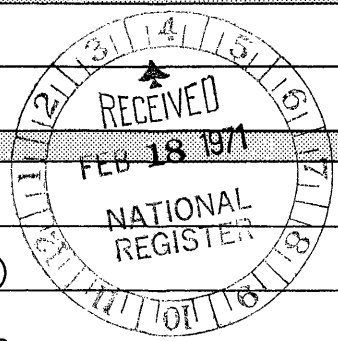


**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: North Carolina	
COUNTY: Wake	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 71.5.37.0028	DATE 5/6/71



**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
Federal Building (Century Old Post Office)

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
Raleigh Post Office and Courtroom

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
300 Fayetteville Street

CITY OR TOWN:  
Raleigh (Fourth Congressional District)

STATE North Carolina	CODE 37	COUNTY: Wake	CODE 183
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**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 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) _____ _____

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
General Services Administration

STREET AND NUMBER:  
18th and F Streets N. W.

CITY OR TOWN: Washington	STATE: D. C.	CODE: 20405
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**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
Wake County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:  
316 Fayetteville Street

CITY OR TOWN: Raleigh	STATE: North Carolina	CODE: 37
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**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY:  Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:	STATE:	CODE:
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SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: North Carolina  
COUNTY: Wake  
ENTRY NUMBER: 71.5.37.0028  
DATE: 5/6/71  
FOR NPS USE ONLY

**7. DESCRIPTION**

CONDITION

(Check One)

Excellent     Good     Fair     Deteriorated     Ruins     Unexposed

(Check One)

Altered     Unaltered

(Check One)

Moved     Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Official governmental architecture found its way to Raleigh in the form of the Second Empire style Federal Building which was designed and executed by the Office of the Supervising Architect of the Treasury Department, headed at that time by Alfred B. Mullett. Many of the original architectural elements have been retained throughout each of the three building stages and renovations. Begun in 1874, the original structure was a three-story granite-faced brick building with mansard roof. The three central bays of the east facade form a projecting pavilion accentuated by quoins which are repeated on the ends of the flanking three-bay wings. Each level is marked by a wide stringer treated as a continuous unpaneled pedestal. The upper moldings of the stringer are broken at each window to form a projecting sill supported by stylized brackets. At the base of the roof is a curiously fashioned entablature featuring a band of dentils punctuated by stylized consoles beneath the cornice. The consoles are unusual in that they extend to the base of the entablature and are therefore more elongated than the usual prototypes. The above-mentioned elements have been retained throughout the two later stages of construction.

As originally constructed the building was five bays deep and had an entrance in the center of each three-bay section of the east facade. In the wings the doorways had square transoms and were flanked by fluted Doric pilasters. The entrance in the pavilion and that in the center bay of the north facade were treated as full aedicules. An elaborate roof treatment emphasized the importance of the pavilion. A segmental pediment crowned the center window of the triple dormer which was flanked by restrained volutes. Tall chimneys featuring elaborate cornice caps rose in three stages from rusticated pedestals at either end of the pavilion. On the central bay of each wing was a single triangular pedimented dormer flanked by volutes like those of the pavilion.

A series of changes brought the Federal Building to its present form. The pavilion entrance on the east facade has been replaced by double doors behind four massive Tuscan columns set in antis forming a loggia. Cast iron candelabra flanking the entrance loggia also have been installed. Each has a spherical globe atop a reeded shaft, the foot of which is decorated with acanthus leaves resting on wide circular bases with paw feet.

About 1913 the sides were extended from five to nine bays, and another triple dormer was added. Unfortunately, the massive chimneys were removed from the east facade. At the same time a cortile and courtroom were constructed at the rear.

During the 1937-1938 construction phase, a third section of four bays was added to the west, bringing the Federal Building to its present depth of thirteen bays. Simple dormers, coordinated to the rhythm of the bays, replaced the more ornate ones. The interior was completely renovated with the possible exception of the courtroom ceiling which features a series of intersecting ribs forming a pattern of large rectangular and small square caissons ornamented with elaborate moldings, patera, and rosettes. A

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century |  |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  |  | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation              |   |  | _____                                    |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

In 1856 Congress appropriated \$50,000 for a "United States Court Room and Post Office in Raleigh, North Carolina." The site was not selected until August 7, 1860, when the United States of America paid Annie Lawrence \$7,700 for city lot 99, known as the "Lawrence Hotel lot," which measured 210 feet by 110 feet and was located on the southwest corner of Fayetteville and West Martin streets.

Alfred B. Mullett, who became Supervising Architect of the Treasury Department in 1865, continuously shelved the design for the Federal Building in Raleigh, contending the cost limit was inadequate even though the \$50,000 limit of 1856 had been raised to \$100,000 by 1872. In 1873 Congress raised the appropriation to \$200,000; designs were prepared during the spring of 1873.

On July 4, 1874, ceremonies were held for laying the cornerstone which contained a copper box filled with "a Postal Route Map, one set of U. S. coins of 1874, and the 1874 Blue Book, proof specimens of stamps and stamped envelopes, the Postmaster General's report, a copy of laws and regulations of the Post Office Department, the several Acts for the construction of the building, and several photographs including those of President Grant, Postmaster General Creswell, Secretary of the Treasury Bristow, and architect Mullett."

William A. Hearne, the Site Superintendent Architect, resigned on December 17, 1875, for political reasons. He was replaced by C. S. Harris who was removed in 1878 because of delays and overspending as the building neared completion. After Harris's dismissal, all payments were made by William W. Holden, Postmaster and Custodian of the Post Office. Changes in 1908, 1912, and 1938 almost doubled the size of the building.

The Federal Building is typical of the architectural style disseminated throughout the country in the late nineteenth century by the federal government. Despite remodeling and enlargements which have enabled it to remain useful as a post office to the present day, the building still has some of its original exterior features. In downtown Raleigh, it is one of the few structures that have survived which retain any scale, detail, and feeling of the past. Its juxtaposition to the new multi-story courthouse is in itself a study in the changing urban scene of the state and nation.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Wake County Records, Wake County Courthouse, Raleigh, North Carolina, Office of the Register of Deeds. (Subgroups: Deeds, Wills).

Wake County Records, State Department of Archives and History, Raleigh, North Carolina. (Subgroups: Deeds, Wills).

Wodehouse, Lawrence. "Alfred B. Mullett's Court Room and Post Office at Raleigh, North Carolina." Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians, XXVI, no. 4 (December, 1967): 301-305.

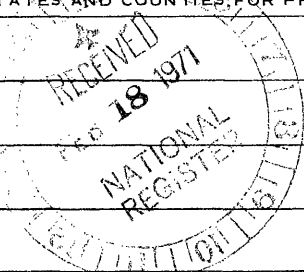
**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

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	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	0 0 0	0 0 0		35 0 46	38 0 0	78 0 38
NE	0 0 0	0 0 0		40 0 0	0 0 0	40 0 0
SE	0 0 0	0 0 0				
SW	0 0 0	0 0 0				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 2 acre

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE:  
**John B. Wells, III, Survey Supervisor**

ORGANIZATION: **State Department of Archives and History** DATE: **February 15, 1971**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**109 East Jones Street**

CITY OR TOWN: **Raleigh** STATE: **North Carolina** CODE: **37**

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

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:

National  State  Local

Name Dr. H. G. Jones

Title Director, State Department of Archives and History

Date February 15, 1971

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

Ernest A. Cunningham  
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

**MAY 6 1971**

Date \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST:

William J. Ventresca  
Keeper of The National Register

Date ~~\_\_\_\_\_~~ **APR 8 1971**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS