

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

1993

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 Cedar City Main Post Office

other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 10 North Main

N/A not for publication

city, town Cedar City

N/A vicinity

state Utah

code UT

county Iron

code 021

zip code 84720

3. Classification

Ownership of Property

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>1</u>	<u> </u> buildings
<u> </u>	<u> </u> sites
<u> </u>	<u> </u> structures
<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 10, 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.

Patrick Anders

11/28/89

removed from the National Register.

other (explain):

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)

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

Neo-Classical Revival

foundation Concrete
walls Brick

roof Tar Composition
other Terra Cotta

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Cedar City Main Post Office is a two-story building of red brick which rests upon a raised basement platform. Reinforced concrete basement walls and floor slabs, and steel framing provide structural support. Granite dresses the raised basement wall and rough tapestry brick faces the first and second stories. Seven flat-arched bays divide the symmetrically-arranged front facade. The five central bays are recessed and fronted by six engaged terra-cotta columns of colossal order. Resting atop Ionic capitals is a terra-cotta entablature topped by a solid brick parapet. Cast iron is used for the entry landing light standards. The roof is flat, built-up tar composition. The building is well-preserved and an essentially unaltered example of Neo-Classical design.

PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Classically-proportioned and symmetrically-arranged, the front facade (west) imparts a monumental character to the building. Resting atop the raised-basement platform, the facade is horizontally oriented. Strong horizontal delineation is provided by a creme-colored terra-cotta entablature which terminates the second story and contrasts with the red brick of the facade. Articulation of the facade is provided by slightly recessing the five central bays relative to the single-bay end wings and entablature. Six fluted terra-cotta Ionic columns of colossal order mark the interior corners of the end wings and divide the five central bays. Rising from the granite water table, the columns provide apparent support to the entablature.

Approach to the centered main entry is provided by six granite steps and landing. Granite buttresses, upon which rest free-standing cast iron lanterns, flank the landing. The entry bay is framed in molded terra cotta topped by a slightly projecting cornice. Emphasis to the entry bay is provided by extending it above the cornice line of the flanking window bays. The double-entry doors are aluminum-framed glass, above which is set a leaded-glass transom

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window. Molded terra cotta also frames the flat-arched bays. Terra cotta panels with single recessed center sections are set between the sills and water table. The sash is double-hung wood with one-over-one light. Aligned over the first-floor windows, the second-floor windows are square and are framed in flat terra cotta, with slightly projecting flat terra cotta sills. These windows are also of wood sash (casement) with two lights each (vertically aligned).

The end wings are also of red brick and contain centered, single bays. Although the sash is identical to those windows of the central section of the facade, the terra-cotta molding of the first-floor bays is more extensive and elaborate. The sills exhibit a molded cornice motif and project beyond the frames. Panels identical to those of the center section lie beneath the sills. The panels are bracketed by flat pilasters which rise from the water table and support the sills. A pedimented frontispiece supported by scrolled brackets crowns the bay. The second-story windows, aligned over those of the first floor, are identical to those of the central section.

The terra-cotta entablature which extends across the entire facade consists of an unadorned architrave, frieze and molded, projecting cornice with dentils. A terra-cotta belt course rests atop the cornice and provides the base for a solid brick parapet wall. Molded terra-cotta coping tops the parapet. "United States Post Office" is incised in the frieze and centered over the central bays.

The side facades (north and south) are identically arranged. As with the front facade, the exposed basement walls are dressed with granite, the first and second stories and parapet wall are faced with red brick and the trim detailing (including entablature) is terra cotta. Each facade contains five bays, three bays clustered in the center and one near each end. The first-floor bays are identical to those of the center section of the front facade except that the three center bays are framed with flat terra cotta and lack the cornice. It might be noted that the first-floor bay of the northwest corner consists of a terra-cotta niche rather than sash (original construction). The second-floor window bays, aligned over those of the first floor, are identical to those of the front facade.

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The rear facade displays the 'U' shape of the second-floor plan. The end wings, each containing a single bay, project from the recessed central section. The loading platform (expanded in 1965-66) extends rearward from the main structure. Both the enclosed loading platform and main building are faced with red brick, though the brick of the loading platform differs slightly from the original. Granite faces the exposed portion of the basement wall, and the foundations of the platform are concrete. Paired first- and second-story window bays, identical in size to those previously described, are set in the end wings. Terra cotta delineates the window heads and sills, and the sides are undifferentiated brick. The second story of the central section contains five equally-spaced window bays which are framed identically to those of the end wings. The loading platform consists of a blank brick wall on the south side, a single metal pedestrian door and loading bay on the north side, and four loading bays (with metal overhead doors) on the east side. A flat metal roof with projecting marquee covers the platform.

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.-1931

Const.-1933

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Cannon & Fetzner (Salt Lake City)/-

Federal Government

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

The Cedar City Post Office is a well-preserved and essentially unaltered example of a medium-sized combination post office and federal office building. The Neo-Classical building, one of the most imposing in the downtown area, is one of only two examples of its design type in the city. To receive such an imposing building, the first and only constructed by the federal government in the city, was the affirmation that Cedar City was an important regional center. Acquisition of an appropriate site for the building was of such importance to the city that citizens raised the additional funds required for purchase. Finally, the building is a legacy of the massive public buildings programs of the Depression era.

ARCHITECTURE

The Cedar City Post Office is a well-preserved and essentially unaltered example of a medium-sized combination post office and federal office building in the Neo-Classical mode. Architecturally, the building is one of the most monumental and imposing buildings in the city. Although a Depression-era building, the design is strongly rooted in the Beaux-Arts tradition of the early Twentieth Century. As such, the design represents the transition from the classical tradition to the modern or "Starved Classicism" of the mid-to-late 1930s. Distinguished by the colonnaded entry portico, entablature and window trim, all of terra cotta, the building exemplifies the use of quality materials and fine craftsmanship of Depression-era Federal construction. Other than the First Security Bank Building (southwest corner of Main and Harding), the Post Office is the only example of Neo-Classical design in the city's commercial district.

9. Major Bibliographical References

1. Iron County Record (Cedar City), various articles 1930-1933.
2. Construction Progress Photographs, October 4, 1932-October 31, 1933.
3. Original Floor Plans, 1932.

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

Acreege of property 0.74 acres

UTM References

A

1	12
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3	1	18	2	17	10
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4	1	7	1	8	4	10
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Zone Easting Northing

B

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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D

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Quadrangle name: Cedar City
Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

Beginning in the southwest corner of Lot 67, Block 37, Cedar City Town Plat, thence North 164 feet, thence East 198 feet, thence South 164 feet, thence West 198 feet to beginning. The site is on the Northeast corner of Main Street and Center Street.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the site 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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The building is also noteworthy for having been designed by the Salt Lake City architectural firm of Cannon and Fetzer. Lewis Cannon was born in 1872 in Salt Lake City; John Fetzer, a native of Bavaria, Germany, was born in 1882. After immigrating to America in 1905, he moved directly to Salt Lake City where he began his career designing stations for the Union Pacific Railroad. During the 28 years they were partners (from 1909 to 1937), Cannon and Fetzer designed many schools and churches in Utah and the surrounding area, including three buildings for Utah Agricultural College and two buildings for West High School in Salt Lake City. Their work also included banks, office buildings, and the Utah State building at the Panama-Pacific Exposition in San Francisco and at the exposition in San Diego. The firm was dissolved in 1937 so each could form a partnership with his family. Cannon's later work (firm of Cannon and Mullen) includes Carbon Junior College, Price, Utah and an office building and laboratories for the U.S. Bureau of Mines. Fetzer continued practice with his sons as Fetzer and Fetzer. Their work included the City Hall in Price, Utah and L.D.S. Temple in Idaho Falls, Idaho. Fetzer also served one term as President of the American Institute of Architects.

As one of only two examples of Neo-Classical design in the city's commercial district and as one of the most monumental and imposing buildings in the city, featuring the quality materials and fine craftsmanship of Depression-era federal construction, the building is locally significant under Criterion C.

POLITICS/GOVERNMENT

The building serves as a monumental symbol of the federal government and was the only federally-constructed post office in Cedar City. Further, it represents many years of local lobbying efforts on the part of local citizens and the successful culmination of those efforts. The appropriation and construction phases of the building's evolution were important local events that were followed closely in the local press. When the building opened the local newspaper proudly reported:

This building is one of the most up-to-date and best constructed in the nation. Cedar City can

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well be proud of such as edifice and much credit is due to the people here for their fine cooperation in supporting the Chamber of Commerce in their drive for construction of the building."

It is also notable that local citizens, through the Chamber of Commerce, donated funds for purchase of the post office site. As a symbol of the linkage between local citizens and their elected representatives in Washington and federal recognition of Cedar City's growing importance, the building is locally significant under Criterion A.

LOCAL CONTEXT

Cedar City, which now has a population of approximately 13,000, is in southwestern Utah's Iron County. The local economy is based upon a mix of tourism, transportation, agriculture and manufacturing. Cedar City is also the home of Southern Utah State College.

Like many Utah communities, Cedar City was settled by Mormon pioneers in the early 1850s. But Cedar City is unusual in that it was not settled primarily to develop an agricultural economy, like most Mormon colonies were, but rather to extract iron ores which had been discovered in the area. Cedar City was founded in 1851 and Issac C. Haight was selected as the first Postmaster on May 3, 1854. The early settlers experienced many setbacks--floods, Indian wars, and technical problems--which led to the failure of the iron ore industry in 1858. The Mountain Meadows Massacre of 1857, which involved community members, further added to these problems. Within a year Cedar City's population went from nearly 1,000 to less than 400. For those who remained, agriculture, rather than iron ore production, became a primary means of support. Cattle and sheep raising were also important. Later efforts in the 1870s and 1880s were more successful in producing iron.

It was not until 1905 that the railroad came to Iron County, and even then its nearest connection to Cedar City was at the city of Lund, 30 miles away. About this time, though, two trends were developing that would greatly affect Cedar City's future. First, the popularity of the automobile was increasing and secondly, the scenic beauty of southern

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Utah was receiving greater attention, much of it on the national level (for example, Zion National Park was created in 1919). As roads were developed to the parks and monuments, it became obvious that Cedar City, because of its central location, was the strategic center for tourism. As a result, in 1921 the Union Pacific Railroad Company decided to extend rail service directly to Cedar City, due to the anticipated tourist traffic as well as agriculture, livestock and iron ore traffic.

Cedar City's enthusiasm for the anticipated spur line from Lund was great. Citizens set up a committee to raise funds to purchase the property and homes over which the railroad would pass. The committee was so successful that after all the bills were paid (\$115,000 was spent) \$7,500 was left over. The \$7,500 nest egg was put in trust and later used to purchase land for a federal building.

On June 27, 1923, the first official train crossed the tracks and stopped at Cedar City's new depot. (The passengers on the first train included President and Mrs. Warren G. Harding.) Tourist travel increased dramatically after the railroad was built: visitors to Zion National Park increased from 3,692 in 1920 to 55,297 in 1930. The railroad also dramatically increased iron ore production and encouraged the growth of the livestock industry. In 1920, Cedar City's population had grown to 2,462; by 1930 it had jumped to 3,615. Growth since then has been steady, increasing over 1,000 people a decade. The 1980 population was 10,972.

The Cedar City MPO is on the northeast corner of the intersection of Center Street and Main Street in the city's central business district. A church of the Latter Day Saints tabernacle lies adjacent to the east of the Post Office (1931, stone and half-timber Victorian Gothic style). The State Bank of Southern Utah, with a parking lot to its east, is adjacent to the north of the Post office (modern two story brick and glass). Across Center Street south of the Post Office is Zion's First National Bank (modern, two story stone and glass). The property on the southwest corner of Main/-Center consists of office use with a motel further south (both modern buildings). The properties west of the Post Office, across Main Street, consist of various commercial uses which include J.C. Penney, South Utah Office Machines

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and Supplies and Fashion Crossroads. These uses are housed in single-story brick and terra cotta buildings which are unremarkable architecturally. The Post Office is not included within an historic district.

LOCAL NEWSPAPER COVERAGE OF THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE CEDAR CITY POST OFFICE.

The Iron County Record on January 25, 1930 reported that the Treasury Department had assured Senator Reed Smoot (R) that enough money would be allocated in the next public buildings bill to at least start construction of Cedar City's proposed federal building. On February 1st the Record reported that the Chamber of Commerce had started a movement to move the county seat from Parawon to Cedar City. On April 2nd it was reported that Cedar City and Bingham Canyon had been given appropriations for federal buildings.

According to an article of April 26th the Chamber of Commerce appointed a committee to look at site selection; it was later reported that nine sites had been offered to "Uncle Sam" (August 9th article). During this time talk continued of moving the county seat from Parawon to Cedar City. An article of December 20th reported that the Tabernacle site had been selected and that the government would pay \$20,000 for it.

On December 24th the Record reviewed Cedar City's 1930 achievements and stated "an optimistic outlook is held for 1931. Indications are that prosperity will return, providing more building, more jobs, more money in circulation." Just three days later it was reported that Congressman Don B. Colton (R) confirmed that the government intended to purchase the recommended site and that a construction appropriation request would be made to Congress "soon after the holidays."

The Record reported on January 3rd that the post office would move on February 1st to Cedar Lumber and Hardware. On February 4th the Record published the news that the Chamber of Commerce had established a committee to raise an additional \$13,000 to enable the purchase of the Tabernacle site on Main Street, to supplement the \$20,000 promised by the government. It was also reported that government architects were working on the plans, construction was expected to begin

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by early summer with completion by the end of 1931. A week later the Record headlined "Chamber of Commerce Gives \$5,000 for Federal Building Site" and reported that there were plans underway to raise the additional \$8,000 (February 11th article). At the same time it was stated that the building would be two-story brick and large enough to accommodate the Post Office, Dixie Forest Offices, U.S. Indian Offices and Southern Utah Parks.

An article of February 14th reported that the site was definitely decided on and that the Chamber of Commerce would be out soon to get pledges. By March 21st the Record could report that \$7,000 had been pledged and the Chamber of Commerce was giving property security so that the Church would release the deed.

An April 15th Record article reported that Cedar City would benefit from the nearly \$2,000,000 being spent on southern Utah roads. A July 8th article indicated that construction was beginning on the \$58,000 First Ward Chapel, located behind the post office site. The first plans of the post office were received and reviewed but, according to an article of July 15th, it was discovered that the space for the additional federal offices had been omitted. Representatives of the Chamber of Commerce met in Salt Lake City with the architects and Senator Reed Smoot and by October 10th the Record could state "Work to Begin Soon on the New Building"; additional space was arranged for and the drawings were complete.

On October 24th the Record speculated that "Cedar City Will Become Pittsburg of Entire West" due to the great potential of the area's coal and iron ore. But at the end of the year the paper was reporting the closing of the local bank (December 31st article). The new year of 1932 brought appeals for community support for the bank (January 14th article); on April 28th the Record could announce a "spectacular celebration" (the "funeral of old man depression") planned on May 4th for the bank's reopening.

After further delay it was not until July 14th that the Record could report that bids for the federal building were finally being called. An article of June 30th had quoted Senator Smoot complaining of the lack of progress and noted

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that the Chamber of Commerce was working to expedite matters. The Chamber of Commerce was also "working fervishly" to have a local construction firm submit a bid. (August 4th article). After soils conditions dictated a change in the plans, it was not until April 6th of 1933 that the Record could announce the contractor, Norman Jacobson of Salt Lake, was finally authorized to resume initial foundation work. Before long over 20 men were at work on the project and the paper could report on June 15th, 1933 that the cornerstone was laid. The Record predicted on July 6th that the federal building would be one of the city's finest and most beautiful buildings and commended the leadership of the Chamber of Commerce for raising the funds to have it placed on Main Street.

On August 24th it was reported that the Council was planning to spend \$75,000 for a new sewer system, which would "provide jobs for nearly every idle person in the city" (the Record of December 29th, 1932 had included 14 pages of delinquent taxes). Articles later in the year reported on National Forest projects (November 16th) and that the sewer project and a school CWA work program were underway (December 7th).

Finally, on December 14th the Record could predict that the "magnificent" federal building would be completed by January 1st. It was noted that the original contract price was \$96,000, but that foundation changes had pushed it to over \$100,000. \$7,000 worth of Utah marble and \$5,000 of Utah granite had been used, as well as some local contractors, and most of the materials were from Salt Lake City. On January 4th it was reported that the Forest Service had moved in the building. Finally, on January 25th the Record announced "Post Office to be Moved Next Sunday" and wrote: "This building is one of the most up-to-date and best constructed in the nation. Cedar City can well be proud of such an edifice and much credit is due to the people here for their fine cooperation in supporting the Chamber of Commerce in their drive for construction of the building."

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Inventory—Nomination Form**

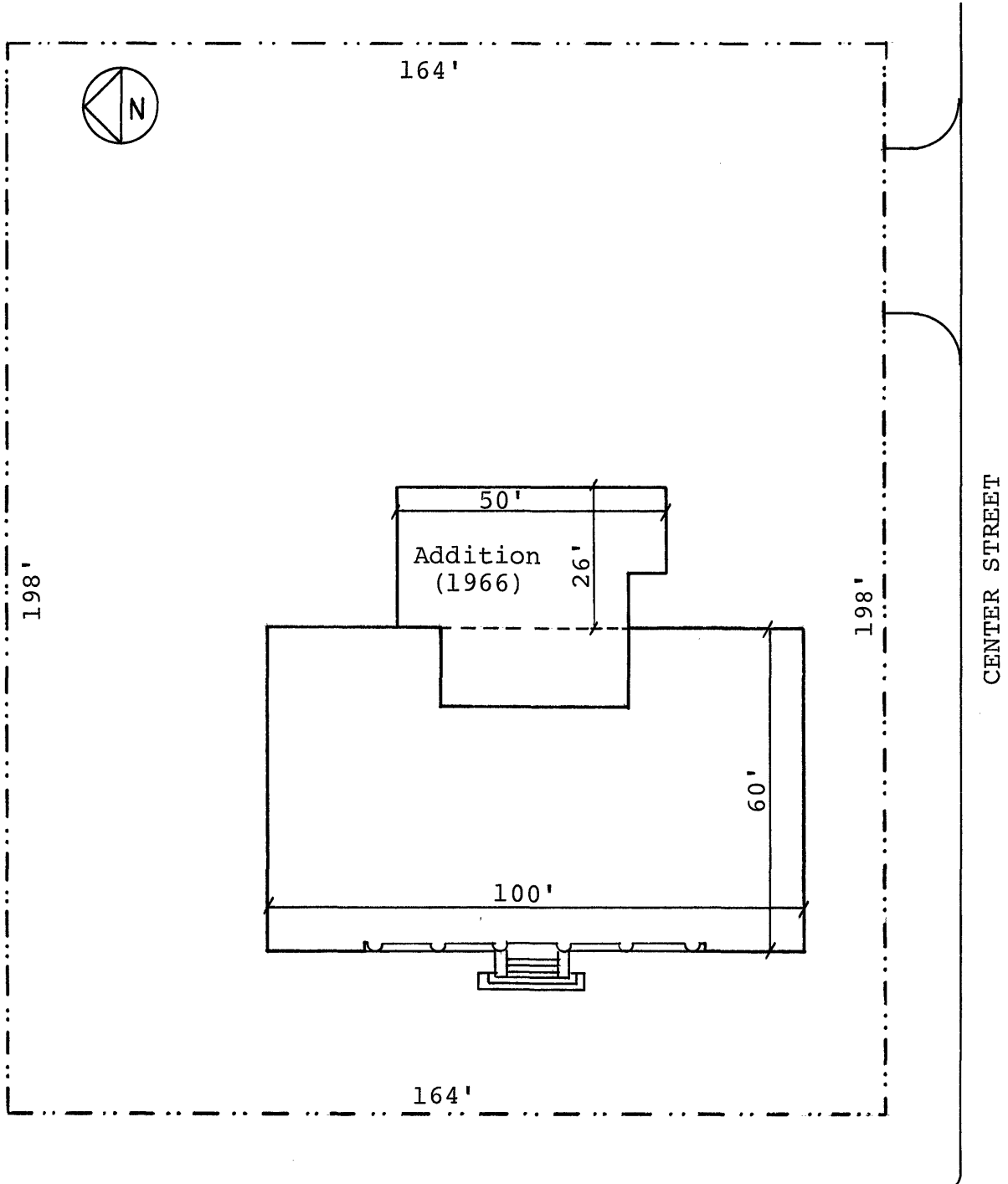
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received _____
date entered _____

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MAIN STREET

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

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

Photo No. 1 (negative #0A)

6. View to southeast

Photo No. 2 (negative #11A)

6. View to east

Photo No. 3 (negative #2A)

6. View to northeast