

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
 NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

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JAN 13 1983

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

HISTORIC

~~United States~~ Post Office and Courthouse

AND/OR COMMON

Federal Building/U.S. Post Office (Stewart Station)

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

301 ~~East~~ Stewart Avenue

n/a NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Las Vegas

n/a VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

na

STATE

Nevada 89101

CODE

32

COUNTY

Clark

CODE

003

3 CLASSIFICATION**CATEGORY** DISTRICT BUILDING(S) STRUCTURE SITE OBJECT**OWNERSHIP** PUBLIC PRIVATE BOTH**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**

n/a AN PROCESS

 BEING CONSIDERED**STATUS** OCCUPIED UNOCCUPIED WORK IN PROGRESS**ACCESSIBLE** YES: RESTRICTED YES: UNRESTRICTED NO**PRESENT USE** AGRICULTURE COMMERCIAL EDUCATIONAL GOVERNMENT INDUSTRIAL MILITARY MUSEUM PARK PRIVATE RESIDENCE RELIGIOUS SCIENTIFIC TRANSPORTATION OTHER:**4 AGENCY**

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (if applicable)

General Services Administration Region IX

STREET & NUMBER

525 Market Street

CITY, TOWN

San Francisco

n/a VICINITY OF

STATE

California 94105

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Clark County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

200 East Carson Street

CITY, TOWN

Las Vegas

STATE

Nevada

89101

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Las Vegas: Historic Preservation Inventory & Planning Guidelines

DATE

1978

 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Historic Preservation & Archeology

CITY, TOWN

Carson City

STATE

Nevada

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT
 GOOD
 FAIR

DETERIORATED
 RUINS
 UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Federal Building/Post Office (originally called the U.S. Post Office and Courthouse; called Federal Building in this nomination) is situated within the sprawling urban setting of the desert city of Las Vegas. The building is located on the north side of Stewart Avenue on a site which is, atypically, not a corner site; it is centered on Third Street (almost - see Addendum, Item 8) with a vista down the street intended to be grandiose. Located in a six-block Civic Center just north of the central business district, the Federal Building sits among several city buildings, including the ten-story new City Hall to the east. Four blocks south are the Clark County Courthouse and the more recent Federal Courthouse. The Federal Building is surrounded by paved parking lots: public lots to the east, west and south and a parking/loading area behind the building to the north. To the southwest is the Lady Luck Casino Dealer's School, a single-story structure with stucco walls and a red tile roof; beside that to the west is the six-story concrete Binion's Horseshoe Casino parking garage, and beside that is the Del Webb's Mint parking garage, also six stories.

The building is faced south-southwest toward Stewart Street and is set back from the sidewalk in a small grassed lawn as is typical for a federal building of the period. Most of this lawn in the front has been taken up by the wide granite stair which ascends from the sidewalk to the raised first floor level and by the concrete handicapped ramp west of the central stair. Trees have been planted alongside the building on its front and two sides, set within the small grassy areas which remain, and site furniture consists of the handrails for the stairs and ramps.

The Federal Building itself is massed as a great three story block, 119'10" wide by 76'0" deep. The front facade features a central colonnade flanked on both sides by massive end bays. This enframed block configuration - central colonnade or arcade anchored on both sides by symmetrical solid corner elements - is an arrangement developed in 18th century France and adapted by American government and private architects in the late 19th and early 20th centuries for a wide variety of public and institutional buildings. The neoclassical arrangement took on several appearances as the architects varied the scale, proportion and detailing, but at its core it represented the type of classicism favored by the Treasury Department as appropriate for federal architecture. The building also displays the classical vertical hierarchy of base, body and cap - the base formed by the raised foundation, the body by the brick walls and great colonnade and the cap by the entablature and parapet. The building represents mainline, albeit eclectic, neoclassicism with its large flat-sided Ionic columns, formal loggia (since altered), classical moulded and dentiled entablature and Georgian balustraded parapet. It is typical of the hundreds of similar structures designed by the Supervising Architect's office of the Treasury, but the refinement of proportions, details and use of materials and the building's size distinguish the Las Vegas Federal Building as a regionally important example of the style.

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INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

Federal Building/
CONTINUATION SHEET U.S. Post Office ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

The building is covered with a flat concrete slab roof, with composition roofing over; the roof is bordered with a parapet, a Georgian Revival element made up of terra cotta components. Classified as a fireproof structure, it is supported by a structural steel frame which holds pan type concrete floor and roof slabs. All of the four facades are organized with typical neoclassical symmetry, with the front and sides featuring the prominent colonnades. These are the focal points for the building, made up of terra cotta parts which give stylistic distinction to what would otherwise be a plain brick box. The front colonnade has eight massive columns, the sides six. Each column is engaged by the wall behind, flat-sided and fluted, with Ionic capital, compound moulded base and plain plinth. The front colonnade is set within a terra cotta-faced bay which projects slightly from the end bays; the side colonnades are flush with the wall, with no projection, and all three colonnades are placed in the second and third floors, a design device which gives the building a more imposing countenance. The first floor is faced with flat terra cotta panels, punctuated by simply framed windows on the east and west facades and by a six-bay arcade on the south (front). This arcade was originally open, leading into a shallow loggia which in turn enters into the main lobby, but the openings have since been infilled with aluminum window/doors to create an entry vestibule. The rear facade is dominated by the large first-floor loading dock with cantilevered metal canopy over. The dock extends the width of a central bay which projects several feet beyond the flanking symmetrical sides. Centered in this bay are three large Georgian windows with a smaller window on each side. Like the front and sides, the rear features terra cotta siding on the first floor level, with brick on the second and third floors.

The building title is mounted in the entablature over the colonnade on the front. Originally "United States Post Office" in attached metal letters, the original title has been moved to one side several feet to allow the addition of "Federal Building-." The building's cornerstone, laid in a 1931 ceremony, is located in the foundation at the southeast corner and is inscribed:

A.W. Mellon Secretary of the Treasury
James A. Wetmore Acting Supervising Architect
1931

An article printed in the Las Vegas Evening Review announcing the November 1932 opening of the Post Office described the original layout of the first floor of the facility:

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NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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Federal Building/
CONTINUATION SHEET U.S. Post Office ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 3

There are 11 windows in the new postoffice room, but all of them will not be used, (Postmaster) Ryerse explained. There will be two general delivery windows, a stamp window, postal savings and registered mail, and money order windows. The parcel post window, for incoming and outgoing parcel post will have ample space to handle all of the parcel post needs of Las Vegas.

In the rear of the building there is a large loading platform which is separate from the workingroom of the postoffice proper, and in the west wing of the basement a large storeroom has been set aside for the use of the postoffice.

One of the features of the new postoffice is a "swing room" for the mail carriers, a recreation room equipped with comfortable chairs, reading tables, and a shower bath, for the mail carriers while waiting for mail distribution.

The windows discussed in the article were situated around a central U-shaped main public lobby, entered from the front loggia. The lobby and other first floor spaces have undergone some change since the building's opening, but the public spaces have retained a degree of integrity. The lobby has been divided into two smaller spaces by a contemporary aluminum window wall, and the west two postal windows have been removed to create more room for additional post office boxes (the east three windows remain). East of the lobby are the offices of the Postmaster and Assistant Postmaster, with the attendant hallway, vault and toilet; these remain as original. West of the lobby is the main stair to the second floor, an elevator and money order registry office (the office has been removed also to make room for additional post office boxes). The main workroom and mailing vestibule and platform are situated behind (to the north of) the lobby and remain in original configuration. Although altered somewhat by the addition of a suspended ceiling and some new wall finishes, the main lobby still features many of its original components, including: the terrazzo floor with brass strip inlay and marble borders, travertine walls and pilasters, decorative ironwork for the elevator surround and original iron writing tables. The stair to the second floor features marble treads set in a steel frame, plaster walls, terrazzo landings and decorative iron balustrade. The main workroom has its original plaster walls and ceiling with the inspector's gallery overhead.

The second and third floors are organized as series of office or court spaces lined along single U-shaped hallways. The heart of the building - and its most

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NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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Federal Building/
CONTINUATION SHEET U.S. Post Office ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 4

impressive space - is the courtroom centered on the north wall of the second floor. After the District Court moved from the building, this room was subdivided into a smaller court space for the Tax Court and an office space. The cut-down Tax Court still has many of the original courtroom elements, including travertine walls and pilaster shafts, stylized pilaster capitals and crown ornamentation made of terra cotta, coffered ceiling with decoratively cast plaster beams, marble wall base and oak furniture. The axis of the courtroom has been shifted from east-west, with the judge's bench centered on the east wall, to north-south with the bench on the north wall. The space has been altered in other ways: the addition of suspended ceiling between the plaster beams, carpeting, covering over of the north wall windows (no natural light now enters the room), addition of contemporary light fixtures and registers and - most unfortunate of all - painting of the polychrome terra cotta capitals and frieze ornaments. The upper story halls are in original condition, with terrazzo floors, plaster walls and ceilings with a moulded plaster crown and pilaster caps and dark oak doors and frames. Second and third story offices have undergone some change, primarily in the form of carpeting and suspended ceilings.

Summary

The Federal Building/U.S. Post Office is sited facing south within the six-block Civic Center just north of the central business district of Las Vegas. Set back from the sidewalk within a small grassed lawn, it is massed as a great three-story block - a brick box with terra cotta trim set upon a raised foundation. The building represents mainline, albeit eclectic, neoclassicism with its large flat-sided Ionic colonnades, formal loggia, classical moulded and dentiled entablature and Georgian balustraded parapet; it also displays the classical vertical hierarchy of base, body and cap, the base formed by the terra cotta sided first floor, the body by the upper story brick walls and great colonnades and the cap by the entablature and expressed parapet. The building has been maintained well, and the exterior appears today in almost original condition. The interior has undergone changes to accommodate the changing needs since its construction, but the changes have been made with some sensitivity, and the original character of the public spaces is retained. As a regionally important example of neoclassical public architecture, the Federal Building is one of the city's major historic buildings. It is a prominent landmark - the most refined and best preserved of Las Vegas' Depression-era architecture.

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 checked="" 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	Designed: 1930-31	BUILDER/ARCHITECT	James A. Wetmore
	Built: 1931-33		Acting Supervising Architect

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The significance of the Federal Building/Post Office in Las Vegas rests upon the building's intrinsic and representational values on a local level to the city. These values lie in two areas: architecture and politics/government. Architecturally, the building is representative of the eclectic revivalism which distinguished most public buildings designed by the Treasury Department's Supervising Architect's office in the 1920s and 1930s. Although it may not have succeeded in its intended role as an exemplar of good taste to be imitated by subsequent private structures (the most famous of which, of course, are the amazingly profligate casinos), the building is the most refined of Las Vegas' Depression-era architecture. It is a well-preserved and locally prominent example of its genre - a medium-scale public building of the early thirties. The Federal Building also represents the city's part of an extensive federal building program initiated in the late 1920s by the Hoover administration - the forerunner to Roosevelt's Public Works Administration. Like the immense Boulder Dam project, under construction at the same time, this building presented a locally prominent symbol of the presence of the federal government, and as the first federal building erected in Las Vegas, it ~~was~~ is a source of pride for the city and a locally prominent landmark.

Addendum

Although the Federal Building completed in 1933 was the first civil federal structure erected in Las Vegas by the Treasury Department, it was not the first building put up specifically to house the postal facility. The 1933 building was preceded only four years by another. Actually, boosting for a federal building had begun two decades earlier in 1911 with the hope that Congress would include Las Vegas among the hundreds of communities across the country to receive post offices and courthouses. The government at the time was engaged in a fifteen-year construction binge which had begun around the turn of the century; however, increasingly vociferous criticism of porkbarrel politics dampened the enthusiasm in Congress for new building projects, and by the mid-1910s the program was halted. Las Vegas did not receive its building.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See Addendum, Item 9

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 2.01

UTM REFERENCES

A 11 667250 40041520
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Legal description: Parcel Number 020-250-004 City of Las Vegas

Property is located in City Park at the corner of Stewart and Third Streets, with 350.0' frontage on Stewart Street and a depth of 250.0' into the Park.

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

STATE	none	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE		CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Clayton B. Fraser, Principal

ORGANIZATION

Fraserdesign

DATE

7 March 1982

STREET & NUMBER

1269 Cleveland Avenue Suite Two

TELEPHONE

303-669-7969

CITY OR TOWN

Loveland

STATE

Colorado 80537

12 CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

YES

NO

NONE

Deimi Redden
 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 *W. ROTH* J. WALTER ROTH

TITLE *DIRECTOR, HISTORIC PRESERVATION*
 GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

DATE 12 JAN 83

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Laura McClelland
 DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE 2-10-83

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

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DATE ENTERED

Federal Building/
CONTINUATION SHEET U.S. Post Office ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

Hopes for a new building were renewed in December 1923 with the announcement that the city was included in a public buildings appropriation in Washington. Local boosting for the building continued into the next year, and on 28 June 1924 the Las Vegas Age ran a lengthy argument for the proposed structure. Entitled "Public Building is Necessary to Meet Growth of Las Vegas," the article stated:

The room and equipment provided for the Las Vegas postoffice have long been inadequate. Within the last few months additional room and five hundred additional boxes have been provided for the office, but these are now being used nearly to the limit of capacity. With only a slight increase in the present business the enlarged quarters will be found inadequate and the public again obliged to suffer the inconveniences which were so annoying for several years. . . .

The present city proper was founded in the month of May 1905, by people who moved into it from the Original Townsite of Las Vegas, Nevada, which was generally known as the "construction camp" during the building of the railroad, and by people who came from every State in the Union; pioneers they were, but of a type who came to stay and build a city. . . .

There are no government buildings erected in the southern part of the State; yet the City of Las Vegas and the County of Clark have never failed to meet the call of the United States Government for any requirement demanded. . . . With a population of 4500 people, and with the population steadily increasing, and with no possibility of its growth being stopped or even retarded, we feel that we are entitled to proper postoffice facilities for the handling of United States mail by having an up-to-date Federal postoffice building.

However, Congress had not approved any authorization for new construction since the end of the earlier boom in 1913 and in 1924 was in no mood for new public buildings. The bill was defeated and with it the city's post office. It would not be until five years later, in 1929, that Las Vegas would receive its first post office building, erected not by the government but by a local businessman/contractor, P.J. Sullivan. Sullivan completed the building, a single-story brick structure, in June of that year, and it immediately opened as the city's post office. In a community grateful for any building, Sullivan's post office was well received. Reported the Age on 4 June:

The new postoffice opened for business yesterday morning at Second and Carson, and Las Vegas are becoming accustomed to the increased convenience made possible by the new structure and new equipment. The building, erected and owned by P.J. Sullivan, serves a long-felt need of the community it is agreed by all, and its opening has long been looked forward to by the community and postoffice workers alike.

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NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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DATE ENTERED

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

Federal Building/
CONTINUATION SHEET U.S. Post Office ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 3

The government had signed a five-year lease and had installed some \$20,000 of new equipment in the building, but even before the new facility was opened the Treasury Department had already begun the search for a site for its new federal building. District Engineer Arthur Newman was dispatched to Las Vegas in August 1924 to assess several sites which had been offered for the building. Newman told city officials that \$20,000 had been appropriated for site acquisition but nothing had yet been set aside for building construction, adding, "Other localities are crying out for federal buildings, and competition for federal building money is keen in Washington. Las Vegas is fortunate in having friends in the U.S. senate and in the house who are close in the confidence of the administration and whose efforts have resulted in placing this city on the building program for this year." Newman's visit sparked another round of boosting for a new building. Again, the Age:

The need of Las Vegas for a federal building to house the post office as well as the administration officials of the Boulder Dam work and other governmental departments such as the United States court, U.S. Marshall's office, Commissioner, etc., all of which will need quarters in Vegas, has been recognized by the departments and Congress. . . .

There are hundreds of cities in the United States with claims for a federal building just as good as ours, in some cases, perhaps, better. Congressmen, senators and business men are every day exerting pressure in favor of their own projects and any valid excuse for delay in the Las Vegas project would be decidedly to the advantage of some other city.

For several years the work of securing recognition in our needs and desires has been under way. It was not easy to convince the men in power at Washington of the merit of our cause.

Now that our project is approved and on the program for immediate construction, it is to be hoped that no sectional controversies will arise. We each have our individual preferences. It may be that this site or that site will better serve our own particular interests. And whatever site is selected will not suit all of us.

Newman's veiled warning that the city could again lose its chance at a federal building if a site could not be secured quickly had its effect on city officials. A parcel of land that Las Vegas had been holding to build a city park was offered to the Treasury official, and it was accepted only after the city gave assurance that the site and adjacent streets would be improved. With a site secured, the Supervising Architect's office of the Treasury began to design the building.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

Federal Building/

CONTINUATION SHEET U.S. Post Office ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 4

The Federal Building planned for Las Vegas was in reality part of an enormous construction program undertaken by Congress and the Hoover administration in the late 1920s and early 1930s. During this period some 1300 new civil federal buildings were erected across the country, nearly doubling the number under the aegis of the Treasury Department. The program was initiated in 1926 - the first such federal initiative for public building construction since 1913 - with a Congressional authorization of \$165 million over a period of eleven years. The authorization was increased by \$125 million in 1928 and, with the Depression worsening, by \$330 million in 1930 and 1931. The total appropriation, including revenues from the sale of so-called obsolete structures which added \$69 million, hovered at \$700 million. According to Lois Craig in The Federal Presence: "In terms of establishing the image of the United States government, this program was the most important undertaken since the first few decades under the Constitution."

The massive construction effort was designed to serve three functions. First, it represented fiscal pragmatism and was calculated to reduce the rising rental costs incurred by the growing number of federal agencies in leased space. The program also afforded Congress an opportunity to distribute political presents in the form of post offices and courthouses, a type of logrolling it historically has found hard to resist. Finally, under the deepening shadow of the Depression, the building program was in the later years also a make-work program, intended to provide jobs for the local unemployed. A predecessor to the myriad New Deal programs (Roosevelt took office as the Las Vegas Federal Building was nearing completion), Hoover's building program was later absorbed within the Public Works Administration.

This renewed activity rekindled long dormant animosities between the Supervising Architect's (SA) office in the Treasury Department and private architects, represented by the American Institute of Architects. The AIA, protective of a membership beleaguered by the Depression, objected loudly to in-house design of federal buildings by the SA's office, which had increased its staff from 432 in 1929 to 750 in 1932. A 1931 Resolution of the AIA Board of Directors proclaimed:

We believe that the country is entitled to the services of the best architectural talent available, and that the concentration of so large a volume of work as the present appropriations provide, into the hands of a single Government bureau, must inevitably tend to produce stereotyped, mediocre and uninspiring results.

Architects railed against the SA repeatedly in the trade periodicals; American Architect was particularly fervent in its criticism, regularly publishing articles like "Government Architects Cannot Create Beauty" and "The Time Has Come for

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

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DATE ENTERED

Federal Building/

CONTINUATION SHEET U.S. Post Office ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 5

Government to Get Out of the Architecture Business." A counterattack was printed in the April 1933 Federal Architect, a magazine sympathetic to the SA:

The ethics of the profession has certainly taken a jolt when the architects of the country on letterheads of their A.I.A. Chapters blacken without investigation the work of other architects' offices with the naive and frank admission that it is for the purpose of getting architectural commissions for themselves.

The Federal Architectural offices are weaned and reared on criticism. If they use material A, delegations appear to lambaste them for not using material B. Or vice versa. If they face the building north, a newspaper crusade develops because it was not faced south. The bitter attacks of private architects are, therefore, merely the regular order. . . .But - one could have wished that architects would have stood by architects.

Although the Public Buildings Acts of 1926 and 1930 granted the Treasury Department the option to commission private architects for federal projects for the first time since the repeal of the Tarnsey Act in 1911, the Hoover administration used their services sparingly, and the fusillades continued throughout the early 1930s.

There were stylistic differences as well. At one extreme was the SA's office, which continued to advocate classicism as the appropriate symbolic expression for public buildings. The SA executed hundreds of buildings of varying scales with classical facades and detailing during the twenties and thirties. James A. Wetmore was the Acting Supervising Architect from 1915 to 1933. A graduate of the Georgetown University Law School, Wetmore was not himself an architect, the reason for the "Acting" before his title; stylistic direction for the office was given by the Superintendent of the Architectural Division Louis A. Simon, a stylistic traditionalist who later succeeded Wetmore as Supervising Architect - the Treasury's last. At the other end of the spectrum were a number of architects in the avant garde of the private sector. Embracing the tenets of the emerging Art Deco and Moderne styles (and a decade later the International style), these architects designed public buildings relatively unembellished by ornamentation and austere when compared with their classical predecessors. Between the two extremes, architects designed with a wide range of stylistic expression, combining new forms with borrowed revivalist or vernacular forms or motifs or somehow compromising between the classical and modern trends to create what is today termed "starved classicism."

The construction drawings completed by the SA for the Las Vegas Federal Building in early 1931 showed a building that was, typical for that office, mainstream

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INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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Federal Building/
CONTINUATION SHEET U.S. Post Office ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 6

neoclassicism. A rendering of the front elevation appeared in a September 1931 article in Architectural Forum magazine by Assistant Secretary of the Treasury Ferry K. Heath. On 22 July 1931, bids for construction of the building were opened in Washington. It appeared that Murch Brothers of Saint Louis had submitted the lowest proposal with a bid of \$247,000. However, the bid of Plains Construction Company from Pampa, Texas arrived several days later, reportedly help up in the mail. Plains' bid, \$10,000 below that of Murch Brothers, was accepted by the Treasury Department. Ever mindful of the cheapest bid, the government awarded the construction contract to an unproved contractor, although Murch Brothers had already built several federal buildings in cities all over the country. The city eagerly awaited construction of its long-awaited building, as the Evening Review-Journal reported on 1 August 1931:

Contract for construction of the new federal building to be erected at Las Vegas, was awarded this morning to the Plains Construction company at Pampas, Texas, on a bid of \$237,000, it was announced by officials of the treasury department.

The building as designed, will be a three story structure with full basement of brick and terra cotta construction - one of the finest of the smaller postoffices now being built, treasury department officials declared.

Construction commenced soon after, but problems began to crop up. In September 1931 it was discovered that the building under construction was 32' off-center from Third Street. With the excavation completed and foundations begun, Treasury officials decided to accept the building in its existing location, although as site inspector T.J. Williams stated: "If the building was erected according to the first plan, it would certainly make a much better appearance, as it would set nearer to the centerline of the city park and show up from the present business district as being at the end of North Third Street." As construction continued through the winter, more problems came up. Finally, on 8 February 1932 Plains' contract was terminated when it was discovered that the company's owner, J.O. Pearson, had forged the signatures of the sureties for his bond. The Salt Lake City and Dallas offices of the FBI were called in to investigate the irregularities, and a Grand Jury was convened in Amarillo on 2 May 1932 to consider criminal charges against Pearson. As the court case continued in Texas and subcontractors for Plains began to file claims against the government (which were rejected), the project was rebid by the Treasury Department; on 22 July the contract for construction of the remainder of the building was awarded to Rosen and Fischel, Inc. of Chicago. This new company

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NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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Federal Building/
CONTINUATION SHEET U.S. Post Office ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 7

had been the lowest of nineteen bidders with a proposal of \$220,553. Construction was begun soon thereafter and continued without further report of incident through the rest of the year and into 1933. In September postal officials began preparing for the move into the new building; it was made two months later as the new Federal Building was opened for business on November 27.

The operational history of the Federal Building has, unsurprisingly, consisted of the daily activities of the occupant agencies. Today it still houses the post office on the main floor, although the facility has been demoted from main office to station status with the construction of the new building in 1967. The second floor is occupied by the U.S. Tax Court (in the original District courtroom), the U.S. Army Recruiting Center and offices of the Bureau of Land Management; the third floor houses the offices of the Small Business Administration. Although the Federal Building at Las Vegas is not quite fifty years old, its shortfall is so minor as to be almost moot. The building is an important structure for the city, both architecturally and historically; a pivotal building in the central business district, it is a local landmark for Las Vegas - the first federal building erected in the city and a well-executed and -preserved example of 20th century neoclassical architecture.

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CONTINUATION SHEET Federal Building/
U.S. Post Office ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 1

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Federal Building/
CONTINUATION SHEET U.S. Post Office ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 2

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INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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Federal Building/
CONTINUATION SHEET U.S. Post Office ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 3

U.S. Department of Treasury, Public Buildings Service. Site correspondence for U.S. Post Office and Courthouse. (General Correspondence, 1910-39; Entry 31; Box 1820). Provided by National Records Center, Suitland Maryland.

Vertical Files, Clark County Assessor, Clark County Courthouse, Las Vegas Nevada.

**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 *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. 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 entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name United States Post Office and Court House (amendment)

other names/site number Las Vegas Post Office and Courthouse, Federal Building/U.S. Post Office (Stewart Station)

2. Location

street & number 301 East Stewart Avenue (300 East Stewart Avenue as of February 1, 2005) not for publication

city or town Las Vegas vicinity

state Nevada code 32 county Clark code 003 zip code 89101

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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 nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Ronald W. Jann 4-8-05
Signature of certifying official Date

NV SHPO
State or Federal agency and bureau

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

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is: [Signature] Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

entered in the National Register
 See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the National Register
 See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register

removed from the National Register
 other, (explain): additional Documentation Accepted

Edson Beall 5/27/05

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.

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 a grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

See continuation sheets

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

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

Previous documentation on file (NPS)

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey

- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

- Politics/Government
- Architecture
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

Period of Significance

- 1930-1933
- 1950-1952
- _____
- _____

Significant Dates

- 1933
- 1950
- _____
- _____

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

- N/A
- _____

Cultural Affiliation

- N/A
- _____
- _____

Architect/Builder

Wetmore, James A. (Acting Supervising Architect)

Primary Location of Additional Data:

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

Name of repository:

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of Property 2 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

1
Zone Easting Northing
2

3
Zone Easting Northing
4

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.) See original National Register nomination

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.) See original National Register nomination

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Robert J. Chattel, AIA, Francesca Smith, Jenna Snow, Pilar LaValley, David Gest, Deanna Matsumoto

organization Chattel Architecture, Planning & Preservation, Inc. date January 28, 2005

street & number 13417 Ventura Boulevard telephone (818) 788-7954

city or town Sherman Oaks state California zip code 91423

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

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

Property Owner

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

name City of Las Vegas

street & number 400 Stewart Avenue telephone (702) 229-6011

city or town Las Vegas state NV zip code 89101

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the 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, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

United States Post Office and Court House (amendment)
Clark County, Nevada

Section 7 Page 1

7. Narrative Description

The physical appearance of the United States Post Office and Court House (USPOCH) was previously described in the original National Register nomination¹ (March 7, 1982) and Nevada Register registration form² (September 28, 2001). The following summarizes and updates the information in these sources; additional description is contained in the previous documents.

The United States Post Office and Court House is located on the north side of Stewart Avenue on a site that is approximately centered on Third Street (Figure 1). The location of the building was chosen to provide a vista to and from the building along Third Street intended to be grandiose (Figure 2). Situated within the six-block Civic Center on the northern edge of Las Vegas's central business district, the USPOCH building sits among several city buildings just south of the interstate freeway (I-95). City Hall is located east of the building across Fourth Street and the Downtown Transportation Center is located immediately north. The building is oriented south-southwest facing Stewart Avenue and is set back from the sidewalk in a small lawn, which is largely taken up with the wide granite stair that ascends from the sidewalk to the raised first floor level. Narrow grassy areas, planted with trees and palms, are situated along the front and side yards of the building (Photo 1).

In the original National Register nomination, the setting surrounding the building consisted of paved parking lots and several single-story buildings near the corner of Third Street and Stewart Avenue. With the exception of the single-story Downtown Transportation Center to the north of the building, the area on three sides of the USPOCH has changed very little in the intervening years. Significant new construction has occurred to the south of the USPOCH on the east and west sides of Third Street. The multi-story Lady Luck Casino, which occupies both sides of the street at its juncture with Stewart Avenue, towers over the three-story USPOCH. To connect the towers of the two buildings, a pedestrian bridge was constructed at the second floor level (Figure 3), which obscures vistas to and from the USPOCH building along Third Street. Although the scale of the Lady Luck Casino buildings, the thoughtless construction of the pedestrian bridge, and the intrusion of noise from the transportation center diminish the intended dignity and views of the USPOCH building, the building retains sufficient integrity of setting to convey its original planned site.

The building is massed as a three-story block with a front façade featuring a central colonnade flanked on both sides by massive end bays (Photo 2). This configuration, as well as the vertical hierarchy of base, shaft and capital, are stylistic elements common to late 19th and early 20th century Neoclassicism favored by the Treasury Department for federal architecture. The east and west elevations are five bays wide and mirror images of each other (Photos 3-4). On all elevations, the building features terra cotta cladding on the first floor and blended, yellow-colored brick on the upper floors. Double height fluted Ionic pilasters as well as much of the parapet at the flat roof are clad in terra cotta.

The rear (north) elevation is dominated by a two and one half-story projecting bay. This bay is flanked by three-story end bays of the main building (Photo 5). Off of the projecting bay, a full-width concrete platform or loading dock extends from the building. This platform is covered by a large cantilevered metal canopy supported by iron hangers and finished with a metal panel ceiling (Photo 6).

¹ Clayton Fraser, "Federal Building/U.S. Post Office" National Register of Historic Places Inventory Nomination Form, Las Vegas, Nevada, 7 March 1982, Section 7.

² Mella Harmon, "Las Vegas Post Office and Courthouse" Nevada Register Registration, September 28, 2001.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

United States Post Office and Court House (amendment)
Clark County, Nevada

Section 7 Page 2

Several alterations have been made to the exterior of the rear elevation, including replacement of the fascia of the cantilevered metal canopy covering the rear loading dock and addition of a three-story, steel egress stair on the rear façade (Photo 5). Construction of the new egress stair required demolition of ornamental terra cotta and brick as well as replacement of original windows with exit doors on all three floors of the building. While historic fabric was altered for the installation of the egress stair, the alteration is localized on a secondary elevation and therefore does not substantially diminish the integrity of material, design or workmanship.

The basement of the building is primarily a service area for the building. It contains mechanical equipment as well as maintenance and storage areas located along the central corridor (Photo 7). With the exception of updated mechanical equipment and installation of contemporary metal doors, the basement retains its basic configuration and many of its utilitarian finishes.

The first floor was originally punctuated with simply-framed wood windows and doors in arched openings, with a six-bay arcade on the front elevation. This arcade was originally open, leading to a shallow loggia that provided access to the main lobby. The openings were in-filled in the 1960s with aluminum windows/doors to create an enclosed entry vestibule, as noted in the original nomination. In addition, several of the fanlight sash over the first floor windows have been in-filled; however, the configuration and location of original fenestration appears to be intact.

The first floor of the building has functioned as post office space until the present time. Over the years, this space has been altered to accommodate expanded post office functions. In the early 1960s, the functional layout of the lobby was altered (post office boxes moved to the west and post office service windows were consolidated on the east) with additional space added for more boxes (Photo 8). The room was also subdivided with an ornamental grille and new service bays constructed (Photo 9). During this renovation, the public stairway was enclosed with a fire-wall and a suspended ceiling and lighting fixtures installed. The "imitation travertine" on the walls has also been over-painted. Behind the lobby area, the post office work space is essentially intact (Photos 10-11) with the exception of several partition wall additions and a new staircase between the basement and post office work space.

The second and third floors are organized as a series of offices or court support spaces along single, U-shaped hallways. As noted in the original nomination, the district courtroom was divided into two spaces in the early 1960s. The larger space was used as Federal Tax and Bankruptcy Court. Although the orientation and original judge's bench and associated furniture have been altered or removed, the room retains a high degree of integrity (Photos 12-13). The "imitation travertine" on the walls is over-painted but the fenestration as well as the original wood doors and marble surrounds are intact. The smaller space created by the new partition was used for offices and waiting room; it retains a majority of original finishes in good condition (Photo 14). At an unknown time, the interior stair situated between the courtroom and Judge's chambers was removed and the space reconfigured. This work did not alter the courtroom or Judge's chambers (Photo 15). On the third floor, the main corridor remains largely intact though altered with new doorways added (Photo 16). Several partition walls on the third floor have been removed to create a single, large, open office space (Photo 17).

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

United States Post Office and Court House (amendment)
Clark County, Nevada

Section 7 Page 3

Fire separation walls were added between corridors and to enclose the two interior stairs, at the northwest corner serving the post office function and at the southwest corner serving all levels. A small internal stair near the northeast corner was added between the basement and post office work room at unknown date.

Secondary spaces like the stairwells and toilets retain a number of original features, including finishes and lighting fixtures (Photo 18). The third floor women's restroom appears to retain its configuration and finishes from the 1930s, when it was the only public restroom for women in the entire building (Photo 19).

The majority of the alterations made to the building predate the original National Register nomination. Although the building has undergone some alteration, its integrity is notable. The USPOCH retains its integrity of setting, association, primary materials, including interior decorative materials, and relationship in a manner that accurately reflects the building's appearance during its established and expanded periods of significance (1931 - 1933 and 1950 - 1952).

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

United States Post Office and Court House (amendment)
Clark County, Nevada

Section 8 Page 1

Introduction

The United States Post Office and Court House (USPOCH) (called Federal Building/Post Office in original nomination) in Las Vegas was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in February 1983 at the local level of significance under criterion C. The original National Register nomination form focused primarily on design and construction of the building, and the property was listed for its "intrinsic and representational values...in two areas: architecture and politics/government,"³ with a period of significance from 1930 to 1933 (the construction period). The building retains this significance but recent archival research has uncovered an important event of national significance that took place in the building.

On November 15, 1950, the Senate Special Committee to Investigate Organized Crime in Interstate Commerce, led by U.S. Senator Estes Kefauver (Tennessee, Democrat), held the seventh in a series of 14 nationwide hearings in the courtroom of the building. The important national context of the Kefauver hearings has been a topic of public interest since the 1950s. However, only in the last several years has sufficient time passed to evaluate the hearings, the first of their kind to be broadcast on the fledging media of television, and their widespread influence on postwar United States. The following documentation is provided to amend the previous nomination to include the building's association with the Senate Special Committee to Investigate Organized Crime in Interstate Commerce.

8. Narrative Statement of Significance

The Post Office and Court House in Las Vegas is historically significant from 1930 - 1933 and 1950 - 1952 under two National Register criteria. The building is nationally significant under Criterion A for its association with the Senate Special Committee to Investigate Organized Crime in Interstate Commerce (known as the "Kefauver committee"⁴), which held the seventh of 14 nationwide hearings at the building in 1950. The Kefauver committee investigation contributed to and accelerated the national debate on organized crime that developed after World War II and influenced the growth of the gaming industry in Nevada, particularly in the city of Las Vegas. In addition, the building is locally significant under Criterion C for architecture that is "representative of the eclectic revivalism which distinguished most public buildings designed by the Treasury Department's Supervising Architect's office in the 1920s and 1930s"⁵ and as the "first federal building erected in Las Vegas."⁶

History of the Building

Built as part of an enormous federal construction program undertaken by Congress and the Hoover Administration in the late 1920s and early 1930s, the United States Post Office and Court House was one of nearly 1,300 federal civic buildings erected across the country. Under the onus of the U.S. Treasury Department's Acting Supervising Architect, James A Wetmore (1915 - 1933), the building design was one that was commonly used, with minor modifications, by the department. The *Evening Review* reported on August 1,

³ Clayton Fraser, "Federal Building / U.S. Post Office," National Register of Historic Places Inventory Nomination Form, Las Vegas, Nevada, 7 March 1982, Section 8.

⁴ Max Miller, "Gaming 'Overloads' Tie with Nevada Interests Hinted," *Las Vegas Review-Journal* 15 November 1950.

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ Ibid.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

United States Post Office and Court House (amendment)
Clark County, Nevada

Section 8 Page 2

1931 that the building, as designed, "will be a three story structure with full basement of brick and terra cotta construction – one of the finest of the smaller post offices now being built, treasury department [*sic*] officials declared."⁷

Local boosting for a federal building had begun in 1911, with repeated entreaties throughout the 1910s and 1920s. On June 28, 1924, the *Las Vegas Age* ran a lengthy article, which stated:

There are no government buildings erected in the southern part of the State...With a population of 4500 people, and with the population steadily increasing, and with no possibility of its growth being stopped or even retarded, we feel that we are entitled to proper post office facilities...

The influx of workers for the massive Hoover Dam construction project in 1931 brought thousands of new residents into southern Nevada. At the start of construction, inadequate housing in Black Canyon forced workers either to commute from Las Vegas or to live in tents adjacent to the site, a situation that increased the population of Las Vegas almost overnight. These new residents swelled the small desert town and overtaxed services, including the small building that served as the post office. The United States Post Office and Court House, the first federal building in Las Vegas, was dedicated on November 11, 1933. The post office officially opened for business on November 27, 1933 with Frank F. Garside, postmaster, replacing C.K Ryan.⁸

Federal Judge Paul McCormick from Los Angeles, best known for ruling against segregation,⁹ presided over the first session of the federal court in Las Vegas on March 2, 1934.¹⁰ Because Nevada had only one federal judge, located in Carson City, other federal judges, often from Los Angeles and San Francisco, traveled to Las Vegas twice a year, in the spring and fall, to hear cases. In his preliminary remarks, Judge McCormick said,

this building and court-room [*sic*] are a credit to the genius of the engineering persons who brought it into being and had to do with its construction. It is dignified and elegant. Let us hope that the character of the work done here will be in keeping with this... It is hoped that justice may always prevail here. We should all do our part in this district; all can uphold the traditions of federal judiciary.¹¹

Throughout the 1930s and 1940s, federal court cases heard at the USPOCH focused on prohibition, white prostitution, and interstate commerce, including interstate financial transactions dealing with bankruptcy. For example, during the second session of federal court, which opened on May 1, 1934, with Judge A.F. St. Sure

⁷ Quoted in Mella Harmon, "Las Vegas Post Office and Courthouse," Nevada Register Registration, Las Vegas, Nevada, September 27, 2001, Section 8.

⁸ "Armistice Day Rites Turned into a Civil Ceremony Today," *Las Vegas Review Journal* 11 November 1933.

⁹ Vicki L. Ruiz, "South by Southwest: Mexican Americans and Segregated Schooling, 1900-1950," *Organization of American Historians Magazine of History* 15 (Winter 2001), <<http://www.oah.org/pubs/magazine/deseg/ruiz.html>>.

¹⁰ *Las Vegas Review Journal*, 2 March 1934.

¹¹ "U.S. Court Session Opened Here Today," *Las Vegas Review Journal*, 5 March 1934.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

United States Post Office and Court House (amendment)
Clark County, Nevada

Section 8 Page 3

from San Francisco presiding, a case was heard regarding mailing alcohol.¹² In addition, several cases during this period involved the question of residency as opposed to citizenship in suits requiring alimony.¹³

Dedicated in 1935, Hoover Dam continued to influence southern Nevada's economy. Trips to Hoover Dam were advertised to tourists in Las Vegas, describing it as "the greatest engineering marvel in the world"¹⁴ and the electrical power supplied by the dam encouraged additional growth in the region. Anticipating additional population influx, the Las Vegas Bar Association began advocating for two federal districts in Nevada, forming a committee to campaign for a federal judge to permanently preside at the courthouse.¹⁵ In early 1945, the Bar Association campaign achieved its goal, with President Franklin Delano Roosevelt appointing, and President Harry Truman commissioning, Judge Roger Thomas Foley (1886 - 1974) to the bench at the USPOCH.¹⁶

Born in Sioux City, Iowa, Judge Foley received his law degree from the University of Chicago Law School in 1910. He became a justice of the peace and a municipal judge in Las Vegas in 1929 after practicing law in Goldfield, Nevada and Los Angeles.¹⁷ In 1944, Judge Foley was a delegate to the Democratic National Convention.¹⁸ Judge Foley served as chief judge for the District of Nevada from 1954 until 1957.¹⁹

During Judge Foley's tenure as chief judge, federal law was expanded, resulting in an increased number of cases heard at USPOCH. Many cases during this period involved tax evasion, such as the investigation into Carl Cohen, a casino manager at the Sands, in 1965.²⁰ One of the most notorious tax evasion cases during this period occurred in early 1965, when Judge Foley decided on two cases connected to the Calcutta pool, a type of gambling scheme, wagered on the annual "Tournament of Companions" at the Desert Inn. In *D.I. Operating Company v. United States of America*, defendants claimed wagering taxes on the Calcutta pool were never paid while owners of the Desert Inn asserted that both golf tournament and Calcutta pool were losses in each year and reported thus in annual tax returns. However, the Desert Inn donated a minimum of \$35,000 to the Runyon Cancer Fund, less than 10 percent of the Calcutta pool each year except one. This amount was entered as a tax deduction in the books. Judge Foley ruled that the Desert Inn received indirect financial benefit from both the golf tournament and Calcutta pool and therefore taxes must be imposed on the Calcutta pool.²¹ In *United States of America and Thurston Snyder and James H. Lawhn, Special Agents, Internal Revenue Service, Plaintiffs, v. J.A. Donnelley*, the plaintiffs demanded access to tax records of Moe Dalitz and Wilbur Clark, two

¹² "Federal Court Opens Thursday," *Las Vegas Review Journal* 30 April 1934. Roger T. Foley represented Fred Rumph of the Golden Camel tavern, who was accused of mailing alcohol. When the case was heard a year later, Foley argued on Rumph's behalf that he had been mailing Christmas gifts to his parents. Rumph was found guilty and fined \$50.

¹³ While a few cases involving the construction of Hoover Dam were heard in 1933, they preceded the opening of the USPOCH in November of that year, and were not in the building. However, in the winter session of 1938, Judge Norcross most likely presided over the Hoover Dam-related case of *Ziemer vs. Babcock & Wilcox Co.* in the USPOCH. This case involved an employee of a company responsible for steel fabrication and installation at the dam, who sued to recover the amount of deductions from wages for transportation to the place of employment.

¹⁴ Hal Rothman, *Neon Metropolis; How Las Vegas Started the Twenty-First Century*, (New York: Routledge, 2003), 6.

¹⁵ "Las Vegas Bar Asks U.S. Judge Be Assigned Here Permanently," *Las Vegas Evening Review-Journal* 30 September 1937.

¹⁶ "Federal Judges of Nevada; Judges by Type and Dates of Service," 7 August 1998.

¹⁷ "Judges of the United States Courts," <www.fjc.gov/servlet/GetInfo?jid=772>.

¹⁸ "The Political Graveyard: Index to Politicians: Fogle to Folse" <politicalgraveyard.com/bio/fogleson-folse.html>.

¹⁹ Gloria J. Sturman, chair, *Diamond Jubilee Celebration; 75 Years of Service 1928-2003* (Las Vegas: State Bar of Nevada, 2003), 23.

²⁰ *U.S. v. Cohen*, 250F.Supp. 472.

²¹ *D.I. Operating Company v. U.S.*, 239F.Supp. 78.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

United States Post Office and Court House (amendment)
Clark County, Nevada

Section 8 Page 4

owners of the Desert Inn. Judge Foley decided the tax records had to be made available.²² These two cases are among several in which federal agents attempted to bring claims against Moe Dalitz.²³

Other cases heard at the court involved powerful local, state and national political, public, business, and suspected criminal figures. On November 15, 1950, Senator Estes Kefauver convened the seventh of 14 nationwide hearings of the Senate Special Committee to Investigate Organized Crime in Interstate Commerce at USPOCH. Witnesses who testified at the hearing included Nevada's Lieutenant Governor, Reno's Police Chief, and several prominent casino owners. In March 1952, casino owners canceled their *Las Vegas Sun* ads; founder and editor Herman "Hank" Greenspun discovered the boycott originated with a call from U.S. Senator Patrick "Pat" McCarran's (Nevada, Democrat) Washington office and cried foul.²⁴ Greenspun sued McCarran and 40 casino owners for a "conspiracy" against his newspaper. The trial was held at USPOCH with Judge Roger T. Foley ruling in favor of Greenspun.²⁵

In 1960, Judge William P. Compton was appointed judge to the Eighth Judicial District Court at USPOCH.²⁶ Judge Compton presided over *Marshall v. Sawyer*, which was heard at the courthouse in October 1960. In the first test of the newly formed Nevada Gaming Commission, John Marshall opposed his inclusion in the "black book," which listed "leading underworld figures" and "advised gambling interests throughout the state not to associate with anyone so listed."²⁷ The federal district court ruled in favor of the Gaming Commission, saying the commission "had acted reasonably in classifying individuals of notorious and unsavory reputation or extensive police records so that they are treated differently from others."²⁸

Nominated by President John Kennedy, Judge Roger D. Foley (1917 - 1996), son of Judge Roger T. Foley, was appointed district court judge in July 16, 1962 and presided at USPOCH.²⁹ The younger Judge Foley is best known for his ruling in the Baneberry Case, one of the cases that resulted in Congress' enactment of the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act of 1990. The case is named for a 1970 underground nuclear test that exposed 900 workers of the Nevada Test Site to radiation. Families of two security guards who died from the explosion filed a lawsuit against the government. While Judge Foley denied the families' claims, his ruling established the important legal precedent that "government agencies could not automatically evade scrutiny of their actions simply by invoking 'discretionary function.'"³⁰

In 1965, in an effort to house all federal offices in one building, a new federal building opened at 300 Las Vegas Boulevard South (this new building was renamed Foley Federal Building in the late 1980s). When the new

²² *U.S. v. Donnelly*, 241F.Supp. 200.

²³ Dalitz was previously interviewed in the courtroom during the Las Vegas hearing of the Kefauver committee investigation.

²⁴ Sally Denton and Roger Morris, *The Money and the Power: The Making of Las Vegas and its Hold on America* (New York: Vintage Books, 2001), 65.

²⁵ A. D. Hopkins and K.J. Evans, eds. *The First 100: Portraits of the Men and Women who Shaped Las Vegas* (Las Vegas: Huntington Press, 1999), 235-237.

²⁶ Sturman, 17.

²⁷ Russell R. Elliott, *History of Nevada* (Lincoln, NE: University of Nebraska Press, 1973), 333.

²⁸ Don W. Driggs and Leonard E. Goodall, *Nevada Politics and Government; Conservatism in an Open Society*, (Lincoln, Nebraska: University of Nebraska Press, 1996), 101.

²⁹ "Federal Judges of Nevada; Judges by Type and Dates of Service," 7 August 1998, Library of the U.S. Courts, Reno, Nevada.

³⁰ Sturman, 23.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

United States Post Office and Court House (amendment)
Clark County, Nevada

Section 8 Page 5

federal building opened, federal district court and associated offices vacated USPOCH. Shortly thereafter, the district courtroom in USPOCH was physically divided into two spaces. The larger space was used as a federal bankruptcy and tax court, while the smaller space was used for offices and waiting room for the Social Security Administration (SSA). The federal bankruptcy and tax court, as well as SSA, vacated the building in 2004.

The General Services Administration transferred the building to the City of Las Vegas in 2002. Transfer included a deed covenant requiring that the National Park Service review any proposed plans for the rehabilitation or reuse of the building. The US Postal Service (USPS) lease of the building expires in February 2005; currently, the post office is preparing to vacate the building.

Additional information regarding the construction and design history of the building is available in the original National Register Nomination and the Nevada Register Registration form.

Criterion A: Association with Kefauver committee

Criterion A applies to the building's association with the hearings that were held by the Senate Special Committee to Investigate Organized Crime in Interstate Commerce (later known as the Kefauver committee and referred to as such throughout). The committee was active from 1950 through 1952 and would, over its tenure, "hold sessions in 14 cities, travel 52,000 miles, hear 800 witnesses, and file four reports"³¹ in its efforts to expose the roots of politico-criminal corruption and crime in interstate commerce. Chaired by Tennessee senator Estes Kefauver, the two year (1950-1952) investigation revolutionized the (then) new medium of television, had a profound impact on the perception of organized crime in America, and contributed to the explosive growth of Las Vegas as the entertainment and gaming capital of the country.

Carey Estes Kefauver,³² chair of the Senate Special Committee, was born in 1903 on a farm near Madisonville, Tennessee. A graduate of the University of Tennessee and law program of Yale University, Kefauver was admitted to the bar in 1926 and commenced practice in Chattanooga, Tennessee. A life-long Democrat, he was elected to and served in Congress from 1939 to 1949. Kefauver successfully ran for the U.S. Senate in 1949, serving until his death in 1963. As a result of national attention gained during his chairmanship of the Senate Special Committee, he made bids for the presidency in 1952 and 1956 and the vice-presidency in 1956 on the Democratic ticket with Adlai Stevenson. These bids were unsuccessful.

Through the 1920s, 1930s, and early 1940s, crime, particularly as it related to gambling, was considered a disorganized, local, law enforcement issue. There was, in fact, no official consensus that organized crime existed. Federal involvement in the crime issue was essentially limited to occasional conferences, oversight of narrowly focused programs, and enforcement of Prohibition laws. By the mid-1940s increased incidence of crime led to additional publicity from news media and establishment of local crime commissions. Published reports by local crime commissions and sensationalistic newspaper stories caused public awareness, interest, and concern regarding crime to increase throughout the 1940s. One of the most provocative elements of the issue, and the items that garnered the most media and public attention, was crime syndicates or gangs,

³¹ Denton and Morris, 82.

³² Kefauver, Carey Estes (1903-1963) Biographical Information, Biographical Directory of the United States Congress, 1744-Present. 11 May 2004. <<http://bioguide.congress.gov/scripts/biodisplay.pl?index=K000044>>.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

United States Post Office and Court House (amendment)
Clark County, Nevada

Section 8 Page 6

commonly referred to as the "Mafia," "Syndicate," or "Mob," and the "bosses" of these organizations such as Frank Costello, Al Capone, and Lucky Luciano. As public interest grew, newspaper publishers and reporters increasingly devoted time and resources to investigative reports on organized crime and "mobsters" or "hoodlums." In 1950, 14 newspapers organized to release a series of articles that "centered on [Frank] Costello as the 'alleged overlord of an underworld federation' and on the Continental Press [wire service] as the 'outstanding integrating force in the farflung hoodlum world of local and regional dynasties.'"³³

As concern and interest in crime and criminal organizations was growing, so too was the popularity of gambling. In the interwar years, gambling's "popularity skyrocketed as bingo games, 'bank night' at the movies, and numbers games reached into the pockets of all levels of society."³⁴ In addition to these popular but generally small-stakes games, interest in horse and dog racing was revived. In the early 20th-century, many states banned such racing; by 1906 only Maryland, Kentucky, and New York retained legalized horse racing.³⁵ Throughout the 1930s, public interest in horse and dog racing led states to reconsider their previous bans and to permit pari-mutuel³⁶ on-track betting as a way of raising state revenues. With the exception of pari-mutuel on-track betting, very few other types of gambling were legalized by any State government other than Nevada (in 1931). While gaming activities, which were mostly illegal, were disparaged, they were rarely deterred by federal or State law enforcement, which was insubstantial. With the lack of enforcement and clarity between jurisdictional lines, State and local laws were weak regarding gambling, which allowed several large gaming operations to exist in various parts of the country. Hot Springs, Arkansas, Phoenix City, Arizona, Covington, Kentucky, and the waters of California housed active casinos from the 1920s through 1940s. The federal government took little official interest in gambling, legal or illegal, until public outcry and concern with criminal organizations and their relationship with the gaming industry made it too difficult for Congress to ignore.

Just as the crime issue was gaining widespread attention, Kefauver entered the U.S. Senate. The new senator had won his Senate seat by "deliberate cultivation of the public and press" and his victory likely set him "thinking of higher office."³⁷ With this, as well as future re-election bids, in mind, Kefauver quickly sought popular issues around which he could define himself. One issue he chose to focus on was crime, which federal political forces had recently been "forced to react to" as a result of the "vocal anticrime movement of the late 1940s."³⁸

To avoid any appearance of opportunism, Kefauver related his interest in organized crime to his work as Chairman of a House Judiciary subcommittee, which had put him in contact with crime reporters and local crime commission reports that supported the notion of crime as a national, organized system. Initially, Kefauver appeared to be focused on legislative approaches to limiting crime; however, historian William Moore notes that

³³ William Howard Moore, *The Kefauver Committee and the Politics of Crime, 1950-1952* (Columbia, MO: The University of Missouri Press, 1974), 41.

³⁴ Moore, 17.

³⁵ The exception to this was horse and dog racing which was, by the late 1930s, legalized in numerous states including Maryland, Kentucky, New York, and Nevada.

³⁶ A system of betting on horse or dog races using an electronic machine that totals all bets, deducts management charges and taxes, and determines the final odds and payouts.

³⁷ Moore, 46-47.

³⁸ Moore, 41.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

United States Post Office and Court House (amendment)
Clark County, Nevada

Section 8 Page 7

discussions with several experts and calls by crime commissions...for broader federal government investigations shifted Kefauver's approach toward a more comprehensive congressional inquiry into gambling and racketeering.³⁹

As a result of this shift in thinking, on January 5, 1950, Kefauver formally introduced Senate Resolution 202, which called for the Judiciary committee on which he served to direct "a full and complete study and investigation of interstate gambling and racketeering activities and of the manner in which the facilities of interstate commerce are made a vehicle of organized crime."⁴⁰ The Senator stressed that only through such an exhaustive study could Congress substantiate the rumors of nationwide crime syndicates, and if true, intelligently legislate on the problem.

In the machinations to establish the investigative committee, Kefauver had to fend off fellow freshman Senator, Joseph McCarthy (Wisconsin, Republican). Like Kefauver, McCarthy was interested in broadening his political visibility and felt that he was the better candidate for overseeing the proposed investigation. After being outmaneuvered by Kefauver on the crime issue, McCarthy chose to focus on the other "hot-button" topic of the time: Communist infiltration of the United States. McCarthy continued on this course, overseeing the McCarthy-Army hearings in the mid-1950s and later, the House Un-American Activities Committee. Local historian Michael Green described the Kefauver hearings within the context of the Cold War and McCarthyism. The Kefauver hearings are distinct, according to Green, as they examined "a national...network that affected the daily lives of millions," while the McCarthy Hearings questioned "loyalty and patriotism of those suspected of communism and spying."⁴¹

Beyond the interest of McCarthy, there appears to have been little fraternal support of the hearings within the Congress. According to historians Sally Denton and Roger Morris, the "Congress and White House" worked feverishly behind the scenes to "emasculate the investigation."⁴² In particular, a major obstacle was the "bulky, cantankerous" Chairman of the Judiciary Committee, Nevada Senator Pat McCarran.⁴³ McCarran, an avid defender of Nevada's legalized gambling industry, delayed the establishment of the proposed committee by nearly two months, insisting that Kefauver expand the investigation's "scope to include all organized crime, including prostitution, narcotics, loan-sharking, organized murder, extortion, and labor racketeering, as well as gambling."⁴⁴ Additional Congressional in-fighting ensued with various sub-committees, committees, and politicians either delaying creation of the proposed committee or angling for a piece of the action. Finally, a double murder in Kansas City, widely reported as being related to gangland rivalries in the area, helped break the legislative impasse in authorizing the committee.⁴⁵ Even with the publicity of these murders propelling the issue forward, creation of the proposed committee withered for an additional month. The committee was finally officially authorized by the Senate on May 10, 1950.

³⁹ Moore, 48.

⁴⁰ Moore, 49.

⁴¹ Michael Green, "The Significance of the Kefauver Hearings on Local and National History," essay in "The POST Modern: Reinventing the United States Post Office and Court House, Las Vegas." Consultant [Chattel Architecture, Planning, and Preservation, Inc.] Report: Building Reuse Recommendations. Las Vegas, Nevada. 5 May 2004.

⁴² Denton and Morris, 81.

⁴³ Moore, 50.

⁴⁴ Moore, 51.

⁴⁵ Moore, 59 and in Denton and Morris, 81.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

United States Post Office and Court House (amendment)
Clark County, Nevada

Section 8 Page 8

The committee established by the Senate consisted of five Senators: three Democrats and two Republicans. Kefauver was appointed chair, a position he served in until May 1951 when he stepped down and was replaced by Herbert R. O'Connor (Maryland, Democrat), who served as the Chair of the committee from May through September 1951. Prior to becoming chairman, O'Connor served on the committee under Kefauver's chairmanship. The other Senators appointed to the committee included, Lester C. Hunt (Wyoming, Democrat), Charles W. Tobey (New Hampshire, Republican) and Alexander Wiley (Wisconsin, Republican). In addition to the Senators, the committee included Harold G. Robinson, head of staff investigators⁴⁶ and Rudolph Halley, chief counsel.⁴⁷

In the context of the period, the Kefauver committee unquestionably reflected the political and public mood, particularly as it related to crime. Numerous committees and commissions at all levels of government had convened throughout the 1930s and 1940s to report on this issue. However, the Senate Special Committee to Investigate Organized Crime in Interstate Commerce was a "full-scale Senate investigation of crime in interstate commerce,"⁴⁸ the "first – and last – of its kind, a sweeping, uncircumscribed mandate to look into the depths of the systematic, systemic vice and political corruptions that had come to rule so much of the nation since Prohibition."⁴⁹

Much of the Kefauver committee's work, including its choice of hearing sites, was an outgrowth of the efforts of local crime commissions and investigative newspaper reports. With the exception of Washington, DC, the locations for the hearings were chosen based upon previously documented, or suspected, criminal activities related to organized crime. The majority of these localities were the country's historic, urban centers; however, several smaller cities were also chosen for their documented links to criminal activities and suspected crime bosses. Besides Washington, DC, 13 cities were chosen as locations for the Kefauver committee hearings. The committee heard witnesses in Los Angeles and San Francisco, California, Miami and Tampa, Florida, Chicago, Illinois, New Orleans, Louisiana, Detroit, Michigan, Kansas City and St. Louis, Missouri, Las Vegas, Nevada, New York, New York, Cleveland, Ohio, and Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Hearings were generally held in federal buildings or courthouses in the afore-mentioned cities. In the cities the committee visited more than once, different buildings may have housed the hearings. Therefore, 18 buildings appear to have been associated with the Kefauver committee.⁵⁰ Of the 18, 17 are still extant, including:

- Cleveland Federal Building and Courthouse (Cleveland, Ohio)

⁴⁶ Charles L. Fontenay, *Estes Kefauver: A Biography*, (Knoxville: The University of Tennessee Press, 1980), 168, and in "State Agent Gets Senate Crime Job," *Los Angeles Times* 17 May 1950. Robinson was a former FBI agent from Burlingame, California, who had served as chief investigator for California Crime Commission. During the course of the committee's work, he headed an investigative staff of 28. Prior to joining the staff of this committee, Robinson had previously served as chief investigator for the Senate Special Committee to Investigate the National Defense Program [known as Truman Committee] (1941-1948).

⁴⁷ According to Fontenay (pg. 168), Halley was assisted by seven-member legal staff, plus special counsel in several major cities. He had previously served on the Senate Special Committee to Investigate the National Defense Program [known as Truman Committee] (1941-1948) and Senate Special Committee to Investigate Gasoline and Fuel-Oil Shortages (1941-1944).

⁴⁸ Estes Kefauver, *Crime in America*, (Garden City, New York: Doubleday & Company, Inc., 1951), 2.

⁴⁹ Denton and Morris, 81.

⁵⁰ Sites were identified by research provided by the University of Tennessee at Knoxville's Special Collections Library and Kefauver Committee hearing transcripts.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

United States Post Office and Court House (amendment)
Clark County, Nevada

Section 8 Page 9

- United States Courthouse (Los Angeles, California)
- Miami-Dade County Courthouse (Miami, Florida)
- David W. Dyer Federal Building and United States Courthouse (Miami, Florida)
- John Minor Wisdom United States Court of Appeals Building (New Orleans, Louisiana)
- Whitney Bank Building (New Orleans, Louisiana)
- United States Courthouse at Foley Square (New York, New York)
- Robert N.C. Nix Federal Building and Courthouse (Philadelphia, Pennsylvania)
- United States Court of Appeals, Ninth Circuit (San Francisco, California)
- United States Courthouse (Tampa, Florida)
- Federal Building and United States Post Office (Las Vegas, Nevada)
- Theodore Levin United States Courthouse (Detroit, Michigan)
- United States Courthouse and Post Office (Kansas City, Missouri)
- United States Courthouse and Customhouse (St. Louis, Missouri)
- Home Owners Loan Corporation Building (Washington, DC)

The Old Post Office Building and United States Courthouse in Chicago, Illinois, where hearings were held October 5-7, 1950, was demolished in 1966.⁵¹ (See attached continuation sheets for additional information regarding these buildings).

Of the 17 extant buildings where the Kefauver committee held hearings, 11 are listed in the National Register of Historic Places. None of these National Register listings are related to the building's association with the Kefauver committee hearings. In general, these National Register-listed buildings have been recognized for their architectural merits — encompassing Neoclassical, Beaux Arts, Art Deco, Moderne, Italian Renaissance, and Spanish-Mediterranean Revival styles — and, in many cases, for the buildings' prominent siting as powerful reminders of the federal presence in their respective cities.

As a collection of resources, the 11 extant buildings that housed the Kefauver committee hearings each contribute to the historic context of the Senate Special Committee to Investigate Organized Crime in Interstate Commerce. Each building served a similar purpose during the hearings and all saw testimony by important political, law enforcement, and suspected gangster witnesses. Although the investigation examined particular cases or events, the focus was on obtaining a broad understanding of organized crime and how it functioned through interstate commerce. Therefore, with the exception of the federal buildings noted above, there are no other physical locations specifically associated with the work or effect of the Kefauver committee. But for these buildings, there is no other physical representation of the history of the committee.

Although the Kefauver committee only spent a portion of one day hearing testimony at the USPOCH, the overall effect of the committee investigation on Las Vegas is unique among those cities where the hearings were held. As a result of the Kefauver committee investigation, Las Vegas arose as the center of the gambling and gaming industry in the United States. The effect of the Kefauver committee in Las Vegas is so singular that it increases the importance of this individual building, making it the ideal place to recognize the national significance of the committee's investigation and its effects on organized crime and gambling across the country.

⁵¹ Detailed descriptions of all the buildings mentioned are included in the Appendix.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

United States Post Office and Court House (amendment)
Clark County, Nevada

Section 8 Page 10

It was only after several months of investigation and hearing testimony that the Kefauver committee began to consider convening a hearing in Las Vegas. According to historians Sally Denton and Roger Morris, in the late summer and early fall of 1950, the committee staff had a growing sense that "many of the lines from the disparate criminal dominion they were discovering seemed to converge on a still-small town in the Nevada desert."⁵² As a result of these findings, Kefauver added a day of hearings in Las Vegas to the committee's schedule. Intended as a quick stopover on the way to the more publicized hearings in California, the brief day of testimony in Las Vegas occurred on November 15, 1950 in the courtroom of the United States Post Office and Court House. Between witnesses, Kefauver stated to reporters that the "reason we are in Nevada" was because the committee was in "possession of information that would indicate ownership in Nevada enterprises by those who are carrying on illegal transactions in other states."⁵³

The hearing in Las Vegas concentrated on alliances with organized crime in other areas of the country, such as New York, New Jersey, Michigan, Texas, and Ohio. As part of the investigation in Las Vegas, the committee subpoenaed and interviewed Nevada Tax Commissioner William Moore, Nevada Lieutenant Governor Clifford Jones, businessman Henry Phillips, attorney Louis Weiner, Reno Chief of Police L.R. Greeson, casino owner Wilbur Ivern Clark, casino owner Moe Sedway, and businessman Robert J. Kaltenborn for their alleged connection with organized crime.

Press coverage of the committee's work was substantial due to the "crusading" nature of the investigation and to previous public response to media reporting of local crime commission activities and sensationalistic investigative reports on crime. In general, Kefauver was supportive of the media's interest in the committee and made himself, as the chairman, accessible to reporters and photographers. Yet, even as a politician with experience in courting the media, Kefauver may have been unaware of the impact the burgeoning medium of television would have on the committee, and on his personal fortunes, when he agreed to allow television cameras into hearings in New Orleans, Louisiana.

At the hearings in New Orleans on January 25, 1951, television cameras broadcast the Kefauver committee hearings for the first time. From the outset, public response was overwhelming with overflow crowds in attendance at the next day's hearing and over 1300 written comments submitted to the local broadcasting station.⁵⁴ Spurred on by the public's positive response to televised hearings in New Orleans, reporters in subsequent committee locations obtained permission to provide television coverage. By the time the committee arrived in New York, television stations across the nation were broadcasting the hearings, making them one of the first televised events to reach a massive, nationwide audience and revolutionizing the (then) new medium of television.

It is estimated that 20 to 30 million people — twice the audience of the 1950 World Series⁵⁵ — flocked to restaurants, bars and neighbors' homes to watch the all-day hearings on television. Consequently, "television made the committee's hearings among the most influential in American history...Americans watched spellbound

⁵² Denton and Morris, 85.

⁵³ "Gaming Overlords' Tie with Nevada Interests Hinted," *Las Vegas Review-Journal*, Wednesday, November 15, 1950.

⁵⁴ Moore, 168.

⁵⁵ Stephen Fox, *Blood and Power: Organized Crime in Twentieth Century America* (New York: William Morrow and Company, Inc., 1989), 320.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

United States Post Office and Court House (amendment)
Clark County, Nevada

Section 8 Page 11

as crime bosses, bookies, pimps, and hitmen appeared on their television screens.⁵⁶ Among the most identifiable images from the hearings is a close-up of Frank Costello's hands:

[Frank Costello] threatened twice to walk out of the hearings, and did, but returned meekly later to answer questions. At one point, the committee ordered television cameras kept off his face, so he would not have an excuse to walk out; only his nervously writhing hands were shown on the screens.⁵⁷

As Meg Greenfield states in *Newsweek*, "It was very dramatic and maybe the first of the unforgettable TV sequences that came to make up our new nationally shared TV memory bank."⁵⁸

The popularity of the hearings was so extensive that in New York, Consolidated Edison had to add an extra generator to power all the television sets tuned to the event. Activity on the streets of New York was altered during the hearings with "stores deserted during the 'Kefauver hours' and swamped during the committee's noon recess"⁵⁹ and people in Chicago stood in 15-degree weather, watching television screens through store windows.⁶⁰ As many as "seventeen times as many people viewed the morning telecasts [of hearings] as watched the usual programming and over 80 percent of those who watched television observed the hearings."⁶¹ The broadcast of the hearings was so significant to television history that the Academy of Television Arts and Sciences awarded the show a special Emmy.

The far-reaching broadcast of the hearings dramatically raised the profile of organized crime in the United States, highlighting politico-criminal corruption as a national security threat and paving the way for Senator Joseph McCarthy and the televised hearings on communism. According to Kefauver in 1951, "the successful solution of our foreign affairs depends first upon a healthy vigorous nation at home" — as opposed to one with "corruption within."⁶²

All of the publicity from the televised hearings also impacted Kefauver's public image. As the most visible and authoritative member of the committee, he garnered the most publicity, in effect leaping from "obscurity to national prominence overnight" and becoming the "first television politician."⁶³ As befits a nationally prominent figure, he received tens of thousands of letters from citizens and found himself on the cover of *Time* on March 12, 1951.

In the face of all of this media exposure, Kefauver and his committee held several closed sessions in Washington, DC in late March, early April 1951. During these sessions, the committee heard testimony from several witnesses that had dodged them on the road and also prepared to issue one of the last of the

⁵⁶ "Kefauver Committee." 22 March 2004.

<http://www.digitalhistory.uh.edu/database/article_display_printable.cfm?HHID+505>

⁵⁷ Fontenay, 183.

⁵⁸ Meg Greenfield, "The Television Question," *Newsweek* 23 December 1991, 74.

⁵⁹ "The Kefauver Show," *American Heritage*, Jul/Aug. 2000, Vol. 51 Issue 4, pg. 82-3.

⁶⁰ Moore, 184.

⁶¹ Ibid.

⁶² Estes Kefauver, "Crime in America: Its Effect on Foreign Relations" (Speech delivered at Columbia University, New York, July 10, 1951).

⁶³ Ibid.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

United States Post Office and Court House (amendment)
Clark County, Nevada

Section 8 Page 12

investigation's four official reports. In general, the reports were to the effect that "nationwide crime syndicates existed and that their existence depended on the support or tolerance of public officials."⁶⁴

The March 1951 *Time* magazine cover story on Kefauver summarized many of the committee's findings. At the conclusion of the investigation, the committee felt that they had "turned up a sinister pattern of organized crime in the U.S." and that evidence demonstrated that such crime is "not limited to any single community of any single state, but occurs all over the country."⁶⁵ The committee also concluded that organized crime in the U.S. is "Big Business," which is dominated by at least two major crime outfits: the Capone Syndicate and the New York Syndicate.⁶⁶ The committee also stated that since repeal of Prohibition laws, the afore-mentioned Syndicates were focused on a new criminal bonanza: big-time gambling, organized on a big-time scale. An additional concern of the committee was that criminal organizations and crime "bosses" appeared to have crept into legitimate businesses, hiding their ill-gotten gains and illegitimate activities through legal companies.

Although it had wide public support, attained a frenzy of positive publicity, and launched Kefauver's Presidential campaign, the legislative results of the Kefauver committee were slim and slow in coalescing. Having established that organized crime was a nationwide problem, the Kefauver committee ruled out a Congressional regulatory approach, leaving much of the responsibility to state and local authorities. After the glare of the television lights had faded, select Senators continued to call for anti-crime laws. Several such laws were eventually enacted but not until the early 1960s. In 1961, Congress enacted the Wire Act as part of a series of antiracketeering laws to help states enforce their own gambling and bookmaking laws. Other contemporary antiracketeering laws included the Travel Act, which prohibited interstate travel to promote or manage racketeering businesses, the Interstate Transportation of Wagering Paraphernalia Act, and the Illegal Gambling Business Act.⁶⁷

While it may not have resulted in immediate federal legislative action, the Kefauver committee and its aftermath had a profound impact at the local and state level. Several states passed anti-gambling legislation and local law enforcement cracked down on criminal activities and criminals in states such as Florida, California, Illinois and Missouri. The effect of the committee in Nevada and Las Vegas, however, was somewhat different, and in many ways singular. Although it is difficult to document, it is arguable that the most significant outcome of the Kefauver committee was the establishment of Las Vegas as the organized crime and gaming capital of the United States.

In 1869, only five years after becoming a state, Nevada passed legislation legalizing gambling.⁶⁸ Legalization of gambling, along with liberal divorce laws enacted in the early 1860s, was intended to boost the new state's meager economy.⁶⁹ While these measures surely helped, the state's initial growth and development was

⁶⁴ Fontenay, 184.

⁶⁵ "Crime Hunter Kefauver," *Time*, March 12, 1951, 22.

⁶⁶ The Capone Syndicate, headed by Tony Accardo, Charles Fischetti and Jake Guzik, specializing in bookmaking and the New York Syndicate, headed by Frank Costello and Joe Doto, specializing in gambling casinos, slot machines, crap games. Quoted from *Time*, March 12, 1951, 22.

⁶⁷ Chuck Humphrey, "Gambling Law US" <<http://rose.casinocitytimes.com/articles/1015.html>>.

⁶⁸ Elliott, 248.

⁶⁹ Richard G. Lillard, *Desert Challenge; An Interpretation of Nevada* (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1942) 343-346.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

United States Post Office and Court House (amendment)
Clark County, Nevada

Section 8 Page 13

relatively slow. In 1911, reformers pushed for and passed legislation repealing legalized gambling;⁷⁰ gambling remained illegal in Nevada until 1931. The re-legalization of gambling in the 1930s was, like its predecessor legislation, intended to spur economic growth. But in "spite of the immediate and occasionally noisy welcome in some cities, legalized gambling made no startling gains during the 1930s."⁷¹ In Las Vegas, this continued to be true until 1946, when Benjamin "Bugsy" Siegel opened the Flamingo Hotel.

The most extravagant casino hotel ever built in Las Vegas to that point, the Flamingo Hotel rose out of the desert as part of Siegel's vision for what gambling and Las Vegas could become. Built at a cost of over \$5 million, the Flamingo was initially a total flop, causing its investors significant concern. These investors could soon rest easy, however, because within months of re-opening (it was closed for several months while construction was completed), the Flamingo fulfilled, and surpassed, Siegel's financial predictions. The Flamingo not only began the trend for grandiose scale in all casino hotels that would follow, but Siegel's history, and his spectacular death, sparked rumors, which would continue to grow over the years, that organized crime was involved in Las Vegas.

In the face of the Flamingo's financial success, other casinos of a similar scale and luxuriousness were constructed, including the Desert Inn in 1950, and the Sahara and Sands in 1952. After 1952, when the rest of the country was outlawing gambling and cracking down on illegal gambling operations in the wake of the Kefauver committee investigation, the Las Vegas strip underwent one of the largest construction booms in its history. The Riviera Hotel opened in 1956, followed by the Dunes, Royal Nevada, New Frontier, Moulin Rouge, Stardust, and the Tropicana.⁷² Clearly, the Kefauver committee investigation, which had just publicly confirmed that "Benjamin "Bugsy" Siegel had been associated with mob leaders" and "indicated in addition that a number of racketeers were still operating in Nevada gambling,"⁷³ had little negative effect on Las Vegas. Even the creation by the State of Nevada of the Gaming Control Board, a division of the Nevada Tax Commission meant to oversee licensing and policing procedures of the casinos,⁷⁴ which was clearly Nevada's response to attention brought about by the Kefauver investigation, did little to slow the city's growth. The Las Vegas gambling boom stood in stark contrast to what was occurring in other parts of the country.

In response to the cacophony surrounding the Kefauver committee hearings, California, Arizona, Montana and Massachusetts passed anti-gambling legislation in 1950, leaving Nevada operators a monopoly on legal casinos for the next quarter century.⁷⁵ In cities and states where Kefauver committee hearings were held, law enforcement cracked down on crime, particularly illegal gambling operations, forcing those involved in these activities to go legit or find a new location. Forced to relocate, many chose to make their way to Nevada where gambling was legal. According to local historian Susan Berman, the Kefauver committee ultimately benefited Las Vegas in that it:

⁷⁰ Elliott, 248.

⁷¹ Elliot, 280.

⁷² Susan Berman, *Lady Las Vegas: The Inside Story Behind America's Neon Oasis* (New York: A&E Network and TV Books, Inc., 1996), 91.

⁷³ Elliott, 328.

⁷⁴ Driggs and Goodall, 99.

⁷⁵ Several historians believe that Nevada gambling interests helped finance anti-gambling legislation in these states.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

United States Post Office and Court House (amendment)
Clark County, Nevada

Section 8 Page 14

spurred exiled gambling operators to settle in the West. Black money from all over America poured into Vegas, from the top dons of the New York, Chicago, and Havana Syndicate and from the illegal casino operations in Boston, Miami, New Orleans, St. Louis, Cleveland, Dallas, Phoenix, and Los Angeles. Vegas found a new source of major capital.⁷⁶

Other authors have also commented on organized crime's investment in Las Vegas, with Ed Reid and Ovid Demaris estimating in their book, *The Green Felt Jungle*, that by 1962 the mob had up to \$300 million invested in Las Vegas.⁷⁷ Given the amount of money that is purported to have flowed from organized crime coffers into Las Vegas between 1947 and the early 1960s, it is easy to connect this cash flow to the costly construction of the Strip's new casino hotels. It is also possible to relate the timing of this investment to the Kefauver committee investigation.

The boom in the casinos coincided with the rest of the city's development. Susan Berman, a child resident of Las Vegas during the 1950s, remembers that the

middle Fifties saw the major urban development of Las Vegas as a city in conjunction with the spectacular Strip expansion. The first churches, schools, and subdivisions were built, and Nellis Air Force base was expanded.⁷⁸

During this period, the population of Nevada and Las Vegas also exploded. In his history of Nevada, Russell Elliott notes that while population in the west during the mid-20th century grew, in general, population in Nevada during the same period exploded. Elliott states that

since 1950, Nevada has been the nation's fastest growing state, with a percentage increase for the 1950s of 78.2 and for the 1960s of 71.3...Las Vegas officially became Nevada's largest city in 1960, with a population of 64,405...Ten years later its population had almost doubled to 125,780.⁷⁹

Also coincident with this growth was the expanding tax revenue generated by the gambling industry. Reid and Demaris note that between 1931 and 1945, state tax revenue from gambling was relatively static, averaging \$30,000 per year. In their 1963 book, they note that the previous year's tax revenue from gambling was a "whopping \$15 million."⁸⁰ In terms of shaping an industry and a regional economy, it is clear that Las Vegas suffered minimal negative effects from the Kefauver committee investigation and the anti-crime hysteria that was found in other states. If anything, it seems that Las Vegas benefited, at least financially, from the hearings.

Ultimately, the hearings were of as epic a consequence for the future of Las Vegas as the building of Hoover Dam and the advent of air conditioning. According to historian Michael Green, in the wake of the Kefauver hearings, "rather than driving out organized crime, it became more entrenched, with Las Vegas attracting other illegal operators from elsewhere who built the neon-lit Strip that burned itself into the world's consciousness."⁸¹

⁷⁶ Berman, 102. Also noted in Denton and Morris, 116.

⁷⁷ Ed Reid and Ovid Demaris, *The Green Felt Jungle* (New York: Trident Press, 1963), 6.

⁷⁸ Berman, 99.

⁷⁹ Elliott, 325.

⁸⁰ Reid and Demaris, 12.

⁸¹ Michael Green.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

United States Post Office and Court House (amendment)
Clark County, Nevada

Section 8 Page 15

While illegal gambling operations went further underground in other states, a headline in *Life* magazine touted, "Nevada Brings it into Open and Gets Rich."⁸² The concentration of organized crime from other parts of the country, coupled with a construction boom along the Strip and subsequent employment opportunities, contributed to dramatic population growth in both Las Vegas and Clark County.⁸³ By the late 1960s, corporations bought or built hotels and casinos along the Strip as publicly traded companies were permitted to have gambling licenses.⁸⁴ Since this time, casino construction has continued, with each more extravagant than the last, and casino profits have soared as millions of tourists continue to pour into the brightly lit, showy city.

Kefauver surely intended that his statement in an account of the investigation, *Crime in America*, published a year after the hearings, regarding Las Vegas and its ties to interstate commerce and crime would be construed in a negative light. In this statement Kefauver said:

It was clear to us, and we so reported to the Senate, that the gambling operations in Nevada are inexplicably tied to interstate commerce. This is not only by the connections with out-of-state racketeers but through bets placed daily by out-of-state sources with Nevada bookmakers. In reverse, the Nevada bookies also protect themselves by laying off their biggest bets with out-of-state operators.⁸⁵

It is also clear that Kefauver and his committee considered Las Vegas one of the hotbeds of organized crime and politico-criminal corruption. While there were suspected criminals involved in managing several casinos and dirty money coming into Las Vegas prior to the committee investigation, it seems that such involvement was minimal compared to the post-Kefauver city. What remains unclear is whether Las Vegas' awesome expansion would have occurred had the Kefauver committee never existed. While many of the elements contributing to its growth and development were already in place prior to the Kefauver committee investigation, it seems that the committee's work and findings focused public attention, both positive and negative, and resources on Las Vegas that would have remained more diffuse otherwise.

As a result of the Kefauver committee investigation, Las Vegas arose as the center of the gambling and gaming industry in the United States. By encouraging the elimination, or stricter law enforcement, of illegal gambling operations in other states, the Kefauver committee unwittingly redirected vast financial resources to Las Vegas. These financial resources paid for many of the grandest and most glamorous casino hotels built in Las Vegas in the 1950s and 1960s. While citizens voted against gambling legalization efforts in many states, they flocked to Las Vegas as tourists to gamble and partake in the spectacle of the city's underworld connections, which had been recently glamorized in the televised hearings.

While the public's appetite for gambling has slacked at times, it has not, since the 1950s expansion of Las Vegas, ever been eliminated. On the contrary, tourism related to gaming in Las Vegas, and other communities where gambling enterprises have been legalized, has been a growth industry throughout the last 50 years. It seems clear that the financial windfall of Las Vegas in the 1950s and 1960s encouraged the expansion of

⁸² "Nevada Brings it into Open and Gets Rich," *Life* 19 June 1950, 100.

⁸³ According to U.S. Census data, the population of Clark County was 48,289 in 1950. In 1960, the population had grown to 127,016. By 1970, the population of Clark County was 273,288 and 463,087 in 1980.

⁸⁴ "The History of Las Vegas" <<http://www.ci.las-vegas.nv.us/history/default.htm>>.

⁸⁵ Kefauver, 236.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

United States Post Office and Court House (amendment)
Clark County, Nevada

Section 8 Page 16

legalized gaming to other states as well as on Native American reservations. Although gaming has been legalized across the country, Las Vegas remains the capital of the industry. Since the 1950s, Las Vegas has been, and continues to be, the place where gambling is at its most glamorous and most profitable.

In effect, the Kefauver committee's focus on organized crime benefited Las Vegas in two ways; it encouraged law enforcement in other states, thereby giving Las Vegas a monopoly on gambling, and it publicized gambling on a national scale. Based on this analysis, it seems that the Kefauver committee had a profound and singular impact on Las Vegas; an impact that cannot be matched in any of the other cities where hearings were held. The matchless experience of Las Vegas makes it the appropriate place to recognize the historic significance of the Kefauver committee. The USPOCH is the only building within the 17 hearing sites that represents the direct relationship between the hearings and Las Vegas. It is also one of very few building in Las Vegas that still remains from that time period. Therefore, the association of the building with the Kefauver hearings and the growth of Las Vegas as capital of the United States gaming industry places the United States Post Office and Court House on a level of national significance, linking this site to other locations around the country where the hearings took place, and fulfilling the criteria of "possess[ing] exceptional value or quality in illustrating or interpreting the heritage of the United States."

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

United States Post Office and Court House (amendment)
Clark County, Nevada

Section 9 Page 1

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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Clark County, Nevada

Section 9 Page 2

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**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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Clark County, Nevada

Section 9 Page 3

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**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

United States Post Office and Court House (amendment)
Clark County, Nevada

Section 9 Page 4

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**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

United States Post Office and Court House (amendment)
Clark County, Nevada

Section 9 Page 5

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**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

United States Post Office and Court House (amendment)
Clark County, Nevada

Section 9 Page 6

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**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

United States Post Office and Court House (amendment)
Clark County, Nevada

Section Photographs Page 1

List of Photographs

Name of property: United States Post Office and Court House (amendment)
Location: Clark County, Nevada
Photographer: Tavo Olmos
Negatives held by: City of Las Vegas, Nevada

1. View of south and west elevations from above, looking northeast, December 2004.
2. Front (south) façade, looking north, December 2004.
3. West elevation, looking northeast, December 2004.
4. East elevation, looking southwest, December 2004.
5. Rear (north) elevation, looking south, December 2004.
6. Rear platform or loading dock, looking west, December 2004.
7. Basement corridor, looking east, December 2004.
8. Lobby and post office boxes on first floor, looking northwest, December 2004.
9. Post office service area, looking west, December 2004.
10. Post office work space, looking east, December 2004.
11. Post office work space, looking west, December 2004.
12. Courtroom, looking southeast, December 2004.
13. Courtroom, looking northwest, December 2004.
14. Subdivided section of courtroom, looking north, December 2004.
15. Judge's chambers, looking southwest, December 2004.
16. Third floor corridor, looking east, December 2004.
17. Third floor office space, looking west, December 2004.
18. Stairwell, looking west, December 2004.
19. Third floor women's restroom, looking south, December 2004.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

United States Post Office and Court House (amendment)
Clark County, Nevada

Section Kefauver committee information Page 1

KEFAUVER COMMITTEE HEARING SITES – BUILDING DESCRIPTIONS

Chicago, Illinois

The Old Post Office Building and United States Courthouse was demolished in 1966 and replaced by a new federal building designed by Mies van der Rohe.

Cleveland, Ohio

The Senator Howard Metzemaum Courthouse (formerly called the Cleveland Federal Building and United States Courthouse and the Old Federal Building) was the first building completed under the Cleveland 1903 Group Plan that emphasized the stylistic philosophies of the "City Beautiful" movement. Architect Arnold W. Brunner (commissioned by the Supervising Architect of the Treasury Department, James Knox Taylor) designed an imposing Neoclassical style building that included two massive sculptural pieces executed by Daniel Chester French. Completed in 1910, the Cleveland Federal Building and Courthouse set the tone and scale for Cleveland's cityscape and remains a significant Cleveland landmark. This building is listed in the National Register of Historic Places and continues to serve as a federal building.

Detroit, Michigan

The Theodore Levin United States Courthouse (formerly called The Detroit Federal Building and United States Courthouse) was designed by Robert O. Derrick under the auspices of the Acting Supervising Architect for the Department of the Treasury, James A. Wetmore. Completed during the years 1932 through 1934, the building was designed in the Neoclassical Revival style with Modernistic traits. Noted Detroit architectural modeler Corrado Joseph Parducci designed several bas-relief sculptural panels and medallions for the building. This building is not listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

Kansas City, Missouri

The United States Courthouse and Post Office of Kansas City, Missouri was designed by the renowned architectural firm of Wight and Wight. It was developed as a New Deal project from 1938 to 1939. The firm Wight and Wight was responsible for designing several Depression-era government buildings in Kansas City. This building is distinctly Moderne with Art-Deco references. The United States Courthouse and Post Office is not listed in the National Register of Historic Places and currently stands vacant.⁸⁶

Las Vegas, Nevada

See National Register amendment for description of the building.

Los Angeles, California

The United States Courthouse (formerly called the United States Post Office and Court House) in Los Angeles was designed by the architect Gilbert Stanley Underwood and built during the years of 1937 through 1940. The building is an excellent example of New Deal construction in Los Angeles. Extensive interior and exterior artwork designed by artists such as Archibald Gardner, James Lee Hanson, Lucien Labaudt, Edward Biberman, and Henry Lion ornaments the building. The historical significance of this structure rests in its siting associated with the Federal government since 1910 and its distinguished architectural style and visibility in Los Angeles. Several diverse, but well-known events have occurred in this courthouse including the House Un-American

⁸⁶ Personal communication with Lon Clark, Preservation Planner with the city of Kansas City, Missouri, January 10, 2005.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

United States Post Office and Court House (amendment)
Clark County, Nevada

Section Kefauver committee information Page 2

Activities Committee hearings (1953) and the Daniel Ellsberg/"Pentagon Papers" case (1971) which have received national media coverage. This building is listed in the National Register of Historic Places and continues to house several federal agencies, including the United States Court of Appeals and the United States District Court.

Miami, Florida

The Miami-Dade County Courthouse was designed by the architects Antony Ten Eyck Brown and August Geiger and completed in 1928. This building combines set-back massing associated with Art Deco with Neoclassical details and was Dade County's first skyscraper. Stone Mountain granite clads the base; the upper floors are finished with terracotta. It has been continually refurbished and restored since 1981. The Miami-Dade County Courthouse is listed in the National Register of Historic Places and provides offices, chambers, and courtrooms for the Circuit and County Civil Court and Family Court.

The David W. Dyer Federal Building and United States Courthouse (formerly called the Miami Post Office and Courthouse) in Miami, Florida was designed by Phineas E. Paist and Harold D. Steward and constructed in 1933. This building is significant on many fronts. It is an excellent example of Spanish-Mediterranean Revival style and stands out among other Federal buildings of this period for its elaborate detailing. It is also the largest structure to be built of native coquina stone (Key Stone). This building has retained its architectural integrity as a late example of the Spanish-Mediterranean Revival style that was immensely popular in building design into the early 1940s in Florida. It is listed in the National Register for Historic Places and houses the United States Courthouse and related offices.

New Orleans, Louisiana

The John Minor Wisdom United States Court of Appeals Building (formerly called the Old Post Office and Courthouse) was constructed between 1909 and 1915 in the style of the Italian Renaissance and designed by the architectural firm of Hale and Rogers. The building's significance is evidenced in its siting: it occupies an entire block of downtown New Orleans, symbolizing the federal government's powerful presence in New Orleans. The exterior features statues designed by the renowned sculptor Daniel Chester French. The outstanding features of the interior of the building are the second-floor courtrooms, particularly the "En Banc" courtroom. This courtroom has been extensively refurbished since the mid-1990s. It is listed in the National Register of Historic Places and continues to serve as a courthouse.

The Whitney - A Wyndham Historic Hotel (formerly named the Whitney Bank Building) was designed in the Beaux Arts style by the firm of Diboll, Owen and Goldstein and constructed in 1890. The Whitney features original 30-foot ornate ceilings and mosaic floors. It is listed in the National Register of Historic Places and is now a luxury hotel.

New York, New York

The United States Courthouse at Foley Square in New York City was one of architect Cass Gilbert's last commissions. Constructed between 1932 and 1936, it is one of the last Neoclassical style office buildings built in New York as well as one of the first skyscrapers built by the federal government. The use of a skyscraper for federal government functions was novel at the time of the Courthouse's completion. According to the National Register Nomination statement, "[T]he United States Courthouse at Foley Square is architecturally and historically significant as one of the largest and most distinctive examples of Federal architecture erected by the

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

United States Post Office and Court House (amendment)
Clark County, Nevada

Section Kefauver committee information Page 3

United States Treasury Department during the expanded public buildings programs of the 1930s.⁸⁷ This building is listed in the National Historic Register of Historic Places and continues to serve as a courthouse.

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

The Robert N.C. Nix Federal Building and Courthouse (formerly called the United States Courthouse) in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, was designed by architect Harry Sternfield and constructed in 1937. This building is an excellent example of the Art Deco style of the era. Restoration of the building was completed in 1997. It is listed in the National Register of Historic Places and continues to serve as a courthouse.

San Francisco, California

The United States Court of Appeals Building (formerly called The United States Courthouse and Post Office) in San Francisco, California was designed by James Knox Taylor, the Architect of the United States Treasury Department. This building was constructed between the years of 1897 and 1905 in the Italian Renaissance Palazzo style. According to the GSA website, this building "has great significance in almost every potential category of conservation for its contextual, historical and architectural merits. One of few downtown structures pre-dating the 1906 earthquake and fire, few buildings rival it in terms of scale, quality, or ornamental detail."⁸⁸ It is one of only four United States Court of Appeals buildings extant from the beginning of the 20th century. The United States Court of Appeals building has been restored to its original grandeur and has undergone extensive seismic stabilization since the Loma Prieta earthquake in 1989. It is listed in the National Register of Historic Places and serves as a courthouse.

St. Louis, Missouri

The United States Courthouse and Customhouse in St. Louis, Missouri was designed by the architecture firm of Mauran, Russell, and Crowell and was completed in 1934. The building features Egyptian Style columns covering five floors and sculptures designed by Benjamin Franklin Hawkins. The building has national and state historical significance as the site for many cases tried during the Civil Rights Movement. Its siting is also important, as it is within the first settlement of St. Louis. This building currently houses government offices. It is not listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

Tampa, Florida

The United States Courthouse (formerly the United States Post Office and Courthouse) in Tampa, Florida was designed by the Supervising Architect of the Treasury Department, James Knox Taylor and constructed between 1902 and 1905 with Second Renaissance and Neoclassical Revival elements. This building serves as a focal point of downtown Tampa and is the oldest building in the city originally built for government use. It is listed in the National Registry of Historic Places and is slated to house a museum, educational institutions, and office space.⁸⁹

Washington, DC

The Capitol Building was designed by various architects including Benjamin Latrobe, Charles Bullfinch, Thomas Walter, Edward Clark, Elliot Woods, and J. George Stewart between the years 1793 and 1960. This building is a significant example of 19th century Neoclassical architecture and serves as a symbolic landmark for the United

⁸⁷ Government Services Administration, "Historic Federal Buildings Database." <http://w3.gsa.gov/web> (23 December 2004).

⁸⁸ Government Services Administration, "Historic Federal Buildings Database." <http://w3.gsa.gov/web> (30 December 2004)

⁸⁹ Personal communication with City of Tampa staff, 13 January 2005.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

United States Post Office and Court House (amendment)
Clark County, Nevada

Section Kefauver committee information Page 4

States government. The Capitol houses congressional offices and serves as a museum of American Art and History. According to the National Preservation Act of 1966, the United States Capitol and related buildings and grounds are legally exempted from listing in the National Register of Historic Places.⁹⁰

The Russell Senate Office Building was designed by John Carrere and Thomas Hastings and built between the years of 1903 and 1908 in the Beaux Arts style. Nathan Wyeth and Francis P. Sullivan designed the First Street Wing, which was completed in 1933. This building is the oldest of the Senate Office buildings and was the site of many major hearings, including the Sinking of the Titanic (1912), the Watergate Break-In (1973), and the Iran Contra Affair (1987). The Russell Senate Office Building continues to house federal government offices. This building, similar to the Capitol Building, is legally exempted from listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

The Home Owners Loan Corporation Building (also called the HOLC Building) was built between 1928 and 1934. This building currently houses the Federal Bureau of Prisons. It is not listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

⁹⁰ National Park Services. "Washington DC: A National Register of Historic Places Travel Itinerary"
<http://www.cr.nps.gov/nr/travel/wash/index.htm> (13 January 2005)

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

United States Post Office and Court House (amendment)
Clark County, Nevada

Section Kefauver committee information Page 5

Kefauver Hearing Sites								
City	Current Name	Former Name	Current Address	Extant	Current Use	NR ID #	Architect	Year Built
Chicago, IL	n/a	United States Courthouse (Old Post Office Building)	n/a	no	Demolished in 1966; currently the site of a Federal office building and post office designed by Mes van der Rohe	n/a	Henry Ives Cobb	1905
Cleveland, OH	Senator Howard Metzemaum Courthouse	Cleveland Federal Building/United States Courthouse, aka the Old Federal Building	201 Superior Avenue NE, Cleveland, OH 44114	yes	Currently being renovated and to be used as a courthouse	74001448	Arnold W. Brunner	1902 - 1910
Detroit, MI	Theodore Levin United States Courthouse	Detroit Federal Building/U.S. Courthouse	231 W. LaFayette Street, Detroit, MI 48826	yes	United States Courthouse	n/a	Robert O. Derreck, Inc.	1932 - 1934
Kansas City, MO	United States Courthouse/Post Office	United States Courthouse & Custom House/Federal Building	811 Grand Boulevard, Kansas City, MO 64106	yes	Vacant	n/a	Wight & Wight	1938 - 1939
Las Vegas, NV	Federal Building / Post Office	United States Post Office and Court House	301 E. Stewart Avenue, Las Vegas, NV 88101	yes	Court facilities moved to new federal building in 1960s. US Post Office is preparing to vacate building.	83001108	James A. Welmore, Acting Supervising Architect	1930-1933
Los Angeles, CA	United States Courthouse	United States Post Office and Courthouse	312 North Spring Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012	yes	Federal government	80004629	Gilbert Stanley Underwood	1937 - 1940
Miami, FL	Miami-Dade County Courthouse	Dade County Courthouse	73 W. Flagler Street, Miami, FL 33130	yes	The Circuit and County Civil Court and Family Court	88002983	A. Ten Eyck Brown/August Geiger	1928
Miami, FL	David W. Dyer Federal Building and U.S. Courthouse (part of Federal Courthouse Square)	United States Post Office and Courthouse	300 NE First Avenue, Miami, FL 33101	yes	United States Courthouse and related offices	83003518	Phineas E. Paist, Harold D. Steward	1933
New Orleans, LA	John Minor Wisdom U.S. Court of Appeals Building	United States District Court (Old Post Office and Courthouse)	600 Camp Street, New Orleans, LA 70130	yes	Government judicial offices	74000937	Hale & Rogers	1909 - 1915
New Orleans, LA	The Whitney - A Wyndham Historic Hotel	729 Whitney Building; Whitney National Bank (Poydras Branch), Metropolitan Bank Building	1610 Poydras Street, New Orleans, LA 70130	yes	Luxury hotel	85000093	Diboll, Owen & Goldstein	1890
New York, NY	United States Courthouse	United States Courthouse	40 Foley Square, New York, NY 10007	yes	Courthouse	87001596	Cass Gilbert	1932 - 1936
Philadelphia, PA	Robert N.C. Nix Federal Building/Courthouse	United States Courthouse/Federal Courthouse	9th and Market Streets, Philadelphia, PA 19107	yes	Federal Building/Courthouse	90001540	Harry Sternfield	1937
San Francisco, CA	United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit	Federal Courthouse and Post Office	99 Seventh Street, San Francisco, CA 94107	yes	Court of Appeals	71000188	James Knox Taylor	1905
St. Louis, MO	U.S. Courthouse and Customhouse	United States Courthouse and Customhouse	1114 Market Street, St. Louis, MO 63101	yes	Government offices	n/a	Mauran, Russell, & Crowell	1933 - 1934
Tampa, FL	United States Courthouse	United States Post Office and Courthouse	601 N. Florida Avenue, Tampa, FL 33601	yes	Office space/educational institutions/museum (proposed 2004)	74000633	James Knox Taylor, Supervising Architect	1902 - 1905
Washington, DC	Russell Senate Office Building	Senate Office Building	Northeast of the Capitol on a site bounded by Constitution Avenue, First Street, Delaware Avenue, and C Street, NE, Washington DC 20002	yes	Federal government	n/a (exempted)	Carrere and Hastings (w/ 1933 addition by Nathan Wyeth and Francis P. Sullivan)	1903 - 1908
Washington, DC	The Capitol	The Capitol: District of Columbia Room	First Street, between Constitution and Pennsylvania avenues, NW, Washington, DC 20001	yes	Federal government	n/a (exempted)	Benjamin Latrobe (1803); Charles Bullfinch (1817); Thomas Walter (1851)	1793 - 1863
Washington, DC	Federal Building (HOLC)	Home Owners Loan Corporation Building (HOLC Building)	320 First Street, NW, Washington, DC 20001	yes	Federal Bureau of Prisons, Department of Justice, Immigration	n/a	Unknown	1928 - 1934

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

United States Post Office and Court House (amendment)
Clark County, Nevada

Section Kefauver committee information Page 6

Kefauver Committee Hearings			
DATE	CITY	SITE	TYPE OF HEARING
May 26 - 27, 1950	Miami, FL	US District Court	Public
June 13, 1950	Washington, DC	N/A	Executive
June 22 - June 23, 1950	Washington, DC	Senate Office Building: Rm 457	Public
June 28 - June 29, 1950	Washington, DC	Senate Office Building: Rm 457	Executive & Public
July 6 - July 7, 1950	Washington, DC	Senate Office Building: Rm 457	Public
July 11, 1950	Washington, DC	The Capitol: District of Columbia Rm	Executive
July 13 -15, 1950	Miami, FL	N/A	Public
July 18, 1950	St. Louis, MO	US Courthouse: Courtroom #3	Executive
July 19 - 20, 1950	Kansas City, MO	US Courthouse/Federal Building	Executive
July 31, 1950	Washington, DC	The Capitol: District of Columbia Rm	Executive
August 9, 1950	Washington, DC	Senate Office Building: Rm 318	Public
August 10, 1950	Washington, DC	Senate Office Building: Caucus Rm	Public
August 14 -15, 1950	New York, NY	US Court House: Rm 513	Executive
August 16, 1950	Washington, DC	Senate Office Building: Rm 224	Public
August 17, 1950	Washington, DC	Senate Office Building: Rm 318	N/A
August 18, 1950	Washington, DC	Senate Office Building: Caucus Rm	N/A
August 22, 1950	Washington, DC	N/A	Public
August 28, 1950	Washington, DC	US Capitol Building: Rm F-82	N/A
August 29, 1950	Washington, DC	Senate Office Building: Rm 457	N/A
September 9, 1950	Washington, DC	N/A	Executive
September 19, 1950	Washington, DC	Senate Office Building: Rm 457	Public
September 22, 1950	Washington, DC	Senate Office Building: Rm 457	Public
September 26, 1950	Washington, DC	Home Owners Loan Corporation Building: Rm 910	Executive
September 28 - 30, 1950	Kansas City, MO	US Courthouse/Federal Building	Executive & Public
October 5 - 7, 1950	Chicago, IL	US Court House: Rm 267	Executive
October 11 - 12, 1950	New York, NY	N/A	Executive
October 13 - 14, 1950	Philadelphia, PA	US Courthouse	Executive
October 17 - 19, 1950	Chicago, IL	N/A	Executive
November 8, 1950	Washington, DC	N/A	Executive
November 15, 1950	Las Vegas, NV	US Post Office and Court House	Executive
November 16 -18, 20, 1950	Los Angeles, CA	Federal Building	Executive
November 21 - 22, 1950	San Francisco, CA	N/A	Executive
November 27, 1950	Los Angeles, CA	N/A	Executive
November 28, 1950	Washington, DC	Senate Office Building: Rm 457	Public
December 12 - 13, 1950	Washington, DC	N/A	Executive & Public
December 18 - 20, 1950	Chicago, IL	N/A	Public
December 28, 1950	Tampa, FL	N/A	Executive
December 29 - 30, 1950	Tampa, FL	US District Court	Public
January 5, 1951	Washington, DC	N/A	Public
January 17 - 19, 1951	Cleveland, OH	Federal Building: Rm 318	Public
January 25, 1951	New Orleans, LA	US District Court	Public
January 26, 1951	New Orleans, LA	729 Whitney Building	Public
February 7, 1951	Washington, DC	Senate Office Building: Rm 457	Public
February 8 - 9, 1951	Detroit, MI	Federal Building: Rm 734	Executive & Public
February 13 - 15, 1951	New York, NY	US Court House: Rm 2832	Executive
February 16-17, 19-20, 1951	Washington, DC	State Senate Building: Rm 457 AND US Capitol Building: Rm G-16	Executive & Public
February 22, 1951	Washington, DC	US Capitol Building: Rm F-82	Public
February 23-24, 1951	Kansas City, MO	US Court House and Custom House: Rm 1	
February 27, 1950	Los Angeles, CA	N/A	N/A
February 28, 1951	Los Angeles, CA	Federal Building	Public
March 2-3, 1951	San Francisco, CA	Post Office Building: Rm 338	Public
March 9, 1951	Washington, DC	Senate Office Building: Rm 155, Rm 301	Executive & Public
March 12 - 16, 19 - 21, 1951	New York, NY	US Court House: 28th Fl	Public
March 22, 1951	Washington, DC	N/A	Public
March 24, 1951	Washington, DC	N/A	Executive & Public
March 26 - 28, 1951	Washington, DC	Senate Office Building: Caucus Rm, Rm 318 AND US Capitol Building: Rm P-38, Rm P-36, Rm 248	Public
April 16, 1951	Washington, DC	Home Owners Loan Building: Rm 851	N/A

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section Figures Page 1

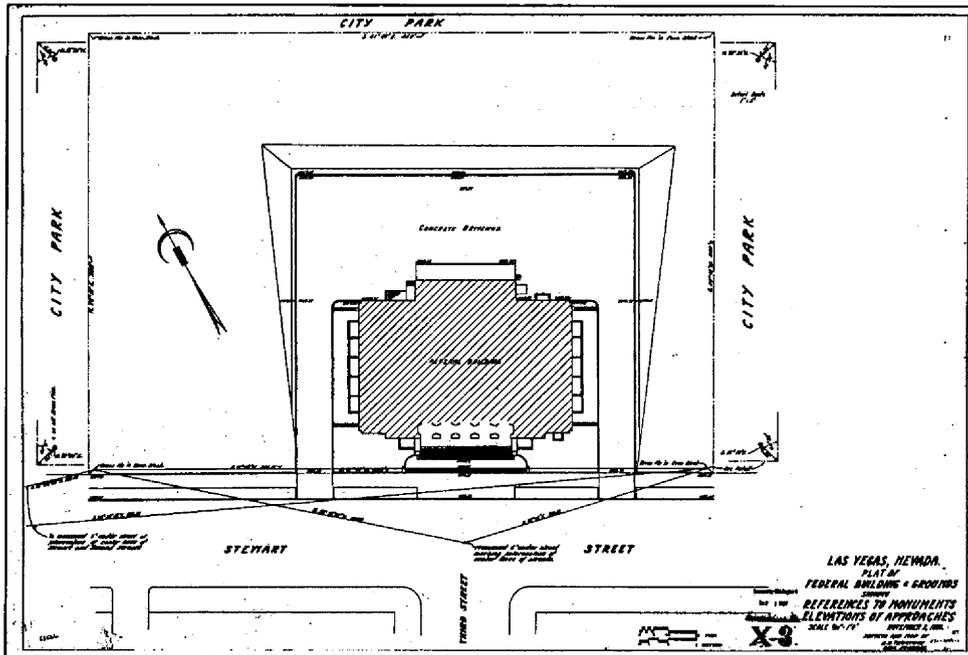


Figure 1: Original site plan, February 13, 1931.

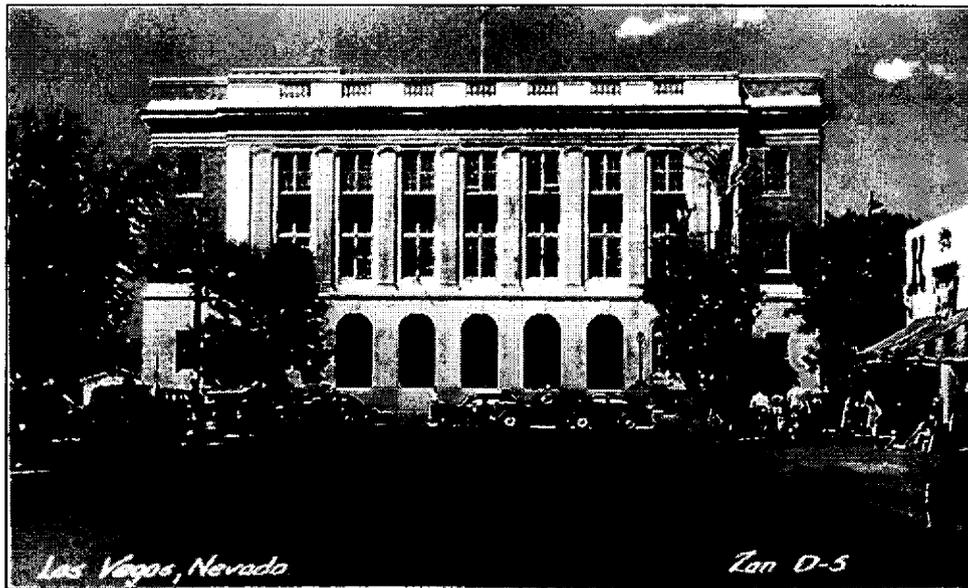


Figure 2: View of USPOCH from Third Street c. 1940.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section Figures Page 2

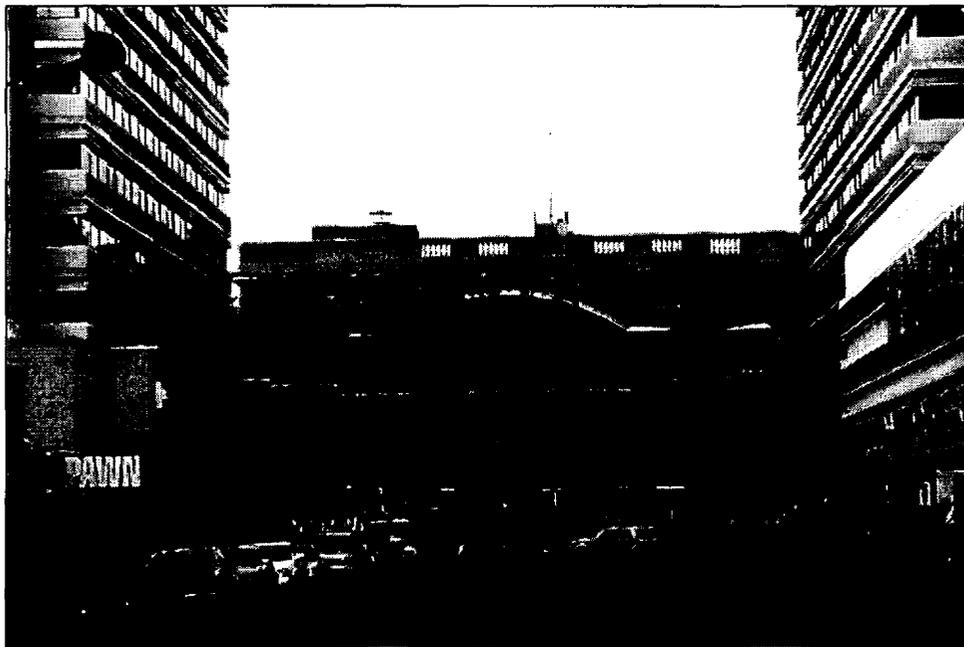
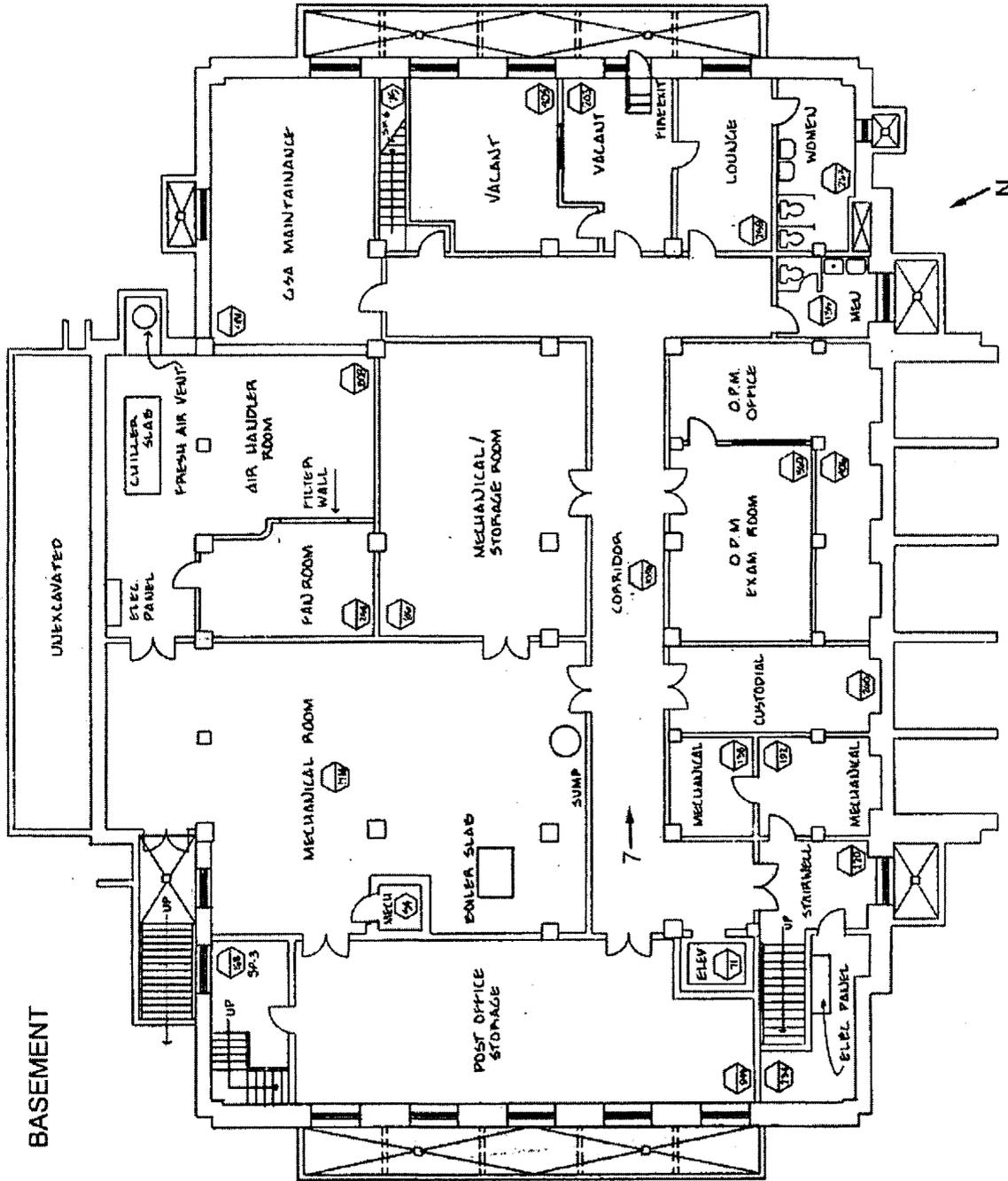


Figure 3: View of USPOCH from Third Street with Lady Luck Casino and pedestrian bridge in foreground, March 2004.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section Photograph locations and Floor plans Page 1

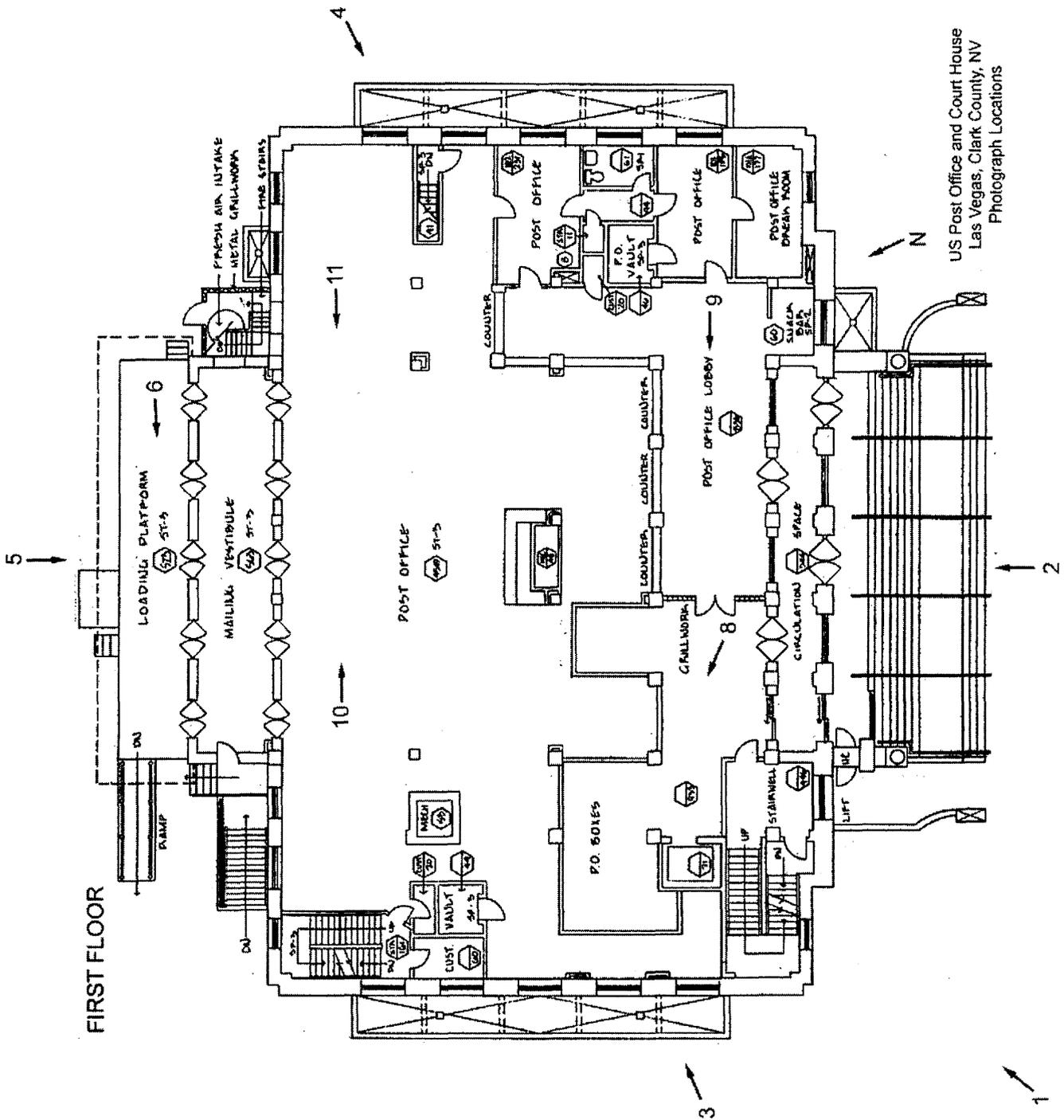


US Post Office and Court House
Las Vegas, Clark County, NV
Photograph Locations

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section: Photograph locations and Floor plans Page 2

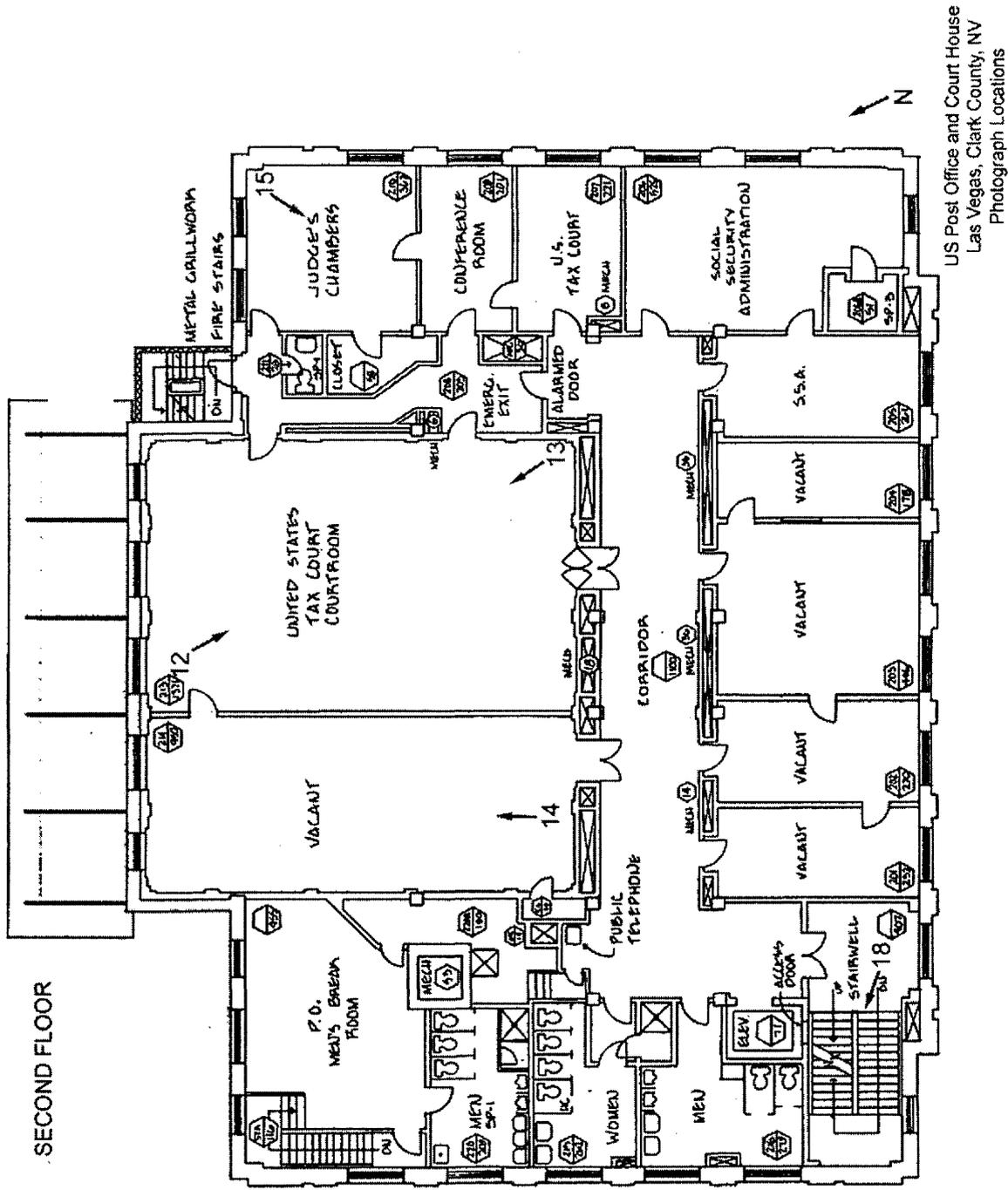


US Post Office and Court House
Las Vegas, Clark County, NV
Photograph Locations

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section Photograph locations and Floor plans Page 3



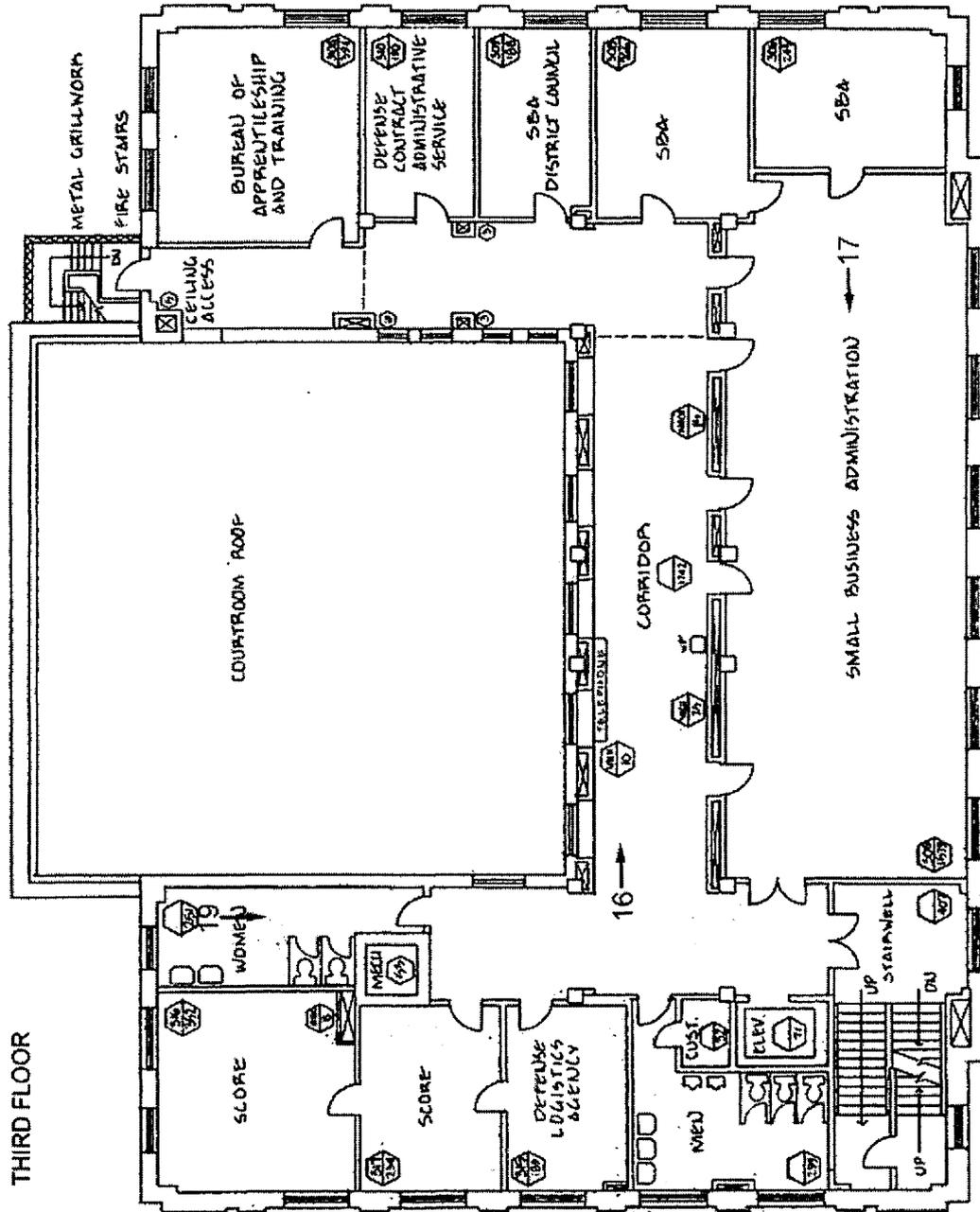
US Post Office and Court House
Las Vegas, Clark County, NV
Photograph Locations

SECOND FLOOR

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section Photograph locations and Floor plans Page 4



US Post Office and Court House
Las Vegas, Clark County, NV
Photograph Locations