

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC
U.S. Post Office

AND/OR COMMON
Redlands Main Post Office

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
201 Brookside Ave.

NA NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

CITY, TOWN
Redlands

NA VICINITY OF

35

STATE
California

CODE
06

COUNTY CODE
San Bernardino 071

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	NA PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 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:

AGENCY

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: *(If applicable)*
U.S. Postal Service, Western Regional Office

STREET & NUMBER
850 Cherry Ave.

CITY, TOWN
San Bruno

NA VICINITY OF

STATE
CA 94099

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. San Bernardino County Recorder

STREET & NUMBER
172 West 3rd

CITY, TOWN
San Bernardino

STATE
CA

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE A Guide to Architecture in Los Angeles and Southern California
(by David Gebhard and Robert Winter, published by Peregrine Smith, Inc.)

DATE 1977 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS c/o Dr. David Gebhard, Dept. of Art History, University of California

CITY, TOWN
Santa Barbara

STATE
CA

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
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		DATE <u>NA</u>

4/27/84

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Consistent with Wilson's idiosyncratic personal style, the Redlands Post Office contains an eclectic mix of architectural styles. The predominant character of the building relates to Mission Style, but elements of the Spanish Colonial Revival are used extensively well. The building does not conform to the symmetry typical of most post offices and, instead, relies on its irregular plan and massing to provide a picturesque effect.

LOCAL CONTEXT

Redlands was incorporated in 1888 and had a 1982 population of 40,250. The local economy has been dominated by Redlands University and the citrus industry since the nineteenth century, though the groves are slowly disappearing under new development. Unlike many other towns in San Bernardino County, Redlands has retained many of its early buildings.

No known archaeological or paleontological resources exist within or are adjacent to the subject property. Subsurface investigation or additional research do not appear to be justified.

BUILDING APPEARANCE

The building is in excellent structural condition and is being well maintained. An access ramp for the handicapped has been installed on the west side of the front entrance; the rest of the exterior has not been altered from its original condition.

Specific features of note include:

- Octagonal tile-covered dome, topped with a concrete lantern;
- Tile roof;
- Dormer windows which light the public lobby;
- Exterior arcade carried on heavy piers;
- Simple impost molding on piers; and
- Wrought iron grillwork filling spans of interior arches.

The lobby has a terracotta tile floor and a stained oak wainscoting. An arcade above the service windows mirrors the front elevation's arcade, and each interior arch is filled with a wrought iron screen in a complex rinceau pattern. The lobby retains its original maple floor.

Consistent with Wilson's other designs, the Redlands Post Office contains Moorish, Spanish Colonial Revival, and Mission Style elements. The predominant mode recalls the local adaptation of the Mission Style, and as such, is compatible with other nearby structures, such as the Redlands Public Library, one block to the east.

The Mission Style emphasized mass and solidity by cutting windows into the wall to reveal its thickness, and by the use of piers instead of columns to carry the arcade.

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 type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)		
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION				

SPECIFIC DATES **Began June 1932**
completed June 1935

BUILDER/ARCHITECT **G. Stanley Wilson, Architect**

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The building is locally significant as a rare extant example of a locally prominent architect's work, as well as acting as a major urban design element in Redlands. The building has some state significance, when considered in the economic context of the early 1930s.

ARCHITECTURE

The Redlands Main Post Office retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association, and possesses significance under National Register Criterion C by possessing high artistic values and is a distinctive example of a type, period, and method of construction.

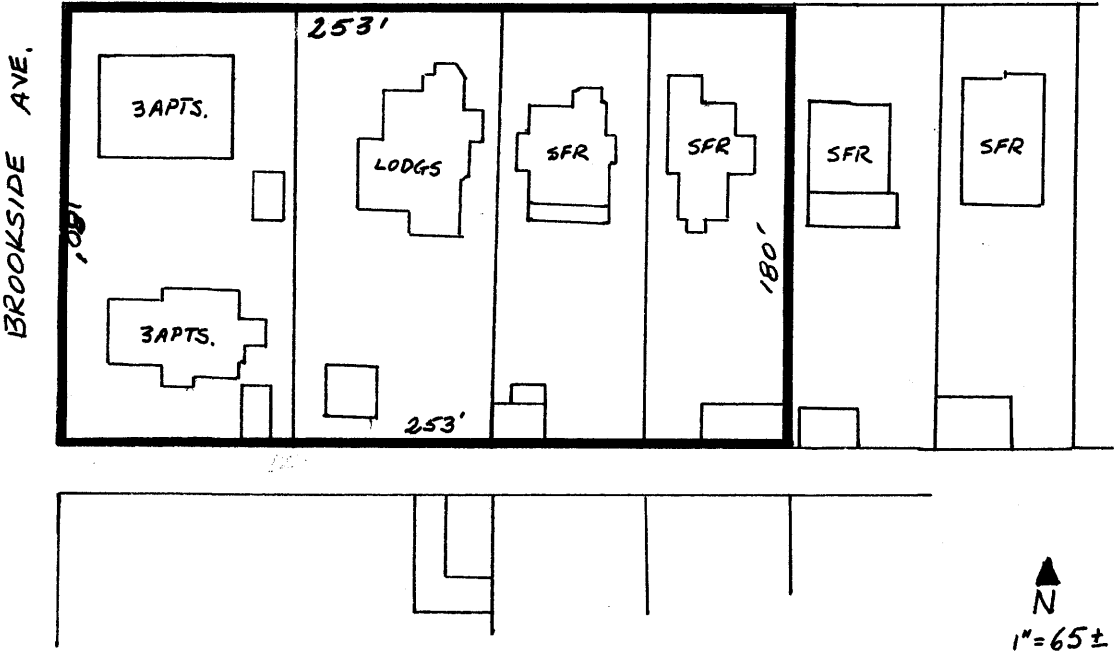
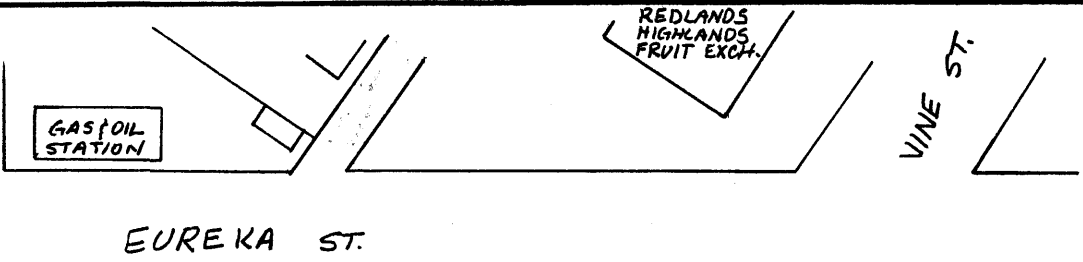
The Redlands Main Office is an exceptionally well preserved example of an early 1930s post office, and, along with the Burbank Downtown Station, demonstrates the use of Mediterranean/Mission Revival forms in federal construction. The construction technique used in Redlands Offices is characteristic of federal construction at the time, and the general configuration conforms to postal operational requirements. In contrast to most post offices from the period, The Redlands Main Office is asymmetric in plan and elevation, and relies on picturesque variety, complexity, and contradiction for its aesthetic impact. Visual richness is also achieved by mixing the Moorish dome, the Mission Style arcade and piers, and Spanish Colonial Revival wrought iron in the interior. Stylistically, this is one of the most idiosyncratic and interesting buildings included in the nomination and is significant on the state level both as an example of a type—the Mediterranean Style post office. It is locally significant as one of two buildings designed by Wilson readily and easily accessible to the public. The public lobby, though slightly modified by the addition of several new post office boxes, retains substantial integrity of design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. The use of clerestory windows to light the lobby is extremely rare, occurring in only two other buildings in the California Post Office Survey (both have suffered extensive remodeling). The elaborate wrought iron above the service windows occurs in no other post offices surveyed for this nomination, but is similar to wrought iron Wilson used in his designs for the Mission Inn in Riverside.

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CONTINUATION SHEET Redlands MPO ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE one



Note: Post office site outlined in red.

Source: Sanborn Map, Redlands Book, page 39, 1928; Geography Dept.
California State University, Northridge, California.

Structures shown were on the site prior to the construction of the Post office.