

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

FEB 02 1993

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

NATIONAL
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an 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. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name U.S. Post Office--Forest, Mississippi

other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 119 Second Street n/a not for publication

city or town Forest n/a vicinity

state Mississippi code MS county Scott code 123 zip code 39074

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this 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 meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

He Ren Odum, Historic Coordinator 9/31/92
Signature of certifying official/Title Date
United States Postal Service, Memphis Facilities Service Center
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Kenneth H. P. Paul JAN. 28, 1993
Signature of certifying official/Title Date
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

| | | |
|--|---|----------------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> entered in the National Register. <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet. | <u>for</u> Signature of the Keeper <u>Ma J. M. Way</u> | Date of Action <u>3/18/93</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> determined eligible for the National Register <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet. | _____ | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> determined not eligible for the National Register. | _____ | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> removed from the National Register. | _____ | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> other, (explain): _____ | _____ | _____ |

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

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

| Contributing | Noncontributing | |
|--------------|-----------------|------------|
| 1 | | buildings |
| | | sites |
| | | structures |
| | | objects |
| 1 | 0 | Total |

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

Mississippi Post Offices
Thematic Resources, 1931-1941

**Number of contributing resources previously listed
in the National Register**

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Government: Post Office

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Government: Post Office

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Colonial Revival

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brick

walls Brick

Limestone

roof Metal

other

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Please see the continuation sheets

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Sheila Re Olson, Historic Coordinator 9/21/92

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

United States Postal Service, Memphis Facility Service Center

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Kenneth H. P. Pool

Jan. 28, 1993

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- entered in the National Register. See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain:)

for Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Mary M. Wynn

3/18/93

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

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

| Contributing | Noncontributing | |
|--------------|-----------------|------------|
| 1 | | buildings |
| | | sites |
| | | structures |
| | | objects |
| 1 | 0 | Total |

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

Mississippi Post Offices
Thematic Resources, 1931-1941

**Number of contributing resources previously listed
in the National Register**

0

6. Function or Use

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Government: Post Office

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

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7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Colonial Revival

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brick
walls Brick
Limestone
roof Metal
other _____

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Please see the continuation sheets

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.)

- 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.
- 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.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Politics/Government

Art

Architecture

Period of Significance

1938

1941

Significant Dates

1938

1941

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Office of the Supervising Architect
Algernon Blair (Montgomery, Alabama)

Criteria Considerations

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

Property is: N/A

- 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 of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

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 # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

U.S. Postal Service

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than 1 acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

| | | | |
|---|------|-----------|------------|
| 1 | 1 6 | 2 67 3 35 | 35 83 13 0 |
| | Zone | Easting | Northing |
| 2 | | | |

| | | | |
|---|------|---------|----------|
| 3 | | | |
| | Zone | Easting | Northing |
| 4 | | | |

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Susan M. Enzweiler / Historic Preservation Consultant

organization Private Practice date 15 August 1992

street & number 1356 Seminole Ave. telephone (504) 834-9024

city or town Metairie state LA zip code 70005

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name U.S. Postal Service, Real Estate Division (Contact: Ila Lee Odom)

street & number 1407 Union Avenue telephone (901) 722-7421

city or town Memphis state TN zip code 38166-0330

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. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 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 Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior
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Continuation SheetU.S. Post Office-Forest
Mississippi Post Offices
Thematic Resources Nomination
1931-1941Section number 7 Page 1**#7 Narrative Description**

The United States Post Office in Forest is located in the central business district approximately two blocks east of the county courthouse. It is Colonial Revival in style. A brick basement level rises above grade to a double-course limestone water table. The elevated main floor is accessed by a flight of limestone steps with cast iron railings that terminate at the street in a pair of lantern standards. The exterior brick walls consist of one full story crowned by a wooden frieze, which encircles the main block of the building, and a denticulated cornice which spans the front facade and partially continues down the side elevations. A hip roof covered in standing seam metal is located over the lobby area with a flat, built-up roof over the rear work area. Basement windows are exposed on the main facade by an areaway with a continuous railing in front of this areaway for protection. A square, wooden, two-stage cupola crowns the roof ridge over the central bay. It is articulated by a quoined base and four circular openings in the second stage which contain clock faces. Pilasters flank the circular openings and peaked metal roof and weather vane cap off the cupola. The street facade consists of five bays reading window-window-door-window-window. The central doorway is articulated by a flanking pair of Tuscan columns, block paneled transom, dentilled architrave and, at the head, a semicircular, recessed, stucco panel with brick voissior surround in which is centered a cast stone eagle approximately one foot high. Windows in this facade are wooden, double hung, twelve over twelve sash with limestone lintels and sills. The east (side) elevation has five bays consisting of windows with the same treatment. The west elevation has twelve over twelve, double hung sash windows in its end bays with four narrow, four over four, double hung sash windows comprising the interior bays. One of these interior windows is boarded up in its upper sash. Two of the original window openings were partially bricked up and four over four windows were placed within them. A mailing vestibule and platform project from the center of the rear (south) elevation. Brick masonry laid in an English bond is used throughout. A full basement level exists.

The interior plan consists of an L-shaped lobby with the postmaster's office on the northwest corner. The remaining area is given over to a large workroom and adjacent mailing vestibule leading to the loading platform. A small mezzanine level containing a lookout is located above and behind the vault area. The lobby contains a polychrome tile floor, tile wainscoting, original wooden vestibule and altered screenline.

The oil-paint-on-canvas mural entitled "Forest Loggers" by Julien Binford was created under the Treasury Department's Section of Fine Arts program and installed in the Forest post office in 1941 at a cost of \$650.00. It was restored in late 1991. The mural depicts three African-American loggers straining to fell a tree while a fourth drives a team of mules pulling a large log. For more

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

U.S. Post Office-Forest
Mississippi Post Offices
Thematic Resources Nomination
1931-1941

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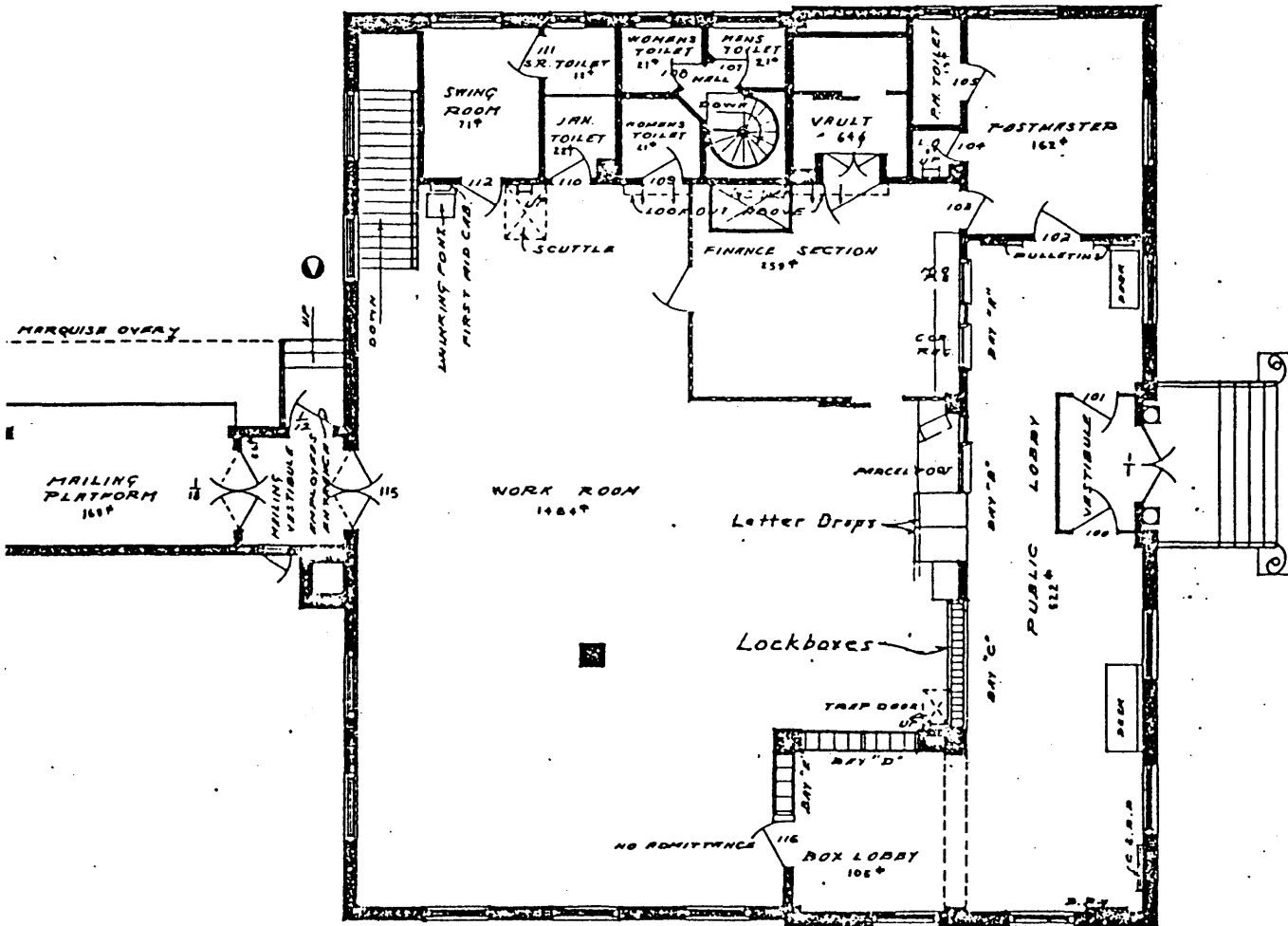
information on the mural please see the Statement of Significance (The original nomination and interview with the Forest Postmaster 7/20/92).

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

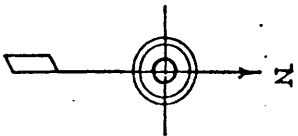
National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

U.S. Post Office-Forest
Mississippi Post Offices
Thematic Resources Nomination
1931-1941

Section number 7 Page 3



FIRST FLOOR PLAN
Scale 1/8" = 1'-0"



TREASURY DEPARTMENT
PROCUREMENT DIVISION
ASSIGNMENT
UNITED STATES POST OFFICE
FOREST, MISS.

DRAWN BY: J.J. OWEN
DATE: 6-21-38
CHECKED BY: [Signature]
REVISIONS: 608WIN 2 25-60
DRAWING NUMBER: IAS-3

OCT 14 1980

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**U.S. Post Office-Forest
Mississippi Post Offices
Thematic Resources Nomination
1931-1941Section number 8 Page 1**#8 Statement of Significance****ARCHITECTURE**

The Forest Post Office, built in 1938, is a locally important work of mid-twentieth century Colonial Revival architecture, and is a well-executed and well-maintained example of the colonial style post offices built in Mississippi by the Federal government during the Great Depression. It is the only known institutional building in Forest that is designed in the Colonial Revival style. The post office is the most imposing governmental building in the community. The courthouse appears to date from the early 1960s and the city hall is an even more recent building. Both structures lack any architectural distinction. As a prominent architectural landmark in the central business district, the post office represents not only the Federal presence in Forest but also the town's participation in the Union.

The Forest Post Office is an excellent example of the Colonial Revival architecture constructed under various New Deal programs in Mississippi during the 1930s and early 1940s and retains a high degree of architectural integrity.

ART

The mural entitled "Forest Loggers" was painted by Julien Binford, a native of Richmond, Virginia, in 1941. Binford was one of a number of young, white southerners who painted African-Americans in a sympathetic manner and was committed to social change in the period between the world wars. His artistic style was influenced by another southern painter, Aaron Douglas, a black man who founded the art department at Fisk University in Nashville, Tennessee and taught generations of students (Wilson and Ferris, v.1, 1991: 151-152).

Julien Binford studied in New York, Chicago and Paris, where he also exhibited his work. He returned to Virginia from his study in New York and bought land in Fine Creek. There he converted an old foundry into a house and a studio. Binford was one of the first recipients of the Virginia Artist Fellowships that were established by the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts in Richmond. He used the fellowship to conduct classes at the Craig House Negro Art Center. He also taught at the Richmond School of Art and at the College of William and Mary (Wilson and Ferris, v.1, 1991: 152 and "Composite Biographical Sketches of Artists").

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U.S. Post Offices
Mississippi Post Offices
Thematic Resources Nomination
1931-1941

Section number 8 Page 2

It is not known if Binford painted murals for any other Mississippi post offices. One of his murals hangs in the Saunders Postal Station in Richmond, Virginia. In 1942, Julien Binford created a "much-heralded mural" for the Shiloh Baptist Church, an African-American congregation located near his home ("Composite Biographical Sketches of Artists" and Wilson and Ferris, v.1, 1991: 152).

"Forest Loggers" was an appropriate mural for the Forest Post Office. The town acquired its name from the dense forest surrounding it in the 1850s when it was initially being settled. It became a sawmill town with an economy based on lumber (The original National Register nomination).

Julien Binford's mural is representative of the type of art work generated by the Treasury Department's Section of the Fine Arts in the 1930s and early 1940s. The oil-paint-on-canvas work depicts in a realistic style "the American scene" as it would have been understood by a community like Forest which was located in the dense piney woods of Mississippi. Its appeal and significance to Forest is apparent due to its recent restoration and the fact that its history has been researched by residents of the town.

POLITICS/GOVERNMENT

The U. S. Post Office in Forest, built in 1938, is significant for being one of the thirty-two post offices constructed in Mississippi during the Great Depression with funding from one of the New Deal public building programs. Its mural, a work by Julien Binford entitled "Forest Loggers", was also funded by a New Deal program for artists which was administered by the Section of Fine Arts, an agency of the Treasury Department.

The Forest Post Office and mural illustrate how the Federal government through Franklin Delano Roosevelt's leadership transformed its role from one of a "neutral arbiter to social welfare activist", a role the government has retained down to today. Forest, along with the rest of rural Mississippi, suffered greatly during the Great Depression. The construction of its post office and the painting of its mural demonstrate how the Federal government sought to alleviate the economic hardships of an American community through work relief while also attempting to inspire and encourage that community through public beautification (Craig 1979: 343).

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U.S. Post Offices
Mississippi Post Offices
Thematic Resources Nomination
1931-1941

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#9 Bibliography

"Composite Biographical Sketches of Artists." A report submitted with the original National Register nomination for the Mississippi post offices.

Craig, Lois and the staff of the Federal Architecture Project. The Federal Presence: Architecture, Politics, and Symbols in United States Government Building. Cambridge: The MIT Press, 1979.

Forest Postmaster. Interview, 20 July 1992.

Original National Register nomination for the Mississippi post offices.

Wilson, Charles Reagan and Ferris, William, ed. Encyclopedia of Southern Culture. 4 vols. The University of North Carolina Press, 1989; Anchor Books, Doubleday, 1991.

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National Park Service**

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Continuation Sheet**

U.S. Post Offices
Mississippi Post Offices
Thematic Resources Nomination
1931-1941

Section number 10 Page 1

#10 Geographical Data

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The northerly 100 feet of the west half of Block 44 and the northerly 96 feet of the east half of Block 44, in Section 15, Township 6, Range 8, City of Forest, Scott County, Mississippi (Deed recorded in Deed Book SSS, page 354-355, 20 December 1937).

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundaries described in this nomination are historically associated with the U.S. Post Office in Forest, Mississippi.