

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

Florence Post Office

AND/OR COMMON

Florence Main Post Office

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

121 N. Pikes Peak Street

NA NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Florence

NA VICINITY OF

2

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

Colorado

08

Fremont

043

3 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 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	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
X Thematic Group	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" 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)

United States Postal Service, Western Regional Office

STREET & NUMBER

850 Cherry Ave.

CITY, TOWN

STATE

San Bruno

NA VICINITY OF

CA 94099

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Fremont County Assessor
Fremont County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

P.O. Box 306

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Canon City

CO

81212

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

None Known.

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Florence Main Post Office is an L-shaped box in the Starved Classicism style common to this period of Post Office construction. The front elevation is symmetrical with a central front door flanked by two windows. The one story structure has a flat roof. The public lobby has a tile floor and wainscotting and retains many of the original fixtures. (1936)

LOCAL CONTEXT

Florence was named in 1873 for the daughter of the first Postmaster, James A. McCandless. The city serves as an agricultural center; and there is a large cement plant south of the town. The post office is located on block north of the central business district between commercial and residential areas. There are no historic districts in the community, although there are many excellent late-19th century and early-20th century commercial and residential structures.

The original site survey (11-23-35) indicates that there were a single-story frame house and a brick commercial building on the subject property.

PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The building appears to be in excellent condition, and both it and the site are being extremely well maintained.

The single-story structure is constructed of hollow tile faced with tan brick. It has a concrete front entrance and concrete foundation. There is a composition roof. The public lobby has a tile floor and wainscotting; the workroom has a maple floor. There is a fluted ceiling molding. It is in essentially original condition, including furniture and fixtures. A lobby mural painted by Olive Rush in 1937 of a group of antelope is located in the public lobby.

The building is constructed in a style of government buildings common to the late 1930s. It is essentially a Beaux-Arts form, stripped of most ornamentation, referred to as "Starved Classicism". The windows are rectangular, recessed, and

**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

Florence MPO

Item number

7

Page

1

outlined by a stepped course of brick. The fluted concrete facing surrounding the front door and two adjacent windows is of note. There is also a cast rectangular panel with a zigzag modern design over the front door. The lamps flanking the front entrance are original.

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 1936

BUILDER/ARCHITECT OSA/Louis A. Simon, Sup.
Architect

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Although the Florence Main Post Office is not yet 50 years old, it has exceptional local significance as a particularly well-crafted example of Art Deco-flavored Starved Classicism, used in the context of a small-town single purpose post office. This example of starved classicism design is the only use of this motif in the community. It is also significant on the state level, as being a finely executed example of its stylistic group. Finally the building is also exceptionally significant on the local level as a symbolic legacy of the federal government's role in aiding local communities during the Depression era. The Florence Post Office is the community's role legacy of the a great federal building programs of the Depression, as well as perhaps the only major building constructed in the city during the 1930's.

ARCHITECTURE

The Florence Post Office is Classical in its scale and proportion, but has been stripped of the historical architectural detailing and even the vestigial detailing typical of the Starved Classical buildings in the Neo-Classical mode. The design represents the ultimate reduction of the Classical and wears the refined trappings of a modern building. The single-storied, five-bayed front facade is flat and uncluttered by ornamentation. The simplicity of the design directs focus to the broad fluted cast panels which delineates the central entry and flanking window bays and seemingly projects them from the buff-colored brick of the end wings. The vertically emphasized panels which rise from the water table to the coping course, impart an understated monumental quality to the design. Influence of Art Deco is evidence by the zig zag design which ornaments the door head of the central entry bay.

The building is the only example of the Starved Classicism and Art Deco in the City of Florence, as well as the only major building constructed in the city during the 1930s. Its design is unique and distinctive when compared to the body of private and public architecture in the city. The commercial district along Main Street (one-half block south of post office) was developed between 1885 and 1920 and essentially stopped

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Florence Daily Citizen various articles November 1934 - August 1937

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY + 0.48 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,3	4,8,9,7,3,0	4,2,4,8,9,8,0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Lots 30, 31, and 32 of block 1; original Florence Townsite

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Paul R. Secord, Vice President/H. James Kolva

ORGANIZATION

Beland/Associates, Inc./Institute for Urban & Local Studies August 1984/August 1985

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

16 S. Oakland Ave. Suite #204/W. 705 1st Ave

TELEPHONE

(818) 796-8093/ (509) 458-6219

CITY OR TOWN

Pasadena/ Spokane

STATE

CA 91101/WA 99204

12 CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

YES

NO

NONE

Barbara Sudler

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

James T. Coo

TITLE

Director, Office of Real Estate

DATE

December 17, 1985

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

See Continuation sheet for listing DATE 1/22/86

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet

Florence MPO

Item number

8

Page

1

growing after the loss of ore reduction mills in 1910, a major portion of its economic base. These buildings are primarily two-storied brick with brick-work typical of the era, particularly in the use of cobbling. The Public Library, located north and across the street from the post office, is a single story plain Neo-Classical building of buff-colored brick (circa 1910). Other public buildings include the High School (1921 Neo-Classical) and the City Hall (1970s).

POLITICS/GOVERNMENT ECONOMICS

Construction of the Florence Post Office was a major event in the city during the Depression era. The effort to convince Congressional representatives to obtain appropriations, acquisition of a site, and construction of the building were reported in the Florence Daily Citizen between 1935 and 1937. Announcement of the appropriation for the building in the governments \$60,000,000 emergency building program came on August 14, 1935. With unusual rapidity the federal representatives moved forward with site selection which was reported during August and September of 1935. An article of November 21, 1935 hinted that local building materials would be used if they met federal specifications. During the spring of 1936, the selection of a contractor was the next step toward construction. Finally, on May 19th, it was announced that Newstrom & Davies of Denver won the contract with a bid of \$52,700. Articles of July 27, August 1st and August 11th discussed the upcoming groundbreaking and noted that a large number of people had been standing around the site and inquiring about jobs. It was anticipated that the project would employ about 25 men, with the use of local workers to the degree possible.

Headlines announcing the "New Post Office Will Be Dedicated Saturday Afternoon" greeted the readers of the December 3, 1936 issue of the Daily Citizen. The article provided details of the upcoming cornerstone ceremony for the \$52,000 building. Representative John A Martin of Pueblo, who was credited with obtaining the building for the city, would provide the main address. The American Legion, High School Band and Chamber of Commerce would all participate. Stores would be closed from

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National Park Service**

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

For NPS use only
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date entered

Continuation sheet

Florence MPO

Item number

8

Page

2

2:00 to 3:00 in the afternoon so that all could attend. The ceremony was reported on December 5th and December 7th. A crowd of over 200 people braved the near-freezing weather to attend the important events of the day. Coverage continued with regular progress reports provided by the Daily Citizen in April, May and June. An article of August 16, which included a photograph of the nearly completed post office announced that the building would be occupied in the next week with an open house on August 20th. A delay in the arrival of the furniture had caused previous moving dates to be postponed, but now the new building would begin serving the community. The open house, which was attended by a large crowd was reported in the August 23, 1937 edition of the Daily Citizen.

The post office was the city's first federally constructed postal facility and the only manifestation of the federal presence within the community. Further, the construction of the post office was a major local event--one in which the helping hand and concern of the federal government was symbolized in the form of a public building.

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CONTINUATION SHEET Florence MPO ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 1

Source: Sanborn Map, Florence, Colorado, Sept. 1926, page 2.

