

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Florida
COUNTY: Pinellas
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE APR 8 1975

1. NAME

COMMON: United States Post Office
AND/OR HISTORIC: Open-Air Post Office

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: S.W. corner of First Avenue, North and Fourth Street, North			
CITY OR TOWN: St. Petersburg		CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: Eighth	
STATE Florida	CODE 012	COUNTY: Pinellas	CODE 103

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY <i>(Check One)</i>	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Both <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE <i>(Check One or More as Appropriate)</i>			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: U. S. Treasury Department			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
CITY OR TOWN: Washington		STATE: D. C.	
		CODE 011	

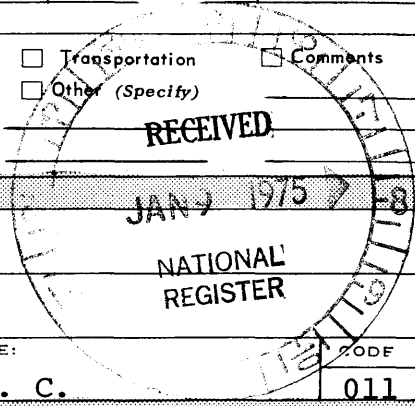
5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Pinellas County Courthouse			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
CITY OR TOWN: Clearwater		STATE: Florida	
		CODE 012	

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: N/A			
DATE OF SURVEY: <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local			
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
CITY OR TOWN:		STATE:	
		CODE	

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

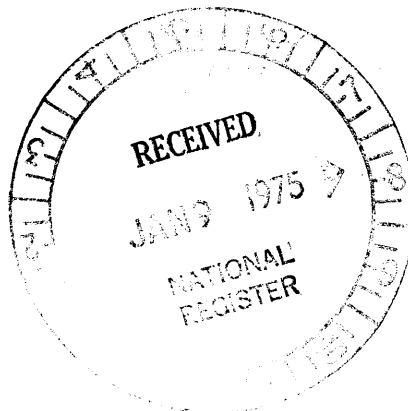
DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Open Air Post Office in St. Petersburg is treated as a loggia on three sides whereby access to offices and postal boxes can be gained. The overall effect of the building is one of lightness and airiness along with a visual interpenetration of interior and exterior surfaces. The facades which face Fourth Street, North and First Avenue, North are treated as loggias. According to the architect's drawings the exterior consists of granite risers with brick treads on the stairs, terra cotta piers, column caps and arches, marble columns, granite plinths, stucco spandrels and terra cotta disks. The entire frieze is of terra cotta, the cornice is wood and the roof is covered with red Spanish tile. Vibrant paint colors were used on the exterior, particularly in the frieze area, giving the effect of colored tile. The dominant motifs on the building are the recurrent arches, roundels and the symbolic American eagle seen in the frieze, on the individual boxes and in ceiling decoration. Other motifs employed throughout the structure are a modified egg and dart, tiny gargoyle-like faces, Greek fretwork and many and varied organic forms intertwined one with another. Inside the loggia are the decorative screens and grilles which define the office area of the post office. The building is a full two stories and upstairs is the Postmaster's office.

There is as much attention to decorative detail on the interior as the exterior. A curving stair has a cast iron open string, cast iron newel posts, wrought iron balusters and handrail and terra cotta brackets. Light fixtures and grilles (for which we are in possession of the architect's drawings) are of wrought iron and very intricate in design.

It is the considered opinion of this staff that in quality of design, intricacy of pattern and detail, originality of adaptation to meet the needs of climate, location and demands of the clientele, that this building is one of the finest of Florida's eclectic "boom" structures to evolve during an early phase of the period.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian | 16th Century | 18th Century | 20th Century
 15th Century | 17th Century | 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **1916**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Unsatisfied with plans drawn up in Washington, D. C. for the new St. Petersburg Post Office, Postmaster Roy S. Hanna submitted plans of his own design drawn by retired St. Petersburg architect, George W. Stuart. It was Hanna's desire to have a building which was unique for the climate of the area and easily accessible to the people of the city at all times. He designed a building which was open on three sides and had no stairs so that patrons could go to their boxes with ease at any hour. The Hanna-Stuart plans were redrawn in Washington and sent back nearly unchanged. Purchase of the site had taken place by March 8, 1909 following appropriations by Congress of \$7,500. Three lots on the southwest corner of First Avenue, North and Fourth Street, North previously owned by the Congregational Church, had been purchased. In February of 1915, Congress provided \$102,500 for the construction of the building. On January 26, 1916, the contract for construction was awarded to M.C. Holliday of Greensboro, North Carolina. The cornerstone was laid October 12, 1916 and the building was officially dedicated September 27, 1917.

The St. Petersburg Open Air Post Office has served the people of that city since 1916. Located as it is, amidst the central business district, the structure has become a landmark for residents and visitors alike. Not only is the structure unique in a utilitarian sense, that is, open to the public at all times, but it is one of the finest examples of Florida "boom" architecture to be seen anywhere in the state. It combines all the elements that have come to be associated with the style and the period in an aesthetically and visually pleasing manner, creating a beautiful and useful public building befitting the climate, the people and the surroundings.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Grismer, Karl. History of St. Petersburg. St. Petersburg: Tourist News Publishing Company, 1924.

Grismer, Karl. The Story of St. Petersburg: The History of Lower Pinellas Peninsula and the Sunshine City. St. Petersburg: P. K. Smith and Company, 1948.

Original Drawings for Open Air Post Office. St. Petersburg, 1916. Duplicate set in possession of Division of Archives, History and Records Management, Department of State, The Capitol, Tallahassee, Florida.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

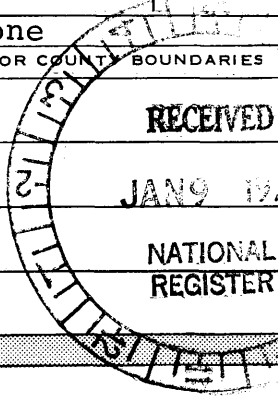
LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "	N27°	46'	17"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "	W82°	38'	21"	
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: less than one

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

17/338490
3072800



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Diane D. Greer, Historic Sites Specialist

ORGANIZATION: Div. of Archives, History and Records Management DATE: 10-11-74

STREET AND NUMBER:
Department of State, The Capitol

CITY OR TOWN: Tallahassee STATE: Florida CODE: 012

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name Robert Williams
Title State Historic Preservation Officer

Date December 16, 1974

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

A. P. Mortensen
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 4/4/75

ATTEST:
W. M. [Signature]
Keeper, The National Register

Date ..