

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Oregon
 COUNTY: Multnomah
 FOR NPS USE ONLY
 ENTRY DATE: MAY 2 1974

1. NAME

COMMON: U.S. Custom House
 AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

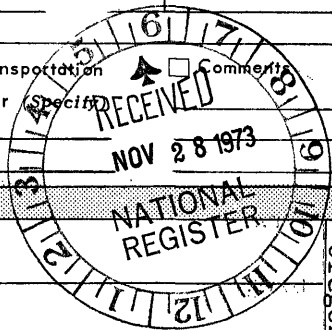
STREET AND NUMBER: 220 N.W. 8th Avenue
 CITY OR TOWN: Portland
 STATE: Oregon
 CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: Oregon Third Congressional District Representative Edith Green
 COUNTY: Multnomah
 CODE: 41, 051

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 type="checkbox"/> Both	<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<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: General Services Administration, Region 10
 STREET AND NUMBER: 15th and C Street, S.W.
 CITY OR TOWN: Auburn
 STATE: Washington
 CODE: 98002, 53

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Multnomah County Courthouse
 STREET AND NUMBER:
 CITY OR TOWN: Portland
 STATE: Oregon
 CODE: 97204, 41

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: Statewide Inventory of Historic Sites and Buildings
 DATE OF SURVEY: 1970
 Federal State County Local
 DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Parks and Recreation Section
 STREET AND NUMBER: Oregon State Highway Building
 CITY OR TOWN: Salem
 STATE: Oregon
 CODE: 97310, 41

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Oregon
 COUNTY: Multnomah
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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 U.S. Custom House is situated on the east side of the North Park Blocks in downtown Portland. The building was designed in 1897 by James Knox Taylor, Supervising Architect of the U.S. Treasury. It was completed in 1901 under supervision of Portland architect Edgar Lazarus.

The large, three-story building has an H-shaped plan with four-story tower blocks with pyramidal roofs at the center of north and south wings. On the west face, a loggia opens onto 8th Avenue and the Park Blocks beyond. The ground story is of rusticated granite. The second and third stories are faced with buff-colored pressed brick which also forms the quoining detail at the corners. Window frame-ments are somewhat manneristic, being composed of molded terra cotta panels contain- ing symbols of the professions and other ornament. Window arch heads are flat and pedimented, and those at the second story level have hooded lintels. Round- arched openings in the rusticated ground story have radiating voussoirs. A classical entablature and attic screen a shallow hipped roof.

Interior details include a grand staircase, cast-iron balustrades, brass fittings and oak paneling. Original plans show that the building had been intended to house courtrooms, spaces which were modified at the outset. The courtrooms were to have comprised the upper stories of the tower blocks. Other interior spaces have been partitioned for office use, and the ceilings have been lowered in intervening years. Subsequent remodelings also have done away with a central court light well.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Oregon	
COUNTY	
Multnomah	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
MAY 2	1974

(Number all entries)

U.S. CUSTOM HOUSE

5. Location:

The U.S. Custom House is located in SW $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 34, T. 1 N., R. 1 E., of the Willamette Meridian, in Multnomah County, Oregon. It is situated in Block 51 of Couch's Addition to Portland.



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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **1897-1901**

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 checked="" 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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

The U.S. Custom House, erected at the turn of the century, is a notable example in Oregon of traditional architecture in which considerable regard for accuracy in historical detail is shown. The building is symbolic of the period during which Portland was the major port of entry for the region.

James Knox Taylor served as Supervising Architect of the U.S. Treasury between 1897 and 1912. He was born in Knoxville, Illinois, and was educated in St. Paul, Minnesota public schools. He completed a two-year course in architecture at Massachusetts Institute of Technology and later worked in offices in Boston and New York. In New York he was associated with Cass Gilbert for a time. Returning to St. Paul in 1882, Taylor resumed practice, subsequently moving to Philadelphia in 1892 and to Washington, D.C., in 1895. In Washington he entered the Office of the Supervising Architect of the Treasury as senior draftsman and succeeded to the preeminent position in 1897.

Edgar M. Lazarus is a figure of some importance in the architectural history of Oregon. It was he who designed Vista House at Crown Point, the state's only public building in the Jugendstil style, and the Agricultural Palace for the Lewis and Clark Centennial Exposition, which is no longer extant. The observation building at Crown Point overlooking the Columbia River Gorge was constructed between 1916 and 1918; the Agricultural Palace was opened for use in 1905. Lazarus also had a hand in the Ainsworth Building in Portland and designed several homes for prominent Portlanders.

Lazarus was born in Baltimore, Maryland in 1868. In 1894 he arrived in Portland where he resided until his death in 1939. He was for a time a member of the architectural firm of Whitehouse and Foulhoux. He was elected a Fellow of the American Institute of Architects and served as President of the Oregon Chapter AIA.

The U.S. Custom House has housed various federal offices over the years. Its principal tenant at the present time is the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Through its scale and quality of design, the building stabilizes and enhances its neighborhood, serving as an anchor on the margin of the North Park Blocks.

On May 6, 1970, the Portland City Council, upon the recommendation of the Portland Historic Landmarks Commission, designated the U.S. Custom House an Historic Landmark.

While structurally sound, the building is expected to be declared surplus by the General Services Administration. The Portland Historic Landmarks Commission expressed its hope to GSA that the federal government would continue to use and maintain the property, citing as an alternative transfer of surplus historic federal buildings to states and cities for revenue producing purposes.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

"Death Ends Long Career of Prominent Architect," Oregonian (October 4, 1939), 8. (Edgar M. Lazarus)
 Withey, Henry F., and Withey, Elsie Rathburn, Biographical Dictionary of American Architects, Deceased (Los Angeles: New Age Publishing Co., 1956), 596. (James Knox Taylor)
 Gohs, Carl, "Mr. Lazarus Lives," Oregonian (December 28, 1969), 21.
 Rocchia, Andy, "Old Custom House Top Landmark Item," Oregon Journal (September 4, 1972), Forum Section, p. 1.
 Portland Oregon Historical Landmarks Commission Inventory Form, completed by George A. McMath, February 1970.

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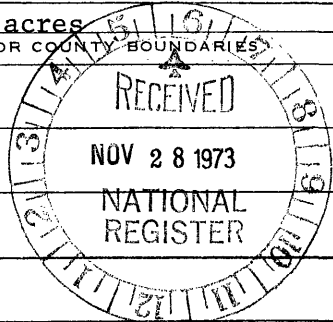
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			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" 0"	0' 0" 0"	45°	31'	30"
NE	0' 0" 0"	0' 0" 0"	122°	40'	36"
SE	0' 0" 0"	0' 0" 0"			
SW	0' 0" 0"	0' 0" 0"			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **0.92 acres**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Paul B. Hartwig, Assistant Park Historian

ORGANIZATION: Oregon State Highway Division DATE: Nov. 1973

STREET AND NUMBER: State Highway Building

CITY OR TOWN: Salem, Oregon STATE: Oregon CODE: 97310

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: George M. Beldorn

Title: Director of Transportation

Date: 11/20/73

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

A. R. Mortensen
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 5/2/74

ATTEST:

Wm. M. ...
 Keeper of the National Register

Date: 5.2.74