

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1** NAME

HISTORIC QUINCY, ILLINOIS U. S. POST OFFICE AND COURTHOUSE

AND/OR COMMON

**2** LOCATIONSTREET & NUMBER  
200 North 8th Street

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Quincy

City Code: 7180

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

20

STATE

Illinois

CODE

17

COUNTY

Adams

CODE

001

**3** CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**4** AGENCYREGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: *(if applicable)*

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE, CHICAGO REAL ESTATE FIELD OFFICE

STREET &amp; NUMBER

433 West Van Buren Street, Room 1049

CITY, TOWN

Chicago,

VICINITY OF

STATE

Illinois 60699

**5** LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Adams County Courthouse

STREET &amp; NUMBER

521 Vermont Street

CITY, TOWN

Quincy,

STATE

Illinois 62301

**6** REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Historic American Buildings Inventory

DATE

 FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Library of Congress

CITY, TOWN

Washington,

STATE

D. C.

## 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Quincy, Illinois Post Office and Courthouse was designed in 1885 and constructed in 1886 and 1887. It originally opened onto Hampshire Street through three large doorways leading to the outside steps; these have since been enclosed as windows but the integrity of the original style remains. The building was enlarged in three separate stages, the last beginning in 1932.

The original structure was constructed of brick bearing walls with an exterior facing of Indiana oolitic limestone. The floors are carried on metal beams with brick arches between them. There are also cast iron columns providing additional support as well as decoration. The Hampshire Street elevation is composed of a center arcaded portion terminated by square pavilions. The prominent dormer windows have sharply pointed gables which are much more animated than the contrasting sedate composition below.

Present detailed description of exterior;

Architectural style: French Renaissance Revival Style derived from Hunt's Vanderhilt House in New York, New York of 1879.

Foundation: Rough faced sculptured stone.

Walls: Brick load-bearing walls with a veneer of Indiana oolitic limestone. The walls of the original portion average approximately 2 feet, 6 inches thick. The limestone veneer facing stones average 14 inches in height by 4 feet long and are 4 or 8 inches thick since they are laid alternating for binding purposes. The walls are topped off with a limestone coping.

Windows: Prominent dormer type windows with sharply pointed gables. The frames and sashes are wood, painted gray, and the frames contain wood carvings.

Windows Below Grade: These are covered with ornamental iron window grilles.

Steps, Two Main Entrances: The three steps from the sidewalk to the first floor level are made from red granite.

Doors to Main Entrances: Wooden with glass panes and bronze kick plates.

Roof: Steep pitched with gray slate shingles over book clay tile.

Roof Ridge: The iron ridge peaks are topped off with ornamental wrought iron work.

Gutters: Copper gutters and flashing.

# SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES Original section completed in 1887 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Unknown/Mifflin E. Bell

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The U. S. Post Office and Courthouse in Quincy, Illinois was designed in 1885 by Mifflin E. Bell, Supervising Architect of the United States from 1881 to 1885. Earlier in his career, Mr. Bell had worked with Alfred Piquenard on the Illinois State Capitol and had practiced in Chicago.

The structure is in French Renaissance style, reportedly derived from Hunt's Vanderbilt House in New York of 1879. The style is most cosmopolitan, and the Quincy Post Office represents a very early date in the evolution of the style. It is unusual in being located in a part of the country which was remote from the area of acceptance of the style at the time of construction.

The second floor courtroom and judge's chambers are especially noteworthy for the very elaborate decorative treatment of the moldings, columns, pediments above the doors, judge's bench, clerk's desk, fireplaces and railings. Many of these are more in the Queen Anne style than the French Renaissance.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Robertson, Robert, Of Whales and Men, New York, Alfred K. Knoph, Inc. 1954  
 Koeper, Illinois Architecture, pp. 236-237  
 Withey, American Architects Deceased, p. 48

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1.1348 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A	15	632485	4421405	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION Southwest corner of building and property lines:  
 Latitude: 91°-24'-12"; Longitude: 39°-56'-02". Township: Quincy; Range: #2 South,  
 #9 West; Section: #2 North East. Lot Size: 198 feet E-W on Hampshire Street;  
 247 feet N-S on South 8th Street. Lot Numbers and Other Legal Descriptions: Lots  
 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7 of Alexander's Plat #1, Randolph Addition. Map References: Adams  
 County and city plat maps; Adams County Abstract Book No. 6, page 417.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

ROGER H. HILGENBRINK, Realty Management and Acquisition Specialist, Senior

ORGANIZATION

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE

DATE

June 10, 1977

STREET & NUMBER

433 West Van Buren Street, Room 1049

TELEPHONE

312-886-3660

CITY OR TOWN

Chicago,

STATE

Illinois 60699

## 12 CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_ NONE \_\_\_\_\_

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

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

TITLE

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ILLINOIS HISTORIC SITES SURVEY INVENTORY

A-H-54  
~~302194~~  
 200701

1. Name of Site:

NR DISTRICT

Common

POST OFFICE

Historic

2. Location:

Street and Number

200 N. Eighth  
City or Town

Quincy  
County

Adams

Township

Section

Zip Code

Range

1/4 Section

3. Classification:

Category (check one)

Integrity (check one)

District       Building  
 Site             Structure

Altered       Unaltered  
 Moved        Original Site

4. Ownership:

Status (check one)

Private  
 Public

Occupied  
 Unoccupied  
 Preservation work in progress

Access to Public

Yes       Restricted       Unrestricted       No

Present Use (check one or more)

Agricultural       Industrial       Religious  
 Commercial        Military        Scientific  
 Educational        Museum        Transportation  
 Entertainment     Park            Other  
 Government        Private Residence

5. Ownership of Property:

Owner's Name

Phone Number

Street and Number

City or Town

State

County

Zip Code

6. Description:

Excellent       Good       Fair       Deteriorated  
 Ruins            Unexposed

Is there a program of preservation underway?       Yes       No

GOVERNMENT

7. Historical Themes: (check one or more of the following)

- |   |                          |
|---|--------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Archeological Site         | (Pre-Columbian)          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Archeological Site         | (Post-Columbian to 1673) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> French Influence           | (1673-1780)              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Illinois Frontier          | (1780-1818)              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Illinois Early             | (1818-1850)              |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Illinois Middle | (1850-1900)              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Illinois Late              | (1900-present)           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Famous People              | (give names & dates)     |

8. Specific Date: 1887

Areas of significance (check one or more of the following)

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal (historic)     | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal (pre-historic) | <input type="checkbox"/> Military            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture               | <input type="checkbox"/> Music               |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture   | <input type="checkbox"/> Political           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Science             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communication             | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation              | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Education                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering               | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Industry                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Invention                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify)     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture    |  |

Brief statement of significance: (include all names and dates)

Use additional sheets if necessary. Millin Bell, architect of this elaborate post office.

9. Form prepared by:

Name and Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Street and Number: \_\_\_\_\_

City or Town: \_\_\_\_\_

County: \_\_\_\_\_

Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

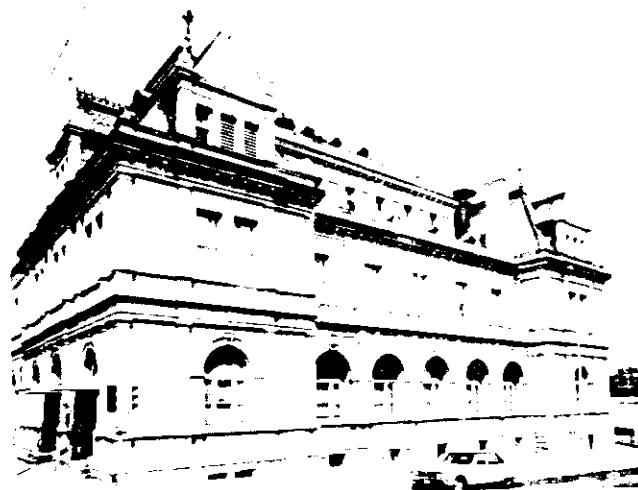
During the course of the Survey we often find it necessary to search for a particular site. When filling out the Survey form, please list according to the following example, published references to the site for which forms are being completed. If a bibliography can be compiled, it will greatly deduct from the Survey's task.

Bibliography

Robertson, Robert, Of Whales and Men. New York, Alfred K. Knopf, Inc., 1954.

Post Office, Quincy. 1887.

Quincy is a city of exceptional architectural variety and quality. Styles ranging from Greek Revival to designs influenced by Frank Lloyd Wright can be seen. Somewhat unusual in style for Illinois is this post office building prepared in Washington by the Supervising Architect of the Treasury, Mitfilin E. Bell (ca. 1846-1904). Its modified early French Renaissance design is reminiscent of the châteaux of the Loire Valley. The Hampshire Street elevation is composed of a center arcaded portion terminated by square pavilions. The prominent dormer windows have sharply pointed gables, more animated than the contrasting sedate composition below.



Address: Eighth and Hampshire Streets.

