

PH0023213

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM
FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:
Georgia

COUNTY:
Hall

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY DATE
JAN 24 1974

1. NAME

COMMON:
Federal Building and Courthouse

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Post Office

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
126 Washington Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Gainesville

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:
Ninth

STATE: Georgia CODE 10 COUNTY: Hall CODE 139

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 type="checkbox"/> Being Considered | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress | Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate) | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum | <input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____ _____ |

4. AGENCY

General Services Administration

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (If applicable)

CITY OR TOWN:
Atlanta

STREET AND NUMBER:
1776 Peachtree Street

STATE: Georgia CODE 10

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
Hall County Courthouse Registry of Deeds

STREET AND NUMBER:
Spring Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Gainesville

STATE: Georgia CODE 10

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

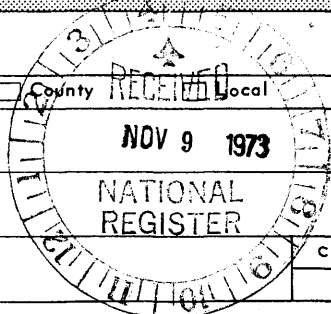
DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



STATE:

COUNTY:

ENTRY NUMBER: 139

DATE: JAN 24 1974

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7. DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Federal Building and Courthouse in Gainesville, Georgia, is located on the edge of the downtown shopping district. It is a white marble structure which originally consisted of the Post Office built in the early twentieth century and fronting Washington Street. The mid-1930 addition, facing Spring Street, repeated the Classical Revival style of the earlier Post Office. To the east of the building is Green Street, while on the west, beyond a service alley, are business and office buildings.

Now housing various federal offices, the rectangular Post Office building contains three floors. Although the third floor was closed off in recent renovations, the small, rounded dormer windows used to light the upper story are still visible on the hipped roof. The granite foundation provides a contrast to the smoothly dressed marble surface of the upper stories. There are five bays across the front or Washington Street facade and three on each side. Three double-story arched openings accentuate the main entrance which has a pedimented doorway. Flanking the arches are flat coupled columns with Ionic capitals. Other first floor windows are rectangular with simple, molded entablatures. Second story openings are small and appear to be square with molded architraves. Capping the structure is a simple molding, an unadorned frieze, and a projecting dentiled cornice. Above this is a solid balustrade.

In addition to the main Washington Street entrance there was originally another entrance door onto Green Street where a window is now located. Arched openings on the south side corresponded to those on Washington Street, but were covered when the building was enlarged.

The Post Office was enlarged when, in 1936, the four-story Federal Building was completed on Spring Street. The connecting wing, built at the same time, is a two-story, flat-roofed area which repeats the entablatured windows of the Post Office on the first floor and which has an iron railing enclosing the well leading to the basement openings on the Green Street side. Both the connecting wing and the Federal Building utilize the same dressed white marble of the Post Office. The raised basement of the later addition is also marble in contrast to the earlier granite foundation.

The Federal Building has nine bays across the Spring Street facade and three on each side. The main entrance consists of a recessed archway extending the height of the raised basement and two stories. Distinguishing the upper floors from the basement is a stringcourse carved with a wave motif. First floor windows have plain entablatures. The simple second floor windows abut a wide stringcourse carved with an eagle motif in what could be called the "Egyptian" manner. Windows for the upper floors are elongated with dividing black panels outlined in gilt. Flat pilasters with plain capitals separate the windows. The frieze is carved with a classical floral motif and is surmounted by a narrow cornice with dentiling. Not visible from the street is a slightly hipped roof.

continued

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No. 7 Description (continued)

The basic plan of the interior of the building has not changed, although renovations and modernization have resulted in alterations (such as the lowering of ceilings, removal of fixtures, etc.) as has the adaptation of the Post Office area to regular office space. The Spring Street entrance foyer of the 1930's addition remains nearer its original appearance than any other room in the building. Both floor and walls are covered with terra-cotta tiles. Tile insets with pressed decorations and light blue backgrounds are also used. Four free-standing squared pillars are in the center. The ceiling is divided into sections which are stenciled in blue and gold on a buff background.

The courtroom, which is located on the third floor of the addition, has oak wainscoting and woodwork with a minimum of carving. In the adjoining hall is an oil painting executed under the Section of Fine Arts by artist Daniel Boza. In a letter of November 4, 1937, to Mr. Cecil M. Jones, Chief, Treasury Relief Art Project, Boza stated that "Morgan. . . was a Southern patriot . . . who played no insignificant part in the conflict . . . in my painting, I portrayed the type of man--lean, gaunt, hard-riding Southern Cavalry man--who rode with Morgan. I have pictured this small group of men going over the spoils gained on a recent Northern foray. I can also vouch for the authenticity of detail."

The building dimensions are 180'0" x 121'0".



B. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian 16th Century 18th Century 20th Century
 15th Century 17th Century 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) Completed 1910; addition completed 1936.

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <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 Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input 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 Federal Building and Courthouse in Gainesville was one of the few structures neither demolished nor heavily damaged by the devastating tornado which nearly destroyed all of downtown Gainesville on April 6, 1936. Because of the tornado and because of new construction in Gainesville in recent years, the Federal Building and Courthouse, especially the original Post Office section, has gained the distinction of being one of the town's oldest buildings. Its Classical Revival style also makes it one of the most--if not the most--architecturally significant public buildings in Gainesville.

The Gainesville Post Office, established as early as 1823, was housed in various buildings prior to 1910, when it moved to the white marble structure at the corner of Washington and Green Streets. In 1908, the cornerstone was laid by the postmistress, Mrs. Melen D. Longstreet, widow of Confederate General James Longstreet, who had previously served as postmaster in Gainesville. Job reports written by the superintendent of construction, Allan C. Burdick, to James Knox Taylor, Supervising Architect for the Treasury Department, not only document that the Post Office was built in 1909 and 1910, but also that Burdick had serious problems with the workmen. Letters to the New York contractor demanded that there was "room [for improvement] in both the quantity and quality of the carpenter work." By spring, 1910, construction had progressed to where painters, plasterers, "terrazzo men," and others were completing the interior, and the building was occupied later that year.

Placed at the Washington and Green Street corner of the Post Office was a statue of Colonel C. C. Sanders. Sanders was born in Franklin County, Georgia, in 1840, served in the Confederate Army, and after the Civil War, declined an offer to become Brigadier General in the Federal Army. He was the only Confederate soldier honored by the United States Government by the erection of a statue on Federal property. Early photographs of the statue show a seated figure of Sanders placed on a raised platform with columns and urns at the four corners and what appears to be a drinking fountain below. Various Gainesville citizens have pieces of the statue which was dismembered by the 1936 tornado.

During 1934 and 1935, the Post Office was moved to a store building while the Federal Building and Courthouse addition was built. In early 1936,

continued

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Interview with Charles Evans, Building Superintendent, February 15, 1973.

Records of the National Archives, Atlanta Regional Office of the National Archives, Federal Records Center. Record Group RG121, Accession Numbers 380994 and 68A1385, records pertaining to building of Gainesville Post Office.

The Daily Times, Sesquicentennial Issue, Gainesville, March 23, 1969.

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 |
| NW | 0 | ' | " | 0 | ' | " | 34 | 17 | 59 |
| NE | 0 | ' | " | 0 | ' | " | 83 | 49 | 33 |
| SE | 0 | ' | " | 0 | ' | " | | | |
| SW | 0 | ' | " | 0 | ' | " | | | |

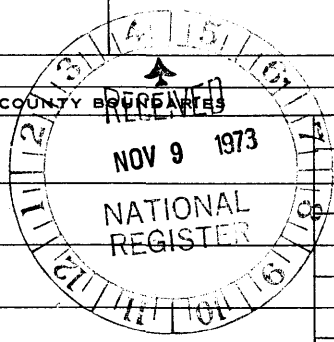
APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: one acre plus

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

| | | | |
|--------|------|---------|------|
| STATE: | CODE | COUNTY: | CODE |
| STATE: | CODE | COUNTY: | CODE |
| STATE: | CODE | COUNTY: | CODE |
| STATE: | CODE | COUNTY: | CODE |

UTM
17/239890/
3798810

CD



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11. FORM PREPARED BY

| | | |
|---|----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| NAME AND TITLE: <u>Ellen Beasley</u> | | DATE: <u>March 26, 1973</u> |
| BUSINESS ADDRESS: | | |
| STREET AND NUMBER: <u>2516 Belmont Boulevard</u> | | PHONE: <u>615-297-6637</u> |
| CITY OR TOWN: <u>Nashville</u> | STATE: <u>Tennessee</u> | CODE: <u>11</u> |

12. CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

| | |
|--|---|
| <p>State Liaison Officer recommendation:</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> None</p> <p><u>Mary Gregory Givett</u> State Liaison Officer Signature</p> <p>In compliance with Executive Order 11593, I hereby nominate this property to the National Register, certifying that the State Liaison Officer has been allowed 90 days in which to present the nomination to the State Review Board and to evaluate its significance. The recommended level of significance is <input type="checkbox"/> National <input type="checkbox"/> State</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Local</p> <p><u>Steven R. Rittenbaur</u> <u>10/24/73</u> Federal Representative Signature Date</p> <p><u>Historic Preservation</u> Liaison Officer</p> | <p>NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION</p> <p>I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.</p> <p><u>A. Puortensen</u> Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation</p> <p>Date <u>1/24/74</u></p> <p>ATTEST:</p> <p><u>George F. Fowery</u> Keeper of The National Register</p> <p>Date <u>Jan 21, 1974</u></p> |
|--|---|

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(Continuation Sheet)

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(Number all entries)

No. 8 Significance (continued)

the enlarged structure was occupied, and the Post Office returned to Washington and Green Streets where it remained until 1967 when it was moved to another location. With removal of the postal service, the Federal Building and Courthouse was renovated, and now houses about fifteen agencies and courts.

