

PH035/199

DATA SHEET

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES  
FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED JUL 30 1975  
DATE ENTERED NOV 16 1975

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

NAME

Historic Post Office  
AND ORIGINATOR  
George W. Andrews Federal Building

LOCATION

STREET NUMBER  
701 Avenue "A"  
CITY/TOWN  
Opelika  
STATE  
Alabama

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY OWNERSHIP STATUS PRESENT USE  
DISTRICT X PUBLIC X OCCUPIED AGRICULTURE MUSEUM  
X BUILDING/ST. PRIVATE UNOCCUPIED COMMERCIAL PARK  
STRUCTURE BOTH WORK IN PROGRESS EDUCATIONAL PRIVATE RESIDENCE  
SITE PUBLIC ACQUISITION ACCESSIBLE ENTERTAINMENT RELIGIOUS  
OBJECT IN PROCESS YES RESTORED X GOVERNMENT SCIENTIFIC  
BEING CONSIDERED X YES UNRESTRICTED NO INDUSTRIAL TRANSPORTATION  
MILITARY OTHER

AGENCY General Services Administration - Public Buildings Service

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS (If applicable)  
Region 4

STREET & NUMBER  
1776 Peachtree Street  
CITY/TOWN  
Atlanta

STATE  
Georgia

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Lee County Courthouse  
STREET & NUMBER  
223 South 9th Street between Avenue "A" and Avenue "B"  
CITY/TOWN  
Opelika

REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

DATE  
DEPOSITION/DEED SURVEY RECORDS  
CITY/TOWN  
STATE

DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

CHECK ONE

CHECK ONE

PROJECT: ...

DATE: ...

DATE: ...

DATE: ...

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, NATIONAL ANTHROPOLOGICAL ARCHIVES

The George W. Andrews Federal Building was built in 1915 from designs of the office of James A. Wetmore, Acting Supervising Architect of the Treasury, 101-111). Occupying the southwest corner of South Seventh Street and Avenue A, the building measures 90 feet along the principal (Avenue A) facade, which is seven bays. The side elevation measure 57 feet, 6 inches and five four bays. The building has three storeys above a full basement, a flat-topped parapet, and a flat roof. The building is constructed of wall bearing masonry, with concrete and slab construction, and is faced with red brick. The brick veneer is laid in a pattern of four courses of stretchers between each course of headers. Ornamentation is limited to terra cotta. The roofing is built-up composition.

The basement and first storey of the building serve as the parking area for the upper two storeys' roof. A varying parapet tops the building. The five central bays of the front and rear facades form pavilions.

A granite office terminates the brick-faced basement on all four facades. On the sill course, the first storey has double-timber panel windows. The building's basic configuration is of stone with the exception of the frame, which is brick. The parapet is recessed into the base of the building. The central portion of the principal (north) facade is delineated by a stone pavement and five deeply recessed arches on the first storey. The articulation angles down, giving the appearance of massive console, to form the arches. A central window fills the tympanum of each arch. The outermost first storey arches of the pavilion are glazed with ten over ten double-hung sash windows. They have thickened central muntins along the impression of casements to correspond to the second storey windows. The three central entrance bays are articulated by a staircase. Four original cast iron sconces have been replaced. A sign, "Federal Building United States Court House," surmounts the three central arches, obscuring part of the console. A similar belt course that functions as a cornice and a stone sill course that bears directly on it separate the first and second storeys on all facades. On the second and third storeys, the pavilion is terminated by a pair of colossal brick pilasters, with stone bases and capitals. Each capital is embellished with a carved echinus and a carved roundel on its neck. Identical single pilasters articulate the bays. The second storey windows of the pavilion, like all the second storey windows, are flat-arched and contain ten light French doors

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FIM, WBR 7

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surmounted by a four light transom. All of the building's second storey windows have wrought iron balcony railings; those of the pavilion are set within a brick arch with a terra cotta surround and an inclined terra cotta tympanum. The windows of the first storey of the building are of the same configuration, as the second storey windows, without the transom. In the pavilion, they are surmounted by stone keystones. The stone parapet above the pavilion is balustraded, having piers with enailed panels corresponding to the pilasters below.

In the outermost bays at the principal facade, the first storey windows are composed of a four light transom above eight over-double-hung sash units with a thickened central muntin. In the most two bays, the parapet is of solid brick with stone coping. The east and west facades are almost identical. Each has four windows of the same construction of which is identical to that of the outermost bay of the principal facade. The parapet consists of brick pier stone balustrades wider than the solids below. The transom of second window from the north on the first storey of the west contains louvers. A brick penthouse surmounts the two northern bays of the east facade, and there is an additional narrow bay between the first two southern bays of the first storey.

The outermost two bays of the rear facade are identical to the corresponding bays of the principal facade. The first storey pavilion projects further than the two storeys above. The roof of the pavilion accommodates narrow windows on the second and third storeys. On the first storey, an eight over eight double-hung window with a four light transom has been replaced on the east window whereas though the original remains on the west facade. The first storey of the rear pavilion is almost all penetrated by a six light transom. A wooden entry vestibule the vestibule transom projects out from the central bay. Panels with six light transoms flank the east doorway, and two such panels flank the double panel and door. A covered loading dock has been removed.

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surmounted by a four light transom. All of the building's second storey windows have wrought iron balcony railings; those of the pavilion are set within a brick arch with a terra cotta surround and an incised terra cotta tympanum. The windows of the third storey of the building are of the same configuration as the first storey windows, without the transom. In the pavilion, they are surmounted by stone keystones. The stone parapet above the pavilion is balustraded, having piers with molded panels corresponding to the pilasters below.

In the outermost bays of the principal facade, the first storey windows are composed of a four light transom above eight over eight double-hung sash units with a thickened central muntin. In the outermost two bays, the parapet is of solid brick with stone coping.

The east and west facades are almost identical. Each has four bays, the fenestration of which is identical to that of the outermost bays of the principal facade. The parapet consists of brick piers and stone balustrades wider than the voids below. The transom of the second window from the north on the first storey of the west facade contains louvers. A brick penthouse surmounts the two northernmost bays of the east facade, and there is an additional narrow window between the first two southern bays of the first storey.

The outermost two bays of the rear facade are identical to the corresponding bays of the principal facade. The first storey of the pavilion projects further than the two storeys above. The returns of the pavilion accommodate narrow windows on the second and third storeys. On the first storey, an eight over eight double-hung sash window with a four light transom has been replaced on the east facade with louvers though the original remains on the west facade. The first storey of the rear pavilion is almost all fenestration. Each bay is glazed with three fifteen light fixed units, each surmounted by a six light transom. A wooden entry vestibule the height of the transom projects out from the central bay. Panels with six lights flank the east doorway, and two such panels flank the double doors on the south facade. Corresponding transom lights surmount each panel and door. A covered loading dock has been removed.

Opelika, Alabama

NATIONAL  
INVENTORY

CONTINUED

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FORM 9000-7

**D SIGNIFICANCE**

PHOTO

AREA OF SIGNIFICANCE CHECK AND JUSTIFY

ARCHITECTURAL

ENGINEERING

MECHANICAL

ELECTRICAL

OTHER

UNUSUAL ASPECTS

MONUMENTAL

EXCELLENCE OF CONSTRUCTION

ASSOCIATION WITH OTHER HISTORIC PLACES

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

DATE OF DATA 1915

BULLDOG MOUND SITE

The second story of the entire front of the pavilion, the twelve over twenty double-hung sash windows are set within a three-story aperture. On the third story the outer edges contain an architrave with a frieze surround embellished by four stone keystone at the interior joints. Between the square headed windows on the second story are three large brick arches. On either side of the arches are three stone impostes and a triangular stone imposte on the large sash windows. The three-fourth level is set with its windows on the second floor level in brick and is composed of three large windows arranged by thirteen pilasters (1915).

Above the arches a recessed brick frieze and a decorative cornice are the first story. The pavement is bituminous and is composed of irregular stones.

The corner post with a heavy and a square base is set in the center of each side of the courtyard and the base is decorated with a circular emblem. The floors of the pavilion are of irregularly shaped earth-baked bricks.

The federal building is one of the larger and more buildings in this small town. Though part of the revival, the building incorporates details of the as well. Its architect reflects the effort and architect to raise a significant architectural statement for the government's presence in Opelika. In its design a prominent site opposite one of the old and across from the Municipal Building and Library, as a focus for the cultural and civic center of town, the building is an interesting example of the development of reinforced concrete construction; drawings for the reinforced concrete construction were prepared for the the job system of reinforced concrete was employed.

The building was occupied for over fifty years as a 1968 it was converted to a federal office building. The George W. Andrews Federal Building named after Andrews was a member of the House of Representatives Third Alabama District from 1925 to 1951, and served at-large from 1961 to 1961.

Opelika, Alabama

# SIGNIFICANCE

PHASE	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE	CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW
DESIGN	ARCHITECTURE	ARCHITECTURE
CONSTRUCTION	CONSTRUCTION	CONSTRUCTION
USE	USE	USE
ASSOCIATION	ASSOCIATION	ASSOCIATION
SCENERY	SCENERY	SCENERY
ARCHITECTURE	ARCHITECTURE	ARCHITECTURE
CONSTRUCTION	CONSTRUCTION	CONSTRUCTION
USE	USE	USE
ASSOCIATION	ASSOCIATION	ASSOCIATION
SCENERY	SCENERY	SCENERY

Special (over 1911) BUILDER ARCHITECT James A. McHenry

STATE OF ALABAMA

The Federal Building is one of the larger and more distinguished buildings in this small town. Though part of the Colonial Revival, its building incorporates details of the Renaissance Revival as well. Its eclecticism reflects the effort undertaken by the architect to ease a dominant architectural statement of the Federal Government's presence in Opelika. In fact, the building occupies a prominent site opposite one of the old churches of Opelika and across from the Municipal Building and Library. It thus serves as a focus to the cultural and civic center of town. Technologically, the building is an interesting example of the development of reinforced concrete construction; drawings for the building indicate the slab system of reinforced concrete was employed.

The building was occupied for over fifty years as a post office. In 1961 it was converted to a federal office building, and given the name, "The George W. Andrews Federal Building United States Courthouse." Andrews was a member of the House of Representatives representing the Third Alabama District from 1874 to 1901, and served as Representative-at-Large from 1901 to 1906.

**MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Alabama, A Guide to the Deep South - W.P.A. Alabama Writers Project  
 New York 1941, p. 371  
 Opelika Daily News - September 9, 1934  
 Columbus Ledger - September 1, 1929

**GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

1016521800139131260

BLDG. NO. \_\_\_\_\_

BLDG. TYPE \_\_\_\_\_

BLDG. CON. \_\_\_\_\_

BLDG. MAT. \_\_\_\_\_

BLDG. FIN. \_\_\_\_\_

BLDG. USE \_\_\_\_\_

BLDG. COND. \_\_\_\_\_

BLDG. DATE \_\_\_\_\_

BLDG. AREA \_\_\_\_\_

BLDG. VOL. \_\_\_\_\_

BLDG. HGT. \_\_\_\_\_

BLDG. WID. \_\_\_\_\_

BLDG. DEPT. \_\_\_\_\_

BLDG. OR. \_\_\_\_\_

BLDG. CO. \_\_\_\_\_

BLDG. ST. \_\_\_\_\_

BLDG. CT. \_\_\_\_\_

BLDG. ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

BLDG. STATE \_\_\_\_\_

BLDG. COUNTRY \_\_\_\_\_

BLDG. COMMENTS \_\_\_\_\_

**FOR REPAIRED BY**

Special Services Administration

Historic Preservation

Architectural Records

Assistant, NC 1234

**CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION**

I hereby certify that the property is included in the National Register of Historic Places.

DATE: 11/18/76

SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_

**FOR USE ONLY**

RECEIVED THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE: 11/18/76

SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: 11-15-76



