and Courthouse
NAME:

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: NEW JERSEY, Camden

DATE RECEIVED: 11/25/11 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 12/16/11
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 1/03/11 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 1/10/12
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 11000992

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 1.4.12 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.





















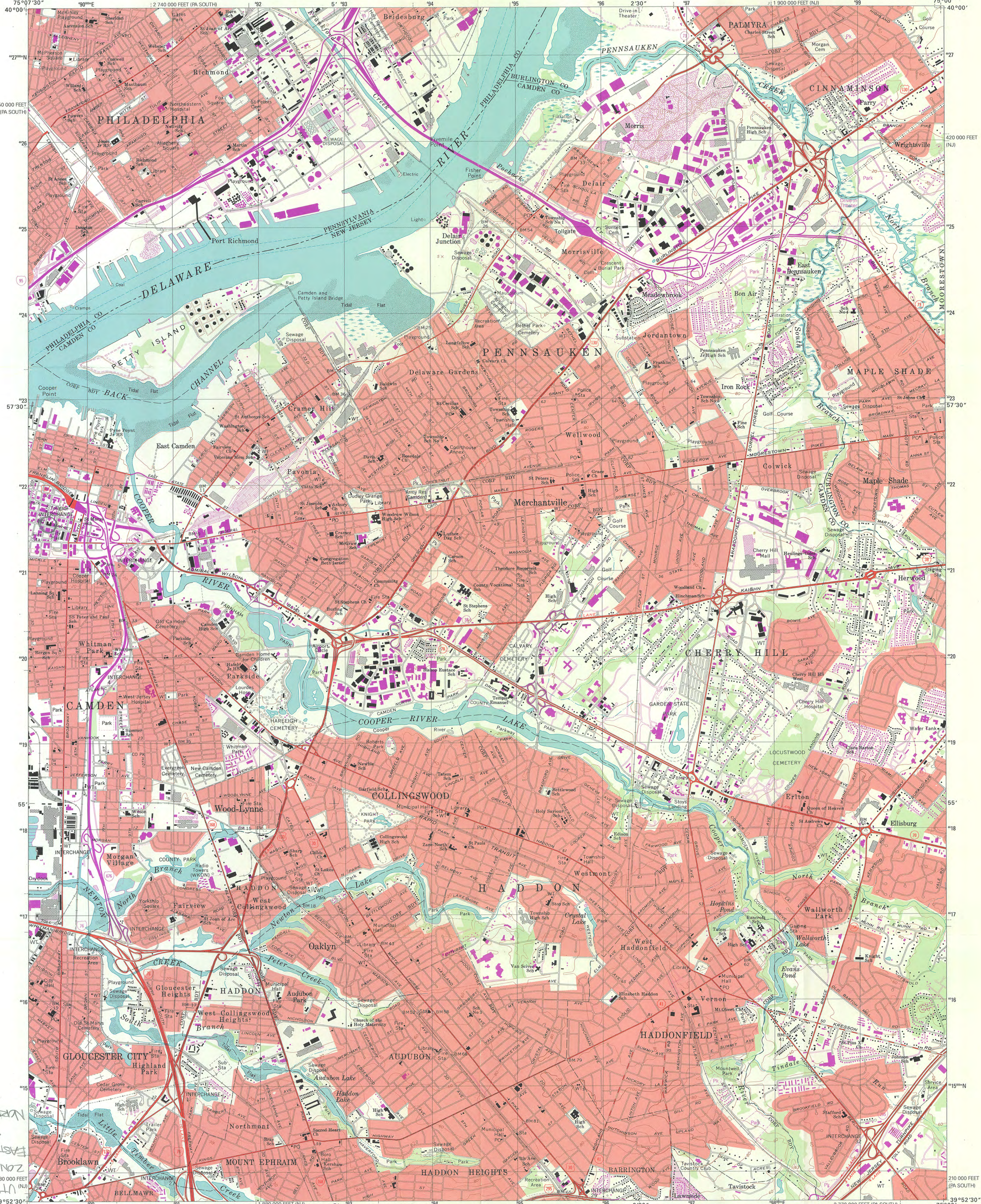






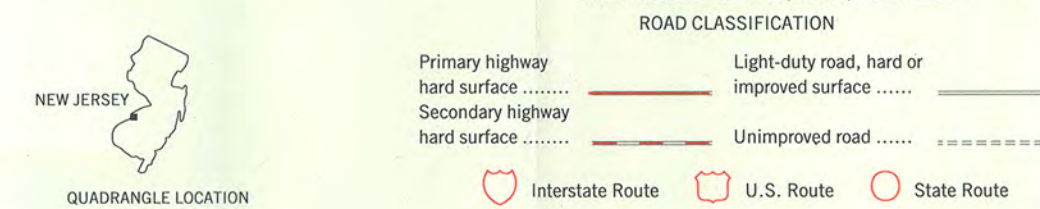
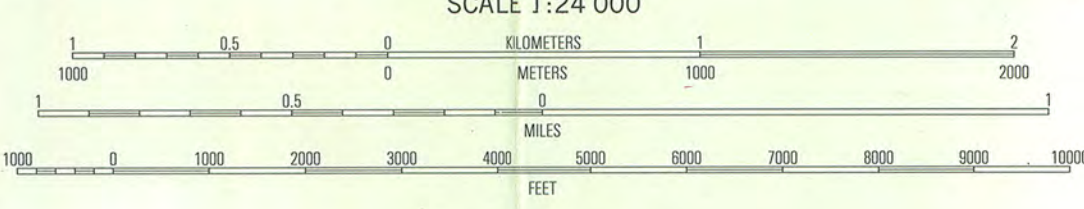
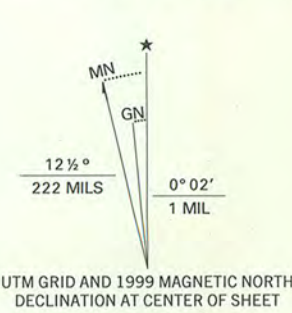






NEW JERSEY
CAMDEN COUNTY
CAMDEN
COURTHOUSE AND
FEDERAL

Produced by the United States Geological Survey
Topography compiled 1965. Planimetry derived from imagery taken 1990 and other sources. Photos inspected using imagery dated 1995; no major culture or drainage changes observed. Survey control current as of 1967. Boundaries, other than corporate, revised 1999
North American Datum of 1927 (NAD 27)
Projection: New Jersey coordinate system (transverse Mercator)
10 000-foot ticks: New Jersey coordinate system and Pennsylvania coordinate system, south zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid, zone 18
North American Datum of 1983 (NAD 83) is shown by dashed corner ticks. The values of the shift between NAD 27 and NAD 83 for 7.5-minute intersections are obtainable from National Geodetic Survey NADCON software
Information shown in purple may not meet USGS content standards and may conflict with previously mapped contours



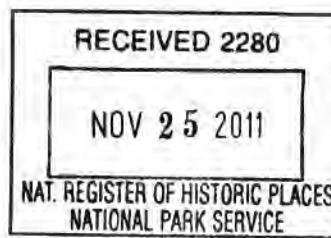
QUADRANGLE LOCATION

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1 Germantown
2 Frankford
3 Beverly
4 Philadelphia
5 Moorestown
6 Woodbury
7 Runnemede
8 Clementon

CAMDEN, NJ-PA
1995
NIMA 5963 1 NE-SERIES V822





GSA Public Buildings Service

November 21, 2011

Ms. Carol Shull
Interim Keeper, National Register of Historic Places
National Park Service 2280
1201 Eye Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Ms. Shull:

The U.S. General Services Administration (GSA) is pleased to nominate the Federal Building and Courthouse located at 401 Market Street, Camden, New Jersey, for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places.

The following documents are enclosed:

- Signed original National Register of Historic Places Registration form;
- U.S.G.S. Map; and
- Original labeled black and white photographs along with a disk of tiff images.

Please note that the New Jersey SHPOs office signed as the certifying official rather than as requested as the commenting official. Rather than hold the nomination, I have signed in that available space.

If for any reason any nomination package that GSA submits needs to be returned, please do so by a delivery service as items returned to our offices via regular mail are irradiated and the materials severely damaged. Should you have any questions or concerns regarding this nomination package, please contact Claire Hosker at (202) 501-1578.

Sincerely,

Beth L. Savage
Federal Preservation Officer
Director, Center for Historic Buildings

Enclosures

U.S. General Services Administration
1800 F Street, NW
Washington, DC 20405-0002
www.gsa.gov