



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 *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

#### 1. Name of Property

Historic name U. S. Post Office and Courthouse  
Other names/site number Clarkson S. Fisher U.S. Courthouse

#### 2. Location

Street & Number 402 East State Street Not for Publication N/A  
City or Town Trenton Vicinity N/A  
State New Jersey Code NJ County Mercer Code 021  
Zip Code 08608

#### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

[Signature] 4/11/12  
Signature of certifying official Date  
Federal Preservation Officer, General Services Administration  
State or Federal Agency or Tribal government

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)  
[Signature] 3/14/12  
Signature of commenting official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

#### 4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:  
 entered in the National Register [Signature] 5-24-12  
See continuation sheet. Signature of Keeper Date of Action  
 determined eligible for the National Register  
See continuation sheet.  
 determined not eligible for the National Register  
 removed from the National Register  
 other (explain):

**5. Classification**

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)	Category of Property (Check only one box)	Number of Resources within Property Contributing	Number of Resources within Property Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<u>1</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>    </u>	<input type="checkbox"/> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-state	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u>    </u>	<input type="checkbox"/> structures
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u>    </u>	<input type="checkbox"/> objects
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)  
N/A

**6. Function or Use**

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: GOVERNMENT Sub: Courthouse  
GOVERNMENT Post Office  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: GOVERNMENT Sub: Courthouse  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**7. Description**

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19<sup>TH</sup> AND EARLY 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY REVIVALS: Neo-Classical  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation CONCRETE  
 roof ASPHALT  
 walls STONE: Limestone ashlar  
 walls \_\_\_\_\_  
 other STONE: Limestone ashlar veneer (foundation)  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Please see Section 7 Continuation Sheets.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 1

*U. S. Post Office and Courthouse  
Mercer County, New Jersey*

### Description

#### General

Since completion in 1932, the U. S. Post Office and Courthouse has been a visual landmark along U.S. Route 1 in downtown Trenton, Mercer County, New Jersey. Located at 402 East State Street, it is an excellent example of work produced by the Office of Supervising Architect of the U.S. Treasury Department during the early 1930s in the Neo-Classical style. Handsome iron grille work embellishes the design. Despite the courthouse annex added at the rear of the building in 1991, and some reversible alterations on the exterior, and alterations on the interior, the Federal Building and Courthouse retains a high degree of architectural integrity with respect to setting, location, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. As an active courthouse and the location of several federal agency offices, the building also retains its integrity of function.

#### Exterior Description

The U.S. Post Office and Courthouse is expressed as four stories in height on the exterior but includes a basement and a fifth floor penthouse. The building's fifth floor penthouse is set back from the building's south façade and is unseen at street level. It occupies only the building's main pavilion fronting State Street and not the building's ell portions. The subject building contains a total of approximately 175,230 square feet of floor area. Symmetrical in organization on each elevation, it forms a large square in plan at the basement and ground floor levels. At the rear above the first floor level, the floor plan transitions from a square-shaped plan to an E-shaped plan, framed by a large open C-shaped light well (north façade) that wraps around the projecting center courtroom ell (second, third and fourth floors).

Of steel frame and concrete construction, the key architectural material employed on the exterior is limestone ashlar. In the spirit of the Neo-Classical style, the first floor has a rusticated architectural treatment, using 18-inch-high courses of limestone around the entire building. Continuous, shallow-raked horizontal joints delineate each course. The limestone exterior includes carved, decorative elements, on the spandrels separating the entrance doors and transom windows as well as the entrance vestibule reveals.

Terra cotta decoration enlivens each of the building's four facades. This low-relief terra cotta decoration consists of four key elements: the belt course separating the first and second floor; pilaster capitals; spandrel panels between windows; and the roofline's cornice and frieze elements. The frieze is comprised of a repeated pattern of scrolled foliage panels. Each panel is flanked, in turn, by a stylized triglyph. The terra-cotta belt course, though not highly articulated, is enlivened with chalice, medallion, and escutcheon designs. The windows are for the most part original, steel frame casement sash in steel frames.

#### *Principal Façade (South Elevation)*

The south elevation of the U.S. Post Office and Courthouse serves as its principal façade and includes the principal public entrances through three centrally placed portals. To distinguish it from the upper floors, the first floor exterior walls have a rusticated architectural treatment consisting of courses of large limestone blocks in a running course. The shallow concave pointing between each course emphasizes the horizontality of the horizontally aligned limestone stonework (smooth-faced) separated by shallow-raked recessed joints. These give the first floor a strongly horizontal articulation. The predominant use of solitary windows (employing paired steel casement sash)—often in

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 2

*U. S. Post Office and Courthouse  
Mercer County, New Jersey*

equidistant placement in relation to one another—and the recessed joints of the stone coursework, further emphasizes the horizontal lines of the first floor in contrast with the upper floors.

A belt course runs horizontally across the entire symmetrically organized façade between the first and second floor levels. A series of twelve three-story pilasters spring from the belt course, framing the eleven vertically aligned, recessed window bays (second through fourth floors), and serving to further delineate/distinguish the first floor by lending a subtle vertical articulation to the window treatments above the ground floor that contrasts with those below.

Entrance to the building occurs from atop low concrete/square quarry tile-sheathed steps bordered with white granite, and framed on the east and west sides by thick, stepped, white granite sidewalls. From the steps one enters the building through three identical sets of deeply recessed paired polished aluminum doors with a clear finish. The doors have replacement full-height clear glass lights (glazing units, vertically aligned divided lights embellished at the upper center with an escutcheon motif were originally featured). Above each doorway is an aluminum lintel decorated with an eagle-with-fully-spread-wings motif and an escutcheon. Above each aluminum lintel is a large square-shaped fixed sash steel window screened with elaborate metal grillework of Art Deco design (stylized versions of the anthemion and escutcheon motifs superimposed and abstracted). The reveals of the entrance recesses are decorated with plain rectangular paneling featuring plain borders as well as one narrow panel aligned with the aluminum door lintel that is decorated with urn/scroll motifs.

Continuous light wells are found along the base of the Front Façade flanking the main entrance, and are also employed along roughly half of the West Elevation and two-thirds of the East Elevation. These light wells enable sunlight to reach the windows along much of the perimeter of the basement. Tall replacement black anodized steel picket fencing currently secures the light wells along the public sidewalks on the South, East, and West Elevations (ornamented cast iron grillework was used originally abutting the light wells).

A total of four clear glass lanterns flank the three doorways. These elaborate lantern/wall sconces of Italian Renaissance Revival design consist of pendant shaped globes with domed tops suspended by bronze scrolled brackets. These are secured to the wall, in turn, by two bronze modillions: one at the base, the other near the top of the bracket.

Individual bronze letters (replacements for the original signage) spell out the name of the building, and are centered above the three doorways below the belt course at the base of the second floor.

The center eleven of the façade's thirteen window bays are comprised of shallow-inset, three-story tall expanses of steel-framed, steel casement windows in which each window is divided vertically into three sash. Separating the window sash at the third- and fourth- floor levels are replacement terra cotta spandrel panels, which replicate the originals.<sup>1</sup> The spandrel panels are black and buff in color and feature a central decorative medallion that is slightly raised. They are further embellished with a border of darts running through a series of pear shapes and corners containing small circular medallions. In contrast with the upper floors, at the base of the second floor windows are stone lintels of medium height that bear low-relief panel-like patterning.

<sup>1</sup> According to Donna Andrews, Acting Regional Historic Preservation Officer, Mid-Atlantic Region, U.S. General Services Administration, in a November 22, 2011 telephone conversation, the U.S. Postal Service installed through-wall air conditioners on the principal (south) façade. After the Postal Service relocated in 1987, the U.S. General Service Administration removed the air conditioners and installed replacement terra cotta panels, replicating those remaining on the other façades.



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 3

*U. S. Post Office and Courthouse  
Mercer County, New Jersey*

Flanking each of the center eleven window bays are colossal fluted pilasters with low relief terra cotta capitals. As is characteristic of the Starved Classical style, the pilasters have more of a flattened (low relief) appearance than a three-dimensional sculptural quality. The capitals share the flattened, abstracted appearance of the pilasters, being stylized references to the Corinthian capital. They consist of a plain rectangular border framing two *cyma recta* volutes facing away from each other but linked at the bottom by a tall pendant shaped feature that forms the spine of an anthemion motif (background).

The corner bays are wider than the adjoining bays, being roughly three window bays in their combined width. Centered in the corner bays on each of the four floors, is a pair of narrow, steel casement windows.

The U.S. Post Office and Courthouse roofline consists of a terra cotta frieze and a modillion-block bracketed cornice with copper flashing atop. The frieze is comprised of a repeated pattern of scrolled foliage. Each scrolled foliage panel is flanked, in turn, by a stylized triglyph pattern. The cornice is simply and crisply detailed and is comprised of a plain corona and *cyma reversa* cymatium (molding profile). Those portions of the roof that are flat are framed by concrete/limestone parapet walls of medium height are clad with built-up bituminous paper covered with gravel. The courtroom ell also has a flat parapeted roof clad with built-up bituminous paper; however, an unusual covered bridge structure that connects the judges' chambers to the courtrooms (North Elevation/third floor level) features bronze anodized steel window panels and low-raking copper clad standing seam gabled roof sheathing. The copper roofing material has oxidized and has a green patina. By contrast, the low-raking hipped roof of the fifth floor penthouse centered above the building's main (south) pavilion is sheathed with replacement red-colored standing seam metal (red mission tile roofing was employed originally).

### ***Side Elevations (West and East Facades)***

The two side elevations (east and west facades) are identical. There are thirteen window bays—the southernmost three bays are comprised of wider windows framed by fluted pilasters and an expanse of blank wall that serves to highlight the building's main (south) pavilion and subtly distinguish it from the ells to the north. In contrast, the wall planes along the remaining portions of the side elevations are stepped back slightly in plan from the three southernmost bays, and these window bays are not framed by pilasters. In nearly all other respects, however, the side elevations continue the architectural treatment found on the principal façade, including the continuous rustication at the first floor; the use of smooth limestone ashlar on the second through fourth floors, steel casement windows in steel frames, and an identical terra cotta belt course, spandrel, frieze, and cornice decorative treatment.

Secondary entrances occur on both side elevations through the center of the three bays that identify the end walls of the building's main (southern) pavilion. Each entrance is solitary and reached by low white granite steps flanked by white granite cheek walls. The entrance vestibules are recessed. The door reveals of these recesses are decorated with plain, rectangular paneling featuring undecorated borders and one narrow decorated panel aligned with the aluminum door lintel with urn and scroll motifs. Their doors have replacement full-height undivided lights. Early photographs of the building (c1932) showed vertically-aligned divided lights embellished at the center with an escutcheon. Above each doorway is an aluminum lintel decorated with an eagle with fully spread wings and an escutcheon. Beyond the lintel is a large, square-shaped fixed sash window screened with elaborate metal grille work including stylized anthemia and escutcheons.

### ***Rear Facade (North Elevation)***

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 4

*U. S. Post Office and Courthouse  
Mercer County, New Jersey*

Despite a slightly more utilitarian appearance, the rear facade continues much of the architectural treatment found on the other elevations, even though it was designed to accommodate the building's loading dock, mechanical equipment installations, and other service functions. This façade originally provided unencumbered views of the light wells between the ell sections of the building and the mechanical penthouse on the second floor level. The façade is fourteen bays wide and features a rusticated limestone surface at the first floor, as well as limestone ashlar on floors two through four. The wall-cladding material transitions from limestone to buff-colored brick on the east wall of the west ell, the west wall of the east ell, and the rear and side walls of the courtroom ell above the first floor level. Plain concrete belt courses are employed at the base of the third floor and above the third floor windows on each wall of the courtroom ell.

Window treatments consist of solitary window openings with paired- steel casement sash featuring a tall rectangular-shaped bottom light and a square-shaped upper light. Replacement steel windows have been installed at the second and third floors. These are shorter in height [than the first and third floor windows and feature large fixed transoms atop smaller rectangular-shaped paired casement sashes. Replacement brickwork is visible in the brick spandrels below the second, third and fourth floor windows. One 4<sup>th</sup> floor window has been bricked-in at the west wall of the east ell, as well as one 4<sup>th</sup> floor window on the east wall of the west ell.

Originally, the rear elevation was adjoined by a surface parking lot. The 1991 U.S. Courthouse annex now abuts the building at the rear and occupies this parking area as well as the former location of a utilitarian, 1956 U.S. Postal Service annex. The annex design is sensitive to the historic building and surrounding neighborhood in terms of its scale, materials and detailing. The annex is seven stories in height and covers approximately a third of the parcel. On the north side, the massing of the annex is set back in a series of steps, responding to the adjacent low scale residential and commercial development. Above the first floor, the annex is connected to the historic building only by hyphens, preserving the integrity of the massing of the historic building to a large extent. Due to the limited area of structural contact between the annex and the historic building, significant portions of the historic building's E-shaped rear elevation, above the square-plan ground floor level, remain unaltered by the addition of the annex and visible from the street and from within the annex. The annex is clad in a light colored masonry panels similar in appearance to the limestone cladding of the historic building. The rusticated ground floor level, fenestration patterns and cornice lines of the annex all respond to architectural features of the historic building.

The U.S. General Services Administration regards the annex as a discrete building as it has separate systems. Designed by Michael Graves with Vitetta Group, Associated Architects, the courthouse annex is not currently considered to contribute to the historic U.S. Post Office and Courthouse, but could be considered at a later date.

### **Interior**

Significant interior spaces have been identified as the following:

#### ***Lobby and First Floor***

There are three public entrances into the U.S. Post Office and Courthouse. On the south elevation (front façade), one enters through a group of three portals, each featuring a set of paired steel and glass doors. On both the west and east ends of the building's main (south) pavilion, entry occurs through a solitary portal. A large square-shaped transom window is featured above each doorway. Each doorsill is bronze while the doorframe and window mullions are steel set within limestone-faced openings.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 5

U. S. Post Office and Courthouse  
Mercer County, New Jersey

The entrance doors open into a large outer vestibule approximately twenty feet deep, twenty-five feet wide, and five feet below the lobby floor level. In response to security concerns, the vestibule layout reflects a 2002 remodeling that permits greater surveillance from the lobby of the entrance area. Three large glass wall groupings with transoms, consisting, in turn, of four-part clear glass sections defined by clear-finish aluminum cruciform framing, divide the outer vestibule from the lobby. Floor-to-ceiling piers clad with white marble wainscoting divide the three glass wall groupings into three identical sections. New stairs provide access from the outer vestibule floor level to the lobby floor level on a canted alignment (north to west), ultimately leading to the elevator lobby and east-west corridor at the west end of the building.

Key character-defining elements in the first floor lobby include richly colored floor tile, marble, a coffered ceiling treatment, and dark-colored oak door trim. Lobby flooring at the first floor is red quarry tile with white marble borders abutting the walls. The wall cladding below seven feet consists of green-veined, white marble, called verde antique. It is capped with dark-stained oak moldings with *cyma recta* profiles. The upper portion of the walls is smooth off-white-colored plaster with shallow-incised vertical and square-shaped line detailing intended to suggest piers and panels. Doorways are defined by wide, dark-stained oak trim, with cornice moldings and white marble thresholds. A grid of concrete girders and smaller concrete crossbeams gives the ceiling its coffered appearance. Floor-to-ceiling heights are approximately fourteen feet.

A mural adorns the center panel above the entrance in the outer vestibule area. It is entitled "Progress of Industry," and measures approximately seven-by-twelve-feet. Prominently sited, it faces towards the lobby and can be easily seen when looking from the lobby toward the State Street entrance. Two additional murals are found in the lobby. One, entitled "Rural Delivery", measures five-foot-five-inches-by-seventeen-feet, and is located on the upper wall above the elevators. The other mural, entitled "The Second Battle of Trenton", of the same measurements, is featured on the upper wall above the side entrance opening west to U.S. Route 1. These three murals are examples of what is termed "Pennsylvania Impressionism," and each is highly representative of public art work commissioned under the auspices of the U.S. Treasury Department during the 1930s.

Two elevators are located near the southwest corner of the lobby area, flanking an original bronze wall directory board. The elevators feature bronze doors with burnished bronze reveals. Wide dark-stained oak trim with cornice moldings frame the elevator portals. The elevators are grouped in a bank of two units on the lobbies' south walls. Above each elevator is an internally illuminated bronze elevator up/down indicator light. The indicators were originally placed within the mural's painted surface. A simple, bronze, rectangular-shaped replacement elevator call button plate is located on the wall spandrel between the first elevator and the directory board.

Over the years, new features have been added to the lobby spaces to meet current communication, fire code, and security requirements, including wall-mounted fire call-boxes, wall-mounted surveillance cameras, life safety detection devices, and recessed spotlights. Major renovations occurred when the post office relocated all its operations and again in 2002 when safety and security systems were updated.<sup>2</sup> The modifications include the previously referenced incorporation of a security glass-enclosed outer vestibule between the building's main entrance and lobby space, as well as the enclosing of the upper voids that once connected the first floor lobby to the former post office lease area. Nonetheless, all alterations noted in the first floor lobby are reversible, and the first floor lobbies and the lobbies on the other floors retain their integrity of use as public spaces.

<sup>2</sup> Information provided by GSA representatives Messrs Kevin Biggs and Lou DiGeambeardino during a walk-through of the building on October 12, 2005.



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 6

*U. S. Post Office and Courthouse  
Mercer County, New Jersey*

### ***Floors Two Through Four – Corridors, Elevator Lobbies, and Offices***

On floors two through four, space is divided between the public areas, such as elevator lobbies and corridors, the semi-public spaces such as courtrooms, and the private areas, such as staff offices associated with the U.S. District Court, U.S. Marshall, and other federal agencies. Areas on these floors accessible to the public, such as elevator lobbies, corridors, and courtrooms, have retained key original character-defining features, while offices that do not typically have public access have lost some original details. Utilitarian spaces, such as the stairways found within the exit stairwells near the northwest corner of the building, retain original balustrades and handrails but have changed to meet new life safety codes. Fire safety regulations in 2002 required a new stairwell's insertion into the southeast corner of the building. It serves emergency egress by providing stair access between all five floors of the building and features steel-fabricated stairs and stair railings, smooth plaster wall finishes and new floor coverings, matching original stairwell wall treatments.

Corridors on the referenced floors have distinctive character-defining features, including earth-colored, ceramic tile wainscoting; red salt tile on the second floor or tan-colored tile flooring, arrayed in a loose Flemish bond pattern, on the third floor; smooth plaster upper wall finishes and ceilings; dark-stained oak doors and architrave molding door trim; and architrave trim door transoms, either in solitary or tripartite groupings that extend out laterally from the top of the doors. The corridors largely retain their original configurations and original marble door thresholds. Elevator lobbies retain their bronze elevator doors and thresholds.

Other functional and decorative elements have been partially changed, such as the ceiling crown moldings on the first and fourth floors. Replacement brass door hardware has been installed on doors leading from the corridors into offices. By contrast, doors leading from the corridors into courtrooms have generally retained their original round brass doorknobs. The original courtroom paired, swinging inner doors, with their distinctive brass tack-studded leather sheathing and brass push plates, have also been retained. Other functional elements in the corridors and elevator lobbies have been removed altogether and replaced with compatible new features, including elevator call buttons/plates, internally illuminated bronze elevator up/down indicator lights, and wall-affixed metal drinking fountains.

New pendant light fixtures with large, translucent white glass bowls have been installed on the first and second floors, and new recessed ceiling lighting has been installed on all floors in a double row, equidistantly spaced. Small cone-shaped, white translucent glass, ceiling light covers with ceiling-flush brass ring holders, have been added at all floors and are not original design features.

Fairly extensive alterations of the office spaces have occurred over the years, including moving intra-office demising walls and installing suspended ceilings with integral fluorescent lighting fixtures. A majority of the intra-office doors have been replaced with flush wood doors. Offices have been renovated in terms of wall finishes, flooring, and door trim. As previously noted, original three-paneled, dark-stained wood doors leading to the corridors have been retained; however, new brass hardware has been installed on those doors.

### ***Floors Two Through Four— Courtrooms, Jury Rooms and Judge Chambers***

The U.S. Post Office and Courthouse contains five courtrooms and their associated jury and judge chambers on floors two through four. Courtrooms 1, 2 and 3 are original to the building and retain an extremely high degree of



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 7

*U. S. Post Office and Courthouse  
Mercer County, New Jersey*

design integrity. Courtrooms 4 (fourth floor) and 8 (second floor) are not original to the building. Original office space was converted to accommodate these two courtrooms.

### **Courtroom 1**

Courtroom 1 (third floor), also known as the "Ceremonial Courtroom," is the most elaborate and best preserved of the courtrooms. A shallow alcove, courtroom-width in length, off the main corridor, forms the entrance. There are three, identical, paired, dark-stained paneled oak doors, leading from the alcove into a shallow vestibule. The vestibule doors have dark-stained oak architrave surrounds. Paired, paneled oak doors, with brass tack-studded, black-colored pantasote-cushioned sections (a leather substitute) and small, oval-shaped, beveled lights lead into the large rectangular-shaped courtroom.

The judge's bench/desk is flanked by the witness box to its east and the court secretary's desk to its west. Together, this forms the dominant visual element in the courtroom. The room is constructed of polished, medium-dark-stained wood. It includes three desks (judge, witness, and court clerk) framed by sidewalls that are constructed of walnut and decorated with square-shaped relief dado, pilasters, and cornice moldings. The judge's dais is nearly 5 feet tall, and five dado panel widths across, while the witness box at the left (of the Judge's dais) is slightly lower and two dado panel widths across. The court clerk's desk, centered in front of the judge's dais, is three dado panel widths across and is approximately 2 feet lower in height than the judge's dais. Two small bronze desk lamps on each end of the wall that frames the judge's desk feature alabaster-like hexahedron-shaped lampshades. Centered behind the judge's dais is a large, twelve foot tall rectangular panel of white marble with green and gold veining, bordered with thin oak molding on the sides and cornice molding at the top. This panel is further embellished with a brass, filigreed, scrolled decoration along its borders. A cast bronze eagle with spread wings is hung above the marble panel.

Courtroom 1 wall treatments include continuous seven-foot-tall oak wainscot paneling with a medium-dark stained glossy finish. Above the wainscoting are smooth plaster upper walls, off-white in color. The wood wainscoting features a plain frieze across the top with fillet molding borders. Just below the top is a repeating pattern of miniaturized, paired Attic (Greek) vents, and an escutcheon with flanking scrolled figures. Below each pair of vents is one four-foot-five-inches-tall inset panel and a square-shaped inset dado panel. At the base of the wainscoting is a continuous bottom rail molding.

The plain painted plaster ceiling has a coffered appearance because its continuous beams form a grid with the lateral intersecting girders. In the recesses between the beams are opaque Neo-Classical cast bronze pendant light fixtures, suspended from the ceiling by four, short metal chains. The elaborately ornamented fixtures, approximately sixteen inches in diameter, provide reflected light. A short pendant hangs from each base. The judge's chambers and jury rooms retain many original features, including tile wainscoting, oak wainscot paneling (judge's chambers), red six-inch-square salt tile flooring, matching the first floor corridor and lobby areas, and paneled wood doors with their characteristic architrave surrounds.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 8

*U. S. Post Office and Courthouse  
Mercer County, New Jersey*

### Other Courtrooms

With the exception of the fourth floor courtroom, the remaining courtrooms are similar in their design treatment to that of the Ceremonial Courtroom. Variations include the layout of the judge's dais, wall treatments behind the judge's dais, and variations in moveable furnishings such as the spectator benches, which were probably periodically updated. The fourth floor courtroom was created in 1970 by converting office space. This courtroom does not contain historic elements, and features suspended ceilings and 1970s furnishings. Courtroom 8, on the second floor, was also created by converting office space in 1950 but has a design treatment similar to the building's original courtrooms with the exception of the suspended acoustical tile ceiling with integral fluorescent lighting fixtures.

### Fifth Floor

The 1990 *Trenton Federal Courthouse Historic Building Preservation Plan* contains schematic floor plans derived from the original 1931 building plans on file in the U.S. Treasury Department archives. Those plans depict the fifth floor area as apportioned into approximately 20 rooms, accessed by a central corridor similar to those on the other floors of the building. The space appears to have never been improved per the original plans. Currently, the fifth floor interiors have a utilitarian design treatment with almost no architectural elements. The key defining architectural features include the smooth, plain gypsum plaster; clear glass, divided light, steel casement and fixed-sash windows; and red six-inch square salt tile and red-painted concrete flooring with integral concrete cove bases.

### Basement

Like the fifth floor, the basement is not accessible to the public, and has a chiefly utilitarian character befitting its use for storage and utility systems installations. Salt-glazed six-by-twelve-inch tile wainscoting is found in limited areas, and flooring is comprised mainly of a painted concrete slab. New concrete block partitions and 1930s hollow clay tile and utility brick partitions enclose certain rooms and features such as the electrical room and boilers. Plain, unadorned gypsum plaster wall surfaces predominate.

### Integrity

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

- State Street entrance doors (south elevation): replacement glazing
- Added black five-foot-tall steel picket fencing (south, west, and east elevations)
- Fifth floor penthouse roofing modification: standing seam metal roof replaces original mission tile roof
- Building identification signage: original individual bronze lettering that read "United States Post Office" have been replaced with new building identification signage that reads "Clarkson S. Fisher Federal Building and United States Courthouse"
- Exterior lighting affixed to the belt course on the south elevation
- Replacement windows and replacement window spandrel brickwork on the rear elevation where through-wall wall air conditioning units were removed (these changes cannot be easily seen from the public right-of-way due to placement of the 1991 annex)
- Replacement terra cotta spandrels on the south elevation
- The 1991 Courthouse Annex abutting and connected to the rear by hypens (north elevation)

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 9

*U. S. Post Office and Courthouse  
Mercer County, New Jersey*

Despite the previously referenced series of design interventions, the U.S. Post Office and Courthouse retains a high degree of exterior design integrity. The non-contributing 1991 annex does not significantly impact the integrity of the historic building, as it is sympathetic in scale, materials and detailing and is only minimally connected to the historic building. Replacement of the building's original steel casement window sash with sympathetically designed steel sash has not significantly affected its integrity either, because this design intervention has occurred on the rear of the building where it cannot be easily seen from the public right-of-way. The exterior, therefore, retains its essential integrity of design, materials, location, workmanship, association, and feeling. Related communications, fire safety, and security improvements (viz., security surveillance cameras, lighting, loading dock alterations) are reversible in nature and have not materially diminished the building's integrity with respect to location, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

Conversions of office space occurred beginning in the late 1940s when office space was converted to courtroom space, and again in approximately 1987 when the U.S. Postal Service relocated. In 2002, in response to heightened national security, the main entrance area was redesigned to incorporate an outer vestibule between the entrance and lobby areas. New heating, air conditioning, and electrical systems were installed during 2002, as well as a new stairwell inserted within the southeast corner of the building to meet current fire and life safety codes.

The key interior spaces include the first floor lobby and corridor, and the upper floors' elevator lobbies, corridors and courtrooms. These spaces retain their integrity of use as public and semi-public spaces, as well as their essential integrity of design, materials, location, workmanship, association, and feeling. For acoustical reasons, however, courtrooms have all received wall-to-wall carpeting over the original salt tile flooring. Reversible changes in the corridor lighting fixtures have occurred. These replacement fixtures are neutral in design and sympathetic to the character of the building. Related communications, fire safety, and security improvements to lobbies (viz., smoke and fire detection devices, wall-mounted security cameras, replacement elevator call buttons) are reversible in nature and have not materially diminished the integrity of the lobbies with respect to location, design, feeling and association.

In general, office spaces above the first floor have been renovated. Although the first large-scale effort at modernizing the office interiors probably began in the early 1990s when the building's annex was under construction, smaller interventions were likely ongoing, including intra-office wall reconfiguration, new doors and door trim, new suspended ceilings with integral fluorescent lighting fixtures, and the removal of original wood flooring and plaster wall finishes. The original design intent was for offices to be updated periodically to meet changing work needs and evolving building technologies. Therefore, design changes to these spaces have not resulted in a significant loss of integrity with respect to design, feeling, and association.

**8. Statement of Significance**

Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.  
Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- C
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or a grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture  
Politics/Government

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Period of Significance

1931-1937

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Dates

1931-1932, 1935-1937

Architect/Builder

James Wetmore (Supervising Architect)

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Please see Section 8 Continuation Sheets.

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Please see Section 9 Continuation Sheets.

Previous documentation on file (NPS)

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

Primary Location of Additional Data

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: U.S. General Services Administration, Mid-Atlantic Region (Region 3)



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 10

*U. S. Post Office and Courthouse  
Mercer County, New Jersey*

### Significance

The U.S. Post Office and Courthouse, located at 402 East State Street in Trenton, Mercer County, New Jersey, is eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A and C at a local level of significance. The subject building is eligible under criterion A as one of the key Public Works Administration-funded works of architecture and mural art in Trenton. It represents the expansion of the federal government during the 1930s in response to the Great Depression. The U.S. Post Office and Courthouse is also eligible under criterion C as an excellent example in New Jersey of federal buildings constructed under the aegis of the Public Works Administration. It is a significant type, period, and style of architectural design expression emblematic of federal architecture during the early 1930s. In addition, as a significant local artistic example of Public Works of Arts Project-funded mural art by artist Charles W. Ward, the referenced building is further eligible under criterion C because it contains artwork that represents a significant type, period, and style of artistic expression.

The subject building, which continues its federal use, and retains all major aspects of its design integrity, strongly relates to a nationwide context concerning the expansion of the federal government during the 1930s.

### Historical Significance—Trenton Political-Economic Context

The Great Depression had a pronounced impact on Trenton area residents. Once numbered among the nation's top fifty cities in terms of industrial output, Trenton slumped into a state of slow economic decline during the 1920s as once thriving companies closed their doors, shifted operations to other cities outside New Jersey, or were consolidated into large corporations headquartered in other locations.<sup>1</sup>

At the opening of the twentieth century, Trenton had been nationally ranked first in ceramics production, second in rubber manufacture, and sixth in wire and cable manufacture.<sup>2</sup> Between 1929 and 1933, output declined nearly 30 percent, with investment falling from a historical average of 16 percent of the GNP to less than 1 percent by 1933.<sup>3</sup> With the onset of the Great Depression, poverty and unemployment soared in Trenton (it had already been higher than average for the region during the late 1920s) and is estimated to have been close to the statewide average for that period of 16 percent of the population.<sup>4</sup> Of its 1930 population of just over 123,000 inhabitants, Trenton had nearly 10,000 recognized unemployed workers in early 1933 and more than three times the applicants for public relief than it had during 1928-29 fiscal year.<sup>5</sup> This placed a strain on already stretched relief resources and prompted local business leaders, elected officials, and other community stakeholders to vigorously lobby for an increased state and federal role in providing new employment opportunities. Among the responses at the state level was the institution of a temporary 2 percent retail sales tax.

Through its Reconstruction Finance Corporation, Emergency Relief Administration, and the Works Progress Administration, the federal government provided gap funding to address public relief needs and monies for public

<sup>1</sup> John T. Cumbler, *A Social History of Economic Decline: Business, Politics, and Work In Trenton* (New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press, 1989), 4.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, 206 footnote 9.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, 113.

<sup>4</sup> Helen Louise Shaw, "Social Welfare in New Jersey (1860-1950)," in Harold F. Wilson, ed., and the New Jersey History Committee, *Outline History of New Jersey* (New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press, 1950), 203.

<sup>5</sup> Cumbler, *A Social History*, 113-114.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 11

U. S. Post Office and Courthouse  
Mercer County, New Jersey

works projects that could put local people back to work.<sup>6</sup> Structural adjustment of the local economy, relatively unyielding levels of unemployment, and widespread dissatisfaction with local governance during the 1930s prompted political upheaval in places such as Trenton and Camden. As a result, new political coalitions consisting of liberal reformers, working class ethnics, and African Americans united in their support of President Franklin D. Roosevelt, New Deal reforms replaced the local political establishment.<sup>7</sup>

### Architectural Significance—Federal Building Construction Program, 1930-1939

As a direct manifestation of the U. S. Treasury Department's facilities construction campaign, the U.S. Post Office and Courthouse is an expression of the federal government's expansion during the 1930s. With the onset of the Great Depression, the architectural profession and construction trades were extremely hard hit by unemployment. On May 31, 1930, Congress amended the Public Buildings Act of 1926, providing increased funding and further authorizing the Secretary of the U.S. Treasury to contract with private firms and individuals.<sup>8</sup>

To meet the spatial requirements of the U.S. Treasury Department and the U.S. Post Office Department, the Hoover administration and the U.S. Congress increased funding for the federal building program in 1928, 1930, and 1931 for a total of \$700 million.<sup>9</sup> The Federal Employment Stabilization Act of 1931, directed federal construction agencies to prepare six year building plans and increased appropriations for that year by \$100 million. As a result, 133 architectural firms were commissioned to design federal buildings in 1931. This number increased to 301 by 1934.<sup>10</sup> This practice ended, however, on June 29, 1934 with an order that all remaining federal buildings be designed by the Office of Supervising Architect, U.S. Treasury Department.<sup>11</sup>

The Public Works Administration (PWA) was established in 1933 to oversee the planning and construction of public works projects.

*In 1933, many of the properties of the federal government were in poor shape. In a number of cities, U.S. post offices were in disrepair, federal justice was being dispensed in buildings with sagging floors and leaky roofs, and in scattered U.S. courthouses along our far-flung borders, U.S. Customs Service men in some instances had to work in poorly heated and equipped buildings. Federal prisons failed to live up to the standards set by the federal government's own penologists. There was a shortage of federal post offices, prisons, veteran's hospitals, and other facilities.<sup>12</sup>*

Ultimately, the Reorganization Act of April 3, 1939, created by the Public Buildings Administration as part of the Federal Works Agency (FWA), removed control of federal architecture out of the U.S. Treasury Department, and the

<sup>6</sup> Cumbler, *A Social History*, 254 footnote 11.

<sup>7</sup> Ibid., 114.; Shaw, "Social Welfare," 203.

<sup>8</sup> Emily J. Harris, *History of Post Office Construction 1900-1940* (Washington DC: U.S. Postal Service, 1982), 4; Lois Craig, ed., and the staff of the Federal Architecture Project, *The Federal Presence: Architecture, Politics, and Symbols in United States Government Building* (Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 1978), 281.

<sup>9</sup> Harris, *History of Post Office Construction*, 13-14.

<sup>10</sup> Craig, *The Federal Presence*, 281.

<sup>11</sup> Harris, *History of Post Office Construction*, 15, 17, and 19.

<sup>12</sup> Beth M. Boland, *National Register of Historic Places Bulletin 13: How to Apply National Register Criteria to Post Offices* (Washington, DC: U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 1994), 2.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

*U. S. Post Office and Courthouse  
Mercer County, New Jersey*

Section 8 Page 12

title of Supervising Architect was abolished. Federal building design and construction slowed further during the Second World War years.<sup>13</sup>

During the 1930s, the federal role in transforming the American environment was assuming immense proportions and implications. Massive dams, an extensive network of highways, and numerous new buildings were being built all across the United States. Classical architecture had become the dominant style conveying the federal presence across the nation. Between 1933 and late 1941, approximately 1,100 post offices were built across the United States, making it the most prolific period for post office construction in the nation's history. Of these roughly 1,100 buildings, approximately fifty post office buildings are extant in New Jersey that date from the period.<sup>14</sup> The U.S. Post Office and Courthouse was among the largest of 41 other federal construction projects in New Jersey that came to fruition due to diligent lobbying by elected officials for federal public works funding, including those constructed in Bayonne, East Orange, Metuchen, Sayreville, Montclair, Red Bank, Camden, Newark, Hoboken, Passaic, Paterson, and Salem.<sup>15</sup>

During the 1930s when Judge James Wetmore (1915-1933) served as the U.S. Treasury Department's Supervising Architect and was succeeded by Louis A. Simon (1933-1939), federal government architectural interiors were often designed in period revival styles or a simplified Classical Revival style.<sup>16</sup> At this time, in most instances, the Supervising Architect's Office did not adopt the Modernist vocabulary for exteriors, but held steadfast to architectural references to the Classical style to convey the democratic ideals of classicism. What resulted was classicism on building exteriors represented as much by white masonry and the rhythm of the walls and windows as by the vestigial columns.<sup>17</sup> In the state of New Jersey, a majority of the buildings were designed in period revival styles that had been popular during the 1920s (viz., French Renaissance Revival, Gothic Revival, Dutch Colonial Revival, etc.), and a still smaller number of others jumped forward stylistically to embrace a softened version of Modernism often termed "PWA or WPA Moderne."<sup>18</sup> However, the building's proposed location and setting were always taken into account when selecting the architectural style. It is surmised that a more traditional design approach was taken throughout much of New Jersey by the Office of the Supervising Architect because of the esteem that New Jersey's eighteenth and early nineteenth century architecture enjoyed.<sup>19</sup>

The U.S. Post Office and Courthouse is a record of the image the federal government wished to project to American citizens during the 1930s. It is an excellent example in Trenton of a transitional design treatment from the early 1930s that foreshadows the PWA Modern designs of the late 1930s and early 1940s period (e.g., West New York, New

<sup>13</sup> Boland, *National Register Bulletin* 13, 3.

<sup>14</sup> Kevin M. Hale, "United States Post Office, Metuchen New Jersey," National Register of Historic Places nomination, 2004, Section 8, p. 16.

<sup>15</sup> "New Post Office Dedicated With Impressive Ceremony: Trenton's Spirit is Lauded," *Trenton (NJ) Sunday Times Advertiser*, October 16, 1932.

<sup>16</sup> Craig, *The Federal Presence*, 328.

<sup>17</sup> Harris, *History of Post Office Construction*, 20, 25.

<sup>18</sup> Ulana D. Zakalak, Marilyn Fish and Robert E. Meadows on behalf of the New Jersey State Department of Environmental Protection-Office of Historic Preservation, "Significant U.S. Post Offices in New Jersey; 1900 to 1941," National Register of Historic Places thematic nomination, 1985. One of the few WPA Moderne examples referenced is the West New York post office (1936 and 1937; Paul Cayot, and Bowden, Russell & Gaylord, consulting architects).

<sup>19</sup> In one of the few treatises on New Jersey architectural history Alan Gowans writes that Modernism was instituted in New Jersey slowly as a result of the social, political, and economic upheaval caused by the Great Depression. "The Victorian social and economic world abruptly disintegrated; its leaders were discredited, its premises ridiculed. Now the times were ripe for a new architectural tradition." Source: Alan Gowans, *Architecture in New Jersey: A Record of American Civilization* (Princeton, NJ: D. Van Nostrand Company, 1964), 135-136.



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

U. S. Post Office and Courthouse  
Mercer County, New Jersey

Section 8 Page 13

Jersey Post Office-1936; 1937), while referencing the Supervising Architect Office's classically inspired design tradition evidenced in the Beaux Arts Classical style Newark Post Office by James Wetmore Supervising Architect, with consulting architects George O. Totten and William E. Lehman; 1931, 1932-35.<sup>20</sup> This design programming contrasts with Moderne-style PWA/WPA-funded projects found in other communities throughout the 1930s, including Hoover Dam (1933) near Boulder City, Nevada; the U.S. Mint (1937) at San Francisco; Federal Reserve Bank (1931-35) in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania (Paul Philippe Cr et, architect); and the Los Angeles U.S. Courthouse (1938), (Gilbert Stanley Underwood, architect).<sup>21</sup>

The Trenton-based construction firm Karno-Smith was selected to direct the construction effort for U.S. Post Office and Courthouse. As an indication of the project's significance to the Trenton community, each key stage of construction was recorded in the local newspaper as front-page news. Thus, the project's groundbreaking ceremony on February 13, 1932, as well as the October 15, 1932 dedication ceremony, was dutifully reported by the local press.<sup>22</sup>

At the cornerstone-laying ceremony, Congressional Representative Charles A. Eaton spoke the following words concerning the significance of the new U.S. Courthouse while referencing the three year community and congressional lobbying effort that made the work possible:

*Here today we lay the cornerstone of this magnificent new federal building which will stand for the service of all the people every hour of every day for generations to come ... I join the citizens of Trenton in the sense of pride and satisfaction we must feel as we see this new structure taking form, built by Trenton builders and by Trenton labor ... The need of enlarged facilities for postal service and for the occupancy of our federal Court has been acute for a number of years in Trenton. But as always, it has been a slow and often discouraging experience in attempting to meet this need...It took three years of continuous effort to get the appropriation through. During that time I had the cooperation of Mr. Updike [Trenton Postmaster] and his associates, and was backed by the support of public opinion in the community.*<sup>23</sup>

At the building's dedication ceremony eight months later, John Jay Hopkins, Assistant Secretary of the U.S. Treasury Department, outlined the historic context in which the U.S. Courthouse at Trenton came into existence.

*You'll be interested, no doubt, to know just how New Jersey has shared in this vast expenditure of public funds. Projects [totaling] \$1,215,300 have been completed in Bayonne, East Orange, Metuchen, Sayreville, Montclair, Red Bank; necessary public buildings representing an expenditure of over \$10,000,000 are now under contract in Camden,*

<sup>20</sup> Gowans, *American Architecture in New Jersey*, 135-136. Significance Statement. Also referenced: "United States Postal Service Historic, Architectural and Archaeological Significance Survey of New Jersey Postal Facilities, 1983. On file in two volumes in binders at the New Jersey State Office of Historic Preservation. Other examples include the Dutch Colonial Revival Style Perth Amboy, New Jersey Post Office (1934- 1935), Louis Simon, Supervising Architect, with consulting architect Wesley S. Bessell; and the Gothic Revival Style Phillipsburg Post Office (1932- 1934), Louis Simon, Supervising Architect, with consulting architects Frank R. Hann, and Hopkins & Dentz.

<sup>21</sup> Some of the sources reviewed include: William L. Lebovich, *America's City Halls* (Washington, DC: The Preservation Press, 1984); John Andrew Gallery, ed., *Philadelphia Architecture: A Guide to the City* (Philadelphia: Foundation for Architecture, 1994); and Joyce Zeitlin, A.I.A., *Gilbert Stanley Underwood; His Rustic, Art Deco, and Federal Architecture* (Malibu, CA: Pangloss Press, 1989), 133-144.

<sup>22</sup> "Post Office Cornerstone Placed With Impressive Ceremonies," *Trenton (NJ) Sunday Times-Advertiser*, February 14, 1932; "New Post Office Dedicated With Impressive Ceremony; Trenton's Spirit Is Lauded," *Trenton (NJ) Sunday Times-Advertiser*, appears in the 16 October 1932; Charles H. Updike, "The New Trenton Post Office," *Trenton Magazine*, December 1932: cover, 3-9.

All on file: "Post Office" vertical files, Trentoniana Room - Trenton Free Library.

<sup>23</sup> *Trenton (NJ) Sunday Times-Advertiser*, February 14, 1932.



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

U. S. Post Office and Courthouse  
Mercer County, New Jersey

Section 8 Page 14

*Hoboken, Newark, Passaic, Peterson, Salem and your own city of Trenton; additional projects entailing the expenditure of approximately three million dollars are now on the market for bids, or drawings[,] and specifications are now being prepared. The total amount specifically authorized for these projects in the State of New Jersey reaches almost fourteen and half millions of dollars.*

In response to criticism about the perceived delay in allocating the building funding, Assistant Secretary Hopkins continued his address by stating:

*The fact is that it has been in the last two years expedited. It is in the interests of all to provide every available job to the unemployed as promptly as possible.. Under this emergency relief and [the] construction act of 1932, 28 additional building projects totaling \$3,820,500 have been authorized by the Secretary and the Postmaster General for construction in the State of New Jersey. These projects will be built in Atlantic City, New Brunswick, Asbury Park, Arlington, Bound Brook, Caldwell, Cape May, Cranford, Moorestown, Ocean City, Rahway, Rutherford, Summit, Wildwood, Belmar, Bergenfield, Edgewater, Garfield, Garwood, Gloucester City, Hackettstown, Haddonfield, Keyport, Madison, [Metuchen], Pitman, Riverside, and Riverton.*

### Public Arts Significance - PWA Artists Program

As a response to the Great Depression, the U.S. Post Office and Courthouse expresses the goals of the U.S. Treasury Department's Public Works of Art Project of providing financial aid to artists to create art for public buildings. This program was funded with Public Works Administration monies, utilizing a formula of one percent of each building's construction cost as its budget.<sup>24</sup> Employing a small-scale competition system chaired by regional juries to select the participating artists, the program produced some 15,663 pieces of art, and employed some 3,749 artists over the brief eight-year course of its existence.<sup>25</sup> Through its programs, social realism was promoted as the preferred form of artistic expression. Typical themes included key events in national and local history, and the impact of technological innovation on society, as well as scenes drawn from industry and agriculture.<sup>26</sup>

Although murals became the most popular medium for artistic expression (1,124 contracts for murals were assigned), some 289 contracts for sculpture were also assigned.<sup>27</sup> Commensurate with program goals of creating public art in venues where ordinary Americans could experience it, scholarly research on PWA programs indicates that at no other time in our nation's history have artists been so mobilized and their work given so broad an audience.<sup>28</sup> Work was often commissioned in post offices, courthouses, and other federal facilities in smaller town settings across America where the building was generally in the center of town, at the heart of local civic life. Often, few works of public art existed in these communities, and more traditional institutions such as art galleries and museums were non-existent.<sup>29</sup> A total of sixty murals were commissioned for federal building projects in New Jersey at the behest of the Public Works of Art Project. Of these works, fifty-seven are known to survive.

Three murals adorn the walls of the first floor public areas. These are entitled: *Progress of Industry* (an eleven-foot-by-six-foot mural), *The Battle of Trenton*, (a five-foot-five-inch-by-seventeen-foot mural) and *Rural Delivery* (the same

<sup>24</sup> "Four Building Act of 1926 Post Offices and Thirty-Two Public Works Administration Post Offices Thematic Resources in Mississippi," National Register of Historic Places nomination, October 1980, Section 8, pp. 1-2.

<sup>25</sup> "Post Office Thematic Resources In Mississippi," Section 8, p. 2.

<sup>26</sup> "Post Office Thematic Resources In Mississippi," Section 8, pp. 2-3.

<sup>27</sup> Ibid, Section 8, p. 2.

<sup>28</sup> Ibid, Section 8, pp 2-3.

<sup>29</sup> Ibid.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 15

*U. S. Post Office and Courthouse  
Mercer County, New Jersey*

size as *The Battle of Trenton*). *Progress of Industry* was completed in 1935, approximately two years prior to the other two murals, and is commonly considered the first completed mural commissioned under the auspices of the Federal Public Works of Art Project.<sup>30</sup>

The artist of the three murals was painter Charles W. Ward (1900-1962). Born in Trenton, Ward studied art with teacher Henry R. MacGinnis at the Trenton School of Industrial Arts, and at the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts with teachers Daniel Garber and Joseph T. Pearson, Jr.<sup>31</sup> While a student, Charles W. Ward was awarded the Thompson Prize for Composition, the Lee Award for Draftsmanship, and the Cresson European Traveling Scholarship in 1930, which permitted him to study in Great Britain, Belgium, France, Spain, Italy and Switzerland.<sup>32</sup> The murals he designed for the Post Office in Roanoke Rapids, NC; the U.S. Courthouse, Trenton, NJ; and the Bucks County Playhouse Inn, New Hope, PA are listed in these biographical profiles as the only examples of his work as a muralist. Ward's work appears to consist almost entirely of canvas paintings, as well as a smaller number of lithographs, etchings and drawings.<sup>33</sup>

Charles W. Ward's artistic output is classified as belonging to a movement in American art known as Pennsylvania impressionism. The movement was launched in New Hope, PA. Five artists and their protégés figure prominently, including Edward Redfield, Daniel Garber, Robert Spencer, William L. Lathrop, and John Follansbee. As a student of Daniel Garber, Charles W. Ward was directly associated with this movement. In the book *Pennsylvania Impressionism*, author Brian H. Peterson includes Charles W. Ward among the numerous artists profiled and describes Pennsylvania impressionism in the following manner:

*This branch of American Impressionism was centered in New Hope, Bucks County, Pennsylvania and was born in 1898 ... Known as the Pennsylvania Impressionists this group or artists played a dominant role in the American art world of the teens and twenties. Their work was celebrated for its freedom from European influence, and was praised by the noted painter and critic Guy Pène du Bois as 'our first truly national expression.'*<sup>34</sup>

For approximately thirty years, Charles W. Ward resided in Carversville, Pennsylvania in close proximity to New Hope, Pennsylvania—home to a substantial artist community associated with the Pennsylvania impressionism movement—a style of artistic expression with which he is generally identified.<sup>35</sup>

Four years prior to his death, Charles W. Ward was himself the subject of a cover story in the magazine *Buck's County Traveler*—a travel and home/garden magazine of regional circulation.<sup>36</sup> The fact that he is profiled in a local magazine as well as referenced in mainstream biographical directories is an important indication of his significance in

<sup>30</sup> "Trenton Artist's Painting Unveiled; Project Is First Carried to Completion Throughout Country," *Trenton (NJ) State Gazette*, November 4, 1935; "Post Office Mural Painting Unveiled," *Trenton (NJ) Times*, November 4, 1935.-- on file: Post Office vertical file-Tretoniana Room-Trenton Free Library. During the mural's dedication ceremony, Edward B. Rowan, Superintendent of the Federal Public Works of Art project said "...that the mural was the only one of the many planned under the Federal project for post offices throughout the country which had been carried all the way through to fruition ..."

<sup>31</sup> Peter H. Falk, ed., *Who Was Who in American Art, 1564-1975, Volume III* (Madison, CT: Sound View Press, 1999), 3460.

<sup>32</sup> *Encyclopedia of American Biography*, volume 35 (New York: The American Historical Company, Inc., 1966), 90.

<sup>33</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>34</sup> Brian H. Peterson, ed., *Pennsylvania Impressionism* (Bucks County, PA: James A. Michener Art Museum; Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, c2002), jacket text.

<sup>35</sup> *Who Was Who in American Art, 1564-1975*, 3460.

<sup>36</sup> Jack Rosen, "The Wonderful World of Charles Ward," *Bucks County Traveler* 9, no. 4 (1958): cover, 28-30.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 16

*U. S. Post Office and Courthouse  
Mercer County, New Jersey*

the history of American art, and particularly within the sphere of Pennsylvania impressionism. His limited output in the realm of public art and the integral association of key examples of his work with the interiors of federal buildings built during the New Deal arts programs, represent a significant type, period, and style of artistic and architectural expression.

The themes reflected in the three murals include the hard work associated with the local wire manufacture industry—a pillar upon which the Trenton economy was based; the real life significance of rural mail delivery to ordinary people; and the depiction of one of the key battles during the Revolutionary War that occurred in Trenton—an event integral to the success of the American independence effort. These are representative themes for artwork promulgated through the aegis of the U.S. Treasury Department's Public Works of Art Project. Charles W. Ward's works of public art are expressions of what is termed American regionalism and represent a specific, significant period of American art executed in a straight-forward style considered accessible to ordinary members of the general public lacking an extensive education in art history.

### Criterion A

Under Criterion A, the U.S. Post Office and Courthouse is significant as a manifestation of the federal government's public works policies devised to respond to the Great Depression. In addition, it is the culmination of sustained economic revitalization efforts on the part of the Trenton area business leaders, elected officials, and stakeholders during the 1930s in bringing a key federally-funded public works architectural project to fruition in Trenton, New Jersey.

### Criterion C

Under Criterion C, the U.S. Post Office and Courthouse is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places at a local level of significance as an excellent example in Trenton of federal architecture from the 1930s and for its associative values as a record of the self-image of federal government buildings constructed during the 1930s. In addition, under criterion C, this building's three murals by artist Charles W. Ward represent a significant period, style, and type of artistic expression.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 9 Page 17

U. S. Post Office and Courthouse  
Mercer County, New Jersey

### Major Bibliographic References

Boland, Beth M. *National Register of Historic Places Bulletin 13: How to Apply National Register Criteria to Post Offices*. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 1994.

Bruce, Edward and Forbes Watson. *Art in Federal Buildings, 1934-1936, Volume I*. Washington, DC: Art In Federal Buildings, Inc., 1936.

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

Cumler, John T. *A Social History of Economic Decline: Business, Politics, and Work in Trenton*. New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press, 1989.

Gallery, John Andrew, ed. *Philadelphia Architecture: A Guide to the City*. Philadelphia: Foundation for Architecture, 1994.

Gowans, Alan. *Architecture in New Jersey; A Record of American Civilization*. Princeton, NJ: D. Van Nostrand Company, 1964.

Hale, Kevin M. "United States Post Office, Metuchen New Jersey." National Register of Historic Places Nomination. Washington, DC: National Park Service, 2004.

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

Lebovich, William L. *America's City Halls*. Washington, DC: The Preservation Press, 1984.

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

*Trenton (NJ) Sunday Times-Advertiser*, "Post office Cornerstone Placed with Impressive Ceremonies," 14 February 14, 1932.

Updike, Charles H. "The New Trenton Post Office." *Trenton Magazine*, December 1932. Cover Photograph and pp. 3-9.

"Trenton Post Office." vertical file. Trentoniana Room, Trenton (NJ) Free Library.

"Four Building Act of 1926 Post Offices and Thirty-Two Public Works Administration Post Offices Thematic Resources in Mississippi," National Register of Historic Places nomination Washington, DC: National Park Service. 1980.

Park, Marlene and Gerald E. Markowitz. *Democratic Vistas: Post Offices and Public Art in the New Deal*. Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 1984.



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 9 Page 18

*U. S. Post Office and Courthouse  
Mercer County, New Jersey*

---

*Trenton (NJ) State Gazette*, "Trenton Artist's Painting Unveiled; Project Is First Carried to Completion throughout Country," November 4, 1935.

*Trenton (NJ) Times*, "Post Office Mural Painting Unveiled," November 4, 1935.

Garraty, John A., ed. *Encyclopedia of American Biography* 35. New York: The American Historical Company, Inc., 1974.

Lorance, Nancy. "New Deal/WPA Art in New Jersey." *New Deal Art During the Great Depression*.  
<http://www.wpamurals.com/newjersy.htm>.

Brian H. Peterson, ed., *Pennsylvania Impressionism*. Bucks County, PA: James A. Michener Art Museum; Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2002.

Pokin, Jim. "Murals at Old Trenton Post Office Get Facelift." *Trenton (NJ) Times*, June 29, 1985.

Rosen, Jack. "The Wonderful World of Charles Ward." *Bucks County Traveler* 9, no. 4 (1958): cover, 28-30.

Falk, Peter H., ed., *Who Was Who in American Art, 1564-1975, Volume III*. Madison, CT: Sound View Press, 1999.

Zakalak, Uliana, Marilyn Fish and Robert E. Meadows. "Significant U.S. Post Offices in New Jersey; 1900 to 1941." National Register of Historic Places thematic nomination. Washington, DC: National Park Service, 1985.

Zeitlin, Joyce, A.I.A. *Gilbert Stanley Underwood; His Rustic, Art Deco, and Federal Architecture*. Malibu, CA: Pangloss Press, 1989.

**10. Geographical Data**Acreage of Property 2.2

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

Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1 18	520647	4452336	3		
2			4		

     See continuation sheet.

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

The property is bounded by East State Street on the south, Carroll Street on the east, U.S. Route 1 (formerly called the Delaware and Raritan Canal, and Camden and Amboy Railroad right-of-way) on the west, and the property line on the north and includes all of Block 903, Lot 15, the tax parcel owned by the U.S. Government upon which the 1932 historic U.S. Post Office and Courthouse and the 1991 U.S. Courthouse annex are located.

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

The National Register boundary for the U.S. Post Office and Courthouse, Trenton, New Jersey, includes the entire portion of the of the 2.2-acre tax parcel that is historically associated with the building during its period of significance (1931-1937). Located on north end of the parcel, the 1991 annex is not a contributing resource.

**11. Form Prepared By**

Name/Title	Carson Anderson, Architectural Historian		
Organization	ICF Jones & Stokes on behalf of GSA	Date	March 2011
Street & Number	811 W. 7 <sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 800	Telephone	213.627.5376
City or Town	Los Angeles	State	CA Zip Code 90017

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

Photographs

Representative photographs of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

**Property Owner**

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

Name	U.S. General Services Administration, Mid-Atlantic Region (Region 3)		
Organization	Strawbridge Building	Telephone	215.446.4900
Street & Number	20 N. 8th Street		
City or Town	Philadelphia	State	PA Zip Code 19107

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.). A federal agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to range from approximately 18 hours to 36 hours depending on several factors including, but not limited to, how much documentation may already exist on the type of property being nominated and whether the property is being nominated as part of a Multiple Property Documentation Form. In most cases, it is estimated to average 36 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form to meet minimum National Register documentation requirements. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, 1849 C St., NW, Washington, DC 20240.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Photo Log Page 19

*U. S. Post Office and Courthouse  
Mercer County, New Jersey*

### Additional Documentation- Photographs:

Name: U. S. Post Office and Courthouse  
Location: 402 East State Street  
City of Trenton  
New Jersey, 08608

Photographer: Carson Anderson, ICF Jones & Stokes  
Caleb Harms, for ICF Jones & Stokes

Date of Photographs: October 14, 2005, August 1-2, 2009

Location of Original Digital Files: General Service Administration Headquarters, Office of Chief Architect

Number of Photographs: 28

Photo #1 (NJ\_MercerCounty\_USPOandCh\_0001)  
East and west elevations, view northeast.

Photo #2 (NJ\_MercerCounty\_USPOandCh\_0002)  
South elevation, view northwest.

Photo #3 (NJ\_MercerCounty\_USPOandCh\_0003)  
South elevation, view north.

Photo #4 (NJ\_MercerCounty\_USPOandCh\_0004)  
South elevation, view north.

Photo #5 (NJ\_MercerCounty\_USPOandCh\_0005)  
East elevation, view northeast.

Photo #6 (NJ\_MercerCounty\_USPOandCh\_0006)  
East elevation, view southwest.

Photo #7 (NJ\_MercerCounty\_USPOandCh\_0007)  
East elevation, view west.

Photo #8 (NJ\_MercerCounty\_USPOandCh\_0008)  
Northeast elevation, view southwest.

Photo #9 (NJ\_MercerCounty\_USPOandCh\_0009)  
West elevation, view east.

Photo #10 (NJ\_MercerCounty\_USPOandCh\_0010)  
West elevation, view east.

Photo #11 (NJ\_MercerCounty\_USPOandCh\_0011)

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Photo Log Page 20

*U. S. Post Office and Courthouse  
Mercer County, New Jersey*

South elevation entrance, view north.

Photo #12 (NJ\_MercerCounty\_USPOandCh\_0012)  
South elevation, detail of entrance, pilasters and spandrels.

Photo #13 (NJ\_MercerCounty\_USPOandCh\_0013)  
Entrance detail.

Photo #14 (NJ\_MercerCounty\_USPOandCh\_0014)  
Entrance detail.

Photo #15 (NJ\_MercerCounty\_USPOandCh\_0015)  
Side elevation, floors 2-4.

Photo #16 (NJ\_MercerCounty\_USPOandCh\_0016)  
Side elevation, detail of upper floors.

Photo #17 (NJ\_MercerCounty\_USPOandCh\_0017)  
Detail, spandrel.

Photo #18 (NJ\_MercerCounty\_USPOandCh\_0018)  
Detail, spandrel.

Photo #19 (NJ\_MercerCounty\_USPOandCh\_0019)  
Detail, spandrel.

Photo #20 (NJ\_MercerCounty\_USPOandCh\_0020)  
First floor lobby outer vestibule, "Progress of Industry" mural, view southwest.

Photo #21 (NJ\_MercerCounty\_USPOandCh\_0021)  
First floor lobby, view west.

Photo #22 (NJ\_MercerCounty\_USPOandCh\_0022)  
Lobby entrance detail, first floor lobby exit to Carroll Street.

Photo #23 (NJ\_MercerCounty\_USPOandCh\_0023)  
First floor elevator lobby, mural "Rural Delivery."

Photo #24 (NJ\_MercerCounty\_USPOandCh\_0024)  
Third floor, view west down corridor.

Photo #25 (NJ\_MercerCounty\_USPOandCh\_0025)  
Second floor, view west down corridor.

Photo #26 (NJ\_MercerCounty\_USPOandCh\_0026)  
Third floor, ceremonial courtroom.



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

## **National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet**

Section Photo Log Page 21

*U. S. Post Office and Courthouse  
Mercer County, New Jersey*

---

Photo #27 (NJ\_MercerCounty\_USPOandCh\_0027)  
Detail, door.

Photo #28 (NJ\_MercerCounty\_USPOandCh\_0028)  
U.S. Bankruptcy Court entrance.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

*U. S. Post Office and Courthouse  
Mercer County, New Jersey*

Section Supplemental Page 22  
Information

Photographer: Carol Highsmith

Date of Photograph: 2010

Location of Original Digital File: General Service Administration Headquarters, Office of Chief Architect

Mural, "Second Battle of Trenton" by Charles Ward (1900-1962), 1937.



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Supplemental Page 23  
Information

*U. S. Post Office and Courthouse  
Mercer County, New Jersey*

Photographer: Carol Highsmith

Date of Photograph: 2010

Location of Original Digital File: General Service Administration Headquarters, Office of Chief Architect

Mural, "Rural Delivery" by Charles Ward (1900-1962), 1937.



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Supplemental Page 24  
Information

*U. S. Post Office and Courthouse  
Mercer County, New Jersey*

Photographer: Carol Highsmith

Date of Photograph: 2010

Location of Original Digital File: General Service Administration Headquarters, Office of Chief Architect

Mural, "Progress of Industry" by Charles Ward (1900-1962), 1935.





UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY U.S. Post Office and Courthouse  
NAME:

MULTIPLE  
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: NEW JERSEY, Mercer

DATE RECEIVED: 4/13/12 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 5/04/12  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 5/24/12 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 5/30/12  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 12000309

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N  
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N  
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT  RETURN  REJECT 5-24-12 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in  
The National Register  
of  
Historic Places

RECOM./CRITERIA \_\_\_\_\_

REVIEWER \_\_\_\_\_ DISCIPLINE \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.





















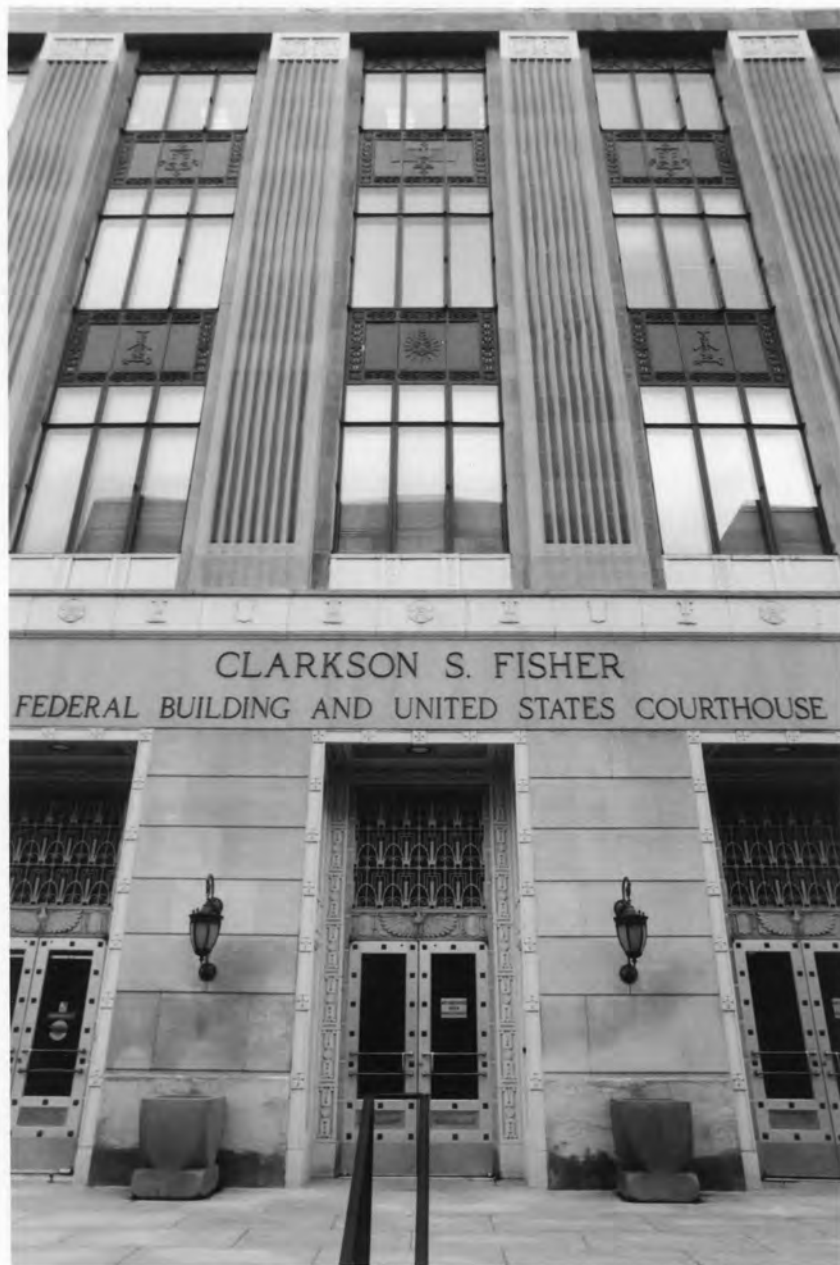




CLARKSON S. FISHER  
FEDERAL BUILDING AND UNITED STATES COURTHOUSE







CLARKSON S. FISHER

FEDERAL BUILDING AND UNITED STATES COURTHOUSE

CLARKSON S. FISHER  
BUILDING AND UNITED STATES



ES COURTHOUSE





















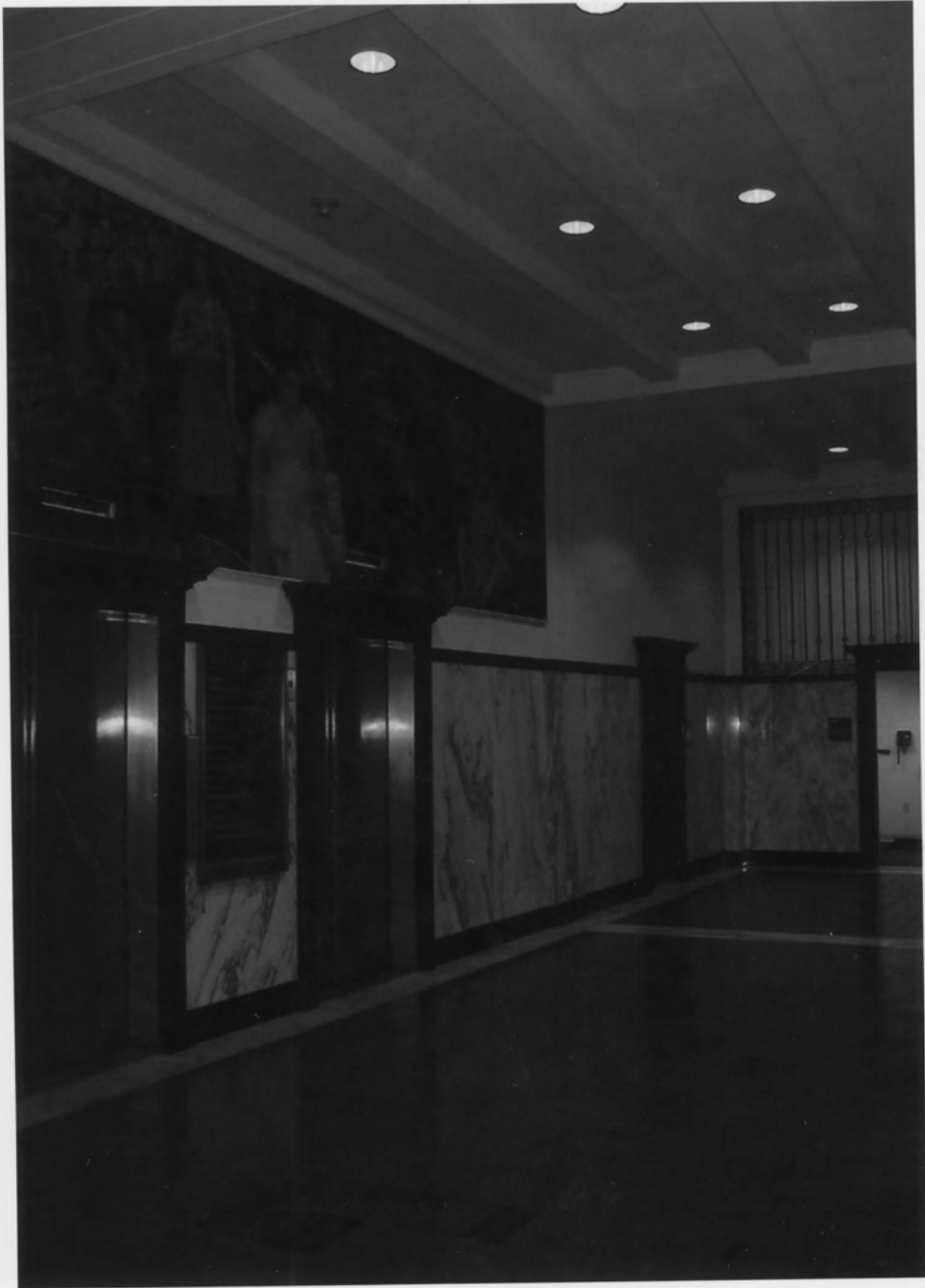


EXIT

CARROLL ST.



US BANK







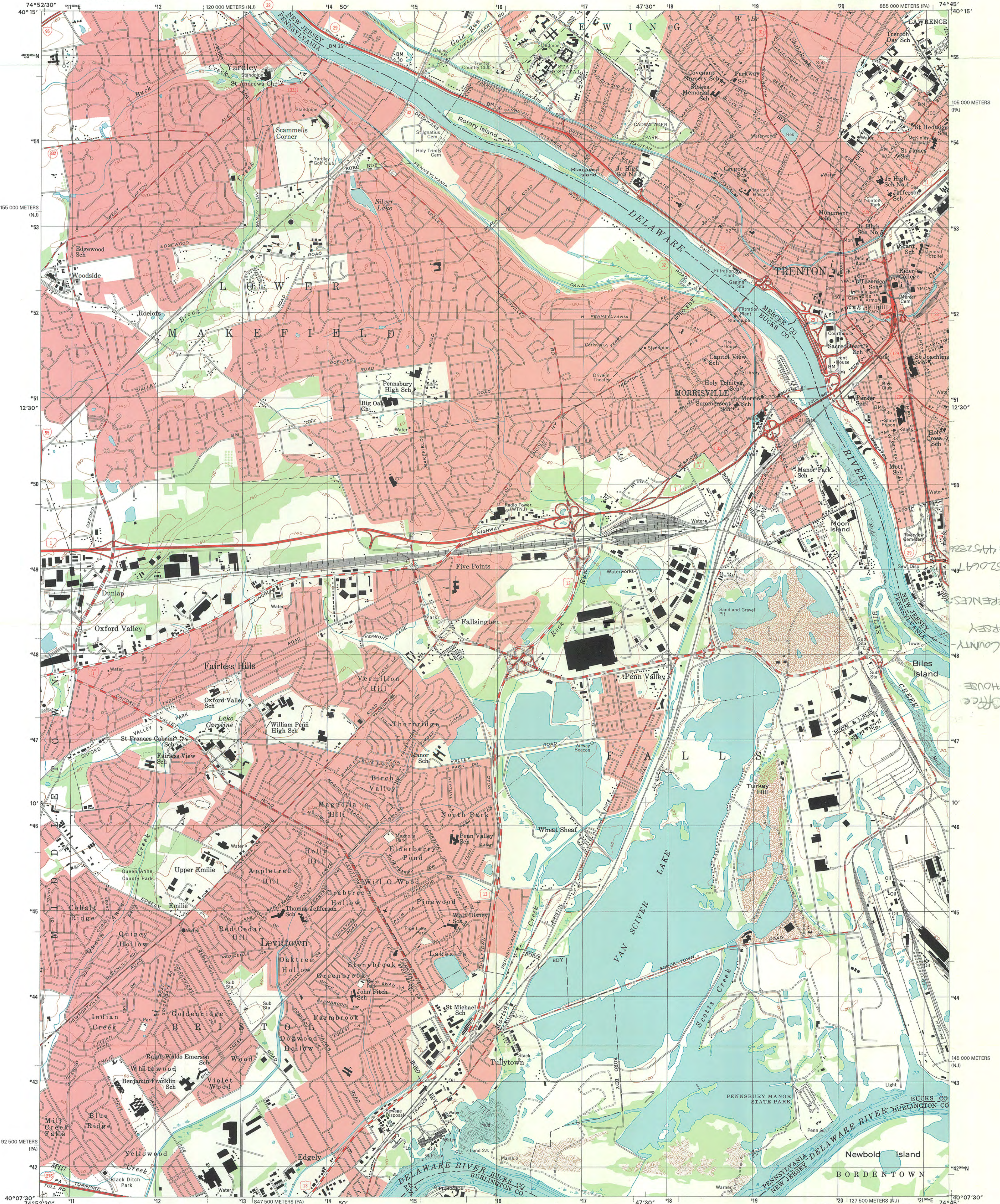






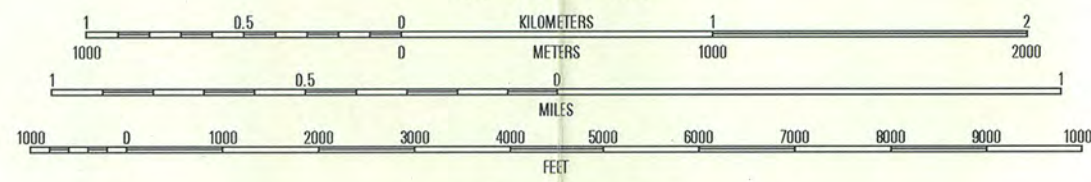
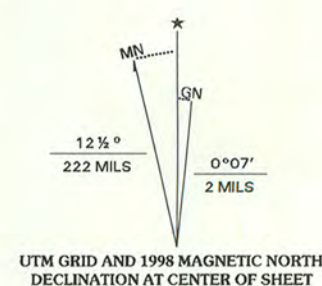






UTM REFERENCES  
 NEW JERSEY  
 MERCER COUNTY  
 U.S. Post Office  
 AND COURTHOUSE  
 EASTING: 52047  
 NORTHING: 44528

Produced by the United States Geological Survey  
 Topography compiled 1942. Planimetry derived from imagery taken 1995. Survey control current as of 1943.  
 North American Datum of 1983 (NAD 83). Projection and 1 000-meter grid: Universal Transverse Mercator, zone 18 2 500-meter ticks; Pennsylvania Coordinate System of 1983 (south zone) and New Jersey Coordinate System of 1983 (south zone). The values of the shift between NAD 83 and NAD 27 for 7.5-minute intersections are obtainable from National Geodetic Survey NADCON software.  
 There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of the National or State reservations shown on this map.  
 Landmark buildings verified 1943.



ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Primary highway hard surface	Light-duty road, hard or improved surface
Secondary highway hard surface	Unimproved road
Interstate Route	U.S. Route
	State Route

ADJOINING 7.5' QUADRANGLE NAMES

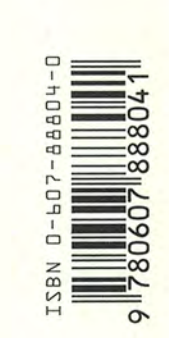
1	2	3
4	5	6
7	8	

1 Lambertville  
 2 Flemington  
 3 Princeton  
 4 Langhorne  
 5 Trenton East  
 6 Beverly  
 7 Bristol  
 8 Columbus

CONTOUR INTERVAL 20 FEET  
 NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929  
 TO CONVERT FROM FEET TO METERS, MULTIPLY BY 0.3048  
 THE MEAN RANGE OF TIDE IS APPROXIMATELY 6.3 FEET

FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, P.O. BOX 25286, DENVER, COLORADO 80225  
 A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

TRENTON WEST, NJ-PA  
 1995  
 NIMA 6064 III NE-SERIES V831







April 11, 2012

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

Dear Ms. Shull:

The U.S. General Services Administration (GSA) is pleased to nominate the U.S. Post Office and Courthouse (current name Clarkson S. Fisher U.S. Courthouse) located at 402 East State Street, Trenton, New Jersey, for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places.

The following documents are enclosed:

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

Please note that while signing as the commenting official, the state historic preservation officer checked "statewide" significance although the statement of significance says, and GSA believes, that "local" is the more appropriate level.

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

Sincerely,

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

Enclosures

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