

HABS No. DC-130

HABS  
DC,  
WASH,  
503--

Patent Office Building  
(U. S. Civil Service Commission;  
National Portrait Gallery; National  
Museum of American Art)  
Bounded by 7th, 9th, F, and G Streets, NW  
Washington  
District of Columbia

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, D.C. 20240

HABS  
DC,  
WASH,  
503-

ARCHITECTURAL DATA FORM

STATE District of Columbia	COUNTY	TOWN OR VICINITY Washington
HISTORIC NAME OF STRUCTURE (INCLUDE SOURCE FOR NAME) Patent Office Building		HABS NO. DC-130
SECONDARY OR COMMON NAMES OF STRUCTURE U. S. Civil Service Commission; National Portrait Gallery; National Museum of American Art		
COMPLETE ADDRESS (DESCRIBE LOCATION FOR RURAL SITES) Bounded by 7th, 9th, F, and G Streets		
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE SOURCE) 1836-1867 SEE CONTINUATION SHEET	ARCHITECT(S) (INCLUDE SOURCE) Original design probably by William P. Elliot Later work supervised by Robert Mills, CONTINUED	
SIGNIFICANCE (ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL, INCLUDE ORIGINAL USE OF STRUCTURE) One of the foremost examples of Greek Revival architecture in America. During the 19th century was the largest of Washington's government buildings, housing a variety of agencies. Famous people associated with the building include Abraham Lincoln, whose second CONTINUED		
STYLE (IF APPROPRIATE) Greek Revival		
MATERIAL OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE STRUCTURAL SYSTEMS) South wing: sandstone with granite base. Remainder of building marble.		
SHAPE AND DIMENSIONS OF STRUCTURE (SKETCHED FLOOR PLANS ON SEPARATE PAGES ARE ACCEPTABLE) 402'-8" (31-bay front) x 274'-3" (21-bays); built around an open central court; 3-story; each facade has central Doric pedimented portico		
EXTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE Rusticated ground floor serves as podium for 2-story Doric pilasters with full entablature; south portico is octastyle dipteral patterned after the Parthenon		
INTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE (DESCRIBE FLOOR PLANS, IF NOT SKETCHED) Principal spaces include granite gallery, sandstone gallery, Lincoln gallery, and model hall. Notable double staircase. Elaborate "Modern Renaissance" decoration from late 19th century remodelling.		
MAJOR ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS WITH DATES 1877: Fire destroyed upper floor of south, west and north wings. Remodelled in "Modern Renaissance" style by Cluss & Schulze, architects. 1936: Monumental steps to south portico removed when F Street was widened. 1964-1967: Restored for museum use CONTINUED		
PRESENT CONDITION AND USE Houses National Museum of American Art/National Portrait Gallery		
OTHER INFORMATION AS APPROPRIATE		
SOURCES OF INFORMATION (INCLUDING LISTING ON NATIONAL REGISTER, STATE REGISTERS, ETC.) Schwartz, Nancy B. <u>Historic American Buildings Survey District of Columbia Catalog, 1974.</u> A National Historic Landmark Category I District of Columbia Landmark		
COMPILER, AFFILIATION Druscilla J. Null, HABS	DATE 8/2/83	

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (Continued)

South wing built 1836-1840. East wing built 1849-1852. West wing built 1856-1862. North wing completed 1867.

ARCHITECTS (Continued)

who was in charge of the construction of the south and east wings. West wing construction supervised by Thomas U. Walter. Edward Clark was supervisor of north wing construction.

SIGNIFICANCE (Continued)

inaugural was held there, and Clara Barton and Walt Whitman, who were employed there.

MAJOR ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS (Continued)

by the firm of Faulkner, Fryer, and Faulkner and Bayard Underwood.

ADDENDUM TO  
PATENT OFFICE BUILDING  
(U.S. CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION)  
(NATIONAL PORTRAIT GALLERY)  
(NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AMERICAN ART)  
Bounded by Seventh, Ninth, F and G Streets, NW  
Washington  
District of Columbia

HABS No. DC-130

HABS  
DC,  
WASH.,  
503-

XEROGRAPHIC COPIES OF COLOR TRANSPARENCIES

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY  
National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
Washington, D.C. 20013

ADDENDUM TO:  
PATENT OFFICE BUILDING  
(U.S. Civil Service Commission)  
(National Portrait Gallery)  
(National Museum of American Art)  
Bounded by Seventh, Ninth, F & G Streets, Northwest  
Washington  
District of Columbia

HABS DC-130  
*DC, WASH, 503-*

PHOTOGRAPHS

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY  
National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street NW  
Washington, DC 20240-0001