

John W. McCormack Post Office and Courthouse

**5 Post Office Square
Boston, MA**

The John W. McCormack Post Office and Courthouse is a 22-story Art Deco building. In the past several years it has undergone modernization and renovation with an emphasis on green practices and historic preservation. The McCormack Post Office and Courthouse retains its function as a federal courthouse with the U. S. Bankruptcy Court using its historic courtrooms and library. The former Post Office area has been restored to its original condition and is used as office space by the new building tenants.

Because of the careful restoration of these spaces and the historic preservation of the courtrooms, corridors, stairways, and exterior façade, 75% of the original walls, floors, and roof were saved from demolition.

Recently completed, the McCormack Building will serve as a national model for the integration of historic preservation and modern day sustainability.

Hours: Monday - Friday, 6:00 am - 6:00 pm

Public Transportation: Walking distance from the red, orange, green, and blue stations. www.mbta.com (non-government website)

Parking: Several public parking garages within walking distance.

Entrance: The public entrance to the building is on Congress Street. Visitors entering the building must pass through security systems. All belongings will be x-rayed. Employees with a federal ID card may enter either on Congress or Devonshire Streets.

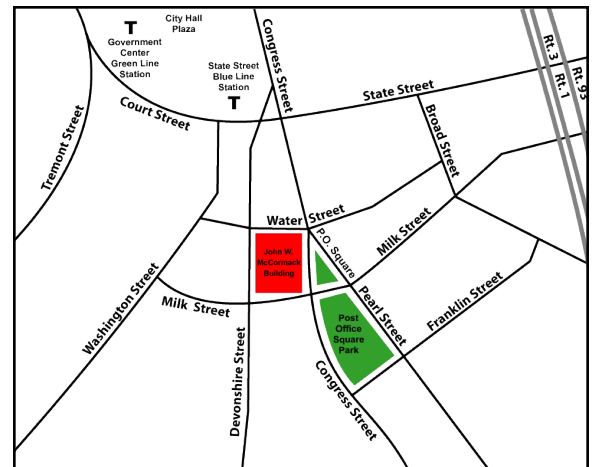
Concession

- **McCormack Cafe** (3rd floor) Open 6:45 am - 2:45 pm serving breakfast and lunch. Soup, sandwiches, and hot entrees. Daily Specials.

ATM: on 3rd floor next to the Hanscom Federal Credit Union.



Photo by High-Profile, Inc.





John W. McCormack Post Office and Courthouse

Tenants

McCormack Building Directory

Department of Education
Environmental Protection Agency
Regional Headquarters
Department of Health & Human Services
Department of Homeland Security
General Services Administration
U.S. Bankruptcy Court
U.S. Trustees



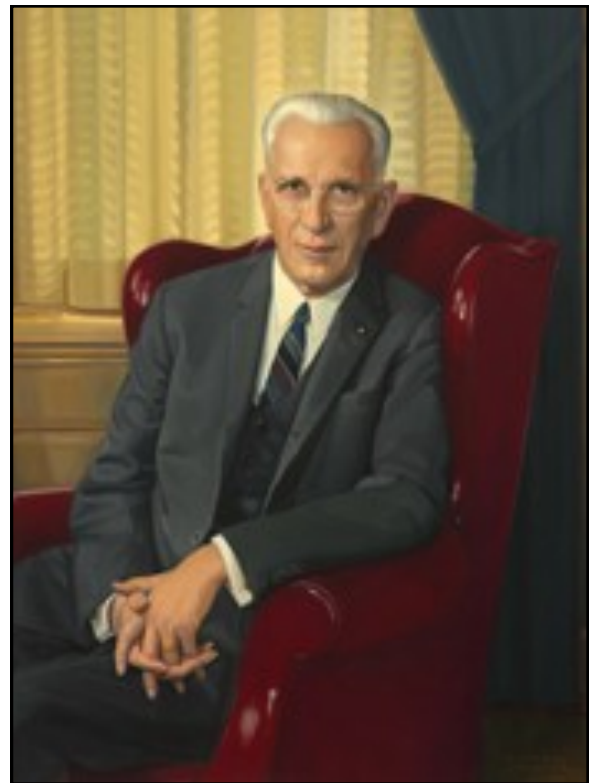
Photo by Carol M. Highsmith Photography, Inc.

John W. McCormack Post Office and Courthouse

History

The John W. McCormack Post Office and Courthouse was originally built in 1933, and designed by the Boston architectural firm of Cram and Ferguson in collaboration with the United States Treasury. In 1998, the 22-story building was designated as an official landmark by the Boston Landmarks Commission and is one of the most beautiful Art-Deco buildings in downtown Boston.

John William McCormack, a Representative from Massachusetts; born in Boston, Suffolk County, Mass., December 21, 1891; attended the public schools; studied law in a private law office; was admitted to the bar in 1913 and began practice in Boston, Mass.; member of the State constitutional convention in 1917 and 1918; during the First World War served in the United States Army in 1917 and 1918; served in the State house of representatives, 1920-1922; member of the State senate, 1923-1926, serving as Democratic floor leader in 1925 and 1926; delegate to all Democratic State conventions since 1920; delegate to the Democratic National Conventions in 1932, 1940, 1944, and 1948; elected as a Democrat to the Seventieth Congress to fill the vacancy caused by the death of James A. Gallivan and on the same day was elected to the Seventy-first Congress; reelected to the Seventy-second and to the nineteen succeeding Congresses and served from November 6, 1928, to January 3, 1971; chairman, Committee on Territories (Seventieth Congress), Select Committee on Astronautics and Space Exploration (Eighty-fifth Congress); majority leader (Seventy-sixth through Seventy-ninth, Eighty-first, Eighty-second and Eighty-fourth through Eighty-seventh Congresses), minority whip (Eightieth and Eighty-third Congresses), Speaker of the House of Representatives (Eighty-seventh through Ninety-first Congresses); was not a candidate for renomination in 1970 to the Ninety-second Congress; resided in Boston, Mass., until his death in Dedham, Mass., November 22, 1980; interment in Saint Joseph Cemetery, West Roxbury, Mass.



Oil on canvas, Victor Lallier, 1966, Collection of U.S. House of Representatives

Biographical Data courtesy of the Biographical Directory of the United States Congress.

John W. McCormack Post Office and Courthouse

Green Initiatives

On September 25, 2006 a construction contract for repairs and alterations of the McCormack building with an emphasis on green practices was awarded to Suffolk Construction Company in the amount of \$136,153,445. Construction for the renovations of the building began in October of 2006. Architects Goody, Clancy and Associates designed the repairs and alterations work which incorporate various green building features, including a green roof on the fourth and fifth floors. The building was ready for occupancy in August of 2009.

Green Elements of the McCormack Building

- A green roof that is the first of its kind in New England
- Solar panels power the irrigation pumps and cisterns collect rain water to irrigate the plantings
- Lighting on daylight dimming system, occupancy sensors and switches
- Newly designed layout that accommodates the day lighting for a more productive work environment
- Use of only products with low Volatile Organic Compounds
- Use of wood products derived from recycled wood
- 86% of construction debris recycled on site, per Suffolk Construction's Waste Management Program
- Post-consumer recycled product used for many new installed finishes, steel and concrete
- Many materials bought and delivered within 500 miles of the project
- Creation of an Indoor Air Quality program protects both workers and final building occupants
- Bicycle racks, showers and changing rooms
- The building is within walking distance of multiple transportation stops
- All exterior fixtures are specified to aid in eliminating light pollution
- Use of "green power" to run the building



Part of the Green Roof

As of April of 2009 a total of 149.5 tonnage of construction debris was recycled and diverted from landfills, bringing the percentage of material recycled to 84.93%. This includes 6.17 tons of concrete, 8.59 tons of metal, and 19.26 tons of wood. Some of the main energy-efficiency components of the design include variable-speed drives for fans and pumps, motion sensors and daylight dimming for lighting, and new insulated double-pane, low-e win-dows. New plumbing fixtures reduce estimated water consumption by 642,000 gallons per year, which is 32% over code requirements. The indoor air quality of the building was improved through use of low-emitting construction materials such as paint, carpeting, and composite wood.

The green roof encompasses more than 25% of the building footprint, providing an important open space for the building users. The green roof is planted with native species and after establishment should require little irrigation. Drainage from all the roofs is filtered through the gardens into cisterns for later use if needed.

John W. McCormack Post Office and Courthouse

Art & Architecture

The GSA Art in Architecture Program commissions the nation's leading artists to create large-scale works of art for new federal buildings.

"Justice is the Guarantee of Liberty" by Richmond K. Fletcher is an oil painting permanently affixed to the wall of Courtroom 3 on the twelfth floor.

Richmond K. Fletcher (1885 - 1965) was a Gloucester artist known for his coastal scenes. He was educated at Phillips Academy in Andover, MA; Harvard University in Cambridge, MA; and later, he studied in France. He designed the West Portal of the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York City. Fletcher worked at the Whistler House Museum of Art in Lowell, MA. He painted two New Hampshire governors, which hang in that statehouse and President Thomas Barrows at Lawrence.



"Justice is the Guarantee of Liberty"
by Richmond K. Fletcher

Building details:

