

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	South Carolina
COUNTY:	Charleston
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE:	AUG 13 1974

1. NAME

COMMON:
United States Post Office and Courthouse

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Post Office

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
83 Broad Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Charleston

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:
First

STATE:
South Carolina

CODE
39

COUNTY:
Charleston

CODE
019

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <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	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
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 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) _____ _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Comments _____ _____

4. AGENCY

General Services Administration

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (If applicable)

STREET AND NUMBER:
1776 Peachtree

CITY OR TOWN:
Atlanta

STATE:
Georgia

CODE
10

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
Charleston County Courthouse Annex, Registry of Deeds

STREET AND NUMBER:
Courthouse Square

CITY OR TOWN:
Charleston

STATE:
South Carolina

CODE
39

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

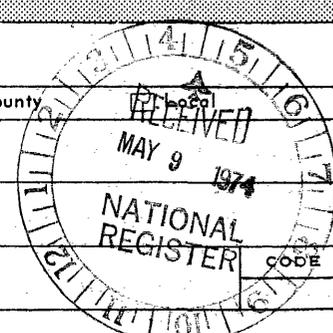
TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:
COUNTY:
ENTRY NUMBER:
DATE:
FOR NPS USE ONLY

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered (slight)			<input type="checkbox"/> Moved		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The United States Post Office and Courthouse in Charleston, South Carolina, is situated on the southwest corner of Meeting and Broad Streets, the major downtown intersection, known as the "Four Corners of Law." On the northwest corner is the 1792 County Courthouse; on the northeast corner is the City Hall begun in 1800; and on the southeast corner is St. Michael's Church, built between 1752 and 1761. Although completed in 1896, the Post Office building is sympathetic in scale and appearance with the three earlier structures.

Built of Winnsboro, South Carolina, granite, the "most perfect and durable building stone to be found in the United States," according to an 1896 newspaper, the Post Office borrows elements from various Renaissance Revival styles. Dark and light stone heightens the contrast between the rusticated basement and first floors and quoining, and the smoother wall surfaces of the two upper stories. Fronting Broad Street, the main facade is broken into five advancing and receding planes. The five parts are symmetrically grouped, but the openings of each part have been treated individually. A pedimented central block denotes the main entrance on Broad Street. The east or Meeting Street facade is basically a reduced version of the north facade. Dominating both is the enclosed, square "cupola," the contemporary description, placed on the corner of the building.

Openings are grouped, usually in two's or three's, although there is a greater massing of windows on the third floor. First floor openings, including seven doorways, are arched, as are windows on the cupola. Some upper story openings are pedimented, and the doors have balustraded balconies. Windows are fewer in number on the south or back side. Openings on all floors throughout the building are linked by string-courses.

A cornice with heavy dentiling appears on the projected areas, while the cornice on the receding sections is a simple molding. An open balustrade outlines the roof, which is not visible from the street. Attached to the south side in 1922 was a one-story gray concrete service and loading area.

Parking facilities are located on the west and south sides. Adjoining the south lot is the "Post Office Park," originally landscaped about 1804, but later covered with a building. In the 1960's, the park was restored, including replacement of the two-tiered fountain and the iron fence.

Excepting the 1922 addition, the exterior has changed little. The interior has not been as fortunate, although the Post Office lobby of the first floor suggests the grandeur of the structure when first built. Carved Santo Domingo mahogany woodwork encloses the postal service area. The stairway consists primarily of brown marble veined in white and filigreed brass (one newspaper account described it as "embossed copper"). An early elevator, also covered with ornate grillwork, was retired in 1958. (continued)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE South Carolina	
COUNTY Charleston	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
446	MAY 9 1974

(Number all entries)

No. 7 Description (continued)

Originally, the central area of the building consisted of an interior court with a skylight of hammered glass. Second and third floor offices opened onto galleries which overlooked the court. In 1959, the court was floored, giving additional office space, and other renovations were made.

The building dimensions are 147'11" x 124'3".



8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **Completed 1896**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input checked="" 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 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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

By virtue of its location on the "Four Corners of the Law," the United States Post Office and Courthouse in Charleston, South Carolina, is automatically an important structure. A 1792 courthouse represents county government, while the City Hall, begun in 1800, symbolizes city government. St. Michael's Church, built between 1752 and 1761, depicts ecclesiastical law. Completing the foursome is the 1896 Post Office representing the federal government. Although nearly a century separates them, the Renaissance Revival structure is compatible with the three earlier buildings, and is an appropriate expression of the late nineteenth century.

Efforts to obtain a new post office for Charleston began in earnest in 1886, and in February, 1887, Congress passed the first bill approving its construction. Contracts were awarded in early 1889 for excavating, piling, etc., the site, which had been the old police Guard House until it was heavily damaged in the 1886 earthquake.

Architect of the Post Office was Will A. Freret, who served as Supervising Architect of the Treasury in 1887 and 1888.

On Friday evening, May 15, 1896, the public was invited to attend a gala viewing, complete with German band, of the new Post Office and Courthouse. The following morning, mails, for the first time, were "dispatched, received and delivered from the Government palace," which cost approximately \$500,000.00. The courts were to move from the United States Custom House at a later date. Completion of the new building, said one reporter, was "the beginning of the new life of Charleston."

Today, the structure continues to be used as a postal station and federal courthouse.



9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

A History of Public Buildings under the Control of the Treasury Department. Washington: Government Printing Office, 1901, pp. 534-535.
 Lesesne, Thomas Petigru. Landmarks of Charleston. Richmond: Garrett and Massies, Incorporated, 1932, p.76.
The News and Courier, Charleston, May 16, 1896, March 17, 1920, and miscellaneous other dates.

DEPT. OF THE INTERIOR, BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

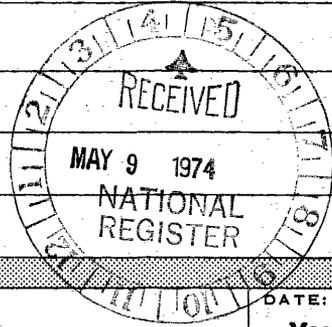
LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
NW	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	
NE	° ' "	° ' "	32 °	46'	34"	
SE	° ' "	° ' "	79 °	55'	53"	
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

UTM
17/600050
3426760

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **about 1 1/4 acres**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: **Ellen Beasley** DATE: **March 26, 1973**

BUSINESS ADDRESS: **2516 Belmont Boulevard**

STREET AND NUMBER: **2516 Belmont Boulevard** PHONE: **615-297-6637**

CITY OR TOWN: **Nashville** STATE: **Tennessee** CODE: **41**

12. CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

State Liaison Officer recommendation:
 Yes
 No
 None

Rale E. Lep
 State Liaison Officer Signature

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 National State

Local

Steven R. Ruttenlam **2/6/74**
 Federal Representative Signature Date

Historic Preservation
 Liaison Officer

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

A. R. Martens
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: **8/13/74**

ATTEST:

W. J. Mustaf
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: **8. 1. 74**