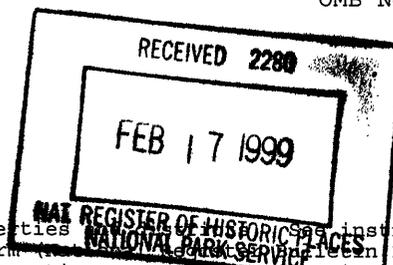


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



325

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting for individual properties instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (NPS Form 1016A). Complete each item by Marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an 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. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPA Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name United States Post Office and Court House

other names/site number FA-DT-237

2. Location

street & number 101 Barr Street N/A not for publication

city or town Lexington N/A vicinity

state Kentucky code KY county Fayette code 067 zip code 40507

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this X 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 nationally statewide X locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Constance Warren Ramsey, Federal Preservation Officer 2/12/99
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

SHPO
State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property X meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

David L. Morgan David L. Morgan, SHPO and Executive Director 4-23-98
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Kentucky Heritage Council/State Historic Preservation Office
State ~~of~~ Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

- I hereby certify that the property is:
- entered in the National Register.
- See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register.
- See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain:)

for
Edson H. Beall Signature of the Keeper
3-18-99 Date of Action

U.S. Post Office and Court House
Name of Property

Fayette County, Kentucky
County and State

5. Classification

| Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply.) | Category of Property (Check only one box.) | Number of Resources within Property (Do not include previously listed resources in the count.) | |
|--|---|---|-----------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> private | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s) | Contributing | Noncontributing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> public-local | <input type="checkbox"/> district | 1 | 0 buildings |
| <input type="checkbox"/> public-State | <input type="checkbox"/> site | 0 | 0 sites |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-Federal | <input type="checkbox"/> structure | 0 | 0 structures |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> object | 1 | 0 objects |
| | | 2 | 0 Total |

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

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:post office
GOVERNMENT:courthouse
GOVERNMENT:government office

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)
LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS: Neo-Classical Revival

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions.)
foundation STONE:granite
walls STONE:limestone
roof METAL:copper
other METAL:bronze
other STONE:marble

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria
(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria
qualify the property for National Register Listing.)

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from
instructions.)

A Property is associated with events
that have made a significant contribution
to the broad patterns of our history.

Architecture

B Property is associated with the lives
of persons significant in out 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.

Period of Significance
1934

D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield,
information important in prehistory or history.

Significant Dates
1934

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

A owned by a religious institution or
used for religious purposes.

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

B removed from its original locations.

C a birthplace or grave.

D a cemetery.

E a reconstructed building, object
or structure.

F a commemorative property.

G less than 50 years of age or achieved
significance within the past 50 years.

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Gillig, John T./Architect
Churchill, H.A./Architect
Penker Construction Co.--
Builder

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

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 # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: _____

U.S. Post Office and Court House
Name of Property

Fayette County, Kentucky
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Approximately 1 acre

UTM Reference - Lexington East, Kentucky

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

| | | | | | | | |
|---|-----------|---------------|----------------|---|-------|---------|----------|
| 1 | <u>16</u> | <u>720055</u> | <u>4213785</u> | 3 | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| | Zone | Easting | Northing | | Zone | Easting | Northing |
| 2 | _____ | _____ | _____ | 4 | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| | Zone | Easting | Northing | | Zone | Easting | Northing |

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Philip Thomason
organization Thomason & Associates date Jan. 13, 1997
street & number P.O. Box 121225 telephone 615-385-4960
city or town Nashville state TN zip code 37212

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:
Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name _____
street & number _____ telephone _____
city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

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. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instruction, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Service Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

**United States Post Office and
Court House, Lexington
Fayette County, Kentucky**

Section 7 Page 1

DESCRIPTION

The United States Post Office and Court House is located in the downtown section of Lexington, Kentucky at the northeast corner of Barr and N. Limestone Streets (FA-DT-237). The street address is 101 Barr Street and the property encompasses almost half a city block. The building is oriented to face Barr Street and at the rear of the building is a paved parking area. In front of the building is a small landscaped area delineated by concrete curbing. Within this area is an original steel flagpole which is included as a contributing object. With this exception, there are no other additional buildings, structures, or objects on the property.

The United States Post Office and Court House was completed in 1934 and was designed in the Neo-Classical style of architecture. It is four-stories in height and of steel, brick, and limestone construction. The basement level has an exterior surface of granite while the upper floors of the three primary facades have exteriors of Bedford limestone. The building contains approximately 95,000 square feet.

The building was designed in a rectangular plan and is four stories in height on the west, north, and south facades. On the rear (east) facade the central section of the building is three stories in height. This rear facade has an exterior surface of brick rather than the limestone panels found on the three primary facades.

On the main (west) facade of the building are two projecting pavilions at the north and south bays. These pavilions contain the primary entrances to the building and on the upper floors each pavilion has paired Doric columns in antis. The entrances have decorative surrounds with pediments, transoms, and bronze grilles. Windows bays on the primary facades are separated by Doric pilasters. The fourth floor of the building is concealed behind the building's entablature on the primary facades but is revealed on the rear facade.

The interior of the building was designed with a large public lobby on the first floor and separate stairwell and elevator lobbies. These spaces were designed with extensive decorative detailing such as bronze grilles, marble pilasters, and a terrazzo floor. The work rooms of the post office were located adjacent to the public lobby and in the basement. The federal courtroom and judge's chambers were located on the second floor and the third and fourth floors were designed to house various federal offices. Two interior light courts were designed to provide illumination for the building's office areas.

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**United States Post Office and
Court House, Lexington
Fayette County, Kentucky**

Section 7 Page 2

The original blueprints of the building exist and are dated March 1, 1932. These were produced by the architectural firm of H.A. Churchill and John T. Gillig of Lexington. The blueprints were reviewed and approved by Louis A. Simon, Superintendent of the Architectural Division and the Acting Supervising Architect was James A. Wetmore of the Treasury Department.

The building remained largely unaltered until 1957 when a number of changes occurred. This included the addition of a new air conditioning and lighting system throughout the building and an enclosure of a section of the rear loading dock. The basement work room was remodeled during this year and the existing transom windows on the rear facade were infilled with brick.

The building's interior was remodeled again in 1981 when new dropped ceilings and light fixtures were added on the upper floors, new interior doors were added, and the electrical and HVAC systems were upgraded. Also during 1981, the first floor post office work area was remodeled for a new courtroom. In 1992, the fourth floor was extensively remodeled into its present appearance.

Although some areas of the interior of the building have been remodeled, the most significant interior spaces have been largely preserved and maintained. These include the public lobby, staircase lobby, elevator lobby, and second floor courtroom. The original floor plan for these spaces have been retained along with the majority of original materials and decorative detailing.

The exterior of the building also retains most of its original design and detailing. With the exception of a small one-story wing at the rear facade, there have been no major extensions or additions to the building. The building's exterior wall surfaces and details have been preserved and maintained and it retains its original windows. The original bronze doors at the building's primary entrances were replaced in 1981 with the existing aluminum and glass doors. Several of the original doors at the rear facade have also been replaced. With the exception of the door replacement and rear addition, no major changes have occurred to the exterior of the building and it displays its original form and design.

Exterior

The main (west), south, and north facades of the building are divided into various window bays. The base of the building and exterior surface of the basement level is of granite. Above the first floor windows and to the roofline the exterior surface is of limestone panels. Windows

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**United States Post Office and
Court House, Lexington
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Section 7 Page 3

throughout the building are original paired, four-over-four, steel sash design. On the first floor level these windows have paired, two-over-two steel sash transoms which originally provided illumination into the mezzanine level. Above these transom windows is a limestone belt course which extends across the west, north, and south facades. The second and third floors of the building are divided into window bays and separated by Doric limestone pilasters. Below the second story windows is a rectangular cast iron spandrel. Between the second and third story windows are cast iron spandrels with decorative eagle and wreath designs. Above the third story windows is a stone cornice, plain frieze, and stone cornice at the roofline. In the frieze above the third story windows are 14" bronze letters which spell "UNITED STATES POST OFFICE AND COURT HOUSE."

On the main (west) facade of the building are corner bays which project from the main block of the building. These bays contain the primary entrances into the building on the first floor and on the second and third floors are paired stone Doric columns in antis. Above these columns are Doric entablatures with wreaths, triglyphs, guttae, and metopes. The first floor entrances have aluminum and glass doors added in 1981, however, over the doors are original glass transoms and bronze grilles. Each entrance has a stone surround with decorative medallions, bracketed cornices, and broken neck pediments with acroterions. Flanking the entrances are narrow, one-over-one steel sash windows with bronze grilles. Granite staircases lead to the entrances and have wrought iron railings added in 1981. Flanking each entrance are original brass and glass light fixtures. The south entrance also has an exterior concrete handicapped ramp with a wrought iron handrail added in 1981 or 1984.

Both the north and south facades of the building are similar to each other in their design and detailing and contain eleven window bays. Both facades have basement light wells with exterior wall surfaces of granite. The light wells have granite walls and are covered with metal grilles. On the south facade the light well is surrounded by a steel pipe railing. On the north facade this railing has newel posts and balusters of decorative wrought iron. Windows are four-over-four rectangular steel sash design. Above the first floor windows are two-over-two steel sash transoms. Beneath the second story windows is a stone belt course and dividing the window bays on the second and third floors are stone Doric pilasters. Between the windows are cast iron spandrels. Above the third floor windows is a stone cornice. Several bays on both facades have limestone panels instead of windows to mask the staircase and elevators.

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**United States Post Office and
Court House, Lexington
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The rear (east) facade of the building faces a parking lot and has sixteen bays. The first floor of this facade originally consisted of a loading dock for the receipt and delivery of mail. The north section of this loading dock was enclosed for additional office space in 1957. This addition has a limestone exterior, flat roof, and six-light anodized aluminum windows added in 1981. The south section of the loading dock bay remains intact and it has brick and concrete piers and a concrete floor.

Entrances into the first floor of this facade have steel and glass doors added in 1981. All of the original transoms above the first floor windows and entry bays have been enclosed with brick or have added metal exhaust ducts. On the north and south bays of this facade are pedestrian entrances with original stepped surrounds and steel and glass doors added in 1981. At the northeast corner of the building is a loading dock bay with a double steel door entrance and aluminum awning added in 1981. Windows on this facade are four-over-four steel sash design and the second and third floor windows are divided by stone pilasters with scroll type capitals. On this facade are exposed fourth story windows which are masked on the other three facades of the building.

Interior

The basement level of the building was remodeled in 1957 and 1981 and much of the original floor plan was changed. These changes resulted in the removal of original interior partition walls, the expansion of some corridor spaces, and the subdividing of the original post office work room. Most details in the basement date to the 1981 remodeling and include added wood and linoleum floor surfaces, light fixtures and new partition walls. Some original walls of tan glazed brick remain in the north section of the building along with original double steel doors.

The first floor contains the main entrances into the building and its primary public spaces. The north bay of the building contains the elevator lobby with a separate staircase lobby in the south bay. Between these two spaces is the public lobby which is 120' in length. The public lobby has original terrazzo floors with brass divider strips and a Westfield Green marble border and base. The lobby has walls and ceilings of plaster, and marble Doric pilasters. Above the Doric pilasters and below the ceiling is a plaster frieze with triglyphs, metopes, and guttae. Some of the interior doors which open onto the lobby are original single-light glass and wood design with opaque glass panels. These doors have original cast iron surrounds with broken scroll pediments and urns. The original windows in the mezzanine level which opened onto the lobby area were

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**United States Post Office and
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removed in 1981 and replaced with single-light fixed windows. The cove ceiling has acanthus leaf molding painted gold.

Remodeling in 1976 and 1981 resulted in the removal of the post office boxes. These areas have been infilled with new marble to resemble the original marble in the building and with new wood door surrounds to match the broken scroll pediment and urn design of the original cast iron. The doors added during this remodeling are fifteen-light glass and wood design. At the ceiling are chandeliers of brass with glass globes. Entrances leading into the public lobby from the stair and elevator lobbies have double wood doors added in 1981.

The staircase lobby on the first floor features an elliptical staircase with original wrought iron balusters and a wood handrail. This staircase also has a marble carriage, treads, and risers. The staircase lobby itself has a marble baseboard, a terrazzo floor, and walls of St. Genevieve Golden Vein marble. Below the plaster cove ceiling is a frieze with triglyphs, guttae, and metopes. The radiator openings in the staircase lobby have original bronze grilles. The original bronze doors which lead to the lobby from the exterior were removed in 1981 and replaced with glass and aluminum doors.

The elevator lobby retains its original terrazzo floors, plaster cove ceiling, and marble walls. Below the ceiling is a plaster frieze with triglyphs, metopes, and guttae. The two original elevator doors are intact and are bronze with inset panels of garlands, urns, and corner medallions. Above the doors are bronze panels with leaf and dart molding, dentils, and acanthus leaf molding. The original exterior doors leading to the elevator lobby were removed in 1981 and replaced with glass and aluminum single-light doors.

The large post office work room on the first floor was subdivided in 1981 when some postal functions were moved to other locations. The central section of this space was made into a new courtroom and this room has a carpeted floor, wall paneling, solid wood doors, and an acoustical tile ceiling. Another courtroom was added in the office spaces across the lobby and this space was also completely remodeled in 1981. The postal operations were assigned to the northeast section of the building and access to the postal service is via the pedestrian entrance on the rear, or east facade. This section of the building was also remodeled in 1981 and has added floor, wall, and ceiling finishes and new postal work spaces and counters.

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The second story of the building consists of the courtroom, courtroom foyer, and offices. The courtroom is the most significant space of the upper floors and retains much of its original design and detailing. The courtroom has a carpeted floor, coffered wood beamed ceiling, marble wainscoting, and original acoustical tile walls. The courtroom has a central seating area and flanking side aisles divided by walls with arched openings. Between the arches are Doric pilasters. Above these pilasters and extending the circumference of the room is a bracketed cornice.

Dividing the seating area from the judge's bench and jury box is a cast iron railing with fluted Doric balusters. The judge's bench is set on a marble platform and behind the bench is a stone arch with paired Doric marble pilasters. On the ceiling are painted stencil designs and along the walls are bronze grilles which conceal the radiator units. The courtroom retains its original Gothic design hanging chandeliers which have fleur-de-lis and quatrefoil designs. Leading into the courtroom from the foyer vestibule are original double doors with circular lights and imitation leather surfaces. The door surrounds have marble architrave molding. Leading from the courtroom to the foyer area are wood paneled doors added in 1981. On the west wall of the courtroom is a painted mural called "Daniel Boone's Arrival in Kentucky" which was painted in 1938 by Ward Lockwood. This painting depicts Daniel Boone and a group of pioneers gazing into the Kentucky landscape.

The main corridor area on this floor retains its original floor to ceiling height, plaster walls, and terrazzo floors. Offices have both original, single-light glass and wood doors and solid wood doors added in the 1981 remodeling. The original doors also retain their single-light transoms. The courtroom foyer area has marble wainscoting and marble door surrounds. Adjacent to the courtroom is the judge's chamber which has paneled wood walls added in 1965, an original wood and plaster ceiling, and added floor carpeting and florescent light fixtures.

The original floor plan and layout of the third floor of the building has not been significantly altered. This floor has central corridors with flanking offices. Some original partition walls in the office areas have been removed while others have been added, however, the essential form of this floor is intact. Most offices and corridors have dropped acoustical tile ceilings and some offices have added wood paneling over the plaster walls. In the corridors are original terrazzo floors and marble baseboards. New light fixtures and carpeting was added in most office areas. Doors on this floor are both original, single-light glass and wood design and solid wood doors added in the 1981 remodeling.

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**United States Post Office and
Court House, Lexington
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The fourth floor retains most of its original floor plan and layout with exterior wall corridors and flanking offices. Original details include terrazzo floors and marble baseboards. The existing doors, wall finishes, ceilings, and light fixtures were all added during the 1992 remodeling.

In front of the building is an original steel flagpole which is included as a contributing object to the property.

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**United States Post Office and
Court House, Lexington
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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The United States Post Office and Court House located at 101 Barr Street in Lexington, Fayette County, Kentucky (FA-DT-237) is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places at the local level under Criterion C. The building is an excellent example of the Neo-Classical style of architecture of the early 20th century. It is the most notable building constructed in the city during the 1930s and it retains much of its original design and character. It is representative of federal buildings constructed by the United States government during the first decades of this century and it continues to be utilized as the federal courthouse for the city.

In 1926, the United States government passed the Public Buildings Act which initiated an unprecedented federal building program. As part of this Act, the office of the Supervising Architect of the Department of the Treasury was given the responsibility of designing and constructing all federal public buildings. The United States Post Office and Court House in Lexington was part of this construction program.

During the 1928 congressional session, Congressman Virgil Chapman from the Seventh Kentucky district initiated a request for a new post office in Lexington to replace the existing Romanesque style building. This proposal was supported by local businessmen and the Board of Commerce from the city, and in the winter of 1930, the United States Congress allocated \$415,000 for the proposed building. Officials from the U.S. Treasury Department visited the city to inspect sites for the building. At the completion of the visit, Major F. K. Heath, one of the government officials, recommended that the city seek funds for a combined post office and court house. City officials pursued this recommendation and in January of 1930, President Hoover concurred with the recommendation for a combined building and allocated a total of \$760,000 for the project (Lexington Herald 1/7/1930; 8/19/32; Lancaster 1978:156).

By 1930, Lexington was the second largest city in Kentucky with a population of 45,736. During the 1920s, the city was noted for its growth due to its large tobacco market and many warehouse and manufacturing companies. Many notable buildings were constructed in the downtown area during this decade including the ten-story Lafayette Hotel. With the onset of the Depression, Lexington's diverse economic activities enabled the city to suffer less than other areas of the state and country (Kentucky Encyclopedia, 551). However, large scale building projects ceased during the 1930s with the exception of the construction of the United States Post Office and Court House.

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Continuation Sheet**

**United States Post Office and
Court House, Lexington
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In April of 1930 federal inspectors chose the northeast corner of Limestone and Barr Streets for the site of the building out of approximately 20 sites submitted for consideration. The location consisted of nineteen separate tracts of land encompassing a half city block. The selected location had frontage on both Limestone and Barr Streets and the plot was 57,156 square feet in size (Lexington Herald 4/29/30).

In February of 1931, the final piece of property for the building site was acquired with the acquisition price totaling \$184,648 (Lexington Herald 2/25/31). Once the land was purchased, preparation of the building's design began. Even though it was generally government policy for all federal buildings to be designed by government architects in Washington D.C., a Lexington architectural firm was selected to design the Lexington building. This was partly due to the large federal construction program underway in the country which resulted in a backlog of projects in Washington. It was also partly due to the experience of architect John T. Gillig, who had extensive experience with post office construction. In May, the firm of John T. Gillig and Howard A. Churchill received the appointment to prepare the plans for the building with Briton B. Davis, a Louisville architect, functioning as a consultant on the project (Lexington Herald 5/31/31; 11/7/32).

John T. Gillig was largely responsible for the building's design. After receiving a college degree in architecture and engineering, Gillig was employed by the Supervising Architect of the federal government in Washington. During his three years with the Supervising Architect, Gillig worked across the country overseeing the design and construction of post office buildings. After leaving government service, he opened an office to practice architecture in Lexington in 1920. Over the next several decades he designed a number of private and public buildings throughout Kentucky and nearby states (Sesquicentennial History of Kentucky, 1945). It is likely that his previous experience with post office design and his work with the Supervising Architect influenced his firm's appointment to design the Lexington post office and court house.

In August of 1931, the building site was vacated by the landowners, and the following spring the Treasury Department approved the architectural designs of Gillig and Churchill. A request for bids for the project went out in the summer of 1932. In August, the federal government received 23 bids for the project with the lowest bid of \$448,800 submitted by the Penker Construction Company of Cincinnati, Ohio. As part of the contract the company agreed to utilize

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**United States Post Office and
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local labor and take a maximum of 460 days from the beginning of construction to complete the building (Lexington Herald 8/12/32).

In January of 1934, the building was well underway with a project completion date scheduled for May. The supervising government engineer was R. B. Hayes (Lexington Herald 1/28/34). The final inspection of the building by H. G. Ritchie, the district engineer for the United States Treasury Department, did not occur until September of that year (Lexington Herald 9/9/34). Nearly three months later, the building officially opened for business on December 11, 1934. At the time of its completion the building housed the post office, federal court rooms, offices for the Internal Revenue Service, the U. S. District Attorney's office, and other federal agencies.

The Neo-Classical design of the building was in keeping with established guidelines for federal buildings and post offices. In 1901, James Knox Taylor, Supervising Architect the Treasury Department, announced a return to the "classic style of architecture" for government buildings ("History of Post Office Construction," 4). Government buildings were designed to express classical and democratic ideals to symbolize the power of the federal government. During the 1910s and 1920s, architects for the Treasury Department devised standardized plans for post offices and courthouses for smaller communities. However, those for larger cities continued to be designed on an individual basis using Neo-Classical and Colonial Revival details.

The Neo-Classical and Colonial Revival styles were the predominant styles utilized in the 1920s and 1930s for the construction of federal buildings. These styles were thought to best illustrate America's past and future progress and both styles increasingly became the architectural symbol of the federal government ("History of Post Office Construction," 21). The Neo-Classical style was based primarily on the classical orders of Greek architecture. Renewed interest in this style occurred following the Columbian Exposition at Chicago in 1893 which revived the grand scale and monumentality of classical architecture (American Architecture, 217). The Neo-Classical, Colonial Revival, and related styles became widely popular for residences, commercial buildings, and public buildings during the early 20th century.

The Neo-Classical style for public buildings was distinguished by its grand scale, symmetry, and exterior finishes of stone. These buildings were often built with pedimented porticos or columned pavilions in the Greek orders of Doric, Ionic, or Corinthian. Most roof lines were kept simple in design and entablatures were generally left unadorned. The Neo-Classical style dominated public building designs into the early 1930s. By the mid-1930s the use of more restrained

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**United States Post Office and
Court House, Lexington
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classicism with elements of the Art Deco style became widely used for public buildings until World War II (North American Architecture, 244).

The United States Post Office and Court House at Lexington is representative of the Neo-Classical style federal buildings constructed during the period. The building was designed with an exterior of smooth limestone panels and granite. The building is distinguished by the monumental pavilions on the primary facade which feature two-story stone Doric columns. The entrances are enriched with pedimented surrounds and Doric pilasters separate the window bays of the building. The sense of classical monumentality is carried into the interior in the public lobby and federal courtroom. The public lobby displays marble Doric pilasters on both sides of a two-story hallway. In addition to the pilasters, this lobby area has various colored marble on the walls and floors. The courtroom on the second floor is also two-stories in height and features a wood coffered ceiling and paired Doric pilasters behind the judge's bench.

The federal courtroom also contains an example of a Public Works Administration (PWA) mural. In 1938, a mural entitled "Daniel Boone's Arrival in Kentucky" was added to the west wall of the courtroom. Completed by artist Ward Lockwood, this painting was funded by the PWA Section of Fine Arts. Lockwood was born in 1894 and studied art at the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts. He completed a variety of murals for the PWA in the 1930s including those at the Wichita, Kansas Post Office and Post Office in Washington, D.C.

The commissioning of this mural was through the Public Works of Art Program (PWAP) organized in 1933. Later known as the Section of Fine Arts, this federal program provided for the completion of art and sculpture at hundreds of federal buildings across the country. Designed to alleviate unemployment among artists, most commissions were for the completion of murals or paintings to produce literal representations of the American scene ("History of Post Office Construction," 22). The painting by Lockwood is representative of this federal program of the 1930s and has been well maintained.

Since the completion of the building in 1934, few changes or alterations or alterations have taken place to its exterior. The building retains its original form and plan and the majority of its original details. Alterations have been confined to the replacement of the original doors and minor additions on the rear facade. The significant interior spaces of the building have also been largely retained including the public lobby on the first floor and federal courtroom on the second floor. These spaces were the most highly visible public spaces in the building and they were

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designed with extensive decoration and expensive materials. With the exception of some window and door replacement these spaces have been preserved and maintained.

In recent decades, several remodeling projects have resulted in the upgrading of the building's heating and cooling system, plumbing, and electrical systems. This work has resulted in the introduction of dropped ceilings in the office and corridor areas to accommodate these new systems. Space alterations have occurred on the basement level and third and fourth floors, however, the original floor plan for these areas remains mostly intact and the corridors continue to display their terrazzo floors and marble baseboards. Despite new wall, floor, and ceiling finishes, many office areas on the upper floors retain their original configuration and doors.

Although many federal post offices and courthouses are listed on the National Register, there has yet to be a nationwide or statewide contextual study of these buildings. Due to this circumstance, the building at Lexington can only be evaluated in terms of its local significance. The building is one of only a few major construction projects undertaken in Lexington during the 1930s, and is regarded by the city's historic preservation agency as the most representative example of the Neo-Classical style from this decade (Interview, Dean Dorfled).

In his book on Lexington architecture, Clay Lancaster described the United States Federal Building and Post Office as "... the last building endowed with grandeur to be erected in Lexington" (*Vestiges of the Venerable City*, 156). The building continues to serve as the city's primary U.S. government building and houses the federal judge, federal attorneys, and various other offices. Although the city's main postal operation was moved in the 1970s, the building continues to house a branch of the postal service and serves the downtown area.

The United States Post Office and Federal Building is eligible for the National Register under Criterion C for its architectural design. The building is one of the Lexington's most representative examples of the Neo-Classical style and reflects federal architecture of the period. The building retains integrity of its architectural design both on its exterior and significant interior public spaces. The building continues to serve as the city's primary federal courthouse and center for federal government operations.

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The United States Post Office and Court House occupies the entire lot with the identification number 04037230 located in Block 141 on Sheet 002 of Lexington city and planning maps.

VERBAL BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The nominated property includes the entire parcel historically associated with the United States Post Office and Court House in Lexington on the northeast corner of Limestone and Barr Streets. No other buildings or structures are associated with the property.