

P1100-34471

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Louisiana
COUNTY: Orleans Parish
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE FEB 15 1974

1. NAME

COMMON:
United States Court of Appeals - Fifth Circuit

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Old Post Office and Court House

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
600 Camp Street

CITY OR TOWN:
New Orleans

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:
2nd.

STATE:
Louisiana

CODE:
22

COUNTY:
Orleans Parish

CODE:
071

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input 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 - Public Buildings Service

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (If applicable)
Area Manager - Federal Building

STREET AND NUMBER:
600 South Street

CITY OR TOWN:
New Orleans

STATE:
Louisiana

CODE:
22

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Civil Courts Building

STREET AND NUMBER:
421 Loyola Avenue

CITY OR TOWN:
New Orleans

STATE:
Louisiana

CODE:
22

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local

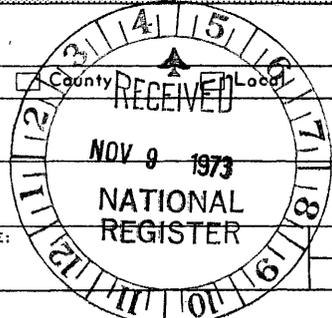
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE:

CODE:



STATE:

COUNTY:

ENTRY NUMBER:

DATE:

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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

This is a large rectangular three story building of white marble on a gray granite base. The four corners are emphasized by slightly projecting corner pavillions surmounted by stepped copper roofs and surmounted by sculptural groups, each composed of four female figures supporting a globe. The building is in the Italian renaissance style, the principal facade facing Lafayette street with identical side facades facing Camp and Magazine streets. The rear elevation on Capdeville street formerly contained the post office loading platform on the first floor. There are two light courts, roofed above the ground floor level with skylights and with windows admitting light to the center second floor courtroom and to the surrounding corridors of the second and third floors.

The first floor is heavily rusticated, with fifteen deeply recessed arched openings between the end pavillions on the front and seven similar ones on the two side elevations. The end pavillions on each elevation each contain a single arched opening on the first floor surrounded by a frontispiece treatment of two free standing rusticated columns supporting a decorated Doric entablature and balustrade. The window above has an elaborate enframement with consoles and a curved broken pediment with sculptured shield, helmet, etc. The upper stories of each end pavillion are divided into three bays by Ionic pilasters extending through the two stories and supporting the main entablature of the building, the frieze of which is inscribed with names and dates of former Chief Justices of the Supreme Court. The cornice is ornamented with dentils and modillions. This entablature extends entirely around the building, with a panelled parapet above it on the end pavillions, with an open balustrade between the pavillions.

The walls of the second and third stories of the Lafayette street elevation have casement windows centered over the first floor openings, those on the second story being tall casements with moulded architraves and marble balustrades and having alternate curved and triangular pediments supported on consoles. The center window has a sculptured shield and flag pole support set into the pediment. The third story windows are nearly square casements with moulded enframements and carved shields as key stones. The balustrade, at the center of the facade above the third story, is embellished with sculptured shield and helmet.

The two upper stories on the Camp and Magazine street sides of the building have colonnades of eight free standing marble Ionic columns, on pedestals with open balustrades. The three center bays of each colonnade have three large circular head windows that admit light into the courtrooms that extend through the two upper stories.

The former post office lobby extends around the Camp and Lafayette steet sides of the building and has an elaborate plaster vaulted ceiling, marble columns, etc. The three courtrooms on the second floor are elaborately finished with coffered and beamed ceilings, wall panelling, etc. All these good interior features have been retained and restored in the recent renovations. The original wood casement windows and doors have been replaced with metal and the former loading platform has been enclosed, with entrances added to basement parking spaces.

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8. 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) 1909-1915

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <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 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 checked="" 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 former post office and courthouse is a significant example of the eclectic style of the early twentieth century. The building was designed by Hale and Rogers (James Gamble Rogers) one of the prominent American architectural firms of the period; Wells Brothers of New York were the builders. Work was begun in 1909 and completed in 1915 on the site which had been successively occupied by the Odd Fellows Hall, built in 1852 and St. Patrick's Hall which replaced it after its destruction by fire. Later it was the site of the Public Library. The present building has occupied this important historic site overlooking Lafayette Square for a longer time than any of its predecessors.

It is important architecturally because of its monumental quality and its superior workmanship and materials. Its architectural details and sculptural embellishments exhibit the high order of craftsmanship characteristic of the period of its construction. The copper and bronze sculptured groups that surmount the building at its four corners are the work of the noted American sculptor, Daniel Chester French who did the figure of Lincoln in the Lincoln Memorial in Washington at about the same time.

The building was occupied on the ground floor by the U.S. Post Office until 1963 and at the same time the Courts that occupied the upper floors were temporarily relocated pending renovation of the building. Following hurricane Betsy in 1965 the then vacant building was occupied by the Mc Donogh #35 Public School which had been destroyed by the hurricane. It served this use until January 1971 when renovation was begun for the accommodation of the United States Court of Appeals - Fifth Circuit. Plans and specifications were prepared by staff architects and engineers of Region 7, Public Buildings Service and work was begun in April 1971 and completed in September 1972 at a cost of \$3,536,358. George E. Jensen, Inc. of Mobile, Alabama was the contractor.

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9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Samuel Wilson, Jr., A Guide to Architecture of New Orleans, 1699-1959, N.Y. 1959, p. 58.
 Mary Lou Christovitch, Roulac Toledano, Betsy Swanson, Pat Holden, Authors and Editors, New Orleans Architecture, Volume II, The American Sector, Gretna, 1972, p. 119.
 General Services Administration - Federal Building, United States Court of Appeals - Fifth Circuit, Brochure, October 1972.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

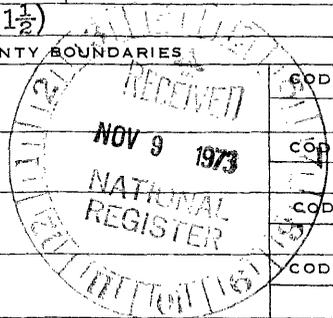
LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		30° 06' 50"	90° 04' 09"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

017M
 15/78/920
 3710410

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: One and One Half (1½)

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



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11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Samuel Wilson, Jr., FAIA, Architect DATE: March 26, 1973

BUSINESS ADDRESS: 914 Masonic Temple Building

STREET AND NUMBER: 333 St. Charles Avenue PHONE: 581-7023

CITY OR TOWN: New Orleans STATE: Louisiana CODE: 22

12. CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

State Liaison Officer recommendation:
 Yes
 No
 None
Jay M. Brown
 State Liaison Officer Signature

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

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 National State

Local
Steven R. Rattenbauer 10/24/73
 Federal Representative Signature Date

Arthur M. Martensen
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 2/15/74

ATTEST:
George T. Emery
 Acting Keeper of the National Register

Date: Feb. 14, 1974