

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Old Athens, Alabama Main Post Office

and/or common Washington Street Courthouse Annex

2. Location

street & number 310 W. Washington Street ~~Street~~ _____ not for publication

city, town Athens _____ vicinity of _____ congressional district 5th

state Alabama code 01 county Limestone code 083

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"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Limestone County Commission

street & number 310 West Washington Street

city, town Athens _____ vicinity of _____ state Alabama

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Limestone County Courthouse

street & number 300 S. Jefferson Street

city, town Athens _____ state Alabama

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Alabama Inventory has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1970-present _____ federal state _____ county _____ local

depository for survey records Alabama Historical Commission

city, town Montgomery _____ state Alabama

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

EXTERIOR

The Old U. S. Post Office in Athens is a one-story, common-bond brick, Classical-Revival structure with a truncated clay tile hip roof and full reinforced concrete basement. The front (south) facade features a slightly recessed portico with eight fluted limestone Doric columns framing seven bays, including three pairs of entrance doors in the center three bays. The windows in the recessed bays are 12-over-12. Two six-over-six windows flank the recessed portico. The portico sits on a raised platform, reached by a monumental flight of granite steps. Two free-standing cast iron lamps flank the portico. Above the columns is a wide marble entablature with mouldings, dentils and cornice topped by a brick parapet. The building has five recessed bays along the sides containing 12-over-12 sash with molded marble slip sills, and molded marble hoods and pilaster capitals. The base of the building is marble ashlar facing. The entrance doors are metal half-lights, each framed by thin pilasters and topped by a wide entablature, on which rests a delicate carved "parapet." Above this are eight/eight fixed-sash windows.

INTERIOR

Most significant features are in the lobby and include cream-veined marble floors from Tennessee, with border, bonding and base in Vermont Verde marble. Wainscotting, pilasters and door trim are of cream-veined marble. Central door at end of lobby has built-up trim with a wide entablature with carved volutes, dentils and a crown molding, all in cream-veined marble. Doors are half-light. There are two bronze tables with bronze pen trays, as well as bronze radiator covers with a fleur de lis motif.

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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1931-32 **Builder/Architect** Britt Alderman, Architect; W. B. Smith, Contractor

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

ARCHITECTURE/COMMUNICATIONS:

The Athens Post Office, with its well-articulated limestone colonnade, is a good example of 20th century Neo-Classical Revival, and makes good use of quality materials -- limestone, marble and granite -- in a well-proportioned and restrained design. The structure occupies a prominent site near the county courthouse and reflects the importance, respect and craftsmanship still accorded post office buildings in moderate size towns during the first years of the Depression. The Post Office served as the town's primary means of personal and business communications until the post-World War II years when telephones came into widespread use in Athens.

The building was designed by Britt Alderman of Atlanta, Georgia and constructed by W. B. Smith of El Dorado, Arkansas. Work was begun September 15, 1932 and completed November 15, 1933 at a cost of \$58,100.00.

9. Major Bibliographical References

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property less than 1

Quadrangle name Athens

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A

1	6	5	0	2	5	0	0	3	8	5	0	9	5	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C

Zone		Easting				Northing								

D

Zone		Easting				Northing								

E

Zone		Easting				Northing								

F

Zone		Easting				Northing								

G

Zone		Easting				Northing								

H

Zone		Easting				Northing								

Verbal boundary description and justification

SEE ATTACHED PLAT

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Barry Loveland & Ellen Mertins

organization Alabama Historical Commission

date November 1981

street & number 725 Monroe Street

telephone 832-6621

city or town Montgomery

state Alabama

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date 1-6-82

For HCRS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

William H. Abraham

date 2.18.82

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

Luot Drake

date

2/18/82

Chief of Registration

MADISON STREET

N 3°00' W 140.5'

N 86°50' E 69.5'

N 86°50' E 63.0'

N 86°50' E 40.7'

Brick paved
drive & parking

Window Well
40' 7' 60'

Window Well
7' 60' 40'

S 86°50' W 173.2'

S 3°00' E 140.5'

WASHINGTON STREET



Scale 1"=30'

ATHENS, ALABAMA
OLD MAIN POST OFFICE
Building & Lot
0.58 acres

R/W 7'

R/W

N 3°00' W 12.0'

S 3°00' E 12.0'