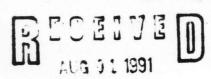
OMB No. 1084-0018

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form



NATIONAL REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines* for Completing National Register Forms (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

Form 10-900a). Type all entries.			
. Name of Property			
storic name Searcy Post Of:			
ther names/site number Resource #WH(	0037 (Municipal Court	House)	
. Location			
	Gum and Arch Streets		not for publication N/A
ity, town Searcy	Guil and men beleets		vicinity N/A
ate Arkansas code AR	county White	code 14	The same of the sa
Ar Addisas	touring miles	0000 21	3,7000
Classification			
	ry of Property	Number of Reso	urces within Property
] private	ding(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
public-local dis	rict	1	buildings
public-State site			sites
public-Federal stre	icture		structures
obj	ect		objects
		1	n Total
ame of related multiple property listing:		Number of contr	ibuting resources previously
istoric and Architectural Resou	rces of White County.		onal Register N/A
	Arkansas	notod iii tiio ivati	ional Hogistor
State/Federal Agency Certification			
Signature of certifying official  Arkansas Historic Preservat	n Program		5-13-98 Date
State or Federal agency and bureau			
In my opinion, the property meets do	es not meet the National Regis	ter criteria. See	continuation sheet.
Signature of commenting or other official			Date
State or Federal agency and bureau			
National Park Service Certification			
hereby, certify that this property is:			
entered in the National Register.			
See continuation sheet.			
determined eligible for the National			
Register. See continuation sheet.			
determined not eligible for the			
National Register.			
removed from the National Register.			
other, (explain:)		3	
	Signature of the		Date of Action

Current Eunstians (anter estagories from instructions)		
Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)  Government / Courthouse		
Materials (enter categories from instructions)		
foundation <u>Concrete</u>		
walls Concrete		
roof Asphalt		
other		

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

#### National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number \_\_7 Page \_\_1

#### Description

The Old Searcy Post Office is an Italian Renaissance style public building located on the southwest comer of Gum and Arch streets in downtown Searcy. Designed by architect Oscar Wenderoth, it was built at a cost of \$40,000 in 1914 and remained in use as a post office until the mid-1970's. It is still in good condition and is currently being used as a legislative facility.

The large, imposing structure has a rectangular, two-story floor plan and was built of reinforced concrete. The building underwent a \$250,000 expansion in 1959 with a rear (south) addition, also constructed of reinforced concrete, which housed two mail work rooms and office space. New glass and aluminum double doors on the front (north) elevation replace the original set, and the original two-over-two sash windows have been removed and replaced with eight-over-eight and one-over-one double-hung sash windows. Stylistically, the building features such Italian Renaissance elements as a flat, symmetrical front facade; a simple, low-pitched hipped roof; widely overhanging eaves supported by large brackets; and three full-height, recessed first-floor windows with arches above. Pilasters with Roman capitals flanking the first-floor windows, a belt course, and raised concrete keystones above all of the windows are other Italian Renaissance elements that are incorporated into the building's exterior design.

Another characteristic of the Italian Renaissance style, which this building also exhibits, is smaller and less elaborate fenestration on the upper story; however, these windows are also recessed with eight-over-eight double-hung sashes. A square, flat-topped cupola sits atop the shingle-covered hipped roof. The foundation is made of cast concrete and, according to historic photographs, was excavated by a mule-drawn scoop. Two original iron lampposts stand on either side of the front entrance as further reminders of the pre-war period in which this structure was built.

	PIN
Statement of Significance	
Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other property in a considered the significance of this property in relation to other property in rela	iles:
Applicable National Register Criteria XA BXC D	
Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)	
Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)  Architecture  Period of Significance  1914	Significant Dates 1914
Community Planning and Development 1914-39	N/A
Cultural Affiliation N/A	
Significant Person N/A  Architect/Builder U. S. Treasur	у

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 1

Significance

Searcy's original post office is the only Italian Renaissance style public building in White County and one of only a few such buildings in the entire state. It was constructed during a period of increasing prosperity and cultural awareness brought about by the emergence of the railroad, when more and more high-style public buildings and residences were designed and built [see the property type for Railroad Era Religious and Institutional Buildings and Historic Context 2: Railroad Era]. Yet because the Italian Renaissance style was ordinarily used for architect-designed landmarks in major metropolitan areas prior to World War I, it was rarely used in Arkansas' slowly developing, primarily vernacular towns. Therefore, the post office is significant on a local level under National Register Criterion C as a rare example of government-funded Italian Renaissance architecture.

While the building's architecture reflects an increased awareness and prosperity among Searcians, it also reflects the gradual increase in population, which, as discussed in the Historic Context and Property Type sections, was another of the railroad's effects on a community. With a population of just over 2000, only six postal employees, no city mail delivery and annual postage receipts of about \$8000, Searcy, like most other Arkansas towns, was actually too small to qualify for a postal facility. Yet in 1908, largely due to the efforts of Congressman Stephen Brundidge, the government approved the funding of a \$40,000 post office, making Searcy the second smallest town in the United States to secure such a building. Their efforts were well-timed, because in 1913 Congress passed the Public Buildings Act, which prohibited the construction of new post office buildings in communities whose postal receipts totaled less than \$10,000. But by 1916, two years after the Searcy post office was finally completed, the town's postal receipts amounted to over \$14,000, justifying the building's existence. Therefore, the building stands in testimony to the foresight of Searcy citizens, who believed in their town's potential for growth. For this reason, the post office is also significant under Criterion A as representing an important period of growth, prosperity and optimism in the state's history.

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M. 188	HOT B		micei		
AT 1886					

See "Historical and Architectural Resources of White County, Arkansas," Section H.

	See continuation sheet
Previous documentation on file (NPS):  preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested  previously listed in the National Register  previously determined eligible by the National Register  designated a National Historic Landmark  recorded by Historic American Buildings  Survey #  recorded by Historic American Engineering  Record #	Primary location of additional data:  State historic preservation office  Other State agency  Federal agency  Local government  University  Other  Specify repository:
10. Geographical Data pump 10	
Acreage of property Less than 1 acre	
UTM References  A 1 5 6 1 4 6 4 0 3 9 0 1 2 7 0  Zone Easting Northing  C 1	B Zone Easting Northing  D See continuation sheet
Verbal Boundary Description	
	X See continuation sheet
	X See continuation sheet
Boundary Justification	
	X See continuation sheet
11. Form Prepared By	
name/title Jill Bayles, National Register Histori	ian
organization Arkansas Historic Preservation Progra	am date 13 November 1989
street & number 225 E. Markham, Suite 300	telephone <u>501-371-2763</u> state <u>AR</u> zip code <u>72201</u>
city or town Little Rock	state AR zip code 72201

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

		10		1
Section	number		Page	

Acreage of property: Less than one

#### Verbal Boundary Description:

Beginning at the southwest corner of the intersection of West Arch and South Gum Streets, proceed southerly along the western edge of South Gum Street to the point formed by its intersection with a perpendicular line running along the building's southern elevation; thence proceed westerly along said line to the point formed by its intersection with a perpendicular line running along the building's western elevation; thence proceed northerly along said line to the intersection with the southern edge of West Arch Street; thence proceed easterly to the point of beginning.

#### Boundary Justification:

This boundary includes all the property historically associated with this resource.

#### UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION PROPERTY Searcy Post Office NAME: MULTIPLE White County MPS NAME: STATE & COUNTY: ARKANSAS, White DATE RECEIVED: 8/01/91 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 8/15/91 DATE OF 16TH DAY: 8/31/91 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 9/15/91 DATE OF WEEKLY LIST: REFERENCE NUMBER: 91001200 DE JOSE DE LA JOSE NOMINATOR: STATE REASONS FOR REVIEW: APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N delemos OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N VILLE REOUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: COMMENT WAIVER: N/ RETURN ACCEPT DATE and do didenotable ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

See attached comments

RECOM./CRITERIA Retur REVIEWER HOMES DISCIPLINE

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments N see attached SLR Y/N

CLASSIFICATION
countresource type
STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION
FUNCTION
historiccurrent
DESCRIPTION
architectural classification
materials
descriptive text
SIGNIFICANCE
Period Areas of SignificanceCheck and justify below
Specific dates Builder/Architect
Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)
summary paragraph
completeness
clarity
applicable criteria
justification of areas checkedrelating significance to the resource
context
relationship of integrity to significance
justification of exception
other
BIBLIOGRAPHY
GEOGRAPHICAL DATA
acreageverbal boundary descriptionboundary justification
ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTATION/PRESENTATION
sketch mapsUSGS mapsphotographspresentation
OTHER COMMENTS
Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to
Phone
Signed attick Andres Date 9/13/91

Searcy Post Office White County MPS White County, ARKANSAS

#### Reviewer's Comments

The boundaries of this property are presently located along building lines. A resource listed in the National Register should include all features of the property which contribute to its significance. In almost all cases this includes its historic setting. Page 77 of National Register Bulletin 16, <u>Guidelines for Completing National Register of Historic Places Forms</u>, states that "the boundaries of buildings should include the land surrounding the building, unless the lot occupied by the building contains no surrounding land as in the central business district of most cities."

Please revise the boundaries to include the property historically associated with the resource. If a portion of the original setting has lost its integrity, please explain.

Marilyn Harper Historian Sept. 16, 1991

## 1200

# United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form



NATIONAL REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines* for Completing National Register Forms (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1 Name of Branarty			
1. Name of Property historic name Searcy Post	Office		
other names/site number Resource		House)	
Strief names/site number Resource	#WHOO37 (Municipal Court	110use/	
2. Location		nnersone isslev	of the same of the
	of Gum and Arch Streets		not for publication N/A
city, town Searcy			vicinity N/A
state Arkansas code AR	county White	code 1	45 <b>zip code</b> 72143
3. Classification			
Ownership of Property C	ategory of Property	Number of Res	ources within Property
private	X building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
X public-local	district	_1	buildings
public-State	site		sites
public-Federal	structure		structures
	object		objects
	_ 02,000	1	Total
Name of related multiple property listing:		Number of con	tributing resources previously
Historic and Architectural Re	esources of White County.		itional Register N/A
III DE COLLE GIRL THE CHILDER GET THE	Arkansas	nated in the Na	tional negister
4. State/Federal Agency Certification	on		
Signature of certifying official  Arkansas Historic Prese  State or Federal agency and bureau			Date
In my opinion, the property meets	does not meet the National Regist	er criteria. See	e continuation sheet.
Signature of commenting or other official			Date
State or Federal agency and bureau			
5. National Park Service Certification	on		
, hereby, certify that this property is:			
entered in the National Register.  See continuation sheet.  determined eligible for the National Register.  See continuation sheet.	mal m.y		7/20/92
determined not eligible for the National Register.			
removed from the National Register. other, (explain:)	_		
	Co Signature of the	Keeper	Date of Action

6. Function or Use		1.5	
Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)  Government / Post Office	Current Functions (enter categories from instructions) Government / Courthouse		
	- 750/6		
7. Description		to be the brooking of	
Architectural Classification (enter categories from instructions)	Materials (er	nter categories from instructions)	
	foundation _	Concrete	
Italian Renaissance	walls	Concrete	
	roof	Asphalt	
	other	THE CALL SECTION SECTION SERVICES	
	190 Ten	HEALTH AND THE SHOP OF THE SHO	

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number7 Page1	Section	number	7	Page .	1
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#### **Description**

The Old Searcy Post Office is an Italian Renaissance style public building located on the southwest corner of Gum and Arch streets in downtown Searcy. Designed by architect Oscar Wenderoth, it was built at a cost of \$40,000 in 1914 and remained in use as a post office until the mid-1970's. It is still in good condition and is currently being used as a legislative facility.

The large, imposing structure has a rectangular, two-story floor plan and was built of reinforced concrete. The building underwent a \$250,000 expansion in 1959 with a rear (south) addition, also constructed of reinforced concrete, which housed two mail work rooms and office space. New glass and aluminum double doors on the front (north) elevation replace the original set, and the original two-over-two sash windows have been removed and replaced with eight-over-eight and one-over-one double-hung sash windows. Stylistically, the building features such Italian Renaissance elements as a flat, symmetrical front facade; a simple, low-pitched hipped roof; widely overhanging eaves supported by large brackets; and three full-height, recessed first-floor windows with arches above. Pilasters with Roman capitals flanking the first-floor windows, a belt course, and raised concrete keystones above all of the windows are other Italian Renaissance elements that are incorporated into the building's exterior design.

Another characteristic of the Italian Renaissance style, which this building also exhibits, is smaller and less elaborate fenestration on the upper story; however, these windows are also recessed with eight-over-eight double-hung sashes. A square, flat-topped cupola sits atop the shingle-covered hipped roof. The foundation is made of cast concrete and, according to historic photographs, was excavated by a mule-drawn scoop. Two original iron lampposts stand on either side of the front entrance as further reminders of the pre-war period in which this structure was built.

	AUG   199
8. Statement of Significance	
Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:	
Applicable National Register Criteria X A B X C D	
Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)	
Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)  Architecture  Period of Significance 1914	Significant Dates 1914
Community Planning and Development 1914-39	N/A
Cultural Affiliation N/A	
Significant Person N/A  Architect/Builder U. S. Treasury	iff no noisenements seeven? Looknimisetobytenemens (2)
State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of s	significance noted above.
material state of the state of	raint randitati a beranciasa

. Major Bibliographical References	
See "Historical and Architectural Resourc	es of White County, Arkansas,"
Section H.	
Previous documentation on file (NPS):	See continuation sheet
preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67)	Primary location of additional data:
has been requested previously listed in the National Register	<ul><li>State historic preservation office</li><li>Other State agency</li></ul>
previously determined eligible by the National Register	Federal agency
designated a National Historic Landmark	Local government
recorded by Historic American Buildings	University
Survey #	Other
recorded by Historic American Engineering  Record #	Specify repository:
0. Geographical Data Presupt 10	
Acreage of property Less than 1 acre	
UTM References	
A $\begin{bmatrix} 1/5 \end{bmatrix}$ $\begin{bmatrix} 6 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1/4 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 6/4 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 3/9 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1/2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 7/0 \end{bmatrix}$	B
Zone Easting Northing	Zone Easting Northing
	See continuation sheet
Verbal Boundary Description	
	X See continuation sheet
Boundary Justification	
	1.4
	X See continuation sheet
	A coo communion onest
11. Form Prepared By name/thle <u>Jill Bayles, National Register Histo</u>	and one
organization <u>Arkansas Historic Preservation Prog</u>	eram date 13 November 1989
street & number 225 E. Markham, Suite 300	telephone <u>501-371-2763</u>
city or town Little Rock	state AR zip code 72201

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 1

#### Significance

Searcy's original post office is the only Italian Renaissance style public building in White County and one of only a few such buildings in the entire state. It was constructed during a period of increasing prosperity and cultural awareness brought about by the emergence of the railroad, when more and more high-style public buildings and residences were designed and built [see the property type for Railroad Era Religious and Institutional Buildings and Historic Context 2: Railroad Era]. Yet because the Italian Renaissance style was ordinarily used for architect-designed landmarks in major metropolitan areas prior to World War I, it was rarely used in Arkansas' slowly developing, primarily vernacular towns. Therefore, the post office is significant on a local level under National Register Criterion C as a rare example of government-funded Italian Renaissance architecture.

While the building's architecture reflects an increased awareness and prosperity among Searcians, it also reflects the gradual increase in population, which, as discussed in the Historic Context and Property Type sections, was another of the railroad's effects on a community. With a population of just over 2000, only six postal employees, no city mail delivery and annual postage receipts of about \$8000, Searcy, like most other Arkansas towns, was actually too small to qualify for a postal facility. Yet in 1908, largely due to the efforts of Congressman Stephen Brundidge, the government approved the funding of a \$40,000 post office, making Searcy the second smallest town in the United States to secure such a building. Their efforts were well-timed, because in 1913 Congress passed the Public Buildings Act, which prohibited the construction of new post office buildings in communities whose postal receipts totaled less than \$10,000. But by 1916, two years after the Searcy post office was finally completed, the town's postal receipts amounted to over \$14,000, justifying the building's existence. Therefore, the building stands in testimony to the foresight of Searcy citizens, who believed in their town's potential for growth. For this reason, the post office is also significant under Criterion A as representing an important period of growth, prosperity and optimism in the state's history.

NPS Form 10-900-a

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 1	Section	number	10	Page	1	
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Acreage of property: Less than one

#### Verbal Boundary Description:

Beginning at the southwest corner of the intersection of West Arch and South Gum Streets, proceed southerly along the western edge of South Gum Street for a distance of approximately 150 feet to the point formed by its intersection with a perpendicular line running parallel to the southern elevation of the building; thence proceed westerly along said line for a distance of approximately 125 feet to a point formed by its intersection with a perpendicular line running parallel to the western elevation of the building; thence proceed northerly for a distance of approximately 150 feet along said line to a point formed by its intersection with the southern edge of West Arch Street; thence proceed easterly for a distance of approximately 125 feet to the point of beginning.

#### **Boundary Justification:**

The original lot has been subdivided during the non-historic period, resulting in an indefinite current lot boundary; therefore, this boundary includes all the property historically associated with this resource that retains its integrity.

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

AUG | 1991

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

	17
White County MPS	
ARKANSAS	Data Tistai
	Date Listed
91001276 MissouriPacific Depot Substantive Review	7/20/92
91001277 Moody House	7/20162
	6-13-1
91001210 Moore House Substantive Review 91001332 Morris Institute Dairy Barn	7/2-4/
91001178 National Guard Armory Building Substantive Review	1100190
91001356 Neaville, J.A., House	*3/7-163
91001331 New Mt. Pisgah School Substantive Review	1210192
91001360 Nimmo Clubbouge	2140/94
91001286 O'Neal, Howard, Farm Substantive Review	7/00 62
91001290 Pangburn, Austin, House	110014
91001203 Paschall House	9-5-91
91001292 Patman House	9-5-91
91001255 Pemberton House	9-5-91
91001305: PenceCarmichael Farm, Barn and Root Cellar Substanti	7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7
91001247 Plummer House	va Raview 7/20/9
91001249 Powell Clothing Store	1/25-61
91001307 Prince House	102/62
91001361 Ransom, Edward, Farmstead, Livestock and Equipment	7/24/2
Barn	7/14/96
91001213 Rascoe House	1/2/62-
91001296 Ray, Sam, House	1/2017
91001343 Rhew, J. C., Co. Packing Shed	18-3192
91001231 Rialto Theater Substantive Revis	7/13/9 1
91001245 Robertson Drugstore Substantive Review	9-13-91
91001221 Robertson House	9-13-91
91001195 - Rock Building	7/23/92
91001230 Rodgers, Porter, Sr., House	9-5-91
91001219 Rogers, Bob, House Substantive Review	9-13-91
91001346 Roper House	5-5-61
91001271 Russell Jail	7/23/63
91001306 ScottDavis House Substantive Review	7/2/97
91001227 Searcy City Hall	9-5-91
91001200 Searcy Post Office	7/20/02
91001208 Sears, Dean L. C., House	7/20/02
91001261 Sellers House	9-5-91
91001257 Shue House	9-5-91
91001299 Shutter, John, House Dodynanta white Jan Sabsterline Ter	19-5-91
91001367 Siler, Luther, Gin Destourier Observed Substantive Review	7/20/92
91001342 Simpson, Stanley, Farmstead Picking Sled	9-13-91
91001218 Smith House	9-5-91
91001223 Smith A T House	

#### UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

#### NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: RESUBMISSION

PROPERTY Searcy Post Office

NAME:

MULTIPLE White County MPS

NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: ARKANSAS, White

DATE RECEIVED: 6/29/92

DATE OF PENDING LIST:

DATE OF 16TH DAY:

DATE OF 45TH DAY: 8/13/92

DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 91001200

NOMINATOR: STATE

DETAILED EVALUATION: Y

ACCEPT

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

one of the few Italian Renoissance - styled public buildings in Arkonsas. Historically significant evidence of optimism and prosperity in searcy, during the early 20th century period of roilroaddriven expansion.

Concerns raised in earlier return have been addressed.

RECOM./CRITERIA ACCONT REVIEWER HOTDER DISCIPLINE

CLASSIFICATION	
countresource type	
STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION	
FUNCTION	
historiccurrent	
DESCRIPTION	99819, 153, 15 mm
architectural classificationmaterialsdescriptive text	
SIGNIFICANCE	
Period Areas of SignificanceChe	eck and justify below
Specific dates Builder/E Statement of Significance (in one parag	Architect graph)
summary paragraphcompletenessclarityapplicable criteriajustification of areas checkedrelating significance to the resourcecontextrelationship of integrity to signification of exceptionother	
BIBLIOGRAPHY	
GEOGRAPHICAL DATA	1200 0 120
acreageverbal boundary descUTMsboundary justificat	
ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTATION/PRESENTATION	N
sketch mapsUSGS mapsphoto	ographspresentation
OTHER COMMENTS	
Questions concerning this nomination ma	ay be directed to
	Phone
Signed	Date

# INSERT PHOTOS

# Please refer to the map in the Multiple Property Cover Sheet for this property

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number:

64500033