

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

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National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

NATIONAL REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name U.S. Bullion Depository, Fort Knox, Kentucky (preferred name) other names/site number Fort Knox Bullion Depository The Gold Vault

2. Location

street & number Gold Vault Road and Bullion Blvd. not for publication city, town Fort Knox vicinity N/A state Kentucky code KY county Hardin code 093 zip code 40121

3. Classification

Ownership of Property: private, public-local, public-State, public-Federal (checked). Category of Property: building(s) (checked), district, site, structure, object. Number of Resources within Property: Contributing 1, Noncontributing buildings, sites, structures, objects, Total.

Name of related multiple property listing: None

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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. See continuation sheet. Signature of certifying official: Asst. Secretary of the Treasury (Management), Dept. of the Treasury. Date: 10/20/87.

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet. Signature of commenting or other official: State Historic Preservation Officer, Commonwealth of Kentucky. Date: Nov. 6, 1987.

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is: entered in the National Register. determined eligible for the National Register. determined not eligible for the National Register. removed from the National Register. other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper and Date of Action (2/18/88)

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

**6. Function or Use**

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Other: Gold Bullion Storage

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Other: Gold Bullion Storage

**7. Description**

Architectural Classification  
(enter categories from instructions)

Classical Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete

walls Granite Concrete Marble

roof Granite

other Marble Panels at Entrance  
Gold leaf inscription

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Depository, completed in 1936, is a two story building with exterior dimensions measuring 105 by 121 feet. Its height is 42 feet above the first floor level. The outer wall of the Depository is of light gray granite, lined with concrete, with polished black marble base trim. Included in the materials used in construction were 16,000 cubic feet of granite, 4200 cubic yards of concrete, 750 tons of reinforcing steel and 670 tons of structural steel.

At each corner of the structure, on the outside, are machine gun turrets. Sentry boxes, similar in design to the turrets at the corners of the Depository, are located at the entrance gate. A driveway encircles the building and a fence marks the boundaries of the site. The entrance is marble with a gold leaf inscription. The interior description and appearance are classified which prohibits disclosure.

**8. Statement of Significance**

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally     statewide     locally

Applicable National Register Criteria     A     B     C     D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)     A     B     C     D     E     F     G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)  
Other: Government Finance

Period of Significance  
1937-1987

Significant Dates

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Cultural Affiliation

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Person

Architect/Builder  
Architect: Simon, Louis A.  
Builder: Great Lakes Construction Co.

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Act of August 13, 1935, Public Law 267, authorized and directed the Secretary of War to transfer to the jurisdiction and control of the Secretary of the Treasury such portions of property within the Fort Knox Military Reservation suitable for the use of the Treasury Department as a depository. With this mandate, the Depository was constructed in 1936 at a cost of \$560,000. It was placed under the supervision of the Director of the Mint.

The Depository has always functioned as a storage site for the majority of U.S. gold stocks and other valuables. The first gold was moved to the Depository by railroad in 1937. Presently, the Depository stores 147 million fine ounces of gold, the largest concentration of U.S. gold in one location.

"Fort Knox" is a well-known landmark that is referred to frequently in factual and fictitious contexts. It has stood over the years as a symbol of the strength and power of the United States.

Due to the exceptional significance of the Fort Knox Bullion Depository in our nation's economic history, the period of significance has been extended to within the past fifty years.

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

United States Mint files  
Coin World Almanac, First Edition, 1975

See continuation sheet

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

Specify repository:

U.S. Mint, 633 3rd St. NW  
Room 734, Washington, DC 20220

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of property Forty-two

UTM References

A 16 590990 4193150  
 Zone Easting Northing

C         

B           
 Zone Easting Northing

D         

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary of Fort Knox Bullion Depository is shown as a dotted line on the accompanying USGS quadrangle map.  
 Bounded by Highway 31W to Vine Grove Ave. to golf course fence to Bullion Boulevard, along for 1,000 feet, then SSW for 600 feet to Highway 31W.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

Legally recorded boundary lines.  
U.S. Army Engineer Survey Map dated September 8, 1960

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title William F. Daddio, Chief, Security/Internal Review Staff  
 organization U.S. Mint date May 28, 1987  
 street & number 633 3rd Street NW telephone (202) 376-0564  
 city or town Washington, DC state \_\_\_\_\_ zip code 20220

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 10 Page 1

U.S. Bullion Depository, Fort Knox, Kentucky  
Hardin County, KY

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UTM Coordinates - Zone 16

A - Easting 590 900 Northing 41 93 500

B - Easting 591 260 Northing 41 93 120

C - Easting 591 160 Northing 41 92 830

D - Easting 591 030 Northing 41 92 760

E - Easting 590 650 Northing 41 93 150

The 1968 photograph accompanying this nomination accurately reflects the current condition and appearance of the depository.