

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	DEC 04 1979
DATE ENTERED	JAN 31 1980

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC

U. S. Post Office

AND/OR COMMON

Wayne N. Aspinall Federal Building United States Court House

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

400 Rood Avenue

__NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Grand Junction

__ VICINITY OF

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

Colorado

30

Mesa

077

2 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- MUSEUM
- COMMERCIAL
- PARK
- EDUCATIONAL
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- ENTERTAINMENT
- RELIGIOUS
- GOVERNMENT
- SCIENTIFIC
- INDUSTRIAL
- TRANSPORTATION
- MILITARY
- OTHER:

4 AGENCY

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: *(If applicable)*

General Services Administration

STREET & NUMBER

Building 41, Denver Federal Center

CITY, TOWN

Denver

__ VICINITY OF

STATE

Colorado 80225

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Register of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER

Mesa County Court House

CITY, TOWN

Grand Junction

STATE

Colorado 81501

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

None

DATE

__FEDERAL __STATE __COUNTY __LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

SITE

Built in 1918, the Wayne N. Aspinall Federal Building United States Courthouse is located on a site measuring 125' X 175', one block from the central curved commercial spine of Grand Junction, Colorado.

A regional trading center for western Colorado and eastern Utah, Grand Junction is in the heart of the Grand Valley which is noted for its fruit production and energy development.

Well situated to provide essential federal services to the populace of the Grand Valley, the Federal Building occupies approximately one-fourth of Block 96. The remainder of the block is now owned by the Valley Federal Savings and Loan Association. The eastern portion of the block is consumed by the nine storey steel and glass Valley Federal Plaza Office complex.

Contrasting the modern design of the tall, sleek, Valley Plaza structure, the Federal Building's Italian Renaissance Revival style displays low, horizontal movements and a durable texture stating seasoned permanence. Its principal facade fronts to Rood Avenue, a one-way street running west.

The west facade (4th Street) also is bounded by one-way traffic; in this case 4th Street runs south. On the east a limited parking area abuts the facade fronting to the Valley Federal property.

Banks and savings and loan institutions surround the Federal Building on three of its facades. The new Post Office is located across 4th Street to the west from the Federal Building.

The rear facade faces parking for the Federal Building and an extended parking lot to White Avenue.

Landscaping consists of a 16' 4" deep lawn abutting the principal and 4th Street facades. In the southwest corner of the front lawn a flagpole is encased by trimmed hedging. On its southwest corner, a lawn 23' 7 1/2" deep extends briefly past the east facade. In this corner are two mature trees. The remainder of the property is consumed by asphalt parking on the east and north sides and by extended sidewalks on the south and west sides.

A metal Armed Forces recruiting sign occupies a spot on the front lawn near the main entrance.

ORIGINAL BUILDING DIMENSIONS

The original building measures 80' 8" X 89' 10" on a foundation which varies from 1' 10" to 2' in thickness.

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Designed in a U-shape, the rear facade has a 45' 10" wide center recessment.

Vertical dimensions include an 11' basement, 15' 4" first storey, 11' second storey, and a 10' third storey.

FLOOR SPACE

There are 22,260 square feet of occupiable floor space assignable by the General Services Administration.

OPENINGS

A rhythmic fenestration is presented. The attached chart reveals sequence by storey and number of openings.

ROOF STYLE

A built-up composition roof slopes to the edges from the front original portion and from the edges to center drains on the 1940 addition. The roof on the light court is flat and is composition in nature.

ADDITIONS

One major addition occurred and it was completed in 1940. At that time the width of the building was extended 45' 10" making the overall dimensions 135' 8" X 80' 8".

A ramp to accommodate the handicapped has been constructed parallel to the rear facade and extends from the rear door eastward to the building's terminal. A 23' X 14' mail vestibule was added to the center of the rear facade in 1923 and was extended in width 13' in 1940. A copper-covered marquee projected 8' from each side of this structure.

In 1957, a 96' 9" conveyor, 30" wide with a 9' lift was installed from the mail vestibule and extended over the alley to a leased facility in the rear portion of the block.

Upon vacation of the postal force in 1965, the mail vestibule and the conveyor were dismantled evidencing the original rear facade.

Numerous interior alterations have been completed. Most of these were accomplished in 1965 following the removal of postal operations. Ceilings have been dropped to cover air-conditioning ducts throughout the building except in the courtroom.

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RELATIONSHIP TO ORIGINAL

Original drawings dated 5/21/15 reveal a two storey parapeted building which ended vertically at the shallow entablature above the second storey. Later, drawings dated 7/26/16 and 9/23/16 indicate the third storey which presently exists.

Except for the increased massing, differences in the principal facade are minimal. With the 1940 addition which increased the width of the building 45' 10", the arcaded principal facade was recentered to provide a symmetrized arrangement. The recentering involved converting the three main entrances to windows and the two windows to the right of the entries to main entrances. Recentering also required relocating the wide granite steps abutting the entrances. All of the conversions correlated to the original theme and fenestration.

Building identification on the principal facade has been changed three times. Originally the words POST OFFICE were placed above each of the main entries. Next, the Post Office lettering was removed and replaced by 10" gilded letters on the entablature above the second storey which read, UNITED STATES POST OFFICE AND COURT HOUSE. Then, in 1973, the tall lettering was changed to alumilite and was amended to read, WAYNE N. ASPINALL FEDERAL BUILDING UNITED STATES COURT HOUSE, following the official building name change.

On the third storey elevation, the triangular pedimented and architraved exterior window trim on the second, fourth, and sixth windows was removed with the 1940 addition. These were the only windows which displayed this trim and the skillful manner in which this was accomplished resulted in minimized damage to the wall finish.

The Fourth Street facade remains as built and the east facade replicates the original east facade, even to the re-use of the original limestone.

Effects of the 1940 addition were most noticeable on the rear facade. The original elements were undisturbed, but the addition created an imbalance to the symmetry. Included in the addition was a metal counterweighted swing stair fire escape from the top of the first storey line. This object is still present, along with a metal fixed stair fire escape descending from the third storey to the light court. Interior alterations have primarily affected the first storey due to the change in function from a Post Office to federal offices. Although the main lobby has been transformed to a small vestibule, the winding staircase at the southwest corner of the lobby remains as built, but is enclosed and not generally visible. The courtroom has been restored close to its original appearance and the ceiling which had been lowered has been removed to expose the original barrel-vaulted ceiling.

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Recessed lights in the ceiling have been added providing extra needed lighting and do not compete with the historical fixtures.

Portions of the elevator installed in the 1940 addition retain original components. The brass front on the first storey and brass hand rails inside remain unchanged.

Original marble partitions and wall paneling remain in the basement, second, and third storey restrooms, along with the terrazo flooring installed when built.

A mural "Peach Harvest in Grand County", by Louise Ronnecheck was removed from the Federal Building on January 12, 1966. The mural was arch-shaped on top and had a large "V" notch on the bottom to accommodate placement over the Postmaster's office door. It measured 5' high X 7' 9" long and portrayed the peach harvest in Grand County.

The background showed covered wagons and eroded cliffs, the latter being typically topographic of the area.

Painted in the 1930's as a part of the Federal Fine Arts Program, the mural was done in oil on canvas.

The removal was prompted by interior renovation work and was subsequently stored in Denver and sent on to Washington, D. C. for restoration in 1973.

INTERIOR

Three areas retain historically sensitive fabrics. They are the courtroom which has been restored, the narrow, winding, ornamental staircase located in the southwest corner of the building, and the marble-interior restrooms.

The 46' X 29' 1" courtroom features oak trim, chair railing, and furniture. Two eight bulb circular chandeliers are suspended from the barrel vaulted ceiling by four chains each. The room's low, broad profile and lighting suggest a Western theme appropriate to the physical environment.

A curved rectangular winding staircase at the southwest corner contains wooden railings and narrow balusters between metal newels at the landings. Marble treads are used from the basement to the second storey. The staircase extends from the basement elevation to the third storey and has limited use due to its location.

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FACADE ANALYSIS

In style the building stems from the basic Italian Renaissance Revival form but original design changes resulted in a style suggestive of the Second Renaissance Revival. Primarily these changes are articulated in the larger size, the mixing of arcaded and rectangular window openings, and the balustraded parapet.

Emerging from a concrete foundation on spread footings, the visible portion of the basement elevation evidences large stone paneling to the water table elevation. Windows in this elevation are short and rectangular and are encased by a concrete well on the right side. Abutting the basement elevation are wide granite steps cheeked with concrete. The steps enclose three bronze handrails centrally spaced. Two metal lamp standards with spherical bulbs are affixed to the step cheeking and add a decorative statement along with utility.

Rusticated banding flanks the 12-bay principal facade from the water table to the parapet. Between the banding the arcaded openings constitute the focal point of the facade. Openings separated by pilasters rise from the first storey line and extend to capitals displaying spread eagle ornamentation. Over the openings, stepped arching interrupts the stone coursing to accommodate the rounded arched elements. Together with the entrances and windows, an architectural synchrony results from the combination of these elements. The two entrance openings contain two narrow glass paneled windows. Rounded side panes are separated from the center sash by mullion. Inside the first storey window openings are six over six light double sash resting on paneled aprons. Mullion separates the double sash from the one pane wide side fixed sashes. Rounded arches above the windows duplicate those over the two center entrances. Interspersed above and between the arcade junctions are flat circular discs similar to those evidenced in true Renaissance building examples.

Vertically aligned with the round arched first storey windows are the unadorned six over six light, double sash windows with lug sills on the second storey.

A wide, shallow entablature exists at the introduction of the third storey and centrally displays the building identification which reads, WAYNE N. ASPINALL FEDERAL BUILDING UNITED STATES COURT HOUSE. Above the entablature the third storey windows contain nine over nine light double sash and create an illusion of greater height for the elevation.

Adding the final element to the upper zone and consolidating the horizontal movements is the dentilled cornice surmounted by a balustraded parapet.

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Side facades continue the theme established in the principal facade retaining the cohesion of the architectural statement. However, the right bay rear facade is U-shaped in its original portion with the massing of the right side substantially increased by an addition. Brick texture on the addition corresponds to the brick used in the center recessment of the original portion. Fenestration is orderly within the elements although metal louvers have been installed in the rounded arching on the first storey. The recessment commences above the first storey and extends to the second and third storeys.

MATERIALS

A skeletal steel framework is the building's basic component from which emerges a concrete foundation on spread footings. Concrete is also used on the basement floors, the sidewalks, window wells, and entrance step cheeking.

The entrance steps are of granite, as is the cornerstone.

Indiana limestone provides the exterior wall finish and extends from the visible foundation to the parapet.

Light colored Denver faced brick is seen on the rear facade recessment and the rear center portion of the 1940 addition. The brick is laid in the common bond style.

Three areas evidence marble - the restrooms on the basement, second, and third storeys, the wainscoting on the ornate stairway from the basement to the first storey, and the treads on the ornate stairway to the second storey.

Oak chair railings and baseboards are evident on the third storey. Oak is also used in the courtroom furniture.

Wrought iron grillework covers the basement windows and wrought iron decorative railings are affixed to the window wells on the front and east sides.

Bronze handrails are used on the front entrance steps as well as on the 4th Street steps.

WAYNE N. ASPINALL FEDERAL BUILDING UNITED STATES COURTHOUSE

WINDOW OPENINGS AND ENTRANCES

FACADE	STOREY	<u>WINDOW OPENINGS</u>		<u>ENTRANCES</u>	
		ORIGINAL	PRESENT	ORIGINAL	PRESENT
Principal (Rood Ave.) (South)	Basement	4	8	-	-
	First	4	10	3	2
	Second	7	12	-	-
	Third	7	12*	-	-
Fourth St. (West)	Basement	5	Same	-	-
	First	5	Same	1	Same
	Second	6	Same	-	-
	Third	6	Same	-	-
East	Basement	7	Same	-	-
	First	7	Same	-	-
	Second	8	Same	-	-
	Third	8	Same	-	-
Rear	Basement	3	0	1	Same
	First	4	7	1	Same
	Second	9	10*	-	-
	Third	9	10	-	-

*Plus a small narrow toilet window

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES **1918-Original**
1940-Addition

BUILDER/ARCHITECT **James A. Wetmore-Original**
Louis A. Simon-Addition

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

SIGNIFICANCE

The Wayne N. Aspinall Federal Building U.S. Court House has a two-fold significance in that it is a landmark durably established by an earlier adventurous generation and its identity is associated with one of this century's renowned congressional leaders.

By order of Public Law 92-520 on October 21, 1972, the U.S. Congress officially changed the name of the Grand Junction, Colorado Federal Building United States Courthouse to the Wayne N. Aspinall Federal Building United States Court House in honor of the former congressman from the Grand Junction area.

Democratic Representative Aspinall served in the U.S. Congress from 1949 to 1973 serving the last 14 years as the Chairman of the House Interior and Insular Affairs Committee. Wielding considerable influence on the nation's reclamation activities, he was responsible for the following reclamation projects: Collbran, Paonia, Florida-Smith Fork, Perrins-Crawford, Rifle Gap, Pine River extension, Frying-Pan Arkansas, Bostwick Park, Curecanti Complex, Blue Mesa, Morrow Point, Crystal, Fruitland Mesa, and Savory Pothook. Other projects authorized but not completed include Dallas Creek, Dolores, San Miguel, West Divide, Animas-La Plata, and the Narrows. According to Mr. Aspinall, these projects will extend earlier reclamation projects by 250 years and most likely Lake Mead behind Boulder Dam will be extended approximately 500 years. ¹

An effective legislator, Representative Aspinall is credited with the passage of 1,000 bills during his tenure as Chairman of the Interior Committee. Colorfully described as a "crusty Coloradoan", he was nevertheless highly respected by his colleagues. Representative John Saylor of Pennsylvania referred to him as a perfectionist, expert parliamentarian, and one who knew rules and how legislation was effected. ²

Many accolades have been attributed to Representative Aspinall besides the Federal Building being renamed for him. They include "Father of the Upper Colorado River Storage Project", Conservationist of the Year in 1964 by the National Federation of Wildlife, and the distinction of being the only white man ever known to be made a member of the Ignacio Indian Tribe. ³

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

1. Microfilmed original drawings, GSA Archives, Denver Federal Center, Denver, CO.
2. Interview with Mr. Wayne N. Aspinall, Palisale, CO, Aug 21, 1979.
3. Interview with Mr. N. D. Wooters, Postmaster, Grand Junction, CO, Aug 21, 1979.
4. Interview with Mr. Joseph Marye, former Building Custodian, Grand Junction, CO., Aug 22, 1979.
5. Interview with Mr. Alfred Look, local historian, Grand Junction, CO., Aug 23, 1979.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than 1 acre

UTM REFERENCES

A 1,2 71,06,50 4,32,710,0
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

1. Site is 125' X 175'.
2. Known as lots numbered twenty-six (26), twenty-seven (27), twenty-eight (28), twenty-nine (29), thirty (30), thirty-one (31), and thirty-two (32) in block ninety-six (96) in the City of Grand Junction according to the recorded plot thereof.
3. Bounded on the south by Rood Ave., on the west by Fourth St., and on the east and north by private property. (Continued)

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE CODE COUNTY CODE

STATE CODE COUNTY CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Mary J. Kardoes, Planning Assistant, Operational Planning Staff, PBS

ORGANIZATION

DATE

General Services Administration

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

Denver Federal Center, Building 41

234-4357

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Denver

Colorado 80225

12 CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

YES

NO

NONE

Arthur C. Hammond

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

In compliance with Executive Order 11593, I hereby nominate this property to the National Register, certifying that the State Historic Preservation Officer has been allowed 90 days in which to present the nomination to the State Review Board and to evaluate its significance. The evaluated level of significance is ___ National ___ State Local.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

TITLE

W Roth

DATE

2 JAN 80

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Carol D. Shuler

DATE

1-31-80

DIRECTOR OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

William H. Graham

DATE

1-30-80

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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Architect for the U.S. Treasury Department, Public Works Administration. Construction Superintendent was Mr. John England. The Wicks Construction Company of Des Moines, Iowa was awarded the contract on a bid of \$163,970 but final costs boosted the total cost to \$216,000.

On March 1, 1965, postal operations ceased at the building and moved to a leased facility across the street on 4th Street. At that time, the Federal Building first storey interior was converted to office space and the remaining two storeys continued their original function of housing federal offices and the federal court.

A current \$136,630 project being accomplished by the Jensen Construction Co. of Mobile, Alabama is resulting in a restoration of the third storey courtroom as close to the original as has been possible. At the direction of Judge Fred Winner, the restoration has involved the usage of courtroom furniture exccessed from the Sterling, Colorado federal courtroom disbandment.

The U.S. District Court in Grand Junction has functioned since the building's 1918 opening, but has never had a resident judge. Judge Robert E. Lewis was the first to occupy the bench at this location and did so until 1922 when he was appointed to the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals. Born April 13, 1857 in Cass County, Missouri, Judge Lewis was appointed to three federal courts and is possibly the only federal judge with this distinction. His appointment to this court was by President Theodore Roosevelt. ¹²

Following Judge Lewis was J. Foster Symes who was appointed by President Warren G. Harding on May 16, 1922. Born in Colorado, Judge Symes was the youngest federal judge when sworn in at age 44 and became known as a stern disciplinarian of lawyers during his tenure. ¹³

William Lee Knous was the court's next judge, appointed on May 15, 1950 by President Harry S. Truman. Born in Ouray, Colorado on February 2, 1889, Judge Knous also served as one of Colorado's governors. ¹⁴

Judge Jean S. Breitenstein and Judge William E. Doyle served the court before being appointed to the Court of Appeals and six judges continue to serve. They include Senior Judges Alfred A. Arraj and O. Hatfield Chilson, Chief Judge Fred M. Winner, John L. Kane, Jr., Richard P. Match, and Sherman G. Finesilver.

Keen interest in the Grand Junction courtroom restoration has been displayed by Judge Winner. Described as having "one of the state's best legal minds", Judge Winner is a native Coloradoan. ¹⁵ Born in Denver on April 8, 1912, he was appointed to the District Court on December 18, 1970 by President Richard M. Nixon.

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redesigned in 1916 under the supervision of Mr. James A. Wetmore, Acting Supervisory Architect. The cornerstone bears the following inscription: WILLIAM G. MCADOO SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY JAMES A. WETMORE ACTING SUPERVISORY ARCHITECT 1915.

The actual laying of the cornerstone occurred on April 19, 1916 which had been delayed due to a freight blockade in delivering the cornerstone from the quarry in Bedford, Indiana. ⁸ A Masonic ceremony was held and attended by 1,000 people, despite inclement weather. Cornerstone contents were revealed to include the following:

1. Copy of congressional directory, 1916.
2. Copy of Congressman E. Taylor's address.
3. Charter Roll of Chamber of Commerce.
4. List of city officials.
5. List of county officials.
6. Names of post office force of clerks, carriers, etc.
7. Copy of daily newspaper.
8. Coin of 1916.
9. Contractors, officials of the building force, etc.
10. Roster of Masons.
11. Pictures of Grand Junction and Mesa County.
12. Roster of G.A.R. posts.
13. Roster of S.A.R.
14. Names of school board members. ⁹

Construction began in October, 1916 following the contract being awarded to the Dieter and Wenzel Construction Company of Wichita, Kansas for \$106,821. Construction Superintendent was Mr. Levi R. Whitted who was highly regarded by the area residents as a "guardian of the treasury interests." ¹⁰ Delays caused by the addition of the third storey to accommodate the Federal Court resulted in a March 1918 completion date at a final cost of approximately \$250,000.

Postmaster at the time of completion was R.C. Walker whose namesake great-grandson currently serves as Probation Officer for the Federal Court on the third story.

In 1922, the building was officially visited by President Herbert Hoover who was then Secretary of Commerce and Chairman of the Water Commission. Nature of meetings conducted during his visit resulted in the 1922 Colorado River Compact Act. ¹¹

Expansion of postal and federal activities created the need for a major addition which was completed in 1940. Design architect was Mr. Louis A. Simon, Supervisory

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Born April 3, 1896 in Middleburg, Ohio, Wayne N. Aspinall moved to Colorado with his parents in 1904. Early glimmerings of leadership emerged in his school years. From being Senior Class President at Mount Lincoln High School in 1914 at Palisade, Colorado, he went on to the University of Denver where he became a Phi Beta Kappa, obtained a law degree in 1925 and led his class in irrigation law. Returning to Palisade, he taught school and became a member of the school and town boards. Desire for higher public office appealed to him and his commencement began with his election to the Colorado House of Representatives in 1931. Serving in that capacity until 1938, Wayne Aspinall successfully ran for the Colorado Senate in 1939, remaining there until 1948. One year later he was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives and served 12 terms. Following his congressional retirement brought on by a primary defeat, Mr. Aspinall returned to Palisade and has maintained an active role as a lawyer, national resource consultant, visiting professor and public speaker. ⁴

In a recent interview, Mr. Aspinall proudly recalled his achievements, especially the reclamation projects, protection for U.S. Indians, and his Territorial involvement which culminated in statehood for Alaska and Hawaii. ⁵ He also spoke fondly of his association with the Grand Junction Federal Building which dates to 1926 when he first represented cases in the Federal Court. Upon his election to Congress in 1948, he maintained an office in the building throughout the 24 year tenure.

Historically, the initial need for the present Federal Building arose from the lack of a permanent Post Office building in Grand Junction. This lack created considerable hostility among the citizenry which was assuaged by the procurement of the site in 1909 and authorization for the building in 1910. ⁶ (Credit in securing this legislation has been attributed to area Representative Edward T. Taylor who served in Congress for many years.)

The site was purchased in two increments, the first for \$800 from Laura B. Murray on February 27, 1907 for Lot 26 in Block 96, and the second for \$9,000 from Ira M. DeLong on March 27, 1909 for Lots 27 - 32 in Block 96. All the lots had been included in the original townsite and derived from Patent #820, dated February 19, 1890 which was granted to Mayor Charles Shanks from President Benjamin Harrison. In the intervening period from the granting of the patent to the 1909 purchases, the site had been primarily in the ownership of Horace DeLong, a prominent local real estate investor. At one time, a parcel of the site was owned by Benton Cannon who was an early county treasurer. ⁷

Mr. Oscar Wenderoth, Supervisory Architect for the U.S. Treasury Department, supervised the original design process which began in 1915. However, the building was

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4. Location indicated on USGS 7.5, Grand Junction Quadrangle Map.