

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 89001998

Date Listed: 11/28/89

US Post Office--Price Main
Property Name

Carbon
County

Utah
State

US Post Offices in Utah 1900--1941
Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

Patrick Andrews
for) _____
Signature of the Keeper

11/28/89
Date of Action

=====
Amended Items in Nomination:

The period of significance for this building was given as 1900-1941. Steven Stielstra of the USPS changed it to 1931-41 to reflect the building's date of construction. The nomination is now officially amended to reflect this change.

DISTRIBUTION:

National Register property file
Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

1998

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

OCT 16 1989

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

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 Property

historic name Price Main Post Office
other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 95 South Carbon Avenue N/A not for publication
city, town Price N/A vicinity
state Utah code UT county Carbon code 007 zip code 84501

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	<u> </u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u> </u>	<u> </u> sites
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u> </u>	<u> </u> structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> objects
			<u> </u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing:
Historic U.S. Post Offices in Utah 1900-1941

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

[Signature] 12-19-89
Signature of certifying official Date
United States Postal Service
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

[Signature] Nov 15, 89
Signature of commenting or other official Date
Utah State Historical Society
State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register. Patrick Andrews 11/28/89
 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:)

[Signature] Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

U.S. Post Office

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

U.S. Post Office

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)

Neo-Classical Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete
walls Brick

roof Slate
other Limestone
Tar composition

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Price Main Post Office is a one-story building on a raised basement platform. Resting upon footings and basement of reinforced concrete, the brick building is supported by a structural steel framework. The Classically-derived building has a relatively flat, symmetrically-arranged facade which is divided by five bays. Three round-arched bays occupy the central portion--a centered entry bay and flanking Palladian windows. Flat arches define the end bays. Granite and limestone provide detailing. Cast-iron lanterns are affixed to the wall on either side of the entry. A slate-clad hipped roof tops the front portion of the building, while the rear is covered by built-up tar composition. A major addition to the rear of the building was completed in the late-1960s. Consistent with the original design and materials, the addition does not detract from the integrity of the original building.

PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The front facade (west) is horizontal in orientation and divided into a three-bay central section and single-bay flanking wings by flat limestone pilasters. Identical pilasters demarcate the corners of the facade. Limestone is also used for facing of the raised basement wall, water table, belt course dividing the top of the first story and parapet, and cornice. Rising from behind the parapet, the slate-clad hipped roof completes the building.

The facade's central section contains three semi-circular-arched bays: a centered entry bay and flanking window bays. Six granite steps and a granite landing, flanked by granite buttresses approach the entry. Set within the entry opening is an elaborate limestone architrave which supports a fan window framed by a molded limestone arch. A brick header course in which is set a scrolled limestone keystone delineates the arch from the red brick facade. Square limestone springers support the brick arch. The architrave, which surrounds the double aluminum-framed glass-panel doors (replaced originals) and transom window, consists of half-

See continuation sheet

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round fluted pilasters with palm leaf capitals, and full entablature with projecting molded cornice.

The flanking window bays are delineated identically to the entry bay by brick header arches, and limestone keystones and springers. The wood sash windows are divided by thickened mullions into a six-over-six-light center section and four-light sidelights (double-hung). Limestone panels with three raised sections, corresponding to the window division, are set between the window sills and water table. Fan windows, with thickened mullion arch dividing the six-light outer arch and four-light inner arch, complete the window bays.

The windows bays of the end wings are flat-arched. Radiating brick voussoirs forming the arch and flat limestone sills provide the only delineation of the bays. The sash is double-hung wood with six-over-six lights and a three-light transom window. Rectangular marble panels are set into the facade above the bays.

Other detailing includes cast iron lanterns, affixed to the wall on either side of the entry bay, and a limestone panel set in the red brick parapet. Centered over the entry bay, the panel has the incised letters UNITED STATES POST OFFICE.

The side facades of the original building are nearly identical to each other: three bays in the slightly projecting front portion and four bays in the rear portion. The 1960s addition extended the building 49 feet to the rear (east). The south facade of this addition matches the original in both detailing and materials while the north contains the loading platform.

Flat limestone pilasters mark the corners of the front portion of the original facade. Limestone, in a continuation of the detailing of the front, faces the raised basement wall and is used for the water table, belt course and cornice. The hipped roof covers only this front portion. The three window bays include a centered, semi-circular-arched window (identical to the front) and two small flat-arched windows. Delineated by a radiating brick voussoir arches and flat limestone sills, these windows are fixed wood sash with six

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lights. Circular medallions of marble are inset in the facade above the small windows. The four bays of the original rear portion and seven bays of the rear addition are identical to those as the end bays of the front facade.

The north side of the original building is the same as described for the south side with the following exceptions: the windows of the front portion have been filled-in with brick to form niches; the western-most window bay of the rear portion contains two small windows, one over the other, both of which are bricked-in; and the adjacent window bay is also bricked-in. The addition contains the open concrete loading platform which opens to the north. Terminating at a line extended from the tops of the windows, the platform is covered by a metal roof with a projecting marquee. Two double metal loading doors, one in the rear of the original building, and one pedestrian door provide access to the platform.

The rear facade with the exception a single window in the northeast corner has been covered by the addition. The detailing--basement facing, belt course and cornice--are the same as previously described. Rising to the full height of the original building, the extended workroom area contains five window bays, identical to those of the sides. The east wall of the loading platform, lower in height than the workroom addition, contains an overhead loading door and a pedestrian door.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)
Architecture
Politics/Government

Period of Significance
1900-1941

Significant Dates
Site acq.-1928
Const.-1931

Cultural Affiliation
N/A

Significant Person
N/A

Architect/Builder
Louis A. Simon, Supervising Architect/-
Federal Government

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

The Price Post Office is a well-preserved example of Neo-Classical architecture. Constructed in the early-1930s, the building represents the transition of Federal design from the Beaux-Arts tradition of the early-1900s to the modern and simplified design styles of the mid- to late-1930s. The building also symbolizes the efforts of local citizens in obtaining their first federally-constructed post office. Although the building received an addition to the rear in the late-1960s, the integrity of the original building has been maintained.

ARCHITECTURE

The Price Main Post Office is a well-preserved example of a small town single-purpose post office in the Neo-Classical mode. In spite of the addition to the rear in the late-1960s, the original building retains good integrity. Although a Depression-era building, the design is strongly rooted in the Beaux-Arts tradition of the early Twentieth Century. It should be noted that the building was actually given appropriations prior to the onset of the Depression and preceded the massive public works projects of the Depression that were designed to assist local economies in time of economic emergency. Constructed in the early 1930s, the building retains the richness of detailing which was stripped from the federal buildings of the mid- to late-1930s. Distinguished by its ornate entry, arched window bays and limestone detailing, the building exemplifies the use of quality materials and fine craftsmanship by the federal government. The Price Post Office can be contrasted with the WPA-constructed Price Municipal Building (1938, NHR) and Helper Post Office (12 miles north, 1938) which typify the basic Classical form stripped of significant facade detailing. The building is locally significant under Criterion C.

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

1. Horsley, Ernest S. "Early History of Price." (no date).
2. Reynolds, Thursey J., comp. Centennial Echos From Carbon County. Price, UT: Daughters of Utah Pioneers of Carbon County, 1948.
3. The Sun (Price), various articles 1927-1928 and 1931.
4. News Advocate (Price), various articles 1930.
5. Original Floor Plans, 1927.

See continuation sheet

Previous documentation on file (NPS): N/A

- 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:

USPS Facilities Service Center
San Bruno, CA 94099-0330

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 0.47

UTM References

A 1 2 5 16 3 0 0 4 3 8 2 9 9 0
Zone Easting Northing

B
Zone Easting Northing

C

D

Quadrangle name: Price
Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

Beginning at the Southwest corner of Lot 2, Block 27, Price Town Site Survey, thence North 139.5 feet, East 145 feet, South 139.5 feet, and West 145 feet to point of beginning. The site is on the northeast corner of Carbon Avenue and 1st. Avenue South.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the original property purchased by the federal government for the post office site.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title H.J. "Jim" Kolva, Project Manager; Steve Franks, Research Assistant
organization Institute for Urban & Local Studies date August 1988
street & number West 705 1st. Avenue telephone (509) 458-6219
city or town Spokane state WA zip code 99204

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The building is the city's first federally-constructed post office and a symbol of the federal government's recognition of the community's regional importance. The building is also a manifestation of the link between the local community and the federal government, and the successful lobbying efforts of the community through its elected representatives. Indeed, when Utah's Congressman Don B. Colton (R) presided over the cornerstone laying ceremony he spoke of the many difficulties in getting the building and declared that the Price Chamber of Commerce, civic clubs, treasury officials, and the citizens of Price deserved equal credit. It might also be noted that the Post Office site was purchased from estate of Mark P. Braffet, a prominent Utah lawyer. The Price Tavern, on the corner south of the Post Office, was constructed by Braffet and is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The Price Post Office is locally significant under Criterion A.

LOCAL CONTEXT

Price is the county seat of Carbon County in east-central Utah. With a population of 10,000 (1984 estimate), Price has a broad-based economy with employment concentrated in mining, government, and trade.

The first pioneers to permanently settle in the area of what is now Price arrived on January 21, 1879. Caleb Rhodes, Frederick Grames, and Charles Grames, the original trio who pitched their camp near the Price River, were soon joined by other pioneers later in the Spring. These early settlers lived in dugouts and faced many hardships, but they were soon followed by other pioneers and improvements came quickly. Emery County was created in 1880 out of the little-known Castle Valley. In early 1881 grading for the Rio Grande Western Railroad commenced. By November 1882 Price townsite was surveyed and laid out and the first frame building was erected by Frederick Grames.

The real growth of Price began with the coming of the railroad. In 1883 track laying was completed, train service began between Grand Junction and Ogden on May 17th, and shortly thereafter Price was named as a station of the line.

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With the railroad came the demand for a post office; the first one opened just a short while later, on August 30, 1883. Frederick Grames, one of Price's original settlers, was the first postmaster; Albert J. Grames was the mail carrier and chief clerk. The first post office was at Frederick Grames' home, an adobe house on his farm outside the Price townsite.

In January 1884 the people began to occupy the townsite by building a log meeting house 20 feet wide and 40 feet long. A number of log and adobe houses were soon erected. Also in 1884 the Price School District and the Price Water Company were organized. Construction of a canal to bring water to town soon followed. The completion of the canal and the coming of water in 1887 spurred more growth for Price; orchards and gardens blossomed and trees were planted along the sidewalks. On July 14, 1892 a petition for the organization of the town was presented to the Emery county court. Subsequently, on November 8th Price town was organized and the first general elections were soon held. In 1894 Carbon County was created out of a portion of Emery County and Price was designated county seat. The city hall was built in 1895 and an impressive eight-room brick school was completed in 1904.

From 1900 to 1910 Price's population grew from 539 to 1,021. In April 1911 Price was incorporated as a city of the third class. Growth continued with the construction of a new railroad depot in 1911-12, the Savoy Hotel in 1911 and new school buildings in 1916. By 1920 the population had doubled to 2,364. Growth continued as the population continued to climb (from 4,084 in 1930 to 5,214 in 1940) and the city boasted of such amenities as paved streets, electric lights, spring drinking water, parks with tennis courts and a municipal swimming pool. The population leveled off by 1950 when it was 6,010 (in 1960 it was 6,802 and by 1970 it had dropped to 6,218). The 1970s brought growth again when the population climbed to 9,086 in 1980.

The Price MPO is on the northeast corner of Carbon Avenue and First South Street, one block south of Main Street, the city's primary downtown business street. One and two-story commercial buildings, mostly of brick and dating from various periods, lie along Carbon Avenue west and north of

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the Post Office. A parking lot and one-story brick restaurant are located east of the Post Office. A senior citizens center with the historic Price Tavern to its south occupy the corner of the block south of the Post Office. The Post Office is not included within an historic district.

LOCAL NEWSPAPER COVERAGE OF THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE PRICE MAIN POST OFFICE

"Price to Have \$115,000 Post Office Building Plan" reported the News Advocate on February 11, 1928. A \$100,000,000 public building bill, which had failed the year before on account of a filibuster, had recently been passed by the Senate. It was also reported that a letter had been received from Congressman Don B. Colton stating the importance of Price as a postal distributing center--the star routes out of Price were the largest in the U.S. (A June 27th supplement to the News Advocate boasted of Price being the key city of eastern Utah's "treasure house" of coal, agriculture and sheep.) In addition, Senator Reed Smoot (R) and Senator William H. King (D) had been in conference with the Supervising Architect. On February 24th the Sun reported that the bill that recently passed the House included \$60,000 to begin construction of a federal building in Price, with a construction limit of \$90,000.

Just two months later, on April 27th, the Sun reported that bids had been opened for Price's federal building site. Seven sites had been offered, ranging from \$8,600 to \$21,820. The Sun indicated that \$50,000 was now available for the purchase of a site and the start of construction. On July 26th the Sun announced "Federal Building Site Goes to Braffet Corner." It was noted that several adjoining property owners had contributed to put the deal over and an important consideration was the proximity to the depot and government garage. On August 28th the Sun reported that work was not likely to begin until the next Spring.

The Sun reported on November 1st that the Braffet site had been purchased (for \$11,500) and gave credit to local businessmen, postal officials, and Congressman Colton for their many efforts in securing Price's proposed federal building. At the end of 1928 the Sun confidently reported

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that Price's federal building was assured with the \$90,000 appropriation (December 20th article).

Little progress was made in 1929. News Advocate articles of January 9, 1930 and February 20, 1930 explained that when bids were opened in the fall of 1929 they had exceeded the building allocation (\$90,000 total had been appropriated and \$11,500 had already been spent on the site). The February 20th article, however, reported that the appropriation had recently been increased to \$95,000 which would allow the building to be constructed. "Work on Federal Building Begins Soon, Letter Says" reported the News Advocate on May 1, 1930. Congressman Colton had written that George A. Whitmeyer & Sons had been awarded the contract on April 22nd for approximately \$76,000. An article of May 8th predicted that construction would begin within the next 10 days; on May 22nd it was reported initial surveying was beginning and that about 20 men would be employed on excavation. On June 4th the News Advocate could report that excavation was completed, building materials were on the way, a deep red brick had been accepted, and it was written that "The building will combine beauty with unique appearance . . . Colton will be invited to cornerstone ceremony."

Other good news was reported in the News Advocate in June. Wool shipments from Price had set a new record and Price was now the 10th largest city in Utah, with a population 4,084 (Price's 72 percent growth rate from 1920 was the largest in Utah).

A July 17th News Advocate article brought the news that five cars of limestone for the post office had arrived from Illinois and it was predicted that the cornerstone would be laid around August 1st. A News Advocate article of August 7th confirmed that a program was being arranged for the cornerstone laying, with Congressman Colton in charge. A long article of August 14th described the elaborate ceremony: stores were closed, bands played, 40 representatives from churches and civic groups participated, a "huge throng" of over 600 people watched, and speeches were made. Congressman Colton presided over the event and spoke of the many difficulties in getting the building and declared that the Price Chamber of Commerce, civic clubs, treasury officials, and the citizens of Price deserved equal credit.

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"Federal Building Opening Will Take Place Sunday" announced the Sun on January 29, 1931. The article reported that officials described the new 100,000 square foot building as "one of the best of its kind in the U.S." and a open house was planned for Friday. Finally, on February 5th the Sun could write "New Price Federal Building Now in Use By Public" and "several years of effort now rewarded." Credit was given to Congressman Colton, Postmaster J. F. MacKnight, the Price Chamber of Commerce and other individuals and organizations. An account was given of the struggle to get the Federal building, starting in 1923 when Congressman Colton saw the "extremely crowded conditions" of the old post office to the time when he secured the \$90,000 appropriation. It was reported that ground was broken on June 2nd and the final cost was \$104,000.

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Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only

received

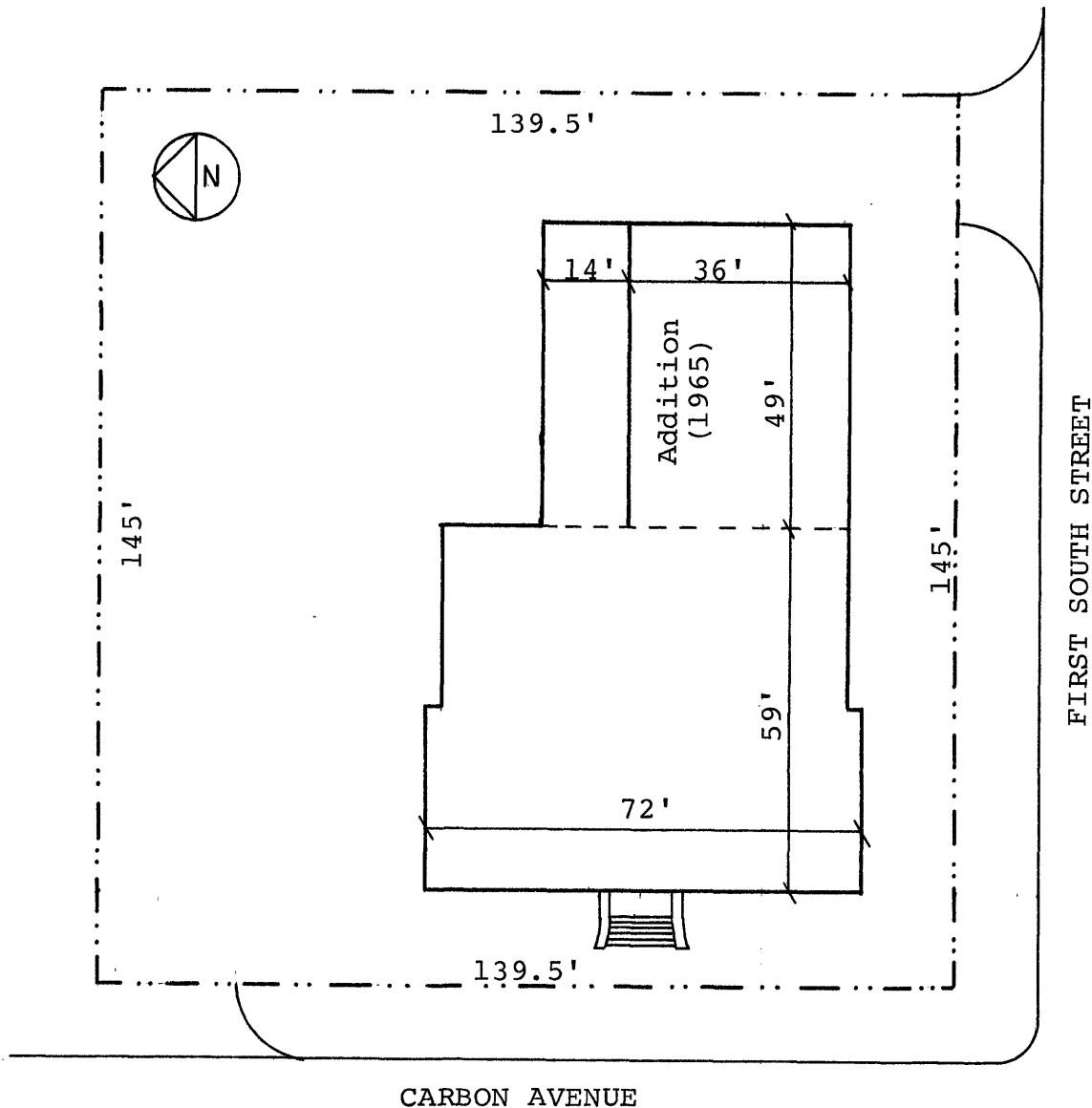
date entered

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The following information is the same for all the photographs listed:

1. Price MPO
2. Price, Utah
3. Jim Kolva
4. August 1986
5. Negatives on file at USPS Facilities Service Center, San Bruno, CA.

Photo No. 1 (negative #4)
6. View to southeast

Photo No. 2 (negative #6)
6. View to east

Photo No. 3 (negative #5)
6. View to northeast