

HB no UTm

STATE:	Mississippi
COUNTY:	Forrest
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE	SEP 18 1973

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

#### 1. NAME

COMMON:  
U. S. District Courthouse

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
U. S. Post Office

#### 2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:  
South corner of Pine and Forrest Streets

CITY OR TOWN:  
Hattiesburg

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:  
Fifth

STATE: Mississippi      CODE: 39401      COUNTY: Forrest      CODE: 035

#### 3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
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) _____ _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Comments _____ _____

#### 4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:  
U. S. Government

STREET AND NUMBER:  
South Corner of Pine and Forrest Streets

CITY OR TOWN:  
Hattiesburg

STATE: Mississippi      CODE: 39401

#### 5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
Office of the Chancery Clerk, Forrest County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:  
North Main Street (Post Office Box 607)

CITY OR TOWN:  
Hattiesburg

STATE: Mississippi      CODE: 39401

#### 6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

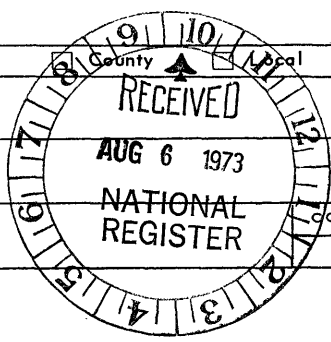
TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY:       Federal       State       County       Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:



STATE: Mississippi

COUNTY: Forrest

ENTRY NUMBER: 993

DATE: SEP 18 1973

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SEE INSTRUCTIONS

7. DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The U. S. Courthouse in Hattiesburg is a one-story structure with full basement, its granite foundation supporting a superstructure of marble walls and tile roof. The former main entrance on the Forrest Street (northeast) elevation was converted to the middle window of seven during the 1939 remodeling of the building into a courthouse. The original use of the opening is still indicated by a raised panel over the lintel and a flight of granite steps flanked by a pair of bronze lamp standards on marble cheek blocks. The northeast facade is further emphasized by a range of eight engaged Doric columns which frame the paired, double-hung windows with hinged transoms and cross-ettes, and by pilasters which define the blind end bays.

On the Pine Street (northwest) elevation, pilasters and columns are also utilized, the latter, a pair, being in antis and the only existing public entrance being protected by a recessed loggia. The double-leaf door is enriched with cross-ettes, a bronze grillwork transom, and a stone tablet featuring fully developed cornice, guilloched side panels, and the inscription "United States Court House." The pilasters flanking the doorway bear upon their capitals two stone beams which divide the ceiling of the loggia into three fields of yellow plaster banded by white wooden members, producing an effect reminiscent of coffering. The windows of the loggia have crosseted framing, while those in the end bays are untrimmed and one of which (that on the left) is a single, slot-like opening. Bronze metal bracket lamps with opalescent globes are positioned above the marble cheek blocks abutting the steps.

The southwest (original rear) and southeast elevations feature the fenestration forms already noted and pilasters which are placed according to the spacing of the pilasters and columns on the respective corresponding elevations. The southwest wall is marble only on the two outer bays, the inner seven being faced with brick. A granite mailing platform protected by a copper metal marquee suspended by rods was originally constructed at the southwest entrance, the door of which was fitted with a wrought iron grille window. During the 1939 remodeling the marquee was removed and the platform area enclosed in brick to provide an extension for the office of the district judge.

The building features an entablature, identical on all four elevations, comprised of marble architrave, wooden frieze pierced by metal grilles, and dentiled cornice, also of wood. The scale of the entablature is matched by a double string course which joins the bases of the columns and pilasters as the entablature does their capitals. Further unity in the design is reflected in the pairs of wooden brackets which continue the alignment of the pilasters and columns up underneath the eaves.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Mississippi	
COUNTY Forrest	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	SEP 18 1973

(Number all entries)

7.

The latter project prominently and have paneled soffits. A plain marble ventilating stack with cap and metal louvers rises to a height of approximately eight feet on the southeast slope of the hipped roof.

The original layout of the building, designed for post office requirements, included postmaster and assistant postmaster offices, workrooms, and lobbies in which the customary public services were available (money orders, registry, general delivery, stamps, letter drops). The interior finish produced a decor in the taste of the period, with plaster walls, cornices, and cove ceilings; terra cotta columns; wood and marble wainscoting; bronze metal thresholds; and floors patterned in verd antique, terrazzo, and Tennessee red marble. When the building was remodeled, portions of the original finish were retained (the marble floors and plaster walls and ceilings in the lobby areas, for example), as well as the integrity of certain spaces (the postmaster's and assistant postmaster's offices became the U. S. attorney's and assistant U. S. attorney's offices, with existing finish remaining). The change in the overall interior character of the building was rather complete, however, with the large mail workroom converted to a courtroom and the northeast corridor partitioned into clerk of court offices and witness rooms.



**3. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **1910-present**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Political	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <u>Governmental</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 present U. S. Courthouse in Hattiesburg, Mississippi, was the first federal building constructed in Forrest County. Completed in 1910, the construction date for the edifice coincides with the peak years of Forrest County's lumber industry and bears witness to the Hub City's rapid rise to prominence in southeastern Mississippi. James Knox Taylor was the supervising architect for the building, which originally served as a U. S. post office--a function it continued to have until 1933 when the present post office building was constructed.

The property remained under the jurisdiction of the General Services Administration after the removal of the post office, and in 1939 the structure was altered to provide courtroom facilities for the U. S. District Court of the newly-created Southern District of Mississippi. In the interim, the building accommodated the offices of various federal agencies in the area, including the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the U. S. Treasury Department's alcohol control division. The offices of the Clerk of the U. S. District Court were also housed in the building, after the creation of the Southern District in 1936.

The federal district court began sitting in the old post office building immediately upon completion of the 1939 alterations and continues to do so today, though on an intermittent basis. The current federal judge, Walter L. Nixon, holds the distinction of being the youngest man ever appointed to a federal district judgeship.

Obsolete as a U. S. courthouse, the future of the structure is as yet undetermined. Upon the completion of Hattiesburg's new federal building, the U. S. District Court and certain federal offices will be moved there. The feasibility of housing county offices in the old federal building is being studied at present and definitive statements concerning future usage are impending. Well-built and still structurally sound, the old courthouse is a valuable component in the immediate townscape, its virtually unchanged exterior providing a Neo-Classical Revival prelude for several striking Modernistic

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Personal Inspection by Robert J. Bailey, Historian, and Dawn Maddox, Architectural Historian, July 10, 1973.

Personal Interview with Mr. Peter Baricev, A.I.A., Hattiesburg, Mississippi, July 10, 1973.

Personal Interview with Mr. R. A. Esarey, President, Hattiesburg, Mississippi, July 10, 1973. Hattiesburg Area Historical Society.

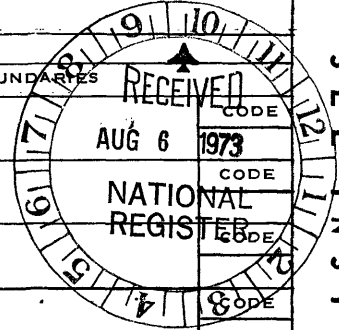
**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

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	
NW	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		
NE	0 . "	0 . "	0 . "	0 . "		
SE	0 . "	0 . "	0 . "	0 . "		
SW	0 . "	0 . "	0 . "	0 . "		

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **one-half acre**

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

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



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE: **Dawn Maddox, Architectural Historian, and Robert J. Bailey, Historian**

ORGANIZATION: **Mississippi Department of Archives & History** DATE: **July 26, 1973**

STREET AND NUMBER: **Post Office Box 571**

CITY, OR TOWN: **Jackson** STATE: **Mississippi 39205** CODE: **28**

**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: Elbert R. Hilliard  
Elbert R. Hilliard

Title: Director, Miss. Dept. of Archives & History

Date: July 26, 1973

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

Russell E. Dickenson  
Deputy Director, National Park Service  
Date: Sept 18, 1973

ATTEST:

Wm. Bennett  
Keeper of The National Register  
Date: 9 13 73

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INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Mississippi	
COUNTY Forrest	
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(Number all entries)

8.

neighbors, such as the new post office and a motion picture theater. Although its original interior has already been altered once and a second alteration is planned, such change is viewed as helping to assure the future of a building which is stylistically unique in the city. As a visual urban asset and an increasingly rare statement of governmental design and building practice in a given era, it merits consideration for continued existence.



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INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

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U. S., General Services Administration, Office of Fine Arts and Historic Preservation, Public Buildings Service,, "Inventory Form of Historic Places," "U. S. Courthouse," prepared for General Services Administration by John T. Jascomb, August 1, 1972.

U. S., General Services Administration, Public Buildings Service, Region 4, Blueprints of plans and specifications for "U. S. Post Office, Hattiesburg, Mississippi," Treasury Department, 1910, and for "Remodeling, U. S. Court House, Hattiesburg, Mississippi," Treasury Department, 1938. Courtesy of Mr. Peter Baricev, A.I.A., 222 West Pine Street, Hattiesburg, Mississippi.

