

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: 89001999

Date Listed: 11/28/89

US Post Office--Richfield Main
Property Name

Sevier
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.

for Patrick Andrus
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 1919-41 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)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

OCT 16 1989

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 Richfield Main Post Office
other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 93 North Main N/A not for publication
city, town Richfield N/A vicinity
state Utah code UT county Sevier code 041 zip code 84701

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> </u>	<u> </u> objects
		<u>1</u>	<u>0</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] Signature of certifying official 12-19-88 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] Signature of commenting or other official Nov 15, 88 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.
 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:)

Patrick Anderson 11/28/89

[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 Brickwalls Brick

roof Tar compositionother Sandstone

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Richfield Main Post Office is a two-story brick building resting on a raised basement platform. The building is a well-preserved example of Neo-Classical design and, except for a small rear addition, unaltered. Supported by reinforced concrete footings and steel framing, the basement and above-grade walls are constructed of brick. The symmetrically-arranged and Classically-proportioned front facade is divided into five bays. Three round-arched bays--a centered entry and flanking Palladian windows--define the central section, and single flat-arched windows occupy the end bays of the first floor. Aligned over the first-floor bays are paired windows in the central section and single windows in the ends. Nominal detailing is provided by horizontal water table, belt and coping courses of sandstone. Granite is used for the main entry stairs and landing. A flat built-up tar composition roof covers the building.

PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Approached by six steps and a landing of granite, the front facade (east) is horizontal in orientation. Other than the slight projection of the end window bays from the central portion and corners, the facade is flat. The raised basement wall is brick-faced with a belt course and water table of sandstone. Sandstone also comprises the simple entablature, with slightly projecting molded cornice, which divides the first and shortened-second stories. The narrow cornice molding and coping which terminate the facade are also of sandstone. Other detailing includes inset circular medallions between the three central bays and inset rectangular panels above the end windows of the first story.

Three semi-circular-arched bays--centered entry bay and flanking window bays--detail the first floor of the central portion. The articulated end bays each contain single, flat-arched windows of wood sash with six-over-nine-lights. Slightly projecting, flat sandstone sills and flush brick soldier course lintels frame these windows.

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Rising from the water table course, the semi-circular-arched window bays (in a Palladian motif) extend to just below the entablature which divides the stories. Wooden mullions divide the windows into three sections: the center, with six-over-twelve-lights; and six vertically-aligned sidelights. In the form of flat pilasters, the mullions and jambs support a wooden entablature which corresponds to the springline of the arch. (A sandstone belt course extends between the arches and the end salients along this line.) Within the arch, delineated by a single row of brick headers, is a solid wooden panel in a sunburst motif. Corresponding to the divisions of the window sections is an inner arch with incised sun and rays, a semi-circular band with incised grooves and raised rosettes, and an outer arch of scalloped sunbursts.

The centered entry bay is detailed similarly to the flanking window bays. Flat wooden pilasters, resting on the water table course and supporting a wooden entablature, are set within the brick opening. Plain wooden surrounds further frame the double-entry doors. The doors are wood and each contain single glass panels. A wooden transom, consisting of a simple raised panel, is set above the doors. Within the arch is a solid wooden panel in a scalloped fan (sunburst) motif.

Aligned over the those of the first floor, the second floor bays are framed with flat soldier course arches. The sill line is formed by the entablature. The window sash is wood with six-over-six lights. Paired windows are aligned over the semi-circular-arched bays of the central portion, and single windows occupy the end bays.

The side facades (north and south) of the original building are identical to each other. The materials and trim detailing are similar to the front. Three equally-spaced window bays--the second story bays aligned over those of the first story--divide the facade. The framing and sash are identical to the end bays of the front. Expansion of the workroom area in the early 1950s resulted in the construction of a single story addition to the northwest corner of the building. Slightly recessed from the plane of the original building, the red brick addition is set on a raised basement wall which corresponds to the original. Three equally-spaced

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window bays, set higher than those of the original, break the otherwise plain facade. The wooden sash is double-hung with one-over-one light. Concrete coping terminates the wall.

The rear facade of the original building was flat and symmetrically-arranged. Construction photos indicate that a centered mailing platform extended to the rear. Flat-arched windows corresponding to those of the front flanked each side of the platform. Except for the articulation of the end bays, the second story is identical to the front. The 1950s addition is affixed to the northern half of the first story. Four equally-spaced window bays--double-hung, one-over-one-light wooden sash--corresponding to the work room, and one smaller window (same configuration), corresponding to the mailing vestibule, are set in the wall. A flat metal roof with projecting marquee extends from the mailing vestibule over the open concrete platform. Opening to the south, a double loading door and single pedestrian door provide access to the vestibule.

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. - 1912
Const. - 1919

Cultural Affiliation
N/A

Significant Person
N/A

Architect/Builder
James A. Wetmore, Acting Supervising Architect/Federal Government

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

The building is a well-preserved and essentially unaltered (small addition to rear in 1955) example of early Twentieth Century federal architecture. Designed in the Neo-Classical mode, the building is good example of a small city combined post office and Federal building. As the city's first and only federally-constructed post office, it represents the lobbying efforts of local citizens and the recognition of the city's stability by the federal government.

ARCHITECTURE

An example of a small combined post office and federal office building, the Richfield MPO is a relatively simple building in the Neo-Classical mode. The Classical proportions, symmetry, and scale of the building provide a rigid formality that typifies the standardized building plans of the Office of the Supervising Architect. Facade articulation, however, is minimal and is more characteristic of the 1930s rather than that of the Beaux-Arts tradition which ruled federal design philosophy in the early 1900s. This, perhaps, is a result of the economies imposed by World War I.

Economies indeed. The Richfield Reaper, in an editorial during the building's construction, lamented the building's appearance at which local citizens were "greatly disappointed, not to say irritated": "Honestly, good people, doesn't that square, unadorned pile of masonry form a blot on the landscape." It was felt that some sort of roof or dome was needed to rise above those "jail-like" walls so that the Federal Building would conform to the other buildings in the business district. In spite of the initial reaction to the building, it has become an important element in the architectural ensemble of the city's central business district and is locally significant under Criterion C.

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

1. Jacobson, Pearl F. Sevier County Historic Sites. Richfield, UT: Richfield Reaper, 1978.
2. Warnock, Irvin L., comp. Through the Years: Sevier County Centennial History, Springville, UT: Art City Publishing Co., 1947.
3. Richfield Reaper, various articles 1913-1919.
4. Original Floor Plans, 1916.
5. Construction Progress Photographs, June 30, 1917 - May 1, 1918.

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 0.36 acres

UTM References

A 112 4101581010 429115210
 Zone Easting Northing

C

B
 Zone Easting Northing

D

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

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

Beginning at the Northeast corner of Lot 4, Block 36, Plat "A", Richfield Townsite Survey, and running thence West 130 feet; thence South 120 feet; thence East 130 feet; thence North 120 feet to the place of beginning. The site is on the southwest corner of Main Street and 1st. North Street.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the property originally 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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POLITICS AND GOVERNMENT

The appropriation for and construction of the Richfield Post Office coincided with the city's metamorphosis from dusty town to regional center. As the city's first and only federally-constructed post office the building symbolized the recognition by the federal government of this growth and the burgeoning town's future importance. The appropriation and construction phases of the building's evolution were important local events that were followed closely in the local press. Frustration over the long, drawn out affairs of dealing with the providers of the federal building in Washington was evident. And even after the building finally rose from the earth, editorials lamented the design. But, its construction, nonetheless, was a source of community pride and represented nearly a decade of local effort and interaction with the federal government and elected representatives. In its symbolism of federal recognition of the city's growing importance and the linkage to the elected representatives in Washington, the building is locally significant under Criterion A.

LOCAL CONTEXT

Richfield, which had an estimated 1984 population of 5,764, is the county seat of Sevier County in central Utah. Agriculture and its position as the local retail and service center provide the base for its economy.

Richfield was first settled by ten Mormon families as Warm Springs in early 1864. A year later over 100 families had arrived to farm the area and a fort and schoolhouse had been built. Indian hostilities led to the abandonment of the young settlement and the rest of Sevier Valley in 1867. The settlers returned in 1871, renaming the settlement Omir Point. William Morrison was appointed the community's first postmaster on April 5th of the same year (back in 1864 he had acted as the community's first unofficial postmaster--receiving and sorting its mail). In 1873 the townsite was filed by Morrison under the name Richfield. By 1874, Richfield had a population of 753. On February 28, 1878 the city of Richfield was incorporated; seven years later the first city hall was constructed.

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By 1890 Richfield's population was 1,531, but it was the arrival of the Denver and Rio Grande Western Railroad in 1896 that stimulated the town's growth and evolution into an economic center for the agricultural community of central Utah. Between 1900 and 1920 Richfield's population grew from 1,962 to 3,262 and it acquired a modern water system, electric street lights, telephones, paved sidewalks, a Carnegie Library and an improved Main Street. Voters also approved bond issues to create a drainage and sewer system (1915) and to further improve Main Street (1919). Also during this remarkable period of progress, ground was broken on Main Street for the construction of Richfield's long-awaited Federal Building (on May 7, 1917).

After two decades of progress and growth Richfield's population declined to 3,067 in 1930. It has remained fairly stable ever since, growing only slightly from decade to decade. From 1940 to 1950 the population grew from 3,584 to 4,212; it remained at approximately that level until 1980 when it grew to 5,482.

Sited on the southwest corner of First North Street and Main Street, the Richfield MPO is in the city's central business district. Adjacent properties include one story brick commercial buildings (constructed after the MPO on the site of former LDS tabernacle) to the south and a two-story bank building (modern, native stone and glass) to the west. Across Main Street, east of the Post Office, are one- and two-story brick commercial buildings (most with modern fronts). One- to three-story brick commercial buildings (most are modernized) which predate the Post Office occupy the blocks along Main north of First North and the Post Office. With the exception of the building kitty-cornered from the Post Office, the properties immediately surrounding the Post Office have been either significantly altered or are unremarkable architecturally. The Post Office is not within an historic district.

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

The acquisition and construction of the Richfield Post Office was reported in the Richfield Reaper. Because of gaps in the issues available for research, however, some relevant

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articles likely written in the period during which appropriations were provided and the site was acquired are not included in this discussion. Instead, an article by Pearl F. Jacobson, "Richfield Federal Building", from Sevier County Historic Sites (1978) provided some early information. The Post Office site was originally owned by the First and Second Ecclesiastical Wards of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints for which title was acquired on May 16, 1882. The city purchased the property on May 19, 1892. Federal authorization to purchase the site was approved on June 25, 1910 (a sum of \$5,000) with actual purchase taking place on April 18, 1912. A sum of \$55,000 was authorized for construction on March 4, 1913. Subsequent appropriations were made in February and July of 1916 and June of 1917.

"New Buildings To Be Erected This Summer" was the headline in the Richfield Reaper on April 29, 1915. The paper reported that "a real building boom has broken loose in the business section" and listed the following new construction projects: a new department store, new hardware store, and two other large brick structures. On July 22nd the Reaper reported that the city was considering establishing a sewer and drainage system. Considerable change and progress continued for Richfield in 1915: on August 12th it was reported that the old livery stable on Main Street would soon be replaced by a "modern business block"; on August 26th it was announced that a new creamery for the town was assured and \$25,000 worth of sewer bonds were issued. On September 16th the Reaper reported that the Marysvale Potash Plant, the first potash plant in the United States, was ready for operation.

A Richfield Reaper headline of May 20, 1916 read "Big Increase in Local Post Office Business." The increase meant that Richfield's office would soon rise to 2nd class, prompting the Reaper to write: "It means a whole lot. Perhaps the fact will be another step in securing a new federal building for the city." Other significant Richfield news reported in 1916 included the completion of the creamery and the remodeling of the Johnston Hotel (November 18th article) and the opening of Richfield's new general hospital (December 9th article). On December 16th the Reaper wrote "A Federal Building Again in Limelight" and called for construction bids for the federal building. The Reaper wrote:

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For lo these many years Richfield has hoped and waited that at no time very remotely distant a suitable Federal building would be erected upon the site which long ago was decided upon, but one delay has followed upon the heels of another until patience ceased to be a virtue and the whole deal began to drift into disrepute. Perhaps, after waiting all these years, Richfield is to have a structure in keeping with her importance as a growing city and which will be a credit to all those who spent time and sleepless nights in getting the matter before Washington officials.

On February 24, 1917 the Reaper reported that A. G. Young of Richfield had won the building contract with a bid "a trifle over \$48,000." The paper noted: "It should be a matter of pride to Richfield people that a local man has secured the contract. There was a spirited competition among prominent contractors, and Mr. Young won out over all of them." The article described the proposed building and reported that construction would begin "at the earliest possible moment" and take approximately fourteen months. On May 12th the Reaper reported that Mr. Young had just started excavation. The \$50,000 cost of the building was noted along with the fact that the building was to be brick, trimmed with native stone (a local sandstone). The paper also noted: "now that federal red tape is done, work can commence."

Subsequent coverage of the federal building in the Richfield Reaper is scarce. News of World War I and the flu epidemic filled the Reaper's pages, with little news of the Federal Building. An article of August 18th, 1917 did report that construction was being delayed because of the lack of supplies, noting "there has been much criticism of the delay in construction." The paper explained that building materials were scarce because of the government needs for the housing of the drafted army.

Photographs taken in 1918 show the post office nearing completion. A Reaper editorial of March 9, 1918 reflected on the new building's appearance:

The Reaper does not pose as an authority on architectural designs, or the niceties of fitting archi-

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ecture into the landscape, but, to put it mildly, we, like a great many others in Richfield, are greatly disappointed, not to say irritated, at the appearance of the federal building.

For lo! these many weeks, we have been watchfully waiting to see some kind of dome or covering rise above the four square, jail-like walls that represent the federal building, and we have thought the delay in getting some sort of roof was just another idiosyncrasy among the many that has puzzled the innocent bystander in the erection of this home office for Uncle Sam's wards.

Now we are told that the roof is on, nailed down hard and fast and hermetically sealed from moisture; where moths and rust cannot enter, nor thieves break in and steal. Ah, well! Ah, well! We should have known better than anticipate anything in the federal building line, which is always something fearsome and wonderful. Honestly, good people, doesn't that square, unadorned pile of masonry form something of a blot on the landscape.

Seems so, don't you think?

We have no fault to find with the contractors, the workman, or the federal supervisor, but we ought to learn a lesson in architecture sometime, and get our men of the west to design the buildings to fit the western surroundings. Undoubtedly the man who planned this building knows the business of designing, but never having seen the spot where the building was to stand he could scarcely be expected to create a design that would fit into the general scheme of Richfield.

The building is substantial, the material is of the best, the utmost care has been exercised in its erection, but--get a roof, get a roof!

Post Office records indicate the post office--without the new roof so desired by the Reaper--was occupied in early 1919.

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

For NPS use only

received

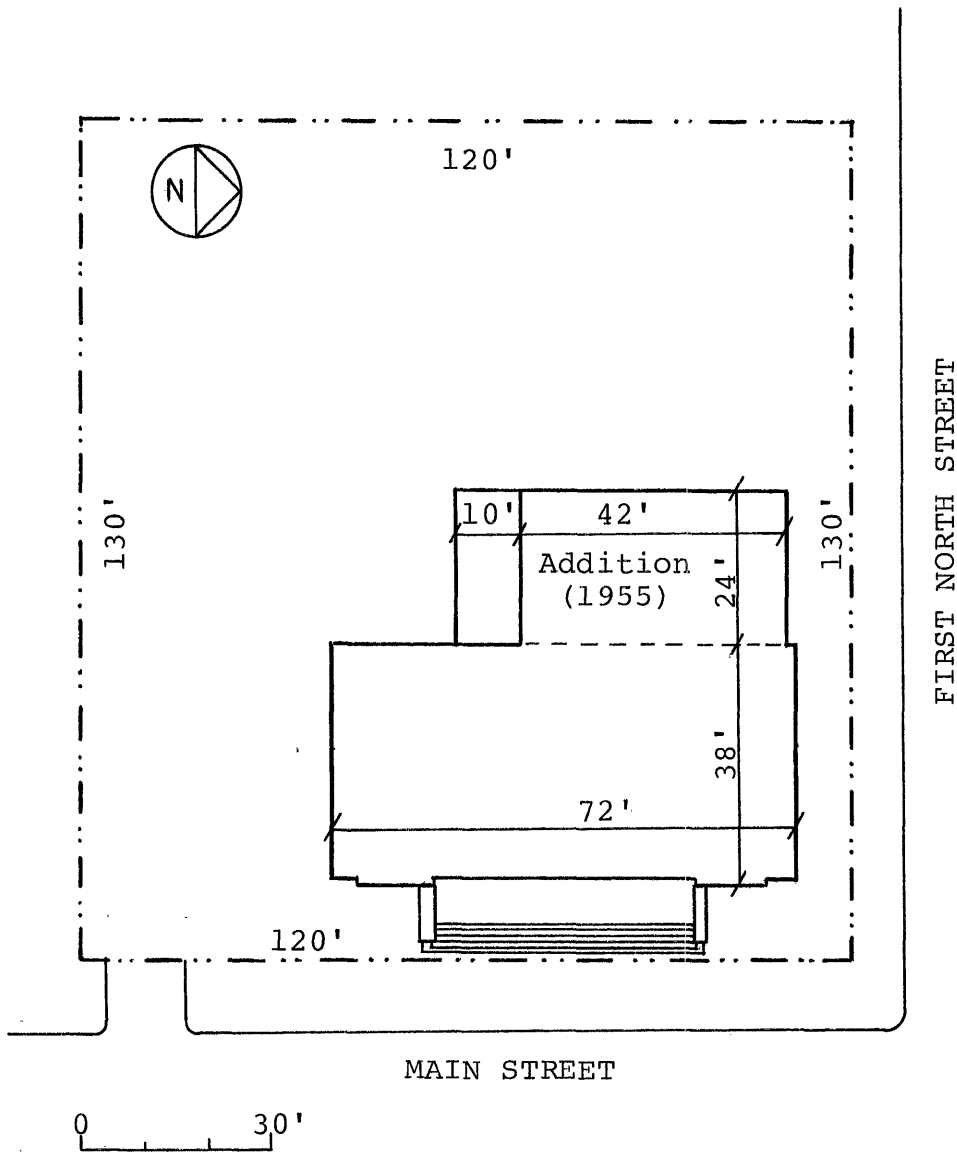
date entered

Continuation sheet

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

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

Photo No. 1 (negative #22)

6. View to northwest

Photo No. 2 (negative #21)

6. View to west

Photo No. 3 (negative #20)

6. View to southwest