UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

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RECEIVED FEB. 1 2 1906 MAR 1 4 1986 DATE ENTERED

Montana

FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

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

1 NAME HISTORIC Livingston Post Office AND/OR COMMON Livingston Main Post Office LOCATION STREET & NUMBER 105 North Second Street NA NOT FOR PUBLICATION CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT CITY, TOWN Livingston NA. VICINITY OF STATE COUNTY CODE CODE Montana 30 Park 067 **CLASSIFICATION** CATEGORY **OWNERSHIP** STATUS **PRESENT USE** __DISTRICT **XPUBLIC** XOCCUPIED ___AGRICULTUREMUSEUM __BUILDING(S) ___PRIVATE __UNOCCUPIEDCOMMERCIAL ___PARK __STRUCTURE __ВОТН ___WORK IN PROGRESS ----EDUCATIONAL __PRIVATE RESIDENCE __SITE PUBLIC ACQUISITION ACCESSIBLE ENTERTAINMENT ___RELIGIOUS __OBJECT _IN PROCESS ...YES: RESTRICTED _XGOVERNMENT __SCIENTIFICBEING CONSIDERED X YES: UNRESTRICTED __INDUSTRIAL X Thematic ___TRANSPORTATION ___MILITARY __NO __OTHER: Group NA AGENCY REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (If applicable) U.S. Postal Service, Western Regional Headquarters STREET & NUMBER 850 Cherry Avenue CITY, TOWN STATE San Bruno NA - VICINITY OF California 94099 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION COURTHOUSE. REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Park County Assessor's Office STREET & NUMBER 414 E. Callender CITY, TOWN STATE Livingston Montana 59047 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS TITLE Historic Resources of Livingston DATE 1978 ___FEDERAL ___STATE ___COUNTY __LOCAL DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Montana State Historic Preservation Office CITY, TOWN STATE Helena

7 DESCRIPTION

| CONDITION | | CHECK ONE | CHECK ONE |
|-------------|--------------|-------------|-----------------|
| X_EXCELLENT | DETERIORATED | X_UNALTERED | X_ORIGINAL SITE |
| GOOD | RUINS | ALTERED | MOVED DATENA |
| FAIR | UNEXPOSED | | |

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Livingston Main Post Office is a two story structure with a metal-clad hipped roof which rises from behind a solid brick parapet. Reinforced concrete and structural steel support the building. Buff-colored brick trimmed with sandstone detailing faces the facades. The building is well-preserved and unaltered in its clearly articulated Neo-Classical design. Seven bays divide the symmetrically arranged facade. Five bays divided by two-story engaged columns form the building's central section which is recessed slightly from the single-bayed end wings. Molded sandstone arches with pronounced scrolled keystones delineate the first floor bays and exemplify the rich detailing of the facade.

PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Livingston Post Office is two stories in height on a raised basement. The basement is constructed of reinforced concrete. Structural steel and concrete support exterior walls of buff-colored brick on the above grade stories. The roof is hipped and metal clad. Built-up tar composition is used for the flat portion over the loading platform. Granite is used for the main entry stairs and landings; sandstone is used for other facade detailing.

The front facade (east) is symmetrical and classically proportioned. Articulation is provided by slightly projecting the end wings of the building. The corners of the wings are emphasized by the use of slightly projecting flat brick plasters. The end wings each contain a single window bay and the central section contains five bays divided by four half-round engaged sandstone columns (unfluted). Engaged quarter round columns occupy the juncture of the central section and end wings. Simple attic bases resting upon square plinths and simple Doric capitals complete the columns.

The exposed wall of the basement is faced with sandstone which projects slightly to provide a base for UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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the pilasters on the end wings and the columns of the central section. A plain sandstone water table rests atop the basement facing. The columns and pilasters support a molded sandstone architrave, plain brick frieze, and molded sandstone cornice. A band of dentils hangs beneath the cornice and a solid brick parapet wall rests atop. Molded sandstone coping tops the parapet. The frieze contains "United States Post Office, Livingston, Montana" in brass letters. Further definition is provided to the frieze by the Horizontally aligned courses with a brick work. diamond pattern in brick are aligned over the columns and pilasters with vertically aligned brick courses in between.

The fenestration of the central section consists of two semi-circular arched windows flanking a similarly arched entry on the first floor and five flat-arched windows on the second floor. The first floor windows are wooden sash double hung topped by fixed fan lights. Thickened mullions and rails divide the windows into six sections. The double hung portions consist of 4-over-4 lights while the arched portion consists of six lights. Molded sandstone arches (slightly projecting) with a projecting sandstone scrolled keystone top the windows. Flat sandstone sills frame the bottoms. Beneath the sills are flat brick panels with three diamond patterns in brick.

The second floor windows consist of paired 3-light open casement windows which inward. Paired single-light storm windows are set on the outside. Both the tops and bottoms of the windows are framed with a single vertically aligned brick course which spans the space between the columns. Flat sandstone sills also lie beneath the windows. The tops of the lie immediately beneath the windows sandstone architrave.

The entry consists of double aluminum framed glass

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doors (replaced original revolving entry door). A plain door head separates the doors from a fan window identical to those of the window bays. The arch framing the entry is identical to the first floor window arches. Two granite steps rise to a broad granite landing with three more steps rising to the entry landing. Low granite buttresses flank the entry platform.

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The end wings each contain single 6-over-6 light double hung wood sash windows on the first floor and paired 3-light casement windows on the second floor (identical to central bays). The first floor windows are framed by molded sandstone sills, jambs, and architraves. The second floor windows are framed identically to those of the central bays. Flanking each side of these windows are slightly recessed brick panels.

The side facades are identical to each other. Five bays divide each facade. Flat brick pilasters between and on the ends provide definition to the bays. The first and second floor windows are identical to those of the end wings of the front facade. The detailing of the raised basement wall, entablature, and parapet wall are identical to that of the front facade. A wrought iron fire escape on the south facade provides emergency egress from the second floor.

The rear facade consists of a central salient with five window bays, from which the enclosed loading platform extends, and flanking single bayed end section (recessed six feet). Flat brick pilasters mark the corners of the end sections. The first and second floor windows of the end sections are identical to the corresponding windows of the end wings of the front facade. The central section contains window bays only on the first floor. However, the windows are elongated vertically and extend into the second floor level. These windows are framed with segmental Continuation sheet

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| sm e·YYeeasgesaet | brick arches and flat sandstone sills. The sash (wood) consists of paired 8-light casement windows topped by paired 2-light transom windows. Storm windows cover the outside. The flat-roofed loading platform extends from the center bay and leaves only the transom window visible. (The original drawings show a loading door in this bay with the platform extending rearward approximately four feet. It could not be determined when the platform was extended to its present position.) The end of the platform is faced with brick and contains a single wood panel overhead door. The south side is also brick with four window bays (3-over-3 double hung wood sash). The north side contains three double metal loading doors (hinged) with 4-light glass panels and a single pedestrian door. The doors are on a raised concrete platform. Six concrete steps provide access to the single-light pedestrian door. A 2-light transom window tops the door. A metal marguee |
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Interior materials consist of concrete floor, walls, and ceiling in the basement. First floor materials consist of the following: lobby: terrazzo floors with marble dividing strips and edges, plaster walls 2-foot marble wainscotting, with and decorative molding plaster ceiling covered in some areas with acoustical tiles; workroom: hardwood floors, plaster walls with 4-foot sheet metal wainscotting and plaster ceiling; postmaster's office: vinyl asbestos floor tiles, plaster walls, and plaster ceiling. The second floor materials consist of terrazzo floors with marble edge and base strips in the halls, vinyl asbestos floor tiles in the offices, plaster walls, and plaster ceilings. The restrooms consist of terrazzo floors, plaster walls, and plaster ceilings.

OMB No. 1024-0018 Exp. 10-31-84

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PERIOD

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

| PREHISTORIC 1400-1499 1500-1599 1600-1699 1700-1799 1800-1899 X-1900- | ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC AGRICULTURE XARCHITECTURE ART COMMERCE COMMUNICATIONS | COMMUNITY PLANNING CONSERVATION ECONOMICS EDUCATION NENGINEERING EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT INDUSTRY NIVENTION | LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE LAW LITERATURE MILITARY MUSIC PHILOSOPHY XPOLITICS/GOVERNMENT | RELIGION SCIENCE SCULPTURE SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN THEATER TRANSPORTATION OTHER (SPECIEY) |
|---|--|---|--|---|
| ¥-1900- | | | A_POLITICS/GOVERNMENT | -OTHER (SPECIEY) |

SPECIFIC DATES Constructed 1914

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Oscar Weneroth, Supervising

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Livingston Main Post Office is an essentially unaltered example of early Twentieth Century federal Beaux-Arts tradition. The the architecture in building, which was constructed to house both the post office and federal offices is monumental in character and visually appealing in its scale and detailing. It is one of several fine Neo-Classical buildings in Livingston that represent the architectural tradition of the city's primary growth period. Further, it is the finest example of the federal government's use of Neo-Classical design in Montana. The building was the city's first federally-constructed post office and symbolizes the federal government's recognition of the development of Livingston in its most significant growth period.

ARCHITECTURE

The building is an excellent example of Neo-Classical design and the best example of its use in a federal building in the state, thereby having statewide signifance under Criterion C. Although used commonly by federal architects throughout the United States during this era, the use of Neo-Classical was rare in Montana. A very simplified example exists in the former Bozeman Post Office which was constructed in (presently used by the Army Reserve). The 1916 Livingston Post Office is well-balanced and crisply executed in its brick and sandstone detailing. The use of engaged columns to divide the round-arched entry and window-bays provides a pleasing rhythm to the front facade.

The extension of the columns through the first and second stories imparts the monumental character of the federal government and distinguishes the Post Office from Livingston's many fine period buildings.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- 1. Sanborn map December 1907, sheet 10; February 1921, sheet 17.
- 2. Floor plans 1912.
- 3. The Livingston Enterprise various articles 1910-1914.
- 4. Leavengood, David. "Historic Resources of Livingston (Partial Inventory: Historic & Architectural Properties)" June 1979.

10GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

| A 1,2 5 3,4 2,0,0 | 5,0 5,6 2,4,0 | в | | |
|-------------------|---------------|------|---------|----------|
| ZONE EASTING | NORTHING | ZONE | EASTING | NORTHING |
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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Lots 17-22, Block 60 original town plat The site is rectangular and contains 150 feet of frontage along Second Street with a depth and frontage of 140 feet along Callender Street Site size = 21,000 sq. ft.

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

| state NA | c ode NA | COUNTY NA | code NA |
|-------------|--------------------|--------------|------------|
| STATE | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |
| NA | NA | NA | NA |

11 FORM PREPARED BY NAME / TITLE H.J. "Jim" Kolva

| ORGANIZATION | DATE |
|---------------------------------------|------------------|
| Institute for Urban and Local Studies | September 1985 |
| STREET & NUMBER | TELEPHONE |
| W 705 1st Avenue | (509) 458-6219 |
| CITY OR TOWN | STATE |
| Spokane | Washington 99204 |
| | |

12 CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

| YES | |
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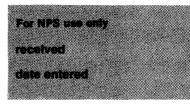
NO____

NONE_____

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

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| FOR NPS USE ONLY | | | | |
| I HEREBY CERTIFY | THAT THIS PROPERTY IS IN | ICLUDED IN THE NATIONAL | REGISTER | |
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COMMUNITY PLANNING/POLITICS/GOVERNMENT

Although the location of the post office did not alter the growth of Livingston it is a legacy of the city's most significant growth period. The allocation of a federal post office to a growing western town was an important link in that towns transition to a city. The federally constructed post office symbolized the recognition of the national government.

As Livingston's first federally-constructed post office, this building carries that symbolism. The allocation and construction process was an important local event, one that linked the various civic groups with their elected officials in Washington D.C. in their efforts to secure a federal building. As such, the building is locally significant under Criterion A.

LOCAL CONTEXT

Livingston, with a 1980 population of 6,994, is the county seat of Park County. Livingston is located at the mouth of the valley of the Yellowstone River and was the original gateway to Yellowstone National Park. present economy is based primarily The on the Burlington Northern Railroad shops, agriculture, and historically have tourism, which been major contributors to Livingston's economy and growth.

Captain William Clark camped at what is now Livingston on his eastward trip on July 15, 1806. After Clark's visit the area was occasionally traveled by the fur trappers, prospectors, and traders. Actual settlement of Livingston began in 1882 when Joseph J. McBride and George H. Carver brought in 30 freight wagons to establish a supply depot and store for the Northern Pacific Railroad construction. Clark City, as the new settlement was called, rapidly grew as a tent town.

The Northern Pacific designated a section of land about a mile northwest of Clark City as the official townsite with the name of Livingston. The townsite was surveyed in November of 1882. On November 13, 1882 the first post office was established with Fredrick Wright as postmaster. At the connection of the east and west lines in 1883, Livingston began a period of rapid growth. Trade to the agricultural and mining areas surrounding Livingston, as well as its location as the NP divisional headquarters, and the gateway to

Reference.

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Yellowstone National Park (a branch line to the park was completed in 1883) contributed to this development. In 1888 Livingston became the county seat of the newly formed Park County. By 1905 the population had reached nearly 5,000 and grew to 7,000 in 1914. Population decreased in the 1920s and 1930s as a result of the agricultural and national depressions. Population also decreased during the 1940s with movement of people to the West Coast shipyards. In the 1970s Livingston began to experience a period of growth.

The relatively stable population since the city's initial growth period from 1882 to 1915 has allowed most of the original structures from this period to remain. The post office is located in the heart of this original business district. One- to two-story brick commercial blocks are located to the east of the post office, across Second Street.

The Classical Revival Carnegie Library (1903) is located across a parking lot west of the post office. A parking lot is located adjacent to the north of the post office with the four-story Murray Hotel and Northern Pacific Railroad Depot (Classical Revival, 1901-1902) further north. A modern bank building occupies the corner south of the post office across Callender Street, with the three-story brick Ebert Apartment building to its west.

The post office is included in the boundaries of Livingston's National Register commercial district. Many of the buildings in the immediate vicinity of the post office are major elements in this district. The post office was constructed in the era in which the downtown commercial district developed and is, therefore, an important legacy of that era.

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In the local context, the procurement and construction of the Livingston Post Office was reported in <u>The</u> <u>Livingston Enterprise</u> between 1910 and 1915. The construction of the post office spanned a period in which a significant number of buildings in Livingston's existing commercial core were constructed.

In the first half of 1910, <u>The Enterprise</u> reported the proposed construction of a new opera house and the \$150,000 Miles Block. On May 28th it was reported that a bill was before the Public Building Committee under the sponsorship of Senator Thomas H. Clark for a new federal building in the city. Bills for federal buildings in Bozeman and Missoula were before the Senate. These bills had prompted local citizens to push for a federal building in Livingston. In the last session of Congress, Carter had secured appropriation for a building site (\$15,000).

Bids were called and lots on the corner of Callender and Second streets were purchased from A.W. Miles and Judge Henry, prominent Livingston citizens. After the purchase of the lots, Carter had introduced a bill for \$125,000 to construct the building. Local citizens were anxious for work to begin within the year. The article also commented that the opposite corner would soon have the new Miles Block and would be the most attractive corner in the city. On June 18th work began on the new Miles Block. On June 25th it was reported that Carter had obtained an appropriation of \$75,000 for the federal building. In addition, appropriations were made for federal buildings in Bozeman (\$75,000) and Missoula (\$50,000).

October brought news of a new hotel on the corner of Second and Callender, the selection of a site for the Odd Fellows Lodge, and a new flour mill. On October Continuation sheet

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18th a government architect was in the city to inspect the federal building site and to see if local materials available for construction of were the proposed building.

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An article of January 11, 1911 reported that plans for the lobby of the proposed post office had been expanded to twice the size as before. It "will now be able to hold the Sunday crowds with room wasted, besides". Α new postal savings bank would also be included and construction was expected to begin in early spring. Bad news hit the city's federal building hopes on March when it was reported that a dispatch 4th, from Washington had been received that gave notice of a cut in the appropriation. An amendment to the Sundry Appropriation Bill had reduced Livingston's appropriation to \$20,000. Hope glimmered since the House had approved \$75,000 and it was felt that the Senate would concur. On March 13th, Senator Carter notified the city that the fate of the federal building was not yet determined. It might be delayed a year or On May 18th, A.W. Miles, on return more. from Washington, brought news that the post office would be delayed for another year. He felt that the appropriation would be made in the fall and that actual construction "will begin next spring".

On June 4, 1912, The Enterprise reported that according to а dispatch from Washington, \$40,000 for the Livingston federal building had been included in the Sundry Appropriations Bill that was in the House. Other appropriations included Billings (\$25,000) and completion of Missoula (\$50,000). On June 10th, an article stated that the site for the federal building would be cleared immediately. The paper surmised that this could mean nothing but that it was the government's intent to commence construction. The buildings on-site that would be removed included a studio rented by Fred Hanson and a portion of the building owned by the Gateway City Band.

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On August 10th, <u>The Enterprise</u> announced that construction bids would be received on September 18th. The award of the construction contract to J.H. Weise of Omaha was reported in the issue of October 15th. A bid price of approximately \$70,000 was revealed. According to the contract, the building was to be completed by April 21, 1914. On October 24th, it was reported that the M.A. Jacobs Quarry of Columbus had been asked to provide stone for the building.

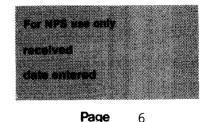
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An additional \$35,000 was appropriated for the post office as reported in a February 18, 1913 article. Work on the new building would be resumed as soon as the weather permitted. An article of March 3rd reported that work would be resumed on March 15th and it was anticipated that the building would be ready in 1914. The article added that pressed brick rather than stucco had been approved for the exterior. This change would greatly improve the appearance.

Plans for the cornerstone ceremony were announced in an April 1st article. A committee would be selected at the meeting of the Municipal Ownership League to plan the ceremony in honor of Senator Carter. The building would be a monument to the Senator. The agenda for the next days for the cornerstone ceremony was described in the May 19th issue. The ceremony was reported on May The stone was laid with Masonic ceremony. 20th. Mavor Α. Ν. Viet and other dignitaries were present. Patriotic songs were sung by Livingston school Stores and offices were closed so that all children. could attend.

Livingston was in the midst of a building boom. A January 17th article reported that the federal building was already up, the new First State Bank was coming soon, new parochial and public schools were slated, the Elks had moved into their new home, and the 100F Lodge had purchased lots for a new home. An article of January 24th reported a banner year for the Gateway

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Continuation sheetLivingston POItem number8Page6City.The\$75,000federalbuildingwasnearly

City. The \$75,000 federal building was nearly completed and many new buildings were in the offing. On March 7th, J.E. Swindlehurst was appointed Livingston's new postmaster, replacing C.A. Burg.

Although the completion of the new post office was not reported, a progress issue of The Enterprise included a photograph of the post office in the historical section. An accompanying article which discussed Livingston's progress stated the following: "...other magnificent structures of Livingston include the new building, the federal Miles-Krohne Block, ...the Northern Pacific Passenger Depot, the Carnegie Library, County Courthouse, City Hall, Park Hotel, and other new businesses."

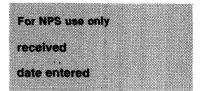
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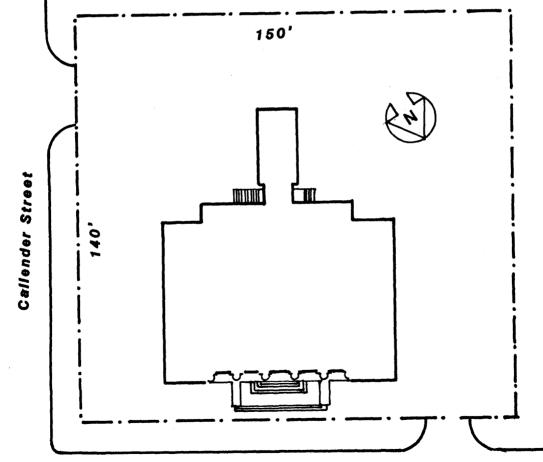
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Second Street