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	01d A	Athens, Ala	ibama Mai	in Post	Office				
and/or com	imon	Washingt	on Stree	et Cour	thouse Anne	x			
2. Lo	ocat	ion							
street & nu	treet & number 310 W. Washingto			on St reet			not for publication		
city, town Athens		vicinity of		congressional district		5th			
state	Alaba	ma	code	01	county	Limesto	me	code	083
3. C	lass	ificatio	on						
Category distric buildin _X_ structo site object	t ng(s) ure P	wnership X public private both ublic Acquisi in process being cons		wor Access _X yes	ccupied k in progress	Present Us agricul comme educat <u>x</u> enterta x govern industr military	ture ercial ional inment ment ial	museum park private re religious scientific transport other:	:
4. 0	wne	r of Pr	oper	ty	· · · · · · · · ·				
name	Lime	estone Coun	ity Commi	ssion					<u></u>
street & nu	Imber	310 West	Washingt	con Str	eet				
city, town		Athens			vicinity of		state	Alabama	
5. Le	ocat	ion of	Lega	l De	scriptio	on			
courthouse	e, registry	of deeds, etc.	Limes	stone Co	ounty Court	nouse			
street & nu	mber	300 S.	Jefferso	on Stre	et				
city, town		Athens					state	Alabama	
6. R	epre	senta	tion i	n Ex	isting	Survey	5		
title Ala	bama Ir	ventory			has this pro	perty been dete	ermined ele	egible? yee	s <u>X</u> no
date 197	0-prese	ent				federal	stat	e county	local
depository	for surve	y records	Alaban	na Histo	orical Comm	ission			
city, town	Mon	tgomery					state	Alabama	

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
excellent	deteriorated	<u>X</u> unaltered	<u>X</u> original site
<u> </u>	ruins	altered	moved da
fair	unexposed		

noved date

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

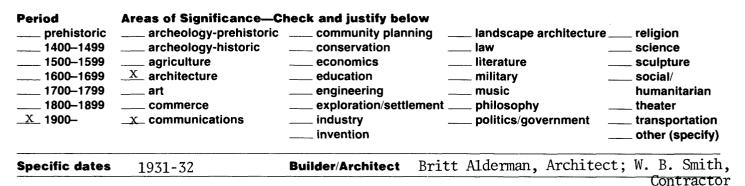
EXTERIOR

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 The portico sits on a raised platform, reached by a monumental flank the recessed portico. 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



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 Wark 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

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		B Zone D F H	Easting	Image: Northing Image: Imag
Verbal boundary description	on and justification			
List all states and countie		lapping state or o	county boundarie	25
state	code	county		code
state	code	county		code
street & number 725 Mor	nroe Street	1	telephone 832	2-6621
city or town Montgor	mery		state A1a	abama
12. State His	storic Pres	ervation	Officer (Certification
The evaluated significance of t	this property within the s	state is: local		
As the designated State Histor 665), I hereby nominate this pr according to the criteria and p	operty for inclusion in th	he National Registe he Heritage Conserv	r and certify that it	has been evaluated
		Alund	1 aks	
	ficer signature	Awerene		
State Historic Preservation Off itle State Historic P	ficer signature		date	1-6-82
State Historic Preservation Off title State Historic P For HCRS use only I hereby certify that this	Preservation Offic	er	er	2.18.82

GPO 938 835

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