

PH0351156

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED JAN 21 1976	JUN 9 1976
DATE ENTERED	

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC
 U. S. Post Office
AND/OR COMMON
Federal Building and Courthouse

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
600 Broad Street

CITY, TOWN
Gadsden

STATE
Alabama

VICINITY OF
Fourth

COUNTY
Etowah

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
Fourth

CODE
058

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 AGENCY General Services Administration - Public Buildings Service

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (if applicable)
Region 4

STREET & NUMBER
1776 Peachtree Street

CITY, TOWN
Atlanta 30309

STATE
Georgia

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Etowah County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER
800 Broad Street

CITY, TOWN
Gadsden

STATE
Alabama

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

__FEDERAL __STATE __COUNTY __LOCAL

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The U.S. Federal Building and Courthouse, originally the Post Office, is set back slightly from the west corner of Sixth and Broad Streets. Completed in 1910 as a one storey building with a three bay central portico, the building was expanded to three storeys in 1913. Both designs were under the supervision of James Knox Taylor, Supervising Architect of the Treasury, 1897-1912. The principal facade of the original building has five bays and measures 85 feet along Broad Street. The original southeast (Sixth Street) facade had three bays and the northwest four; they both measured 60 feet. In 1936, a three storey extension was built to the rear of the building, adding three bays and fifty-five feet to the length of the northwest and southeast facades. The configuration of the second and third storeys of the 1936 addition consists of two wings extending to the southwest which flank a light-well. The roof of the building is hipped. Constructed of wall bearing masonry with steel beams, the building has solid concrete floor slabs and concrete spread footings. The basement and steps are of granite, while the exterior walls are faced with white marble with banded rustication. The roof is covered with red Spanish tiles.

A granite belt course separates the basement, with its sloping offset, from the first storey, and the entablature and parapet of the original one storey building separate the first storey from the upper two. Thus the first storey serves visually as the basement, and the second storey as the piano nobile. The building has a marble cornice with a dentil course and modillions under the roof overhang. On the principal facade the first storey window of each outermost bay is composed of twin one over one double-hung sash units set within an architrave whose sill is supported by two brackets with four guttae. The architrave is surmounted by a frieze flanked by two consoles which support a cornice. The entablature of the original structure consists of a molded architrave, a broad frieze, and a cornice enriched by a wave motif. The coping of the parapet of the 1910 building serves as the sill course for the second storey windows, twin one over one double-hung sash units set within a molded architrave. A frieze and cornice surmount the architrave. The third storey window consists of two over two double-hung sash units set within a square-shouldered architrave. The rustication ends abruptly just below the shoulders of the third storey window architrave to form a wide frieze-like band under the cornice.

The three central bays are approached by a broad staircase flanked by stairwalls originally surmounted by cast metal post lamps. Modern stair railings have been added. The three bays of the portico are articulated by four pairs of unfluted monolithic Roman Doric columns. On the facade behind, unfluted Doric pilasters respond to the portico columns. The round headed windows flanking the entrance are recessed and consist of three one over one double-hung sash units surmounted by a thermal window.

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Square incised panels articulate the impostes and a small console-like keystone surmounts each arch. Modern doors are set within the center arch. The original cast metal sconces have been replaced by modern cylindrical lamps. The columns support a Roman Doric entablature, with dentils replacing the mutules. The wave molding does not continue on the cornice of the portico. A balustraded parapet surmounts the entablature. The three center bays of the building are slightly recessed. There are three large round headed windows on the second storey, reverberating the first storey apertures. These windows admit light to the two storey court room within. Each window has a wrought iron grille divided into three vertical units and is set within an architrave surmounted by a console-like keystone. Abutting and surmounting the keystone is a small horizontal grilled ventilator. Flanking each ventilator is a horizontal panel the width of the unrusticated band. Flanking the three central bays on the second storey are small grilled windows above the outer pair of columns.

The northwest facade of the building is composed of two parts -- the original four bays, which are identical to the outermost bays of the principal facade, and the three bays of the 1936 addition. The addition is differentiated from the 1913 building by the termination of the dentil course and the receding of the over-hand. In addition, the wave molding on the first storey cornice is also terminated. Originally the first storey of the addition contained a three bay loading dock covered by a marquee. There bays are now filled in by a door abutting the old building and three double-hung sash windows. The infill of the first storey is faced with brick and a lintel faced in brick rises to the height of the cornices above the original windows. The second and third storeys of the 1936 addition are identical to those of the 1913 building.

The two outermost of the five bays of the Sixth Street facade of the original 1913 building are identical to the outermost bays of the principal face. The two bays flanking the entrance are unarticulated on the first storey. The center second storey window is identical to those of the outer bays except that the bottom sash is replaced by infill and embellished by a stone cartouche. On the second storey shaped molded panels define the flanking bays. All third storey windows are identical to those of the outer bays of the principal facade. The central entrance is marked by a balustraded double stairway. The recessed modern doors are set within an architrave and surmounted by a projecting panel which is in turn surmounted by a stone frieze flanked by consoles. They support a cornice identical to those of the outermost bays. The original flanking cast metal

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sconces have been replaced by modern cylindrical ones that match the sconces of the principal facade.

The 1936 addition on the Sixth Street facade is marked by a slight setback. Three unadorned small windows break the rhythm of the bays. The three bays are identical to the outermost bays of the principal facade, except the basement, which is visible, the termination of the dentil course, and the receding of the overhang. As on the northwest facade, the wave molding is terminated.

On the rear (southwest) facade, the granite belt course and simplified entablatures of the first and third storeys are continued. In the outermost bays of the first storey a two over two double-hung sash window is centrally placed beneath the second and third storey wings. Six windows of differing size fill the center section of the first storey of this facade. The second and third storeys have three symmetrically placed windows overlooking the courtyard. The second and third storey wings are articulated by quoins. Each second storey wing contains a window like that of the first storey, but set within a molded architrave. Two smaller windows occupy the third storey. The second and third storeys of the wings overlooking the courtyard each contain three symmetrically placed windows, although those of the eastern wing are slightly asymmetrical because of a projecting elevator shaft.

Gadsden, Alabama

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1909-1911-1935

BUILDER/ARCHITECT James Knox Taylor

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Federal Building reflects James Knox Taylor's mannered use of the classical vocabulary to create an imposing architectural statement of the Federal Government's presence in Gadsden. Moreover, his designing the building in two stages reflects Taylor's ability to employ classical architectural forms in adapting to practical considerations of Congressional budgetary constraints. The Gadsden Building, like the Newport, Vermont and Selma, Alabama Federal Buildings, illustrates another aspect of Taylor's architectural flexibility. Despite the use of the classical idiom, the two storey central courtroom, defined vertically on the principal facade, is a departure from classical form and demonstrates Taylor's personal idiom.

The building's mass, wealth of ornamentation, and rich materials all mark it as the most distinctive building in town. Despite a 1959 fire that damaged the roof and part of the courtroom ceiling, the building remains an essentially unaltered example of monumental architecture of the first half of the twentieth century. It is in fact the dominant feature on the principal street of downtown Gadsden.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Alabama, A Guide to the Deep South (WPA), American Guide Series, New York
 1941, p. 193.
Gadsden Times, Sunday, March 10, 1968, p. 17.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Less than 1 acre

UTM REFERENCES

A	1 6	5 9 1 1 6 0 0	3 7 6 4 0 0 0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

ORGANIZATION

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

12 CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

YES

NO

NONE

Wils B. Howard Jr.
 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

In compliance with Executive Order 11593, I hereby nominate this property to the National Register, certifying that the State Historic Preservation Officer has been allowed 90 days in which to present the nomination to the State Review Board and to evaluate its significance. The evaluated level of significance is National State Local

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

Michael S. Muller

TITLE

HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER

DATE

1.21.76

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Acting

Ray A. ...

DATE

6/3/76

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST

...

DATE

6.2.76

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

RBR for WJM 6/2/76