UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

FOR NPS USE ONLY RECEIVED JUN 5

INVENTORY NOMI	NATION FORM	DATE ENTE	RED		
	NS IN HOW TO COMP L ENTRIES COMPLE			3	
1 NAME					
HISTORIC	1 D. 1 000				
AND/OR COMMON	eet Post Office		, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,		
LOCATION				<u> </u>	
STREET & NUMBER 650 Cleveland S	Street		NOT FOR PUBLICATION		
CITY, TOWN	V		CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT		
Clearwater	Z VICINITY OF	F	5		
STATE Florida	CODE 12		county inellas	CODE 103	
CLASSIFICATION		<u></u>	LIICTIAD	100	
CATEGORY OWNERSHIP STATUS			PRESENT USE		
district X_{public}	$\frac{X}{2}$ occur	PIED	AGRICULTURE	MUSEUM	
XBUILDING(S)PRIVATE	UNOC	CUPIED	COMMERCIAL	PARK	
STRUCTUREBOTH		IN PROGRESS	EDUCATIONAL	PRIVATE RESIDENC	
	ACQUISITION ACC	ESSIBLE	ENTERTAINMENT	RELIGIOUS	
OBJECTIN PROCESS		ESTRICTED	X_GOVERNMENT	SCIENTIFIC	
BEING CONS	SIDEREDYES: U NO	INRESTRICTED ,	INDUSTRIAL MILITARY	TRANSPORTATIONOTHER:	
OWNER OF PROPER		Cr. (Nav. Lylip)			
NAME		~ ~			
United State Po	stal Service, Fiel	d Real Estate ar	nd Buildings Of	ffice	
STREET & NUMBER	D				
	Drive, Suite 133				
city. town Tampa	VICINITY OF	F	STATE Florida		
LOCATION OF LEGA					
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Pinel	llas County Courtho	NIGA			
STREET & NUMBER		- Table			
CITY, TOWN			STATE		
	rwater		Florida		
6 REPRESENTATION	IN EXISTING ST	URVEYS			
ΤΪΤLE		3 G			
	District Architectu	ral Survey			
DATE 1976		FEDERALSTATE	_COUNTY XLOCAL		
TAIO					

CITY, TOWN

Clearwater

SURVEY RECORDS Volunteers in Preservation, P.O. Box 4573

STATE Florida

CONDITION

CHECK ONE

CHECK ONE

X EXCELLENT

__FAIR

__DETERIORATED

__RUINS __UNEXPOSED _UNALTERED

X ORIGINAL SITE

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Cleveland Street Post Office in Clearwater, Florida is an example of Mediterranean Revival architecture. The building is located in downtown Clearwater at the intersection of Cleveland Street and East Avenue. The dimensions are approximately 118' x 131'. The low-pitched red tile roof and the low basement emphasize the building's horizontality.

Both the Cleveland Street and East Avenue elevations are faced with buff colored Florida oolitic limestone. This stone is superficially similar in appearance to Italian travertine limestone. The remaining elevations are covered with buff colored brick laid in running bond.

The entrance facade is defined by a one-story loggia whose five bays of round-headed arches are separated by simple square piers. The arches have neither archivolts nor imposts. The voussoirs radiating from the heads of the arches are of the same limestone as the wall facing and are keyed into the courses.

This arcade is reflected in the five combination windows with arched transoms on the East Avenue elevation and the seven bays of triple arched windows beneath the eaves of the roof on both Cleveland Street and East Avenue. Originally, there were two large arched windows and a lunette on the west elevation, but these have been enclosed. The remainder of the windows are all rectangular with flat arches.

Exterior decoration is limited to two bas relief medallions on both Cleveland Street and East Avenue depicting rampant eagles, and to a poly-chrome frieze of faience and terra cotta beneath the eaves of the roof.

The only significant alteration to the exterior was the replacement of the stone steps of the main entrance with concrete ones.

The interior of the post office appears to have retained many of its original features in the public areas on the first floor. The notable of these is the large L-shaped hall which defines the interior sorting room of the post office. Arched lunettes and door ways reflect the exterior arcading. The majority of these arches have been fitted with decorative metal grills. Each grill is composed of thin twisted bars which radiate from the center line of the arch.

The ceiling of the hall is divided into large stepped recesses, the center of each of which contains an original light fixture. These recessed areas are separated by panelled beams. The light fixtures each consist of a multifaceted globe suspended from a trumpet-shaped metal support.

PERIOD AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW PREHISTORIC __ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC __COMMUNITY PLANNING __LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

__RELIGION __1400-1499 __ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC __CONSERVATION _LAW __SCIENCE __1500-1599 __AGRICULTURE __ECONOMICS __LITERATURE __SCULPTURE XARCHITECTURE __1600-1699 __EDUCATION __MILITARY __SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN __1700-1799 __ART __ENGINEERING __MUSIC __THEATER __1800-1899 __COMMERCE __EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT __PHILOSOPHY __TRANSPORTATION

__INDUSTRY

SPECIFIC DATES + 1932

X_1900-

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

__POLITICS/GOVERNMENT

__OTHER (SPECIFY)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

__COMMUNICATIONS

The Cleveland Street Post Office in Clearwater is significant as a representative example of the smaller postal facilities constructed under various federal public works programs during the period 1929-1939. The building reflects the "regionalism" in architectural style which predominated in federally sponsored construction projects at the time.

During the administration of President Herbert Hoover (1929-1933), and the first two administrations of Franklin Delano Roosevelt (1933-1941), the federal government funded a variety of public works programs aimed at alleviating the stagnation of the U.S. economy which followed the Wall Street Crash in 1929. State and local governments were provided with financial assistance for the construction of libraries, schools, power and sewage disposal plants, and other community service projects which would afford employment in the building industry. The federal government also took a direct hand by constructing buildings to house the regional offices of its various agencies. Formerly the majority of these agencies had rented offices in privately owned commercial buildings. 2

In 1933, the year in which the Cleveland Street Post Office was officially dedicated, the United States Post Office Department announced that it had participated in the construction of 201 new postal facilities throughout the country. The Cleveland Street facility was the first building in Clearwater specifically designed to serve as a post office. In general it followed the standards of design and construction required by the Architectural Division of the U.S. Treasury Department which supervised the construction of all federal buildings at the time. In keeping with the policy of the Treasury Department, a local architect, Theodore H. Skinner, was awarded the commission of designing the Clearwater post office. The Treasury did not provide designs and specifications for such projects, nor did its Architectural Division dictate the style of the architecture or the materials and method of construction to be used. These were left entirely to the architect awarded the project. The project.

Theodore H. Skinner (1873-1944) spent most of his professional career in Clearwater. When he joined the American Institute of Architects in 1935, he listed his business address as The Architectural Studios, 1128 Granda Avenue, Clearwater, Florida. He resigned from the AIA in February 1939 when he retired from practice. 5

(See continuation sheet)

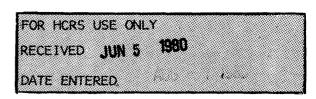
9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

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	(See cont:	inuation sheet)		
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STATE	CODE	COUNTY	· C	ODE
Florida Division of A	Archives, H	istory and Record	TELEPHONE	
CITY OR TOWN			(904) 487-2333 STATE	
Tallahassee			Florida 32301	
STATE HISTORIC PRES	ERVATIO	N OFFICER C	ERTIFICATION	
		THIS PROPERTY WITH		
NATIONAL	STA	TE	LOCAL X	
s the designated State Historic Preservation	n Officer for the I	National Historic Preserv	ation Act of 1966 (Public Law	89-665). I
ereby nominate this property for inclusion	in the National I	Register and certify that		
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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM



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A main postal facility for Clearwater was authorized as part of the public building program under the Public Buildings Act of 1926. No funds were appropriated for the project, however, until 1931 when \$150,000 was authorized for the purchase of a building site and construction of the facility. By February 19, 1932, Skinner's designs had been approved and a contract for construction of the building awarded to Watt and Sinclair of Florida, Inc., a construction firm located in Palm Beach. Florida.

The architect described his design for the post office in the following manner: "Precedents for the style and details are found in the transitional period between the Romanesque and the Renaissance, of which there are so many examples in the Mediterranean cities . . ., and also in a section of the Rhine country . . . systematic use of arcading to decorate the exterior walls . . . gave to these Rhenish churches and halls an external beauty hardly equalled in contemporary edifices."

The post office was officially opened on October 9, 1933 in a dedication ceremony attended by James A. Farley, Postmaster General of the United States. 9 Farley attended many such functions while Postmaster General to promote the policies of the Roosevelt administration. 10

¹C.W. Short and R. Stanley-Brown. Public Buildings: Architecture under the Public Works Administration 1933-1939. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1939, p. 1.

²Carl H. Scheele. <u>A Short History of the Postal Service</u>. Washington, D.C.: Smithsonian Institution Press, 1970, p. 170.

³Ibid.

⁴Short and Brown. Public Buildings, VII.

⁵Margaret Kiehl, letter to Carl Shiver, July 30, 1979.

⁶National Archives and Records Service, RG 121: Records of the Public Building Service (Selected Records), 1931-33.

⁷Ibid.

^{8&}lt;sub>Tbid</sub>.

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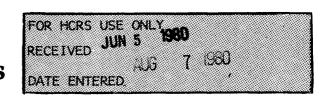
3

⁹Clearwater Sun, October 9, 1933.

¹⁰ James A. Farley. Jim Farley's Story: The Roosevelt Years. New York: Whittlesey House, 1948, p. 51.

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Kiehl, Margaret. Letter to Carl Shiver. July 30, 1979.

National Archives and Records Service. R.G. 121: Records of the Public Buildings Service, Selected Records, 1931-1933.

Scheele, Carl H. A Short History of the Postal Service. Washington, D.C.: Smithsonian Institution Press, 1970.

Short, C.W. and Stanley-Brown, R. <u>Public Buildings: Architecture under the Public Works Administration 1933-1939</u>. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1939.

FHR-8-300A (11/78)

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Begin at the northwest corner of Cleveland Street and East Avenue and run north along the west side of East Avenue to the southwest corner of East Avenue and Laura Street, then turn west and proceed along the south side of Laura Street a distance of approximately 60 meters, then turn at a right angle south and proceed in a straight line to the north side of Cleveland Street, then run east along the north side of Cleveland Street to the point of beginning.