

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: <b>New Jersey</b>	
COUNTY: <b>Hudson</b>	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER <b>70.8.29.0004</b>	DATE <b>8/25</b>

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
**HUDSON COUNTY COURT HOUSE**

AND/OR HISTORIC:

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**Newark Avenue**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Jersey City**

STATE: **New Jersey** CODE: **29** COUNTY: **Hudson** CODE: **017**

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Being Considered <b>see continuation</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No.

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <b>abandoned</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
**Hudson County Board of Freeholders**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING**

CITY OR TOWN: **Jersey City** STATE: **New Jersey** CODE: **29**

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
**Hudson County Courthouse**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**Newark Avenue**

CITY OR TOWN: **Jersey City** STATE: **New Jersey** CODE: **29**

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
**Historic American Buildings Survey Inventory**

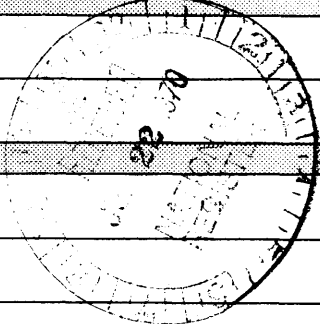
DATE OF SURVEY: **October 30, 1968**  Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
**Library of Congress**

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: **Washington, D. C.** STATE: **District of Columbia** CODE: **08**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



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COUNTY: **Hudson**  
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## 7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Steel framed building 3 stories in height above a high basement. The exterior is of fine Maine granite: its general style, modern renaissance. On the front the great corinthian pillars of the facade stand free; on the side they are engaged and in the rear they are replaced by pilasters. The carved ornament is concentrated above the entrances, in the base, in the corners and in the cresting. The main entrance is on Newark Avenue: A wide granite approach to three main doorways, great bronze lanterns hang immediately inside each entrance. Above the frieze between the columns are these inscriptions: "Justice seeks no praise and bears no blame", "Precedent makes law, if you stand well, stand still" and "To delay justice is to deny justice"

The interior is of pearl grey marble, and the first floor comprises a great court, with staircases on either side of the main entrance. Through the ceiling opens the great central well through which one looks up into the rotunda, (the vast size of which is almost reminiscent of one of the baths of Imperial Rome) opening through all floors and covered by a great central dome of stained glass. A wide central well opens in the floor to light the court below. Eight great ionic columns of highly polished green-veined cippolina marble pass through a mezzanine gallery with breeze railings to support the entablature and upper corridors. Four large arches above the third floor level, resting on white marble corner piers, support the great dome. The railing of the central well and of the upper corridors is of grey marble, as is the wainscoting which surrounds every floor and corridor.

The interior is particularly notable, however, for the murals painted by renowned artists, as follows:

X Frank D. Millet: supervised decorations at 1893 World's Fair in Chicago, pictorial reporter New York Herald, London Daily News. Paintings - Royal British Custom House, Cleveland Trust Company. Director of American Academy in Rome. Executed two semi-circular murals in top floor of Courthouse depicting Henry Hudson & the purchase of Jersey City.

X Charles Y. Turner: Millet's assistant at Chicago Fair. Paintings in Metropolitan Museum, murals in Baltimore Courthouse, Dewitt Clinton High School & the old Waldorf Astoria Hotel. Painted two semicircular murals in top floor.

X Edwin Blashfield: Murals in library of Congress, State Capitols in Minnesota, Iowa, South Dakota, and Wisconsin. St. Matthew's Cathedral in Washington, D. C. painted four winged figures in pendentive of dome.

X Kenyon Cox: Appellate Court of New York, Iowa State Capitol, paintings in National Gallery, Carnegie Institute, did murals on two lower balconies, ceiling lunettes in top floor.

X Howard Pyle: Illustrator of "History of American People", "One Hoss Shay", "Robin Hood", "Book of Pirates". Murals in Capitol of Minnesota. Executed four murals in Hudson County Freeholders' room in Hudson County Courthouse - his last work.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**SIGNIFICANCE**

**PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)**

- |  |                                       |                                       |  |
|--|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century  | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 19th Century |  |

**SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)**

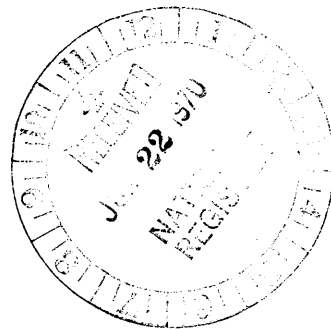
**AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)**

- |  |                                      |   |  |
|--|--------------------------------------|---|--|
| <b>Aboriginal</b>                                | <input type="checkbox"/> Education   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric             | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)<br><u>Law, justice, etc.</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry    | <input type="checkbox"/> Science              | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention   | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture            | _____  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape   | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian  | _____  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Art          | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature  | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater              | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> Military    | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation       | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Music       |   |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            |                                      |   |  |

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

The Hudson County Courthouse is significant for having been the seat of justice of Hudson County and a well known landmark for over 50 years. More important, however, it is the only monumental building left in Jersey City and contains a priceless heritage of murals painted by leading artists of the period of its completion (1910). These murals, together with the lavish use of bronze and marble form what is surely the finest interior in the city and state.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

David G. Lowe "Requiem for a Courthouse" American Heritage Magazine Oct. 1966 .  
 Illustrated article on murals in Courthouse in rare book room, Main Library, Jersey City  
 R 071 EV2G May, 1917 page 12  
 Jersey Journal 7/1/10 Page 8 (microfilm) Article & photo "New Courthouse near Completion"  
 Jersey Journal 3/12/12 pages 4 & 5 (microfilm) descriptions & illustrations of murals in  
 Courthouse, by Mrs. Fanny Rowell of National Arts Club.  
 Scribner's Magazine R050 Ser.6 V51, P253 illustrated article "Decorations in the Hudson County  
 Courthouse " by Frank D. Millet.  
 Van Winkle "History of the Municipalities of Hudson County 1630-1923 Vol. I page 207

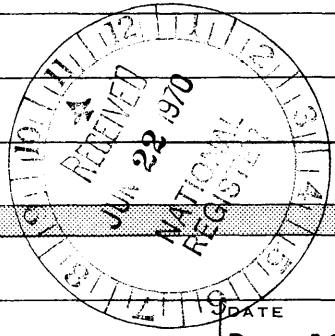
**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		40° 43' 55"	74° 03' 28"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **2**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE:  
**Theodore Conrad, President**

ORGANIZATION  
**Citizen's Committeeto Save the Courthouse** DATE  
**Dec. 1969**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**248 Ogden Avenue**

CITY OR TOWN: **Jersey City** STATE **New Jersey 07307** CODE **29**

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name *Richard Buller*

Title Commissioner, Department of Environmental Protection

Date June 12, 1970

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

*Alvin Allen Connolly*  
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date AUG 25 1970

ATTEST:

*William J. Montague*  
 Keeper of The National Register

Date AUG 20 1970

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE New Jersey	
COUNTY Hudson	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
708-29-0008	8/25

(Number all entries)

Hudson County Court House, Jersey City, N.J.

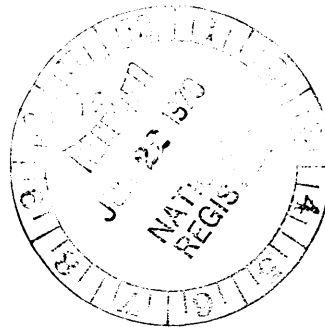
Code: 29

3. Owned by the county government. Non-county public ownership being considered for use as a cultural and social center.

6. N.J. Historic Sites Inventory #1597.10

State  
Historic Sites Section  
Department of Environmental Protection  
Box 1420  
Trenton, N.J.

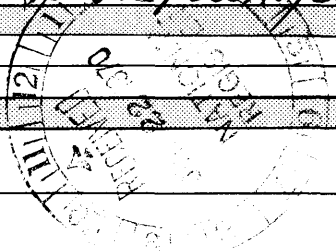
Code: 29



**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY MAP FORM**

*(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)*

STATE	
New Jersey	
COUNTY	
Hudson	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
70-8-29-0009R/25	



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**1. NAME**

COMMON: Hudson County Court House  
AND/OR HISTORIC:

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Newark Avenue corner Baldwin Avenue

CITY OR TOWN:  
Jersey City

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
New Jersey	29	Hudson	017

**3. MAP REFERENCE**

SOURCE: Traced from Use District Map issued by Division of Planning, Jersey City, N. J.

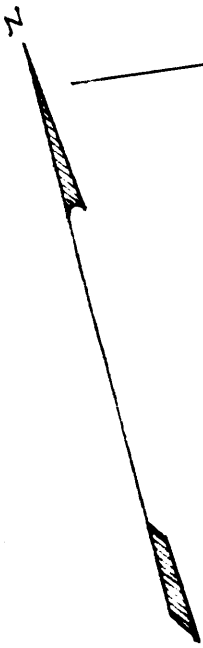
SCALE: 1" = 800'

DATE: November 24, 1969

**4. REQUIREMENTS**

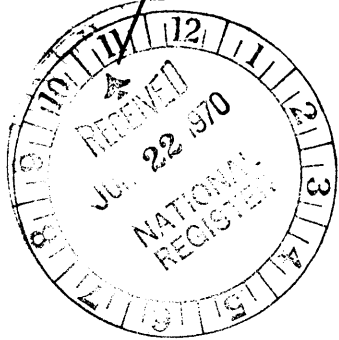
- TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS
1. Property boundaries where required.
  2. North arrow.
  3. Latitude and longitude reference.

74° 04'



40° 44'

40° 43' 55" N. L. a  
74° 03' 28" W. L. a



NEW JERSEY TURNPIKE

1" = 200'