

PH0368393

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED JAN 22 1976

DATE ENTERED JUN 23 1976

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

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC

U. S. Post Office & Courthouse

AND/OR COMMON

Federal Building

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

304 East Broadway

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Bismarck

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

First

STATE

North Dakota

VICINITY OF

CODE

38

COUNTY

Burleigh

CODE

015

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

___DISTRICT

BUILDING(S)

___STRUCTURE

___SITE

___OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

PUBLIC

___PRIVATE

___BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

___IN PROCESS

___BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

OCCUPIED

___UNOCCUPIED

___WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

___YES: RESTRICTED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

___NO

PRESENT USE

___AGRICULTURE

___COMMERCIAL

___EDUCATIONAL

GOVERNMENT

___INDUSTRIAL

___MILITARY

___MUSEUM

___PARK

___PRIVATE RESIDENCE

___RELIGIOUS

___SCIENTIFIC

___TRANSPORTATION

___OTHER:

4 AGENCY

General Services Administration

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (If applicable)

STREET & NUMBER

18th & F Streets, N.W.

CITY, TOWN

Washington

VICINITY OF

STATE

District of Columbia

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Burleigh County Register of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER

County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Bismarck

STATE

North Dakota

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

None

DATE

___FEDERAL ___STATE ___COUNTY ___LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The U.S. Federal Building is a free-standing structure at the northeast corner of East Broadway and North Third Street. As completed in 1913, the building measured 100 feet fronting on Broadway by approximately 64 feet on Third Street. In 1937, the building's depth was extended to approximately 115 feet. A landscaped set back separates the building from its neighbors and the street.

The building is three storeys high above a slightly raised full basement. Originally the building had seven bays on the south facade and four on each side. As a result of the 1937 addition, the building now has eight bays on the east and west facades. The 1937 addition is three stories and L shaped above the ground floor (the long leg of the L is the northernmost part of the addition), and leaves a light court towards the east. The light court on the east facade reveals a portion of the original northern wall. The hipped roof has a recessed gutter system. Surmounting the roof above the easternmost bay of the southern facade is an air conditioning condenser visible from the street. A limestone penthouse surmounts the roof above the northernmost bay of the original eastern facade.

The building is steel framed and has reinforced concrete floors. The walls are structural clay tile and brick, sheathed with limestone ashlar. The steel frame, wood deck roof is covered with red tile and sheet metal flashing, and has a recessed gutter system. The granite sheathed basement walls project about five feet above grade at the main facade and at ground level at the rear. This platform accommodates the slight upward slope to the north. On the south (Broadway) facade a broad staircase occupies the three central bays.

The three storeys above grade divide the building into three horizontal zones. The limestone facing above the basement begins with a torus molding. Above it is a wide belt course. The ground floor has banded rustication and is composed of arched windows springing from the torus molding. The transition between the first and second floors is articulated by two string courses separated by a wide blank frieze, creating the effect of an entablature above the first floor. The effect is enhanced because the banded rustication resumes only above the second string course. On the second and third storeys the rustication extends only far enough to imply quoining. The second of the string courses serves as sill course for the second storey windows. The second storey itself extends to a dentil molding which serves as the sill course for the third floor, thus increasing the apparent height of the second floor. The third floor is composed of a colonnade, the windows of which are recessed. With the exception of the outside bays, the colonnettes surmount the lower windows, and the rhythm of the building is thereby somewhat altered.

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On the principal facade, all the arches except the central entrance contain slightly recessed windows with four over four double-hung sash between two over two sash. Originally, the arches were filled with thermal windows, which contained four central lights flanked by two lights on either side. The arches are presently filled with stucco tympana. The entrance is embellished by two medallions on either side of the modern doors. Four cast metal and glass lanterns define the center three bays. The central three arches, all originally containing doors, are embellished by ornamental iron work in a fan motif. On the frieze the name and address of the building are applied in aluminum sans serif letters above the center door. Earlier letters have been removed and the drilled holes filled with cement.

The seven flat-arched windows of the second storey are placed directly above the first storey windows; each window has twelve over twelve double-hung sash units. On the third storey, the outer two bays contain single windows with six over six double-hung sash units. The outer bays are surrounded by pairs of engaged Tuscan colonettes. The intermediate five bays each contain two windows with six over six double-hung sash surrounded by single colonettes. Above the colonnade is an egg-and-dart molding under the heavily bracketed dark (wood) soffit of the projecting roof.

The west facade continues the motif of the principal facade, although there is a slight change in stone color in the 1937 addition. The southernmost bay has a staircase leading up to the auxiliary entrance. The modern entry doors are embellished by two metal and glass lanterns and an ornamental fan light, each matching those of the principal facade. Of the remaining seven arches, the one next to the door and the one nearest to it in the 1937 addition are filled in, having only small windows with two over two double-hung sash. The latter was so constructed originally. The arch next to the door originally contained windows like those originally on the south facade. Just as on the south facade, the windows of the remaining arches have four over four double-hung sash surrounded by two over two double-hung sash. Here too the original thermal windows have been stuccoed over. With the exception of an additional bay, the second and third storeys of the west facade are identical to those of the principal facade.

The eastern facade of the building also has eight bays, but not symmetrically placed. The southernmost two bays of the 1937 addition are closer than any of the others and, because of the light well above, function as a hyphen between the two sections of the building. The addition is also marked by a vertical separation between the two sections. The arches of the first storey are identical to those of the other facades except for the third arch which is filled

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with metal louvres beginning at the rustication and continuing to the top of the windows. Except for the third window from the south on the original building, the second storey windows are identical to those on the other facades. The third window enframingent is filled in with stone and there is only a small window.

Because of the light well, there are no second or third storeys above the two southernmost windows of the 1937 addition. Thus the entablature functions as a parapet and there is extra quoining on the center corners. The second floor of the north wall of the original building has five windows which face five on the southern wall of the long leg of the addition's L. There are two windows on the eastern facade of the short leg of L. The northernmost two bays of the second storey of the east facade contain single flat arched windows (without molding) with twelve over twelve double-hung sash. The windows are placed directly above the two first storey windows. The string course with dentils separating the second and third stories continues along the east facade, including the walls forming the light court.

The third storey of the original building continues the motif of the other facades. The corners are rusticated and the outer two bays enframed by pairs of engaged Tuscan colonettes. The southernmost bay is filled by a six over six double-hung sash window. The window enframingent of the northernmost bay is filled with louvres. The two intermediate bays contain four enframingents marked by single engaged Tuscan colonettes. The southernmost two of these are louvres, the next has a six over six double-hung sash window, and the northernmost is filled in and contains a smaller window. The third storey of the north wall of the original building contains nine windows. The east part of the addition overlooking the light court has two windows, and the southern wall of the long leg of the L has nine windows. The third storey of the addition breaks from the pattern and contains two windows with six over six double-hung sash units centered in the final two bays.

The northern (rear) facade of the building has seven bays like the southern facade, but the basement is barely visible beneath the torus molding. The central five bays are occupied by a deeply recessed service dock. The easternmost bay has an arch and window similar to the others on the first storey, as does the westernmost bay. On the western side of the facade a simple door stands between the arch and the loading dock. Unlike the first storey on the other facades, the wall is not rusticated. A marquee with four tie rods surmounts the loading dock. The second storey is identical to that of the

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principal facade, and on the third storey the pattern of a single window in the intermediate bays is continued. However, there is no further embellishment until the dentil molding.

The present interior arrangement bears little resemblance to the original because it no longer serves as either post office or courthouse. The main public lobby once extended across the grand floor of the Broadway front, expanding to the north at the Third Street entrance where the elevator and public stairway were located. The postal workroom was doubled in size by the 1937 addition, and partially illuminated by means of the skylight. The Courtroom and related offices occupied the second storey; other federal agencies occupied the third storey. This plan was not changed by the 1937 addition whose L-shape preserved the north windows of the Courtroom. Recent conversion of the entire building for occupancy by the Soil Conservation Agency has eliminated the Courtroom and public lobbies, installed suspended ceilings, and hidden the original ornamentation.

Bismarck, North Dakota

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

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

SPECIFIC DATES 1912-1913

BUILDER/ARCHITECT James Knox Taylor

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Bismarck Federal Building is significant as one of the last works by James Knox Taylor for the Treasury Department. Taylor served as Supervising Architect for the Department from 1897-1912, and designed many post office buildings across the country.

The significance of this building locally derives from its function as the public statement of the Federal Government's presence in the city and state. As such, its fine architectural qualities and uniqueness as an example of the Second Renaissance Revival distinguish it from the rest of the town. The Federal Building serves as a visual focus at the west end of the new pedestrian mall at the center of the city. Moreover, because Bismarck is built on a sloping embankment of the Missouri River, the building's red tile roof can be clearly seen from the south, and presents an interesting juxtaposition with the 1906 Spanish Revival Northern Pacific Depot (designed by Reed and Stem).

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Withey, Henry F. and Elsie R., Eds., Biographical Dictionary of American Architects (deceased), Los Angeles: New Age Publishing Company, 1956.

Drawings of Floor Plans (sheets AS-1 through AS-5) dated 1962 located at GSA Region 3 Office, Public Buildings Service, 7th and D Streets, S.W., Washington, D.C.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

UTM REFERENCES

660 5185-030

A	14	36	38	05	5	18	4	9	0	B							
	ZONE	EASTING			NORTHING						ZONE	EASTING			NORTHING		
C										D							

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

ORGANIZATION

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

12 CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

YES

NO

NONE

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

James E. Sherry

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

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

Michael S. Sherry

TITLE

HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER

DATE

1-21-76

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Acting

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

6/23/76

ATTEST

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

6-23-76

Acting