



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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 *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. 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 entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

Historic name United States Post Office and Court House

Other names/site number Winston E. Arnow Federal Building

2. Location

Street & Number	<u>100 N. Palafox Street (Palafox and E. Chase Streets)</u>	Not for Publication	<u>N/A</u>
City or Town	<u>Pensacola</u>	Vicinity	<u>N/A</u>
State	<u>Florida</u>	Code	<u>FL</u>
		County	<u>Escambia</u>
		Code	<u>033</u>
Zip Code	<u>32502</u>		

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this 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 meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

[Signature] Date 5/28/14

Federal Preservation Officer, U.S. General Services Administration
State or Federal Agency or Tribal government

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

[Signature] Date 5/13/14

Deputy SHPO + Chief, Bureau of Historic Preservation.
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain): _____

[Signature] Signature of Keeper Date of Action 7-16-14

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)	Category of Property (Check only one box)	Number of Resources within Property	
		Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<u>1</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-state	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> structures
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> objects
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

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

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: <u>GOVERNMENT</u>	Sub: <u>Courthouse</u>
<u>GOVERNMENT</u>	<u>Post Office</u>
<u>GOVERNMENT</u>	<u>Government Office</u>
_____	_____

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: <u>GOVERNMENT</u>	Sub: <u>Courthouse</u>
<u>GOVERNMENT</u>	<u>Government Office</u>
_____	_____
_____	_____

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

MODERN MOVEMENT: Moderne

LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS: Mission/Spanish Colonial Revival

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation	<u>CONCRETE</u>
roof	<u>CERAMIC TILE</u>
walls	<u>STONE: Limestone</u>
walls	<u>STUCCO</u>
other	<u>METAL: Cast iron</u>
_____	_____
_____	_____

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Please see Section 7 Continuation Sheets.

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.
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
- C 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.)

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

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

Politics/Government
Architecture

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Period of Significance

1939-1940

Cultural Affiliation

Significant Dates

1939, 1940

Architect/Builder

R. (Rudolph) Stanley-Brown, Consulting Architect
Louis A. Simon, Supervising Architect of the Treasury

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Please see Section 8 Continuation Sheets.

9. Major Bibliographical References

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

Please see Section 9 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

Name of repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property .9 acres

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	16	479320	3		
2			4		

See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

The building is bounded by North Palafox Street to the west, East Chase Street to the south, a government parking lot to the east, and government building directly to the north.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

The boundary was selected because it is consistent with the historical limits of the parcel.

11. Form Prepared By

Name/Title Carrie Chasteen and Daniel Paul, Architectural Historians.

Organization ICF Jones & Stokes Date 11/08/2006, rev. 8/19/2009, 3/2014

Street & Number 811 W. Seventh St., Suite 800 Telephone (213) 627-5376

City or Town Los Angeles State CA Zip Code 90017

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- Continuation Sheets
- Maps
 - A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- Photographs
 - Representative photographs of the property.
- Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

Name _____

Organization General Services Administration, Region 4 Telephone 404.331.3200

Street & Number 77 Forsyth Street, Suite 600

City or Town Atlanta State GA Zip Code 30303

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. 470 et seq.). A federal agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to range from approximately 18 hours to 36 hours depending on several factors including, but not limited to, how much documentation may already exist on the type of property being nominated and whether the property is being nominated as part of a Multiple Property Documentation Form. In most cases, it is estimated to average 36 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form to meet minimum National Register documentation requirements. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, 1849 C St., NW, Washington, DC 20240.

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*United States Post Office and Court House
Escambia, Florida*

Description

Summary:

The United States Post Office and Court House in Pensacola, Florida is located along the tree-lined boulevard known as Palafox Street, at the corner of N. Palafox and E. Chase streets. St. Michael's Catholic Church, the oldest church in Pensacola, is located diagonally across Palofax Street. To the south, several historic commercial buildings and theatres still line Palafox Street, and the setting is largely intact. To the north, although a few historic buildings remain, most have been replaced with modern construction.

The U.S. Post Office and Court House has a full, partially exposed basement, with three full stories above the basement and a fourth level mechanical penthouse (Photo 1). Constructed in 1939 in the Moderne style of the early modern movement of the twentieth century, the building also exhibits architectural details that link it to Pensacola's early history through the architecture of Spain and its New World colonies. The building's underlying massing, symmetry and emphasis on planar wall surfaces associate it with the Moderne style as it was commonly adapted to federal buildings in the late 1930s and early 1940s. However, the more visually prominent exterior characteristics concentrated on the primary façade, including: red tiled roof of low pitch, flat roof surrounded by tiled parapet, cast ornaments, balcony with wrought iron railings, and *rejas* (decorative iron screen) used at transoms over entries, are drawn from the Spanish Eclectic style popular in the early twentieth century. The remaining three facades contain minimal detailing except for three bands of simple limestone moldings, which visually divide the building with a water table above the basement level and with a double belt course between the first and second floors. The main public spaces within the building retain much of their original character with marble or wood wainscoting, molded plaster cornices, marble columns, marble stairs with bronze handrails, and patterned tile or terrazzo floors. The simple and clean lines of these interior features are distinctly Moderne in style.

The 1939 masonry building is generally rectangular in plan, consisting of a hip-roofed main block and a flat-roofed rear block, which is indented from the main block by a bay on either side. Two later additions, dating to 1995 and 2010 are located behind the rear block. The historic building was constructed on a mat foundation. The walls are clad in cream-colored Oolitic limestone and smooth textured stucco. The low-pitched hip roof of the main block is clad in Spanish tile. The windows are anodized aluminum units, but are similar in design and configuration to the original wood windows. The new additions do not touch the rear block directly, but rather are linked to by narrow connectors. Designed to be compatible with the historic building, they utilize a complementary palette of materials.

Exterior:

West Elevation

The primary, west, façade of the building faces towards Palafox Street (Photo 2). The façade is symmetrical. The low pitched hip roof of the main block is clad in unglazed red Spanish tile. The fourth story penthouse runs along the top of the main block and terminates in two towers, one at the north end and one at the south. The towers project above the low-pitched penthouse roofline and have equilateral hip roofs. The penthouse roof is also clad in Spanish tile. A limestone bed molding is present at the eaves of both the main and penthouse roofline.

The exterior walls are clad in stucco and Oolitic limestone with a molding at the water table. Pilasters, which lead from the water table to the roofline, create a fenestration rhythm of eleven bays. The recessed window planes are smooth stucco. The windows are anodized aluminum with tall, eight-over-eight-over-eight light, triple sash windows in the first story and eight-over-eight light, double hung sash in the two upper levels. These windows, installed in the mid- to late-1990s, replaced inappropriate metal windows installed in 1977 and replicate the configuration, if not the material, of the

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Escambia, Florida*

original wood windows. A shallow balcony with a decorative iron railing is located just above the belt course and spans the eleven bays of the primary façade. The railing is composed of long panels with simple intersecting members forming a diamond pattern. A floral motif hides the joinery where the intersections occur. A narrow band of Greek key fretwork spans the top of each of the long panels, which are separated by short panels composed of scrollwork and floral and leaf motifs.

Entrances

Two identical and symmetrical entrances, located in the third bay in from the north and south ends and accessed by limestone-clad steps, provide a monumental character to the primary elevation (Photo 3). The steps widen at the base and ascend in multiple tiers. Original iron railings with scroll supports flank the entryway at the top while a simpler railing has been added in the center of the lower section. A landscaped terraced planter that originally ran between the two entrances was modified sometime in the last two decades to provide an Americans with Disability Act (ADA) ramp. Decorative iron lamps flank each side of both entrances. The lamp posts are embellished with wrought iron scrolls, which are offset with small square pads, and the lantern is a single cylindrical-shaped glass globe, which is topped with a fleur-de-lis-inspired finial. The pads and finial are gilded.

Each entryway consists of a set of double doors and a transom. The double entrance doors are wooden with leaded glazing, recent replicas of the original doors which had been replaced in 1977. A large transom located over both entrance doors is embellished with a metal grille or *rejas* composed of a central starburst-pattern surrounded by four coats of arms and other decorative elements (Photo 4). The starburst and some of the floral elements are gilded, as specified in the original drawings. The words "United States Post Office and Court House" are carved into the door surround above the transoms.

North Elevation

The northern elevation of the main block is similar in materials and rhythm to the primary façade (Photo 5). Projecting beyond the rear block, it has two recessed window bays. The Oolitic limestone cladding, with molding, wraps around the projecting main block but does not continue beyond to the eastern portion of the north elevation (Photo 6). A small, one story, flat-roofed projection, located in the angle formed by the main block and recessed rear block is clad in smooth stucco. The belt course continues to wrap around the bay and along the north elevation of the rear block. The eastern portion of the northern elevation is simple in detailing and execution. The limestone cladding, which rises to the water table, is unadorned. The walls are clad in smooth stucco. As on the primary façade, the windows on the north elevation are anodized aluminum with tall, eight-over-eight-over-eight light, triple sash windows in the first story and eight-over-eight light, double hung sash in the two upper levels. The windows are simply adorned with projecting sills.

East Elevation

The east elevation of the rear block of the 1939 building exhibits the same materials and minimal architectural detailing found on the north and south side elevations but is distinguished by the presence of a loading dock (Photo 7). Originally used for mail deliveries, the loading dock, centrally located on the eastern elevation, is characterized by a large concrete pad. In 2008, as part of a security upgrade to provide a sally port for the U.S. Marshals and secured parking spaces for judges, the cast concrete shed roof that cantilevered over the docking area was trimmed back by two feet. Today the original east elevation is largely obscured by a 1995 stair tower and elevator addition, on the south end, and the 2010 sally port addition, across the center and north end (Photo 8). Both additions are three stories in height, matching the historic building, although the sally port addition steps down to a single story at

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Escambia, Florida*

the north end. Both additions are respectful of the design of the historic building, drawing upon its materials and minimal architectural detailing. The two additions continue the lines of the water table, belt courses, fenestration, cornice and roof line, mimic the original stucco wall finish through the use of EFIS cladding, and use red tile on roof surfaces and parapets. Both additions are held off the rear of the historic building by connectors, leaving the original east elevation intact. The rear of the building lot is enclosed in a black metal picket fence, added as part of the security upgrade which was completed in 2010.

South Elevation

The south elevation is typical of the building in terms of materials and execution (Photo 9). Projecting beyond the rear block, it has two recessed window bays. The Oolitic limestone cladding, with molding, wraps around the projecting main block but does not continue beyond to the eastern portion of the south elevation. The eastern portion of the southern elevation is simple in detailing and execution. The limestone cladding, which rises to the water table, is unadorned. The walls are clad in smooth stucco. As on the primary façade, the windows on the north elevation are anodized aluminum with tall, eight-over-eight-over-eight light, triple sash windows in the first story and eight-over-eight light, double hung sash in the two upper levels. The windows are simply adorned with projecting sills. This elevation terminates at the eastern end with the one bay wide, three story tall 1995 stair tower and elevator addition.

Interior:

The interior of the U.S. Post Office and Court House contains three significant public spaces: the main lobby, the second floor lobby, and the second floor main courtroom. The primary entrances lead from Palafox Street into the original interior vestibules. These wood paneled and glazed boxes project into the public lobby area that originally served as the Post Office's postal lobby (Photo 10). This main lobby extends almost the full north-south length of the building. The walls are finished in marble to a height of seven feet. The ceiling has simple plaster moldings. The terrazzo floor is detailed with brass joints to form rectilinear patterns. Although the original postal boxes were removed in 1972, the original bronze and plate glass letter tables, bronze wall-mounted notice boards and bronze elevator doors remain. Wall mounted rectangular tables with scroll supports line the exterior wall of the lobby below the notice boards. Moderne-style round pedestal tables with scroll supports and integrated lamps stand in the center of the lobby area (Photo 11). A flying stair surfaced in white marble with black marble shoe molding and bronze railings rises in the northwest corner of the lobby (Photo 12). The stairway continues up to the third floor but is enclosed above the first floor. A bronze grille composed of vertical and horizontal rectangular-section bars runs along the side of the open stairway as it descends to the basement. A single elevator, serving all floors, is located at the north end of the lobby. A small courtroom and offices, inserted into the former postal workroom area located behind the lobby, are accessed from the first floor lobby.

The second level lobby services the main courtroom. The lobby walls are detailed with black and white veined marble wainscot and pilasters (Photo 13). The marble architrave of the entry to the courtroom surrounds a transom with *rejas* and a pair of oak doors with rosette studded panels (Photo 14). The floor is composed of black and white tiles set in a checkerboard pattern. The original asphalt tiles were replaced by linoleum tiles of similar appearance and set in the same pattern after suffering water damage. Crown molding accents the ceiling. Non-original recessed lighting was installed at an unknown time.

The main courtroom is located on the second floor and is two stories in height. The room is oriented on a north-south axis, with the public entrance located on the northern end and the judge's bench located on the southern end

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Escambia, Florida*

(Photo15). A curved recessed area is located behind the judge's bench, for acoustical purposes. The wall within the area is divided into five panels by strips of wood carved as fasces. A bronze plaque bearing the Great Seal of the United States is located in the center panel. The interior side of the public entrance into the courtroom is characterized by an elaborately carved oak door surround containing a clock and surmounted by a carved wood eagle (Photo 16). Wainscoting of sycamore and white ash lines the walls to approximately seven feet; the upper wall is clad in an acoustical material. The courtroom's low-arched barrel vault ceiling is two stories in height. The original fixed wooden furnishings, including the judge's bench, jury box and benches for spectators remain. The furnishings are characterized by planar surfaces and extreme simplicity except that wood carved fasces decorate the judge's bench and jury box. The floor is covered with modern carpeting. Moderne-style cast aluminum lights are suspended from the ceiling (Photo 17). These are augmented by modern recessed lights.

Alterations

The Pensacola U.S. Post Office and Court House retains a high degree of exterior integrity as alterations to the façade and side elevations of the building have been minimal. Although the original wood windows were replaced in the 1970s, the current aluminum replacement windows replicate the configuration of the original windows. Damaged in the 2004 and 2005 hurricane seasons, the original tile roof was replaced, but with new tile matching the original in appearance and composition. The 1995 stair tower and elevator addition and 2010 sally port addition, located on the rear elevation, are held off of the original 1939 building and are sympathetic to its design and materials.

Overall, the interior retains integrity from the original period of construction in the three most significant public areas, including the first floor lobby, the second floor lobby and the main courtroom. As a result of water intrusion that occurred during the 2005 hurricane season, the U. S. Post Office and Court House underwent a large-scale mold abatement, repair and restoration program beginning in 2006 and concluding in 2010. All interior wood elements that were removed for drying out have been reinstalled. The finishes in the second floor courtroom and first and second floor lobbies were restored. The checkered tile floor in the second floor courtroom lobby was replicated. The bronze first floor elevator cab doors were cleaned and restored. All plaster finishes removed during the mold abatement project were replaced with mold and water resistant drywall painted to match the original plaster finish. Over the years, the non-public interior spaces have been altered to meet the needs of the tenants and to make use of spaces vacated by the post office. Many of these spaces have new interior finishes that include industrial carpeting or vinyl-tile flooring, new drywall partitions, dropped acoustical-tile ceilings with inset fluorescent lighting. Few of the original wood paneled doors remain. Nearly all the work spaces have new layouts. However, the majority of these changes are reversible.

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*United States Post Office and Court House
Escambia County, Florida*

Significance

Summary:

The United States Post Office and Court House in Pensacola was constructed in 1938 and 1939 on a rectangular-shaped lot chiefly located along Palafox Street, and acts as a terminus to historic downtown Pensacola, Florida. Conveying its federal presence through monumental architecture, the building is an example of the Moderne or Simplified Classical style frequently employed for federal buildings of the late 1930s and early 1940s. In its use of Spanish Eclectic Revival elements, the building is also associated with early 20th century interest in regionalism in architecture.

The U.S. Post Office and Court House was the only federal building in Pensacola authorized by the Public Buildings Act of 1926 and constructed as part of the Public Works Administration program. The materials used, including limestone, marble, and bronze, and the authorized cost, indicate that it was a "Class B" building according to the 1915 classification system for post office construction developed under Secretary of the Treasury William McAdoo. Prominent Spanish Eclectic Revival elements include a Spanish tile roof, *rejas*, and a decorative metal railing spanning the primary elevation.

The Pensacola U.S. Post Office and Court House meets Criteria A and C, at the local level of significance, with a period of significance of 1939-1940.

Historical Context:

Pensacola is often called "The city of Five Flags" for the various countries and governments that have overseen it at one time or another over the last 450 years. Many early explorers were drawn to Pensacola Bay because of its deep-water harbor. Of the various countries that claimed Pensacola, the settlement's early history is most intimately associated with Spain, and the Spanish colonies. Spaniard Juan Ponce de Leon was the first explorer of European descent to sight the Pensacola Bay, which occurred in 1513.¹ Three years later, in 1516 Spanish Explorer Don Diego Miruelo is believed to be the first to sail into Pensacola Bay.² In 1559 at what is now known as Pensacola, explorer Tristan de Luna established what is believed to be the first settlement in North America, originally called "Bahí'a Santa Maria de Filipina".³ Though De Luna's settlement lasted only two years, it was partly responsible for launching Spain's southeastern settlement mission.

After De Luna's failed attempt to establish a settlement, Pensacola was not rediscovered until 1686 by Spanish explorers, Juan Enriquez Baroto and Antonio Romero. These settlers were the first to call the area "Pensacola," a Choctaw word meaning "people with hair."⁴ The Muskogean-speaking Indians who originally inhabited this area referred to it as "sweet water country." Governor Andres de Arriola officially established Pensacola as a Spanish colony in 1698.

From 1719 to 1722, the French occupied Pensacola, which was then returned to the Spanish upon their winning the War of Quadruple Alliance. The Spanish kept possession of Pensacola until 1763, when it was taken over by the British, who promptly made it the capital of British West Florida. During the time of British occupation (1763-1781), Pensacola grew rapidly, and engineer Elias Durnford conducted the first survey and platting of the town during this period. The still extant original town common, later called Ferdinand VII Plaza and located off Palafox Street, was

¹ Lucius Ellsworth and Linda Ellsworth, *Pensacola: The Deep Water City* (Tulsa, OK: Continental Heritage Press, 1982), 17.

² Pensacola Historical Society, "Dateline Pensacola," brochure (Pensacola: Pensacola Historical Society, 1976), 1.

³ Carl Timothy Hoffman and Richard L. Campbell, *The Early History of Pensacola* (Pensacola: Pfeiffer Printing Co., Inc., 1980) n.p.

⁴ *Ibid.*

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also laid out by the British during their occupation. The Spanish retook Pensacola in 1781, in what was a pivotal battle between the Americans, for whom the Spanish fought, versus the British in the Revolutionary War. The 1783 Treaty of Paris stipulated Spain receive "All of the Floridas." After the 1803 Louisiana Purchase, the capital of Spanish West Florida moved from New Orleans to Pensacola.

The British and the Spanish were allies during the War of 1812, and the British docked their ships in Pensacola Bay. Andrew Jackson invaded Pensacola in 1814, and drove the British ships out. Spain still possessed Pensacola when Jackson invaded again in 1818 and then once again in 1819. Spain, realizing it could not readily protect Pensacola and other parts of Florida from invasion, decided to enter into land transfer talks with the United States. Pensacola remained a Spanish territory until the signing of the Adams-Onis treaty in 1821.

On July 17, 1821, Andrew Jackson accepted the Florida territory from the Spanish in a ceremony which took place in Pensacola's Ferdinand VII Plaza. Jackson had a large role in setting up the town of Pensacola over the course of the next year. On March 30, 1822, Florida became an official territory of the United States, with guaranteed rights to all citizens living in Florida of Black, White, or Creole descent.⁵ During this early period, Pensacola was known as a town with great cultural diversity.

In 1845, Florida became the twenty-seventh state admitted into the Union. However, Florida seceded from the United States in 1861 to join the Confederacy. Although West Florida was initially anti-secession, Pensacola Bay was used as a Confederate boat repair facility and supply base before a Union blockade around the Bay took full effect.⁶ The first shot of the Civil War was fired at Fort Barrancas on January 8, 1861.⁷ Pensacola surrendered to the Union in May 1862 and the state of Florida surrendered in 1865. Florida was not readmitted into the Union until 1868.

Military and Industry

Pensacola and its bay have long been associated with various military roles. The British first used Fort Barrancas as a harbor fortification in 1763 and built Fort George near what is now Palafox Street by 1780. By 1797, the Spanish had expanded Fort Barrancas, and changed the fort's name to "Fort Carlos de San Barrancas." Once Florida became a U.S. territory, multiple forts were built in or around Pensacola as part of the "coastal defense system." These forts included Fort Pickens (1834), the only fort in the south to be continuously held by the United States during the War; Fort McRae (1837); Fort Barrancas (as built by the U.S. in 1844) and a redoubt at Fort Barrancas, begun in 1845. In 1825, the U.S. Navy established a yard in Pensacola that continues to have a strong local presence to this day. By the early twentieth century, the North Atlantic fleet met regularly in Pensacola Bay for maneuvers in the Caribbean. The first U.S. Navy airbase, later known as the U.S. Aeronautical Station, was established in Pensacola in 1914. It grew rapidly during World War II and is still used as a training area for jet aircraft.

In 1784 the Panton, Leslie, & Co. was established as a trading company with strong ties to both British Loyalists and Native Americans.⁸ For many years, the Panton, Leslie, & Co. was the largest trading company in Pensacola and the region. The company's founders, William Panton, Thomas Forbes, John Leslie, and William Alexander also served as informal diplomats to the Native Americans with whom they traded guns, blankets, cotton cloth, beads, and other manufactured goods. Pensacola's deep-water harbor made the early settlement an ideal place for merchant

⁵ Ellsworth, *Pensacola*, 45.

⁶ *Ibid.*, 50.

⁷ Pensacola Historical Society, "Dateline Pensacola," brochure (Pensacola, FL: Pensacola Historical Society, 1976), 4.

⁸ Ellsworth, *Pensacola*, 29-31.

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Escambia County, Florida*

shipping. By 1820, over 150 ships visited the deep-water harbor each year.⁹ Early industries in Pensacola included brick making, tanning, shipbuilding, and iron casting. The industrial activity of Pensacola was further strengthened by the addition of the railroad to Pensacola. One of Pensacola's earliest rail lines was laid between 1855 and 1860 and ran from Tarragona Street to what is now Pollard, Alabama.¹⁰ This line was destroyed during the Civil War.

The railroad re-emerged in the 1870s with the help of William Dudley Chipley's arrival in Pensacola.¹¹ The development of the Pensacola Railroad Company, which merged with the Louisville and Nashville line, paralleled the development of a booming lumber trade. The area above and around Pensacola was covered with southern yellow longleaf pine, which was cut and shipped in remarkable quantities. During the late nineteenth century, approximately eighty to a hundred ships were docking in Pensacola Bay at a single time.¹² Between 1875 and 1895, Pensacola exported 4,168,319,000 feet of lumber valued at over fifty million dollars at that time.¹³ This golden age in the Pensacola lumber industry ended by the 1920s due to over-logging, bank collapses, and repeated hurricanes. Yellow fever was also a ubiquitous and annual problem that negatively affected the economy and populace throughout the nineteenth and early twentieth century.

Fishing has been a significant industry in Pensacola. Fishermen from New England came to Pensacola to catch red snapper, and Pensacola has been called "The Snapper Capital of the World."¹⁴ The "Red Snapper Boom" was a large part of the Pensacola economy at the turn of the twentieth century, and many of the town's sixteen piers were devoted exclusively to fishing activities. The Red Snapper Boom ended in 1916 due to repeated hurricanes.

Tourism, a major industry in Pensacola, has grown steadily since its late nineteenth century beginnings. The Pensacola tourism industry began in 1886, when Geronimo was imprisoned in Pensacola and performed Apache dances with other American Indians for local residents. The tourism industry began in earnest in the 1930s with the construction of new bridges out of the city, including some over the bay itself. Many of these bridges opened on June 13, 1931, concurrent with the opening of the new Casino resort. Boating, water activities and other seaside activities that took advantage of Pensacola's pure white sandy beaches were extremely popular. After World War II, increased access to Santa Rosa Island made the island itself a popular tourist destination. Sailing and boating are still popular, and luxury homes and condos are now present on these same beaches.

Palafox Street

For over one hundred years, during a period roughly 1850 to 1950, Palafox Street in Pensacola, a north-south street that ends at the bay, has been the business, retail, social and even the military center of the city. Pensacola's first completed fort, the British Fort George, was located on Palafox Street on Gauge Hill, and was the last British stronghold against Spanish troops during the Revolutionary War. Other early significant buildings on Palafox Street included the Governor's House (circa 1866), the former Escambia County Courthouse (1883-1895, demolished 1937), Post Office (1855), U.S. Post Office/Court House and Custom House (1887), Opera House (1883, demolished 1916), Pensacola's first Public School (1886), St. Michaels Catholic Church (1886), Christ Church (1903), and First Baptist Church (1895).¹⁵ By 1884, Palafox Street was equipped with a public rail transit system.¹⁶

⁹ Ibid., 40.

¹⁰ Ibid., 43.

¹¹ Ibid., 62.

¹² Pensacola Historical Society, *Pensacola in Vintage Postcards* (Charleston, SC: Arcadia Publishing, 2004), 78.

¹³ Ibid., 96.

¹⁴ Ellsworth, *Pensacola*, 70.

¹⁵ Pensacola Historical Society, *Pensacola in Vintage*, 13, 15, 22, 24.

¹⁶ Ibid., 19.

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A large fire occurred on November 1, 1905, burning the Palafox Business district from Garden to Romana streets. A massive rebuilding began almost immediately thereafter, and was spurred by speculative development related to the almost completed Panama Canal in 1914. Notable buildings constructed within ten years of the fire include City Hall, numerous early high-rises and bank buildings such as, the First National Bank (1908), the ten story American National Bank (1909), which was briefly the tallest building in Florida, and the large San Carlos Hotel (1910), an early social center of the city. During this period, Palafox Street was paved with wooden blocks. Because of the Navy presence, Palafox Street was also a center of nightlife and social activity and featured many stores, restaurants, and nightclubs. The Spanish Baroque Saenger Theater (1925) on Palafox Street was a popular gathering place for nightlife activities.

After World War II, like many other communities in the United States, the people of Pensacola moved to the newly annexed suburbs, nearly doubling the physical size of the city. From the 1960s through the 1970s, Palafox Street experienced a period of decline, including abandoned storefronts, as suburbanization occurred. However, an economic turnaround beginning in the 1980s helped preserve many of the city's historic buildings.

Early Pensacola Post Offices and Court Houses

The Pensacola postal system was initially the idea of Rachel Jackson, wife of Andrew Jackson, who once stated, "There is no mail out of this place, an inconvenience that will immediately [be] overcome."¹⁷ Andrew Jackson established Pensacola's first postal system in 1821, which was the same year he accepted Florida from the Spanish. The system consisted of a weekly horseback route to Claiborne, Alabama. Jackson named Cary Nicholas, a Former U.S. Army Major under Jackson and editor of the Pensacola *Floridian* newspaper, Pensacola's first postmaster.¹⁸

The first congressionally approved U.S. Post Office in Pensacola was opened on May 18, 1823, and Robert Mitchell was Pensacola's first congressionally appointed postmaster. By this time, early mail was carried on post roads via horseback throughout Florida and Alabama, and also to Philadelphia and Washington D.C. In Pensacola, the earliest known post office location was established in the 1830s and was in a rented building behind General Jackson's headquarters and residence on East Intendencia Street. The location of earlier post offices that existed in Pensacola is not known.¹⁹

On March 3, 1855, the U.S. Congress passed a bill to erect the first official U.S. Post Office, Custom House and Courthouse in Pensacola. The three-story building was located on Palafox Street, and as of 1863 it was the largest building on the street.²⁰ The building featured a wraparound veranda similar in style to West Indies Plantation architecture of that period and area of the country. This building was destroyed by fire on December 11, 1880. In 1861 the post office was briefly discontinued as a result of the Civil War, only to re-organize a few months later in the same year.²¹ Although railroads first appeared in 1855, postal service did not occur by rail in Pensacola until 1862, when tracks destroyed during the Civil War were rebuilt. Prior to this, mail was delivered by stagecoach.

From 1880 to 1887 the post office rented a building on Palafox Street. In 1887, the new post office, located on the corner of Palafox and Government streets, was completed. The structure was of an Italian Renaissance Revival style and featured Bowling Green, Kentucky limestone, marbled floors, beveled glass, and 800 lock-boxes.²²

¹⁷ United States Postal Service (USPS), *Pensacola Post Office History* (Northwest Florida: United States Postal Service, 1973), 14.

¹⁸ USPS, *Pensacola Post Office*, 14.

¹⁹ *Ibid.*, 16.

²⁰ *Ibid.*, 17.

²¹ *Ibid.*

²² *Ibid.*

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Located at the corner of Government and Palafox streets, the structure is extant today as one of the city's signature buildings, and is used as the Escambia County Courthouse.

The 1939 U.S. Post Office and Court House

The 1939 U.S. Post Office and Court House was erected on the former site of the Victorian style Escambia County Courthouse which had been built in 1883 and 1895. When the then-new post office and federal court was completed, Escambia County court activities were moved into the 1887 former U.S. Post Office and Custom House mentioned above. The Pensacola U.S. Post Office and Court House was completed on October 31, 1939, but was not dedicated until 1940 by Postmaster General James A. Farley.

The Works Progress Administration (WPA), Public Works Administration (PWA), Civil Works Administration, and other federal programs during the Great Depression brought significant benefits to Pensacola. Many highways, bridges, utilities, and schools were constructed in the area. Perhaps Pensacola fared better than other cities during the Great Depression because of its military presence, as Roosevelt shifted funds toward naval installations during the 1930s. Franklin Delano Roosevelt himself visited Pensacola in 1938, saying, "I am keen about this place, I am keen about its people, and I am keen about its future."²³ The U.S. Post Office and Courthouse on Palafox Street was completed by the following year.

After several decades, the U.S. Postal Service vacated the building, and areas previously devoted to its activities were converted to other uses. In 1972, the postal boxes were removed from the postal lobby. Other exterior and interior alterations followed. The building was completely vacated for renovations to be completed in 2002. However, funding delays and then hurricane damage ultimately resulted in a more extensive renovation than had originally been planned. In 2010, President Obama signed the bill (H.R. 4387) renaming the building after Winston E. Arnow (1911-1994). Arnow served as a judge of the United States District Court for the Northern District of Florida. In 1969 he ordered the Escambia County School District desegregated and in 1972 presided over the Gainesville Eight Trial, which resulted in the acquittal of the eight anti-Vietnam War activists on charges of conspiracy to disrupt the 1972 Republican National Convention in Miami Beach, Florida.²⁴ On May 20, 2011, with the project completed and the building re-occupied, the U.S. Post Office and Court House was re-dedicated as the Winston E. Arnow Federal Building. The building currently houses the Bankruptcy Court and Clerk, one District Courtroom and Chambers, a visiting Judge's Chambers, Probation, the U.S. Marshal Service, U.S. Trustees and part of the U.S. Attorney's office.

Architectural Context:

Public Works Administration Design, 1931-1939

With the onset of the Great Depression, the architectural profession and construction trades were extremely hard hit by unemployment. On May 31, 1930, the U.S. Congress amended the Public Buildings Act of 1926, with increased funding and further authorized the Secretary of the Treasury Department to contract with private firms and individuals.²⁵ To meet space needs of the federal government, the Hoover administration and the U.S. Congress increased funding for the federal building program in 1928, 1930, and 1931, for a total of \$700 million.²⁶ Intended to

²³ Ellsworth, *Pensacola*, 115.

²⁴ "W. E. Arnow, Judge in Antiwar Trial, Dies at 83," in New York Times Archive; available from <http://www.nytimes.com/1994/12/01/obituaries/w-e-arnow-judge-in-antiwar-trial-dies-at-83.html>, accessed 28 March 2014.

²⁵ Emily J. Harris, *History of Post Office Construction 1900-1940* (Washington, DC: U.S. Postal Service, 1982), 17.

²⁶ Lois Craig, ed., and the staff of the Federal Architecture Project, *The Federal Presence: Architecture, Politics, and Symbols in United States Government Building* (Cambridge MA: MIT Press, 1978), 281.

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help relieve unemployment, the Federal Employment Stabilization Act of 1931 directed federal construction agencies to prepare six-year building plans and increased appropriations for that year by \$100 million. As a result, 133 architectural firms were commissioned to design federal Buildings in 1931, and this number increased to 301 by 1934.²⁷ This practice of commissioning private architects ended, however, on June 29, 1934, with an order that the Treasury Department's Office of the Supervising Architect design all remaining federal buildings.²⁸ Subsequently, to assist with its growing workload, the Treasury Department contracted with a number of well-established architects to serve in the Office of the Supervising Architect on a "consulting architect" basis, handling the office's larger and more prominent projects.

The Public Works Administration (PWA) was established in 1933 to oversee the planning and construction of public works projects, including those designed by the Office of Supervising Architect, with the intent to create employment and ameliorate the condition of federal buildings:

In 1933, many of the properties of the federal government were in poor shape. In a number of cities, post offices were in disrepair, federal justice was being dispensed in buildings with sagging floors and leaky roofs, and in scattered courthouses along our far-flung borders, U.S. Customs Service men in some instances had to work in poorly heated and equipped buildings. Federal prisons failed to live up to the standards set by the federal government's own penologists. There was a shortage of post offices, prisons, veteran's hospitals, and other federal facilities.²⁹

As of February 28, 1939, the PWA federal building construction projects totaled 3,167 buildings at \$303,581,146, including 406 post offices with an allotment of \$43,607,814.³⁰

Louis A. Simon was Supervising Architect of the Treasury from 1933-1939, but had been with the office continually since 1896. Simon had effectively directed the office during Judge James Wetmore's tenure (1915-1933) as Acting Supervising Architect, because Wetmore had no formal training in architecture.³¹ Under the PWA and Simon's direction, federal architecture in the 1930s was designed in the Colonial Revival style or a Simplified Classical style, and often incorporated murals or sculptures produced under the Treasury Department's Section of Painting and Sculpture (later known as the Fine Arts Section).³²

Classical architecture had long been the dominant style conveying the federal presence across the nation. However, the need to provide federal government space but spare the cost of unnecessary ornament during the 1930s fit well with the principles of Modern architecture being then introduced, stressing functionality, open plans with interchangeable work areas, and exterior surfaces in uninterrupted simple planes and volumes. The government's architects were familiar with the Modern movement. The Association of Federal Architects (AFA), which was organized late in 1927 with Louis A. Simon, Supervising Architect of the Treasury, as its first president, held dinners with prominent Modernist architects such as Frank Lloyd Wright, Eliel Saarinen, and Richard Neutra.³³ Yet the Supervising Architect's Office did not fully adopt the modernist vocabulary for the exterior of federal buildings, but held steadfast to references to the Classical style to convey the underlying role of the government. What resulted was a restrained classicism, denoted as much by white masonry and the rhythm of wall and window as by vestigial

²⁷ Harris, *History of Post Office Construction*, 15, 17, 19.

²⁸ Beth M. Boland, *National Register Bulletin 13: How to Apply the National Register Criteria to Post Offices* (Washington, DC: U.S. Department of the Interior, 1994), 3.

²⁹ United States Federal Emergency Administration of Public Works (PWA), *America Builds: The Record of the PWA* (Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1939), 106.

³⁰ *Ibid.*, 290, table 20.

³¹ Craig, et al., *The Federal Presence*, 328.

³² Harris, *History of Post Office Construction*, 20, 25.

³³ Craig, et al., 298.

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columns. Today, it is this style of classicism, rather than the correct Roman form as advocated by Jefferson, the Greek temples of Robert Mills, or the ebullient Beaux-Arts style of the early 1900s, that most Americans know as federal architecture. Buildings and structures constructed during the PWA era that convey this minimal classicism, known as Simplified Classical or PWA Moderne style, include: the Hoover Dam (1933 by Gordon B. Kaufmann) and the U.S. Mint, San Francisco, CA (1937 by Gilbert Stanley Underwood), as well as numerous more modest government buildings throughout the country, including the U.S. Post Offices in Minneapolis, Minnesota; Waterbury, Connecticut; Norfolk, Virginia; and Manchester, New Hampshire.³⁴

Architectural Style

Reflecting the early pervasive presence of Spanish settlement in Pensacola, many of the major buildings in the city were designed with various Spanish-inspired features and design systems. These include the highly ornamental and decorated Spanish Baroque, the arches and *espadana* parapets of the Mission Revival style, the scaled back and simplified Spanish Colonial Revival style, and the Spanish Eclectic design system, with its unadorned surfaces and appropriation of various elements throughout the history of Spanish architecture as developed in Spain rather than in the colonies.³⁵ These variants of Spanish-inspired design systems arose in the United States in the 1910s and, along with other period revival styles, continued to be popular through the 1930s, particularly in those regions of the country with Spanish heritage, including California, New Mexico, Texas, Arizona and Florida. The 1939 U.S. Post Office and Court House exhibits strong Spanish Eclectic traits overlaid on the Simplified Classical style common in other federal buildings of the 1930s and also known as PWA Moderne.

Examples of the various Spanish design systems can be found on Pensacola buildings such as the Spanish Baroque Christ Church (1903), the Spanish Baroque Saenger Theater (1925), the Mission Revival Covenant of Perpetual Adoration, Sacred Heart Academy (1911), the Mission Revival Escambia Lodge No. 15 F&A.M. (1908), the undated-Mission Revival Frisco Lines Depot (demolished 1966), the Mission Revival Pensacola City Hall (1908, now T.T. Wentworth Museum), and the Spanish Colonial Casino resort (1931). Like the subject building, the Christ Church and the Saenger Theater are located on Palafox Street.

Compared to the more decorated Spanish styles, the Spanish Eclectic style, features ornament contained and counterbalanced by flat surfaces, rather than spread across the entirety of an elevation, which is an influence of the European Renaissance on the design system. The decorative elements on the exterior of the U.S. Post Office and Court House relating to the Spanish Eclectic style include the decorative iron balcony railing, *rejas*, and standing lamps that are focal points of the design program of the facade. Other decorative features on the building include: an eight-square pattern decorative vent, and circular ductwork at the towers, which are small-scale and inset features. Some elements of the various Spanish design systems, such as stucco, red tile roofs or paired, square plan towers appear in more than one Spanish design subset; both the U.S. Post Office and Court House, and the former City Hall possess these features. Like the U.S. Post Office and Court House, the Casino resort features unadorned elevations, red tile roofs with minimal eaves, and horizontality. Of all of the Spanish style buildings previously mentioned, only the U.S. Post Office and Court House and the Casino were built during the 1930s.

U.S. Post Office and Court House displays a nexus point of design trends, social circumstances and governmental influences that are distinctly of the 1930s. The choice of a Spanish design system, which is less, rather than more decorated, is one made in context of both Modernism and the Great Depression: a time when architectural ornament

³⁴ Ibid., 280-287.

³⁵ Delineation of various Spanish styles are used as defined in: Virginia McAlester and Lee McAlester, *A Field Guide to American Houses* (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2003), 128-137, 408-415, 416-429; Dr. Horst Vey, ed., and Dr. Xavier de Salas, *The Book of Art 4* (New York: Grolier Incorporated, 1969), 289-295; and Jeffery Howe, ed., *The Houses We Live In: An Identification Guide to the History and Style of American Domestic Architecture* (San Diego, CA: Thunder Bay Press, 2002), 138-142, 311-314, 318.

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had fallen from favor for both economic and psychological reasons. The details of the Spanish Colonial Revival style were easily grafted onto the planar unadorned facades that characteristic of the Moderne style. Both the Spanish Eclectic design system and the European Renaissance itself that informs it were influenced by Greek classicism, which espoused harmony, logic, ethos, balance, human centered achievement, proportion, and nothing to excess.³⁶ The sensibility of these traits had an affirmative role during the Great Depression. This same classicism, infused with a Roman sense of pragmatism and large scale, was reflected in the PWA Moderne designs and is seen in the Pensacola U.S. Post Office and Court House, which uses plain and engaged full-height pilasters, strong symmetry and large scale monolithic massing.

Architect

R. (Rudolph) Stanley-Brown, a member of the American Institute of Architects (AIA), designed the Pensacola U.S. Post Office and Court House. Stanley-Brown was born in Mendon, Ohio in 1889, studied at Yale, and completed his graduate studies at Columbia University and at the Ecole des Beaux-Arts in Paris. The grandson of James A. Garfield, president of the United States, Stanley-Brown worked at the firm of his uncle, Abram Garfield, in Cleveland, Ohio for a number of years until he moved to Washington, D.C. to practice architecture. In 1936, after moving to Washington, D.C., he became a consulting architect to the Treasury Department and worked in the Washington D.C. area until his death in 1944. While a complete list of Stanley-Brown's work is not available, he is known to have designed the Federal Building and U.S. Courthouse in Erie, Pennsylvania (1937) and the U.S. Post Office in Rockville, Maryland (1940), both in the Simplified Classical or PWA Moderne style. Of particular interest with respect to the Pensacola U.S. Post Office and Court House, which uses a Spanish design system to reference Pensacola's Spanish colonial history, is a group of four Hudson River Valley post offices designed by Stanley-Brown in the Dutch Colonial Revival style, referencing that area's unique heritage: U.S. Post Office -- Rhinebeck (1940), U.S. Post Office -- Wappingers Falls (1940), U.S. Post Office -- Hyde Park (1941), and U.S. Post Office -- Ellenville Post Office (1942). Located in the vicinity of his Hyde Park home, President Franklin D. Roosevelt took a special interest in the design of these buildings, mandating that they be constructed of native fieldstone and draw on the design vocabulary of local historic buildings.³⁷

In 1939 while employed by the Public Buildings Administration of the U.S. Treasury, R. Stanley Brown, along with C.W. Short, authored *Public Buildings: A Survey of Architecture of Projects Constructed by Federal and other Governmental Bodies Between the Years 1933 and 1939*, providing an overview of federal and non-federal buildings constructed with the assistance of the Public Works Administration. In the introduction, the authors identify the characteristics of the best buildings of this effort:

It is a fundamental principle of architecture that the best buildings are always those which are built throughout to comply with the structure best suited to the needs of the project. Excessive ornamentation is not only unnecessary, but in many cases definitely detracts from the aesthetic values of a building. As all building is designed to fulfill human needs, structural requirements may, in the last analysis, be considered to be the human ones. The best designs of public buildings that have been produced in the past 6 years indicates definite efforts to provide structures to fit our present civilization rather than to make our civilization fit into buildings that were designed for other ages.³⁸

Moreover, they note that the work of this period represents an important crossroads between the traditionalism of the past and powerful modern influences:

³⁶ Leland Roth, *Understanding Architecture: Its Elements, History, and Meaning* (Boulder, CO: Westview Press, 1993), 182-211.

³⁷ National Register of Historic Places—Draft Nomination, "U.S. Post Office—Rockville, Maryland," September 2010, 8-14 & 15.

³⁸ C.W. Short and R. Stanley Brown, *Public Buildings: Architecture Under the Public Works Administration: 1933 to 1939* (Government Printing Office, Washington: 1939), Introduction, III.

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The designers of public works during the past 6 years have borrowed much from the general current that is flowing away from traditional design toward something new, but in reviewing their work from a close perspective it seems very evident that they have decidedly contributed to the movement. Where they have designed traditionally there is less copying of old buildings and details than formerly. Retaining the character of a given style, they have instilled new life into it by the use of new materials or new motifs and have thereby given it a freshness which protects it against the charge of being archeology. Where they have used the "modern" style, the design sometimes shows the influence of the character and style evolved by various living European architects, but in general this is not the case. Most of the architects who have attempted to diverge from tradition seem to have attacked their problems from the point of view first of plan requirements, secondly of construction, and thirdly of type of materials to be used, with the result that in the more successful buildings of this character a style has emerged that may perhaps be the seed of the long sought "school of American design."³⁹

The Pensacola U.S. Post Office and Court House aptly illustrates this important transitional period and the skillful blending of traditional elements with the emerging principles of modern design achieved in its best buildings.

Historical and Architectural Significance:

The U.S. Post Office and Court House is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places on the local level under Criteria A and C for the areas of significance: government and architecture. The period of significance is 1939-1940, covering the dates when construction was completed and the new federal building was dedicated.

The U.S. Post Office and Court House represents the efficacy of the New Deal-era federal building campaign of the late 1930s, undertaken by the Department of the Treasury. As Pensacola developed into a modern city, the federal government recognized the need for a larger and more efficient building to serve local citizens. The building was constructed under the auspices of the New Deal-era Department of the Treasury, which sought to create jobs in the construction industry on projects that would benefit local communities. The 1939 building, built to house a post office and court facilities, also represents the importance of federal government services to the city of Pensacola and Escambia County. A monumental structure employing high quality materials, the U. S. Post Office and Court House was a source of civic pride and patriotism for residents, symbolizing the federal presence in Pensacola and Escambia County.

The U.S. Post Office and Court House is a good example of a Simplified Classical or WPA Moderne style public building and is the best-known example from this period in Pensacola. The building is plain with engaged full-height pilasters, strong symmetry and large-scale monolithic massing. Therefore, the building embodies the distinctive characteristics of the WPA Moderne style architecture, as interpreted through the history of Pensacola architecture, which suggested the inclusion of details and materials characteristic of the area's Spanish heritage.

³⁹ Ibid, Introduction, II.

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Name of Property: United States Post Office and Court House
City or Vicinity: Pensacola
County: Escambia
State: FL
Location of Original Digital Files: GSA Headquarters, Office of the Chief Architect

Photo # 1 (FL_EscambiaCounty_USPOCT_01)

West elevation, view to northeast

Name of Photographer: Carol M. Highsmith, Carol M. Highsmith Photography, Inc.

Date of Photograph: February 8, 2013

Photo # 2 (FL_EscambiaCounty_USPOCT_02)

West elevation, view to east

Name of Photographer: Carol M. Highsmith, Carol M. Highsmith Photography, Inc.

Date of Photograph: February 8, 2013

Photo # 3 (FL_EscambiaCounty_USPOCT_03)

West elevation, public entrance, view to east

Name of Photographer: Carol M. Highsmith, Carol M. Highsmith Photography, Inc.

Date of Photograph: February 8, 2013

Photo # 4 (FL_EscambiaCounty_USPOCT_04)

West elevation, detail public entrance, view to east

Name of Photographer: Carol M. Highsmith, Carol M. Highsmith Photography, Inc.

Date of Photograph: February 8, 2013

Photo # 5 (FL_EscambiaCounty_USPOCT_05)

North and west elevations, view to southeast

Name of Photographer: Carol M. Highsmith, Carol M. Highsmith Photography, Inc.

Date of Photograph: February 8, 2013

Photo # 6 (FL_EscambiaCounty_USPOCT_06)

North and east elevations, view to southwest

Name of Photographer: Carrie Chasteen, ICF Jones and Stokes

Date of Photograph: April 10, 2006

Photo # 7 (FL_EscambiaCounty_USPOCT_07)

East elevation with 1995 addition, view to southwest

Name of Photographer: Carrie Chasteen, ICF Jones and Stokes

Date of Photograph: April 10, 2006

Photo # 8 (FL_EscambiaCounty_USPOCT_08)

South and east elevations with 1995 and 2010 additions, view to northwest

Name of Photographer: Marcus Lamkin, Marc Lamkin Photography/Design

Date of Photograph: January 2011

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Photo # 9 (FL_EscambiaCounty_USPOCT_09)
South elevation with 1995 addition, view to north
Name of Photographer: Carrie Chasteen, ICF Jones and Stokes
Date of Photograph: April 10, 2006

Photo # 10 (FL_EscambiaCounty_USPOCT_10)
Interior, first floor, main lobby, view to south
Name of Photographer: Carol M. Highsmith, Carol M. Highsmith Photography, Inc.
Date of Photograph: February 8, 2013

Photo # 11 (FL_EscambiaCounty_USPOCT_11)
Interior, main lobby, view to north
Name of Photographer: Carol M. Highsmith, Carol M. Highsmith Photography, Inc.
Date of Photograph: February 8, 2013

Photo # 12 (FL_EscambiaCounty_USPOCT_12)
Interior, main lobby, stairway
Name of Photographer: Carol M. Highsmith, Carol M. Highsmith Photography, Inc.
Date of Photograph: February 8, 2013

Photo # 13 (FL_EscambiaCounty_USPOCT_13)
Interior, second floor, lobby
Name of Photographer: Carol M. Highsmith, Carol M. Highsmith Photography, Inc.
Date of Photograph: February 8, 2013

Photo # 14 (FL_EscambiaCounty_USPOCT_14)
Interior, second floor, lobby, courtroom entrance
Name of Photographer: Carol M. Highsmith, Carol M. Highsmith Photography, Inc.
Date of Photograph: February 8, 2013

Photo # 15 (FL_EscambiaCounty_USPOCT_15)
Interior, second floor, courtroom
Name of Photographer: Carol M. Highsmith, Carol M. Highsmith Photography, Inc.
Date of Photograph: February 8, 2013

Photo # 16 (FL_EscambiaCounty_USPOCT_16)
Interior, second floor, courtroom clock
Name of Photographer: Carol M. Highsmith, Carol M. Highsmith Photography, Inc.
Date of Photograph: February 8, 2013

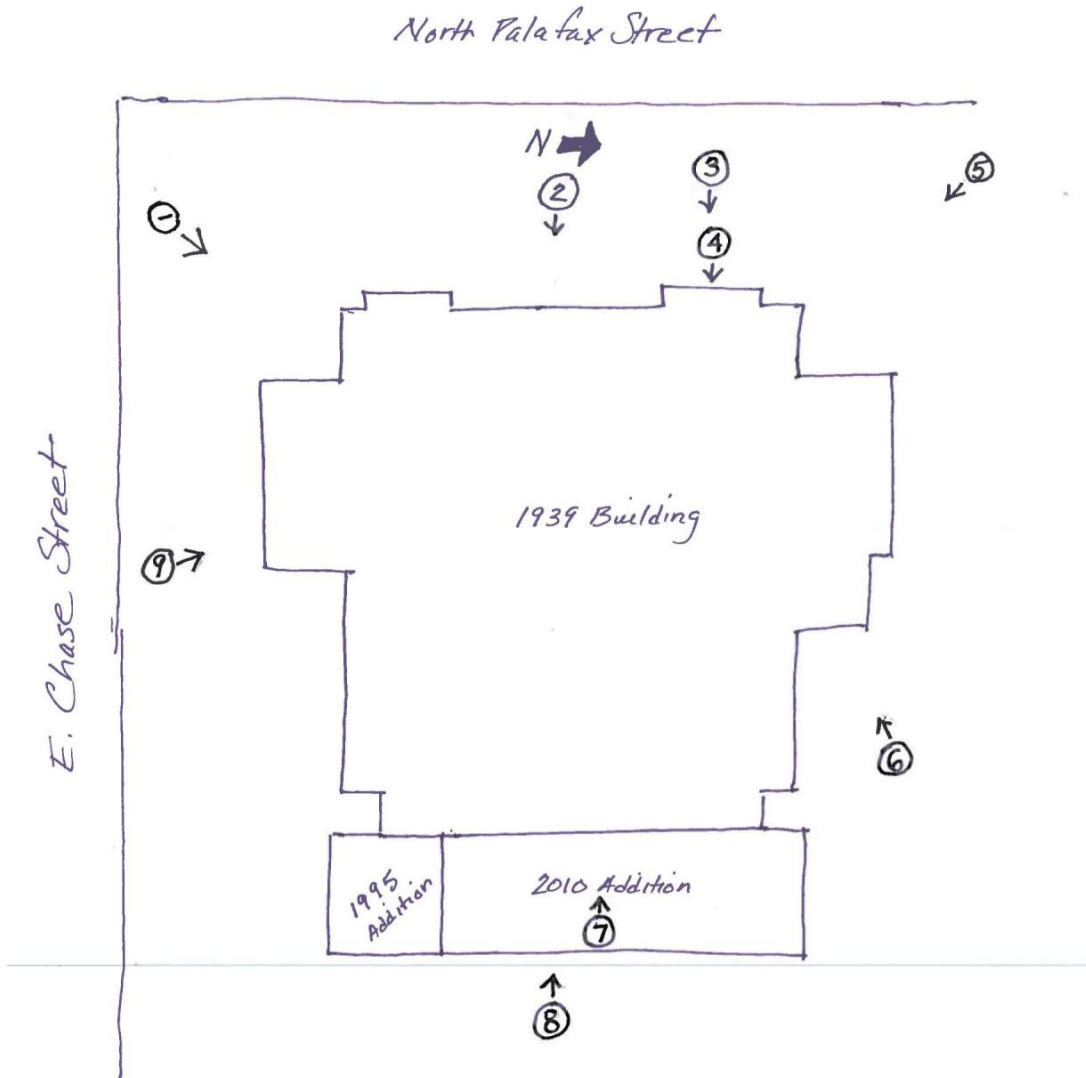
Photo # 17 (FL_EscambiaCounty_USPOCT_17)
Interior, second floor, courtroom light fixture
Name of Photographer: Carrie Chasteen, ICF Jones and Stokes
Date of Photograph: April 10, 2006

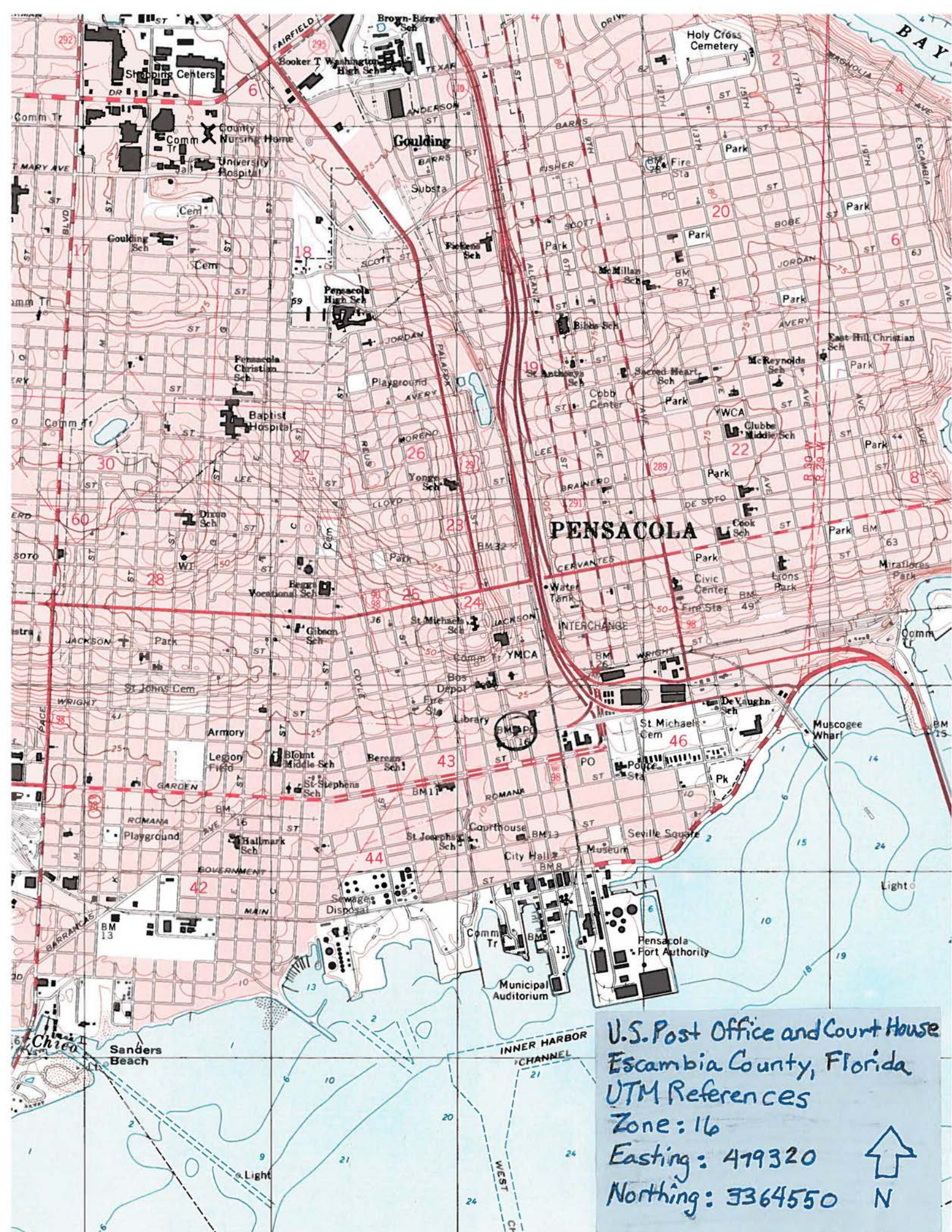
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet-Additional Documentation

Section Photography Page 17

*United States Post Office and Court House
Escambia County, Florida*





U.S. Post Office and Court House
 Escambia County, Florida
 UTM References
 Zone: 16
 Easting: 479320
 Northing: 3364550



N



WINSTON E. ARNOW FEDERAL BUILDING
100 NORTH PALMBOY STREET

WINSTON E. ARNOW
FEDERAL BUILDING
100 North Palmboy Street



WINSTON E. ARNOW FEDERAL BUILDING



UNITED STATES POST OFFICE
AND COURT HOUSE

Please Use Other Door

Please Use Other Door

UNITED STATES POST OFFICE
AND COURT HOUSE





WINSTON L. MARLOW FEDERAL BUILDING
1000 MARLOW FEDERAL STREET

Gulf Coast
COMMUNITY BANK













★ BULLETIN ★

★ BULLETIN ★

★ BULLETIN ★

EXIT





COURTROOM

COURTROOM

205
UNITED STATES
DISTRICT
COURT









UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY United States Post Office and Court House
NAME:

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: FLORIDA, Escambia

DATE RECEIVED: 5/29/14 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 6/20/14
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 7/07/14 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 7/15/14
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 14000389

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 7.11.14 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.



GSA Public Buildings Service

May 28, 2014

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

Dear Ms. Shull:

The U.S. General Services Administration (GSA) is pleased to nominate the United States Post Office and Court House (current name Winston E. Arnow Federal Building) located at 100 N. Palafox Street, Pensacola, Florida, for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. The nomination is hereby submitted on disk in accordance with the May 6, 2013 guidance and includes the following:

- Signed original first page of the National Register of Historic Places nomination form;
- Disk 1 - The enclosed disk contains the true and correct copy of the nomination for the United States Post Office and Court House, located in Pensacola, FL, to the National Register of Historic; and,
- Disk 2 – The enclosed disk contains the .tif image files for the above referenced nomination.

In accordance with 36 CFR Part 60.9(c), the appropriate local elected officials were notified of GSA's intent to nominate the above referenced property to the National Register of Historic Places by letters dated April 9, 2014. No comments have been received.

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 Elizabeth Hannold at (202) 501-2863 or elizabeth.hannold@gsa.gov.

Sincerely,

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

Enclosures

cc: Audrey Entorf, Regional Historic Preservation Officer

U.S. General Services Administration
1800 F Street, NW
Washington, DC 20405-0002
www.gsa.gov