

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: Federal Building and Post Office  
other names/site number: Fallon Post Office

2. Location

street & number 90 North Maine Street not for publication   
city or town Fallon vicinity \_\_\_\_\_  
state Nevada code NV county Churchill code 001 zip code 89406

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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.)

Ronald M. Jones  
Signature of certifying official/Title

1-20-06  
Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

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

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

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):

Joe Edson R. Beall  
Signature of Keeper

3/8/06  
Date of Action



**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 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)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Period of Significance 1929-1941

Significant Dates 1929

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above) \_\_\_\_\_

Cultural Affiliation \_\_\_\_\_

Architect/Builder James A. Wetmore and Louis A. Simon/A.M Lundberg

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

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

**Bibliography** (Cite 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

Name of repository: Churchill County Museum

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreeage of Property less than one acre

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

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	<u>11</u>	<u>347270</u>	<u>4370900</u>	3	___	___
2	___	___	___	4	___	___

\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

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

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

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**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Michael A. "Bert" Bedeau with assistance from the Churchill County Museum  
organization Nevada State Historic Preservation Office date 11/15/05  
street & number 100 N. Stewart Street telephone (775) 847-0281  
city or town Carson City state NV zip code 89701

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**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.  
A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

**Photographs**

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

**Additional items** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

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**Property Owner**

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

name City of Fallon  
street & number 55 W. Williams Street  
city or town Fallon state NV zip code 89406

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**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.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the 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, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 1

Federal Building and Post Office, Fallon  
Churchill County, Nevada

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### Narrative Description

The Federal Building and Post Office is located at 90 North Maine Street. It sits at the southeast corner of North Maine and East "A" Streets in the city of Fallon, Churchill County, Nevada. The building is rectangular in plan with long sides to the east and west and short sides to the north and south. It is set back from the sidewalk with its primary façade, including the main entry to the building, located on the west or Maine Street elevation. Landscape elements include an entrance walkway paved in concrete. This is flanked by lawns to the north and south which extend around to the sides of the building. The main portion of the building is two stories in height and rests on a raised basement. There is a one-story el to the rear (east) of the main portion of the building. This el includes a covered loading dock and access ramp that faces the rear (eastern) parking area.

The Federal Building and Post Office was constructed beginning in late 1928 and completed in 1929. The building, rendered in a Neo-classical style known as "Starved Classicism," is based on a standard design created by the Architectural Division of the U.S. Treasury Department--James A. Wetmore, Supervising Architect, and Louis A. Simon, Superintendent of the Architectural Division. A. M. Lundberg of St. Louis, Missouri was the project contractor. Its foundation and walls are faced in red double-fired brick laid up in common bond. It has a nearly flat roof surrounded by a parapet finished in gray rolled asphalt roofing. A brick ventilation stack rises from the roof near the northeast corner of the building. The window sills and water-table belt-course are of grey Indiana limestone while the bulk of the decorative exterior trim is composed of cast terra cotta. The limestone water-table belt-course features a narrow molded cornice. Terra cotta elements include a molded cornice with incised dentil decoration separating the first and second stories on all elevations and a plain projecting molded cornice located on the roof parapet.

The main or west elevation consists of five bays. The northern and southern most bays project beyond the plain of the central three bays. The first floor of this elevation features five openings. Each of the end bays contains a rectangular 6-over-12 wood double-hung sash window surmounted by a separate decorative rectangular terra cotta panel. The central portion of the first floor features three arched openings, which are accessed from street level via a six tread flight of concrete steps. The steps are flanked by square concrete platforms each of which features an original cast iron lamp-post. Each of the three central openings is capped by a semi-circular brick arch which features a terra cotta keystone and corner blocks. Two decorative terra cotta roundels are located between and above these arched openings. The centermost arch contains the main entry to the lobby while the flanking arches have 6-over-12 wood double-hung sash windows. Both of these windows and the main door feature 2-over-4 fixed side lights separated by decorative classically inspired wood pilasters. The door surround over the entry is inscribed U.S. POST OFFICE. Each arched opening also features a classically decorated solid wood fan insert

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Federal Building and Post Office, Fallon  
Churchill County, Nevada

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located above the door or window. The second story of this elevation features a single 6-over-6 wood double-hung sash window in each of the end bays and three sets of paired 6-over-6 double-hung wood sash windows in the central portion.

The north and south elevations of the building are identical. Each is three bays wide. Each bay features a single 6-over-9 double-hung wood sash window on the first floor. There is a decorative rectangular terra cotta panel located above each window. The second floor features three 6-over-6 double-hung wood sash windows.

The east or rear elevation of the building is dominated by a one story projecting central el. To the south of this el on the first floor of the main block of the building there is a narrow 4-over-4 double-hung wood sash window surmounted by a decorative rectangular terra cotta panel. To the north of the central el there are two such windows off set from each other. This northeast corner of the building also has a half story brick circulation core that provides access to the basement. It has a single 6 light half glazed door to the east and a pair of 4 light half glazed doors to the north. The central projecting el features a decorative terra cotta cornice and limestone water table. On its north and south sides there are triple sets of 9-over-9 double hung wood sash windows. The east side of the el features a projecting enclosed brick loading bay with a high concrete loading dock and a long concrete access ramp. This bay has two sets of loading doors protected by a metal canopy anchored to the wall with angled metal supports. The north side of the bay has a single 6 light half glazed door accessed by a flight of concrete steps. The south side of the loading bay features a pair of fixed 4 light wood sash windows. To the north and south of the loading on the east side of the central el are a pair of 9-over-9 double hung wood sash windows. One upper sash in each pair has been replaced with an panel inset featuring a louvered vent.

The interior of the building retains much of its original furnishings. These include original woodwork, teller cages and post office boxes. The original terrazzo flooring and green marble mop-board are also intact.

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Federal Building and Post Office, Fallon  
Churchill County, Nevada

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### Statement of Significance

The Federal Building and Post Office in Fallon, Churchill County, Nevada is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A and Criterion C. Under Criterion A (Government and Politics), this post office is a local manifestation of the federal presence in Fallon, specifically, during the 1930s. Such buildings represented the power and presence of the federal government in small cities and towns across the United States. Having such a structure in a community imparted a heightened level of local prestige and permanence—particularly in Nevada where many communities had come and gone since the mid-nineteenth century. It is also significant under this same criterion at the state level for its association with the U.S. Treasury building program begun with the passage of the Public Buildings Act of 1926. The Fallon Federal Building and Post Office was the first Nevada project completed under this significant Federal building program which presaged the New Deal public works projects of the mid-1930s and created many new government buildings across the nation.

Under Criterion C (Architecture), this building is significant as an example of a building type that has recognized architectural importance, a 1920s Federal post office and as one of the finest institutional or commercial buildings in Fallon. It is also significant under Criterion C at the state level as an excellent and intact example of the standardized building plans created by the U.S. Treasury during the early 20<sup>th</sup> century and a typical example of “Starved Classicism”—a simplified style of architecture favored by the government institutions at all levels in the 1920s and 1930s.

The Fallon Federal Building and Post Office is recommended for inclusion under the Post Offices in Nevada Multiple Property Survey (MPS), which was listed in the National Register of Historic Places on February 28, 1990. At the time the MPS was written, the Fallon Post Office was barely 50 years of age and had passed out of Federal ownership. All of the significance areas discussed in the summary above were outlined in the MPS and the Fallon building was specifically cited as meeting the registration criteria outlined therein. As such the significance statement will only discuss information not contained in the MPS and that is specific to Fallon and this particular building.

### History of Fallon

Churchill County, in the west central part of Nevada, contains 5,158 square miles or 3,301,120 acres. Within this region the lower portion of the Carson River and its terminus sustained human occupation for thousands of years. Northern Paiute people and their predecessors were the first to use the region’s natural resources. The riparian setting then attracted trappers, explorers, emigrants, businessmen, miners, farmers and ranchers.

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Federal Building and Post Office, Fallon  
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The City of Fallon had its beginnings in 1894 when Jim Richards built a little general store at the crossroads of two well-traveled trails which would become Maine Street and Williams Avenue. The Native Americans and the earliest settlers called this area Jim Town. In 1896, a couple of blocks further west Jim and Eliza (Bruner) Fallon established a post office on their ranch. Soon the little community was officially named Fallon (Pieplow 1996-1997).

An 1897 State sponsored publication titled *Nevada and Her Resources* described the attributes of Churchill County:

In many parts of the county rich veins of gold and silver have been discovered. Most of these discoveries are of comparatively recent date and are yet but slightly developed.... For a number of years soda and salt have been leading articles of produce and export....Notwithstanding the country's great mineral wealth, and its possibilities as a grazing district, it is her agricultural resources that she is the richest. In the sink region, embracing the lower division of the Carson River basin, are not less than 280,000 acre of fine level land, susceptible of irrigation at a moderate cost from either the Carson or the Truckee River. ... The major portion of the land in this valley still belongs to the government; though in the northern part the alternate sections are the property of the Central Pacific Railroad Company.

Such was the description of Churchill County at the end of the 19th Century. The promise of a reclamation project fueled economic development in the region. The Reclamation Act of 1902 sought to continue a long tradition in American land law, dating back to the Homestead Act and before, of trying to promote agrarian communities of single-family farms as the proper foundation for American democracy. (Milner et al. 1994). The Reclamation Act created a revolving fund which would be replenished by the sale of public lands in sixteen western states. The construction of dams and irrigation systems were paid for with these funds. Irrigation and agricultural development of the arid West had been an important element in ensuring national prosperity. As early as 1877 with the passage of the Desert Land Act, the Federal government was looking for ways to promote this vision of taming the arable West. The Desert Land Act, applied to all western states except Colorado, allowed farmers to purchase 640 acres of land at \$1.25 per acre. Purchasers need only pay 25 cents per acre at the time of purchase and had three years to "make satisfactory proof of reclamation" before paying the balance and obtaining a clear title. Abuse of the intent of the Desert Land Act was common with large investors accumulating more than a square mile of land. With the election of Theodore Roosevelt and legislation sponsored by Nevada Senator Francis Newlands, the government continued with federal involvement and implemented the Reclamation Act of 1902. By 1906 many of the western states including Nevada had begun Reclamation Act projects.

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In Churchill County the Reclamation Act provided funds to build the Truckee Canal, bringing waters from the Truckee River to the Lahontan Valley, and to dam the Carson River, allowing for storage and release of irrigation waters. The selection of Churchill County as a site for a major reclamation project has often been termed political, however "the site provided the location for utilization of the flow of two major streams with a natural reservoir, Lake Tahoe to store water for late season irrigation." (Townley 1998).

By 1907 Fallon had become the seat of Churchill County government. A railroad spur had been completed from Hazen to Fallon allowing import and export of products. Derby Dam on the Truckee River was finished. The completion of the Truckee Canal supplied water to the nearby communities of Wadsworth, Fernely and lands adjacent to the Carson River. The United States Reclamation Office offered land parcels of 80 to 160 acres. The first water was supplied to homesteaders on February 5, 1906.

#### History of the Fallon Federal Building and Post Office

The influx of residents to the reclaimed lands in and around Fallon provided steady community growth during the 1910s and 1920s. Beginning in the early 1910s the Nevada congressional delegation began to lobby for a Federal building in Fallon. The first appropriation was made in 1913. The site of the present building, however, was not purchased until 1917. U.S. entry into World War I followed almost immediately bringing any possible building plans to a halt (Kolva 1990).

Federal construction did not resume quickly after the war, with significant new construction beginning only after passage of the Public Buildings Act of 1926. Plans and bids for the Fallon building were solicited and revised through early 1928 and construction finally began in June of that year. Construction continued through the fall and winter and the building was completed in the spring of 1929 (Kolva 1990). In addition to a large new post office facility, the new building provided accommodations for the U.S.D.A. Agricultural Extension Service and 4-H programs as well as offices for the U.S. Internal Revenue Service. (*Churchill County Eagle*, 11 May, 1929). The building continued to house the U.S.P.S and other Federal offices until the construction of a new post office in 1978. The building was acquired by the City of Fallon and continues in public usage today.

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Federal Building and Post Office, Fallon  
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## Bibliography

Townley, John M. *Turn This Water Into Gold, The Story of the Newlands Project*, second edition and additional chapters by Susan A. James, Reno: Nevada Historical Society, 1998.

Townley, John M. *Alfalfa Country: Nevada Land, Water & Politics in the 19th Century*.  
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1991.

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West*, New York, Oxford University Press, 1994.

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*Nevada and Her Resources*, Carson City, State Printing Office, 1897. J.E. Eckley, Superintendent.

Kolva, Jim, and Steve Franks, *National Register MPS Nomination Historic U.S. Post Offices in Nevada,  
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*Churchill County Eagle*, October 21, 25, 1906, November 15, 1906, May 23, 1907, August 29, 1907,  
October 3, 24, 1907, November 28, 1907, December 4, 1907, December 12, 1907, January 16, 1908,  
March 25, 1922, June 28, 1928, November 2, 10, 28, 1928, May 11, 1929, June 1, 1929.

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Federal Building and Post Office, Fallon  
Churchill County, Nevada

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**Boundary Description**

The National Register boundaries of the Fallon Federal Building and Post Office include the parcel identified as Assessor's Parcel Number 001-111-17, Churchill County, Nevada.

**Boundary Justification**

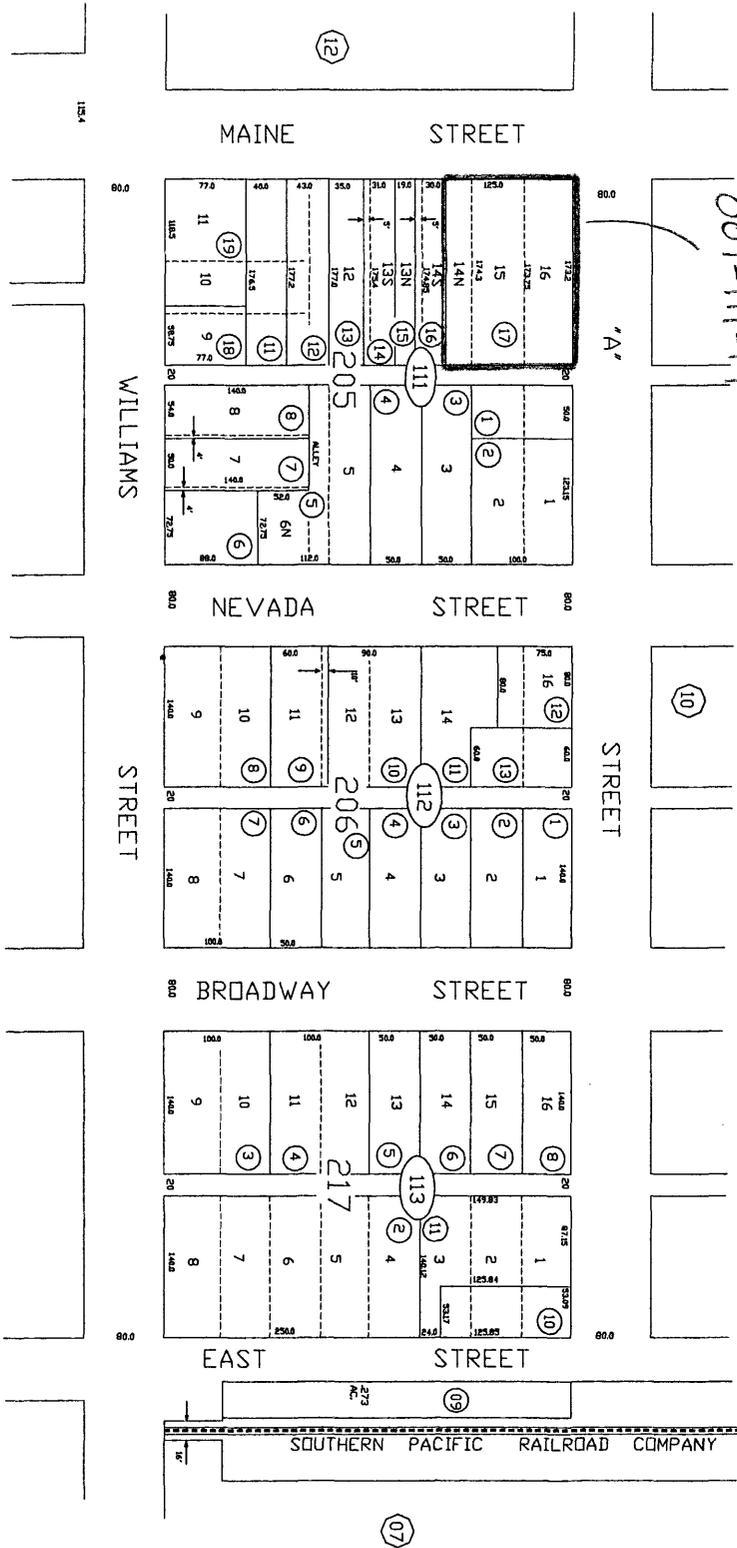
Resource boundaries include all land commonly associated with the lot identified as Churchill County, Nevada APN 001-111-17.

**Photo Log** (digital images on file at the NV State Historic Preservation Office)

Photo Number	Description	Date/Photographer
1	Exterior, Main Entry (western elevation). Facing east.	February 2005/Candace Wheeler
2	Exterior, northern elevation. Facing south.	February 2005/Candace Wheeler
3	Exterior, showing rear "el." Facing west/northwest.	February 2005/Candace Wheeler

APN  
001-11-17

JOHN DATS ADDITION



54

01-11



19 N.      28 E.      30  
 TOWNSHIP      RANGE      SECTION

NOTE: This plot is for assessment use only and does not represent a survey. No liability is assumed as to the accuracy of the data delineated herein. Use of this plot for other than assessment purposes is definitely not recommended and Churchill County expressly disclaims any liability for use other than for assessment purposes.

**LEGEND**  
 ZONING \_\_\_\_\_  
 ELLIPSE \_\_\_\_\_  
 BRACKET \_\_\_\_\_  
 PARCEL # \_\_\_\_\_  
 ROAD \_\_\_\_\_  
 EASEMENT \_\_\_\_\_

ZONE  
 PER CITY MAP  
 LAST REVISED:  
 JULY 31, 2005  
 STATE OF NEVADA  
 COUNTY OF  
 CHURCHILL  
 REVISED BY:  
 ASSESSOR  
 FISCAL YEAR  
 2005/2006

1"=120'  
 01-11