

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 1986  
DATE ENTERED 1/24/86

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

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC  
Delta Post Office and Federal Building  
AND/OR COMMON  
Delta Main Post Office

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER  
360 Meeker Street  
CITY, TOWN  
Delta  
STATE  
Colorado  
VICINITY OF  
~~NA~~  
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT  
3  
COUNTY  
Delta  
CODE  
029

**2 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	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" 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 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  
STATE  
CA  
VICINITY OF  
~~NA~~  
94099

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, Delta County Assessor  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Delta County Courthouse  
STREET & NUMBER  
5th and Palmer Streets  
CITY, TOWN  
Delta  
STATE  
CO 81416

**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    DATE <u>NA</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

---

### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Delta Main Post Office is a rectangular, two story flat roofed structure. The architectural form of the building is typical of "Starved Classicism" design common to Post Offices of the late 1930s. The front facade is symmetrical, with the entrance in the center of the elevation flanked on either side by two windows.

### LOCAL CONTEXT

Delta is an agricultural center with peaches and apples being the major products. The area was first settled by Antione Robidoux, a trapper who built a fort near Delta in 1830. It was later destroyed by Utes. The present town dates from the coming of the railroad in the late-1800s. Delta is named for the lowlands at the confluence of the Gunnison and Uncompahgre Rivers near which it is located.

The Post Office is located one block east of the principal commercial street in Delta in the northwestern portion of the community. It is removed from other governmental buildings.

The original topographic survey dated 11/10/35 indicates that there was a frame house with a concrete foundation on the site. A note on the survey states that it was removed by the owner. There are no known archaeologic or paleontologic sites within or adjacent to the site. Additional subsurface investigation does not appear to be warranted. 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 well maintained.

The building is constructed of tan brick with a concrete foundation. It has a flat composition roof, a linoleum floor in the workroom, and a tile floor with tile wainscoting in the lobby. The steps leading to the second floor are terrazzo. The marble exterior detailing appears to be from the Marble, Colorado quarry, located approximately 75 miles to the northeast of Delta. Marble observed on several other post offices in Colorado; (e.g., Rocky Ford, Las Animas, and Gunnison) may also be from this quarry. The front steps are granite.

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

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

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet

Delta PO

Item number 7

Page 1

The structure is rectangular, with the front entrance facing west. The building is two stories with a full basement; floor plans are attached.

Notable features of the Delta Post Office include; three large marble panels each with the same Art Deco-inspired flora relief in the middle; original iron lamps flanking the front entrance; marble detailing consisting of molding band, parapet band, and window sills. There is fluted oak paneling in the lobby, as well as two carved or cast panels done by Mary B. Kittredge in 1942. These panels depict cattle and figures of what appear to be aboriginal inhabitants of the area.

The Delta Main Post Office exhibits a basic design common to combined Post Offices and Federal Buildings of the period. It does not have a court room as many such buildings do. The building is a particularly well conceived example of the "Starved Classicism" architectural style, and contains detailing of fine wood and marble, which is quite uncommon for the period.





**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet

Delta PO

Item number 8

Page 1

entrance was characteristic of post office construction throughout the first four decades of this century, and is found in strongly Beaux-Arts classical buildings as well as later Italianate and Starved Classical buildings. The scale, proportion and vertical emphasis provided by two-storied marble panel demarking the central entry and flanking window bays provide a monumental quality that is not found in the 17 or so post offices constructed in Colorado after 1933. Though Starved Classicism was used extensively in these buildings, the designs are typically anonymous and lack the fine execution of the Delta Post Office

Also of note is the display of fine craftsmanship in an otherwise typical lobby. Typically detailing the lobbies of this late-1930 period was utilitarian with little attention to detail (as the case in other Colorado examples). The Delta lobby includes unusually well crafted (for even the pre-1920 buildings) oak molding around the post office box insets and built-in heavy marble writing stands. The woodwork is executed in a reed motif for both the molding and paneled insets.

**ECONOMICS/POLITICS/GOVERNMENT**

Although it is unlikely that the construction of the post office made a noticeable impact on the local economy during the Depression, the building represents a decade during which little or no major construction was taking place in the community. According to Esther Stephens, a local historian who was raised in Delta during the Depression era, nothing was being constructed locally and the construction of the post office was a major event of the decade. The building also symbolized the effort of the federal government in its helping hand to depressed areas, particularly to an area that had traditionally been at odds with the federal government over the use of the vast public lands for lumbering and grazing. Congressman Edward Taylor who was instrumental in finally getting a post office for Delta was a strong influence in other federal programs designed to aid the agricultural economy.

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

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

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet

Delta PO

Item number

8

Page 2

The procurement of the post office was a major local event, one that involved intensive lobbying by the local Chamber of Commerce. Although the possibility of a federal building had been alive since the beginning of the decade it was not until 1935 that hope again prevailed. On July 12, 1935, The Delta Independent reported that the Chamber had received a letter from the Fourth Postmaster General that Delta was being given careful consideration of a building. Senator Edward P. Costigan had also replied that he would provide assistance. When the Independent reported that bids had been called for the site on August 23rd, it was stated: "At last Delta is certain to have a new federal building..."

On February 29, 1936, the Independent reported a notice from Representative Taylor that the plans for the federal buildings were being formed. Finally, the selection of a site by the federal government "brought new encouragement to Delta residents." (Independent May 22). During the month of June news accounts centered on the efforts of the Chamber to reorient the front of the building from 4th Street to Meeker Street, Representative Taylor's assistance, the decision to drop the effort so as not to delay construction or increase cost and, finally, the government's decision to make the change (19th and 26th).

A year passes, before encouraging news was received about the post office. A July 20, 1937 article reported that bids would be called and an additional \$45,000 was under request. "Delta's dreams for a new post office building moved a step nearer realization.." "...looking forward to this event for a number of years." After the disappointment of the previous year when construction bids were rejected as being too high, Taylor's effort to secure additional appropriation had apparently been successful. Work on the building finally began in September 1937 and proceeded through 1938 with an expected dedication in July or August. President Franklin D. Roosevelt had been invited to the dedication ceremony and it was hoped that he would make a stop in Delta on his trip through the west. However, a July 8, 1938 article reported

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

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

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet

Delta PO

Item number

8

Page 3

that a letter from F.D.R. had been received by Theodore Douglas, president of the Chamber, in which the President stated he could not attend. Finally, the building was dedicated on August 11, 1938, in "an impressive ceremony" befitting a public building.

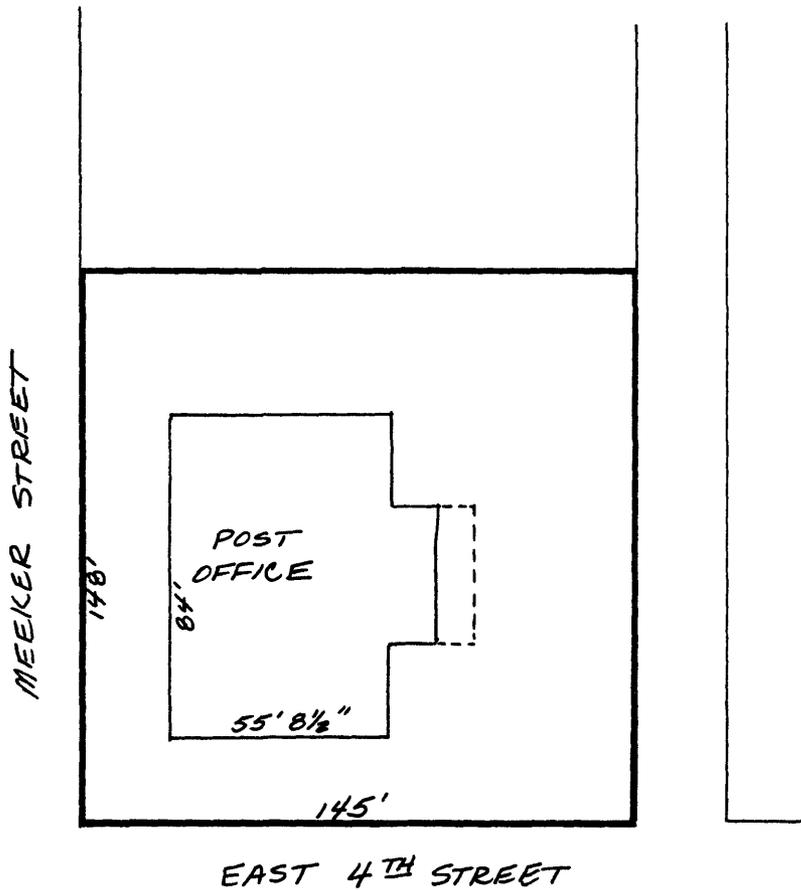
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

<b>FOR NPS USE ONLY</b>
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET Delta MPO      ITEM NUMBER 10      PAGE 1

Source: Sanborn Map, Delta, Colorado,  
May 1930, page 2.



1" = ± 50'