

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

<b>FOR NPS USE ONLY</b>	
RECEIVED	JUL 28 1982
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

(Presently known as Downtown Station)

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

1st & Everett Streets

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Morgan City

VICINITY OF

3rd

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

Louisiana 70380

22

St. Mary Parish 101

**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"/> 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	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input checked="" 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)

U. S. Postal Service - Memphis Field Real Estate and Buildings Office

STREET & NUMBER

1 North Front Street; P. O. Drawer 3744

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Memphis

VICINITY OF

Tennessee 38103

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

St. Mary Parish Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

P. O. Drawer 1231

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Franklin

Louisiana 70538

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

None

DATE

N/A

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

N/A

CITY, TOWN

STATE

N/A

N/A

## 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input 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 _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

---

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

One of Morgan City's more prominent buildings is the Downtown Post Office located at the corner of First and Everett Streets. The two-story building is the only one of its type in Morgan City and has always been a significant element in the downtown area.

The structure was built in 1932 under the supervision of Construction Superintendent, W. G. Ireland, at an estimated construction cost of \$75,000. Local businessmen sold the land for \$6,000. Appropriations were instituted as early as 1919. Algernon Blair, general contractor from Montgomery, Alabama, was the low bidder and awarded the contract. Other men devoted to this project were A. W. Mellon, Secretary of the Treasury and James A. Wetmore, Acting Supervising Architect.

The building has an odd combination. It is rectangular with no wings. The exterior is masonry. The major influence is French. The building is faced with a grand beaux-art style arcade with free standing ionic columns and surmounted by a Mansard roof. On the contrary, the center entrance has several items which do not relate.

1. The doorway is more English Georgian - out of place.
2. An overblown entrance. The wings are not the typical style. These have a renaissance flavor, not English Georgian.

Basically, the building is a French beaux-art, English Georgian combination which is adequate and not jarring.

Inside, above the service counters are classical style ornaments. They are in a bronze or metal entablature form with fluted frieze, quite handsomely detailed!

The lobby floor is terrazzo, made of a mixture of 5% red and 5% yellow chipped marble mixed with cement.

The second floor is used exclusively by the Treasury Department's Customs House. Their entry is by a staircase in the main lobby. All this space was remodeled in 1978 as was the roof.

For a small town, the post office overshadows other buildings due to its grand limestone arcade. Usually the local post office has a quiet feeling but attractive. This one is strident in its feature.

## 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1932

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Office of Supervising Architect

### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

From its inception to the present, the Morgan City Downtown Post Office has been significant because of its association with important people, governmental functions and its unusual architectural style. A combination of French beaux-art and English Georgian produced an attractive look.

M. E. Norman, Mayor of Morgan City, was in Washington in 1928 meeting with President Coolidge for the purpose of securing a federal building for the city. It was noted in The Morgan City Review, Mr. Norman's message was hopeful due to his Republican background and a Republican president in office. Representative W. P. Martin was the main speaker at a hearing in Morgan City. He listed the steady population gain, lucrative business in fish and oysters and various other businesses finding their way to Morgan City. He later presented his case to Congress.

Covering the corner of First and Everett Streets, the Morgan City Post Office has had a significant impact on the Morgan City community. It is strategically located in the central business district and until some years ago, before the appearance of the shopping centers, most activity centered around the post office area. With the Courthouse, erected in 1905, and the bank adjacent to each other, this area was widely used.

Spanning an era of six decades, the Morgan City Post Office has certainly attained its niche in the community. During its construction, Morgan City's citizens were avidly concerned about the building materials, various stages of construction and wished to attend open house. In fact, each construction stage was provided the public through the news media. All labor was performed by local people.

The building is in fair condition overall. All second floor space was recently remodeled and a new roof installed. The exterior and lobby remain untouched.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Lehmann, Lela King, Chairman, Morgan City Archives  
 Dilsaver, Mrs. John N., Vice-Chairman, Morgan City Archives  
 Fricker, Jonathan, State Historic Preservation Office  
 Firman, Dan, Architect, personal interview  
 (See Continuation Sheet)

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY three-tenths of one acre

UTM REFERENCES

A	1, 5	6, 7, 3, 2, 8, 0	3, 2, 8, 6, 0, 7, 5	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

## VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The property nominated is indicated by the crossed lines on the accompanying U.S.G.S. map entitled Morgan City Quadrangle.

(See Continuation Sheet for Verbal Boundary Description)

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

J. Kenny Griffin, Realty Management & Acquisition Analyst

ORGANIZATION

Memphis Field Real Estate and Buildings Office

DATE

May 14, 1982

STREET & NUMBER

P. O. Drawer 3744

TELEPHONE

901/521-3131

CITY OR TOWN

Memphis

STATE

Tennessee 38103

# 12 CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

YES

NO

NONE

*Chris B. DeBleis*  
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

*Don W. Dagon*

TITLE

Federal Preservation Officer

DATE

July 21, 1982

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

*Bruce Van Dyke*

DATE

12/17/82

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST: *Patrick Amhuis*

DATE

12/10/82

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 4

Following issues of the Morgan City Review:

Prospects Favorable for New Post Office  
March 28, 1928

To Begin Work on New Post Office  
January 2, 1932

New M. C. Post Office Under Construction  
January 23, 1932

Making Rapid Headway on Post Office  
February 20, 1932

To Occupy New Post Office Next Month  
June 18, 1932

New Post Office Open for Inspection in Two Days  
September 17, 1932

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 4

Morgan City, Louisiana

Lots One (1) and Two (2) in block No. One (1) in Morgan City, Saint Mary Parish, State of Louisiana; and also an unsurveyed triangular tract of land adjoining said lot, the whole forming a homogeneous body of land having a measurement of one hundred and twenty-five (125) feet on the west side of First Street, and having a measurement of one hundred (100) feet on the south side of Everett Street. Which said land is more accurately described as follows; according to the plan of survey made by John M. Rochel, Civil Engineer, hereto annexed and made part hereof, to-wit.

Having a measurement of one hundred and thirty (130) feet on the west side of First Street; of one hundred (100) on the south side of Everett Street; of one hundred and seventeen and five tenths (117.5) feet on the side line parallel to First Street by one hundred and one (101) feet along the rear line thereof; this portion of ground forms the southwest corner of First and Everett Streets, in square originally designated as block 1 of Barnes survey.