National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines* for Completing National Register Forms (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property			
	ral Courthouse and Post Of	fice	
	rie Federal Courthouse		
2. Location			
	Park Row) and State Stree		NA not for publication
city, town Erie		.,	N/A vicinity
state Pennsylvania c	ode PA county Erie	code	049 zip code 16501-1
3. Classification			
Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Res	sources within Property
private	X building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
public-local	district	_1	buildings
public-State	site		sites
X public-Federal	structure		structures
	object		objects
		1	0 Total
Name of related multiple property	v listina:	Number of con	atributing resources previously
N/A	,9.		ational Register0
4. State/Federal Agency Ce	rtification		
	meets does not meet the Nationa		<u> </u>
Signature of certifying official General Service	s Aāministration		Date
State or Federal agency and bure			
In my opinion, the property \overline{X}	meets does not meet the Nationa	l Register criteria.	e continuation sheet,
Brent D. Glass	13/11/11/11	1	/ · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
Signature of commenting or other	official		Date
<u>Pennsylvania Hist</u>	orical & Museum Commis	sion	
State or Federal agency and bure	au		
5. National Park Service Ce	rtification		
I, hereby, certify that this propert			
entered in the National Regis	ler.		
See continuation sheet.	AirI		
determined eligible for the Na			
Register. See continuation s			
determined not eligible for the	•		
National Register.			
Tananad from the National B			
removed from the National Re	egister.		
other, (explain:)			
*****	Signatur	e of the Keener	Date of Action

6. Function or Use Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions) GOVERNMENT: courthouse	Current Functions (enter categories from instructions) GOVERNMENT: courthouse	
post office	post office	
government offices	government offices	
7. Description Architectural Classification (enter categories from instructions)	Materials (enter categories from instructions)	
Moderne	foundation <u>granite</u> walls <u>limestone</u>	
	roof Other: built-up roof other Decorative Panels: soapstone	

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Erie Federal Courthouse and Post Office is a three story, ell-shaped building that stands at the intersection of 6th (South Park Row) and State streets, overlooking Perry Square, in the heart of Erie's downtown. Its primary elevations are organized according to the principles of Beaux-Arts classicism (see Photographs 1 - 3) with a styling that reflects the Moderne, simplified classicism of Federal architecture of the 1930s. These elevations are clad in Indiana limestone. The rear (or secondary) elevations are unornamented brick befitting their lesser status (see Photographs 4, 5). The exterior retains an high degree of integrity.

The Main or 6th Street Elevation of the Federal Building is organized into thirteen vertical registers with the three central entrance bays accented by a loggia with decorative cast and wrought iron railings on the second story and a recessed entrance. This entrance was designed to serve the courtrooms and offices and opens onto the central elevator lobby and central stair. Flanking the entrance are cast and wrought iron lanterns with frosted glass lights. The fenestration is regularly spaced along the wall with later aluminum double-hung sash set in the original steel frames. The windows contain molded slate sills with carved soapstone spandrel panels at the second floor level. Polished black granite forms the building base and frames the en-The flat roof of the building is screened by a limestone parapet; its original coping stone was replaced in recent history by a cast stone coping.

The State Street Facade is the main entrance to the Post Office and continues the principal stylistic themes of the 6th Street Elevation. Because of its shorter length, it is treated in eight registers, the first five of which are organized as a symmetrical block with a centered portal. The three southernmost bays are recessed five feet from the building plane and are fronted with a polished black granite planter. The decorative soapstone spandrels appear only on the main portion of the facade, having been eliminated on the recessed bays. Again, granite was used for the base and entrance surround.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Erie Federal Courthouse and Post Office

Section number _____7 Page ____2

The rear elevations, facing the parking areas and loading dock, preserve the fenestration and cornice lines of the main facade, but signal their lesser importance through the complete absence of ornament and the substitution of yellow brick for limestone and granite. As with the other elevations both the windows and coping have been replaced within the last two decades.

To a large extent, the exterior elevations reflect the plan of the building. The double-loaded corridors align with the north and west entrances to form a "cross" plan (albeit modified at the eastern arm). The multi-story window bays on the North and West Elevations express the grand courtroom spaces, while the loggia fronts the courtroom lobby (see Photograph 6).

On the first floor, the vestibules are fitted with blue, matte glazed terra cotta wainscotting to a point approximately 4' high (see Photographs 7, and 8). This wainscotting continues into the corridors and lobbies and is complemented in these areas by ceramic tile floors that are bordered with a Greek fret pattern similar to the motif used on the exterior soapstone panels. These spaces are largely intact with the exception of modern lighting and "lay-in" ceilings that mask retrofitted HVAC equipment. The main stairwell of the building is relatively simple, and is placed in close proximity to the elevator core. The stair balusters are of iron with slate treads and risers, and oak handrails. A secondary stairwell, of similar detailing, is located adjacent to the State Street entrance.

The main postal lobby is the most interesting space on the first floor (see Photographs 9, and 10). It is rectangular in plan, and follows the vocabulary established in the vestibule and corridors with ceramic tile floors and walls. Additional features worth noting are the plaster ceiling with shallow cornice, decorative grilles which feature the familiar pattern of the floors, and original bronze post office boxes and lanterns. Behind this principal public space are the functional spaces such as the sorting room and the loading bays. The remainder of the first floor contains various federal offices.

The courtrooms located on the second floor are the most elaborately finished spaces of the building (see Photographs 11 - 14). These rooms are handsome period designs, trimmed in paneled wood wainscotting and capped by molded friezes at the height of the door heads. The paneling continues around the room, interrupted by the windows and by the elaborate backdrops of the judges' dais. The judges' benches

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Erie Federal Courthouse and Post Office

Section number _____7 Page _____3

and backdrops are executed in holly, ash, and beech veneer. The rooms are crowned by decorative plaster ceilings. Each courtroom is part of a complex of service rooms that include the judge's chambers, the clerk's offices, and a library. These rooms generally are finished more ornately than other office space in the building.

Built-in courtroom furnishings conform to the generally classical detail of the building. Wood benches were designed with console arms that follow the modified classical lines of the building. Ornamental metal balustrades, that carry familiar motifs found throughout the building, partitions the judges' bench and lawyers' desks from the gallery. Each courtroom also has an elaborate metalwork clock executed in copper and copper alloy.

The remainder of the first, second, and third floors is dedicated to corridor and office space for federal agencies. Typical treatments include stained and clear-finished doors, molded base, chair rail, and picture rail with flat plaster walls and ceilings. The corridors in these areas also received the ceramic tile finish, while the offices have concrete floors that are either tiled with resilient flooring or carpeted. The basement originally was largely given over to mechanical spaces, with one double-loaded corridor of offices off of the elevator lobby. In recent years, a significant portion of the mechanical area has been converted to court and office-related uses.

8. Statement of Significance		APR 6 198
Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in ationally state	relation to other properties:	
Applicable National Register Criteria A B XC		
Criteria Considerations (Exceptions))	
Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions) Architecture Politics/Government	Period of Significance 1937–1944	Significant Dates 1937
	Cultural Affiliation N/A	
Significant Person N/A	Architect/Builder Stanley-Brown, Rudolph	

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Erie Federal Courthouse and Post Office is a product of the federal government's effort to stimulate the building industry during the 1929 Depression. The Moderne influence, which is evident in the building's modified classical design, reflects the stylistic features and typical design elements characteristic of federally commissioned buildings of this period throughout the United States. Built in 1937 to function as a U.S. Federal Building and Courthouse, the building continues to house the federal offices of the district, including the Federal Court and the Perry Square station of the U.S. Post Office.

The U.S. Courthouse marks a high point of Erie's growth and regional significance before changing transportation systems, and then the deflation of America's heavy industry, reduced the city's importance as a manufacturing and transportation center. Erie is situated in the far northwest corner of Pennsylvania on a tiny strip of lakeshore land that developed from a trading post fort to a ranking industrial center largely because of its physical attributes, namely its location on the transportation corridor of Lake Erie. With the transportation monopoly in the northeast corner of Pennsylvania, many industries located in Erie at the end of the nineteenth century and the city underwent a period of rapid expansion. Many of Erie's late nineteenth and early twentieth century buildings, including the U.S. Federal Building and Courthouse, reflect the city's success during that period.

Erie's Federal Building and Courthouse was designed by Rudolph Stanley-Brown (1890-1944), grandson of President James A. Garfield, and a consulting architect of the U.S. Treasury Department.² Stanley-Brown received his formal training at Yale and studied architecture at Columbia University and the Ecole des Beaux Arts in Paris. Two years later he enlisted in the Army and served in the first World War. Upon his discharge he joined the firm of his uncle, Abram Garfield, Cleve-

American Guide Series. Erie: A Guide to the City and County. Phila-			
delphia: William Penn Association, 1938.			
Clio Group, Inc. Scranton Post Office	e and Courthouse Historic Struc-		
tures Report. Philadelphia: 198			
Procurement Division, Public Buildings	Branch. Addendum No. 3 to the		
Specification Dated March 31,			
Elevator) of the United States Co			
	dit nouse at Elle, Pennsylvania.		
Washington, D.C.: 1937.			
	X See continuation sheet		
Previous documentation on file (NPS):			
preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67)	Primary location of additional data:		
has been requested	X State historic preservation office		
previously listed in the National Register	Other State agency		
X previously determined eligible by the National Register	X Federal agency		
designated a National Historic Landmark			
	Local government		
recorded by Historic American Buildings	University		
Survey #	Other		
recorded by Historic American Engineering	Specify repository:		
Record #			
10. Geographical Data			
Acreage of property 1/4 acre			
Acreage of property1/4 acre			
UTM References			
UTM References A 1,7 5 7,5 6,6,0 4,6 6,4 3,4,0 B			
UTM References A 1 7 5 7 5 6 6 0 4 6 6 4 3 4 0 Zone Easting Northing	Zone Easting Northing		
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UTM References A 1 7 5 7 5 6 6 0 4 6 6 4 3 4 0 Zone Easting Northing C D	Zone Easting Northing		
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UTM References A 1,7 57,56,60 4,66,43,40 B Zone Easting Northing C D Verbal Boundary Description Starting at the southeast corner of streets and extending (N63° 39'E) aloo 205' to a point; thence south (S26° 23') Boundary Justification This is the entire site of the Erie fice. 11. Form Prepared By name/title Carl E. Doebley, President and Cynthia A organization Clio Group, Inc.	Zone Easting Northing See continuation sheet 6th (South Park Row) and State and 6th Street for a distance of 3'E) for a distance of 165' to a X See continuation sheet Federal Courthouse and Post Of- See continuation sheet A. Rose, Historic & Materials Researcher date 9-27-91		
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9. Major Bibliographical References

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Erie Federal Courthouse and Post Office

Section number ____8 Page ___2

land architect, and later was made a partner. He practiced in Cleve-land before moving to Washington D.C. several years before his death.

Louis A. Simon, FAIA (1867-1958), served as supervising architect for the Erie Federal Building, and was a highly regarded designer who was made supervising architect for the Treasury Department. Simon attended the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and graduated in 1891. Shortly after, he joined the Supervising Architect's office in the Treasury Department, assuming the position of principal architectural designer. During the first thirty years of the twentieth century, Simon was the designer of many small post offices and courthouses for the federal government.

In his own right, Simon is of interest as a colorist and classicist whose designs incorporated modern motifs with success and skill. At the end of his career, he had been involved with a thousand or more buildings, though his name is on the cornerstone only of those erected during his tenure as Supervising Architect, a position which he held from 1934 until 1937 when he reached the federal mandatory retirement age of seventy. President Roosevelt extended his tenure for an additional eighteen months, and then asked him to stay on as consultant to the Treasury Department.

The Erie Federal Courthouse and Post Office is a principal element in Erie's business district, and therefore of great local importance. It is recommended that the Erie Federal Building, in view of its architectural and historical importance as a representative example of federally commissioned buildings of its period, be nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under criterion C.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Erie Federal Courthouse and Post Office

Section number ____8 Page ____3

Notes:

- ¹ American Guide Series, <u>Erie</u>: <u>A Guide to the City and County</u> (Philadelphia: William Penn Association, 1938).
- "R. Stanley-Brown, 54, Garfield's Grandson," New York Times,
 February 9, 1944, Obituaries.
- ³ Henry F. Withey AIA and Elsie Rathburn Withey, <u>Biographical Dictionary of American Architects (Deceased)</u> (Los Angeles: Hennessey and Ingalls, Inc., 1970), 566.
- ⁴ Date stone located on the Erie Federal Courthouse and Post Office, Erie, Pennsylvania.
- ⁵ Clio Group, Inc., <u>Scranton Post Office and Courthouse Historic Structures Report</u> (Philadelphia, 1986), 17.

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Erie Federal Courthouse and Post Office

Section number 9 Page 2

Bibliography: (continued)

"R. Stanley-Brown, 54, Garfield's Grandson." New York Times, Obituaries, February 9, 1944.

Withey, Henry F., AIA and Elsie Rathburn Withey. <u>Biographical Dictionary of American Architects (Deceased)</u>. Los Angeles: Hennessey and Ingalls, Inc., 1970.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Erie Federal Courthouse and Post Office

Section number ____10 Page ___2

Verbal Boundary Description: (continued)

point; thence west (S63° 39'W) for a distance of 20' to a point; thence north (N26° 23'W) for a distance of 82.5' to a point; thence west (S63° 39'W) for a distance of 20' to a point; thence south (S26° 23'E) for a distance of 40' to a point; thence west (S63° 39'W) for a distance of 165' to a point; thence north (N26° 23'W) for a distance of 125' to the point of origin.

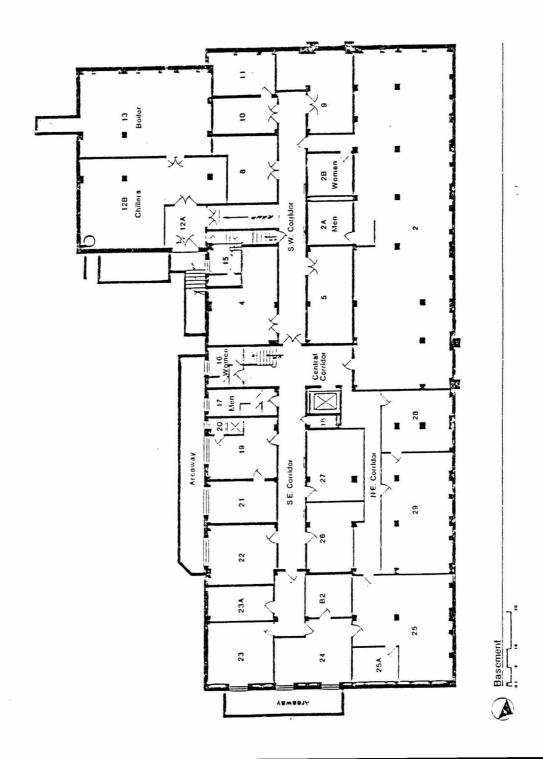
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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Erie Federal Courthouse and Post Office

Section number _____ Page _____

BASEMENT FLOOR PLAN

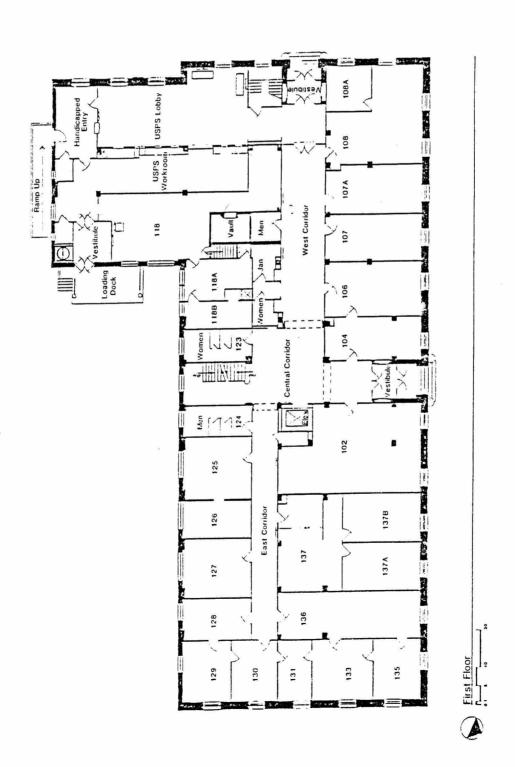


National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Erie Federal Courthouse and Post Office

Section number _____ Page ____

FIRST FLOOR PLAN

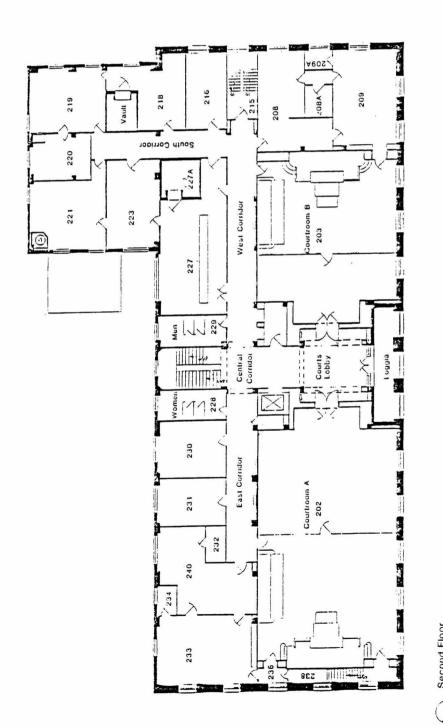


National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Erie Federal Courthouse and Post Office

Section number _____ Page ____

SECOND FLOOR PLAN



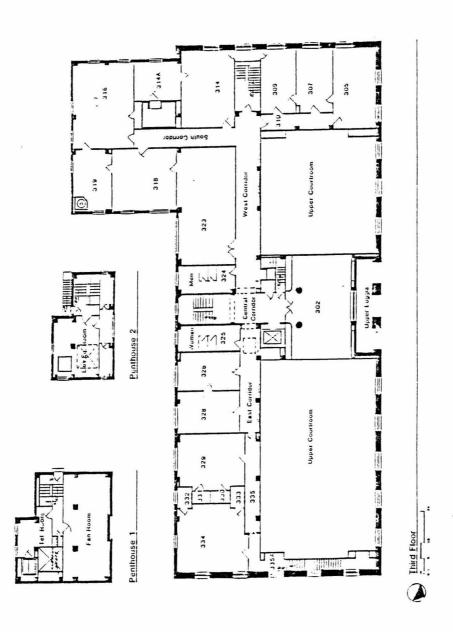


National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Erie Federal Courthouse and Post Office

Section number _____ Page ____

THIRD FLOOR PLAN



National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Erie Federal Courthouse and Post Office

Section	number	 Page	
••••		 . 490	

Erie Federal Courthouse and Post Office Erie, Pennsylvania National Register Nomination Photographs

Photographer: Carl E. Doebley
Date: November 1990
Location of Negative: Clio Group, Inc.

Photo #1	Looking Southeast at North Elevation
Photo #2	Looking Northeast at West Elevation
Photo #3	Looking Northwest at East Elevation
Photo #4	Looking West at South Elevation
Photo #5	Looking Northeast at South Elevation
Photo #6	2nd Floor, Looking North in Courts Lobby toward Loggia
Photo #7	1st Floor, Looking East in West Corridor
Photo #8	1st Floor, Looking South in Central Corridor
Photo #9	1st Floor, Looking Southeast in Main Postal Lobby
Photo #10	1st Floor, Looking North in Main Postal Lobby
Photo #11	2nd Floor, Looking East in Courtroom A
Photo #12	2nd Floor, Looking West in Courtroom A
Photo #13	2nd Floor, Looking West in Courtroom B
Photo #14	2nd Floor, Looking East in Courtroom B

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTIO	N: NOMINAT	TION			
PROPERTY Erie NAME:	Federal Co	ourthous	se and Pos	t Office	
MULTIPLE NAME:					
STATE & COUNTY:	PENNSYLVA	ANIA, E	rie		
DATE RECEIVED: DATE OF 16TH DA DATE OF WEEKLY	Y: 5/07/				4/21/92 5/21/92
REFERENCE NUMBE	R: 9200046	58			
NOMINATOR: FEDE	RAL GSA				
REASONS FOR REV	IEW:				
APPEAL: N DAT. OTHER: N PDI REQUEST: N SAM	L:	N PER	IOD: Y	LESS THAN 50 PROGRAM UNAPP NATIONAL:	
COMMENT WAIVER:	Ŋ				
ACCEPT	RETURN	REJI	ECT <u>5//</u>	3/92—DATE	
ABSTRACT/SUMMAR	Y COMMENTS:	:			
± √e v *					

A number of Substantive questions concerning the Period of Significance and Areas of Significance must be addressed. See attached.

RECOM./CRIT	ERIA Keturn	
REVIEWER	Pattick Andrew	
DISCIPLINE_	Historian	
DATE	5/13/92	24 10

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

CLASSIFICATION
countresource type
STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION
FUNCTION
historiccurrent
DESCRIPTION
architectural classificationmaterialsdescriptive text
SIGNIFICANCE
Period Areas of SignificanceCheck and justify below
Specific dates Builder/Architect Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)
summary paragraphcompletenessclarityapplicable criteriajustification of areas checkedrelating significance to the resourcecontextrelationship of integrity to significancejustification of exceptionother
BIBLIOGRAPHY
GEOGRAPHICAL DATA
acreageverbal boundary descriptionboundary justification
ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTATION/PRESENTATION
sketch mapsUSGS mapsphotographspresentation
OTHER COMMENTS
Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to Phone 201-343-7519
Signed Date

* * * .

NATIONAL REGISTER NOMINATION RETURN SHEET

Erie Federal Courthouse and Post Office
Erie County, PA

Period of Significance

The Period of Significance for this building has been defined as extending from 1937-1944, but the nomination does not explain why this date range was selected and what it represents. The nomination does not clearly state the dates of construction of the building. If the Period of Significance is defined as extending to a period less than 50 years ago, then the building must be demonstrated to be of exceptional importance (and Criteria Consideration G should be checked on the form). Please clarify the Period of Significance.

Area of Significance

The building is nominated in the area of politics/government, but there is no context provided from which to evaluate this Area of Significance. Was this the first Federal building in Erie? Did it replace an earlier building? Are there other post offices, or Federal buildings in Erie? Is this the main post office, or the main Federal courthouse? Please provide additional information concerning the role of this building in the history of politics/government in Erie.

Name of the Building

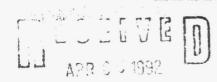
In Section 8 of the nomination, this building is referred to by three different names - The Erie Federal Courthouse and Post Office (Section 8, p.1), the U.S. Federal Building and Courthouse (Section 8, p.1), and the Erie Federal Building (item 8, p.2). Please clarify the name of the building.

Patrick Andrus, Historian National Register of Historic Places 5/13/92

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United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form



REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines* for Completing National Register Forms (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property			
historic name Erie Federal Co	urthouse and Po	st Office	
other names/site number	deral Courthous	se	
		• 9	
2. Location			
street & number 6th (South Park	Row) and State	Streets	N/A not for publication
city, town Erie			N/A vicinity
state Pennsylvania code P	A county	Erie code	049 zip code 16501-1196
3. Classification			
Ownership of Property C	ategory of Property	Number of F	Resources within Property
private	X building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
public-local	district	_1	buildings
public-State	site		sites
X public-Federal	structure		structures
	object		objects
_		1	0. Total
Name of related multiple property listing:		Number of c	contributing resources previously
N/A			National Register
		ilated in the	Tracional Trogistor
4. State/Federal Agency Certification	n		
Signature of certifying official General Services Aam State or Federal agency and bureau In my opinion, the property X meets Brent D. Glass Signature of commenting or other official Pennsylvania Historica State or Federal agency and bureau	does not meet the	National Register criteria.	
5. National Park Service Certification	on 🔾		
I, hereby, certify that this property is: entered in the National Register. See continuation sheet. determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet. determined not eligible for the National Register.	Yatiick	Andrus	
removed from the National Register. other, (explain:)		Circohus of the Verses	Date of Action
		Signature of the Keeper	Date of Action

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions) GOVERNMENT: courthouse post office	
Materials (enter categories from instructions)	
foundation granite walls limestone	
roof Other: built-up roof other Decorative Panels: soapstone	

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Erie Federal Courthouse and Post Office is a three story, ell-shaped building that stands at the intersection of 6th (South Park Row) and State streets, overlooking Perry Square, in the heart of Erie's downtown. Its primary elevations are organized according to the principles of Beaux-Arts classicism (see Photographs 1 - 3) with a styling that reflects the Moderne, simplified classicism of Federal architecture of the 1930s. These elevations are clad in Indiana limestone. The rear (or secondary) elevations are unornamented brick befitting their lesser status (see Photographs 4, 5). The exterior retains an high degree of integrity.

The Main or 6th Street Elevation of the Federal Building is organized into thirteen vertical registers with the three central entrance bays accented by a loggia with decorative cast and wrought iron railings on the second story and a recessed entrance. This entrance was designed to serve the courtrooms and offices and opens onto the central elevator lobby and central stair. Flanking the entrance are cast and wrought iron lanterns with frosted glass lights. The fenestration is regularly spaced along the wall with later aluminum double-hung sash set in the original steel frames. The windows contain molded slate sills with carved soapstone spandrel panels at the second floor level. Polished black granite forms the building base and frames the en-The flat roof of the building is screened by a limestone parapet; its original coping stone was replaced in recent history by a cast stone coping.

The State Street Facade is the main entrance to the Post Office and continues the principal stylistic themes of the 6th Street Elevation. Because of its shorter length, it is treated in eight registers, the first five of which are organized as a symmetrical block with a centered portal. The three southernmost bays are recessed five feet from the building plane and are fronted with a polished black granite planter. The decorative soapstone spandrels appear only on the main portion of the facade, having been eliminated on the recessed bays. Again, granite was used for the base and entrance surround.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Erie Federal Courthouse and Post Office

Section number _____7 Page _____2

The rear elevations, facing the parking areas and loading dock, preserve the fenestration and cornice lines of the main facade, but signal their lesser importance through the complete absence of ornament and the substitution of yellow brick for limestone and granite. As with the other elevations both the windows and coping have been replaced within the last two decades.

To a large extent, the exterior elevations reflect the plan of the building. The double-loaded corridors align with the north and west entrances to form a "cross" plan (albeit modified at the eastern arm). The multi-story window bays on the North and West Elevations express the grand courtroom spaces, while the loggia fronts the courtroom lobby (see Photograph 6).

On the first floor, the vestibules are fitted with blue, matte glazed terra cotta wainscotting to a point approximately 4' high (see Photographs 7, and 8). This wainscotting continues into the corridors and lobbies and is complemented in these areas by ceramic tile floors that are bordered with a Greek fret pattern similar to the motif used on the exterior soapstone panels. These spaces are largely intact with the exception of modern lighting and "lay-in" ceilings that mask retrofitted HVAC equipment. The main stairwell of the building is relatively simple, and is placed in close proximity to the elevator core. The stair balusters are of iron with slate treads and risers, and oak handrails. A secondary stairwell, of similar detailing, is located adjacent to the State Street entrance.

The main postal lobby is the most interesting space on the first floor (see Photographs 9, and 10). It is rectangular in plan, and follows the vocabulary established in the vestibule and corridors with ceramic tile floors and walls. Additional features worth noting are the plaster ceiling with shallow cornice, decorative grilles which feature the familiar pattern of the floors, and original bronze post office boxes and lanterns. Behind this principal public space are the functional spaces such as the sorting room and the loading bays. The remainder of the first floor contains various federal offices.

The courtrooms located on the second floor are the most elaborately finished spaces of the building (see Photographs 11 - 14). These rooms are handsome period designs, trimmed in paneled wood wainscotting and capped by molded friezes at the height of the door heads. The paneling continues around the room, interrupted by the windows and by the elaborate backdrops of the judges' dais. The judges' benches

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Erie Federal Courthouse and Post Office

Section number _____7 Page _____3

and backdrops are executed in holly, ash, and beech veneer. The rooms are crowned by decorative plaster ceilings. Each courtroom is part of a complex of service rooms that include the judge's chambers, the clerk's offices, and a library. These rooms generally are finished more ornately than other office space in the building.

Built-in courtroom furnishings conform to the generally classical detail of the building. Wood benches were designed with console arms that follow the modified classical lines of the building. Ornamental metal balustrades, that carry familiar motifs found throughout the building, partitions the judges' bench and lawyers' desks from the gallery. Each courtroom also has an elaborate metalwork clock executed in copper and copper alloy.

The remainder of the first, second, and third floors is dedicated to corridor and office space for federal agencies. Typical treatments include stained and clear-finished doors, molded base, chair rail, and picture rail with flat plaster walls and ceilings. The corridors in these areas also received the ceramic tile finish, while the offices have concrete floors that are either tiled with resilient flooring or carpeted. The basement originally was largely given over to mechanical spaces, with one double-loaded corridor of offices off of the elevator lobby. In recent years, a significant portion of the mechanical area has been converted to court and office-related uses.

8. Statement of Significance	
Certifying official has considered the significance of this prop	perty in relation to other properties: statewide X locally
Applicable National Register Criteria A B X C	□ D
Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)	□D □E □F □G
Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions) Architecture Politics/Government	Period of Significance 1937-1941 1937
	Cultural Affiliation N/A
Significant Person	Architect/Builder Stanley-Brown, Rudolph

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Erie Federal Courthouse and Post Office is a product of the federal government's effort to stimulate the building industry during the 1929 Depression through a massive building program across the country that extended through the 1930s. The Moderne influence, which is evident in the building's modified classical design, reflects the stylistic features and typical design elements characteristic of federally commissioned buildings of this period. Built in 1937, it replaced an earlier Second Empire Federal Building near the site. The new building was conceived and still functions as the primary federal presence in Erie, housing the region's federal courts and the Perry Square Station, the U.S. Post Office, which serves Erie's Central business district, and nearby residential areas.

The courthouse and post office marks a high point of Erie's growth and regional significance before changing transportation systems, and then the deflation of America's heavy industry, reduced the city's importance as a manufacturing and transportation center. Erie is situated in the far northwest corner of Pennsylvania on a tiny strip of lakeshore land that developed from a trading post fort to a ranking industrial center largely because of its physical attributes, namely its location on the transportation corridor of Lake Erie. With the transportation monopoly in the northeast corner of Pennsylvania, many industries located in Erie at the end of the nineteenth century, and the city underwent a period of rapid expansion. Many of Erie's late nineteenth and early twentieth century buildings, including the U.S. Federal Building and Courthouse, reflect the city's success during that period.

Erie's Federal Courthouse and Post Office was designed by Rudolph Stanley-Brown (1890-1944), grandson of President James A. Garfield, and a consulting architect of the U.S. Treasury Department.² Stanley-Brown received his formal training at Yale and studied architecture at Columbia University and the Ecole des Beaux Arts in Paris. Two years later he enlisted in the Army and served in the first World War. Upon his discharge he joined the firm of his uncle, Abram Garfield, Cleveland architect, and

Teeds noits unitinos es Beaux Arts in Paris. Two years later ne

street & number 3512 Lancaster Avenue

name/title Carl E. Doebley, President and Cynthia A. Rose, Historic & Materials Researcher

date 9-27-91

telephone (215) 386-6276

state PA zip code 19104

11. Form Prepared By

city or town Philadelphia

organization Clio Group, Inc.

OMB Approval No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section	number	8	Page	2
000000	Hallibol		1 aye	

later was made a partner. He practiced in Cleveland before moving to Washington, D.C. several years before his death.3

Louis A. Simon, FAIA (1867-1958) served as the Supervising Architect for the project, under the Treasury Department. Simon attended the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and graduated in 1891. Shortly after, he joined the Supervising Architect's office. Simon became the office's principal architectural designer while James Wetmore (1893-1940) was the Supervising Architect, later succeeding him at the post. During the first third of the twentieth century, Simon was the designer of many small post offices and courthouses for the federal government.

In his own right, Simon is of interest as a colorist and classicist whose designs incorporated modern motifs with success and skill. At the end of his career, he had been involved with a thousand or more buildings, though his name is on the cornerstone only of those erected during his tenure as Supervising Architect, a position which he held from 1934 until 1937 when he reached the federal mandatory retirement age of seventy. President Roosevelt extended his tenure for an additional eighteen months, and then asked him to stay on as consultant to the Treasury Department.⁵

The Erie Federal Courthouse and Post Office is a principal element in Erie's business district, and therefore of great local importance. It is recommended that the building, in view of its architectural and historical importance as a representative example of federally commissioned buildings of its period, be nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under criterion C.

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United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Erie Federal Courthouse and Post Office

Section number ____8 Page ___3

Notes:

- American Guide Series, <u>Erie: A Guide to the City and County</u> (Philadelphia: William Penn Association, 1938).
- "R. Stanley-Brown, 54, Garfield's Grandson," New York Times,
 February 9, 1944, Obituaries.
- Henry F. Withey AIA and Elsie Rathburn Withey, <u>Biographical Dictionary of American Architects (Deceased)</u> (Los Angeles: Hennessey and Ingalls, Inc., 1970), 566.
- ⁴ Date stone located on the Erie Federal Courthouse and Post Office, Erie, Pennsylvania.
- ⁵ Clio Group, Inc., <u>Scranton Post Office</u> <u>and Courthouse Historic Structures Report</u> (Philadelphia, 1986), 17.

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Erie Federal Courthouse and Post Office

Section number ____9 Page ____2

Bibliography: (continued)

"R. Stanley-Brown, 54, Garfield's Grandson." New York Times, Obituaries, February 9, 1944.

Withey, Henry F., AIA and Elsie Rathburn Withey. <u>Biographical Dictionary of American Architects (Deceased)</u>. Los Angeles: Hennessey and Ingalls, Inc., 1970.

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Erie Federal Courthouse and Post Office

Section number ____10_ Page ___2_

Verbal Boundary Description: (continued)

point; thence west (S63° 39'W) for a distance of 20' to a point; thence north (N26° 23'W) for a distance of 82.5' to a point; thence west (S63° 39'W) for a distance of 20' to a point; thence south (S26° 23'E) for a distance of 40' to a point; thence west (S63° 39'W) for a distance of 165' to a point; thence north (N26° 23'W) for a distance of 125' to the point of origin.

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Erie Federal Courthouse a	nd Post Office
Section number	Page

Erie Federal Courthouse and Post Office Erie, Pennsylvania National Register Nomination Photographs

Photographer: Carl E. Doebley
Date: November 1990
Location of Negative: Clio Group, Inc.

Photo	#1	Looking Southeast at North Elevation
Photo	#2	Looking Northeast at West Elevation
Photo	#3	Looking Northwest at East Elevation
Photo	#4	Looking West at South Elevation
Photo	#5	Looking Northeast at South Elevation
Photo	#6	2nd Floor, Looking North in Courts Lobby toward Loggia
Photo	#7	1st Floor, Looking East in West Corridor
Photo	#8	1st Floor, Looking South in Central Corridor
Photo	#9	1st Floor, Looking Southeast in Main Postal Lobby
Photo	#10	1st Floor, Looking North in Main Postal Lobby
Photo	#11	2nd Floor, Looking East in Courtroom A
Photo	#12	2nd Floor, Looking West in Courtroom A
Photo	#13	2nd Floor, Looking West in Courtroom B
Photo	#14	2nd Floor, Looking East in Courtroom B

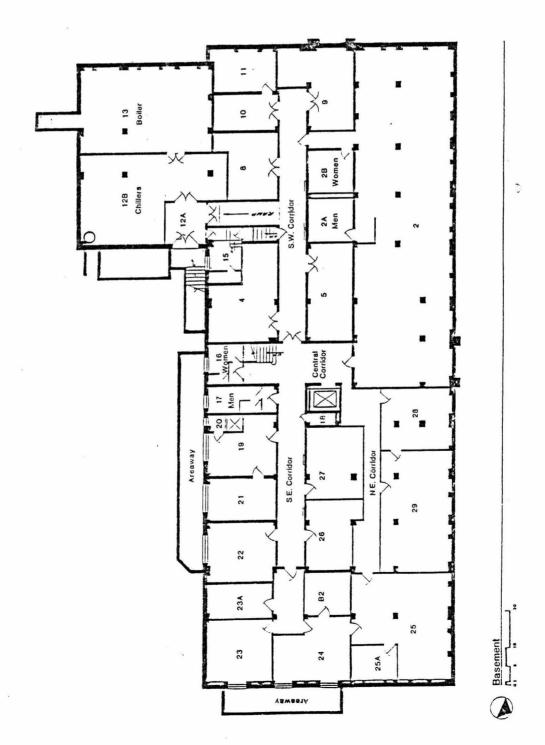
APR 6 1992

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Erie Federal Courthouse and Post Office

Section number _____ Page _____

BASEMENT FLOOR PLAN



APR 6 1992

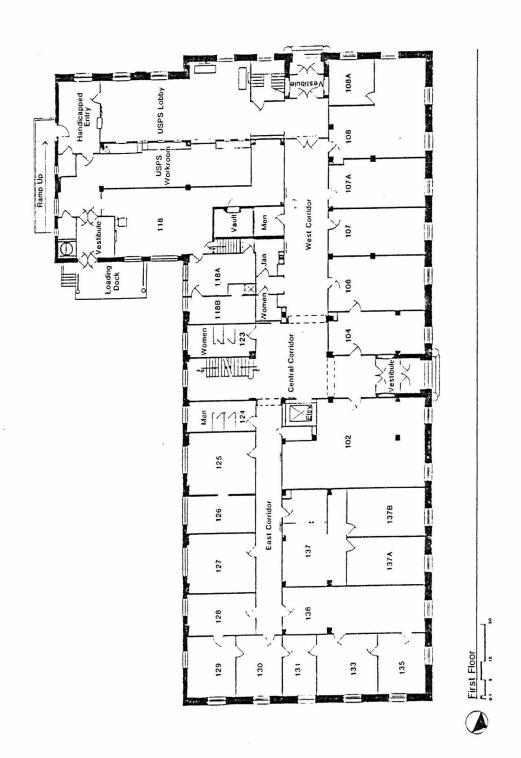
United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Erie Federal Courthouse and Post Office

Section number _____ Page _____

FIRST FLOOR PLAN



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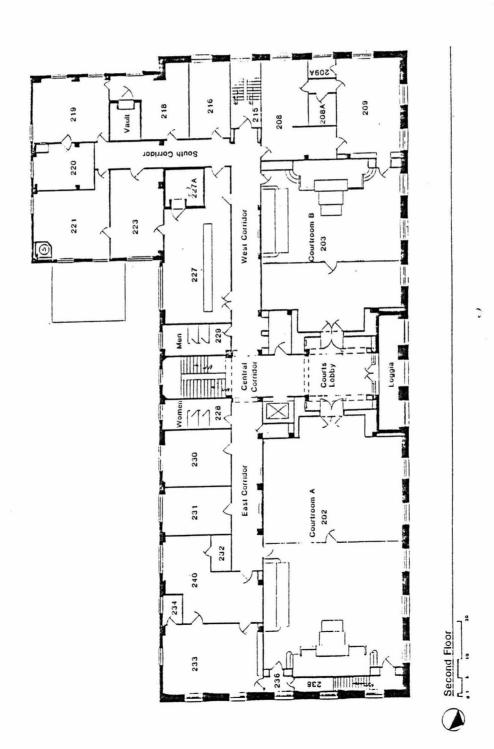
United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Erie Federal Courthouse and Post Office

Section number _____ Page ____

SECOND FLOOR PLAN



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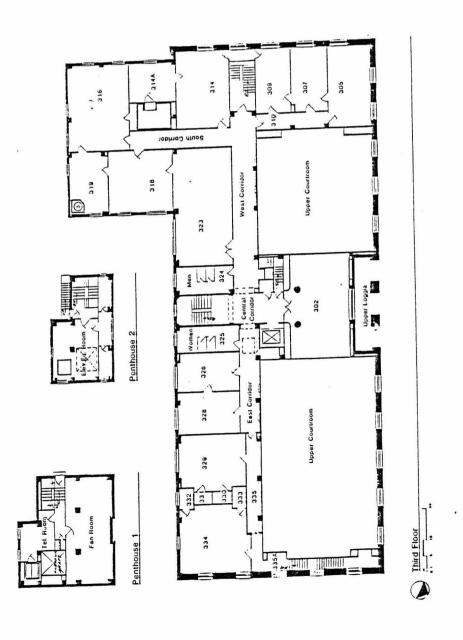
United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Erie Federal Courthouse and Post Office

Section number _____ Page _____

THIRD FLOOR PLAN



National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section nur	mber Page		
	SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING	RECORD	
	NRIS Reference Number: 92000468	Date Listed: 1	L/22/93
	Erie Federal Courthouse and Post Office Property Name	Erie County	<u>PA</u> State
	N/A Multiple Name		
This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentati subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendment notwithstanding the National Park Service certification incluin the nomination documentation.			
for	Signature of the Keeper	Date of Action	1
,	Amended Items in Nomination:		

Area of Significance:

Politics/Government was cited as an area of significance and was discussed in the narrative, however, Criterion A was not checked. The nomination is amended to add Criterion A.

This information was confirmed with Betsy Jiranek's office, Arts & Historic Preservation Division, Public Buildings Service, GSA.

DISTRIBUTION:

National Register property file Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: RESUBMISSION

PROPERTY Erie Federal Courthouse and Post Office
NAME:

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: PENNSYLVANIA, Erie

DATE RECEIVED: 12/08/92 DATE OF PENDING LIST:
DATE OF 16TH DAY: DATE OF 45TH DAY: 1/22/93
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 92000468

NOMINATOR: FEDERAL & SA

DETAILED EVALUATION: Y

The Eric Federal Courthouse + Post Office is elicible to listing under criterion A + C in the areas of Politics/Gaut. + Architecture. The building is a largely intact example of DEPRESSION-era Federal design, handsomely blending Moderne influences who a strapped classical design. As a courthouse, post affice AND federal office building, the structure Represented the primary focus of governmental activity in the conmunity and held a prominant location on the city's public square.

RECOM./CF	RITE	CRIA	ACCEPT	A+C
REVIEWER_				•
DISCIPLIN	VE	HIST	DRIAN	
DATEI	22	93		

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SIR Y/N

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Signed		Date _	



Erie federal Courthouse and Post Office Erie, Pennsylvania Carl E. Doebley November 1990 Clio Group, Erc. Looking Southeast at North Elevation Photo #1

Erie Federal Courthouse and Post Office Erie, Pennsylvania Carl E. Doebley November 1990 Clio Group, Inc. Looking Southeast at North Elevation Photo #1



Erie, Pennsylvania

Carl E. Doebley

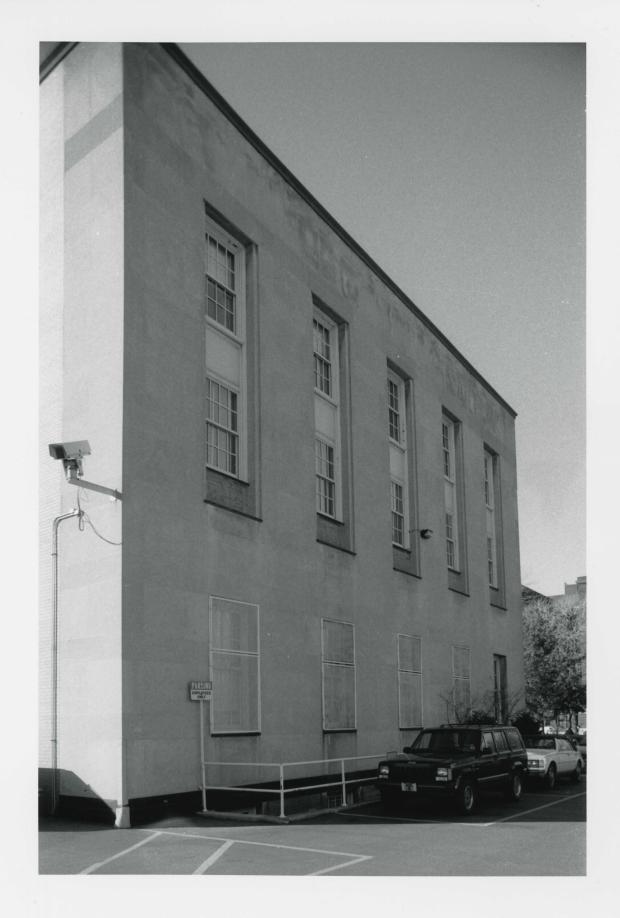
November 1990

Clio Group, Inc.

Looking Northeast at West Elevation

Photo #Z

Erie Federal Courthouse and Post Office Erie, Pennsylvania Carl E. Doebley November 1990 Clio Group, Inc. Looking Northeast at West Elevation Photo #2



Erie, Rennsylvania

Carl E. Doebluy

November 1990

Clio Group, Fre
Looking Northwest at East Elevation

Photo #3

Erie Federal Courthouse and Post Office Erie, Pennsylvania Carl E. Doebley November 1990 Clio Group, Inc. Looking Northwest at East Elevation Photo #3



Erie Federal Courthouse and Post Office Erie, Rennsylvania Carl E. Doebley November 1990 Clio Group. Inc. Looking West at South Elevation Photo #4

Erie Federal Courthouse and Post Office Erie, Pennsylvania Carl E. Doebley November 1990 Clio Group, Inc. Looking West at South Elevation Photo #4



Erie Federal Courthouse and Post Office Erie, Pennsylvania Carl E. Doebley November 1990 Olio Group. Inc. Looking Northeast at South Elevation Photo #5

Erie Federal Courthouse and Post Office Erie, Pennsylvania Carl E. Doebley November 1990 Clio Group, Inc. Looking Northeast at South Elevation Photo #5



Eric Fernal Courthouse and Post Office

Bric, Pennsylvania

Carl E. Doebley

November 1990

Clio Group. Inc.

2rd Floor, Looking North in Courts Lobby toward. Loggia

Thoto #6

Erie Federal Courthouse and Post Office Erie, Pennsylvania Carl E. Doebley November 1990 Clio Group, Inc. 2nd Floor: Looking Noeth in Courts Lobby toward Loggia Photo #6



Eric Federal Courthouse and Post office Eric Pennsylvania Carl E. Doebluy November 1990 Clio Group : Inc. 1st Floor; Looking East in West Corridor Photo #7

Erie Federal Courthouse and Post Office Erie, Pennsylvania Carl E. Doebley Nobember 1990 Clio Group, Inc. lst Floor: Looking East in West Corridor Photo #7



Erie Federal Courthouse and Post Office

Erie, Pennsylvania

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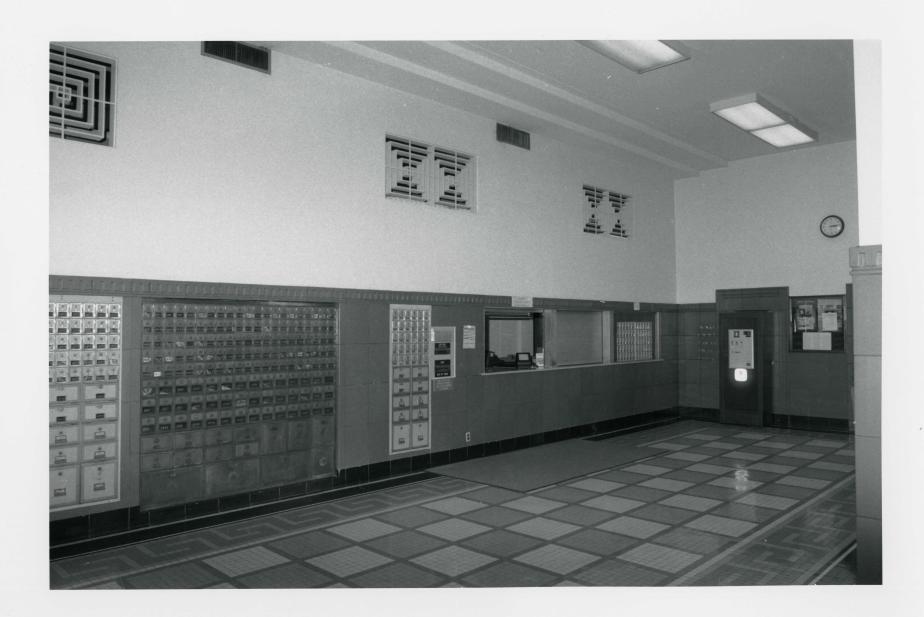
November 1990.

Cho Group, Inc.

1st Floor, Looking South in Central Corridor

Proto #8

Erie Federal Courthouse and Post Office Erie, Pennsylvania Carl E. Doebley November 1990 Clio Group, Inc. 1st Floor: Looking South in Central Corridor Photo #8



Eric Federal Courthouse and Post Office

Eric Pennsylvania

Care E. Doebley

November 1990

Clio Group, Inc.

124 Floor, Looking Southeast in Hain Postul Lobby

Photo #9

Erie Federal Courthouse and Post Office
Erie, Pennsylvania
Carl E. Doebley
November 1990
Clio Group, Inc.
1st Floor: Looking Southeast in Main
Postal Lobby
Photo #9



Eric Federal Courthouse and Post office

Eric Renneylvania

Carle E. Doebbly

November 1990

Clio Group I Inc.

1st Floor, Looking North in Main Postal Lobby

Photo #10

Erie Federal Courthouse and Post Office Erie, Pennsylvania Carl E. Doebley November 1990 Clio Group, Inc. 1st Floor: Looking North in Main Postal Lobby Photo #10



Erie Federal Courthouse and Post Office Erie, Pennsylvania Carl E. Doebley November 1990 Clio Group. Inc. 2nd Cloor, Looking East in Courtroom A Proto #11

Erie Federal Courthouse and Post Office Erie, Pennsylvania Carl E. Doebley November 1990 Clio Group, Inc. 2nd Floor: Looking East in Courtroom A Photo #11



Eric Federal Courthouse and Post Office

Eric, Pennsylvania

Carl E. Doebley

November 1990

Clio Group, Enc.

2nd floor, Looking West in Courtroom A

Thoto #12

Erie Federal Courthouse and Post Office Erie, Pennsylvania Carl E. Doebley November 1990 Clio Group, Inc. 2nd Floor: Looking West in Courtroom A Photo #12



Eric Federal Courthouse and Post Office

Eric, Pennsylvania

CNIE. Doebley

November 1990

Clio Group. Inc.

2nd Ploor, Looking West in Courtroom B

Photo # 13

Erie Federal Courthouse and Post Office Erie, Pennsylvania Carl E. Doebley November 1990 Clio Group, Inc. 2nd Floor: Looking West in Courtroom B Photo #13



Erie Federal Courthouse and Post Office

Erie, Pennsylvania

Casi E. Doebley

November 1990

Clio Group, Inc.

2nd Floor, Looking East in courtnoom B.

Photo #14

Erie Federal Courthouse and Post Office Erie, Pennsylvania Carl E. Doebley November 1990 Clio Group, Inc. 2nd Floor: Looking East in Courtroom B Photo #14

ERIE NORTH QUADRANGLE UNITED STATES COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA PENNSYLVANIA-ERIE CO. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES 7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC) GEOLOGICAL SURVEY 1|390 000 FEET | 80°00′ 42°12′30″ PRESQUE 570 1350 000 FEET (SWANVILLE)
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Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey PRESQUE ISLE (P.O.) 5.1 MI. (ERIE SOUTH)
AVONIA 12 MI. 4968 II SE 572 7′30″ ROAD CLASSIFICATION Control by USGS, USC&GS, and U.S. Lake Survey 2 1000 0 1000 Topography from aerial photographs by photogrammetric methods Aerial photographs taken 1955. Field check 1957 Heavy-duty_____ Light-duty_____ Medium-duty Unimproved dirt ======= 1 .5 0 124 MILS 0°38' Hydrography in Lake Erie from U.S. Lake Survey charts 33 (1956) and 332 (1956). This information is not intended for navigational purposes CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET U. S. Route State Route NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929 DEPTH CURVES AND SOUNDINGS IN FEET-DATUM IS LOW WATER 570.5 FEET Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum 10,000-foot grid based on Pennsylvania coordinate system, PENNSYLVANIA UTM GRID AND 1975 MAGNETIC NORTH DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET ERIE NORTH, PA. north zone 1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, QUADRANGLE LOCATION N4207.5-W8000/5x10 zone 17, shown in blue THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092 A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines 1957 PHOTOREVISED 1969 AND 1975 AMS 4968 II NE—SERIES V831 visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked Revisions shown in purple compiled in cooperation with Red tint indicates areas in which only State of Pennsylvania agencies from aerial photographs ERIE FEDERAL COURTHOUSE AND POST OFFICE landmark buildings are shown taken 1969 and 1975 This information not field checked ERIE COUNTY, PA ERIE NORTH, PA QUADRANGLE Purple tint indicates extension of urban areas ZONE 17 UTM #: 17 575660 4664340

APR 6 1992



General Services Administration Public Buildings Service Washington, DC 20405

DEC 31 1991

Dr. Brent Glass
State Historic Preservation
Pennsylvania State Historical
and Museum Commission
P.O. Box 1026
Harrisburg, PA 17108

Dear Dr. Glass:

Enclosed please find the National Register Nomination Application for the Erie Federal Courthouse, in Erie, Pennsylvania. This nomination is to be reviewed and signed by you, and then forwarded to the:

> National Register of Historic Places National Park Service 1100 L Street, NW Washington, DC 20013

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Mr. Rolando Rivas-Camp, AIA of my staff on (202) 501-1737.

Sincerely,

DALE M. LANZONE

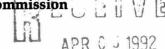
Director

Arts and Historic Preservation



Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission

Bureau for Historic Preservation Post Office Box 1026 Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17108-1026



NATIONAL REGISTER

March 30, 1992

Carol Shull, Chief of Registration National Register of Historic Places U.S. Department of Interior 1100 L Street, NW Washington, D.C. 20240

> NR nomination form Re:

Dear Ms. Shull:

The following National Register nomination form is being submitted for your review:

Erie Federal Courthouse and Post Office, Erie County

The proposed action is:

listing in the National Register

determination of eligibility (owner objection)

Please note that Criterion A should be checked off at the top of Section 8 "Politics/Government" is claimed as an area of significance. Although the narrative for Section A makes only a brief reference in paragraph one to politics/government significance, our office believes that this building is significant in government as the seat of the federal district court.

If you have any questions regarding the nominations please call us at (717) 783-8947.

Đán G. Deibler, Chief

Division of Preservation

Services

Enclosures DGD/dc



General Services Administration Public Buildings Service Washington, DC 20405

Ms. Carol Shull
The Keeper of the National Register
of Historic Places
National Park Service
P.O. Box 37127
Washington, DC 20013-7127

Dear Ms. Shull:

Enclosed is the revised National Register of Historic Places Registration Form and accompanying materials for the Erie Federal Courthouse and Post Office in Erie, Pennsylvania. The form was revised based on the comments of Patrick Andrus.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call Betsy Jiranek of my staff at (202) 501-0951.

and Jus Carp, 4=A

Sincerely,

/Dale M. Lanzone

Director

Arts and Historic Preservation Division

and Agency Preservation Officer

Enclosures