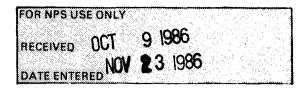
Form No. 10-306 (Rev. 10-74)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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



FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS **TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**

1 NAME

HISTORIC

INTERIOR DEPARTMENT OFFICES

AND/OR COMMON

GENERAL SERVICES BUILDING

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 18th and F Streets, N.W.	NOT FOR PUBLICATION	
CITY. TOWN Washington, D.C. 20405 VICINITY OF	CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT NONE	
STATE CODE	COUNTY	CODE
11	DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA	001

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	_v status	PRESI	ENTUSE
DISTRICT	-XPUBLIC		AGRICULTURE	MUSEUM
ABUILDING(S)	PRIVATE	UNOCCUPIED	COMMERCIAL	PARK
STRUCTURE	ВОТН	WORK IN PROGRESS	EDUCATIONAL	-PRIVATE RESIDENCE
SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE		RELIGIOUS
OBJECT	IN PROCESS	YES: RESTRICTED	GOVERNMENT	SCIENTIFIC
	BEING CONSIDERED	-XYES: UNRESTRICTED	INDUSTRIAL	TRANSPORTATION
		NO	MILITARY	OTHER:

4 AGENCY

REGIONAL HEADOUARTERS: (// applicable) Administration, National Capital Region

STREET & NUMBER

7th and D Streets. S.W.

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Washington, D.C.<u>204</u>07CINITY OF

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

STREET & NUMBER

Recorder of Deeds

515 D Street, N.W.

CITY, TOWN

Washington, D.C.

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE NONE

Mention is made in Federal Writer's Project Publications of

___FEDERAL ___STATE ___COUNTY

1937 (Washington, City & Capital) and 1942 (Washington, D.C.)

DATE

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

LOCAL

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

	CONDITIO	N	CHECK ONE	CHECK C	NE
EXCELLENT GOOD FAIR	\$ 	DETERIORATED	UNALTERED ALTERED	XORIGINAL MOVED	SITE DATE

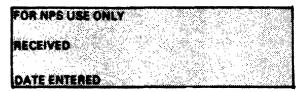
DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The General Services Building (former Interior Department Offices or Interior Building) is a seven storey office building occupying the entire block between E and F Streets and 18th and 19th Streets, N.W., in Washington, D.C. A steel-framed structure clad in limestone, the building's Beaux Arts Classical Revival exterior is little changed from its appearance when first completed in 1917. Two additions dating from 1935 - a seventh floor built on the original flat roof and recessed behind its parapet, and a cooling tower built in the west court - were designed to complement the original building and, indeed, are hardly noticeable as additions today. Most of the historically significant interior spaces are also in near-original condition. The E-shaped plan provides two large light courts within which stand the cooling tower, a library, an auditorium, and a former press room where U.S.

Measuring approximately 400 feet along E and F Streets and 392 feet along 18th and 19th Streets, the building contains full basement and ground storey, and rises 86 feet above grade on F Street and 103 feet above grade on E Street due to the slope of the lot. The entire building is faced in smooth, buffcolored Indiana limestone. The street facades are subtly articulated by projecting pavilions: The F Street, or main, facade has a central pavilion three bays wide containing three doors, and two end pavilions of three bays each, but these contain no entrances except for the single door in the central bay of the southern 18th Street pavilion.

Horizontal facade divisions are created by a watertable at the first storey window sill, belt courses at the second and sixth story window sills, and a modillioned cornice topped by a simple parapet at the level of the original roof. This cornice consists of a dentil row with round drops at outside corners, and modillions beneath a paneled soffit. The E Street facade, considered the back of the building, echoes the basic design of the F Street facade, with its cornice, belt courses, and watertable (here encompassing the entire ground storey due to the drop in grade from F Street). The south facades of the three wings are freestanding above the first storey. The two-storey links connecting these wings each contain an arched vehicle passageway which provides access into the court and is closed off at the street by a large iron gate. The passageway walls have smooth granite bases, limestone ashlar walls, and Guastavino tile arched ceilings.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM



CONTINUATION SHEET ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

The fenestration was intended as a strong design element. Between the window groupings, on both court and street elevations, the smooth limestone wall rises uninterrupted four storeys. Originally the ironwork, including ornamental spandrel panels that separate the window frames vertically, was painted a dark grey. This would have given the fenestration a strong vertical emphasis, balancing the horizontality of the long facades.

The entrance at the southern end of 18th Street is unusual in that it is sheltered by an iron and glass marquee which overhangs the granite steps and part of the semi-circular driveway leading to the steps. This entrance was designed originally as a private entrance for the Secretary of the Interior, whose suite of offices was directly above on the sixth storey.

The major decorative element of the building is the central F Street entrance. Each of the three doors is framed by pilasters and a modillioned cornice supported by consoles. Over the central cornice is an eagle carved by Ernest C. Bairstow, a decorative sculptor from Washington, D.C. Bairstow also provided the designs for the 28 limestone panels in the frieze at the sixth storey and the ornamental work at the entrance on F Street.

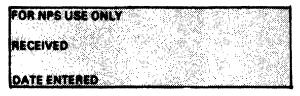
Originally the building was to have been faced in red brick with limestone decorative elements. At the urging of the Commission of Fine Arts the brick was changed from red to grey. When the construction bids came in far below the appropriated amount, it was decided to face the entire building in limestone, thus making it somewhat grander than originally intended.

The original exterior doors were removed in 1970 and replaced with bronze-colored, anodized aluminum and glass doors at all street entrances. The original one-over-one wood window sash remain, however, and are still sound though in need of repair. The original French doors equipped with iron balconies still overlook the courts from the first storey of the F Street wing. The bronze lamp standards flanking the F Street entrances are original. No record remains of the first landscape design, but the original granite-bordered planting beds surrounding the building's areaways are still in place.

The interior of the former Interior Building is surprisingly intact. The basic plan, consisting of long, double-loaded corridors, has been changed only in a few places where walls have been removed to

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"landscaped office" areas, or where the ends of corridors create open, have been closed off to create suites of rooms. The ceilings of the corridors on the second through fifth storeys were lowered to conceal ductwork for the newly installed air conditioning system in 1935. Thev given a vaulted form which is in harmony with were the interior The marble-clad F Street lobbies with architecture. their molded plaster ceilings have sustained changes only to their doors, lighting and elevator entrances. The auditorium is unaltered except fixtures, for the replacement of seats and fire doors. The library has undergone The lobby ceiling has been changes which alter its appearance: some the installation of a suspended acoustic tile ceiling, lowered by concealing the original vaulted ceiling which has lunette windows at Doorways have been blocked; ductwork, sprinkler pipes, and each end. of fluorescent light fixtures have been mounted on the ceiling the and carpeting has been installed over the original glass stack area: floors in the stacks. Most of the original features of the library still remain, however, and could be restored.

The press room, located in the east court south of the auditorium, contained the huge color presses and lithographic stones used to print the U.S.G.S. maps during the first half of the century. When the Geological Survey moved its offices to Reston in 1974, the presses the space is now used for storage and were removed and building workshops. All elevators have been modernized within the last 25 years and their cab interiors are not original. The firestairs, however, are unchanged except for installation of the safety treads over the original slate treads.

The most elaborate area in the building is the suite of offices originally occupied by the Secretary of the Interior. Located on the sixth storey at the south end of the east wing, the suite consisted of a public office or reception room, a private office, a private passage, a restroom complete with bath. and The offices and passages are paneled from floor to ceiling with carved English oak. The two offices elaborately molded $p\bar{1}aster$ ceilings, and the have reception room contains a fireplace faced in carved French limestone. The floors are white oak in a herringbone pattern with borders of walnut. The windows contain leaded glass. The room is patterned after a room from Bromleyby-Bow, an English house built in 1606.(1)

Except for the replacement of furniture, lighting fixtures, bathroom fixtures, and wiring for new communications equipment, the rooms appear as they did when first occupied. They could easily be restored by repairing the leaded windows and refinishing the woodwork.

1. Karel Yasko Files, General Services Administration, Washington, D.C.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AF	EAS OF SIGNIFICANCE CH	IECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW	
PREHISTORIC 1400-1499 1500-1599 1600-1699 1700-1799 1800-1899 X_1900-	ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC AGRICULTURE X-ARCHITECTURE ART COMMERCE COMMUNICATIONS	COMMUNITY PLANNING CONSERVATION ECONOMICS EDUCATION ENGINEERING EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT INDUSTRY	LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE LAW LITERATURE MILITARY MUSIC PHILOSOPHY POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	RELIGION SCIENCE SCULPTURE SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN THEATER TRANSPORTATION OTHER (SPECIEY)
SPECIFIC DAT	ES	BUILDER/ARC	HITECT Charles Bu	tler for the

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Supervising Architect of the Treasury

Completed in 1917 as the headquarters for the Department of the Interior, the present General Services Building is significant in three areas relating to the National Register Criteria. It is associated with events, such as the Teapot Dome Scandal, and the growth of the National Park Service and the U.S. Geological Survey, which have had a significant impact on the broad patterns of our history (Criterion A). The building was occupied by two Secretaries of the Interior (Albert Fall and Harold Ickes), who played significant roles in American History (Criterion B). The building was a refinement of the Federal office building tradition. Designed as a truly "modern" office building, the former Interior Building embodies the distinctive characteristics of that type, thus meeting Criterion C.

Criterion A:

This building served as headquarters for the Department of the Interior during two of its most important decades, 1917-37. By the end of this period the Department had grown to employ over 13,000 people and had a budget of \$100,000,000. Its responsibilities were the "disposal, development, conservation, and administration of the public domain. "(1) In addition, it controlled the Patent Office until its transfer to the Department of Commerce in 1925 and the Pension Office until its consolidation with the Veterans Administration in 1930. The Department at that time also administered St. Elizabeth's Hospital, the Freedmen's Hospital, Howard University, and the Columbia Institute for the Deaf.

Established in 1849, the Department of the Interior "was created chiefly to deal with problems arising out of the opening of public lands to settlers."(2) Over the years the policies formulated and carried out those occupying western lands. The General Land Office was responsible for the disposition of public lands, granting easements, railroad rights-of-way, and leases for mineral rights. The Bureau of Reclamation, set up to build and manage irrigation projects in the arid states, was responsible for constructing Hoover and Boulder dams in the Colorado River Basin and the Grand Coulee Dam in the Columbia River Basin. The Bureau of Mines studied mining safety and technology to improve the nation's utilization of coal and precious metals.

(See Continuation Sheet Item 8 page 2)

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See Continuation Sheet

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DAT	'A		
ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY	3.6 acres		
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12 CERTIFICATION OF 1	NOMINATIC	N	
		ON OFFICER RECOMMENI	DATION
YES_			161
		Care	d. P. Mompson
			STORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE
In compliance with Executive Order 11 Historic Preservation Officer has been a	593, I hereby nomina	te this property to the Nati	onal Register/certifying that the State
evaluate its significance. The evaluated			
FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATU	•	11 A	LOCOI.
J. WALTER ROTH		Rola	DATE October 8, 1986
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I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROF	ENTY IS INCLUDED	IN THE NATIONAL REGIS	
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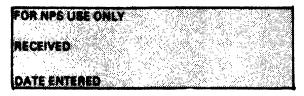
DATE

DIRECTOR. OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM



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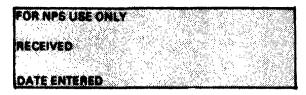
During its tenure in this building, the Bureau of Indian Affairs demonstrated a new sensitivity for the American Indian. With the Wheeler-Howard Indian Reorganization Act of 1934, the Bureau "reversed of which, by allowing the break-up traditional policy Indian reservations into individual allotments, undermined the economic basis At special referendum elections held in 1934 of tribal culture. and 1935, a large majority of tribes and of the Indian population voted to accept the act. New allotments or sale of Indian lands, except to tribes, are now forbidden, and unentered remnants of the so-called surplus lands are being restored to tribes."(3)

The National Park Service was essentially born in this building. "Largely as a result of the initiative of Franklin K. Lane [first Interior Secretary to occupy this building], the National Park Service was established as a bureau of the Department of the Interior by act of Congress approved August 25, 1916, to correlate the administration and development of the national park and monument areas...."(4) President Roosevelt consolidated all Federal park areas under the Park Service in 1933, and by 1936 it had 9,929,432 visitors at 26 national parks and 69 national monuments, encompassing 16,000,000 acres of land.

The U.S. Geological Survey, the "Department's scientific adviser on the resources of public lands," was the largest tenant in the former Interior Building. The Library housed its large and unique geological as well as the George Frederick Kunz collection of gems. collection The Press Room, designed as a separate building projecting into the east light court, housed the huge color presses on which were printed the topographic maps produced by the Survey. By 1937 the U.S.G.S. had surveyed 47% of the country's land area. Several chemistry, geology, and photographic laboratories were provided for the Survey engineers The results of Survey studies determined which public and scientists. lands should be closed to development to conserve mineral and water which could be used for grazing and farming, and after the resources. severe droughts of the 1930's, which lands should be closed to even These patterns of use had a great impact on the these activities. economic development of the middle and western states in particular.

Thus the years during which the Department of the Interior occupied this building were important years to both the Department and the nation. Policy and actions formulated in this building are still influencing American life today.

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Criterion B:

The history of the United States is that of a vast land explored, settled, and exploited by its inhabitants. During the 19th century the Federal Government, appreciating the need for more accurate surveying control of its lands, established the Department of the Interior and and later the Geological Survey, the General Land Office, the Bureau of Mines, and the Reclamation Service. From 1917 to 1937 these agencies occupied the former Interior Building, and their activities shaped the public lands throughout the country. The Secretary use of of the Interior's office was located in this building, and two Secretaries in particular were associated with significant events or made important contributions to our history.

The first was the infamous Albert B. Fall, a central figure in the "Teapot Dome" scandal of 1921-22. Fall was convicted and imprisoned accepting \$400,000 in bribes from oil magnates Harry F. Sinclair for Edward L. Doheny in return for secretly granting them rights and to drill for oil in Wyoming and California on public lands which had been as Naval oil reserves. By the time Albert set aside Fall went to 1931, implications of his corrupt prison in the actions. the complexities of the Government investigation, and the extended court trial combined to impress the scandal on the public consciousness and made the name Teapot Dome synonymous with government corruption.(5)

The second Interior Secretary of major importance had a more Harold L. Ickes served as Secretary of the Interior positive role. under Presidents Franklin D. Roosevelt and Harry Truman from 1933-46. As Secretary for a record 13 years, he oversaw the construction of the Friant, Bonneville, and Grand Coulee dams; fully developed the Shasta, Park Service to provide for the recreation needs National of the nation; and served as the first Federal administrator of public works, which expanded the construction industry and furnished employment during the Depression years.(6)

Criterion C:

The former Interior Building was designed by Charles Butler for the Supervising Architect of the Treasury. The construction was supervised by C.P.S. Garwood from the New York office of James Gamble Rogers. It was designed to contain those bureaus of the Interior Department that dealt with land matters - the U.S. Geological Survey, the Reclamation Service, the Bureau of Mines, the General Land Office,

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and the Office of Indian Affairs. In addition to administrative personnel, these bureaus employed geologists, engineers, topographers, paleontologists, chemists, physicists, hydrographers, geophysicists, petrologists, and other scientists whose laboratory and office needs were very specific.

building was the focus of considerable Congressional The and official interest, and was frequently discussed in the press. Congressional legislation passed in 1910 directed the Secretary of The the Treasury to produce a "fireproof building of modern office-building type."(7) The then Supervising Architect, James Knox Tavlor. instructed his staff to prepare plans for this building. Of these designs, Taylor's successor as Supervising Architect, Oscar Wenderoth, described them as "not office-building types at all. They are the low building, such as the Senate Office Building and the usual long, Office Building, and had no suggestion of office-building House construction . . . that was contrary to the idea involved in the legislation."(8) The bureau heads also expressed opinions about the character of the new building. F.W. Newell, Director of the Reclamation Service, stated that he felt that too much Federal monev lavished on useless ornamentation, which drained the was Federal Such designs caused poor lighting conditions for treasury. Federal workers and consequently reduced the energies of workers.(9) То this statement, Supervising Architect Wenderoth assured Newell that every effort would be made to erect a modern office building as "I have had more or less experience in planning office buildings while in the employ of private architects."(10)

Interior Building's location outside the monumental The former groupings around the White House and the Mall was a further argument for a functional office building. Without the constraints of neighboring monumental buildings, it was felt that "it would Ъe possible to design a building which should meet in every detail the practical requirements of the Department."(11) As the Evening Star "The new building will be a workshop, not a show place . . . reported. The site was chosen because it is, in a measure, 'out of the way'."(12) At the time the site was designated for the use of the Interior Department, it was thought by some Congressmen to be a poor location for a major Federal Government building. Although sited only one block from the State, War and Navy Building, the square was too far west of the Capitol-White House axis to be readily accessible to members of Congress. Some Congressmen were unsure of where the square was.(13) It should be remembered that during the nineteenth and much

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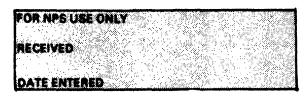
of the early twentieth centuries, members of Congress made frequent rounds of the Executive Departments on behalf of their constituencies. Some Congressmen felt the site to be practically a "back yard" to the more desired location along Pennsylvania Avenue.(14) As Representative Henry A. Barnhart of Indiana remarked in 1913, "Every time we build one of these buildings, we get them farther and farther out, after a while they will go to the city limits and demand buildings there. We have to spend about \$10 now every time we want to make the rounds of the public buildings. It is a good thing for the cab men and the taxicab men, but is not a good business policy to scatter these buildings it everywhere."(15) Representative Henry Allen Cooper of Wisconsin felt so strongly about the unattractiveness of the site that he attempted to block an appropriation for the building.(16) He argued that, "It is not at all in harmony with the plan for the improvement of the city of Washington and is utterly inappropriate for this department." He described the site as "remote, inconvenient, awkward to reach, and which was originally bought as a site for a hall of records."(17) However, the delays inherent in acquiring another site quieted these objections.

The characteristics of "modern" office design embodied by the former Interior Building included devoting a minimum of interior space purely ceremonial public areas such as grand lobbies or enclosed to central light courts. Offices of shallow depth were given large (50% of the wall area on the street facades and 70% on the windows court facades), and operable transoms over their glazed corridor doors maximize natural light and ventilation. Each office had its to own lavatory and had inner connecting doors to neighboring rooms. The telephone system was very sophisticated for its day, providing most office workers with their own telephone. Secretary of the Interior insisted on equipping the building with Franklin K. Lane an iced drinking water system (most buildings of the day had central drinking "wells" where occupants shared a common drinking cup).

The distribution of bureaus was on several floors, "confined to section of the structure, and accessible by stairways one and The Evening Star believed this disposition of offices elevators." on vertical lines rather than the usual horizontal plan to be "new." The new system of grouping was considered to be more efficient. "It is the theory that the distance up and down stairs is better in the matter of conservation than to spread offices on the same plane with long walking distances. Rapid elevators and easy stairways will facilitate communication."(18) Each of the three entrances along F Street 1ed into its own vestibule and lobby. A public corridor parallel to F

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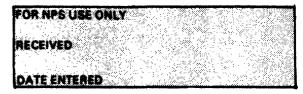
Street connected the three lobbies. The three entrances corresponded to each of the wings and led to their respective bank of elevators and In this way, employees of a particular stair halls. bureau were "sorted on their entrance into the building." Visitors were also directed to enter the elevator leading to the desired bureau. This entry addressed the problem presented by system of a11 employees arriving and leaving the building at the same time. The building was also provided with special facilities described by the Director of the Geological Survey, George Otis Smith, as "features more varied than any office building in this or any other city, such as an Auditorium (the in a Federal Government building), first a Library, chemical and the largest map engraving establishment anywhere to laboratories, be found, including a highly specialized photographic laboratory."(19)

building's design was The patterned after а private office building recently completed in Washington, D.C. In a March 1913 letter from Oscar Wenderoth, Supervising Architect of the Treasury, to F.W. Newell, Director of the U.S. Reclamation Service, he cited the Southern H Street, N.W.) as the local example of the Building (1425 kind of structure he envisioned for the Interior Department offices.(20) Constructed between at the northeast corner of 1910-11 15th and H Streets in downtown Washington, the Southern Building was designed by the firm of Daniel Burnham. The building had been commissioned by the Southern Commercial Congress, a non-profit organization founded in 1908 to promote Southern business interests. The building's rents were intended to endow the organization. Although originally designed to rise eleven stories, it was topped off at nine. The U-shaped plan above the third floor allowed for a large open light court opening to the west. Windows were placed along its entire perimeter SO that natural light could illuminate the offices. The structure was a steel frame clad in buff brick and terra cotta. At its completion, it was a modern, elevator-serviced building located in the highly desirable financial district along 15th Street.

The of the Southern Building was embellished exterior with elaborate terra cotta trim because it was intended to catch the eye and thereby attract rent-paying tenants. By contrast, the former Interior Building had no need to appeal to potential tenants -- occupants were already at hand, anxious to occupy the building upon its completion. Evening Star described the building as "exceedingly simple. The Ιn style, it may best be described as American office building architecture of the most dignified type. The details in general are a free adaptation of the style of Louis XVI."(21) modern and The relative plainness of the former Interior Building can also be ascribed to its highly functional nature and its location outside the monumental and commercial sections of the city.

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In early 1915, the Commission of Fine Arts examined the designs the building and pronounced the design to be excellent.(22) for Wenderoth himself was pleased with the building, describing it to the Director of the Geological Survey George Otis Smith, "This structure when completed will be a marked advance in the design of Federa1 Buildings which, necessarily, must be devoted to utilitarian purposes, and I believe it will indicate a line of development for such structures in Washington as are outside the district which we must give consideration to questions of monumental effect."(23)

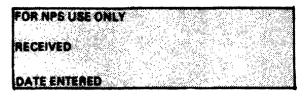
The influence of the former Interior Building design can be seen two other buildings in the Northwest Rectangle: the new in Interior Building along C Street built in 1935-36 after designs by Waddy B. Wood for the Public Works Administration, and the War Department Building (now the original section of the State Department Building) along 21st Street completed in 1941 after designs by Gilbert Stanley Underwood and William Dewey Foster for the Public Buildings Administration of the Federal Works Agency (the new home of the Supervising Architect and his Its influence could also be seen in the Social Security Board staff). Building (now the Mary Switzer Building) located along the southern border of the Mall on Independence Avenue between 3rd and 4th Streets, S.W., which was completed in 1940 after designs by the Supervising Architect and his staff. The Social Security Board Building was designed with open light courts that provided for maximum illumination and ventilation.

In 1942, the Federal Writers' Project Guide to Washington, D.C., described the former Interior Building (then called the Interior Building, North) as "an early example of a trend that was further exemplified by the completion of its neighboring South Building 20 years later and by the War Department Building nearly 25 years later -to do away with the external ornamentation and to erect buildings having an obviously functional character."(24)

The change in cladding material from brick to limestone marks an interesting transition point in the design of Federal buildings in Washington. The original selection of red brick for the former Interior Building was motivated by a desire for a cheap, simple, and functional building. The decision to substitute grey brick for red brick was made at the urging of the Commission of Fine Arts which thought that the new color would lighten up the exterior as well as the interior of the building. When the original construction bids came in well below the appropriated amount, the Treasury Department decided to

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face the building in limestone, even though construction had alreadv commenced. Architect Butler's urgings were instrumental in this From his temporary residence in Paris, France, he wrote change. to Secretary Lane, "Certainly Congress, in making the appropriation, expected that we would put up the best possible building for the money, and in view of the fact that it has now been shown to be possible to erect the building in stone, I think we shall be subjected to criticism if we fail to do so."(25) Limestone appears to have been a novel choice for a Federal Government building. Previous masonry materials used in Federal building included marble, granite, sandstone, and red brick. While limestone was more costly than brick, it was cheaper than other masonry materials. After the construction of the former Interior Building, limestone became the preferred cladding material for Government buildings. Beginning in the 1920's, the Federal Triangle buildings, the new Interior Building, the Social Security Board Building, and the War Department Building, were also clad in limestone.

With limestone, the former Interior Building took on a greater air monumentality than it would have with a brick exterior. However, of its sparce embellishments demonstrated that it did not seek the monumental character of the great public buildings in Washington, D.C. Despite the changes in exterior material, the building still had to conform to its original purpose as stated in the 1910 legislation. "a building of modern office-building type." This buildi its intended destiny of flexibility and adaptability as fireproof building fulfilled it later served as the headquarters of the Federal Works Agency and the General Services Administration.

1. H.P. Caemmerer, <u>Washington</u>, the <u>National Capital</u> (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1932), p. 421.

2. The Federal Writers' Project, <u>Washington, City and Capital</u> (Washington, D.C.: Works Progress Administration, U.S. Government Printing Office, 1937), p. 924.

3. Ibid., p. 927.

4. Ibid., p. 926.

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"Albert Fall," "Who's Who in the Nation's Capital 5. Bacon (Washington, D.C.: The Consolidated Publishing Co., 1921), pp. 127-Henry Commager, 128; Samuel Eliot Morrison and Steele The Growth of the American Republic Vol. II (New York: Oxford University Press, 1962), p. 621; and Robert Sobel. Biographical Dictionary of the United States Executive Branch 1774-1977 (Westport, Conn.: Greenwood Press, 1977), pp. 111-112.

6. Harold L. Ickes, <u>Who's Who in the Nation's Capital</u> (Washington, D.C.: Ransdell Inc., 1934), pp. 472-473 and Robert Sobel, <u>Biographical Dictionary of the United States Executive Branch 1774-1977</u> (Westport, Conn.: Greenwood Press, 1977), pp. 183-184.

7. Public Law No. 265, 61st Congress, 2nd session, 1910, H.R. 16987.

8. U.S., Congress, House, Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds, <u>Public Buildings and Grounds</u>. Hearings before a Subcommittee of the House Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds, No. 50, January - February, 1913.

9. F. W. Newell to Oscar Wenderoth, 13 march 1913, Box 126, General Correspondence, Interior Department Offices, RG 121, NARS, Washington, D.C.

10. Oscar Wenderoth to F.W. Newell, 17 March 1913, Box 126, General Correspondence, Interior Department Offices, RG 121, NARS, Washington, D.C.

11. Charles Butler, "The Office Building of the Department of the Interior at Washington, D.C.," <u>Architectural Record</u>, 44 (September 1918), p. 199.

12. Evening Star, 8 December 1914, p. 19.

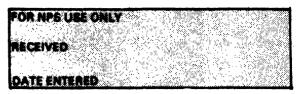
13. U.S., Congress, House, Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds, op. cit., p. 53 for discussion of uncertainty about location of Square 143.

14. Ibid., p. 62.

15. Ibid., p. 64.

16. Evening Star, 8 February 1915, p. 13.

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17. Evening Star, 9 February 1915, p. 4.

18. Evening Star, 5 May 1915, p. 3.

19. George Otis Smith to E.J. Ayers, 26 September 1916, Box 127, General Correspondence, Interior Department Offices, RG 121, NARS, Washington, D.C.

20. Oscar Wenderoth to F.W. Newell, 17 March 1913, Box 126, General Correspondence, Interior Department Offices, RG 121, NARS, Washington, D.C.

21. Evening Star, 26 November 1915, p. 2.

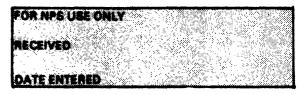
22. William W. Harts to Byron R. Newon, 9 January 1915, Box 126, General Correspondence, Interior Department Offices, RG 121, NARS, Washington, D.C.

23. Oscar Wenderoth to George Otis Smith, 28 January 1915, Box 126, General Correspondence, Interior Department Offices, RG 121, NARS, Washington, D.C.

24. The Federal Writers' Project, <u>The WPA Guide to Washington</u>, <u>D.C.</u> (New York: Pantheon Books, 1983, originally published 1942), p. 283.

25. Charles Butler to Franklin K. Lane, 23 December 1915, Box 127, General Correspondence, Interior Department Offices, RG 121, NARS, Washington, D.C.

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Interior Department Offices

18th and F Streets, N.W.

Washington, D.C.

Commemoratively signed in ceremony, September 29, 1987

Secretary, ior Department of

Services Administration Administrator, General