NPS Form 10-900
~~United States Department of the Interior~~
National Park Service

NRHP Listed: 8/10/2020

OMB No. 1024-0018

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form.* If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

1. Name of Property

Historic name: United States Geological Survey National Center
Other names/site number: _____
Name of related multiple property listing:

_____

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing

2. Location

Street & number: 12201 Sunrise Valley Drive
City or town: Reston State: VA County: Fairfax
Not For Publication: ☐ Vicinity: ☐

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this X nomination ___ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property X meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

___**national** ___**statewide** X **local**

Applicable National Register Criteria:

X **A** ___**B** X **C** ___**D**

6/19/2020

Signature of certifying official/Title: **Date**

Federal Preservation Officer, U.S. General Services Administration

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property ✓ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.

7-8-2020

Signature of commenting official: **Date**

DIRECTOR

Title : **State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government**

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

___ entered in the National Register

___ determined eligible for the National Register

___ determined not eligible for the National Register

___ removed from the National Register

___ other (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper | Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

Private:	☐
Public – Local	☐
Public – State	☐
Public – Federal	X

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

Building(s)	X
District	☐
Site	☐
Structure	☐
Object	☐

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
3	7	buildings
1	0	sites
0	4	structures
0	1	objects
4	12	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

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6. Function or Use
Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)
Government/government office
Education/research facility
Industry/communications facility

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)
Government/government office

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)
MODERN MOVEMENT/Modernistic

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)
Principal exterior materials of the property: CONCRETE, ALUMINUM, STEEL, GLASS

Narrative Description

Summary Paragraph

The U.S. Geological Survey National Center is located in Reston, Virginia, on a 106.1-acre campus situated just to the south of the intersection of the Fairfax County Parkway and the Dulles Access Road. The General Services Administration (GSA) developed the complex between 1971 and 1974 to serve as the headquarters of the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), a bureau within the Department of the Interior. The architecturally distinctive, Modern complex was designed by Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (SOM) of Chicago in collaboration with the Arlington-based architecture and engineering firm H. D. Nottingham & Associates. The USGS National Center includes one site: the wooded and landscaped property, and three contributing buildings: the John Wesley Powell Federal Building (1974), Central Utility Plant (1974), and Solid-State Physics Laboratory (1973). Non-contributing buildings, structures and objects include: the Advanced Systems Center (1993), six metal sheds, four cooling towers, and a sculpture. Measuring approximately 1,200 feet long, the Powell Building is sited in the center of the property along a low ridge and is oriented northwest-southeast. The one million square foot building, designed to accommodate 2,500 employees, is irregular in plan, ranges from two to seven stories in height, and features a flat roof. Its Modern design incorporates a combination of exterior curtain wall and precast concrete elements. Located approximately 200 feet to the northeast of the building is the 48,250 square-foot Central Utility Plant, constructed to house the facility's heating and refrigeration equipment. Contemporary with the Powell Building, it was also designed by SOM and Nottingham & Associates. The two-story building is rectangular in plan, and its design includes precast concrete columns and panels and exterior steel cladding. The Solid-State Physics Laboratory is situated approximately 800 feet to the southeast of the

Powell Building and encloses approximately 13,300 square feet of space. The building, which features an aggregate concrete and steel paneled exterior, was designed by H.D. Nottingham & Associates, Inc., and was constructed between 1971 and 1973. It was designed to house a small team of scientists and technicians who developed analytical equipment for field use in the USGS's mineral exploration program. Approximately 200 feet to the southeast of the Powell Building is the non-contributing Advanced Systems Center, which was designed by Nottingham & Associates and constructed in 1993. Intended to architecturally complement the Powell Building, the 34,500 square-foot building was built to serve as the headquarters for the National Civil Applications Program, a component of the Survey's Mapping, Remote Sensing, and Geographic Investigations Program.

Narrative Description

Site Context

The mostly wooded property contains a central campus-like area that is enclosed by a network of interior circulation roads. USGS Drive curves along the west and south edges of the property, with vehicular entrances located at the northeast corner of the site at Sunrise Valley Drive, and at the southeast corner at South Lakes Drive. Branching off from USGS Drive at its intersection with South Lakes Drive, an additional circulation road runs to the east of the Advanced Systems Center, where it curves to the northwest and terminates between the Powell Building and Central Utility Plant. Accessed by these roadways are a series of large asphalt parking lots located to the south and southwest of the Powell Building.

The landscape design of the USGS National Center complements its architectural resources and retains the site's natural topography and wooded character, augmented by nature trails, geological specimens, and a diverse array of introduced plantings. The approach to the main entrance of the Powell Building from USGS Drive offers a dramatic view of its administration wing across a diamond-shaped lawn. This lawn, an original design element, is framed on each side by dual paved driveways and is accented by trees and shrubs. Original landscape plans, discussed later in greater detail, sought to retain as much of the existing forest cover as possible, both for environmental and aesthetic reasons. SOM and Nottingham & Associates combined the natural, existing trees and shrubs with a variety of both native and exotic plantings, many of which remain on the property. The Woodland Walk, a nature trail located to the north of the Powell Building's administration wing, features a network of curved pathways and is an original, designed landscape element. In addition, large rock specimens, native to the Maryland and Virginia piedmont, were placed on gravel pads around the USGS complex shortly after its completion and are connected by a pathway known as the Rock Garden Walk.[1] A non-contributing sculpture by artist Robert Lobe, *Harmony Ridge*, is located just outside of the cafeteria. It was installed in 1996 as part of the GSA Art in Architecture program.[2]

[1] Personal Communication, Kenneth Thayer, Chief, National Center Operations Branch, May 23, 2019.
[2] General Services Administration, Artwork Overview Information, "Harmony Ridge," https://www.gsa.gov/fine-arts#/artwork/21057 (accessed May 22, 2019).

John Wesley Powell Federal Building – Exterior

The Powell Building consists of three sections: the administration, laboratory, and map reproduction wings. Irregular in plan, the administration and laboratory wings appear as a series of overlapping eight-pointed stars – a geometric motif that features prominently in the design of the facility. The attached map reproduction wing (also known as the printing plant) extends to the southeast and is rectangular in plan. A two-lane paved circulation road extends through the building at the junction of the laboratory and printing plant via a rectangular opening in the first story of the east and west elevations.

The Powell Building decreases in height in a stepped fashion from northwest to southeast, ranging from seven stories at the administration wing to one story at the south end of the printing plant. In addition, a one-story, rectangular-plan cafeteria extends from the north elevation of the administration wing. The Powell Building features a flat roof, which at the administration wing is pierced by two one-story sunken courtyards. In outline, these courtyards correspond to the plan of the wing, and along with a central, square-plan penthouse, combine to form the shape of an eight-pointed star. The roof of the laboratory wing also features a square-plan penthouse along with a smaller square-shaped sunken courtyard and two cross-shaped mechanical enclosures. All three courtyards are surfaced in concrete pavers and have central, star-shaped, raised concrete planting beds. The mechanical enclosures are clad in porcelainized steel vertical panels.

The late Modern Powell Building is of reinforced concrete construction and exhibits a uniformity of design elements and materials. Each story of the administration and laboratory wings features a band of continuous glass curtain wall, with mullions and window frames of satin-black extruded aluminum, that wrap around all elevations. On each of the upper stories, the curtain wall rests on faceted precast aggregate concrete spandrel panels, and is recessed behind a continuous concrete balcony, or terrace, that, like the curtain walls, extends around each elevation of the administration and laboratory wings. Round precast concrete columns with distinctive, faceted concrete capitals are spaced at regular intervals around the perimeter and extend from ground level through the balcony at each story before terminating at the concrete cornice that defines the building's roofline.

Along the east elevation of the laboratory wing, at the second through fourth stories, the exterior terraces widen and are accessible for employee use. Each of these terraces is set back in a stepped fashion, and varies in plan, corresponding to the geometry of the building outline. They are accessed from the interior through sets of double-leaf glass and aluminum doors set within the exterior curtain wall. These terraces have concrete paver floors and aggregate concrete and steel railings. The concrete portion of the terrace railings are faceted in a manner that references the star motif found throughout the facility's design.

A similar, accessible terrace extends around the north end of the administration wing's first story. It continues onto the roof of the cafeteria, where it features four stepped, concrete, bench-like elements that together form a star shape and define a small, central, square-shaped plaza. Each outer face of these four stepped concrete elements contains a series of narrow, single-pane, fixed-sash clerestory windows to illuminate the interior of the cafeteria.

The printing plant wing ranges from one to two stories in height, due to the sloping topography of the site. Like the administration and laboratory wings, the elevations of the printing plant present an exterior concrete structure articulated through round columns and a precast cornice. In addition to these concrete elements, the printing plant is clad in an exterior sheathing of vertical porcelainized steel panels. This steel sheathing exhibits a matte black finish that imparts an industrial aesthetic to this section of the building. At the first story, this sheathing is pierced at intervals by rectangular aluminum louvered vents that range from partial to full height. A small non-contributing metal shed stands to the northeast of the printing plant wing.

The Powell Building features two primary entrances. The main entrance is located in the west elevation of the administration wing, while the visitors' entrance is in the west elevation of the laboratory wing. Both consist of sets of double-leaf glass and aluminum doors and revolving glass doors. The entrances are set within the exterior curtain wall and are sheltered by the overhang of the second story concrete terrace. A loading dock and delivery bays are located on the east side of the laboratory wing and feature five overhead-rolling metal doors.

Powell Building – Interior

The interior of the Powell Building (administration and laboratory wings) is divided into four, overlapping star-shaped sections, designated as stacks A-D. Stack A contains seven floors, stack B five floors, stack C four floors, and stack D three floors. Overall, the interior plan and organization of each stack consists of a combination of undivided open work areas and individual offices arranged around the perimeter of each floor. The building's corridors and offices typically feature carpeted floors, rubber baseboard strips, and gypsum board walls. Ceilings vary from drywall to acoustical panels and the corridors feature inset LED lighting. The Powell Building contains a central elevator core of five passenger elevators and one freight elevator in the administration wing. Three passenger elevators and one freight elevator are located in the laboratory wing. The Powell Building also contains eleven stairwells and twelve mechanical service cores.

The main entrance lobby occupies the entire western half of the administration wing's first floor, flowing around the central service core. The lobby is one of the most distinctive spaces in the Powell Building, and it communicates the sleek, Modern aesthetic that characterized SOM's corporate and institutional interiors during the post-World War II era. Similar in many respects to the lobby of SOM's iconic Lever House in New York (1952), it incorporates the building's outer curtain wall into its design, which adds to the open, Modern feel of the space while providing ample natural lighting. In addition, the lobby features expansive polished terrazzo flooring, round concrete columns with inset terrazzo bases, and a plaster ceiling with popcorn finish. The interior walls of the lobby are clad in granite, which was sourced from quarries at Cold Spring, Minnesota, and the lobby's east wall bears the script "USGS" in raised granite letters. The four letters are arranged around a thin cross-shaped feature deeply incised in the granite wall. A polished, stainless steel strip is inset within the vertical arm of the cross, while mirror glass is inset in the horizontal arm with the words "U.S. Department of the Interior" in raised enameled metal lettering adhered to the glass. A six-pointed, star-shaped, granite and stainless-steel information desk is situated in the center of the lobby. As seen in the lobby of Lever House, this space also features lounge, or conversation, areas with seating. In the Powell Building's main lobby, these lounge areas, which are located at the north and south ends of the

space, are depressed one foot down from floor level, creating conversation pits. One conversation pit has been covered to provide exhibit space but the other continues to function as a lounge with upholstered seating arranged in an irregular tessellated pattern forming a "M" shape.

The central service core, which contains the elevators and lobby restrooms, is enclosed by granite-faced partition walls and is bisected by the elevator corridor. The walls of the elevator corridor are also clad in granite. The elevators feature single-slide stainless steel doors and surrounds. In addition, two stainless steel dedication plaques are mounted onto the south granite-faced partition wall. They are inscribed with the following text:

(Left Plaque)

JOHN WESLEY POWELL FEDERAL BUILDING
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY NATIONAL CENTER
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
DEDICATION JULY 12, 1974
GROUNDBREAKING JULY 31, 1971
CONSTRUCTION AUTHORIZED MAY 5, 1969
Designed by
SKIDMORE, OWINGS & MERRILL
and
H. D. NOTTINGHAM & ASSOCIATES, INC.
Architects and Engineers
Constructed by
GULF RESTON PROPERTIES, INC.
WILLIAM H. MAGNESS
President
Construction Management
by
FREDERIC R. HARRIS, INC.
Consulting Engineers
GEORGE HYMAN CONSTRUCTION CO.
Builder

(Right Plaque)

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
RICHARD NIXON
President
ROGERS C. B. MORTON
Secretary of the Interior
WILLIAM T. PECORA
Under Secretary of the Interior
V. E. McKELVEY
Director, Geological Survey
WILLIAM A. RADLINSKI
Associate Director

WILLIAM A. SCHMIDT
Assistant to Director
ROBERT H. LYDDAN
Chairman, Building Committee
DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION UNDER THE DIRECTION
OF
GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION
ARTHUR F. SAMPSON
Administrator
1972

Two escalators are situated to the north of the lobby's service core and have stainless-steel housings and landing plates.

The auditorium is another prominent interior space within the Powell Building. It is located on the first floor of the laboratory wing, within Stack C, to the east of the visitor's entrance. The stage is in the east end, a central, square-shaped depressed seating area occupies the center of the space, and three rectangular seating niches are recessed into the north, south, and west walls. The floor of the stage is finished in terrazzo, while the rest of the auditorium floor is carpeted. Its walls are clad in fabric acoustical panels and sets of tall double-leaf wood doors are located at each of the room's four corners. Also located in each corner are large round painted concrete columns with inset terrazzo bases. Above the depressed central seating area, the ceiling is deeply coffered, with each coffer containing round suspended LED lighting fixtures.

The Powell Building contains over one hundred laboratories. These spaces are located on the first through fifth floors of the laboratory wing in stacks B, C, and D. When first constructed, these facilities housed the operations of the Water Resources, Topographic, and Geologic Divisions. These laboratories are still in full use and support current research being undertaken by USGS in these and other areas. They were renovated during the late 1990s and early 2000s.[3]

Much of the basement is devoted to the cafeteria and custodial spaces. The large cafeteria is rectangular in plan and can seat approximately 600 people. It features triangular skylight cutouts on the ceiling which when combined, form the eight-pointed star shape repeated throughout the building. Curtain walls on three sides of the cafeteria provide a large amount of light into the space and allow diners to be immersed in the surrounding natural landscape. In addition to the cafeteria, several rooms on the basement level are used for private dining, meeting spaces, library storage, general storage, and a mail room. Educational exhibits are located throughout the building and display the scientific and technical aspects of the work conducted by the Survey.

The attached printing plant wing is no longer operational. This portion of the building currently houses Department of Defense staff and the Department of the Interior's Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO). The printing plant also contains data centers for the USGS, OCIO, and the National Park Service.[4] To the north of the printing plant wing is a non-contributing pre-fabricated metal shed that was added sometime after 1978.

[3] Personal Communication, Kenneth Thayer, Chief, National Center Operations Branch, May 23, 2019.
[4] Ibid.

Central Utility Plant

The Central Utility Plant is a two-story, rectangular-plan building with a flat roof. The building measures 110 by 180 feet, and features a one-story, rectangular-plan mechanical penthouse. Chilled water from the Central Utility Plant is piped into the Powell Building's laboratory pipe shafts as well as the air handling units in the computer room. Like the Powell Building's rooftop mechanical enclosures and printing plant wing, the exterior of the Central Utility Plant is clad in steel wall panels with a satin-black porcelainized enamel finish. The design also incorporates round concrete columns, with faceted concrete capitals, that extend from ground level to the precast concrete cornice that encircles the roofline. Two single-leaf flat metal doors are located in the east elevation and a double-leaf flat metal door is located in the north elevation. In addition, the south elevation contains a single-leaf flat metal door and an overhead-rolling metal vehicular door, both of which are framed by a series of hollow metal exterior panels. Above these doors, a line of rectangular, extruded aluminum louvers extends across the south elevation, just under the roofline. Four cooling towers and six prefabricated metal buildings (all non-contributing) stand adjacent to the Central Utility Plant. The cooling towers replaced the original units that were initially installed in 1974. The sheds house equipment and utilities and are examples of standard prefabricated metal construction. Historic photographs reveal that they were not present on the property at the time of the building's dedication in 1974. Two of the extant sheds appear in a 1978 photograph, while the others were added after that date.

Solid-State Physics Laboratory – Exterior

Designed by H.D. Nottingham & Associates and completed in 1973, the Solid-State Physics Laboratory is a two-story, irregular-plan, reinforced concrete and steel building with a flat roof. It consists of a main block and an attached rear wing. The main block is primarily clad in broad zones of porcelainized steel wall panels, separated by narrow window bays framed by thin, full-height, aggregate concrete piers. Between the piers, each window bay contains a fixed-sash aluminum window at the first and second story, which are separated by rectangular precast aggregate concrete spandrel panels. The main block features a cornice of rectangular, flat, precast aggregate concrete panels capped with aluminum flashing. The primary entrance is asymmetrically-placed in the west elevation of the main block. It is a set of double-leaf glass and aluminum doors with a narrow single-pane transom light and flanking single-pane sidelights. The entrance is recessed and is sheltered by an aggregate concrete cantilever. Above this element, the second story of the entrance bay contains a fixed-sash three-part window. The attached rear wing varies from one to two stories in height and is L-shaped in plan with a flat roof. Clad in textured concrete block, it features overhead-rolling metal vehicular access doors in its north and south elevations.

Interior

The interior of the Solid-State Physics Laboratory contains offices, laboratories, storage areas, and other specialized spaces. From the primary entrance, a short entrance corridor, or vestibule, leads to a longer corridor that extends for the full width of the main block. A freight elevator, loading dock, and restrooms are located at the south end of the central corridor. On the first floor, rooms arranged to either side of this corridor include two offices, mechanical and electronic shops, a mechanical room, an equipment storage room, a photo lab, and a conference room. On the second floor, the corridor provides access to four laboratories, a sample

preparation room, and a test area. The two-story rear wing is not divided into floors, but rather contains a full-height space for the repair of drilling rigs and survey boats. A mezzanine is situated at the west end of the rear wing and overlooks the entrance corridor. Interior spaces within the building feature vinyl tile flooring with rubber baseboard strips, gypsum board walls, and acoustical panel ceilings.

Advanced Systems Center - Exterior

Constructed in 1993, and designed by H.D. Nottingham & Associates, the Advanced Systems Center is a one-story, flat-roofed building of reinforced concrete and curtain wall construction. The building complements the Powell Building, both in terms of its star-shaped building plan and exterior treatment. The exterior features a precast concrete base course with beveled coping, from which rises a continuous, recessed, aluminum and glass curtain wall that wraps around all elevations of the building. Like the Powell Building and Central Utility Plant, the design includes a series of round concrete columns that encircle the perimeter of the building. The columns feature blocky concrete capitals that join with the concrete cornice that extends around the roofline.

Interior

This building currently functions as a SCIF (sensitive compartmentalized information facility) and the interior was not accessible for survey. The interior plan consists of an entrance lobby and central hallway flanked by offices and a conference room. Four triangular-shaped areas, created by the building's star-shaped ground plan, contain two mechanical rooms, a loading dock, and the main entrance lobby. The building's exterior glazing is lined with an opaque filtering material.

Stylistic Attribution

Stylistically, the USGS National Center is a product of the late Modern Movement. The Powell Building's low, horizontal massing and its use of glass curtain walls reflect the influence of the mid-century International Style. The design, however, incorporates precast concrete elements, such as its exterior columns and balconies, which lend a more expressive articulation of structure to the design, an approach that came into greater use during the 1960s and 1970s. The Physics Laboratory, with its thick precast concrete cornice and cantilever and much lower window-to-wall ratio, suggests more of a Brutalist influence. In addition, the USGS National Center serves as a good example of the corporate and institutional campuses being designed by SOM and other leading American design firms during this period, which featured large, Modern buildings set within verdant landscapes.

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria
(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

[X] A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

[ ] B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

[X] C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.

[ ] D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations
(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

[ ] A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes

[ ] B. Removed from its original location

[ ] C. A birthplace or grave

[ ] D. A cemetery

[ ] E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure

[ ] F. A commemorative property

[ ] G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions.)
Community Planning and Development
Architecture

Period of Significance
1969-1974

Significant Dates
1969 – plans finalized
1974 - dedication

Significant Person
(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation
N/A

Architect/Builder
Skidmore, Owings & Merrill
H.D. Nottingham & Associates
George H. Hyman Construction Company

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph

The USGS National Center, a major federal headquarters campus located in the greater Washington, D.C. area, is locally significant under National Register **Criterion A** in the area of **Community Planning and Development** for its association with the planned community of Reston, Virginia. The complex, designed by Skidmore, Owings & Merrill and the Arlington, Virginia-based firm H. D. Nottingham & Associates, is also locally significant under National Register **Criterion C** in the area of **Architecture** as a significant example of a late-Modern, federal suburban campus. The **Period of Significance** for the USGS National Center extends from 1969 to 1974. Architectural plans for the campus were finalized in 1969 and the building was dedicated in 1974. While the three contributing buildings within the USGS National Center were completed in 1973, and dedicated the following year in 1974, the design of the facility was finalized in 1969, as evidenced by the original drawings prepared by SOM and Nottingham & Associates. Therefore, in accordance with Department of the Interior guidelines for the application of the National Register Criteria, the complex was not evaluated under Criteria Consideration G.[5]

Narrative Statement of Significance

Criterion A

The development of the USGS National Center is closely associated with the early history of the planned community of Reston, Virginia. Conceived by developer Robert Simon, Reston, dedicated in 1966, was among a handful of self-sufficient "New Town" communities in the United States that represented the forefront of post-World War II community planning and development. Simon envisioned a racially integrated and economically diverse population living and working within a walkable community. During the planning phase for Reston, Charles S. Ascher of the Royal Institute of Public Administration wrote that "Reston is the most notable undertaking of the decade in the United States in the tradition of broadly-planned communities."[6] Guided by a master plan prepared in 1962 by the architectural firm Whittlesey & Conklin, Reston integrated residential, industrial, and commercial uses with cultural, civic, and social needs. The 1962 Reston master plan set aside a 1,000-acre parcel, the Reston Center for Industry and Government, specifically for the use of corporate, industrial, and government entities, which Simon in 1963 referred to as an "integral part" of the community plan. The U.S. Geological Survey became one of the first projects built within this specially designated zone. Notably, the agency's decision to build its headquarters on an approximately 85-acre site within the community was announced by Secretary of the Interior Stewart L. Udall at the official dedication of Reston on May 21, 1966. As such, the USGS National Center is representative of the early planning and development of this important late twentieth-century "New Town" community.

Criterion C

[5] U.S. Department of the Interior, *How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation*, Rev. ed. (Washington: Department of the Interior, 1995).
[6] Simon Enterprises, *The Reston Center for Industry and Government* (Reston, VA: Simon Enterprises, 1963), 18.

Completed in 1974, the USGS National Center was constructed during a period when GSA implemented initiatives to improve the design standards of federal buildings, and the complex is a significant example of a late-Modern, federal suburban campus. Additionally, the design of the campus embodies the goals described in the "Guiding Principles for Federal Architecture," published in 1962. This is especially seen in its incorporation of Modern Movement ideals and materials, such as precast concrete and glass and aluminum curtain walls. In addition, the John Wesley Powell Federal Building (Powell Building) exhibits a unique layout closely tailored to its function for the U.S. Geological Survey. Two of the three contributing resources that constitute the USGS National Center were designed by SOM, one of the most important and influential corporate design firms of the twentieth century. Walter Netsch of SOM employed his unique Field Theory in designing the complex, an innovative design approach which utilized a geometric system for the planning of buildings. The complex embodies the eight-pointed star motif throughout its design, from the building plan of the Powell Federal Building to details such as its sunken rooftop courtyards and terrace railings.

The USGS National Center is also significant for its landscape plan, which was also developed by SOM and Nottingham & Associates. Environmental conservation was integral to Robert E. Simon's vision for Reston, and site planning and design for the USGS National Center was guided by the retention of green space and the natural topography. The design retained much of the existing forest on the site, which was augmented by a diverse selection of trees and shrubs, as well as nature trails. Importantly, the design of the building with large expanses of glass provided many employees with views out to the natural landscape consequently embracing Reston's goals of preserving the natural landscape and affording everyone the opportunity to experience nature in their live, work and play environments.

Integrity

The USGS National Center maintains good integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association corresponding to its 1969-1974 Period of Significance. The complex maintains integrity of **setting** and **location** within the Reston Center for Industry and Government, and the property has retained its original acreage and wooded character. While the Powell Building has undergone mechanical, safety, and structural upgrades over the years, key exterior and interior elements remain intact, constituting strong integrity of **design**, **materials,** and **workmanship.** Still extant are original precast concrete elements, glass curtain walls, porcelainized steel panels, and interior materials such as granite. Distinctive interior spaces such as the main lobby and cafeteria demonstrate strong integrity in these areas. The main lobby still includes its sunken conversation pits (one has been covered but not infilled), central granite and stainless-steel reception desk, and the striking wall-mounted USGS logo executed in stainless steel. Other areas, such as the auditorium and executive conference rooms, have been upgraded but maintain their spatial integrity. Integrity of design is further justified through the overall retention of the building's interior plan, which includes the openings between floor levels as well as its corridors, designed to provide daylight into the offices and access to the rooftop terraces. The terraces still exhibit original features such as their geometrically-shaped railings and planting beds, although the original plantings have been altered or removed. The doors accessing the terraces from the upper office corridors appear to be original. Like the

Powell Building, the Central Utility Plant and Solid-State Physics Laboratory also exhibit strong integrity of design, materials, and workmanship. Both buildings still retain their original exterior steel cladding and precast concrete elements, and the physics laboratory has maintained its interior layout and finishes.

The landscape design for the USGS National Center also remains largely intact. Conservation of the existing landscape was an important consideration and component within the plan, and the design team sought to retain much of the property's forested character as a complement to the buildings. While some plantings introduced at the time of site development have been removed or changed over the years, many of the trees planted on the property appear to be extant and have reached maturity, fulfilling the original design intent. Likewise, the network of paved walkways linking the buildings remains intact, as well as the two nature trails on the property.

With ample integrity present in these areas, the complex still embodies the **feeling** of a significant, late Modern, suburban government headquarters campus and maintains **association** with the themes of late twentieth-century architectural Modernism, Field Theory, and the planning and development of the Reston community.

Historical Background

Historical Overview of the U.S. Geological Survey

By the 1870s, the United States held title to more than 1.2 billion acres of land, mostly west of the Mississippi River, of which only 200 million acres had been surveyed. In 1878, Congress asked the National Academy of Sciences to provide a plan for surveying America's public lands. Acting on the recommendation of the Academy, Congress established the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) in 1879 under an appropriation bill signed by President Rutherford B. Hayes. Operating within the Department of the Interior, with offices in the Smithsonian Institution Building on the National Mall, the USGS was tasked with the classification of public lands and the examination of the nation's geology and mineral resources. In April of 1879, the Senate confirmed Clarence King as the first director of the USGS.[7]

King chose mining geology as the basis for the USGS's initial program of work. Early research also included a systematic study of iron and copper resources in the United States. Having established the USGS's initial program, Clarence King resigned in 1881 and was replaced by John Wesley Powell. Powell was an experienced geologist and land surveyor, having undertaken the exploration of the Colorado River for the Smithsonian Institution in 1869. In 1882, Powell received authorization from Congress to prepare a complete topographic map of the United States. By 1890, however, Powell had fallen out of favor with members of Congress who wanted to see the USGS return to its earlier focus on economic geology. In 1894, Powell submitted his resignation as director, and was replaced by geologist Charles D. Walcott.[8]

Walcott assumed direct control over the work of the USGS's Geologic Branch and renewed its orientation toward mining studies, particularly the study and exploration of gold deposits. The USGS celebrated its twenty-fifth anniversary under Walcott's leadership in 1904. Its

[7] Mary C. Rabbitt, *The United States Geological Survey: 1879-1989*, U.S. Geological Survey Circular 1050 (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1989), 1, 5-10.
[8] Rabbitt, 12-20.

achievements included the preparation of topographic maps for 929,850 square miles of the United States and geologic mapping of 171,000 square miles.[9]

In 1907, Charles Walcott left the USGS to become Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution. George Otis Smith, formerly head of the USGS's Petrography section, succeeded Walcott as director. Smith, who served as director until 1930, was a pragmatic, business-oriented geologist who sought to focus the USGS's work on practical applications for business and industry. Reflecting President Theodore Roosevelt's interest in conservation, the USGS prepared an inventory of natural resources in 1908 for the newly established National Conservation Commission.[10]

At the time of its fifty-year anniversary in 1929, the USGS had nearly 1,000 permanent employees and its operations were funded by an annual Congressional appropriation of $2 million. To commemorate the anniversary, President Herbert Hoover received members of the USGS at the White House on March 21, 1929.[11] In December of 1930, Hoover appointed Walter C. Mendenhall to succeed George Otis Smith as director of the USGS. Mendenhall, an experienced land surveyor, geologist, and ground-water specialist, had previously served for eight years as the USGS's chief geologist. Throughout most of the 1930s, the USGS endured reduced appropriations and largely operated on funds transferred to it from Great Depression-era agencies such as the Tennessee Valley Authority and Public Works Administration. Federal appropriations were restored to their pre-Depression levels in 1938.[12]

In 1943, William Embry Wrather, chief of the Metals and Minerals Division of the Board of Economic Warfare, was appointed to succeed Walter Mendenhall as director of the USGS.[13] The growth experienced by the USGS during World War II continued into the postwar era. By 1949, the USGS was receiving greatly increased appropriations from Congress, which totaled more than $15 million in 1949 and more than $19 million in 1950. By the time of its seventy-fifth anniversary in 1954, the USGS had 7,000 employees, appropriated funds of over $27 million and total funds of nearly $48 million.[14]

In 1956, William Wrather retired and was succeeded as director by geologist and Assistant Director Thomas B. Nolan. Appropriations for the USGS increased dramatically under the Kennedy-Johnson administration, exceeding $100 million for 1964. By this date, 7.5 and 15-minute topographic maps had been prepared for approximately sixty percent of the United States, with plans to complete the survey by fiscal year 1976. The USGS also planned to increase its collection of basic water data by fifty percent between 1964 and 1973, as well as its geological research programs, which included the study of the geology of the ocean floor.[15]

In 1965, Chief Geologist William T. Pecora took over as director of the USGS. He served in this role until 1971, when he was appointed Under Secretary of the Interior. A signature achievement was the publication in 1970 of the *National Atlas of the United States of America*, a

[9] Rabbitt, 21.
[10] Rabbitt, 23-25.
[11] Rabbitt, 28-31.
[12] Rabbitt, 31-32.
[13] Rabbitt, 34-35.
[14] Rabbitt, 35-37.
[15] Rabbitt, 37-40.

reference work that consisted of more than 700 physical, historical, economic, sociocultural, and administrative maps compiled through a multi-agency effort spanning a period of several years. Pecora was replaced as director in 1971 by Chief Geologist Vincent E. McKelvey.[16]

With the completion of its new national headquarters in Reston, Virginia, in 1974, the USGS assumed primary responsibility for operational research in seismology and geomagnetism through an agreement with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Other programs initiated during the 1970s included a Congressional directive to inventory renewable energy resources in 1973, the establishment of the National Cartographic Information Center as a centralized clearing house for cartographic data in 1974, and the creation of the Land Information and Analysis Office in 1975 to consolidate land resource and environmental programs. In 1978, marine geologist H. William Menard became the USGS's tenth director and the following year, in 1979, USGS celebrated its centennial anniversary. To commemorate the occasion, ceremonies were held at the National Center in Reston on March 2 and 3, 1979, as well as an international symposium on resources for the twenty-first century.[17]

The USGS continued its topographic, geologic, and earth sciences research programs in the 1980s. During the eruption of Mount St. Helens in Washington state in May of 1980, the USGS collected data and monitored the event. The agency also prepared special maps to document changes to the landscape, aid in disaster recovery, and record scientific data. Dallas L. Peck was named director of the USGS in 1981. The following year, the Department of the Interior formed the Minerals Management Service, which was assigned the task of regulating the production of minerals and energy from federal lands and collecting the royalties accrued to the government for use of those resources. In 1983, President Reagan extended the jurisdiction of the United States for a distance of 200 nautical miles offshore (Exclusive Economic Zone), which doubled the area to be mapped and studied. To map the newly created zone, the Survey began the EEZ-SCAN reconnaissance survey using long-range sonar. The USGS released an initial atlas covering the western portion of the zone in 1986. Advances in mapping during the mid-1980s by the National Mapping Division led to the creation of the National Digital Cartographic Database in 1984, which established standards for digital cartographic data. Primary map coverage for the United States was 97% complete by 1989. In 1990, the USGS began a new program with the Defense Mapping Agency to develop, install, and operate new mapping technology in order to digitize all map data so that maps could be updated and printed more easily.[18]

The first purpose-built headquarters of the U.S. Geological Survey, the U.S. Geological Survey National Center continues to serve that role today. This legacy headquarters campus supported the development of science that improved the lives of individuals and advanced the security and prosperity of the nation through a broad range of activities. USGS science helped to protect the lives and livelihoods of people from the damaging effects of earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, landslides, and floods. USGS science provided safe water supplies and biology that supported restoration of ecosystems throughout the country. USGS science assisted in the exploration and exploitation of the nation's mineral and energy base and enabled the efficient engineering of the

[16] Rabbitt, 41-42.
[17] Rabbitt, 41-46.
[18] Rabbitt, 44-49.

Alaska Pipeline. USGS science was instrumental in locating safe-sites for American nuclear power generation and geomagnetic-neutral sites for monitoring nuclear detonations around the world, supporting the American Aerospace Defense Command and International Comprehensive Test Ban Organization. USGS science provided geologic investigation and sampling support to Apollo Missions 12-17, adding to the knowledge of the origins of the Moon, enhancing the success of the manned lunar landings.

Planning and Construction

Following its establishment by Congress in 1879, the Survey occupied offices in the Smithsonian Institution building on Independence Avenue. Later, during the early years of the agency, its headquarters were successively located in a number of different buildings in Washington, D.C. These included the Old Patent Office Building on Seventh Street, N.W., the Hooe Building at 1330 F Street, N.W., and the Adams Building at 1333 F Street, N.W. In 1917, the Survey moved into the new Department of the Interior building on F Street between Eighteenth and Nineteenth Streets, N.W. By 1960, the Survey had experienced tremendous growth of its programs and activities and was housed in more than thirty different buildings located across the Washington area.[19] As a result, the USGS began exploring the possibility of constructing a headquarters building that would be large enough to accommodate the scientific, administrative, and printing departments of the Survey.

Site Selection and Design

The General Services Administration (GSA) submitted a formal prospectus to Congress on February 9, 1956. The proposed design of the building contained approximately 557,000 square feet of net assignable space at a cost of no more than $22,260,000. Rising six stories in height, the proposed building would be approximately 771,500 square feet, with a laboratory and office section, basement, cafeteria, auditorium, and penthouse. A warehouse, mechanical shop, and storage area would be housed in a separate, one-story building containing approximately 106,500 square feet.[20]

GSA submitted a second prospectus under the Public Buildings Act of 1959. The proposal outlined a 603,700 square-foot building at a total project cost of $32,240,000. In 1962, the prospectus for the National Center was approved by a joint resolution of the Senate and House Public Works Committees, authorized under the Public Buildings Act of 1959, but no funds were allocated for construction. The approved prospectus described a building 993,000 square feet with a total cost of $32,240,000. Two years later, in 1964, the Senate Appropriations Committee authorized $100,000 to USGS for preliminary planning and site survey. In the same year, Congress allocated $2,025,000 to GSA. Combined, the allocation of $2,125,000 allowed the USGS to finally progress towards site acquisition and building design.[21]

[19] United States Geological Survey, *The National Center of the U.S. Geological Survey* (Washington: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1976), 4-5.
[20] "Formal Prospectus for Proposed Building Under Title I Public Law 519, 83rd Congress, 2nd Session," February 9, 1956, Box 41, Planning Files 1924-1967, Records of the National Capital Planning Commission, Record Group 328, National Archives and Records Administration, College Park, Maryland; *The National Center of the U.S. Geological Survey*, 7.
[21] "USGS Plans New National Headquarters," *Geotimes*, December 1970, 21-22.

Shortly after receiving the necessary funds to proceed, the USGS began evaluating potential site locations in and around Washington, D.C. Although the primary purpose of constructing a new building was to alleviate a growing need for more space, USGS also focused on their programmatic needs. Due to the nature of its work, USGS required an environment free of air pollution, radar interference, and vibration.[22] As such, the selected site needed to be located in an area with an ample amount of land to support these needs.

Architectural and engineering firms Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (SOM) of Chicago and H.D. Nottingham & Associates of Arlington, Virginia, were awarded a contract by GSA in 1964 for a preliminary study and evaluation of six possible locations in the Washington metropolitan area. The six sites studied were: the Gold Mine and Congressional Manor properties in Montgomery County, Maryland; the Bureau of Public Roads (BPR) site at Langley, Virginia, the new town of Reston in Fairfax County, Virginia; the National Training School for Boys in Washington; and Suitland Hall in Prince George's County, Maryland. Out of these sites, three were selected for further preliminary study: the BPR site, the Gold Mine site, and Congressional Manor. Both the USGS and SOM preferred the Gold Mine property based on its general location and the attractiveness of the site. The USGS hoped to work with the National Park Service to develop a system of trails throughout the site using its existing topography.[23] The estimated value of the Gold Mine property, however, exceeded the funds available at the time for site acquisition, and an earlier attempt by the National Park Service to purchase the land for park purposes in 1959 had resulted in failure.[24]

By 1966, the USGS and GSA had begun to reconsider the 85-acre Reston site, which was favorably viewed for its compatibility with regional planning goals. Reston was a newly planned community designed to accommodate 75,000 people in various single-family homes, apartments, and town homes. At its April 26 meeting, the Department of the Interior's Subcommittee for the Geological Survey Headquarters Building Site formally recommended the Reston site, which was approved on May 20 by the Advisory Committee on Federal Buildings in the National Capital Region.[25] Prior to consideration by the National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC), the planned Reston site was reviewed by the National Capital Regional Planning Council (NCRPC). NCRPC approved the site in June, citing its consonance with the Year 2000 Policies Plan, developed by NCPC and NCRPC and adopted in 1961. The plan identified "nodal centers, consisting of semi-independent cities containing housing, employment, cultural and recreational facilities and complete community services" to be located along "radial corridors leading from the center of Washington and which would be separated by wedges of open space." In a 10-point memorandum to federal agencies in 1962, President John F. Kennedy endorsed the corridor

[22] United States Geological Survey, *U.S. Geological Survey National Center Reston, Virginia* (Washington: U.S. Department of the Interior, 1972), 9.
[23] Skidmore, Owings & Merrill, *Preliminary Report on Location of Geological Survey*, November 17, 1964, Box 41, Planning Files 1924-1967, Records of the National Capital Planning Commission, Record Group 328, National Archives and Records Administration, College Park, Maryland.
[24] Stewart L. Udall, Secretary of the Interior, to Elizabeth Rowe, Chairman of the National Capital Planning Commission, June 17, 1964, Box 41, Planning Files 1924-1967, Records of the National Capital Planning Commission, Record Group 328, National Archives and Records Administration, College Park, Maryland.
[25] J. F. Moody, Acting Administrator Department of the Interior, to Elizabeth Rowe, Chairman of the National Capital Planning Commission, May 18, 1966, Box 41, Planning Files 1924-1967, Records of the National Capital Planning Commission, Record Group 328, National Archives and Records Administration, College Park, Maryland.

city recommendation. He also directed that the plan be "supported by agencies of the Executive Branch as the basic development scheme for the National Capital Region."[26] In its endorsement of the site, NCRPC identified Reston as a "private development located along a corridor and incorporating all the amenities associated with the proposed self-contained cities," and further described it as "an outstanding example of the possibilities inherent in the nodal-city concept." Furthermore, the Reston property was listed on NCRPC's inventory of potential federal sites, submitted by local planning staffs beginning in 1964.[27] NCPC subsequently approved the site at its July 21, 1966, meeting. In a resolution, NCPC recommended that GSA acquire an "optional" 20 acres of land north of the 85-acre site between the access road and Dulles Highway. Combined with the preservation of existing trees around the perimeter and central placement of the building relative to the site, the additional land would provide the proper setting for the proposed headquarters building.[28]

In December of 1966, Reston Virginia, Inc., the developer of the planned community, conveyed the 85-acre tract to the United States of America.[29] Of the 85 acres, Reston donated 50 acres and the federal government purchased the remaining 35 acres. In keeping with the recommendations provided by NCPC, Reston granted the government an option to purchase an additional 20 acres adjoining the 85-acre tract to the southeast.[30] In 1969, the government exercised this option, increasing the total site to 105 acres.[31] The federal government later purchased a 1-acre triangular-shaped parcel, located at the northeast corner of the site on Sunrise Valley Road, from the Reston Land Corporation in 1982.[32]

SOM and H.D. Nottingham & Associates completed a detailed development and design study of the site in 1966. The parcel selected for the USGS building was located just south of the Dulles Airport Access Road in a 335-acre area, the Center for Industry and Government, that was set aside by the Reston master plan for use by government, light industrial, and private research organizations. Prior to the purchase of the selected property, three different areas within the 335-acre area were studied as being the most appropriate in terms of existing slopes suitable for minimum grading and considerations that included site access, utilities, topography, tree cover and soil conditions, and buildable area. The study also identified the linking of Reston's green open space with the parcel as a means of providing walking connections to the community's residential and town centers. The preservation of green space also permitted retention of natural drainage patterns on the site.[33]

[26] Simon Enterprises, *The Reston Story* (New York: Simon Enterprises, 1963).
[27] National Capital Regional Planning Council, "Resolution Recommending Approval of an 85-Acre Site to Be Used For New U.S. Geological Survey Headquarters at Reston, Virginia," June 20, 1966, Records of the National Capital Planning Commission, Planning Files 1924-1967, RG 328, National Archives and Records Administration.
[28] National Capital Planning Commission, "United States Geological Survey Reston, Virginia, Report of the Federal Planning and Projects Committee," July 21, 1966, Box 41, Planning Files 1924-1967, Records of the National Capital Planning Commission, Record Group 328, National Archives and Records Administration, College Park, Maryland.
[29] Fairfax County Land Records, Liber 2847, Folio 743, December 31, 1966.
[30] *U.S. Geological Survey National Center, Reston, Virginia*, 10.
[31] Fairfax County Land Records, Liber 3256, Folio 117, November 1, 1969.
[32] Fairfax County Land Records, Liber 5691, Folio 1424, September 29, 1982.
[33] Skidmore, Owings & Merrill and H.D. Nottingham & Associates, *Geological Survey Headquarters Site Study*, April 11, 1966, Clarence King Memorial Library, Rare Book Collection, 6.

The landscape design for the site incorporated much of the existing forest cover on the property. Existing trees included a variety of oak species, hickory, maple, beech, poplar, locust, sassafrass, dogwood, and gum. Ground cover consisted of holly, partridge berry, pipsissewa, and tree-club mosses. Existing forested areas were retained around the periphery of the site but were cleared within the approximately 45-acre construction boundary, with the exception of eight small stands of trees that were preserved throughout the parking areas.[34] In addition, the original landscape plan indicates that a variety of plant and tree species were planted around the Powell Building and Central Utility Plant, as well as around the parking areas and along the paved walkways between the buildings. These included Red Maple, Norway Maple, Common Hackberry, White Ash, Green Ash, Japanese Pagoda, Yellow Poplar, Sweet Gum, Sour Gum, Northern Red Oak, Scarlet Oak, Chestnut Oak, Pin Oak, Willow Oak, Eastern Black Oak, Eastern Redbud, Flowering Dogwood, Cornelian Cherry, Sourwood, Serviceberry, Mayday, Eastern White Pine, European Black Pine, and Red Pine. The landscape plan also features two curving trails that extend from the north end of the Powell Building into the wooded northwest corner of the property.

During the initial design phases, the U.S. Geological Survey expressed the necessity of a site free from "air pollution, interferences, and vibration" in order to safely facilitate the activities of its laboratories. As a result, the agreement reached between Reston and the federal government regarding the sale of the property included restrictive covenants prohibiting any manufacturing or processing activities within 5,000 feet of the site that produced pollution into the atmosphere. In addition, quarrying operations of any kind were not permitted in the surrounding area. To avoid interference from radio, television, and alternate telecommunications, transmission facilities were not to be located within 1,500 feet of the site without approval from the USGS.[35]

NCPC approved preliminary site and building plans, prepared by SOM and H. D. Nottingham & Associates, on July 27, 1967.[36] Representatives from the Fairfax County and Northern Virginia Planning Commissions were included throughout the preliminary design discussions.[37] Final plans were completed in 1969. Architect Walter Netsch of SOM directed the design process of the National Center. Netsch designed the complex in accordance with USGS programmatic needs, Reston's planning principles, and the site's wooded character and natural topography. At the highest end of the site, to the southeast, the Powell Building's low-lying printing plant seamlessly blends into the surrounding trees while the multi-story office wing sits at the lowest point of the site, corresponding to the taller surrounding trees. As discussed, conservation of the existing landscape was of high importance, and the building was located on a portion of the site that would preserve the natural topography and drainage. Existing tree types were documented in ecological surveys and reports. Although large in scale, the environmental impact of the construction of this building remained minimal. Netsch incorporated glass curtain walls into the design of the building to allow copious amounts of natural light into the interior of the building and to visually connect the interior with the forested landscape. Pedestrian and bicycle paths

[34] *U.S. Geological Survey National Center, Reston, Virginia,* 11-12.
[35] "Summary of Relevant Portions of Offer of Sale and Donation of Land – Geological Survey," undated document, Records of the National Capital Planning Commission, Planning Files 1924-1967, RG 328, National Archives and Records Administration.
[36] *U.S. Geological Survey National Center, Reston, Virginia,* 5.
[37] *U.S. Geological Survey National Center, Reston, Virginia,* 5.

connected the campus with the town of Reston to allow employees the option of walking or biking to work.[38]

Funding for the project proved challenging. In May 1967, the Department of the Interior, rather than GSA, assumed responsibility for securing construction funding in the 1969 budget.[39] A lack of available federal funding, however, compelled the Senate and House Public Works Committees to reapprove the construction of the building under a lease arrangement. Gulf-Reston, Inc., who at that time had assumed the role of developer for the community, undertook construction of the headquarters using private funds. After its completion, Gulf-Reston would lease the building back to GSA for twenty years, after which time the facility would be transferred to the federal government at no additional cost.[40]

The Solid-State Physics Laboratory was not included in the plans prepared by SOM or the lease arrangement between GSA and Gulf-Reston. In May1971, the U.S. Department of the Interior secured $750,000 in funding for the design and construction of the building through a special congressional appropriation. Located in the woods to the south and east of the Powell Building, the small building was designed by H.D. Nottingham & Associates for a team of approximately twelve USGS employees headed by geophysicist Dr. Frank Senftle, to accommodate research involving the development and testing of portable equipment that used radioactive material to field-analyze the chemistry of rocks, ocean beds, and planets. This research was undertaken in cooperation with the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission and National Aeronautics and Space Administration.[41] Due to its funding method, this building, unlike the others on the campus, has always been owned by USGS. The research function originally housed in the building, was transferred to the Denver Federal Center in Lakewood, Colorado, sometime prior to 1992.

Groundbreaking and Construction

Construction was delayed indefinitely in January of 1970 due to President Richard Nixon's anti-inflation freeze on seventy-five percent of all new federal construction.[42] Competitive bids for the construction of the building were initiated on September 28, 1970, and closed on January 18, 1971. The George H. Hyman Construction Company of Washington, D.C. submitted the lowest bid on June 29, 1971, and was awarded the $44,118,000 construction contract by Gulf-Reston, Inc.[43]

In May of 1971, the Washington Metropolitan Planning and Housing Association unsuccessfully sought to block the construction of the facility in U.S. District Court on the grounds that the federal government had not committed to providing affordable housing for USGS employees relocating to the area. The action was part of a broader suit by the association challenging the moving of government installations to the suburbs.[44] After the ruling, the Association reached an agreement with Gulf-Reston in return for a guarantee not to appeal the decision. Gulf-Reston

[38] Skidmore, Owings & Merrill Archives, "John Wesley Powell Federal Building General Project Information." November 4, 2009;
[39] *U.S. Geological Survey National Center, Reston, Virginia,* 5.
[40] *The National Center of the U.S. Geological Survey,* 6-7.
[41] *The National Center of the U.S. Geological Survey, 32.*
[42] "Geological Survey Building for Reston Postponed," *Washington Post*, January 27, 1970, B2.
[43] *The National Center of the U.S. Geological Survey,* 6-7.
[44] "Court Clears Reston Move by U.S. Unit," *Washington Post*, May 25, 1971, C1.

promised to conduct a survey of USGS employees to determine their housing needs and agreed to provide affordable housing that would be spread throughout the town rather than clustered in one area. The agreement followed an announcement by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development that it would give priority in awarding housing subsidies to areas located near federal installations.[45]

The ground-breaking ceremony, led by Interior Secretary Rogers C. B. Morton, took place on July 31, 1971.[46] By August of 1973, the facility had been completed and the first group of USGS employees had moved into the building. The completion of the new headquarters represented over ten years of planning to consolidate the USGS's approximately 2,200 employees under one roof.[47] The USGS move to Reston more than doubled the city's workforce of 2,100. According to Arthur F. Sampson, commissioner of GSA's Public Building Service, the project:

> …fits hand and glove into the Nixon Administration's program of assisting the development of new communities. It is a model project for new Administration criteria requiring socio-economic conditions, in that Reston will provide convenient housing for employees at all income levels.[48]

Formal dedication ceremonies of the National Center took place between July 10 and 13, 1974. Dedication activities included a two-day earth science symposium held inside the National Center's auditorium which featured presentations by the country's top environmental scientists. Outdoor dedication ceremonies took place on the morning of July 12. Attendees included the Secretary of the Interior, Rogers C.B. Morton; the Director of the USGS, Dr. V.E. McKelvey; congressmembers from New York, North Carolina, California, Massachusetts, and Illinois; and representatives of the Powell family. During the ceremony, the "John Wesley Powell Federal Building" was dedicated in honor of the founder and former director of the USGS. The legislation responsible for this name, Public Law 93-183, had been signed into law on December 15, 1973.[49]

In his dedicatory remarks to the audience, Secretary Morton said that:

> This striking building represents a vision that has become a reality. It is the final product that started with a concept, advanced through the blueprint stage, and emerged as an imposing structure of steel and concrete. It will serve us all as the home and headquarters of the Nation's foremost institute dedicated to the acquisition and dissemination of knowledge about the earth.

In addition, Secretary Morton's remarks addressed the themes of striving to meet the mineral and energy needs of the future while working to conserve what he termed "our natural heritage." He stated that:

[45] Kirk Scharfenberg, "Reston Company Agrees to Provide Low, Middle Income Housing," *Washington Post*, June 26, 1971, B3.
[46] "Agency Started at Reston," *Washington Post*, August 1, 1971, D4.
[47] *The National Center of the U.S. Geological Survey*, 2.
[48] Kenneth Bredemeier, "Reston Gets New Building," *Washington Post*, August 15, 1970, E7.
[49] United States Department of the Interior. "USGS Plans Dedication Ceremonies at Reston, VA." Ground Breaking and Dedication 1972-1973, Clarence King Memorial Library, Rare Book Collection.

> It is the earth scientist who must inquire into the geologic processes that have been at work over the span of our planet's history. The environment and its shaping forces must be analyzed – and Man's interaction with it – on a scale never before achieved. How we seek our natural resources – the methods used in obtaining them, the impact of development on the environment – all of these will be guided in large degree and will be successful only to the extent that the earth scientist can provide the accurate and timely data needed for wise decision-making. Most of all, it will depend on the questing search for truth, for knowledge, for understanding that have long been characteristic of the Survey.[50]

Later Alterations and Additions

In 1993, GSA constructed the Advanced Systems Center (ASC) to the northeast of the Powell Building to serve as the headquarters for the National Civil Applications Program, a component of the Geological Survey's Mapping, Remote Sensing, and Geographic Investigations Program.[51] The design of the center reflects the pointed star motif used in the Powell Building. A service road was constructed to connect the Advanced Systems Center with the Powell Building. The road extends around the eastern portion of the building, providing direct access to USGS Drive.

Along with the Advanced Systems Center, GSA also commissioned a work of sculpture for the USGS National Center campus under the Art-in-Architecture program. Installed in 1996, the sculpture, *Harmony Ridge*, was created by artist Robert Lobe. The hammered aluminum sculpture depicts a grouping of rocks and trees found along the Appalachian Trail in Sussex County, New Jersey, that was selected by the artist to complement the Powell Building's natural setting and offset its horizontal geometry.[52]

Historic Context

The Planned "New Town" of Reston, Virginia

The design and construction of the USGS National Center in Reston, Virginia, occurred at a time when new ideas about community development were influencing architecture and planning. Planned "New Town" communities such as Reston, Virginia, Coral Springs, Florida, and Columbia, Maryland, were at the forefront of suburban planning in the 1960s and 1970s.[53]

The planned community of Reston was conceived by Robert E. Simon, a real-estate entrepreneur from New York. Disillusioned with the typical suburban development, which required traveling long distances between home, work, and recreation, Simon was looking for a new opportunity to reimagine the suburban community during the 1960s.[54] He found that opportunity when a real estate broker suggested a venture in Fairfax County, Virginia. Initially unfamiliar with northern

[50] U.S. Department of the Interior, "Remarks of Secretary of the Interior Rogers B. Morton at Dedication Ceremonies, John Wesley Powell Federal Building, U.S. Geological Survey National Center, Reston, Virginia, July 12, 1974," Ground Breaking and Dedication 1972-1973, Clarence King Memorial Library, Rare Book Collection.
[51] United States Geological Survey. "National Civil Applications Program," USGS Fact Sheet 121-02, November 2002. Accessed January 2019. https://pubs.usgs.gov/fs/0121-02/report.pdf.
[52] General Services Administration, Artwork Overview Information, "Harmony Ridge," https://www.gsa.gov/fine-arts#/artwork/21057 (accessed May 22, 2019).
[53] See Jane A. Silverman, "America's Best-Known New Towns Near Adolescence," *AIA Journal* 65, no. 9 (September/October 1976): 27-37.
[54]

Virginia, Simon perceived the growth potential of areas near the proposed Dulles International Airport.[55]

In 1961, Simon purchased 6,750 acres for $12.8 million within the northern reaches of Fairfax County, less than five miles from Dulles Airport. Simon's development of this area would differ from the standard suburban communities of this time that provided for strict development zones with hundreds of similar "cookie cutter" properties. He would name his new community "Reston" after the first three initials of his name with the English suffix of "ton" denoting town.[56]

Simon did not want Reston to be another standard subdivision of architecturally repetitive housing isolated from shopping and recreation. Instead, the Reston master plan, prepared in 1962 by the architecture firm Whittlesey & Conklin, envisioned Reston as a well-balanced, self-sufficient community that would integrate residences, industry, commerce, schools, churches, cultural institutions, and social and recreational needs. In 1963, Simon wrote:

> Life in the United States of America today is a far cry from what it was at any time in the past in any country in the world. The emphasis is, as never before, on comfort, convenience and a maximum of leisure time. Reston, Virginia, one of the first complete satellite cities in the United States is being constructed with the goal of reflecting all aspects of this change in living.[57]

Environmental stewardship was a guiding principle in the development of the community. Reston was planned during a period of heightened environmental awareness, with Rachel Carson's groundbreaking work *Silent Spring* published the same year as the release of the Reston Master Plan. In 1963, Simon wrote that:

> The population boom in post-war America has reached staggering proportions. The pursuit of a place to live has caused sudden expansion. Unplanned, uncontrolled growth has blurred the boundary between city and country while people search in vain for open space, convenient recreation and natural beauty…. These problems confront Washington, D.C. Its area population will jump from two million to five million by the year 2000. Where will these people live? What can be done to preserve the surrounding countryside and woodlands?[58]

In Reston, as in the design of the USGS National Center, care was taken to maintain the natural contours of the land. The community also provided ample green space which was integrated throughout and accessible by paths linking housing clusters and recreation areas.[59]

Yet another principle guiding Simon in the development of Reston was that of racial and economic integration. The community would provide a wide range of housing types, sizes and prices, encouraging a diverse population. Census figures and studies dating from the

[55] Tom Jackman, "As Reston Turns 50, Founder Robert Simon Looks Ahead, Celebrates his own Milestone." *Washington Post*, 29 March 2014.
[56] Jackman, "As Reston Turns 50, Founder Robert Simon Looks Ahead, Celebrates his own Milestone." *Washington Post*, 29 March 2014.
[57] Simon Enterprises, *The Reston Center for Industry and Government* (New York: Simon Enterprises, 1963), 1.
[58] *The Reston Story*.
[59] Ibid.

community's first decade indicate that Reston was more integrated than Fairfax County or the surrounding metropolitan area.[60]

When fully developed, Reston would house a population of approximately 75,000 people spread among seven village centers. Each village center would be designed to hold a population of 10,000 to 12,000 and contain shopping, schools, and social institutions such as churches. Open areas between the villages would be jointly used as recreation spaces. Whatever commercial needs could not be sustained within the communities would be part of a shared town center, developed as a separate entity. Ease of pedestrian access was a key component of these communities.[61]

In addition, the 1962 Reston master plan set aside 1,000 acres for government and light industrial use, collectively known as the Reston Center for Industry and Government (RCIG), along the Dulles Access Road. In a pamphlet published in 1963, Simon stated that:

> The Center for Industry and Government, bisecting the Residential Planned Community, is conceived as an integral part of Reston. Scientific research groups, electronic, engineering and other research development firms, printing and publishing companies and government agencies are intrinsic elements in the concept of this satellite city.
>
> Reston's industrial area is planned with the same goals as Reston's residential and commercial areas in the belief that many of industry's needs can be foreseen and that fine architecture, well-organized, landscaped buildings as well as carefully selected industrial facilities can be profitable and satisfying to owners, managers, employees and residents.

The location of the USGS National Center is clearly marked as a "Government Reserve" on a master plan map of the community that was included in the pamphlet.[62]

Reston was officially dedicated on May 21, 1966. By the fall of that year, 370 town homes, 400 apartments, and 325 single-family homes had been sold or rented.[63] The initial outlay of funds created a financial burden for Simon, who subsequently accepted funding from the Gulf Oil Corporation to further development in Reston. Funding from the Gulf Corporation resulted in the oil conglomerate eventually obtaining control over the real estate venture. In the fall of 1967, Simon was terminated as the CEO for Reston Va. Inc. and Gulf Oil assumed control.[64]

It was under Gulf's management during the late 1960s and early 1970s that government and industrial interests first located in Reston. Gulf Oil regarded Reston, and land development in general, as an important avenue for diversifying its assets. Under their leadership, Reston's

[60] Cheryl Terrio-Simon and Shelly Mastran, National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form, "Lake Ann Village Center Historic District. Department of Interior, National Park Service, Washington, D.C., June 5, 2017, 8:26-27.
[61] Gulf Reston, Inc., *A Brief History of Reston* (Reston, VA: Gulf Reston, 1970), 11-13.; Luther J. Carter, "New Towns: Geological Survey Has Key Role in Experiment." *Science,* November 10, 1967. 752-753.
[62] *The Reston Center for Industry and Government*, 7.
[63] *A Brief History of Reston*, 15.
[64] Tom Grubisich and Peter McCandless, "Reston the First Twenty Years," Reston Publishing Company, Inc. 1985:45.

development stabilized financially, and the community continued to grow. As discussed, such uses had always been part of Simon's vision for the community and were integrated into the original 1962 master plan. The agency's decision to build its headquarters on an eighty-five-acre site within the community was announced by Secretary of the Interior Stewart L. Udall at the official dedication of Reston in May of 1966. By the end of 1966, four companies had also made plans to build within Reston.[65]

One of the primary considerations in the selection of Reston was the availability of land, which allowed for the design of a campus-like plan composed of multiple buildings. The John Wesley Powell Federal Building, the primary building on the site, housed the administration, laboratory, and map reproduction functions of the USGS.[66] Locating in Reston allowed the USGS to consolidate its scattered offices into a single facility that would allow for intellectual exchange among its geologists and other scientific professionals.[67] The wooded, naturalistic landscape design of the USGS National Center was also in keeping with Reston's overall emphasis on smart growth and environmental conservation.

Corporate and Institutional Campuses

Beginning in the 1940s, companies began to relocate their headquarters from urban settings to suburban landscapes. By the 1960s, corporate headquarters on suburban campuses were an established trend in architecture. In 1972, *Architectural Record* noted that:

> Suburban sites for office buildings – particularly for corporate headquarters – have advantages that make them unusually attractive to many, but not all, kinds of companies. Less expensive land (and therefore the capability to buy a larger tract), more space for expansion and for parking, an exceptional degree of amenity for employees are the obvious advantages…the sites…are not only spacious and beautiful, but they are within an hour's travel, or less, of the downtown business district.[68]

SOM was commissioned to design several suburban campuses prior to the construction of the USGS National Center. These included the Connecticut General Life Insurance Company headquarters in Bloomfield, Connecticut (1957); the Upjohn Company headquarters in Kalamazoo, Michigan (1961); and the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colorado (1962). Many of the designs employed a boxy, curtain-walled, International-Style aesthetic, applied to sprawling, low-rise buildings with horizontal massing. Some of these earlier designs also featured a combination of curtain walls and exterior balconies that wrapped elevations, as seen in the Air Force Academy and Upjohn headquarters. Geometric motifs were often included in SOM's corporate campus designs, such as the use of a repeating triangle-patterned band at the roofline of the Upjohn headquarters. The U.S. Air Force chapel presents an unusual geometric design. In addition, SOM integrated landscape design into their corporate campuses. For example, the Upjohn Company headquarters featured a landscape design by Hideo Sasaki that

[65] *A Brief History of Reston* :13-18.
[66] *U.S. Geological Survey National Center Reston, Virginia, Status Report*, 13-14.
[67] Grubisich and McCandless, "Reston the First Twenty Years," Reston Publishing Company, Inc. 1985: 45.
[68] "Building Types Study: Suburban Office Buildings," *Architectural Record* (February 1972): 113.

featured trees, open space, and water features to complement a centrally sited building.[69] This integration of landscape and architecture is also evident in SOM's extensive use of curtain walls in the design of the Powell Federal Building, which creates a visual connection between the indoor office setting and the surrounding outdoor landscape. From the cafeteria to the rooftop terraces, the building affords sweeping views of the adjacent forest cover. The effect is in keeping with Robert E. Simon's goal of creating an "aesthetically pleasing environment" in which "architectural structures compliment the beauty of the natural land."[70] In a 1986 interview, Walter Netsch stated that "We kind of hoped the building would appear to have just grown out of the trees. Its columns and chopped off corners express an extension of the forest."[71]

GSA and Modern Design

Between 1960 and 1976, GSA undertook over 700 building projects across the United States including post offices, museums, and office buildings. The USGS National Center was designed during this period, when the Modern style was being disseminated increasingly within the United States, and the federal government was employing private, rather than government, architects to improve design standards. Established in 1949, GSA began incorporating elements more typically seen in the private design sector, such as glass curtain-walls and Modern building designs. Grand lobbies were replaced with functional entrances combined with open air plazas to further unite exterior and interior spaces. Large, open-plan office spaces were designed to be altered whenever necessary through the use of moveable room dividers. Modern building materials, such as steel, glass, plastic, and reinforced concrete, helped to visually separate the Modern buildings from those of previous eras. Additionally, the accessibility of prefabricated materials that could easily be assembled on site allowed construction to be more economically efficient.[72]

The Public Buildings Act of 1959 increased funding to the public buildings program, established a systematic approach to federal building projects, and allowed GSA to receive a direct appropriation from Congress to fund projects. Disappointed by the state of federal office buildings, President John F. Kennedy formed an Ad Hoc Committee on Federal Office Space. In 1962, the committee issued the *Report to the President* by the *Ad Hoc Committee on Federal Office Spac*e containing the "Guiding Principles for Federal Architecture." The committee found that federal office space in Washington, D.C. was generally inefficient and disorganized. As a result of these findings, the committee developed a national architectural policy that promoted the use of contemporary design, incorporation of fine art, and functional unity of building and site.[73]

[69] Christopher Woodward and Yukio Futagawa, *Skidmore, Owings & Merrill* (New York: Simon and Schuster, 1970).
[70] Jane A. Silverman, "America's Best-Known New Towns Near Adolescence," *AIA Journal* 65, no. 9 (September/October 1976): 34.
[71] Carol Wersich, "A Building Ahead of Its Time," *Evansville Press*, March 12, 1986.
[72] Judith H. Robinson and Stephanie S. Foell, *Growth, Efficiency, and Modernism: GSA Buildings of the 1950s, 60s, and '70s,* Report prepared by Robinson and Associates for the General Services Administration, Washington, D.C., September 2003 (2005 reprint), 6, 42.
[73] Robinson and Foell, 30-31, 36.

The private-sector trend of constructing suburban office and laboratory campuses was also embraced by the federal government during the post-World War II period, particularly in the greater Washington, D.C. area.[74] Headquarters campuses developed during this period include the Atomic Energy Commission in Germantown, Maryland (1958); Social Security Administration in Woodlawn, Maryland (1960); and the National Institute of Standards in Gaithersburg, Maryland (1961-1970). Existing federal campuses were also expanded with new buildings during this period. On the National Institutes of Health campus in Bethesda, Maryland, which was begun in the late 1930s, new buildings included the National Library of Medicine (1962) and the Fogarty International Center (1968). Similarly, the Suitland Federal Center in Suitland, Maryland, begun in 1941, was expanded with the addition of new Modern buildings such as the Suitland Heating and Refrigeration Plant (1967).

Architects

Skidmore, Owings & Merrill

One of the most important American architecture firms of the twentieth century, SOM was instrumental in the dissemination of the Modern style in the areas of corporate and institutional design. The firm's work became synonymous with the International-Style, postwar office tower and the suburban corporate campus. SOM was formed by Louis Skidmore and Nathaniel Owings, who had previously collaborated on designs for the 1933 Century of Progress exposition in Chicago. Skidmore and Owings started the firm in 1936 and maintained offices in Chicago and New York. Architect and structural engineer John Merrill joined the firm in 1939 as a partner. Gordon Bunshaft, an MIT-trained architect who had joined the firm's New York office in 1937, became a full partner in 1946, along with William Brown, Robert Cutler, and J. Walter Severinghaus.[75] By the late 1960s, the firm employed over 1,000 employees spread among their offices in New York, Chicago, San Francisco, and Portland, Oregon.[76] Early commissions from SOM's formative years include the planned town of Oak Ridge, Tennessee (early 1940s), Great Lakes Naval Training Center (1942), and Lake Meadows Housing Project (1949).[77]

The firm's early postwar office towers epitomized the application of the International Style to corporate architecture in the United States. These buildings include the Lever House (1952), Manufacturers Hanover Trust building (1954), and Chase Manhattan Bank offices (1961) in New York, and Inland Steel building (1958) and Harris Trust and Savings Bank (1960) in Chicago. These high-rise office towers featured curtain walls and an exterior skin of insulated glass, steel, and aluminum.

By the mid-1960s, SOM's portfolio exhibited a greater articulation of structural form and use of exterior concrete, and this approach continued into the 1970s. This is seen in the firm's design for the American Republic Insurance Company offices in Des Moines, Iowa (1965), which features recessed curtain walls behind precast balconies, lending a strong horizontality to the design. Other examples include the Banque Lambert, Brussels, Belgium (1964), and the Administration Building at the University of Illinois Chicago (1965). This articulation of

[74] Robinson and Foell, 31.
[75] Woodward and Futagawa, *Skidmore, Owings & Merrill* (New York: Simon and Schuster, 1970), 11.
[76] Christopher Woodward. *Skidmore, Owings & Merrill* (New York: Simon and Schuster, 1970), 9-12.
[77] Woodward, *Skidmore Owings & Merrill*, 12.

structure is also conveyed through the X-braces that feature in the designs of the Oakland-Alameda County Coliseum (1967), John Hancock Tower in Chicago (1968), and Alcoa Corporation offices in San Francisco (1968).[78] GSA commissioned SOM to design the Portland Federal Building (1975, now the Edith Green-Wendell Wyatt Federal Building). Completed just after the USGS National Center, the building's original design incorporated the recessed curtain walls and precast concrete balconies seen in other examples of the firm's work from this period.

Walter Netsch and Field Theory

Walter Andrew Netsch, Jr. was born on February 23, 1920, on the southside of Chicago. Shortly after his birth, Netsch's family moved to New Hampshire. From a young age, Netsch was fascinated with the patterns and geometry found in nature. This fascination with nature quickly developed into an affinity towards art, and, supported by his parents, Netsch enrolled in art classes at the Art Institute of Chicago. Netsch excelled academically as his interest in architecture began to emerge. In 1939, Netsch enrolled in the architecture program at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. At this time, the program was transitioning from a focus on traditional to Modern architecture. Netsch graduated from MIT in 1943, and in 1947 he joined SOM. He was named a partner in the firm in 1955. During his first year at SOM, he produced designs for the planned community of Oak Ridge, Tennessee, a new town developed for the Manhattan Project and expanded after World War II to support peacetime research and production under the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission. Other projects during his tenure at SOM included the Inland Steel building in Chicago (with Bruce Graham of SOM, 1958), the Joseph Regenstein Library at the University of Chicago (1970), the Art Institute of Chicago, east wing (1976), the Seeley G. Mudd Library for Science and Engineering at Northwestern University (1977), and the Miami University Art Museum in Oxford, Ohio (1978). Netsch retired from SOM in 1979.[79]

Walter Netsch led SOM in designing the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs (1963), which was designated as a National Historic Landmark in 2004. The Cadet Chapel was the pinnacle architectural element of SOM's master plan and design for the campus. Constructed of glass and aluminum, the chapel represented a Modern reinterpretation of traditional cathedral architecture. The design received the prestigious Twenty-Five Year Award by the American Institute of Architects in 1996.[80]

Walter Netsch developed an innovative design approach known as Field Theory during the 1960s. The term "Field Theory" was conceived during the 1940s by social psychologist Kurt Lewin. Lewin used the term to describe the study of people within their environment. Netsch, however, used the term to refer to a geometric system for the planning of buildings. Netsch regarded the geometric nature of his evolving Field Theory as a twentieth-century outgrowth of

[78] Skidmore, Owings & Merrill, *Architecture of Skidmore, Owings & Merrill: 1963-1973* (New York: Monacelli Press, 1974).
[79] Edward Keegan, "Walter Netsch Dies at 88," *Architect Magazine*, June 23, 2008, https://www.architectmagazine.com/design/walter-netsch-dies-at-88_o (accessed March 13, 2019); Woodward and Futagawa, 11; Northwestern University, *Walter A. Netsch, FAIA: A Critical Appreciation and Source Book* (Evanston, IL: Northwestern University Press, 2008), 10-18.
[80] Douglas Martin, "Walter Netsch Dies," *The New York Times,* June 17, 2008.

the same aesthetic rules of organization that informed Greek, Roman, and Gothic architecture.[81] In 1971, Netsch stated that:

> We use an age-old aesthetic attitude that goes back to the Gothic Cathedral days. They took their programs, what the cathedral was to achieve, and used the geometric definition of form as the factor to establish the character and quality of space.[82]

In applying his Field Theory, Netsch superimposed geometric patterns, using acetate overlays, to create a "lattice" from which both simple and complex geometric forms were derived. These forms, which Netsch termed "fields," served as the basis for a given design and were repeated throughout the plan and overall aesthetic scheme of the building. Netsch and his team produced thousands of tracings by hand, creating a great number of modular and non-modular geometric patterns.[83]

The Field Theory approach represented a departure from that of Netsch's predecessors, including Mies van der Rohe. Quoted in *Progressive Architecture* in 1969, Netsch stated that:

> We look at models and buildings through fish-eye lenses and other devices; we make films as other means of seeing things differently. Our Field Theory is a process of looking at things differently too.[84]

Through the application of Field Theory, Netsch sought to move beyond Miesian box-like building forms and the conventional grid pattern of interior room layout. According to architects and Netsch scholars Martin Felsen and Sarah Dunn, "The lattice was the big organizational breakthrough. The technique produced iconic yet rational programmatic hierarchies that were structurally sound, functionally efficient, and economically feasible."[85]

During the 1960s, SOM developed a master plan for the University of Illinois Chicago (UIC) campus, providing Netsch with the first opportunity to implement his new system. Buildings on the campus designed by Netsch using Field Theory include the Architecture and Art (1968), Behavioral Sciences (1970), and Science and Engineering (1970) buildings. In the design of the Architecture and Art Building, Netsch placed an 80-foot square over an 85-foot square, rotated at a 45-degree angle. Each of the resulting star-shaped modules houses one studio. In the design of the Behavioral Sciences Building, offices occupy star-shaped modules arranged around interior laboratories.[86] In 2007, Netsch remarked that "the rotated square was the way we broke the box, by rotation."[87]

In addition to providing greater aesthetic variety, Field Theory served Netsch in other ways. As an open-ended design system, the approach was adaptable to nearly any design problem. If a

[81] Scott Utter and Kelsey Shipton, "Rehabilitation of the Art and Architecture Building at the University of Illinois at Chicago," *APT Bulletin: The Journal of Preservation Technology* 48, no. 2-3 (Special Issue on Modernism 2017): 54.
[82] Martin Felsen and Sarah Dunn, "Field Theory: Walter Netsch's Design Methodology," in *Walter A. Netsch, FAIA: A Critical Appreciation and Sourcebook* (Evanston, IL: Northwestern University Press, 2008), 76.
[83] Felsen and Dunn, 73-76.
[84] "Field Theory: Form as Process," *Progressive Architecture* (March 1969): 94-95.
[85] Felsen and Dunn, 77.
[86] "Campus City Continued," *Architectural Forum* 129, no. 5 (December 1968): 29-41.
[87] Felsen and Dunn, 77.

program or structure could not be rationalized within a particular geometric field, the field could be easily transformed by means of infinite mathematical variation. In addition, Field Theory was an efficient and systematic approach that lent itself to the high volume of work produced by a large corporate office like SOM. Netsch believed that Field Theory was a system that anyone could employ, and it became the basis for architectural production in his design studio at SOM.[88]

Walter Netsch applied his Field Theory-based approach in designing the John Wesley Powell Federal Building. Interviewed in 1986, Netsch related that the design "followed a formal rhythm of geometry rather than an arbitrary one," resulting in a building that was considered "quite radical at the time."[89] Like the Architecture and Art Building at UIC, the design is based on a star pattern created by superimposing two squares, rotated at an angle of 45 degrees. The pattern appears throughout the design of the Powell Federal Building, from the ground and floor plans of the administration and laboratory wings, to the shape of the sunken rooftop courtyards and the plaza atop the cafeteria wing, to the ray-like facets of the concrete balcony railing. While research did not uncover any statements by Netsch, or other evidence, to support a symbolic interpretation for the use of this star motif, it has been widely seen as representing the compass rose by USGS employees in the years since the completion of the building. For example, a 1984 USGS visitor's brochure includes a site map that incorporates the motif into its directional north arrow.

H. D. Nottingham & Associates

The architecture and engineering firm of H. D. Nottingham & Associates was established in 1955 and was comprised of architect John P. Bills, civil engineers Howard D. Nottingham and George C. Gerber, and mechanical engineer David B. Feder. The Arlington-based firm primarily worked in the greater Washington area and specialized in the design of office buildings and government facilities.[90] The firm designed the twelve-story Pomponio Building at Oak Street and Wilson Boulevard, in the Rosslyn section of Arlington County, Virginia, which was completed in 1966. The design of this curtain-walled office building was enhanced through the use of arched precast concrete elements, which frame both the bays of the raised ground story and roofline, and rounded concrete balconies.[91] In 1965, the firm prepared a design for Imperial Plaza, a 674-unit, International Style high-rise housing development located at I-95 and Bellevue Avenue in Richmond, Virginia.[92] In another major commission, H. D. Nottingham was selected to design a new $30 million lab complex for the Food and Drug Administration near Beltsville, Maryland, in 1966.[93] In 1977, the firm was selected, along with Mills and Petticord/HOK, to design a new courthouse for Fairfax County, Virginia.[94] That same year, GSA completed the Ron DeLugo Federal Building in St. Thomas, Virgin Islands, which was designed by Nottingham & Associates in partnership with the San Juan, Puerto Rico, firm Reed Torres-

[88] Felsen and Dunn, 75.
[89] Carol Wersich, "A Building Ahead of Its Time," *Evansville Press*, March 12, 1986.
[90] John F. Gane and George S. Koyl, eds., *American Architects Directory*, 3rd ed. (New York: R. R. Bowker, 1970), 72, 673.
[91] "Rosslyn to Get 12th New Office Building," *Washington Post*, February 25, 1965, F6.
[92] "New Housing for the Elderly," *Washington Post*, July 10, 1965, E10.
[93] James T. Yenckel, "FDA's New Lab Setup Will Cost $30 Million," July 7, 1966, *Washington Post*, C1.
[94] "Courthouse Designer Selected," *Washington Post*, May 19, 1977, VA2.

Beauchamp-Marvel.[95] Several years later, H. D. Nottingham partnered with Welton Beckett and Gray and West in preparing the design for the former Washington Convention Center at New York Avenue and Ninth Street, N.W., which was completed in 1982.[96]

Conclusion

The U.S. General Services Administration developed the USGS National Center to house the administrative and research activities of the U.S. Geological Survey. The new facility, dedicated in 1974, provided much needed space for the agency during a period of sustained postwar growth. GSA and USGS chose to locate their new headquarters campus in the nascent, planned "New Town" community of Reston, Virginia. The inclusion of industrial, corporate, and government uses constituted an integral component within the 1962 Reston master plan, and the USGS campus is located in a specially designated area of the community known as the Reston Center for Industry and Government. Suburban headquarters campuses, such as the USGS National Center, were gaining popularity among corporations and federal agencies during the 1960s and 1970s and provided a means of consolidating numerous regional offices into a single facility. The complex was designed in 1969 by Skidmore, Owings & Merrill and H. D. Nottingham & Associates. In developing the design for the John Wesley Powell Federal Building, SOM partner Walter Netsch utilized his innovative Field Theory approach, resulting in a design that integrates geometric motifs throughout both the plan and detailing of the facility. The selection of the remote Reston site, and the landscape design for the campus, which retained the wooded character of the property, were reflective of the both the agency's mission as well as the values of environmental conservation and stewardship that guided the planning and development of the Reston community. The USGS National Center is a distinctive and significant resource that illustrates not only the theme of postwar federal agency expansion onto the suburbs, but also relates to important progressive late twentieth century concepts in urban planning and architectural design.

[95] General Services Administration, Buildings and Facilities, "U.S. Virgin Islands Federal Buildings," https://www.gsa.gov/about-us/regions/welcome-to-the-northeast-caribbean-region-2/buildings-and-facilities/us-virgin-islands-federal-buildings (accessed May 23, 2019).
[96] Wolf Von Eckhardt, "D. C.'s Conventional Doldrum," *Washington Post*, January 12, 1980, E1.

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Previous documentation on file (NPS):

____ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
____ previously listed in the National Register
____previously determined eligible by the National Register
____designated a National Historic Landmark
____ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #_____
____recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____
____ recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

_X___ State Historic Preservation Office
____ Other State agency
_X___ Federal agency
____ Local government
____ University
____ Other
Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

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10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 106.1

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates (decimal degrees)
Datum if other than WGS84:_____
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1. Latitude: 38.570291 Longitude: -77.220904
2. Latitude: 38.565140 Longitude: -77.214541
3. Latitude: 38.563398 Longitude: -77.215062
4. Latitude: 38.564428 Longitude: -77.221643

Or
UTM References
Datum (indicated on USGS map):

☐ NAD 1927 or ☐ NAD 1983

1. Zone:	Easting:	Northing:
2. Zone:	Easting:	Northing:
3. Zone:	Easting:	Northing:
4. Zone:	Easting :	Northing:

Verbal Boundary Description

The property consists of three parcels totaling 106.1 acres. The first is described as Reston, Part of Parcel 10, Map 0173 01 0012B, and contains 85 acres. The second is described as Reston, Part of Parcel 10, Map 0261 01 0002A, and contains 20 acres. The third is described as Reston, Parcel 1, Part of Block 4, Map 0173 01 0012A, and contains 1.1 acres. All three parcels are owned by the United States of America. All of the buildings within the U.S.

Geological Survey National Center are owned by GSA, with the exception of the Solid State Physics Laboratory, which is owned by USGS. The true and correct historic boundaries are shown on the attached maps entitled Locator Map, Sketch Map and Photo Key.

Boundary Justification

The boundaries of the property include all that acreage, originally composed of three separate parcels, assembled for and occupied by the U.S. Geological Survey National Center during the period of significance, 1969 – 1974. The boundaries have not changed and this is how the property is currently described by Fairfax County for the purposes of assessment and taxation.

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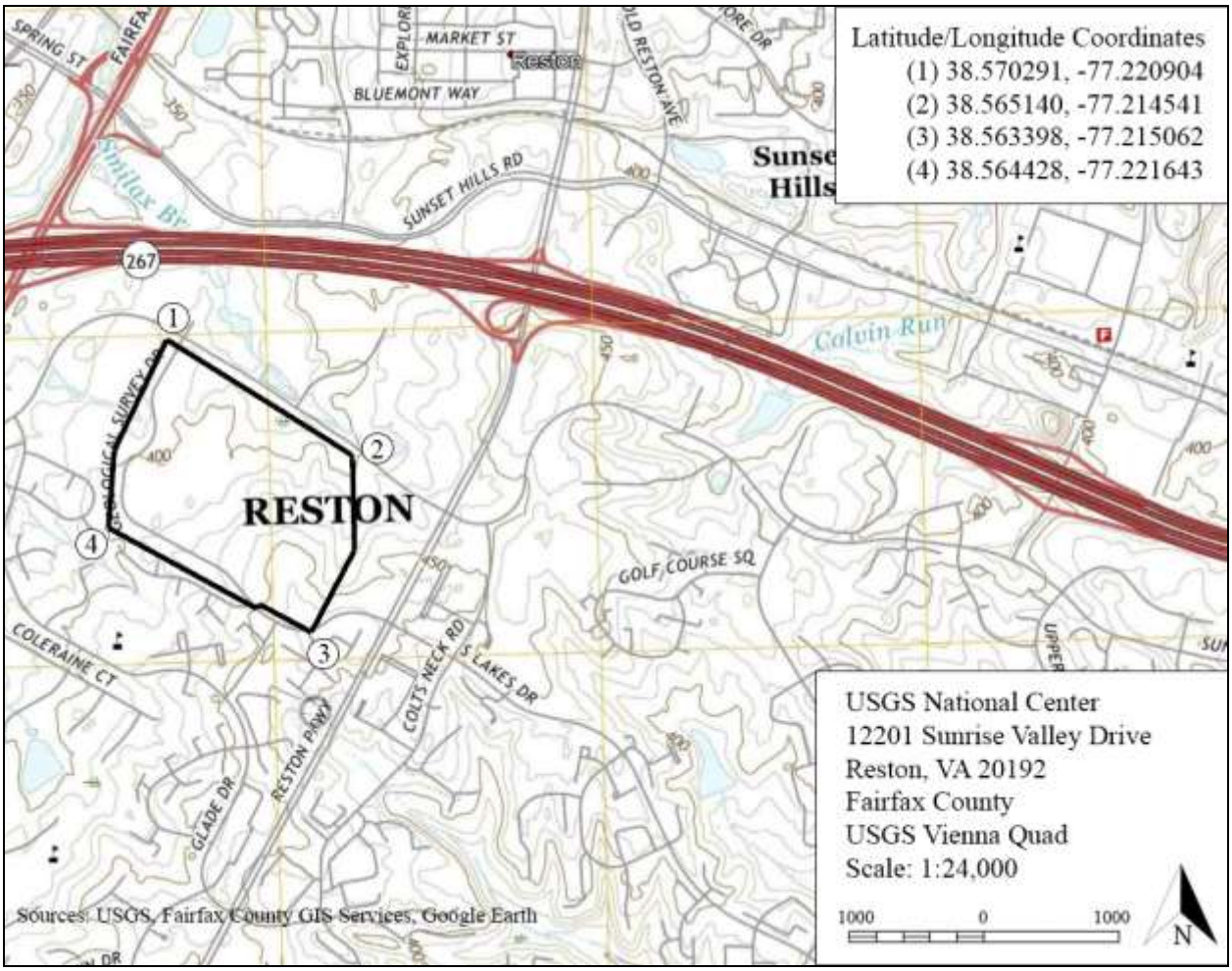
11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Bill Marzella (Project Manager), John Gentry (Architectural Historian), and Carleigh Hessian (Project Assistant)
organization: EHT Traceries, Inc.
street & number: 440 Massachusetts Avenue, NW
city or town: Washington state: DC zip code: 20001
e-mail eht@traceries.com
telephone: 202-393-1199
date: August 2, 2019

Additional Documentation

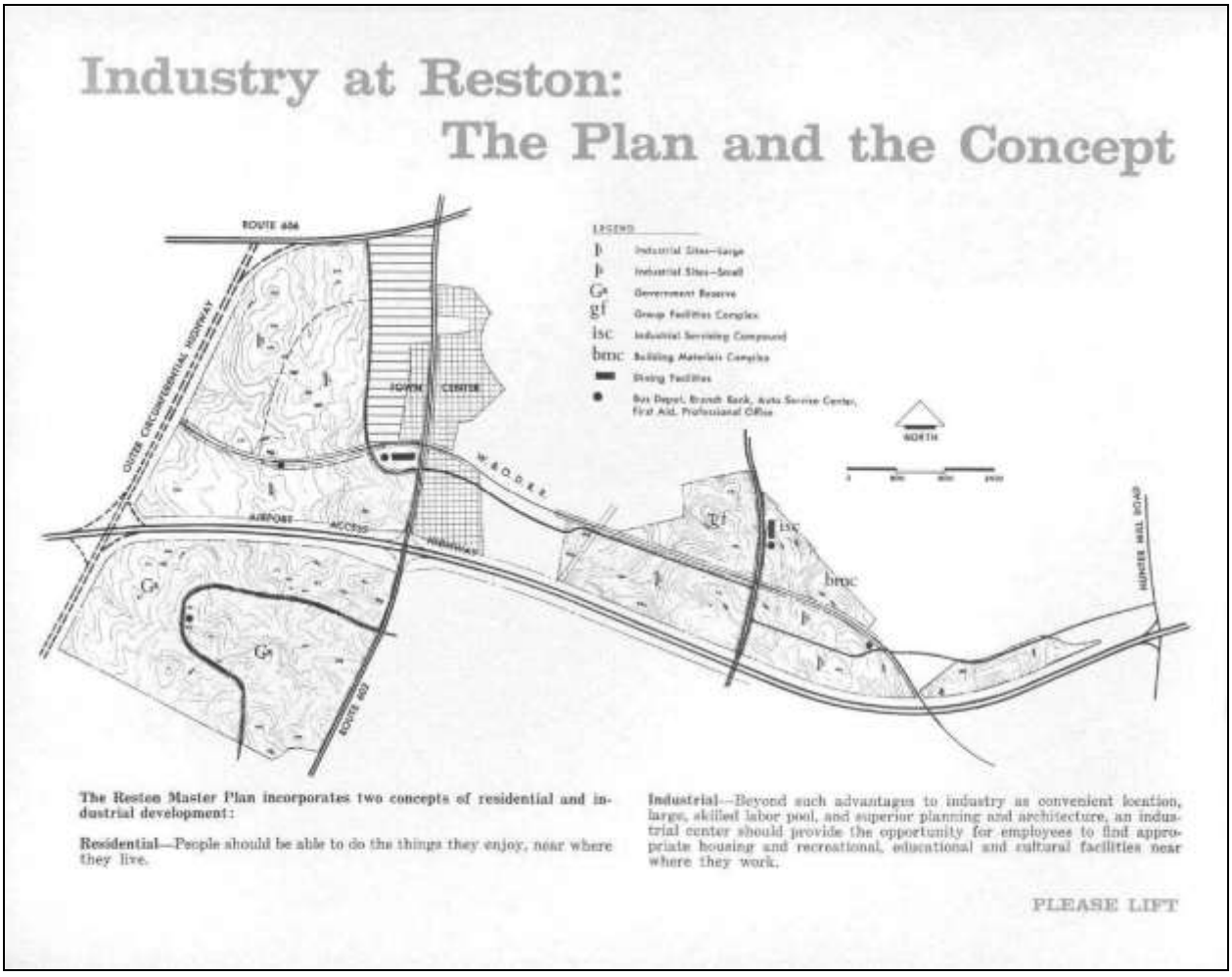
Locator Map (USGS, Fairfax County GIS Services, Google Earth).



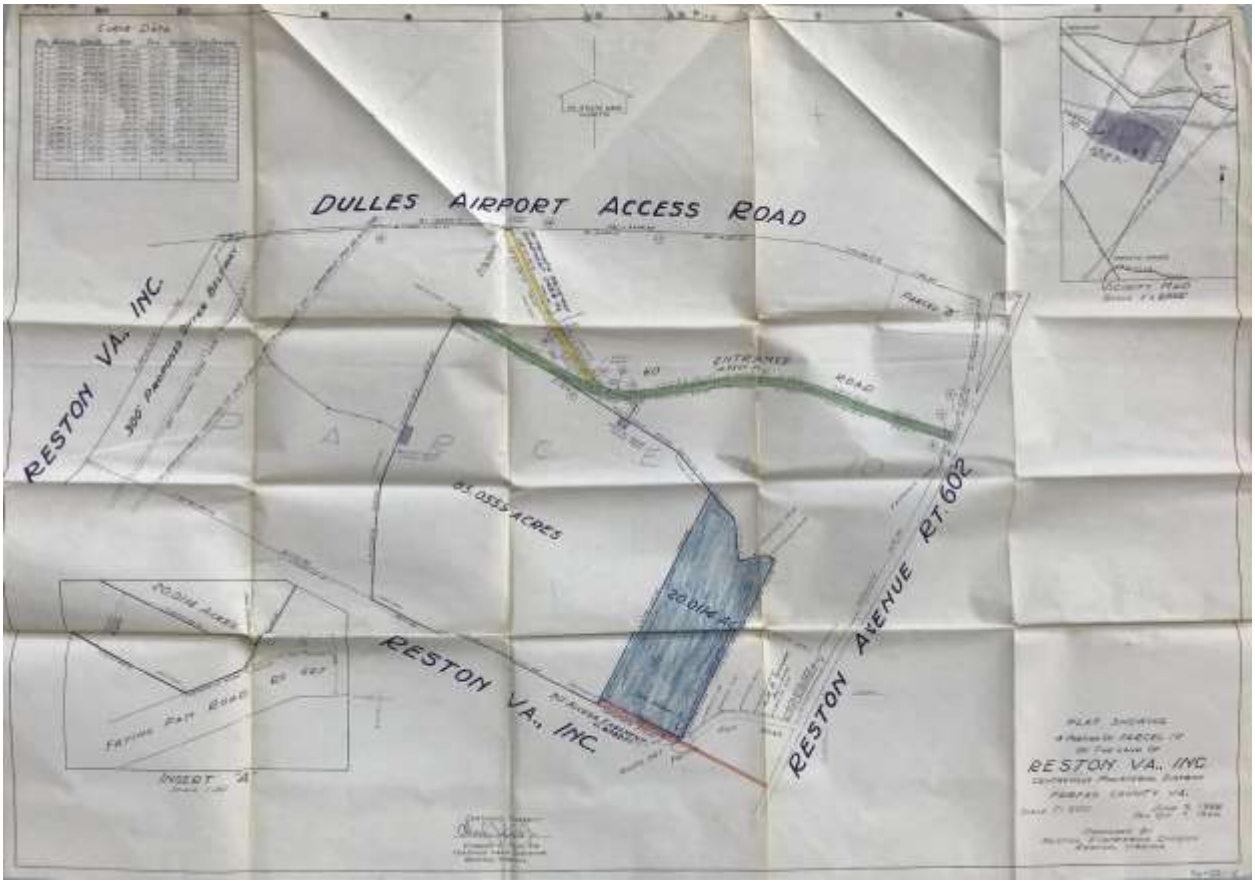
Sketch Map showing contributing and non-contributing resources (Google).

Photo Key (Google Earth).

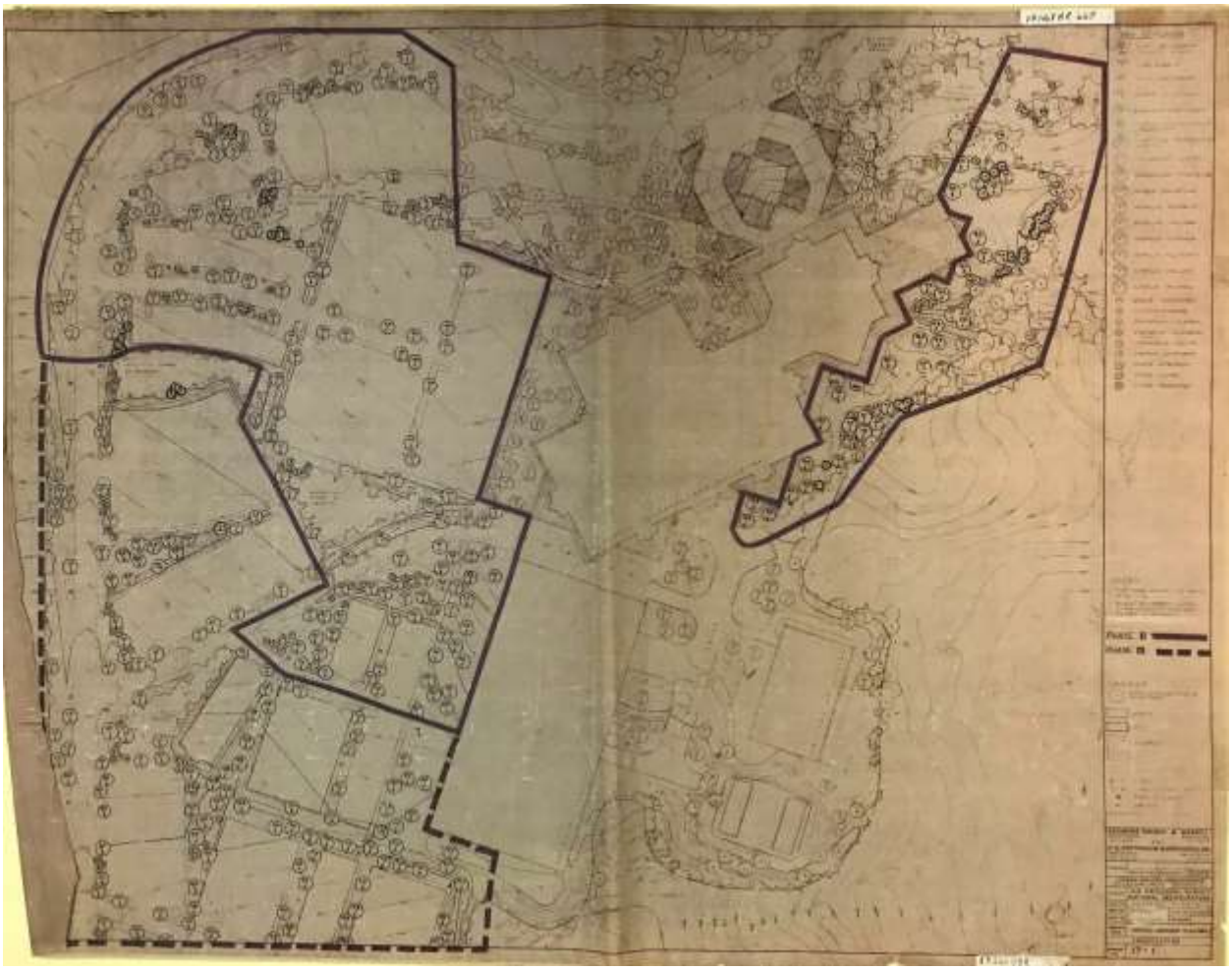
Plan of the Reston Center for Industry and Government, from a 1963 promotional pamphlet. The site of the USGS National Center is located at the lower left, along Route 602, and is annotated "GR" for government reserve.

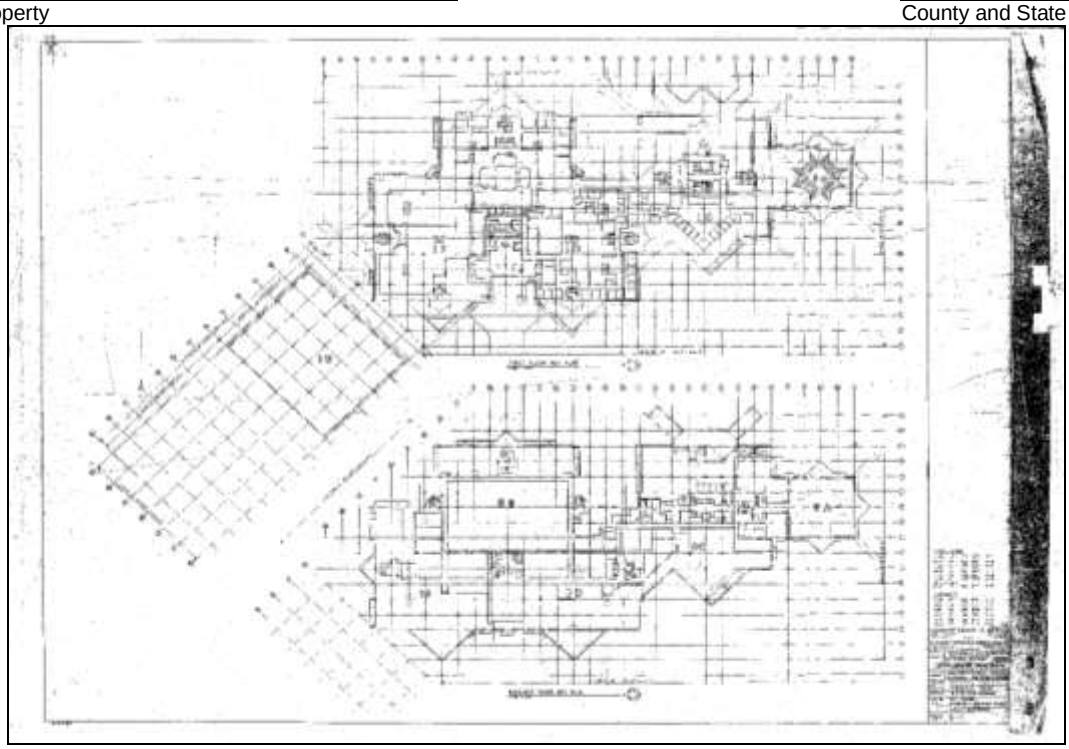


Plat Map showing two of the three parcels comprising the property. The third, triangular-shaped parcel, is located at the top of the 20-acre parcel, 1966 (National Archives).

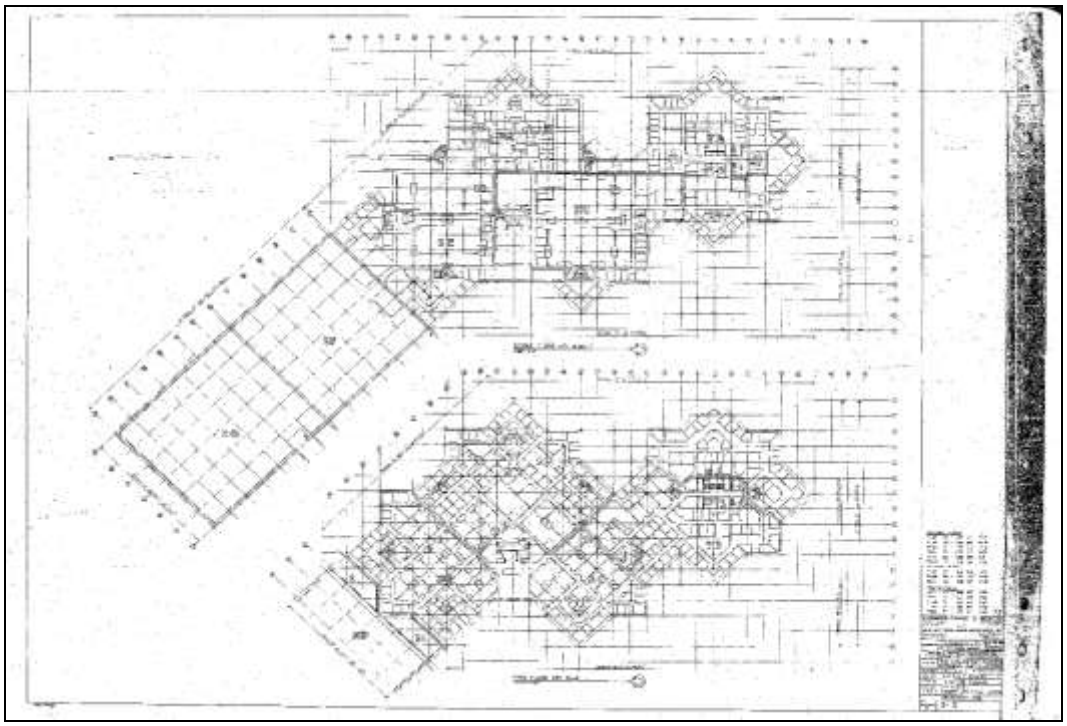


Original landscape plan, prepared by SOM and Nottingham & Associates (National Archives).

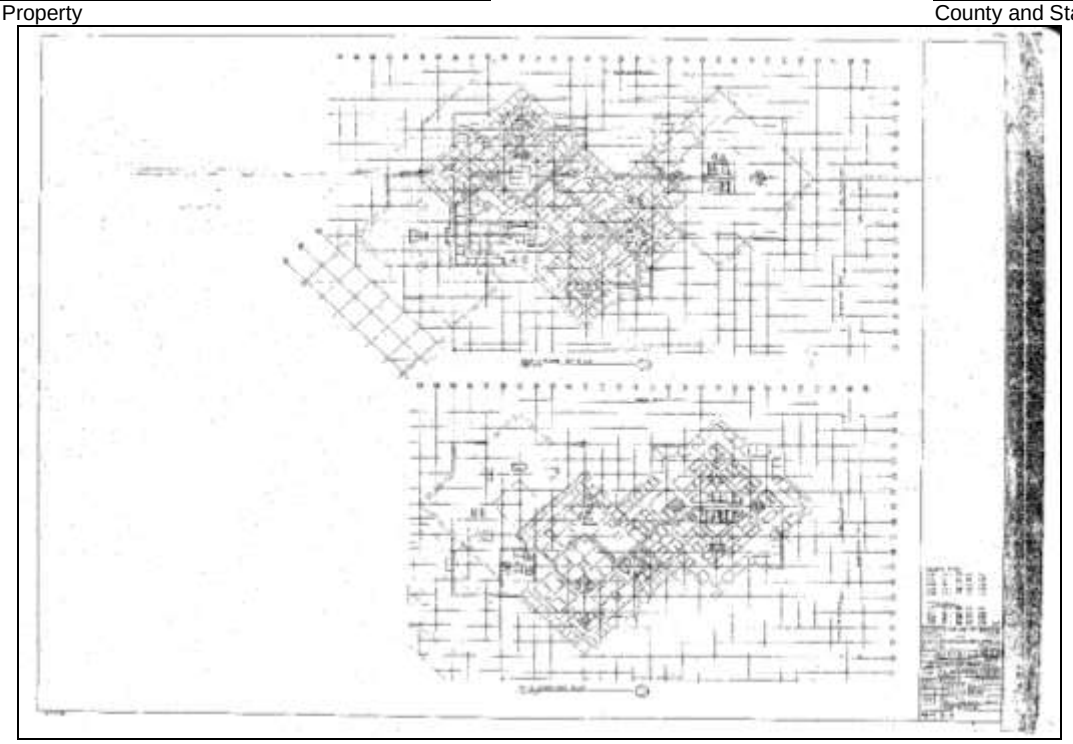




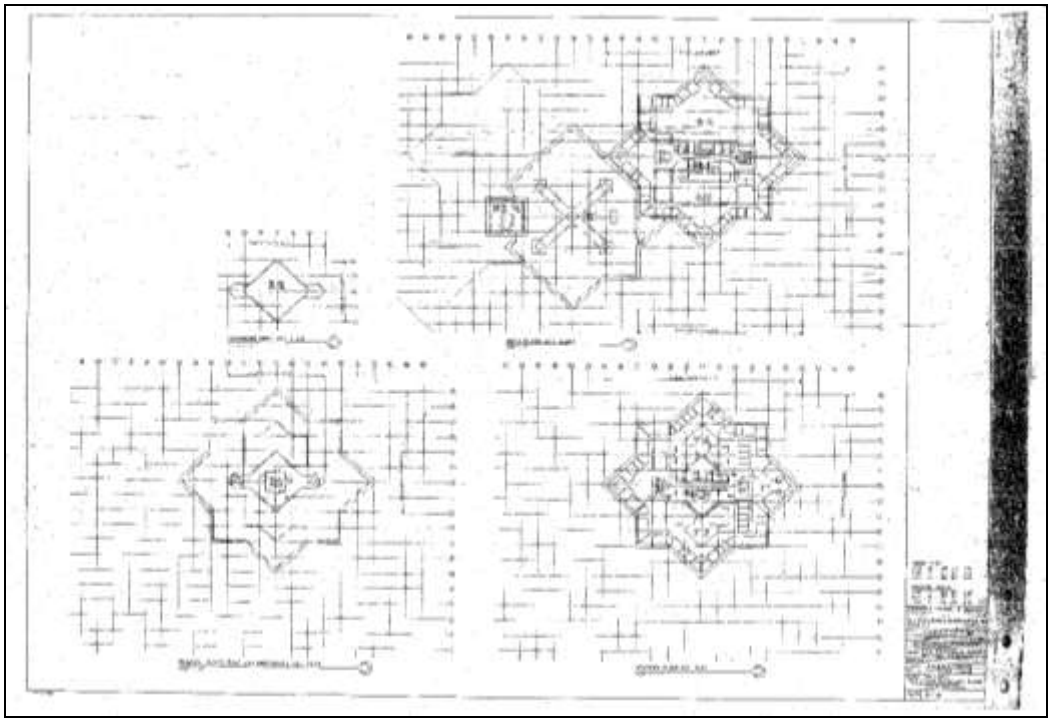
Basement and first floor plans, Powell Federal Building, drawing prepared by Skidmore, Owings & Merrill and H.D. Nottingham & Associates, 1969 (GSA).



Second and third floor plans, Powell Federal Building, drawing prepared by Skidmore, Owings & Merrill and H.D. Nottingham & Associates, 1969 (GSA).



Fourth and fifth floor plans, Powell Federal Building, drawing prepared by Skidmore, Owings & Merrill and H.D. Nottingham & Associates, 1969 (GSA).



Sixth and seventh floor plans, Powell Federal Building, drawing prepared by Skidmore, Owings & Merrill and H.D. Nottingham & Associates, 1969 (GSA).

Rendering of the USGS National Center produced by Skidmore, Owings & Merrill and H.D. Nottingham & Associates, 1969 (GSA).

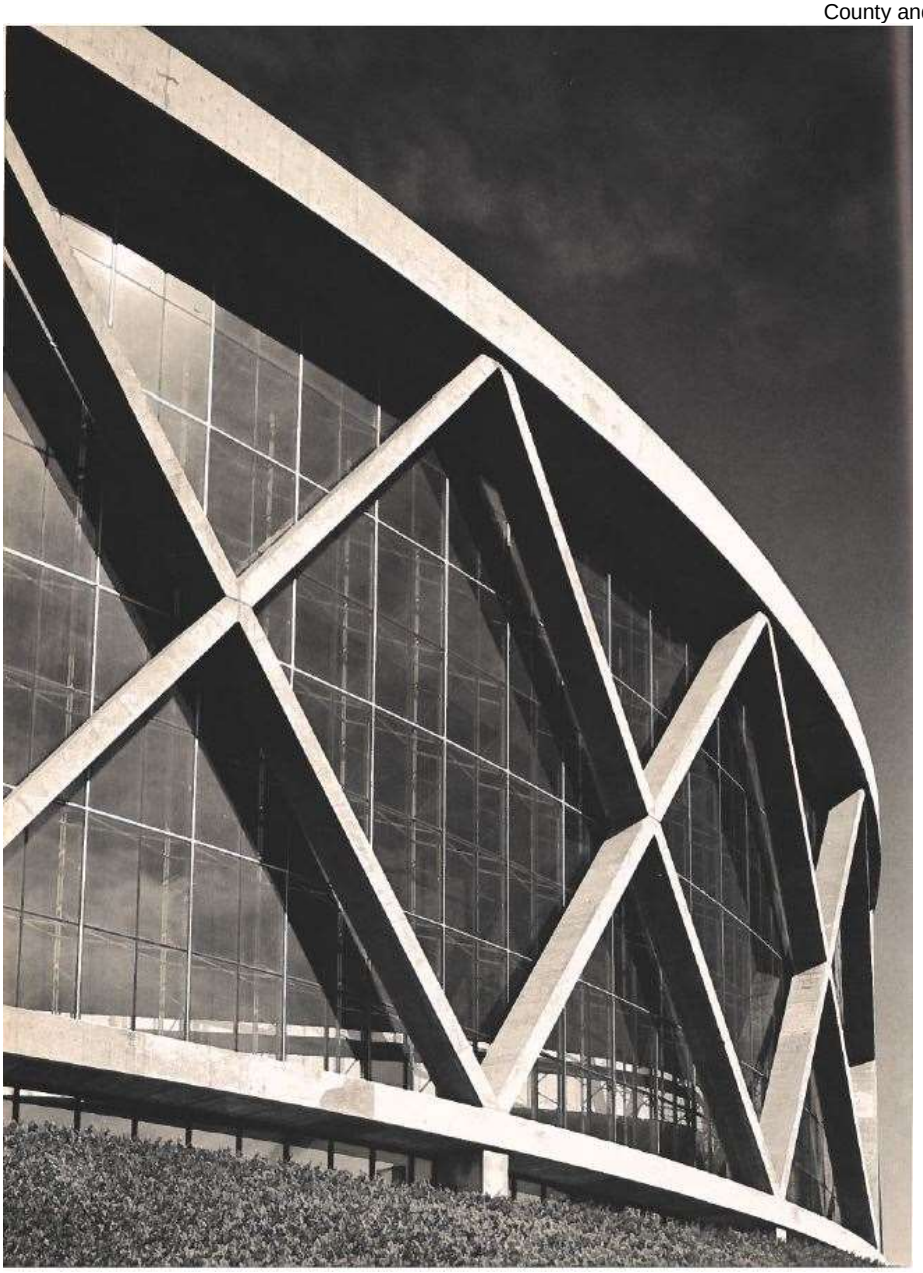
Administration wing of the Powell Federal Building under construction, October 2, 1972 (Clarence King Memorial Library)

Powell Federal Building, July 31, 1974 (Clarence King Memorial Library).

Photograph of the Powell Federal Building shortly after construction, circ. 1973 (Clarence King Memorial Library).

Architecture and Art Building, University of Illinois Chicago (*Architectural Forum*, December 1968).

American Republic Insurance Company headquarters, Des Moines, Iowa (*Architecture of Skidmore, Owings & Merrill*).



Oakland-Alameda County Coliseum, Oakland, California (*Skidmore, Owings & Merrill*).

Photo Log

Name of Property: U.S. Geological Survey National Center

City or Vicinity: Reston

County: Fairfax State: VA

Photographer: Laura Hughes, EHT Traceries

Date Photographed: July 30, 2019

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

Photo 1 of 29: VA_Fairfax County_USGS National Center_0001
View: West elevation of Powell Building, looking northeast.

Name of Property: U.S. Geological Survey National Center

City or Vicinity: Reston

County: Fairfax State: VA

Photographer: Carleigh Hessian, EHT Traceries

Date Photographed: December 17, 2018

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

Photo 2 of 29: VA_Fairfax County_USGS National Center_0002
View: West elevation of administration wing, Powell Building, looking east.

Name of Property: U.S. Geological Survey National Center

City or Vicinity: Reston

County: Fairfax State: VA

Photographer: Carleigh Hessian, EHT Traceries

Date Photographed: December 17, 2018

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

Photo 3 of 29: VA_Fairfax County_USGS National Center_0003
View: West elevation of laboratory wing at visitor's entrance, Powell Building, looking east.

Name of Property: U.S. Geological Survey National Center

City or Vicinity: Reston

County: Fairfax State: VA

Photographer: Carleigh Hessian, EHT Traceries

Date Photographed: December 17, 2018

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

Photo 4 of 29: VA_Fairfax County_USGS National Center_0004
View: North and west elevations of administration wing, Powell Building, looking south.

Name of Property: U.S. Geological Survey National Center

City or Vicinity: Reston

County: Fairfax State: VA

Photographer: Carleigh Hessian, EHT Traceries

Date Photographed: December 12, 2018

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

Photo 5 of 29: VA_Fairfax County_USGS National Center_0005
View: Cafeteria, Powell Building, looking southeast.

Name of Property: U.S. Geological Survey National Center

City or Vicinity: Reston

County: Fairfax State: VA
Photographer: Carleigh Hessian, EHT Traceries

Date Photographed: December 12, 2018

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

Photo 6 of 29: VA_Fairfax County_USGS National Center_0006
View: Woodland Walk trail, looking north.

Name of Property: U.S. Geological Survey National Center

City or Vicinity: Reston

County: Fairfax State: VA
Photographer: Carleigh Hessian, EHT Traceries

Date Photographed: December 17, 2018

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

Photo 7 of 29: VA_Fairfax County_USGS National Center_0007
View: Geological specimens along the Rock Garden Walk.

Name of Property: U.S. Geological Survey National Center

City or Vicinity: Reston

County: Fairfax State: VA
Photographer: Laura Hughes, EHT Traceries

Date Photographed: December 12, 2018

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

Photo 8 of 29: VA_Fairfax County_USGS National Center_0008
View: Art-in-Architecture sculpture *Harmony Ridge* (1996), by Robert Lobe.

Name of Property: U.S. Geological Survey National Center

City or Vicinity: Reston

County: Fairfax State: VA

Photographer: Carleigh Hessian, EHT Traceries

Date Photographed: December 12, 2018

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

Photo 9 of 29: VA_Fairfax County_USGS National Center_0009
View: North plaza (roof of cafeteria), Powell Building, looking southeast.

Name of Property: U.S. Geological Survey National Center

City or Vicinity: Reston

County: Fairfax State: VA

Photographer: John Gentry, EHT Traceries

Date Photographed: March 28, 2019

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

Photo 10 of 29: VA_Fairfax County_USGS National Center_0010
View: Third story terrace, east elevation, Powell Building, looking north.

Name of Property: U.S. Geological Survey National Center

City or Vicinity: Reston

County: Fairfax State: VA

Photographer: Laura Hughes, EHT Traceries

Date Photographed: December 12, 2018

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

Photo 11 of 29: VA_Fairfax County_USGS National Center_0011
View: Detailed view of typical column and capital, Powell Building.

Name of Property: U.S. Geological Survey National Center

City or Vicinity: Reston

County: Fairfax State: VA

Photographer: Laura Hughes, EHT Traceries

Date Photographed: December 12, 2018

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

Photo 12 of 29: VA_Fairfax County_USGS National Center_0012
View: Detailed view of faceted corner element, Powell Building.

Name of Property: U.S. Geological Survey National Center

City or Vicinity: Reston

County: Fairfax State: VA

Photographer: Laura Hughes, EHT Traceries

Date Photographed: December 12, 2018

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

Photo 13 of 29: VA_Fairfax County_USGS National Center_0013
View: Rooftop courtyard and penthouse enclosure, administration wing (Stack A), Powell Building.

Name of Property: U.S. Geological Survey National Center

City or Vicinity: Reston

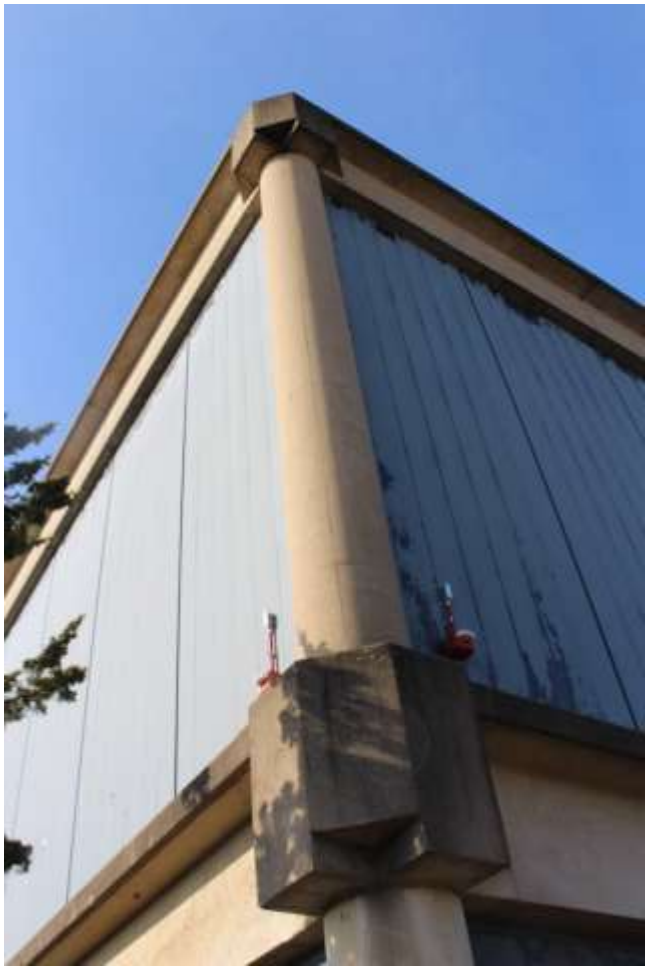
County: Fairfax State: VA

Photographer: Laura Hughes, EHT Traceries

Date Photographed: December 12, 2018

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

Photo 14 of 29: VA_Fairfax County_USGS National Center_0014
View: View of column and capital, penthouse enclosure, Powell Building.



Name of Property: U.S. Geological Survey National Center

City or Vicinity: Reston

County: Fairfax State: VA

Photographer: Laura Hughes, EHT Traceries

Date Photographed: December 12, 2018

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

Photo 15 of 29: VA_Fairfax County_USGS National Center_0015
View: Detailed view of capital, penthouse enclosure, Powell Building.

Name of Property: U.S. Geological Survey National Center

City or Vicinity: Reston

County: Fairfax State: VA

Photographer: John Gentry, EHT Traceries

Date Photographed: March 28, 2019

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

Photo 16 of 29: VA_Fairfax County_USGS National Center_0016
View: Terrace railing, Powell Building, looking north.

Name of Property: U.S. Geological Survey National Center

City or Vicinity: Reston

County: Fairfax State: VA

Photographer: Laura Hughes, EHT Traceries

Date Photographed: December 12, 2018

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

Photo 17 of 29: VA_Fairfax County_USGS National Center_0017
View: Detailed view of terrace railing, Powell Building.

Name of Property: U.S. Geological Survey National Center

City or Vicinity: Reston

County: Fairfax State: VA

Photographer: John Gentry, EHT Traceries

Date Photographed: March 28, 2019

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

Photo 18 of 29: VA_Fairfax County_USGS National Center_0018
View: Rooftop courtyard, laboratory wing (Stack C), Powell Building.

Name of Property: U.S. Geological Survey National Center

City or Vicinity: Reston

County: Fairfax State: VA

Photographer: John Gentry, EHT Traceries

Date Photographed: March 28, 2019

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

Photo 19 of 29: VA_Fairfax County_USGS National Center_0019
View: East elevation, Powell Building, looking south.

Name of Property: U.S. Geological Survey National Center

City or Vicinity: Reston

County: Fairfax State: VA

Photographer: Carleigh Hessian, EHT Traceries

Date Photographed: December 12, 2018

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

Photo 20 of 29: VA_Fairfax County_USGS National Center_0020
View: West elevation, Powell Building, looking east.

Name of Property: U.S. Geological Survey National Center

City or Vicinity: Reston

County: Fairfax State: VA

Photographer: Carleigh Hessian, EHT Traceries

Date Photographed: December 12, 2018

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

Photo 21 of 29: VA_Fairfax County_USGS National Center_0021
View: South elevation of printing plant wing, Powell Building, looking northeast.

Name of Property: U.S. Geological Survey National Center

City or Vicinity: Reston

County: Fairfax State: VA

Photographer: Carleigh Hessian, EHT Traceries

Date Photographed: December 12, 2018

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

Photo 22 of 29: VA_Fairfax County_USGS National Center_0022
View: Interior of Powell Building, first floor lobby, looking south.

Name of Property: U.S. Geological Survey National Center

City or Vicinity: Reston

County: Fairfax State: VA

Photographer: John Gentry, EHT Traceries

Date Photographed: March 28, 2019

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

Photo 23 of 29: VA_Fairfax County_USGS National Center_0023
View: Interior of Powell Building, first floor lobby, looking northeast.

Name of Property: U.S. Geological Survey National Center

City or Vicinity: Reston

County: Fairfax State: VA

Photographer: John Gentry, EHT Traceries

Date Photographed: March 28, 2019

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

Photo 24 of 29: VA_Fairfax County_USGS National Center_0024
View: Interior of Powell Building, first floor lobby, looking northeast.

Name of Property: U.S. Geological Survey National Center

City or Vicinity: Reston

County: Fairfax State: VA

Photographer: John Gentry, EHT Traceries

Date Photographed: March 28, 2019

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

Photo 25 of 29: VA_Fairfax County_USGS National Center_0025
View: Interior of Powell Building, auditorium.

Name of Property: U.S. Geological Survey National Center

City or Vicinity: Reston

County: Fairfax State: VA

Photographer: Carleigh Hessian, EHT Traceries

Date Photographed: December 12, 2018

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

Photo 26 of 29: VA_Fairfax County_USGS National Center_0026
View: Interior of Powell Building, first floor cafeteria, looking south.

Name of Property: U.S. Geological Survey National Center

City or Vicinity: Reston

County: Fairfax State: VA

Photographer: Carleigh Hessian, EHT Traceries

Date Photographed: December 12, 2018

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

Photo 27 of 29: VA_Fairfax County_USGS National Center_0027
View: Central Utility Plant, south and west elevations, looking northeast.

Name of Property: U.S. Geological Survey National Center

City or Vicinity: Reston

County: Fairfax State: VA

Photographer: John Gentry, EHT Traceries

Date Photographed: March 28, 2019

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

Photo 28 of 29: VA_Fairfax County_USGS National Center_0028
View: North and west elevations, Solid-State Physics Laboratory, looking northeast.

Name of Property: U.S. Geological Survey National Center

City or Vicinity: Reston

County: Fairfax State: VA

Photographer: Carleigh Hessian, EHT Traceries

Date Photographed: December 12, 2018

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

Photo 29 of 29: VA_Fairfax County_USGS National Center_0029
View: West elevation, Advanced Systems Center, looking east.

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management. U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.