1. NAME OF PROPERTY

Historic Name: PENTAGON OFFICE BUILDING COMPLEX

Other Name/Site Number: The Pentagon

2. LOCATION

Street & Number: U.S. 1, Va. 110, and Interstate 395 Not for publication:___

City/Town: Arlington Vicinity:___

State: Virginia County: Arlington Code: 013 Zip Code: 20301

3. CLASSIFICATION

Ownership of Property		Category of Property	
Private:	___	Building(s):	X
Public-local:	___	District:	___
Public-State:	___	Site:	___
Public-Federal:	X	Structure:	___
		Object:	___

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	___	buildings
3	1	sites (helipad)
___	___	structures
___	___	objects
4	1	Total

Number of Contributing Resources Previously Listed in the National Register: 4

Name of related multiple property listing:

4. STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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.

_____ _____
Signature of Certifying Official Date

_____
State or Federal Agency and Bureau

In my opinion, the property ____ meets ____ does not meet the National Register criteria.

_____ _____
Signature of Commenting or Other Official Date

_____
State or Federal Agency and Bureau

5. NATIONAL PARK SERVICE CERTIFICATION

I, hereby certify that this property is:

____ Entered in the National Register _____
____ Determined eligible for the _____
National Register
____ Determined not eligible for the _____
National Register
____ Removed from the National Register _____
____ Other (explain): _____

_____ _____
Signature of Keeper Date of Action

6. FUNCTION OR USE

Historic:	GOVERNMENT DEFENSE	Sub:	GOVERNMENT OFFICE MILITARY FACILITY
Current:	GOVERNMENT DEFENSE		GOVERNMENT OFFICE MILITARY FACILITY

7. DESCRIPTION

Architectural Classification:
MODERN MOVEMENT/
STRIPPED CLASSICISM

Materials:
Foundation: concrete
Walls: limestone; concrete
Roof:
Other:

Describe Present and Historic Physical Appearance.

SUMMARY

The property being nominated consists of five elements of the Pentagon Office Building Complex (commonly called "The Pentagon"). Those elements are the following:

(1) The five outer facades of the Pentagon Building;
(2) The building's Central Courtyard and its surrounding facade;
(3) The terrace fronting the Mall Entrance;
(4) The terrace fronting the River Entrance; and
(5) The Pentagon's distinctive 5-sided shape.

The attached map entitled "Pentagon Office Building Complex (1985)" (Map 1) illustrates the locations of the nominated elements. The position of the nominated property in relation to the vicinity is shown in Map 2.

During the half century since its completion in 1943, the Pentagon and its surrounding site have undergone substantial modification due to changing conditions and the needs of the building's occupants. The original exterior elements of the Pentagon which have not been substantially modified are the basis for this nomination.

PRESENT PHYSICAL APPEARANCE
Building

The Pentagon is shaped like its namesake, a geometrical figure with five sides of equal length. Each of its outer walls is 921.6 feet long. It covers the largest ground area (29 acres) of any office building in the world (McWhirter 1985: 175). The building contains five concentric pentagonal rings of offices and work spaces. A 5-acre pentagonal courtyard is located in the building's center, making a total coverage of 34 acres for the Pentagon and its Central Courtyard. The Pentagon's plan is symmetrical, balanced, and rational, in accordance with a basic principle of Classical design.

The architectural mode followed in the design of the Pentagon is known as "Stripped Classicism." This hybridization of the Classical and Modern styles was characteristic of many important Federal buildings designed from the 1930s to the 1950s. Design and ornamentation follow the stylistic traditions of Classicism, but have been greatly simplified. ("Stripped Classicism" is discussed in more detail in Section 8.)

Clockwise from its northern point, the Pentagon's five facades are the Mall facade, the River (or North Parking) facade, the Concourse (Metro Station) facade, the South Parking (Entrance) facade, and the Heliport facade. The River entrance faces Jefferson Davis Highway (Va. 110); the South Parking and Concourse facades face Shirley Highway (I-395), and the Heliport facade faces Washington Boulevard (Va. 27).

The outer facades of the Pentagon are elegantly simple and symmetrical, having a minimum of ornamental embellishment. There is clear delineation of top, middle, and bottom sections, corresponding to the capital, shaft, and base of Classical columns.

The facades' top section consists of a slab-like undecorated entablature, behind which is the Pentagon's attic (fifth) story. This entablature completely surrounds the building. Its height is not uniform, but greater over the central colonnade of each of the facades. While inscriptions or other decorations are absent, the entablature is divided into rectangular panels over the colonnades. The entablature does not have any windows on the Pentagon's outer facades. The building's fifth story, however, does contain windows on the other rings, as well as the inward-facing side of the outermost ring. The entablature is separated from the middle part of the facades by a cornice line of ornamental molding. This extends around the building, visually separating it from the facades' middle part.

The middle part of the facades (corresponding to the "shaft" of Classical columns) generally consists of three rows of evenly spaced rectangular windows. Except where it is interrupted by colonnades, the facades' middle part is symmetrical all the way around the building.

Following a principle of Classical design, central focus is established by means of a colonnade placed in the middle of each facade. On the Mall and River facades, these colonnades surround the main entranceways. On the other facades, they serve to reinforce the symmetry of the plan, and are primarily decorative in function. Each colonnade is 140 feet in length, and contains 16 rectangular columns, three stories (36 feet) in height. Flanking each central colonnade, equidistant to either side, are two smaller symmetrical colonnaded entrances containing five columns identical to those of the central colonnades.

The building's two main entrances (Mall and River) are distinguished by the pronounced outward projection of their colonnades, which form central porticos. These porticos contain an additional 2 columns in line with each of the end columns. On the other three facades, the central colonnades are flush with the faces of the building. All of the flanking subordinate entrance colonnades are also flush with the facades of the building. Each of the Pentagon's colonnades contains tall and narrow rectangular columns which are stylized after the Tuscan order. These are surmounted by a simplified architrave, which itself is surmounted by the projecting cornice molding.

The facades' bottom section is visually delineated from the middle part by a pediment molding line which divides it from the floors above. It serves, in terms of Classical design, as the foundation for the building's facades. The division between middle and bottom sections of the facades encircles the building. However, the character and function of the bottom section changes from facade to facade. Depending on the grading of the terrain

and orientation, the bottom section is either short and windowless (Mall and River facades), a single story in height and pierced with windows, loading platforms, and pedestrian and vehicular entranceways (South Parking and Heliport facades), or one story tall and plain except for two symmetrical stairways sloping up to the flanking columned entrances (Concourse).

The most significant specific ornament on the exterior of the building is its commemorative cornerstone. That object consists of a rectangular limestone plaque on which the names of the principal persons and organizations involved in the construction of the Pentagon are listed, using bronze lettering (Figure 2). The Pentagon's cornerstone is located on its Mall Entrance facade.

Other ornamentation is present, though in a simplified form. It is articulated following Classical design principles. As described above, the boundary between the entablature and main "shaft" of the building is marked by a line of cornice molding. Another line of molding delimits the boundary between the main "shaft" and the facades' foundation. The building's Mall and River entrances are also decorated with simplified Classical cornices and friezes, located above and to either side of the doorways behind the colonnades.

All decorative elements are highly stripped of their Classical elaboration, reflecting the influence of "modern" design principles. In the case of the Pentagon, these most closely resemble Classical architecture's Tuscan Order, which is basically simplified Roman Doric. Its columns are unfluted, with decoration consisting largely of moldings.

Among the Pentagon's most notable modifications of Classical elements are its central colonnades. The double pitched triangular roof pediments characteristically associated with columned Classical facades are absent. In place of a pediment there is a plain frieze (corresponding to the building's fifth story) extending around the Pentagon. It is surmounted by a horizontal cornice decorated with simple fillet molding. Below the fifth story's frieze is another cornice that extends outward beyond the decorative elements above, contrary to traditional Classical design. This projecting cornice contains both curved and fillet molding. Beneath this cornice, in accordance with Classical design, is another frieze. This lower frieze consists of plain square slabs of limestone. Below it is a small molding (*taenia*). Above each column, a narrow panel (*regula*) is placed at the underside of the *taenia*. Projecting downward from each regula are eight small knobs (*guttae*).

The presence of a *regula* and *gutta* above each column is a standard element of Doric order (but not Tuscan) Classical design. In true Doric, however, they are always placed directly below a decorative triglyph. In the case of the Pentagon, triglyphs are absent, being replaced by the plain limestone slabs making up the entablature's lower frieze. Below the *taenia* is the building's architrave (*epistyle*), which is left plain. The

columns of the Pentagon's colonnades are rectangular, unlike the rounded ones of traditional Classicism. Their capitals, however, retain the normal capping slab (*abacus*), beneath which is a concave molding (*echinus*). The shaft of each column is plain as in the Tuscan Order, and rises from a rectangular base. The colonnades of the Pentagon's Mall and River Entrances rest upon a Classical foundation platform containing both a lower course (*sterobate*) and an upper one (*stylobate*).

The modern movement's central theme of functional and severe institutional architecture is evident in the design of the Pentagon. This serves to emphasize its hybridization of Classical and modern architectural themes, and place it in the transitional period when Classicism gave way to modernism in Federal architectural design. Even with its pared down decoration, however, the Pentagon owes far more to Classical design principles than to modernism.

The Pentagon's framework is constructed of concrete reinforced with steel, and its outer walls are faced with gray Indiana limestone. The exterior walls of the concentric rings are bare concrete which have been given a wood-grain texture from being poured into wooden forms made of 8-inch boards. Non-bearing interior curtain walls are constructed largely of wood framing and drywall, or cinderblock, which has facilitated interior remodelling work. Reinforced concrete was utilized in constructing the Pentagon because of its speed of installation and the availability of necessary materials (sand and gravel) at the building site. The exterior facades of the Pentagon were faced with limestone at the direction of President Franklin D. Roosevelt, who felt that the use of marble would be an extravagance.

The interior of the Pentagon consists of five concentric pentagonal rings. This element of the design increases the amount of window area accessible to users, allowing in daylight. Each ring is five stories in height with two basements. The innermost and outermost rings have sloping roofs, while the other three rings have flat roofs. In each ring offices are located on either side, divided laterally by a central corridor. The pentagonal rings are interconnected by ten main radial corridors (two to each side).

In addition to offices there are supporting food service, maintenance, communications, medical, recreational, and retail store facilities. The office space is divided into rooms which are frequently joined lengthwise along a ring into suites organized according to interrelated functions. Offices range from single-person rooms to open bays containing large numbers of workers.

Since 1943, remodelling has resulted in changes in the configurations of the office rooms, suites, and bays. For movement between floors there are wide ramps, stairways, and elevators. Office space is frequently organized so that interacting offices are located on the same floor level. This

enables movement between related offices to be horizontal rather than vertical. The interior spaces of the Pentagon have been, and continue to be, decorated with changing exhibits of art and artifacts from the Defense Department's extensive collections.

The innermost ring surrounds a 5-acre courtyard which retains its original landscaping. The Central Courtyard measures 360.8 feet along each of its five sides.

Site

The Pentagon Complex is located in southern Arlington, Virginia. It is situated between a large man-made lagoon ("the Pentagon Lagoon") and the southeastern corner of Arlington National Cemetery. The northeastern and eastern facades of the 5-sided building have unobstructed vistas of the Monumental Core of the Federal City (Washington, D.C.), across the Potomac River. The Pentagon's relatively low profile also permits clear vistas of Washington from the highlands of Arlington National Cemetery, and vice versa.

There are large terraces in front of the Pentagon's Mall and River Entrances. The River Entrance Terrace extends 900 feet to the Pentagon Lagoon, where a ceremonial landing dock consisting of two monumental stairways is flanked by two tall flagstaffs. This terrace's maximum width is 450 feet. It retains its original landscaping. The largest element of the River Terrace is its upper level, which consists of a rectangular lawn-covered area (450 feet by 150 feet) bordered by walkways and low walls. This upper level is situated on an overpass which crosses Jefferson Davis Highway (Route 110). Also beneath it is a garage for official vehicles. At the eastern end of the upper level there is a drop in elevation to a middle level. A wide staircase at either side of the terrace provides access to the middle level, which contains a lawn-covered rectangular area (150 feet long by 450 feet wide). The eastern end of the middle level is marked by a drop in elevation to the level of Boundary Drive. Short stairways at either edge of the middle terrace carry the sidewalks to a crossing of that roadway. East of Boundary Drive, there is another drop in elevation to the lowest level of the terrace (50 feet by 450 feet), which fronts the Pentagon Lagoon.

The terrace in front of the Mall Entrance is smaller, measuring 600 feet by 125 feet. It rests atop a single-story platform containing building maintenance support facilities. The entire upper level of this terrace is utilized for vehicle parking. At the northern edge of the upper level there is a broad monumental stairway which descends to a small rectangular intermediate platform. On the east and west sides of that platform, broad stairways descend to ground level. At the foot of the Mall Entrance terrace there is a lawn-covered parade ground (600 feet by 300 feet). The parade ground is all that remains of an extensive grassy area which originally extended northward to the intersection of Jefferson Davis Highway with Washington Boulevard. The need for more vehicular parking space led to the

truncation of this grassy area and the conversion of its northern part into the Mall Entrance parking lot.

Other elements of the Pentagon Office Building Complex site include several parking areas (with a present capacity of about 12,000 vehicles), a heating and refrigeration plant, a wastewater treatment facility, Federal Building 2 (the "Navy Annex" office building), and a network of access roadways. The access roadways include cloverleaf interchanges, overpasses and ramps. These have all undergone extensive modification and improvement. There is also a heliport in front of the northwestern facade of the Pentagon. Adjacent to the Concourse Facade is the recently built Pentagon Metrorail Station and Metrobus Terminal. To the east of the building is the Pentagon Lagoon to which the River Entrance Terrace extends. On the crest of Arlington Ridge, in the western part of the Pentagon Site, is Federal Building 2 (FB 2), also known as "the Navy Annex." It was built at the same time as the Pentagon, and designed as an industrial facility. FB 2 came to be used for administrative purposes, however, and presently houses offices associated with the Navy Department.

In the decades since completion, several of the original features of the Pentagon Complex have undergone substantial changes. For example, the wastewater treatment facility has been expanded. While the Pentagon Lagoon retains its original configuration, it has become the location of the Columbia Island Marina. The Pennsylvania Railroad line to Rosslyn, which formerly extended from north to south across the eastern part of the Pentagon Complex Site, has been removed. The only remaining railway is a short spur providing access to the heating and refrigeration plant from the R.F. & P. Railroad, 0.3 mile to the east. The bus terminal in front of the Concourse facade of the Pentagon has been substantially expanded and modernized, as part of the construction of the underground Pentagon Metrorail Station, which also has an underground connection to the southern side of the Pentagon's Concourse level.

ORIGINAL PHYSICAL APPEARANCE
Building

The concept of a single massive office building to house the wide variety of military command and control functions originated in July 1941. At that time, the U.S. military was rapidly expanding in response to the threat of U.S. involvement in World War II. First conceived by the Army's Chief of Construction, General Brehon B. Somervell, it was designed by civilian architects employed by the Quartermaster Corps' Construction Division (later incorporated into the Corps of Engineers).

The project's chief architects were George Edwin Bergstrom (1876-1955) and David J. Witmer (1889-1973). From 1939 to 1941 Bergstrom was President of the American Institute of Architects. He and Witmer were co-chief architects of the U.S. War Department at the time. Besides their work on the Pentagon, both architects were active in Los Angeles County, California, where their executed work included a variety of public and private buildings

and residences. During their tenure at the War Department, they supervised architectural design aspects of the United States Army's mobilization for World War II. The architectural design of the Pentagon was unique, however, and not related to Bergstrom and Witmer's other work.

The Pentagon's unusual 5-sided configuration developed from the physical shape dictated by the site originally proposed for it (adjacent to Memorial Drive, about three-fourths mile north of the location ultimately chosen). An early plan called for a square structure with one corner cut off (due to an existing road), which resulted in a skewed pentagonal shape. The site proposed was in Arlington County, Virginia, because of its closeness to downtown Washington, D.C., and the ready availability of suitable land. Serious objections were raised to locating the building on the open land directly between Arlington Cemetery and Washington's Monumental Core, and discussions ensued regarding selection of a building site having less visual and physical impact.

During the period prior to final selection of the building's site, the architectural planning process continued to refine its design. The final design retained the five sides, in the form of a regular pentagon, which gave rise to its name. That shape provided the most efficient use of the available space for both the design and functioning of the structure. Construction was begun in August 1941 and finished in January 1943. While its original estimated completion period was four years, the urgency associated with World War II served to spur construction. It was finished just 17 months after it was begun, a remarkable feat of civil engineering (Webb 1984). At its World War II peak, about 33,000 military and civilian employees worked in the Pentagon, in three shifts.

Illustrations of the Pentagon's original appearance are attached. These consist of a map of the Pentagon Complex in 1948 (Map 3) and an aerial view dated the same year (Figure 3).

The exterior facades of the Pentagon retain their original appearance, as does the Central Courtyard facade. The interior spaces, however, have undergone extensive remodelling from their original 1940s appearance. The need for more office space has resulted in the enclosure of former open spaces and their utilization for administrative offices. The Concourse commercial center was initially designed according to the styles of that period, but has been changed to follow developments in public taste and architectural design.

Site

For informational purposes, a copy of a map of the Pentagon Office Building Complex as it existed in 1948 is included with this nomination (Map 3). The date of that map is only five years subsequent to the Pentagon's completion. It provides a good representation of the Pentagon and its Site as built. The site complex consisted of several additional features. These included

a wastewater treatment facility, the heating and refrigeration plant, Federal Building 2, warehouses, approach roads and interchanges, parking lots, the Pentagon Lagoon, and a railway spur to the heating and refrigeration plant. These have been discussed earlier.

As built, the Pentagon Site contained three cloverleaf interchanges that were among the earliest constructed in the U.S. (though ones associated with the 1930s Pennsylvania Turnpike were earlier). These freeway-scale interchanges were necessary to handle traffic associated with the unusually large number of employees.

The Pentagon Lagoon was created during construction of the building as a result of the dredging of sand and gravel for concrete and of fill materials for landscaping purposes. It is the location of the water intake for the Pentagon's heating and refrigeration plant. The Roaches Run Waterfowl Sanctuary Lagoon, created during construction of the George Washington Memorial Parkway in the early 1930s, is used for the heating and refrigeration plant's water discharge outfall.

To the north of the Mall Entrance, the original landscaping extended the lawn-covered area all the way to the intersection of Route 27 and Route 110. As described above, most of this area, except for the existing Parade Ground in front of the Mall Entrance Terrace, has been converted into parking facilities.

At the time of the Pentagon's construction, the surrounding terrain was also developed into a sprawling complex of military-related temporary structures (see Map 3). These included FB 2, the Fort Myer South Post, the Arlington Farms Residence Hall, and a variety of other buildings. As a result, the Pentagon Complex Site originally included both administrative and residential facilities for the War Department. Except for FB 2, the heating and refrigeration plant, and the wastewater treatment facility, all of the subsidiary structures that existed on the original Pentagon Complex Site have been demolished.

CONTRIBUTING AND NON-CONTRIBUTING ELEMENTS

Within the Pentagon Office Building Complex, there are a variety of architectural elements. Five of these elements are considered to have sufficient integrity to be identified for nomination. They are illustrated in the attached map entitled "Pentagon Office Building Complex (1985)." The contributing elements are as follows:

(1) The building's five facades, especially the two main entrances (Mall and River);
(2) The Pentagon's 5-acre Central Courtyard;
(3) The terrace adjoining the Mall Entrance;
(4) The terrace adjoining the River Entrance; and
(5) The characteristic 5-sided shape of the building, which gave rise to its name.

Changes to the interior of the Pentagon and the surrounding site have resulted in substantial modifications that have affected the building's original integrity. These changes have not, however, detracted from its historical significance. The architectural aspects of the Pentagon that retain their original integrity as initially built are those that contribute to this nomination.

The Pentagon's construction was completed in 1943. As a consequence, this building will be 50 years old in 1993. Thus it is slightly less than the normal minimum eligibility age for nomination. The Pentagon, however, is of an exceptional level of historical significance.

The Pentagon's 5-acre central courtyard, included among the nominated elements, was conceived as an intrinsic part of the design and has remained essentially unchanged since the Pentagon was constructed. The courtyard has served as a park-like setting for meals, formal ceremonies, and other outdoor functions.

The building's five pentagonal rings, their intervening courts, and the rings' interiors have undergone substantial modifications (including in-filling of formerly open courts to create more office space). These have been in response to changing needs in fulfilling the missions of the agencies occupying the building. As a consequence of these extensive changes to the building's original design, the Pentagon's enclosed spaces do not contribute to its historic character.

The landscaping of the Pentagon Office Building Complex is generally functional in nature. The only significant exceptions are the pentagonal Central Courtyard, the River Entrance Terrace, and the Mall Entrance Terrace. Most of the other exterior spaces beyond the building's facades contain remains of the original design, but have been substantially modified by subsequent construction. For example, the Pentagon Complex site has been changed from its original form through construction of additional parking areas, the Pentagon Metrorail-Metrobus Station, the building's heliport, and improvements to highways and roadways.

Situated to the north of the Mall Entrance Terrace is the Pentagon's Parade Ground. This lawn-covered area originally extended all the way to the Jefferson Davis Highway-Washington Boulevard intersection. It was truncated, however, for the construction of an additional parking area. The Parade Ground remaining intact consists of a rectangular grassy area measuring 200 feet (north-south) by 600 feet (east-west).

The original Pentagon Complex included three true cloverleaf interchanges and one modified cloverleaf. At the time of their construction they were early examples of that modern highway design feature (though ones built for the Pennsylvania Turnpike were earlier). In the years since then, however, improvements to Shirley Highway, Washington Boulevard, and Jefferson Davis Highway, as well as other roadways and ramps on the Pentagon Site, have resulted in substantial alterations from the original

design, including the elimination of two of the original cloverleafs and the redesign of the remaining two.

Except for the Pentagon Site's two terraces, the original landscaping, roadways, and associated features surrounding the Pentagon Building are not sufficiently preserved to justify their being considered significant to the Pentagon's historical architectural context.

8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: Nationally: X Statewide: ___ Locally: ___

Applicable National Register Criteria: A X B X C X D ___

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

NHL Criteria: 1, 2

NHL Criteria exception: 8

NHL Theme(s): VIII. World War II
IX. Political and Military Affairs after 1945

Areas of Significance: MILITARY; POLITICS/GOVERNMENT; ARCHITECTURE

Period(s) of Significance: 1943-present

Significant Dates: 1943

Significant Person(s): George C. Marshall; James V. Forrestal; Dwight D. Eisenhower; Hyman Rickover

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Architect/Builder: G.E. Bergstrom, D.J. Witmer

State Significance of Property, and Justify Criteria, Criteria Considerations, and Areas and Periods of Significance Noted Above.

SUMMARY

The Pentagon qualifies for National Historic Landmark designation under criteria 1 and 2. It is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the geopolitical role of the United States as a world power during the period from World War II to the present. It is also importantly associated with the lives of persons nationally significant in American history from the time of its construction (1941-43) to the present day.

Although not nominated for its architecture, it embodies the distinctive characteristics of the "Stripped Classical" variant of architectural Classicism. This stylistic mode flourished during the second quarter of the 20th century and was a major theme in Federal architecture. (See Huxtable 1986:292; and Craig *et al*. 1978:331).

HISTORY

The historical context of the Pentagon's construction was the eve of America's entry into World War II. It came to be built because of the rapid expansion of the U.S. military in 1940-41. The building was originally conceived as a single massive structure that would contain the headquarters of military offices which had been forced to occupy leased space scattered around the D.C. area. The site initially proposed was a tract of federally owned undeveloped land (Arlington Farms) between Arlington National Cemetery and the Potomac River. The specific location was bounded by five roads, which led to the initial design of a building having five sides. The Arlington Farms site was criticized as an unwarranted intrusion on the open vistas between Washington's Monumental Core and the wooded heights of Arlington National Cemetery. As a consequence, President Franklin D. Roosevelt directed that the site be shifted three-fourths of a mile to the south.

The new location was a low-lying tableland that served to accommodate the massive scale of the building while allowing convenient access to downtown Washington. The selected location incorporated enough open terrain to position the main building, associated structures, parking lots, and access roads. The total terrain incorporated within the Pentagon Complex amounted to 583 acres. Construction began in August 1941 and was completed in January 1943. Even though the building's site was shifted, the 5-sided configuration was retained as an essential element of the design. The project's construction crew numbered 4,000 people, who worked 24 hours a day in three shifts.

In the decades since, the Pentagon Office Building has become both a symbolic and a physical element of the United States' emergence as a military "superpower." It has been closely linked to the National Defense establishment of the United States, having been the headquarters of the War Department (now

Department of the Army) since 1943, and the Department of Defense since its creation in 1947. As a consequence, the Pentagon has been the building in which innumerable events associated with the command and management of the armed services have taken place during the period from World War II to the present. Since the early months of World War II, through the Korean and Vietnam Conflicts and the War in the Gulf, this building has been the setting for decision-making and command processes which have been, and continue to be, of paramount importance to the national security of the United States.

The Pentagon has also become symbolic of the land, sea, and air armed forces of the U.S., both nationally and internationally. Its name has come to be accepted worldwide as the publicly recognized and commonly used nickname for the Department of Defense. The U.S. armed services, headquartered in the Pentagon, have developed into a singularly important institution in the Federal government and American society.

Prior to 1941, the U.S. military establishment in peacetime was relatively small and represented a limited force in national and international affairs. Since the 1940s, however, the Department of Defense has come to be the world's most powerful armed force, which is constantly prepared to conduct operations anywhere in the world at the direction of the President of the United States (Raymond 1964). The Defense Department is the largest Federal agency in terms of workforce and budget. Since its inception the Defense Department's central command and management functions have been headquartered at the Pentagon.

ASSOCIATIONS WITH NATIONALLY SIGNIFICANT INDIVIDUALS

The Pentagon has been associated with many persons who have been significant in the modern period of United States history. Virtually every major figure associated with the Defense Department (since its creation in 1947 unified the American armed forces within a single executive department) has occupied an office in the Pentagon. These include the men and women who have been the leaders of the U.S. Army and Air Force from World War II to the present and of the U.S. Navy and Marine Corps since their incorporation into the Department of Defense.

Among those persons significant in American history since 1941, several prominent individuals stand out. One of the first of these was Gen. George C. Marshall, Chief of Staff of the Army during World War II and later Secretary of State under President Truman. Another was the first Secretary of Defense, James V. Forrestal, who directed the merger of the armed services departments into the Department of Defense. Many other persons could also be listed, among them Gen. (later President) Dwight D. Eisenhower, Adm. Hyman Rickover, Air Force Gen. Curtis LeMay, and former Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara. Significantly, from the 1940s to the present day, every individual who has been Secretary of the Departments of Defense, Army, Navy, and Air Force, as well as virtually every senior officer of the American

military establishment, has worked in the Pentagon Office Building for a portion of their careers.

THE PENTAGON'S ARCHITECTURE

The key theme of the Pentagon's architectural significance is that it was the largest and one of the last of Washington's monumental buildings designed according to the principles set out by the 1902 Senate Parks Commission (known as the "McMillan Commission"). It was the last major public building in the vicinity of Washington's Monumental Core designed in the "Stripped Classical" mode, which passed out of style in Federal architecture shortly thereafter.

The architectural context of the Pentagon's design was a period in which the concepts of two important, but divergent, architectural styles were synthesized into a mode of design that became a major development in 20th-century Federal architecture. The predominant influence was Classicism, a long-standing influence in American architecture which underwent a revival during the final decade of the 19th century.

A resurgence of interest in Classical Greco-Roman design was evident in the Beaux Arts Classicism that dominated the "White City" of the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago. The elaborate and monumental Beaux-Arts Classicism was a strong influence during the early 20th century as the Federal government began its first major period of public building construction. The appropriateness of Classical style for Washington's major public buildings was reinforced by the "McMillan Commission," which proposed a grand plan for the development of Washington's core area. The McMillan Commission reinforced the "White City" movement by enunciating the appropriateness of the Classical style for expressing the dignity of the United States' democratic institutions. It set out to establish a monumental presence symbolic of the importance of the Federal government in protecting democracy. The most lasting contribution of the McMillan Commission was to outline a Federal policy to assure consistency in planning Federal office construction. A major achievement of this policy of renewed emphasis on Classical design was the Federal Triangle building complex.

During the 1920s, however, the Classical tradition of architectural design was challenged by the emerging trend toward decorative simplicity and functional design characteristic of the "Modern" (or "International") school. Institutional buildings designed in the Modern style were characterized by a severe functional simplicity, in stark contrast to the elaboration of Beaux-Arts Classicism.

Buildings designed following "Modern" principles were articulated very differently from those whose architects adhered to the rules of proportion and symmetry that are the essence of Beaux-Arts Classicism. The functional simplicity of International architecture avoided articulation in the traditional sense. Distinctions between different building functions, and their

importance in the sociopolitical hierarchy of human activity, were abandoned. Americans, however, resisted the idea that architecture make no distinction between the church, courthouse, business, or private residence.

During the early 1930s a synthesis of Classicism and Modernism developed. It has come to be termed the "Stripped Classical" mode (Huxtable 1986:292). This variety of Classicism is also known as "Starved Classical" (Craig *et al.* 1978:331). The Stripped Classical architectural mode became a dominating influence for the design of Federal buildings during the 1930s, and remained prominent until the 1950s.

In the Stripped Classical genre, elements of the Classical tradition (e.g., columns and moldings) were retained, but were presented in an austere and simple manner in buildings which were designed in the modern functional style.

> Facades became simplified, their classical ornaments turning angular and disappearing into the masonry, their walls becoming planar and their window openings shallow and anonymous. (*Ibid.* 282)

Symmetry remained an important element of design, as did the Classical exterior layering of decorative elements from top to bottom. The proportioning of composition included closures at the ends and a focal point at the centers of the building's facades. Another characteristic was the utilization of new materials, reflecting advances in construction engineering during the 1930s and 1940s.

Stripped Classical was commonly employed for public buildings in the United States and other industrialized nations during the 1930s and 1940s (e.g., the San Francisco Mint, the Federal Reserve Building in Washington, and the House of German Art in Munich). "Today it is this starved (stripped) classicism ... that most Americans think of when they think of federal architecture..." (*Ibid.*) By the late 1950s, however, the "Modern" style attained prominence in architectural design and the Stripped Classical mode of design fell into disuse.

The Pentagon is the world's largest example of the Stripped Classical architectural mode. Until the construction of the World Trade Center in New York, it was the largest office building in the world. Even today, it is still the largest office building used for governmental administration, and the world's largest office building in terms of ground area covered (McWhirter 1985:175).

Architecturally, the Pentagon is a remarkable example of complex, yet highly efficient, design. It is virtually a small urban center under one roof, containing all of the functions normally associated with a municipality (General Services Administration n.d.). Its facilities include offices and building maintenance facilities and an indoor shopping mall, as well as food service, mail, medical, communications, and recreational facilities.

The Pentagon Office Building is staffed by approximately 23,900 workers, and for more than thirty years after its construction it was the largest office building in the world (6,546,360 gross square feet). Despite its immense size, the unique design makes it possible to reach the farthest point in the building from any location in less than ten minutes' walking time. There are five concentric pentagonal rings which are interconnected by ten spoke-like radial corridors. In addition to stairways, escalators, and elevators, wide ramps were incorporated into the design to facilitate movement between floors. These pedestrian ramps have also enhanced the mobility of handicapped persons.

Its configuration, role, and location have combined to make the Pentagon an essential and important physical and symbolic element of the Monumental Core of the Nation's Capital. The stylistic design of the Pentagon's facades is similar to those of several other important public buildings associated with Washington's Monumental Core.

Among those which are stylistically similar to the Pentagon, and of similar date, are the Department of the Interior Building, the Federal Reserve Building, the Old State Department Building, and the Main Terminal at Washington National Airport. While the design of its five facades resembles those of these contemporaneous buildings, the sheer mass, shape, location, and ringed configuration of the Pentagon set it apart from the others, and bestow unique characteristics of scale, setting, and visual impact. The Pentagon was also one of the last of Washington's monumental Federal buildings designed in accordance with the McMillan Commission's emphasis on Classicism as the central architectural theme.

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Previous documentation on file (NPS):

___ Preliminary Determination of Individual Listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
_X_ Previously Listed in the National Register.
___ Previously Determined Eligible by the National Register.
___ Designated a National Historic Landmark.
___ Recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey: #_____
___ Recorded by Historic American Engineering Record: #_____

Primary Location of Additional Data:

___ State Historic Preservation Office
___ Other State Agency
___ Federal Agency
___ Local Government
___ University
___ Other(Specify Repository):

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Acreage of Property: 41 acres

UTM References:

	Zone	Northing	Easting
A	18	321435	4304445
B	18	321745	4304480
C	18	321770	4304100
D	18	321380	4304145

Verbal Boundary Description:

The boundaries of the portions of the Pentagon Office Building Complex that have been nominated are shown on the accompanying Map 1. The boundaries are marked with a heavy dark line. The nominated elements are indicated by shading.

Boundary Justification:

The boundary includes the elements of the Pentagon Office Building Complex that retain a significant degree of historic integrity.

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April 30, 1992

1. Pentagon Office Building Complex, Arlington, Virginia. Aerial view of the Pentagon, River Entrance Facade and Terrace in foreground; camera facing southwest toward Federal Building Number 2. Photo by MSgt. Ken Hammond, U.S. Air Force. Summer 1985.

2. Pentagon Office Building Complex, Arlington, Virginia. Pentagon Cornerstone and Dedication Plaque, adjacent to the Mall Entrance; camera facing south toward the wall bearing the plaque. Photo by Daniel Koski-Karell, 1988.

3. Pentagon Office Building Complex, Arlington, Virginia. Aerial view of the Pentagon; camera facing southeast from an aircraft over Arlington National Cemetery. Photo by U.S. Navy, 1948.

4. Pentagon Office Building Complex, Arlington, Virginia. General view of the Pentagon, South Parking Entrance facade on the left, Concourse facade on the right; camera facing northwest. Photo by Daniel Koski-Karell, 1988.

5. Pentagon Office Building Complex, Arlington, Virginia. River Entrance of the Pentagon; camera facing southwest from Columbia Island Marina. Photo by Daniel Koski-Karell, 1988.

6. Pentagon Office Building Complex, Arlington, Virginia. Middle level stairways and upper level face of the River Entrance's Terrace; camera facing southwest from the northeastern corner of the Terrace. Photo by Daniel Koski-Karell, 1988.

7. Pentagon Office Building Complex, Arlington, Virginia. Central colonnade of the Pentagon's River Entrance; camera facing southwest from the terrace in front of the River Entrance. Photo by Daniel Koski-Karell, 1988.

8. Pentagon Office Building Complex, Arlington, Virginia. Northern half of the River Entrance facade of the Pentagon; camera facing west from the eastern end of the upper level of the River Entrance's Terrace. Photo by Daniel Koski-Karell, 1988.

9. Pentagon Office Building Complex, Arlington, Virginia. Detail of the central portion of the River Entrance's central colonnade; camera facing west from the southwestern corner of the River Entrance's Terrace. Photo by Daniel Koski-Karell, 1988.

10. Pentagon Office Building Complex. Arlington, Virginia. Western half of the Mall Entrance of the Pentagon, and northern face of the Mall Entrance's Terrace; camera facing southwest from the northern edge of the lawn on the northern side of the Mall Entrance's Terrace. Photo by Daniel Koski-Karell, 1988.