

P40112704

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Georgia
COUNTY: Fulton
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE MAY 2 1974

1. NAME

COMMON: United States Post Office and Courthouse

AND/OR HISTORIC: Old Post Office

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: 76 Forsyth Street

CITY OR TOWN: Atlanta CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: Fifth

STATE: Georgia CODE: 10 COUNTY: Fulton CODE: 121

3. CLASSIFICATION

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

4. AGENCY

General Services Administration ²¹⁰

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (If applicable)

CITY OR TOWN: Atlanta

STREET AND NUMBER: 1776 Peachtree Street

STATE: Georgia CODE: 10

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Fulton County Courthouse Registry of Deeds

STREET AND NUMBER: 136 Pryor S. W.

CITY OR TOWN: Atlanta STATE: Georgia CODE: 10

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

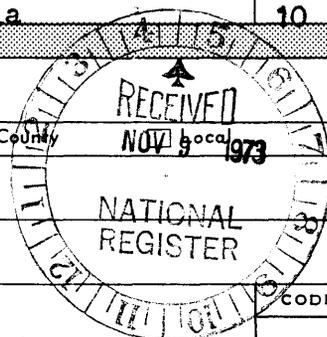
TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: _____

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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 (interior)			<input type="checkbox"/> Moved		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The United States Post Office and Courthouse in Atlanta is an imposing structure covering one block in the center of downtown. Fronting Forsyth Street on the southeast, its boundaries are defined also by Walton, Fairlie, and Poplar streets. First occupied in 1911, the structure exhibits characteristics of the Second Renaissance Revival style of the late nineteenth-early twentieth centuries. The five-story, U-shaped building has a granite exterior on the street facades and a buff-colored brick surfacing in the U-shaped or court area. The ground story is rusticated while the upper wall surfaces are smooth providing a background for a variety of ornate openings. Surmounting the building is a heavy cornice making the low roof invisible from the street.

A slight projection on the Forsyth Street facade punctuates the main entrance and courtroom side of the building. Each major floor has seven openings within the projected area. On the ground story are three entrances flanked by two windows. The second story openings, which lead onto balustraded balconies, have complete entablatures with flat molded cornices supported by scrolled brackets and carved classical motifs on the friezes. Designating the courtroom are two-story arched windows which are separated by pilasters.

Simple arched openings, including one centrally located entrance on both the Walton and Poplar Street sides, are used throughout the ground floor, ~~excepting~~ on the back or Fairlie Street side where windows are rectangular. Dividing the first and second floors is a stringcourse, the lower section carved with what could be called a modified bead and reel motif, and the upper section in a wave pattern. Upper story openings on the ends of the Forsyth Street facade and other street facades are uniform. Those on the second story are ornate with heavy entablatures having either an arched or gabled pediment. Third story windows also have complete entablatures with the only carving on the friezes. Fourth story windows are smaller with molded entablatures and carved keystones.

Capping the structure is the repeated use of a complete entablature. The molded architrave with dentiling is very pronounced on all facades excepting the projected section of the main entrance where it is plain and withdrawn. Within the frieze are the fifth floor openings which are square on all sides but the main facade where they are rectangular and separated by carved panels. The cornice is most pronounced and elaborate on the projected area. Carved anthemion motifs decorate the roofline.

Spanning the court or U-shaped area on Fairlie Street is an iron arch covering the loading area, and attached to the distributing room. Few alterations have been made to this or any other part of the exterior of the building.

The basic interior floor plan has not changed drastically, although some details have been either altered or eliminated. The halls of the first floor or main post office area consist of a series of arches resting on flat marble pilasters. Wainscoting and window and door framing are marble

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

B. 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) Completed 1910

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

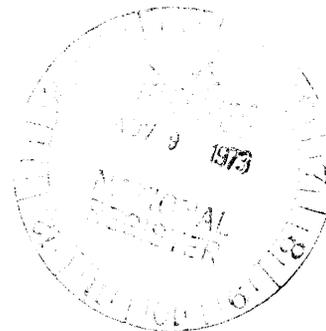
- | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> 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 Old Post Office, or more officially, the United States Post Office and Courthouse in Atlanta is one of the most architecturally important and distinguished buildings of the early twentieth century remaining in the downtown area, and is one which makes a major visual contribution to the central city. Built in the Second Renaissance Revival style, the Old Post Office was first occupied in 1911 after taking over three years to build.

A government publication of 1901, pictures the previous Atlanta Post Office built of brick in 1876-1880, and later enlarged in 1889-1890. It was this structure which was replaced in the early twentieth century. Contemporary photographs taken during construction from 1907-1910, show the foundation being dug by May, 1907. James Knox Taylor, Supervising Architect of the Treasury Department at the time, was responsible for the design of the building.

In 1931-1933, the building at 76 Forsyth Street became the "Old Post Office" when major postal services were moved to another newer structure. Presently, the Old Post Office is occupied primarily by a post office station and by the United States courts and related agencies.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

A History of Public Buildings under the Control of the Treasury Department.
 Washington: Government Printing Office, 1901, pp. 98-99.
 Cooper, Walter G. Official History of Fulton County. Atlanta: author,
 1934, pp. 438-439.
 Garrett, Franklin M. Atlanta and Environs: A Chronicle of Its People and
 Events. 2 vols. Athens: University of Georgia Press, 1969, Vol. II, p.
 888.
 Records of the National Archives, Atlanta Regional Branch of the National
 Archives Federal Records Center. Record Group RG121, Accession Number
 65A484, records pertaining to building of Atlanta Post Office.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

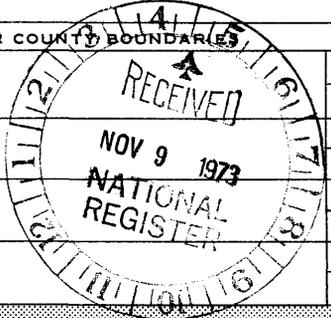
LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	° ' "	° ' "		°	'	"
NE	° ' "	° ' "		33	45	23
SE	° ' "	° ' "		84	23	25
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

UTM
 16/741730/
 3730000
 CD

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: about one acre

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Ellen Beasley DATE: March 26, 1973

BUSINESS ADDRESS:

STREET AND NUMBER: 2516 Belmont Boulevard PHONE: 615-297-6637

CITY OR TOWN: Nashville STATE: Tennessee CODE: 41

12. CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION	NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION
State Liaison Officer recommendation: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> None <u>Mary Gregory Jewett</u> State Liaison Officer Signature	I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register. <u>A. H. Martensen</u> Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation
In compliance with Executive Order 11593, I hereby nominate this property to the National Register, certifying that the State Liaison Officer has been allowed 90 days in which to present the nomination to the State Review Board and to evaluate its significance. The recommended level of significance is <input type="checkbox"/> National <input type="checkbox"/> State <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Local <u>Steven R. Rutterbaum</u> 10/24/73 Federal Representative Signature Date Historic Preservation Liaison Officer	Date <u>5/2/74</u> ATTEST: <u>Con Muntz</u> Keeper of The National Register Date <u>5.2.74</u>

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(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Georgia	
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(Number all entries)

No. 7 Description (continued)

while upper wall surfaces are plaster. The location of the two enclosed staircases corresponds to the single outside entrances on both the Walton and the Poplar Street sides. Marble wainscoting and steps, and iron and brass railings are used on the staircases. Tucked in the stairwells are elevators which appeared in 1910 photographs of the interior although the original grillwork has disappeared.

Upper floors contain office space where ceilings have been lowered and floors either covered or replaced. The United States Court of Appeals is located on the third floor. The large, rectangular courtroom is covered with elaborately carved oak paneling repeating many of the motifs of the exterior. The three arched windows are heavily draped. Service areas are located in the basement.

The building dimensions are 192'0" x 189'8".

