

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

NOV 27 1981

DATE ENTERED

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

Glendale Main Post Office/Federal Building

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

313 E. Broadway St.

NA NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Glendale

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

NA VICINITY OF

22

STATE

California

CODE

06

COUNTY

Los Angeles

CODE

037

2 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"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Thematic Group	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 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

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Los Angeles County Recorder

STREET & NUMBER

227 N. Broadway

CITY, TOWN

Los Angeles

STATE

CA 90017

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Glendale Cultural Resources Survey

DATE

1977

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Glendale Planning Division, City of Glendale

CITY, TOWN

Glendale

STATE

CA

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT
 GOOD
 FAIR

DETERIORATED
 RUINS
 UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE NA

4/27/84

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Like most post offices, The Glendale building conforms to a rigid, classical symmetry. A two-story central area housing the lobby and administrative offices is flanked by two low wings accomodating the workroom. The exterior is faced with terracotta blocks, cast to resemble rusticated stone. The arcuated facade resembles nothing so much as a Renaissance palazzo, and this fortress-palace image is carried around both side elevations on the orginial structure.

LOCAL CONTEXT

Glendale is an incorporated community of 137,800 persons. The town was founded as Riverdale in 1873 and renamed Glendale in 1876. Extensive speculation took place in the land boom of the 1880s, but development of the community essentially stopped when the boom collapsed in 1888. Glendale began to grow at the turn of the century with the extension of railroad tracks to central Los Angeles.

Information on the use of the site before the present structure was constructed was not available.

Representatives of the city stated there are no structures or sites of local historic significance known in the immediate vicinity of the post office. In addition, no known archaeological resources exist within or adjacent to the subject property.

Most of the structures in the immediate vicinity are one-story brick commerical structures, some possibly as much as 60 years old. The First United Methodist Church of Glendale, a large concrete building constructed in the early 1970s, is across the street to the east of the post office.

PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The building is an exceptional late example of the Second Renaissance Revival (1890-1920). There are three floors, including the basement. The walls are constructed of poured concrete and hollow tile faced with terracotta. The interior of the public lobby is faced with marble and ornamental plaster work, and the post master's office has nine-foot high walnut paneling. Exterior steps are granite and the lobby floor is marble.

Both the exterior and interior are classic representations of the Renaissance Revival style. Exterior features of note include the following:

- o ground floor of terracotta panels simulating stone;
- o Large arched windows with stepped terracotta "stone work" flush with the wall and a raised keystone;
- o Decorated boxed cornices;
- o Parapet with balustrade;

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CONTINUATION SHEET Glendale MPO ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 1

- Circular marble medallions above the side doors;
- A monumental entrance with three arches; the doors are recessed with coffered vaulting;
- Two "Roman-style" bronze wall lamps on each side of the main and side entrances;
- Three cast lion heads above the main entrance;
- Bronze brackets supporting copper gutters and a tile roof on the second story.

The second story is considerably smaller (7,000 square feet) than the ground floor (26,000 square feet). It consists of a series of small offices which open onto an interior Roman-style arcade and courtyard. The roof is tile and there are copper gutters and downspouts.

Features of note in the courtyard include:

- Decorative attic vents;
- Tuscan style columns;
- Two frieze belts, one inside and one above the arcade; and
- Terracotta facing panels glazed to simulate granite.

The richly decorated interior includes marble walls and flooring. Three types of marble were used; California Columbia white for the floor, Westfield Green for the floor border and design and wall base, and Saint Claire Fleuri for the walls. There is extensive decorative bronze grille and panel work throughout the public lobby. Also of note are the painted cornices and an impressive coffered ceiling of painted plaster panels with high relief decorations.

The site is well landscaped with a number of mature trees.

There are no known unusual or unique subterranean features associated with the property.

ALTERATIONS

The workroom and loading bay were remodeled in 1966. This remodeling did not affect the front and side elevations or the public lobby.

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 **See below.**

BUILDER/ARCHITECT **George M. Lindsay, Architect**

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Begun 1933, dedicated July 19, 1934.

This is an exceptionally late example of Italian Renaissance design and, as such, does not fit easily into art-historical categories. The architect's choice of imagery is also unusual - earlier Renaissance Revival designs were derived from religious and other public building types. The Glendale building, in its derivation from the semi-private palazzo form, injects a whole new set of associative values into post office architecture. Of course, Lindsay probably had no intention of providing such associative values, merely intending to produce a generally "Renaissance" design; the Glendale Post Office is, therefore, an important example of commercial design practice, and its inclusion of unintended referents in ostensibly simple designs.

ARCHITECTURE

This is an extremely late and idiosyncratic example of the Italian Renaissance Revival style. In plan and elevation the structure represents the Supervising Architect's classical box: a central, two-story section flanked by two recessed, one-story wings. This form was practically unique to post offices and, as such, came to be a formal signifier of the building's function. The building is thus significant as an important example of a type, and under Criterion C. The Renaissance Revival detailing places the structure in opposition to the prevailing architectural taste of the Thirties, and is important as an example of the federal government's and Glendale's design conservatism. The building is locally important as the only surviving monumental Renaissance Revival building. The structure relates more to the post offices of the Twenties and Teens than of the Thirties, and possesses extraordinarily fine materials and high levels of craftsmanship throughout the original structure. The second level interior court is unique, not only in Glendale, but California as well. The court provides a public space in a part of town lacking parks or other public spaces.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Gebhard, David; Winter, Robert, "A Guide to Architecture in Los Angeles and Southern Californis", Santa Barbara, Peregrine Smith, Inc., 1977.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1.25

UTM REFERENCES

A	1 1	3 8 4 6 4 0	3 2 7 8 1 9 2 0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The rectangular site occupies the south half of the block bounded on the east by Kenwood Street, on the south by Broadway, on the west by Louise Street, and on the north by Wilson Street. The site has an approximate 220' frontage on Kenwood and Louise Streets, and 320' frontage on Broadway.

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

STATE	NA	CODE	NA	COUNTY	NA	CODE	NA
STATE	NA	CODE	NA	COUNTY	NA	CODE	NA

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Doug Robertson, Planner

ORGANIZATION

Beland/Assoicates, Inc.

DATE

April 27, 1984

STREET & NUMBER

16 S. Oakland Ave. #204

TELEPHONE

(818) 796-8093

CITY OR TOWN

Pasadena

STATE

CA 91101

12 CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

YES___ NO___ NONE___

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

TITLE

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

ATTEST:

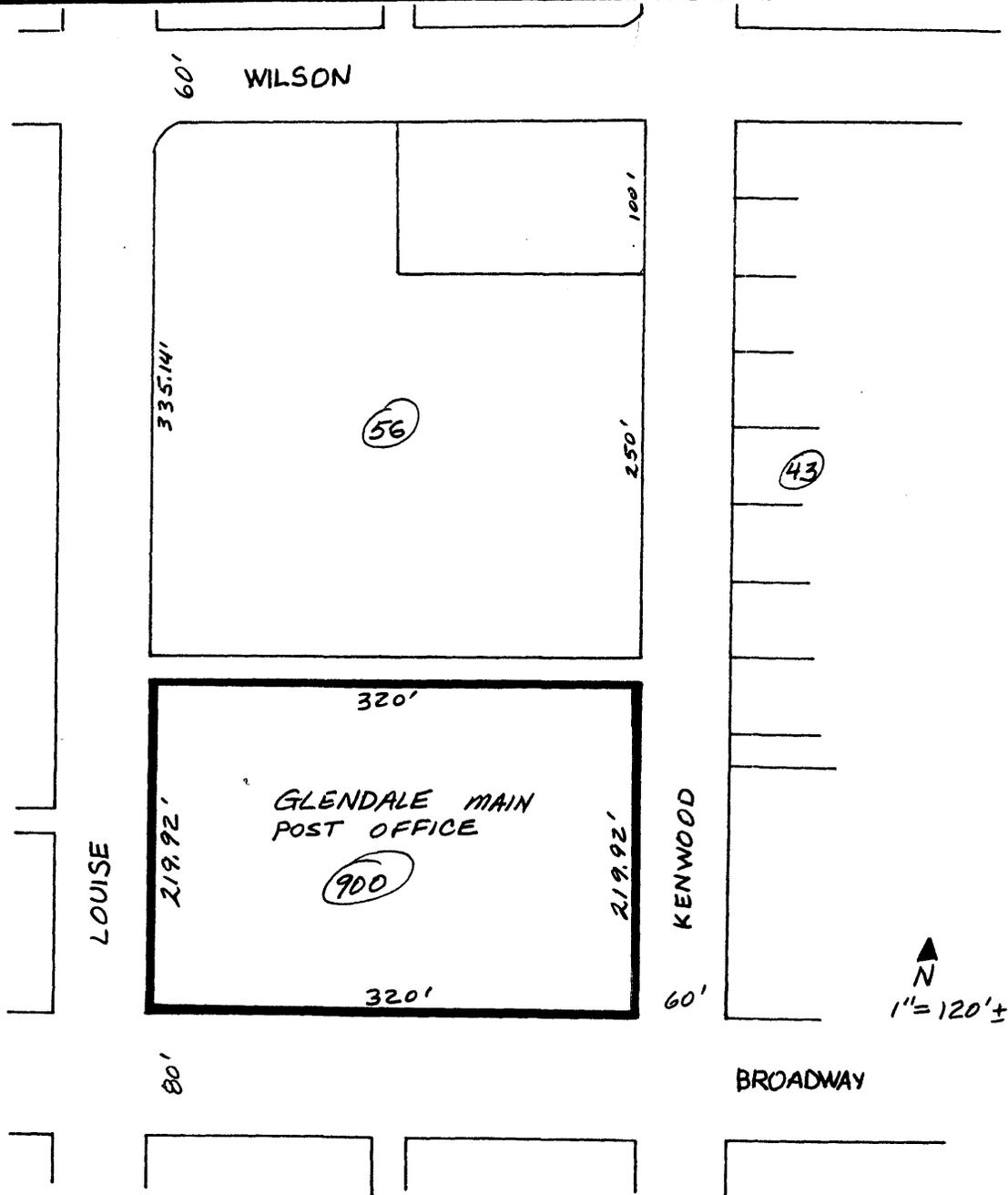
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CONTINUATION SHEET Glendale MPO ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE two



Note: Post office site outlined in red.

Source: Los Angeles County Assessor, Map Book 5642, page 6 (1984), parcel 900.