

**The United States
Government Manual
1998/1999**

**Office of the Federal Register
National Archives and Records Administration**

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Raymond A. Mosley,
Director of the Federal Register.

John W. Carlin,
Archivist of the United States.

On the Cover: "Plan of A Projected Castle for Charleston Harbor, So. Carolina" (from the holdings of the National Archives and Records Administration, Records of the Office of the Chief of Engineers).

This undated ink and watercolor design for an octagonal two-story "castle" or fortified enclosure was proposed as part of the defenses guarding the harbor at Charleston, SC. The plans for the upper and lower stories indicate the locations of the embrasures or flared wall openings through which the guns were to be fired. The upper part of the drawing shows the front and rear facades, and the interior space arrangements can be seen near the bottom. This plan, by an unknown artist, was not approved.

The plan is one of nearly 100 drawings on display in "Designs for Democracy: 200 Years of Drawings from the National Archives," a major exhibition in the Circular Gallery of the National Archives Building in Washington, DC, which highlights some of the essential evidence representing 200 years of Federal design. Prepared, commissioned, received, or approved by the U.S. Government, the designs were originally created to support military objectives, provide civilian services, and facilitate the conduct of Government business. They include elegant watercolors, exquisite ink and wash drawings, bold charcoal and pencil sketches, and finely executed engineering details that were created by professional artists, engineers, inventors, draftsmen, or graphic artists, as well as a few inspired citizens. "Designs for Democracy" is on display through January 10, 1999.

For information on NARA's holdings, exhibits, and publications, visit the National Archives Internet site at <http://www.nara.gov/>.

Preface

As the official handbook of the Federal Government, *The United States Government Manual* provides comprehensive information on the agencies of the legislative, judicial, and executive branches. The *Manual* also includes information on quasi-official agencies; international organizations in which the United States participates; and boards, commissions, and committees.

A typical agency description includes a list of principal officials, a summary statement of the agency's purpose and role in the Federal Government, a brief history of the agency, including its legislative or executive authority, a description of its programs and activities, and a "Sources of Information" section. This last section provides information on consumer activities, contracts and grants, employment, publications, and many other areas of public interest.

The 1998/99 *Manual* was prepared by the Presidential and Legislative Publications Unit, Office of the Federal Register. Maxine L. Hill was Team Leader, and Karen L. Ashlin was Managing Editor, assisted by Scott Andreae, Brad Brooks, Anna Glover, Margaret A. Hemmig, Michael Hoover, Alfred Jones, and Jennifer Mangum.

THE FEDERAL REGISTER AND ITS SPECIAL EDITIONS

The *Manual* is published as a special edition of the *Federal Register* (see 1 CFR 9.1). Its focus is on programs and activities. Persons interested in detailed organizational structure, the regulatory documents of an agency, or Presidential documents should refer to the *Federal Register* or one of its other special editions, described below.

Issued each Federal working day, the *Federal Register* provides a uniform system for publishing Presidential documents, regulatory documents with general applicability and legal effect, proposed rules, notices, and documents required to be published by statute.

The *Code of Federal Regulations* is an annual codification of the general and permanent rules published in the *Federal Register*. The *Code* is divided into 50 titles that represent broad areas subject to Federal regulation. The *Code* is kept up to date by the individual issues of the *Federal Register*.

The *Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents* serves as a timely, up-to-date reference source for the public policies and activities of the President. It contains remarks, news conferences, messages, statements, and other Presidential material of a public nature issued by the White House during the week reported.

A companion publication to the *Weekly Compilation* is the *Public Papers of the Presidents*, which contains public Presidential documents and speeches in convenient book form. Volumes of the *Public Papers* have been published for every President since Herbert Hoover, with the exception of Franklin D. Roosevelt, whose papers were published privately.

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recommendations for executive, legislative, and judicial salaries; reorganization plans; proposed and ratified amendments to the Constitution; and Presidential proclamations. Included with many of these documents are sidenotes, U.S. Code and statutes citations, and a summary of their legislative histories.

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The publications of the Office of the Federal Register are available for sale by writing:

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and are also sold at Government Printing Office bookstores located in several major cities. Telephone inquiries should be directed to 202-512-1800.

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The Office of the Federal Register maintains an Internet site for public law numbers, the Federal Register's public inspection list, and information on the Office and its activities at <http://www.nara.gov/fedreg/>. This site also contains links to the texts of *The United States Government Manual*, Public Laws, the *Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents*, the *Federal Register*, and the *Code of Federal Regulations* in electronic format through *GPO Access*. For more information, contact Electronic Information Dissemination Services, U.S. Government Printing Office. Phone, 202-512-1530, or 888-293-6498 (toll-free). E-mail, gpoaccess@gpo.gov. Internet, http://www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs/.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Information on *The United States Government Manual* and other publications of the Office of the Federal Register may be obtained by writing:

Office of the Federal Register
National Archives and Records Administration
Washington, DC 20408

Inquiries should be directed by phone to 202-523-5227, faxed to 202-523-6866, or E-mailed to info@fedreg.nara.gov.

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