

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PH0687995

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED NOV 20 1978
DATE ENTERED APR 16 1979

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC

U.S. Post Office Building

AND/OR COMMON

Old U.S. Post Office Building/Crown Realty Inc. Building

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

625 Broadway

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Alexandria

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
Seventh

STATE

Minnesota

CODE
22

COUNTY
Douglas

CODE
041

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- COMMERCIAL
- EDUCATIONAL
- ENTERTAINMENT
- GOVERNMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MILITARY
- MUSEUM
- PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- RELIGIOUS
- SCIENTIFIC
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Rich L. Mische

STREET & NUMBER

1011 Douglas Street

CITY, TOWN

Alexandria

VICINITY OF

STATE

Minnesota

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Registry of Deeds - Douglas County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Alexandria

STATE

Minnesota

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Statewide Historic Sites Survey

DATE

1978

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Minnesota Historical Society - Building 25, Fort Snelling

CITY, TOWN

St. Paul

STATE

Minnesota

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" 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

Situated on a 100' by 150' corner lot at the southern end of the central business district of Alexandria, the former U.S. Post Office Building is a prominent architectural element. It is one story in height and is set upon a raised basement. Materials for construction are primarily brick and stone; the interior structural system is steel. Stylistically it is a fine example of the Renaissance Revival mode.

The Post Office Building was constructed according to designs by the architects Earl and Aiton; it was completed in 1910 at a cost of \$40,358.00. It measures forty-seven feet in width by seventy feet in length. The principal facade (entry) is located on the width of the rectangle. The mass contained is 123,300 cubic feet. The whole is of fireproof construction.

Exterior design features include a Roman Doric entrance portico, arched and trabeated window surrounds, inset stone panels above windows, a modillioned cornice, and decorative parapet. All facades are symmetrically composed. The body of the building is of brick whereas all trimming is of stone. The basement is sheathed in polished granite. Original cast metal light standards have been retained; these are placed on low plinths at either side of the entrance stairway.

The interior of the Post Office Building has retained a significant degree of original materials and design integrity. Oak woodwork is used throughout the interior for door surrounds, dados, and pilasters. The former mailbox area is also enframed in oak. A series of plaster semi-circular arches span the lobby and emphasize a moulded/coffered ceiling. A verde marble is employed for baseboards, floors are of rectangular tiles. The mailroom has been altered to adapt it for use as office space. Other interior features which have been retained are two spiral staircases and several one-way mirrors which had been part of the postal inspection system.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1910

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Earl & Aiton

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The former U.S. Post Office at Alexandria is significant as a well-preserved example of government architecture from the years immediately preceding World War I. The application of Renaissance Revival design features is well executed and adapted for use in this relatively small building.

The building served as a post office facility from 1910 until 1977 when it was declared surplus by the General Services Administration. Throughout this period, the building had undergone no alterations except for the addition of a loading dock at the rear. In 1977 it was acquired from G.S.A. and adapted for use as offices for Crown Realty, Incorporated. Conscientious efforts were made to insure that the architectural features and historic fabric of the building would be retained and restored as part of the adaptive use plan. Now completed, the former U.S. Post Office Building continues to be an historical and architectural asset to the community of Alexandria.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Larson, C., History of Douglas and Grant Counties, p. 309.
 Plans and Specifications, G.S.A., U.S. Post Office, Alexandria.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY .344 acre

UTM REFERENCES

A

1	5	3	1	5	5	6	0	5	0	8	3	8	0	0
ZONE			EASTING				NORTHING							

B

ZONE			EASTING				NORTHING				

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Charles W. Nelson, Architectural Historian/Rich L. Mische, owner

ORGANIZATION

Minnesota Historical Society/Crown Realty, Inc.

DATE

27 July 1978

STREET & NUMBER

Building 25, Fort Snelling/625 Broadway

TELEPHONE

612-726-1171/ --

CITY OR TOWN

St. Paul/Alexandria

STATE

Minnesota

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Russell W. Fridley

TITLE Russell W. Fridley
 State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE 11/9/78

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Charles R. Cooney

DATE 8.16.79

ATTEST: *Gary B. Franklin*
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER
 DATE 4/3/79

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

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RECEIVED **MAR 29 1979**

APR 16 1979

DATE ENTERED

U.S. Post Office Building

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Shortly after settlements are established, emphasis is placed on the development of communication links to neighboring communities. With the expansion of such links, a network results. The postal service represents such a network. In particular, the construction of a permanent postal facility in Alexandria in 1910 emphasized that community's position in the communication network of west central Minnesota.

The Post Office Building is significant as a well-preserved example of government (as well as public) architecture in Minnesota prior to World War I. Of the post-Victorian styles, the Neo-Classic and Renaissance were by far most popular for use in such buildings. These buildings were characterized by classical columns, arches, trabeated windows, and other decorative features such as modillions, swags, and panels. Although adapted for use as an office building, the above-mentioned architectural features have been preserved in keeping with the original design intention. Therefore, the old (Alexandria) Post Office, is a significant example of government architecture to survive in the west-central region of Minnesota.

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Verbal Boundary Description

Beginning at the northeastern corner of the intersection of Seventh Avenue and Broadway, Alexandria; thence northerly a distance of 100 feet; thence easterly a distance of 150 feet to the alley; thence southerly a distance a distance of 100 feet to Seventh Avenue; thence westerly a distance of 150 feet to the point of beginning.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

for Keeper Melvin Lyman
1/19/89

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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**Note: These changes apply to
U. S. Post Office Building in
Douglas County, Minnesota.**

REFERENCE NUMBER: 79001238

STATE: MINNESOTA

COUNTY: Douglas

RESOURCE NAME (HISTORIC): Alexandria Post Office

CITY:

VICINITY OF:

ADDRESS:

CERTIFICATION DATE:

REMOVED DATE:

COMMENTS:

Nina M. Archabal

**Nina M. Archabal
State Historic Preservation Officer**

JUN 17 1988
Date