

PH0066575

Form 10-300
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Colorado	
COUNTY: Denver	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER MAR 20 1973	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:
U.S. Post Office and Federal Building

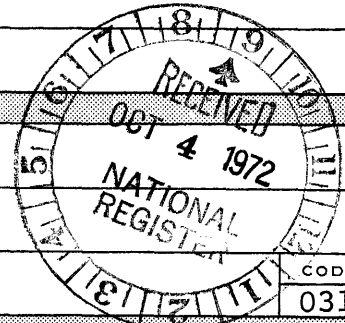
AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
18th and Stout Streets

CITY OR TOWN:
Denver

STATE: **Colorado** CODE: **08** COUNTY: **Denver** CODE: **031**



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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
United States of America Post Office

STREET AND NUMBER:
18th and Stout Street

CITY OR TOWN: **Denver** STATE: **Colorado** CODE: **08**

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Tax Assessor's Office

STREET AND NUMBER:
City and County Building

CITY OR TOWN: **Denver** STATE: **Colorado** CODE: **08**

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Historic American Buildings Survey Inventory

DATE OF SURVEY: **1971** Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Library, State Historical Society of Colorado

STREET AND NUMBER:
200 Fourteenth Avenue

CITY OR TOWN: **Denver** STATE: **Colorado** CODE: **08**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: **Colorado**

COUNTY: **Denver**

ENTRY NUMBER: **MAR 20 1973**

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	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

By the end of the year 1909, drawings from Denver's new Federal Building had been completed, by the New York firm of Tracy, Swartwout and Litchfield, and approved, by James Knox Taylor, supervising architect of the Treasury Department. Denver was not so far removed from the main-stream of American life that the Neo-Classical Revival style of architecture was unknown, although the scale and elegance of the Federal Building, introduced by a sophisticated New York firm, were perhaps a few steps ahead of Denver's newborn classical revival. The Hedden Construction Company of New York was awarded the contract to construct the building of Colorado Yule marble.

The exterior facades are scaled to monumental proportions of classical design. Most notable is the three story portico formed of 16 Ionic columns on the Stout Street entrance facade. The remaining three facades of the original rectangular building imitate the Stout Street portico through the device of engaged Ionic columns below an imposing entablature which encircles the building. Those sections of exterior wall space unbroken by columns of the classical order are plain, displaying the evenly coursed marble block construction.

The low pitched roof is barely visible from street level. The passer-by is equally unlikely to notice the undecorated row of windows opening from the fourth story above the entablature on all four facades.

With the notable exception of openings on the first story, all exterior structural openings are trabeated. First story windows and doors are arched in the Roman style, repetitive of the architects' eclectic use of Roman arches throughout the design of the interior open courts.

The interior of the building was originally known for four principal spaces: the masonry-vaulted lobby, the District Court, the Court of Appeals, and the Law Library. These spaces have been retained and converted to new uses, with the exception of the Court of Appeals. A 1963 Federal Services Administration decision led to the destruction of this room in order to permit construction of two levels of office space. The exterior has not been altered.

The names of famous Pony Express riders have been carved in the marble walls at the two ends of the lobby. Of particular interest are sculptures of mountain sheep, flanking the Eighteenth Street entrance. The sheep were carved in 1936 by Denver sculptress, Gladys Caldwell Fisher.

S E E I N S T R U C T I O N S



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) 1916 to present

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <u>Government</u>
<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

The history of the U.S. Post Office and Federal Building is an important chapter in the story of the development of Denver civic pride. Established in an atmosphere of transience Denver had become, by 1900, a permanent transportation crossroads and a major western commercial city. Throughout the city, buildings of the previous century were being torn down and replaced by "modern" structures, as a visual expression of permanence and optimism.

In keeping with the spirit of the times, the Denver Chamber of Commerce petitioned Congress in 1904, to appropriate funds for the construction of a new Denver federal building. According to a local newspaper report, "the petition contains half-tone pictures of the present federal building, showing its insignificance compared with surrounding blocks and also a picture of the federal building at Pueblo which is more pretentious than the Denver building." Through the efforts of Colorado's congressional delegation, funds were appropriated for a new building and, in 1908, a site was purchased.

Progress reports were published with great enthusiasm during the first years of construction, comparing the new Denver building favorably to such monumental government structures as the Lincoln Memorial. With the passage of time, however, this enthusiastic attitude changed to one of impatience. Never before in the history of Denver has so massive a single construction project been undertaken. Clearly, the people of Denver were unaccustomed to the actualities of governmental monument building. Finally, at the end of January, 1916, federal offices were transferred to the new facility.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Denver, Municipal Facts, 1912.
 Research compiled for the Denver Landmark Preservation Commission by Edward H. White, Jr., A.I.A., November, 1970.
 "One Hundred Years of Postal Service," n.d., n.p.
 (in the collection of the Library, State Historical Society of Colorado)

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 4399650
 500880
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10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		39° 44' 55"	104° 59' 23"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **2 acres**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Susan A. Nieminen, Assistant to the Director

ORGANIZATION: **State Historical Society of Colorado** DATE: **31 August 1972**

STREET AND NUMBER:
200 Fourteenth Avenue

CITY OR TOWN: **Denver** STATE: **Colorado** CODE: **08**

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

<p>As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:</p> <p>National <input type="checkbox"/> State <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Local <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Name: <u><i>Stephen H. Hart</i></u> Stephen H. Hart</p> <p>Title: <u>Colorado State Liaison Officer</u></p> <p>Date: <u>9/26/72</u></p>	<p>I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.</p> <p><u><i>Robert G. Utley</i></u> Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation</p> <p>Date: <u>3/20/73</u></p> <p>ATTEST:</p> <p><u><i>J. Bradford</i></u> Keeper of The National Register</p> <p>Date: <u>3/15/73</u></p>
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SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. Significance, continued.

The new federal building served as a model for numerous local building projects and was both part of, and impetus for a massive municipal renewal program. The U.S. Post Office and Federal Building introduced the classical concept of grandeur, scaled to monumental proportions, to yet another segment of the American public. This influence can still be seen in the character of governmental structures throughout the city of Denver.

Construction of a new federal building in 1965 was necessary in order to accommodate the expansion of federal offices in the Denver area. Although the U.S. Post Office and Federal Building was spared as a supplementary facility, the prevailing attitude of Denver municipal government continues to mirror the philosophical belief that prosperity can be measured in building permits--a philosophy that can be traced, with irony, to the 1904 Chamber of Commerce petition for a new federal building.

