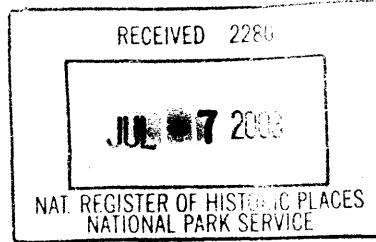


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name US POST OFFICE - PULLMAN
other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number SE 245 PARADISE STREET not for publication _____
city or town PULLMAN vicinity X
state WASHINGTON code WA county WHITMAN code 075
zip code 99163

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)
[Signature] 7/2/03
Signature of certifying official Date
WASHINGTON STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:
 entered in the National Register
 See continuation sheet.
 determined eligible for the National Register
 See continuation sheet.
 determined not eligible for the National Register
 removed from the National Register
 other (explain): _____

[Signature] 8/21/03
Signature of Keeper: Date of Action:
Edson H. Beall

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- 1 building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u> 1 </u>	<u> </u>
	buildings
	sites
	structures
	objects
<u> 1 </u>	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

Historic U.S. Post Offices in Washington 1893-1941

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

 NONE

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: GOVERNMENT

Sub: POST OFFICE

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: COMMERCE/TRADE

Sub: SPECIALTY STORE

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

 LATE 19th & EARLY 20th CENTURY

 REVIVAL

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation CONCRETE

roof ASPHALT

walls BRICK

other

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

See Continuation Sheet

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or a grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

POLITICS / GOVERNMENT

Period of Significance

1930

Significant Dates

1930

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

WETMORE, JAMES A.

FRED R. COMB COMPANY (Builder)

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

See Continuation Sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
 - Other State agency
 - Federal agency
 - Local government
 - University
 - Other
- Name of repository:

 Spokane City/County Historic Preservation
 Office City Hall, Spokane, WA 99201

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property _____ Less than One acre _____

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

1	11	486295	5174825	3	_____	_____	_____
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2	_____	_____	_____	4	_____	_____	_____
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing

_____ See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

The nominated property encompasses all of Lot 1 and portions of Lots 2, 7, and 8 of block-10 of the Original City of Pullman, WA.

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

The nominated property includes the entire parcel and urban legal description. Whitman County, WA Parcel Number 108150010020001.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title _____ LINDA YEOMANS _____

organization _____ HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLANNING _____ date _____ MARCH 2003 _____

street & number _____ 217 WEST FRONT STREET _____ telephone _____ (509) 456-3828 _____

city or town _____ SPOKANE _____ state _____ WA _____ zip code _____ 99203 _____

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name _____ J. THOMAS HANDY, JR., DBA Landmark Property Development LLC _____

street & number _____ 4505 SR 270 _____ telephone ___ (509) 335-3594 _____

city or town _____ PULLMAN _____ state ___ WA _____ zip code ___ 99163 _____

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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U. S. POST OFFICE - PULLMAN
Whitman County, Washington

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

Built in 1930, the Pullman Post Office is a fine interpretation of stylistic influence derived from the Neo-Classical tradition. The building is sited on a lot with a north-facing slope, which is located on the southwest corner of the intersection of Paradise and Kamiaken Streets in Pullman, Washington's central business district. A one-story structure on a raised basement platform, the Pullman Post Office has a flat roof and a symmetrical facade design, which is punctuated by a slightly projecting central entry that is flanked by rhythmic rows of multi-paned windows. Designed as a facade focal point, a full-height portico, supported by large round pilasters, emphasizes the building's entrance and symmetrical design. Reflecting a soft creme-colored hue, the building is clad in smooth pressed brick with sandstone and terra cotta embellishment. Original lantern-style light fixtures are attached to the building face and flank the front entrance. The interior of the building features a central main-floor lobby embellished with a marble and terrazzo floor, marble wainscoting, finished-wood doors and woodwork, grille-protected postal wickets, opal-glass pendant light fixtures, and multi-paned skylights. The property is in excellent condition, has had little alteration, and retains good-to-excellent historic integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

Exterior

The Pullman Post Office is sited on a steep hillside that faces north onto Paradise Street, a main thoroughfare in Pullman. It follows a slightly irregular, rectangular footprint that measures roughly 70 feet wide and 65 feet deep. A small wing, designed as a mail delivery vestibule, extends from the west elevation by the southwest corner of the building and measures 24 feet wide and 11 feet deep. An eight-foot deep concrete loading dock is attached to the west elevation of the vestibule wing. A level, raised, paved parking lot (57 x 67 feet) is contained behind a concrete retaining wall that runs parallel to the sidewalk along Paradise Street and abuts the west elevation of the building. An ADA ramp is located on an easement between the east elevation of the building and the sidewalk. The ramp was installed to serve pedestrians who live in a senior center sited up the hill behind the Pullman Post Office. The ramp is constructed of concrete and has metal railings. A concrete retaining wall is located directly behind the post office at the south, rear elevation of the building. The post office building is surrounded by multi-storied commercial buildings.

The north facade of the building reveals a symmetrical design with a grand center entrance flanked by multi-paned windows on the main floor. The flat roof is covered with layers of built-up tar and is protected by a

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**U. S. POST OFFICE - PULLMAN
Whitman County, Washington**

balustraded brick parapet wall with terra cotta balusters and terra cotta coping. A terra cotta belt course separates the parapet wall from a sandstone cornice embellished with a dentil course. The front entrance of the building rises the full height of the building to the cornice line and projects slightly outward. It has a pediment that is supported by two massive, round, fluted pilasters with square capitals. The pediment and pilasters are made of terra cotta and are accented with dentils. The front door is recessed from the portico and is capped by a semi-circular, multi-paned fan light. A stilted arch with a center keystone surrounds the front door and fan-light. The front doors are made of finished paneled wood and have upper-leaf glazing. Large octagonal-shaped, metal-and-clear glass lantern-style exterior light fixtures are attached to the brick face of the building and flank the front entrance. Ten splayed concrete steps ascend to the front entrance; metal railings (originals replaced) flank the steps. Two main-floor windows are located to the east, and two to the west, of the main entrance. The windows are 12/12, double-hung, wood-sash units with true divided lights. Each window is defined with a blind brick arch, a brick soldier course, a terra cotta keystone, and sandstone lug sills. A double sandstone belt course separates the main floor from the basement. A sandstone cornerstone is located on the northeast corner of the building just below the belt course with the following inscription centered on the stone:

A. W. MELLON
SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY
James A. Wetmore
Acting Supervising Architect
1930

The basement is clad in a continuation of the pressed brick down to grade level and features multi-paned, wood-sash windows located west of the main entrance. Wrought-iron grilles cover and protect the windows. A contemporary metal-framed, plate-glass window and door, located east of the front entrance, provide illumination and access to the basement (replaced two original windows in the 1980s). A plastic-coated bubble awning caps the window and door. The basement walls, floor slabs, and footings are reinforced concrete and the framing for the building is structural steel. Except for the railings and replaced basement window and door, the design, workmanship, materials, and fixtures on the facade of the building are original.

The east, west, and south (rear) elevations of the building reveal a symmetrical design with original windows that are identical to the facade units on the main floor. The east elevation has six symmetrically placed multi-paned windows. The south elevation has five symmetrically placed multi-paned windows and a paneled wood door that opens at grade and is located by the southeast corner of the building. The west elevation is adjacent

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**U. S. POST OFFICE - PULLMAN
Whitman County, Washington**

to a paved parking lot and is dominated by a loading and delivery platform and a mail delivery vestibule wing. The vestibule wing is clad in brick and concrete and has a shed roof.

Interior

Double front doors located on the north facade entrance of the Pullman Post Office open to a center vestibule encased with marble wainscot and marble and terrazzo stairs that ascend five steps to the main lobby. An original pendant-drop light fixture with an opal-glass shade and a decorative metal filigree frame illuminates the vestibule. Double finished-wood doors with upper-leaf glazing open from the vestibule to the post office lobby in the center of the main floor. The main floor of the building has 4990 square feet and is divided in half by an interior wall that runs east and west (USPS drawing, dated 1931, revisions 1953, 1955). The north half of the area is devoted to the vestibule, offices, and the post office lobby while the south half of the main floor was designed for use as a mail sorting workroom. The lobby, which measures 21 feet long and 10 feet wide, has a 14-foot-high paneled ceiling punctuated by three multi-paned skylights with pivoted wood sashes that open for ventilation. The ceiling is further defined by deep crown molding with a dentil course. Two tear-drop-style and two schoolhouse-style opal-glass light fixtures hang from the lobby ceiling. The lobby is encircled by mail delivery bays and five interior doors. Each of the four lobby walls is illuminated with six-foot-high, multi-paned, wood-sash clerestory windows. The clerestory windows have center sections that are fixed and are flanked by pivoted sashes. Marble wainscoting faces the north, east, and south walls of the lobby. Postal wickets are located between the marble wainscot and the clerestory windows. Postal wickets are defined with clear glass protected by wrought-iron grilles, or are filled in with obscure glazing or wood panels. Some wickets have title panels above the wrought-iron grilles. The title panels are made of obscure glass and retain gold-leaf lettering that spells MONEY ORDERS and REGISTRY. Another title panel is made of wood and spells STAMPS, PARCEL POST, GEN-DEL (general delivery). The west wall of the lobby originally held brass post office boxes (removed in 1976) and is finished with wood panels and painted drywall. The lobby floor is made of rectangular multi-colored terrazzo sections outlined with white-gray marble. Three types of marble are used: Alaskan Gravena, Alaskan Tokeen, and Vermont Metawee (*Pullman Herald*, 1 April 1931). All of the lobby woodwork and doors are finished wood except for the paneled ceiling, which is painted.

The lobby opens east to an open office area in the northeast corner of the first floor that includes an original cast-iron vault installed when the building was built and a look-out tower with adjustable metal louvers, which was designed for undetected, stealth observation of the lobby. At the west end of the lobby, two doors are located along the north wall. One door opens to an interior service stairway. The other door (next west) opens to the postmaster's office, which is located in the northwest corner of the main floor. A cast-iron vault, which

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is similar to the one located in the northeast corner of the main floor, is located in this office. Two restrooms are located behind the vault to the south. The restrooms are finished with marble floors, marble wainscot, original white porcelain fixtures, and nickel-plated hardware. A large workroom is located south of the lobby. The workroom measures approximately 65 feet long and 30 feet wide. The ceiling is 14 feet high. Original milk-glass schoolhouse-style light fixtures hang from the ceiling.

The west wall has a plain door that opens to a delivery vestibule (which opens to a delivery and loading dock). Except for the north wall, most of the wall surface in the workroom is clad in the original tongue-and-groove wood paneled wainscot. The floors of the workroom and offices on the main floor are made of hardrock maple.

The basement in the Pullman Post Office has 4,734 square feet (USPS drawing, dated 1931, revisions 1953 and 1955). The basement has a poured concrete floor and includes a boiler room, offices, storage rooms, restrooms, and an enclosed interior corridor that leads to a look-out tower, which is constructed on the east wall. A metal ladder is anchored to the interior wall of the look-out tower, which ascends through the basement ceiling past the main floor and up to the ceiling height of the first floor.

ORIGINAL APPEARANCE and SUBSEQUENT CHANGES

The original design for the Pullman Post Office is, for the most part, retained in the current appearance of the exterior and interior of the building. Original documentation, which includes photographs, specifications, and plan, section and elevation drawings of the building, support this premise. Alterations include the following:

Exterior 1964: Original flagpole removed per orders by United States Department of the Treasury. Original threaded-pipe railings that flanked the front steps of the building and were attached to the retaining wall in the parking lot were replaced with contemporary iron railings.

Exterior 1980s: Two basement windows east of the front entrance were removed and replaced with a metal-frame window and a metal-frame glass door. The building's original grade was lowered in the area in front of the window and door to allow exterior access to the basement. Concrete steps that lead up from the door to the sidewalk were installed in front of the door. A bubble awning was hung over the door and window. Owned by the senior center behind the post office building, a concrete ADA ramp was installed in an easement, which is located between the sidewalk and the east elevation of the post office.

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Interior 1954: The United States Postal Service refinished the woodwork in the lobby from the original dark brown mahogany finish to a green-gold antiqued finish (*Pullman Herald*, 5 August 1954).

Interior 1976: The United States Postal Service removed the brass post office boxes that were located on the west bay of the lobby. These were reinstalled in the new Pullman Post Office (South Grand Street). The lobby bay was refinished with painted drywall and painted wood panels.

Interior 1978-1980s: Three wickets on the east bay in the lobby were removed and replaced with a doorway to the office area, which is located in the northeast corner of the building on the main floor. A wall was installed between the northeast corner office area and the south workroom (as a continuation of the existing east-west wall that is located between the lobby and the workroom). A second look-out tower, once located on the south wall of the workroom, was removed. Built-in cupboards, which were located on the north wall of the workroom, were removed. In the basement, the staircase in the southeast corner of the building was blocked off from access to the main-floor workroom. A third look-out tower was originally constructed next to the vault in the postmaster's room, which is located in the northwest corner of the first floor. The look-out tower was removed along with a door that opened south to a hallway, restrooms, and the large work room which is located at the rear of the building.

Interior 1990s: The office in the northeast corner of the main floor was changed to accommodate a bakery, which included the installation of two kitchen sinks and a lunch counter.

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**U.S. POST OFFICE - PULLMAN
Whitman County, Washington**

STATEMENT of SIGNIFICANCE

The US Post Office in Pullman, Washington is a well-preserved example of a small-town, single-purpose post office designed in the Neo-Classical style. Constructed in 1930, the building represents a stage in the evolution of federal design from the Beaux Arts tradition of the early 1900s to the modern influence of the Neo-Classical style, which was used for federal buildings that were built just before and during the early years of the Great Depression. With its monumental pedimented entry portico, the building reflects the formality and sophistication of the United States federal government and was praised in a local newspaper article as "one of the finest federal buildings in Eastern Washington" (*Pullman Herald*, 3 April 1931). The Pullman Post Office was the first federally constructed and federally owned post office built in Pullman and provided a link between the town's citizens and the federal government in Washington D. C. The building is a legacy of President Herbert Hoover's accelerated building programs established during the beginning of the Depression, and symbolizes federal aid and a federal presence in Pullman during a time of great economic upheaval. In summary, the building is associated with the federal government's affiliation with Pullman in the areas of significance, "Architecture" and "Politics/Government," and is a good example of the property type, "Historic Post Offices," as defined in the National Register Multiple Property Documentation, *Historic U. S. Post Offices in Washington, 1900-1941*. The Pullman Post Office is historically and architecturally significant and is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A and C.

HISTORIC CONTEXT

The town of Pullman is a significant agricultural and educational center in eastern Washington. Located 80 miles south of Spokane, Pullman is surrounded by the renowned "Palouse Country," an area noted for its world-class production of wheat and lentils. Pullman has a current estimated population of 24,500 and is home to Washington State University (WSU), eastern Washington's first land grant college. Together with WSU, Pullman serves a wide radius of surrounding communities, providing a diverse array of facilities, services, and support.

Early Pullman and the Pullman Post Office

Even though post office development in Pullman began as early as 1881, the town did not have a federally constructed and federally owned, single-purpose post office until 1930. In fact, Pullman did not have an official town name until an application for their first federal postal services required that the community submit a legal name.

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**U.S. POST OFFICE - PULLMAN
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Conflicting accounts chronicle the events surrounding the establishment of Pullman. Most historians report that the site for the current town of Pullman began as a favorite camping and fishing ground for Indians who lived in the region. In the 1850s, the area was characterized as a small valley nestled among rolling hills, which were covered with rich, black soil and wild grasses. The confluence of three creeks in the valley provided a good place to settle and by the 1870s, homesteaders began purchasing land in the area. Stories differ as to who founded the town, but most historians agree that at least two families were involved: the Boland [Bolin] Farr family and the Daniel McKenzie family. By 1877, both families had settled in the area where the three creeks converge, and the settlement was sometimes known as Three Forks.

In her article, "The Development of the Postal Service in Pullman" in the *Bunchgrass Historian*, Pullman historian Esther Pond Smith gave an interesting account of Pullman's first post office and how it precipitated the establishment of an official name for the town. The article explains:

"Seeing the need for a trade center at Three Forks, in 1881 Daniel McKenzie offered his friend Orville Stewart land for a store site along the road through the valley. Stewart was interested and accepted the offer. Records show that, on May 17, 1881, McKenzie transferred one-half acre at the west edge of his farm to Stewart. Here Stewart built his store facing the road--the road that would later become Pullman's Main Street (p. 13)."

Stewart...decided to include a post office in his store. To do this he made application to the U. S. Postal Service through the Moscow, [Idaho] postmaster. In return, he received an application which stated, "A short name should be selected for the proposed office, which when written, will not resemble the name of any other post office in the United States." Since there were already several Three Forks post offices, the local settlers were forced to select a different name. They gathered at the new store as it was being built to discuss the problem. They decided on the name "Pullman" since they knew that George Pullman, railroad sleeping car magnate [of the George Pullman Company in Chicago], was about to build a model town... They offered to name the new town after him if he would endow it. He sent them a letter thanking them for the honor and included a check for \$50. They spent it on a Fourth-of-July celebration, fireworks,

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and a dance in the unfinished store building. People came from miles around and the new town started off with a bang, if not much money (pp. 13-14).

When Stewart finished the store he put a few pigeon-holes to one side of the door; that was the first Pullman post office. He returned his application to Washington, D. C. on November 8, 1881. A letter from the National Archives and Records Service states, "The records of the Post Office Department in the National Archives show that a post office was established at Pullman, Whitman County, Washington on December 5, 1881. The records do not indicate that this office was known by any other name." The Three Forks community, *never* a town or post office, had become Pullman; in 1888 it formally organized into the village of Pullman (p. 14).

In the early years of Pullman post office history, the tenure for a postmaster was an administrative appointment and corresponded to the terms of the American presidents. Smith reported in the article that Orville Stewart was postmaster until 1885, at which time Eugene Downen was appointed. She said, "This meant that the post office had to be moved since the postmaster was required to furnish room, equipment, and delivery boxes for all postal services. Downen was a dealer in dry goods and clothing as well as an insurance agent. His place of business was a frame building located at what is now 115 North Grand; this location became the site for Pullman's second post office" (p. 15).

From 1881 to 1929, Pullman's post offices were sited in nine different locations, including temporary space in homes, businesses, banks, and other facilities that accommodated room for office materials, a safe, and post office boxes. The little town of Pullman grew, especially with increased enrollment every year at Washington State University, and the town's temporary postal service facilities soon proved to be wholly inadequate. By 1930, Pullman's population peaked at 3,300 and Pullman's first federally owned, single-purpose post office was under construction.

The 1930 Pullman Post Office

On the eve of the Great Depression, the United States Treasury Department purchased Lots 1 through 8, Block 10, in the addition known as the Original Town of Pullman (warranty deed). The final cost for the land was officially reported as \$18,500 (*Pullman Herald*, 3 April 1931). Federal funds for the post office were allocated

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at \$100,000, but \$107,000 was needed to meet accelerated project costs estimated in construction bids. To lower the cost of construction, it was decided that among other features, all terra cotta embellishment on the building's exterior and the use of marble in the building's interior would be replaced with wood substitutes. Pullman citizenry, after waiting nearly 50 years for their first federally owned and federally constructed post office building, were sadly disappointed with the decision to amend the original Post Office plans and sought help from their congressmen. A *Pullman Herald* article dated February 28, 1930 reported that the townspeople felt "the changes...would impair the beauty and permanence of the structure." Eventually, the congressmen were successful in their quest for additional funds, and an extra \$7,000 was appropriated for the post office project. The use of terra cotta and marble were reinstated as per the original post office plans.

United States federal supervising architect James A. Wetmore and federal construction engineer John B. Lammers oversaw the project. The Minneapolis-based Fred R. Comb Company was awarded the construction contract for \$82,000. The company was given 360 calendar days to complete the project and was "required to post a bond in the sum of \$41,000, or one-half the contract figure, to guarantee faithful performance" (*Pullman Herald*, 11 April 1930). Black and white photographs were taken by Pullman photographer Ralph R. Hutchinson, which provided a step-by-step pictorial documentation of the construction of the Pullman Post Office. Newspaper articles appeared often on the front page of the *Pullman Herald* throughout the building's construction and various ceremonies were held to commemorate the new building. Eight months before construction was completed, a newspaper article dated September 5, 1930 in the *Pullman Herald* reported that "simple but impressive Masonic ceremonies, conducted in the presence of several hundred spectators, marked the laying of the corner stone of Pullman's new \$107,000 federal building..." To document the building's construction, a copper time capsule was sealed and placed in the corner stone. Memorabilia and commemorative items were placed in the box, including post office history, photographs, calling cards from 125 Pullman businesses, records from Washington State University, information from local service clubs and churches, and a copy of the *Pullman Herald*.

Construction of the Pullman Post Office was completed on April 1, 1931. The *Pullman Herald* featured a front-page article two days later on April 3rd with a photograph of the new building. The headlines and photo caption read:

PULLMAN'S NEW FEDERAL BUILDING

This magnificent post office building, costing \$107,000 was opened to the public Monday morning. Conveniently appointed and elegantly furnished, it is one of the finest federal buildings in Eastern Washington.

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**U.S. POST OFFICE - PULLMAN
Whitman County, Washington**

The April 3, 1931 *Pullman Herald* article applauded the building's fine exterior and interior features and reported that the "furniture for the new building" was of "the most modern type" and "cost approximately \$15,000." The article described every detail of the building:

"The entrance to the new building is on Paradise Street, and is of the colonial pattern with pillars on each side of the doorway. A short flight of steps leads to the main lobby, which is finished in marble, the base being Gravena marble from Alaska, the wainscoting of Alaska Tokeen marble, and the treads of the stairs and other marble [of] Vermont Metawee.

On the right in the lobby are the 500 private boxes which serve Pullman patrons, while on the left are the parcel post, registry, stamp, C.O.D. and postal savings windows. Two desks for the use of customers occupy the lobby together with a bulletin board.

Postmaster Allen's office is at the right from the lobby and includes a vault... The first door at the right of the lobby leads to the lower floor of the building where a room is provided for the examination of candidates for civil service positions, a feature which will remedy former haphazard and inconvenient accommodations for this work. Locker rooms for the postal employees, a room for postal inspectors, and the furnace and fuel storage rooms are also located in the lower floor in addition to lavatories for both men and women.

All light fixtures and hardware in the building are of solid bronze while woodwork is red birch in a mahogany finish. The most modern plumbing fixtures have been installed throughout [the building].

All portions of the building have been carefully equipped with safeguards against mail robbers. All windows are strongly barred and locked and the departments handling sums of money are especially protected by heavy steel caging in addition to the window guards. To facilitate observation of mail riflers, look-outs are arranged on two sides of the building from which inspectors can observe the actions of all within, without being seen themselves."

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**U.S. POST OFFICE - PULLMAN
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The Pullman Post Office was enthusiastically welcomed and embraced by the citizens of Pullman. The central location of the property proved to be convenient for downtown businesses and city patrons alike. The building served as the designated site for federal services, information and activities, and as an informal community meeting place. The building, one of the finest in Pullman, was a source of pride and was the venue for many photographs. In December, 1955, Pullman photographer Ralph Hutchinson photographed two Egyptian camels on the front steps of the Post Office for the Pullman Kiwanis, a local service club that sponsored the Passion Play in which the camels had a part. In the 1960s, the basement of the post office was designated a public fall-out shelter for use in times of emergency.

After 45 years of service, the Pullman Post Office outgrew its facilities. By 1970, Pullman's population exceeded 20,000, which was nearly seven times more than the reported 3,300 people living in the town when the post office building was erected in 1930. In 1976, a new post office was built more than a mile south of the central business district, a location considered by some to be too inconvenient and far away from downtown businesses. With their hopes dashed that the 1930 Pullman Post Office would remain a postal service center in the town's central business district, the townspeople watched as the building was declared surplus property by the federal government and was sold for \$53,000 to the City of Pullman on April 4, 1977.

In 1978 the City of Pullman leased the property to Pullman entrepreneur Jackson D. Clark. He made some minor changes to the large post office workroom and opened the building for use as a movie theater, called the Old Post Office Theater. Clark later purchased the post office property on February 1, 1982 for \$80,000 from the City of Pullman. At different times during the 1980s and 1990s, the main-floor office space in the northeast corner of the building housed a variety of businesses, including shops specializing in the sale of yogurt, videos, and firearms; beginning in 2002, the Sage Bakery Company occupied this main-floor office space. In 1989, Triticum Press leased the entire basement of the building for their business. On December 27, 2002, J. Thomas Hardy, Jr. bought the c.1930 Pullman Post Office for \$360,000. Hardy is employed at Washington State University as a telecommunications manager.

LOCAL SIGNIFICANCE--CRITERION A

The Pullman Post Office is locally significant in the area of "Politics/Government" as a reflection of the federal government's presence in Pullman, and is associated with building trends and programs of unemployment relief enacted by the government during the early 1930s. The building is a good example of the property type, "Historic Post Offices," as described in the National Register Multiple Property Documentation

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(MPD), *Historic U. S. Post Offices in Washington, 1893-1941*. The Pullman Post Office is Pullman's first federally constructed, single-purpose post office and is associated directly with the efforts of the Hoover administration, which served to relieve unemployment conditions of the Great Depression. An example of these efforts included the federal Public Buildings Act of 1926, which provided funds for the construction of post offices and other public buildings across America. The MPD explained that:

...the crash of 1929 and the subsequent Depression delayed the full implementation of the building program outlined in the 1926 Act. In 1930, Congress authorized increased funding for public building by amending the 1926 Act. This legislation established a trend in public works projects that arose in direct response to the Depression. It served as a precedent for subsequent policies and acts that would attempt to reduce unemployment and stabilize the economy" (p. E-II-12).

Built at the beginning of the Great Depression, the construction of the Pullman Post Office was an example of the 1926 Public Buildings Act in action; the building was one of only 122 federally constructed post offices located throughout the nation that were built between 1921 and 1930. Construction of the Pullman Post Office helped pave the way for the massive, federal building programs of the 1930s and served as a monumental symbol of the federal government and its recognition of the Pullman community's regional importance (Kolva and Franks, p. E-60).

LOCAL SIGNIFICANCE--CRITERION C

Regarded as a good example of the property type, "Historic Post Offices," the Pullman Post Office meets the registration requirements outlined in the MPD and is significant in the area of "Architecture." The MPD stated:

The smallest of the state's federal buildings to date, the one-story Pullman building housed only the post office. Nonetheless, the building clearly stated the federal presence. Its Neoclassical facade--with pedimented entry architrave and balustraded parapet--conveys tradition while its brick and terra cotta signify solidity and permanence (p. E-67).

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The MPD explained that the threshold factor for consideration is:

...that the building had been constructed by the federal government as a post office or federal building in which the post office was a major element. These buildings are significant to a community, particularly a smaller community, as a symbolic link to the federal government. They represent the recognition by the federal government, in the form of a public building, that a community had achieved stability and permanence. Architecturally, through the use of traditional design forms and quality materials, the buildings were intended to convey the appropriate image of the federal government (p. F-IV-1).

As with most small town post offices, the Pullman Post Office was designed within the Department of the Treasury under the direction of the Supervising Architect. James A. Wetmore was the acting federal Supervising Architect during construction of the Pullman Post Office. His name appears on the corner stone, which is set in the northeast corner of the building. Although educated as an attorney rather than an architect, Wetmore supervised the creation and implementation of standardized plans that were used for federal post office buildings built across the country during the teens, 1920s, and 1930s.

Standardized post office designs, which were developed during the 1920s and the early 1930s, were rooted in classical motifs that were capable of suggesting strength, stability, centrality, integrity, and permanence--all words associated with the United States federal government. Stylistic elements were borrowed from the Beaux Arts and Neoclassical traditions. Defining features of both styles included the use of symmetrical facade fenestration, central front entries, full-height porticos with classic entablatures and massive columns or pilasters, and multi-paned windows. Modern influence (Neoclassical) was found in stylized square capitals, 1/1 windows, and the use of belt courses to suggest entablatures, and coping to replace cornices.

The MPD described the typical post office as:

...a rectangular box, ranging from one to three stories in height with the first floor set on a raised platform (basement) three to five feet above grade. The facades are flat with nominal articulation, usually less than one to two feet. Articulation is provided slightly beyond the corners or by recessing the central section relative to the corners. The facades are symmetrical and well-proportioned, with the

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principal entry centered on the long axis in all but rare cases. The entry is flanked by lamps...affixed to the wall. Windows are also symmetrically arranged. The roof is either flat or hipped and in most cases terminates behind a low parapet (p. F-II-2).

Materials used on the post office buildings denoted superior strength and stability. These included the use of brick as a facing material and stone, marble and terra cotta for details and embellishment. Finely finished woodwork and strong wrought-iron grillework were also used. High-quality floors, fasteners, and fixtures were regularly installed. The post office buildings were regarded by many as beautiful works of art and were considered to be gifts from the federal government to the community.

As described in the MPD, interior floor plans were based on functional considerations and displayed the same general characteristics for both large and small buildings. The first floor plan was usually rectangular with the public area oriented to the primary entrance. The main floor included a central lobby with skylights, post office boxes, service counters with grille-guarded wickets, a postmaster's office with a vault, and a large workroom designed for mail sorting activities, which was located behind the lobby at the rear of the building. Basement plans included a furnace/fuel room(s), additional postmaster's or assistant postmaster's offices, and swing rooms and restrooms for employees. A delivery vestibule and loading dock were located at the rear or side of the building off the workroom.

The Pullman Post Office was built from standardized designs and plans like those described in the MPD. Many of the actual plans for the post office in Pullman were drawn by J. J. Owen, United States Treasury Department, and reflected dates of 1927, 1928, 1929, 1930, 1931, and minor revisions and maintenance directives for 1964:

The Pullman Post Office also features the government's choice for standardized floor plans, fixtures, and specifications. Examples of standardized specifications used in the Pullman Post Office include USPO Plan 326A (miscellaneous), Type G for hanging light fixtures which reads, "This type shall be of white opal glass in the squat shape designed to give an efficient downward distribution" of illumination from a "16-inch diameter globe." Plan 324B (miscellaneous) #579 pictures the standardized drawing for light fixtures that were hung in the lobby of the post office. The Pullman Post Office retains original light fixtures purchased from these specifications. It also retains original lobby bays with marble wainscoting, marble service counters, grille-guarded wickets, title panels with 23-carat, gold-leaf lettering, and finished red fir woodwork and doors that were featured in "Miscellaneous Parcel Post Details" rendered on USPO Plan No. 105, dated 1929.

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MAPS, DRAWINGS, & PHOTOGRAPHS

All photos were taken in 2003 by consultant Linda Yeomans.

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|-------------|--|
| Map 1 | U.S.G.S. Pullman, WA quadrangle map, 7.5 series, 1:24,000 scale. |
| Map 2 | Pullman Post Office, site plan, dated 2003. |
| Drawing 1 | Pullman Post Office cornerstone, dated 1927-1930. |
| Drawing 2 | Pullman Post Office, north elevation (facade) of building, dated 1930 (original) and 1964 (revisions). |
| Drawing 3 | Pullman Post Office, east elevation of building, dated 1930 (original) and 1964 (revisions). |
| Drawing 4 | Pullman Post Office, west elevation of building, dated 1930 (original) and 1964 (revisions). |
| Drawing 5 | Pullman Post Office, south (rear) elevation of building, dated 1930 (original) and 1964 (revisions). |
| Drawing 6 | Pullman Post Office, section drawing of building, dated 1930 (original) and 1964 (revisions). |
| Drawing 7 | Pullman Post Office, lobby and screen details, dated 1929. |
| Drawing 8 | Pullman Post Office, first floor plan, dated 1931. |
| Drawing 9 | Pullman Post Office, first floor plan, dated 2003. |
| Drawing 10 | Pullman Post Office, basement floor plan, dated 1931 |
| Photo 1 | Pullman Post Office, northeast corner facade of building. |
| Photo 2 | Pullman Post Office, north facade entrance of building. |
| Photo 3 | Pullman Post Office, north facade entrance of building. |
| Photo 4 | Pullman Post Office, north facade entry lights of building. |
| Photo 5 | Pullman Post Office, first-floor lobby of building, looking east. |
| Photo 6 | Pullman Post Office, first-floor lobby service counters and wickets. |
| Photo 7 | Pullman Post Office, west elevation and parking lot. |
| Photo 8 | Pullman Post Office, bird's eye view of west and south elevations. |
| Photo 9 | Pullman Post Office, south rear elevation of building. |
| Photocopy 1 | Pullman Post Office, photocopy of c. 1931 photo of northeast facade of building. |
| Photocopy 2 | Pullman Post Office, photocopy of c. 1955 photo of front entrance, looking southeast. |
| Photocopy 3 | Pullman Post Office, photocopy of c. 1931 photo of lobby, looking west. |
| Photocopy 4 | Pullman Post Office, photocopy of c. 1954 photo of workroom, looking east. |

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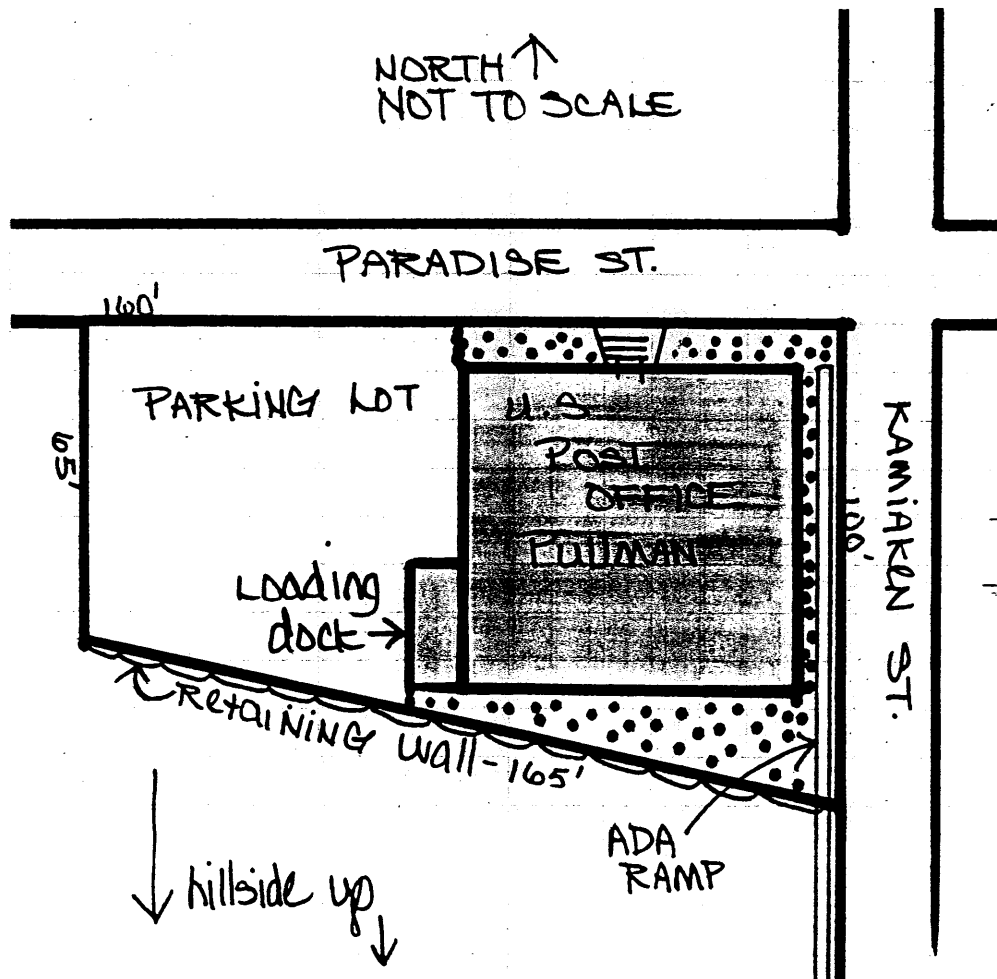
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Map 2

Pullman Post Office, site plan dated 2003 (source: Whitman County Assessor)



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Drawing 1 Pullman Post Office, drawing of cornerstone, dated 1927-1930.

A W MELLON
SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY
JAMES A WETMORE
ACTING SUPERVISING ARCHITECT
1930

INSRIPTION ON CORNERSTONE
TO CENTER ON STONE
FOR SIZE OF STONE SEE CONTRACT DRAWINGS

NOTE
ALL MEASUREMENTS to
be verified at building by I
contractor before work indicated
hereon is started.

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Drawing 1
Scale FULL SIZE
J. A. OWEN
Architect
1930

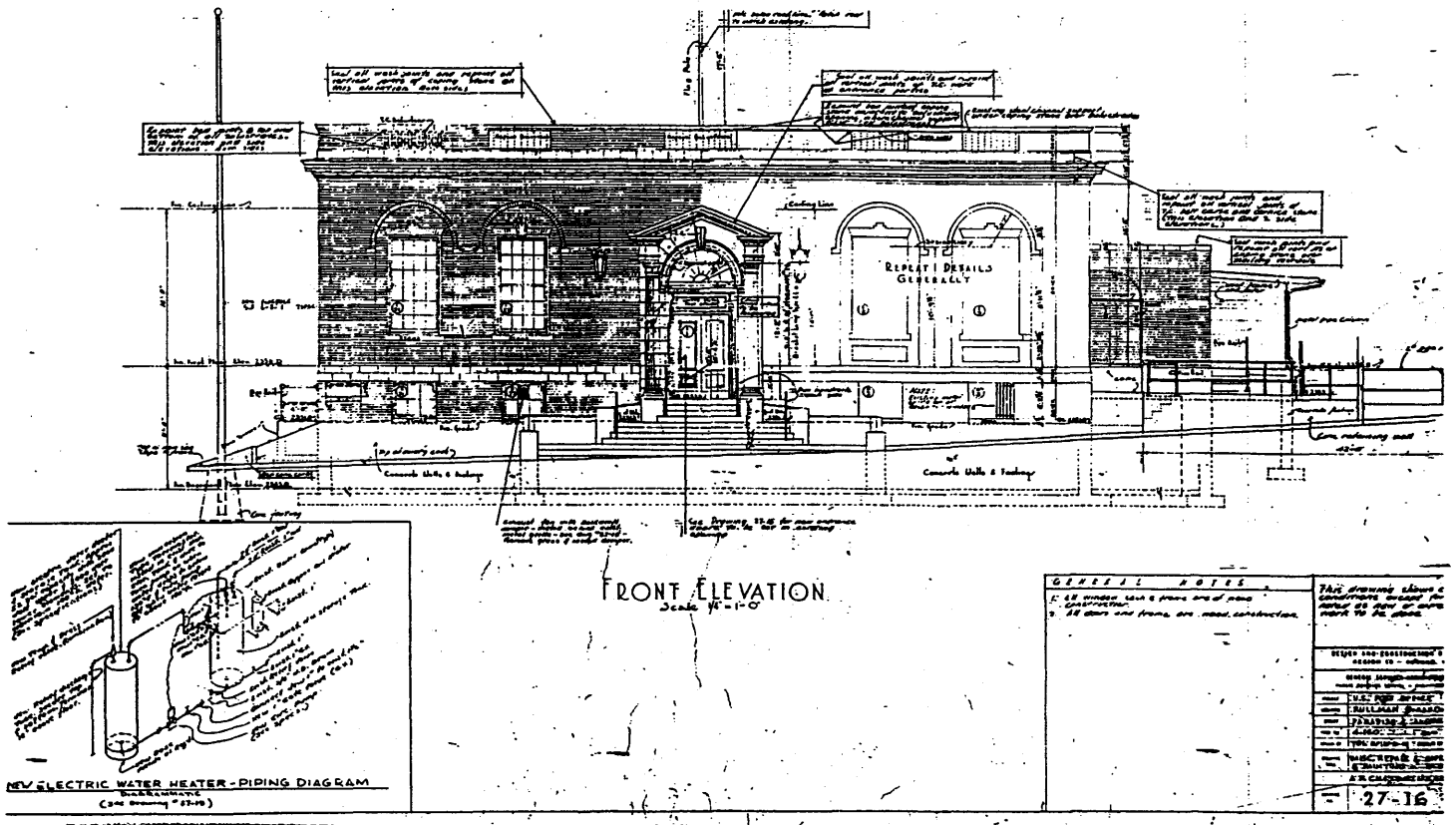
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Drawing 2 Pullman Post Office, north facade of building, dated 1930 and 1964 revisions.



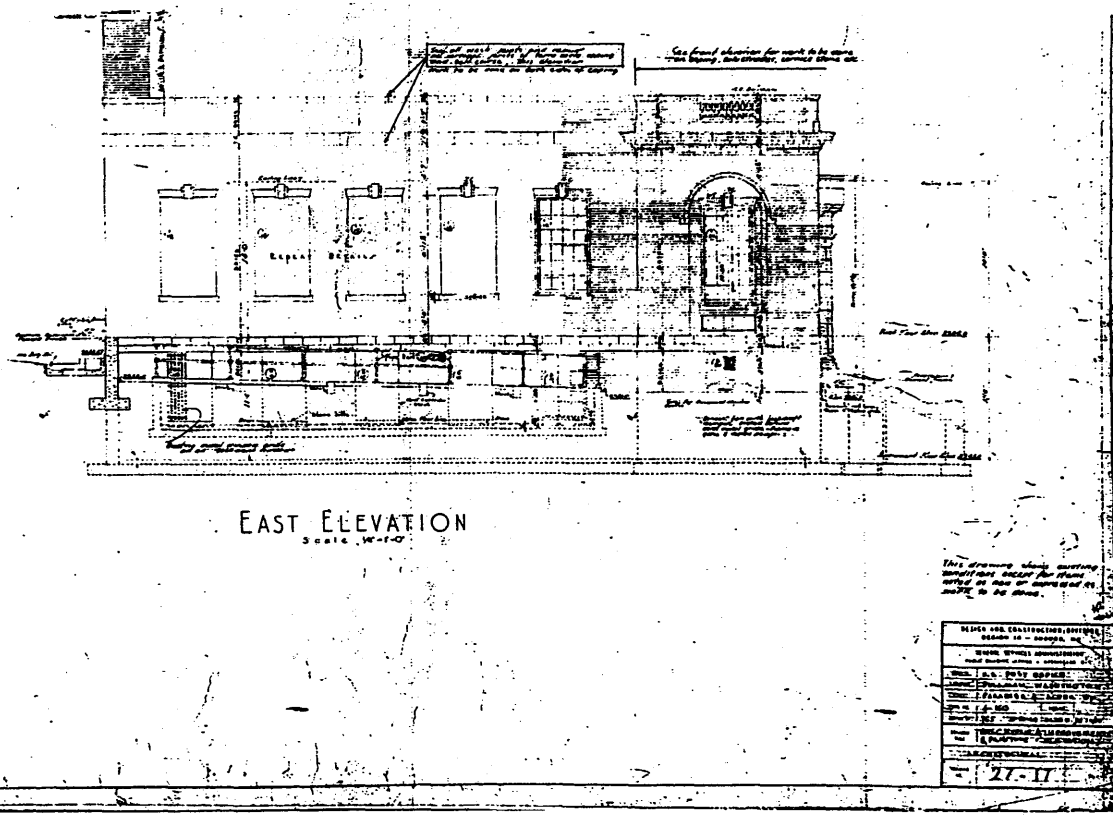
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U.S. POST OFFICE - PULLMAN
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Drawing 3 Pullman Post Office, east elevation, dated 1930 and 1964 revisions.



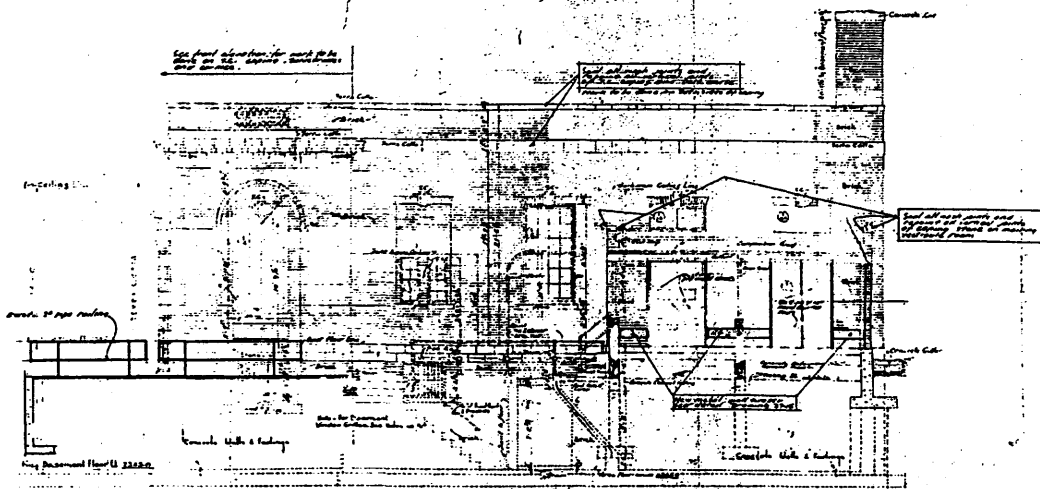
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U.S. POST OFFICE - PULLMAN
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Drawing 4 Pullman Post Office, west elevation, dated 1930 and 1964 revisions.



WEST ELEVATION
Scale 1/8"=1'-0"

This drawing shows existing conditions unless otherwise noted or specified as work to be done.

REVISIONS AND CORRECTIONS	
NO.	DESCRIPTION
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4	...
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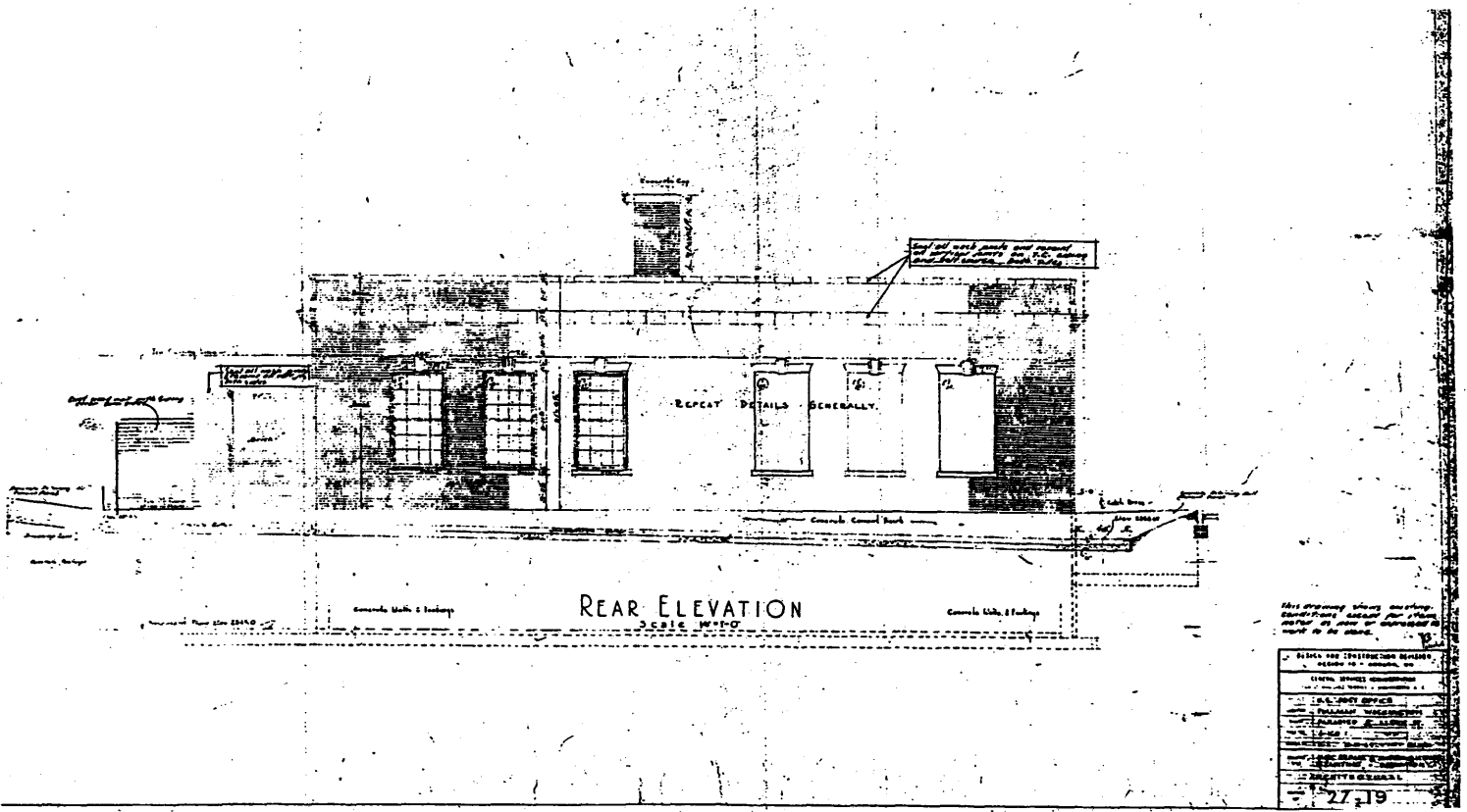
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U.S. POST OFFICE - PULLMAN
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Drawing 5 Pullman Post Office, south rear elevation, dated 1930 and 1964 revisions.



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U.S. POST OFFICE - PULLMAN
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Drawing 6 Pullman Post Office, section drawing of building, dated 1930 and 1964 revisions.

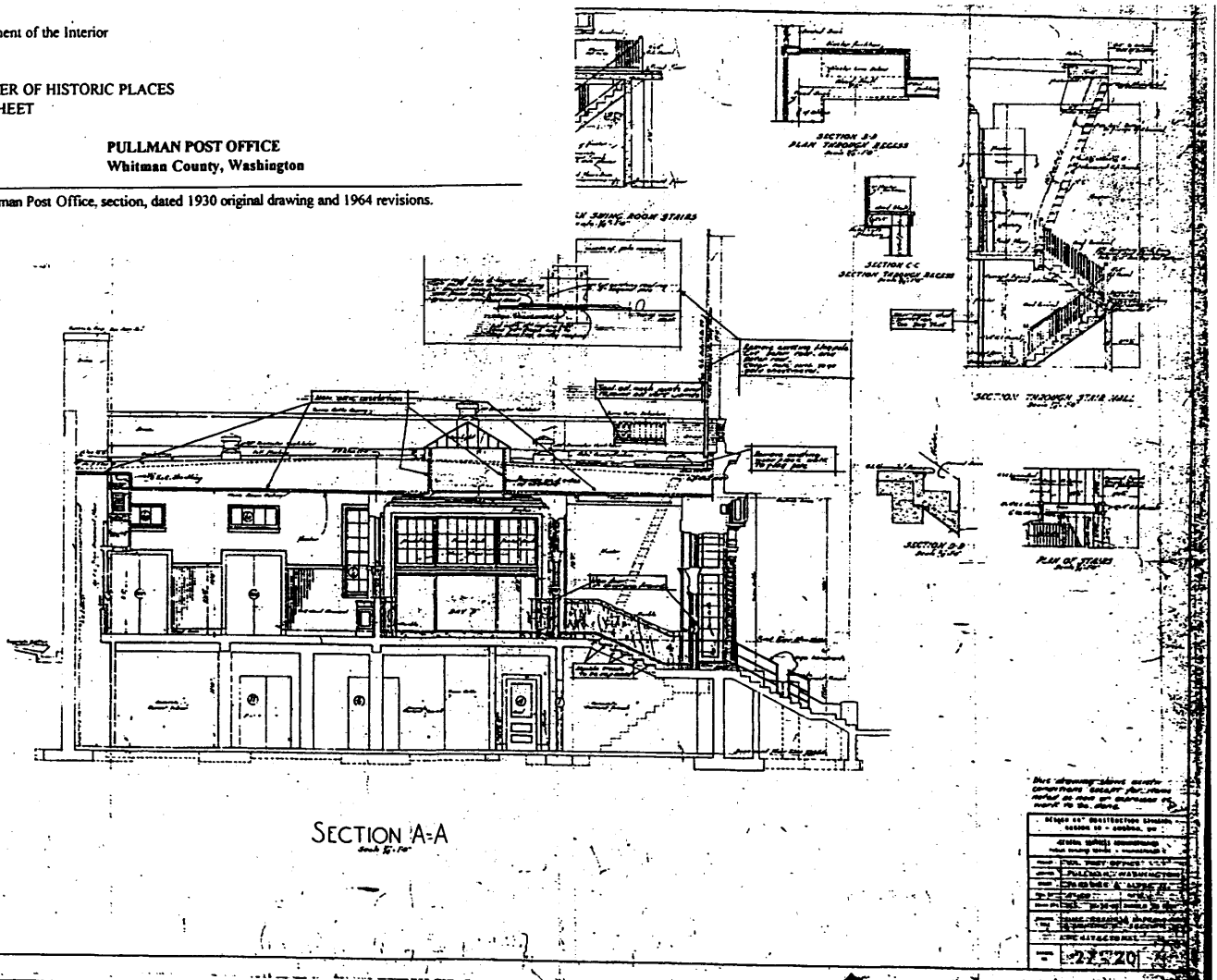
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PULLMAN POST OFFICE
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Drawing 6 Pullman Post Office, section, dated 1930 original drawing and 1964 revisions.



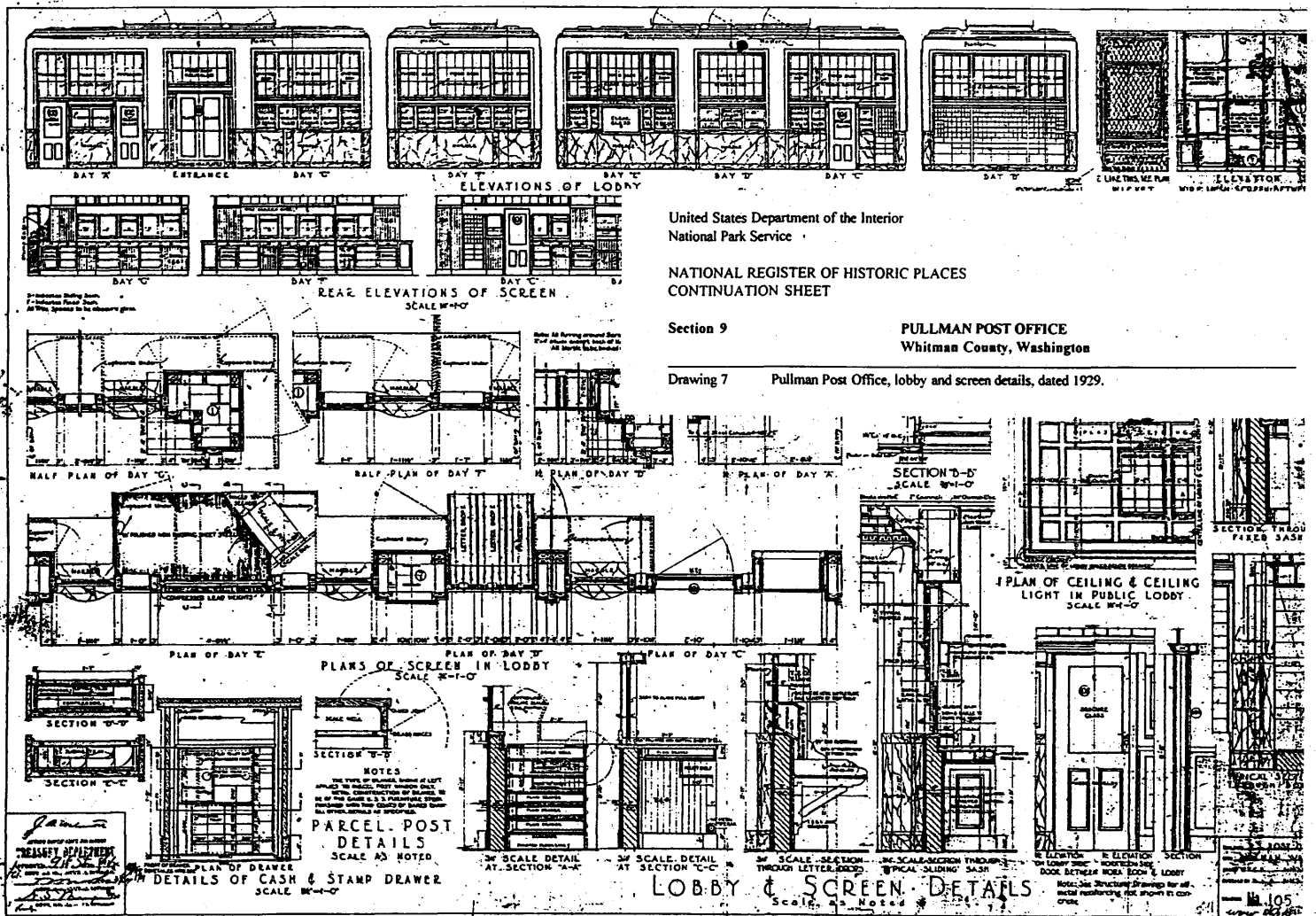
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Drawing 7 Pullman Post Office, lobby and screen details, dated 1929.



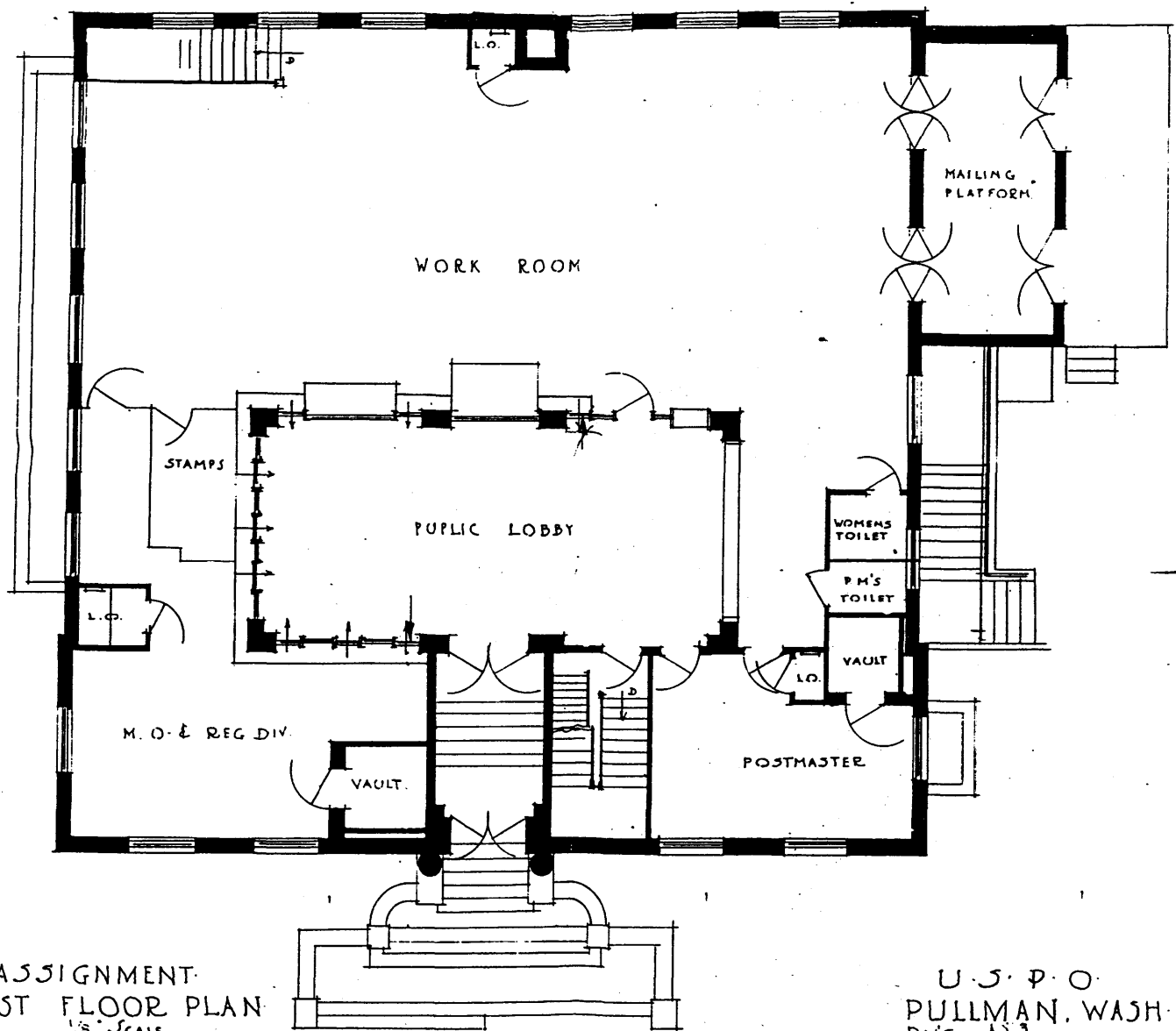
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Drawing 8 Pullman Post office, first floor plan, dated 1931.



ASSIGNMENT
FIRST FLOOR PLAN
1/8" SCALE

U.S. P.O.
PULLMAN, WASH.
DWG. NO. 3.
DWN BY M. A. J. 3. 7. 31

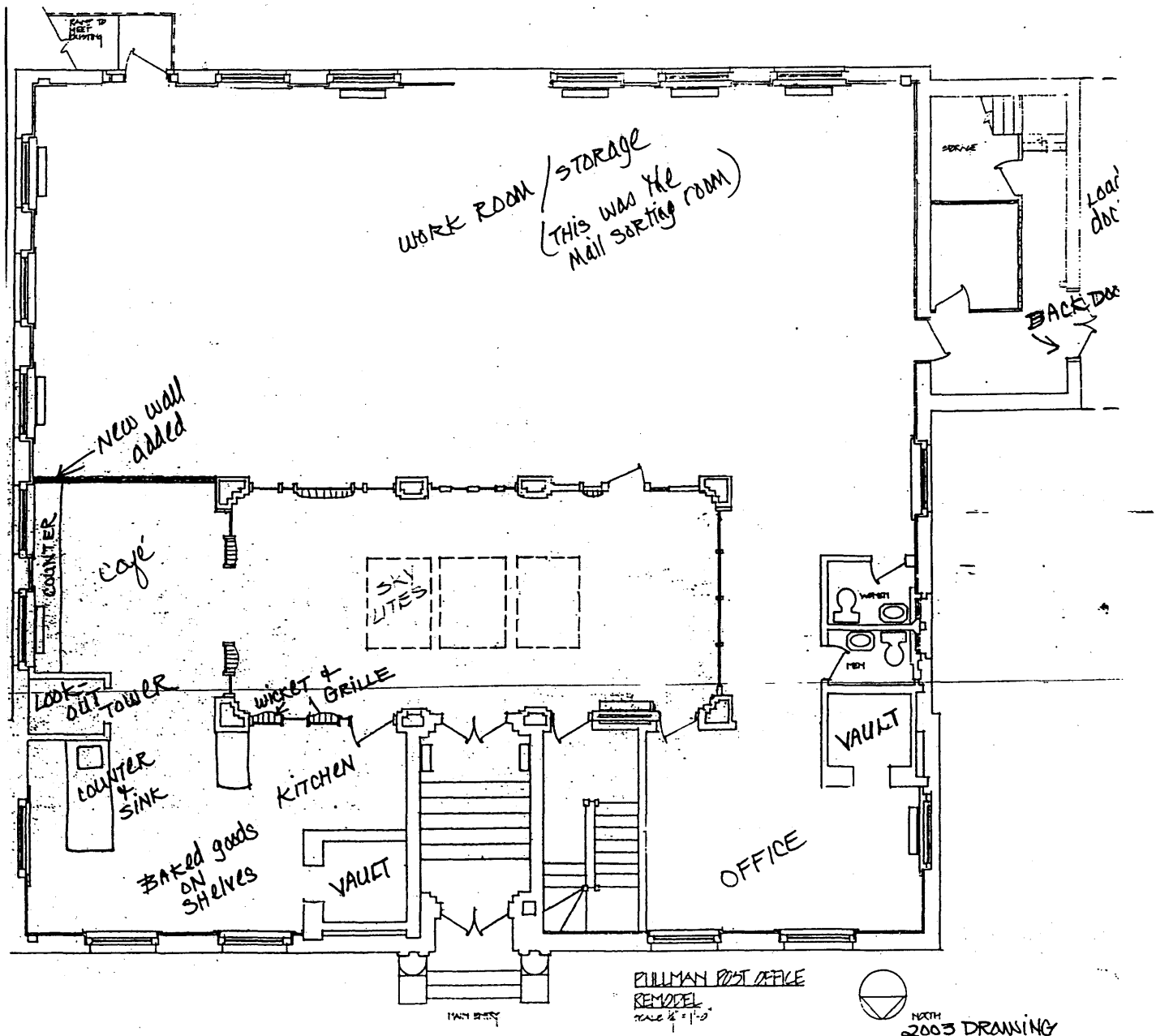
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U.S. POST OFFICE - PULLMAN
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Drawing 9 Pullman Post Office, current first floor plan, dated 2003.



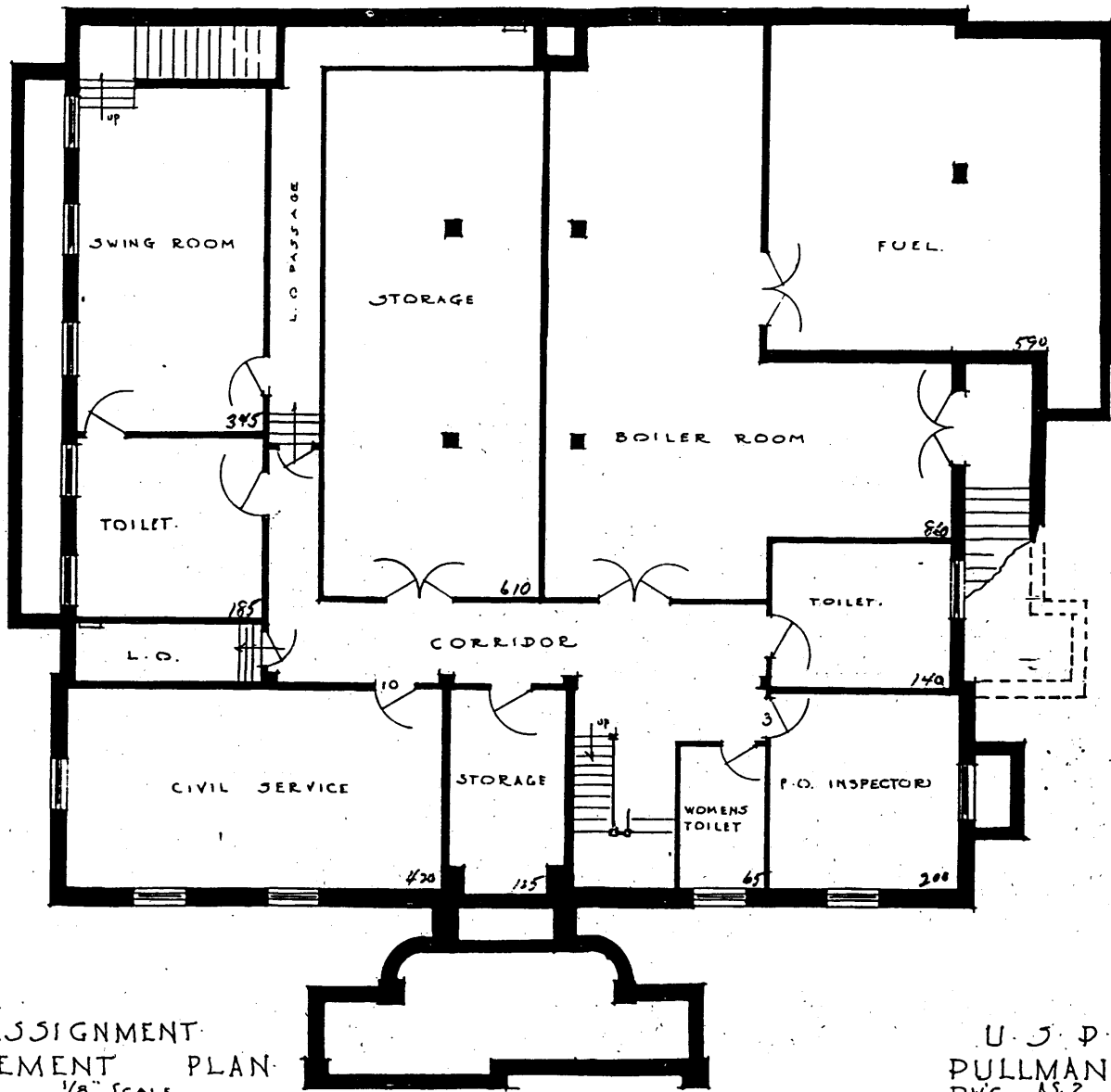
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U.S. POST OFFICE - PULLMAN
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Drawing 10 Pullman Post Office, basement floor plan, dated 1931.



ASSIGNMENT
BASEMENT PLAN
1/8" SCALE

U.S. P.O.
PULLMAN, WASH.
DWG. AS-2
DW'N BY W.E.B. 3-7-31

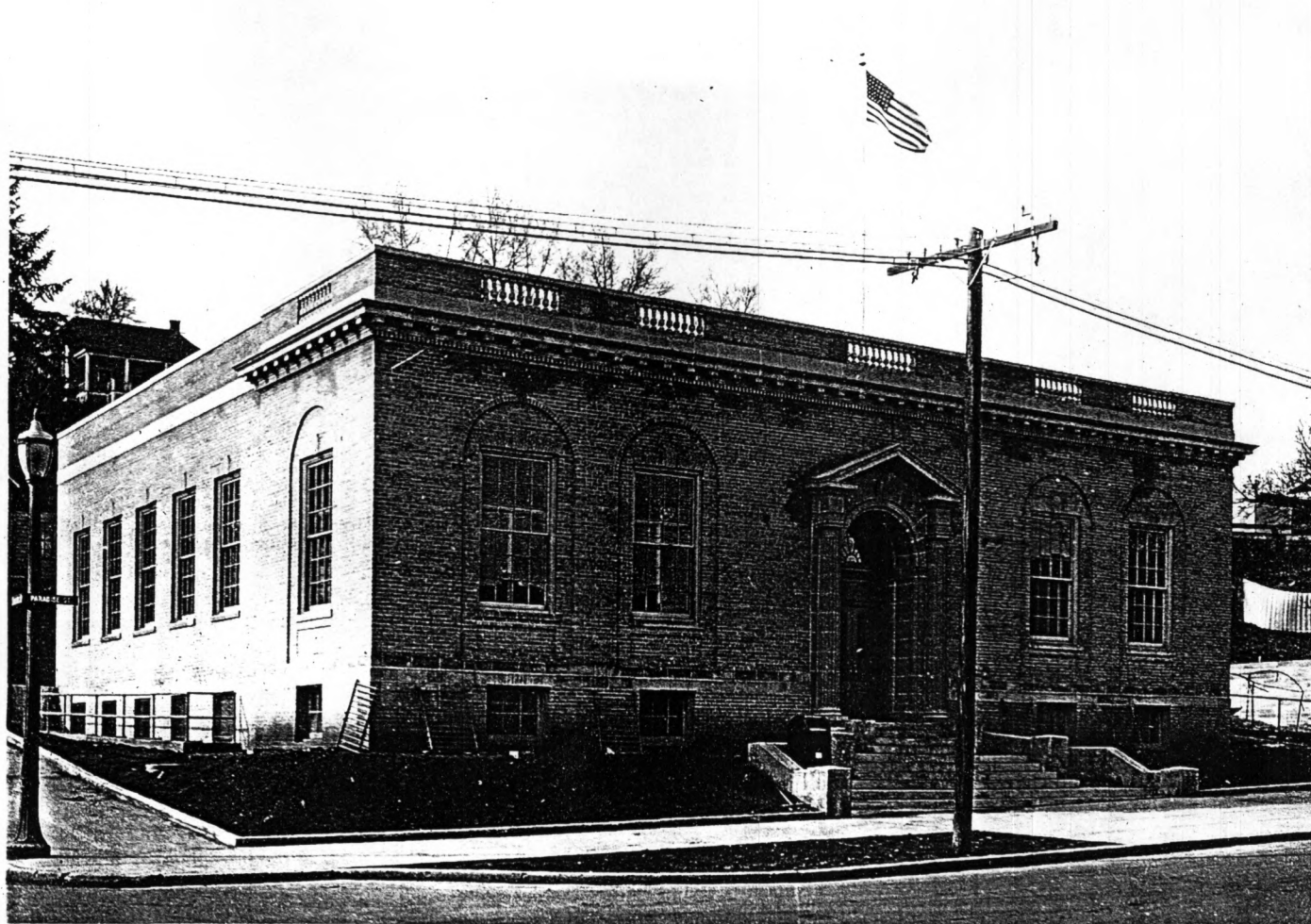
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Photocopy 1 Pullman Post Office, c.1931 photo of northeast facade of building, taken just after construction was completed.



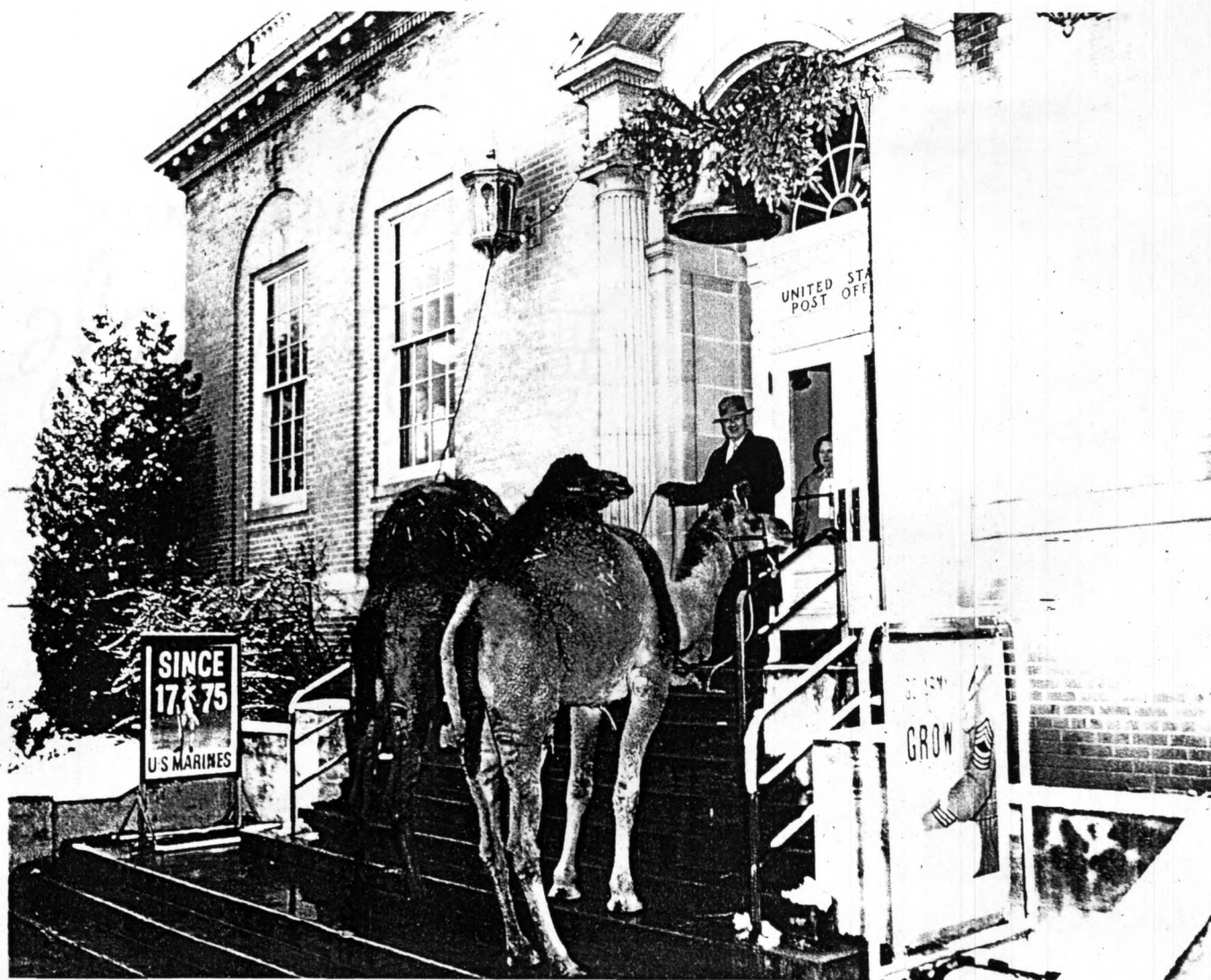
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Photocopy 2 Pullman Post Office, c. 1955 photo of Kiwanis camels on front steps of building.



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Photocopy 3 Pullman Post Office, c. 1931 photo of main lobby, looking west.



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Photocopy 4 Pullman Post Office, c. 1954 photo of workroom, looking east.

