

ATLANTIC CITY POST OFFICE  
(Social Security Building)  
1011 Pacific Avenue  
Atlantic City  
Atlantic County  
New Jersey

HABS No. NJ-1208

HABS  
NJ  
1-ATCI,  
21-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORICAL AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY  
National Park Service  
Northeast Region  
U.S. Custom House  
200 Chestnut Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19106

HABS  
NJ  
1- ATCI,  
21-

**HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY  
ATLANTIC CITY POST OFFICE**

(Social Security Building)

HABS NO. NJ-1208

- Location:** 1011 Pacific Avenue, Atlantic City, Atlantic County, New Jersey  
Quad: Atlantic City, New Jersey  
UTM: 18.549695.4356896
- Present Owner:** Trump Taj Mahal Casino/Resort  
1000 Boardwalk @ Virginia Ave  
Atlantic City, N.J.
- Present Use:** Vacant/Will be demolished
- Significance:** First Federal Government Owned Post Office Building  
In Atlantic City, And A Good Example Of Beaux Arts/Neoclassic Civil  
Architecture Of The Period.

**PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION**

**A. Physical History:**

1. Date of erection: Building completed on August 12, 1905

2. Architect: James Knox Taylor, U.S. Architect's Office

3. Original and subsequent owners:

08/1905 - 08/1987	United States Government General Services Administration Public Buildings Service New York, N.Y.
08/1987 - 04/1988	Resorts International Boardwalk and North Carolina Avenue Atlantic City, N.J.
04/1988 to Date	Trump Taj Mahal Reality Corp. 1000 Boardwalk @ Virginia Avenue Atlantic City, N.J.

4. Builder, contractor, suppliers: Unknown

5. Original plans and construction: Unknown

6. Alterations and additions:

The building was altered in 1974 to house the Federal Social Security Department. These renovations included adding a vestibule at the front entrance from Pacific Avenue, building a wall around the entrance from Pennsylvania Avenue and stair with a door to the first floor. Three of the offices along the right side (Pa. Ave. Side) of the building were opened up to the main center room. Only the corner office remained intact. Most of the plaster ceilings were removed and a drop ceiling was installed throughout the entire first floor. Two offices were built in the front left corner of the building extending 24 ft along the Pacific Avenue wall and 11 ft back from this wall.

**B. Historical context:**

The Atlantic City Post Office Building on Pennsylvania and Pacific Avenues was the first building to be erected in the city by the Federal government for postal service use. Its construction marked the official transformation of Atlantic City from a summer town to a city in its own right.

**PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION**

**A. General Statement:**

1. Architectural character:

The building is a rectangular 2 story structure. The exterior has stylistic elements of the Beaux Arts and Neoclassic styles, including the columns and arches over doors and windows.

2. Condition of fabric:

Deteriorating and in need of repair.

**B. Description of Exterior:**

1. Over-all dimensions:  
68 feet wide by 126 feet long
2. Foundations:  
Brick set on top of poured concrete footings, with granite water table.
3. Walls:  
The exterior walls are approximately 18 inches thick with one layer of tan brick on the exterior and red brick making up the remaining wall structure. On the exterior of the building there is one row of granite block around the base of the building. These blocks are approximately 1 ft X 1 ft X 3 ft long.
4. Structural system, framing:  
Structural girders and steel I beams supported by cast iron hollow columns. Floor and roof consist of poured in place concrete.
5. Porches, stoops, balconies, bulkheads:  
Granite was used for the front entrance steps on Pacific Avenue.
6. Chimneys:  
One brick chimney approximately 2'6" X 2'9" extending 10 ft above the second floor roof.
7. Openings:
  - a. Doorways and doors:  
Five exterior doors are located throughout the building. One main entrance on Pacific Avenue, center of the building, which consist of large wooden double doors. One entrance on the corner of Pennsylvania and Pacific Avenues, also consisting of large wooden double doors. Three double doors across the rear of the building, on each end and in the center. These doors were also wood. In later years all doors were changed to aluminum frame and glass doors. The center rear door was removed and a 4 ft wide by 7 ft high metal roll down door was installed.
  - b. Windows and shutters:  
Double hung wood frame windows using window weights as counter balances. Windows were later covered with aluminum storm windows on the outside. Front and back windows are arched at the top, side windows and upper level windows are square. In subsequent years, the upper part of the windows exterior, on the first floor, was painted gray to conceal where they had been boarded over on the inside. The lower windows on the southwest and northeast end of the building contain decorative brick cornice work supporting a brick ledge above. This is also found around the door located on the southwest corner. The windows located at each end of the front of the building (Northwest Side) also contain the same cornice work.
8. Roof:
  - a. Shape, covering:  
The roof consists of 2 flat surfaces on different levels, both of which are pitched towards roof drains. The roofing material consist of tar and stone.
  - b. Cornice, eaves:  
The eaves contain a brick dentil trim running completely around the upper level roof and across the back of the lower level roof. The parapet wall above the eaves is covered with copper flashing. This flashing extends completely around the upper level roof and across the back of the lower level roof.
  - c. Dormers, cupolas, towers:  
None

**C. Description of Interior:**

**1. Floor plans:**

**a. Basement:**

The basement area is 16 ft wide by 35 ft long and is located on the Presbyterian Avenue (Northeast) end of the building. This room housed the boiler and the main electrical panel. A crawl space extends beneath the rest of the building, approximately 3 ft in height.

**b. First floor:**

When entering the building from the Pacific Avenue entrance, a large main center room extends to the back wall. Starting in the far right hand corner, there is a single rest room. To the left of the rest room is the entrance from Pennsylvania Avenue. Next is the stairs leading to the second floor which has a landing over the entrance way. To the left of the stairs there were four offices all about the same in size. The offices extend to the rear of the building. The main room is open to the left wall back 30 feet at which point the rest room wall starts. The men's and ladies room are adjacent to each other. Continuing back along the left wall is the stairs leading to the second floor. Under the stairs are the stairs leading to the basement. The back left corner of the building contains a custodians room which is 15 ft by 17 ft.

**c. Second floor:**

The second floor consists of 6 rooms, 1 men's room and 1 ladies room. The Presbyterian Avenue side has the men's room and 1 large room from which stairs led up 4 ft to the offices along Pacific Avenue. There are 2 offices and one large center area between them. Stairs led down 4 ft to the offices on the Pennsylvania Avenue side. This side has 2 offices connected by a hallway and a ladies room between the 2 offices. Both rest rooms are made up of stalls that used White marble dividers.

**2. Stairways:**

There were 2 stairways in the building. The main is located by the entrance to the building on the corner of Pennsylvania and Pacific Avenues. This stairway consist of marble steps, terrazzo landings, decorative iron railings, and white marble wainscoting approximately 5 ft high and 1 inch thick. The stairs went up to a landing then turned and went the remaining distance to the second floor.

The other stairway is located in the opposite corner of the building. This stairway consists of decorative metal railings and poured concrete steps on a metal base. There was no use of marble. These stairs appeared to be for employee use only.

**3. Flooring:**

Flooring consists of hardwood planks approximately 2 inches wide nailed to sleepers embedded in poured concrete. In subsequent years the floor was covered over with masonite, used as an underlayment for 9 inch by 9 inch asbestos floor tile. Later the floor tile was covered with carpeting.

In the front main entrance area and up the main stairs the floor is terrazzo with white marble borders. This was also covered with carpet the same as the hardwood flooring with the exception of the stair landings.

**4. Wall and ceiling finishes:**

Walls and ceilings are finished with plaster on wire lath with steel rod reinforcement. At the top of the windows and some columns are formed plaster moldings. The front wall and the walls going up the main stairs were covered with 5 ft high white marble approximately 1 inch thick. In later years almost all the plaster ceilings were removed and a drop ceiling was installed with fluorescent light fixtures.

**5. Openings:**

**a. Doorways and doors**

Interior doors and frames were wood 7 ft high by 3 ft wide with transoms above. In subsequent years the wood doors were removed and replaced with hollow metal doors and frames.

**b. Windows:**

Double hung wood frame windows using window weights as counter balances. In subsequent years, the upper part of the windows interior, on the first floor, were boarded over and a dropped ceiling was installed. Upper level windows are wood frame with brass hardware and they opened from the center, similar to the current casement windows.

**6. Decorative features and trim:**

Plaster ceiling coffers are located throughout the first floor main room (Public Space). The offices on the first floor and second floor rooms do not contain any decorative trim. The columns in the main room also have decorative cast trim bolted on the top.

**7. Hardware:**

Interior door hardware consists of Russwin Mortise locks and cylinders. Door hardware is made of bronze. Window hardware also appear to be bronze.

**8. Mechanical equipment:**

**a. Heating, air conditioning, ventilation**

The original heating system was a coal-fired hot water boiler located in the basement. The boiler supplied hot water to several radiators located throughout the building. This boiler was later converted to oil fired and a 6000 gallon fuel tank was buried outside the building. The boiler and all supply lines were insulated with asbestos.

Boiler Specs	H.B. Smith Co., West Field, Mass. New York, Boston, Phila. Mills Water Tube Boiler Hy-Test Series 44 / No.440-1 Mills Patented Jan. 1911
Oil Burner	HEV-E-Oil Burner Industrial Combustion, Inc. Milwaukee, Wis. Serial #9616, Model AMOP, Size 4

Ventilation was originally supplied by open windows. In later years air conditioning was installed.

**b. Lighting:**

Originally all light was supplied by incandescent light fixtures, some pendant type and some wall sconces. In later years, when the dropped ceilings were installed, 2 ft by 4 ft fluorescent fixtures were placed in the new ceilings. Each fixture contained 4 fluorescent tubes, 4 foot long.

c. Plumbing, etc.:

One first floor ladies room, located along the northeast wall, with 2 stalls and 2 sinks originally. In later years 2 additional stalls and 1 sink were added. One first floor men's room, located adjacent to the ladies room, with 2 stalls, 1 urinal, and 1 sink originally. In later years 1 stall was added and the sink and toilet were relocated.

One first floor single toilet room, for public use, was located in the southwest corner (Pa. & Pacific Ave.). This room was approximately 4' X 4' containing 1 toilet and 1 sink.

The second floor contains 1 ladies room, located along the southwest wall, with 4 stall toilets and 3 sinks. In later years the 4 toilets were replaced with upgraded fixtures, but the sinks remained. The second floor men's room, located on the northeast corner, consisted of 6 stall toilets, 3 urinals with white marble dividers and 2 sinks.

The custodians room, located on the northeast corner, contained 1 sink.

All plumbing fixtures were supplied by copper pipe and all waste lines were cast iron. All toilet fixtures were enamel-coated cast iron. Water and sewer service was supplied by the city.

D. Site:

1. General setting and orientation:

The building is located on the Southeast corner of Pennsylvania and Pacific Avenues. With the main entrance located on Pacific Avenue.

2. Historic landscape design:

Orientated with no set back. Sidewalks only between building and street

3. Outbuildings:

None

**PART III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION**

1. Atlantic City Library

Atlantic City Daily Press, Saturday August 12, 1905

2. Paulus, Sokolowski & Sartor, Inc.

Supplemental Submission To The Site Evaluation

Prepared For:

State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO)

Office of New Jersey Heritage

Department of Environmental Protection

Trenton, N.J.

Advisory Council On Historic Preservation

Washington, D.C.

**PART IV. PROJECT INFORMATION**

As of March 1993 the building has been approved for demolition by both the New Jersey State Historic Preservation Office and the Advisory Council On Historic Preservation, Washington, D.C. Documentation was undertaken as mitigation for the demolition after cancellation of a preservation covenant. The City of Atlantic City issued a demolition permit in March 1993. The Project Manager for Trump Taj Mahal who handled the demolition was Bruce Taylor. The demolition was performed by Anthony Excavating and Demolition, Owner Steve Anthony.