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APR 11 1989

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

NATIONAL
REGISTER

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 Old Perry Post Office
other names/site number Perry Post Office

2. Location

street & number 201 East Green Street N/A not for publication
city, town Perry N/A vicinity
state Florida code FL county Taylor code 123 zip code 32347

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 checked="" 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 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> </u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing:
N/A

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.

George W. Perry 3/24/89
Signature of certifying official Date
Florida State Historic Preservation Officer
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official Date

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:)

Alvin Byrne 5/11/89
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Government: Post Office

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Work in progress

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Other: PWA Mediterranean Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete

walls Stucco

roof Ceramic Tile

other Iron

Cast Stone

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

(PLEASE SEE CONTINUATION SHEETS)

6. 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)

Social History
Architecture

Period of Significance

1935-1939

Significant Dates

1935

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

U.S. Treasury/ Blair, Algernon Construction Co.

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

(PLEASE SEE CONTINUATION SHEETS)

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- 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 # _____

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property Less than 1 acre

UTM References

A

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3	3	3	4	3	5	0
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Zone Easting Northing

C

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B

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Zone Easting Northing

D

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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

Commencing at the Northwest corner of Block 52 Massey Brothers addition to the town of Perry. Then run East 80 feet. Thence run South 140 feet. Thence run West 80 feet. Thence run North 140 feet to the point of beginning, and being in the East 1/2 of the Southeast 1/4 of the Southwest 1/4 of Section 24, Township 4 South, Range 7 East, Taylor County, Florida.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

This is the legal description of the property as described in the Quitclaim Deed #3894-000 on file in Taylor County Property Appraiser's Office, and includes the property that has historically been associated with the post office.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Gwen Faulkner/ Barbara E. Mattick, Historic Sites Specialist

organization Bureau of Historic Preservation date March 1989

street & number R.A. Gray Bldg., 500 S. Bronough Street telephone (904) 487-2333

city or town Tallahassee state Florida zip code 32399-0250

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 1Summary:

The Old Perry Post Office is a 1935, one story with mezzanine, masonry vernacular building with a simple, irregular plan, displaying modest features of Mediterranean Revival architecture. Its pile foundation and steel skeleton frame supports 12-inch terra cotta block walls covered with stucco. The roof over the main part of the building is flat and parapeted. A low pitched, hipped roof covered with variegated Spanish clay tile covers the projecting block of the building at the northeast corner. A chimney at the southeast corner is capped with a hipped, clay tile roof also. Fenestration is generally single hung sash in various configurations: 8/8, 8/12, 6/6, and 8/8/8, usually in groups of three.

Setting:

The post office building is sited on a 0.26 acre plot at the corner of East Green Street and North Washington Street, on the courthouse square. Commercial establishments are located west and south of the lot. There is little landscaping. The setting remains much as it was when the post office was built.

Exterior:

The exterior of the building has very simple Mediterranean Revival features, primarily on the north and west elevations, the most visible sides. A water table and precast concrete coping on the parapet surround the building.

The north elevation (main facade) faces East Green Street. There are five bays: three central 8/12 single hung sash windows set in recessed round arches separated by pilasters, a similar window on the east end (the north end of the mezzanine portion of the building, Photo 6), and the main entrance at the west end (Photo 1).

The entrance is crowned with a fanlight having the same proportions as the window arches. It is distinguished with wrought iron tracery over the fanlight, two wrought iron lamps on either side, a label molding, and the suggestion of scuppers centered over the entrance. The simple parapet

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surrounding the flat roof rises to a stepped segmental arch over the entrance. The double aluminum and glass door is sheltered by an aluminum awning mounted under the fanlight. The entrance is approached by concrete steps which also lead to a handicapped access ramp on the west elevation. It has a simple pipe railing (Photo 5). A precast concrete grille at the mezzanine level of the facade breaks the plain wall surface, balancing the detail found at the entrance end.

The west elevation, fronting North Washington Street, has four 8/8 single hung sash windows, three of which are recessed into round arches, just as those on the north side. Moving south, there are two 8/8/8 windows and a plain single door entrance with the original wrought iron stair railings. The handicapped access ramp on the west side wraps around to the north elevation (Photo 2).

The south elevation has two distinct parts. The first is a recessed mailing platform and vestibule entrance covered by a marquee. The mezzanine above the platform has three 6/6 windows. The second area includes a chimney at the southeast corner of the building, and the basement entrance (Photos 3 & 4).

The east elevation has twelve windows of various configurations and a light well to the basement surrounded by a three-foot iron railing. The mezzanine runs 37.5 feet along this side, beginning at the northeast corner of the building, and has a Spanish tiled hipped roof. The chimney at the southeast corner also has a hipped tile roof, suggesting a Spanish bell tower (Photos 1 & 4).

Interior:

The interior of the post office has both public and private areas. The public area consists of the public lobby, accessed through the main entrance at the northwest corner of the building. Post office boxes are located in the corridor immediately south of the entrance (Photo 9), and service windows are located in the lobby area at the north end of the first floor. A door at the east end of the lobby leads into the Postmaster's Office (Photo 7); another door in the southwest corner of the lobby leads to the work room.

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The work room is the largest space on the first floor (Photos 11 & 12). To the south of the work area is the mailing vestibule which is connected to the mailing platform at the rear of the building. The Post Office Inspector's private office is in the southwest corner of the building and has an outside entrance on the west side of the building.

The second level is a mezzanine accessed by two stairways, one on the east wall of the work area and another next to the mailing vestibule south of the work area (Photos 10 & 8). There are two rooms in the northeast corner, over the Postmaster's Office, the attached private rest room and the vault. The space over the work area is open except for a lookout gallery, a narrow passageway which runs from the northeast corner to two storage rooms at the rear of the building (Photo 12). The passageway provided a means to oversee post office operations unobtrusively. The areas over the public lobby are open space.

The basement includes a large unexcavated area (Photo 13), a boiler room, and a fuel room. Those rooms are accessed via an exterior entry at the southeast corner of the building.

One of the most distinctive features of the interior is red and brown quarry tile in the public lobby area. It is used on the floor and as wainscoting (Photos 7 & 9). Floors and wainscoting in the rest of the interior are the original wooden, tongue and groove 5/4 inch maple, edge-grained pine, or oak. Many original plumbing and hardware fixtures remain, and the Postal Inspector's lookout gallery remains intact.

Alterations:

The Old Perry Post Office has not suffered significant alteration. Entrances have been changed slightly: six-light, six-panel oak doors with brass hardware, formerly located at the front entrance, have been replaced by glass and aluminum doors with panic-bar handles (1980); an aluminum awning has been added over the front entrance; and a room air conditioner has been added over the entrance to the Postal Inspector's Office. The original wrought iron railings at the front entrance have been replaced with less

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delicate pipe railings which match the railings of the handicapped access ramp on the west elevation.

The flag pole which was mounted on the flat roof in the northwest corner of the building was removed to ground level in front of the building, and the scuttle access and wrought iron ladder inside the postal work room were removed (date unknown). The basement area with concrete flooring for the boiler and fuel rooms is unchanged except for the removal of the coal storage bin access (date unknown), and the removal of asbestos in 1988.

Also removed and enclosed was a skylight area over the northern work room where a ceiling was installed (date unknown). Interior lighting fixtures were replaced with fluorescent lighting in 1955. In 1980, mesh metal screens were added to all windows to help with temperature and lighting control inside the building.

A major focal point of the old post office was a panel, "Cypress Logging," which depicted lumbering, Taylor County's major industry. It was hung in the public lobby on the wall over the entrance to the Postmaster's Office in 1938. It was removed to the new post office at 600 South Jefferson Street when that building was completed in 1987.

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Summary:

The Old Perry Post Office is significant under Criterion A as the only federal building erected in Taylor County by the Public Works Administration during the Depression. It is significant under Criterion C as a good example of how the U.S. Treasury Department implemented its policies concerning architectural style for its buildings and promoted public art through its mural program. It is also significant as one of the few buildings in Taylor County which reflects the Mediterranean Revival style of architecture.

CONTEXT: CRITERION A

Perry, Taylor County:

Taylor County was created from Madison County on December 23, 1856. A post office was established as Rosehead on February 23, 1869, and the name was changed to Perry on May 28, 1875. In its early days, Taylor County's economy was based on agriculture and stock raising. The coming of the railroads in the early 1900's provided the transportation which enabled the county to take advantage of its heavily timbered lands. It developed a strong economy based on the lumber and naval stores industries.

By 1930 Florida ranked number nine in the nation for the production of lumber, and was the number one producer of cypress. The forests sustained Taylor County during the Depression of the 1930s, though financial stress was evident as many mills closed due to the financial conditions. In addition, a major railroad servicer, the Seaboard Coastline, went into receivership in 1931; the Florida National Bank of Perry failed in 1931; and almost one third of the population filed for emergency relief.

Public Works Administration:

In 1933, a national public building program came under the planning authority of the New Deal's Public Works Administration. Over \$700 million was spent on some 1300 new buildings which stood as the architectural manifestation of the federal presence in "1,085 communities that had not previously owned a federal building."

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Florida shared in the federal work relief programs of the New Deal era, which left a typical legacy of public buildings and structures. According to historian Charlton Tebeau,

By June 1938 the WPA had completed 137 projects that included forty-two schools, twenty-seven water works, and six sewer systems. In 1940 relief employment was being provided for 1,185 persons per month. In another count through June 1940 the WPA had constructed 6,206 miles of highways and streets, built 245 new schools and improved 278 others, put up 601 public buildings and improved another 208, had constructed 1,237 bridges and viaducts, 6,272 culverts, 146 parks, 191 playgrounds and athletic fields, and 24,533 sanitary privies.

Historic Significance:

By 1935, Perry had outgrown its old post office building. As part of the federal Public Works Administration's building program, Perry was chosen as the site of a new post office building. Plans for the building were supplied by the U.S. Treasury Department with Louis A. Simon as the Supervising Architect. Bids were advertised in February 1935. The Algernon Blair Company of Montgomery, Alabama, a major government contractor in the South at the time, was awarded the contract. Local labor, however, was employed through the Federal Employment Service.

Work began in April 1935 and because of good weather was completed by August, four months ahead of schedule. The building opened August 19th. The people of Perry were very pleased with their new building, although they were not enthusiastic about its exterior appearance. There had been misgivings about the architectural style as early as May, when the local newspaper reported: "The new structure, which is of Spanish architecture, is beginning to take form, but it will require the placing of the tile roof before one gets the effect of the building. Spanish architecture does not run to high buildings, but presents that sweeping effect which is pleasing to the eye." When the building opened, the August 22, 1935 edition reported, "The interior finishing and furnishing of the new building is up-to-date

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and as fine as one could wish. Many are somewhat disappointed in the exterior appearance of the building . . . [for] the color, tone and general architecture of the exterior is not in keeping with the magnificent interior and decorations."

Taylor County benefitted from several federal programs during the Depression: it received \$80,582 from the Civil Works Administration and the Federal Emergency Relief Administration in 1933 and 1934, Civilian Conservation Corps Camp P-75 was operated in the county from 1935 to 1939, and two National Recovery Projects on Highway 19 were completed in Taylor County in 1935 and 1938. Despite the negative reaction to its architectural style, and the relatively short period of construction, the Old Perry Post Office was significant to the county as its only building constructed with federal funds, and remains as the most tangible evidence of the federal relief programs carried out in Taylor County during the Depression.

CONTEXT: CRITERION C

Architecture:

In the early 1900s federal architecture tended to be classical, though in the 1930s it was greatly streamlined under the influence of the rising Moderne Movement. The result was what has been called "starved classicism", a style associated with federal buildings of the 1930s. Not all federal buildings, however, were classical in flavor. There was also an effort to design buildings in styles appropriate to their regions. Federal architects would use, for example "Colonial" along the Atlantic Seaboard, "French Provincial" in the Gulf States, and "Spanish" in the Southwest or Florida.

The Mediterranean Revival Style generally refers to a style derived from a combination of architectural elements borrowed from countries and cultures surrounding the Mediterranean Sea, particularly Spain and Italy. This practice became popular in the late 1910s as part of the increased national interest in historical styles and architecture. Interest in such styles was especially fostered by the Panama-California Exposition in San Diego in 1915. The style, so suitable for Florida's Mediterranean-

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like climate and Spanish history, became extremely popular in Florida and is closely associated with Florida during the Land Boom of the 1920s. Thus, it was chosen as a style appropriate for federal buildings in Florida.

General design characteristics of Mediterranean Revival architecture include features taken from the Mission, Spanish Colonial Revival, and Italian Renaissance styles: Moorish columns; low pitched, clay tile, gabled, hipped, or flat parapeted roofs; stucco exteriors with terra cotta decorative features; and multi-level plans. Loggias and arcades are common features with plans in a U or L-shape, enclosing a courtyard. The walls may be decorated with cartouches, tile, and terra cotta insets. Highly decorated door and window surrounds are common.

Through the Public Works of Art Project (PWAP) the Treasury Department supported art by selecting both artists and subjects "to embellish the Department's extensive public building programs." The Federal Art Project sought to depict in its governmental buildings a "barometer by which everyday tastes of rural America might be judged." The guiding principal of the PWAP was that the vision of America embodied in the art should be an accurate representation of the local history or current occupations of the town where it was located.

Architectural Significance:

The simple style of the Old Perry Post Office reflects the 1930s trend toward the unadorned Moderne style. The post office also demonstrated the U.S. Treasury Department's policy of using architectural styles suitable for a building's location. When the department's architects chose to design the Perry Post Office with elements of Mediterranean Revival architecture, they did indeed choose a style closely associated with Florida. The Mediterranean Revival Style, however, was never as popular in North Florida as it was in South Florida where the Land Boom was most strongly experienced. Only four other examples of Mediterranean Revival architecture have been found in Taylor County: one private residence, the First Methodist Church (1917), the Old Dixie-Taylor Hotel (1926), and the Hampton Springs Hotel (1912, burned down 1954). The post office,

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therefore, is a fairly unusual example of the use of this style in rural North Florida.

The Treasury applied its policy of supporting the arts by commissioning the production of a "mural" for the Perry Post Office. In February 1938, a panel commissioned by the Public Works of Art Project was installed. George Snow Hill (1898-1969), an internationally recognized artist and resident of Florida, produced the panel entitled "Cypress Logging" which depicted the lumber industry so important to Perry and Taylor County (Photo 14). Unfortunately, the original panel was removed to the new Perry Post Office Building in 1987. A photographic reproduction of the panel will hang in the rehabilitated Old Perry Post Office.

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Continuation SheetSection number 9 Page 1

- Blumenson, John J.G. Identifying American Architecture: A Pictorial Guide to Styles and Terms 1600-1945. Nashville, TN: American Association for State and Local History, 1977.
- Cash, William Thomas. The Story of Florida, Volume II. N.Y.: The American Historical Society, 1938.
- "Construction Contract - Repairs and Painting - Main Post Office, Perry, Florida," October 25, 1979.
- Craig, Lois. The Federal Presence: Architecture, Politics, and Symbols in U.S. Government Buildings. Cambridge, MA: The MIT Press, 1977.
- Marling, Karal Ann. Wall to Wall America: A Cultural History of Post Office Murals in the Great Depression. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1982.
- "Paving, U.S. Post Office, Perry, Florida." General Services Administration, Public Building Service, Project No. 18071, August 4, 1971.
- Simon, Louis A., Supervising Architect. "U.S. Post Office, Perry, Florida." Original Construction Plans, December 21, 1934.
- Taylor County News. January 3, 1935; April 4, 1935; August 1, 1935; August 25, 1935; and February 24, 1938.
- Tebeau, Charlton W. A History of Florida. Coral Gables, FL: University of Miami Press, 1971.
- Unemployment Relief in Florida, July 1932-March 1934. Jacksonville: Florida Emergency Relief Administration, 1935.
- U.S. Post Office Mural Description. n.p.: n.p., n.d. (Untitled document housed in the Taylor County Public Library).

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Photographs

Section number _____ Page 1

- 1 1) Old Perry Post Office, 201 E. Green Street
- 2) Perry, Taylor County, Florida
- 3) Gwen Faulkner
- 4) November 1, 1987
- 5) Photographer's files
- 6) North elevation, camera facing south
- 7) Photo 1 of 14

Items 1-5 are the same for Photographs 2-13.

- 2 6) West elevation, camera facing east
- 7) Photo 2 of 14
- 3 6) Southwest elevation, camera facing northeast
- 7) Photo 3 of 14
- 4 6) South elevation, camera facing north
- 7) Photo 4 of 14
- 5 6) Public entrance at west end of north elevation
- 7) Photo 5 of 14
- 6 6) Window at east end of north elevation, camera facing south
- 7) Photo 6 of 14
- 7 6) Entrance to Postmaster's Office from the Public Lobby, showing quarry tile and oak woodwork, camera facing east
- 7) Photo 7 of 14
- 8 6) Oak stairway to second floor, entrance on south wall of Work Room, camera facing south
- 7) Photo 8 of 14
- 9 6) Public Lobby, post office box area, camera facing south
- 7) Photo 9 of 14
- 10 6) Northeast corner of Work Room, showing stairway to Mezzanine, camera facing northeast
- 7) Photo 10 of 14

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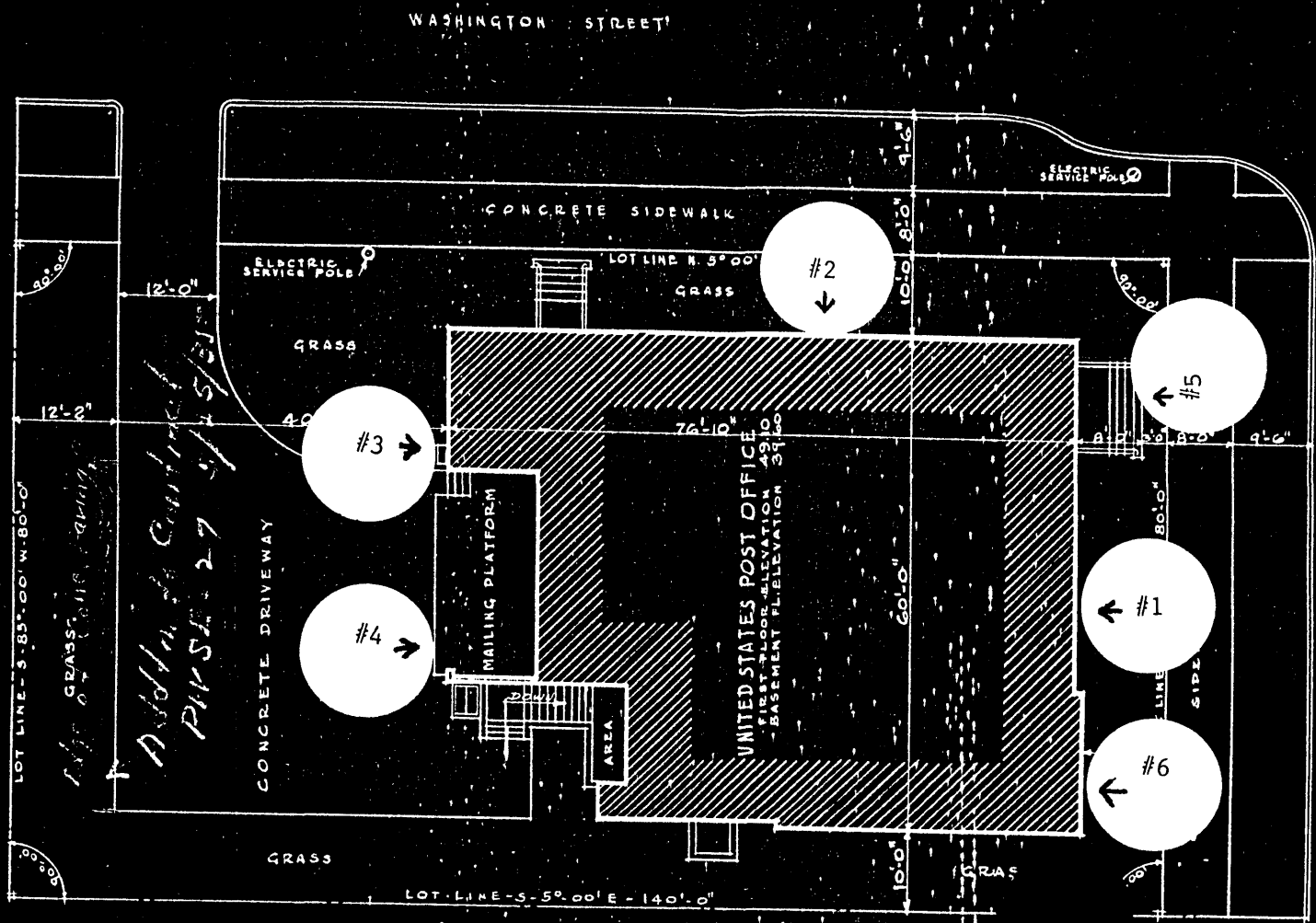
Section number _____ Photographs _____ Page 2

- 11 6) West and north walls of Work Room, camera facing northwest
 7) Photo 11 of 14

- 12 6) Work Room, showing east wall and Postal Inspector's Lookout Gallery, camera facing southeast
 7) Photo 12 of 14

- 13 6) Unexcavated basement, camera facing north
 7) Photo 13 of 14

- 14 1) "Cypress Logging" by George Snow Hill, hung in U.S. Post Office, 600 S. Jefferson Street
 2) Perry, Taylor County, Florida
 3) Gwen Faulkner
 4) December 10, 1988
 5) Photographer's files
 6) N/A
 7) Photo 14 of 14



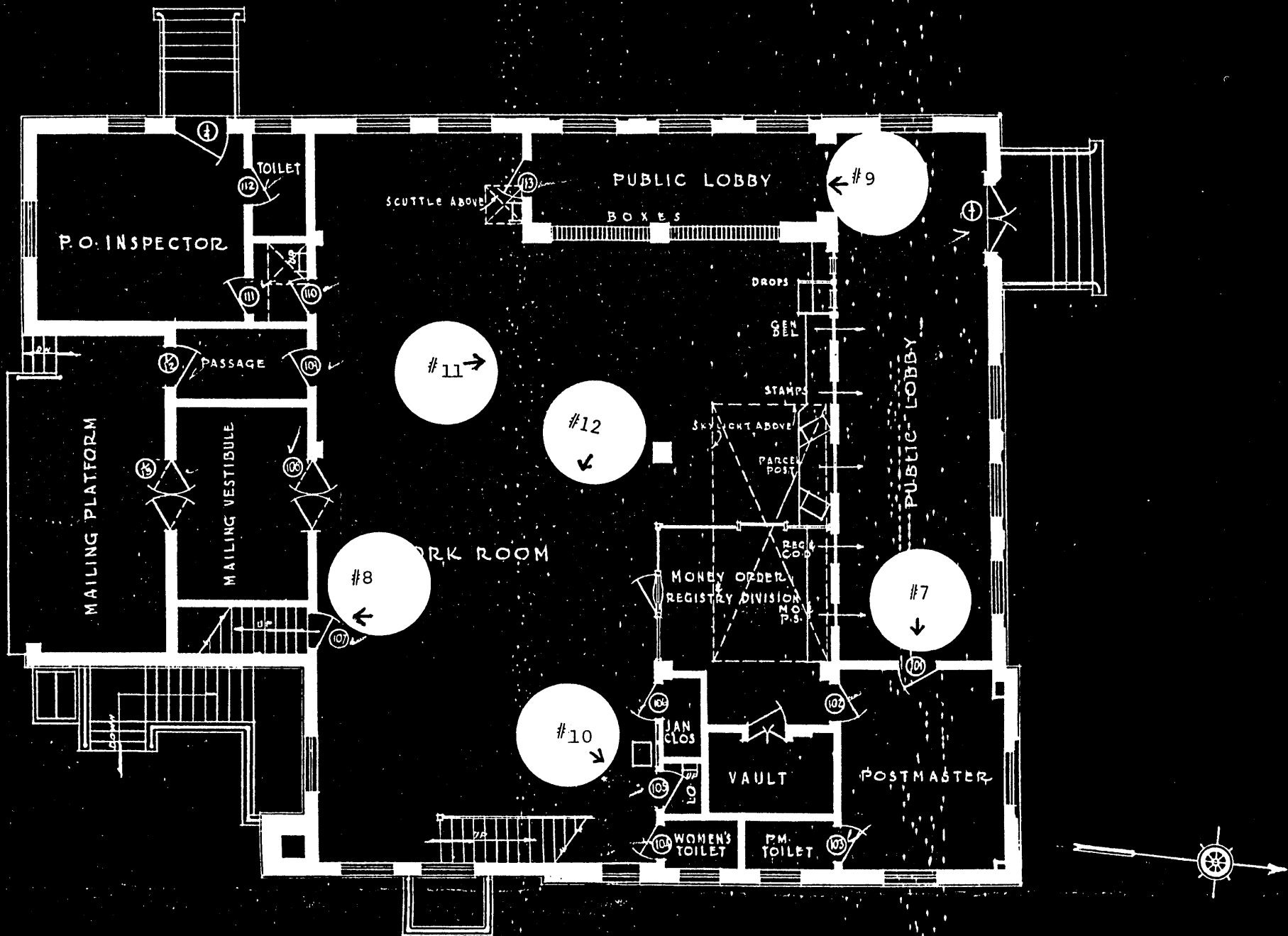
*Address in Control
Perry St. 27 1/2 S.W.*

APPROACH PLAN

Scale: 1/12" = approx. 1'
N →



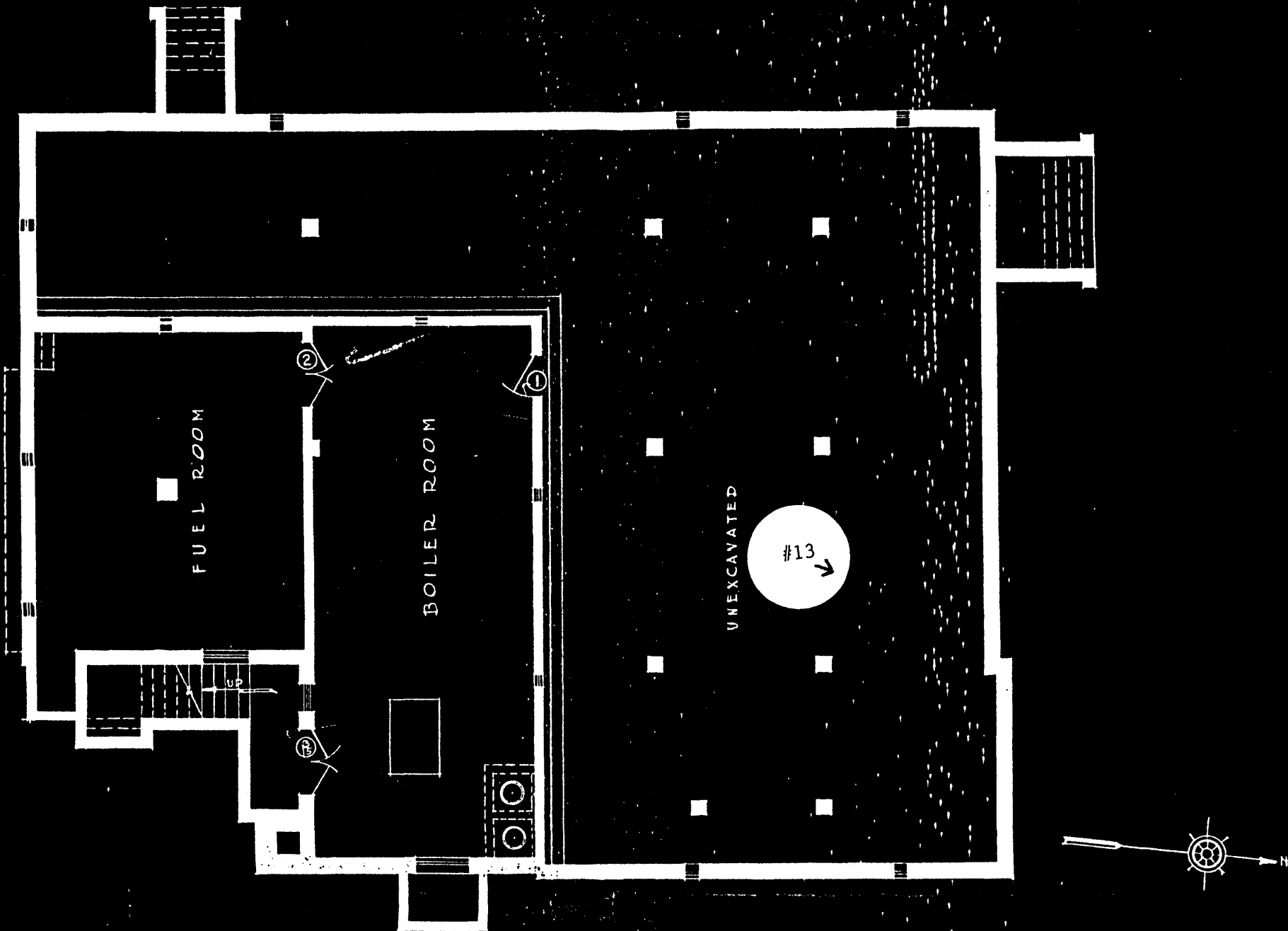
ASSIGNMENT		
UNITED STATES POST OFFICE PERRY FLORIDA		
DATE 7-17-35 DRAWN BY M.C.C.	REVISIONS	DRAWING NUMBER A



FIRST FLOOR PLAN.

Scale: 1/6" = approx. 1'

ASSIGNMENT

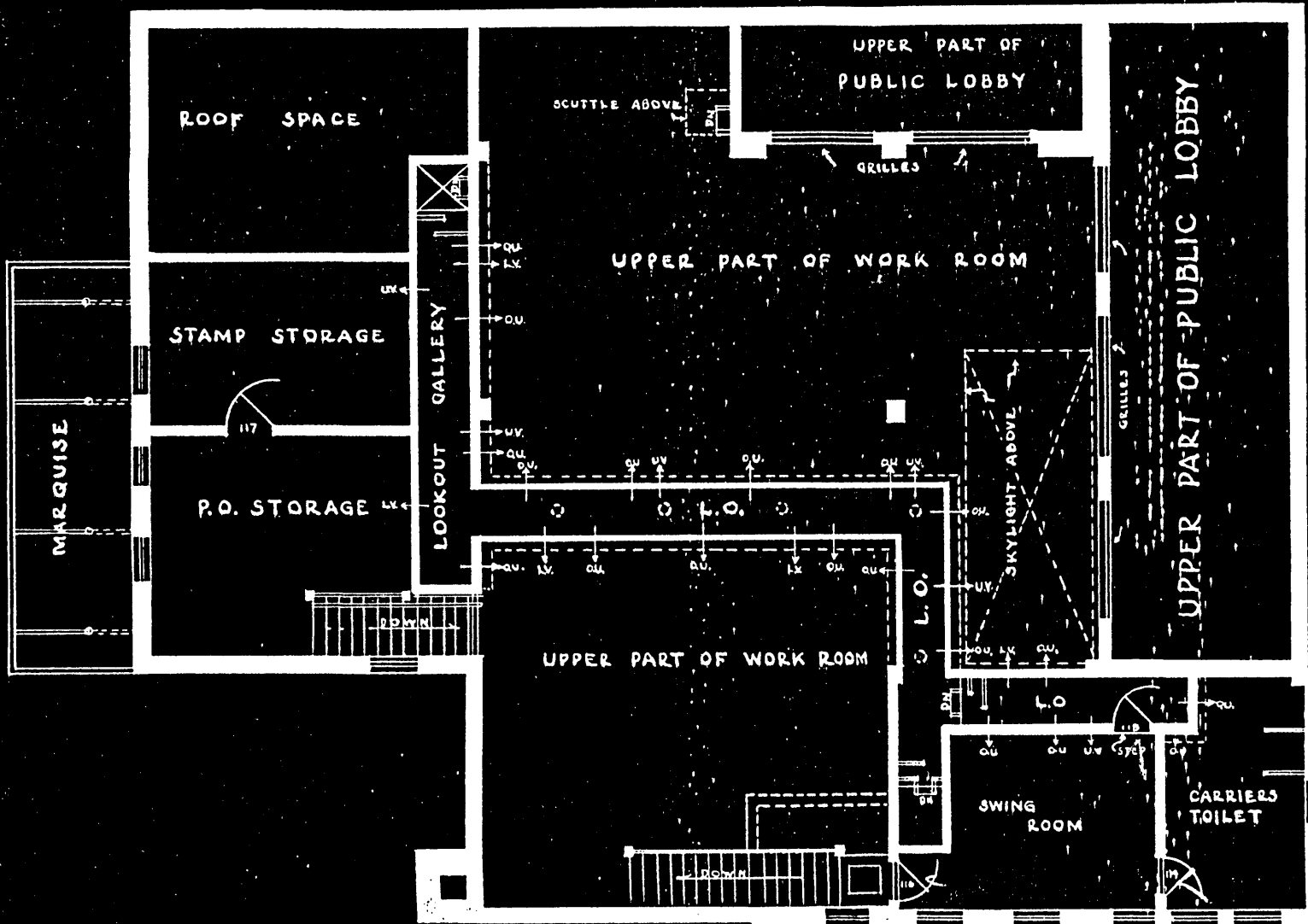


BASEMENT PLAN

Scale: 1/6" = approx. 1'

ASSIGNMENT

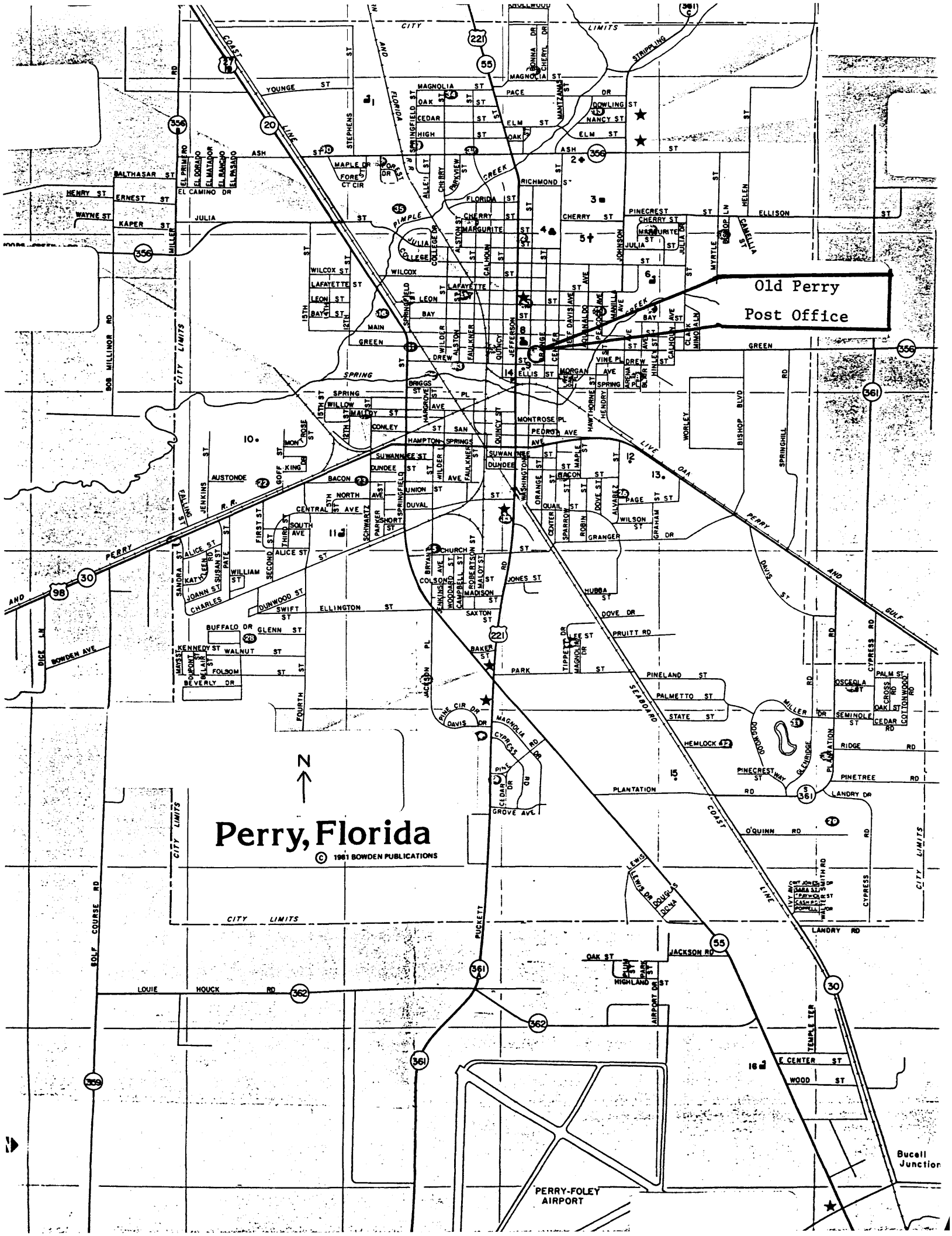
UNITED STATES POST OFFICE
PERRY, FLORIDA



MEZZANINE FLOOR PLAN

Scale: 1/6" = approx. 1'

ASSIGNMENT
 UNITED STATES POST OFFICE
 DEERBURY, FLORIDA



Old Perry
Post Office

Perry, Florida

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PERRY-FOLEY
AIRPORT

Bucell
Junction

CITY LIMITS

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