DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS CITY, TOWN

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED OCT 1 4 1980

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HISTORIC U.S	. Post Office Amor	ry, Mississippi		
AND/OR COMMON				
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LOCATION	·			
street&number 215 1st Aven	,			
CITY, TOWN	iue		NOT FOR PUBLICATION CONGRESSIONAL DISTR	ICT
Amory		VICINITY OF	2	
STATE Mississippi		CODE 28	COUNTY	CODE
		20	Monroe	95
CLASSIFIC	ATION			
CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRES	ENT USE
DISTRICT	<u>X</u> PUBLIC	X.OCCUPIED	AGRICULTURE	MUSEUM
BUILDING(S)	PRIVATE	UNOCCUPIED	COMMERCIAL	PARK
XSTRUCTURE	ВОТН	WORK IN PROGRESS	EDUCATIONAL	PRIVATE RESIDE
SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	ENTERTAINMENT	RELIGIOUS
OBJECT	IN PROCESS	X_YES: RESTRICTED	X GOVERNMENT	SCIENTIFIC
	BEING CONSIDERED	YES: UNRESTRICTED	_INDUSTRIAL	TRANSPORTATIO
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AGENCY				
REGIONAL HEADQUA	ARTERS: (If applicable)			
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CITY, TOWN Memphis	•	VICINITY OF	STATE TN 381	03
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COURTHOUSE. REGISTRY OF DEEDS,	ETC			
	Chancery Clerk's	Office Municip	al Building	
STREET & NUMBER				
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7 DESCRIPTION

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CHECK ONE

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__ALTERED

✓ ORIGINAL SITE
 ✓ MOVED DATE

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The United States Post Office in Amory is located approximately two blocks northeast of Hwv. 25 as it bisects the central business district. It is Colonial Revival in style. A brick basement level rises above grade to a double-course. limestone water table. The elevated main floor is made accessible by a flight of granite steps with cast iron railings that terminate at the sidewalk with a pair of prominent lanterns. The exterior walls consist of one full story crowned by a wooden frieze and cornice highlighted by a dentil molding. The roof over the public lobby is transverse gable covered in slate shingles. A square, wooden, flat-roofed cupola with louvered lights for ventilation is located on the roof ridge over the central bay. The gable ends show small fanlights. The roof over the working area is the flat, built-up type with a brick parapet wall above. capped by a limestone coping. The street facade is divided into five bays reading window-window-door-window-window. The outer two windows and the middle three bays together are each contained in slightly recessed panels (or pilasters. the relationship is ambiguous). Windows in the front facade are wooden, double hung sash (twelve over twelve) and have limestone lintels and sills. The central doorway is articulated by classical wooden detailing including a flanking pair of fluted, half-round Doric colonnettes, an entablature with a dentil molding, and a projecting cornice. A semicircular recessed panel appears above the transom with a brick voissoir surround. Centered in this space is a high relief cast stone eagle approximately two feet high. The west facade consists of five bays with two setbacks occurring behind the public lobby area. The east facade consists of four bays with only a slight setback behind the lobby. A loading platform projects from the center of the north facade. A full basement level exists here. Brick masonry in the English bond is used throughout. plan (see enclosed plan drawing) consists of a rectangular public lobby immediately north of the central entrance, with the postmaster's office on the south-The remaining area is given over to a large workroom and adjacent mailing vestibule which opens onto the loading platform. A small mezzanine level consisting of a swing room and lookout is located above and behind the The lobby itself contains a polychrome terrazzo floor and tile Some original woodwork remains, although the screenline has been wainscoting. substantially altered and the wooden vestibule replaced by an aluminum one.

A mural by John McCrady, created under the Treasury Bureau's Section of Fine Arts program, was completed and installed in the lobby in 1939 at a cost of \$560. The work, which depicts town life in Amory circa 1889, is presently in a good state of preservation. (See attached Fine Arts Inventory form).

See "Composite Biographical Sketches of Artists" for further discussion.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

DEDIAD

SPECIFIC DAT	ES October, 1937	BUILDER/ARCI	HITECT Pittman Brotho New Orleans	ers Construction Co., Louisiana
		INVENTION		
x 1900-	COMMUNICATIONS	INDUSTRY	X.POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	OTHER (SPECIEV)
1800-1899	COMMERCE	_EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	PHILOSOPHY	TRANSPORTATION
1700-1799	.XART	ENGINEERING	MUSIC	THEATER
1600-1699	X ARCHITECTURE	EDUCATION	MILITARY	SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
1500-1599	AGRICULTURE	ECONOMICS	LITERATURE	SCULPTURE
1400-1499	ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	CONSERVATION	LAW	SCIENCE
PREHISTORIC	ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	COMMUNITY PLANNING	LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	RELIGION
PERIOD	AF	REAS OF SIGNIFICANCE CF	IECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW	

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE Politics/Government

The first Public Buildings Act of 1913 and the second Public Building Act of 1926 were supplemented in 1933 by Congress, on the urging of Franklin Delano Roosevelt, with the Federal Emergency Administration of Public Works. Between 1933 and 1941 a tremendous amount of construction resulted in the United States, including four post offices in Mississippi constructed under the 1926 Act and thirty-two post offices in Mississippi constructed under 1933 PWA legislation.

The U.S. Post Office in Amory, Mississippi, built in 1939, is significant as one of the thirty-two post offices constructed in the state with Public Works Administration funds during the Great Depression. (See also "Federal Construction Work 1913-1941").

Architecture

This Post Office and the City Hall represent the two most important governmental public buildings within the community. Of the thirty-six post offices within this thematic nomination, all but five of them were designed in the Colonial Revival Style or at least show influences of this style; the Amory structure recalls the Georgian Style and as such represents a fine example of this idiom. The most significant details are the cupola, the fanlights in the gables, and the frontispiece with eagle motif.

Art

The Department of the Treasury's Section of Fine Arts Program was begun by Franklin Delano Roosevelt, and in two phases, the Public Works of Art Project and the Section of Painting and Sculpture, several thousand artists produced multiple thousand pieces of art throughout the United States, including sculpture and mural paintings.

The building is significant because of the beautiful mural in the lobby above the postmaster's office. The mural was completed in 1939 and it is entitled "Amory, Mississippi...1889". The mural is appropriate to the community because it depicts the town's main street in 1889. The work was done by John McCrady who was born in Oxford, Mississippi. (See also "The Treasury Department's Section of the Fine Arts Program").

¹Tupelo <u>Daily Journal</u>, September 30, 1977, p. 14.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See bibliography attached to narrative entitled "The Treasury Department's Section of the Fine Arts Program" and "Federal Construction Work 1913-1941".

Tupelo Daily Journal, September 30, 1977, p. 14. ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

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STREET & NUMBER			TELEPHONE	
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Starkville			Mississippi	
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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

PAGE

AMORY, MS

Lot Nine (9) in Block Fifty One (51) of the Railroad Survey and Division of the City of Amory, Monroe County, Mississippi, as recorded on 21 May 1936, Deed Book 103, Page 80, and Lot Ten (10) and southeast half of Lot Eleven (11) in Block Fifty One (51) of Railroad Survey and Division of the City of Amory, Monroe County, Mississippi as recorded on 21 May 1926, Deed Book 103, Page 79, Clerk of Chancery Court, Monroe County, Aberdeen, Mississippi.

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FINE ARTS INVENTORY PUBLIC BUILDINGS SERVICE GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

BUILDING SHEET 2/3

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PUBLIC BUILDINGS SERVICE GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

BUILDING

No.____

SHEET 3

ARTIST'S BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES:

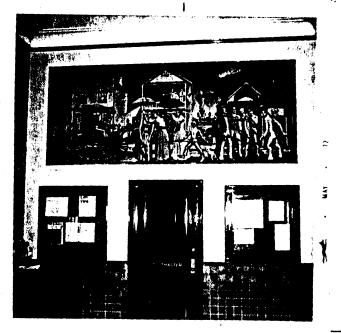
[INCLUDE ANY LOCAL "MEMORIES" OF ARTIST & HIS DIRECT RELATIONSHIP WITH THE COMMUNITY THROUGH RESIDENCE, VISITS OR RESEARCH]

NOTE ON MR. MCCRAAJ ARE ATTACHED TO THIS

NOTES OF SPECIAL SIGNIFICANCE :

ON PAGE 17 OF HANDBOOK

ATTACH PHOTOGRAPH



Kaller L. Sillatan

Professor of aut

May 1, 197 2

BUILDING EVALUATION REPORT

U. S. Post Office BUILDING: Amory, Mississippi

DATE OF REPORT:

CONTENTS

PAGE

REGIONAL MAP

· PHOTOGRAPHS

ASSIGNMENT PLANS

PERMITS

ANALYSIS AND RECOMMENDATION

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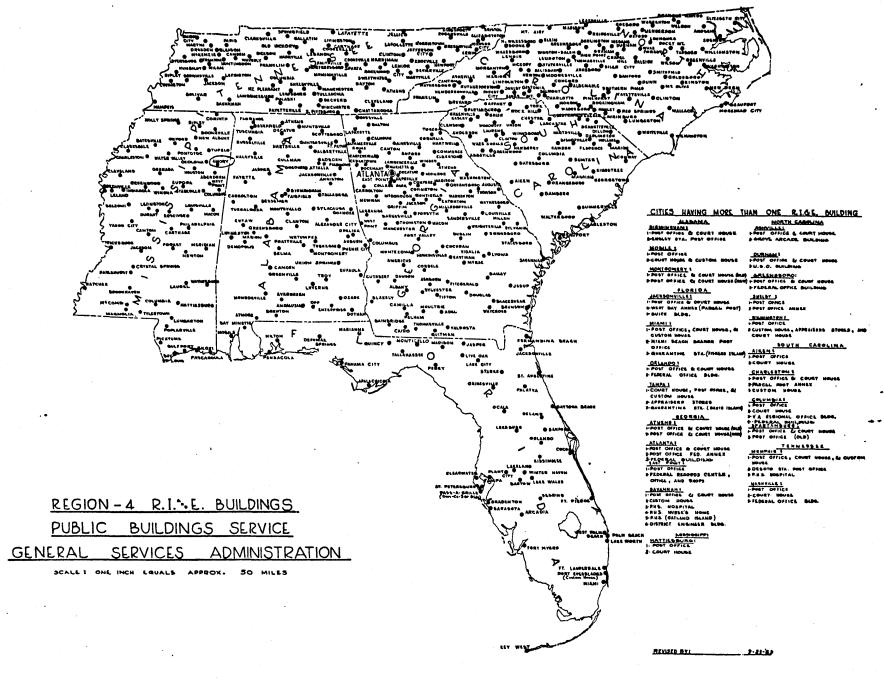
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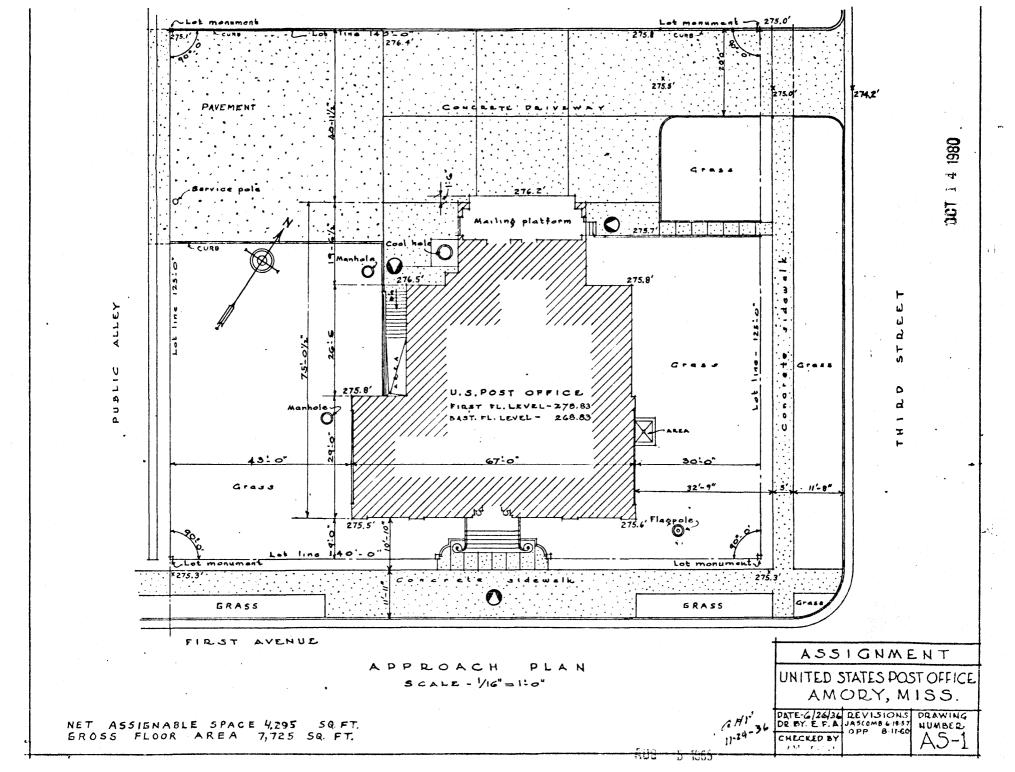
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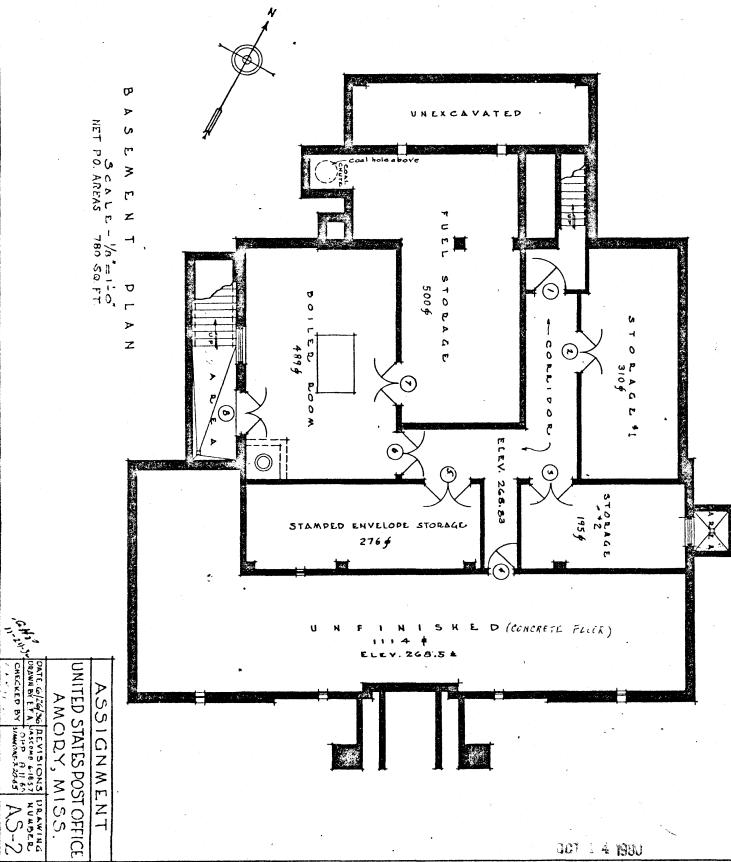
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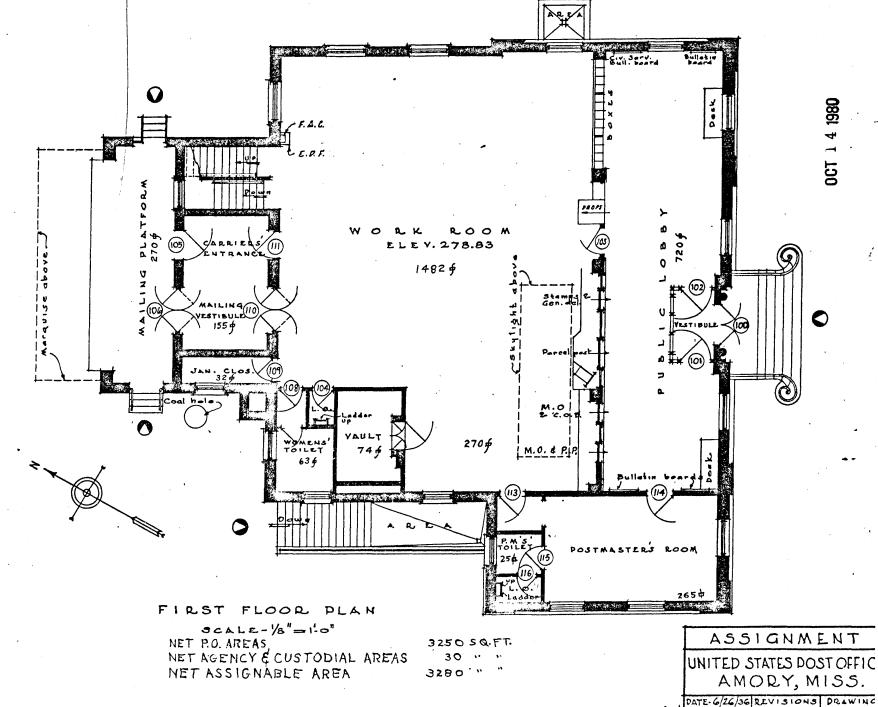
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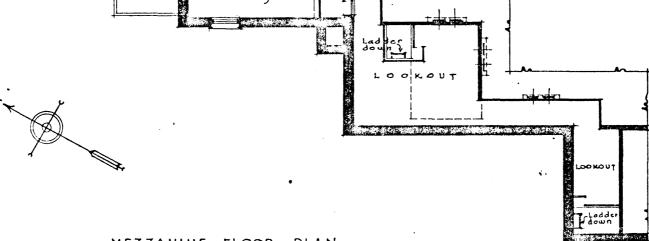








DATE-6/26/36 REVISIONS DRAWING PRAWNEY E.F.A. JASCOMB 6-1857 NUMBER



MEZZANINE FLOOR PLAN

SWING RM. 2374

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ASSIGNMENT UNITED STATES POST OFFICE AMORY, MISS. DATE-6/26/36 REVISIONS DRAWING DRAWA BY E F A JASCOMB 61857 NUMBER

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