United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form.* 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.

1. Name of Property

Historic name: Federal Building

Other names/site number: _____

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing

2. Location

Street & number: 11000 Wilshire Blvd.

City or town: Los Angeles State: CA County: Los Angeles

Not For Publication: [ ] Vicinity: [x]

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

___national ___statewide X local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

X A ___B X C ___D

5/20/2020

Signature of certifying official/Title: **Date**

Federal Preservation Officer, U.S. General Services Administration

In my opinion, the property _meets _does not meet the National Register criteria.

5/26/20

Signature of commenting official: **Date**

Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, California

Title : **State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government**

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

X 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:) _____

Paul R. Lusignan — 08/17/2020

Signature of the Keeper — Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

Private: ☐

Public – Local ☐

Public – State ☐

Public – Federal X

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

Building(s) X

District ☐

Site ☐

Structure ☐

Object ☐

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	1	buildings
		sites
	1	structures
		objects
1	2	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

GOVERNMENT/Government offices

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

GOVERNMENT/Government offices

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)
MODERN MOVEMENT/New Formalism

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)
Principal exterior materials of the property:
CONCRETE, METAL: Aluminum, and GLASS

Narrative Description
(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with **a summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

The Federal Building is a Late Modern/New Formalist building complex located at 11000 Wilshire Boulevard in the unincorporated area of Sawtelle, which is surrounded by the City of Los Angeles. The monumental complex comprises a 17-story office tower with a 19-story elevator tower, connected to two single-story wings by a single-story lobby pavilion and a colonnade-enclosed plaza. Commissioned by the U.S. General Services Administration (GSA), the Federal Building was designed by Charles Luckman Associates with guidance from the federal government's 1963 "Guiding Principles for Federal Architecture" and the 1966 "Program for Beautification of Federal Buildings," and was completed in 1969. It was the fifth federal building constructed in Los Angeles, closely following the 1965 completion of the property at 300 N. Los Angeles Street in the Los Angeles Civic Center. Los Angeles' exponential postwar growth necessitated additional space for federal government activities but space within the central city was scant; the siting of the Federal Building in Sawtelle in West Los Angeles reflected the first geographical break from the other Los Angeles federal buildings. The building continues to house multiple federal bureaus and agencies.

The Federal Building sits at the north end of its large parcel, separated from a large surface parking lot to the south by an east/west-running access road. A portion of the parking lot extends north of the road, providing parking and loading areas west of the main building complex. The parking areas, their component parts, and a modern (ca. 1985) two-story building in the southwest corner of the parcel do not contribute to the significance of the main building complex. The building's tower and connected volumes are arranged in a symmetrical composition: two double-height, single-story wing buildings, an entrance court surrounded by a colonnade, a one-story lobby pavilion, and the defining 17-story office tower with a 19-story elevator tower. All of the elements are combined into a single monumental composition

enhanced by its siting on a raised landscaped plinth within a broader landscape, comprising a "tower in the park" configuration.[1] The building embodies the principles of Late Modern/New Formalist architecture, featuring rigorous symmetry and strong vertical elements balanced by grounding horizontal elements. The complex is unified by materials as well as design - exteriors are clad mostly in precast concrete, with glass curtain walls, black glass spandrels, and precast concrete louvers at the office tower, while the entry lobby's exterior and interior also feature granite and terrazzo. Integrated site features and furnishings like stylized precast concrete benches and stair railings help to unify the composition and define the perimeter of the podium. The majority of the building's exterior design elements, interior floor plan, and public spaces remain in their original condition, and the building retains historical and architectural integrity.

Narrative Description

Site

The Federal Building is located on the south side of Wilshire Boulevard in the unincorporated area of Sawtelle, which is surrounded by the City of Los Angeles. It sits on the north side of an approximately four-parcel, 28.2-acre, flat site bounded by Wilshire Boulevard (north), Veteran Avenue (east), Westwood Park (City of Los Angeles, south), and the east-bound Wilshire Boulevard off-ramp of Interstate 405 and S. Sepulveda Boulevard (west). The site is primarily accessed from the east, via an open entry to an interior road from Veteran Avenue. This road divides the site into two main portions, with the Federal Building complex to the north and a large surface parking lot to the south. The asphalt-paved parking lots west of the building and south of the access road and all of their component parts, including a modern (ca. 1985) two-story building/parking structure, do not contribute to the significance of the Federal Building. The southern portions of the property have always been separated from the main building by the access road and have seen alterations including non-original bollards, fencing, and traffic gates in addition to construction of the modern building.

The Federal Building features an integrated, designed landscape which is primarily flat, with a sunken garden area at the west side. This garden is bounded by the concrete retaining walls of the complex podium and is primarily lawn with planting strips of shrubs, hedges, and flowers at the perimeter. Linear concrete paths extend to a central paved patio space with two rectilinear concrete planters and several stylized, precast concrete benches. The landscape originally included more expansive areas of lawn along the north, east, and west portions of the building, though most of the lawn except for that at the west side was replaced with drought-tolerant plantings and ground cover in 2017. Trees are intermittently present, and the landscape includes straight and curvilinear concrete paths, including one running from the northeast corner of the property (at the intersection of Wilshire and Veteran) toward the central lobby pavilion. A series of non-original flagpoles are sited north and east of the Federal Building, and a non-original (1973) aluminum monument sign set in a concrete base fronts the north façade of the building. An original flagpole sits at the southwest portion of the building's main south entry.

[1] Page and Turnbull, "Federal Building, 11000 Wilshire Boulevard: Historic Resource Evaluation" (prepared for the General Services Administration, December 2016), 8.

The Federal Building sits on and is surrounded by a podium with exposed concrete retaining walls at its southwest and southeast perimeter. The podium is accessed via concrete stairs at its south side (the primary entry to the building) and on the east and west sides, flanking the lobby pavilion. The broad south stairs have aluminum hand railings while the east and west stairs retain original precast concrete hand railings with a smooth aggregate finish. An original concrete switchback entry ramp is present west of the south entry stairs (fronting the west annex), with integrated planter and aluminum hand railings. The east side of the lobby pavilion is also accessible via a concrete ramp next to the stairs, extending from the walkway; this is a later addition. The Federal Building's podium provides circulation areas around the perimeter of the complex, incorporating stylized precast concrete benches (with the same finish as the stair rails) that define the edges and provide seating. These stylized benches run continuously around the podium's perimeter, adding to the complex's visual interest while serving as protective railings. Large concrete planters are integrated throughout the podium, and smaller movable concrete planters have been added at some of the wider circulation areas for security purposes.

Building Complex

The Late Modern/New Formalist Federal Building complex consists of several connected volumes and features arranged in a symmetrical composition atop the shared podium: two double-height, single-story wing buildings (the east and west annexes), an entrance court surrounded by a colonnade, a single-story lobby pavilion, and a 17-story office tower with a 19-story elevator tower. Due to its physical connections and in keeping with National Register guidelines, the entire connected grouping of volumes is counted and addressed here as one building. In addition to its monumental scale and strong sense of symmetry, the Federal Building is characterized by simple geometric forms, balanced use of horizontal and vertical elements, flat roofs, extensive use of precast concrete, and dark glazing.

The building's distinctive entrance sequence leads from the site's surface parking lot at the south part of the property northward on a linear axis. From south to north, the complex's linear progression moves across an open concrete plaza with integral planters and up a broad concrete stairway onto the podium and into the entrance court. A colonnade with square concrete panel-clad columns and a flat roof surrounds the uncovered entrance court and connects the two simple rectangles of the west and east annexes, extending along the south and north façades of each annex as engaged columns. The glazed entries of the annexes face inward onto the entrance court. From the entrance court, the progression continues north to the central lobby pavilion, which provides the primary entry to the office tower. The rectangular office tower rises as a block with its long axis paralleling Wilshire Boulevard and its narrower elevator tower centered on the south façade. As noted in the initial Historic Resource Evaluation of the Federal Building, "The strong axis of the progression, the linear forms of the planters, the ascension of the podium, the juxtaposition of the vertical and horizontal elements, and firm integration of all these elements adds to the monumentality of the entrance sequence."[2]

[2] Page and Turnbull, "Historic Resource Evaluation," 8-9.

Colonnade and Entrance Court

The colonnade encloses the entrance court and connects it with the east and west annexes and the central lobby pavilion. It is a covered walkway system with regularly spaced square column supports, each of which has precast concrete panels with corner reveals. The columns support a flat roof surrounding the entrance court; most of the roof is covered with white elastomeric PVC membrane (ca. 2016), though the easternmost portion has gravel ballast.[3] The original cement plaster soffits and recessed can lighting of the roof, which resembled the extant soffits at the lobby pavilion, were removed in 2016 due to failure of some of the soffits. This exposed pipes and conduits attached to corrugated metal sheets supported by steel I-beams, and the GSA added non-contributing metal screen below to keep out pigeons. The uncovered entrance court is floored with square, flush-set concrete pavers, matching the other circulation areas of the complex's podium, and features two large, rectangular integral planters. Smaller concrete planters have been set throughout the courtyard to control circulation and security.

East and West Annexes

The east and west annexes face each other across the entrance courtyard and are mirror images of one another. They share all major attributes: simple rectangular volumes; flat roofs; precast concrete façades with engaged columns echoing the connecting colonnade; and recessed, wide, central entry bays at the entrance court-facing façades. Each entry system contains floor-to-ceiling glazing with anodized aluminum framing, and three sets of fully glazed aluminum double doors (one set swinging with transoms, and two sets automated sliding). The courtyard-facing façades of the annex volumes are fronted by the colonnade, which connects with the facades to create a single horizontal roofline. The annexes' south façades are precast concrete panels with engaged columns and no fenestration. The rear façades (west façade of the east annex and the east façade of the west annex) contain loading docks with no glazing.

The east annex, originally the building's cafeteria, has a west-facing primary façade and a built-up roof with gravel ballast, a central mechanical penthouse, and solar panels. The north façade contains a three-bay central entry system with dark glazing and aluminum framing like that on the primary façade, with three sets of swinging, fully glazed, double doors with transoms. Two of the door sets and much of the glazing was boarded up during the April 2019 site visit due to an interior fire in 2017. The north façade doors open onto a landscaped terrace with concrete pavers, planters, precast concrete benches, and aluminum picnic tables. The east façade contains a recessed central loading dock and a pair of swinging metal doors. The interior of the east annex has been stripped and retains no original finishes; the concrete floor, concrete pier roof supports, and steel roof system are exposed.

The west annex, originally a post office, has an east-facing primary façade and roof covering of white elastomeric PVC membrane (ca. 2016); its mechanical penthouse has been removed.[4] The north façade has a centered, three-bay, dark glazed infill wall with aluminum framing and no doors. The west façade contains a recessed central loading dock with a projecting rectilinear

[3] Heritage Architecture & Planning, "Historic Structure Report: Federal Building, 11000 Wilshire Boulevard" (prepared for the U.S. General Services Administration, August 2018), 40.
[4] Heritage Architecture & Planning, "Historic Structure Report," 40.

canopy, two pairs of swinging, fully glazed metal doors, and a flush metal door. The interior of the west annex saw removal of most of its original finishes in 2016, after the post office's 2015 move across the plaza to the east annex (it operated there as a smaller version of the original until closed by the 2017 fire noted above).[5] The GSA is renovating this space for use by the FBI, with new features and finishes including full-height partition walls, lower ceilings in the entry lobby area, carpeting over original terrazzo in some areas (with terrazzo remaining exposed in other areas), and addition of cubicles.[6] Finishes will be similar to other modern finishes in the office spaces of the tower. This west annex project was under construction as of April 2019 and the interior was not accessible during the site visit.

Lobby Pavilion

The lobby pavilion is a square single-story volume set immediately north of the colonnade, attached to the south (primary) façade of the office tower via a glazed corridor. Centered in the tower's façade, the lobby pavilion has a flat roof with a broad horizontal cantilevered roofline featuring precast concrete fascia and cement plaster panel soffits. The volume's façades are almost entirely glazing, with anodized aluminum floor-to-ceiling windows of dark glass. The south, east, and west façades each contain a central bay of fully glazed automatic sliding doors (replacements of the original swinging doors) projecting slightly from the main wall plane, topped by a metal sign panel; the panel at the south façade has raised aluminum lettering "FEDERAL BUILDING/11000 WILSHIRE BOULEVARD) while the others are empty. Above each sign panel is a large fixed transom intersecting with the roofline. Newer painted signage is present on the glazing at each façade. The lobby pavilion's corners are punctuated by large square columns clad in dark granite panels. The column at the southeast corner of the lobby pavilion is inscribed "UNITED STATES OF AMERICA/LYNDON B.JOHNSON/ PRESIDENT/ GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION/LAWSON B KNOTT JR/ADMINISTRATOR 1968".

The north façade is similar to the others, but instead of an exterior entry is connected to the south façade of the office tower's central elevator tower via a single-story entrance corridor. The corridor is enclosed by floor-to-ceiling windows with aluminum framing, and is capped by a flat roof with precast concrete fascia. The broad overhanging roofline of the lobby pavilion extends over the roof of the entrance corridor, but does not contact either it or the office elevator tower to the north. The northeast portion of the lobby pavilion's north façade contains an original service window with anodized aluminum speakers.

The interior of the lobby pavilion is a single double-height space that retains most of its original finishes. The space is defined by its aluminum-framed glazed wall system, which sits on a small terrazzo-clad curb with mechanical vents. The floor is off-white terrazzo with light grey aggregate and metal joints. The dark granite structural columns at the corners of the lobby pavilion extend to the interior and sit atop the same low terrazzo curb as the glazed wall system. The space's ceiling has a sand textured plaster finish with recessed can lighting. The ceiling of the entrance corridor to the north extends into the interior of the lobby pavilion, with a cement

[5] Ibid; personal communication from Jane Lehman, 1/3/20.
[6] KMA Architecture, "West Annex Agency TI Design" preliminary drawings, 5/4/17.

plaster panel stepped end punctuated by an original built-in clock. The ceiling of the corridor is a drop ceiling, while its floor is the same terrazzo as the lobby.

The lobby pavilion has two original built-in, freestanding interior features: a lobby counter/security desk and a display case. Both features have curved terrazzo bases integrating with the floor. The open lobby counter/security desk is rectangular, with terrazzo walls and a wood top. The rectilinear wood display case sits atop a terrazzo pedestal and has aluminum-framed display cases containing reproduction historic documents. The aluminum framing features eagle and seal details. The lobby interior also contains non-original metal turnstiles and railings affixed to the floor for security purposes.

Office Tower

Exterior

The office tower is a 17-story building with a 19-story elevator tower attached to the center of its primary (south) façade. The main tower is rectangular in plan, with the long axis of the rectangle oriented east/west parallel with Wilshire Boulevard. It has a flat mopped roof with a flat parapet, slight slopes to the north and west for drainage, and mechanical and communication equipment. A modern corrugated metal structure sheltering the mechanical window washer machine is present at the east portion of the roof.

The central elevator tower is rectilinear in shape, with two cement plaster panel-clad elevator shafts flanking a central recessed curtain wall. The three-bay curtain wall extends from the second story of the elevator tower (above the entrance corridor from the lobby pavilion) to the tower's flat roofline. Each bay contains fixed aluminum windows set above aluminum spandrels clad in black enamel-coated opaque glass, creating a horizontal banding pattern up the façade. The roof of the elevator tower contains a radio dome and communications equipment.

Apart from the elevator tower, the south (primary) façade of the office tower is defined by a 17-story curtain wall of the same type seen on the elevator tower: fixed windows set above spandrels to create a horizontal banding pattern. Twenty bays are present on either side of the elevator tower, each separated by a projecting vertical louver of precast concrete panels; the louvers extend from a projecting ledge above a recessed base wall up to the soffit of a setback parapet wall. The concrete panels feature a smooth aggregate finish. Near the southeast corner of the façade, two will-call windows (non-original alterations) are set between the vertical louvers with cutouts at the ledge at the curtain wall's base. Each window has an aluminum canopy with replacement lettering. The east and west ends of the primary façade are concrete stair towers clad in cement plaster panels; these are set back from the plane of the façade and connect to the office tower with a slightly recessed bay containing alternating windows and spandrels as seen on the curtain wall. Each bay has a flush metal door at its second story, above which the bay extends up to the base of the parapet wall.

The office tower's east façade is defined by its centered stair tower clad in cement plaster panels. On either side of the windowless, unornamented stair tower, the office tower's corners project

and curve to the east to create a quarter pipe detail extending the full height of the façade. The podium extends well beyond the east façade and contains a large integral planter.

The west façade is essentially a mirror image of the east façade, with the same curving corner details. An open, exposed façade of the office tower's partial basement sits below the podium; it contains three openings with aluminum louver paneled doors, and its recessed loading area has roll-up doors and a loading dock. The basement opens into a sub-grade loading and utility area accessed via a driveway from the surface parking lot, and is bounded by scored concrete retaining walls with rolled metal handrails. The podium extends well beyond the tower's west façade and has a precast concrete railing at the perimeter above the sub-grade loading area. This area once had an integral planter matching that at the east side, but it has been removed and picnic tables with integrated seating are present.

The office tower's north (rear) façade, fronting on Wilshire Boulevard, is predominantly a single wall plane with the same curtain wall seen at the primary façade. Uninterrupted by any other features, the curtain wall is 55 bays wide and is flanked by the curving tower corners and the concrete stair towers as seen on the other façades.

Interior

The building's architects aimed for maximum efficiency and flexibility by siting the main lobby, elevator tower, and stair towers outside the main office tower space, to achieve "equal uninterrupted floors throughout the building."[7] As a result, the original interior layout was repetitive from floor to floor and the spaces had very similar interior finishes. Typically, the office floors contain a central "core" lobby accessed from the elevators and stairs to the side, and containing public restrooms, freight elevators, closets, pay phone niches, and storage and mechanical areas. Each core lobby leads to one or more private office spaces secured by non-original double doors. The office spaces typically feature open layouts with regularly distributed structural columns; partition walls are either gypsum board or modular panels. Almost all of the interior finishes and fixtures within office areas have been replaced, and many of the office spaces have been reconfigured. Corridors generally retain their original layouts, but their floor and ceiling finishes have been replaced.

The most intact interior space (apart from the lobby pavilion) is the main elevator lobby at the ground floor of the office tower. It is arranged in a cruciform shape, with elevator banks to the east and west and the entrance to the ground floor at the north side. The floor is the same terrazzo with metal grid as seen in the lobby pavilion, and there is a drop ceiling. The walls are clad in marble, with black reveals at the top and bottom. Original features include an aluminum mail chute with mailbox, wall-mounted aluminum blade signage, an aluminum framed display case, a water fountain niche, and a wall-mounted announcement speaker. The entrance to the west elevator lobby has been filled in with three, non-original rounded secure entry portals that are fully enclosed, with sliding doors. The east elevator lobby contains four passenger elevators with

[7] Lou Desser, "New Federal Building to be Dedicated," *Los Angeles Times* November 16, 1969.

stainless steel doors and non-original interior finishes. An aluminum seal is mounted at the east wall.

Elevator lobbies on the other floors typically have an L-shape, oriented in different directions depending on the floors. They lead to the core lobbies from which the private office spaces and corridors are entered, and have carpet flooring with rubber or vinyl baseboards, and dropped ceilings. The lobby spaces typically retain original features like aluminum mail chutes with mailboxes; wall-mounted aluminum blade signage; and pay phone niches. Some have aluminum display cases which may be original. All other original features and finishes have been replaced. The lobbies contain entrances to bathrooms and original steel and concrete stairways. Original bathroom finishes remain at the 9th and 14th Floors, all other original finishes have been removed.

The basement is a utilitarian space retaining some of its original finishes and features, including a sealed concrete floor and flush metal doors. It contains simple corridors leading to storage rooms, mechanical areas, and the loading dock at the west end of the building. The northeast end of the basement's elevator lobby contains a public phone alcove with two pay phone niches, one of which retains its original pegboard wall, wood shelf, and recessed lighting.

Alterations

The following chronology of major building alterations to the 1969 Federal Building is based primarily on previous historical studies of the building, supplemented by historic photographs, original and existing drawings, newspaper articles, and field observations through May of 2019.[8] It does not address the many individual modifications to interior tenant spaces.

1971 Safety anchors were added to the parapet wall at five locations at the office tower roof, adjacent to access panels.

1973 Repairs were completed to many of the site hardscape features, including uneven brick pavers, deteriorating concrete planter retaining and podium walls, and the replacement of some trees throughout the site, most notably the parking lot perimeter and medians.

The interior of the cafeteria wing (east annex) was remodeled. Work included repainting, installation of new automatic doors, reorientation of entrance-egress circulation patterns, and installation of new floor-mounted safety handrails. The landscape surrounding the cafeteria wing was also updated with new steel planting covers, reinforcement of the existing concrete benches, and resealing of the adjacent concrete pavers.

A building identification sign was added to the north portion of the site (perpendicular to Wilshire Blvd.)

[8] Charles Luckman Associates, Federal Building, Architectural Drawings, 1968; Page and Turnbull, "Historic Resource Evaluation," 41-46; Heritage Architecture and Planning, "Historic Structure Report," 37-41.

1974	The asphalt of the parking lot and access driveways were resealed throughout. The east portion of the main Veteran Ave. access road was repaved with new traffic control pavement markers.
1977	A radar dome was installed on the roof of the elevator tower, and solar panels were installed on the roof of the cafeteria wing (east annex).
1979-1983	Elastomeric sealant was placed at some exterior locations, including curtain wall joints, cement plaster panels, precast concrete louvers, building base, and metal reveals.
1982 ca.	Passport will-call windows were cut into the south façade of office tower, at the ground floor east of the lobby pavilion; they were set into the ledge at the base of the curtain wall, between the building's vertical louvers.[9]
1985 ca.	A freestanding building/parking garage structure was constructed in the southwest portion of the site.
1988	The ceiling and interior lighting were replaced in the cafeteria wing (east annex).
1990	The entire sprinkler system was replaced; work included asbestos abatement and ceiling replacements.
1992	A steel bar entrance gate with turnstiles was installed in lobby pavilion for added security.
	The interior spaces of floors 14-17, occupied by the FBI, were remodeled.
1994	The interior spaces of floors 1-6, occupied by the Veterans Administration, were remodeled.
1995	Most bathrooms were remodeled, with new fixtures, finishes, and doors.
2001	The interior of the cafeteria wing (east annex) was remodeled and all finishes were replaced.
2005	All major mechanical systems were upgraded.
2006	Glazing and finishes were replaced in the passport windows at the ground floor of the office tower's south façade.

[9] "Passport Office Moves," *Los Angeles Times* March 28, 1982.

2012-2013 Remodeling of elevator car interiors.

2015 The northwest portion of the surface parking lot was remodeled and resurfaced during upgrades to the I-405 on-ramps. This included rerouting the original driveway from Sepulveda Blvd., and adding new lighting and security features.

2016 The interior finishes and treatments of the post office wing (west annex) were removed.

The post office wing (west annex) was re-roofed with elastomeric PVC membrane, and the mechanical penthouse was removed.

The exterior cement plaster soffits at the colonnade were removed, along with recessed can lights.

2017 Most lawn areas were replaced with drought-tolerant plantings and ground cover.

The interior of the cafeteria wing (east annex) was damaged by fire and all of its finishes were stripped.

2018 The interior of the post office wing (west annex) began renovation, as did interiors of the 5th, 9th, and 17th floors of the office tower.

Date unk. Removal of the integral concrete planter at the podium west of the office tower.

Installation of an east access ramp adjacent to the lobby pavilion.

Replacement of lobby pavilion paired swinging entry doors with sliding doors.

Addition of rounded security portals at first floor west elevator lobby.

Integrity

The Federal Building is an excellent example of a late 1960s Late Modern/New Formalist style government building, and it retains sufficient integrity to convey its architectural style and historic character. As the building is located at its original location, integrity of location is intact. Much of its original landscape has been replaced with drought-tolerant plantings and ground cover, and a concrete ramp has been added next to the stairs east of the lobby pavilion, but the overall design remains intact and retains its relationship to the podium and the building complex. The landscape is easily recognizable as an original and integral part of the overall site. The larger setting remains much the same as it did upon the building's completion in 1969, with the Los Angeles National Cemetery across Wilshire to the north, I-405 to the west, and the surface parking lot with original medians and layout to the south of the building. As a result, the Federal Building retains integrity of setting.

The building's design, materials, and workmanship are intact across the entire exterior of the complex, with minor exceptions in the form of door replacements, cutting of two windows at the ground floor of the office tower's south façade, and mechanical penthouse removal and re-roofing of the east annex. Extant elements include the building's symmetrical layout, balanced composition, juxtaposition of horizontal and vertical volumes, monumental scale atop a podium, extensive use of precast concrete, and aluminum-framed glazing (including at the curtain walls of the office tower). At the interior, similar design, materials, and workmanship are retained in the primary public spaces of the lobby pavilion and first floor elevator lobby.

Through the Federal Building's retention of its location, setting, design, materials, and workmanship, the aesthetic and historic sense of the building in its historical context is evident. The building has also maintained a continuous association with the federal government since the time of its construction, and is well known as a federal facility. Thus, its integrity of feeling and association are maintained. While the building has undergone numerous interior alterations to upper floor office and lobby spaces, and exterior alterations including door replacements, addition of two windows, partial re-roofing, removal of colonnade cement plaster soffits, and drought-tolerant planting, its monumental scale is such that these alterations have had minimal effect on its historic character. The majority of the building's exterior design elements, interior floor plan, and public space finishes remain, ensuring the Federal Building retains sufficient integrity for it to convey its historical and architectural significance.

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.)

[x] 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.

[x] C. 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.

[ ] D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations N/A
(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 grave

[ ] D. A cemetery

[ ] E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure

[ ] F. A commemorative property

[ ] G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions.)
Architecture____
Politics/Government____

Period of Significance
1969

Significant Dates
1969

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

Cultural Affiliation
N/A

Architect/Builder
Charles Luckman Associates, Architect
C.H. Leavell & Co., Builder
Robert Herrick Carter, Landscape Architect

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Federal Building is a highly significant Late Modern/New Formalist building constructed in Los Angeles for the federal government during the post-World War II era. Commissioned by the U.S. General Services Administration and constructed between 1966 and 1969 during a heightened period of federal construction, the complex at 11000 Wilshire Boulevard embodies the design excellence, efficiency, and economy encouraged by the 1962 "Guiding Principles for Federal Architecture" and the 1966 "Program for Beautification of Federal Buildings." The building's design by Charles Luckman Associates is strongly associated with these federal government principles for architecture, and the response of the federal government to the need for additional facilities during Los Angeles' massive postwar growth period. It is an excellent example of Late Modern/New Formalist institutional architecture and retains a high level of physical integrity, meaning it continues to convey its historical significance and original design intent. As a result, the Federal Building is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places at the local level under Criteria A and C, with a period of significance assigned to its date of completion in 1969.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

The GSA and the Federal Building Campaigns of the Modern Era[10]

[10] The information within the Narrative Statement of Significance draws upon the following sources: Page and Turnbull, "Historic Resource Evaluation;" Heritage Architecture and Planning, "Historic Structure Report;" and

The U.S. General Services Administration (GSA) was established in 1949 to mitigate the federal government's need for resources and facilities. Its responsibility was to support the various bureaus and agencies with "record-keeping, building management and general procurement" by the most efficient and economical means possible.[11] The Public Buildings Service (PBS), a division of GSA, was assigned responsibility for managing the government's real property interests, including design, construction, maintenance, repair, remodeling and enlargement of federal buildings.[12]

The GSA and PBS brought in two significant changes: a commitment to hire private architects for the design and engineering of federal facilities, and an acceptance of Modern design. Following the process used in awarding general construction contracts, PBS retained architects located in or near the city where projects were being constructed to achieve a local aesthetic as well as to reduce costs and increase efficiency.[13] Modernism was the antithesis of the Classical design long favored in federal buildings, but the style delivered on the postwar priorities of quick and moderately priced construction using new technology and mass-produced materials. In addition, it was becoming a widely favored idiom across the country, especially in private office design. As the epicenter of innovative Modern architectural thought, Southern California (and Los Angeles in particular) was a location more than receptive to Modern designs on all scales.

In 1961, President John F. Kennedy was inaugurated and found the state of federal buildings, specifically the dilapidated buildings in eyesight on Washington, D.C.'s Pennsylvania Avenue, inadequate. He convened a committee to study federal office spaces, which ultimately developed general architectural guidelines for the GSA to apply to all federal buildings nationwide. The resultant three-point policy was known as the "Guiding Principles for Federal Architecture" and stated the following:

1. Designs should incorporate the finest in contemporary architectural thought. Including local and regional architectural traditions and influences of the area where the building is located is encouraged. Incorporating pieces of fine art, preferably by living American artists should be a priority. Buildings should also be functional for users, including the handicapped, and should incorporate materials, methods, and equipment of proven dependability, making them economical to build, operate and maintain.

2. The development of an official style should be avoided. The architectural profession should dictate the trend of government buildings, but the government should not dictate architectural trends. Costs will likely be slightly higher to obtain quality designs, and the government should be willing to pay more to avoid excessive uniformity of design for

---

Judith H. Robinson and Stephanie S. Foell, *Growth, Efficiency and Modernism: GSA Buildings of the 1950s, 60s and 70s* (U.S. General Services Administration, 2003); in addition to supplemental research.
[11] Judith H. Robinson and Stephanie S. Foell, *Growth, Efficiency and Modernism: GSA Buildings of the 1950s, 60s, and 70s* (U.S. General Services Administration, 2003), 28.
[12] Ibid., 29.
[13] Ibid., 41.

Federal buildings. Design competitions may be held, and the advice of prominent architects should be sought prior to awarding important design contracts.

3. The choice and development of the building site should be considered the first step in the design process of Federal buildings, with special attention paid to nearby street layout and public places. Buildings should be located so as to permit a generous development of landscape.[14]

The GSA adopted the "Guiding Principles" as the renamed Standards for Federal Architecture, which continued to influence the design of federal buildings through the 1960s and 1970s. In 1966, the federal government adopted a supplemental program to the "Guiding Principles," the "Program for Beautification of Federal Buildings." This Lyndon B. Johnson-era program placed additional emphasis on the role of landscape architecture in integrating federal buildings into their sites with the creation of aesthetically pleasing and inviting settings. The program states:

> The design of federal office buildings, particularly those located in the Nation's Capital, must meet a two-fold requirement. First, it must provide efficient and economical facilities for the use of the Government agencies. Second, it must provide visual testimony to the dignity, enterprise, vigor, and stability of the American government.
>
> Landscaping is included as an integral part of the design of any building and appropriate instructions are given in this respect during the design stage to contract architects and engineers. As part of these instructions, the architect is told to make his design in keeping with the motif of the community.[15]

While the landscape design focus of the "Program for Beautification" resulted in important changes to the approach of new buildings, it was the program's other emphasis on project efficiency and economy that had the strongest response. GSA constructed numerous buildings during the late 1960s, but faced budget constraints due to the ongoing Vietnam War; the "Program for Beautification" helped to justify the simplification of architectural designs, with the end result of "largely lackluster buildings throughout the nation."[16]

The highly articulated Federal Building at 11000 Wilshire Boulevard was an exception to the trend of unimpressive federal buildings, though it did hew closely to the demand for efficiency and economy. In all aspects of its planning and design, the Federal Building exemplifies both the "Guiding Principles" and the "Program for Beautification." In accordance with Principle 1 of the "Guiding Principles" and the first guideline of the "Program for Beautification," the building was designed in a monumental Late Modern/New Formalist style, which reflected contemporary architectural thought during the late 1960s and provided "visual testimony to the dignity, enterprise, vigor, and stability of the American government." It also integrated function into its design, from the wheelchair ramp at its primary entry to siting of the main lobby, elevator tower,

[14] Robinson and Foell, "Growth, Efficiency, and Modernism," 44.
[15] Robinson and Foell, "Growth, Efficiency, and Modernism," 46.
[16] Page and Turnbull, "Historic Resource Evaluation," 32.

and stair towers outside of the main office tower space to maximize flexibility. In accordance with Principle 3, the site for the Federal Building was carefully selected on the west side of Los Angeles with an eye toward the ever-expanding development of the area, and provided ample room for "generous development of landscape." As dictated by the second guideline of the "Program for Beautification," the Federal Building's landscape design was an integral part of the overall design and created an inviting, softer setting for the hard lines of the imposing institutional complex.

Federal Buildings in Los Angeles

The Federal Building at 11000 Wilshire Boulevard is the fifth federal office building constructed in Los Angeles. The four buildings preceding it, completed in 1892, 1910, 1940, and 1965, were all located in downtown Los Angeles.[17] The 1965 Federal Building at 300 N. Los Angeles Street, designed by master architects Welton Becket & Associates, Albert C. Martin & Associates, and Paul R. Williams, was the largest office building ever constructed in Los Angeles to that point and consolidated many formerly far-flung federal occupants in one place. Despite this robust GSA response to the demands of exponential postwar growth in Los Angeles, the federal government still needed additional space, and contracted with Charles Luckman Associates to design a new building at 11000 Wilshire in the same year 300 N. Los Angeles Street was completed. The new site was and is outside of the actual city limits of Los Angeles, sitting in the unincorporated area of Sawtelle (Los Angeles County); however, the City surrounds it on all sides, and the area is generally referred to as Los Angeles/West Los Angeles.

The new Federal Building was the first to be sited outside of downtown, and was also the first to occupy a large, campus-like property. Its large parcel enabled the design of a massive complex juxtaposing a tall office tower with single-story horizontal volumes and site features, all set on a raised podium within an expansive designed landscape. Its monumental size, rigid symmetry, and prominent site (highly visible from the major corridors of I-405 and Wilshire Boulevard) established it as an architectural icon of west Los Angeles upon its completion in 1969. Several other federal buildings have been constructed in Los Angeles since that time, including the James C. Corman Federal Building in Van Nuys (1974), and in downtown Los Angeles, the Edward R. Roybal Federal Building and U.S. Courthouse (1993) and the New Los Angeles U.S. Courthouse (2016).

11000 Wilshire Boulevard

Before the construction of 11000 Wilshire Boulevard, the land was part of the Sawtelle Veterans Home, a 600-acre site established in 1888 to provide care for Union veterans of the Civil War. This campus was crucial to the growth of Sawtelle and West Los Angeles, as residential and commercial areas developed to support the growing population of Veterans Home residents and employees. The facility saw construction of many new buildings after World War I to accommodate the influx of new veterans, and in 1930 it became part of the new Veterans Administration (VA) as the West Los Angeles Veterans Administration campus. It continued to

[17] Page and Turnbull, "Historic Resource Evaluation," 32-33.

expand and modernize through the early 1960s, and by 1962 it was the largest VA campus in the nation.[18]

The West Los Angeles VA began exploring development options for the southeast portion of its site in the 1950s, which attracted interest from potential buyers like UCLA and the Los Angeles City Department of Recreation and Parks. But in 1959, it was announced that the property would be reserved for the federal government, and the GSA had selected it as the site for the new federal building.[19] The GSA established temporary offices for the VA on Sepulveda Boulevard in anticipation of the large federal building to come, but the part of the property on which the new building would rise remained undeveloped for years waiting for Congressional approval and fund appropriation.[20] In November of 1965, GSA announced the Federal Building would be constructed, with over $13 million in funding authorized and enough space to house around 3,000 federal employees.[21] Charles Luckman Associates had completed its design of the new building in the same year. Other consultants on the project included Robert Herrick Carter (landscape architect), C.H. Leavell and Co. (contractor), King Benioff Associates (structural engineer), Albert Zimmerman & Associates (mechanical engineer), and Frumhoff & Cohen (electrical engineer).[22]

Construction began in 1966 and encountered multiple delays due to inclement weather and some GSA design changes, resulting in completion in mid-1969 rather than the planned early 1968.[23] Despite the difficulties, the project went only slightly over budget, and a GSA spokesman stated, "We feel this is one of the most economical buildings of its type."[24] When the 600,000 square foot building opened, it housed the Southern California headquarters for the VA (occupying seven of the office tower's 17 floors); the FBI; the Departments of Defense, Commerce, and Justice; the GSA; the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare; the Treasury Department; the National Labor Relations Board; the Selective Service; the Internal Revenue Service; and Congressional offices.[25] It also contained Civil Defense shelter areas in the basement and upper floors of the tower, said to be capable of accommodating over 13,000 people.[26] The complex's west annex housed a U.S. post office, while the east annex provided cafeteria space. The windowless east and west sides of the office tower were said to serve as screens for the projection of public service messages including "appeals for purchase of savings bonds, use of

[18] Chattel, Inc., "West Los Angeles Veterans Affairs Historic District," *National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (prepared for the Department of Veterans Affairs, 2014).
[19] "City, UCLA Lose Bid for VA Land," *Los Angeles Times* January 4, 1959.
[20] "100,000 Structure to House VA Offices," *Los Angeles Times* April 5, 1959; Clarence A. Mortensen, "Super Federal Building Still Slated for VA Lot," *Los Angeles Times* April 16, 1961.
[21] "Westwood-Wilshire Projects Planned," *Los Angeles Times* November 21, 1965; "Bids Due on Federal Building," *Los Angeles Times* January 6, 1966.
[22] Lou Desser, "New Federal Building to Be Dedicated," *Los Angeles Times* November 16, 1969; "Federal Building to Begin Opening Its 17 Stories in June," *Los Angeles Times* February 23, 1969.
[23] "Federal Building to Begin Opening."
[24] Ibid.
[25] Desser, "New Federal Building."
[26] Ibid.

zip codes and suggestions like locking automobiles to prevent theft," though it is unclear whether the building really ever saw this use.[27]

Leading up to the Federal Building's dedication, the GSA touted its functionality as much as its architecture. The structure was designed on a five-foot modular concept to maximize flexibility, including modular lighting, air conditioning and utility systems. Ramps, wide doorways, and wide corridors ensured easy access for disabled veterans, and the massive surface parking lot provided parking for 1,415 cars.[28] James M. Luckman, president of Charles Luckman Associates, elaborated on the functionality of the design:

> In designing this new Federal Building we sought to provide the General Services Administration with a highly efficient, totally flexible office tower which compares favorably with quality commercial structures of the same scope… We achieved equal, uninterrupted floors throughout the building by placing the main lobby area outside the tower on the ground level, and then locating the 10 high-speed elevators on the exterior as a separate element. To achieve even further flexibility, we placed the stairwells and utility spaces in a separate shaft at each end of the tower."[29]

As the largest and most accessible federal building in Los Angeles, 11000 Wilshire Boulevard became the focal point for hundreds of political demonstrations and protests over the years. Notable events included the 1974 occupation of Senator Alan Cranston's office by a group of veterans protesting conditions in VA hospitals, and 1982-1983 protests of the Iranian revolution by members of the local Iranian American community.[30] The site continues to be a setting for protests. In 1972, a property trade gave the City of Los Angeles the southern portion of the original parcel as reserved from the VA; the City sited Westwood Park here, with landscape design by Robert Herrick Carter & Associates.[31] While most of the government occupants have changed over the years and the post office is no longer in operation, the Federal Building maintains its original use as a consolidated facility for multiple federal agencies.

Late Modern and New Formalist Architecture[32]

The Federal Building is an excellent example of Late Modern and New Formalist architecture on a monumental scale. It exhibits characteristics of Late Modern architecture in its juxtaposition of horizontal and vertical elements, its strong geometric shapes, its integral landscape, and its use of industrial materials, including abundant precast concrete elements and floor-to-ceiling glazing (with colored glazing creating a banding pattern on the office tower). Its New Formalist characteristics include a rigidly symmetrical composition, location on a raised podium with integrated architecture and sculptural site furniture, colonnade connecting all volumes, and high-

[27] Burt Wuttken, "Weatherman Will Move to New Westwood Home in Fall," *Los Angeles Times* March 10, 1968.
[28] Wuttken, "Weatherman Will Move."
[29] Desser, "New Federal Building."
[30] Page and Turnbull, "Historic Resource Evaluation," 39.
[31] Ibid., 39-40.
[32] The Late Modern and New Formalist architecture sections draw primarily on Page and Turnbull, "Historic Resource Evaluation," 47-50, with supplemental research.

quality building materials. The complex harmoniously incorporates major elements of both related architectural styles, and embodies the design intent of its architects as well as the federal requirements for efficiency and function in its postwar buildings.

Late Modernism

Late Modernism is a grouping of architectural approaches that marked the transition from the International and Mid-Century Modern styles prevalent in post-war Modernism of the 1950s, to the more varied architectural forms of the 1960s and 1970s. By the late 1950s, the perceived repetitiveness of Modern architecture inspired many architects to explore other forms; some drew on Classical and other historic architectural types, leading to New Formalism, while others doubled down on Modern elements to produce Brutalism and Expressionism. Late Modern styles were primarily applied to commercial and institutional buildings, as they lent themselves to use on monumental scales.

Fundamental elements that were often incorporated into Late Modern buildings include strong geometric forms; symmetrical and/or modular composition; glazed and solid components; industrial materials including precast concrete; linear accent elements; aluminum floor-to-ceiling glazing systems; use of colored glazing treatments; flexible interior spaces; and high-quality materials at public interiors (usually at the ground floor). Many Late Modern institutional and commercial buildings incorporated designed landscapes to create campus-like settings, providing a softer setting to surround the rigid linear forms of the buildings themselves. The landscapes often used connecting elements like walkways and plazas and employed site furnishings and other hardscape elements as pragmatic sculptural accents.

Notable examples of Late Modern architecture in Southern California include the Union Oil Center in Los Angeles by Pereira & Luckman (1958); the Los Angeles County Museum of Art (1965) and Variety Building (1971) in Los Angeles by William L. Pereira & Associates; Northrop Grumman in Redondo Beach (1967) and the Union Bank Building in Los Angeles (1967) by A.C. Martin & Associates; Ambassador College in Pasadena by DMJM (1965-1967); the Glendale Federal Savings Building in Beverly Hills by Langdon & Wilson (1968); and Long Beach Civic Center by Allied Architects (1970-1974).[33] The 1969 Federal Building compares favorably with these examples, sharing not only their monumental scale but also their sculptural geometry, extensive glazing systems with colored treatments, symmetrical composition, and integrated landscape. The building also embodies the important Late Modern compositional device of including a large office tower in contrast to smaller buildings within a unified design, in order to emphasize its specific importance; the Variety Building and Union Oil Center are other strong local illustrations of this approach.[34]

New Formalism

As noted above, New Formalism emerged as part of the Late Modern movement in the late 1950s as a counter-reaction to the International style's strict rejection of historical precedent. Architects Edward Durell Stone and Minoru Yamasaki were pioneers of the style; in the 1950s,

[33] Page and Turnbull, "Historic Resource Evaluation," 48.
[34] Ibid., 48-49.

they separately rejected some tenets of European Modernism and began to incorporate decorative features and clear references to historical architectural styles and types. They interpreted historical elements through an abstracted Late Modern lens, and modernized with industrial technologies and materials like concrete, metal, and glass. The style that emerged is known today as New Formalism, typically understood as an update and interpretation of Classical forms.

Primarily employed in the civic or institutional sector, New Formalism yielded monumental buildings organized with a clear expression of structural hierarchy and reintroduced Classical features such as the elevated podium, colonnade, arcade, and cornice in an abstract form. Traditional materials such as travertine, marble, or granite were employed in panelized, mass-produced forms, along with newer industrial materials including pre-cast concrete and glazed wall systems. In New Formalism, the design of the building often extends beyond the lot to align with the axes and symmetry of surrounding landscaping and streets to achieve monumentality amidst dense urban contexts.

Key features of New Formalism include strict symmetry; flat projecting rooflines; elevated podiums; columnar supports; abstracted archwork; full-height colonnades; high-quality traditional materials; and screens and grilles of perforated cast stone or metal. Designed landscapes and hardscapes are commonly incorporated into New Formalist designs, and include water features, low plantings, plazas, and walkways.

Notable Southern California examples of New Formalism include several Edward Durell Stone projects such as Caltech's Beckman Auditorium (1963) in Pasadena, the Perpetual Savings Building in Beverly Hills (1963), the Von KleinSmid Center (1965) at USC in Los Angeles, and the Ahmanson Center (also known as Wilshire Colonnade, 1970) in Los Angeles. Other New Formalist buildings include the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion (1964) at the Music Center in Los Angeles by Welton Becket & Associates, Minoru Yamasaki's Century Plaza Hotel (1966), and Charles Luckman Associates' Forum in Inglewood (1967).[35] Like these examples, the 1969 Federal Building rests on an elevated podium, exhibits strict symmetry, and uses other Classical forms including a full-height colonnade and slender columnar supports. Its New Formalist elements are not as highly articulated as those on Stone's institutional projects (Beckman Auditorium is particularly expressive), which tend to be on slightly smaller scales. But they compare favorably with other local examples executed on a larger scale, like the Century Plaza Hotel and the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion.

Project Architects

Charles Luckman Associates, Architect

Charles C. Luckman was born in Kansas in 1909 and graduated from the School of Architecture at the University of Illinois in 1931, at the height of the Great Depression when architectural commissions were scarce. He took a job as a draftsman in the advertising department of Colgate-

[35] Page and Turnbull, "Historic Resource Evaluation," 50.

Palmolive-Peet Company. Luckman's business acumen led to an offer of sales manager position of Pepsodent Company in 1935, where he was credited for quadrupling profits. At age 27, he was featured on the cover of *Time Magazine* as the Boy Wonder of American Industry. In 1946, at only 37 years old, he became president of Lever Brothers. With his architecture background, Luckman became a noted patron of modern architecture by masterminding the creation of the company's new Park Avenue headquarters, designed by Gordon Bunshaft of Skidmore, Owings, and Merrill.[36] It would be one of the first glass skyscrapers to rise in Manhattan, and a portent of Luckman's strong advocacy for Modern design in the coming years.

In 1950, Luckman returned to architecture where his business acumen proved extremely successful. He told a writer for the *New Yorker*, "I am firm in my belief that architecture is a business and not an art," which appealed to the corporate and civic clients who would become the bread and butter of his practice.[37] In 1951, he partnered with architect William Pereira in Los Angeles, and together the two would garner some of the largest and most high-profile commissions in the city, including CBS Television City (1952) and the Theme Building at Los Angeles International Airport (1961). Pereira and Luckman parted ways in 1958, and Luckman formed his own practice, Charles Luckman Associates. The firm continued with large commissions for a variety of corporate and civic clients across the country, including the controversial design for New York's Madison Square Garden – this building replaced Penn Station, a 1910 Beaux Arts masterpiece designed by McKim, Mead and White. The demolition of the station put Luckman on a "collision course with a burgeoning architectural preservation movement," and his design was derided as lacking distinction.[38]

In addition to 11000 Wilshire Boulevard, Charles Luckman Associates' notable works in the Los Angeles area include downtown's Broadway (now Macy's) Plaza (1973), the Inglewood Civic Center (1973), the Los Angeles Forum (1967), Wells Fargo Tower (1973), Aon Center (1973), and the original Los Angeles Convention Center (1971). All featured Modern styles, including Late Modern, New Formalist, and Corporate International. Like the Federal Building, these projects were also large-scale commercial and institutional buildings that used the Modern idiom to maximize economic efficiency. In 1968 Luckman turned his attention to the real estate development business and became president of Ogden Development. His son James Luckman became president of Charles Luckman Associates, while Luckman became chairman of the board.[39] As a developer, Luckman's projects included major developments in downtown Los Angeles including the headquarters of the Pacific Coast Stock Exchange and, in the 1970s, a proposal for the site of the 1920s Los Angeles Public Library by Bertram Goodhue (later rejected due in large part to the activism of the city's burgeoning architectural preservation community). Luckman retired in 1977, and Charles Luckman Associates was reorganized as the Luckman

[36] Herbert Muschamp, "Charles Luckman, Architect Who Designed Penn Station's Replacement, Dies at 89," *New York Times* January 29, 1999.
[37] Los Angeles Conservancy, "Charles Luckman," accessed May 2019, https://www.laconservancy.org/architects/charles-luckman.
[38] Muschamp, "Charles Luckman."
[39] Clay Stalls, "Finding Aid: Charles Luckman Papers, 1908-2000," William H. Hannon Library, Loyola-Marymount University, accessed June 2019 through the Online Archive of California, http://pdf.oac.cdlib.org/pdf/clloy/luckman.pdf.

Partnership with James Luckman as president; the firm continued practicing until 1982. Charles Luckman died in 1999.

Robert Herrick Carter, Landscape Architect

Born in Los Angeles in 1919, Robert Herrick Carter resided there his entire life and earned a degree in architecture from the University of Southern California. In 1948, Carter established Van Herrick's Environmental Planting and then an allied company, Robert Herrick Carter & Associates. He was one of California's earliest licensed landscape architects, specializing in commercial and institutional projects and helping to pioneer the use of landscape design in Los Angeles corporate architecture.[40] His design for the Late Modern Union Oil headquarters in Los Angeles was "the first major use of flowering trees for a Los Angeles commercial project."[41] Carter became an innovator in landscape design, both indoor and outdoor, and was known for selecting plants that would bloom in succession, creating cyclical changes in color.

Carter's best-known projects included work on the initial landscape design for the University of California, Irvine; the grounds of the Inglewood Civic Center (in partnership with architect Charles Luckman Associates); a 13-acre park for the Florence-Firestone Community in Los Angeles; the Century Plaza hotel; the Los Angeles County Museum of Art; and California State University – Dominguez Hills.[42] With its broad, open green spaces punctuated by spare concrete hardscaping, his landscape design for the 1969 Federal Building typified much of his work; it is perhaps most comparable to Carter's design for Luckman's Inglewood Civic Center. For his local work, Carter received seven awards from the Los Angeles Beautiful Committee. The architect also worked on several international projects later in his career, including a naval base in Iran, a massive nursery in Saudi Arabia, and the master plan for the Kuwait Zoo.[43] In 1987, his firms merged with another firm to become Carter Romanek Landscape Architects. Carter died in 1989.

Conclusion

The Federal Building is still in use as a government office building today, as it was when it originally opened. The site, exterior, and interior designs reflect the aims of the "Guiding Principles for Federal Architecture" and "Program for the Beautification of Federal Buildings," stewarded by the GSA, and the complex embodies the distinctive characteristics of Late Modern/New Formalist architecture. The building is worthy of individual landmark designation on the local level under Criterion A, for its association with federal principles for new architecture during the post-World War II boom, and under Criterion C, as an excellent example of a Late Modern/New Formalist institutional building.

[40] The Cultural Landscape Foundation (TCLF), "Robert Herrick Carter," accessed May 2019, https://tclf.org/pioneer/robert-herrick-carter.
[41] "Robert H. Carter; Used Flowers to Beautify City," *Los Angeles Times* January 26, 1989.
[42] TCLF, "Robert Herrick Carter;" "Robert H. Carter."
[43] Ibid.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Charles Luckman Associates. Architectural Drawings: 11000 Wilshire Boulevard, 1968. On file at the U.S. General Services Administration, Pacific Rim – Region 9. Cited in Heritage Architecture & Planning, "Historic Structure Report," August 2018.

Chattel, Inc. "West Los Angeles Veterans Affairs Historic District," National Register of Historic Places Registration Form. Prepared for the Department of Veterans Affairs, 2014.

Heritage Architecture & Planning. "Historic Structure Report: Federal Building, 11000 Wilshire Boulevard." Prepared for the U.S. General Services Administration, August 2018.

Historic Resources Group. "SurveyLA: Historic Resources Survey Report, Westwood Community Plan Area." Prepared for the City of Los Angeles Office of Historic Resources, 2015.

Los Angeles Conservancy. "Charles Luckman, FAIA (1909-1999)." https://www.laconservancy.org/architects/charles-luckman, accessed May 2019.

Los Angeles County Office of the Assessor.

The Los Angeles Times, various dates.

National Park Service. *National Register Bulletin: How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation.* Washington D.C.: National Park Service, 1997.

Page and Turnbull. "Federal Building, 11000 Wilshire Boulevard: Historic Resource Evaluation." Prepared for the General Services Administration, December 2016.

Robinson, Judith H. and Stephanie S. Foell. *Growth, Efficiency and Modernism: GSA Buildings of the 1950s, 60s, and 70s*. Washington, D.C.: U.S. General Services Administration, Office of the Chief Architect, Center for Historic Buildings, 2003.

Stalls, Clay. "Finding Aid: Charles Luckman Papers, 1908-2000." William H. Hannon Library, Loyola-Marymount University, http://pdf.oac.cdlib.org/pdf/clloy/luckman.pdf, accessed June 2019 through the Online Archive of California.

The Cultural Landscape Foundation (TCLF). "Robert Herrick Carter." https://tclf.org/pioneer/robert-herrick-carte, accessed May 2019.

U.S. General Services Administration. Historic photos of 11000 Wilshire Blvd., various dates.

Previous documentation on file (NPS): N/A

____ 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 # _____
____ recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data: N/A

____ State Historic Preservation Office
____ Other State agency
____ Federal agency
____ Local government
____ University
____ Other
Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property ___28.2 acres_____

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates
Datum if other than WGS84: N/A
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1. Latitude: 34.056716 Longitude: -118.448881

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The Federal Building is located at 11000 Wilshire Boulevard, Los Angeles County, California (it is not within the City of Los Angeles). The site is bounded by Wilshire Boulevard to the north, Veteran Avenue to the east, the City of Los Angeles' Westwood Park to the south, and the east-bound Wilshire Boulevard off-ramp of the I-405 freeway and S. Sepulveda Boulevard to the west.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The property lines are the legally recorded boundary lines and represent the historic and current extent of the property.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Mary Ringhoff/Senior Associate and Katie Horak/Principal
organization: Architectural Resources Group
street & number: 360 E. 2nd St., Suite 225
city or town: Los Angeles state: CA zip code: 90012
e-mail m.ringhoff@arg-la.com
telephone: (626) 583-1401
date: April 30, 2020

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property:	Federal Building, 11000 Wilshire Boulevard
City or Vicinity:	Los Angeles
County:	Los Angeles
State:	California
Photographer:	Mary Ringhoff and Rafael Fontes, Architectural Resources Group (2019)
Date Photographed:	April 17, 2019

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

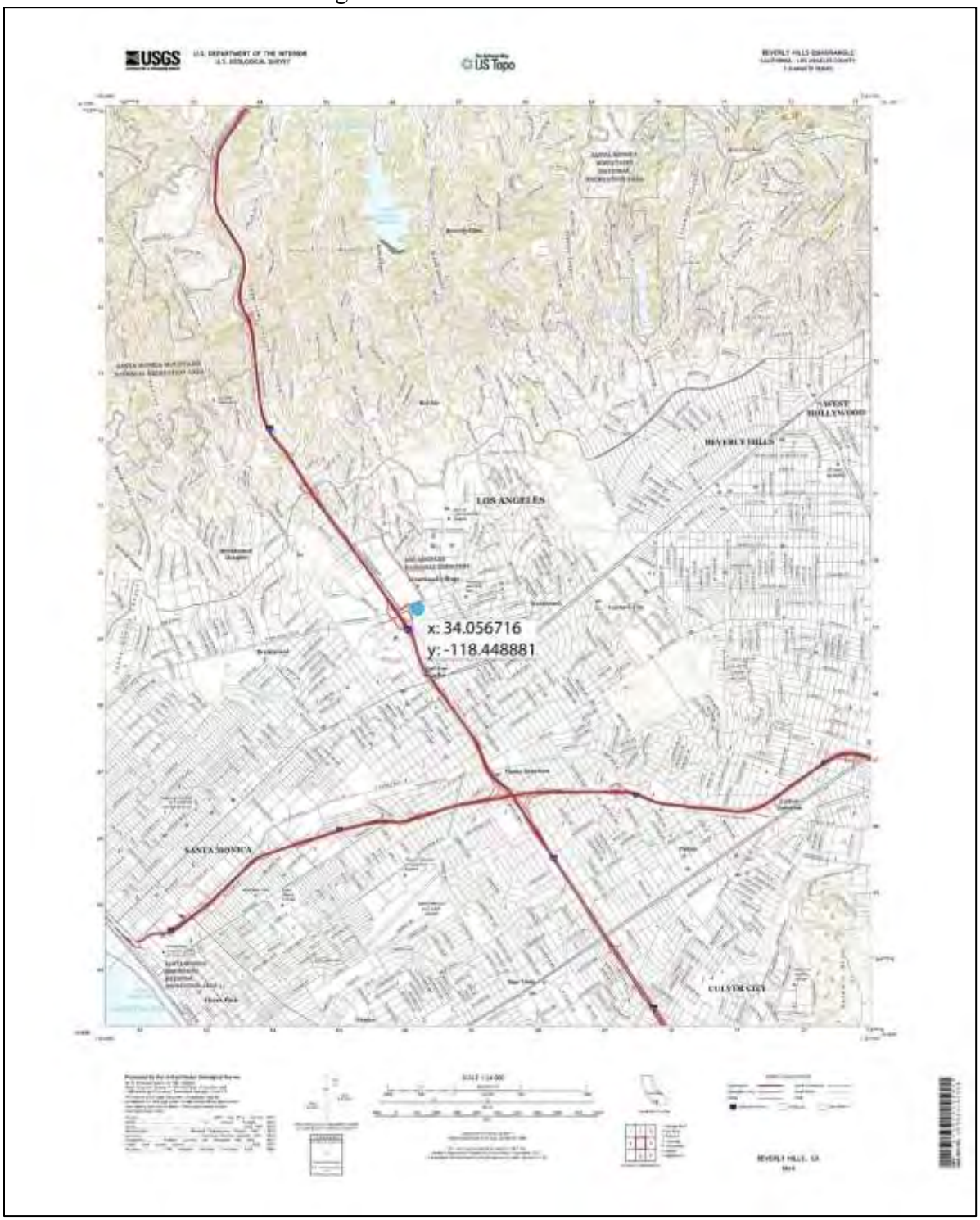
1 of 25	South (primary) façade, view north.
2 of 25	South (primary) and west façades of entire complex, view northeast.
3 of 25	South (primary) and east façades of entire complex, view northwest.
4 of 25	South (primary) complex entry showing colonnade and courtyard, view north.
5 of 25	Office tower south (primary) and east façades, view northwest.
6 of 25	Office tower east and north (rear) façades, view southwest.
7 of 25	Office tower north (rear) façade, view south.
8 of 25	Office tower north (rear) and west façades, view southeast.
9 of 25	Office tower west and north (rear) façades, view southeast.
10 of 25	West annex south façade and complex entrance ramp, view west.
11 of 25	Colonnade and courtyard, view southwest from under colonnade.
12 of 25	East annex primary (west) façade and colonnade, view southeast.

13 of 25	Colonnade and lobby pavilion, view west.
14 of 25	Lobby pavilion west side, podium, benches, railings, and colonnade, view south.
15 of 25	Precast concrete benches, railings, and landscape at podium west of lobby pavilion, view northwest.
16 of 25	Elevator tower at south (primary) façade of office tower, view northeast.
17 of 25	Detail: vertical concrete louvers at north (rear) façade of office tower.
18 of 25	Detail: signage at south façade of lobby pavilion.
19 of 25	Lobby pavilion interior and security desk, view northeast.
20 of 25	Lobby pavilion interior and display case, view west.
21 of 25	Lobby pavilion interior stepped ceiling feature extending from connecting corridor, view north.
22 of 25	Interior corridor connecting lobby pavilion and first floor elevator lobby, view south.
23 of 25	Interior first floor elevator lobby, east elevator bank, view east.
24 of 25	Detail: mailbox and mail chute at interior first floor elevator lobby.
25 of 25	Detail: signage at interior first floor elevator lobby.

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.460 et seq.).
Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management. U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

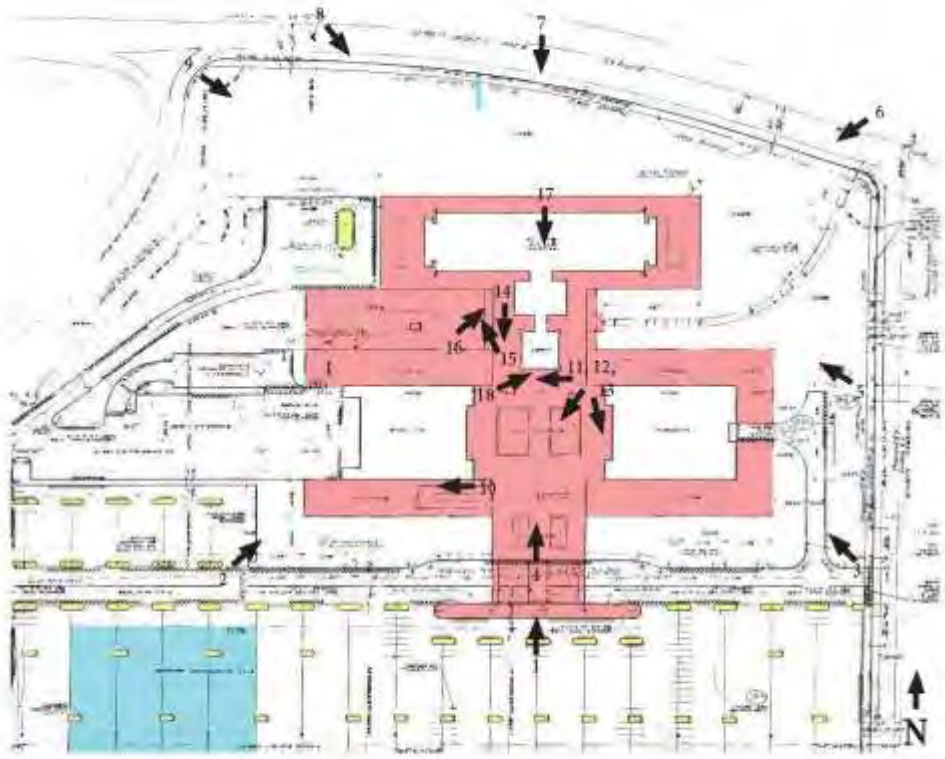
Figure 1. Location Map.

Latitude: 34.056716 Longitude: -118.448881



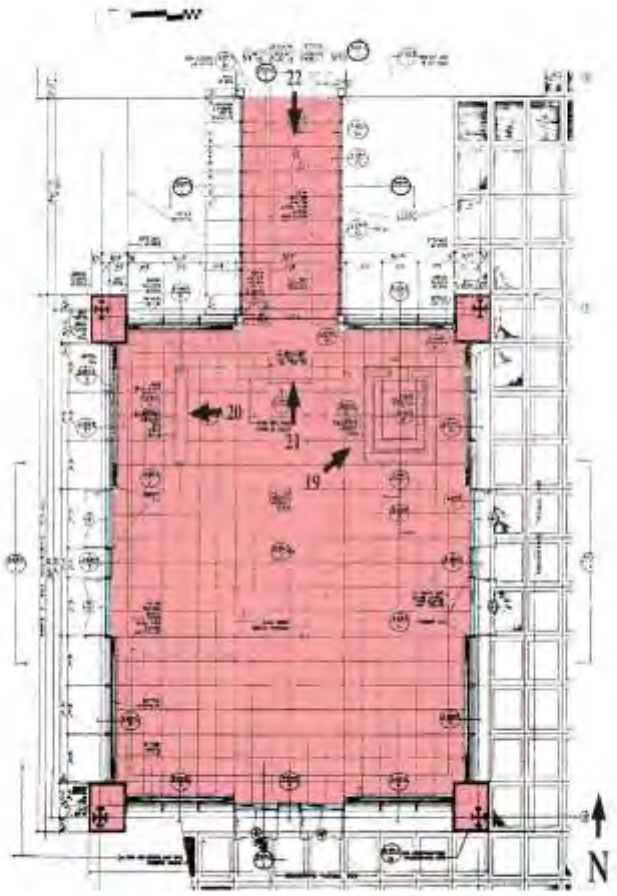
USGS Topographical Map: Beverly Hills, CA (2018), 7.5-Minute Series.

Figure 2. Property Sketch Map/Photo Key 1 of 3 – Site and Building Exterior



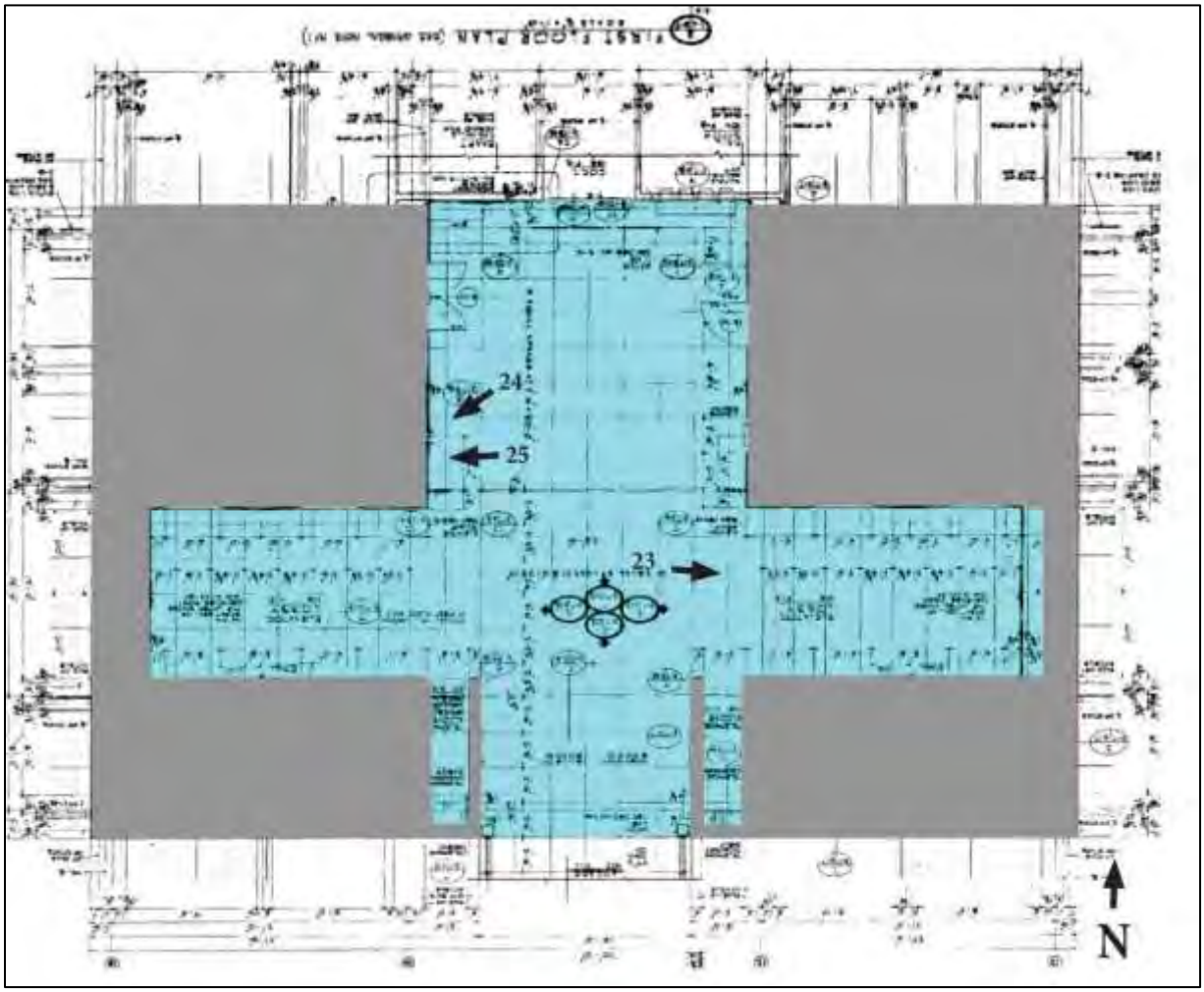
Base map: Heritage Architecture & Planning.

Figure 3. Property Sketch Map/Photo Key 2 of 3 – Lobby Pavilion Interior



Base map: Heritage Architecture & Planning.

Figure 4. Property Sketch Map/Photo Key 3 of 3 – First Floor Elevator Lobby Interior

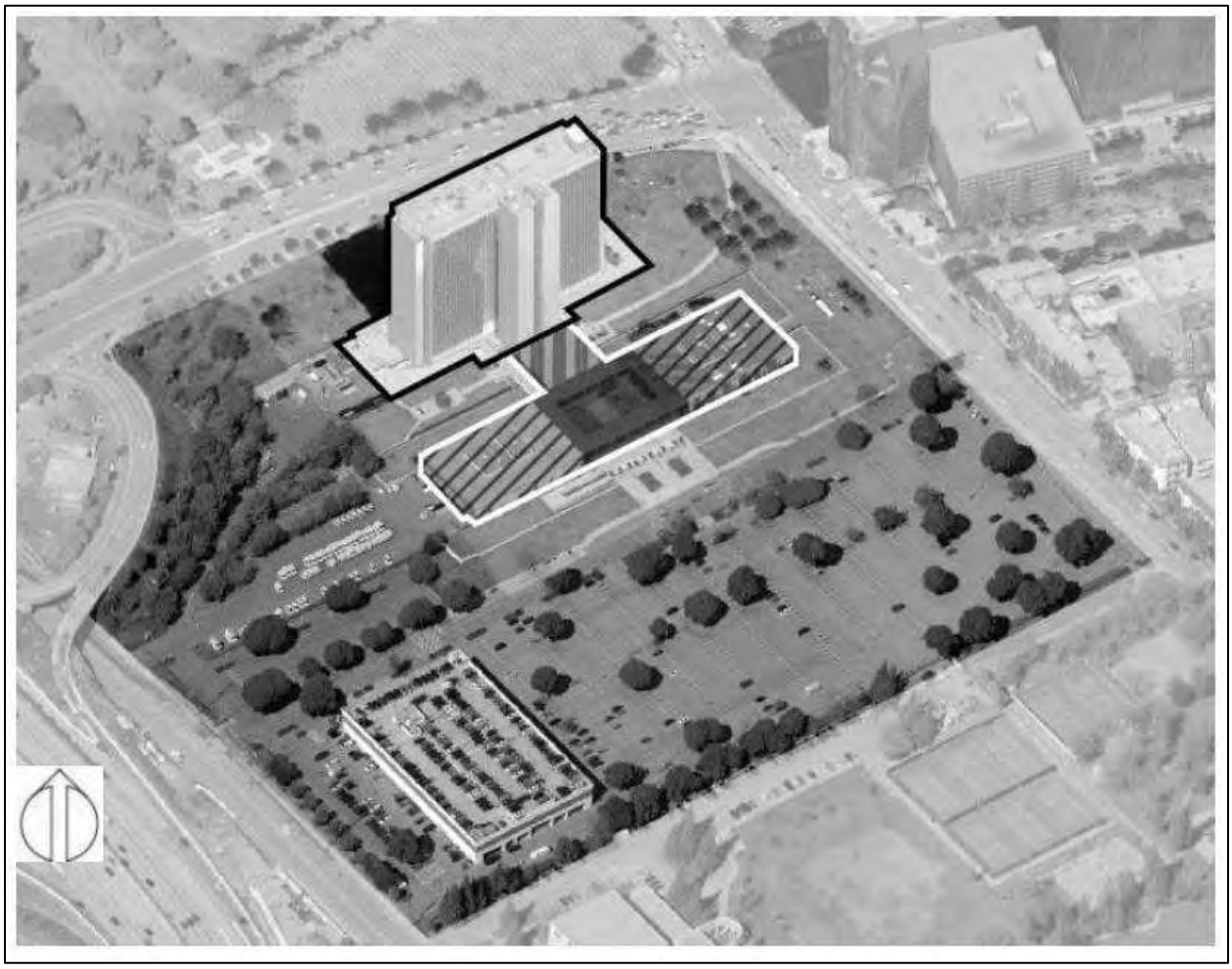


Base map: Heritage Architecture & Planning.

Figure 5. Federal Building Property. From Page & Turnbull, "Historic Resource Evaluation," 2.

Base image: Google Maps.

Figure 6. Federal Building aerial photograph illustrating building components: the office tower (shaded in white), lobby pavilion (thick line hatch), east and west annexes (thin line hatch), and colonnade enclosing entrance court (dark gray). From Page & Turnbull, "Historic Resource Evaluation," 8.



Base image: Bing Maps.

Figure 7. Federal Building under construction, 1968, view to northeast. From Page & Turnbull, "Historic Resource Evaluation," 36.

Source: UCLA Digital Library.

Figure 8. Federal Building near completion, 1969 view to north. From Page & Turnbull, "Historic Resource Evaluation," 37.

Source: USC Digital Library.

Figure 9. Federal Building, ca. 1970, view to northwest. From Page & Turnbull, "Historic Resource Evaluation," 38.

Source: GSA.

Figure 10. Federal Building north façade, ca. 1970, view to south. From Page & Turnbull, "Historic Resource Evaluation," 38.

Source: GSA.

Figure 11. Federal Building aerial photo, ca. 1972, view to northeast. From Page & Turnbull, "Historic Resource Evaluation," 39.

Source: GSA.

Figure 12. Federal Building, ca. 1972, view to north. From Page & Turnbull, "Historic Resource Evaluation," 39.

Source: GSA.

KB
HOME

WARNING
SECURITY BARRIER
SYSTEM IN EFFECT
ONE VEHICLE
AT A TIME
PLEASE

CalEarthTransport
CISNEROS TRUCKING CA 215874
180
FEDERAL

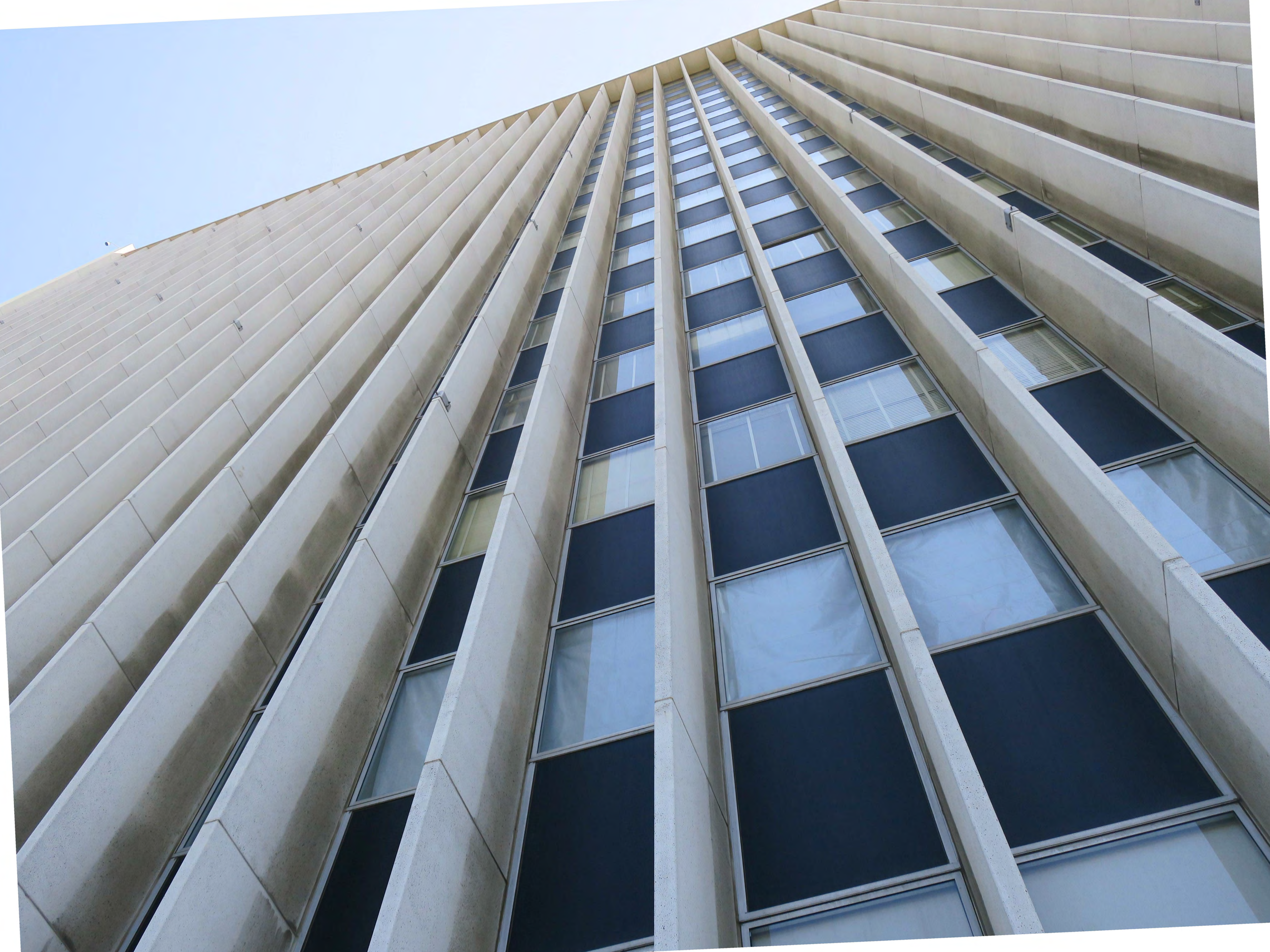
FEDERAL BUILDING
SPEED LIMIT 35

KB
HOME

Building is Closed Under Construction
Building is Closed Under Construction
HOURS
6:30 AM - 5:30 PM

FEDERAL BUILDING
Dentyne

FEDERAL BUILDING



MPLOYEES
PUBLIC
FEDERAL BUILDING
11000 WILSHIRE BOULEVARD
EXIT ONLY
EXIT ONLY

CAUTION
CUIDADO
WET
FLOOR
PISO
MOJADO

Charters of Freedom
Congress of the United States

12
9
3
6
FIRE
PASSPORT PAS

EXIT
EXIT
EXIT ONLY
EXIT ONLY

ANNUIT
CŒPTIS

10TH TO 17TH
LETTERS
Attention: 13-Ounce Rule
COLLECTION TIMES
U.S. MAIL
LETTER BOX
CUTLER

LOCAL 10TH TO 17TH

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action:	Nomination
Property Name:	Federal Building
Multiple Name:	
State & County:	CALIFORNIA, Los Angeles

Date Received:	Date of Pending List:	Date of 16th Day:	Date of 45th Day:	Date of Weekly List:
7/7/2020	7/28/2020	8/12/2020	8/21/2020	8/21/2020

Reference number:	SG100005446
Nominator:	Federal Agency, SHPO

Reason For Review:

__X__ Accept _____ Return _____ Reject __**8/17/2020**__ Date

Abstract/Summary Comments:

The Federal Building (Los Angeles County) is locally significant and meets National Register Criteria A and C in the areas of Politics/Government and Architecture. Completed in 1969, the monumental complex is composed of a soaring 17-story office tower connected to two single story wings by a colonnaded pavilion and entry plaza all set within an integrated landscape. The work of master architects Charles Luckman Associates, and landscape architect Robert Herrick Carter, the complex represents an excellent local example of mid-twentieth century New Formalist design, reflecting the guiding principles of the federal government's 1960s era major building programs. Built during an era of expanding government services the facility served as a pivotal location for federal government activities in post-war Southern California. The landscape components of the site, although altered in certain aspects, remain integral to the overall design of the federal complex, in keeping with the guiding principles of the period's federal construction programs. The nomination sufficiently describes the physical elements of the plan, even though it does not call them out as independent resources, consistent with the nomination's approach of viewing the entire campus as a single integrated design.

Recommendation/ Criteria: Accept NR Criterion A & C

Reviewer Paul Lusignan Discipline Historian

Telephone (202)354-2229 Date

DOCUMENTATION: see attached comments : No see attached SLR : No

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.

GSA

GSA Public Buildings Service

July 7, 2020

Ms. Joy Beasley
Associate Director (acting) Cultural Resources, Partnerships, and Science & NHL Program
Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places
1849 C Street, NW, Mail Stop 7228
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Ms. ~~Beasley~~: Joy

The U.S. General Services Administration (GSA) is pleased to nominate the Federal Building located at 11000 Wilshire Boulevard, Los Angeles, California, for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. The nomination is hereby submitted electronically via the National Park Service FTP site in accordance with the April 10, 2020 guidance and includes the following:

- A .pdf of the transmittal letter, and
- A .pdf of the signed National Register of Historic Places nomination form, with embedded images, maps and figures

In accordance with 36 CFR Part 60.9(c), the appropriate local elected officials were notified of GSA's intent to nominate the above referenced property to the National Register of Historic Places by electronically transmitted letters dated May 15, 2020. No response comments were received.

Once the Covid-19 indefinite telework situation has passed, we will be happy to submit the hard copy coversheet and complete nomination package on disk as usual. Should you have any questions or concerns regarding this electronic submission, please contact Elizabeth Hannold at (202) 501-2863 or elizabeth.hannold@gsa.gov.

Sincerely,

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

Enclosures
cc: Julianne Polanco, State Historic Preservation Officer
Jane Lehman, Regional Historic Preservation Officer

1800 F Street, NW
Washington, DC 20405-0002
www.gsa.gov