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7.	DESCRIPTION								
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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (*if known*) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

A national/memorial since 1955, Federal Hall stands on the site of the historic Federal Hall that disappeared in the early 19th Century. Begun in 1834, the building known as Federal Hall today was designed in part by Architect John Frazee and completed in 1842 as the United States Custom House. Built totally fireproof, the structure was made of marble, limestone, granite, brick, and iron. It consists of six levels: sub-basement, basement, three stories, and attic. Since 1842 the building has undergone numerous interior physical changes, but aside from the erection of a heroic bronze statue of George Washington on the Wall Street steps in 1833, the elimination of the sunken areaway along Nassau Street in 1954, and the addition of gun turrets on the roof and two windows on the Wall Street side, the exterior of the building has actually changed very little.

Boundary:

Commencing at the intersection of Wall and Nassau Sts. and. Running north along Nassau St. for 197.6 ft. and Running east and parallel with Wall St. for 90.2 ft. and Running south and parallel with Nassau St. for 194.5 ft. and Running east along Wall St. for 90.3 ft to Nassau St. s

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8.	SIGNIFICANCE PERIOD (Check One or More as App	propriate)					
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	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check	One or More as Appropriate))				
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	Commerce	🛄 Literature	i tari an				
	Communications	Military	🔲 Theater				
	Conservation	Music	Transportation	·			
SEEINSTRUCTIONS	<pre>STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE Federal Hall National Memorial stands on the site of original Federal Hall, our nation's first capitol under the Constitution. It was in that historic building that Washington was inaugura- ted our first President on April 30, 1789, our present Govern- ment established, and our basic institutions developed. As our nation's first capitol, Federal Hall housed the Excecutive offices and the first Congress. Here the enabling acts creating the Departments of State, Treasury, War, and Justice, the Post Office (made a cabinet department in 1829), and the Judiciary Act establishing the Supreme Court and lower Federal courts were all passed in 1789. At this time the Congress also adopted the Bill of Rights (first 10 amendments to the Constitution) and submitted them to the States for ratification. It was also here that Washington established the Presidency on firm ground by initiating many precedents calculated to give dignity and autho- rity to that office. Federal Hall, itself, had originally served since its completion in 1699 as New York's second City Hall before being remodelled in 1788 by Pierre L'Enfant as the nation's capitol. New York's colonial, Revolutionary, and Confederation history took place in Federal Hall. Here John Peter Zenger was imprisioned and tried in 1735, whose vindication established the principle of Freedom of the Press. The Stamp Act Congress of 1765 delibera- ted here. After the Revolutionary War, the Confederation Con- gress held its sessions in the building, where it passed the Northwest Ordinance of 1787 and in the same year called for a Constitutional Convention in Fhiladelphia. With the removal of the capital to Philadelphia in August 1790, Federal Hall rever- ted to its former use as the City Hall. When the present City Hall was finished in 1812, old Federal Hall was abandoned and razed.</pre>						

Federal Hall site, has its own architectural and historical significance. It is a fine example of the Greek Revival Period in American architecture. The eight Doric columns at each end of the building, and the low triangular pediment, recall the Parthenon,

9. MAJOR	BIBLIOGRAPHICAL R	EFERENCES					
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SEE INSTRUCTIONS

Form 10-300a (July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

STATE			
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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

ENTRY NUMBER

(Number all entries)

Item No. 8:

the temple of the goddess Athena on the Acropolis in Athens. In 1862, the Custom House was converted into a branch of the Independent Treasury System. It was the most important of six subtreasuries because it was the repository for 70 percent of the Federal Government's revenues. After 1920, when the Independent Treasury System was discarded, several governmental organizations used the building. The wide bank of steps on the Wall Street side has always been a favorite place for public rallies, political and religious oratory, war-bond sales, and patriotic observances. In 1939 the building was designated a national historic site and in 1955 it was established as a national memorial.

