

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



766

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a).

1. Name of Property

Historic name Federal Building

Other names/site number Federal Office Building

2. Location

street & number 719 Main Street

☐ not for publication

city of town Laconia

☐ vicinity

State New Hampshire code NH county Belknap code 001 zip code 03246

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this X nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

national statewide X local

[Signature]

Signature of certifying official

Date

9/6/11

Director, Center for Historic Buildings & Federal Preservation Officer,

Title

State or Federal agency and bureau

NPS

In my opinion, the property ✓ meets does not meet the National Register criteria.

[Signature]

Signature of commenting official

Date

6/16/11

Director and SHPO, NH Division of Historical Resources

Title

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

✓ entered in the National Register

determined eligible for the National Register

determined not eligible for the National Register

removed from the National Register

other (explain:)

[Signature]

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Edson H. Beall

10.25.11

Federal Building
Name of Property

Laconia, Belknap County, New Hampshire
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

<input type="checkbox"/>	private
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - Local
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - State
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	public - Federal
<input type="checkbox"/>	private

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	building(s)
<input type="checkbox"/>	district
<input type="checkbox"/>	site
<input type="checkbox"/>	structure
<input type="checkbox"/>	building(s)
<input type="checkbox"/>	object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
		sites
		structures
		Objects
		buildings
1	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Government: Government Office

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Government: Government Office

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Modern Movement

OTHER: Simplified Classical

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation: Reinforced Concrete

walls: BRICK; STONE: Granite

roof: SYNTHETICS

other:

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

Summary Paragraph

The Federal Building, Laconia, New Hampshire occupies a 61,532-square-foot lot on the east side of Main Street, just north of Church Street in Laconia, Belknap County, New Hampshire. The two-story reinforced-masonry building was constructed in 1939-1940 to provide offices for the U.S. Department of Forestry. The building is an example of the Simplified Classical architectural style. The building footprint is in an "H" shape, with the main block facing west towards Main Street. The original building was constructed with a "T"-shaped footprint, and included the main block with hyphen. A two-story addition was constructed to the rear of the hyphen in 1966 to form the current H footprint. The exterior is faced in brick and granite.

The external elevations retain their original appearance, including all ornamentation and most of the windows and entrances. Notable features include the pediment and pilasters of the facade and the decorative stone surround of the entrance. Significant interior features include the wood-paneled entrance hall with green and purple Vermont slate flooring; the original wood flooring in the hallways and offices; the original glass-over-wood paneled doors; and the original wood baseboards, chair rails and crown moldings of the offices.

Narrative Description

See Continuation Sheets 7.1 through 7.5.

Permalife
25% COTTON CONTENT

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Federal Building

Laconia, Belknap County, New Hampshire

Section number 7

Page 1

The Federal Building, Laconia, New Hampshire has undergone few alterations over time and retains a high level of integrity. The building retains its original purpose. All alterations have been completed in a manner sensitive to the original design. A rear addition was constructed in 1966. The addition was designed in a similar appearance to the original building, with similar massing, materials, scale, and detailing. The addition is on a rear elevation; therefore, while it does detract from the integrity of design through the change in footprint, it does not significantly alter the appearance of the building from the primary public view. The sympathetically designed addition reflects the buildings physical evolution and in time may contribute to the property's significance. The floor plan has been retained in the main block and hyphen, with the exception of the conversion of the first floor garage space into offices in 1966, and the addition of an elevator and fire doors in 1995. The interior office spaces retain all of their character-defining features, although some have been covered with removable modern materials. The Federal Building, Laconia, New Hampshire retains a high level of integrity of materials, workmanship, setting, location, association and feeling.

Exterior Description

Facade

The principal elevation of the Laconia Federal Building faces west towards Main Street. The facade is sheathed in a brick veneer laid in a common bond. The brick walls are accented with a smooth-dressed granite foundation wall, cornice, corner pilasters and window sills. The windows of the first floor also have granite lintels and aprons. The facade is eleven bays wide, with regularly spaced twelve-over-eight light double-hung wood sash windows. The central three bays feature a protruding temple front that consists of a pediment and two-story pilasters. The pilasters have Doric capitals and are simplified in design. There are dentils in the cornice above each capital. The words "UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE" are inscribed in the entablature. The entrance is centrally located and is enhanced with a white marble surround. The words "FOREST SERVICE" are inscribed in the lintel of the surround. A white marble block located above the entrance features the inscription: "FEDERAL BUILDING, LACONIA, NEW HAMPSHIRE." The door (replaced circa 1994) is a metal-framed glass door with sidelight. The original transom with three starburst patterns and the address plate remain above the door. The entrance is accessible via a granite stairway that extends almost the full width of the central protruding bays. The stairway includes flanking lampposts and a wrought iron balustrade and handrails styled in an "X" pattern.

The cornerstone is found on the north corner of the west elevation. It reads:

HENRY MORGENTHAU, JR
SECRETARY OF THE TREASUREY
HENRY A. WALLACE
SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE
LOUIS A. SIMON
SUPERVISING ARCHITECT
NEAL A. MELICK
SUPERVISING ENGINEER
1939

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Federal Building

Laconia, Belknap County, New Hampshire

Section number 7

Page 2

Secondary Elevations

The main block of the Laconia Federal Building is three bays deep with twelve-over-eight light double-hung wood sash windows on the first level and eight-over-eight light double-hung wood sash windows on the second level of the north, east, and south elevations. The secondary elevations of the main block carry on the design details of the facade, retaining the full cornice, and smooth-dressed granite watertable, basement wall, window sills and aprons, corner pilasters, and lintels at the first floor windows. A basement entrance is found on the east elevation of the main block near the north wall of the hyphen, accessible down a cement stairway. The door is of modern steel. There is an eight-over-eight light double-hung wood sash window in the basement level near the entrance. Two rectangular awning-sash windows are found in the basement level of the south elevation, and one is found in the basement level of the east elevation, south of the wing.

The hyphen of the Laconia Federal Building is three bays wide and six bays deep. The details of the facade are simplified on the hyphen; the brick wall is detailed with a granite watertable, granite window sills, and a vestigial granite cornice. An entrance is located on the south elevation, near its intersection with the main block. The remaining bays contain the same window types as the main block, with the exception of the easternmost bay of windows on the north elevation of the hyphen, which have been carefully infilled with matching bricks. A modern door leading to this stairwell is located near the intersection of the hyphen and the addition.

The 1966 addition to the Laconia Federal Building is four bays deep and fifteen bays wide. It retains the appearance of the historic portion of the building in that it is covered with brick and detailed with a granite watertable, window sills, and vestigial cornice. The windows throughout the 1966 addition have the same appearance of the historic windows, although the first floor windows have steel sashes rather than wood. There are no first floor windows on the west elevation of the addition north of the hyphen. Steel shutters have been installed over three bays of windows on the first floor on the west elevation of the addition south of the hyphen. The north and south elevations each have a centrally located two-bay garage door and pedestrian entrance.

Interior Description

A large percentage of the interior space of the Laconia Federal Building retains integrity of design. Alterations include the 1966 addition at the rear of the hyphen, the relocation of the garage space from the hyphen to the addition, the introduction of acoustic tile ceilings and fluorescent lighting in the office spaces in 1995, and the installation of the elevator in 2005. In addition, two murals historically associated with the building have been removed for conservation and future placement.¹

¹ The murals were located on the north wall of the office at the south end of the first floor hallway of the main block. This office was originally an assembly hall. The first mural, entitled "Pulp Wood Logging" by Philip Guston, depicted loggers working in a winter forest scene. The second mural, "Wildlife in White Mountain," by Musa McKim, depicted the recreational use of the White Mountain National Forest through the image of a springtime forest full of wildlife and hiking children. These two murals were commissioned during the building's initial construction (1939-1940) under the arts program managed by the Section of Fine Arts of the U.S. Treasury Department.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Federal Building

Laconia, Belknap County, New Hampshire

Section number 7

Page 3

The interior plan throughout the building consists of a central hallway flanked by rooms, with the exception of the entrance hall on the first floor of the main block and the garage on the first level of the 1966 addition. A stairwell and elevator is found at the southwestern intersection of the hyphen and the main block on each of the three levels.

Basement

The basement is mostly used for mechanicals, storage, and maintenance, and is only excavated under the main block of the building. The walls are painted concrete block and the floors are covered with linoleum tiles throughout most of the spaces. The ceilings are covered with drywall, and there are exposed pipes and external wiring throughout. Fluorescent lights hang from the ceiling. The two-panel metal doorways are more simplified than those upstairs.

Entrance Hall

The entrance hall of the Federal Building is located in the center of the first level of the main block, accessible through a vestibule. The doors leading from Main Street have been replaced with a modern steel and glass entrance, which leads into the wood-paneled vestibule. The lower halves of the walls of the vestibule are covered with bronze grates in a scalloped pattern. The double doors leading from the vestibule to the entrance hall have six lights over a wood panel, and have two brass push bars. There is a five-light toplight above the double doors. The walls of the entrance hall are covered in board-and-batten wood paneling. A large map of the White Mountain National Forest, created by the Public Works Administration, is framed and hung on the south wall of the entrance hall between the vestibule and the main block hallway. The floors of the entrance hall are green and purple Vermont slate in a random ashlar pattern, and the baseboards are green slate. The ceilings have been covered with modern acoustic tile, and modern fluorescent lights have been installed.

The Federal Building was originally designed to be entered from Main Street. Visitors would enter the building through the entrance hall, with immediate access to the map of the White Mountain National Forest. For security purposes, the main visitor entrance was moved from Main Street to the parking lot on the south side of the building circa 1995. Presently, the public enters the building via a modern doorway in the hyphen. Upon entering the building, the hallway of the hyphen extends to the east, and the entrance hall is to the west. Modern metal double doors were installed in the entrance hall, separating the hallway of the main block from the hallway of the hyphen circa 1995 likely for fire and safety purposes. Efforts were made to minimize the visual impact of this alteration through the matching of the doors and frames to the wood of the entrance hall.

Elevator and Stairwells

In 2005, an elevator was installed in the south wall of the entrance hallway, in the middle of the stairwell. The wood paneling on the interior and exterior walls of the elevator matches that of the entrance hall. To the east of the elevator are the stairs to the basement and to the west are the stairs to the second floor. The stairs to the second level are covered with green slate, and the stairwell has slate baseboards and a simple metal handrail. The wood paneling along the walls of the stairwell from the first floor to the second floor matches that of the entrance hallway. The stairwell to the basement has plaster walls, and the stairs are covered with linoleum.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Federal Building

Laconia, Belknap County, New Hampshire

Section number 7

Page 4

A secondary stairwell leads from the second floor, down to the first floor, and outside to the parking area. This stairwell is located on the north wall of the hyphen, adjacent to the 1966 addition. It is of modern construction, with linoleum floors and drywall-covered walls. The stairway was altered in the 1990s to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) regulations and has a wheelchair lift along the railing.

Hallways

The hallways in the main block extend to the north and south and are flanked by offices on all sides. The floors are pine, and the walls are plaster with wood baseboards. The ceilings are covered with acoustic tiles and feature fluorescent lights. The entrances to most of the offices retain the original glass-over-panel wood doors with transoms and wood surrounds. The original doors have mail slots and original hardware. The doors at each end of the hallway are paired.

The hallways of the hyphen extend to the east and west and are flanked by offices on either side. The first-floor hallway of the hyphen ends at the east wall, where there is an entrance to the garage space in the rear addition. As the first floor of the hyphen was originally a garage space, the floors are covered with linoleum. The doors that lead into the offices mimic those of the historic blocks in design and materials, but do not have transoms. The hallway of the second floor of the hyphen connects the hallway of the main block to the hallway of the 1966 addition. The second-floor hallway of the hyphen has the same appearance as that of the main block. The floors are wood, and the original doors with transoms remain. In the second-floor hallway of the 1966 addition, the floors are linoleum and the office doors match those of the first floor of the hyphen.

Offices

The offices of the Laconia Federal Building are much the same as they were when originally designed in 1939. In the main block and second floor of the hyphen, the walls are plaster, the floors are pine, and the windows are the original twelve-over-eight light or eight-over-eight light double-hung wood sashes. The offices all have mahogany-finished wood baseboards, chair rails and picture rails. In many of the offices, acoustic tile ceilings and fluorescent lights were installed around 1995 when the heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) system was upgraded. The acoustic tiles cover the original ceilings, lights and picture rails. In some offices, the pine floors are covered with linoleum or carpeting. These alterations are removable and have not destroyed the historic fabric beneath them.

A notable detail of the second level is a clock that is attached to the east wall of the northernmost office facing Main Street, room number 221. Encased in wood with a glass front, the clock has a brushed silver face and a long pendulum.

In the hyphen and the 1966 addition to the Laconia Federal Building, the offices have linoleum or carpeted floors, acoustic tile ceilings, and vinyl baseboards. The first level of the addition serves as an open garage space. The walls are unfinished and are constructed of brick and concrete blocks. The reinforced concrete beam structure of the ceiling is exposed. As the basement has not been excavated under the garage, this area has a higher ceiling than the remainder of the first floor. The garage is accessed either from the outside or from the east end of the hyphen via stairs.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Federal Building

Laconia, Belknap County, New Hampshire

Section number 7

Page 5

Restrooms

A men's and a ladies' restroom are found on the first and second floors of the main block. The men's rooms are located south of the stairwell, and the ladies' rooms are located south of the northeast corner offices. The restrooms have largely retained their historic appearance. The walls and partitions are marble, reaching about six feet in height, where the walls continue in plaster. The floors are hexagonal ceramic tile, and the doors of the stalls are metal replacements. Some fixtures have been repaired or replaced due to the lack of availability of parts that match the originals.

Exterior Landscape Features and Setting

The Federal Building is situated away from Main Street, with lawn and landscaping ornamenting the public view. A flag pole is found to the northwest of the entrance. An asphalt driveway enters the lot from Main Street on the north side of the building, and circles around the rear of the building to exit onto Main Street on the south side of the building. Parking is found on the north, east and south sides of the building.

The former Boston & Maine Railroad right-of-way delineates the southern boundary of the property. The railroad tracks continue west across Main Street to the Laconia Passenger Depot, which is now used for shops and restaurants. The Federal Building is surrounded to the north and east by some of the older residences in the town. The dwellings date mostly to the nineteenth century, and the streets are flanked by mature deciduous trees. The lot that the Laconia Federal Building sits upon formerly contained a large nineteenth-century dwelling. Across the street from the Federal Building is the modern Laconia Clinic Building. The clinic constructed a building on the opposite side of Main Street around the same time as the Laconia Federal Building was built; however, it was replaced with the existing modern structure in the late twentieth century.

Some of the more prominent buildings in the area of the Federal Building are the Romanesque Revival Library to the south and the train station to the southwest. Much of the downtown blocks are either from the late-nineteenth century or the Urban Renewal era of Laconia (circa 1960-1975). The Laconia Federal Building stands out as a Simplified Classical building, although several other commercial and institutional buildings in Laconia copied the design details of the federal building after its construction. The height of most buildings in the area is two to three stories, similar to the Federal Building. The majority of the surrounding buildings are of a smaller massing. Most of the downtown buildings are connected masonry blocks, in contrast to the stand-alone federal building.

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- ☒ A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply)

Property is:

- ☐ A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ B removed from its original location.
- ☐ C a birthplace or grave.
- ☐ D a cemetery.
- ☐ E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ F a commemorative property.
- ☐ G less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Politics/Government

Period of Significance

1939-1961

Significant Dates

1939; 1961

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

Unknown

Architect/Builder

Simon, Louis A.; Supervising Architect

Melick, Neal A.; Supervising Engineer

Period of Significance (justification)

The Federal Building—Laconia, New Hampshire is significant in the areas of Politics/Government and Architecture for the years 1939-1961. The building is significant for its association with New Deal-area federal building construction campaigns, as well as for its notable representation of the Simplified Classical architectural style. The building is significant for the years 1939-1961, as the building was built for and served to house the federal government.

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria)

The Federal Building, Laconia, New Hampshire possesses local significance as a notable example of a federal government building in this community erected under the New Deal-era federal programs designed in the 1930s to relieve the economic problems caused by the Great Depression. The federal building is also locally significant as a notable example of the Simplified Classical architectural style with Art Deco-style detailing popularized through the federal building projects of the 1930s and 1940s. The building is significant under National Register Criterion A (properties that are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history) and Criterion C (properties that embody a distinctive characteristic of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master).

Narrative Statement of Significance (provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance)

Politics/Government

The Laconia Federal Building, which historically housed the offices of the White Mountain National Forest Supervisor and staff, signifies an important time in regional political history. The creation of the White Mountain National Forest closely parallels the conservation and recreation movements of the U.S. and the enactment of the Weeks Act of 1911. Although the building was not constructed until several years after the creation of the administrative positions that support the White Mountain National Forest, the Laconia Federal Building signifies an important part of Forest Service history through the expansion of the offices as a result of New Deal programs. Laconia was chosen as the location of the White Mountain National Forest offices due to its location as a "gateway" to the White Mountains. The Laconia Federal Building centralized the functions of the White Mountain National Forest staff, providing not only a central administrative location, but also allowing visitors to gather information on the park before venturing into the White Mountains National Forest.

The Laconia Federal Building also demonstrates elements of the federal building campaign carried forth under the Public Works Administration and into the Great Depression. Rather than develop new designs for every new building, the Supervising Architects Office often reused designs from previous projects in order to decrease cost, reduce design time and be more efficient overall. The Laconia Federal Building used the plans for the Forestry Building in Elkins, West Virginia, designed by Louis Simon in 1936, as the basis of construction. Facade variations were made, including the addition of quoins and a pedimented entrance; however, the similarities are easily noted.

Furthermore, the building was designed and constructed as part of the federal construction programs that were enacted to reduce unemployment during the Depression. The building facade is detailed with granite, which emphasized the monumentality and steadfastness of the federal government during what were uncertain times. The lack of ornamentation stresses the government's frugality at a time when ostentatious displays would have been inappropriate. The incorporation of classical elements also expresses the sense of a federal permanence and presence in the community.

Architecture

The Laconia Federal Building is significant under Criterion C as a notable example of the Simplified Classical architectural style, the preferred style that characterizes the federal building's erected during the late tenure of Supervising Architect Louis A. Simon. Characteristic of the Simplified Classical style, the Laconia Federal Building displays a strong sense of mass and permanence with simplified detailing. The restrained exterior detailing, the emphatic signage and pilasters, and the detailed entry and window surrounds convey the building's

Federal Building
Name of Property

Laconia, Belknap County, New Hampshire
County and State

public purpose while simultaneously emphasizing the sleekness and parsimony of Depression-era federal government through the lack of extraneous and ornamental detail.

Developmental history/additional historic context information (if appropriate)

See Continuation Sheets 8.1 through 8.14.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67 has been requested)
☐ previously listed in the National Register
☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____

☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

☐ State Historic Preservation Office
☐ Other State agency
☐ Federal agency
☐ Local government
☐ University
☒ Other

See Continuation Sheets 9.1

Name of repository: through 9.3

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): N/A

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 1.4

(do not include previously listed resource acreage)

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

1 18 300253 4822492
Zone Easting Northing

2 Zone Easting Northing

3 Zone Easting Northing

4 Zone Easting Northing

Verbal Boundary Description (describe the boundaries of the property)

The boundary includes the approximately 1.4-acre tax parcel upon which the Laconia Federal Building is located. North Main Street delineates the boundary to the west, Harvard Street to the north, and two unnamed alleyways to the west and south.

Boundary Justification (explain why the boundaries were selected)

The National Register boundary for the Laconia Federal Building includes the entire portion of the 1.4-acre tax parcel that is historically associated with the building during its period of significance (1939-1940). This boundary follows the tax parcel lines and includes the Federal Building that has occupied the lot since its completion in 1940. The boundary encompasses all of the significant resources and features that comprise the property.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Federal Building

Laconia, Belknap County, New Hampshire

Section number 8

Page 1

Historical Narrative:

History of Laconia, Belknap County, New Hampshire

Europeans first explored Laconia, New Hampshire, the "City on the Lakes", in 1652. Before European settlement, it was a wilderness inhabited by Native Americans. Laconia is located in central New Hampshire about thirty miles south of the White Mountain National Forest. Laconia is surrounded by forests, lakes and rivers, a beautiful setting for the tourists who visit the area during all seasons. Benjamin Mudgett and his wife settled Laconia in 1763. Originally part of Gilmanton, the settlement grew until it became a separate village known as Gilford in 1812. Initially a trading and agricultural center, mills became the predominant industry in Gilford in the 1800s due to the abundance of waterways. Area mills produced hosiery, textiles, lumber, and shoes, among other merchandise.²

The first road through Laconia ran from Portsmouth, New Hampshire, to Canada in 1770. The roadway spanned the Winnepesaukee River, and the area around it was called Meredith Bridge. Meredith Bridge grew very quickly due to its proximity to the mills. In 1855, officials incorporated Laconia as the portion of Meredith Bridge on the east side of the Winnepesaukee River. The area grew steadily as a result of the opening of the Concord & Montreal Railroad and the Laconia Car Company concurrently in 1848. The Laconia Car Company made railroad cars and was the largest employer in Laconia until it closed in the 1930s. In 1874, Laconia annexed a part of Gilford, and in 1893 Laconia was established as a city after annexing Lakeport.³

The greatest period of economic prosperity in Laconia came in the late nineteenth century, as is visible today in the styles of the prominent buildings in the town. In 1860, a fire wiped out most of the downtown. The buildings were reconstructed using bricks made in the area of town known as the Weirs. The Laconia State School opened in 1902 as a residence for the developmentally challenged and became one of the largest employers in the area. The State School remained a presence in the area until a class action law suit in the 1980s largely dismantled their programs.⁴

The character of downtown Laconia began to change in the early twentieth century as a result of the growth that came from the establishment of the White Mountain National Forest. Residences closest to the commercial center were demolished and replaced with commercial and institutional buildings in order to serve the increasing population and tourists that came through the area. The Laconia Federal Building was constructed as the offices of the White Mountain National Forest Supervisor and staff late in this phase of downtown growth. This resulted in an increase in visitors to Laconia for business with the Forest Service or tourists looking for information on the National Forest. As transportation technology progressed and the area became accessible via automobile, the railroads closed and outdoor recreation increased in popularity. An airport was opened in 1934.

² Warren D. Huse, *Images of America: Laconia, New Hampshire* (Dover, New Hampshire: Arcadia Publishing, 1995).

³ Ibid.

⁴ "Centennial Edition." (Laconia, New Hampshire: *The Citizen*, 19 May 1993).

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Federal Building

Laconia, Belknap County, New Hampshire

Section number 8

Page 2

As the mills closed in the early to mid-twentieth century, the area leaned more heavily on tourism, and much more of the economic base turned to the service industry.⁵

The City of Laconia underwent another vast change in the 1960s and 1970s as a result of urban renewal. The O'Shea Industrial Park was constructed on the outskirts of town. Legislators passed a law in 1965 to construct a bypass road around downtown and replace many of the downtown brick blocks with parking and modern structures. Several downtown businesses were relocated to the industrial park, while others were lost completely. Longtime landmarks, such as Earl's Diner and Wittum's Mobil Station, one of the earliest taverns, the fish market and many other prominent blocks were demolished. The local bakery and department store were razed for a Ramada, and the bars along Mill Street were replaced with parking lots. Three quarters of the mills along the river were demolished, which removed the industrial feeling from the downtown. Local preservation groups emerged from the urban renewal movement, and two mills were saved: Belknap Mill and Busiel Mill.⁶

Tourism remains a large part of Laconia's economy. Commuting continues to grow along with construction of new highways. Local jobs in light industry, high tech manufacturing, offices, medical and professional services have also increased. The State School was converted into a prison after its closure in 1990. During this time, the Lakes Region General Hospital became one of the largest employers and remains as such to the present day.⁷

History of the U. S. Forest Service and the White Mountain National Forest

U.S. Forest Service

Divided into three primary components (National Forest Administration, State and Private Forestry, and Research), the U.S. Forest Service is the largest agency within the Department of Agriculture. The history of the Forest Service begins in 1873, when Franklin B. Hough, a physician, historian, and statistician, read a paper called "On the Duty of Governments in the Preservation of Forests," at a meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. Impressed by Hough's ideas, the scientists passed a resolution to "petition Congress on the importance of promoting the cultivation of timber and the preservation of forests." After several years of work to gain congressional support, a bill was passed on August 15, 1876, authorizing the commissioner of agriculture to appoint a forestry agent. Hough was appointed as forestry agent in what was then called the Division of Forestry and was given the task of gathering statistical data on the nation's forests. Hough compiled three volumes between 1877 and 1882, entitled "Report Upon Forestry," which provided a solid base of knowledge about forestry conditions in the United States. In his analysis, Hough recommended that the government retain forests on public land and adopt regulations to "secure an economical use."⁸

The small program was given permanent status in 1886, under the leadership of Bernhard E. Fernow as Chief Forester. Fernow continued the research begun by Hough, greatly expanding the understanding of the complex interrelationships between the trees of the forest and other forest resources, such as water. Fernow also added

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ Ibid.

⁸ Harold K. Steen. "Forest Service" (on file at the White Mountain National Forest Offices, Laconia, New Hampshire, 1991).

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Federal Building

Laconia, Belknap County, New Hampshire

Section number 8

Page 3

an economic dimension, which was important in garnering support for the federal forestry program. Under Fernow, Congress enacted the Forest Reserve Act of 1891. This act authorized the president to remove land from the public domain to establish federal forest reserves. These reserves were held under the General Land Service of the Department of the Interior.⁹

In 1898, Gifford Pinchot replaced Fernow as Chief Forester. Pinchot would prove to be a prominent figure in the history of the Forest Service and the conservation movement. Pinchot's work in the field vastly expanded the responsibilities of the agency. In addition to his training in forestry and his personal wealth, Pinchot had a strong relationship with President Theodore Roosevelt. All of these things allowed him to make to great progress in the Division of Forestry, beginning in 1905 with the transfer of 63 million acres of forest reserves from the Department of the Interior to the Department of Agriculture. The administration renamed the lands National Forests two years later, to show they were for the benefit and use of the public. By 1907, under the administration of President Theodore Roosevelt, the federal forest system had expanded to 151 million acres, and by the time he left office in 1909, there were 195 million acres of national forest.¹⁰

While the amount of land preserved in national forests was expanding exponentially west of the Mississippi, little was done to protect the forests of the East. The government believed strongly in the rights of the private landowner, and the legislation of the nineteenth century only allowed public lands to be removed from the public domain for the establishment of forest reserves.¹¹ However, conservationists made continuous attempts to bring the significant degradation of the eastern forests to the attention of the government. After several unsuccessful attempts, a bill was finally passed in 1911 that allowed the purchase of lands for the establishment of forest reserves. Massachusetts Congressman John W. Weeks made the argument that the protection of eastern forests was essential to industries that depended on waterpower. The Weeks Act was drafted to protect the navigable streams of the nation through the purchase of forested lands. The White Mountain National Forest was one of the first purchases under the Weeks Act.¹²

The next significant era of growth for the Forest Service occurred in the 1930s. U.S. Department of Agriculture Secretary Henry A. Wallace initiated a series of programs to help stabilize the economy during the Great Depression. It was during this time of growth within the department that the Laconia Federal Building was commissioned. The New Deal, established under the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Administration, created jobs through conservation projects such as the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). The Forest Service administered nearly half of the CCC projects, which employed about three million men in total for projects to fight forest fires, plant seedlings, and construct roads, trails and campgrounds. The New Deal also prioritized land acquisition, and nearly eight million acres were added to the national forest system between 1933 and 1941.¹³

⁹ United States Department of Agriculture, Forest Service. "Highlights in the History of Forest Conservation" (Washington, D.C.: United States Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, 1948) p. 5.

¹⁰ Steen.

¹¹ United States Forest Service. "White Mountains: National Forest of Maine, New Hampshire, Grew From Ashes," (Lewiston, Maine: *The Lewiston Daily Sun*. 26 November 1986).

¹² Paul O. Bofinger. "Private Lands—Public Forest: The Story of the Weeks Act" (Concord, New Hampshire: Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests, *Forest Notes*, Summer 1986).

¹³ Steen.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Federal Building

Laconia, Belknap County, New Hampshire

Section number 8

Page 4

While the CCC constructed many projects focused on the recreational uses of national forests, the Forest Management Act of 1897 specified that forest reserves were established to protect timber and water resources. Before World War II, only about two percent of the nation's wood was cut from national forests. During and following the war, demands increased rapidly, and about one-third of the nation's wood was then being sold by the Forest Service. This increase in timber production, combined with the increased recreational use of the forests in the mid-twentieth century, made it more and more difficult for the Forest Service to balance the two uses.¹⁴

Richard E. McArdle became chief in 1952 and was tasked with the deregulation of the Forest Service after two decades of New Deal activities. McArdle initiated an inventory of the nation's forests, which proved that there was no surplus of land. The analysis of this inventory concluded that the utility of existing national forests would have to be enhanced in order to meet the dueling needs of the forests. Reforestation programs, as well as enhanced fire, insect, and disease programs were undertaken. Finally, the Multiple Use-Sustained Yield Act of 1960 was passed. This act finally decreed that timber, wildlife, range, water and recreation were all legitimate national forest resources.¹⁵

White Mountain National Forest

The White Mountains are the setting of some of the earliest wilderness explorations in America, early scientific studies in the ecology of wilderness areas, and inspiration for painters and writers who helped transform the attitudes of Americans towards wild nature in the mid 1800s. The White Mountains, while appreciated by many since the first settlers, were first memorialized by artist Thomas Cole in the 1820s and 1830s. Cole made three visits during this time to paint the grandeur of the White Mountains. Cole was a cofounder of the Hudson River School of American landscape painting, which depicted some of the most rugged areas of the American landscape in a manner which brought out their pristine beauty. The works of the Hudson River School artists fostered a great appreciation of the American wilderness from the public. Other artists followed Cole's lead, heading into the White Mountains for inspiration. The public responded to the works of the Hudson River School, and middle-class tourists began to travel to the White Mountains in search of the beautiful scenery and serenity depicted in so much of the popular artwork of the time.¹⁶

The White Mountains began to attract an increasing amount of development after the Civil War. Tourists were flocking to the mountains in search of a respite from the city and were quickly and easily transported there by the ever-expanding railroads. Grand resort hotels sprung up throughout the area, promoting the "rugged outdoorsmen" experience. The resorts of the White Mountains were hardly rugged, attracting mostly middle- and upper-class patrons from the eastern cities. They offered activities such as horseback riding, hunting, fishing, and hiking, and carefully maintained trails which exposed the tourists to nature while keeping them in a safe and secure environment.¹⁷

¹⁴ Ibid.

¹⁵ Ibid.

¹⁶ Christopher Johnson. *This Grand and Magnificent Place: The Wilderness Heritage of the White Mountains*. (Durham, New Hampshire: University of New Hampshire Press, 2006), 2-5, 65-85.

¹⁷ Johnson, 126-46.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Federal Building

Laconia, Belknap County, New Hampshire

Section number 8

Page 5

While their wilderness experiences were kept to a minimum, the tourists visiting the White Mountains in the 1800s were still exposed to the grand nature that surrounded them, and an increasing amount of people began to seek a purer wilderness experience. The first hiking clubs began to emerge in New England in the 1860s and 70s, consisting of small groups wanting to explore regions that had not been touched by humans. Several clubs were founded in the White Mountains in the late nineteenth century, the most influential and long-lasting of which was the Appalachian Mountain Club (AMC), founded in 1876. These clubs built and maintained trails, published their experiences, initiated studies, and, as a result, attracted many conservationists to the area. The early members of the AMC and other hiking clubs became leaders in wilderness protection, advancing the early grassroots movement into a national conservation movement to protect the nation's forests and wilderness areas.¹⁸

The great expanses of forests that make up the White Mountains were not only used for tourism but also for logging and water resources. While the forests of New Hampshire had been exploited by the timber-cutting industries since colonial days, the demand for wood exploded after the Civil War as a result of the nation's rapid industrialization and urbanization.¹⁹ By the late 1800s, the cutting and burning of the nation's forests was escalating to a dangerous point so that it affected not only views for the tourists but also the well-being of individuals that lived nearby and the industries that depended on the water resources. The clear-cutting and burning of the forests of New England was causing pollution, forest fires, droughts, erosion, flooding, and many other environmental issues.²⁰

In the late nineteenth century, most of the eastern forests were under private ownership; at the same time, many forested areas west of the Mississippi were being placed in the public domain under the Forest Reserve Act of 1891. While the government widely accepted the creation of national forests in the West, the rights of the private sector were highly regarded in the East. Not only was the government hesitant to impede on the property rights of the private industrialist, but it was thought that the conservation efforts of New England were mainly based on environment and scenery.²¹ Several articles were published, documenting the clear-cutting of the White Mountains and the negative effect on the area, not only on scenery but on the local industries that were also affected by drought and flooding. In their writing, leading conservationists called upon the government to take action to save the nation's natural resources.²² Between 1901 and 1911, over forty attempts were made to pass legislation for the federal protection and purchase of forests in the eastern U.S. In 1909, John W. Weeks, Congressman from Massachusetts, introduced his first legislation for the creation of eastern national forests. The bill passed in 1911, as Week's had finally convinced Congress that the forests needed protection in order to maintain the water supply essential for the industries of the northeast.²³ Rather than a straight forest protection law, the Weeks Act focused on the protection of navigable streams.

¹⁸ Johnson, 147-168.

¹⁹ Johnson, 171-197.

²⁰ Bofinger.

²¹ United States Forest Service.

²² Johnson, 171-197.

²³ U.S Forest Service.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Federal Building

Laconia, Belknap County, New Hampshire

Section number 8

Page 6

The Weeks Act enabled the federal government to purchase forested lands in any state that had enacting legislation. The law also provided for funds from the forests to be recycled back into the counties and states within which they were located.²⁴ Purchases under the law were made in the open market, between a willing seller and willing buyer, rather than under eminent domain. Lands within the White Mountains were among the first purchases under the Weeks Act, with an appraisal party setting out on July 11, 1911, less than six months after the passing of the legislation. Once the initial boundaries had been drawn, the White Mountain Forest Reserve included about 81,000 acres along the Maine-New Hampshire border.

The official creation of the White Mountain National Forest caused a local boom in outdoor recreation. The U.S. Forest Service accommodated visitors to the White Mountain National Forest by constructing hundreds of miles of trails, creating new campgrounds, and developing several outdoor recreation facilities. New Hampshire followed the lead of the federal government in designating several state forests. Local hiking clubs continued to grow, camping became a popular family activity, and rugged sports such as rock climbing, white-water rafting, and skiing were developed. By the end of the twentieth century, the White Mountain National Forest contained about 752,500 acres in New Hampshire and 53,300 acres in Maine, although the influx of outdoor recreation and tourism has spread throughout the region, beyond the official boundaries of the national forest.²⁵ The White Mountain National Forest remains a popular destination for recreation, as well as a productive timber area, providing a significant source of tourism and revenue for the surrounding areas. The offices of the Supervisor and Staff of the White Mountain National Forest have been located in Laconia, New Hampshire, since 1927, and occupied the Federal Building from its completion in 1940 until 2009. Ranger districts are found in Conway, Holderness, and Gorham, New Hampshire.

The Office of the Supervising Architect of the U.S. Department of the Treasury

The Office of the Supervising Architect of the U.S. Treasury Department (Supervising Architect) was responsible for the construction of federal buildings throughout the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. From 1895 to 1933, the office reported to the U.S. Treasury Department. In the 1920s, the Office of the Supervising Architect was divided into a Technical Branch and an Administrative Branch. The Technical Branch included a division responsible for project costs and accounting; a drafting division, including a superintendent who greatly influenced design practices; a structural division; a mechanical engineering division; and a repairs division. In 1933, the U.S. Treasury Department was reorganized and the Office of the Supervising Architect was shifted to the Procurement Branch of the Division of Public Works of the Treasury. In July 1939, the public buildings program was removed from the U.S. Treasury Department and merged into the Federal Works Agency, Public Buildings Administration. In 1949, Congress established the U.S. General Services Administration (GSA), and the new agency assumed responsibility for public buildings.²⁶

²⁴ Karl Roenke. "Future of the White Mountain National Forest is Tied to its Past." (Laconia, New Hampshire: *The Citizen*, 8 October 1988).

²⁵ U.S. Forest Service.

²⁶ Lois A. Craig, et al., *The Federal Presence Architecture, Politics, and Symbols in the United States Government Building* (Cambridge, Massachusetts: MIT Press, 1978), 327.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Federal Building

Laconia, Belknap County, New Hampshire

Section number 8

Page 7

World War I and the Public Buildings Act of 1926

World War I brought the work of the Supervising Architect's Office to a halt due to the financial, industrial, and transportation resources strain that it placed on the country. The only buildings constructed during this period were those required for wartime use and those already under construction. New building construction commenced by 1922; however, the postponement of many projects authorized by the Public Buildings Act of 1913 and a backlog of new building requests necessitated the development of a major public building program. This resulted in the passage of a new Public Buildings Act on May 25, 1926.²⁷

The Public Buildings Act of 1926 contained three principal provisions. First, the Secretary of the Treasury and the Postmaster General were directed to conduct a nationwide survey to determine the need for postal facilities with the intent that new facilities would be based upon need rather than political influence. Secondly, the supervising architect's office was permitted to consult private architects in "special cases." The staff of the supervising architect had previously handled all projects, since James Knox Taylor decided in 1904 to effectively bar private architects from federal construction projects. Finally, the act provided for the continuation of building-design standardization.²⁸ The building-needs survey of 1926 resulted in the following:

- Doubling the \$100 million previously allocated through the act of 1926;
- The construction of at least two new buildings per state; and
- No buildings constructed in towns where postal receipts were less than \$10,000.²⁹

President Herbert Hoover worked with Congress to increase allocations for the building program in both 1930 and 1931 as the nation suffered the impacts of the Great Depression. However, the Administration of President Franklin D. Roosevelt substantially expanded the program.³⁰

The Great Depression and the Reorganization of the U.S. Treasury Department

The building industry began to suffer from the stock market crash of 1929 and the onset of the Great Depression in the early 1930s. Using provisions of the Public Buildings Act of 1926, officials promoted employment within the building trades. Congress passed an amendment to the 1926 act, known as the Keyes-Elliott Bill, in 1930 to provide "increased authority to the secretary of the treasury to enter into contracts with private architects for full professional services." Despite this directive, the Office of the Supervising Architect only considered hiring private architects for large projects due to concerns related to efficiency. The American Institute of Architects (AIA) objected to the Treasury Department's implementation of the amendment to the 1926 act and petitioned for the reorganization of the Supervising Architect's Office. The AIA hoped that the office would serve only a supervisory function, allowing wider employment of private architects and resulting in greater diversity, vitality, and regional appropriateness in federal architecture. The President's Emergency Committee for Employment and members of Congress echoed the AIA's concerns, particularly regarding the need to

²⁷ Antoinette Lee, *Architects to the Nation* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2000), 231-232, 239.

²⁸ Louis Melius, *The American Postal Service: History of the Postal Service from the Earliest Times* (Washington, D.C.: Louis Melius, 1917), 40-41.

²⁹ Ibid.

³⁰ Beth Boland, National Register of Historic Places, Bulletin 13, "How to Apply National Register Criteria to Post Offices." (Washington, D.C.: Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 1984) Section II, 3.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Federal Building

Laconia, Belknap County, New Hampshire

Section number 8

Page 8

employ local private architects. H.R. 6197, known as the Green Bill, was introduced in Congress in 1932 in an attempt to place all federal building design in the hands of private architects; however, the legislation did not pass. The AIA continued its campaign following the election of Franklin D. Roosevelt and the appointment of new officials to the U.S. Treasury Department, including Treasury Secretary William H. Woodin.³¹

Roosevelt's Executive Order 6166, which reorganized the federal building program and promised unemployment relief, was announced in June 1933. The order resulted in the creation of the Procurement Division within the U.S. Treasury Department, the transfer of the Supervising Architect's Office to the Procurement Division, and the change in name of the Supervising Architect's Office to the Public Works Branch. W.E. Reynolds, Assistant Director of the Procurement Division, was put in charge of five units headed by the supervising engineer, the supervising architect, the office manager, the chairman of the board of award, and the chief of the legal section.³²

New relief funding programs were initiated to allocate and supplement funding for public works simultaneously with the U.S. Treasury Department reorganization. Harold L. Ickes, the federal emergency administrator of public works, allocated funds to the U.S. Treasury Department for the construction of federal buildings under the provisions of the National Industrial Recovery Act of 1933, including two allotments in August 1933 in the amounts of \$6,971,648 and \$13,799,550, as well as additional funds for emergency construction projects throughout the country.³³

Public Works Administration 1933-1939

Although public works spending as a means to aiding recovery from the Depression began under the Hoover Administration, Roosevelt's New Deal is credited with using the federal building program to that end. These efforts were formalized in 1933, when the Roosevelt Administration organized the Public Works Administration (PWA) was organized to give structure to the recovery effort.³⁴

The PWA oversaw the planning and construction of federal and non-federal public works projects, focusing on federal projects such as government office buildings. To stimulate the economic recovery, the government rapidly expanded its public works program. This provided work for the unemployed, many of whom were in the building trades. During the 1930s, the number of public buildings constructed increased dramatically.³⁵

Because of the planning already completed under the 1926 legislation, these projects were able to start up quickly. The PWA constructed a total of 3,174 buildings between the years 1933 to 1939, including the Laconia Federal Building. Congress authorized a number of New Deal programs that were used to fund the construction of federal buildings. In addition, funds for federal-building construction came from the Relief Program

³¹ Lee, 248-252

³² Ibid, 253

³³ Ibid, 254

³⁴ Ellis L. Armstrong, *History of Public Works of the United States, 1776-1945*. (Chicago: American Public Works Association, 1976), 254.

³⁵ Ibid.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Federal Building

Laconia, Belknap County, New Hampshire

Section number 8

Page 9

authorized by the Emergency Relief and Construction Act of July 21, 1932; the Emergency Construction Program under the Appropriation Act of June 1934; and the Building Program for the District of Columbia, authorized by the Act of 1926. The Treasury Department retained responsibility for federal building construction funding until 1939, utilizing a number of different programs and authorizations to fund the program.³⁶

Despite the desire to complete projects rapidly, the PWA also stressed the importance of high quality in order to ensure "public works of an enduring character and lasting benefits."³⁷ The program's goals were to construct buildings as quickly as possible and to employ as many people as possible at efficient costs. Any architectural drawing that did not have to be produced moved a project faster. Avoiding construction problems caused by design changes or incorrect plans also helped. Simplified ornamentation meant less drawing time. While facade variations were allowed, standardized interior plans were well established and utilized, such as in the design of the Laconia Federal Building, mimicking the Forestry Building in Elkins, West Virginia (1936-1937). A publication entitled "Instructions to Private Architects Engaged on Public Building Work under the Jurisdiction of the Treasury Department" listed these standards. The most commonly used styles were the Colonial Revival style and the Simplified Classical style (also known as the Stripped Classical), which mixed modern and classical elements. Both of these styles can be characterized by symmetrical massing and plain surfaces.³⁸

Supervising Architect Louis A. Simon 1935-1941

In 1935, Louis A. Simon, at the age of sixty-six, succeeded James A. Wetmore as Supervising Architect.³⁹ At the time of his appointment, Simon had worked for the Office of the Supervising Architect for almost four decades and was well-known to the architectural community. Furthermore, the 1933 reorganization of the federal architecture program placed the newly named Public Works Branch at a lower level within the U.S. Treasury Department than the old Office of the Supervising Architect had previously enjoyed. However, Louis Simon retained control over the architectural design of the federal buildings designed within his office. Simon served as Supervising Architect from 1935 until 1941⁴⁰, during which time the Laconia Federal Building was designed and constructed.

Louis A. Simon was born in Baltimore in 1867 and received his education from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. After an extended tour throughout Europe, he opened an architectural office in Baltimore in 1894. Two years later, Edward A. Crane brought Simon into the Office of the Supervising Architect, where Simon spent the rest of his working career.⁴¹

Architect Louis A. Simon (1935-1941) favored classical styles of architecture during his tenure, although many of the buildings were greatly influenced by the new interest in modernism. Simon predominately utilized a

³⁶ Ibid, 327.

³⁷ Ibid.

³⁸ Ibid, 330.

³⁹ Lee, 258

⁴⁰ Ibid.

⁴¹ Ibid.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Federal Building

Laconia, Belknap County, New Hampshire

Section number 8

Page 10

simplified classical style (also known as the Stripped Classical style) that blended modern and classical elements, characterized by symmetrical massing and relatively plain surfaces.⁴²

The influence of Louis Simon is initially noted during James Wetmore's tenure, as Simon was the principal architectural designer during Wetmore's term. In addition to the Laconia Federal Building, Simon influenced the design of numerous federal buildings throughout the United States during the course of his tenure, including the Internal Revenue Service Building in Washington, D.C., the United States Post Office and Courthouse in Cincinnati, Ohio, the Couer d'Alene Federal Building in Couer d'Alene, Idaho, and a series of U.S. Border Stations along the Vermont-Quebec border.⁴³ Upon Simon's retirement in 1941, the *Federal Architect* praised Simon for his leadership and insistence on quality designs.

Louis A. Simon will have a thousand or more buildings throughout the land, some bearing his name, some not, which are tokens of his architectural ability. Words concerning that ability are relatively ineffectual. It is the buildings themselves which are the best commentary of his judgment and his service to the country.⁴⁴

Simplified Classical Architectural Style

The Laconia Federal Building exhibits features characteristic of the Simplified Classical architectural style. Under Louis A. Simon's tenure as Supervising Architect (1935-1941), during which the Laconia Federal Building was erected, the Simplified Classical style generally prevailed as the most common federal building style.

There has been no study of the distribution of styles used for major federal building projects in the United States, nor is it clear if there was a deliberate policy on the part of Supervising Architect to choose designs to match regional tastes or types of construction. Simplified Classical was the style common to many public and quasi-public buildings of the 1930s and 1940s.⁴⁵ The strong effect of mass achieved a sense of monumentality, presence, and permanence, while simplified detailing satisfied the burgeoning taste for sleekness and frugality, as witnessed by the subsequent growth of Modern Architecture. The Simplified Classical style contains a symmetrical composure, with a repetitive rhythm of columns or column-like elements and a reliance on carefully considered proportions. Very simplified cornices and pilasters or square piers are common elements found on Simplified Classical architecture.

The style was so named because the basic form and symmetry of Classicism was retained, but the ornamentation and motifs were reduced or removed. Particularly during the Great Depression era, the Office of the Supervising Architect of the U.S. Treasury Department embraced the concept of the Simplified Classical style

⁴² Ibid, 260

⁴³ United States General Services Administration, Historic Federal Buildings Database, U.S. General Services Administration, available from, <http://www.gsa.gov/portal/ext/html/site/hb/category/25431/hostUri/portal> (accessed 31 August 2010).

⁴⁴ As quoted in Antoinette Lee, 280

⁴⁵ Carole Rifkind, *A Field Guide to Contemporary American Architecture* (New York: Plume, 1998).107-110

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Federal Building

Laconia, Belknap County, New Hampshire

Section number 8

Page 11

because the form was still classical and dignified, which conveyed the stability of the federal government during an uncertain time. Simultaneously, the lack of ornamentation characteristic to the Simplified Classical style appeared parsimonious at a time when exuberant details would have been out of place.

From PWA to GSA 1939-Present

Federal building construction under PWA programs continued until 1942, when the American entry into World War II virtually halted all building activity. The few facilities finished in the years 1942-1943 were completions of old projects. The styles of architecture remained the same, as did the supervising architect's commitment to standardized design.

After World War II, federal architectural activities were diffused throughout military and civilian agencies. In 1949, the U.S. General Services Administration (GSA) subsumed the Federal Works Agency, including its public building design function. With the Public Buildings Act of 1949, the Office of the Supervising Architect increasingly relied on private architectural firms to carry out public building designs.

The GSA retains holdings over numerous federal buildings, including those that combine a variety of federal functions.⁴⁶

Federal Building, Laconia, New Hampshire, 1939-present

The White Mountain National Forest office was opened in a small room above a baker's shop in Gorham, New Hampshire, in 1912. More room was soon needed, so in 1918 the park staff moved into the newly built Savings Bank building in Gorham. On May 16, 1918, the White Mountain National Forest was formally established by a Presidential Proclamation by President Woodrow Wilson.⁴⁷ The White Mountain National Forest offices moved south to Laconia in 1927. The offices settled at the top floor of the Piscopo Building on the corner of Main and Canal Streets. Although moving farther from the forest, the offices were relocated to Laconia in order to increase communications with the state offices; facilitate efforts in fire protection, road construction and maintenance, and fish and game; and increase contact with the users of the forest.⁴⁸

By the time construction of the Federal Building began, the staff had long outgrown the space available in the Piscopo Building. The multiple programs implemented in the early twentieth century under the New Deal, including enhanced fire protection, expansion of the Forest Service lands, and the CCC programs to construct roads, trails and campgrounds, led to the need for additional staff for the White Mountain National Forest. The citizens of Laconia fought hard to retain the offices of the White Mountain National Forest Supervisor in their town, as they saw the potential for jobs, tourism, and the status that accompanied the presence of the substantial federal building. The appropriation of funding for the construction of the Laconia Federal Building was made

⁴⁶ Armstrong, 330.

⁴⁷ E.D. Fletcher, "A Bit of This, and a Bit of That" (article on file at the White Mountain National Forest Offices, Laconia, New Hampshire, 1964).

⁴⁸ "Forest Supervisor's Office Moved From Gorham to Laconia" (Portland, New Hampshire: *Portland Sunday Telegram and Sunday Press Herald*, 6 June 1926).

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Federal Building

Laconia, Belknap County, New Hampshire

Section number 8

Page 12

after more than two years of efforts by Laconia's mayor, Edward J. Gallagher. Mayor Gallagher made numerous trips to Washington, D.C. at his own expense over three seasons of congressional sessions to secure authorization. He continued his campaign even after his term as mayor had expired, and it was during the mayoral term of Walter Dunlap that the city offered to provide the land if the government would construct a forestry building in Laconia. Gallagher inspired Chamber of Commerce president Henry Turner, Dr. Frank Sullivan, and the former Mayor Lewis Wilkinson to join him in his lobbying campaign. Senator Fred H. Brown finally secured the necessary appropriations in 1939.⁴⁹

The area of North Main Street proposed for the construction was then undergoing a change in character from residential to commercial uses. Across the street, the Laconia Clinic had recently constructed their building on a former residential lot. The Pitman House, constructed in the mid-1800s, was removed in 1939 for the construction of the federal building.⁵⁰ Modeled after the Forestry Building in Elkins, West Virginia, the Laconia Federal Building was designed by Supervising Architect Louis Simon in the Simplified Classical architectural style. Construction of the new offices of the White Mountain National Forest Supervisor and staff was initiated on July 3, 1939. The building was constructed by the J.D. Hedin Company of Washington, D.C.⁵¹

Forest Supervisor C.L. Graham assumed possession of the Laconia Federal Building on May 24, 1940, after a grand ceremony attended by the Governor of New Hampshire, Mayor of Laconia, Regional Forester for the Eastern Region, Assistant Chief of the U.S. Forest Service, and a local Congressman.⁵² The first floor consisted of a 16-vehicle garage, a common assembly hall seating up to 100 persons, offices for the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), the Department of Agriculture Farm Security, and the Belknap County Farm Bureau. Offices, a reception room, and a drafting room for the White Mountain National Forest Supervisor and his field and clerical staff occupied the entire second floor. The clerical offices were located in the hyphen, above the garage. The Supervisor's office was at the northeast corner, with the Assistant Supervisor adjacent to the west. Engineering and drafting were in the offices at the south end of the main block. All contracts and improvements for the White Mountain National Forest were approved through the staff located in Laconia. The staff there included, in addition to the Supervisor and his assistant, the Fire Control Staff Assistant, the CCC Administrator, timber management staff, engineers, draftsmen, accountants, and purchasing agents. In addition, information on the trails, camps, and other resources of the forest was available to the public at the federal building in Laconia. An illustrated map of the forest and its attractions was created through the PWA program, which is still displayed in the entrance hall of the building, and a reception roof was located on the second floor.⁵³

As the management duties of the White Mountain National Forest grew more complicated in attempts to balance recreational, environmental, and economic development needs, the office space needs of the staff also grew. In 1966, an addition was constructed to the Laconia Federal Building in the form of a rear addition,

⁴⁹ "Governor Defends Federal Program" (Laconia, New Hampshire: *The Laconia Evening Citizen*, 31 July 1940).

⁵⁰ Daryl Carlson. "Then and Now" (Laconia, New Hampshire: *The Laconia Evening Citizen*, 8 January 2005).

⁵¹ United States Department of Agriculture, Forest Service. *Dedication Program—Laconia Federal Building*, (Laconia, New Hampshire, 30 July 1940).

⁵² USDA, Forest Service.

⁵³ "Forestry Building Ready for Tenants."

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Federal Building

Laconia, Belknap County, New Hampshire

Section number 8

Page 13

changing the floor plan from a "T" shape to an "H" shape. The addition was constructed to match the original building in material, design and form. The Forest Service maintained their presence on the second floor, and more space was made available for other departments on the first floor. The garage was moved from the hyphen to the addition, opening up space for additional offices.

In the 1970s, window screens were added and linoleum was laid on the hardwood floors in some offices. A new HVAC system was installed in 1995; acoustic tile ceilings were installed in several areas of the building to cover the new system. The installation of the acoustic tile necessitated the addition of fluorescent lighting. A Historic Building Preservation Plan (HBPP) was written in 1994 in order to identify significant features of the building and plan for their appropriate treatment during the installation of the new HVAC system and improvements to make the building ADA compliant.⁵⁴ In fiscal year 2005, an elevator was installed in the lobby. The new walls in the lobby were designed to match the original woodwork to make the introduction of this modern feature as seamless as possible.⁵⁵

Statement of Significance and Integrity

The Federal Building, located at 719 Main Street, Laconia, New Hampshire, is significant under Criterion A at the local level in the area of politics/government for its embodiment of the ideals of the federal building campaign carried out by the Public Works Administration under the direction of Supervising Architect Louis A. Simon (1935-1941). The building also has served as Forest Service offices from its construction in 1939-1940, housing the administrative offices of one of the first national forests established as a result of the Weeks Act of 1911, up to the present. The building is significant Criterion C as a local exemplification of the Simplified Classical architectural style popular to federal buildings constructed during the Great Depression-era tenure of the Supervising Architect Louis A. Simon (1931-1945). The period of significance for the Federal Building begins at the start of its construction in 1939 and ends in 1961, as the building was built for and served the federal government.

Integrity

The Federal Building retains sufficient historical integrity to convey its historical significance. Although an addition to the building was constructed in 1966, it is located on the rear (east) elevation and was designed in character with the original building. Furthermore, interior alterations such as fluorescent lighting and acoustic tile ceilings are non-intrusive. The character-defining features, such as the entrance hall, woodwork, and flooring, have been retained from the original design.

The building retains its original location and setting, which includes nineteenth-century residences to the north and the historic downtown to the south. While some modern buildings have replaced historic buildings, the commercial and cultural uses of the area have been retained overall, and the significant components of the setting, such as the tree-lined streets, remain largely intact. Integrity of association and feeling has been retained

⁵⁴ Shalom Baranes Associates, PC and Tracerics. "Historic Building Preservation Plan, Federal Office Building, Laconia, New Hampshire, NH0010ZZ" (Ehrenkrantz & Eckstut/Shalom Baranes Architects, 27 December 1994).

⁵⁵ Charles Dockham (U.S. General Services Administration Building Manager), discussion with Shauna Haas, 1 November 2007.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Federal Building

Laconia, Belknap County, New Hampshire

Section number 8

Page 14

and the federal government continues to partially occupy the building to the present day. The Laconia Federal Office Building retains its overall monumentality as a federal building, all of which contribute to integrity of association. The building's retention of integrity of design, materials, workmanship, location, and association results in the building's retention of feeling as an early twentieth-century federal building erected in the Simplified Classical architectural style.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Federal Building

Laconia, Belknap County, New Hampshire

Section number 9

Page 1

Bibliography

Books, Maps, and Monographs

Armstrong, Ellis.

History of Public Works of the United States, 1776-1945. Chicago: American Public Works Association, 1976.

Boland, Beth.

National Register of Historic Places, Bulletin 13, "How to Apply National Register Criteria to Post Offices." Washington, D.C.: Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 1984.

Craig, Lois and the staff of the Federal Architecture Project.

The Federal Presence: Architecture, Politics, and Symbols in United States Government Building. Cambridge, Massachusetts: MIT Press, 1978.

Huse, Warren D.

Images of America: Laconia, New Hampshire. Dover, New Hampshire: Arcadia Publishing, 1995.

Johnson, Christopher.

This Grand and Magnificent Place: The Wilderness Heritage of the White Mountains. Durham, New Hampshire: University of New Hampshire Press, 2006.

Lee, Antoinette.

Architects to the Nation. New York: Oxford University Press, 2000.

Melius, Louis

The American Postal Service: History of the Postal Service from the Earliest Times. Washington, D.C.: Louis Melius, 1917.

National Park Service

National Register Bulletin, "How to Complete the National Register Registration Form." Washington, D.C.: Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 1997.

National Register Bulletin, "How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation." Washington, D.C.: Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 1990, revised 1997.

National Register Bulletin, "How to Establish Boundaries for National Register Properties." Washington, D.C.: Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 1997.

Rifkind, Carole

A Field Guide to Contemporary American Architecture. New York: Plume, 1998.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Federal Building

Laconia, Belknap County, New Hampshire

Section number 9

Page 2

Newspaper and Journal Articles

"Centennial Edition," Laconia, New Hampshire: *The Citizen*, 19 May 1993.

"Forest Supervisor's Office Moved from Gorham to Laconia," Portland, New Hampshire: *Portland Sunday Telegram and Sunday Press Herald*, 6 June 1926.

"Forestry Building Ready for Tenants," Laconia, New Hampshire: *The Laconia Evening Citizen*, 21 May 1940.

"Governor Defends Federal Program," Laconia, New Hampshire: *The Laconia Evening Citizen*, 31 July 1940.

Bofinger, Paul O.

"Private Lands—Public Forest: The Story of the Weeks Act," Concord, New Hampshire: Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests, *Forest Notes*, Summer 1986.

Carlson, Daryl

"Then and Now," Laconia, New Hampshire: *The Laconia Evening Citizen*, 8 January 2005.

United States Forest Service

"White Mountains: National Forest in Maine, New Hampshire, Grew From Ashes," Lewiston, Maine: *The Lewiston Daily Sun*, 26 November 1986.

Ober, Richard, editor

"The Weeks Act of 1911," Shaping the Land We Call New Hampshire. Concord, New Hampshire: Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests, 1992.

Roenke, Karl

"Future of the White Mountain National Forest is Tied to its Past," Laconia, New Hampshire: *The Citizen*, 8 October 1998.

Shalom Baranes Associates, PC and Traceries.

"Historic Building Preservation Plan, Federal Office Building, Laconia, New Hampshire, NH0010ZZ," Ehrenkrantz & Eckstut/Shalom Baranes Architects, 27 December 1994.

Miscellaneous Articles

Fletcher, E.D.

"A Bit of This, and a Bit of That," article on file at the White Mountain National Forest Offices, Laconia, New Hampshire, 1964.

Steen, Harold K.

"Forest Service," article on file at the White Mountain National Forest Offices, Laconia, New Hampshire, 1991.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Federal Building

Laconia, Belknap County, New Hampshire

Section number 9

Page 3

United States Department of Agriculture, Forest Service

Dedication Program—Laconia Federal Building. Laconia, New Hampshire, 30 July 1940.

"Highlights in the History of Forest Conservation," Washington, D.C.: United States Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, January 1948.

"Purchase of Land Under the Weeks Law in the Southern Appalachian and White Mountains," Washington, D.C.: United States Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Issued 27 March 1911.

Internet Resources

Kuspit, Donald

"Philip Guston's Self-Doubt," artnet.com Magazine Website. Available from <http://www.artnet.com/magazine/features/kuspit/kuspit12-4-03.asp> accessed 11 March 2007.

United States General Services Administration

Historic Federal Buildings Database Website. Available from <http://www.gsa.gov/portal/ext/html/site/hb/category/25431/hostUri/portal>, accessed 31 August 2010.

Personal Correspondence

Charles Dockham (U.S. General Services Administration Building Manager), multiple discussions and e-mails with Shauna Haas, October and November 2007.

Kark Roenke (White Mountain National Forest Staff), in discussion with Shauna Haas, 31 October 2007.

Maps and Building Plans

Federal Works Agency, Public Buildings Administration

"U.S. Forestry Building, Laconia, New Hampshire," Washington, D.C.: Federal Works Agency, Public Buildings Administration, 1939.

United States Geological Survey

"Laconia, New Hampshire," 7.5 Minute Topographic Quadrangle. Reston, Virginia: United States Geological Survey, 1987.

Federal Building
Name of Property

Laconia, Belknap County, New Hampshire
County and State

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Shauna J. Haas/Architectural Historian
organization A.D. Marble & Company, prepared for U.S. General March 2011
Services Administration date _____
street & number 375 E. Elm Street telephone 484.533.2500
city or town Conshohocken state PA zip code 19428
Email shaas@admarble.com

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Continuation Sheets**
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Photographs:

Submit clear and descriptive black and white photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, PO Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

The logo for Permalife, featuring a stylized 'P' and the word 'Permalife' in a script font, with '20% COTTON CONTENT' written below it.

Name of Property:	Federal Building
City or Vicinity:	Laconia
County:	Belknap County
State:	NH
Name of Photographer:	S. Haas
Date of Photographs:	November 2007
Location of Original Digital Files:	A.D. Marble & Company 375 E. Elm Street, Suite 200 Conshohocken, PA 19428

Photo # 1 (NH_Belknap County_Federal Building_0001)
West elevation, view to northeast

Photo # 2 (NH_Belknap County_Federal Building_0002)
West elevation, detail of main entry and portico, view to northeast

Photo # 3 (NH_Belknap County_Federal Building_0003)
West and south elevations, view to northeast

Photo # 4 (NH_Belknap County_Federal Building_0004)
West and north elevations, view to southeast

Photo # 5 (NH_Belknap County_Federal Building_0005)
South and west elevations of hyphen and 1966 addition, view to northeast

Photo # 6 (NH_Belknap County_Federal Building_0006)
North and west elevations of hyphen and 1966 addition, view to southwest

Photo # 7 (NH_Belknap County_Federal Building_0007)
East elevation of 1966 addition, view to south

Photo # 8 (NH_Belknap County_Federal Building_0008)
Interior, south and west walls of entrance hall, view to south

Photo # 9 (NH_Belknap County_Federal Building_0009)
Interior, showing elevator and entrance hall, view to southwest

Photo # 10 (NH_Belknap County_Federal Building_0010)
Interior, first floor hallway, view to southeast

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Federal Building
NAME:

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: NEW HAMPSHIRE, Belknap

DATE RECEIVED: 9/16/11 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 10/07/11
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 10/24/11 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 11/01/11
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 11000766

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

☒ ACCEPT ☐ RETURN ☐ REJECT 10.25.11 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in
The National Register
of
Historic Places

RECOM./CRITERIA _____

REVIEWER _____ DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.





UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

FEDERAL BUILDING
LACONIA, NEW HAMPSHIRE

719 MAIN ST.

Visitor
Entrance
→















1

NOTICE
NO LOADING
UNLOADING
OR STORAGE
OF FIREARMS
OR OTHER
DANGEROUS
WEAPONS

WHITE
MOUNTAIN
NATIONAL FOREST
UPSTAIRS
ROOM 216
8 AM TO 430 PM

EXIT

CAUTION
METAL
DETECTOR

NO LOADING
UNLOADING
OR STORAGE
OF FIREARMS
OR OTHER
DANGEROUS
WEAPONS

NO LOADING
UNLOADING
OR STORAGE
OF FIREARMS
OR OTHER
DANGEROUS
WEAPONS

NO LOADING
UNLOADING
OR STORAGE
OF FIREARMS
OR OTHER
DANGEROUS
WEAPONS

NO LOADING
UNLOADING
OR STORAGE
OF FIREARMS
OR OTHER
DANGEROUS
WEAPONS

UNITED STATES
POSTAL SERVICE



NOTICE

NOTICE

NOTICE

NOTICE

EXIT



Laconia Federal Building
Belknap County, New Hampshire
UTM 19, 300 253 E 49 24 42 N

PRODUCED BY THE UNITED STATES GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
CONTROL BY USGS AND NOS/NOAA
COMPILED FROM AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHS TAKEN 1981
FIELD CHECKED 1983. MAP EDITED 1987
PROJECTION TRANSVERSE MERCATOR
GRID: 1000-METER UNIVERSAL TRANSVERSE MERCATOR ZONE 19
10,000-FOOT STATE GRID TICKS NEW HAMPSHIRE
UTM GRID DECLINATION 141' WEST
1987 MAGNETIC NORTH DECLINATION 16'00" WEST
VERTICAL DATUM NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929
HORIZONTAL DATUM 1927 NORTH AMERICAN DATUM
To place on the predicted North American Datum of 1983,
move the projection lines as shown by dashed corner ticks
(4 meters south and 40 meters west)
There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of any
Federal and State reservations shown on this map.
No distinction made between houses, barns, and other buildings
Gray tint indicates area in which selected buildings are shown

PROVISIONAL MAP
Produced from original
manuscript drawings. Infor-
mation shown as of date of
photography.

SCALE 1:24 000
MILES
KILOMETERS
CONTOUR INTERVAL 20 FEET
CONTROL ELEVATIONS SHOWN TO THE NEAREST 0.1 FOOT
OTHER ELEVATIONS SHOWN TO THE NEAREST FOOT
To convert feet to meters multiply by .3048
To convert meters to feet multiply by 3.2808
THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092

1	2	3	1 Holderness
4	5	2 Center Harbor	
6	7	3 Melvin Village	
		4 Winnepesaukee Lake	
		5 West Alton	
		6 Northfield	
		7 Belmont	
		8 Gilmanston Ironworks	

ROAD LEGEND
Improved Road
Unimproved Road
Trail
Interstate Route U. S. Route State Route

LACONIA, NEW HAMPSHIRE
PROVISIONAL EDITION 1987

43071-E4-TF-024





GSA Public Buildings Service

September 6, 2011

Ms. Carol Shull
Interim Keeper, National Register of Historic Places
National Park Service 2280
1201 Eye Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Ms. Shull:

The U.S. General Services Administration (GSA) is pleased to nominate the Federal Building located at 719 Main Street, Laconia, New Hampshire, for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places.

The following documents are enclosed:

- Signed original National Register of Historic Places Registration form;
- U.S.G.S. Map; and
- Original labeled black and white photographs along with a disk of tiff images.

If for any reason any nomination package that GSA submits needs to be returned, please do so by a delivery service as items returned to our offices via regular mail are irradiated and the materials severely damaged. Should you have any questions or concerns regarding this nomination package, please contact Claire Hosker at (202) 501-1578.

Sincerely,

Beth L. Savage
Federal Preservation Officer
Director, Center for Historic Buildings

Enclosures