

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

HB no 117m

STATE:	Mississippi
COUNTY:	Forrest
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE	SEP 18 1973

1. NAME

COMMON:	U. S. District Courthouse
AND/OR HISTORIC:	U. S. Post Office

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:			
South corner of Pine and Forrest Streets			
CITY OR TOWN:		CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:	
Hattiesburg		Fifth	
STATE	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Mississippi	39401	28	Forrest 035

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	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 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. OWNER OF PROPERTY

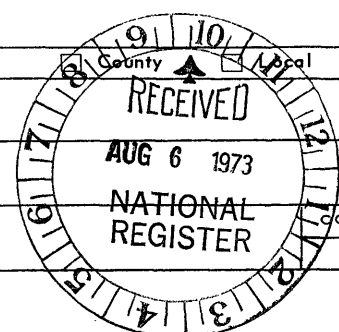
OWNER'S NAME:	U. S. Government
STREET AND NUMBER:	South Corner of Pine and Forrest Streets
CITY OR TOWN:	Hattiesburg
STATE:	Mississippi
CODE	28

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:	Office of the Chancery Clerk, Forrest County Courthouse
STREET AND NUMBER:	North Main Street (Post Office Box 607)
CITY OR TOWN:	Hattiesburg
STATE:	Mississippi
CODE	28

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:	
DATE OF SURVEY:	<input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> County
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:	
STREET AND NUMBER:	
CITY OR TOWN:	



STATE:	Mississippi
COUNTY:	Forrest
ENTRY NUMBER	SEP 18 1973
DATE	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" 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

The U. S. Courthouse in Hattiesburg is a one-story structure with full basement, its granite foundation supporting a superstructure of marble walls and tile roof. The former main entrance on the Forrest Street (northeast) elevation was converted to the middle window of seven during the 1939 remodeling of the building into a courthouse. The original use of the opening is still indicated by a raised panel over the lintel and a flight of granite steps flanked by a pair of bronze lamp standards on marble cheek blocks. The northeast facade is further emphasized by a range of eight engaged Doric columns which frame the paired, double-hung windows with hinged transoms and crossettes, and by pilasters which define the blind end bays.

On the Pine Street (northwest) elevation, pilasters and columns are also utilized, the latter, a pair, being in antis and the only existing public entrance being protected by a recessed loggia. The double-leaf door is enriched with crossettes, a bronze grillwork transom, and a stone tablet featuring fully developed cornice, guilloched side panels, and the inscription "United States Court House." The pilasters flanking the doorway bear upon their capitals two stone beams which divide the ceiling of the loggia into three fields of yellow plaster banded by white wooden members, producing an effect reminiscent of coffering. The windows of the loggia have crosseted framing, while those in the end bays are untrimmed and one of which (that on the left) is a single, slot-like opening. Bronze metal bracket lamps with opalescent globes are positioned above the marble cheek blocks abutting the steps.

The southwest (original rear) and southeast elevations feature the fenestration forms already noted and pilasters which are placed according to the spacing of the pilasters and columns on the respective corresponding elevations. The southwest wall is marble only on the two outer bays, the inner seven being faced with brick. A granite mailing platform protected by a copper metal marquee suspended by rods was originally constructed at the southwest entrance, the door of which was fitted with a wrought iron grille window. During the 1939 remodeling the marquee was removed and the platform area enclosed in brick to provide an extension for the office of the district judge.

The building features an entablature, identical on all four elevations, comprised of marble architrave, wooden frieze pierced by metal grilles, and dentiled cornice, also of wood. The scale of the entablature is matched by a double string course which joins the bases of the columns and pilasters as the entablature does their capitals. Further unity in the design is reflected in the pairs of wooden brackets which continue the alignment of the pilasters and columns up underneath the eaves.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Mississippi	
COUNTY Forrest	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	SEP 18 1973

(Number all entries)

7.

The latter project prominently and have paneled soffits. A plain marble ventilating stack with cap and metal louvers rises to a height of approximately eight feet on the southeast slope of the hipped roof.

The original layout of the building, designed for post office requirements, included postmaster and assistant postmaster offices, workrooms, and lobbies in which the customary public services were available (money orders, registry, general delivery, stamps, letter drops). The interior finish produced a decor in the taste of the period, with plaster walls, cornices, and cove ceilings; terra cotta columns; wood and marble wainscoting; bronze metal thresholds; and floors patterned in verd antique, terrazzo, and Tennessee red marble. When the building was remodeled, portions of the original finish were retained (the marble floors and plaster walls and ceilings in the lobby areas, for example), as well as the integrity of certain spaces (the postmaster's and assistant postmaster's offices became the U. S. attorney's and assistant U. S. attorney's offices, with existing finish remaining). The change in the overall interior character of the building was rather complete, however, with the large mail workroom converted to a courtroom and the northeast corridor partitioned into clerk of court offices and witness rooms.



8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

☐ Pre-Columbian

☐ 16th Century

☐ 18th Century

☒ 20th Century

☐ 15th Century

☐ 17th Century

☐ 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1910-present

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

☐ Aborigin

☐ Education

☐ Political

☒ Urban Planning

☐ Prehistoric

☐ Engineering

☐ Religion/Philosophy

☒ Other (Specify)

☐ Historic

☐ Industry

☐ Science

☒ Governmental

☐ Agriculture

☐ Invention

☐ Sculpture

☒ Architecture

☐ Landscape

☐ Social/Humanitarian

☐ Art

☐ Literature

☐ Theater

☐ Commerce

☐ Military

☐ Transportation

☐ Communications

☐ Music

☐ Conservation

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The present U. S. Courthouse in Hattiesburg, Mississippi, was the first federal building constructed in Forrest County. Completed in 1910, the construction date for the edifice coincides with the peak years of Forrest County's lumber industry and bears witness to the Hub City's rapid rise to prominence in southeastern Mississippi. James Knox Taylor was the supervising architect for the building, which originally served as a U. S. post office--a function it continued to have until 1933 when the present post office building was constructed.

The property remained under the jurisdiction of the General Services Administration after the removal of the post office, and in 1939 the structure was altered to provide courtroom facilities for the U. S. District Court of the newly-created Southern District of Mississippi. In the interim, the building accommodated the offices of various federal agencies in the area, including the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the U. S. Treasury Department's alcohol control division. The offices of the Clerk of the U. S. District Court were also housed in the building, after the creation of the Southern District in 1936.

The federal district court began sitting in the old post office building immediately upon completion of the 1939 alterations and continues to do so today, though on an intermittent basis. The current federal judge, Walter L. Nixon, holds the distinction of being the youngest man ever appointed to a federal district judgeship.

Obsolete as a U. S. courthouse, the future of the structure is as yet undetermined. Upon the completion of Hattiesburg's new federal building, the U. S. District Court and certain federal offices will be moved there. The feasibility of housing county offices in the old federal building is being studied at present and definitive statements concerning future usage are impending. Well-built and still structurally sound, the old courthouse is a valuable component in the immediate townscape, its virtually unchanged exterior providing a Neo-Classical Revival prelude for several striking Modernistic

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Personal Inspection by Robert J. Bailey, Historian, and Dawn Maddox, Architectural Historian, July 10, 1973.

Personal Interview with Mr. Peter Baricev, A.I.A., Hattiesburg, Mississippi, July 10, 1973.

Personal Interview with Mr. R. A. Esarey, President, Hattiesburg, Mississippi, July 10, 1973. Hattiesburg Area Historical Society.

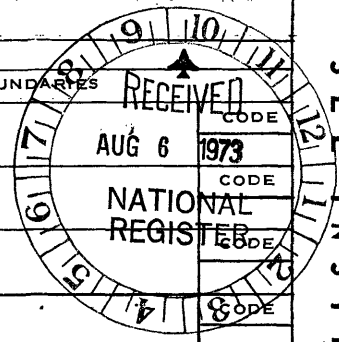
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

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 Degrees Minutes Seconds	LONGITUDE Degrees Minutes Seconds		LATITUDE Degrees Minutes Seconds	LONGITUDE Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	0 0 0	0 0 0	31° 19' 33"	89° 17' 28"		
NE	0 0 0	0 0 0				
SE	0 0 0	0 0 0				
SW	0 0 0	0 0 0				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: one-half acre

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Dawn Maddox, Architectural Historian, and Robert J. Bailey, Historian

ORGANIZATION: Mississippi Department of Archives & History DATE: July 26, 1973

STREET AND NUMBER: Post Office Box 571

CITY, OR TOWN: Jackson STATE: Mississippi 39205 CODE: 28

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

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 Elbert R. Hilliard
Elbert R. Hilliard

Title Director, Miss. Dept. of Archives & History

Date July 26, 1973

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

Russell E. Dickenson
Director, National Park Service

Deputy Director, National Park Service

Date Sept 18, 1973

ATTEST: [Signature]
Keeper of The National Register

Date 9 13 73

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

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Mississippi	
COUNTY Forrest	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	SEP 18 1973

(Number all entries)

8.

neighbors, such as the new post office and a motion picture theater. Although its original interior has already been altered once and a second alteration is planned, such change is viewed as helping to assure the future of a building which is stylistically unique in the city. As a visual urban asset and an increasingly rare statement of governmental design and building practice in a given era, it merits consideration for continued existence.



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

(Continuation Sheet)

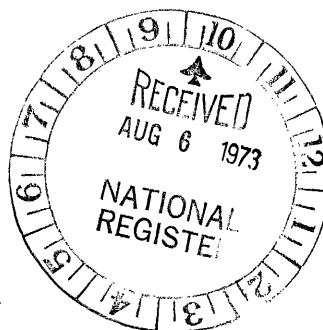
STATE Mississippi	
COUNTY Forrest	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	SEP 18 1973

(Number all entries)

9.

U. S., General Services Administration, Office of Fine Arts and Historic Preservation, Public Buildings Service,, "Inventory Form of Historic Places," "U. S. Courthouse," prepared for General Services Administration by John T. Jascomb, August 1, 1972.

U. S., General Services Administration, Public Buildings Service, Region 4, Blueprints of plans and specifications for "U. S. Post Office, Hattiesburg, Mississippi," Treasury Department, 1910, and for "Remodeling, U. S. Court House, Hattiesburg, Mississippi," Treasury Department, 1938. Courtesy of Mr. Peter Baricev, A.I.A., 222 West Pine Street, Hattiesburg, Mississippi.





Name: U.S. Courthouse, Hattiesburg
Location: South corner of Pine & Forrest
Photo Credit: Miss. Dept. of Archives & History
Date of Photo: February, 1973
Description of View: Northeast & Northwest elevation,
looking south.

NPS Number 9.18.73

Title: U.S. District

Loc. Courthouse (1)
Forrest Co., Miss.

Northeast and
Northwest elevation

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER