

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 1985

DATE ENTERED

1/22/86

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Lamar Post Office

AND/OR COMMON

Lamar Main Post Office

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

300 S. 5th Street

NA NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Lamar

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

4

STATE

Colorado

CODE

08

COUNTY

Prowers

CODE

099

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"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	NA IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Thematic Group	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<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

NA VICINITY OF

STATE

CA

94099

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Prowers County Assessor
Prowers County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

P.O. Box 388

CITY, TOWN

Lamar

STATE

CO

81052

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 Lamar Main Post Office is a rectangular structure, with a two-story portion along the southern side. The building (1936) is in the Starved Classicism style, with certain Spanish Colonial motifs. It has an asymmetrical front elevation and a tile roof.

LOCAL CONTEXT

Lamar is an agricultural and cattle raising center in the Arkansas River Valley. It was founded in 1886 and named for Lucius Quintus Lamar, Secretary of State under Grover Cleveland. The historic Santa Fe Trail once passed through the town. The post office is located one block west of the central business district, and area which contains a number of early 20th century buildings. There is an excellent neo-classic courthouse built in 1927 located several blocks east of the post office, and there are no designated historic districts in the community.

The original site survey in 1935 indicates that there were two small two-story frame residences and one small single-story frame residence on the site. These houses faced south. There are no known historic, archaeological, or paleontologic sites within or adjacent to the subject property.

PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The building appears to be in excellent structural condition, and both it and the site are being well maintained.

The structure is constructed of hollow tile block and brick covered with stucco. It has a composition roof with a raised Spanish tile section along the length of the front elevation. The front of the public area is carpeted over the original tile and there is a limestone wainscoting. The workroom floor is maple. The foundation is brick.

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

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

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Continuation sheet

Lamar PO

Item number 7

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The structure is considered in the Spanish Colonial Revival style. Features of note are: the ten course high brick base along the foundation line; pilasters with simple capitals; heavy wooden shutters, and a small upper window with inset molding and a peaked top on the second story, south side of the front elevation; "rosette" vent on the north elevation; fancy brick work under the windows on the side and rear elevation; and standard specification lanterns flanking the entrance. This structure is stylistically similar to several post offices in Southern California, notably La Jolla, Alhambra, Anaheim, Oceanside, and Orange. No similar buildings are known to exist in Arizona or New Mexico.

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	1936	BUILDER/ARCHITECT	OSA/Louis A. Simon, Sup. Arch. Walter DeMordant, Architect
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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Lamar Main Post Office is unique as the only remaining post office of its type in Colorado. It is an especially pleasing example of the Spanish Colonial/Mediterranean influence on Starved Classicism of the mid-to-late 1930s.

ARCHITECTURE

The building is significant under National Register Criterion C as embodying the distinctive characteristics of a type, as well as possessing high artistic values. Most smaller post offices relied on a standard, rigidly symmetrical plan, and simply applied pre-cast ornament to give the building its identity. This building, though conforming to the functional requirements of the Postal Service, exhibits more irregular volumes and asymmetrical plan typical of the Spanish Colonial and other Mediterranean Revival styles commonly employed in private projects.

The building is unique to Postal owned facilities in Colorado, although there is another Mediterranean inspired designed post office located in Alamosa, which is now owned and used by the local government. However, many smaller post offices constructed in Southern California in the mid-thirties were designed in some form of the Spanish Colonial/Mediterranean Revival. Most of these buildings have been heavily modified, not uncommonly beyond recognition as Mediterranean buildings.

The architect of the Lamar Post Office is identified on the original plans as being Walter De Mordaunt, 738 Thatcher Building, Pueblo, Colorado. No other information about him was discovered.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

None Known.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY + .57 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A	13	710,815,7,0	42	17	19,0,0	B					
	ZONE	EASTING			NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING		NORTHING	
C						D					

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Lots 1,2,3, and the north one-half of lot 4; Block 35; original Lamar Townsite. (see attached map)

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
NA	NA	NA	NA
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
NA	NA	NA	NA

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Paul R. Secord, Vice President/H. James Kolva

ORGANIZATION

Institute for Urban

DATE

Beland/Associates, Inc./and Local Studies August 1984/August 1985

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

16 S. Oakland Ave., Suite 204/W. 705 1st Ave. (818) 796-8093/(509) 458-6219

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Pasadena /Spokane

CA 91101/WA 99204

12 CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

YES

NO

NONE

Barbara Sudler

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

In compliance with Executive Order 11593, I hereby nominate this property to the National Register, certifying that the State Historic Preservation Officer has been allowed 90 days in which to present the nomination to the State Review Board and to evaluate its significance. The evaluated level of significance is National State Local.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

TITLE

Director, Office of Real Estate

DATE

December 17, 1985

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

See Continuation Sheet for Listing

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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Source: Sanborn Map,
Lamar, Colorado
July 1931,
page 10.

