

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED **NOV 18 1982**
DATE ENTERED **JUL 21 1983**

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC

U, S, Post Office

AND/OR COMMON

Known as Main Post Office

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

95 North County Road,

— NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Palm Beach

NA VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Florida

CODE
33480

COUNTY

Palm Beach

CODE

NA

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

DISTRICT
 BUILDING(S)
 STRUCTURE
 SITE
 OBJECT

PUBLIC
 PRIVATE
 BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

IN PROCESS
 BEING CONSIDERED

N/A

OCCUPIED
 UNOCCUPIED
 WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

YES: RESTRICTED
 YES: UNRESTRICTED
 NO

AGRICULTURE
 COMMERICAL
 EDUCATIONAL
 ENTERTAINMENT
 GOVERNMENT
 INDUSTRIAL
 MILITARY

MUSEUM
 PARK
 PRIVATE RESIDENCE
 RELIGIOUS
 SCIENTIFIC
 TRANSPORTATION
 OTHER:

4 AGENCY

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (If applicable)

Real Estate & Buildings Department, Headquarters, Southern Region, U.S. Postal

STREET & NUMBER

Mid-Memphis Tower, 1407 Union Avenue

Service

CITY, TOWN

Memphis

NA VICINITY OF

STATE

TN 33104

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Palm Beach County Courthouse

Deed Book 468
Page Nos. 311-312

STREET & NUMBER

307 N. Dixie Highway

CITY, TOWN

West Palm Beach, FL 33401

STATE

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

N/A

DATE

N/A

— FEDERAL — STATE — COUNTY — LOCAL N/A

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

N/A

CITY, TOWN

N/A

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The property was originally vacant. The post office was constructed in 1936-1937. The structure has basically remained unchanged. The only changes made have been the installation of steel beams to secure the structure and the skylights were removed. The building is a Spanish style building with a two tier Spanish barrel tile roof. The windows are double hung with segmental arches. Above some of the windows are hollow cylinder ornamental tiles. It has marble stairs leading from the street level to the main entrance with brass hand rails.

The building is made of stucco. The interior has maple wood floors except for the lobby which has a tile floor. The lobby is very impressive. Decorative exposed cypress beams (never refinished) in excellent condition are on the lobby ceiling. Hanging in the lobby are three murals painted by Charles Rosen completed in 1938 depicting Seminole Indian scenes. No other information is known about them. The lobby also has two large marble pedistal desks. The postmaster's office is paneled with cypress panels.

The Palm Beach post office is an example of Spanish Colonial Revival Architecture because of the red tiled roof of low pitch and the stucco building material. It is also characteristic of this type of architecture because of the ornate interior. Attached are pictures showing the interior with the exposed decorated cypress beams that have never been refinished, and the large marble pedistal desks.

Also attached are an interior space plan and a plot plan. On Drawing No. AS-3 it shows the skylights that were originally in the building. They were removed in the late 1950's or early 1960's when central air conditioning was installed in the post office. There is not any historic significance to the layout of the interior space other than it was functional to conduct post office business.

In 1981 major work was done on the foundation. A whole new foundation including steel beams and columns were put in the crawl space of the building. No changes were made that effected the exterior or interior appearances.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES	Property acquired 6-10-31 Construction 4/36 - 5/37	BUILDER/ARCHITECT	Louis A. Simon, Supervising Arch. Watt and Sinclair of Florida, Inc. Contractor
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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This building was built under the Federal construction program. Originally, Addison Mizner, a famous local architect, designed a building but his design was turned down because the \$200,000 was prohibitive. It is felt that the building has a significant architectural style especially the interior as described on the previous page. Louis A. Simon was the Supervising Architect for the Government. The building was built by Watt and Sinclair of Florida, Inc., for a cost of approximately \$164,400.

Mr. Addison Mizner, the architect whose design was turned down, designed many structures in Palm Beach and is greatly admired by the local people. It is said that his designs transformed Palm Beach into a medieval city.

It is felt that this structure designed by the Government (Louis A. Simon, Supervising Architect) has architectural significance as explained on the previous page. This structure is very different from the others designed by the Government in that it is much more ornate and presents a "richer" look so that it conforms with the exclusive atmosphere of Palm Beach.

Post office construction in the 1930's to 1940's was funded under the Public Buildings Act of 1926 which was amended in 1930 to increase funds. The Act of 1926 marked a continuing trend towards an increased emphasis on efficiency in Federal construction based on needs. Post office construction was delayed by the crash of 1929 and the depression that followed. However, during 1930-1940 more than three times the number of post offices were constructed than during the previous fifty years. This building program helped to reduce the unemployment in the architectural field which suffered during the first year of the depression.

In general, post offices constructed during the 1930's were streamlined and had minimum ornamentation with an emphasis on economy. The Palm Beach post office is an exception to these generalizations due to location in an exclusive area. Added features such as decorated cypress beams and marble pedestal desks in the lobby, cypress paneling in the postmaster's office and marble entrance stairs with brass handrails all made this building unique and different even though it was designed by the Government's Supervising Architect.

continued on the attached.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Whiffen, Marcus. American Architecture Since 1780, Cambridge; The MIT Press, 1969.
 Palm Beach Chamber of Commerce. Official Guide to Palm Beach, Palm Beach: Florida Printing Co., 1981.
 Junior League of the Palm Beaches, Inc. Palm Beach Entertains - A Distinctive Cookbook and Social History, Palm Beach, Jr. League of the Palm Beaches, Inc., 1976.

Additional Information From: Mrs. Maxine W. Banash, Dir., Historical Soc. Palm Beach County

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Mr. Al Tracy, Postmaster, Main Post Office, Palm Beach, FL
 Ms. Mona Liska, Project Coord., Landmark Comm, Town of Palm Beach, FL

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY .48 acres (approx.) U.S. Postal Service Files

A	1, 7	5 9, 5 6, 6, 0	2, 9 5, 5 4, 0, 0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Northeast corner of North County Road and Royal Poinciana Way, Town of Palm Beach, Palm Beach County, Florida, more particularly described as A part of Government Lot One, in Section Twenty-Three, Township Forty-Three South, Range Forty-Three East containing approximately .48 acres. (See attached legal description)

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
	N/A		
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Jan H. Tracy, Professional/Specialist Real Estate July 15, 1982

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Field Real Estate & Buildings Office, U. S. Postal Service 813/228-2861

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

5511 Executive Dr., Suite 133 (P. O. Box 22725)

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Tampa, FL 33609 (Tampa, FL 33622)

12 CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

YES NO NONE

[Signature]
 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

In compliance with Executive Order 11593, I hereby nominate this property to the National Register, certifying that the State Historic Preservation Officer has been allowed 90 days in which to present the nomination to the State Review Board and to evaluate its significance. The evaluated level of significance is National State Local.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

[Signature]

TITLE Director, Office of Real Estate

DATE November 15, 1982

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

[Signature]
 Patrick Andrews

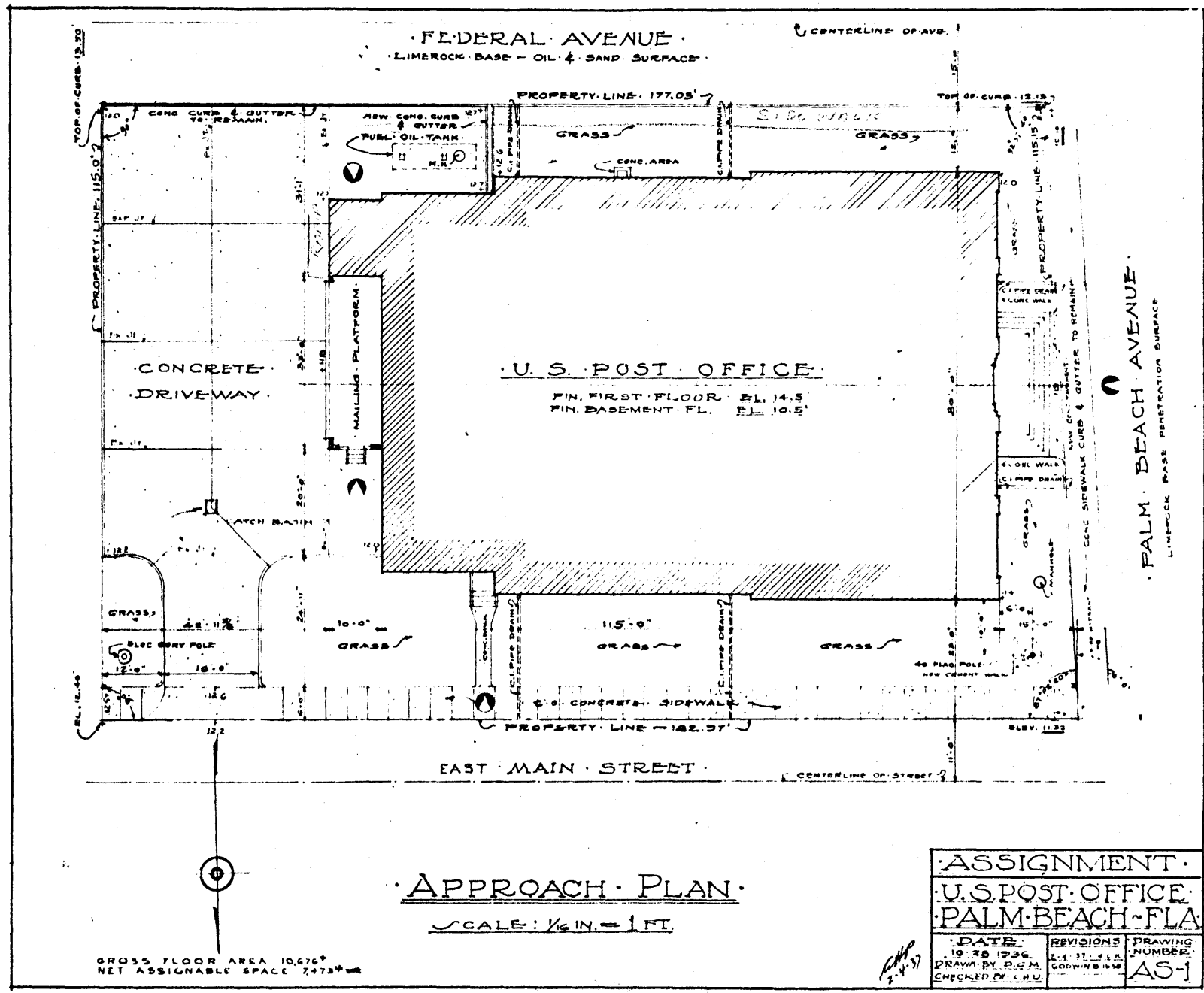
DATE 7/22/83

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

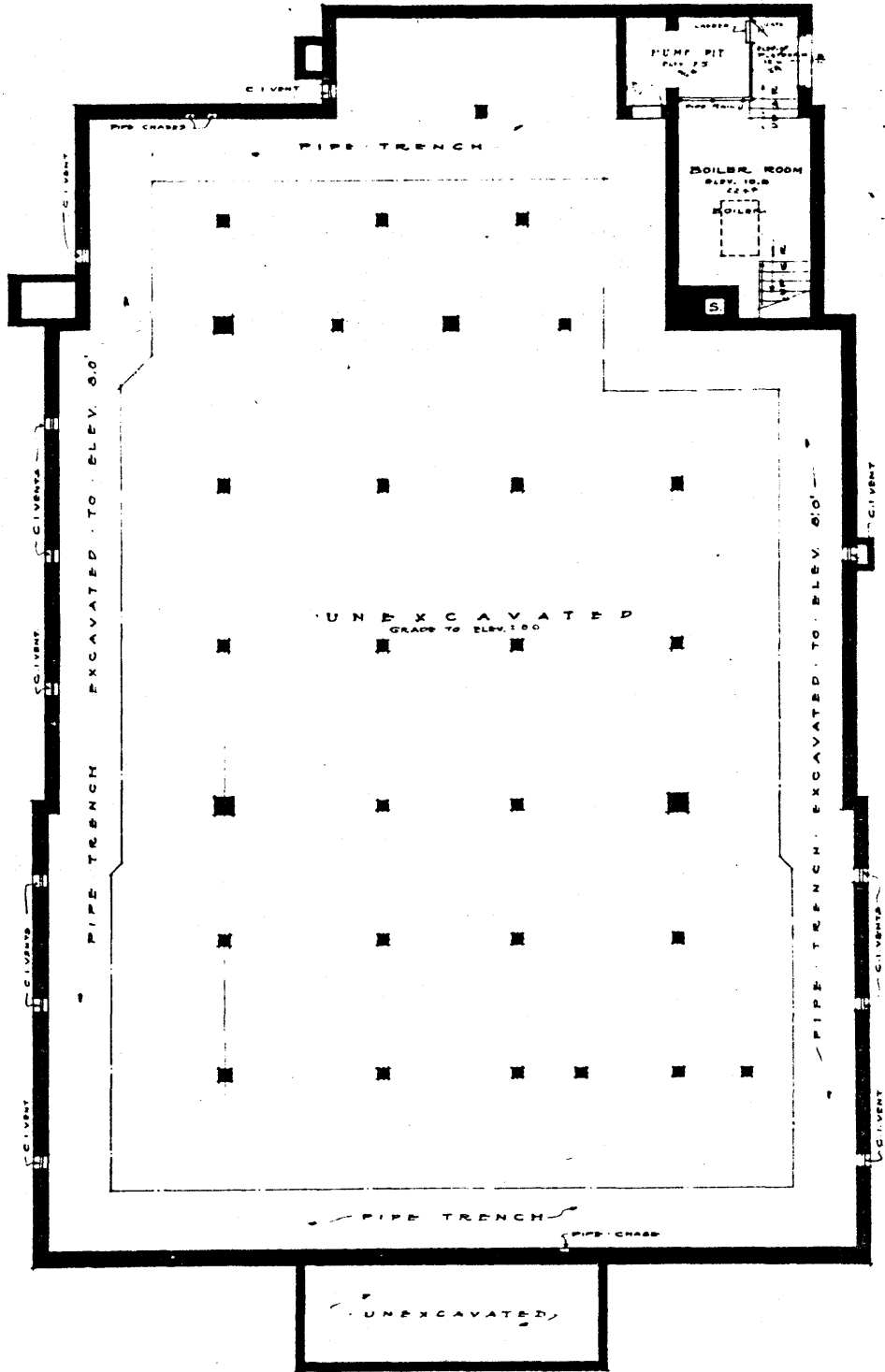
ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

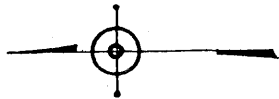


ASSIGNMENT		
U.S. POST OFFICE		
PALM BEACH - FLA.		
DATE 10-20-1936	REVISIONS 1-11-1938	DRAWING NUMBER AS-1
DRAWN BY D. G. M.		CHECKED BY C. H. U.

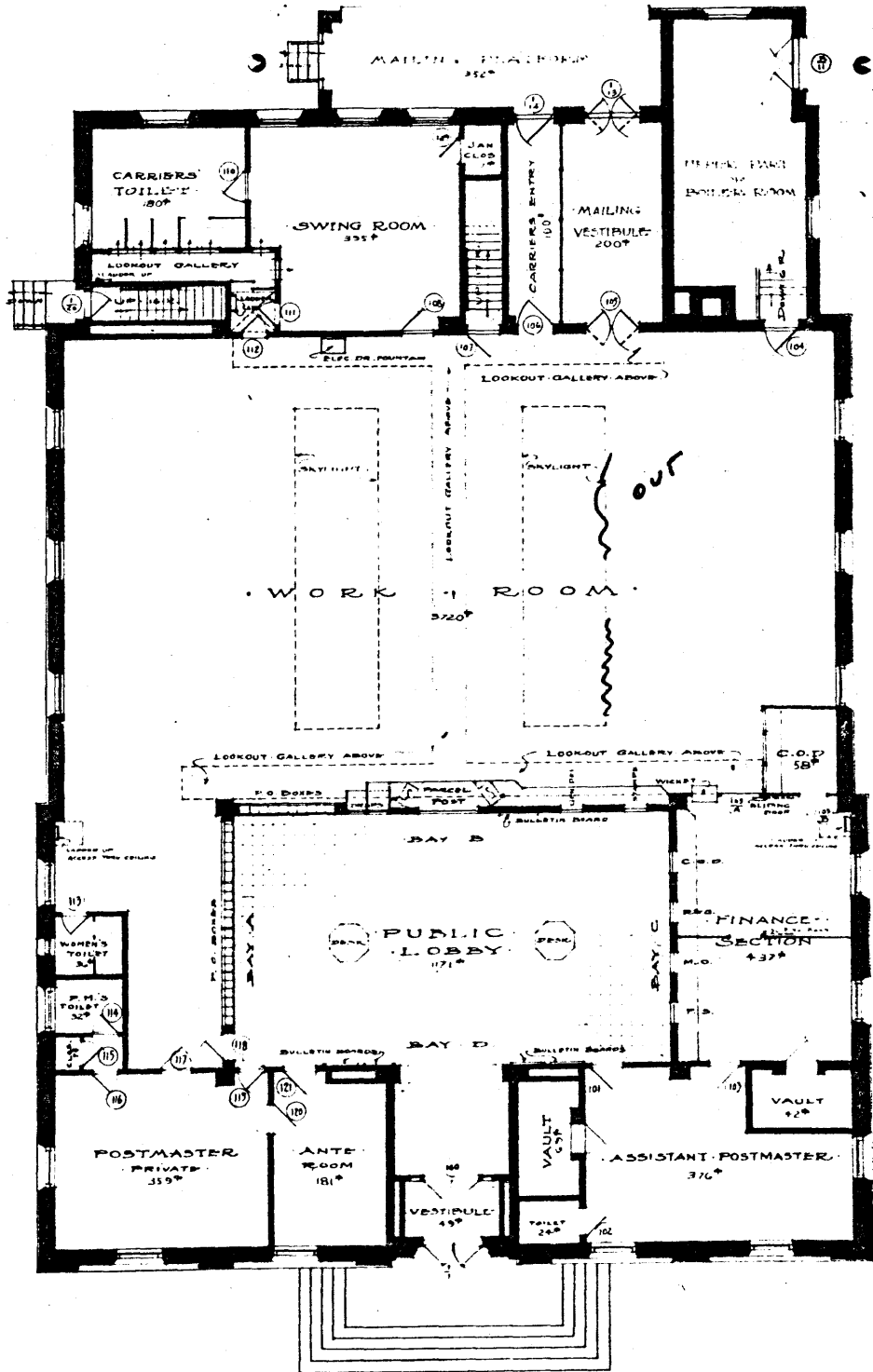


BASEMENT PLAN

SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0"

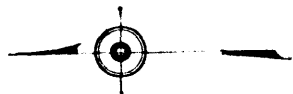


ASSIGNMENT		
U.S. POST OFFICE		
PALM BEACH FLA		
DATE 10-28-1936	REVISIONS	DRAWING NUMBER
DRAWN BY D.G.M.	APPROVED	AS2
CHECKED BY C.N.U.		

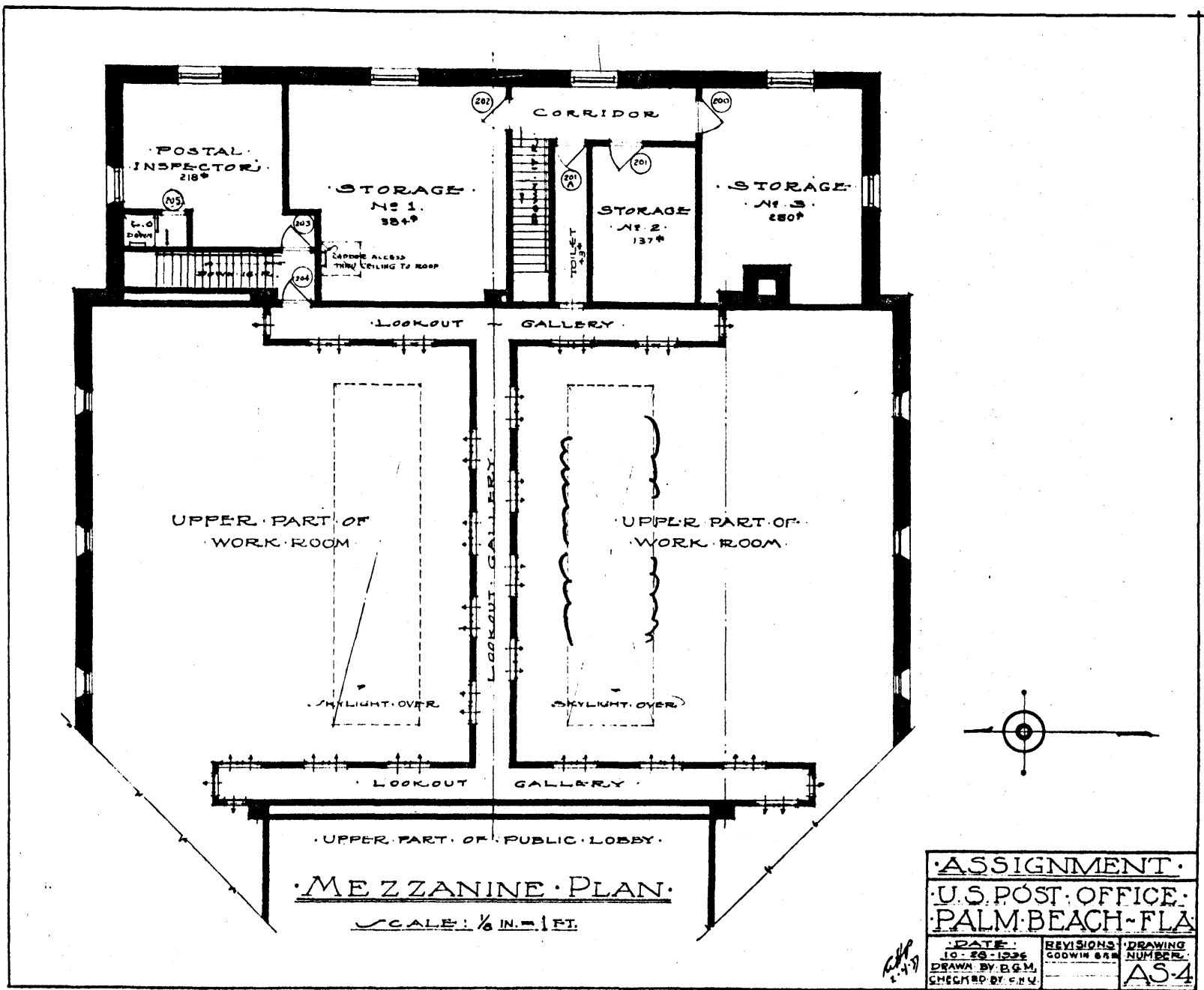


FIRST FLOOR PLAN:

SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0"



ASSIGNMENT:		
U.S. POST OFFICE PALM BEACH - FLA		
DATE: 10 28 1934	REVISIONS: ALL	LEARNING DIVISION 253
DRAWN BY D.W.M.	CHECKED BY C.H.U.	



MEZZANINE PLAN.

SCALE: 1/8" = 1 FT.

ASSIGNMENT.		
U.S. POST OFFICE.		
PALM BEACH FLA.		
DATE.	REVISIONS.	DRAWING NUMBER.
10-28-1936	GODWIN 625	AS-4
DRAWN BY: E.G.M.	CHECKED BY: C.N.V.	

h

Legal Description
Palm Beach, FL
MPO

A part of Government Lot One (1), in Section Twenty-Three (23), Township Forty-Three (43) South, Range Forty-Three (43) East, situated in the Town of Palm Beach, Florida, more particularly described as follows:

For a point of beginning, commence at the Northwest corner of Section Twenty-Three (23), Township Forty-Three (43) South, Range Forty-Three (43) East, Palm Beach County, Florida, run thence South One Degree, Twenty-Five Minutes, Fifty Seconds East (South 1° , $25'$, $50''$ East) along the West line of said Section Twenty-Three (23), which line is also the center line of Palm Beach Avenue, so-called, a distance of Four Hundred Fifty-Two and $17/100$ (452.17) feet to a point; thence South Eighty-Eight Degrees, Twenty-Eight Minutes, Ten Seconds East (South 88° , $28'$, $10''$ East) a distance of Thirty and $03/100$ (30.03) feet to the Southeast corner of said Palm Beach Avenue and Main Street, so-called, said point being hereinafter known as the point of beginning; thence continue South Eighty-Eight Degrees, Twenty-Eight Minutes, Ten Seconds East (South 88° , $28'$, $10''$ East) along the South line of said Main Street a distance of One Hundred Eighty-Two and $97/100$ (182.97) feet; thence South One Degree, Thirty-One Minutes, Fifty Seconds West (South 1° , $31'$, $50''$ West) a distance of One Hundred and Fifteen and $00/100$ (115.0) feet, thence North Eighty-Eight Degrees, Twenty-Eight Minutes, Ten Seconds West, (North 88° , $28'$, $10''$ West) a distance of One Hundred Seventy-Seven and $03/100$ (177.03) feet, thence North One Degree, Twenty-Five Minutes, Fifty Seconds West, (North 1° , $25'$, $50''$ West) along the East Line of said Palm Beach Avenue, a distance of One Hundred Fifteen and $15/100$ (115.15) feet to the point of beginning.