

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED JUN 5 1980	7
DATE ENTERED	

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC
Cleveland Street Post Office
AND/OR COMMON

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
650 Cleveland Street

CITY, TOWN
Clearwater

STATE
Florida

VICINITY OF
12

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
5

COUNTY
Pinellas

CODE
103

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 checked="" 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	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
United State Postal Service, Field Real Estate and Buildings Office

STREET & NUMBER
5511 Executive Drive, Suite 133

CITY, TOWN
Tampa

STATE
Florida

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
Pinellas County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN
Clearwater

STATE
Florida

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
Central Business District Architectural Survey

DATE
1976

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

CITY, TOWN
Clearwater

STATE
Florida

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 DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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 impostes. 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.

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 + 1932

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

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.¹ 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.³ 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.⁴

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 Grand Avenue, Clearwater, Florida. He resigned from the AIA in February 1939 when he retired from practice.⁵

(See continuation sheet)

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

(See continuation sheet)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

UTM NOT VERIFIED

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1.7

QUADRANGLE NAME Clearwater

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

QUADRANGLE SCALE 7.5 min.

UTM REFERENCES

A 1,7 3,2,3 2,2,0 3,0,9,4 5,2,0

B

C

D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

(See continuation sheet)

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

STATE CODE COUNTY CODE

STATE CODE COUNTY CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Shiver, W. Carl, Historic Sites Specialist

5/15/80

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Florida Division of Archives, History and Records Management

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

(904) 487-2333

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Tallahassee

Florida 32301

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL X

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE

State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

5/16/80

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Sally J. Olden
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

8/7/80

ATTEST

Carol Davis

DATE

8/6/80

CERTIFICATION

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE 2

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.⁶ 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.⁷

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."⁸

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. A Short History of the Postal Service. 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.

⁸Ibid.

FHR-8-300A
(11/78)

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⁹Clearwater Sun, October 9, 1933.

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

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Clearwater Sun. October 9, 1933.

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

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. Public Buildings: Architecture under the Public Works Administration 1933-1939. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1939.

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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.