

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 003 19

DATE ENTERED 1/22/86

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

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Monte Vista Post Office and Federal Building

AND/OR COMMON

Monte Vista Main Post Office

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

Washington and 2nd. Avenue

NA NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Monte Vista

NA VICINITY OF

3

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

Colorado

08

Rio Grande

105

**2 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"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT		<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Thematic Group	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**4 AGENCY**

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (If applicable)

United States Postal Service, Western Regional Office

STREET & NUMBER

850 Cherry Ave.

CITY, TOWN

San Bruno

NA VICINITY OF

STATE

CA

94099

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Rio Grande County Assessor

Rio Grande County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

P.O. Box E.

CITY, TOWN

Del Norte

STATE

CO

81132

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

None Known.

DATE

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Monte Vista Main Post Office is a two-story rectangular box. It is an excellent example of a late Beaux-Arts post office with its monumental proportions and massive giant order Ionic colonnade fronting the loggia on the front elevation. The structure is topped with a tile hipped roof.

LOCAL CONTEXT

Monte Vista is an agricultural center which was formally platted and incorporated in 1886. It was originally called Lariat, and later, Henry. The post office is located one block south of the town's main street in an essentially commercial area. The downtown contains number of late-19th and early 20th century buildings, although none have been designated as historic and there is no historic district within the community.

A topographic survey made in January 1931 shows the site as vacant.

PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The building is constructed of red brick with a "combed" face, and has terracotta detailing. The lobby floor is terrazzo, while the workroom floor is maple covered with asbestos tile. There is a metal hipped roof with Spanish tile covering areas where the roof is exposed. The above ground portion of the basement is faced with limestone. The building has all of its original interior fixtures. Both the structure and the grounds are well maintained.

The building is rectangular and has a second story and full basement. The main entrance faces west.

The building is a late example of Beaux-Arts Classicism. The front facade is dominated by six fluted Ionic columns which reach to the top of the second story. Rectangular basement windows and doors have terracotta frames. The entablature is terracotta with a boxed cornice and decorated frieze including dentils, egg and dart design, as well as a decorated pediment. Brick coursing rests on limestone which defines the top of the foundation.

## 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 type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES      1933

BUILDER/ARCHITECT    OSA/James Wetmore, Acting Sup.  
Architect

### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The post office is a dominant structure in Monte Vista and is the community's finest example of Beaux-Arts-influenced architecture. It is of architectural significance on both state and local levels.

### ARCHITECTURE

Though not completed until 1933, the Monte Vista Main Post Office relates directly to buildings constructed during the previous three decades, and not to the Starved Classicism style buildings typical of the Depression era government buildings. It is certainly one of the last purely Beaux-Arts buildings constructed for the Post Office Department. The structure is also interesting in that it lacks any of the Renaissance Revival details common to this general class of building.

The use of a central loggia flanked by slightly projecting wings is a hallmark of designs from the previous thirty years, and was one of the primary signifiers used in post office design. This concept monumentalizes the entrance. The building is thus significant under the National Register Criterion C on the state level as an excellent example of a type, period and method of construction. The Monte Vista Main Post Office retains substantial integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and associations.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

None Known.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY + .43 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,3	39,87,6,0	41,5,9,5,4,0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Lots 12 through 16, Block 11; original Monte Vista Townsite.

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

Paul R. Secord, Vice President/H. James Kolva

ORGANIZATION

Institute for Urban

DATE

Beland/Associates, Inc./and Local Studies

August 1984/August 1985

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

16 S. Oakland Ave., Suite 204/W. 705 1st. Ave. (818) 796-8093/(509) 458-6219

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Pasadena

/Spokane

CA 91101/WA 99204

# 12 CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

YES

NO

NONE

*Balsara Sudler*

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

*James T. Cole*

TITLE Director, Office of Real Estate

DATE December 17, 1985

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

*See Continuation sheet for listing*

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

<b>FOR NPS USE ONLY</b>
RECEIVED <i>MAY 7 1980</i>
DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET Monte Vista MPO ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 1

Source: Sanborn Map, Monte Vista Colorado,  
January 1930, page 3.

