

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

Trinidad Post Office

AND/OR COMMON

Trinidad Main Post Office

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

301 East Main Street

NA NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Trinidad

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

4

NA VICINITY OF

STATE

Colorado

CODE

08

COUNTY

Las Animas

CODE

071

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

DISTRICT

BUILDING(S)

STRUCTURE

SITE

OBJECT

Thematic
Group

OWNERSHIP

PUBLIC

PRIVATE

BOTH

NA IN PROCESS

BEING CONSIDERED

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

STATUS

OCCUPIED

UNOCCUPIED

WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

YES: RESTRICTED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

NO

PRESENT USE

AGRICULTURE

COMMERCIAL

EDUCATIONAL

ENTERTAINMENT

GOVERNMENT

INDUSTRIAL

MILITARY

MUSEUM

PARK

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

RELIGIOUS

SCIENTIFIC

TRANSPORTATION

OTHER:

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

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Las Animas County Assessor

STREET & NUMBER

Las Animas County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Trinidad

STATE

CO 81082

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Corazon De Trinidad Historic District National Register Nomination

DATE

April 1983

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Colorado State Historic Preservation Office

CITY, TOWN

Denver

STATE

CO 80203

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED(1930s)	<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 Trinidad Main Post Office is a rectangular, single-story Beaux-Arts building of monumental proportions. The front elevation is dominated by a massive pediment supported by four columns. The building has a flat roof. Most of the interior detailing is original. (1910)

LOCAL CONTEXT

Trinidad was a favorite rendezvous site with early trappers and traders. The town was founded in 1859 as "Santisima Trinidad" (Most Holy Trinity). The first cabin in the area was built by Gabriel and Juan N. Guiterrez. Trinidad is the county seat. There are numerous late-19th and early-20th century structures in Trinidad representing a variety of styles and building types. The post office is within the Corazon De Trinidad National Register Historic District which encompasses approximately 36 blocks of the original town. The District was established in 1972. The post office is listed as a contributing structure to this district; however, it is included within this nomination for completeness and because of lack of data in the district nomination concerning this building.

PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Both the site and the building are very well maintained. The building appears to be structurally sound.

The post office is constructed of tan brick and sandstone columns, trim and detailing. The exposed portion of the basement/foundation is faced with gray granite, as are the front (south) and side (west) steps. The foundation is concrete and brick. The lobby floor is terrazzo, with walls of oak paneling, while the workroom floor is maple covered with linoleum. There is a metal hipped roof.

The building is one-story with a full basement. The front entrance faces south and the postmaster's office is in the southeast corner of the building. The public lobby is along the southern and western sides of the structure.

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Inventory—Nomination Form**

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received

date entered

Continuation sheet

Trinidad PO

Item number

7

Page

1

No information on the site prior to construction of the post office was available.

The structure is Beaux-Arts in its conception with strong neo-classic motifs; having a massive Ionic portico with four smooth columns, a bullseye window, and small dentils. The windows and doors are rectangular, and are set within brick arches characteristic of Beaux-Arts Classicism. There are arched windows above the front entrance and along the building's sides. The structure's corners are defined by simple brick pilasters and there is a simple brick pediment. Also of note are the oversized keystones and four keystone shapes around the bullseye window. There is a wide ceiling molding with dentils in the lobby. The loading dock on the east side of the building appears to have been added in the 1930s; however, this could not be verified due to missing records.

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	1910	BUILDER/ARCHITECT	OSA/James Knox Taylor, Supervising Architect
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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Trinidad Main Post Office is the purest example of the Beaux-Arts inspired styling of any of the Colorado post offices. It is especially well preserved example of its type and is an aesthetically successful piece of architecture.

ARCHITECTURE

Taylor's tenure as Supervising Architect was marked by a devotion to "the classical style of architecture," by which he meant Beaux-Arts Classicism. The Trinidad Main Post Office is a particularly fine example of this aesthetic. The building's massive proportions, fine detailing and rigid symmetry make it one of the most distinctive buildings included in this thematic nomination, as well as being one of the most distinctive structures in the local community.

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CONTINUATION SHEET Trinidad MPO ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 1

Source: Sanborn Map, Trinidad, Colorado, January 1930, page 2.

