

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM  
FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: <b>Kentucky</b>
COUNTY: <b>Laurel</b>
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE <b>AUG 19 1974</b>

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
**Federal Building - Court House**

AND/OR HISTORIC:

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**Corner of Main and Third Streets**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**London**

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:  
**Kentucky 5th**

STATE: **Kentucky** CODE: **21** COUNTY: **Laurel** CODE: **125**

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____ _____

**4. AGENCY**

**General Services Administration**

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (If applicable)

CITY OR TOWN:

STREET AND NUMBER:

STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ CODE: \_\_\_\_\_

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
**Laurel County Courthouse**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**Corner of Main and Second Streets**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**London**

STATE:  
**Kentucky**

CODE:  
**21**

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

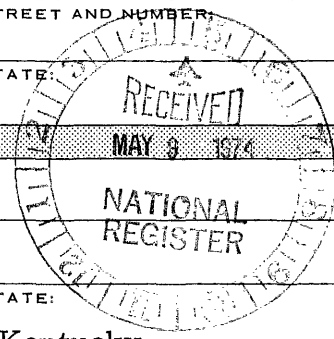
TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY:  Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ CODE: \_\_\_\_\_



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## 7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

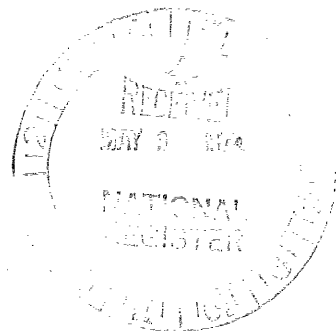
The building was designed to house the post office for London, Kentucky, U.S. District Court facilities, and Federal offices for the district. These functions were accommodated in a rectangular 3-story (plus basement) building 75 ft. long and 48 ft. wide. A two-story half elliptical wing projects from the rear of the building reflecting the elliptical shape of the second floor court room.

Construction is masonry bearing wall with steel interior columns and beams supporting poured concrete floors. The roof structure is of steel and timber supporting a wooden roof deck.

The exterior was designed in the Italian Renaissance style, utilizing granite blocks for foundation facing. The buff brick facing of the first floor has deep horizontal reveals terminated by a granite band at the second floor line. The second floor arched windows, enriched by small decorative balconies, are separated by flat brick pilasters that extend to the terra cotta-clad classic cornice above the third floor window head line, unifying the facades with elegant simplicity. While few exterior alterations have been made to affect the serenity of the original facade design, one unfortunate change was the removal of large bronze wall-mounted light fixtures flanking the original doorways, which can be seen from early photographs gave the main facade needed architectural detail at its entrance.

A broad flight of granite steps leads to the main entrance, altered by the closing of two of the original three entrance doors. Originally these doors opened to the building lobby, which contained open stair wells leading to the second floor, where was located the building's most prominent architectural feature, the 65 ft. long elliptical court room. This space containing most of its original simple heavy oak furnishings, remains almost as originally designed, the only major alteration being flat acoustical tile ceiling concealing the coved plaster one beneath. Court and other federal offices occupied the remaining areas of the second and third floors, the remainder of the building interior was greatly altered in 1963.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



**8. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |                                       |                                       |  |
|--|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century  | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 19th Century |  |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |                                       |  |  |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input type="checkbox"/> Education    | <input type="checkbox"/> Political           | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric             | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering  | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry     |  | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention    | <input type="checkbox"/> Science             | _____                                    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape    | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture           | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature   | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater             | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Military     | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation      | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            | <input type="checkbox"/> Music        |  | _____                                    |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The U.S. District Court for Eastern Kentucky, comprising 67 counties, was established by congressional act on February 12, 1901. Federal court was first convened in London, Kentucky the following November. Increasing court business, mainly composed of illicit distilling cases, and growing postal business, quickly necessitated the construction of expanded federal facilities. In 1907 a site at the corner of Main and Third Streets, one block south of Court House Square, was purchased from John Boreing. The original house on the site was moved to the remaining portion of the Boreing property, facing Third Street, where it remains today.

Ground was broken for the new U.S. Post Office and Court House Building in July, 1909 and the corner stone laid on December 3, 1909. The building was occupied in April, 1911. Supervising architect for the Treasury Department was James Knox Taylor and J. B. Powell was chief mechanical and electrical engineer for the building. The Alfred Struck Co. of Louisville, Kentucky, was the general contractor, submitting a bid of \$82,294 exclusive of furnishing and equipment.

In 1961 the post office facilities were moved from the building and its name changed to the Federal Building Court House. This was followed in 1963 by major renovation to the building. Architects for this \$300,000 project were Watkins, Burrows and Associates of Chicago.

Although the building interior has been altered, its main architectural feature, an elliptically shaped court room containing most of the original furnishings, remains intact. During the late spring and early summer of 1938 the court room was the location of the judicially famous Harlan County Conspiracy Cases Trial. The federal prosecution of 47 men and 22 corporations engaged in coal mining was for their conspiring to prevent coal miners in Harlan County Kentucky from organizing for collective bargaining as allowed under the 1935 Wagner Labor Relations Act. This trial was the first attempt in the courts to establish a precedent of punitive penalties under the Wagner Act.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

The Sentinel Echo, London, Kentucky, Diamond Jubilee Edition, p 5, 1954.

The Sentinel Echo, January 2, 1910, London, Kentucky.

The Sentinel Echo, London, Kentucky, May 19, 1938.

Construction Records, Federal Building and Courthouse, London, Kentucky.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

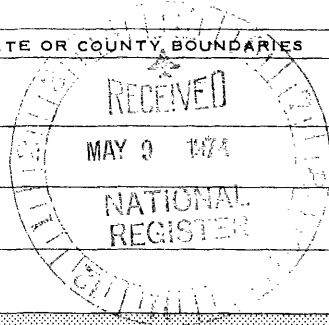
LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES				
CORNER	LATITUDE		LONGITUDE		LATITUDE		LONGITUDE		
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	0		"	0		"	38°	11'	58"
NE	0		"	0		"	84°	52'	44"
SE	0		"	0		"	37°	7'	4"
SW	0		"	0		"	84°	4'	58"

14/157-200  
4112-20  
00

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 1

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: **Bruce E. Goetzman Architect** DATE: **October 31, 1973**

BUSINESS ADDRESS: **Bruce E. Goetzman Architect**

STREET AND NUMBER: **2606 Vine Street** PHONE: **(513) 281-7244**

CITY OR TOWN: **Cincinnati** STATE: **Ohio** CODE: **039**

12. CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

State Liaison Officer recommendation:  
 Yes  
 No  
 None  
*Mrs. Simeon Willis*  
 State Liaison Officer Signature

In compliance with Executive Order 11593, I hereby nominate this property to the National Register, certifying that the State Liaison Officer has been allowed 90 days in which to present the nomination to the State Review Board and to evaluate its significance. The recommended level of significance is  National  State

Local  
*Steven R. Rutterbaum* 2/6/74  
 Federal Representative Signature Date  
 Historic Preservation  
 Liaison Officer  
 Title

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

*A. P. Martensen*  
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 8/19/74

ATTEST:  
*Stephen A. Herring*  
 Keeper of The National Register

Date 8.12.74

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(Continuation Sheet)

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8. Significance

Continued

The building, in spite of alterations, remains architecturally a fine example of a modestly scaled public building of its period and certainly as the seat of federal justice for over 60 years occupies a place of historic significance in an often troubled region of America.

