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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

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. Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a).

1. Name of Property

Historic name United States Post Office and Court House

Other names/site number Frank M. Scarlett Federal Building; United States Post Office; United States Court House

2. Location

street & number 805 Gloucester Street not for publication

city of town Brunswick vicinity

State Georgia code GA county Glynn code 127 zip code 31520

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

[Signature] 2/26/14
 Signature of certifying official Date
Federal Preservation Officer, U.S. General Services Administration
 Title State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.

[Signature] 8 JAN 2014
 Signature of commenting official Date
DIVISION DIRECTOR & DSHPO
 Title State or Federal agency and bureau

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] 4.15.14
 Signature of the Keeper Date of Action
Edson H. Beall

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 type="checkbox"/>	public - Local
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - State
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	public - Federal
<input type="checkbox"/>	private

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	building(s)
<input type="checkbox"/>	district
<input type="checkbox"/>	site
<input type="checkbox"/>	structure
<input type="checkbox"/>	building(s)
<input type="checkbox"/>	object

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
		sites
		structures
		Objects
		buildings
1	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

Previously listed as noncontributing to Brunswick Old Town Historic District.- NRIS #79000727

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Government: Post Office; Courthouse;
Government Office

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Government: Post Office; Courthouse;
Government Office

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

MODERN MOVEMENT

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation: CONCRETE

walls: BRICK; STONE

roof: SYTHENTIC; METAL

other:

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

Summary Paragraph

The United States Post Office and Court House in Brunswick, Georgia (Frank M. Scarlett Federal Building) occupies an approximate 1.13-acre lot at the northeast intersection of Gloucester and Ellis streets in downtown Brunswick, Glynn County, Georgia. The building is situated on a rectangular-shaped parcel that is bounded by Gloucester Street to the south, Ellis Street to the west, F Street to the north, and Egmont Street to the east. The building is located within the Brunswick Old Town Historic District, but post-dates the period of significance for the historic district and is therefore considered a non-contributing resource.

The Modernist United States Post Office and Court House was completed in 1959 to house the Brunswick United States Post Office (USPO), federal courtrooms, and additional government offices. In 2013, the building continues to house the main branch of the Brunswick USPO and supporting offices as well as three federal courtrooms and supporting offices, and additional federal offices.

Narrative Description

See Continuation Sheets 7.1 through 7.11.

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.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Politics/Government

Architecture

Period of Significance

1959

Significant Dates

1959

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

Unknown

Architect/Builder

Abreu, Francis L.; Architect

Robeson, James L.; Architect

Criteria Considerations

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

Property is:

- 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.

Period of Significance (justification)

The United States Post Office and Court House is significant in the areas of Politics/Government and Architecture for the year 1959. The building is significant as a symbol of the federal presence in Brunswick as carried out through federal building campaigns of the 1950s. In addition, the building is a representative example of the Modern architecture as executed by the notable Georgia architect, Francis Abreu and his partner, James Robeson. Thus, its period of significance is 1959, the date of the building's completion.

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria)

The United States Post Office and Court House in Brunswick, Georgia is significant for its association as a notable symbol of the federal presence and social focal point of the city of Brunswick. The federal building is also locally significant as a notable example of Modern architecture as designed by the prominent Georgia architectural firm, Abreu & Robeson. The building is significant under National Register Criterion A (properties that are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history) and Criterion C (properties that embody a distinctive characteristic of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master).

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

Politics/Government

The United States Post Office and Court House in Brunswick, Georgia embodies the growth of Brunswick in the mid-twentieth century. The building was designed and constructed under the lease-purchase program authorized as part of the Public Buildings Purchase Contract Act of 1954, to house the main branch of the Brunswick USPO and federal courtrooms and supporting offices for the U.S. District Court-Southern District of Georgia. Consequently, the building, which is prominently located on Gloucester Street in the heart of downtown Brunswick, serves as a federal icon and community hub. The design and construction of the building as overseen by the U.S. General Services Administration (GSA) includes clean, simple lines in the exterior, absence of monumental exterior stairways, landings, and other custom-made details, all features which were utilized in the majority of federal building design of the 1950s.

Architecture

The Brunswick United States Post Office and Court House is significant under Criterion C as a notable example of a Modern-era federal building designed by the prominent Georgia architect, Francis Abreu and his partner, James Robeson. Characteristic of Modern-era buildings, the United States Post Office and Court House emphasizes the economy of federal building design as carried out under the supervision of GSA in the 1950s. The building possesses clean simple lines in the exterior and is devoid of monumental exterior stairways, landings, and other custom-made features found on preceding federal buildings. The box-shaped building carries a weighty massiveness, includes deeply recessed windows, and lacks monumental entries and emphatic signage—all features attributed to Modern-era federal buildings.

Francis L. Abreu, the senior partner and founder of the architectural firm of Abreu & Robeson that designed the U.S. Post Office and Courthouse, was a regionally renowned architect throughout Florida and Georgia, known particularly for his distinctive designs that blended Spanish and Mediterranean influences. Abreu designed parts of the famous Cloister Hotel on Sea Island, Georgia, near Brunswick, in addition to the design of banks and hospitals, including the Neoclassical-style Trust Company of Georgia building (1949) and Saint Joseph's Infirmary (1953), both of which are in Atlanta. The United States Post Office and Court House in Brunswick, Georgia, is the only federal building designed by the architectural firm of Abreu & Robeson.

Developmental history/additional historic context information (if appropriate)

See Continuation Sheets 8.1 through 8.17.

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 (non contributing to Brunswick Old Town Historic District – NRIS #79000727)
 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

See Continuation Sheets 9.1

Name of repository: **through 9.3.**

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): N/A

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 1.13
(do not include previously listed resource acreage)

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

1	<u> 17 </u> Zone	<u> 453072 </u> Easting	<u> 3446356 </u> Northing	3	<u> </u> Zone	<u> </u> Easting	<u> </u> Northing
2	<u> </u> Zone	<u> </u> Easting	<u> </u> Northing	4	<u> </u> Zone	<u> </u> Easting	<u> </u> Northing

Verbal Boundary Description (describe the boundaries of the property)

The boundary includes the approximately 1.13-acre tax parcel (Glynn County Tax ID # 01-02062) upon which the United States Post Office and Court House is located. The southern boundary is delineated by Gloucester Street, and Ellis Street forms the western boundary. Egmont Street serves as the eastern boundary. The northern boundary is defined by the property’s tax parcel line that extends between the rear parking lot for the United States Post Office and Court House and an unassociated overflow parking lot to the north.

Boundary Justification (explain why the boundaries were selected)

The National Register boundary for the United States Post Office and Court House includes the entire portion of the 1.13-acre tax parcel that is historically associated with the building during its period of significance (1959). This boundary follows the tax parcel lines and includes the federal building that has occupied the lot since its completion in 1959. The boundary encompasses all of the significant resources and features that comprise the property.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Emma K. Young/Architectural Historian

organization A.D. Marble & Company, prepared for U.S. General Services Administration date September 2010, revised December 2013

street & number 3913 Hartzdale Drive, Suite 1302 telephone 717.731.9588

city or town Camp Hill state PA zip code 17011

Email eyoung@admarble.com

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **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. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Continuation Sheets**
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Photographs:

Submit clear and descriptive black and white photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

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 18 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 Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, PO Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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The United States Post Office and Court House in Brunswick, Georgia, is a Modern-era federal building that emphasizes the economy of federal building design as carried out under the supervision of the U.S. General Services Administration (GSA) in the 1950s. The building possesses clean simple lines in the exterior and is devoid of monumental exterior stairways, landings, and other custom-made features found on preceding federal buildings. Since the building is constructed of high-quality materials, including limestone and brick, it remains in excellent condition with few alterations to its 1959 exterior appearance and configuration. The building is located within the Brunswick Old Town Historic District, which was listed in the National Register of Historic Places on April 26, 1979, but is listed as a noncontributing resource.

Exterior Description

The United States Post Office and Court House in Brunswick, Georgia, measures three stories in height with a square-shaped penthouse near the southwest corner and two, two-story wings extending from the rear of the building.¹ The building sits upon a hill that slopes slightly downward, from the east to the west. Due to the sandy soil and high water table, the building lacks a basement. The foundation of the building is comprised of concrete, and the exterior walls are predominantly clad in dark red-colored brick laid in continuous rows of stretchers, except where noted. The built-up flat roof is covered in tar and metal. An exterior brick chimney is located at the northeast corner of the building, between the rear elevation and easternmost rear wing.

The building is primarily lit by long, narrow, tripartite, horizontal, metal-sash rectangular windows, except where noted. The center light is fixed, while the top and bottom lights are awning-sash types.

The south elevation (facade) faces Gloucester Street and is asymmetrical. Three tiers of dark gray-colored terrazzo panels clad the lower half of the first-story exterior wall situated underneath the twenty-four window bays of the upper first story, second, and third stories. The twenty-four window bays, which are evenly spaced, are set back into a continuous cast-stone panel that projects slightly from the façade and functions as a brise soleil, a sun-shading technique meant to provide protection from the intense summer heat.² Narrow vertical slits are carved into the cast-stone face, above the first and second stories, between each window bay.

The first story contains two entries situated underneath the cast-stone-clad section. The easternmost entry is centered in the eastern half of the elevation, and the westernmost entry is located near the end of the facade. The easternmost entry, which provides the main entry into the Brunswick United States Post Office (USPO), consists of a set of double-leaf, full-light, steel doors, flanked to each side by a single-leaf, full-light steel door, all set into a steel surround. The entry is sheltered by a flat projecting, metal hood. Steel seals, each depicting the obverse and reverse sides of the Great Seal of the United States respectively, flank the USPO entry to the east and west. A date stone is located in the bottom terrazzo panel, to the east of the entry and reads:

¹ For the purposes of this nomination, Gloucester Street runs east-west and Ellis Street runs north-south.

² The cast-stone exterior wall paneling around the window bays that is present on the south, east, and west elevations was replaced in February 2009 following Section 106 consultation with the State Historic Preservation Officer. The replacement cast stone replicates the original Florida Keystone panels. This limestone once quarried in the Florida Keys is no longer commercially available. The intricate pattern of the original limestone face characterized by a highly detailed fossilized coral has also been replicated in the cast stone panels; Christopher Eck, "Mid-Century Abreu & Robeson-Designed Frank M. Scarlett FB-CT Receives Facelift," Unpublished article prepared for the U.S. General Services Administration, Southeast-Sunbelt Region, Atlanta, Georgia, April 2009.

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
DWIGHT D EISENHOWER
PRESIDENT

1958

To the west of the USPO entry, three rows of metal letters are hung on the two upper tiers of the terrazzo panels and read, "FRANK M. SCARLETT FEDERAL BUILDING; UNITED STATES POST OFFICE; UNITED STATES COURT HOUSE.

The western entry, which serves as a secondary entry into the USPO, is accessed via a set of four poured-concrete steps set into a brick stairway. Metal pipe railings line the interior sides of each wall. The steps lead to a poured-concrete landing situated in front of the entry, which is comprised of a set of double-leaf, full-light, metal doors. The entry is located within the brick exterior walls of the facade and not surrounded by the terrazzo panels. A flat, projecting, metal hood shelters the entry. The landing, which contains a full brick balustrade, extends around the southwest corner of the building to the landing situated in front of the U.S. District Court entry located in the west elevation.

The west elevation measures sixteen-bays wide; the west elevation of the rear wing is devoid of openings. An entry, which provides the main entry into the vestibule for the three federal courtrooms, is situated in the southernmost bay of the first story. Four poured-concrete steps, flanked and bisected by a metal railing, lead to a poured-concrete landing situated in front of the entry. The landing is sheltered by a flat projecting, metal roof supported by four simple square metal posts. A poured-concrete ramp lined by a metal railing leads from the north side of the landing and curves slightly around to the west. The courtroom entry is comprised of a set of automatic, sliding, full-light, metal doors with a fixed, full-light panel situated to the north. A steel seal for the United States District Court—Southern District of Georgia is located above a steel sign that reads "ANTHONY A. ALAIMO, COURT FACILITY," both of which are hung on the wall, to the south of the entry. A continuous ribbon of sixteen, single-light, fixed, metal-sash windows are located to the north of the entry in the lower half of the first story. The upper half of the first story as well as the second and third stories also contain the continuous brise soleil as found on the facade and east elevation; however, narrow vertical slits in the upper half of the first story denote each side of solid cast-stone panels that are shifted slightly to the north of the sixteen window openings in the second and third stories. The brise soleil also contains the narrow vertical slits above the first and second stories as found in the facade and east elevations.

The north (rear) elevation of the main block measures twenty-six bays wide, with the first and second stories largely concealed by the rear wings connected by a first-story loading dock. A small, one-bay-wide, metal equipment shelter, visible only from the north (rear) side of the building is located atop the roof, in the center of the north elevation; this structure is only accessed via the roof. The loading dock, which is comprised of a poured-concrete landing and sheltered by a metal-clad canopy supported by four evenly spaced steel poles, extends from the west elevation of the eastern rear wing and continues to the center of the north elevation of the western rear wing. A poured-concrete ramp flanked by metal pipe railings provides access to the dock at the northeast corner. Two double-leaf, twelve-light, steel, swinging doors are centrally located in the north

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elevation of the main block and accessed via the loading dock. In addition, a set of double-leaf steel doors, accessed via the loading dock, is located in the west and east elevations of each rear wing, respectively. The north elevation of the eastern rear wing contains a ribbon of four, tripartite, horizontal, fixed, metal-sash windows near the western end of the first story. Three single windows are located in the eastern end of the second story. The north elevation of the western rear wing contains a one-story, one-bay, front-gable garage addition, added circa 1995, in the western end of the first story.³ The garage contains a metal overhead door in the north elevation, and the east and west walls are comprised of brick laid in a crisscrossed pattern to form open slits. The roof is comprised of standing-seam metal. Four single windows are located near the eastern end of the second story of the western rear wing.

The main block of the east elevation measures sixteen-bays wide. The main block contains fifteen window bays centrally located in the elevation and set back into a continuous cast-stone brise soleil including narrow vertical slits above the first and second stories, identical to the facade. The two-centermost window bays in the second story have been concealed with cast-stone panels. A secondary entry, which is not accessible to the public, is located in the northernmost bay of the main block, to the north of the window bays. The entry is comprised of a single-leaf, twelve-light, metal door, set back from the face of the elevation into a splayed, poured-concrete surround. The entry is accessed by a poured-concrete stoop, and a square metal fluorescent light fixture is located above the entry. The east elevation of the rear wing contains a small square louvered vent in the southernmost bay and two sets of double-leaf, louvered, steel doors in the northernmost bays. Four, rounded metal roof ventilators are located on the roof.

Exterior Landscape Features

Small evergreen foundation plantings border the building on the south and west elevations. A narrow strip of grass lawn, bordered by a concrete curb, extends between the planting bed and the poured-concrete sidewalk that borders the south and west sides of the property. An aluminum flagpole is set into a concrete base at the southeast corner of the lawn, and several palm trees are interspersed throughout the lawn. Mid- to late-twentieth-century, low-rise, commercial and government buildings comprise the immediate areas to the south and west of the building. Overflow parking lots are located across Egmont Street to the east, and to the north of the building lot. Residential areas are located further to the north. Located within the Brunswick Old Town Historic District, which was listed in the National Register on April 26, 1979, the United States Post Office and Court House is listed as noncontributing to the district.

Interior Description

The interior of the United States Post Office and Court House largely retains its original design and layout. The original finishes throughout the second and third floors have been replaced in order to accommodate tenants' needs. The building features a primary entry in the south elevation, which facilitates public movement through a vestibule and into the post office lobby. An additional entry is located in the western end of the south elevation and facilitates public access into the post box lobby. An entry in the west elevation provides access into the courtroom vestibule. The first floor is dominated by the cavernous postal workroom with mechanical,

³ This garage provides a sheltered parking area for the Chief Judge of the U.S. District Court-Southern District of Georgia.

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storage, and office spaces near the rear. The second floor is dominated by the large courtroom and its supporting offices, including the judge's chambers and law library. The third floor also contains a smaller courtroom as well as various supporting offices, including judge's chambers and offices for the U.S. District Attorney.

The postal vestibule, lobbies, and workroom retain the most original detail. The majority of interior alterations have occurred within the second- and third-floor office spaces in order to accommodate tenants' needs. These spaces largely contain replacement carpeting, replacement plaster or dropped acoustical-tile ceilings, and full-height gypsum and plaster wall partitions, all of which are reversible alterations.

First Floor

The first floor of the United States Post Office and Court House contains the post office vestibule, post office lobby, post box alcove and lobby, courtroom vestibule, postal workroom, loading dock, and various smaller postal service offices, mechanical, and storage rooms. The northeast corner of the first floor is set lower than the remaining floor area due to the slope of the building site.

Post Office Vestibule

The main entry near the eastern end of the south elevation facilitates public movement through the doors into a vestibule. The vestibule retains the original white- and gray-colored terrazzo floor, black-colored marble wainscoting, plaster walls, and smooth plaster ceiling with square-shaped suspended fluorescent light fixtures. An L-shaped poured-concrete ramp, lined by a metal-pipe railing, lines the east and north walls and leads to a terrazzo panel-clad landing located at the vestibule's west wall. Two steps comprised of marble risers and terrazzo treads are located on the east side of the landing; the north sides of the steps are set into the ramp. A metal railing curves around from the south wall, on the south side of the steps. An original metal directory board hangs on the north wall of the vestibule. A set of double-leaf, full-light, metal doors, flanked by fixed two-light panels and topped by a wide tripartite transom, lead from the vestibule's landing into the post office lobby. The words "Main Office, Brunswick, GA. 31520" are painted onto the center light of the transom.

Post Office Lobby

The post office lobby stretches along the south side of the building. The space retains the original white- and gray-colored terrazzo floor, plaster walls, and smooth plaster ceiling with square-shaped suspended fluorescent light fixtures. The row of windows located along the south wall, near the ceiling, lights the southern half of the lobby. A cloth-paneled, plastic-topped, replacement service counter lines the northern half of the lobby and separates the lobby from the postal workroom. Original wood- and metal-framed directory and bulletin boards hang on the south wall. A set of double-leaf, full-light, metal doors, flanked by fixed full-light panels and topped by a wide tripartite transom, lead from the post office lobby into the post box lobby. These doors mirror the doors leading from the vestibule into the post office lobby. The words "Main Office, Brunswick, GA. 31520" are painted onto the center light of the transom, on the west side.

Post Box Lobby

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The post box lobby stretches north from the western exterior entry in the south elevation and west from the post office lobby. The post box lobby retains the original white- and gray-colored terrazzo floor, plaster walls, and smooth plaster ceiling with square-shaped suspended fluorescent light fixtures. A series of movable metal footlockers are located along the south wall, to the east of the exterior entry. The east wall of the post box lobby contains a series of metal post boxes. Three drop-boxes for outgoing mail are located at the southern end of the easternmost set of post boxes. An inset metal directory board is hung on the wall, to the south of the drop-boxes. A smaller series of metal post boxes are located in the north wall. Three movable plastic and metal writing desks are evenly spaced along the west wall. A single-leaf steel door, which leads to the postal service offices, is located between each desk, and wood- and metal-framed bulletin boards hang on the walls, above each desk. A set of double-leaf full light, metal doors is located in the southern end of the west wall; these doors provide secured access into the courtroom vestibule. Two one-light over one-panel metal windows are located to the south of the doors; the entire entry is topped by a four-light transom. A tripartite metal display board exhibiting the Charters of Freedom is hung on the wall to the south of the doors.

Post Box Alcove

A small irregularly shaped post box alcove is located to the northeast of the western exterior entry and stretches north from the postal lobby and northeast from the post box lobby. The post box alcove retains the original white- and gray-colored terrazzo floor, plaster walls, and smooth plaster ceiling with square-shaped suspended fluorescent light fixtures. Groups of small- and large-sized metal post boxes are located in the east and west walls of the alcove.

Courtroom Vestibule

The courtroom vestibule occupies the southwest corner of the building's first floor. The vestibule is accessed from the exterior via the west elevation entry. The double-leaf interior doors leading from the post box lobby are secured and not intended for public access. Industrial carpeting covers the vestibule's floor; however, the original black marble baseboard remains. Portions of the original black marble wainscoting are located near the southern corners of the walls; the remaining wall surfaces are comprised of smooth plaster. A replacement, dropped, acoustical-tile ceiling with inset fluorescent lighting shelters the space. A movable security partition is located to the north of the exterior entry. The elevator is located to the east, in the northeast corner of the room. A wood seal for the U.S. District Court-Southern District of Georgia hangs above the elevator. The secured entry into the post box lobby serves as the east wall of the vestibule. The south wall of the vestibule contains a one-light, single-leaf, steel door that leads to the stairway situated in the southwest corner of the building that provides access to all three floors.

Postal Workroom and Loading Dock

The cavernous postal workroom occupies the center and southeast areas of the first floor of the United States Post Office and Court House. The loading dock area is situated to the rear. The workroom retains the original asbestos-tile floor and concrete block walls. Exposed ductwork and piping obscures the ceiling. Large round-shaped fluorescent light fixtures hang from the ceiling. Eighteen round full-height steel columns are located throughout the space and extend from the floor to ceiling height. Numerous mail-sorting cubbyholes are located throughout the space. The series of windows near the ceiling light the east side of the workroom.

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Two sets of double-leaf, one-light, steel, swinging doors are located in the north wall of the postal workroom and lead to the mail platform of the loading dock area, which contains the same features and finishes as the postal workroom.

First-Floor Postal Service Offices

A series of six postal service offices are located along the west side of the first floor, to the north of the courtroom vestibule. These offices are accessed through the steel doors situated in the west wall of the post box lobby and via a single-leaf steel door situated in the northwest corner of the postal workroom. The offices contain replacement finishes, including industrial carpeting, smooth plaster walls, and dropped acoustical-tile ceilings with inset fluorescent lighting. An original steel vault is located at the northern end of the office series.

An additional office is located to the north of the vault. The office is accessed via a single-leaf steel door situated in the westernmost corner of the north wall. This office houses the postmaster and contains replacement finishes, including industrial carpeting and a dropped acoustical-tile ceiling with inset fluorescent lighting.

A stairway leading to the lower part of the first floor as well as the mezzanine level is located to the southeast of the postmaster's office. The stairway is comprised of poured-concrete risers and treads, and lined by a metal pipe railing.

Storage and Mechanical Space

Storage and mechanical space, as well as an office for the U.S. General Services Administration (GSA), occupies the northeast corner of the first floor. This area, which occupies the eastern rear wing, is set lower than the rest of the first floor due to the sloping of the building lot. These five rooms are accessed from a single-leaf steel door situated in the northeast corner of the postal workroom or from the exterior via the entries in the east elevation of the main block and rear wing. These rooms contain painted poured-concrete floors, exposed brick or concrete block walls, and plaster ceilings with exposed ductwork and piping. Original single-leaf, one-light, wood doors provide access into the spaces. The two-part boiler room situated in the northeast corner of the space retains the original boiler.

Stairways

The United States Post Office and Court House contains two main stairways that provide access from the first through third floors. One stairway is located in the southwest corner, and the other is located in the northeast corner. An additional stairway providing access to the lower first-floor level as well as the mezzanine level is situated in the northwest corner of the building, adjacent to the postmaster's office. Each stairway contains the same basic finishes, including exposed tan-colored interior brick walls. The stairways contain poured-concrete risers encased in metal and poured-concrete treads. The edges of each tread are etched for traction. A metal pipe railing lines the interior sides.

Restrooms

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Restrooms are located near the northeast corner of the postal workroom on the first floor and throughout the second and third floors. Some of the original floor cladding comprised of marble doorsills and ceramic tiles remain. The restrooms largely contain replacement finishes, including new plaster walls and replacement wall tiles, replacement stall partitions, and fixtures.

Mezzanine Level

The mezzanine level, which is accessed via the stairway near the postmaster's office or the northeast main stairway, occupies the upper part of the rear wings; therefore, it is divided into two separate sections. The mezzanine level houses additional storage for the USPO, locker rooms for the postal employees, and electrical equipment. This area largely contains replacement finishes, including industrial or vinyl-tile floor cladding, plaster walls, and dropped acoustical-tile ceilings with inset fluorescent lighting.

Second Floor

The second floor of the building contains two federal courtrooms and supporting offices as well as offices for the U.S. Marshals Service. The floor is accessed via the elevator and two main stairways. The stairway and elevator lobby is located in the southwest corner of the second floor. The rectangular lobby contains industrial carpeting and wood chair-rail with fabric-like wallpaper serving as wainscoting underneath. The rest of the walls are comprised of smooth plaster, and a dropped acoustical-tile ceiling with inset fluorescent lighting shelters the space. The elevator is located on the west wall while a single-leaf steel door, which leads to the main stairway, is located on the east wall. A set of built-in wood cabinets and display area are situated immediately to the north of the elevator.

The second-floor corridor extends to the north and east from the northeast corner of the elevator lobby. The corridor, which contains the same features and finishes as the elevator lobby, forms a rectangle and encircles the entire second floor. Courtroom # 1, as well as mechanical space, office for the postal inspector, and restrooms, is located in the center of the corridor, while supporting offices and Courtroom # 2 are located at the corridor's exterior, along the exterior walls of the building.

Courtroom # 1

A set of double-leaf doors is located in the second-floor corridor and provides access into a wide corridor that divides the central portion of the second floor. The central corridor contains carpet-clad flooring, smooth plaster walls, and a dropped acoustical-tile ceiling. The U.S. District Courtroom (Courtroom # 1) for the Southern District of Georgia, the largest of the three federal courtrooms, is located to the west of the central corridor.⁴ The courtroom extends up through the third floor. A set of double-leaf wood doors situated in the east wall of the central corridor provides access into the courtroom.

⁴ The U.S. District Courtroom (Courtroom # 1) was renovated in 1985, and, as a result, contains new floor and wall cladding and a replacement ceiling; Kermit Buie (U.S. General Services Administration), in conversation with author, 16 June 2009.

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Plush carpeting covers the courtroom floor, and wood panels accentuated by a dentiled cornice clad the walls. A thin strip of stucco surrounds the ceiling, which consists of small square dropped acoustical tiles. Large replacement pendant light fixtures are mounted to ceiling throughout the room.

A bronze seal for the U.S. District Court—Southern District of Georgia hangs above the double-leaf doors in the west wall of the courtroom. Five portraits depicting the Honorable Anthony Alaimo, Sir Thomas More, Honorable Frank M. Scarlett, Honorable Benjamin Cardozo, and the Honorable John Marshall, are hung on the east, north, and south walls.⁵ Two single-leaf paneled wood doors provide access to the second-floor corridor and are located in the north and south walls of the courtroom. An original integral metal electrical clock is located in the northern wall of the courtroom, to the east of the door.

The public seating area is comprised of ten polished-wood benches. A low polished-wood balustrade separates the public seating area from the rest of the courtroom. The jury's box, secretary's desk, witness stand, and judge's bench are comprised of polished paneled wood. The wall behind the judge's bench, which is situated in the center of the east wall of the courtroom, is accentuated by two simple pilasters that support a plain entablature. A carved-wood spread-winged eagle is located between the pilasters, below the entablature. A single-leaf wood concealed door is located underneath the eagle and leads to the second-floor corridor. Two single-leaf, paneled wood doors flank the judge's bench and provide additional access into the second-floor corridor.

Courtroom # 2

The second federal courtroom is located to the north of Courtroom # 1, across the second-floor corridor. A single-leaf wood door located at each end of the south wall of the courtroom provides access. The small rectangular room contains replacement finishes, including plush carpeting on the floor, smooth plaster walls, and a dropped acoustical-tile ceiling with inset fluorescent lighting. Wood panels clad the wall behind the judge's bench, which occupies the east wall of the room.

U.S. Marshals Service Offices

The offices for the U.S. Marshals Service occupy the east side of the second floor. A series of three rooms comprise the office space. These rooms contain replacement finishes, including industrial carpeting, new full-height plaster wall partitions, and dropped acoustical-tile ceilings with inset fluorescent lighting. Two steel holding cells occupy the southernmost room of the area; this area contains vinyl-tile floor cladding. An original steel vault is located in the southwest corner of the center room.

Judge's Chambers

⁵ Honorable Anthony Alaimo (1920 - 2009) served as a U.S. District Court-Southern District of Georgia judge from 1971 until his death in December 2009. He assumed senior status in 1991. Sir Thomas More (1478–1535) was an English statesman, lawyer, and author. Honorable Frank M. Scarlett (1891-1971) served as a U.S. District Court-Southern District of Georgia judge from 1946 until his death in 1971. Honorable Benjamin Cardozo (1870-1938) was an American lawyer and U.S. Supreme Court Justice. Honorable John Marshall (1755-1835) was an American statesman and judge. He served as the Chief Justice for the U.S. Supreme Court from 1801 until his death in 1835, the longest-serving U.S. Chief Justice in U.S. history.

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The judge's chambers, which occupy the south and southwestern ends of the second floor, consist of a series of interconnected rooms that include the judge's office, secretary's office, copy room, small kitchenette and restroom, and conference room. These rooms were renovated in June 2009 and retain little original detailing and finishes.⁶ The secretary's office retains the original balustrade, identical to the one found in Courtroom # 1, which separates the waiting area from the secretary's area and judge's chambers. The floors are clad in plush carpeting or wood tiles. The walls feature wood wainscoting and smooth plaster finishes. Wood paneling covers the southern wall of the judge's chamber. Square acoustical tiles with inset canister lighting shelter the rooms, with the exception of the judge's office, which contains a coffered-like ceiling.

Clerk of Court Offices

Offices for the Clerk of Court occupy the northwestern portion of the second floor. This space contains new finishes, including plush carpeting, new wall plaster wall partitions, and dropped acoustical-tile ceilings with inset fluorescent lighting.

Third Floor

The third floor of the building contains one federal courtroom (Courtroom # 3) and supporting offices as well as offices for the U.S. Congressman and U.S. District Attorney. Courtroom # 1 extends up from the second floor and dominates the central portion of the third floor; however, the courtroom is not accessible from the third floor. The third floor is accessed via the elevator and two main stairways. The stairway and elevator lobby is located in the southwest corner of the third floor and contains the same finishes as those found on the second-floor stairway and elevator lobby.

The third-floor corridor extends to the north and east from the northeast corner of the elevator lobby. The corridor wraps around to the east from the north end and continues around from the northeast corner to the south. Courtroom # 3 separates the southwestern end of the corridor from the southeastern end. The corridor contains the same replacement features and finishes as those found on the second-floor corridor. An original porcelain drinking fountain is attached to the north wall of the corridor that leads east from the stairway and elevator lobby. Some original doors comprised of single-leaf steel doors featuring one square light and a louvered vent underneath are also situated throughout the third floor.

Courtroom # 3

A single-leaf door located in the south portion of the third-floor corridor provides access into Courtroom # 3, which occupies the south-central portion of the floor. The courtroom contains replacement finishes installed circa 2006, including plush carpeting and dropped acoustical-tile ceiling featuring the original suspended, square fluorescent light fixtures.⁷ Ceiling-height wood paneling covers the plaster walls on the north and east sides of the room, near the judge's bench and jury's box. A wood seal for the U.S. District Court—Southern District of Georgia hangs on the south wall, behind the jury's box. A wood swinging gate separates the public seating area from the rest of the courtroom. The public seating benches, jury's box, and judge's bench are all comprised of polished wood.

⁶ Kermit Buie (U.S. General Services Administration), in conversation with author, 16 June 2009.

⁷ Ibid.

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Judge's Chambers

The judge's chambers, which occupy the northeastern and eastern ends of the third floor, consist of a series of interconnected rooms that include the judge's office, secretary's office, copy room, and small kitchenette. The main entry into these chambers, which is located in the east wall of the third-floor corridor, to the northeast of Courtroom # 3, consists of a single-leaf wood-paneled door. The door contains a new entry surround comprised of simple wood pilasters topped by a simple dentiled entablature. This entry surround was completed in June 2009.

The judge's chambers were renovated circa 1990 and retain little original detailing and finishes.⁸ An original wood chair rail is located throughout each room. The floors are clad in plush carpeting, except for the kitchenette floor, which is covered with vinyl tile. The walls feature smooth plaster finishes. A dropped acoustical-tile ceiling with inset lighting shelters the rooms.

Court Security Offices

Offices for the court security officers (CSO) are located to the west of the judge's chambers, along the north wall of the floor. The two rooms contain vinyl-tile floor cladding, exposed concrete block walls, and dropped acoustical-tile ceilings with inset fluorescent lighting. A small office, accessed via a single-leaf steel door, was built in the northwest corner of the area circa 1990. The small office contains smooth plaster walls at the interior.⁹

Bankruptcy Court Offices

The offices for the Bankruptcy Court are located to the west of the CSO offices, in the northwestern corner of the third floor. A hand-painted seal for the United States Bankruptcy Court—Southern District of Georgia, completed circa 2008, is applied directly to the main entry into the court, which is located in the western end of the north wall of the third-floor corridor.¹⁰ The space, which contains a series of rooms, was renovated in 2006 and consequently, contains replacement finishes and features, including new wall partitions, industrial carpeting, and dropped acoustical-tile ceilings with inset fluorescent lighting.¹¹

Individual offices for the U.S. District Attorney and U.S. Representative Jack Kingston are located to the south of the Bankruptcy Court offices, along the west side of the third floor. These offices contain the same replacement finishes as found throughout other office spaces on the second and third floors.

Penthouse

A single-leaf steel door situated to the north of the elevator in the third-floor stairway and elevator lobby provide access to a set of spiral metal steps that lead to the penthouse. The penthouse contains a poured-

8 Ibid.

9 Ibid.

10 Ibid.

11 Ibid.

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concrete floor, exposed concrete block walls, and a plaster ceiling. The penthouse contains the original elevator equipment for the building. A single-leaf metal door is located in the east wall of the penthouse. A set of seven wood steps and wood landing provide access from the penthouse down to the rooftop. A louvered vent is situated in the east wall, to the north of the door. An exterior ladder is located on the north elevation of the penthouse and provides access to the penthouse roof.

Alterations

The Brunswick United States Post Office and Court House retains a high degree of exterior integrity as alterations to the facade and side elevations of the building have been minimal and generally completed in-kind with the materials, finishes, and details of the original building. Exterior alterations to the building include the replacement of the original limestone brise soleils on the south, east, and west elevations; however, this replacement replicates the appearance and color of the original. Other alterations include the application of signage on the facade relating to the 1975 renaming of the building as the Frank M. Scarlett Federal Building; United States Post Office and United States Court House; and the construction of the one-story, one-bay garage addition to the northwest corner circa 1995; however, these alterations generally utilized the materials, finishes, and design employed in the original building plans.

Overall, the interior retains integrity from the period of completion (1959) in the public areas, including the first-floor post office lobby, post box lobby, and post box alcove. The postal workroom retains its original layout and finishes. The remaining interior spaces have been highly altered in order to meet the needs of the tenants. Many of these spaces have new interior finishes that include industrial carpeting or vinyl-tile flooring, new plaster wall partitions, and dropped acoustical-tile ceilings with inset fluorescent lighting; however, the majority of these changes are reversible.

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Historical Narrative:

Overview of the Federal Building Program, 1895-1949

The Office of the Supervising Architect of the U.S. Treasury Department (Supervising Architect) was responsible for the construction of federal buildings throughout the late-nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. From 1895 to 1933, the Office reported to the U.S. Treasury Department. In the 1920s, the Office was divided into a Technical Branch and an Administrative Branch. The Technical Branch, which oversaw federal building design and construction, included a division responsible for project costs and accounting; a drafting division, including a superintendent who greatly influenced design practices; a structural division; a mechanical engineering division; and a repairs division.

Individual pieces of legislation approved and funded the construction of each proposed federal building prior to 1926. This process was susceptible to the political interests of power-wielding Congressmen who strove to please their constituents with new federal buildings that were not always needed. As the federal government expanded rapidly in the first two decades of the twentieth century, the allocation of federal funds to unnecessary buildings in small cities throughout the country was met with increasing criticism. The Public Buildings Act of 1926 resulted in a more centralized and controlled federal building program through two significant changes: it required that the U.S. Treasury Department implement a policy of need and business consideration-based federal building construction; and it once again allowed the U.S. Treasury Department to contract outside architects and engineers.¹²

In response to the Great Depression, the Public Buildings program was placed under the jurisdiction of the Public Works Administration (PWA). The PWA was formed as part of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's (1932-1945) New Deal federal relief program to revitalize the national economy by making construction projects a priority. The nation's inventory of federal buildings nearly doubled during the New Deal era, with approximately 1,300 buildings erected in over one-thousand communities. The growth of the Public Buildings program during this period reflected the significant expansion of the federal government, which absorbed state and local authorities as it took on business regulation, social reform, agricultural subsidies, electrification, land reclamation, and public works projects.¹³ This expansion occurred as a means to implement economic reforms and mobilize the nation for World War II.

In addition to its growth, the federal government was overwhelmed by the effects of decentralization following the Great Depression and wartime eras. This resulted in higher cost and inefficiency of government services. In less than twenty years, the number of federal civilian employees had risen from one-half million to over two million; the number of bureaus and units had grown four-fold to over 1,800; annual expenditures had increased

12 Robinson & Associates, *Growth, Efficiency, and Modernism: G.S.A. Buildings of the 1950s, 60s, and 70s* (Washington, D.C.: U.S. General Services Administration, Office of the Chief Architect, Center for Historic Buildings, 2003) 20-22; Stephanie Smith, *General Services Administration Prospectus Thresholds for Owned and Leased Federal Facilities* (Congressional Research Service Report for Congress, October 3, 2005) 1-2; (<http://digital.library.unt.edu/govdocs/crs/permalink/meta-crs-7678:1>)

13 Robinson & Associates 23-24; Carole Rifkind, *A Field Guide to Contemporary American Architecture*, (New York: Plume, 1998) 105.

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from \$3.6 billion to over \$42 billion.¹⁴ Members of Congress successfully advocated reconsolidating the federal government to reduce expenditure and streamline administration. The administration of President Harry S. Truman (1945-1952) undertook an intense reform program driven by the Commission on Organization of the Executive Branch of the Government, also referred to as the Hoover Commission after its chairman, former President Herbert Hoover.¹⁵ Between 1947 and 1949, the Hoover Commission identified, among other reorganization requirements, the need for a centralized support service for the federal government, which had become “the most gigantic business on earth.”¹⁶ As a result, the U.S. General Services Administration was created.

Creation and Early Workings of the U.S. General Services Administration

The authors of *Growth, Efficiency, and Modernism: GSA Buildings of the 1950s, 60s, and 70s* summarized the establishment of the U.S. General Services Administration (GSA):¹⁷

The Commission recommended creating an Office of the General Services as a support agency to the Executive Branch of the Federal Government. President Harry S. Truman agreed, and signed the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949, establishing the General Services Administration ‘to provide the resources needed by U.S. agencies to accomplish their missions.’ Essentially, the law consolidated and transferred the functions of numerous established agencies while making GSA the advisory agency responsible for establishing space and records management and supply requirements and in turn, managing these same functions.

The Hoover Commission also identified numerous operational and maintenance needs associated with federal public buildings and recommended establishing a new office (with expanded authority to handle these issues) to replace the Public Buildings Administration. When GSA was created, all real-property operations were placed under a new division – the Public Buildings Service (PBS). Serving as the property management arm of the federal government, the PBS was responsible for the design, construction, maintenance, repair, remodeling, and enlargement of federal buildings, and overseeing office, warehouse, and other space as required by federal agencies. The transfer of excess property among agencies was administered by the PBS, as were leases and deeds. As stated in the Establishment of the Office of the General Services Administration, GSA became the federal government’s ‘architect, engineer, builder, landlord, and house-keeper,’ although a few federal agencies continued to manage their own properties.

Into the new conglomerate agency in 1949 were swept the vestiges of a line of federal building offices, as well as the government’s immense record-keeping, building management, and general procurement functions. The civilian construction role assigned to the GSA was located in its PBS. Agencies with specialized building needs – the Department of Defense, the Veterans

14 Robinson & Associates, 28.

15 William E. Pemberton, “Truman and the Hoover Commission,” in *Whistle Stop*, the Newsletter of the Harry S. Truman Library Institute, Vol. 19, No. 3, 1991.

16 Robinson & Associates, 28.

17 Robinson & Associates, 28-29.

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Administration, the State Department, the National Park Service – maintained their discrete building operations.

GSA was formed to achieve the following goals: standardization, direct purchase, mass production, and fiscal savings. Economy in construction and maintenance costs was achieved by using clean, unornamental lines and developing standard details for all types of fixtures and equipment. Elements thought to be superfluous, such as monumental exterior stairs and custom-made features, were quickly abandoned.

GSA exists within a complex legal framework and is further guided by related federal legislation. The Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949 (63 Stat. 377) created GSA to provide an economically efficient system for the procurement of government property and services and the utilization of property and records management (40 USC 471). Section 210 of this Act (40 USC 490) gave authority to the GSA administrator to operate, maintain, and protect federal buildings. Furthermore, the administrator was also authorized to acquire land, to contract for the preparation of plans and specifications for federal facilities, and to construct and equip these buildings.

The Public Buildings Act of 1949 authorized \$40 million for the site acquisition and planning of 575 building projects. However, the 1949 Act fell short of alleviating the lack of suitable office space to accommodate wartime expansion. A study commissioned by the PBS in 1954 concluded that the nation's federal office buildings were obsolete. Consequently, the U.S. Congress approved the Public Buildings Purchase Contract Act of 1954, an amendment to the 1949 act, in an effort to temporarily remedy the problem. The 1954 Act authorized the GSA Administrator to construct federal buildings through lease-purchase contracts and to obtain titles to real property. Under lease-purchase agreements, buildings were constructed or purchased with private financing, and the federal government made installment payments on the purchase price instead of rent payments. The contract periods generally lasted ten to thirty years, after which titles to the properties were given to the federal government. Authority for lease-purchase contracts expired in 1959, notably after the appropriation, design, and construction of the United States Post Office and Court House in Brunswick.¹⁸

As noted by the authors of *Growth, Efficiency, and Modernism: GSA Buildings of the 1950s, 60s, and 70s*:

It was not until the Public Buildings Act of 1959 that opportunity for long-needed action was taken to correct the severe shortage of space. Designed to meet the 'need for authority for the orderly planning and construction of public buildings,' the Act responded to the lack of an 'orderly or systematic approach to the provision of the general-purpose public buildings' by Congress. The 1959 Act increased and refined PBS' ability to manage the public buildings program. In addition to these basic changes, new buildings for federal agencies were to be constructed from appropriations made directly to GSA, and new procedures for determining the need for buildings and requesting space throughout the country were established. Appropriations previously directed to the Architect of the Treasury [Supervising Architect],

¹⁸ Smith, 2; Robinson & Associates, 11, 38.

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which managed the central program for Federal construction, were directed to GSA. GSA then was to submit proposals for specific construction projects based on needs determined by surveys. After review by the Office of Management and Budget, prospectuses were forwarded to the House and Senate Public Works Committees for their approval, paving the way for legislation appropriating funds for construction. GSA was also charged with the new task of anticipating future federal office space needs. Surveys of over 2,300 communities across the country were completed, gathering information on population, realty trends, road construction programs, and other pertinent information. Based on these facts, plans were made for constructing new buildings, expanding existing buildings, purchasing leased space, consolidating separate offices, or disposing of unneeded space.¹⁹

Following the 1959 Act, the rate of design and construction allocations increased dramatically. After President John F. Kennedy was inaugurated in January 1961, there was a massive increase in the design and construction of Federal buildings. In 1961 and 1962, over 7.7 million-square-feet of federal office space was added. At the end of 1962, GSA had constructed numerous new buildings, acquired sites for new projects, completed repairs and/or improvements on existing buildings, and furnished building management services in 7,240 federally owned or leased buildings that housed over 533,000 federal employees.²⁰

The Public Buildings Act of 1959 has since been amended and re-codified, but remains the principal law regarding GSA's responsibilities and authorities to lease, construct, and alter public buildings.²¹

Modern Movement in Federal Building Design, 1920s-1970s

Many federal buildings of the late-nineteenth and early twentieth centuries incorporated Beaux Arts features – “imposing, ornate classical designs with monumental entrance stairs and axial walkways and approaches; this practice was particularly appropriate for this period in American history, when affluence and power were ever increasing.”²² Classical forms and styles, including the Beaux Arts style, remained prevalent in federal buildings during the New Deal era as architects generally viewed classicism as aesthetically appropriate and/or representative of democratic values.

However, a trend toward minimalism took hold starting in the 1920s, marking the beginning of the first phase of Modernism in the United States. Some architects considered the use of classical ornamentation “antiquated and unsophisticated” at a time when manufactured materials including glass, metal, and concrete provided the opportunity for reinvention of the façade. Such ideas were expressed through the Art Deco, International, Streamlined Moderne, and Stripped Classical styles of the era. The Simplified Classical style, also referred to as “Stripped Classical,” featured classical form and symmetry but simplified facades, stylized and reduced ornament, and less prominent fenestration than earlier classical buildings. This style was used widely in federal

19 Robinson & Associates, 38, 41.

20 Ibid.

21 Smith, 2.

22 Robinson & Associates, 22.

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building design through the 1940s.²³ The monumentality, presence, and permanence of buildings erected in the Simplified Classical style ensured a continued place of federal prominence in cities and towns, while the lack of architectural ornament satisfied the contemporary taste for sleekness of design.²⁴

A number of factors advanced the Modern Movement during the World War II era. The widespread use of highly mechanized mass-production techniques, increased familiarity with new building materials, and the need for cost-saving measures due to the burden of war expenditures provided opportunities for innovative methods of construction.²⁵

The federal government was at first reluctant to fully embrace Modernism, partially due to a national air of conservatism and caution inspired by fear of Communism at the advent of the Cold War. Classicism began to fall out of favor, however, as Americans became more receptive to the idea of a new, modern world with unprecedented forms of architecture. Consequently, Modernism gradually “rose as a symbol of America’s progressivism.”²⁶

Continued federal growth and an emphasis on efficiency and economy in lieu of aesthetics further supported the Modern Movement in the post-War era. “Cautious” Modernism became evident in federal buildings of the late 1940s and early 1950s, and an increasing number of fully realized examples of Modern federal buildings were constructed by the mid 1950s.²⁷

One of the most noticeable changes in Modern architecture was the diminishing distinction between public and private buildings. In addition, office spaces also changed dramatically, and modern architects embraced new technologies in an attempt to break farther away from past ideals. Perhaps most notable was that Modern architecture stressed practicality and functionality over aesthetic ideals. In addition to these new methods, materials, and notions, was the radical idea that buildings were no longer constructed to last indefinitely. As noted in *Growth, Efficiency, and Modernism: GSA Buildings of the 1950s, 60s, and 70s*:

In the past, the symbolism of public buildings was important, and formal, hierarchical sequences of ceremonial spaces were common. However, the Modern era ushered in an emphasis on functionalism, and the economy of interior space reflected this new design mode. Grand lobbies were absent from Modern designs; instead, plazas served as exterior gateways to sites, while the use of transparent building materials served to visually unite exterior and interior spaces... Individual offices became less common and large open areas, referred to as either universal space or flexible plans, became common. Moveable room dividers allowed spaces to be altered as necessary... Using electrical and mechanical innovations and methods and materials – such as steel, glass, plastic, and reinforced concrete – that were previously unavailable, buildings took on appearances that were wholly different from their predecessors. Architects hoped that the machine age would bring about equality and democratic values for all citizens.... Functional

23 Rifkind, 107.

24 Robinson & Associates, 12, 22-25.

25 Robinson & Associates, 25.

26 Robinson & Associates, 25; Rifkind, 105-106.

27 Rifkind, 110

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efficiency, coupled with economic efficiency, overshadowed elaborate buildings of earlier eras, and perhaps one of the greatest reasons for the success of Modernism is that it was substantially less expensive than previous methods of building.²⁸

The 1950s through the 1970s marked a significant period in federal building construction, due to the large number of projects undertaken and the bold changes that occurred in building design. The advent of the Cold War, expansion of federal government programs, and shifts in political and social priorities affected the quantity and designs of federal public buildings. The federal government expansion that began with the New Deal era continued through the 1950s and into the 1960s as a result of conflicts overseas, a domestic climate of political activism, and progressive leadership, with President John F. Kennedy's New Frontier and President Lyndon B. Johnson's Great Society.²⁹ The decades of the 1950s, 1960s, and 1970s stand out as a period of widespread federal growth, with the number of federal employees, the federal budget, and GSA's building-related budget increasing dramatically. This expansion, which continued into the 1970s, resulted in GSA's construction of over seven-hundred projects between 1960 and 1976, some of which represented innovative Modernist approaches to federal building design.³⁰

GSA and Urban Renewal

The concept of context-sensitive design was one element of the urban renewal movement that began in the 1950s and continued into the 1960s. This trend significantly affected GSA designs. Government officials and planners throughout the nation strove to revitalize city centers through large-scale demolition and reconstruction. GSA located some of its federal building projects in declining areas targeted for revitalization, hoping that private enterprise would follow on the heels of an influx of federal employees. Modern architects, including those contracted by GSA to design federal buildings, became cognizant of the importance of considering the relationships between new and old buildings, as well as existing and proposed landscape and circulation features. Massing, scale, setbacks, and materials were more carefully considered in terms of contextual harmony.³¹

Brief History of Brunswick, Glynn County, Georgia³²

The city of Brunswick is located in southeastern Georgia, approximately thirty miles-north of Florida, on a harbor of the Atlantic Ocean. The city is naturally sheltered by two barrier islands, Jekyll Island and St. Simons Island. The city is situated on a peninsula with the East River and Turtle River bordering the city to the west, Brunswick River to the south, and the Intracoastal Waterway to the east.

28 Robinson & Associates, 30-31.

29 Rifkind, 113.

30 Robinson & Associates, 6.

31 Robinson & Associates, 74.

32 The Brunswick Experience, "Brunswick-A Brief History," www.brunswickexperience.com/site/539682/page/120393 (accessed 12 June 2009), except where noted.

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The city traces its founding to 1771, when the Royal Province of Georgia purchased one-thousand acres along the Turtle River and subsequently laid out the town of Brunswick following James Oglethorpe's grid-style plan for Savannah. The town was named after the ancestral home of King George II.

In 1777, Glynn County was created as one of the eight original counties in Georgia. By 1789, President George Washington proclaimed Brunswick one of five original ports of entry for the United States. In 1797, the General Assembly of Georgia transferred the county seat from Frederica on St. Simons Island to Brunswick. However, despite its designation as the county seat, Brunswick saw little development until the 1820s. In 1826, Urbanus Dart and William R. Davis were granted title to much of the undeveloped town. Soon thereafter, Brunswick had a courthouse, jail, various stores, and approximately thirty dwellings.

Following a period of depression caused by the Cotton Crash of 1839, the Altamaha-Brunswick Canal opened in 1854, followed by the Brunswick & Florida Railroad in 1856. By 1860, Brunswick boasted a population of 468 and included a bank, weekly newspaper, and sawmill. However, the Civil War forced many Brunswick residents to flee, and the canal and railroad ceased operation.

Residents and economic prosperity did not return to Brunswick until 1874, when what would become one of the nation's largest lumber mills opened on St. Simons Island. From 1874 and 1908, the mill's operation coupled with the ever-expanding port business for lumber, naval stores, oyster, and cotton, aided in the physical and economical growth of the port town.

Throughout the early to mid-twentieth century, Brunswick continued to thrive, particularly during the United States involvement in two world wars. Brunswick hosted a wooden and concrete ship building industry throughout World War I. During World War II, Brunswick served as a strategic military location. The Naval Air Station Glynco Base, established in 1943 at Brunswick, was the only air station to have housed every type of aircraft in operation. In addition, the base served as the largest blimp base in the world, safely escorting over ninety-eight-thousand ships through the German U-boat patrolled waters off the cost of Georgia, Florida, and South Carolina. Throughout World War II, large transport vessels called Liberty Ships were constructed in Brunswick. Ninety-nine ships were built at Brunswick during the war, and the local population tripled during this time.

Since the 1950s, the economic and population growth of Brunswick has remained steady. The Port of Brunswick, the fourth-largest automobile port in the eastern United States, remains a vital link in the city's economic vitality. The port is the primary U.S. port of automobile imports for Jaguar, Land Rover, Porsche, Mitsubishi, and Volvo, and serves as a major exporter for Ford, GM, and Mercedes. Other imported products include wood pulp, paper products, wheat, soybeans, and heavy machinery. Exported products include agricultural products such as barley malt, corn and oats; other bulk cargo includes cement, gypsum, limestone, salt and sand.

Tourism constitutes the single largest industry in Brunswick as well as the surrounding Golden Isles, the group of four barrier islands that includes Jekyll, St. Simons, Little St. Simons, and Sea islands. Since the Civil War, these islands, with the exception of Little St. Simons Island, have become elite resorts frequented by some of

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the nation's most affluent families, including the Rockefeller, Vanderbilt, Pulitzer, and Goodyear families. In addition, these islands also include permanent residents.

Agricultural and manufacturing processing also contributes to the economy of Brunswick. The city serves as the center of Georgia's shrimp and crab industry. Consequently, the city has embraced its self-proclaimed nickname as the "Shrimp Capital of the World." Major employers in the area include Rich Products' SeaPak Shrimp Company, King and Prince Seafood, and Sea Island Company. In addition, wood pulp is produced by the Georgia-Pacific Mill in Brunswick, which has been in operation since 1937. The mill is the largest single-site wood fluff (pulp) production facility in the world.

Brunswick continues to serve as the seat of Glynn County and includes an estimated population of over sixteen-thousand residents. Agricultural and manufacturing processing, shipping, and tourism continue as the key industries to the city's economic prosperity, with the Port of Brunswick serving as the vital economic link.

Early Federal Buildings in Brunswick, Georgia

Throughout its first one-hundred years, the post office in Brunswick was housed in various buildings, including general stores and hotel offices. In the 1880s, the post office shared a frame building with the local barbershop, on the east side of Newcastle Street, just south of its intersection with Gloucester Street.³³ By 1898, the post office had moved to the first floor of two-story brick dwelling, with offices housed on the second floor.³⁴ However, the rapid growth of the city throughout the late-nineteenth century precipitated by the thriving lumber mill on St. Simons Island necessitated the need for a permanent post office and federal building. In 1901, the first federal building in the city, erected in the Georgian Revival style under the supervision of Supervising Architect James Knox Taylor, was opened on Gloucester Street, just east of its intersection with Union Street.³⁵ This 1901 federal building, which accommodated the Brunswick USPO and U.S. Custom House, was erected five years after the commencement of rural free postal delivery in the United States.

Brunswick's first permanent post office soon felt overcrowding pressures due in part to the unexpected popularity of the parcel post service instituted by the U.S. Postal Service in 1913 and the establishment of scheduled airmail service in 1918.³⁶ However, due to funding limitations and the entry of the United States into World War I and World War II, the crowded 1901 building, expanded in 1933, continued to operate as Brunswick's only post office and federal building for over the next fifty years.³⁷

Planning for the United States Post Office and Court House, 1954 - 1958

Serious consideration of a new federal building for Brunswick followed the passage of the Public Buildings Purchase Contract Act of 1954, which authorized GSA to construct federal buildings through lease-purchase

33 Sanborn Map and Publishing Company, "Brunswick, Georgia," (New York: Sanborn Map and Publishing Company, 1885).

34 Sanborn Map and Publishing Company, "Brunswick, Georgia," (New York: Sanborn Map and Publishing Company, 1898).

35 Sanborn Map and Publishing Company, "Brunswick, Georgia," (New York: Sanborn Map and Publishing Company, 1908).

36 Ibid; The advent of parcel post meant the in-home delivery of small packages containing foodstuffs, tobacco, dry goods, and other commodities not easily available to farmers and other rural residents.

37 Ibid; the 1901 Brunswick USPO and U.S. Custom House located at 601 Gloucester Street is still extant and, in 2013, serves the City Hall of Brunswick.

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contracts and to obtain titles to real property. Under lease-purchase agreements, buildings were constructed or purchased with private financing, and the federal government made installment payments on the purchase price instead of rent payments. With the creation of GSA and the appropriation of \$40 million for the site acquisition and planning of 575 federal building projects in 1949 followed by the 1954 Act, government officials began strongly campaigning for a new federal building in Brunswick. Led by Federal Judge Frank M. Scarlett,³⁸ government officials started searching for a new location that would include a lot large enough to construct a more spacious and modern federal building to house the Brunswick USPO and federal courtrooms, which would be the first federal court facility of its kind in Brunswick.³⁹

Brunswick's new federal building was to be constructed using the lease-purchase program instituted as part of the Public Buildings Purchase Contract Act of 1954. Under this program, the government would pay annual lease amounts, sufficient to pay the cost and interest for ten years, after which the federal government would assume ownership. Bids were sought from various lenders to determine the best interest rate on the \$1,250,000 appropriated for Brunswick's new federal building, and the Kansas City Life Insurance Company was subsequently selected as the low bidder, with an interest rate of 4.479 percent. In addition to maintaining ownership of the property and providing the construction costs, the company was also responsible for paying the local taxes on the building upon its completion.⁴⁰

By December 1957, a vacant lot at the northeast corner of Gloucester and Ellis streets had been selected for the new federal building. The customer parking lot for Setzer's Stores, Inc. had been purchased by the City of Brunswick in 1953. In exchange for the new lot, the city was to receive Brunswick's 1901 USPO and U.S. Custom House.⁴¹ By this time, the regionally renowned architectural firm of Abreu & Robeson, Inc. had finalized designs for the building plans.⁴² On February 3, 1958, GSA sought bids for the construction of the federal building, which was to be three stories in height, comprised of concrete frame with brick-faced masonry walls and stone trim, and include terrazzo floors, aluminum windows, and aluminum ornamentation.⁴³ On March 14, 1958, a local newspaper article announced that S. J. Curry & Company from Albany, New York, had been selected as the contractor with a low-bid amount of \$946,440. In addition to constructing the building, the company was also responsible for paying local taxes on the site prior to the building's completion, after which the Kansas City Life Insurance Company would be held responsible for payment.⁴⁴

Within two weeks after the selection of the contractor and financier, Brunswick's new federal building project became involved in a struggle between GSA and the House Appropriation Committee over how the project

38 Judge Frank M. Scarlett (1891-1971) was the first federal judge from Brunswick and Glynn County. He was born in Brunswick in 1891 and attended the University of Georgia, from which he graduated in 1913. Upon graduation, he entered into private law practice in Brunswick. In 1924 and 1936, he was a Georgia delegate to the Democratic National Convention. In 1946, he was appointed to the bench of the U.S. District Court-Southern District of Georgia and continued his judgeship until 1968; William R. Denslow and Harry S. Truman, *10,000 Famous Freemasons from K to Z, Part Two* (Whitefish, Montana: Kensinger Publishing, LLC, 2004), 104.

39 Ibid.

40 "U.S. Building Will Pay Local Taxes 10 Years," *Brunswick News* (Brunswick, Georgia), 14 March 1958.

41 Ibid.

42 U.S. General Services Administration, "U.S. Post Office and Courthouse, Brunswick, Georgia" Architectural Drawings, December 1957; on file at the U.S. General Services Administration Southeast-Sunbelt Regional Office, Atlanta, Georgia.

43 "Opening of Bids Set on March 14 for U.S. Project," *Brunswick News* (Brunswick, Georgia), 3 February 1958.

44 "U.S. Building Will Pay Local Taxes 10 Years," *Brunswick News* (Brunswick, Georgia), 14 March 1958.

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should be financed. The committee was seeking the termination of the lease-purchase system of financing for new federal buildings, arguing that the program was too costly, running \$1.64 for every one-dollar spent in an outright purchase. However, GSA maintained that Brunswick's new federal building was to proceed under the lease-purchase program regardless of the outcome in Washington, D.C. since the financing and construction bids had already been received. In addition, the House Appropriation Committee had approved the continuation of using the lease-purchase program for post offices but not for federal buildings, and the new federal building in Brunswick was to include both. Therefore, the construction of the United States Post Office and Court House in Brunswick was included in the recommended \$177,255,000 by the House Appropriation Committee to carry out the construction of sixty-six public buildings included in the lease-purchase program.⁴⁵ By June 1958, construction began on Brunswick's new three-story Modernist United States Post Office and Court House, designed by the architectural firm of Abreu & Robeson.

*Modern-Era Federal Buildings and Abreu & Robeson, Architects*⁴⁶

The local Georgia-based firm of Abreu & Robeson was hired to design the new federal building in downtown Brunswick. The firm was to employ the Modernist ideals slowly being embraced by the federal government in the 1950s in their design. These included the standardization of federal buildings that included clean, unornamented exterior lines, absence of monumental exterior stairways and landings, and the absence of other custom-made features. Federal buildings were meant to mimic other public and commercial buildings and therefore, began to lack the emphatic entries and signage as found in earlier federal building design.

Francis L. Abreu (1896-1969), the senior partner and founder of the architectural firm of Abreu & Robeson, was a regionally renowned architect throughout Florida and Georgia known particularly for his distinctive designs that blended Spanish and Mediterranean influences. Born in 1896 to owners of a Cuban sugar plantation, Abreu divided his time between New York and Cuba. He earned an undergraduate degree in architecture from Cornell University, after which he moved to Fort Lauderdale, Florida and began designing "numerous homes for the city's elite." His architectural designs featured barrel-tile roofs, twisted columns, arched walkways, antique lanterns, iron gates, and heavy dark-wood doors.

Francis L. Abreu gained popularity designing a variety of dwellings as well as commercial and public buildings, including St. Anthony School (1926) in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, which is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. In 1928, the firm of Francis L. Abreu, Architect, was hired to design parts of the famous Cloister Hotel on Sea Island, Georgia, near Brunswick. While living on Sea Island during the construction, Abreu met James L. Robeson (1905- ?), a 1926 graduate of Georgia Tech, and together they formed the architectural firm of Abreu & Robeson, establishing offices in Atlanta and Brunswick.⁴⁷ Over the next two decades, the firm designed many of the houses on Sea Island, including Casa Genotta (1932), the Spanish/Mediterranean Revival style home of playwright, Eugene O'Neil.⁴⁸ However, with the economic

45 "House Committee, GSA Spar on Local Project," *Brunswick News* (Brunswick, Georgia), 23 March 1958; by 1959, the lease-purchase program for new federal building construction had been officially terminated.

46 The Abreu Charitable Trust, "Family History," www.abreufoundation.org/history (accessed 6 July 2009), except where noted.

47 "Francis Luis Abreu: The Architect of Sea Island," *The Georgian Revival*, (13 January 2012),

<http://thegeorgianrevival.wordpress.com/2012/01/13/francis-luis-abreu-the-architect-of-sea-island/> (accessed 19 December 2013).

48 Architect, "Casa Genotta, Sea Island, Georgia," <http://casagenotta.com/main/cottage/architect/architect.html> (accessed 19 December 2013).

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difficulties imposed by the Great Depression and World War II, the firm's work shifted from high end residential construction to commercial and public projects and, more frequently, to contemporary rather than revival styles. In Atlanta, the firm worked on the design of banks and hospitals, including the Neoclassical-style Trust Company of Georgia building (1949) and Saint Joseph's Infirmary (1953). In Plains, Georgia, the firm designed the Dura Apartment Complex (1953), one of six Federal Housing projects built by the American Housing Authority and the home of President Jimmy Carter and his family immediately after Carter left the Navy in 1953 to take up the management of his family's farm.⁴⁹

In Brunswick, Georgia, the firm designed the Colored Memorial School and Risley High School (1944) in the Classical Revival Style and the Ballard School, also known as County Community School (1953), in the International Style. Both properties are listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The United States Post Office and Court House in Brunswick, Georgia, is the only federal building designed by the architectural firm. The federal building's construction plans, dated 1957, are stamped with James L. Robeson's name, indicating Robeson may have been the lead designer on the project.

Historical Overview of Postal Service in the United States

The establishment of the postal service began as a means to provide communication to the colonies during the Revolutionary War. On July 26, 1775, the Second Continental Congress developed the post office under its first Postmaster General, Benjamin Franklin. The post office was the only agency to remain intact through the Revolutionary War, the Confederacy period, and the years 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.⁵⁰

During the postal service's early growth period, the number of post offices expanded from seventy-five in 1789 to 16,749 in 1849.⁵¹ Throughout the nineteenth century, the postal system served as the principal means of long distance communication. Postal service provided both a physical and intellectual link between great distances as the nation expanded across the continent.⁵² By 1820, the number of post offices and miles of post roads approximately quadrupled that of 1800.⁵³ Local taverns, grocery stores, coffeehouses, and inns, all focal points of community life, housed the first post offices.⁵⁴

The Post Office Department of the Confederate States of America was established on February 21, 1861, by an Act of the Provisional Congress of the Confederate States. On March 6, 1861, President of the Confederate States, Jefferson Davis, appointed John Henninger Reagan, a former U. S. Congressman, as Postmaster General of the Confederate States of America. Throughout its operation, the Confederate postal service was

49 HABS GA-2210, <http://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/GA0581/> (accessed 19 December 2013).

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

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

52 Beth Boland, National Register of Historic Places, Bulletin 13, "How to Apply National Register Criteria to Post Offices" (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 1984), 1.

53 Boland, Section II, 1.

54 Maroney 1.

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continuously interrupted. Through a combination of pay and personnel cuts, postage rate increases, and the streamlining of mail routes, Confederate Postmaster General Reagan eliminated the deficit that existed in the postal service in the South.⁵⁵

The resumption of federal mail service in the southern states took place gradually as the war came to an end. By November 15, 1865, 241 mail routes had been restored in southern states; by November 1, 1866, 3,234 post offices out of 8,902 were returned to federal control in the South. Postmaster General Reagan was arrested at the end of the war but later was pardoned and eventually made it back to Congress, where he became chairman of the Committee on Post Offices and Post Roads.⁵⁶

Throughout the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, Congress established or improved postal services and facilities throughout the nation. 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 governmental and architectural philosophies throughout the nation.⁵⁷

The postal service built structures for receiving, processing, and distributing mail to provide services 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. In larger villages or towns, a separate post office building was constructed 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 oversaw the design and development of these early postal facilities.⁵⁸

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 transportation corridors and commercial centers and 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 the town's main street. This made the post office easy to find, but also allowed better access to truck activity.

The modern-day United States Postal Service (USPS) was officially established as an independent federal agency on July 1, 1971, when Congress implemented the Postal Reorganization Act.⁵⁹ The USPS still maintains offices in Brunswick's United States Post Office and Court House, which houses the main branch of

55 United States Postal Service, "History of the United States Postal Service," <http://www.usps.com/history/history/his1.htm> (accessed 7 July 2009).

56 Ibid.

57 Boland, Section II, 2.

58 Maroney, 5.

59 Ibid.

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the Brunswick USPO. This function, in combination with the U.S. District Courts and supporting offices, contributes to the building's prestige as a community focal point and embodiment of the federal presence in Brunswick, Georgia.

Historical Overview of the U.S. District Courts and Southern District of Georgia

Pursuant to Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution, which granted Congress the power to “constitute Tribunals inferior to the Supreme Court” and to Article III, Section 1, which vested judicial power in the Supreme Court “and such inferior Courts as the Congress may from time to time ordain and establish,” the U.S. District Courts were established as the basic organizational units of the federal court system by the Judiciary Act of 1789. Thirteen judicial districts were originally created, one for each of the eleven states that had then ratified the Constitution, including Georgia, and one each for Maine and Kentucky, then still parts of Massachusetts and Virginia respectively. Within each district, the court served as the federal trial court for admiralty and maritime cases and heard some civil and criminal cases; jurisdiction was limited to those cases arising within the district. The President appointed district judges who were required to reside within their districts, and Congress empowered them to appoint their own administrative clerks. Congress also authorized the President of the United States to appoint to each district a marshal and a federal prosecutor, the latter then known as a district attorney. During the early years of the district courts, caseloads were largely taken up with admiralty suits, and some districts heard very few cases.⁶⁰

Additional individual districts and courts were established by specific legislation. At least one district court was established for each state, and, as early as the 1790s, Congress began creating separate districts within states. Early judges commonly served more than one district within a state. Judges served singly within districts, with one unusual exception of New York from 1812-1814, until 1903, when Congress again appointed a second judgeship to a district in New York and the practice became more common. Territorial courts were also established for organized territories. These courts were structured and had the same jurisdiction as district courts, thus allowing a simple transition when territorial courts were superseded by district courts as territories attained statehood.⁶¹

U.S. Circuit Courts were also established in 1789. They shared jurisdiction with district courts but also had exclusive jurisdiction in some circumstances and appellate jurisdiction over district courts. District judges also served on the circuit courts located within their districts. During the nineteenth century, judges often devoted more time to their busier circuit court roles rather than to their district court responsibilities. In the original districts of Maine and Kentucky, as well as in the many new districts established as states entered the union throughout the nineteenth century, district courts assumed the jurisdiction of the circuit courts until the new districts were incorporated into a judicial circuit. Appeals from these districts were heard by the Supreme Court or by circuit courts within another district in the same state. By 1889, however, Congress provided a circuit for each district and thus ended the expanded jurisdiction of some districts. Congress also gradually expanded the jurisdiction of the district courts during the nineteenth century. Appellate jurisdiction was transferred from

⁶⁰ Federal Judicial Center, “The U.S. District Courts and the Federal Judiciary,” <http://www.fjc.gov/public/home.nsf/hisc> (accessed 7 July 2009).

⁶¹ Ibid.

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circuit courts to the newly established U.S. Circuit Courts of appeal in 1891; ultimately, circuit courts themselves were abolished in 1911, and their jurisdiction, records, and cases transferred to the appropriate district courts. District courts were now the sole trial courts of the federal judicial system.⁶²

The U.S. District Courts remain the trial courts of the federal judiciary. Within the framework established by Congress and the Constitution, district courts have jurisdiction over most federal criminal and civil cases. There are currently ninety-four judicial districts, with at least one in each state or territory and a bankruptcy court associated with each, and 663 district judgeships.⁶³

The U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Georgia was established in 1848, and in 2009, includes forty-three counties separated into six divisions. The U.S. District Court was established in Brunswick after the completion of the United States Post Office and Court House in 1959, and has since served as a focal point for the community, particularly when court is in session. The U.S. District Court offices in Brunswick serve Appling, Camden, Glynn, Long, McIntosh, and Wayne counties along the central east coast of Georgia.

United States Post Office and Court House—Brunswick, Georgia, 1958 - 2013

Construction of Brunswick's new federal building began in June 1958 by Albany, New York-based S. J. Curry & Company using architectural plans designed by the architectural firm of Abreu & Robeson.⁶⁴ Brick, accented by a Florida-quarried limestone, covered the building's exterior. Two unornamented entries provided public access into the postal vestibule and post box lobby through the facade (south elevation). An unadorned entry in the west elevation provided access into the courtroom vestibule. The original plans called for terrazzo floors.⁶⁵

A photograph of the Brunswick's new "million-dollar federal building" being constructed was included in the December 10, 1958 edition of the *Brunswick News*. The photograph illustrated the rectangular footprint of the building, as well as portions of the walls already framed. The article reported that work was "progressing satisfactorily on the handsome new structure."⁶⁶

Less than one-year later, by October 10, 1959, the local newspaper reported that the new structure was finished and ready for the agencies to begin their move. The construction costs amounted to over \$1,500,000 by the building's completion, yet almost \$1 million less than the original allotment. The newspaper article reported that GSA officials had told Abreu & Robeson architects "the craftsmanship in the building was superior to

62 Ibid.

63 U.S. Courts, "United States District Courts," <http://www.uscourts.gov/districtcourts.html> (accessed 7 July 2009).

64 "Ground Breaking Plans Made for Federal Building," *Brunswick News* (Brunswick, Georgia) 19 April 1958.

65 U.S. General Services Administration, "U.S. Post Office and Courthouse, Brunswick, Georgia" Architectural Drawings, December 1957. On file at the U.S. General Services Administration Southeast-Sunbelt Regional Office, Atlanta, Georgia. The original 1957 drawings for the building included four restrooms on the second floor. Two of the restrooms (one for men and one for women), located just outside the back of the courtroom, were significantly larger than the others located a few feet down the corridor near the elevator, suggesting racial segregation. In addition, two water fountains were located just outside the courtroom on the north and south walls, respectively. While it is very probable that at least the restrooms were segregated in the first few years of the building's history, there is no labeling on the plan to verify this.

66 "Going Up-Coming Down," *Brunswick News* (Brunswick, Georgia), 10 December 1958.

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many similar structures built elsewhere.”⁶⁷ The article also remarked, “Despite the immensity, the building will be fully occupied, although much of the second floor given over to court officials will be in use only part of the time.”⁶⁸ The entire first floor was devoted to the U.S. Postal Service. The second floor included a “handsome and luxurious federal courtroom with custom-made furnishings,” as well as offices for the Federal Bureau of Investigation, U.S. Customs Service, Internal Revenue Service, and Social Security Administration, and various supporting offices for the federal courts. The third floor originally included extensive suites for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service research staff and offices for the Veterans Administration, Selective Service, Agricultural Stabilization Commission, agricultural conference room, Soil Conservation, and Civil Service.⁶⁹

A dedication ceremony for Brunswick’s new United States Post Office and Court House, open to the public, took place at 11:00 on the morning of October 19, 1959, approximately one-hour after Judge Frank M. Scarlett opened court in the new federal facility.⁷⁰ Senator Richard B. Russell served as the principal speaker, with the Glynn Academy band providing music during the ceremony. W. H. Sanders, regional director of the Public Buildings Service of GSA, presented replicas of the Great Seal of the United States, which still flank the main entry into the postal vestibule. An open house in the building followed the program, which was attended by an estimated 3,500 persons.⁷¹

Brunswick’s USPO officially transferred its location to the new federal building on Monday, October 26, 1959.⁷² A broad counter greeted postal patrons, and a new type-stamp vending machine was installed in the lobby. The new building included 1,464 post boxes, with the three largest-sized boxes being rented out completely before the move occurred.⁷³

Although it is likely that racial segregation was practiced in the building, given its construction date and location, research did not reveal any specific information concerning segregation with respect to this particular building. The original drawings for the building do not designate separate facilities for the races and no obvious physical evidence of the practice remains in the building today.

Throughout the late-twentieth century, various county, state, and federal offices have continued to use the United States Post Office and Court House. In 2013, the two second-floor federal courtrooms and various supporting offices are still in use. In addition, the U.S. Marshals Service continues to operate on the second floor. The various federal agencies and departments that were originally housed on the north and east sides of the third floor vacated in the late-twentieth century and subsequently, the third floor was converted to house an additional courtroom and its supporting offices.

In 1973, Senator Herman E. Talmadge, from Georgia, presented a bill to the U.S. Senate to re-designate the 1959 United States Post Office and Court House in honor of Judge Frank M. Scarlett, as a fitting tribute to his

67 “Federal Building Move Starting,” *Brunswick News* (Brunswick, Georgia), 10 October 1959.

68 Ibid.

69 Ibid.

70 “Federal Building Dedication Set Monday Morning,” *Brunswick News* (Brunswick, Georgia), 17 October 1959.

71 “Crowding Close,” *Brunswick News* (Brunswick, Georgia) 20 October 1959.

72 “Monday Transfer of Post Office Service Planned,” *Brunswick News* (Brunswick, Georgia), 24 October 1959.

73 “Broad Counter to Greet Post Office Patrons,” *Brunswick News* (Brunswick, Georgia), 18 October 1959.

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service to Brunswick, Georgia, and the United States.⁷⁴ On January 2, 1975, the bill was signed into law by President Gerald R. Ford.⁷⁵

In 2013, the first floor continues to house the main branch of the Brunswick USPO, and the U.S. District Courts the supporting functions are located throughout the second and third floors. Two federal judges maintain permanent offices in the second and third floors of the federal building. Judge Lisa Godbey Wood (1963 -), appointed by President George W. Bush in 2007, maintains her offices on the south side of the second floor. The second floor also houses the U.S. Marshals Service, while the third floor contains offices for the U.S. Congressman and U.S. District Attorney.

Statement of Significance and Integrity

The United States Post Office and Court House in Brunswick, Georgia is significant under Criterion A in the area of politics/government as a significant symbol of the federal presence and social focal point of the city of Brunswick. The building was constructed under the lease-purchase program authorized as part of the Public Buildings Purchase Contract Act of 1954, to house the USPO and federal courtrooms and supporting offices for the U.S. District Court-Southern District of Georgia. The building is significant under Criterion C as a local exemplification of Modern architecture as designed by notable Georgia architectural firm, Abreu & Robeson. The period of significance for the building is 1959, the date of completion.

Integrity Evaluation

The United States Post Office and Court House in Brunswick, Georgia retains a high degree of exterior integrity. The building has only minor alterations to the exterior, the majority of which have been replacement in kind or replacement with a material close to the original in appearance or are located on the north (rear) elevation. At the interior, the building retains the original terrazzo floor panels, marble baseboards, and marble wainscoting in the post office vestibule, post office lobby, post box lobby, and post box alcove. The continued use of the building throughout the twentieth century necessitated the need for interior alterations. The application of new interior finishes such as industrial carpeting, acoustical-tile dropped ceilings, and inset fluorescent lighting do not detract from the integrity of the building as the original features remain beneath the more recent materials; consequently, the majority of these changes are reversible.

Despite interior alterations to accommodate the changing and continuous use of the building, the United States Post Office and Court House—Brunswick, Georgia retains its overall integrity of design, materials, and workmanship. In addition, the building retains its original location and setting in downtown Brunswick amidst mid- to late-twentieth-century businesses as well as buildings that predate the federal building.

The United States Post Office and Court House retains its overall monumentality as a governmental entity, all of which contribute to integrity of association. The building's retention of integrity of design, materials,

⁷⁴ Library of Congress Website, "S. 2807: A bill to name the Federal Building, U.S. Post Office, and U.S. Courthouse in Brunswick, Georgia, as the 'Frank M. Scarlett Federal Building'," <http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/bdquery> (accessed 2 July 2009).

⁷⁵ Ibid.

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workmanship, setting, location, and association results in the building's retention of feeling as a 1959 Modern federal building.

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Correspondence

Kermit Buie (U.S. General Services Administration) 16 June 2009, in conversation with author.

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Architectural Drawings

U.S. General Services Administration, "U.S. Post Office and Courthouse, Brunswick, Georgia" Architectural Drawings, December 1957. On file at the U.S. General Services Administration Southeast-Sunbelt Regional Office, Atlanta, Georgia.

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United States Post Office and Court House

Glynn County, Georgia

Section number Photos Page 1

Name of Property: United States Post Office and Court House
City or Vicinity: Brunswick
County: Glynn County
State: GA
Name of Photographer: E. Young
Date of Photographs: June 2009
Location of Original Digital Files: A.D. Marble & Company
375 E. Elm Street, Suite 200
Conshohocken, PA 19428

Photo # 1 (GA_Glynn County_USPostOfficeandCourtHouse_0001)
South elevation, view to northeast

Photo # 2 (GA_Glynn County_USPostOfficeandCourtHouse_0002)
West elevation, view to northeast

Photo # 3 (GA_Glynn County_USPostOfficeandCourtHouse_0003)
North elevation, view to southwest

Photo # 4 (GA_Glynn County_USPostOfficeandCourtHouse_0004)
East elevation, view to southwest

Photo # 5 (GA_Glynn County_USPostOfficeandCourtHouse_0005)
Interior, post office vestibule, view to northwest

Photo # 6 (GA_Glynn County_USPostOfficeandCourtHouse_0006)
Interior, post office lobby, view to northwest

Photo # 7 (GA_Glynn County_USPostOfficeandCourtHouse_0007)
Interior, post box lobby, view to northeast

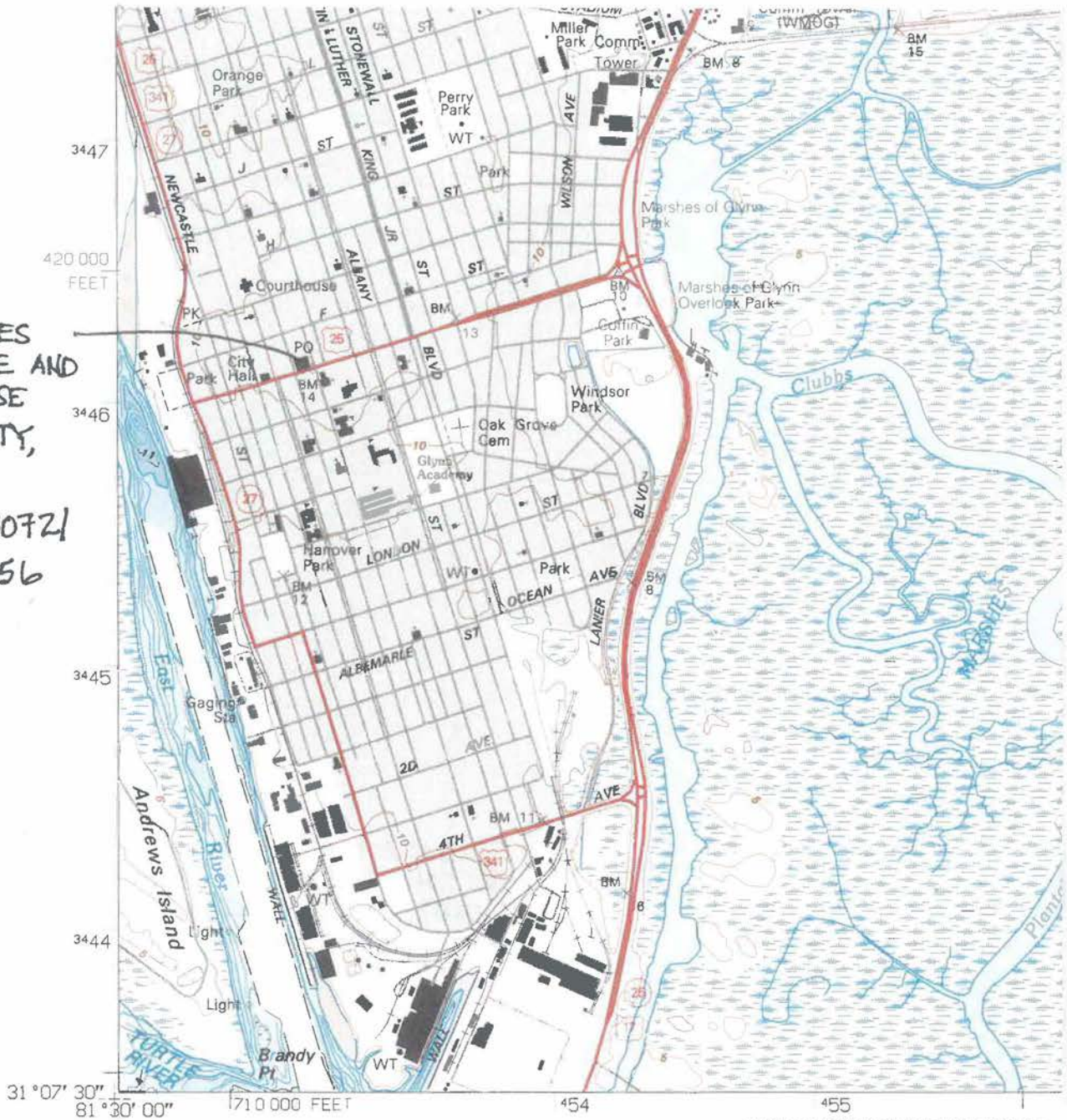
Photo # 8 (GA_Glynn County_USPostOfficeandCourtHouse_0008)
Interior, postal workroom, view to northeast

Photo # 9 (GA_Glynn County_USPostOfficeandCourtHouse_0009)
Interior, second floor, courtroom # 1, view to west

Photo # 10 (GA_Glynn County_USPostOfficeandCourtHouse_0010)
Interior, second floor, courtroom # 1, view to east

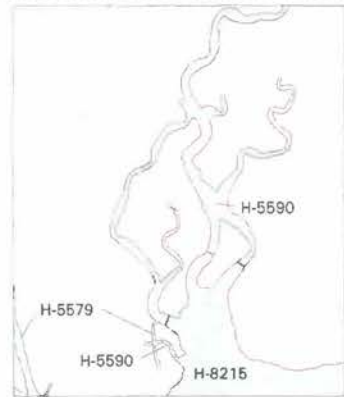
Photo # 11 (GA_Glynn County_USPostOfficeandCourtHouse_0011)
Interior, second floor, courtroom # 2, view to northeast

UNITED STATES
 POST OFFICE AND
 COURTHOUSE
 GLYNN COUNTY,
 GEORGIA
 UTM: 17/453072/
 3446356



Produced by the United States Geological Survey
 in cooperation with State of Georgia agencies
 Planimetry by photogrammetric methods from imagery dated 1974
 Topography by planimetric surveys 1952 and 1954. Revised from imagery
 dated 1993 and other sources. Field checked 1993. Map edited 1995
 Bathymetry compiled by the National Ocean Service from
 tide-coordinated hydrographic surveys. This information is
 not intended for navigational purposes
 Mean lower low water (dotted) line and mean high water
 (heavy solid) line compiled by NOS from tide-coordinated
 imagery. Apparent shoreline (outer edge of vegetation)
 shown by light solid line
 North American Datum of 1927 (NAD 27). Projection and
 blue 1000-meter ticks: Universal Transverse Mercator, zone 17
 10 000-foot ticks: Georgia coordinate system, east zone
 North American Datum of 1983 (NAD 83) is shown by dashed
 corner ticks. The values of the shift between NAD 27 and NAD 83
 for 7.5-minute intersections are obtainable from National Geodetic
 Survey NADCON software
 There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of
 the National or State reservations shown on this map

HYDROGRAPHIC SURVEY INDEX



HYDROGRAPHIC SURVEY INFORMATION

Survey Number	Survey Date	Survey Scale	Survey Line Space (Naut. Mile)
H-5579	1934	1:10000	.02-.06
H-5590	1934	1:10000	.01-.05
H-8215	1954	1:10000	.03-.10











MAIL OFFICE

ROUNDTREE, GA. 31226

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Global Express Guaranteed
Delivery of correspondence and packages
around the world



US COURTESY
SERVICE FOR
THE FBI

MAIL ROOM









UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY United States Post Office and Court House
NAME:

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: GEORGIA, Glynn

DATE RECEIVED: 2/27/14 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 3/27/14
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 4/11/14 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 4/15/14
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 14000153

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 4.15.14 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in
The National Register
of
Historic Places

RECOM./CRITERIA _____

REVIEWER _____ DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

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

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



GSA Public Buildings Service

February 26, 2014

Ms. Carol Shull
Interim Keeper, National Register of Historic Places
National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places
1201 Eye Street, NW (2280)
Washington, DC 20005



Dear Ms. Shull:

The U.S. General Services Administration (GSA) is pleased to nominate the United States Post Office and Court House (current name Frank M. Scarlett Federal Building) located at 805 Gloucester Street, Brunswick, Georgia, 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 Brunswick, GA, to the National Register of Historic Places; 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. No comments were received within the 45-day response period.

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: Audrey Entorf, Regional Historic Preservation Officer

U.S. General Services Administration
1800 F Street, NW
Washington, DC 20405-0002
www.gsa.gov