

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

**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

AND/OR COMMON

Federal Building

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Randolph and Church Streets

CITY, TOWN

Champaign

— NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

21st

STATE

Illinois

— VICINITY OF

CODE

17

COUNTY

Champaign

CODE

019

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<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:

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.

Champaign County Courthouse - Registrar of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER

Lincoln Square

CITY, TOWN

Urbana

STATE

Illinois

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

— FEDERAL — STATE — COUNTY — LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The U.S. Federal Building, originally the U.S. Post Office, was completed in 1905. It was designed in the office of James Knox Taylor, Supervising Architect of the Treasury Department 1897-1912. Set back slightly from the northwest corner of Church and Randolph Streets, the building is one storey above a raised full basement. As originally constructed, the building measured approximately 95 feet by 55 feet, with five bays on the Randolph Street (principal) facade and three bays on the Church Street (southern) facade. In 1929 an addition approximately half the size and two-thirds the height of the original building was constructed to the west of the original building.¹ Lacking the distinctive detailing of the original building, this addition was razed to make way for a larger addition which measures approximately 67 feet by 111 feet.² The 1936 addition added four bays to the north and south facades and one bay on the east facade.

The building is constructed of brick bearing walls laid in Flemish bond. The basement is faced with Indiana limestone; limestone as well as terra cotta is employed for ornamentation.

The basement of the original building is articulated by a one over one double-hung sash window in each bay. The transition from basement to first storey is defined by a molded belt course. The building's entablature is of stone and terra cotta and does not conform to any one classical order. Rather it is composed of a simple architrave, a blank frieze, and a cornice with egg and dart molding and mutules under the cornice. The cornice is surmounted by a balustraded parapet composed of alternating balusters and piers with panels, continuing vertically the pattern of projections and recessions.

In the outer two bays of the principal facade the belt course is surmounted by two courses of limestone which are surmounted by a projecting sill course, above which quoining begins. Each outer bay has a two over two double-hung sash window surmounted by a two light transom. The window sill projects beyond the sill course and surmounts two incised compound blocks. The window is surmounted by a shouldered architrave, itself surmounted by a pulvinated frieze and cornice with metal hood flashing.

The three bays of the central pavilion are defined by four pairs of Ionic pilasters that are deeply fluted and banded. The capitals of the pilasters are embellished with tassles, an egg-and-darts, and are surmounted by a rosette on the echinus. Each window flanking the entrance is composed of two one over one double-hung sash units

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7

PAGE 2

flanking a wide center unit. Pilaster-like mullions separate the units. The window sill detail surmounts square blocks with panels similar to the outer bays. Three blocked transom lights surmount the sash and are in turn surmounted by a low relief dentil molding which forms the transition to a transom with lights twice as high. The surround is banded like the pilasters. The entire aperture is a flat-headed arch with a projecting keystone and four projecting voussoirs.

A curvilinear grand staircase leads to the central bay. Originally a cast iron post lamp with five globes stood on either side of the door. Although the doorway is now covered with wood, it originally contained double doors surmounted by a three light transom. The sides of the door's architrave are paneled and surmounted by a console with a festoon and guttae. The lintel of the architrave contains a shaped panel. The consoles support a cornice with dentil molding which is surmounted by a three light transom and flat-headed arch identical to those in the flanking bays. The frieze, originally inscribed "United States Post Office," is now covered with wood. The piers of the parapet in the central bay are identical to those in the flanking bays, but the balustrade is replaced with a heavy cartouche surmounting a foliated scroll and topped by a large scroll. The festoon continues the vertical thrust of the entrance bay.

With the exception of the easternmost bay, each of the seven bays of the southern facade is identical to the outer bays of the principal facade. The only difference is a small window between the two westernmost bays. The original quoining was removed and applied at the western corner of the addition. The easternmost bay, which now functions as the main entrance, is approached by a long steep staircase flanked by wrought iron railings. The modern aluminum double doors are surmounted by a pulvinated panel which is in turn surmounted by a two light transom that is now blocked. Another two light transom, less recessed, surmounts the one below. The door surround terminates in block like brackets with guttae which support a hooded cornice identical to that over the windows. The top blocks contain roundels. A shaped panel replaces the frieze. Originally, torch-like cast iron electro bronzed standards for gas lamps were attached high on the wall flanking the Church Street entrance.

The original three bays of the north facade are identical to those on the southern facade except that the quoining at the west corner was removed during the 1936 construction. Flemish bond brickwork replaced

Champaign, Illinois

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7

PAGE 3

the voids. In the one bay of the addition facing east, the area between the basement and sill course is replaced by brick. The window ornamentation is perhaps from the original building. The parapet and frieze are brick, articulated only by a stone cornice and terra cotta parapet coping. The four western bays of the north facade have little ornamentation. The area between the basement and the sill course is brick. The fenestration of these bays differs from the others, each unembellished window containing two one over one double-hung sash units separated by a mullion and surmounted by two blocked transom lights.

The rear (west) facade is composed of nine asymmetrically placed windows. The four southernmost are composed of a limestone sill course, one over one double-hung sash units, and a brick surround surmounting each window. The stone architrave and cornice, and the terra cotta coping are the only ornamentation on this facade. A brick chimney cuts through the architrave and cornice, and separates the four southernmost windows from the others, which are largely blocked by a lower one storey brick extension adjoining a covered loading platform.

Since 1966, when the building was converted to a Federal Building, the interior has been altered to include suspended acoustical ceilings, tiled or carpeted floors, and walls with wood grained panel board. Nonetheless, the alterations have generally not affected the original fabric. The 1905 details remain behind the new ceiling and the marble-inlaid terrazzo floors remain beneath the carpeting. Despite new partitions incorporated into the space, the plan of the lobby is intact.

- 1 W.P. Taylor, del., U.S. Treasury Department, unnumbered plans and section studies, July 30, 1928.
- 2 Edward C. Harper, del., U.S. Treasury Department, unnumbered plans 1929 Champaign News Gazette. Photograph dated 1935, University of Illinois, Archives, Champaign-Urbana, Illinois.

Champaign, Illinois

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 1905, 1929

BUILDER/ARCHITECT James Knox Taylor

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Federal Building represents the only significant example of early twentieth century classicism in its immediate area. Its bold textures, bilateral symmetry, and complex rhythms express the Beaux-Arts aesthetic and Taylor's concern to make an imposing architectural statement of the Federal Government's presence in Champaign.

Moreover, the building is a fine example of the use of terra cotta. The extremely elaborate accumulation of classical detail was made possible by the use of pre-fabricated terra cotta modules. Continued concern for the quality of workmanship is evidenced by 1936 newspaper articles. They indicate that at a time when much public work was being accomplished with the help of the Works Progress Administration, the workers on the Post Office were paid at the prevailing wage rate.¹ The resulting high quality craftsmanship is demonstrated in the exterior details of the Church Street side of the 1936 addition, where much care was taken to duplicate the detail used in 1905.

Although originally one of a number of public buildings constructed during Champaign's rapid growth at the turn of the century, because of urban renewal, the Federal Building today stands as an unusual visual monument to turn of the century taste and craftsmanship.

¹ Urbana Daily Courier, Feb. 26, 1936 Collection of the Urbana Daily Courier.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Archives, University of Illinois, Photograph Collection, Champaign.
 Photograph Dated 1935.

Champaign News Gazette., Miscellaneous articles.

Drawings of sills and cornice work, Excelsior Terra Cotta Co.

Original plans and elevations dated 1905, by James Knox Taylor, Supervisory Architect, located in GSA Office, Champaign, Illinois, The plans indicate that Wm. Weber was the contractor.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,6	39,71,9,0	444,072,0	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
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

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

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

TITLE

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION
 ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



IN REPLY REFER TO:

United States Department of the Interior

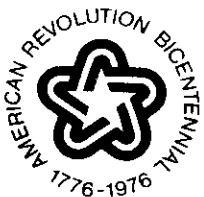
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

The Director of the National Park Service

Gary Everhardt

is pleased to inform you that the historic property listed on the enclosed sheet has been nominated by the State Historic Preservation Officer responsible for your State's implementation of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, P.L. 89-665 (80 Stat. 915), as amended. It has accordingly been entered in the National Register of Historic Places. A leaflet explaining the National Register is enclosed for your information and convenience.

Enclosures



CONSERVATION
1976 AUG 27 PM 3:13
LAND & HISTORIC SITES

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE ILLINOIS

Date Entered AUG 17 1976

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
U.S. Post Office	Champaign Champaign County

Also Notified

Hon. Charles H. Percy
Hon. Adlai E. Stevenson
Hon. Edward R. Madigan
Mr. Michael F. Mulloy, GSA

COPY OF CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

Post Office

STATE
DEPARTMENT OF RE
GEOLOGICAL
URB

