

**CAPSULE SUMMARY**  
**United States Post Office (AA-400)**  
**1 Church Circle, Annapolis**

The United States Post Office at 1 Church Circle was constructed in 1901. The Georgian Revival design was the product of the office of the Supervising Architect of the U.S. Treasury Department, under James Knox Taylor. Charles McCall of Philadelphia was responsible for constructing the building. The main block of the building was enlarged in 1926 by the construction of a rear ell, which was extended by an addition in 1939. A model of Taylor's influences as the supervising architect, the Annapolis Post Office is an outstanding example of the academic classicism of the period, as applied to a public facility.

The prominent building was executed in a grand, turn-of-the-20<sup>th</sup> century Georgian Revival style. Set upon a raised stone foundation, the two-and-a-half-story brick building is laid in English cross bond. The hipped roof is covered with slate and features hipped dormers and a central Wren-inspired cupola with Venetian windows. The highly articulated facade, facing Church Circle, is divided into three parts, consisting of a three-bay-wide projecting central pavilion and single-bay end wings. The building is characterized by its fine exterior detail, including a classical stone cornice, carved stone swags, keystones, and quoins at the corners of both the projecting pavilion and end wings, and a stone balustrade above the cornice. The interior of the building is embellished with heavy oak paneling and richly carved woodwork.



---

## 7. Description

Inventory No. AA-400

---

### Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

---

Prepare both a one-paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Built in 1901, the United States Post Office on Church Circle in Annapolis was designed by the Office of the Supervising Architect, under the direction of FAIA architect George Knox Taylor. The prominent building was executed in a grand, turn-of-the-20<sup>th</sup> century Georgian Revival style. Set upon a raised stone foundation, the two-and-a-half-story brick building is laid in English cross bond. The hipped roof is covered with slate and features hipped dormers and a central Wren-inspired cupola with Venetian windows. The highly articulated facade, facing Church Circle, is divided into three parts, consisting of a three-bay-wide projecting central pavilion and single-bay end wings. The building is characterized by its fine exterior detail, including a classical stone cornice, carved stone swags, keystones, and quoins at the corners of both the projecting pavilion and end wings, and a stone balustrade above the cornice. The interior of the building is embellished with heavy oak paneling and richly carved woodwork.

In 1926, a one-story brick service wing with an attached loading dock was added to the rear of the cube-like building, on center of its rear elevation. Shortly thereafter, in 1939, a larger service wing that spans the entire rear elevation was built to replace the earlier one. Since then, several other modifications have been made to the building, including the addition of a handicapped access ramp, and new door on the east elevation; the introduction of a service counter in the interior; the abandonment of the original service windows in the front hall; and the recent replacement of historic windows. The building is currently undergoing some exterior restoration, including work on the cupola and the stairs on the Northwest Street elevation.

### Exterior Description:

The southeast elevation facing Church Circle is the building's primary facade and most ornate elevation. Consisting of three parts (central pavilion and end wings), the facade is divided into five bays, including three large Neo-Palladian arched openings in the central pavilion and rectangular openings set within blind arches in the end wings. Both the central pavilion and end wings are clearly defined by prominent stone quoining.

The first story consists of a highly decorated central entry, flanked by windows. The main entry, reached by a set of sweeping stone stairs with a wrought iron railing, has a pair of wood and glass replacement doors, but retains its Georgian Revival-style surround. Full columns supporting a stone architrave above which is a round-arched lunette transom flank the door. Immediately above the door is a panel upon which is inscribed the building's date of construction in Roman numerals.

Flanking the central entry are large arched, Neo-Palladian windows with replacement sash and wooden stiles in the form of columns and pilasters. The openings themselves are formed by brick voussoirs with stone keystones and imposts, and stone sills supported by stone brackets. The two end bays have single, 6/6-replacement sash set within blind brick arches with a stone keystone. The window openings have brick jack arches with stone keystones and corner stones. The windows sit upon the raised stone foundation, which here, acts as a window sill. The second story is divided from the first by a narrow stone stringcourse, extending across the facade at the window sill level. The second story consists of five 6/6-replacement windows with

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. AA-400

United States Post Office, 1 Church Circle, Annapolis  
**Continuation Sheet**

Number 7 Page 2

---

brick jack-arches having stone keystones and end blocks. The central window is more highly articulated with a stone crossetted surround, supported by stone brackets at the sill. Two stone swags ornament the brick wall surface between the central and flanking windows.

Above the second story rises the classical stone cornice with stone guttae, a stylized bead and reel molding above, and ogee bed molding and Greek fretwork below. Atop the cornice sits the stone balustrade--a solid stone balustrade with balusters located in the four outside bays. At the center bay, instead of the balusters, there is an elaborate cartouche forming a flagpole base. Behind the balustrade and on the front slope of the hipped roof are three gable dormers, located above the three bays of the central pavilion. The gable dormers have strong cornice returns, supported by paneled pilasters with pulvinated friezes and Venetian-style windows with central wood keystones. A magnificent Wren-style cupola with Venetian windows, sits on center of the hipped roof, and supports a weathervane set on a wooden pineapple, both painted gold. The cupola is currently under scaffolding.

The west side elevation of the original block facing Northwest Street is three bays long. A harmonious six-bay long rear wing is appended to the rear elevation of the main block, extending the building a full nine bays deep along Northwest Street. The three-bayed side elevation is well executed with identical details to the facade, but is less articulated and clearly treated as a secondary elevation. The first story consists of a central entry and flanking windows, all set within blind brick arches, with rectangular 6/6-replacement sash. As on the facade, the arches feature brick voussoirs with stone keystones; the windows have jack arches with stone keystones and end blocks, while using the raised stone foundation as a sill. The central entry, recessed into the masonry and raised above ground level is reached by a set of sweeping stone steps, as on the facade, and currently undergoing renovation. Set within a brick blind arch, the door opening is capped by a brick jack arch with stone keystone and end blocks; the door itself is a wood and glass replacement door.

The second story has three single windows with 6/6 replacement sash and original brick jack arches (with stone keystones and end blocks) and projecting stone sills supported by stone brackets. Above the second story rises the classical cornice and balustrade. Here, the solid wall balustrade has balusters above each of the three bays.

The addition is set upon a raised stone foundation and is divided into six bays, each bay having single 6/6-replacement sash set within brick arches. The brickwork matches that of the main building in its use of English cross bond, stone keystones and brick jack arches.

The east side elevation is similarly organized to the west side, though here a contemporary handicapped access ramp has been added, along with a door. The three bays of the first story were originally all windows, however the front bay has been converted to accommodate a door for the handicapped entrance. The side elevation of the rear wing is a purely utilitarian loading dock, added after the rear wing was constructed.

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. AA-400

United States Post Office, 1 Church Circle, Annapolis  
**Continuation Sheet**

Number 7 Page 3

---

The rear elevation of the main block is five bays long with a central projecting pavilion and end wings, like on the facade. A six-bay long, one-story brick addition, however, abuts the rear wall, obscuring the original block up to its stringcourse.

The rear wall of the addition is four bays long, with four single 6/6 replacement sash set within brick arches.

### Interior Description:

The interior of the Post Office consists of the main hall which occupies the three-bayed central pavilion; a perpendicular hallway intersecting the main hall at the southwest end and containing a new service window; the rear service wing and loading dock addition; and second floor offices with access to the roof and cupola above.

Although no longer used as the primary service area, the richly detailed main hall survives almost entirely intact. This hall, corresponding with the three-bayed central pavilion and entered from the exterior by the central entry, is divided on the interior by a stately arcade of three round arched openings of dark-stained oak on both its front (exterior) wall and back (interior partition) wall. The space is highly articulated with terrazzo floors, marble wainscoting, heavy oak paneling above the arches, and ornate moldings embellished with intricately carved Classical detailing.

Between the arched openings of the interior wall are the original service windows, above the marble wainscoting. Divided by slender iron colonnettes and supporting a fretwork metal frieze, these openings are now closed in and used as mail slots and for advertising billboards.

The new service counter is located behind the main entry hall, at the southwest corner of the main hall, through one arch. This space, originally reserved for behind-the-scenes mail loading, was opened up to replace the less adequate window service counters found in the main hall. Although the main hall has lost its original function, the modification has not compromised the overall effect of the space.

At either end, the three-bay main hall opens into the single-bay-wide side wings, through tall openings formed by two piers supporting segmental arches. The northeast end wing is divided into three separate spaces. The front space, which opens directly off the main hall, serves as an entry vestibule to the handicapped entrance on this side elevation, and provides direct access to one row of post office boxes. An ornately carved architrave surround (originally a window opening) surrounds the door to the exterior. The post office boxes are arranged in banks against three walls of the alcove; some of the boxes are original, some have been replaced with newer, larger ones. The southwest end wing, which extends two of the three-bay depth of the main block of the building, features a sweeping and ornate wrought iron stair leading to the second floor.

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. AA-400

United States Post Office, 1 Church Circle, Annapolis  
**Continuation Sheet**

Number 7 Page 4

---

Behind the stair hall, but accessed from the new service counter area, as well as through the back wing, are two small offices. These rooms have narrow wood floors, wood baseboards and chair rails, and wood paneled doors (both rectangular and segmental arched). The second floor consists of a long, double-loaded corridor running the full width of the five-bay-wide building. The corridor terminates at one end at the Postal Inspector's office, and opens, on the front of the building to a series of smaller office spaces. The corridor opens on the opposing wall into the bathroom and other facilities. The second floor provides access to the roof and cupola.

The service wing, constructed in 1939, is a wide open space, broken by supporting columns, and divided, in places, by internal partition walls. The original exterior wall of the main block was removed, fusing the main block and rear wing internally. A rear service stair leading to the basement, and now open, was originally built against the rear northwest wall. The basement originally housed the boiler room, coal room, toilet facilities and other service-related spaces, including a room identified as "swing room."

# 8. Significance

Inventory No. AA-400

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

<b>Significance dates</b>	1901-1939	<b>Architect</b>	Supervising Architects Office
<b>Specific dates</b>	1901	<b>Builder</b>	Charles McCall

Evaluation for:

National Register                       Maryland Register                       not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance reports, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

The United States Post Office at 1 Church Circle was constructed in 1901. The Georgian Revival design was the product of the office of the Supervising Architect of the U.S. Treasury Department, under James Knox Taylor. Charles McCall of Philadelphia was responsible for constructing the building. The main block of the building was enlarged in 1926 by the construction of a rear ell, which was extended by an addition in 1939. A model of Taylor’s influences as the supervising architect, the Annapolis Post Office is an outstanding example of the academic classicism of the period, as applied to a public facility.

### Site History

The property on which the United States Post Office at 1 Church Circle stands was historically known as Bloomsbury Square. Consisting of Parcels 7 and 8, Bloomsbury Square was originally owned by Benjamin Dulany and Charles Carroll of Carrollton. Numerous people leased and occupied the square piece of property, which faced Church Circle to the south, St. John’s College to the east, and Northwest Street to the west. The Lot Histories prepared as part of the NEH project indicates that many of these leases were not recorded. The histories state that the two leases that were recorded were granted to butcher Daniel Wells in 1775 and merchant William Roberts in 1783. Wells had obtained his lease from architect William Buckland before the American Revolution. In 1798, John Wells was charged with one frame dwelling house (50 by 16), a single story brick smokehouse (10 by 10), and a wood frame slaughterhouse (16 by 10). The Wells family retained the two parts of the square until the middle part of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. William Roberts occupied lots 1, 4, and 5. The land was devised to Roberts’ son-in-law, James Ringgold, who subleased it to William Whetcroft.<sup>1</sup> When Whetcroft died in 1800, the property was described in the *Maryland Gazette* as “the houses and lots in the city of Annapolis late the property of James Ringgold, consisting of two large brick dwelling houses with stables and three other necessary buildings and five wooden tenements near the church...”<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Edward Papenfuse and Jane McWilliams, "Southern Urban Society after the Revolution: Annapolis, Maryland, 1782-1786." Final Report for NEH Grant #H69-0-178, Historic Annapolis Foundation, 1969, p. 59.

<sup>2</sup> *Maryland Gazette*, June 19, 1800.

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. AA-400

United States Post Office, 1 Church Circle, Annapolis  
**Continuation Sheet**

Number 8 Page 2

---

In July 1836, the square was re-surveyed when it was conveyed out of the Dulany family. The survey, conducted by John W. Duvall as part of a Chancery Case that began in 1826, recorded the square was divided into twelve lots, each of varying size. An alley ran through the square. Beginning on Tabernacle Street (now College Avenue), part of the alley was known as Bladen Street. It ran north to the approximate center of the square, where it turned westward to Northwest Street. Having made this turn, the alley became Carroll Street. The lots noted on the survey were leased/occupied as follows:

- Lot 1: Henry Maynadier, 39,878 square feet
- Lot 2: John Carroll, 17,930 square feet
- Lot 3: Henry Maynadier, 21,368 square feet
- Lot 4: John Randall, 15,600 square feet
- Lot 5: William Sullivan, 30,600 square feet
- Lot 6: Adam and John Miller, 17,360 square feet
- Lot 7: John Randall, 74,390 square feet
- Lot 8: G. Murdock, 18,700 square feet
- Lot 9: Mrs. A. Munroe, 24,452 square feet
- Lot 10: Jacob Hurch, 94,000 square feet
- Lot 11: Jason Fisher (colored man), 44,330 square feet
- Lot 12: Dennis Claude, 125,400 square feet

The property where the United States post office was ultimately erected in 1901 is denoted on this map as Lots 1, 2, and 3. As ordered by the Chancery Court, the property of the late Benjamin Dulany was offered at public auction in September 1836. Lot 1 was sold to George Wells for \$795. Wells also purchased Lots 2 and 3 for \$305.

Historic photographs and maps document the property was improved by a two-and-a-half-story dwelling with a side gable roof. The brick building was five bays wide with two interior end chimneys heating the main block. A one-bay wide porch of wood frame sheltered the main entry fronting Church Circle. The building was augmented by a two-story ell that projected from the northeastern bay of the rear elevation. A one-story wood frame porch ran along the northeast elevation of the ell. A two-story wood frame ell was subsequently erected on the northwestern, fronting Northwest Street.

George Wells sold this property in 1854 to Brick J.B. and Margaret Worthington. Four years later in 1859, the widowed Margaret Worthington sold the property, including the imposing dwelling to Doctor Thomas H. Maddox. Ultimately, Maddox was forced to turn over the title to Sheriff William Bryan, who conveyed it in 1864 to Anne Fowler. Fowler sold it in 1866 to Josephine Kent and A. Owen Kent Iglehart for \$7,000. By 1868, Iglehart had obtained full title to the property from Kent.

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. AA-400

United States Post Office, 1 Church Circle, Annapolis  
**Continuation Sheet**

Number 8 Page 3

---

The census records for 1880 indicate Iglehart was living in the dwelling with her two children and an African-American servant named Mary Burgess. The widowed A. Owen Iglehart sold the property in February of 1900 to the United States Government for \$15,000. Constructed prior to 1858, the prominent dwelling was razed by 1900.

Immediately to the east of the dwelling was a similarly brick building, measuring five bays wide and two-and-a-half-stories in height. Covered by a side gable roof, this building was rectangular in plan with a one-story projection on the north corner. Although smaller than the adjacent Iglehart House, the building was heated by three interior chimneys. A one-story wood frame porch sheltered the main entry fronting Church Circle and College Avenue. This three-bay wide porch was ornamented with turned posts and brackets.

George Wells sold this property in September 1837 to Jane McElhaney. By 1864, the now-improved property was sold to Elizabeth Ellen Myer, the wife of James W. Allen. James Maccubbin of Howard County was assigned to sell the property when Allen defaulted on the mortgage in 1876. Two years later, Maccubbin transferred title to Thomas S. Beale for \$3,015. The Convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church of the Diocese of Maryland was granted ownership of the property and the "two-story brick dwelling house" upon the death of Beale. The 147 by 148-foot lot was sold by the Church in 1893 for \$3,000. Fannie Lightfoot Forbes purchased it. Forbes lived in the prominent dwelling with her husband, Joseph Harris Forbes and children, George Forbes, and Harris S. Forbes. After her death, the heirs conveyed the property for \$5,000 in March 1900 to the United States Government. This circa 1850 dwelling was also razed by 1900.

Prior to the construction of the post office at 1 Church Circle in 1901, mail service was provided by the postal service from rental space. On June 14, 1896, the United States Government, on behalf of the postal service, leased a portion of the building at 80 Main Street from Mary C. Russell, Frank H. Thompson, Edith Thompson, and J. Guy Thompson. The lease specified that the post office was to occupy "all that certain space sixty-four feet by fifteen feet and six inches, comprising the entire first and second floors of the two story brick premises known as no 80 church Street....said rooms fitted and supplied by the said party of the first part with all necessary boxes, fixtures, including heating and lighting fixtures and furniture...."<sup>3</sup>

### Building History

In November 1900, the *Evening Capital* announced the awarding of the construction contract for the new Annapolis post office. The article, which included a drawing of the building from the center of Church Circle, explained the Annapolis was "at last to have a post office building more in keeping with its dignity as the

---

<sup>3</sup> Anne Arundel County Land Records, Liber Book GW 1, Folio 18.

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. AA-400

United States Post Office, 1 Church Circle, Annapolis  
**Continuation Sheet**

Number 8 Page 4

---

capital of an important and flourishing state.”<sup>4</sup> The contract for erecting the structure was awarded to Charles McCall of Philadelphia. The contractor was to be paid \$64,000 for constructing the building, a higher price than originally anticipated when the structure was being designed. Consequently, limestone replaced the granite and marble specified in the original plans. The *Evening Capital* article reported that McCall was responsible for “several big operations under way in different sections of the country, including the Continental Trust Company Building in Baltimore, the North American Building in Philadelphia, and its it understood his plans for a twelve-story structure on the site of John Wanamakers’ present store in Philadelphia have been approved.”<sup>5</sup>

The office of the Supervising Architect of the U.S. Treasury Department, under the direction of James Knox Taylor, designed the Annapolis post office. Appointed in 1897, Taylor was well acquainted with the Office of the Supervising Architect, having served as Chief Draftsman since 1895 under Martin Aiken. His knowledge of technical information and administration was evidenced by his Civil Service success; he was equally talented as a designer. Trained as an architect at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology with 13 years of experience in private practice (including work at the office of New York architect and former college roommate Cass Gilbert), Taylor was firmly entrenched in Beaux-Arts Classicism, rather than the Victorian eclecticism of his predecessors. Taylor fully increased efficiency in the Department, while retaining design responsibilities. Additionally, through a series of comparative studies, private competitions were held for only the largest Federal projects.<sup>6</sup>

Through his fifteen years of service, James Knox Taylor was in charge of the design and erection of various government buildings, including post offices in Annapolis and Carrollton, MD, at Asbury Park, NJ, and in Norwich, CT. Following his retirement from government service in 1912, he opened an office in Boston and taught at MIT. Taylor eventually relocated to Tampa, FL, where he died in 1929.<sup>7</sup>

The Annapolis Post Office opened on January 1, 1902, eleven months after the groundbreaking ceremony. The prominently located post office was altered in 1926 when a service ell was erected on the northeastern part of the rear elevation. This addition was designed to accommodate the automobiles that had taken over delivering the mail. The ell was substantially enlarged in 1939 by a rear addition that provided the post office with additional automobile space and loading docks.

---

<sup>4</sup> “New Public Building Contract Awarded, Annapolis to Have a Post Office at Last,” *The Evening Capital*, November 1, 1900, vol. XXXII, no. 148, (Annapolis, MD).

<sup>5</sup> “New Public Building Contract Awarded, Annapolis to Have a Post Office at Last,” *The Evening Capital*, November 1, 1900, vol. XXXII, no. 148, (Annapolis, MD).

<sup>6</sup> Emily Hotaling Eig, “Built For The People of The United States of America: The History of The Public Buildings Service,” (Chevy Chase, MD: Final Manuscript Draft, June 15, 1998), Chapter 6, p. 6.

<sup>7</sup> Henry Withey and Elsie Rathburn Withey, *Biographical Dictionary of American Architects (Deceased)*. (Los Angeles, CA: Hennessey and Ingalls, Inc., 1970), p. 592.

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. AA-400

United States Post Office, 1 Church Circle, Annapolis  
**Continuation Sheet**

Number 8 Page 5

---

The city directory records that the second floor office space was occupied by an array of postal and non-postal office. The United States Superintendent of Mail, the Assistant Postmaster, Postal Inspector, and the Postmaster occupied the postal department offices. As expected, the United States Civil Service maintained office space in the building. In addition, offices were occupied by the United States Navy Recruiting Office, as well as the Army and Air Force Recruiting Offices, the Department of Justice/FBI, the Selective Service, and Veterans Administration. By the latter part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the building is noted in the city directory as the United States Post Office and the Federal Building, with many of the same government branches in occupation.

### Chain of Title

1738: Owned by Benjamin Dulany and Charles Carroll of Carrollton

circa 1749: Benjamin Dulany leased to William Roberts

circa 1788: William Roberts sold lease to William Whetcroft  
Anne Arundel County Land Records  
Liber NH 7 Folio 346

September 1, 1836: Estate of Benjamin Dulany to George Wells

September 27, 1854: George and Eliza Wells to Margaret Worthington  
Anne Arundel County Land Records  
Liber NHG 4 Folio 31

July 14, 1859: Margaret Worthington to Dr. Thomas H. Maddox  
Anne Arundel County Land Records  
Liber NHG 8 Folio 263

June 22, 1864: William Bryan, late Sheriff, on behalf of Maddox, to Anna G. Fowler  
Anne Arundel County Land Records  
Liber NHG 12 Folio 343

March 15, 1866: Anna G. Fowler to A. Owen Kent Iglehart and Josephine Kent  
Anne Arundel County Land Records  
Liber GEG 1 Folio 291



# Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. AA-400

United States Post Office, 1 Church Circle, Annapolis  
**Continuation Sheet**

Number 8 Page 7

---

## HISTORIC CONTEXT:

### **MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE PRESERVATION PLAN DATA**

Geographic Organization: Western Shore

Chronological/Developmental Period(s): Industrial/Urban Dominance (1870-1930)  
Modern Period (1930-present)

Historic Period Theme(s): Architecture, Landscape Architecture, and Community Planning  
Government

Resource Type:

Category: Building

Historic Environment: Town

Historic Function(s) and Use(s): GOVERNMENT/Post Office

Known Design Source: James Knox Taylor, Supervising Architect

---

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

---

AA-400

“New Public Building Contract Awarded, Annapolis to Have a Postoffice at Last,” *Evening Capital*, Vol. XXXII, No. 149, Annapolis, MD, November 1, 1900.

---

## 10. Geographical Data

---

Acreage of project area less than one acre  
Acreage surveyed less than one acre  
Quadrangle name Annapolis, MD                      Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

---

### Verbal boundary description and justification

The Post Office at 1 Church Circle has been associated with Parcel 415, Grid 9 on Map 4Z since its construction in 1901.

---

## 11. Form Prepared by

---

name/title                      L. Trieschmann and K. Williams, Architectural Historians  
organization                      EHT Traceries, Inc.  
street & number                      5420 Western Avenue  
city or town                      Chevy Chase, Maryland 20815

---

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to:                      Maryland Historical Trust  
   DHCD/DHCP  
   100 Community Pllace  
   Crownsville, MD 21032  
   410-514-7600

# Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. AA-400

United States Post Office, 1 Church Circle, Annapolis  
**Continuation Sheet**

Number 9 Page 1

---

Eig, Emily Hotaling, "Built For The People of the United States of America: The History of the Public Buildings Service," Chevy Chase, MD: Final Manuscript Draft, June 15, 1998.

Withey, Henry and Elsie Rathburn Withey. *Biographical Dictionary of American Architects (Deceased)*. Los Angeles, CA: Hennessey and Ingalls, Inc., 1970.





AA-400

UNITED STATES POST OFFICE  
1 CHURCH CIRCLE ANNAPOLIS

TRACERIES

APRIL 2000

MD SHPO

EAST ELEVATION, LOOKING NORTHWEST

1 OF 28



AA-400

UNITED STATES POST OFFICE  
1 CHURCH CIRCLE, ANNAPOLIS

TRACERIES

APRIL 2000

MD SHPO

SOUTH CORNER LOOKING NORTH

2 OF 28



AA-400

UNITED STATES POST OFFICE

1 CHURCH CIRCLE ANNAPOLIS

TRACERIES

APRIL 2000

MD SHPO

NORTH ELEVATION, LOOKING NORTHWEST

3 OF 28



AA-400

UNITED STATES POST OFFICE  
1 CHURCH CIRCLE ANNAPOLIS

TRACERIES

APRIL 2000

MD SHPO

NORTH ELEVATION, LOCKING NORTHWEST

4 OF 28



AA-400

UNITED STATES POST OFFICE

1 CHURCH CIRCLE, ANNAPOLIS

TRACERIES

APRIL 2000

ADDITION, NORTH ELEVATION, LOOKING SOUTHEAST

5 OF 28



AA-400

UNITED STATES POST OFFICE  
1 CHURCH CIRCLE, ANNAPOLIS

TRACERIES

APRIL 2000

MD SHPO

ADDITION, WEST CORNER, LOOKING EAST

6 OF 28



AA-400

UNITED STATES POST OFFICE  
1 CHURCH CIRCE, ANNAPOLIS  
TRACERIES

APRIL 2000

MD SHPO

SOUTH ELEVATION, LOOKING NORTH

7 OF 28



AA-400

UNITED STATES POST OFFICE

1 CHURCH CIRCLE ANNAPOLIS

TRACERIES

APRIL 2000

MD SHPO

STAIR, SW ELEVATION, LOOKING EAST

8 OF 28



AA-400

1 CHURCH CIRCLE

ANNAPOLIS, MD

TRACERIES

5/2000

MD SHPO

DORMERS, SE ELEVATION LOOKING NE

9 OF 28



AA-400

1 CHURCH CIRCLE

ANNAPOLIS, MD

TRACERIES

5/2000

MD SHPO

CUPOLA, LOOKING NORTH

10 OF 28



AA-400

1 CHURCH CIRCLE

ANNAPOLIS, MD

TRACERIES

5/2000

MD SHPO

1ST FLOOR, MAIN HALL, LOOKING SW

11 OF 28



AA-400

1 CHURCH CIRCLE

ANNAPOLIS, MD

TRACERIES

5/2000

MD SHPO

1ST FLOOR, MAIN ENTRY, LOOKING NE

12 OF 28



AA-400

1 CHURCH CIRCLE

ANNAPOLIS, MD

TRACERIES

5/2000

MD SHPO

1ST FLOOR, MAIN HALL, ORIGINAL

SERVICE WINDOW

13 OF 28



BOX SECTION  
WINDOW HOURS  
8:00 - 11:30 AM



AA-400

1 CHURCH CIRCLE

ANNAPOLIS, MD

TRACERIES

5/2000

MD SHPO

1ST FLOOR, MAIN HALL, ORIGINAL

TELEGRAPH WINDOW

14 OF 28



AA-400

1 CHURCH CIRCLE

ANNAPOLIS, MD

TRACERIES

5/2000

MD SHPO

1ST FLOOR, MAIN HALL, CORNICE DETAIL

15 OF 28



AA-400

1 CHURCH CIRCLE

ANNAPOLIS, MD

TRACERIES

5/2000

MD SHPO

1ST FLOOR, SERVICE COUNTER

16 OF 28



AA-400

1 CHURCH CIRCLE

ANNAPOLIS, MD

TRALERIES

5/2000

MD SHPO

1ST FLOOR, PO BOXES

17 OF 28



AA-400  
1 CHURCH CIRCLE  
ANNAPOLIS, MD  
TRACERIES

5/2000

MD SHPO

STAIR, LOOKING NORTH

18 OF 28

OFFICE NOT APT

103-C



AA-400

1 CHURCH CIRCLE

ANNAPOLIS, MD

BRACERIES

5/2000

MD SHPO

1ST FLOOR, DOOR, LOOKING NE

20 OF 28



AA-400  
1 CHURCH CIRCLE  
ANNAPOLIS, MD  
TRACERIES  
5/2000  
MD SHPO  
1ST FLOOR, LOOKING SOUTH  
21 OF 28



AA-400

1 CHURCH CIRCLE

ANNAPOLIS, MD

TRACERIES

5/2000

MD SHPO

SECOND FLOOR, LOOKING NE

22 OF 28



AA-400

1 CHURCH CIRCLE

ANNAPOLIS, MD

TRACERIES

5/2000

MD SHPO

SECOND FLOOR, DOOR DETAIL

23 OF 28



AA-400  
1 CHURCH CIRCLE  
ANNAPOLIS, MD  
TRACERIES  
5/2000  
MD SHPO  
STAIR TO BASEMENT  
24 OF 28



AA-400

1 CHURCH CIRCLE

ANNAPOLIS, MD

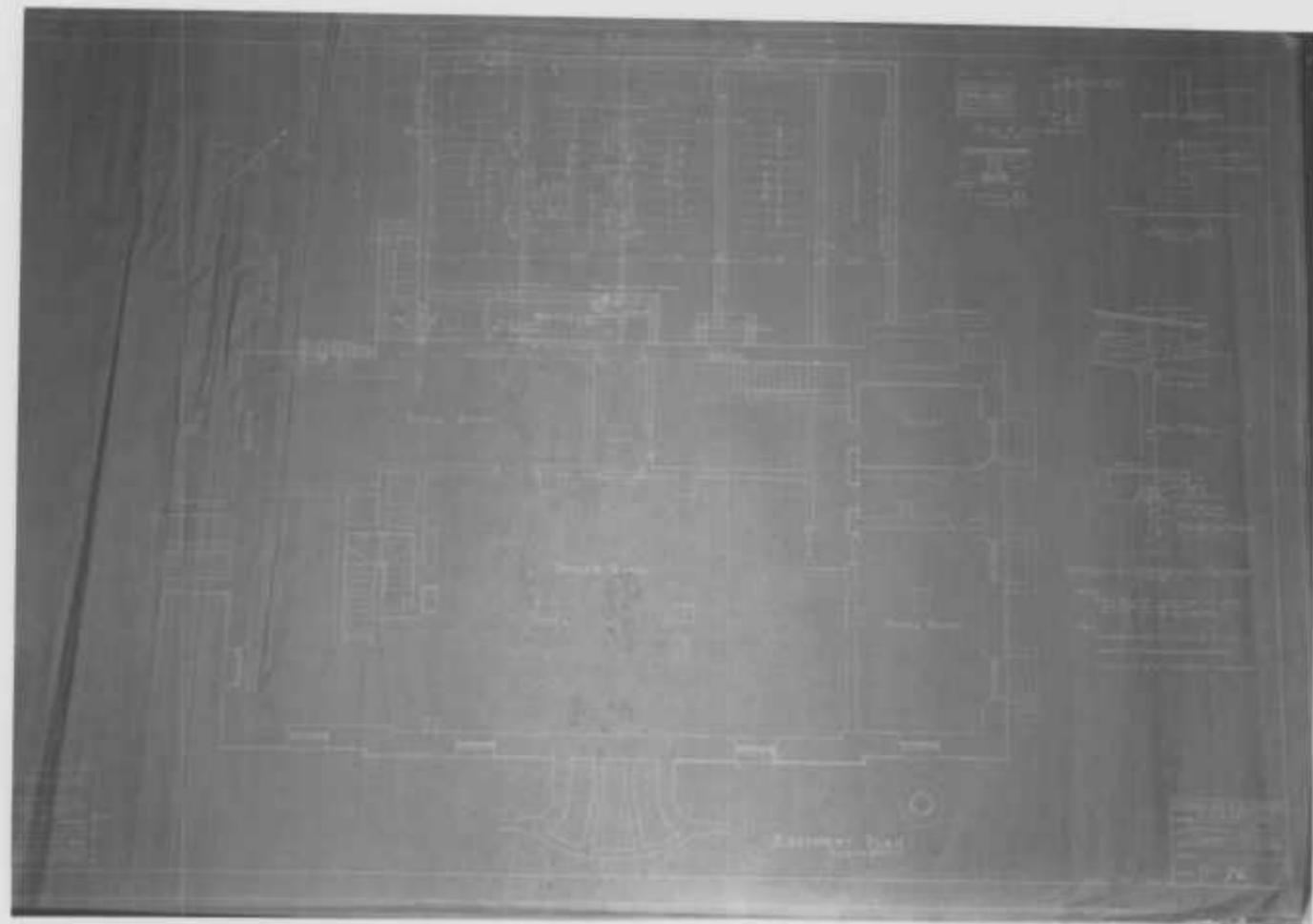
TRACERIES

5/2000

MD SHPO

1938 SERVICE WING LOOKING NORTH

25 OF 28



Basement, 2nd

AA-400

1 CHURCH CIRCLE

ANNAPOLIS, MD

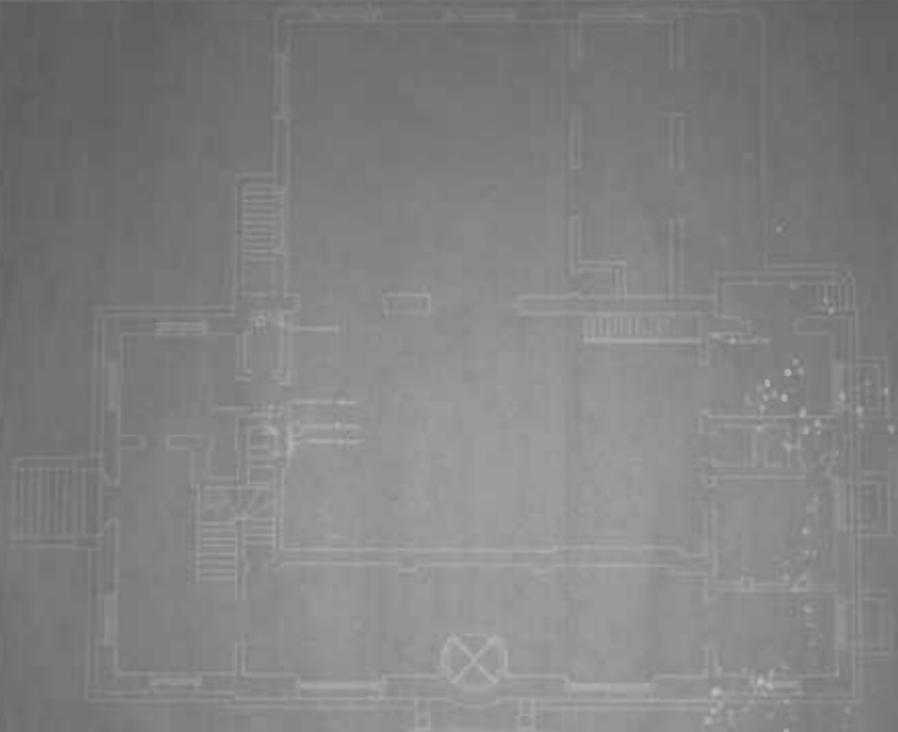
TRACERIES

5/2000

MD SHPO

9/29/1926 BASEMENT FLOOR PLAN

26 OF 28



first floor

Scale 1/4" = 1'-0"

1950  
New York, N.Y.

1950  
New York, N.Y.

AA-400

1 CHURCH CIRCLE

ANNAPOLIS, MD

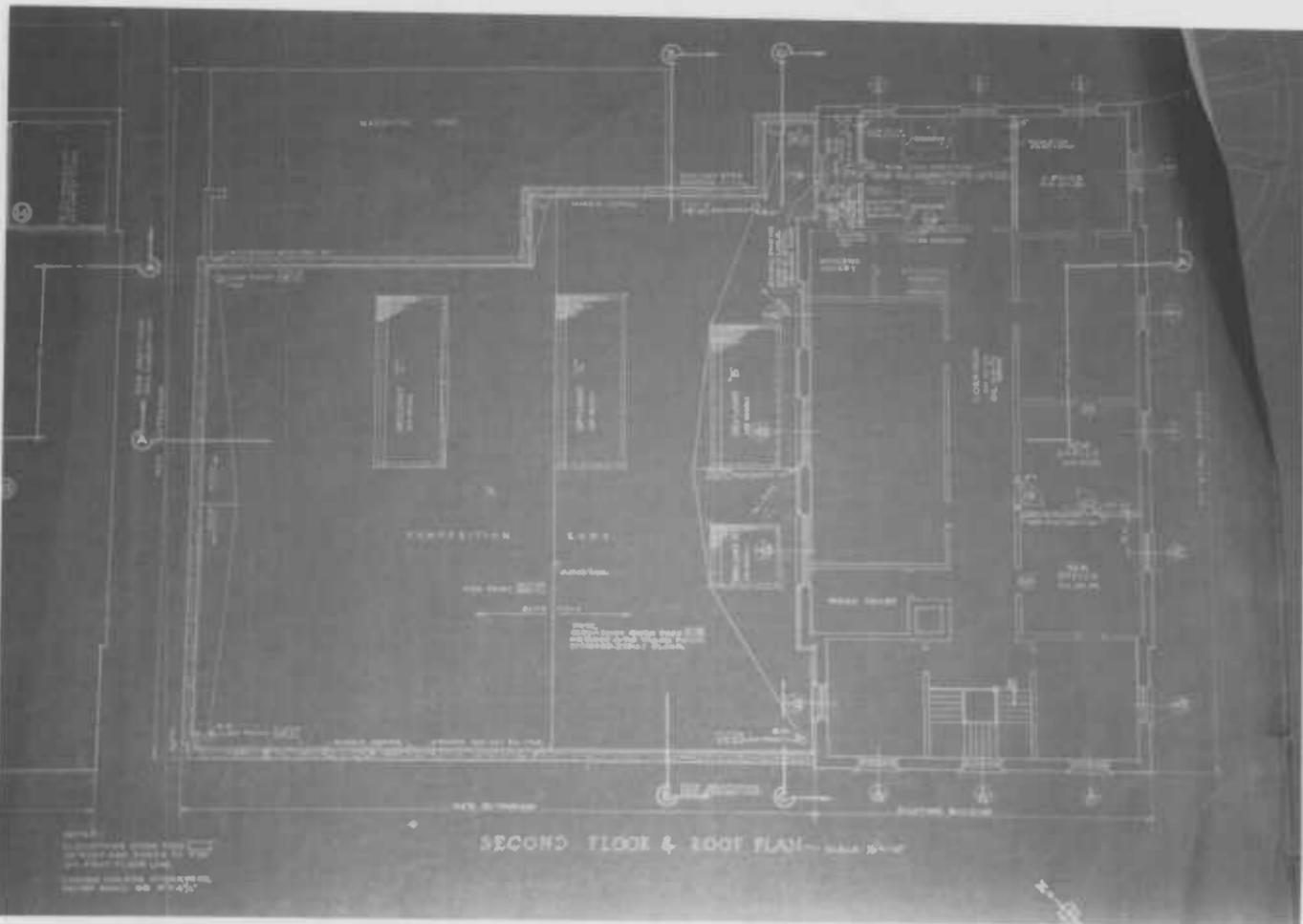
TRACERIES

5/2000

MD SHPO

9/29/1926 FIRST FLOOR PLAN

27 OF 28



NOTES:  
 1. ALL WORK SHALL BE DONE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE SPECIFICATIONS AND CONDITIONS OF CONTRACT.  
 2. ALL WORK SHALL BE DONE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LATEST EDITIONS OF THE BUILDING CODES.  
 3. ALL WORK SHALL BE DONE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LATEST EDITIONS OF THE NATIONAL BUILDING CODES.

AA-400

1 CHURCH CIRCLE  
ANNAPOLIS, MD

TRACERIES

5/2000

MD SHPO

9/30/1938 SECOND FLOOR AND ROOF PLAN

28 OF 28

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
 21 STATE CIRCLE  
 LAW HOUSE  
 ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

HISTORIC SITES SURVEY FIELD SHEET  
 Individual Structure Survey Form

SURVEY NUMBER: <b>AA 400</b>
NEGATIVE FILE NUMBER:
UTM REFERENCES: Zone/Easting/Northing
U.S.G.S. QUAD. MAP:
PRESENT FORMAL NAME:
ORIGINAL FORMAL NAME:
PRESENT USE:
ORIGINAL USE:
ARCHITECT/ENGINEER: <i>JAMES KIRK TAYLOR</i>
BUILDER/CONTRACTOR:
PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE: Excellent (x) Good ( ) Fair ( ) Poor ( )
THEME:
STYLE: Georgian Revival
DATE BUILT: 1901

COUNTY: Anne Arundel
TOWN: Annapolis
LOCATION: Church Circle @ Bladen
COMMON NAME: Main Post Office
FUNCTIONAL TYPE: COMM Map 30 Par 668
OWNER: United States Government
ADDRESS: Church Circle/US Post Office Annapolis, MD 21401
ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Yes (x) No ( ) Restricted ( )
LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: Nat. Reg. National (x) <input checked="" type="radio"/> Local ( ) State ( )

GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

Structural System

- Foundation: Stone ( ) Brick (x) Concrete ( ) Concrete Block ( )
- Wall Structure
  - Wood Frame: Post and Beam ( ) Balloon ( )
  - Wood Bearing Masonry: Brick (x) Stone ( ) Concrete ( ) Concrete Block ( )
  - Iron ( ) D. Steel ( ) E. Other:
- Wall Covering: Clapboard ( ) Board and Batten ( ) Wood Shingle ( ) Shiplap ( )  
 Novelty ( ) Stucco ( ) Sheet Metal ( ) Aluminum ( ) Asphalt Shingle ( )  
 Brick Veneer ( ) Stone Veneer ( ) Asbestos Shingle ( )  
 Bonding Pattern: Other:
- Roof Structure
  - Truss: Wood ( ) Iron ( ) Steel ( ) Concrete ( )
  - Other:
- Roof Covering: Slate (x) Wood Shingle ( ) Asphalt Shingle ( ) Sheet Metal ( )  
 Built Up ( ) Rolled ( ) Tile ( ) Other:
- Engineering Structure:
- Other:

Appendages: Porches ( ) Towers ( ) Cupolas (x) Dormers ( ) Chimneys ( ) Sheds ( ) Ells ( )  
 Wings (x) Other: Entrance Pavillion

Roof Style: Gable ( ) Hip (x) Shed ( ) Flat ( ) Mansard ( ) Gambrel ( ) Jerkinhead ( )  
 Saw Tooth ( ) With Monitor ( ) With Bellcast ( ) With Parapet ( ) With False Front ( )  
 Other:

Number of Stories: 2 1/2=3

Number of Bays: 5 x 3

Approximate Dimensions: 85 x 45 (wing=85 x 80) Entrance Location: centered

THREAT TO STRUCTURE: No Threat (x) Zoning ( ) Roads ( ) Development ( ) Deterioration ( ) Alteration ( ) Other:	LOCAL ATTITUDES: Positive ( ) Negative ( ) Mixed ( ) Other:
--	---

ADDITIONAL ARCHITECTURAL OR STRUCTURAL DESCRIPTION:

AA-400

Excellent cupola with weathervane, classic revival inspired detailing such as swags, pilasters at corners, leaded casements; gabled roof dormer with keyed molded architraves, round headed sash, dentils at rakes and returns; limestone parapet with turned balusters, sitting on a heavy limestone cornice (cyma-reversa, pearls, modillions, Greek frets, ovolo bed mold); central pavillion projects slightly from wall surface, with limestone quoins, three large round arched openings, the end units with modified Venetian windows in compound arches, with radiating fans as part of the upper sash and narrow sidelights defined by Temple of the Winds engaged columns and pilasters; sills are limestone with ancons; central opening is entrance with hood at impost level of compound arch, with fan details repeated above; double entrance doors with glazed panels set below cushioned frieze; end bays of main block with blind round arched openings with limestone keys in brick arches and 6/6 sash

RELATED STRUCTURES: (Describe)

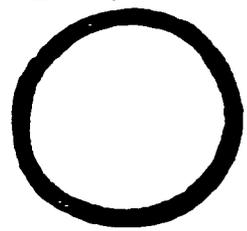
with molded architraves, splayed brick arches with limestone keys and skewbacks; entire structure has limestone watertable and string course at sill level of second floor windows which are 6/6 duplicating details of end bay first floor windows--these details are repeated at end walls, with west end wall repeating the details of the front entrance; excellent interior.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

Exceptional Georgian Revival federal building indicative of the care and good design of the period, critical to Church Circle townscape and important as a type.

REFERENCES:

MAP: (Indicate North In Circle)



SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT:

- Open Lane( )Woodland( )Scattered Buildings( )
- Moderately Built Up( )Densely-Built Up(✓)
- Residential( )Commercial( )
- Agricultural( )Industrial( )
- Roadside Strip Development( )
- Other:

RECORDED BY:

Russell Wright

ORGANIZATION:

Historic Annapolis, Inc

DATE RECORDED:

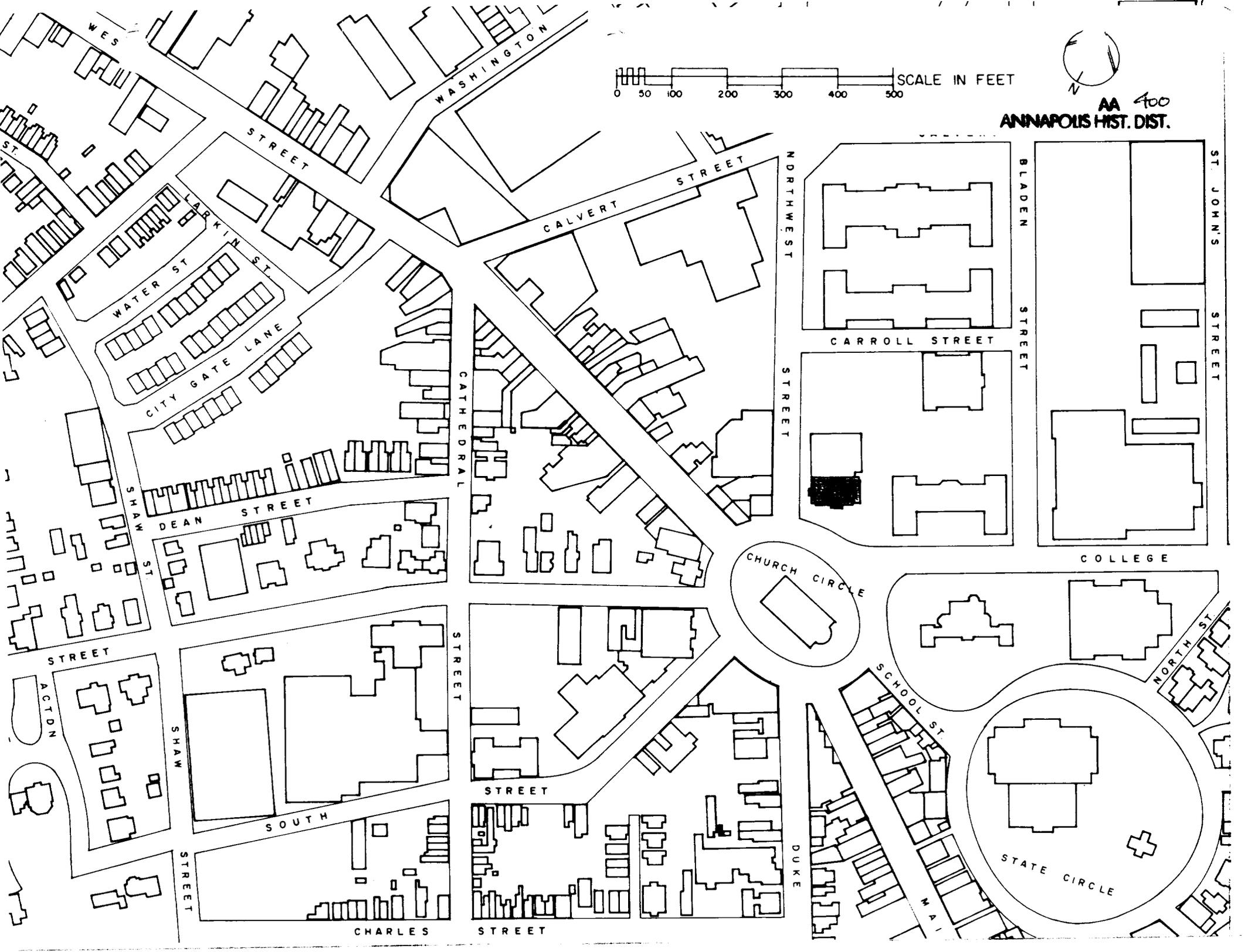
Aug. 1983

0204000701

Form 10-445  
(5/62)

1. STATE Annapolis, Maryland COUNTY TOWN VICINITY STREET NO. Church Circle  ORIGINAL OWNER U.S. Government ORIGINAL USE Post Office PRESENT OWNER U.S. Government PRESENT USE Post Office WALL CONSTRUCTION brick NO. OF STORIES two plus dormer attic	HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY INVENTORY  2. NAME Annapolis Post Office  DATE OR PERIOD 1901 STYLE English Renaissance ARCHITECT BUILDER  3. FOR LIBRARY OF CONGRESS USE
4. NOTABLE FEATURES, HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND DESCRIPTION OPEN TO PUBLIC yes  <p>The Annapolis Post Office is historically important for showing that at one point the govt. "cared" enough about architecture. Though eclectic, the Post Office is a handsome and very fine composition of borrowed elements. The building is solid and superbly built <math>\Rightarrow</math> junk the govt. builds today. The cupola is magnificent - it has a gold wind vane mounted above the traditional pineapple (also in gold). The cupola (a copy of Hampton in Towson?) is of the Wren type (actually started by Sir Roger Pratt; Inigo Jones) and has double columns - cupola windows and dormers (Hampton again) have Venetian windows with Gothic sash. There is a balustrade with a cartouche over the second storey. The cornice beneath is English classical. The front is 3 part with central 3 bay portion projecting. Quoins at corners and at corners of projections. Facade also has swags, keystones and most classical details. Highlight is 1st storey projection - (front door and two windows) which is a Neo-Palladian, Burlingtonian motif (such as used at Chiswick). Interior is more American, heavy wood paneling of the period. An academic, but very fine building. - superb for its type.</p>	
5. PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE Endangered Interior excellent	
6. LOCATION MAP (Plan Optional) 8. PUBLISHED SOURCES (Author, Title, Pages) INTERVIEWS, RECORDS, PHOTOS, ETC.	7. PHOTOGRAPH 9. NAME, ADDRESS AND TITLE OF RECORDER  William D. Morgan Columbia University New York City  DATE OF RECORD June 28, 1967

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION AND PHOTOGRAPHS MAY BE ADDED ON SHEET OF SAME SIZE



0 50 100 200 300 400 500 SCALE IN FEET



AA 400  
ANNAPOLIS HIST. DIST.

WEST

WASHINGTON

STREET

CALVERT STREET

NORTHWEST STREET

BLADEN STREET

ST. JOHN'S STREET

WATER ST  
CITY GATE LANE

CARROLL STREET

DEAN STREET

CATHEDRAL STREET

NORTHWEST STREET

COLLEGE

CHURCH CIRCLE

STREET

STREET

STREET

SCHOOL ST

NORTH ST

SHAW

SOUTH

DUKE

STATE CIRCLE

CHARLES

STREET

MAI



Church Circle

AA 400

Annapolis, Anne Arundel County

Russell Wright July, 1982

Maryland Historical Trust,

Annapolis, Maryland

NW Elevation/camera facing SE



Post Office (Rear) AA 400

Annapolis, Anne Arundel County

Russell Wright July, 1982

Maryland Historical Trust,

Annapolis, Maryland

WElevation/camera facing me



490

AA-400

PHOTOGRAPH BY  
WILLIAM D. MORGAN

Post Office  
11/28/66  
WASH DC



AA-400

25 Nov 88

US Post Office, Annapolis

AA-400

R. Andrews