

932

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

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RECEIVED JUN 15 1989

DATE ENTERED

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC Pentagon Office Building Complex

AND/OR COMMON The Pentagon

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER Jefferson Davis Hwy. (Rt. 110)
at Interstate 395

CITY, TOWN

Arlington

VICINITY OF

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
Tenth

STATE

Virginia

CODE

VA

COUNTY

Arlington

CODE

013

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	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 AGENCY

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (If applicable) National Capital Region

STREET & NUMBER General Services Administration

CITY, TOWN

Washington

VICINITY OF

STATE

D.C. 20407

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Arlington County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER 1400 N. Courthouse Road

CITY, TOWN

Arlington

STATE

Virginia 22201

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

N/A

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

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 property being nominated consists of five elements of the Pentagon Office Building Complex (commonly called "The Pentagon"). Those elements consist of the following:

- (1) The five outer facades of the Pentagon Building.
- (2) The building's Central Courtyard and its surrounding facade.
- (3) The terrace fronting the Mall Entrance.
- (4) The terrace fronting the River Entrance.
- (5) The Pentagon's distinctive 5-sided shape.

The attached map entitled "Pentagon Office Building Complex (1985)" (Map # 1) illustrates the locations of the nominated elements. The position of the nominated property in relation to the surrounding vicinity is shown in Map # 2.

Over the more than forty years following its 1943 completion, the Pentagon and its surrounding site have undergone substantial modifications due to changing conditions and the needs of the building's occupants. The original exterior elements of the Pentagon which have not been substantially modified are the basis for this nomination.

1. Present Physical Appearance:

A. Building:

The Pentagon is shaped like its namesake, a geometrical figure with five sides of equal length. Each of its outer walls is 921.6 feet long. It covers the largest ground area of any office building in the world (McWhirter 1985:175), 29 acres. The building contains five concentric pentagonal rings of office and work spaces. A 5-acre pentagonal courtyard is located in the building's center, making a total coverage of $\frac{3}{4}$ acres for the Pentagon and its Central Courtyard. The Pentagon's plan is symmetrical, balanced, and rational, in accordance with a basic principle of classical design.

The architectural mode followed in the design of the Pentagon is known as "Stripped Classicism." This hybridization of the classical and modern styles was characteristic of many important Federal buildings designed from the 1930's to the 1950's. Design and ornamentation follows the stylistic traditions of classicism, but has been greatly simplified. Stripped classicism is discussed in Item 8. (Statement of Significance).

Clockwise from its northern point, the Pentagon's five facades are the Mall Entrance, the River (or North Parking) Entrance, the Concourse (or Metro Station) Facade, the South Parking (Entrance) Facade, and the Heliport Facade. The River Entrance faces Jefferson Davis Highway (Virginia Route 110); the South Parking Facade and Concourse Facade face Shirley Highway (Interstate Route 395); and the Heliport Facade faces Washington Boulevard (Virginia Route 27).

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The outer facades of the Pentagon are elegantly simple and symmetrical, having a minimum of ornamental embellishment. There is clear delineation of top, middle, and bottom sections, corresponding to the capital, shaft, and base of classical columns.

The facades' top section consists of a slab-like undecorated entablature, behind which is the Pentagon's attic (fifth) storey. This entablature completely surrounds the building. Its height is not uniform, but greater over the central colonnade of each of the facades. While inscriptions or other decorations are absent, the entablature is divided into rectangular panels over the colonnades. The entablature does not have any windows on the Pentagon's outer facades. The building's fifth storey, however, does contain windows on the other rings, as well as the inward facing side of the outermost ring. The entablature is separated from the middle part of the facades by a cornice line of ornamental molding. This extends completely around the building, visually separating it from the facades' middle part.

The middle part of the facades (corresponding to the "shaft" of classical columns) generally consists of three rows of evenly-spaced rectangular windows. Except where it is interrupted by colonnades, the facades' middle part is symmetrical all the way around the building.

Following a principle of classical design, central focus is established by means of a colonnade placed in the middle of each facade. On the Mall and River facades, these colonnades surround the main entranceways. On the other facades, they serve to reinforce the symmetry of the plan, and are primarily decorative in function. Each colonnade is 140 feet in length, and contains 16 rectangular columns, three storeys (36 feet) in height. Flanking each central colonnade, equidistant to either side, are two smaller symmetrical colonnaded entrances containing five columns identical to those of the central colonnades. The building's two main entrances (Mall and River) are distinguished by the pronounced outward projection of their colonnades, which form central porticos. These porticos contain an additional 2 columns in line with each of the end columns. On the other three facades, the central colonnades are flush with the face of the building. All of the flanking subordinate entrance colonnades are also flush with the face of the building. Each of the Pentagon's colonnades contain tall and narrow rectangular columns which are stylized after the Tuscan order. These are surmounted by a simplified architrave, which itself is surmounted by the projecting cornice molding.

The facades' bottom section is visually delineated from the middle part by a pediment molding line which divides it from the floors above. It serves, in terms of classical design, as the foundation for the building's facades. The division between middle and bottom sections of the facades encircles the building. However, the character and function of the bottom section changes from one facade to another. Depending on the grading of the terrain and orientation, the bottom section is either short and windowless (Mall and River facades), a single storey in height and pierced with windows, loading platforms, and pedestrian and vehicular entranceways (South Parking

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and Heliport facades), or one storey tall and plain except for two symmetrical stairways leading up to the flanking columned entrances (Concourse facade).

The most significant specific ornament on the exterior of the building is its commemorative cornerstone. That object consists of a rectangular limestone plaque on which the names of the principal persons and organizations involved in the construction of the Pentagon are listed, using bronze lettering (Figure 2). The Pentagon's cornerstone is located on its Mall Entrance facade.

Other ornamentation is present, though in a simplified form. It is articulated following classical design principles. As described above, the boundary between the entablature and main "shaft" of the building is marked by a line of cornice molding. Another line of molding delimits the boundary between the main "shaft" and the facades' foundation. The building's Mall and River entrances are also decorated with simplified classical cornices and friezes, located above and to either side of the doorways behind the colonnades.

All decorative elements are highly stripped of their classical elaboration, reflecting the influence of "modern" design principles. In the case of the Pentagon, these most closely resemble classical architecture's Tuscan Order, which is basically simplified Roman Doric. Its columns are unfluted, with decoration consisting largely of moldings.

Among the Pentagon's most notable modifications of classical elements are its central colonnades. Absent are double pitched triangular roof pediments characteristically associated with columned classical facades. In place of a pediment there is a plain frieze (corresponding to the building's fifth storey) extending completely around the Pentagon. It is surmounted by a horizontal cornice decorated with simple fillet molding. Below the fifth storey's frieze is another cornice that extends outward beyond the decorative elements above, contrary to traditional classical design. This projecting cornice contains both curved and fillet molding. Beneath this cornice, in accordance with classical design, is another frieze. This lower frieze consists of plain square slabs of limestone. Below it is a small molding (taenia). Above each column, a narrow panel (regula) is placed at the underside of the taenia. Projecting downward from each regula are eight small knobs (guttae). The presence of a regula and guttae above each column is a standard element of Doric Order (but not Tuscan) classical design. In true Doric, however, they are always placed directly below a decorative triglyph. In the case of the Pentagon, triglyphs are entirely absent, being replaced by the plain limestone slabs making up the entablature's lower frieze. Below the taenia is the building's architrave (epistyle), which is left plain. The columns of the Pentagon's colonnades are rectangular, unlike the rounded ones of traditional classicism. Their capitals, however, retain the normal capping slab (abacus) beneath which is a concave molding (echinus). The shaft of each column is plain as in the Tuscan Order, and rises from a rectangular base. The colonnades of the Pentagon's Mall and River Entrances rest upon a classical foundation platform containing both a lower course (sterobate) and an upper one (stylobate).

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The modern movement's central theme of functional and severe institutional architecture is quite evident in the design of the Pentagon. This serves to emphasize its hybridization of classical and modern architectural themes, and place it in the transitional period when classicism gave way to modernism in Federal architectural design. Even with its pared down decoration, however, the Pentagon owes far more to classical design principles than to modernism.

The Pentagon's framework is constructed of concrete reinforced with steel, and its outer walls are faced with gray Indiana limestone. The exterior walls of the concentric rings are bare concrete which have been given a wood-grain texture from being poured into wooden forms made of 8-inch boards. Non-bearing interior curtain walls are constructed largely of wood framing and drywall, or cinderblock, which has facilitated interior remodelling work. Reinforced concrete was utilized in constructing the Pentagon because of its speed of installation and the availability of necessary materials (sand, gravel) at the building site. The exterior facades of the Pentagon were faced with limestone at the direction of President Franklin D. Roosevelt, who felt that the use of marble would be an extravagance.

The interior of the Pentagon consists of five concentric pentagonal rings. This element of the design increases the amount of window area accessible to users, allowing in daylight. Each ring is five storeys in height with two basements. The innermost and outermost rings have sloping roofs, while the other three rings have flat roofs. In each ring offices are located on either side, divided laterally by a central corridor. The pentagonal rings are interconnected by ten main radial corridors (two to each side). In addition to offices there are supporting food service, maintenance, communications, medical, recreational, and retail store facilities. The office space is divided into rooms which are frequently joined lengthwise along a ring into suites organized according to interrelated functions. Offices range from single person rooms, to open bays containing large numbers of workers. Since 1943, remodelling has resulted in changes in the configurations of the office rooms, suites, and bays. For movement between floors there are wide ramps, stairways, and elevators. Office space is frequently organized so that interacting offices are located on the same floor level. This enables movement between related offices to be horizontal rather than vertical. The interior spaces of the Pentagon have been, and continue to be, decorated with changing exhibits of art and artifacts from the Defense Department's extensive collections. The innermost ring surrounds a 5-acre courtyard which retains its original landscaping. The Central Courtyard measures 360.8 feet along each of its five sides.

B. Site:

The Pentagon Complex is located in southern Arlington, Virginia. It is situated between a large man-made lagoon ("the Pentagon Lagoon") and the southeastern corner of Arlington National Cemetery. The northeastern and eastern facades of the 5-sided building have unobstructed vistas of the Monumental Core of the Federal City (Washington, D.C.), across the Potomac River. The Pentagon's relatively low profile also permits clear vistas of Washington from the highlands of Arlington National Cemetery, and vice versa.

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There are large terraces in front of the Pentagon's Mall and River Entrances. The River Entrance Terrace extends 900 feet to the Pentagon Lagoon, where a ceremonial landing dock consisting of two monumental stairways is flanked by two tall flagpoles. This terrace's maximum width is 450 feet. It retains its original landscaping. The largest element of the River Terrace is its upper level, which consists of a rectangular lawn-covered area (450 feet by 150 feet) bordered by walkways and low walls. This upper level is situated on an overpass which crosses Jefferson Davis Highway (Route 110). Also beneath it is a garage for official vehicles. At the eastern end of the upper level there is a drop in elevation to a middle level. A wide staircase at either side of the terrace provides access to the middle level, which contains a lawn-covered rectangular area (150 feet long by 450 feet wide). The eastern end of the middle level is marked by a drop in elevation to the level of Boundary Drive. Short stairways at either edge of the middle terrace carry the sidewalks to a crossing of that roadway. East of Boundary Drive, there is another drop in elevation to the lowest level of the terrace (50 feet by 450 feet), which fronts the Pentagon Lagoon.

The terrace in front of the Mall Entrance is smaller, measuring 600 feet by 125 feet. It rests atop a single-storey platform containing building maintenance support facilities. The entire upper level of this terrace is utilized for vehicle parking. At the northern edge of the upper level there is a broad monumental stairway which descends to a small rectangular intermediate platform. On the east and west sides of that platform, broad stairways descend to ground level. At the foot of the Mall Entrance terrace there is a lawn-covered parade ground (600 feet by 300 feet). The parade ground is all that remains of an extensive grassy area which originally extended northward to the intersection of Jefferson Davis Highway with Washington Boulevard. The need for more vehicular parking space led to the truncation of this grassy area and the conversion of its northern part into the Mall Entrance parking lot.

Other elements of the Pentagon Office Building Complex site include several parking areas (with a present capacity of about 12,000 vehicles), a heating and refrigeration plant, a wastewater treatment facility, Federal Building 2 (the "Navy Annex" office building), and a network of access roadways. The access roadways include cloverleaf interchanges, overpasses, and ramps. These have all undergone extensive modification and improvement since their original construction. There is also a heliport in front of the northwestern facade of the Pentagon. Adjacent to the Concourse Facade is the recently-built Pentagon Metrorail Station and Metrobus Terminal. To the east of the building is the Pentagon lagoon to which the River Entrance Terrace extends. On the crest of Arlington Ridge, in the western part of the Pentagon Site is Federal Building 2 (FB 2), also known as "the Navy Annex." It was built at the same time as the Pentagon, and designed as an industrial facility. FB 2 came to be used for administrative purposes, however, and presently houses offices associated with the Navy Department.

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In the decades since completion, several of the original features of the Pentagon Complex have undergone substantial changes. For example, the wastewater treatment facility has been expanded. While the Pentagon Lagoon retains its original configuration, it has become the location of the Columbia Island Marina. The Pennsylvania Railroad line to Rosslyn, which formerly extended from north to south across the eastern part of the Pentagon Complex Site, has been removed. The only remaining railway is a short spur providing access to the heating and refrigeration plant from the R.F. & P. Railroad, 0.3 mile to the east. The bus terminal in front of the Concourse facade of the Pentagon has been substantially expanded and modernized, as part of the construction of the underground Pentagon Metrorail Station, which also has an underground connection to the southern side of the Pentagon's Concourse level.

2. Original Physical Appearance:

A. Building:

The concept of a single massive office building to house all the wide variety of military command and control functions originated in July 1941. At that time, the U.S. military was rapidly expanding in response to the threat of U.S. involvement in World War II. First conceived by the Army's Chief of Construction, General Brehon B. Somervell, it was designed by civilian architects employed by the Quartermaster Corps' Construction Division (later incorporated into the Corps of Engineers). The project's chief architects were George Edwin Bergstrom (1876-1955) and David J. Witmer (1889-1973). From 1939 to 1941 Bergstrom was President of the American Institute of Architects. He and Witmer were co-chief architects of the U.S. War Department at the time. Besides their work on the Pentagon, both architects were active in Los Angeles County, California, where their executed work included a variety of public and private buildings and residences. During their tenure at the War Department, they supervised architectural design aspects of the United States Army's mobilization for World War II. The architectural design of the Pentagon was unique, however, and not related to Bergstrom and Witmer's other work.

The Pentagon's unusual 5-sided configuration developed from the physical shape dictated by the site originally proposed for it (adjacent to Memorial Drive, about three-fourths mile north of the location ultimately chosen). An early plan called for a square structure with one corner cut off (due to an existing road), which resulted in a skewed pentagonal shape. The site proposed was in Arlington, Virginia, because of its closeness to downtown Washington, D.C., and the ready availability of suitable land. Serious objections were raised to locating the building on the open land directly between Arlington Cemetery and Washington's Monumental Core, and discussions ensued regarding selection of a building site having less visual and physical impact. During the period prior to final selection of the building's site, the architectural planning process continued to refine its design. The final design retained the five sides, in the form of a regular pentagon, which gave rise to its name. That shape provided the most efficient use of the available space for both

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the design and functioning of the structure. Construction was begun in August 1941, and finished in January 1943. While its original estimated completion period was four years, the urgency associated with World War II served to spur construction. It was finished just 17 months after it was begun, a remarkable feat of civil engineering (Webb 1984). At its World War II peak, about 33,000 military and civilian employees worked in the Pentagon, in three shifts.

Illustrations of the Pentagon's original appearance are attached. These consist of a map of the Pentagon Complex in 1948 (Map # 3), and an aerial view dated the same year (Figure 3).

The exterior facades of the Pentagon retain their original appearance, as does the Central Courtyard facade. The interior spaces, however, have undergone extensive remodelling from their original 1940's appearance. The need for more office space has resulted in the enclosure of former open spaces and their utilization for administrative offices. The Concourse commercial center was initially designed according to the styles of that period, but has been changed to follow developments in public taste and architectural design.

B. Site:

For informational purposes, a copy of a map of the Pentagon Office Building Complex as it existed in 1948 is included with this nomination (Map # 3). The date of that map is only five years subsequent to the Pentagon's completion. It provides a good representation of the Pentagon and its Site as originally built. The Site complex consisted of several additional features. These included a wastewater treatment facility, the heating and refrigeration plant, Federal Building 2, warehouses, approach roads and interchanges, parking lots, the Pentagon Lagoon, and a railway spur to the heating and refrigeration plant. These have been discussed above.

As originally built, the Pentagon Site contained three cloverleaf interchanges that were among the earliest such structures constructed in the U.S. (though ones associated with the 1930's Pennsylvania Turnpike were earlier). These freeway-scale interchanges were necessary to handle traffic associated with the unusually large number of employees.

The Pentagon Lagoon was created during construction of the building as a result of the dredging of sand and gravel for concrete and of fill materials for landscaping purposes. It is the location of the water intake for the Pentagon's heating and refrigeration plant. The Roaches Run Waterfowl Sanctuary Lagoon, created during construction of the George Washington Parkway in the early 1930's, is used for the heating and refrigeration plant's water discharge outfall.

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To the north of the Mall Entrance, the original landscaping extended the lawn-covered area all the way to the intersection of Route 27 and Route 110. As described above, most of this area, except for the existing Parade Ground in front of the Mall Entrance Terrace, has been converted into parking facilities.

At the time of the Pentagon's construction, the surrounding terrain was also developed into a sprawling complex of military-related temporary structures (see Map # 3). These included FB 2, the Fort Myer South Post, the Arlington Farms Residence Hall, and a variety of other buildings. As a result, the Pentagon Complex Site originally included both administrative and residential functions for the War Department. Except for FB 2, the heating and refrigeration plant, and the wastewater treatment facility, all of the original structures that existed on the Pentagon Complex Site have been demolished. The Site is presently utilized exclusively for Department of Defense administrative functions.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input checked="" 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
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<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1941-Present

BUILDER/ARCHITECT G.E. Bergstrom, D.J. Witmer

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Pentagon qualifies for listing on the National Register under Criteria A., B., and C.

A. It is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the geopolitical role of the United States as a world superpower during the period from World War II to the present.

B. It is associated with the lives of persons significant in American history from the time of its construction (1941) to the present day.

C. It embodies the distinctive characteristics of the "Stripped Classical" variant of architectural classicism. This stylistic mode flourished during the second quarter of the 20th century, and was a major theme in Federal architecture (see Huxtable 1986:292; and Craig, et.al. 1978:331).

1. Significance under Criteria A.:

The historical context of the Pentagon's construction was the eve of America's entry into World War II. It came to be built because of the rapid expansion of the U.S. military during the 1940-1941 period. The building was originally conceived as a single massive structure that would contain the headquarters of military offices which had been forced to occupy leased space scattered around the D.C. area. The building site initially proposed was a tract of federally-owned undeveloped land (Arlington Farms) between Arlington National Cemetery and the Potomac River. The specific location was bounded by five roads, which led to the initial design of a building having five sides. The Arlington Farms site was criticized as an unwarranted intrusion on the open vistas between Washington's Monumental Core and the wooded heights of Arlington National Cemetery. As a consequence, President Franklin Roosevelt directed that the site be shifted three-fourths mile to the south. The new location was a low-lying tableland that served to accommodate the massive scale of the building while allowing convenient access to downtown Washington. The selected location incorporated enough open terrain to position the main building, associated structures, parking lots, and access roads. The total terrain incorporated within the Pentagon Complex amounted to 583 acres. Construction began in August 1941 and was completed in January 1943. Even though the building's site was shifted, the 5-sided configuration was retained as an essential element of the design. The project's construction crew amounted to 4,000 people, who worked 24-hours a day in three shifts.

See Continuation Sheet.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Gurney, Gene. The Pentagon. New York: Crown Publishers, Inc., 1964.

General Services Administration. The Pentagon Building. Washington, n.d.

See Continuation Sheet.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 41

UTM REFERENCES

A	18	32,14,3,5	4,30,4,4,4,5	B	18	32,17,4,5	4,30,4,4,8,0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	18	32,17,7,0	4,30,4,1,0,0	D	18	32,13,8,0	4,30,4,1,4,5
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The boundaries of the portions of the Pentagon Office Building Complex that have been nominated are shown on the accompanying Map # 1. The boundaries are marked with a heavy dark line. The nominated elements are indicated by shading.

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

STATE	N/A	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE		CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

See Continuation Sheet.

NAME / TITLE

Daniel Koski-Karell, President

ORGANIZATION

Karell Archeological Services

DATE

12 April 1988

STREET & NUMBER

P.O. Box 342

TELEPHONE

(202) 524-3749

CITY OR TOWN

Washington

STATE

D.C. 20044

12 CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

YES

NO

NONE

A. Bryan Mitchell
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

Del M. Ferguson HPO

TITLE

DIRECTOR, ARTS AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

1/21/89

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Lucy L. Davis

DATE

7/29/89

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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In the decades since its construction, the Pentagon Office Building has become both a symbolic and a physical element of the United States' emergence as an international military "superpower." It has been closely linked to the National Defense establishment of the United States, having been the headquarters of the War Department (now Department of the Army) since 1943, and the Department of Defense since its creation in 1947. As a consequence, the Pentagon has been the building in which innumerable events associated with the command and management of the armed services during the period from World War II to the present have taken place. Ever since the early months of World War II, and through the Korean and Vietnam Wars, this building has been the setting for decision-making and command processes which have been, and continue to be, of paramount importance to the national security of the United States.

The Pentagon has also become symbolic of the land, sea, and air armed forces of the U.S. both nationally and internationally. Its name has come to be accepted worldwide as the publicly recognized and commonly used nickname for the Department of Defense. The U.S. armed services, headquartered in the Pentagon, have developed into a singularly important institution in the Federal government and American Society. Prior to 1941, the U.S. armed forces in peacetime were relatively small and represented a limited force in national and international affairs. Since the 1940's, however, the Department of Defense has come to be the world's most powerful armed force, which is constantly prepared to conduct operations anywhere in the world at the direction of the President of the United States (Raymond 1964). The Defense Department is the largest Federal agency in terms of manpower and budget. Since its inception the Defense Department's central command and management functions have been headquartered at the Pentagon.

2. Significance under Criteria B.:

The historical context of the Pentagon includes its association with many persons who are significant to the modern period of United States history. Virtually every major figure associated with the Defense Department (since its creation in 1947 unified the American armed forces within a single executive department) has occupied an office in the Pentagon. These include the men and women who have been the leaders of the U.S. Army and Air Force from World War II to the present, and of the U.S. Navy since its incorporation into the Department of Defense.

Among those persons significant in the context of American history since 1941, several prominent individuals stand out. One of the first of these was General George C. Marshall, Chief of Staff of the Army during World War II and later Secretary of State under President Truman. Another was the first Secretary of Defense James V. Forrestal who directed the merger of the armed services departments into the present-day Department of Defense. Many other persons could also be listed,

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among them General (later President) Dwight D. Eisenhower, Admiral Hyman Rickover, Air Force General Curtis LeMay, and former Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara. Significantly, from the 1940's to the present day, every individual who has been Secretary of the Departments of Defense, Army, Navy, and Air Force, as well as virtually every senior officer of the American military establishment, has worked in the Pentagon Office Building for a portion of their careers.

3. Significance under Criteria C.:

The key theme of the Pentagon's architectural significance is that it was the largest and one of the last of Washington's monumental buildings designed according to the principles set out by the 1902 Senate Parks Commission (known as the "McMillan Commission"). It was the last major public building in the vicinity of Washington's Monumental Core designed in the "Stripped Classical" mode, which passed out of style in Federal architecture shortly thereafter.

The architectural context of the Pentagon's design was a period in which the concepts of two important, but divergent, architectural styles were synthesized into a mode of design that became a major development in 20th century Federal architecture. The predominant influence was classicism, a long-standing influence in American architecture which underwent a revival during the final decade of the 19th century. A resurgence of interest in Classical Greco-Roman design was evident in the Beaux-Arts classicism that dominated the "White City" of the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago. The elaborate and monumental Beaux-Arts classicism was a strong influence during the early 20th century as the Federal government began its first major period of public building construction. The appropriateness of classical style for Washington's major public buildings was reinforced by the "McMillan Commission", which proposed a grand plan for the development of Washington's core area. The McMillan Commission reinforced the "White City" movement by enunciating the appropriateness of the classical style for expressing the dignity of the United States' democratic institutions. It set out to establish a monumental presence symbolic of the importance of the Federal government in protecting democracy. The most lasting contribution of the McMillan Commission was to outline a Federal policy to assure consistency in planning Federal office construction. A major achievement of this policy of renewed emphasis on classical design was the Federal Triangle building complex, one of the most significant office complexes in the world.

During the 1920's, however, the classical tradition of architectural design was challenged by the emerging trend towards decorative simplicity and functional design characteristic of the "Modern" (or "International") school. Institutional buildings designed in the Modern Style were characterized by a severe functional simplicity, in stark contrast to the elaboration of Beaux-Arts classicism.

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Buildings designed following "Modern" principles were articulated very differently from those whose architects adhered to the rules of proportion and symmetry that are the essence of Beaux-Arts classicism. The functional simplicity of International architecture avoided articulation in the traditional sense. Distinctions between different building functions, and their importance in the socio-political hierarchy of human activity, were abandoned. Americans, however, resisted the idea that architecture make no distinction between the church, courthouse, business, or private residence.

During the early 1930's a synthesis of classicism and modernism developed. It has come to be termed the "Stripped Classical" mode (Huxtable 1986:292). This variety of classicism is also known as "Starved Classical" (Craig, et.al. 1978:331). The stripped classical architectural mode became a dominating influence for the design of Federal buildings during the 1930's, and remained prominent until the 1950's.

In the stripped classical genre, elements of the classical tradition (e.g. columns, moldings) were retained, but were presented in an austere and simple manner in buildings which were designed in the modern functional style. "Facades became simplified, their classical ornaments turning angular and disappearing into the masonry, their walls becoming planar and their window openings shallow and anonymous" (ibid. 282). Symmetry remained an important element of design, as did the classical exterior layering of decorative elements from top to bottom. The proportioning of composition included closures at the ends and a focal point at the center of the building's facades. Another characteristic was the utilization of new materials for building construction, reflecting advances in construction engineering during the 1930's and 1940's.

Stripped classical was commonly employed for public buildings built in the United States and other industrialized nations during the 1930's and 1940's (e.g. Mint Building--San Francisco, Federal Reserve Building--Washington, House of German Art--Munich). "Today, it is this starved (stripped) classicism...that most Americans think of when they think of federal architecture..." (ibid.). By the late 1950's, however, the "Modern" style attained prominence in architectural design and the stripped classical mode of design passed into history.

The Pentagon is the world's largest example of the stripped classical architectural mode. Until the construction of the World Trade Center in New York, it was the largest office building in the world. Even today, it is still the largest office building used for governmental administration, and the world's largest office building in terms of ground area covered (McWhirter 1985:175).

Architecturally, the Pentagon is a remarkable example of complex, yet highly efficient, design. It is virtually a small urban center under one roof, containing all of the functions normally associated with a municipality (General Services Administration n.d.). Its facilities include offices and building maintenance

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facilities, an indoor shopping mall, as well as food service, mail, medical, communications, and recreational facilities. The Pentagon Office Building is staffed by approximately 23,900 workers, and for more than thirty years after its construction it was the largest office building in the world (6,546,360 gross square feet). Despite the immense size, its unique design makes it possible to reach the farthest point in the building from any location in less than ten minutes' walking time. There are five concentric pentagonal rings which are interconnected by ten spoke-like radial corridors. In addition to stairways, escalators, and elevators, wide ramps were incorporated into the design to facilitate movement between storeys. These pedestrian ramps have also enhanced the mobility of handi-capped persons.

Its configuration, role, and location have combined to make the Pentagon an essential and important physical and symbolic element of the Monumental Core of the Nation's Capital. The stylistic design of the Pentagon's facades (described in Item 7., above) is similar to those of several other important public buildings associated with Washington's Monumental Core. Among those which are stylistically similar to the Pentagon, and of similar date, are the Department of the Interior Building, the Federal Reserve Building, the Old State Department Building, and the Main Terminal at Washington National Airport. While the design of its five facades resemble those of the other contemporaneous buildings, the sheer mass, shape, location, and ringed configuration of the Pentagon set it apart from the others, and bestow unique characteristics of scale, setting, and visual impact. The Pentagon was also one of the last of Washington's monumental Federal buildings designed in accordance with the McMillan Commission's emphasis on classicism as the central architectural theme.

The Pentagon's 5-acre central courtyard is included among the nominated elements. It was conceived as an intrinsic part of the design, and has remained essentially unchanged since the Pentagon was originally constructed. The courtyard has served as a park-like setting for meals, formal ceremonies, and other outdoor functions.

The building's five pentagonal rings, their intervening courts, and the rings' interiors have undergone substantial modifications (including in-filling of formerly-open courts to create more office space). These have been in response to changing needs in fulfilling the missions of the agencies occupying the building. As a consequence of these extensive changes to the building's original design, the Pentagon's enclosed spaces are not included in the elements being nominated.

The landscaping of the Pentagon Office Building Complex is generally functional in nature. The only significant exceptions are the pentagonal Central Courtyard, the River Entrance Terrace, and the Mall Entrance Terrace. Most of the other exterior spaces beyond the building's facades contain remains of the original

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design, but have been substantially modified by subsequent construction. For example, the Pentagon Complex site has been changed from its original form through construction of additional parking areas, the Pentagon Metrorail-Metrobus Station, the building's heliport, and improvements to highways and roadways.

Situated to the north of the Mall Entrance Terrace is the Pentagon's Parade Ground. This lawn-covered area originally extended all the way to the Jefferson Davis Highway--Washington Boulevard intersection. It was truncated, however, for the construction of an additional parking area. The Parade Ground remaining intact consists of a rectangular grassy area measuring 200 feet (north-south) by 600 feet (east-west).

The original Pentagon Complex included three true cloverleaf interchanges and one modified cloverleaf. At the time of their initial construction they were early examples of that modern highway design feature (though ones built for the Pennsylvania Turnpike were earlier). In the years since then, however, improvements to Shirley highway, Washington Boulevard, and Jefferson Davis highway, as well as other roadways and ramps on the Pentagon Site, have resulted in substantial alterations from the original design, including the complete elimination of two cloverleaves and the redesign of the remaining two.

Except for the Pentagon Site's two terraces, the original landscaping, roadways, and associated features surrounding the Pentagon Building are not sufficiently preserved to justify their being considered significant to the Pentagon's historical architectural context.

4. Conclusion:

Within the Pentagon Office Building Complex, there are a variety of architectural elements. Five of these elements are considered to have sufficient original integrity to be identified for nomination. These are illustrated in the attached map entitled "Pentagon Office Building Complex (1985)." The nominated elements are as follows:

- (1) The building's five facades, especially the two main entrances (Mall and River).
- (2) The Pentagon's 5-acre Central Courtyard.
- (3) The terrace adjoining the Mall Entrance.
- (4) The terrace adjoining the River Entrance.
- (5) The characteristic 5-sided shape of the building, which gave rise to its name.

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Changes to the interior of the Pentagon and the surrounding Site have resulted in substantial modifications that have affected the building's original integrity. These changes have not, however, detracted from its historical significance under Criteria A. and B. The aspects of the Pentagon under Criteria C. that retain their original integrity as initially built are those included in this nomination.

The Pentagon's construction was completed in 1943. As a consequence, this building will become 50 years old in 1993. Thus it is less than the typical eligibility age for nomination. However, the Pentagon is of an exceptional level of historical significance. It is being nominated at this time because planning is underway to add new buildings to the Pentagon Site and to renovate existing structures. As a consequence, the General Services Administration has decided to proceed with this nomination in order to evaluate the Pentagon and its Site for historical significance, and to determine which key elements should be respected during the present planning and design process.

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Substantial assistance in preparing this nomination was provided by Mr. Mark J. Maves, Keyes Condon Florance Architects, 1320 Nineteenth St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036.

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM

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SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- ENCLOSE WITH MAP

1 NAME MAP # 1:
 HISTORIC Pentagon Office Building Complex (1985)

AND/OR COMMON
 The Pentagon

2 LOCATION
 CITY, TOWN Arlington VICINITY OF COUNTY Arlington STATE Virginia

3 MAP REFERENCE
 SOURCE Keyes Condon Florance, Architects-Planners, "The Pentagon Complex Master Plan."
 SCALE 1:11,000 DATE 1985

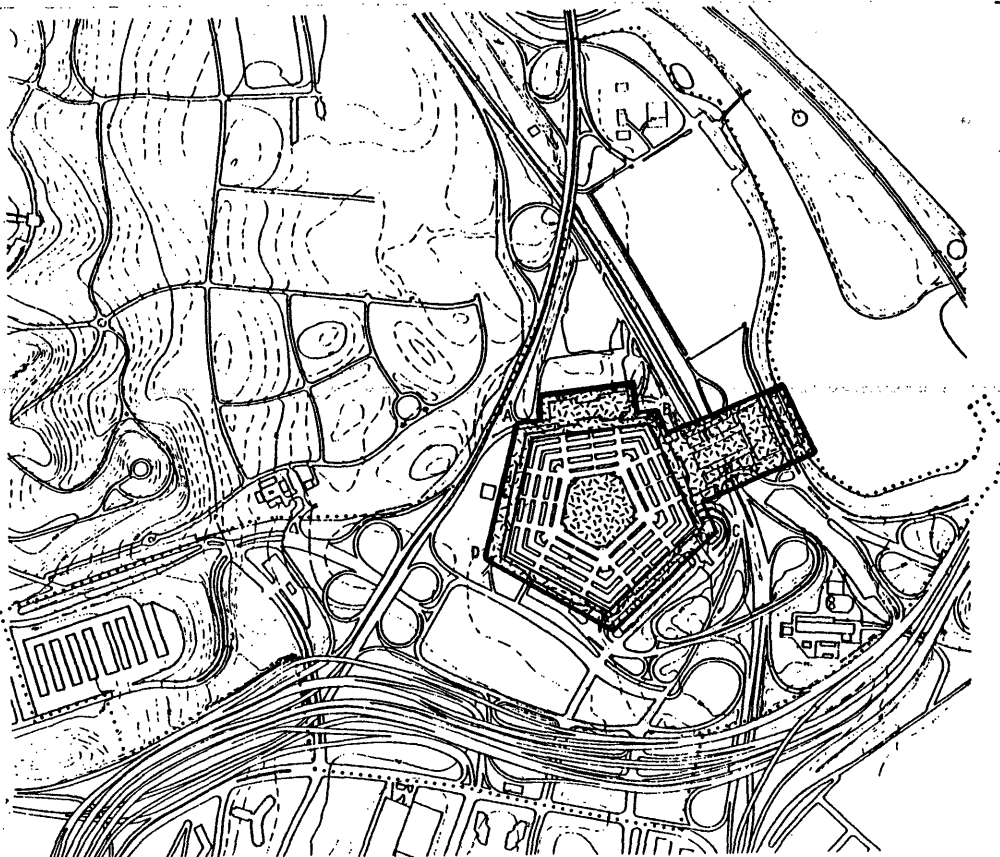
4 REQUIREMENTS

- TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS
1. PROPERTY BOUNDARIES
 2. NORTH ARROW
 3. UTM REFERENCES



UTM REFERENCES (ZONE 18):

A.	E:	321435	N:	4304445
B.	E:	321745	N:	4304480
C.	E:	321770	N:	4304100
D.	E:	321380	N:	4304145

INT: 3464-75

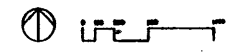


The PENTAGON
COMPLEX
MASTER
PLAN
ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA

-  LIMIT OF PENTAGON COMPLEX SITE
-  PORTIONS INCLUDED IN NOMINATION

THE U.S. GENERAL SERVICES
ADMINISTRATION
NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION

KEYES CONDON FLORANCE
ARCHITECTS PLANNERS
DAVID VOLBERT & ASSOCIATES
P/R ARCHITECTS
GLADSTONE ASSOCIATES
RED WALTERS PLAN ROOM



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PROPERTY MAP FORM

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SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- ENCLOSE WITH MAP

1 NAME MAP # 2:

HISTORIC Pentagon Office Building Complex Vicinity (1983)

AND/OR COMMON The Pentagon

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN Arlington VICINITY OF COUNTY Arlington STATE Virginia

3 MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE U.S. Geological Survey "Alexandria, VA.-D.C.-MD." 7.5' Series
Topographic Quadrangle.

SCALE 1:24,000 DATE 1983

4 REQUIREMENTS

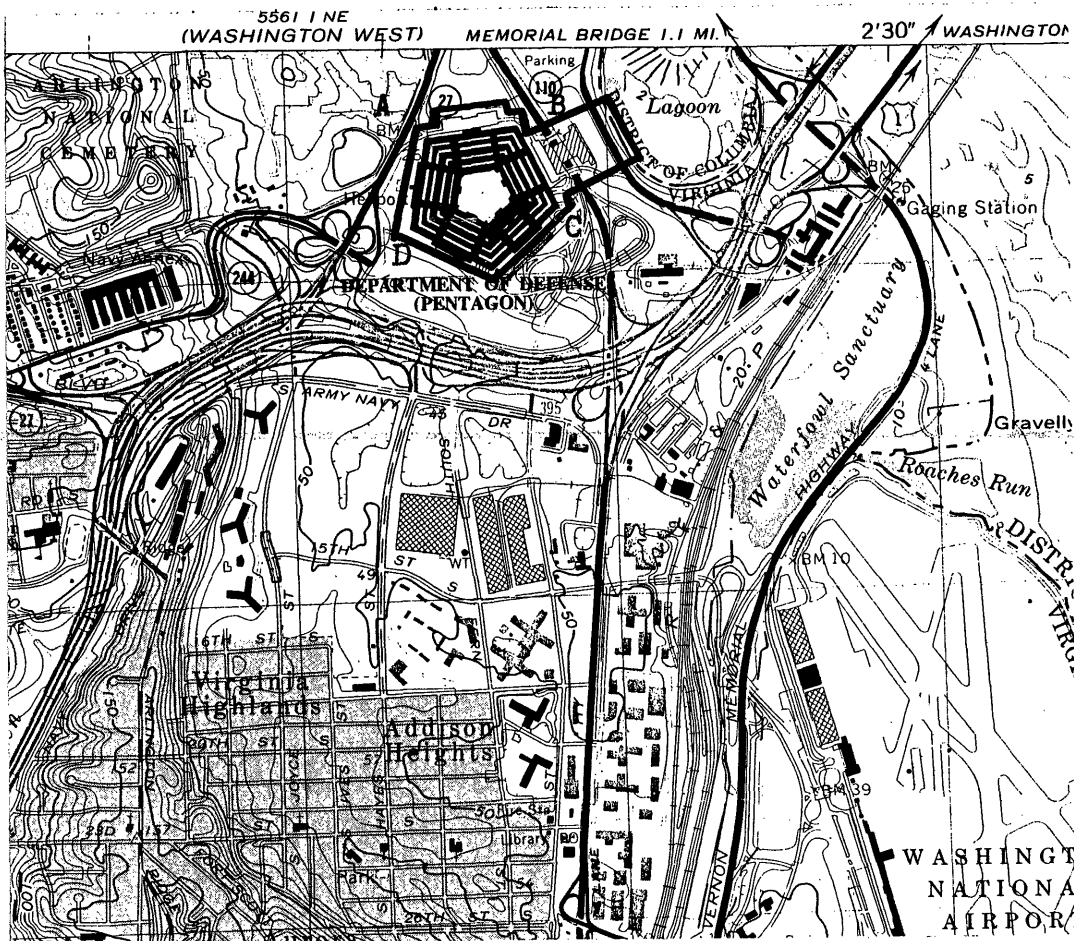
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

- 1. PROPERTY BOUNDARIES
- 2. NORTH ARROW
- 3. UTM REFERENCES

UTM REFERENCES (ZONE 18):

- A. E: 321435 N: 4304445
- B. E: 321745 N: 4304480
- C. E: 321770 N: 4304100
- D. E: 321380 N: 4304145

INT: 3464-75



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PROPERTY MAP FORM

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SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- ENCLOSE WITH MAP

1 NAME MAP # 3:

HISTORIC Pentagon Office Building Complex (1948)

AND/OR COMMON
The Pentagon

2 LOCATION

CITY/TOWN Arlington VICINITY OF COUNTY Arlington STATE Virginia

3 MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE National Geographic Society. "A Pocket Map of Central Washington District of Columbia."

SCALE 1:15,840 DATE 1948

4 REQUIREMENTS

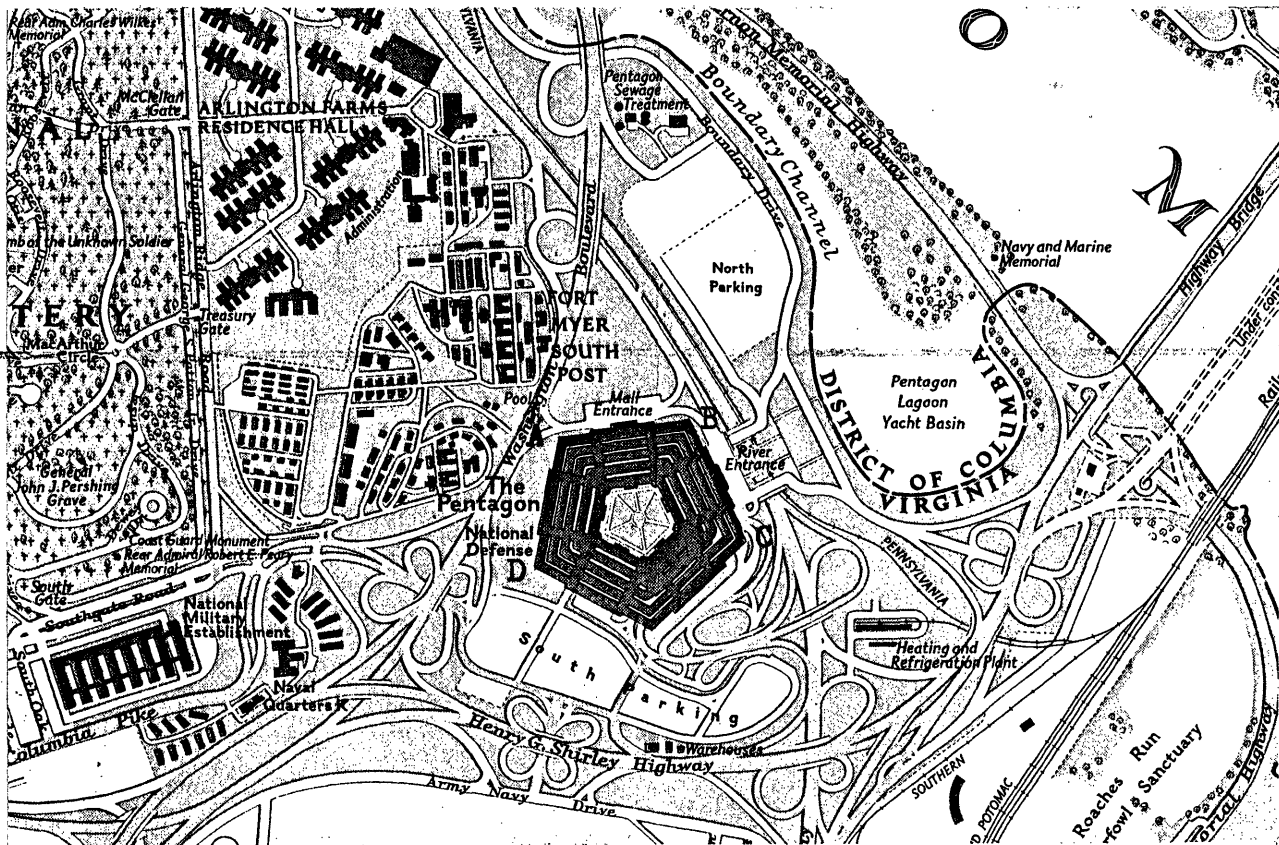
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

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2. NORTH ARROW
3. UTM REFERENCES

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PENTAGON NATIONAL REGISTER NOMINATION

Photographs (Black & White, 8"x10")

CONTINUATION SHEET

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1. Pentagon Office Building Complex.
Arlington, Virginia.
Photo by MSgt. Ken Hammond, U.S. Air Force.
Summer 1985.
Negative enclosed with National Register nomination.
View: Aerial view of the Pentagon, River Entrance
Facade and Terrace in foreground; camera facing
southwest towards Federal Building Number 2.
1 of 10.

2. Pentagon Office Building Complex.
Arlington, Virginia.
Photo by Daniel Koski-Karell.
22 June 1988.
Negative enclosed with National Register nomination.
View: Pentagon Cornerstone and Dedication Plaque,
located adjacent to the Mall Entrance; camera
facing south towards the wall bearing the plaque.
2 of 10.

3. Pentagon Office Building Complex.
Arlington, Virginia.
Photo by U.S. Navy.
1948.
Negative enclosed with National Register nomination.
View: Aerial view of the Pentagon; camera facing
southeast from an aircraft over Arlington
National Cemetery.
3 of 10.

4. Pentagon Office Building Complex.
Arlington, Virginia.
Photo by Daniel Koski-Karell.
22 June 1988.
Negative enclosed with National Register nomination.
View: General view of the Pentagon, South Parking
Entrance facade on the left, Concourse facade on
the right; camera facing northwest.
4 of 10.

See Continuation Sheet.

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5. Pentagon Office Building Complex.
Arlington, Virginia.
Photo by Daniel Koski-Karell.
22 June 1988.
Negative enclosed with National Register nomination.
View: River Entrance of the Pentagon; camera facing
southwest from Columbia Island Marina.
5 of 10.

6. Pentagon Office Building Complex.
Arlington, Virginia.
Photo by Daniel Koski-Karell.
22 June 1988.
Negative enclosed with National Register nomination.
View: Middle level stairways and upper level face of the
River Entrance's Terrace; camera facing southwest
from the northeastern corner of the Terrace.
6 of 10.

7. Pentagon Office Building Complex.
Arlington, Virginia.
Photo by Daniel Koski-Karell.
22 June 1988.
Negative enclosed with National Register nomination.
View: Central colonnade of the Pentagon's River
Entrance; camera facing southwest from the
terrace in front of the River Entrance.
7 of 10.

8. Pentagon Office Building Complex.
Arlington, Virginia.
Photo by Daniel Koski-Karell.
22 June 1988.
Negative enclosed with National Register nomination.
View: Northern half of the River Entrance facade of
the Pentagon; camera facing west from the eastern
end of the upper level of the River Entrance's
Terrace.
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9. Pentagon Office Building Complex.
Arlington, Virginia.
Photo by Daniel Koski-Karell.
22 June 1988.
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View: Detail of the central portion of the River
Entrance's central colonnade; camera facing
west from the southwestern corner of the
River Entrance's Terrace.
9 of 10.
10. Pentagon Office Building Complex.
Arlington, Virginia.
Photo by Daniel Koski-Karell.
22 June 1988.
Negative enclosed with National Register nomination.
View: Western half of the Mall Entrance of the Pentagon,
and northern face of the Mall Entrance's Terrace;
camera facing southwest from the northern edge of
the lawn on the northern side of the Mall Entrance's
Terrace.
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See Continuation Sheet.

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5. Pentagon Office Building Complex.
Arlington, Virginia.
Photo by Daniel Koski-Karell.
22 June 1988.
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View: River Entrance of the Pentagon; camera facing southwest from Columbia Island Marina.
5 of 10.
6. Pentagon Office Building Complex.
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Photo by Daniel Koski-Karell.
22 June 1988.
Negative enclosed with National Register nomination.
View: Middle level stairways and upper level face of the River Entrance's Terrace; camera facing southwest from the northeastern corner of the Terrace.
6 of 10.
7. Pentagon Office Building Complex.
Arlington, Virginia.
Photo by Daniel Koski-Karell.
22 June 1988.
Negative enclosed with National Register nomination.
View: Central colonnade of the Pentagon's River Entrance; camera facing southwest from the terrace in front of the River Entrance.
7 of 10.
8. Pentagon Office Building Complex.
Arlington, Virginia.
Photo by Daniel Koski-Karell.
22 June 1988.
Negative enclosed with National Register nomination.
View: Northern half of the River Entrance facade of the Pentagon; camera facing west from the eastern end of the upper level of the River Entrance's Terrace.
8 of 10.

See Continuation Sheet.

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Arlington, Virginia.

Photo by Daniel Koski-Karell.

22 June 1988.

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View: Detail of the central portion of the River
Entrance's central colonnade; camera facing
west from the southwestern corner of the
River Entrance's Terrace.

9 of 10.

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Arlington, Virginia.

Photo by Daniel Koski-Karell.

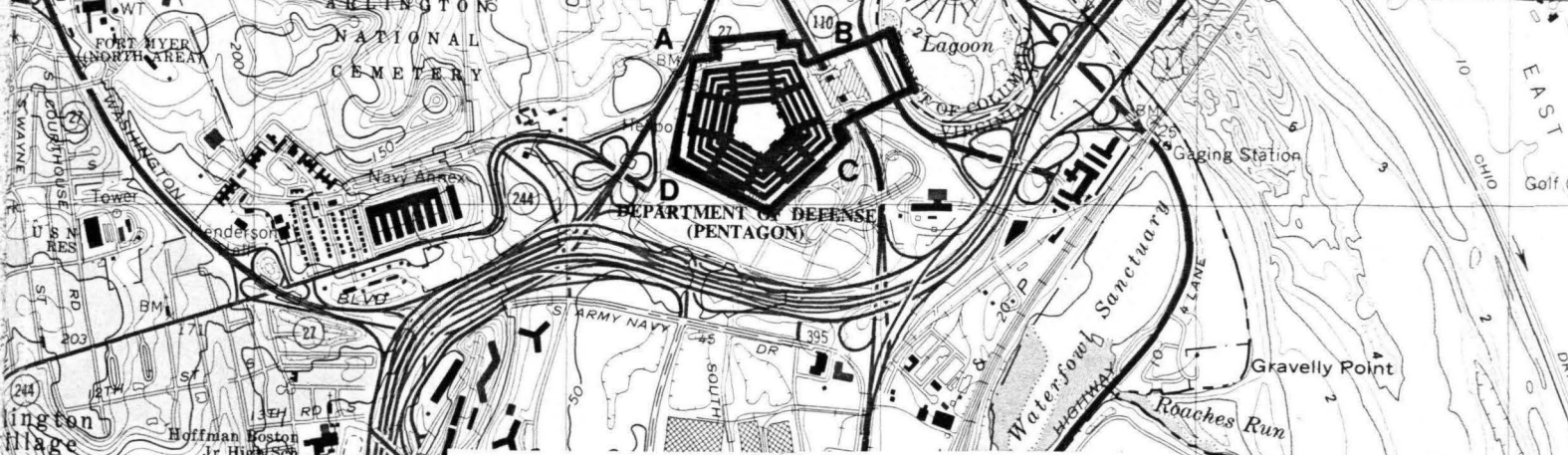
22 June 1988.

Negative enclosed with National Register nomination.

View: Western half of the Mall Entrance of the Pentagon,
and northern face of the Mall Entrance's Terrace;
camera facing southwest from the northern edge of
the lawn on the northern side of the Mall Entrance's
Terrace.

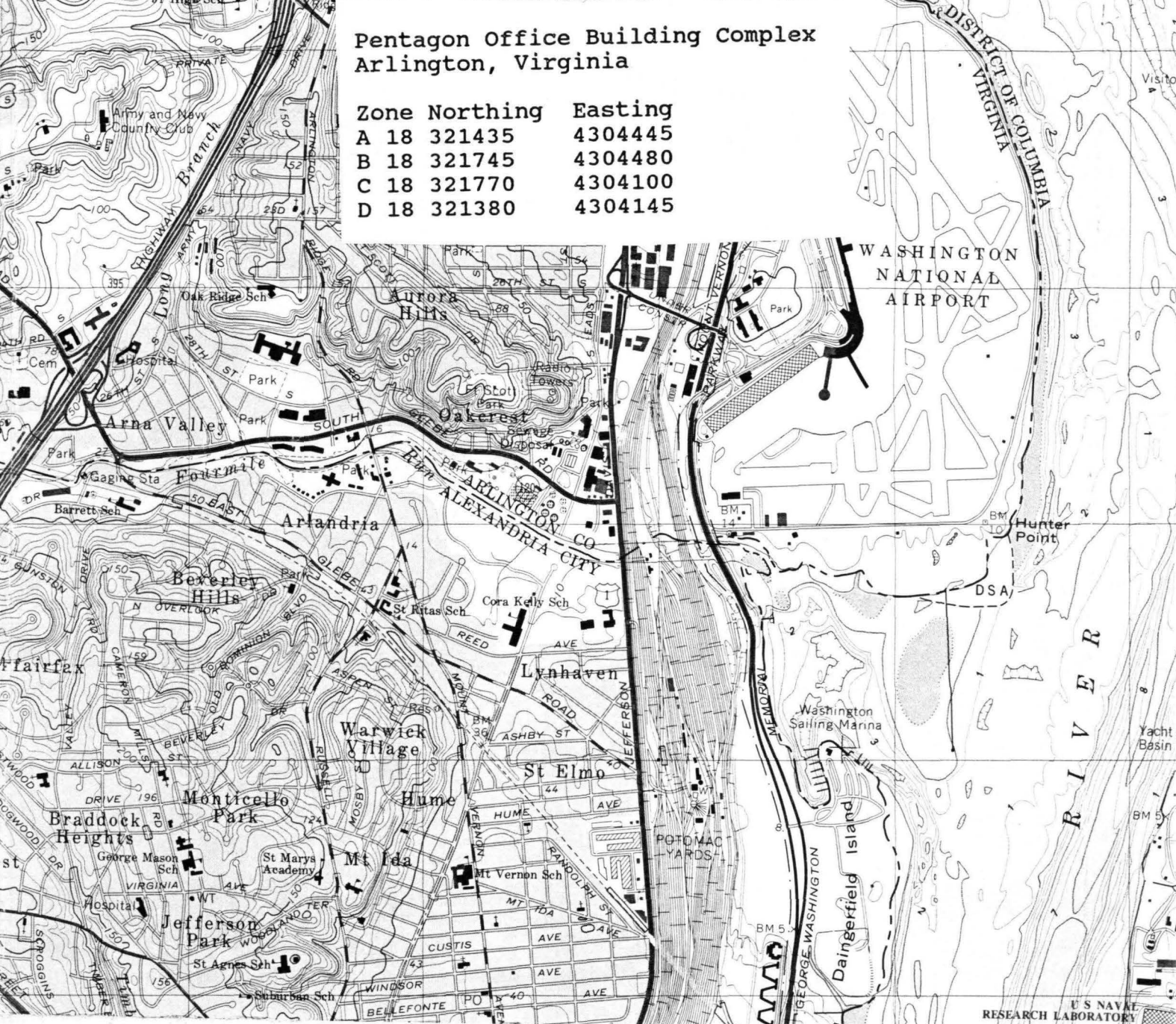
10 of 10.

51 20 5561 1 NE (WASHINGTON WEST) MEMORIAL BRIDGE 1.1 MI. 2'30" WASHINGTON MONUMENT 1.2 MI.



Pentagon Office Building Complex Arlington, Virginia

Zone	Northing	Easting
A	18 321435	4304445
B	18 321745	4304480
C	18 321770	4304100
D	18 321380	4304145



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 89000932 Date Listed: 7/27/89

Pentagon Office Building Complex Arlington VA
Property Name: County: State:

Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.


Signature of the Keeper

6/9/92
Date of Action

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Amended Items in Nomination:

This Supplementary Listing Record clarifies what is included within the boundary of the listed property. The boundary of the National Register listing for the Pentagon is the 41 acre site outlined in black on Map #1 of the nomination form. The entire Pentagon Office Building Complex and its setting, located within the 41 acre boundary, are listed in the National Register. The nomination is officially amended to include this boundary clarification.

DISTRIBUTION:

National Register property file
Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)