

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only
received NOV 28 1984
date entered DEC 27 1984

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Old Clovis Post Office

and/or common Currently Clovis-Carver Public Library

2. Location

street & number 4th and Mitchell Streets, _____ not for publication

city, town Clovis NA vicinity of

state New Mexico code 35 county Curry code 009

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 checked="" 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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: Library

4. Owner of Property

name City of Clovis

street & number P.O. Box 760/321 Connelly Str.

city, town Clovis _____ vicinity of state New Mexico 88101

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Curry County Courthouse

street & number Main and 7th

city, town Clovis _____ state New Mexico 88101

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

SR # 1108

title State Register of Cultural Properties has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date October 17, 1984 _____ federal state _____ county _____ local

depository for survey records Historic Preservation Division, 228 E. Palace Ave.

city, town Santa Fe _____ state NM

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Carver-Clovis Public Library is a two-story, hipped and flat-roofed building located one-half block west of the city's main commercial area. Its basement/podium is light-colored ashlar sandstone; the walls, various tan shades of textured brick; the roof, light-brown to orange tile. The restrained details are executed in wrought iron, cut sandstone and wood (see continuation sheet).

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 type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1931 **Builder/Architect** /J. A. Wetmore, Louis Simon

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Clovis-Carver Library building is significant as the leading federal construction project in the city during the early Depression. Built as the city's post office in 1931, the same year in which another local landmark, the Hotel Clovis, appeared, the building provided jobs and a quality structure meeting stringent federal specifications. Its distinctive combination of the Spanish Colonial Revival style with the Neo-classical style evokes the Southwest while also projecting the dignified solidity appropriate to a government structure (see continuation sheet).

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than 1

Quadrangle name Clovis

Quadrangle scale 1:62,500

UTM References

A

1	3	6	6	3	9	5	0	3	8	0	8	0	5	0
Zone		Easting					Northing							

B

Zone		Easting					Northing							

C

Zone		Easting					Northing							

D

Zone		Easting					Northing							

E

Zone		Easting					Northing							

F

Zone		Easting					Northing							

G

Zone		Easting					Northing							

H

Zone		Easting					Northing							

Verbal boundary description and justification

The original (1931) boundary of the property: lots 18-20 of block 36 of the Original Town.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state NA code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title David Kammer; Chris Wilson, Contract Architectural Historian

organization for St. Hist. Pres. Division date 10-1-84

street & number 212 Cornell, SE telephone 505-266-0931

city or town Albuquerque state New Mexico 87106

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 *Thomas W. Shelton*

title State Historic Preservation Officer date 11-2-84

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register Entered in the National Register

for Melissa Byers
Keeper of the National Register

date 12-27-84

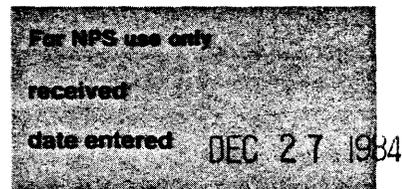
Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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

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Continuation sheet Description Item number 7 Page 1

The Carver-Clovis Library was erected in 1931 as a post office. Located one-half block west of the commercial district and cater-corner from the city's office building, the structure stands on a smooth-surfaced, light-colored ashlar sandstone foundation which steps in four inches just below common bond, light to tan textured brick walls (ills. 1,2). The building is massed as two adjoining rectangles with the smaller, one-story portion to the rear serving as a loading area, and the main two-story mass to the front housing the lobby, counters, sorting room and offices. The truncated hipped roof with a slight bellcast over the main portion is covered with mixed orange to light-brown French tiles. Wide, cut-out eaves with extensive coffering and an underlying sandstone dentil course articulate the roof (ill. 3).

Low-rising granite steps lead from the sidewalk to an arched portico trimmed with cut sandstone and accented with iron lamps (ill. 4). On either side of the portico, solid masses step forward slightly, broken only by windows with wrought iron grills (ill. 4). The main windows under the portico, as well as those in the rear, one-story rectangle, are the eight-over-eight double-hung type with side lights and a fan light (ills. 2,5). Each is lined with brick headers and sandstone sills.

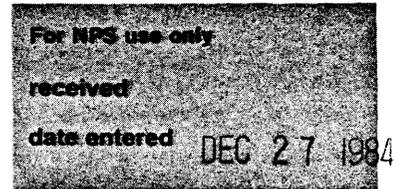
On the ends of the main, two-story rectangle (ill. 1) four-over-four double-hung windows with sandstone sills are grouped into recessed vertical bays. Sandstone relief panels separate the floors. Accenting the upper floor is a slightly projecting brick course (ills. 1,4).

Inside, behind the portico, is a mirror image space (ill. 5) with the large two-story main room beyond; on either side are two floors of offices, with the loading area to the rear. The floors of variegated brown and white terrazzo with brown borders have been covered with carpet to reduce noise. The twenty-foot-high central ceiling boasts three large chandeliers which once hung in the Washington D.C. Old Senate Office Building offices of the late New Mexico Senator Dennis Chavez. Stairs are of white Alabama marble with oak bannisters; the rest rooms and postal carrier locker room contain Georgia verde marble walls and shower stalls, and original sinks and plumbing fixtures.

In converting the post office to a library in 1974, architects Randall Kilmer and Park Innsdale added a circulation desk, shelves, carpet, handicapped ramps and an entrance vestibule in the middle of the portico. An interior glass wall was added to the east wall of the second floor main room, to open an office to that two-story space.

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Continuation sheet

Significance

Item number

8

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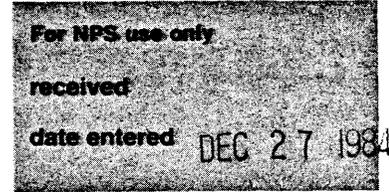
Founded in 1906 and designated a divisional headquarters of the Santa Fe Railroad in 1909, Clovis grew rapidly to 8,000 people by 1930, its growth based on railroad jobs and its position as the marketing center for a rich ranching and farming area. In January 1929, in recognition of this early growth, New Mexico Senator Samuel G. Bratton obtained funding for the construction of a new \$130,000 post office. Despite the nation's subsequent economic woes, construction began May 15, 1931 on centrally located land purchased from the city. A highly visible project, the building served as a local indication of the Hoover Administration's attempt to respond to the Depression within existing programs. The original concrete foundation and stucco walls were changed to the alternate sandstone and brick when the construction bids came in low. Although this project preceded the WPA, local workers and material suppliers, as well as suppliers as far away as Alabama and Georgia benefited.

Of more lasting importance was the stylistic message of the building. With its high standard of design and materials, the federal government often set a local standard of architectural excellence in its New Mexico post offices and other public buildings. Ideally, such buildings would articulate the local presence of the national government through a subtle reconciliation of national and regional building tastes. Reflecting this intention, the Washington-based architect of the Clovis post office, Louis Simon, under Supervising Architect J.A. Whitmore, employed a symmetry, understated ornament and self-contained massing similar to the Neo-Classicism found in federal buildings across the country. At the same time he employed wrought iron, cut stone accents, buff walls and red tile roofs suggestive of the Spanish Colonial Revival style then popular throughout much of the Southwest. Unlike the Pueblo Revival style so popular in New Mexico's Rio Grande Valley at this time, the post office signified that, while Clovis was indeed a southwestern city, it was nevertheless distinct from Albuquerque or Santa Fe.

From its opening in 1931 until 1965, the building served as a post office. Purchased by the Clovis Schools, it served as a service center until 1970. Finally, in 1974, it was purchased by the city and remodelled as the new home of the Clovis-Carver Library. Although the new entry vestibule interrupts the rhythm of the portico, the remodelling architects were careful to match the brick and window details of the original building. Inside, post office boxes and counters were removed, but the grand two-story interior was left open. The original, elaborate eave paint scheme using three shades of brown with enamel accents of light and dark blue, red and orange has been covered by a simpler, two-tone scheme. The library staff hopes to reestablish the original paint scheme based on the 1931 blueprint instructions.

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Continuation sheet Bibliography Item number 9 Page 3

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