UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

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

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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Fort Morgan Post Office is a square building (1917) of the classically derived Federal Style which is most commonly associated with southern and eastern colonial architecture. The symmetrical building is dominated by a monumental pediment supported by four columns at the front entrance.

LOCAL CONTEXT

Fort Morgan, located roughly 80 miles northwest of Denver on Interstate 76, is a shipping and commercial center for the surrounding agricultural areas. The post office is located within two blocks of the commercial center of town, and the adjacent land uses are residential. Several buildings in the downtown area date from the early years of this century; however, the post office is not within an officially designated historic district and no structures of known historic significance are located adjacent to the post office.

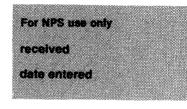
PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The building appears to be in excellent structural condition, though its appearance has not been well maintained. Paint is peeling from the wooden balustrade at the roof line, and the columns at the front entrance have recently received a coat of paint applied over a layer of peeling paint. The landscaping has been adequately maintained. An addition was built on the north side of the workroom, when the structure was used as a Management Sectional Center. The addition has reinforced concrete walls, though they are covered with a face brick which resembles the color, but not the bond, of the original brick. The lobby and office areas have been extensively remodeled; the original service windows have been replaced with a plastic-laminate topped service counter, a hung ceiling has been installed, and the original lobby furniture has been replaced with plastic-laminate covered particle board furniture.

The building has a flat, asphalt composition roof over the lobby and office areas, and a tin-covered shed roof over portions of the workroom. The walls are light tan Flemish bonded brick, and the building has a reinforced concrete foundation. The steps leading to the front entrance are granite, and ornamental trim is both plaster and wood. The public lobby has a terrazzo floor.

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form



Continuation sheet

Fort Morgan PO Item number 7

Page 1

The original structure was essentially square in plan, and oriented to the south. The lobby is a long rectangle on the southern half of the plan, and the workroom occupies the north and western portions of the building. The postmaster's and assistant postmaster's offices were located along the east wall, though the original configuration has since been changed.

The pedimented portico that shelters the front entrance is in the shape of a classical temple facade, though elements of several orders are combined. The capitals and bases of the columns and responds are derived from Roman Doric motifs, as are the dental molding and mutule blocks on the frieze and pediment. Proportionally, the long, thin columns, articulated with only a very slight entasis, recall Ionic archtypes; the frieze, lacking the alternative tryglyphs and metopes of the Doric order, is also Ionic. The coffered barrel vault directly over the front entrance is based on Roman models, though it has been filtered through a Beaux-Arts interpretation of Ouattrocentro architectural tradition; note especially the wooden keystone which breaks through the molding surrounding the vault. The leaded window which fills the transom is typical of Georgian, and later American Colonial, motifs, as are the tall double-hung windows which flank the front entrance. The original side elevations were symmetrical, and each contains an elaborate palladian window, with tall double hung windows flanking a large fixed window.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AF	REAS OF SIGNIFICANCE CH	IECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW	
PREHISTORIC	ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	COMMUNITY PLANNING	LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	RELIGION
1400-1499	ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	CONSERVATION	LAW	SCIENCE
1500-1599	AGRICULTURE	ECONOMICS	LITERATURE	SCULPTURE
1600-1699	_XARCHITECTURE	EDUCATION	MILITARY	SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
1700-1799	ART	ENGINEERING	MUSIC	THEATER
	COMMERCE	EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	PHILOSOPHY	TRANSPORTATION
<u>X</u> 1900-	COMMUNICATIONS	INDUSTRY	POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	OTHER (SPECIEV)
		INVENTION		
	Constructed 1917		UTATION OSA / Tamos A	Netmore

SPECIFIC DATES	Constructed 1917,	BUILDER/ARCHITECT	OSA/James A. Wetmore,
	Renovated 1972		Supervising Architect
STATEMENT OF S			

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Fort Morgan Post Office is a unique example of the Federal Style Colonial Revival Post Office architecture as applied to Colorado post Offices and possesses high artistic value. It also appears to be a unique example of its architectural style in Fort Morgan.

ARCHITECTURE

Stylistically, the building could be referred to as Georgian Revival, a popular mode for residential building at the time the building was designed. This style combines Palladian and Georgian motifs, and recalls designs by Thomas Jefferson and others in the early 19th century.

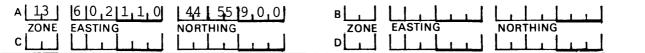
It is a varient of Colonial Revivalism which was a popular style in the eastern portion of the United States when this building was designed and constructed; however, there are few examples of the style in the western portions of the country. No other public buildings in Fort Morgan are designed in the style; most employ Beaux-Arts classical detailings on brick boxes, and there is a strong vernacular tradition which is based on southwestern building styles.

The historical significance of the building is related to its architectural style; the use of a style indigenous to the eastern United States, without a local precedent for the use of the style, is rare in post office construction. The choice of this particular design for Fort Morgan may reflect a local desire to identify with the East, rather than with the architectural traditions of the West and Southwest. No people or events of local or regional historic significance are known to be associated with the subject property.

None Known.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____62 ACTES



VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Lots 9, 10, and 11; Block 14; original Fort Morgan townsite. (see attached map)

LIST ALL STATES AND	COUNTIES FOR PROPER	TIES OVERLAP	PPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
NA	NA	NA	NA
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
NA	NA	NA	NA
11 FORM PREPARED	BY		
NAME / TITLE			
Paul R. Secord, Vic	e President/H.	James K	olva
ORGANIZATION	Tnstitute	for Urb	an DATE
Beland/Associates,	Inc./and Local	Studies	August 1984/August 1985
STREET & NUMBER			TELEPHONE
16 Oakland Ave., Sui	te 204/W. 705	lst Ave.	
CITY OR TOWN Pasadena	/Spokane		STATE CA 91101/WA 99204
	/ Sporance		
	YES NO	<u> </u>	STATE HISTOPIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE
In compliance with Executive Or	der 11593, I hereby nomin	ate this propert	ty to the National Register, certifying that the State
			t the nomination to the State Review Board and to
evaluate its significance. The eval	luated level of significance	isNational	
FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIG	GNATURE Alem	<u>~/ (</u>	de
TITLE Director, O	ffice of Real I	Estate	DATE December 17, 1985
FOR NPS USE ONLY			
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS	PROPERTY IS INCLUDED	IN THE NATIO	MAL REGISTER
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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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CONTINUATION SHEETFort Morgan MPO ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 1

Source: Sanborn Map, Fort Morgan Colorado, May 1939, page 2.

