

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form



Continuation sheet Owensboro M.R. / Federal Bldg. Item number

Page

Name: Federal Building (DOAB 58)
U. S. Post Office

Location: 5th & Frederica

Specific Date: 1909

Owner: U. S. Government

Classification: Building

Description: The three-story Federal Building has a symmetrical design that creates a balanced and monumental appearance. The front facade has five evenly spaced bays on each level. The central three bays of the front are contained in a slightly projecting portico. The rusticated first floor is constructed of rectangular limestone blocks. The first floor windows and central doorway have slightly arched openings topped with keystones. The tripartite windows and transoms retain their original wood sashes. A modern aluminum door has been placed in the main entrance. Stone quoins and cornice delineate the edges of the first floor. The second and third floors of the building are constructed of buff-colored brick. The windows of these floors have limestone surrounds with small cornices above the second floor windows and keystones above a third. The windows in the upper floors of the central portico are divided by brick pilasters topped with Doric capitals. These two-story pilasters support a frieze with the words UNITED STATES OF AMERICA carved into it. The frieze is topped by a bracketed cornice and a stone ballustrade, all of which continue across the building front and around to the side facades. The details of these two side facades are similar to the front, with each side containing four windows on each level. The rear of the structure has a one-story wing that is original to the structure. This wing is constructed of brick with a stone foundation, frieze, and window surrounds. This wing was constructed for the relay of mail from the post office inside the building. The building is surrounded by a park-like area of trees and bushes. A double flight of steps lead up to the building.

Significance: The Federal Building is the finest example of Beaux-Arts architecture in Owensboro. The structure, located on an impressive site on the town's main thoroughfare of Frederica Street, is also Owensboro's most architecturally significant civic building. The Federal Building/Post Office was constructed in 1909 on Frederica St. The site had formerly been the home of Ben Bransford, businessman, tobacco merchant and mayor. The large facility was a big improvement over the previous Federal Building, which was located at the southeast intersection of 3rd and Allen St. and had become overcrowded. In 1914 that building was sold to the Messenger Publishing Co. and has since been razed.

Acreage: Approximately .549 acre

Verbal Boundary Description: The Federal Building is designated on the Owensboro Metropolitan Planning Commission's Computerized Land Use File - Census Tract 3, Traffic Zone 4, Block Number 409; Parcel Number 6.

UTM References: (Owensboro East) 16/490070/4180280