

PH0001953

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM
FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:
District of Columbia

COUNTY:
N.A.

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY DATE
JAN 21 1974

1. NAME

COMMON:
United States Court of Military Appeals

AND/OR HISTORIC:
District of Columbia Court of Appeals

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
450 E. Street, N.W. (@ corner of 5th & E Streets, N.W.)

CITY OR TOWN:
Washington

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:
Federal District

STATE: District of Columbia CODE: 11 COUNTY: N.A. CODE: 001

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____ _____
Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No			

4. AGENCY

General Services Administration - Public Buildings Service

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (If applicable)

STREET AND NUMBER:
18th & F Streets, N. W.

CITY OR TOWN:
Washington

STATE:
District of Columbia

CODE: 11

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
District of Columbia Register of Deeds

STREET AND NUMBER:
D. Street at 6th Street, N. W.

CITY OR TOWN:
Washington

STATE:
District of Columbia

CODE: 11

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

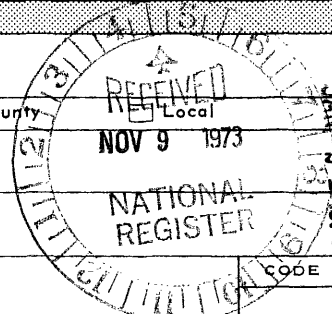
TITLE OF SURVEY:
None

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:
COUNTY:
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DATE:

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The District of Columbia Court of Appeals is a free-standing building at the southeast corner of 5th and E Streets, N. W. It is built of regular limestone ashlar, measures approximately 102' (five-bay front) by 128' (nine-bay flank), is three stories high, and has a copper-sheathed low hip roof. The three central bays of the front and rear and the five central bays of the sides project slightly to form pavilion motifs. The principal feature of the exterior is the tetrastyle Greek Ionic pedimented portico above a segmental-arched podium that shelters the three center bays of the front. The rear elevation is rather similarly composed, except that there is no portico, only a pilaster order. The fenestration of the ground floor is segmental-arched, and that floor is treated as a basement or podium for the tall main floor above it. The central pavilion windows of the main floor are round-arched, those of the end bays, with one exception, being rectangular. The exception is the large round-arched window at the north end of the east wall. That window lights the main staircase and does not correspond with the two rectangular windows at the south end of the same wall. Thus, the east wall is not identical with the similar west wall, nor is it strictly symmetrical. The third floor is fenestrated only in the central bays of the east and west sides. Rectangular panels and deep entablatures mask the third floor on the front and rear elevations and the end bays of the sides. The exterior is unaltered and was designed in a transitional late-Federal - Early Greek Revival style to accord in its details with Hadfield's Washington City Hall (now United States District Courthouse) of 1820 and following, that stands on the same Judiciary Square block. In 1939, a similar but not quite identical building by Nathan C. Wyeth to house the Superior Court of the District of Columbia was built as a pendant at the corner of 4th and D Streets. Thus all three buildings are similar in architectural treatment. The Greek Revival details of the Court of Appeals include not only the order and attic panels, etc, but also the palmette design of the wrought iron railing of the front portico.

The interior detailing is consistent with the exterior. The first floor contains a large entrance hall with main stairway at the left. A single run rises to a broad landing spanning the east wall. Two runs rise from the landing to the second floor. An annular corridor encloses a central core of interior rooms divided by a cross corridor providing a passage between the centered side entrances. A short passage between two offices leads to the rear entrance, and the two long side corridors from front hall to rear lead to two minor rear staircases. The floor is white and grey marble. Three offices on the first floor have fireplaces with mantels of late Federal character. Doors are mahogany. The central core on the second floor contains the court room, which measures about 41' by 66' and rises to the roof. It is skylit. The front lobby at the second level is formally treated with Greek Ionic pilasters and a distyle in antics access to the main staircase. The ceiling is flat and has Greek revival plaster details. Two large bronze chandeliers and a diagonally set black and white marble floor enhance the dignity of the hall. The courtroom walls are articulated by paired Greek Corinthian pilasters supporting a modillion cornice. A cove effects the transition from wall plane to the large rectangular skylight. The paired mahogany doors are headed by triangular pediments, the seating is furnished by mahogany pews, and the mahogany

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(Continuation Sheet)

STATE District of Columbia	
COUNTY N. A.	
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ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	JAN 21 1974

(Number all entries)

7. DESCRIPTION

bench is backed by a draped gilded reredos. At the rear, behind the court-room is a conference room between the two minor staircases. The conference room has a groined ceiling. There is a fireplace at each end. Judges' chambers have fireplaces and full bathrooms with the original marble fittings.



8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian 16th Century 18th Century 20th Century
 15th Century 17th Century 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1908-1910

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The District of Columbia Court of Appeals (now United States Court of Military Appeals) is a particularly fine and remarkably early example of revived (20th century) Greek Revival architecture. Elliott Woods (1865-1923), who was Architect of the Capitol from 1902 until his death, designed the Court of Appeals with great sensitivity to respect the adjacent former Washington City Hall of 1820, which now serves as the District of Columbia Courthouse. In addition to being sympathetic to the Hadfield-Mills Old City Hall (Mills is credited with the south side plan and George Hadfield with the north side plan), the design of the Court of Appeals was greatly influenced by it.

The Court of Appeals building is exceptionally well executed. The materials are fine without being lavish, and the refined restraint displayed throughout the structure exemplifies the best architectural thought of the conservative school during the first decade of this century. This singularly harmonious building is extravagant by modern standards in its use of space, fully a third of which is devoted to stairs, passages, and stately lobbies. The dignity of the law and the esteem in which it should properly be held are well expressed by the setting provided by this building. There is in Woods' building no false note of pomposity or meretricious display. A judicious restraint and fine sense of balance mark this judicial structure, one of the handsomest of its period among Government buildings.

The district of Columbia Court of Appeals was established in 1893. The building under discussion was authorized by an Act of May 30, 1908 and was completed on October 1, 1910. It housed the D. C. Appellant Court until 1952, when, on November 1, it was turned over to the United States Court of Military Appeals.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Federal Writers' Project, Washington City and Capital, Washington, 1937

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

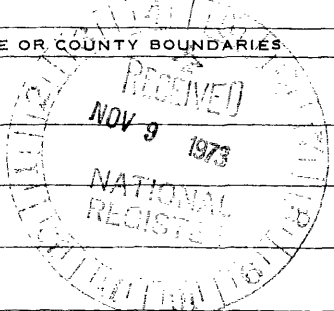
LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES				
CORNER	LATITUDE		LONGITUDE		N	LATITUDE		N	LONGITUDE
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"	38	53	44
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"	77	01	07
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 1/3

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

UTM
18/324940/
4306920



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: John D. Milner, AIA, Executive Director		DATE: 22 June 1973
BUSINESS ADDRESS: National Heritage Corporation		
STREET AND NUMBER: P. O. Box 167		PHONE: 215-459-8710
CITY OR TOWN: Chadds Ford	STATE: Pennsylvania	CODE: 37

12. CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

<p>State Liaison Officer recommendation:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> None</p> <p><i>James G. Jenks</i> State Liaison Officer Signature</p> <p>In compliance with Executive Order 11593, I hereby nominate this property to the National Register, certifying that the State Liaison Officer has been allowed 90 days in which to present the nomination to the State Review Board and to evaluate its significance. The recommended level of significance is <input type="checkbox"/> National <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> Local</p> <p><i>Herbert R. Rittenbaur</i> 10/24/73 Federal Representative Signature Date</p> <p>Historic Preservation Liaison Office</p>	<p>NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION</p> <p>I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.</p> <p><i>AR Martens</i> Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation</p> <p>Date <u>11/21/74</u></p> <p>ATTEST:</p> <p><i>George T. Emery</i> Keeper of The National Register</p> <p>Date <u>Jan 21, 1974</u></p>
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