

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	MAY 4 1984
DATE ENTERED	

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC

U. S. Post Office

AND/OR COMMON

Post Office

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

114 West Washington St.

N/A NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Union City

N/A VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

8

STATE

Tennessee 38261-9998

CODE

047

COUNTY

Obion

CODE

131

3 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 AGENCY

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (If applicable)

Field Real Estate & Buildings Office

STREET & NUMBER

P. O. Drawer 3744, 1 North Front Street

CITY, TOWN

Memphis,

N/A VICINITY OF

STATE

Tennessee 38173-0744

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Obion County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Washington Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Union City

STATE

Tennessee 38261-9998

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

N/A

DATE

N/A

N/A FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

N/A

CITY, TOWN

N/A

STATE

N/A

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" 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

Situated on the corner of Washington and Second Streets and within one block of the Obion County Courthouse and City Hall, the Post Office building is an excellent interpretation of Georgian Revival with classical details.

The building is constructed of red brick with twelve over twelve double hung sash windows. Concrete has been used as an accent in window sills, keystones and the raised foundation. The flat roof is encircled with a concrete balustrade and highlighted with a white cupola surrounded by a black iron railing. In the background is a brick chimney stack.

When first built in 1913, the Post Office was rectangular and contained one story, basement and mezzanine. Due to the increasing need for additional space to accommodate expanding postal operations, a wing was added and workroom enlarged in 1965. The one-story brick wing and expansion does not match the slope of the roofline as the excess space was considered unnecessary at the time of construction. However, the addition is compatible with the original facade. It carries over the theme of double hung sash windows with keystones and concrete cornice.

Rising one and a half stories, the Central Pavillion dominates the main facade. Approached by a concrete flight of steps, six concrete columns of the Ionic order support the entablature of metophes and triglyphs. Directly above the entablature is a modillioned cornice which encircles the portico. On either side of the entrance is an arched window with brick voussours and concrete keystones. The front entrance is accentuated with an arched transom above the door and framed with concrete voussours.

On the mezzanine level, there are two windows, both double hung sash with concrete sills, wood surrounds and concrete keystones. Three rectangular marble panels inset into the brick facade are located directly above the two arched windows and doorway. Above the modillioned cornice is a concrete balustrade punctuated with rectangular openings containing rows of spindle-shaped balusters. Each of these openings is aligned with the windows in each bay.

Approximately 7,500 square feet was added in 1965. Interior renovations include installation of modern entrance doors, and interior customer lobby doors and carpet in Postmaster's office. Except for the doors, the lobby area has more or less been virtually retained. The marble wainscotting with marble border, terrazzo floors, plaster walls and high plaster ceilings have been well preserved. Except for being battered and knocked by mail carts, the plaster walls in the workroom are in fair condition also. The old boiler room is now used for storage. The central heating and air system installed in 1965 replaced the outdated steam system. Oak wainscotting and chair rails are prevalent throughout the building. The floors have been converted to vinyl tile and bathrooms display old towel bars, marble lined walls and toilet equipment that is still intact and retains the old flavor of the early 1900's.

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 1912-1913 BUILDER/ARCHITECT James Knox Taylor

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Completed in 1913 under the supervision of Supervising Architect, James Knox Taylor, who served from 1897 to 1912, and constructed by George W. Stiles Construction Company, the Union City, Tennessee Post Office is significant in several respects. Architecturally, the building illustrates how Mr. Taylor, who subscribed to classical styles of architecture for government buildings, incorporated the details and idealism of contemporary national trends into local prominence.

The Post Office building was designed during a period when architectural individualism was strongly emphasized. James Knox Taylor believed that, "Government buildings are essentially single propositions - that is, they are not similar; there is no similarity between them and other constructions. Each is individual in itself." This view, implying a firm resistance to the notion that designs for public buildings could be standardized set the period of Taylor's tenure apart from succeeding years. It was also the first building in Union City to contain revolving doors and terrazzo floors.

Representing an excellent impression of Georgian Revival, the well-proportioned symmetrical facade and classical details are not to be found in any secular building in Union City or Obion County, Tennessee. It is also significant to note that Mr. Taylor's buildings were generally the most important of local buildings, and taken together, were seen daily by thousands who had little opportunity to feel the influence of the great architectural works in the large cities.

The Union City Post Office building is one of 335 designed during the period of 1900-1915.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

The Commercial, Union City, Tennessee, 1913
 History of Post Office Construction 1900-1940, 1982
 "Let's Go Back" Obion County Historical Society, 1977
 Evelyn Hogins, Registrar, Obion County Courthouse, 1983

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY .5739

UTM REFERENCES

A	<u>16</u>	<u>315500</u>	<u>4032600</u>	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Beginning at SE corner of Second Street, 110 feet to a stake, thence 100 feet to a public alley, thence North with the west side of said alley, one hundred ten feet (110) to Washington Avenue; thence West with the South side of Washington Avenue 100 feet to the point of beginning.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
NONE			
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Ethel N. Hayes

October 21, 1983

ORGANIZATION

U. S. Postal Service, FREBO Office

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

P. O. Drawer 3744, 1 North Front Street

TELEPHONE

901/521-3131

CITY OR TOWN

Memphis

STATE

Tennessee 38173-0744

12 CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

YES

NO

NONE

Herbert L. Hayes
 Deputy 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

Dave W. Dogan
 TITLE Dave W. Dogan, Director

DATE 4/30/84

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

W. M. Duhin
 DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE 5/31/1984

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER