

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 DEC 19 1985

DATE ENTERED

1/22/86

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Montrose Post Office

AND/OR COMMON

Montrose Main Post Office

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

321 South First Street

NA NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Montrose

NA VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

3

STATE

Colorado

CODE

08

COUNTY

Montrose

CODE

085

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 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	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	NA <input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Thematic Group	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<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.

Montrose County Assessor

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Montrose County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

P.O. Box 1186

CITY, TOWN

Montrose

STATE

CO 81402

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 Montrose Main Post Office is a rectangular building with Renaissance Revival inspired detailing. The front elevation is articulated by five arches, with the main entrance through the central arch. The structure has a Roman tile, hipped roof. (1931)

LOCAL CONTEXT

Montrose was founded in 1882 by Joseph Selig and is an agricultural center based primarily on fruit trees and orchards. The town was named after Sir Walter Scott's "Legend of Montrose".

The Post Office is located one block east of the principal commercial street in the community and is across the street from the Montrose County Courthouse. The Courthouse is a four story structure with a six column arcade forming the front entrance, Beaux-Arts inspired detailing, and rusticated sandstone masonry.

A survey of the post office undertaken in 1930 indicates that there were several structures originally located in the western portion of the property. These included a 47' x 53' brick barn, a 28' x 34' frame house, a 36' x 34' frame shop, and a 14' x 50' frame shed. There are no known archaeological or paleontologic sites within or adjacent to the site. Basement construction has probably eliminated any trace of previous structures.

PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The building appears to be in excellent condition and both it and the grounds are being extremely well maintained.

The building is constructed of hollow clay tile and reinforced concrete faced with terracotta fired to simulate gray stone. It has a Roman (i.e., flat) tile roof. The building is reported to have been designed to accommodate an additional story, which was never built. The lobby floor is tile and there is limestone wainscotting. The workroom floor is linoleum.

The floor plan is rectangular, with a protruding loading dock at the rear. The main entrance faces south. The one-story building has a full basement.

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

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

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received

date entered

Continuation sheet

Montrose PO

Item number

7

Page 1

The structure is an excellent example of Renaissance Revival styling, typical of post offices constructed during the previous three decades. The Montrose post office is rigidly symmetrical. The structure has a very massive appearance, the result of it being essentially the first story of a design concept normally used for two or more story buildings.

Features of note include: oversized lanterns with spiked tops flanking the main entrance; five arched windows, the three forming the entrance having oversized keystones; a molded belt course above the front entrance windows with a wave-form pattern; fluted molding at the parapet suggestive of a balustrade; and demarcated quoins. The terracotta blocks with which the structure is faced are clearly defined by being widely spaced and the mortar recessed. This is exceptional for the three arches which form the projecting entrance and at the buildings corners. Original building plans indicated that the terracotta used on this structure came from the Northwest Terracotta Company of Denver, Colorado.

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 Constructed 1931-32 BUILDER/ARCHITECT OSA/James Wetmore, Acting Supervising Architect

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Montrose Main Post Office is an excellent and well preserved example of Renaissance Revival styling and has considerable urban design significance in relation to the town's civic center.

ARCHITECTURE

The building is an important example of the post office as a type; especially in its idiosyncratic use of the Renaissance Revival applied to a classic box.

As per National Register Criterion C, the structure contains high artistic values, as a successful interpretation of early Italian Renaissance forms and detailing. Considering the limitations imposed by post office operational requirements, the overall volumetric massing is elegantly executed.

The Montrose Post Office appears to be the only building of its type within the local community. In addition, the 7,400 square foot structure is probably the smallest Renaissance Revival style Post Office in Colorado.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

None Known.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY +.76 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A 13 | 249140 | 4162460
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B _____ | _____ | _____
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C _____ | _____ | _____
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

D _____ | _____ | _____
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION
 Lots 13 through 24; Block 94; original Montrose Townsite.
 (See attached map)

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

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

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Pasadena / Spokane

STATE

CA 91101/WA 99204

12 CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

YES

NO

NONE

Barbara 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

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

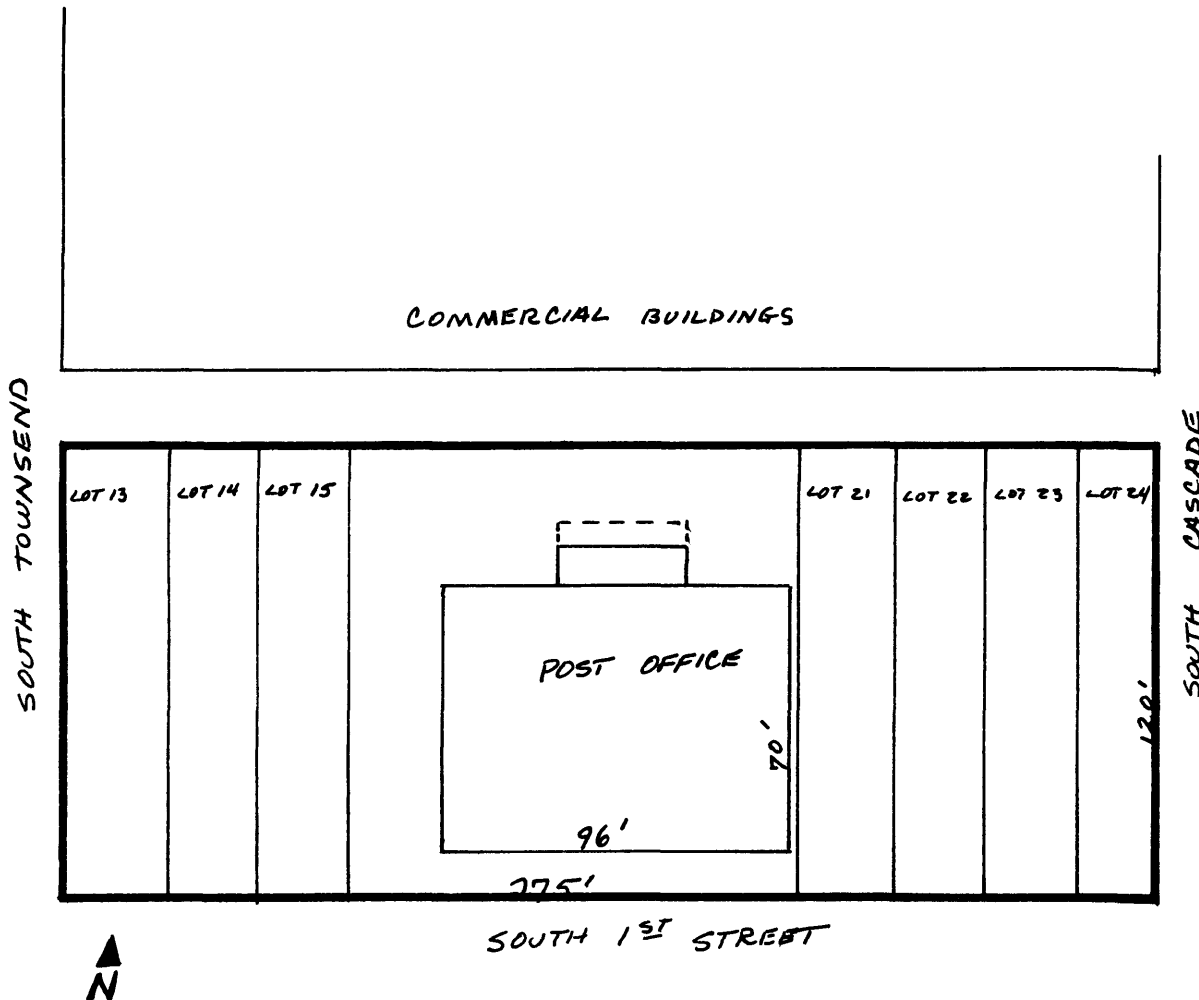
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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RECEIVED	MAR 1 1931
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CONTINUATION SHEET Montrose MPO ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 1

Source: Sanborn Map, Montrose Colorado,
page 3, May 1931.



1" = ± 50'