

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number _____ Page _____

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 97001535

Property Name: U.S. Post Office --Green River
County: Sweetwater State: Wyoming

Wyoming Post Offices MPS
Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

Linda McClelland
Signature of the Keeper

December 11, 1997
Date of Action

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Amended Items in Nomination:

Section 8. Significance: "Communications" is, hereby, deleted from the Areas of Significance for which the property meets National Register criterion A because neither the nomination or multiple property form documents significance in this area. The Period of Significance is, hereby, amended to "1931-1947" to correspond to the historic period of operation.

Sheila Bricker-Wade of the Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office was notified of this amendment on December 11, 1997.

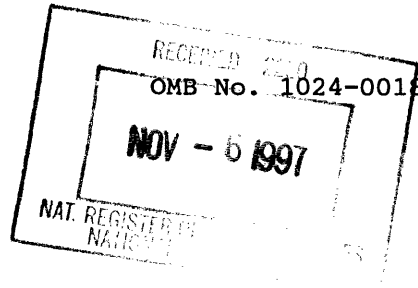
DISTRIBUTION:

- National Register property file
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

NPS Form 10-900
(Rev. 10-90)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM



1535

1. Name of Property

historic name United States Post Office-Green River, Wyoming
other names/site number Trudel's Restaurante

2. Location

street & number 3 East Flaming Gorge Way not for publication n/a
city or town Green River vicinity n/a
state Wyoming code WY county Sweetwater code 037
zip code 82935

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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.)

Signature of certifying official

Date

10/28/97

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.)

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

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6. Function or Use

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Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: government Sub: post office

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: vacant/not in use Sub: _____

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7. Description

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Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

classical revival

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation concrete

roof slate; tar

walls brick

other stone; glass; wood; metal

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

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8. Statement of Significance
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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.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or a 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.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

communications
politics/government
architecture

Period of Significance 1931-1981

Significant Dates 1931-32 building construction

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Wetmore, James A., Acting Supervising Architect
Garber, Earl E., Contractor
Thomsen, Hyrum C., Construction Engineer
Contractors: Evers Brothers, Kaehler and Ellis,
Ed Faber and John E. Wisenand

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

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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(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: _____

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10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of Property .39

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	<u>13</u>	<u>627940</u>	<u>4598420</u>	3	_____	_____
2	_____	_____	_____	4	_____	_____
	<u>See continuation sheet.</u>					

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.)

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11. Form Prepared By
=====

name/title Ruth Lauritzen, Director
organization Sweetwater County Historical Museum date October 15, 1996
street & number 80 W. Flaming Gorge Way telephone (307) 872-6435
city or town Green River state WY zip code 82935
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Additional Documentation
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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)
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Property Owner
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(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Sweetwater County Government
street & number 80 W. Flaming Gorge Way telephone (307) 872-6400
city or town Green River state WY zip code 82935
=====

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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The Green River Post Office is one story in height on a raised basement. The footings and basement are constructed of reinforced concrete. The main floor is supported by structural steel and reinforced concrete. Red brick faces the exterior walls. The front portion of the roof is hipped and clad with slate while the rear portion is flat, built-up tar composition. Sandstone is used for detailing and granite for the entry stairs and buttresses.

The facade (south) is symmetrical and divided into five bays. Quoined brick defines the corners of the facade wall. The centered entry bay of the otherwise flat facade is emphasized by a portico consisting of a triangular sandstone pediment supported by four unfluted sandstone columns. The entry is approached by four granite steps to an intermediate landing, then four more steps to the approach landing. Square granite buttresses flank the steps.

The exposed basement wall is faced with red brick with the juncture of the red brick-faced main floor and marked by a narrow sandstone watertable. The main floor is terminated by an unembellished frieze and molded, projecting cornice of sandstone. Simple brackets adorn the bottom of the cornice. Atop the cornice rests a parapet consisting of a sandstone belt course, brick course, and sandstone coping course.

The entry consists of double metal-framed glass panel doors (10 lights each). A wood-framed 12-light transom window is set above the doors. The entry is framed with an architrave of molded sandstone--flat, fluted pilasters supporting a molded cornice. The area between the architrave and flat pilasters supporting the portico is faced with stucco. Flat Corinthian capitals top the pilasters. The front edge of the portico is supported by four unfluted columns topped by Corinthian capitals. "United States Post Office" is incised in the plain frieze. The molded horizontal and raking cornices of the pediment are supported by simple brackets.

The window bays flanking the entry portico equally divide the remainder of the facade. The bays are flat-arched and framed in brick. Sandstone lintels with pronounced keystone and sandstone sills define the tops and bottoms. The sash consists of double-hung wood with 12-over-12 lights. Plain sandstone panels are aligned over and set above the windows.

The west elevation is divided into two sections which are detailed similarly to the front. The front section projects slightly and the corner is defined by brick quoins. Two equally spaced window bays, identical to those of the facade, divide this section. The rear section contains four equally spaced window bays, also identical to those of the front facade. The two rear bays have portions of the sash removed and replaced by plywood panels which house air conditioning equipment. A small 2-light window is located between the two rear bays. The upper pane has been replaced by a wooden panel which supports an air vent. The roof over the front section is hipped while that over the rear portion is flat.

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The east elevation is identical to the west. However, all of the windows are intact.

The rear elevation detailing is treated similarly to the front and sides. The centered mailing vestibule and open loading platform extend rearward from the building. Paired steel sash windows (20 lights each) flank either side of the projecting vestibule and platform. The elevation is otherwise flat and unembellished. The west side of the mailing vestibule is enclosed by metal sash windows (a 16-light center section flanked by single 8-over-8 sections with wooden panels beneath). The east side contains a 16-light metal sash window and a pedestrian door (would with 4-light glass panel). A 3-light transom window is set above the door. Two double metal loading door with single glass panels provide access to the rear of the vestibule. Five-light transom windows are located above the bays. The loading platform is concrete and covered by a metal roof with a projecting marquee.

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The Green River Post Office is significant from both architectural and local history standpoints. It represents a fine example of a distinct type of construction and also tells much about the development of the town of Green River.

Architectural Significance

The building is a well preserved and unaltered example of Neo-Classical architecture. The front facade is symmetrical, classically proportioned, and distinguished by the Classic triangular pediment of the colonnaded entry portico. The use of sandstone for the entry portico as well as other detailing provided emphasis to these elements.

The remainder of the facade, in its flat and relatively simple execution, and the floor plan is typical of any number of small town post offices constructed throughout the nation under the massive federal building programs of the Depression Era. It might also be added that the design is transitional in that it was developed prior to the emphasis placed on efficiency that dominated the building programs in the mid- to late-Depression Era. The building retains elements of the Beaux Arts design philosophy which dominated federal construction during the first two decades of the 20th century, yet suggest the stripped facades that were to come.

The building is located in the civic core of the community with the county courthouse, city hall, and former Carnegie Library occupying adjacent parcels. Prior to the construction of the existing county courthouse, the original county courthouse (constructed in 1876) occupied its location. The former library, located to the northwest of the post office, is a classically inspired building that also makes use of a triangular pedimented entry portico of sandstone.

Historical Significance

The Green River Post Office was the first federally constructed post office in the city and was an event that local citizens had worked for and anticipated for years. These efforts were recorded in the local newspaper, the *Green River Star*. According to an article of February 5, 1916, Postmaster Elmer Ace, Chairman of the post office committee, reported progress toward a new post office. Communications from Senator Warren and Representative Winters indicated that they would work for an appropriation. Winters had, on January 30th, presented Bill 8648 to provide for the erection of a public building in Green River. The bill had been referred to the Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds

Eleven years later, even though a site had been purchased under the provisions of a law approved on June 25, 1910, Green River had not yet received its federal building. On March 4, 1927, there was an article captioned "Come on

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Green River Let's Get Federal Building". The city's need for a federal building was discussed in the monthly meeting of the American Legion. Telegrams from both John B. Kendrick and F. E. Warren directed to the Legion indicated that it would be impossible to provide appropriation for Green River in the near future.

On January 25, 1929, the news appeared brighter. On May 25, 1926, the Elliott Act which authorized a massive public buildings construction program was approved. This Act provided for the construction of two public buildings in every state of the union as long as they had receipts over \$10,000. The Wyoming delegation in Washington, D.C. selected Thermopolis and Green River in their recommendations to the Post Office Department. An article of March 1st reported that the outlook for the building was good. In a telegram received by William Yates of the Green River Community Club, F.E. Warren relayed that the Committee of Public Buildings had recommended to Congress an appropriation of \$60,000 for a federal building in Green River.

Another year lapsed before a July 25, 1930, headline in the *Green River Star* announced "Green River Almost Certain of Federal Building Within Year". Certainty of the impending construction was provided by the request for bids and site survey. "The plans, it is understood, are for an imposing structure that will add greatly to the beauty of the town, and it is sincerely hoped that at last there will be some material evidence produced that this much needed structure will be realized."

The news of the post office was not the only good news for the city. In 1929 the Union Pacific had enlarged its yards; natural gas mains were serving the city. On May 2, 1930, it was reported that the population had reached 2,576, an 11% increase over 1920. An article of October 3rd reported that bank deposits were up and stated that "the purported Depression said to have manifested itself in other parts of the country has apparently not materially affected business conditions here".

On November 28, 1930, the federal building seemed a step nearer when the *Green River Star* reported that the federal site had been ordered for clearance. Two structures were located on-site: an adobe building was razed and the residence of the local superintendent of the Union Pacific Railway Company was relocated to another lot. The years of high hopes and broken promises appeared to be at an end. "Now let us pull together and pull for the realization of a long felt need, and by so doing gain for the city a building adequate and pretentious enough to be joy and ornament to the town." As the year drew to a close, it was reported (December 12th) that the contracts for the post office would soon be let. Postmaster R.A. Hoover had been informed that the plans were being drawn.

The year 1931 began with the news that construction bids were being requested (as reported on January 2nd). Excavation began on April 20, 1931, under the direction of Earl E. Garber of Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. The excavation work on the \$75,000 building would be completed by Evers Brothers of Green River. An article of May 15th reported that excavation was nearly complete and the Evers

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Brothers would also complete the concrete work, According to the *Green River Star*: "This structure is going to be a most attractive feature, being just opposite the County Courthouse on the main Lincoln Highway, and judging from the drawing will be an architectural accomplishment that will be a great credit to the town."

On July 17th it was announced that the cornerstone for the new building would be laid the following Monday with impressive ceremonies. The event would be one of historical importance and of special interest to local citizens because of the years of endeavor in obtaining the project. The July 24th issue of the *Green River Star* reported the cornerstone ceremonies. The Grand Lodge of Wyoming (Masons) presided over the ceremony. T.S. Taliaferro delivered an eloquent address to the hundreds of citizens gathered for the event.

Construction of the building neared completion and on April 23, 1932 it was announced that the post office would move soon into the "magnificent structure". An article of April 29th reported that the dedication ceremony for the new building would take place that evening. The ceremony was reported on May 4th. Hundreds of Green River citizens attended the event. The high school orchestra and several soloists provided music for the program. Finally, after many years of effort on the part of local citizens, "some of which have answered the Master's call and have gone to their heavenly reward, Green River has at last realized the completion of one of the finest federal buildings that can be found in a town twice the population of Green River." An article of May 13th reported that the post office had moved into the federal building the past Monday. The article recounted the history of the construction project and described the building. Credit for the procurement of the building was given to Robert G. Morris and Hugo F. Gaensslen, both of whom had passed to the beyond before their efforts were realized.

It is interesting to note that construction of the Green River Post Office building occurred not during Roosevelt's New Deal era as did many of the historic post offices in Wyoming, but under the early depression intervention programs of the Hoover administration.

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Bibliography

SHPO Files-Sweetwater County
Thematic resources nomination-Wyoming Post Offices

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Verbal Boundary Description

The property is located at 3 E. Flaming Gorge Way on the north side of the street. The property is bounded on the south by Flaming Gorge Way, on the west by Center Street, and on the remaining two sides by property owned by the City of Green River. To the east is a park area and the Green River City Hall is directly to the north. Legal description is Township 18, Range 107, Section 22, Green River Original Town, Block 9, Lots 6 and 7.

Boundary Justification

The boundary of the site has remained constant during the period of historic development of the Post Office and is indicated as such on all available documentation.