

PH0352365

DATA SHEET

15/03/0003

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	APR 28 1976
DATE ENTERED	JUL 12 1976

**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

~~** United States Post Office in La Junta, Colorado~~

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 4th and Colorado Ave., Block 36, Lots 9 thru 12.

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 3
Otero

La Junta, Colorado

VICINITY OF
CODE

STATE

COUNTY

CODE
089

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
	<input 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 type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Postmaster General

STREET & NUMBER

U.S. Postal Service

CITY, TOWN

Washington

VICINITY OF

STATE
D.C.

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Otero County Court House

STREET & NUMBER 200 Block Colorado Ave.

CITY, TOWN

La Junta

STATE
Colo.

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Colorado Inventory of Historic Sites

DATE August, 1975

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS State Historical Society of Colorado 200 14th Ave.

CITY, TOWN

Denver

STATE
Colorado 80203

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 La Junta Post Office is a two story (plus basement) building designed in a modified Spanish Colonial style.

The upper two floor walls are stucco over brick resting on dressed stone base (in which are located basement windows) and the roofing is red clay barrel tile in a modified hip style (flat on top).

The main (east) facade and small returns on the north and south have highly decorative carved stone window and door trim--all beautifully executed! The two first floor windows on the east and the doors on the north and south have engaged decorative half-round columns with carved capitals, projecting architrave, finials, and semi-circular tympanums whose centers contain bas-relief decorative carving.

The main (east) entrance is recessed 10' behind a three-arch colonnade into whose openings are fitted remarkable iron grille gates which are closed when the building is not in use.

An unusual (and rare) feature is the decorative coffered soffit at the roof projection with its rhythmic carved brackets, fine dentils and interesting corner detail.

The building's main public (interior) space has high vaulted ceilings, beautifully proportioned to length and width, well-lighted, showing the excellent plaster work at the intersection of the vaults. (This area is apparently about to receive a dropped tile ceiling!)

The overall aspect of the building is excellent. It is well-scaled to the community and its main facade is quite sensitively proportioned. The later small brick addition to the rear (west) detracts only slightly from its genial excellent appearance.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD 1900

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES **Cornerstone 1915** ~~1915~~/ARCHITECT (Supervising)
Opened for use March, 1916 **Oscar Wenderoth**

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The United States Post Office is a beautiful building. There is evidence that not many like it were built--and none in Colorado. Henry Sieber of La Junta, employed at this post office in 1916, says there were not many post offices being built at that time, and it took much political maneuvering to get a new post office for La Junta.

Many local people--probably most people--have never really looked at their post office. They are pleased and surprised that they have a building that is a work of art. The knowledge is making them look at other older buildings with appreciation even though the post office is obviously the best example of art in architecture in the Community.

The present and past postal employees do appreciate the building, and are upset by rumors that it may soon be remodelled drastically inside and out.

The cornerstone at the La Junta Post Office says:

William G. McAdoo,
 Secretary of the Treasury
 Oscar Wenderoth,
 Supervising Architect
 1915

The building contractor was a Mr. Swanson of Chicago. He sent G. A. Dahlgren to superintend the construction. Mr. Dahlgren remained in La Junta, and built many homes and commercial buildings there.

There is a picture of the post office in the April 22, 1916 issue of the La Junta Tribune. The picture is taken from the north east corner of the building. The east facade looks the same as today, 1975. The north facade shows an entrance that is no longer there. There is no story in the newspaper in connection with the picture. The caption underneath says "'Here She Is' La Junta's new Post office". Records show M. R. McCauley was Post Master at the time the post office was built and opened for service (March, 1916).

The La Junta Post Office has been remodelled and modernized several times since 1915, but the north, south, and east (front) facades and the lobby have been changed very little.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

La Junta Tribune, April 22, 1916, file Woodruff Memorial Library, La Junta, Colo.

File of papers on history of La Junta Post Office at the La Junta Post Office ~~at the La Junta Post Office~~

Interview 10-2-1975 Max Rogers, Post Master, La Junta

Interview 10-7-1975 Henry A. Sieber, Post office in La Junta Employee in 1916.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 4 lots 25' x 140' each. 1/3 ACRE
 UTM REFERENCES 38°N 103°W

A	13	62,79,60	4,210,99,5,0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE Langdon E. Morris, Jr. A.I.A. SPC (AIA)
E. Frances Keck MAY 1976
 ORGANIZATION 1869 Pearl St. DATE 303 744-6178
701 Grace Avenue TELEPHONE 303 384-2702
 STREET & NUMBER Denver, Colorado
 CITY OR TOWN La Junta, Colorado STATE _____

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL _____ STATE _____ LOCAL

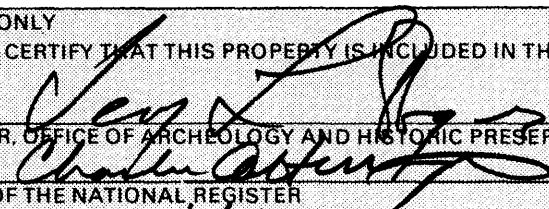
As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National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

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE 

TITLE SNPO DATE 4/11/76

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Acting 
 DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE 5/12/76

AC ATTEST: 
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 6.25.76

RBR for WJM 7/8/76

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

8

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Architectural Significance

After study, there can be little doubt that the La Junta Post Office not only qualifies as architecture, but also as a work of fine art! The building would stand out in any community; in La Junta, it rises above all other buildings in architectural quality and so becomes the community's one great work of art.

Located but one block from the city square and clearly visible from there, it serves as a continuation of prominent buildings from Courthouse to itself to Library, block by block, imparting both a fine visual impact and a delightful urban scale.

Although at first glance the building might seem typical of many, further investigation will reveal exceptional detailing, both in stone and iron, which coupled with its graceful proportions lift it far above the norm. True, it plows no new fields in design, but within its own context is so superbly delineated and detailed that its execution could only have been accomplished by an exceptional architect!