

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM
FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: West Virginia
COUNTY: Berkeley
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE

1. NAME

COMMON: Federal Aviation Administration Records Center (Old Court House)
AND/OR HISTORIC: United States Court House & Post Office

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: 300 W. King Street			
CITY OR TOWN: Martinsburg		CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: 2nd Congressional District	
STATE: West Virginia	CODE 54	COUNTY: Berkeley	CODE 003

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 type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" 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. AGENCY

General Services Administration - Public Buildings Service			
REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (If applicable)		STREET AND NUMBER: 18th & F Streets, N. W.	
CITY OR TOWN: Washington		STATE: District of Columbia	CODE 11

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: Berkeley County Courthouse			
STREET AND NUMBER: West King at North Queen Street			
CITY OR TOWN: Martinsburg		STATE: West Virginia	CODE 54

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: None			
DATE OF SURVEY: <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local			
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
CITY OR TOWN:		STATE:	CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:

COUNTY:

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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 former United States Courthouse and Post Office in Martinsburg stands at the corner of West King and South Maple Streets and is free-standing. It is built of red pressed brick with stone trim, measures 83' (three-bay front) by 46' and is three and a half stories high with a tall slate-covered hip roof. The most conspicuous exterior features are the corbelled corner tourelles capped by conical roofs. These rise through the second and third floors, their roofs flanking the tall brick dormers centered on the four elevations. Fenestration is varied, some windows being round-arched and others rectangular. The former main entrance (now closed off) on King Street and the windows flanking it are set within heavy Romanesque arches. The present entrance is on Maple Street. Loading docks have been added at the rear and west end. The exterior design links second and third floor windows vertically on the south (King St.) and west elevations, those windows being separated horizontally by pressed metal spandrels. The principal effect of the exterior is one of marked verticality, the floors being 15'9" high. Substantiality is the other striking characteristic immediately perceived. It was not possible to inspect the interior, because the building houses aviation testing records which are apparently "top secret." Consequently, admittance is only allowed to specific authorized personnel. The following interior description is based on an interview with the supervisor of the Records Center, floor plans which he produced for examination and whatever visual inspection that could be made from the vestibule in which the interview was granted.

Plans indicate the general arrangement of the interior, which has not undergone any significant structural alterations. Observable trim included portions of marble floor, tongue-and-groove dadoes, plaster walls, and cast-iron columns with Byzantine or Romanesque capitals. The main floor contained the public lobby and stairs, and the post office. A white pine screen separates or separated the 128' wide lobby from the postal work area. Stairs are in the southeast corner. The second floor housed six offices. The courtroom measured 33'6" x 46' and spanned the west end of the third floor. The court library and offices were on that floor. The judge's chambers and office had fireplaces. A central corridor ran east from the courtroom to the stair hall. Principal bearing walls are brick on the first floor. The rest of the framing is wooden.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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) **1892-1895**

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

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The former United States Courthouse and Post Office in Martinsburg is an interesting example of the picturesque eclecticism favored for public buildings during the last quarter of the 19th century. A blend of "chateausque" and "Romanesque" elements, the building is, while by no means advanced for its day or even particularly distinguished on its own terms, significant for its very typicality. It is precisely the kind of relatively large-scaled, substantial and rather impressive structure usually granted a population center with a then current census count of around 7,500. The authorship of the design may be attributable to Willoughby J. Edbrooke (1843-1896) who was Supervising Architect of the Treasury Department at the time the building was planned and erected. Edbrooke, a Fellow of the American Institute of Architects, favored a personal version of the Richardsonian Romanesque in his government work. On the other hand, the revised drawings on site are signed by the Assistant Supervising Architect, D. W. Aiken, to whom the smaller buildings to be planned may have been assigned. Another Treasury Department architect who may have played a role in formulating the final plans is J. O'Rourke, Supervising Architect for a period from 1893-1894. Therefore, Edbrooke cannot be credited with sole authorship of the Custom House design. Variations on the initial scheme are evident in the finished product, especially in the treatment of fenestration on the corners and on the first floor where squareheaded windows have been combined with the round-headed windows of the original design. In 1894, there was some question over whether plumbing would be introduced in the building, contingent upon a sewage system being available.

The Martinsburg building is characteristic of the construction used in Government buildings of its time and the looming scale of its tall walls and high roof give dignity and importance to the intersection whereon the building stands.

The building was used for the purposes for which it was built from 1895 until 1961 when the courthouse and post office were moved to a nearby new Federal Building. The old Courthouse and Post Office now houses records and is not open to any but authorized personnel.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

U. S. Treasury Department, A History of Public Buildings Under the Control of the Treasury Department, Washington, 1901

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		N LATITUDE	W LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "		39 ° 27 ' 24 "	77 ° 58 ' 01 "	
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

UTM
4371448
244717

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **1/10**

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

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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: **John D. Milner, AIA, Executive Director** DATE: **22 June, 1973**

BUSINESS ADDRESS: **National Heritage Corporation**

STREET AND NUMBER: **P. O. Box 167** PHONE: **215-459-8710**

CITY OR TOWN: **Chadds Ford** STATE: **Pennsylvania** CODE: **37**

12. CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

State Liaison Officer recommendation:
 Yes
 No
 None

Leonard M. Davis
 State Liaison Officer Signature

In compliance with Executive Order 11593, I hereby nominate this property to the National Register, certifying that the State Liaison Officer has been allowed 90 days in which to present the nomination to the State Review Board and to evaluate its significance. The recommended level of significance is National State Local

 Federal Representative Signature Date

 Title

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

 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date _____

ATTEST:

 Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

H E D G E S V I L L E

NOLLVILLE 1.2 MI.

2
11

71

ARDEN 3 MI.

70

Swimming Pool
Tuscarora

Kilmer Spring
Creek

Observation Post
PARK

West Side
Lakes

Water Works
WU

MARTINSBURG
(RM 457)

Green H
Cem

Sewage
Disposal

Handwritten:
399
272
580
Cem

PRIVATE



