

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	JAN 18 1985
DATE ENTERED	MAR 1 1985

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC

U.S. Post Office, Tillamook, Oregon

AND/OR COMMON

U.S. Post Office, Tillamook, Oregon

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

210 Laurel Avenue

NA NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Tillamook

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

NA VICINITY OF

1

STATE

Oregon

CODE

41

COUNTY

Tillamook

CODE

057

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	NA IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
Thematic	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
X Group		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
			<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
			<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
			<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 AGENCY

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (if applicable)

U.S. Postal Service

STREET & NUMBER

850 Cherry Avenue

CITY, TOWN

San Bruno

NA VICINITY OF

STATE

California 94099

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Tillamook County Assessor's Office

STREET & NUMBER

201 Laurel Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Tillamook

STATE

Oregon 97141

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Statewide Inventory of Historic Properties

DATE

1974

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Office of Historic Preservation, State of Oregon

CITY, TOWN

Salem

STATE

Oregon 97310

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 <u>NA</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Tillamook Post Office is a rectangular one-story structure on a raised basement. The foundations and basement are reinforced concrete and structural steel framing supports the red brick exterior walls. The roof over the front portion of the building is hipped and clad with slate, the rear portion is flat with tar composition. The front is symmetrical with two flat-arched window bays flanking each side of the double-doored entry bay.

Physical Appearance

The Tillamook Post Office is one story in height and symmetrical in elevation. The basement is constructed of concrete. The first floor is constructed of red brick with sandstone trim. The main entry stairs are granite. The front portion of the roof is hipped and covered with slate and the rear portion is flat, built-up tar composition.

The front facade (east) is flat and divided into five equally spaced flat arched bays. The main entry bay is centered and flanked on each side by two window bays. The entry bay is slightly recessed from the brick-faced facade and framed in wood. The entry consists of double metal doors with 6-light glass panels, topped by a 9-light transom window which rests atop a plain wooden door head. An ornate aluminum grille, in which a flat relief sculpted eagle is centered, is set in front of the transom window. Granite steps and landing, flanked by square concrete buttresses provide access to the entry bay. Single free-standing cast iron light standards topped by a milk-colored globe rest atop each of the buttresses.

The window bays are identical to each other and of the same dimension as the entry bay. The bays consist of triple-hung 6-light windows of wood sash which are set above a plain sandstone panel. The panel is slightly recessed and rests on the sandstone facing of the raised basement wall. A plain sandstone frieze extends across the facade between the line marking the tops of the bays to a plain, slightly projecting sandstone cornice. "United States Post Office, Tillamook, Oregon" is carved into the frieze and centered on the entry. The slate-clad hipped roof is topped by a small square cupola. The cupola is louvered and topped by a low hipped roof.

The north facade is flat and divided into four equally spaced window bays. The window bays are identical in design and detail as those of the front facade. One of the bays, however, is filled with brick (original construction and covers vault area), and one small single light window flanks each side of the bricked-in window. Granite is used to face the exposed basement wall, and sandstone for the frieze above the window bays, and cornice. Brick is used for the remainder of the facade facing. The treatment is identical to that of the front facade.

The south facade is essentially the same as the north facade, except for the addition of the mail loading platform. The mail platform is located in the southwest corner and projects from the facade to the south. A plain brick wall covers the end of the enclosed platform which opens to the east. A metal marquee projects over the loading area toward the front of the building.

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The rear facade is similar to that of the front, except for the lack of an entry. The detailing of the five window bays is identical to those of the front facade, as is the plain stone frieze and slightly projecting cornice. The rear wall of the loading platform is plain brick above the concrete platform.

The interior consists of the following: concrete floors, walls, and ceiling in the basement; terrazzo floors, plaster walls with 4-foot marble wainscoting, and plaster ceilings in the lobby; hardwood floors, plaster walls with 4-foot tongue and groove wainscoting, and plaster ceilings in the work room; and hardwood floors, plaster walls and plaster ceiling in the postmaster's office. The lobby also contains a mural above the postmaster's office door.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input checked="" 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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES See Below BUILDER/ARCHITECT Louis A. Simon, Supervising Architect, Dept. of Treasury

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE Site acquired 1940; building completed in 1941.

The Tillamook Post Office was one of the last federally constructed post offices in Oregon during the Depression Era. Although the design of this small-scale building is standardized and repeated several times in small cities throughout the Northwest, it is unaltered, well preserved, and in a grouping of buildings which forms the civic core of the city. The building also marks the end of the federal design period in which restrained classical design elements (in this case a Georgian flavor) were incorporated into an essentially modern building style (or "half-modern" style).

The lobby also contains an egg tempera on plaster mural entitled "Captain Gray's First Visit to the Oregon Coast," executed by Lucia Wiley in 1943.

Architecture

The Tillamook Post Office is a well preserved and unaltered example of the small town post office constructed by the federal government at the end of the Depression Era. It represents the federal presence in the community and was the community's first federally constructed post office. The building is of standardized design, typical of the era. The design exhibits the symmetry and proportion of the Classical style, but lacks the extensive historical detail of the early 1900 post offices. The design can be termed "half-modern" and is Georgian in flavor. The building is significant in the community and is included on both the city's and state's inventories of historical properties.

Art

The mural was completed in 1943 under the auspices of the Section of Fine Arts of the Works Progress Administration. Since the WPA projects were wiped out completely in July of 1943, the mural represents one of the last works under the program. The mural is painted in a straightforward, unaffected style that is consistent with the American realist tradition of the 1920s through 1940s. The mural is significant on both the state and local levels.

Lucia Wiley was a native of Tillamook and achieved a national reputation for her mural work during the late 1930s and 1940s. She is listed in Who's Who in American Art (1938-1939 and 1940-1941). Her work has been exhibited throughout the United States and her mural work is present in several post offices and public buildings in Minnesota, Illinois, and Wisconsin. Her work entitled, "Building of the Morning Star" and completed in 1950, is located across the street from the post office in the Tillamook County Courthouse.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- 1) Blueprints and construction documents
- 2) Headlight-Herald (Tillamook), various articles between 1938 and 1941.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 0.50 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,0	4,3,4	2,0,0	5,0	3,3	4,0,0	B					
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING					ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		
C							D					

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

All of Lots 3, 4, 5, and 6 of Block 3, Thayer's Addition to Tillamook City excepting therefrom the west 1 foot of Lot 6. The site is rectangular in shape with 210 feet of frontage along Laurel Avenue and 104'6" in depth along Second and Third streets.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING 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

H.J. Kolva, Senior Associate

ORGANIZATION Haworth and Anderson, Inc.

Institute for Urban and Local Studies

STREET & NUMBER

West 705 First Avenue

CITY OR TOWN

Spokane

DATE

August 31, 1984

TELEPHONE

(509) 458-6219

STATE

Washington 99204

12 CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

YES ___ NO ___ NONE ___

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

TITLE

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE

3/1/84

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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Community Planning

The Tillamook Post Office is located within the city's civic core and grouped with two other buildings of local significance--the Tillamook County Pioneer Museum (former county courthouse, constructed in 1905) and the present Tillamook County Courthouse, constructed in 1932. The post office, former courthouse and adjacent park, and present courthouse create an ensemble of monumental governmental buildings. The post office and present courthouse buildings are well sited in relation to each other with the park associated with the former county courthouse allowing an unobstructed view corridor of both buildings.

Local Context

Tillamook, with a 1982 population of 3,980, is the county seat of Tillamook County. Tillamook is located on the Oregon Coast and is a service center for the county's agricultural, lumber, and fishing industries. Tillamook was settled in the 1850s and after several name changes, the first Tillamook post office was established on March 12, 1866 with George Miller as the first postmaster. The town was actually called Lincoln, but the post office took the name of the county.

The town experienced a modest rate of growth but was relatively isolated from the population and commercial centers of the state. In 1910 the population reached 1,352 and in 1911 the PR&N Railroad linked Tillamook to Portland. By 1920 the population reached 1,964, increased to 2,549 in 1930, and in spite of the Depression grew to 2,751 in 1940.

The post office is located in the civic core of the city, a block east of the main business street. The Tillamook County Pioneer Museum (former county courthouse constructed in 1905) is located in the block north of the post office, and the present county courthouse, constructed in 1932, is located across Laurel Avenue in the block to the east.

Local News Coverage of the Tillamook Post Office Construction

Construction of the Tillamook Post Office was reported in the Headlight Herald between 1938 and 1941. On July 7, 1938 the Herald announced that "Tillamook will have \$85,000 federal building" upon receipt of a telegram from Senator Reams. The article stated that the work by various individuals, including Governor Martin, Senators E.A. Reams, Willis Mahoney, and by a Chamber of Commerce committee, which had been ongoing since 1935, had finally borne fruit. Another article of the same issue, reporting Postmaster L.E. Hammer's Lion's Club speech regarding the federal building project, quoted the following statement: "I have assured the federal officials that there will be no selfish quarrels in Tillamook over the new site."

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On July 14th it was announced that bids on the federal building site would be advertised July 21-28. Bids were opened on August 3rd. Five were received. C.W. Linebaugh, U.S. building site agent, visited Tillamook on August 18th to investigate the sites that had been offered. Site selection appeared to be settled, according to a September 1st article. The Fischer-Hadley site, across from the new county courthouse, was found to be eligible and was generally favored by the local populace. The article surmised that the grouping of the \$85,000 federal building, the new \$150,000 courthouse, and the Pioneer Museum would provide a fine, attractive civic center. It was not until January 11, 1940 that the Herald reported an apparent resolution to the site issue, when the city council voted to purchase the Fischer lots for the post office site.

Bids for post office construction were called on June 13th. The long awaited commencement of post office construction was expected to take place soon according to an August 29th article. O.A. Matson of Tacoma had recently been awarded the contract with a low bid of \$58,724. A description of the proposed brick building was included. Groundbreaking was reported in the September 5th issue of the Herald.

Announcement of the upcoming cornerstone laying ceremony to be held Saturday was made in the April 3, 1941 issue. The Tillamook Lodge of Odd Fellows would have charge of the ceremony. Ex-mayor Joe Carson was slated as the principal speaker. J.R. Caulfield, Tillamook postmaster, stated that all Tillamook County postmaster and postal employees had been invited. The cornerstone ceremony was reported in the April 10th issue. Although inclement weather cut the ceremony short, the large crowd enjoyed the "impressive ceremonies". The high school band played, Mr. Winslow read a history of postal service in Tillamook County, and Joe Carson delivered his address.

By July, the building was ready for service, and an article of July 10th announced the planned dedication ceremony to be held on July 15th. The July 17th issue reported the dedication ceremonies and the main address by C.W. Barrick.

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