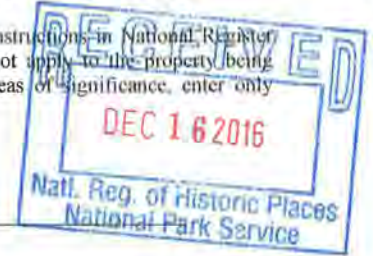


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

56-619

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. 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.



1. Name of Property

Historic name: United States Post Office and Court House

Other names/site number: Donald Stuart Russell Federal Courthouse

Name of related multiple property listing:

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

2. Location

Street & number: 201 Magnolia Street

City or town: Spartanburg State: South Carolina County: Spartanburg

Not For Publication: Vicinity:

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 at the following level(s) of significance:

national statewide local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

A B C D

	<u>12/13/2016</u>
Signature of certifying official/Title:	Date
<u>Federal Preservation Officer, U.S. General Services Administration</u>	
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government	

In my opinion, the property <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> meets <input type="checkbox"/> does not meet the National Register criteria.	
	<u>11/17/2016</u>
Signature of commenting official:	Date
<u>Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer</u>	
Title :	State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government


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4. 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 the Keeper

1/31/17
Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private:
- Public – Local
- Public – State
- Public – Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box.)

- Building(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

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Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	_____	buildings
_____	_____	sites
_____	_____	structures
_____	_____	objects
<u>1</u>	_____	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

GOVERNMENT: Post Office
GOVERNMENT: Courthouse
GOVERNMENT: Government Office

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

GOVERNMENT: Courthouse
GOVERNMENT: Government Office

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE 19th AND EARLY 20th CENTURY REVIVALS: Colonial Revival/ Georgian Revival

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: Concrete; Brick; Limestone; Granite;
Copper

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

Constructed on the edge of Spartanburg's central business district in 1931, the United States Post Office and Court House is surrounded by three and four story buildings. Three stories with a raised basement, it is square in plan with an interior light court above the second floor. It has a concrete structure and an exterior clad in red brick with limestone trim. The intersecting hipped roof is clad in verdigris-finish standing seam copper. The building exhibits many characteristics of the Georgian Revival style. The fenestration is regular and symmetrical in arrangement. The primary, west, elevation is the most detailed, with an inset section of five bays distinguished by six engaged columns of the Corinthian order. Other exterior details include projecting pavilions, quoining at corners, a prominent belt course, decorative cast iron spandrel panels and pedimented doorways. The exterior retains a high level of integrity, with the only major alteration being a recent one- and two-story addition on the rear of the building.

On the interior, the double-height courtroom retains the original walnut paneling and furnishings, including the audience seating, judge's bench and witness chair. While the corridors throughout the building remain largely intact, the original public lobby and former post office areas on the first floor, as well as offices areas on the second and third floors, have been modified. Despite these alterations to maintain the building's viability as a federal office and courthouse, it retains sufficient historic integrity to convey its significance.

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Narrative Description

General

The United States Post Office and Court House in Spartanburg, South Carolina, currently known as the Donald Stuart Russell Federal Courthouse, is located at 201 Magnolia Street, at the corner of Magnolia and Donald S. Russell (formerly Walnut) streets, in downtown Spartanburg. The United States Post Office and Court House is surrounded by two, three, and four story office and government buildings, most dating from latter half of the twentieth century. The mid-twentieth century Spartanburg County Courthouse complex occupies the entire block directly across Magnolia Street. The Richardsonian Romanesque Cleveland Law Range (1899), a substantial red brick building located to the south of the federal courthouse at 171 Magnolia Street, has long been associated with the courthouse, housing many lawyers' offices over the years.¹

The United States Post Office and Court House is symmetrically located on its corner lot, which is higher at the front, western end, of the property. The property is bordered on the west, north and south by a low concrete retaining wall topped with a metal picket fence that diminishes in height towards the rear, following the site's slope from west to east. At the front, a concrete walk and the building's broad steps bisect a landscaped area with mature trees, hedges and grass. Similar landscaping surrounds the building on the north and south sides. A freestanding flagpole is located at the northwest corner of the property. Concrete sidewalks border the site on the west and south sides of the property. Macadam drives entering from Magnolia Street, at the northwest corner of the property, and Donald S. Russell Street, at the southeast corner of the property, provide access to the rear of the building and to a row of parking spaces along the eastern edge of the property. Black metal picket fences with automated gates secure access to the drives at the street fronts.

Housing court and federal agency functions, the three-story brick building is in the Georgian Revival Style, a variant of Colonial Revival. The United States Post Office and Court House's square form, sense of calm balance created by the symmetrical, regular distribution of fenestration, classical detailing, pedimented door surrounds, engaged columns, hipped roof, raised foundation, belt course, and use of red brick with contrasting limestone detailing including quoins, all convey the Georgian Revival style. Only the tower on the south elevation breaks from this style, suggesting instead the Collegiate Gothic.

Exterior

The west-facing United States Post Office and Court House is three stories with basement and square in plan. A four-story tower at the western end of the south elevation projects beyond the building face so that the primary (west) elevation does not appear strictly symmetrical. All elevations are characterized by regular and widely spaced window apertures. The dimensions of the apertures reduce in size with each floor. The roof consists of three intersecting hipped roofs running along the perimeter at the west, south and north sides, and a large flat roof at the rear (east) extending into the center, over the courtroom and law library. All four corners of the

¹ The Cleveland Law Range (NR# 73001730), listed in the National Register of Historic Places on April 13, 1973.

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building are marked by projecting pavilions crowned with hipped roofs. As constructed, the building had an open light well in the center above the first floor, providing daylight to the double-height courtroom on the second and third floors. However, circa 1968, the light well was infilled on the second floor to provide a law library, leaving a functioning light court only on the third floor. A sally port and elevator tower addition was added at the rear elevation of the building in 2004. This addition, composed of small rectangular volumes of one and two stories, is not visible from Magnolia Street and does not visually affect the primary (west) elevation.

Built with a spread footing foundation, the structure is concrete with steel and wood framing. The primary exterior material of the building is a dark red brick laid in common bond with buff mortar and extensive buff/ light grey limestone trim with a rubbed finish. A limestone water table terminating at the bottom of the first story windows circumscribes the entire building. Below the water table, the exposed basement level is clad in limestone. A prominent limestone cornice encircles the building at the bottom of the third story windows and limestone quoining highlights the corners of the tower and projecting pavilions. The windows are steel, generally multi-light, double-hung sash, but may also include fixed sidelights and fixed and operable transoms. Larger and more complex on the first story, the windows diminish in complexity and size with each story. Larger windows are composed of various combinations of double-hung sash with sidelights or transoms or both. The basement windows, just visible above grade, align with the windows above and sit within light wells. The hipped roof is clad in standing seam copper with a verdigris finish. Copper cresting runs along the roof edge on all elevations. This roof is a replacement, installed in 2005 to match the original. Built-up roofing covers the flat roof.

West (Primary) Elevation

The building's primary, west, elevation, faces Magnolia Street and is symmetrical, except for the shallow protrusion of the tower on the south end. Seven bays wide, it is articulated into three sections. The wide, inset central section is distinguished by a row of engaged columns and the centered main entrance. On either side of the central section are two projecting pavilions. This tripartite division is reiterated on the copper-clad roof of the west elevation. The long central section is flanked by two equilateral hipped roofs over the end pavilions. Horizontally, the elevation is divided into three stories, with each story shorter than the one below. Except for the shallow protrusion of the tower on the south end, the primary façade is symmetrical in plan and divided into three sections.

The five-bay central section, slightly recessed from the rest of the façade and accommodating six engaged double-height limestone columns, is the focal point of the primary facade. The building is accessed by a series of granite steps. In plan, they span the width of three bays, engaging four columns, and rise to the main entrance from the street level. The approach to the steps is indented at right angles from the retaining wall, which acts as a shallow plinth for the entire site. Two classically detailed lamp standards located on plinths at the top of the steps flank the entry.

The main entrance to the building is in the center bay of the first story. It has a limestone surround with a triangular pediment. Three prominent antefixes, crested with anthemion mark the center and ends of the triangle while the two top edges are curved in concave swags. A decorative bronze screen showing a field of stars is located in the transom above the door. The double-leaf doors are wood framed with glass. The original drawings and early photographs

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show the doors with bronze screens, matching that on the transom; these were removed at some date.

The inset central section's six columns are characterized by a small pedestal, round base, smooth shaft and capitals in a simplified Corinthian style, composed of a row of acanthus leaves with palm leaves above.² Between each column, on the first floor, are six-over-six windows with flanking, four-light sidelights. A transom composed of three lights flanked by a single light on either side caps each window. The sidelights and transoms replicate the proportions of the lights in the sash.

Between the first and second stories of the inset central section, are cast iron spandrel panels. Each spandrel panel is composed of three sections: the larger central section is flanked by two smaller sections and has a medallion in the center. Each section has a fluted field and edges decorated with pearling and dog-eared motifs. At the top edge of each spandrel panel is a band of egg-and-dart molding. The central medallion is composed of an open flower surrounded by a wreath. The spandrel panels are currently painted white with the medallions highlighted in bronze. However, original photographs appear to show a more uniform paint scheme. Above the spandrels, the second story windows mimic those of the first story, except that the proportions of the lights are not as elongated and these windows lack transoms.

The two flanking pavilions have limestone quoining at the corners and a centered window on the first and second stories. These windows align horizontally with the windows of the central section. The first floor windows consist of paired four-over-four sash, each with a two-light transom. Slender mullions separate the paired sash. Each window sits within a limestone surround with a simple projecting cornice. The second story windows mimic those of the first story, except the proportions of the lights are not as elongated, they lack transoms and the limestone surrounds lack a cornice.

The third story windows are uniform across the façade. The paired four-over-four double-hung sash are smaller than the windows of the first and second stories. A slender mullion separates the paired sash. These windows are set into the brick wall with no surround.

Between the second and third stories is a limestone belt course with a prominent cornice. A band of dentil molding runs under the cornice. This belt course extends the full length of the primary façade and wraps around the entire building, except for two areas noted in the description below. On the west, primary, façade, centered within this belt course, is an aluminum signboard reading, "FEDERAL BUILDING – UNITED STATES COURT HOUSE". After the removal of the post office from the building, this signboard was installed over the original engraved signage that read, "United States Post Office and Court House." The original drawings and early photographs show a flagpole projecting from the cornice at the base of the third story in the center of the facade. At some point, this flagpole was removed and replaced with the current flagpole located on the front lawn.

The standing copper roof is pitched as described above. A simple limestone cornice wraps the entire building just below the roof. Above the cornice, copper cresting composed of repeating antefixae, runs along the entire perimeter of the building at the edge of the roof, except where

² This type of column is known as "Tower of the Winds" for the ancient Athenian building of that name.

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interrupted by the southwest tower, echoing the antefixae on the entablature above the elevation's entrance door.

South (Side) Elevation

The six-bay-wide south elevation consists of two very different sections: the shorter western section of the elevation with its shallowly protruding tower and the five-bay eastern section, which has a regular pattern of fenestration closely related to that on the primary, west, elevation. The offset corner tower is four stories high while the remainder of the building is three stories high. The most significant character-defining feature of this elevation is the tower, which is also visible at the south end of the west elevation. The wide chamfered side walls of the tower abut the south elevation in obtuse angles and, on the first two stories, are clad in limestone, which is set off from the brickwork with quoining. The belt course continues across this elevation between the second and third stories, but breaks in the middle of the tower for a window. On the fourth story, the massing of the tower changes to a rectangular block, inset from the chamfered sides.

The tower's windows are treated independently of the regular arrangement of the windows on the rest of this façade. Offset from the floor levels on the rest of the elevation, their placement reflects their special function of illuminating stairs, rather than general interior spaces. The south face of the tower is one bay wide with a window in the center of the bay on each level. The break in the belt course with a shallow return as well as a shallow reveal in the brickwork of the south wall visually creates flanking pilasters, which frame the windows on the first three levels of the tower. The window on the first level is a two-over-two, double-hung sash with two-light sidelights. The window on the second level is four-over-four sash with four-light sidelights. The window on the third level is identical to that on the second level. Above the third level window is a horizontal limestone panel. On the fourth level, narrow windows covered with decorative cast iron grilles light the west, south and east elevations. These grilles have the same pattern as the bronze grille on the transom over the main entry door, but here are painted white. Underneath these uppermost windows is a narrow limestone belt course that wraps the tower. The top of the tower is trimmed with limestone coping.

The windows in the eastern section of this elevation follow the pattern established on the primary elevation; the first floor has a six-over-six sash with flanking sidelights and transom and the second floor has six-over-six sash with flanking sidelights, but no transom. Cast iron spandrel panels separate the first and second story windows. However, unlike on the primary elevation, these elements are not trimmed with limestone. Instead, the entire vertical assembly, composed of first and second story windows and panel, is recessed slightly from the face of the building and framed by a brickwork reveal. A vertical, two-over-two window is located between the fourth and fifth bays, near the east end of the façade on the first story. The eastern section's third story windows are identical to those of the primary elevation: paired four-over-four sash with mullion and no surround.

The easternmost bay at the first story has been altered. The window opening is bricked-in and a stainless steel ventilation cap projects from the upper portion. An identical ventilation cap projects from the upper portion of the adjacent window on the first floor.

A secondary entrance, centrally located in this eastern section, is accessed by a double flight of granite steps leading from the sidewalk. Simple metal railings, likely a modern addition, are

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located on either side of the steps. The double leaf doors and transom above are covered in decorative bronze grilles matching that on the transom above the main entrance door on the west elevation. This doorway is set within a limestone frame characterized by a flat entablature and prominent cornice decorated with dentil molding. Lamps suspended from brackets flank the doorway.

East (Rear) Elevation

The rear, east, elevation of seven bays somewhat echoes the primary façade in its massing. Here, a larger recessed central section of five bays is flanked by hipped roofed pavilions, each a single bay. As constructed, a single story five-bay-wide and one bay deep postal work area with covered loading dock projected out from the center of the east elevation. Today much of the northern half of the east elevation is obscured by an addition completed in 2004 for a sally port, a secure entry into the building for federal judges and prisoners. The brick addition projects out from the east elevation in one- and two-story blocks.

Two bays of the original postal workroom and covered loading dock remain visible at the south end of the central section of the east elevation. As constructed, the one story, brick clad workroom and loading dock section was utilitarian in appearance with a copper clad awning roof supported by pipe columns covering the loading dock and a series of five double doors accessing the workroom. Later, likely following the departure of the main post office function in 1968, this section was raised in height and its openings infilled or altered. Today, a concrete ramp and steps lead to the remaining portion of the loading dock, which has flat steel canopy roof supported by steel columns.

The sally port addition is utilitarian in character and utilizes a materials palette sympathetic to the original construction. The addition consists of a small drive-through garage and an elevator tower with connection to the courtroom at the level of the second story. The addition is composed of plain brick-clad cubic volumes with flat parapet roofs. Blind window openings add interest to the addition's east wall on the first story, and vertical twelve-pane windows are located on the south, east and north elevations of the elevator tower on the second story. The elevator tower is embellished further with a concrete belt course and an equilateral hipped roof clad in standing seam copper. The garage has a metal roll-up door on the south and east sides.

Beyond the highly altered central section's first story, the east elevation is relatively unaltered. The recessed central section is the location of the double height courtroom on the second and third stories. Five large windows composed of four-over-four sash with flanking sidelights and transom light the courtroom along this wall. These window openings are devoid of trim, save for limestone sills.

As constructed, the fenestration pattern of the flanking pavilions echoed that of the north and south elevations, but the first story windows have been infilled with brick. Thus, the second story of each pavilion has a six-over-six sash window with flanking sidelights and, immediately below, a cast iron spandrel panel. The entire vertical assembly, composed of the now infilled first story window, the second story window and spandrel panel, is slightly recessed from the face of the building, framed by a brickwork reveal. As elsewhere on the building, the third story windows are paired four-over-four sash with mullion and no surrounds. On the second story, at the inner edge each pavilion, there is a vertical two-over-two window. In the southern pavilion,

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the lower half of this window has been infilled. The limestone belt course wrapping the building continues across the pavilions, but returns where the pavilions meet the central section.

North (Side) Elevation

The north elevation is divided in the manner of the south elevation with one major exception: instead of a projecting tower, this façade has a projecting pavilion occupying the west end of the elevation. As on the south elevation, the remainder of the elevation is composed of five bays with a regular pattern of fenestration. As with all elevations, a projecting cornice extends across the entire elevation above the second story.

The pavilion projects slightly from the face of the building, has quoining at the corners on the first and second stories and is capped with a hipped roof. It has three bays with a wide window in the center bay flanked by narrow windows to either side. At the first story, the central bay has a window unit identical to that of the windows in the first story of the flanking pavilions on the primary elevation. It consists of paired four-over-four sash, each with a two-light transom. These windows are separated by a slender mullion and sit within a limestone surround with a simple projecting cornice. The narrow flanking windows are six-over-six lights with a three-light transom. These windows rest within a punched opening and have no surround. At the second story, the center window unit mimics that of the first story below, except that the proportions of the lights are not as elongated and the window lacks a transom. This window sits within a limestone surround, simpler than that below in that it lacks a cornice. It is flanked by narrow six-over-six windows with no surrounds, but with limestone sills. The third story has a window composed of paired four-over-four sash in the center bay flanked by six-over-six windows. The third story windows have no surrounds.

The fenestration pattern in the eastern section of this elevation is identical to that in the main section of the south elevation: on the first floor, six-over-six sash with flanking sidelights and transom; on the second floor, six-over-six sash with flanking sidelights; between the first and second story windows, cast iron spandrel panels; and, the entire vertical assembly of first and second story windows and panel slightly recessed from the face of the building and framed by a brickwork reveal. As elsewhere on the building, the third story windows are paired four-over-four sash with mullion and no surround. A vertical, two-over-two window is located on the second story between the third and fourth bays from the rear. A stainless steel ventilation cap projects from the wall on the third story, near the center of the building.

Interior

The building was designed as a regional federal post office, courthouse and office building, supporting many agencies. It continues as a multi-functional federal building today. When the building opened November 22, 1931, it was known as the "downtown" post office and the entire first floor was devoted to postal uses with a large "L" – shaped postal lobby and postal windows at the front of the building serving the public and, behind this, a large, open, postal workroom. Following the 1968 removal of the main post office function, much of the first floor was converted for use as offices and a small conference room. The northern portion of the lobby was enclosed and subdivided to create additional office space, but the southern portion of the original lobby and side hallway remain. In this area, the original marble wainscoting, banded top

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and bottom by a slightly thicker section of marble, terrazzo floors and marble clad stairs have been maintained. The elevator doorway is trimmed with a marble surround of simple design. A suspended ceiling with fluorescent light panels has been installed in this area, concealing the original ceiling. On the second and third floors, the original interior U-shaped corridor plan remains. The U-shaped configuration results from the central placement of the courtroom and light well.

The double-height second floor courtroom, still used today as a courtroom, is the most significant interior space and retains its architectural integrity. The spatial layout and furnishings, significant character-defining features of the courtroom, remain. The furnishings include the bench seating for the audience, dais, primary attorney and client seating, court reporter and judge's bench and witness chair. The detailed walnut woodwork includes 9-foot high paneled wainscoting capped with a band of decorative carving and a cornice, which wraps the room. The carved patterns include shields and the same "starburst" detailing seen in the metal grilles above the main and secondary exterior entrances of the building. Behind the judge's bench, a taller paneled section takes the form of reeded pilasters supporting an entablature decorated with metopes and triglyphs and capped by a flat cornice. The pilasters and entablature frame a paneled field within which is mounted a bronze seal of the United States. A triangular walnut pediment with escutcheon adorns the public doorway on the interior of the courtroom.

As seen from the corridor outside of the courtroom, the courtroom is entered through two pairs of doors – one wooden and one soundproofed. The soundproof doors are padded and covered with blue vinyl cloth on both sides. It is likely that originally these doors were covered in leather. Each door has a small elliptical window. The pair of doors facing the corridor is solid wood with fields of raised square panels and brass hardware. Above these corridor doors, the marble entablature features a simpler version of the wood entablature above the soundproof doors on the courtroom side of the wall.

A significant courtroom feature is the row of tall windows in the east and west walls. Both sets of windows originally opened to daylight – the windows in the western wall to the building's interior light well and the windows in the eastern wall to the building's exterior at the east elevation. Today, the windows in the western wall appear as blind openings, as the sash was removed and the openings infilled to allow for the construction of a second-floor library during the building's major renovation circa 1968. The law library occupies the lower floor of the original double-height light well, which is now a single story space. The original windows in the east wall of the courtroom remain intact and functional.

The courtroom floor is currently clad in carpeting. The coffered plaster ceiling remains but has been modified to receive modern florescent light fixtures and circular vents.

On the north, west and south, the courtroom and law library are surrounded by a "U" shaped corridor, which opens to offices along the perimeter of the building. Judges' chambers are located in the northeast corner, and stairs wrap the elevator shaft in the southwest corner of the building. The third floor replicates the second floor plan with perimeter wall offices, separated from the double-height courtroom by a generous corridor that wraps around the light well and courtroom on their north, west and south sides.

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The corridors on the second and third floors generally retain their architectural integrity. Details include terrazzo floors and varnished, dark-stained wooden doors and surrounds. Marble wainscoting, as in the first floor lobby, banded top and bottom by a slightly thicker section of marble, flanks most of the corridor hallways. Similar uses of marble and terrazzo flooring in the upper floor restrooms are also original, as are many of the restroom fixtures. Rooms such as the judge's chambers and conference rooms typically display wooden chair rails as well as wood doors and surrounds. A second floor conference room has an original walk-in steel safe with a black enameled door decorated with a gold and red seal of the United States.

The basement contains offices and storage areas.

Integrity

On the exterior, the building retains a high level of integrity on the primary and secondary elevations. The primary elevation remains as built with the exception of the removal of the flagpole mounted over the entrance and the bronze grilles from the main doors. The south elevation has had a window infilled and both the south and north elevations have had mechanical vents inserted through walls and a window. Most alterations have been confined to the rear elevation. The most significant of these is the 2004 court security upgrade resulting in an addition composed of small cubic volumes of one and two stories that largely obscure the original loading dock area as well as portions of the north end of the elevation. However, the addition is relatively unobtrusive and does not compete with the historic building in scale or in detailing. Two large windows on the first story of the rear have been infilled. Light fixtures and security cameras are mounted in several locations around the building at the top the belt course.

The interior was significantly altered by the removal of postal functions on the first floor, resulting in the partitioning of the postal workroom and a portion of the large postal lobby for office use. In addition, the interior was altered by the insertion of a law library on the second floor in the light well outside the courtroom. This resulted in the infilling of the courtroom windows which overlooked the light well. However, the courtroom, the most elaborate public space in the building, remains largely unaltered, retaining its original spatial organization, furnishings. On the second and third floors, the corridors remain largely intact in plan and finish.

Despite alterations over the years to maintain its viability as a federal office and courthouse, the United States Post Office and Courthouse retains sufficient integrity in location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association to convey its significance for 1931, the year it was completed.

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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.
- C. 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.
- 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 grave
- D. A cemetery
- E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F. A commemorative property
- G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

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Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

ARCHITECTURE
POLITICS/GOVERNMENT

Period of Significance

1931

Significant Dates

1931

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

James A. Wetmore, Acting Supervising Architect of the Treasury

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Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The United States Post Office and Court House in Spartanburg, South Carolina, is eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A and C. The building is significant under Criterion A as a symbol of the federal presence in Spartanburg and a manifestation of the city's role as regional center. The building was built as a direct result of the Public Buildings Act of 1926, which precipitated a period of federal building construction that was unprecedented in the United States. The \$300,000 building, combining a regional postal facility, facilities for the U.S. District Court for the Western District of South Carolina, as well as offices for several federal agencies, was the product of sustained lobbying on the part of Spartanburg's civic leaders and represents the position of regional prominence that the city had attained in the early part of the twentieth century. The building is significant under Criterion C as a distinctive example of the Georgian Revival style of architecture. Designed by the Office of the Supervising Architect of the Treasury and constructed in 1931, the Georgian Revival Building exhibits many features of that style: symmetrical, regular distribution of fenestration, hipped roof, raised foundation classical detailing, pedimented door surrounds, quoins, engaged columns, belt course, and use of red brick with contrasting limestone detailing. Only the tower on the south elevation breaks from this style, suggesting instead the Collegiate Gothic.

The building retains all aspects of integrity, and is significant at the local level for the period of significance of 1931.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

History of Spartanburg, South Carolina

Located in the northwestern uplands of South Carolina, Spartanburg County was established in 1785. Within a few years, a crossroads village grew up around the county jail and courthouse. The county and village name refer to a local militia in the American Revolution, the Spartan Regiment, which participated in the nearby Battle of Cowpens. When incorporated by a December 17, 1831 legislative act, the town had a population of 300 and was called, "Spartanburg Court House," an acknowledgment of its role as seat of Spartanburg County. At the end of the nineteenth century, the name was shortened to "Spartanburg." Initially, the town grew slowly; however, development accelerated after 1858 and the construction of the railroad between Spartanburg and Columbia. Following the Civil War and into the early twentieth century, Spartanburg entered an even more significant period of growth. By 1900, the population exceeded 11, 000. In the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, the area became regional cotton manufacturing center and home to more than thirty textile mills. During this period, Spartanburg was known as "Hub City," for the many railroad lines that radiated out from the city, servicing the area's agricultural and textile industries. Also during this period, the city's commercial core, centered around Morgan Square, just to the north of the location of the United States Post Office and Court House, was largely rebuilt in substantial brick buildings.

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This area was listed in the National Register of Historic Places as the Spartanburg Historic District.³ By 1930, just a year prior to the opening of the United States Post Office and Court House, the U.S. Census recorded Spartanburg's population at 28,723.⁴

Criterion A

History of United States Postal Service in the United States and Spartanburg

Postal Service in the United States

The postal service in the United States began as a means to provide communication to the colonies during the Revolutionary War. The Second Continental Congress established the Post Office under its first Postmaster General, Benjamin Franklin, on July 26, 1775. The post office was the only agency to remain intact through the Revolutionary War, the Confederation period, and after the Constitution was adopted. Subsequently, the newly established federal government viewed the post office as the means for conveying knowledge of its laws and proceedings to all parts of the country.⁵

The number of post offices in the United States expanded from 75 in 1789 to 16,749 in 1849.⁶ The postal system served as the country's principal means of long distance communication throughout the nineteenth century. Postal service provided both a physical and intellectual link between great distances as the nation expanded across the continent.⁷ By 1820, the number of post offices and miles of post roads approximately quadrupled that of 1800.⁸ Local taverns, grocery stores, coffeehouses, or inns, all focal points of community life, housed the first post offices.⁹

Congress established or improved postal services and facilities throughout the nation during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Efforts to increase the speed and efficiency of mail delivery encouraged the growth of roads, railroads, shipping lines, and eventually airlines. The postal presence, through its sheer number, distribution, and types of services, provided tangible reminders to otherwise isolated communities of the role and ideals of the central government. Consequently, the buildings constructed for use as post offices have reflected various government and architectural philosophies throughout the nation.¹⁰

The postal service built structures for receiving, processing, and distributing mail to provide postal service for the expanding population during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. For smaller communities, a special counter in a local store served as the post office. However,

³ Spartanburg Historic District (NR# 3002209), listed in the National Register of Historic Places on May 19, 1983.

⁴ Wikipedia, "Spartanburg, South Carolina," https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spartanburg,_South_Carolina, accessed October 7, 2016.

⁵ Rita L. Maroney, *History of the U.S. Postal Service: 1775-1982* (Washington, D.C.: United States Government Printing Office, 1982), 3.

⁶ Ellis L. Armstrong, *History of Public Works of the United States, 1776-1945* (Chicago, Illinois: American Public Works Association, 1976), 327.

⁷ Beth Boland, National Register Bulletin, *How to Apply National Register Criteria to Post Offices* (Washington, D.C.: United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 1984), Section II, 1.

⁸ Beth Boland, Section II, 1.

⁹ Rita L. Maroney, 1.

¹⁰ Beth Boland, Section II, 2.

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in larger villages or towns, the federal government constructed a separate post office building with a public service counter, workroom for mail processing, and a loading dock. Urban post offices handling large volumes of mail required larger buildings with extensive workrooms, offices, employee facilities, loading platforms, and windows or counters to serve the public. Urban post offices often shared space in federal buildings with courts and branch offices of federal agencies. The supervising architect of the Treasury oversaw the design and development of these early postal facilities.¹¹

Criteria used to determine the placement of postal offices reflected the uses of the facilities and the manner in which they were designed to function. Post offices that included other federal offices or courts were often located near other government buildings in the community. Single-function post offices built prior to the 1930s were often located on or near “Main Streets” near the railroad station to facilitate movement of mail to and from trains. Facilities constructed during the 1930s and later became more truck and auto-oriented and were located near the downtown, but perhaps a block or two from “Main Street.” This made the post office easy to find, but also allowed better access for truck activity.

The modern-day United States Postal Service was officially established as an independent federal agency on July 1, 1971, when Congress implemented the Postal Reorganization Act.¹²

Postal Service in Spartanburg

Postal service came to the village of Spartanburg Court House soon after its establishment. In 1804, the first postmaster, Abner Benson, conducted the business of his store and post office at the corner of West Main and Morgan Streets, serving a community of about 150 people. Mail at this time was carried by stagecoach, with schedules of arrival from two to three times a week. From 1814 to 1816, mail was brought from Salisbury, North Carolina twice a week.¹³ When the first railroad came into Spartanburg Court House in November 1859, an item in the *Carolina Spartan* announced that the Postmaster General had authorized a special mail contract; mail transported by the railroad would “leave in the morning and arrive about four o’clock in the afternoon, affording an immense improvement most gratifying to our citizens.” By 1868, trains were leaving Spartanburg Court House on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays in the morning and arriving by afternoon in Alston, South Carolina, for transfer to Charlotte, North Carolina, and Charleston, South Carolina.¹⁴

Post office locations and postmasters changed frequently, throughout the nineteenth century. In 1829, Jesse Cleveland was appointed postmaster. He also conducted postal business from his store. Between 1838 and 1854, according to a March 17, 1907 *Spartanburg Herald* article, the post office had six different locations and nearly as many postmasters. A January 7, 1880 item in the *Carolina Spartan* noted “a neat new post office a little farther away from the crowd that assembles in the narrow passage between the Palmetto House and the drug store of Nott and Little,” located on North Church Street, just below what is now Dunbar Street. From there the

¹¹ Rita L. Maroney, 5.

¹² Public Law 91-375—August 12, 1970.

¹³ Helen DuPre Moseley, (Postmaster), “History of the Spartanburg Post Office” (South Carolina Federation of Post Office Clerks, 19th Annual Convention Program, July 11-12, 1947).

¹⁴ Ibid.

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office moved to rented quarters, on the first floor of the old Opera House on West Main Street, with Col. Samuel T. Poinier, a former Union Army chaplain, as postmaster.¹⁵

With the dawn of the twentieth century, significant new services came to the post offices across the nation and in Spartanburg. On May 14, 1896, a money order unit was established in Spartanburg, the fifteenth in the state.¹⁶ Effective April 1, 1898, the Postmaster General issued an order establishing free city delivery service at Spartanburg and, on August 15th of the following year, rural delivery was inaugurated. There were four city carriers, two substitutes and one rural carrier to serve the routes, the rural carrier receiving \$400 annually "including horse hire." His route went by Whitney, Cherokee Post Office and Cannon's Camp Ground. By 1904, one hundred years after the establishment of its first post office, Spartanburg's postal force was comprised of five clerks, six letter carriers and five rural carriers and its postal receipts totaled \$23,982. Over the next several decades, demand for the rural service continued to grow; by 1947, the Spartanburg Post Office managed six rural routes covering more than 300 miles and totaling more than 3,000 boxes.¹⁷ In addition, by 1928, mail was delivered by airplane to Spartanburg's airport, to be sorted and distributed at the postal facility in town.¹⁸

History of the United States District Court and the District of South Carolina

The Federal Judiciary

The federal building in Spartanburg was constructed to house federal courts in addition to postal facilities. The federal judiciary was organized in 1789 with the formation of thirteen judicial districts that served as the basic organizational unit of the federal courts. These thirteen districts coincided with the thirteen original states of the Union. The federal court system is composed of the district, appeals, and supreme courts. The United States District Court initially served primarily as the federal trial court for admiralty and maritime cases, although they also tried civil and criminal cases from time to time. A district judge was appointed for each district and given the power to appoint a clerk to assist in the administration of the district and circuit courts. The president was also authorized at this time to appoint a marshal and federal prosecutor (district attorney) for each district. While the court's jurisdiction was limited to cases arising within their district, the judges also served on the United States Circuit Court that met in each judicial district. In the nineteenth century, during the early days of the court system, district judges were likely to devote more of their time to their circuit court duties than to the district courts. However, over the nineteenth century, the jurisdiction of the district courts expanded, especially in the area of non-capital criminal cases.

In 1911, the United States circuit courts were abolished by Congress, making the United States district courts the sole trial courts of the federal judiciary. New district courts were created as new states entered the Union. Also, as areas became more populated and districts became busier, individual states were divided into multiple districts.¹⁹

¹⁵ Helen DuPre Moseley.

¹⁶ Ibid.

¹⁷ Ibid.

¹⁸ "Building Plans Near Completion," *Spartanburg Herald*, August 22, 1929.

¹⁹ Federal Judicial Center, "History of the Federal Judiciary, U.S. District Courts Overview," http://www.fjc.gov/history/home.nsf/page/courts_district.html, accessed on October 7, 2016.

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The Western District of South Carolina and Spartanburg

The United States District Court for South Carolina was divided into two judicial districts, the Eastern and Western, with one judgeship authorized to serve both districts in 1912. In 1915, an additional judgeship was authorized for the Western District and the sitting judge was assigned exclusively to the Eastern District. In 1929, shortly before the construction of the present federal courthouse in Spartanburg, an additional judge was authorized to serve both districts. In 1965, South Carolina was reorganized as a single judicial district with four judgeships authorized for district court. Today, South Carolina remains a single district with ten authorized judgeships.²⁰

In 1923, Spartanburg's growing prominence in the upstate region of South Carolina was acknowledged when the town was selected as a location for a courthouse for the Western District Court of South Carolina. At this time, there were four other federal courthouse locations for the Western District: Greenville, Greenwood, Rock Hill and Anderson, as well as four locations in the Eastern District: Charleston, Columbia, Florence and Aiken.²¹

Construction of Spartanburg's United States Post Office and Court House

Spartanburg's first purpose-built and federally-owned post office building was a one story, Beaux Arts style building designed by the Office of the Supervising Architect of the Treasury. The building located on North Church Street was completed in March 1907.²² However, by 1923, that facility was deemed wholly inadequate. In January of that year, a delegation of prominent citizens planned to travel to Washington, D.C., to argue for an entirely new building, rather than the \$125,000 expansion and addition authorized by a House bill.²³ Again, in December 1926, three members of the Spartanburg Chamber of Commerce post office committee planned to meet with the assistant secretary of the Treasury and the supervising architect of the Treasury to present the case for a new building.²⁴ A little more than two years later, in February 1929, a number of sites in downtown Spartanburg were under consideration for a new federal building, with a decision expected soon. By that time, it had been determined that the new building would house not just the post office, but also federal offices and court facilities.²⁵ In August 1929, with the site selected, plans were expected to be completed by the end of the year. Even so, yet another delegation planned to visit Washington to ensure that the project received the necessary funding to bring it to fruition.²⁶

The building's construction brought to a successful conclusion the long efforts on the part of the town's citizens and leaders to secure a new federal building for the city. Throughout the planning process, Spartanburg sought and received the aid of national representatives in Washington, D.C. It is probably no mere coincidence that the Spartanburg United States Post Office and Court House was authorized and constructed under the auspices of Secretary of

²⁰ Ibid, "U.S. District Courts for the Districts of South Carolina,"

http://www.fjc.gov/history/home.nsf/page/courts_district_sc.html, accessed on October 7, 2016.

²¹ Ibid, "U.S. District Courts for the Districts of South Carolina, Authorized Meeting Places,"

http://www.fjc.gov/history/home.nsf/page/courts_district_sc_mp.html, accessed on October 7, 2016.

²² "The Spartanburg Post Office Moves into Its Own Home," *Spartanburg Herald*, March 17, 1907, 1.

²³ "Spartanburg Must Have New Post Office Building," *Spartanburg Herald*, January 9, 1923, 1.

²⁴ "New Post Office Will be Sought by Local Body," *Spartanburg Herald*, December 11, 1926, 1.

²⁵ "Expect Action on Post Office Location Soon," *Spartanburg Herald*, February 16, 1929, 16.

²⁶ "Building Plans near Completion," *Spartanburg Herald*, August 22, 1929, 12.

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Treasury Andrew Mellon's building program. Mellon's special assistant from 1927 to 1932, David E. Finley, Jr., was born in York, South Carolina, and grew up in Rock Hill, both within an hour's drive of Spartanburg. Finley (1890-1977) was the son of South Carolina native and Congressman David E. Finley, Sr. (1861-1917), who served for sixteen of his twenty years in Congress on the Post Office and Post Roads Committee. Thus, David E. Finley, Jr. was both familiar with and sympathetic to the needs of this area of the country.²⁷

Finally, on November 15, 1930, the contract for construction was let to Algernon Blair & Co. Contractors. Construction began in January 1931 and was complete less than a year later, in November 1931. The new federal building cost \$300,000 to build and more than trebled the space provided by the 1907 building. Postmaster John A. Wood advocated and secured early occupancy of the building in anticipation of the impending Christmas season rush. To forestall mail service delays, the removal of equipment from the old building began the day prior to the opening of the new building. The newest post office building in the South, it was described at opening as "modern in every detail."²⁸

Offices and the courtroom on the second and third floors were not fully furnished until several weeks after the post office opening on November 22, 1931. Besides housing the postal department, the building provided a suite of three offices and a small prison for the U.S. Marshals Service, a spacious courtroom finished in walnut, and a suite of offices for the judge and his assistants on the second floor. Also on the second floor were five rooms devoted to the use of the clerk of the court, assistant district attorneys, and affiliated offices. The area's branch of the Department of Agriculture was provided with a suite of six rooms on the third floor of the building. The Army, Navy and Marine recruiting stations, the U.S. Prohibition Bureau, and post office inspector were furnished with offices on the third floor as well. In addition, one large room was devoted to exclusive use of the civil service commission for holding examinations for government positions. This was equipped with a score of small desks and chairs, and was a new feature in this section of the county.²⁹

One hundred years after its incorporation in 1831, Spartanburg had grown into a modern city with a burgeoning population and a progressive eye to the future. The United States Post Office and Court House embodies the civic achievement of the community and its role in providing services to the region.

Recent History of Spartanburg's Federal Building

In 1968, Spartanburg's main post office moved to a new building at Henry and South Church streets. While a small branch remained open in a portion of the first floor of the 1931 building for several years afterwards, the first floor was largely vacant. A subsequent \$500,000 renovation transformed former postal spaces on the first floor into office areas.³⁰ Today, postal services are no longer offered in the building, however, it remains a federal courthouse and home to federal agencies including the U.S. Bankruptcy Court, the U.S. Marshals Service, the Federal Bureau of Investigation and Probation Services.

²⁷ Jean R. Hailey, "David Finley, 1st Director of National Gallery, Dies," *The Washington Post*, February 2, 1977.

²⁸ "Post Office Open to Public Today," *Spartanburg Herald*, November 22, 1931, 2.

²⁹ Ibid.

³⁰ "Federal Building Once Housed Post Office and Court," *Spartanburg Herald-Journal*, September 16, 1990, B1-2.

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In 1994, in accordance with Public Law 103-211, the building was designated as the "Donald Stuart Russell Federal Courthouse," in honor of Donald S. Russell, who served as judge in the U.S. District Court for the District of South Carolina (1966-1971). Prior to this, Russell served as Democratic Senator from South Carolina (1965-1966). Following his service on the district court, he served as a Judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit (1971-1998).³¹

Criterion C

The Office of the Supervising Architect

The Office of the Supervising Architect was responsible for the construction of federal buildings for nearly 80 years. From 1853 to 1933, the office reported to the Treasury Department. With the reorganization of the early 1930s, the office no longer reported directly to the Secretary of the Treasury. In 1933, it became part of the Public Building Branch of the Procurement Division of the Treasury Department. In 1939, the office became part of the Federal Works Agency, Public Buildings Administration. Subsequently, beginning in 1949, it came under the U.S. General Services Administration (GSA), Public Buildings Service.³²

James A. Wetmore 1912-1913 and 1915-1934

James A. Wetmore served as acting supervising architect of the Treasury from 1912 to 1913 and again from 1915 to 1934, the period during which the Spartanburg United States Post Office and Court House was designed and constructed. In his first appointment, Wetmore succeeded James Knox Taylor, who served as the supervising architect for the Treasury from 1897 to 1912. Taylor, who was inspired by the Columbian Exposition and the City Beautiful movement, directed a return to Classicism by the federal government during his tenure. This federal preference continued well into the 1920s and 1930s. Wetmore temporarily served as acting supervising architect immediately following Taylor's departure, until Oscar Wenderoth, supervising architect from 1912 to 1915, could conclude his private work in New York City and relocate to Washington, D.C. Wetmore then resumed his role in 1915 following Wenderoth's resignation.³³

James A. Wetmore was educated as a lawyer and served as head of the Treasury's Law and Records Division under both James Knox Taylor and Oscar Wenderoth. Wetmore's administrative background greatly affected his approach to the role of acting supervising architect. Wetmore was predominantly concerned with directing architectural policy within the Treasury due to his extensive experience in administration and his lack of architectural training. Wetmore reportedly left the architectural design tasks of the position to his staff, but had "an uncanny facility for knowing the intent and purpose of the architectural and engineering actions of his organization." Although Wetmore retained the word "acting" in his title for his entire tenure

³¹ Biographical Directory of the United States Congress, "Donald Stuart Russell,"

<http://bioguide.congress.gov/scripts/biodisplay.pl?index=R000525>, accessed October 5, 2016.

³² Lois A. Craig, et al., *The Federal Presence* (Cambridge, Massachusetts: MIT Press, 1978), 238.

³³ Louis Melius, *The American Postal Service: History of the Postal Service from the Earliest Times* (Washington, D.C: Louis Melius, 1917), 32-33; Antoinette Lee, *Architects to the Nation* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2000), 215-222.

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out of respect for the practicing architects in the office, he served in the supervising architect's role for longer than any of his predecessors.³⁴

Louis A. Simon effectively directed the architectural design efforts of the Office of the Supervising Architect during Wetmore's tenure. Simon was born in Baltimore in 1867 and educated at Massachusetts Institute of Technology. After an extended tour throughout Europe, he opened an architectural office in Baltimore in 1894. Two years later, he joined the Office of the Supervising Architect where he spent the rest of his career. He served as chief of the architectural division from 1905 to 1934 and then as supervising architect from 1934 to 1941.³⁵

Simon ... was instrumental in the image of government projected by its public buildings, an image derived from classical western architecture, filtered perhaps through the English Georgian style or given a regional gloss, but one which continues to operate in the collective public vision of government. Simon was unwavering in his defense of what he considered a „conservative-progressive“ approach to design in which he saw „art, beauty, symmetry, harmony and rhythm.“³⁶

This “regional gloss” often incorporated Colonial Revival design elements.

The McAdoo Classification System

A significant development within the Treasury during Wetmore's tenure was the adoption of a formal classification system of building types known as the McAdoo Classification System. The Public Buildings Act of 1913 authorized the construction of a large number of public buildings and created an economic standard by which to judge which communities could get new post offices and which would not. The act also called for the development of standardized designs and design components and created a Public Buildings Commission chaired by the Secretary of the Treasury, William McAdoo. The commission focused on issues related to the efficient design and construction of federal postal facilities. The commission agreed that monumental architecture should be reserved for larger cities, while smaller communities should get more utilitarian facilities.³⁷ The commission submitted a report to Congress on its findings in 1914, and a year later, the recommendations morphed into a new federal building policy known as the McAdoo Classification System, which used the level of annual postal receipts to determine the “character” of the building in terms of the costliness of building materials and ornamentation.³⁸

³⁴ Antoinette J. Lee, 222-223, 237.

³⁵ Ibid, 258.

³⁶ American Architect and Architecture, August, 1937, vol. 151, p. 51 quoted in U.S. General Services Administration, *Historic Building Preservation Program: Inspection Station – Mooers, NY*, April 27, 1992, 3.

³⁷ Louis Melius, 35-37.

³⁸ Beth Boland, Appendix E.

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Secretary of the Treasury McAdoo's Classification system for federal buildings, 1915 ³⁹					
Class	Definition	Exterior	Windows and doors	Interior Finishes	Public spaces
A	Include a first class post office with annual receipts exceeding \$800,000 and would be sited as part of a city development plan or on an important thoroughfare of a great city with adjacent property reaching the higher valuation of metropolitan real estate.	marble or granite facing; fireproof throughout.	metal frames, sashes and doors	Interior finish to include the finer grades of marble, ornamental bronze work, mahogany, etc.	monumental treatment, mural decorations; special interior lighting fixtures.
B	Include a first class post office with receipts between \$60,000 to \$800,000 with adjacent property improvements somewhat below the higher valuation of metropolitan real estate.	Limestone or sandstone facing; fireproof throughout.	Exterior frames and sash metal; interior frames, sash and doors wood	Exclude the more expensive woods and marbles. ornamental metal to be used only where iron is suitable.	Restricted ornament in public spaces.
C	Include a second class post office with receipts over \$15,000 or of the first class to \$60,000, with surrounding property values that of a second-class city.	Brick facing with stone or terra-cotta trimmings; fireproof floors, non-fireproof roof.	Frames, sashes and doors wood	Exclude the more expensive wood and marbles; the latter used only where sanitary conditions demand	Public spaces restricted to very simple forms of ornament.
D	Include a post office having annual receipts of less than \$15,000 with real estate values meeting only a limited investment for improvements.	Brick facing, little stone or terra-cotta used; only first floor fireproof.	Stock sash, frames, doors, etc., where advisable	Ordinary class of building, such as any businessman would consider a reasonable investment in a small town.	

Wetmore praised the McAdoo Classification System in 1916 as a way to “provide a rational system of uniformity and business economy in designing and constructing federal buildings, suitable in each instance to the public needs, and without calling for waste in Government money.” Wetmore acknowledged after six years of implementation, however, that buildings required separate sets of drawings and specifications due to variations in function, location, topography, available materials, and Congressional cost limits. The McAdoo Classification System fell out of formal use by the 1930s, as less stringent guidelines were developed that took into consideration the above-listed factors as well as local architectural traditions.⁴⁰

World War I and the Public Buildings Act of 1926

World War I brought the work of the Supervising Architect’s Office to a halt due to the financial, industrial, and transportation resources strain that it placed on the country. The only buildings

³⁹ Emily J. Harris, *History of Post Office Construction 1900-1940* (Washington, DC: U.S. Postal Service, 1982). 9-10.

⁴⁰ Antoinette J. Lee, 226, 262-263.

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constructed during this period were those required for wartime use and those already under construction. New building construction commenced by 1922; however, the postponement of many projects authorized by the Public Buildings Act of 1913 and a back-log of new building requests necessitated the development of a major public building program. This resulted in the passage of a new Public Buildings Act on May 25, 1926.⁴¹

The Public Buildings Act of 1926 contained three principal provisions. Firstly, the Secretary of the Treasury and the Postmaster General were directed to conduct a nationwide survey of the need for postal facilities with the intent that new facilities would be based upon need rather than political influence. The act allowed the Secretary of the Treasury and the Postmaster General to select towns and cities and specific sites for new buildings. Secondly, the supervising architect was now allowed to consult private architects in "special cases." The staff of the supervising architect had previously handled all projects, since James Knox Taylor decided in 1904 to effectively bar private architects from federal construction projects. Finally, the act provided for the continuation of building design standardization.⁴²

As a result of the act, a survey report was prepared in 1927, which listed towns and cities with no federal buildings, including 799 with postal receipts over \$20,000 and 1,512 with postal receipts between \$10,000 and \$20,000.⁴³ The building-needs survey resulted in the following:

- Doubling the \$100 million allocation in the Act of 1926.
- The construction of at least two new buildings per state.
- No buildings constructed where postal receipts were less than \$10,000.⁴⁴

The estimated cost of implementing construction was \$170,420,000, but the actual construction was delayed by economic conditions, including the stock market crash of 1929.⁴⁵ President Hoover worked with Congress to increase allocations for the building program in both 1930 and 1931 as the Great Depression took hold. However, the Roosevelt Administration substantially expanded the program.⁴⁶

The Great Depression and the Reorganization of the Treasury Department

The building industry began to suffer from the stock market crash of 1929 and the onset of the Great Depression by the early 1930s. The Public Buildings Act of 1926 was seen as a way to promote employment within the building trades. An amendment to the 1926 Act, known as the Keyes-Elliott Bill, was enacted in 1930 to provide "increased authority to the Secretary of the Treasury to enter into contracts with private architects for full professional services." The Office of the Supervising Architect, still under Wetmore's direction, only considered hiring private architects for large projects due to concerns related to efficiency. The American Institute of Architects (AIA) objected to the Treasury Department's implementation of the amendment to the 1926 act and petitioned for the reorganization of the Supervising Architect's Office. The AIA hoped that the office would serve only a supervisory function, allowing wider employment of

⁴¹ Ibid., 231-232, 239.

⁴² Louis Melius, 40-41.

⁴³ Emily Harris, 1982, 13-14

⁴⁴ Louis Melius, 40-41.

⁴⁵ Emily Harris, 1982, 13-14.

⁴⁶ Beth Boland, Section II, 3.

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private architects and resulting in greater diversity, vitality, and regional appropriateness in federal architecture. The President's Emergency Committee for Employment and members of Congress echoed the AIA's concerns, particularly regarding the need to employ local private architects.

The AIA continued its campaign following the election of Franklin Delano Roosevelt and the appointment of new officials to the Treasury Department, including Treasury Secretary William H. Woodin.⁴⁷ Roosevelt's Executive Order 6166, which reorganized the federal building program and promised unemployment relief, was announced in June 1933. The order resulted in the creation of the Procurement Division within the Treasury Department, the transfer of the Supervising Architect's Office to the Procurement Division, and the change in name of the Supervising Architect's Office to the Public Works Branch. W.E. Reynolds, Assistant Director of the Procurement Division, was put in charge of five units headed by the supervising engineer, the supervising architect, the office manager, the chairman of the board of award, and the chief of the legal section.⁴⁸

With Roosevelt's New Deal, the nation embarked on a federal building campaign of unprecedented proportions. New relief funding programs were initiated to allocate and supplement funding for public works simultaneously with the Treasury Department reorganization. Harold L. Ickes, the federal emergency administrator of public works, allocated funds to the Treasury Department for the construction of federal buildings under the provisions of the National Industrial Recovery Act of 1933, including two allotments in August 1933 in the amounts of \$6,971,648 and \$13,799,550, as well as additional funds for emergency construction projects throughout the country.⁴⁹

The United States Post Office and Courthouse in Spartanburg was designed just as the Great Depression was beginning and was constructed before the federal buildings program was transformed from a vehicle for "providing accommodations for federal activities and represent[ing] the best in public building design" to a massive engine for "providing jobs for unemployed construction workers to help lift the country out of the economic depression."⁵⁰ The building was designed within the Office of the Supervising Architect by its own architects, during a period when the office's role was expanding dramatically to handle the huge task imposed on it by the Public Building Act. Thus, the building represents this transitional time and reflects the office's interest in the economies of standardization, as well as its commitment to design that is responsive to site considerations and local architectural traditions.

Georgian Revival Architectural Style

The Colonial and Georgian Revival architectural styles were among the most popular styles found in federal building design from the late 1890s to the early 1940s.⁵¹ James Knox Taylor was a proponent of the use of these and other styles that reflected classical influences in federal architecture, and they remained popular in federal architectural design through the early twentieth century, due in part to the ideals of history and tradition that they conveyed and the

⁴⁷ Antoinette J. Lee., 248-252.

⁴⁸ Ibid., 253.

⁴⁹ Ibid., 254.

⁵⁰ Ibid., 238.

⁵¹ Beth Boland, Section III, 3-5.

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ease that their symmetry lent to standardized design practices. Georgian Revival style architecture is influenced primarily by Georgian style Colonial building elements, and is therefore sometimes referred to as Neo-Colonial.⁵²

The Colonial Revival and Georgian Revival was consciously associated with American heritage as early as the 1876 Centennial celebration, which triggered a desire for understanding of American architectural lineage. Photographs and drawings of Georgian period colonial styles widely distributed to the country's architects in a series by *The American Architect and Building News*, printed in 1898. In 1915, the *White Pine Series of Architectural Monographs* included many photographs of colonial buildings that led to a wide understanding of Colonial Revival prototypes.⁵³ Following America's involvement in World War I, the nation's architecture was strongly influenced by its European roots and a sense of nostalgic historicism, as well as a wave of patriotism for all things American. As a result, many buildings designed between the two World Wars (1919-1941) featured Colonial Revival design elements, often originating with America's colonial powers England, France, Spain, and Holland.

The characteristics of the Georgian Revival style include a rectangular or square plan with a minimum of minor projections; a symmetrical facade; a hipped, double-pitched, or gambrel roof form; eaves detailed as classical cornices; symmetrical chimney placement; doorways with fanlights, and often set in pedimented frames; highly ordered fenestration; rectangular, double-hung sash windows, often with a Palladian window as a focal point; and, quoining at corners. Facades are designed in two primary types: with the central portion of the facade projecting slightly and sometimes crowned with a pediment, with or without supporting pilasters; and with a portico with columns in the central portion of the facade.⁵⁴

Architects began designing in the Georgian Revival style as early as the 1850s; however, the renowned architecture firm of McKim, Mead and White is credited with popularizing the style beginning in the 1880s. Additional notable architects who designed in the Georgian Revival style included Charles A. Platt, William A. Delano and Chester H. Aldrich.⁵⁵

There has been no study of the distribution of major post office architectural styles in the United States. While there does not appear to have been a deliberate policy on the part of the supervising architect to choose designs to match regional tastes of types of construction, there are instances of local architectural traditions influencing design in this period. For example, a group of mid-1930s Dutch Colonial Revival post offices and courthouses designed by private architects for the Office of the Supervising Architect reflect the specific regional architectural traditions of the Hudson River Valley.⁵⁶

The United States Post Office and Court House in Spartanburg, South Carolina, is an excellent example of a Georgian Revival building designed by the Office of the Supervising Architect of the Treasury Department. Its Georgian Revival elements are fully evident in the three street-front façades and are carried over to a lesser extent to the rear façade. These include the

⁵² Marcus Whiffen, *American Architecture Since 1780: A Guide to the Styles* (Cambridge, MA: the MIT Press, 1993), 159.

⁵³ Virginia and Lee McAlester, *A Field Guide to American Houses* (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1991), 326.

⁵⁴ Marcus Whiffen., 159-160.

⁵⁵ *Ibid.*, 160-163.

⁵⁶ Wappingers Falls, Poughkeepsie, Hyde Park, Rhinebeck, and Ellenville, New York.

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square form, symmetrical, regular distribution of fenestration, classical detailing, pedimented door surrounds, engaged columns, hipped roof, raised foundation, belt course, and use of red brick with contrasting limestone detailing including quoins. The building achieves a strong sense of order through its classically inspired form, proportions, and symmetry. While the tower on the south elevation breaks from the Georgian Revival style, suggesting instead the Collegiate Gothic, it is fully integrated into the design through the use of consistent materials and detailing.

The United States Post Office and Court House's size and monumental character mark it as a place of significance within the community, and appropriately convey the authority of the federal court that it houses. The building represents the ideals of history and tradition embraced by the federal government in architectural design during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, as well as the government's concern with economical design. In addition, the building's public interior spaces – the first floor lobby and the courtrooms – were constructed with a high level of craftsmanship and quality materials, including terrazzo floors, marble wainscoting, coffered plaster ceilings, and extensive woodwork.

Significance Evaluation

The United States Post Office and Court House, located at the corner of Magnolia and Donald S. Russell (formerly Walnut) streets, in downtown Spartanburg, is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places on the local level under Criteria A and C in the areas of politics/government and architecture.

The building is significant under Criterion A as a symbol of the federal presence in Spartanburg and a manifestation of the city's role as regional center. The United States Post Office and Court House represents the second purpose-built home of the United States Post Office and the first official home of the U.S. District Court in Spartanburg. The building was built as a direct result of the Public Buildings Act of 1926, which precipitated a period of federal building construction that was unprecedented in the United States. Its construction was the product of sustained lobbying on the part of Spartanburg's civic leaders. The new building came to Spartanburg at a time of exceptional growth for the town. The population expanded significantly in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century due to its role as a regional rail hub and textile manufacturing center.

The building is significant under Criterion C as a distinctive example of the Georgian Revival style of architecture and an excellent example of the craftsmanship and detailing of the time. Designed by the Office of the Supervising Architect of the Treasury and constructed in 1931, the Georgian Revival Building exhibits many features of that style: symmetrical, regular distribution of fenestration, hipped roof, raised foundation classical detailing, pedimented door surrounds, quoins, engaged columns, belt course, and use of red brick with contrasting limestone detailing.

The building retains sufficient integrity from its period of significance (1931) to convey its historical significance and associations. Alterations were made to the interior and, to a lesser extent, to the exterior of the building in the 1960s, after the removal of the post office, and in 2004 with the sally port addition at the rear. However, the building retains its most significant features. The building's retention of integrity of design, materials, workmanship, location, setting, and association culminates in the building's retention of feeling as a 1931 federal building erected in the Georgian Revival architectural style.

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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 # _____
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
 - Other State agency
 - Federal agency (U.S. General Services Administration)
 - Local government
 - University
 - Other
- Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 1.44 acre

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates (decimal degrees)

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- | | |
|--------------|------------|
| 1. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 2. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 3. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 4. Latitude: | Longitude: |

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Or

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or NAD 1983

- | | | |
|-------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1. Zone: 17 | Easting: 414803 | Northing: 3868071 |
| 2. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 3. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 4. Zone: | Easting : | Northing: |

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The property is bounded by a commercial building with a rear parking lot on the north, a commercial building to the east, Donald S. Russell Street to the south, and Magnolia Street to the west.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary reflects the original property lines and subsequent acquisitions for the U. S. Post Office and Court House.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Erica Kachmarsky, Barbara Lamprecht & Christopher Hetzel, Architectural Historians
organization: ICF Jones and Stokes (revisions by Elizabeth Hannold, U.S. General Services Administration)
street & number: 811 7th Street, Suite 800
city or town: Los Angeles state: CA zip code: 90017
e-mail elizabeth.hannold@gsa.gov
telephone: (202) 501-2863
date: 8/2009; rev. 10/2016

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Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

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Photo Log

Name of Property: United States Post Office and Court House

Location: 201 Magnolia Street

City or Vicinity: Spartanburg

County: Spartanburg State: SC

Photographer: Chris Hetzel, ICF Jones & Stokes

Date Photographed: December 11, 2006

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

- 1 of 18. Exterior, West (primary) elevation; View: East.
- 2 of 18. Exterior, West (primary) elevation; View: Detail, entrance.
- 3 of 18. Exterior, Perspective of West (primary) elevation w/ South (secondary) elevation; View: Northeast.
- 4 of 18. Exterior, Perspective of South (secondary) elevation w/ West (primary) elevation; View: Northeast.
- 5 of 18. Exterior, South (secondary) elevation; View: Detail, entrance.
- 6 of 18. Exterior, Perspective of South (secondary) elevation w/ East (rear) elevation; View: Northwest.
- 7 of 18. Exterior, East (rear) elevation; View: Northwest.
- 8 of 18. Exterior, Perspective of East (rear) elevation w/ North (secondary) elevation; View: Southwest.
- 9 of 18. Exterior, Perspective of North (secondary) elevation w/ East (rear) elevation; View: Southwest.
- 10 of 18. Interior, Ground floor lobby; View: Southwest
- 11 of 18. Interior, Courtroom; View: Northeast.
- 12 of 18. Interior, Courtroom; View: Southwest.
- 13 of 18. Interior, Courtroom; View: North.
- 14 of 18. Interior, Courtroom door; View: North
- 15 of 18. Interior, Conference room.
- 16 of 18. Interior, Staircase; View: West.
- 17 of 18. Interior, Typical door.
- 18 of 18. Interior, Second floor hallway.

*Although the photographs date to 2006, they accurately reflect the current appearance of the building.

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.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

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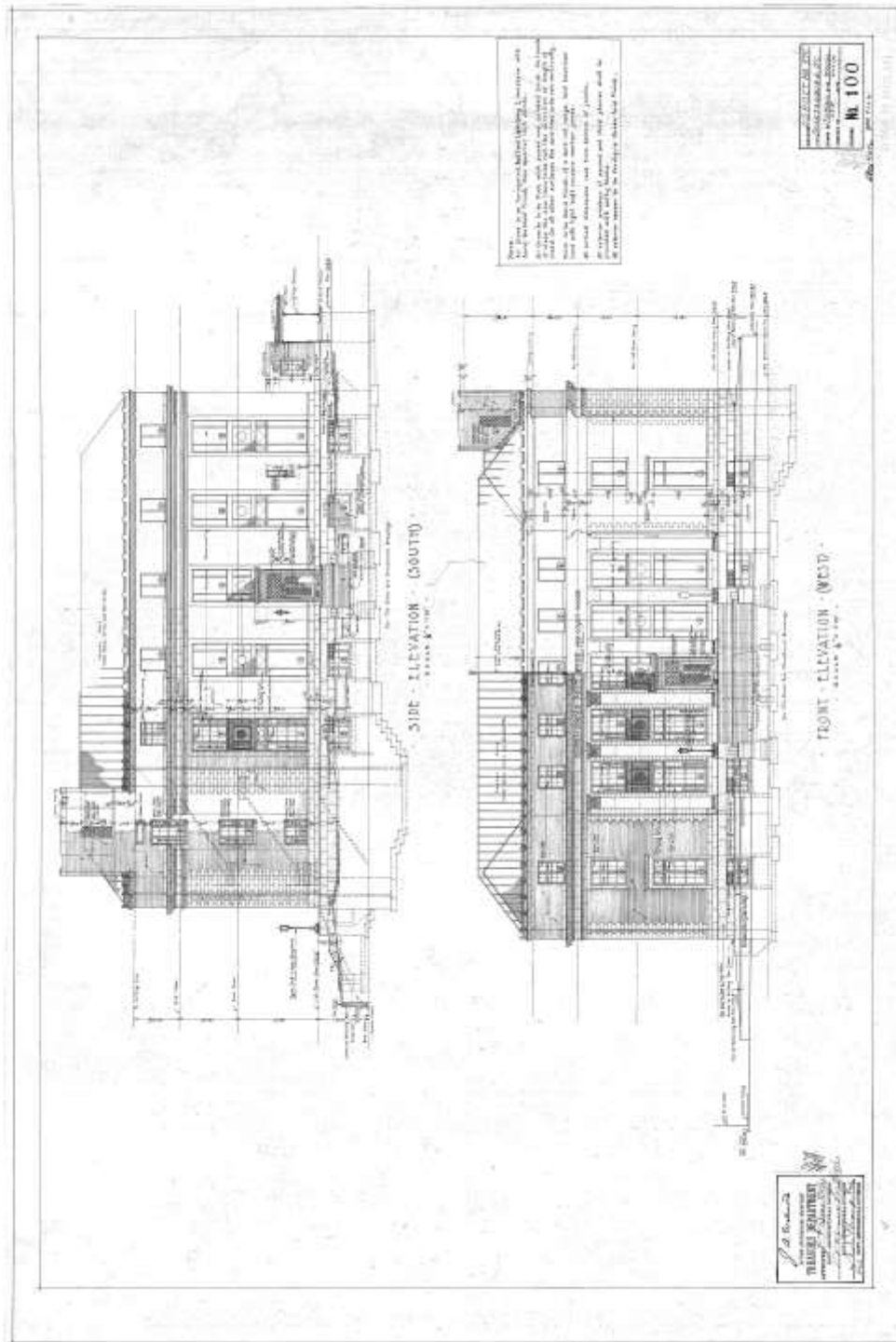
Location Map



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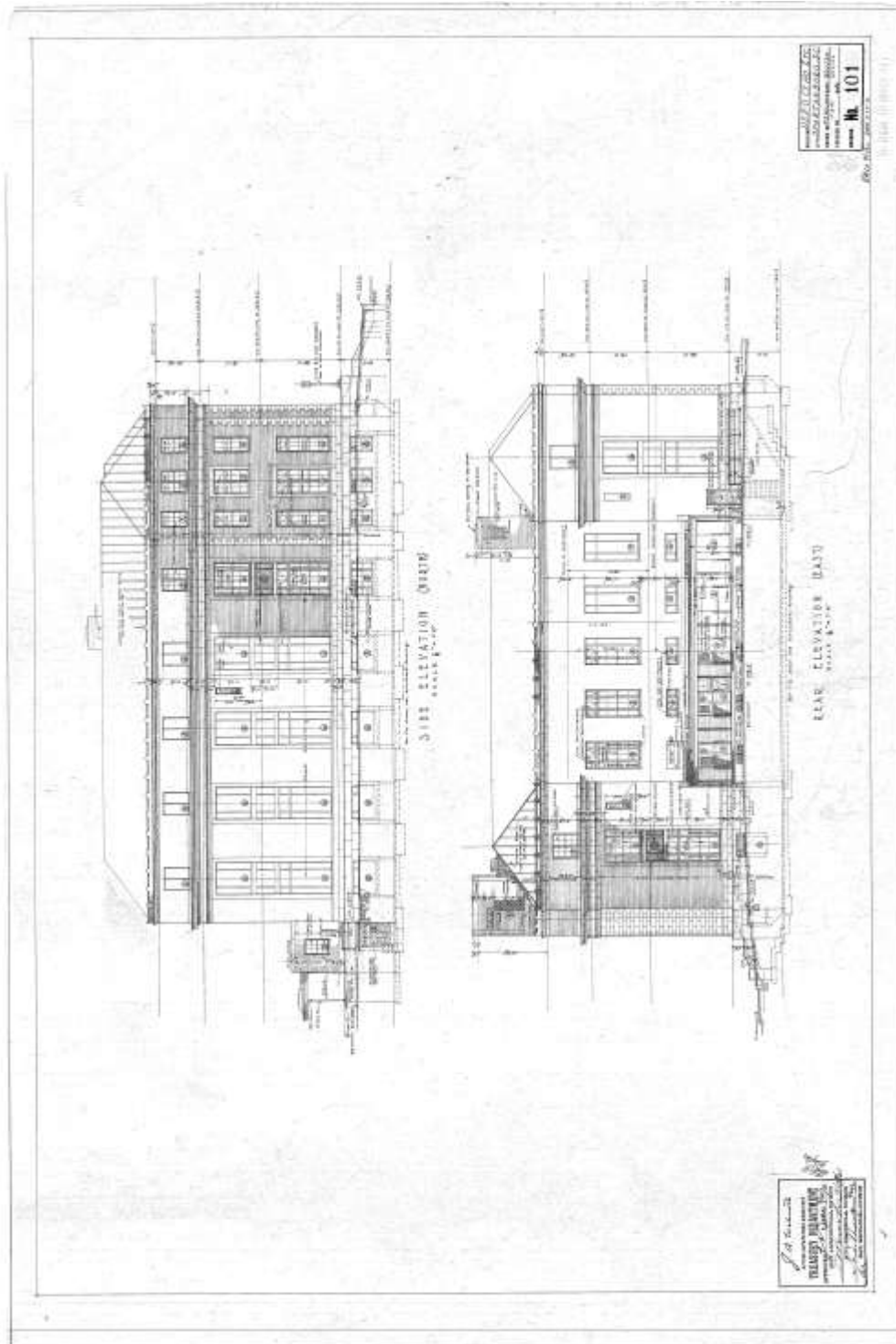
Figure A. Original Drawings - Side (south) and Front (west) elevations, 1930
GSA, Southeast Region



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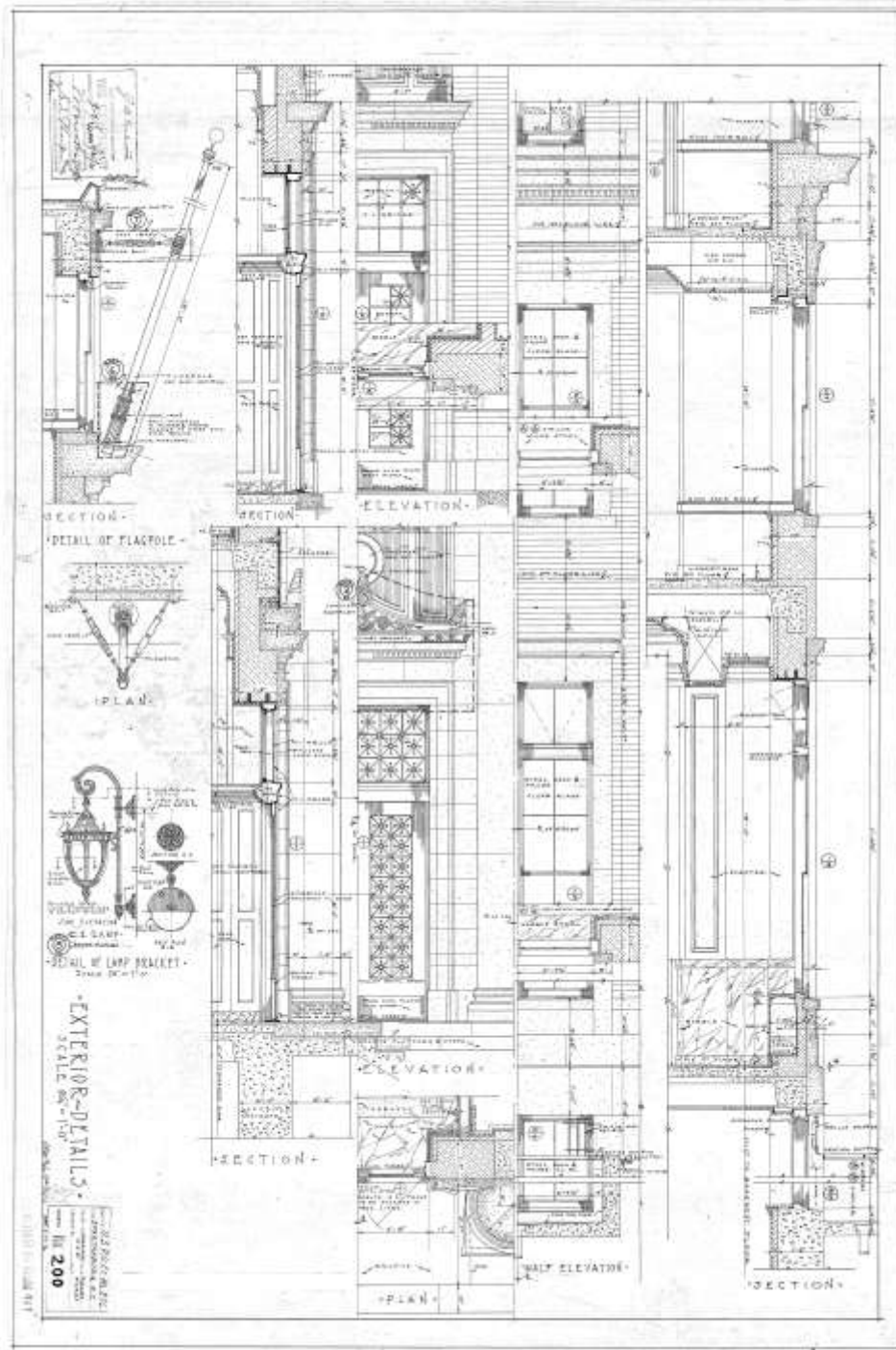
Figure B. Original Drawings - Side (north) and Rear (east) elevations, 1930
GSA, Southeast Region



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Figure C. Original Drawings – Exterior Details, 1930
GSA, Southeast Region



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Figure D. Front (west) and Side (north) elevations, 1931
National Archives, RG 121-BS, Box 79, Folder SS, Print 1



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Figure E. Rear (east) and Side (south) elevations, 1931
National Archives, RG 121-BS, Box 79, Folder SS, Print 2





SPARTANBURG COUNTY







RUSSELL ST







REDACTED















210

210





UNITED STATES
DISTRICT COURT





UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action: Nomination

Property Name: United States Post Office and Court House

Multiple Name: _____

State & County: SOUTH CAROLINA, Spartanburg

Date Received: 12/16/2016 Date of Pending List: _____ Date of 16th Day: _____ Date of 45th Day: 1/31/2017 Date of Weekly List: _____

Reference number: SG100000619

Nominator: State

Reason For Review:

<i>Submission Type</i>	<i>Property Type</i>	<i>Problem Type</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> Appeal	<input type="checkbox"/> PDIL	<input type="checkbox"/> Text/Data Issue
<input type="checkbox"/> SHPO Request	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape	<input type="checkbox"/> Photo
<input type="checkbox"/> Waiver	<input type="checkbox"/> National	<input type="checkbox"/> Map/Boundary
<input type="checkbox"/> Resubmission	<input type="checkbox"/> Mobile Resource	<input type="checkbox"/> Period
<input type="checkbox"/> Other		<input type="checkbox"/> Less than 50 years

Accept Return Reject 1/31/17 Date

Abstract/Summary Comments: _____

Recommendation/ Criteria _____

Reviewer Lisa Deline Discipline Historian

Telephone (202)354-2239 Date 1/31/17

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

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.



December 13, 2016

Mr. Paul Loether
Chief, NRHP & NHL Program
National Park Service
1201 Eye Street, NW (2280), 8th Floor
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Mr. Loether:

The U.S. General Services Administration (GSA) is pleased to nominate the United States Post Office and Court House (current name: Donald Stuart Russell Federal Courthouse) located at 201 Magnolia Street, Spartanburg, SC, for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. The nomination is hereby submitted on disk in accordance with the May 6, 2013 guidance and includes the following:

- Signed original first page of the National Register of Historic Places nomination form;
- Disk 1 - The enclosed disk contains the true and correct copy of the nomination for the United States Post Office and Court House, located in Spartanburg, SC, to the National Register of Historic Place; and,
- Disk 2 – The enclosed disk contains the .tif image files for the above referenced nomination.

In accordance with 36 CFR Part 60.9(c), the appropriate local elected officials were notified of GSA's intent to nominate the above referenced property to the National Register of Historic Places by letters dated October 25, 2016. No response comments were received.

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 Elizabeth Hannold at (202) 501-2863 or elizabeth.hannold@gsa.gov.

Sincerely,

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

Enclosures

cc: Dr. W. Eric Emerson, State Historic Preservation Officer
Audrey Entorf, Regional Historic Preservation Officer