

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	NOV 27 1984
DATE ENTERED	JAN 11 1985

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC

U. S. Post Office

AND/OR COMMON

Willows Main Post Office

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

315 W. Sycamore Street

NA NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Willows

NA VICINITY OF

1

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

California

06

Glenn

021

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"/> 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	NA IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Thematic Group	<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 AGENCY

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (If applicable)

U.S. Postal Service, Western Regional Office

STREET & NUMBER

850 Cherry Ave.

CITY, TOWN

STATE

San Bruno

NA VICINITY OF

CA 94099

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Glenn County Recorder

STREET & NUMBER

526 West Sycamore Street

CITY, TOWN

STATE
CA

Willows

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

None

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 type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		DATE <u>NA</u>

4/27/84 DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Willows Office is a classical box with a symmetrical facade and Italian Renaissance Revival ornament. The building is faced with granite ashlar, and has red terracotta tile hipped roof. The building is relatively small in size, but the architect used the detailing to effectively give the structure a large, monumental feeling.

LOCAL CONTEXT

The post office is located in the center of Willows, and surrounding uses are mixed commercial and government office. The building fronts on West Sycamore Street, a major arterial, lined with several structures built before 1920. The property to the rear of the post office (north) is devoted to residential uses. Willows is located in north-central California, roughly 100 miles north of San Francisco. The town is the Glenn County Seat, and is centered on what was, through the 1930s, a Southern Pacific main line. The town's economy has remained dependent on the surrounding agricultural areas.

PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The building has a red-tile hipped roof, and a steel frame with red brick facing. The public lobby occupies the southern portion of the first floor, and has white plaster walls with oak trim. Several bronze post office boxes dating from the 1930s are still in use in the lobby, and marble stairs lead to the second floor offices. The workroom has a clear maple floor, covered with asphalt tiles. The second floor offices are separated by etched glass windows.

The facade is symmetrical, and consists of a central arcade flanked by two wings. The arcade is carried by a series of double, unfluted Doric columns with Doric Bases and Corinthian capitals. Classically-inspired terracotta reliefs are placed in the central spandrels, and a terracotta "keystone" articulates each arch. Terracotta quoining is placed at each side of the arcade, and on the corners of the front elevation.

ALTERATIONS

An access ramp for the handicapped has been placed on the west side of the front elevation, and a new anodized aluminum and glass entrance vestibule placed at the front entrance. A new canopy was added to the loading bay in the 1960s.

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 See below

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Bliss and Faville, San Francisco.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Site acquired October, 1914; building occupied September, 1918.

Willows has few monumental buildings, and the post office is the most sophisticated and imposing of these. The Willows Post Office is a particularly good example of its style.

ARCHITECTURE

This is a stylistically idiosyncratic building, combining an Italianate roofline and arched loggia, with Beaux-Arts detailing. Its most direct architectural antecedents would appear to be Italian Baroque of the 16th century. Walter D. Bliss and William B. Faville received their architectural training at MIT and with the New York firm of McKim, Mead, and White, known for their interpretation of the Beaux-Arts tradition. Bliss and Faville were prominent San Francisco architects who designed the St. Francis Hotel, the China Basin Building, the Geary Theater, and the Oakland Hotel, all idiosyncratic Beaux-Arts buildings. The structure is significant on both the state and local levels as an intact example of a Beaux-Arts Italianate post office, a type common in the first two decades of this century, but rare in California.

The employment of a private architectural firm in 1918 is unusual. The repeal of the Tarnsey Act in 1912 forbade the use of private architects, a policy that was not changed until the passage of the Keyes-Elliott Act in 1916. Research in the contracting documents is needed to determine the circumstances surrounding the employment of Bliss and Faville,

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See cover document

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 0.47 acre

UTM REFERENCES

A	1, 0	5, 6, 8, 1, 2, 0	4, 3, 7, 4, 6, 4, 0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Block 3, Lots 12-16, Willows Orginal Townsite. The retangular site has a 155' southern frontage on Sycamore Street and a 133' eastern frontage on Shasta Street.

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

STATE NA	CODE NA	COUNTY NA	CODE NA
STATE NA	CODE NA	COUNTY NA	CODE NA

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Doug Robertson, Planner

ORGANIZATION

Beland/Assoicates, Inc.

DATE

April 27, 1984

STREET & NUMBER

16 S. Oakland Ave. #204

TELEPHONE

(818) 796-8093

CITY OR TOWN

Pasadena

STATE

CA 91101

12 CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

YES___ NO___ NONE___

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

TITLE

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION
ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

JAN 11 1985

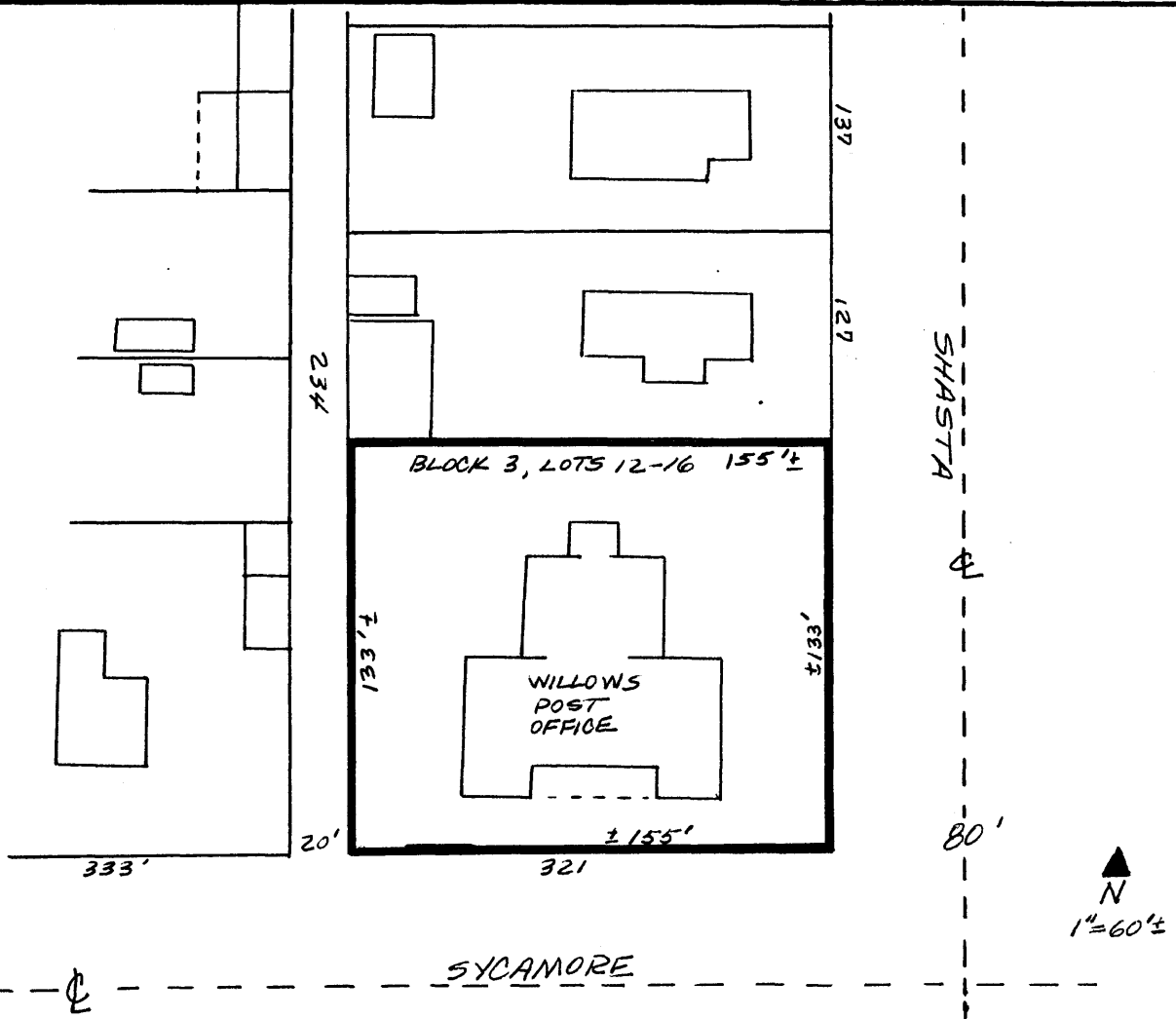
DATE ENTERED

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

CONTINUATION SHEET Willows MPO

ITEM NUMBER 10

PAGE one



Note: Post office site outlined in red.

Source: Sanborn Map, Willows Book, page 12, 1924; Geography Map Library, California State University, Northridge, CA.