

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

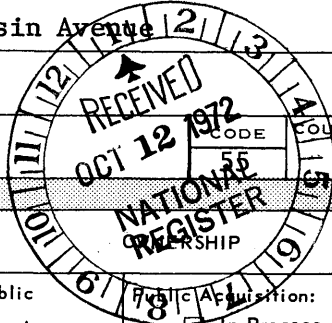
STATE: Wisconsin	
COUNTY: Milwaukee	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	MAR 14 1973

1. NAME

COMMON: Federal Building	Congressmen to be notified: Sen. William Proxmire
AND/OR HISTORIC:	Sen. Gaylord A. Nelson Rep. Henry S. Reuss (5th Wis. Dist.)

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: 515-519 East Wisconsin Avenue	
CITY OR TOWN: Milwaukee	
STATE: Wisconsin	COUNTY: Milwaukee
CODE	CODE
	079



3. CLASSIFICATION

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

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: Federal. General Services Administration	
STREET AND NUMBER:	
CITY OR TOWN: Washington	STATE: District of Columbia
	CODE 11

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Milwaukee County Courthouse	
STREET AND NUMBER: 901 North Ninth Street	
CITY OR TOWN: Milwaukee	STATE: Wisconsin
	CODE 55

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: Wisconsin Inventory of Historic Buildings and Sites	
DATE OF SURVEY: 1971	<input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: State Historical Society of Wisconsin	
STREET AND NUMBER: 816 State Street	
CITY OR TOWN: Madison	STATE: Wisconsin
	CODE 55

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Wisconsin
COUNTY: Milwaukee
ENTRY NUMBER MAR 14 1973
DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

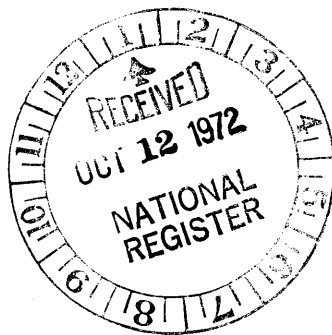
CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Milwaukee's Federal Building is a five-story structure, sturdy and picturesque, solidly built, handsomely detailed, and admirably maintained. Its granite walls--dark gray on the basement story, light gray above--rise to steeply pitched, intersecting hipped and gabled roofs of varying heights, and a massive tower crowns the facade (north elevation). In style the building is Richardsonian Romanesque, its design strongly reminiscent of H. H. Richardson's renowned Allegheny County Courthouse in Pittsburgh.

Interior spaces on first through fifth floors are arranged about a vast central arcade, surrounded by broad corridors and surmounted by an iron and glass skylight. The arcade is substantially as it was at the turn of the century, and so are adjacent public areas--corridors, stairhalls, and lobbies--having many-hued terrazzo and tile files, multi-colored marble panelling, wainscot, and door frames, panelled wood doors, and mosaic, wood-panelled, and plaster ceilings. Many of the 125 offices that the building originally contained have been remodelled as their uses have changed (alteration of the first floor area long occupied by the U.S. Post Office is under way at this writing). But, fortunately, one of the most impressive rooms remains essentially intact. This is Room 390, a judicial chamber two stories in height, with oak-panelled walls and ceiling and intricately carved oak trim. According to the local press, visiting attorneys have called it "the most distinctive courtroom in the United States."

With the addition constructed on the south end of the original fabric during the 1930's, the Federal Building now fills the city block bounded by East Wisconsin Avenue and East Michigan, North Jackson, and North Jefferson Streets. Less ornamental in style, the eight-story addition is faced with granite matching the original and, in general, harmonizes with the 19th century edifice.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1892-99 W. J. Colbrooke (see 7/11/73 letter attached)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Federal Building's chief area of significance is its architecture. A handsome and imposing building, it is quite likely the finest example of Richardsonian Romanesque design in the Milwaukee area. Perrin states that "The architect...may have been James Knox Taylor, who designed and supervised the construction of many buildings for the Treasury Department during this period [1892-1899]."

Size, location, and function have made the Federal Building one of Milwaukee's most familiar landmarks. The massive granite edifice occupies a block-square site on the east side of the central business district. It was erected as the U. S. Post Office, Court House, and Custom House, and while the Main Post Office and Customs now have separate quarters, it still contains a postal sub-station and the Federal courts, together with the offices of Wisconsin's U. S. Senators; the Internal Revenue Service; F.B.I.; Secret Service; Bureaus of Indian Affairs, Labor and Statistics, and Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs; Selective Service; Immigration; Naturalization; and other agencies of the Federal Government.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

"Life--in Court--Can Be Beautiful," Milwaukee Journal, July 23, 1967, Sunday Picture Journal, 10-11.

Pagel, Mary Ellen and Palmer, Virginia, Guides to Historic Milwaukee: Juneautown Walking Tour, Milwaukee, 1965, 2.

Perrin, Richard W. E., The Architecture of Wisconsin, Madison, 1967, 96, 97.

Perrin, Richard W. E., Milwaukee Landmarks, Milwaukee, 1968, 38-39.

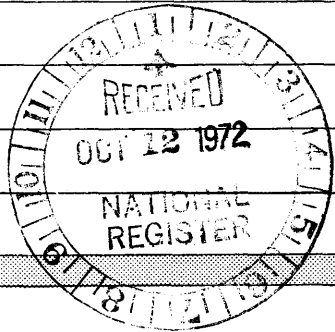
10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		N 43° 02' 18"	W 87° 54' 17"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **3.5**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Mary Ellen Wietczykowski, Chairman

ORGANIZATION: **Milwaukee Landmarks Commission** DATE: **7 July 1972**

STREET AND NUMBER:
210 West Michigan Street

CITY OR TOWN: **Milwaukee** STATE: **Wisconsin** CODE: **55**

12 STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name James Morton Smith
James Morton Smith

Title Director, State Historical Society of Wisconsin

Date OCT 16 1972

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

Robert H. Utley
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 3/14/73

ATTEST: W. M. ...
Keeper of The National Register

Date 3.9.73

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	Wisconsin	
COUNTY	Milwaukee	
FOR NPS USE ONLY		
ENTRY NUMBER	14	DATE
	MAR	14 1973

(Number all entries)

FEDERAL BUILDING

11. Donald N. Anderson, Asst. Director, Historic Sites & Markers Division

State Historical Society of Wisconsin

July 17, 1972

816 State Street

Madison

Wisconsin

Code: 55

