

MP-1573



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

Historic name U. S. Post Office
Other names/site number J. Will Robinson Federal Building

2. Location

Street & Number 88 West 100 North Street Not for Publication N/A
City or Town Provo Vicinity N/A
State Utah Code UT County Utah Code 049
Zip Code 84601

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

[Signature] 7/17/2017
Signature of certifying official Date
Federal Preservation Officer, U.S. General Services Administration
State or Federal Agency or Tribal government

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

[Signature] 6-27-17
Signature of commenting official/Title Date
Utah Division of State History / office of Historic Preservation
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:
 entered in the National Register [Signature] 9-5-17
See continuation sheet. Signature of Keeper Date of Action
 determined eligible for the National Register
See continuation sheet.
 determined not eligible for the National Register
 removed from the National Register
other (explain):

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- C
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or a grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)
Architecture, Art, Politics/Government

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)
N/A

Period of Significance
1937 -1966

Cultural Affiliation
N/A

Significant Dates
1937, 1938, 1961, 1966

Architect/Builder
Joseph Nelson

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)
Please see Section 8 Continuation Sheets.

9. Major Bibliographical References

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)
Please see Section 9 Continuation Sheets.

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 #

Primary Location of Additional Data

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: Brigham Young University Library, Provo Utah
Provo Library, Provo, Utah
U.S. General Services Administration Region 8, Denver, Colorado
Uinta National Forest Supervisor's Office, J. Will Robinson Federal Building, Provo, Utah

10. Geographical DataAcreage of Property 0.75

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	12	443815	4454045	3		
2				4		

 See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

The property is located at the corner of the block bounded by 100 North Street, 100 West Street, 200 North Street and North University Ave. The front façade (north elevation) faces 100 North Street and the east elevation faces 100 West Street. Address: 88 W. 100 North, Provo, Utah, Sec. 1, Township 7S, Range 2E, Lot 3, 4 Block 88 Plate A – Provo City, Parcel Number 04: 083.0023. Legal Description: COM AT SW COR OF BLK 88, PLAT A, PROVO CITY, N 166.50 FT, E 133.28 FT, S 33 FT, W 54.78 FT, S 133.50 FT, W 78.50 TO BEG.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

The boundary was selected because it is consistent with the current and historical legal boundary of the property.

11. Form Prepared By

Name/Title	Portia Lee, Architectural Historian		
Organization	ICF Jones & Stokes	Date	7/31/07, 8/18/09, rev 2014, rev 6/2016, rev 6/2017
Street & Number	800 West 7 th Street, Suite 800	Telephone	213-627-5376
City or Town	Los Angeles	State	CA Zip Code 90017

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

Photographs

Representative photographs of the property.

Additional items

Property Owner

Name			
Organization	U.S. General Services Administration, Region 8	Telephone	(303) 236-7329
Street & Number	Denver Federal Center, Building 41		
City or Town	Denver	State	CO Zip Code 80225

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.). A federal agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to range from approximately 18 hours to 36 hours depending on several factors including, but not limited to, how much documentation may already exist on the type of property being nominated and whether the property is being nominated as part of a Multiple Property Documentation Form. In most cases, it is estimated to average 36 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form to meet minimum National Register documentation requirements. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, 1849 C St., NW, Washington, DC 20240

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*U.S. Post Office
Utah County, Utah*

Description

Summary Description

Situated on the corner of 100 North Street and 100 West Street in Provo, Utah, the U. S. Post Office is a two story building with a basement, completed in 1937, and is notable in the under Criterion C in the area of Architecture. The building has a parapet roof, dentiled cornice and seven-by-ten-foot rectangular bays. Cladding is limestone block on a granite and brick base. Constructed in the Public Works Administration's Moderne style by architect Joseph Nelson, the building opened as the United States Post Office on May 2, 1938 with the U.S. Post Office as its principal tenant. The building's principal elevation is an abstracted classical structure with its entry and ground story fenestration set in a composition of piers.

After achieving statehood in the early Twentieth Century, Utah became of State of continuing growth. The then Provo post office building is notable as it was the second building to be approved for federal construction in Provo. To meet the demand of the growing communities in the State, many post offices were expanded and others were sold without alternations, many due to property size restrictions, and replaced by new facilities. Such was the case of this federal property in Provo and new construction of this building.

In 1961 the Post Office relocated leading to the conversion of the building to federal office space--to include a twenty-five foot (4 bay) extension added to the rear of the building, designed in sympathy to the original structure. With the relocation of the U.S. Post Office, the building's lobby was substantially renovated in 1966, including wall and floor materials' replacement. Some original interior doors and windows in offices and the corridor lighting, as well as an original staircase, remain. Altered fenestration retained the reveals but used different frames and wider muntins. A prominent historic feature of the space is a mural done by Provo artist Everett Clark Thorpe under the aegis of the Federal Art Program of the Works Progress Administration. The painting, depicting the history of Provo and Brigham Young University, illustrates the state's pioneer settlement, topography, and economic and educational history. The extension was designed by architect Lee C. Knell and construction was completed in July 1966. The 1966 addition matches the exterior detailing of the original building. Interior finishes were undertaken in the 1990s to accommodate the mission needs of the Social Security Administration (SSA). With the exception of the front lobby which remained intact, modern finishes were added to the first floor and the back corridor was enclosed to allow for security. Most of the windows in the building have been sympathetically replaced and are now fixed. An accessibility ramp was added in 2015 to the main elevation in compliance with the Architectural Barriers Act Accessibility Standard (ABAAS).

For these reasons, the building is a notable example under Criterion A of a federal government building construction which marked the growing federal presence in cities stretching along Utah's central agricultural corridor and solidifying Utah's continued presence as it grew in Statehood. Additionally, the building retains integrity under Criterion C as the renovations it has undergone have maintained its distinctive character both on the interior and exterior, and the property continues to possess distinctive characteristics of the period and features prominent art in the conserved mural done under the WPA.

Narrative Description

Entrance and Elevations

The U.S. Post Office is two stories in height and is a concrete and limestone structure on a concrete foundation. The building presents an architectural composition seven bays wide and ten bays deep, carrying a parapet roof with a

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shallow limestone coping. Cladding on the building is limestone block except for the basement level which has brick and granite cladding. A projecting cornice with multiple blocks on the soffit is carried around the entire building and provides the only ornamentation on the side and rear elevations.

On the front (South) elevation, an abstracted classical entablature is placed between the first and second floors, bridging the second through sixth bays. Visible in the 1938 historic opening day photograph, are the inscribed letters "United States Post Office", framed by two intricately carved eagles. When the U.S. Post Office vacated the building in 1961, the inscribed stones were removed and replaced. Metal letters were affixed to the entablature, spelling out the building's new name: "Federal Building."

Below the entablature, four twelve-over-twelve, fixed metal sash, rectangular windows inset in wide limestone surrounds flank the fourth bay's centered entrance. The windows are separated by flat, engaged pilasters. The entryway is accessed by two shallow flights of steps separated by a wide landing with simple metal handrails. A leaf motif is carved into the wide limestone surround of the entry door. The entry door's glass transom has a sunburst detail. Fenestration on the upper story consists of eight-over eight fixed metal sash windows with shallow reveals.

The two side elevations, on the east and west, are similar. Each exhibits a plain façade. The building's 1966 addition on the North side is clearly marked by a joint line running from the roof to the ground on the two side elevations. On the east and west elevations, a stairway with a single protective metal railing leads down a walkway to the basement entrance. Symmetrically placed casement windows are set in shallow reveals. The ground level of the rear elevation has a deeply inset entry with a glass door framed by sidelights and a wide transom

Alterations

The building has retained its character throughout its history. Minor decorative changes had been made to the main elevation for purposes of renaming the building, all true to the completion of the 1966 renovation, when the Post Office relocated and a building renovation was completed for use as federal office space. An addition, to the rear of the building, was added at this time and construction completed in July 1966. The 1966 addition matches the exterior detailing of the original building. All four elevations are smooth with a granite water table and limestone cornice.

The interior had been renovated in 1966, resulting in materials loss to original terrazzo floors, marble on the former post office lobby walls and removal of original chandeliers. During this timeframe, the post office service windows were removed. In the early 2000's, some finishes were undertaken on part of the first and second floor to include space for IT and training/conference areas for the Social Security Administration. However, the project did not have an adverse effect on the remaining significant features of the building. Most of the windows in the building have been sympathetically replaced and are now fixed.

In 2015, a wheelchair accessible ramp was added to the facade of the building, making the building compliant with the Architectural Barriers Act. The Utah State Historic Preservation Office concurred that the work met the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation* and did not result in an adverse effect and in January 2016, the project received an 'Excellence in Masonry Design' award from the Utah Masonry Council.

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*U.S. Post Office
Utah County, Utah*

Significance

Summary

The U. S. Post Office qualifies for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C at the local level of significance. Its period of significance is its construction date, 1937, onto the date of its addition in 1966. Alterations are evident but kept this building a viable asset and the building has retained its architectural integrity.

For these reasons, the building remains integrity under Criterion C as the renovations it has undergone have maintained its distinctive character both on the interior and exterior, and the property continues to possess distinctive characteristics of the period and features prominent art in the conserved mural done under the WPA.

The rear addition to the building is very sympathetic in design, since particular attention was given to the use of materials and design that conform to the original plan and thus it does not make a significant impact. A single score line distinguishes old work from new. Minor decorative changes were only made to the main elevation for purposes of renaming, and in 2015 an accessibility ramp was added to the main elevation in compliance with the Architectural Barriers Act Accessibility Standard (ABAAS).

The building is a Provo landmark, designed by Joseph Nelson, a very distinguished Provo architect, utilizing the Public Works Administration Moderne style favored for public buildings in the 1930s, particularly those built under the aegis of the Supervising Architect's Office, the Treasury Department. The subject building has a Works Progress Administration mural by Utah artist Everett Clark Thorpe that demonstrates the democratic intent of the Roosevelt administration to utilize federal funds to bring work to local artists and builders throughout the Great Depression years.

Historic Contexts

The New Deal Program in Utah – 1932-1940

The Great Depression hit Utah harder than most other states. From 1932 to 1940 the state's unemployment rate averaged twenty-five percent and by 1933 it had reached thirty-three percent. As a result, federal relief efforts in Utah were especially intensive and much of the federal spending on work programs involved building construction. During the Great Depression, projects were administered by five different New Deal agencies: Civil Works (CWA), Federal Emergency Relief (FERA), National Youth (NYA), Works Progress Administration (WPA), and Public Works Administration (PWA). These five agencies funded 233 Utah public buildings during the 1930s and early 1940s.

The U.S. Post Office at Provo --

Enabling Legislation

In 1913, the United States Congress enacted an omnibus Public Buildings Act appropriating money to construct and improve federal buildings. A Public Buildings Commission was established to keep costs down and standardize plans, specifications and materials for different classes of federal buildings. In 1915 William McAdoo, Secretary of the Treasury and Chairman of the Public Buildings Commission, set up a system specifying materials, finishes and public spaces for four classes of post offices categorized by the value of annual receipts and metropolitan real estate

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adjoining the proposed site. The higher the class, the higher the quality of design and materials that were authorized including exterior facing, windows and doors, interior finishes and ornament in public space.¹

In 1916 Acting Supervising Architect James Wetmore directed the standardizing of post office plans, which typically retained the basic Beaux Arts style's massing and plan with less detail for smaller buildings. The Public Buildings Act of 1926, known also as the Keyes-Elliott Act, was a general enabling act that allotted \$100 million dollars for federal buildings outside the District of Columbia. This act allowed the Secretary of the Treasury Department and the U.S. Postmaster General to select towns and cities and specific sites for new buildings. However, most construction was delayed by economic conditions, including the stock market crash of 1929.²

The Public Buildings Acts of 1926 and 1933 authorized the Office of the Supervising Architect of the Treasury Department to hire private architects as designers of public buildings. However, in 1939 the New Deal programs of the Roosevelt administration resulted in a reorganization of the Supervising Architect's Office in the Treasury Department, which caused it to lose its independent status. The Supervising Architect's Office became part of the Procurement Division of the Public Buildings Branch. Federal buildings and post offices came under the jurisdiction of the Treasury Department and its Public Buildings Branch.³

The U. S. Post Office in Provo, was one of the Utah facilities constructed under the aegis of the Public Buildings Administration. On May 2, 1938 the *Deseret News* reported that the U.S. Post Office in Provo had transferred from its location in the old federal building to the new building on First North and First West Street. The United States Forest Service, Bureau of Internal Revenue Service, Farm Security Administration, Civil Service Commission and Postal Inspector also moved into offices in the new building.⁴

After the U.S. Postal Service (Post Office Department) moved to a new location in the early 1960s, the building was renamed the Federal Building. The then Provo post office building, renamed the Federal Building, is notable under Criterion A as it was the second building to be approved for federal construction in Provo which marked the growing federal presence in cities stretching to include Provo, along Utah's central agricultural corridor and solidified the city of Provo's continued presence as Utah grew in Statehood.

In 1990 Utah Congressman Howard Nielson introduced a bill to name the building in honor of J. Will Robinson. Nielson explained that he wished to honor Robinson as the longest serving U.S. House of Representatives member from Utah, having completed seven terms from 1933 to 1947. Robinson was Chairman of the House Committee on Public Lands and also Chairman of the Committee on Roads. In comments for the *Congressional Record*, Robinson was described as a colorful character. Born into poverty in 1887, he had worked hard to put himself through school and continued to become a graduate of Brigham Young University. He became a teacher, then a lawyer, and served as county attorney until his election to the U.S. Congress. Robinson died in 1964.

Post Offices and Public Art in the New Deal Administration

¹ Emily Harris, *History of U.S. Post Office Construction 1920-1940*, (Washington, DC: U.S. Postal Service, 1982), 7- 9.

² *Ibid.*, 9-10

³ Lois Craig et al. *The Federal Presence: Architecture, Politics and Symbols in United States Government Building* (Cambridge, MA: The MIT Press, 1978), 327-28.

⁴ *Salt Lake City Deseret News*, April 30, 1938; May 2, 1938

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Everett Clark Thorpe Mural

President Franklin Delano Roosevelt's New Deal administration created the most innovative and comprehensive program for government art program patronage in the United States. The New Deal art programs were intended to supply necessary economic relief for artists by commissioning art works. In addition, through the federal support of the arts, artists could create a distinctively American cultural expression that would help people to weather the Great Depression.

Many of the works of art painted for U.S. post offices were funded under the aegis of the Treasury Department's Section of Painting and Sculpture, which operated from October 1934 to October 1938. Renamed the Section of Fine Arts, it operated from 1938 to 1939, and thereafter from 1939-1943 after the Section's transfer to the Federal Works Agency. Headed by Edward Bruce, a former lawyer, businessman and artist, the Section's main function was to select art of high quality to decorate public buildings as funding became available. Bruce believed that providing decoration in public buildings made art accessible to everybody, a cornerstone of the populist philosophy of New Deal administrators. While many New Dealers disagreed on the purposes and aims of the program, the Section became an idealistic effort to make art relevant to the ordinary American citizen.⁵

Art works created under the Section of Fine Arts were comprised of site-specific murals and sculpture for newly constructed federal buildings and post offices. Artists competed for individual commissions without name identification and then signed contracts for the completion of particular pieces. Entries were generally required to follow a certain theme relating to the building's function and geographic location. Committed to making art a part of daily life, not only in cities, but also in small towns and rural areas, the program commissioned sculpture and murals for 1,100 new Post Offices across the United States, placing the art in an institution symbolic of an indispensable government service that linked individuals across the country and the world.⁶

Although the Section actively promoted nationalistic ideals and unifying themes, it also promoted regionalism so that individual works would be seen as authentic. Mural historians Marlene Park and Gerald Markowitz point that out that the vastness and varied nature of the West promoted the depiction of localized cultural memory:

...[T]he high plains, the Rocky Mountains, the Northwest – are not well represented by Section commissions, but one derives from the murals some sense of life on the range, Mormon settlements, the diversified local agriculture, and logging.⁷

Artists working in the New Deal decade of the 1930s often projected their own political and social beliefs into their art, depicting symbols and scenes especially meaningful to their own locality, interest group or culture. Historical themes spoke to the issue of historical continuity.⁸ The U.S. Post Office, Provo mural, titled "The History of Provo and Brigham Young University," was created by Everett Clark Thorpe, a Mormon artist who frequently chose Utah subjects for his paintings. The subject was particularly localized since Provo was the home of Brigham Young University and a historic Mormon settlement.

⁵ Marlene Park and Gerald E. Markowitz, *Democratic Vistas: Post Offices and Public Art in the New Deal*, (Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 1984), Introduction, 2-9.

"History of the New Deal Art Projects" <http://www.wpamurals.com/history.html/>

⁶ "Federal Art Programs" <http://www.gsa.gov/Portal/>

⁷ Park and Markowitz, *Democratic Vistas*, 67, 96.

⁸ Karen Ann Marling, *Wall to Wall America: Post Office Murals in the Great Depression*, (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2000), 210.

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Thorpe's mural presents a crowded canvas depicting Mormon pioneers and their efforts to create a society in the Utah wilderness. The composition is based on two diagonals. One moves from encounters with Native Americans and pioneers in the foreground at the left edge of the composition traveling across the canvas to what appears to be a large mill or granary at top right. A second diagonal follows a road which begins at the midpoint of the foreground leading upward to buildings, both early and modern, of Brigham Young University, depicted as a pioneer chapel, a stadium with cheerleaders, and two modern academic structures. Snow-capped Mount Timpanogos mountains are a focus of the background across the top of the mural. The middle ground is occupied by various aspects of Mormon settlement such as the trek across the plains in covered wagons, log cabins, farms, and mining, represented by a seated figure holding a sign reading, "Humbug Mine."

The mural is in the style of American Realism associated with the Works Progress Administration murals. The subject emphasizes local history and the accomplishments of a frontier people. Figures are depicted in a free hand style with vigor and zest. Little attention is paid to classical conventions of traditional art. People and their surroundings reflect the spirit of the small towns of rural America shown in the context of their history and accomplishments.

Architect

Architect Joseph Nelson, consulting architect for the U.S. Post Office, Provo, was born in Mantua, Utah, on January 24, 1876. He was educated at the University of Pennsylvania where he studied under Paul Cret, for whom he worked. After graduating in 1907, he returned to Provo for his first commission, Central School in Provo, completed in 1909. Other commissions included the remodeling of the Provo Tabernacle and the construction of the Utah State Mental Hospital. In the later years of the Great Depression, he acted as a consulting architect under Louis Simon for the Treasury Department's Public Building Branch. Following World War II, he opened offices in Provo with architect Val Hess. Nelson died in Provo, on April 29, 1965.⁹

Landmark Commissions – Joseph Nelson

In 1919 the citizens of Utah County and of Provo city voted bonds for the erection of a new joint-use building. The Utah County Building, formerly known as the Provo City and County Building, is located in the center of Provo and is an important Provo landmark. Its cornerstone was laid December 14, 1920. On December 15, 1926, the building was completed. Although most Utah buildings have little exterior sculpture of any kind, the Utah County Building's pediment is decorated with sculpture designed by the architect Joseph Nelson and sculpted by Joseph Conradi.

Another of Nelson's landmark commissions was the renovation of the Provo Tabernacle. Originally constructed between 1883 and 1898, the building was characterized by octagonal towers at each of its four corners and a tall central tower. In 1949, with Nelson as consulting architect, a method was designed to save the building, which had been twice condemned.

Architectural Style

The Public Works Administration (PWA) Moderne style follows a design program using the tripartite classical column form of the Art Moderne style (base, shaft and capital) while emphasizing an intricate plan of design elements to provide an aesthetic effect. Moderne buildings abstracted classical design elements and emphasized verticality, utilizing flat roofs with parapet walls, smooth wall surfaces and simplified or streamlined ornament. Cladding frequently featured horizontal

⁹ Joseph Nelson, *Architect, A Biography by his Family* (Provo, UT: Special Collections Department of Brigham Young University, 1986.)

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grooves or lines in walls. Window treatment was generally horizontal, but vertical rows were often used to create a decorative contrast. This program proved particularly suitable for government structures, since it subtly referenced the appearance of traditional Neo-Classical courthouses, post offices and other public buildings.

In the U. S. Post Office, Provo, architect Joseph Nelson's Moderne composition employed a simple geometry of interlocking volumes, slightly offset, to animate a building without external ornament. The architectural style of the subject building is important in the context of progressive influences in architecture, beginning at the end of the 1920s and continuing through the building's period of significance, 1937 - 1966.

Beginning in 1927, a group of government architects in Washington D.C. founded the Association of Federal Architects (AFA) in order to foster an exchange of ideas among the various federal agencies concerned with architecture and building construction. Louis A Simon, then Supervising Architect of the Treasury Department served as the organization's first President.¹⁰ In July 1930 the AFA began to publish a quarterly, *The Federal Architect*. Its pages mirrored the growing divide between architects who favored traditional designs with expressed classical elements and those who urged a new style for public buildings. Simon's tenure ended in 1939 and federal architectural design lacked a cohesive approach until World War II when attention shifted to wartime housing and emergency public works.

Significance

The U. S. Post Office in Provo qualifies for the National Register under Criterion A and Criterion C at the local level of significance, its period of significance as 1937 through 1966. The subject building fits within a group of buildings done for governmental entities during the Great Depression and the World War II era when few private buildings were being constructed. To qualify under Criterion C, a structure must embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period or method of construction, or represent the work of a master, possess high artistic values, or represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction. The subject building embodies the characteristics of the Moderne style that reflects government-sponsored public buildings built in the later years of the Great Depression, both within the United States and, locally, in the Rocky Mountain and southwestern states. To qualify under Criterion A, a structure must show association with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history. The Federal Building qualifies under Criterion A as the building was pivotal in the development of a community and in support of growth of Utah as it grew to establish its place in our Nation's growth and history of expansion.

Although architect Joseph Nelson's teacher at the University of Pennsylvania, Paul Cret, had trained at the Ecole des Beaux Arts in Paris, France in the early twentieth century, his modernistic influence was important in the use of the Moderne style for public buildings in the United States. Cret himself acted as one of the consulting architects to the Office of the Supervising Architect in the mid-1930s. A pioneer of the Moderne style, Cret established the style with designs that were essentially classical, yet removed Greco-Roman detailing and substituted simple rectangular forms in solid-void relationships.

This stylistic change is most evident in the historic photo of the U.S. Post Office, Provo, taken on its opening day. The columnar forms on the ground story of the front elevation are apparent yet abstracted, set forward to state the separation of the windows and the entry. The traditional capital of the tripartite classical organization is also abstracted and joined to form a band for the placement of building signage. The classical cornice is maintained with underside multiple blocks carried around the building, providing the building's only exterior ornament.

¹⁰ Craig, et al., *The Federal Presence*, 219-220.

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***U.S. Post Office
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The U.S. Post Office, Provo, memorializes the purpose and idealism of its period of significance. The Works Progress Administration mural by Everett Clark Thorpe adds to the significance of the structure by providing important historic information about a second New Deal program that informed the building's role in federal programs of the era. The building conveys its significance under Criterion C within the local context of Public Architecture, in Provo, Utah.

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**U.S. Post Office
Utah County, Utah**

Bibliographic References

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“History of the New Deal Art Projects.” <http://www.wpamurals.com/history.html/>

Marling, Karal Ann. *Wall to Wall America: Post Office Murals in the Great Depression*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2000.

National Park Service, Multiple Property Nomination Listing – “Historic U.S. Post Offices in Utah 1900 – 1941.” Listed Oct. 16, 1989.

Nelson, Joseph. *Architect, A Biography by his Family*. Provo, UT: Special Collections Department of Brigham Young University, 1986.

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Deseret News, April 30, 1938, May 2, 1938

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*U.S. Post Office
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Additional documentation: Photographs

Name: U.S. Post Office

Location: 88 West 100 North Street
Provo
Utah, 84601

Photographer: David Greenwood, ICF Jones & Stokes

Date of Photographs: June 5, 2007

Location of Negatives: U.S. General Service Administration, Office of Chief Architect

1. Historic photo, courtesy Utah State Historical Society, Opening day, May 2, 1938. Exterior, primary (south) façade, view north.
2. Exterior, primary (south) façade, view north.
3. Exterior, southwest elevation, view northeast.
4. Exterior, east elevation, view west.
5. Exterior, west elevation, view east.
6. Exterior, rear (north) elevation, view southeast.
7. Exterior, detail of entrance on south façade.
8. Exterior, detail of eagle modillion on primary (south) façade.
9. Interior, lobby with Everett Clark Thorpe mural.
10. Interior, lobby hallway and staircase.
11. Interior, second floor hallway.
12. Interior, original wood and glass door.

Supplemental Information – accessible ramp photographs provided Courtesy of Design West Architects

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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Section Photos Page 11

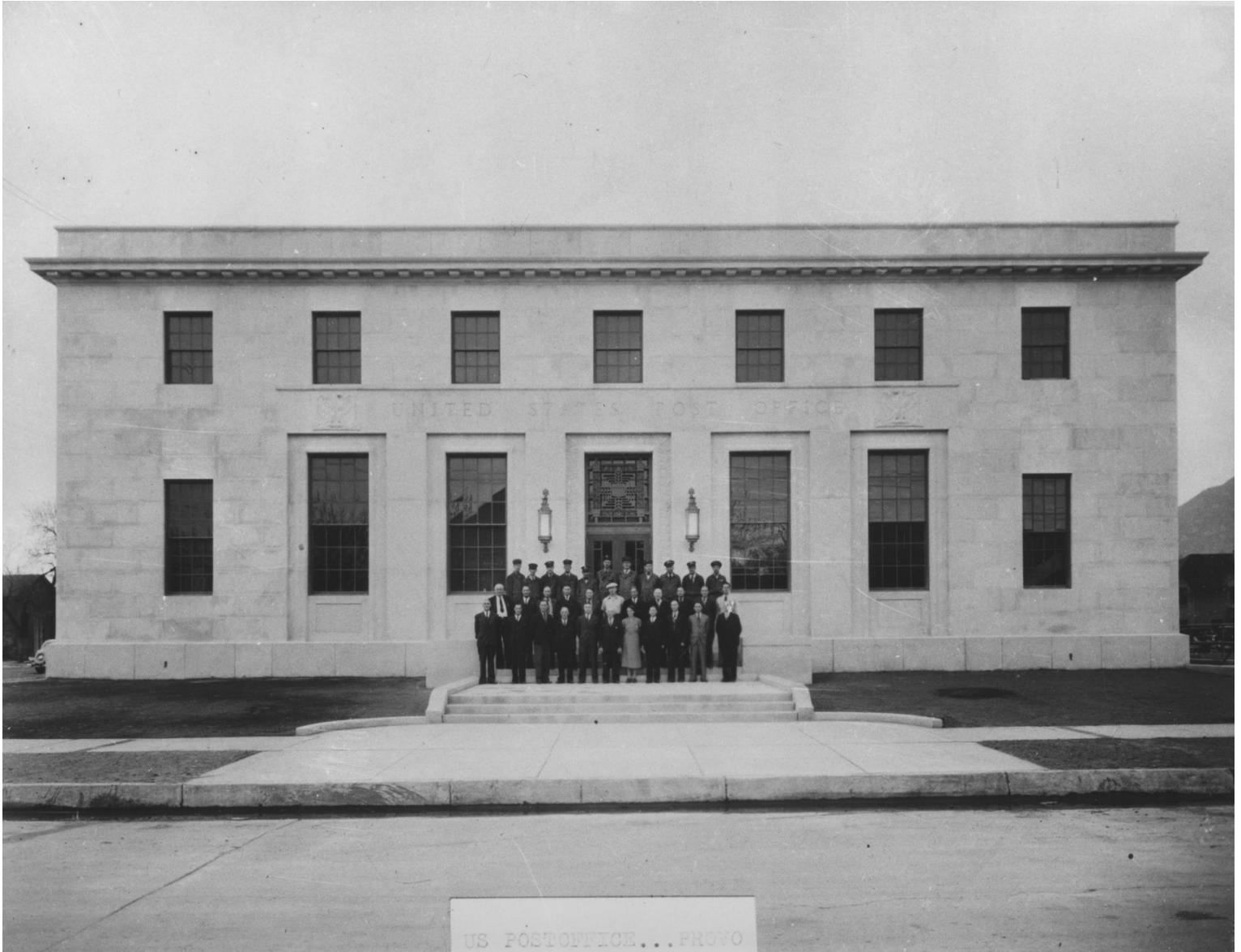
*U.S. Post Office
Utah County, Utah*

Photographs

Photographer: unknown

Date of photograph: Opening day, May 2, 1938

Photograph Archives: Utah State Historical Society



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Photos Page 12

*U.S. Post Office
Utah County, Utah*

Photographs



Exterior, primary (south) façade, view north

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National Park Service

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*U.S. Post Office
Utah County, Utah*

Photographs



Exterior, southwest elevation, view northeast.

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*U.S. Post Office
Utah County, Utah*

Photographs



Exterior, east elevation, view west.

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Section Photos Page 15

*U.S. Post Office
Utah County, Utah*

Photographs



Exterior, west elevation, view east

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Section Photos Page 16

*U.S. Post Office
Utah County, Utah*

Photographs



Exterior, rear (north) elevation, view southeast.

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Section Photos Page 17

*U.S. Post Office
Utah County, Utah*

Photographs



Exterior, detail of entrance on south façade.

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Section Photos Page 18

*U.S. Post Office
Utah County, Utah*

Photographs



Exterior, detail of eagle modillion on primary (south) façade.

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U.S. Post Office
Utah County, Utah

Photographs



Interior - lobby with Everett Clark Thorpe mural. Mural is entitled "The History of Provo & Brigham Young University."

United States Department of the Interior
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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Photos Page 20

*U.S. Post Office
Utah County, Utah*

Photographs



Interior, lobby hallway and staircase. View East.

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Photos Page 21

*U.S. Post Office
Utah County, Utah*

Photographs



Interior, second floor hallway.

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National Park Service

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Section Photos Page 22

*U.S. Post Office
Utah County, Utah*

Photographs



Interior, original wood and glass door

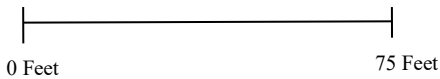
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Map Page 23

*U.S. Post Office
Utah County, Utah*

Map



<p>U.S. Post Office</p> <p>Provo, Utah County, Utah</p> <p>Latitude 40.235472° Longitude -111.660082°</p>
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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Map Page 24

*U.S. Post Office
Utah County, Utah*

Map



U.S. Post Office 

Provo, Utah County, Utah

Latitude 40.235472° Longitude -111.660082°

Supplemental Information

Historic Name: U.S. Post Office

Other name (current): J. Will Robinson Federal Building

Location: 88 West 100 North Street, Provo, Utah



J. Will Robinson Federal Building, Provo, Utah, south elevation looking northeast and showing accessibility ramp as completed in 2015.



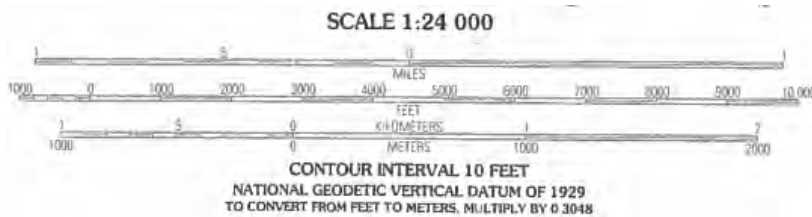
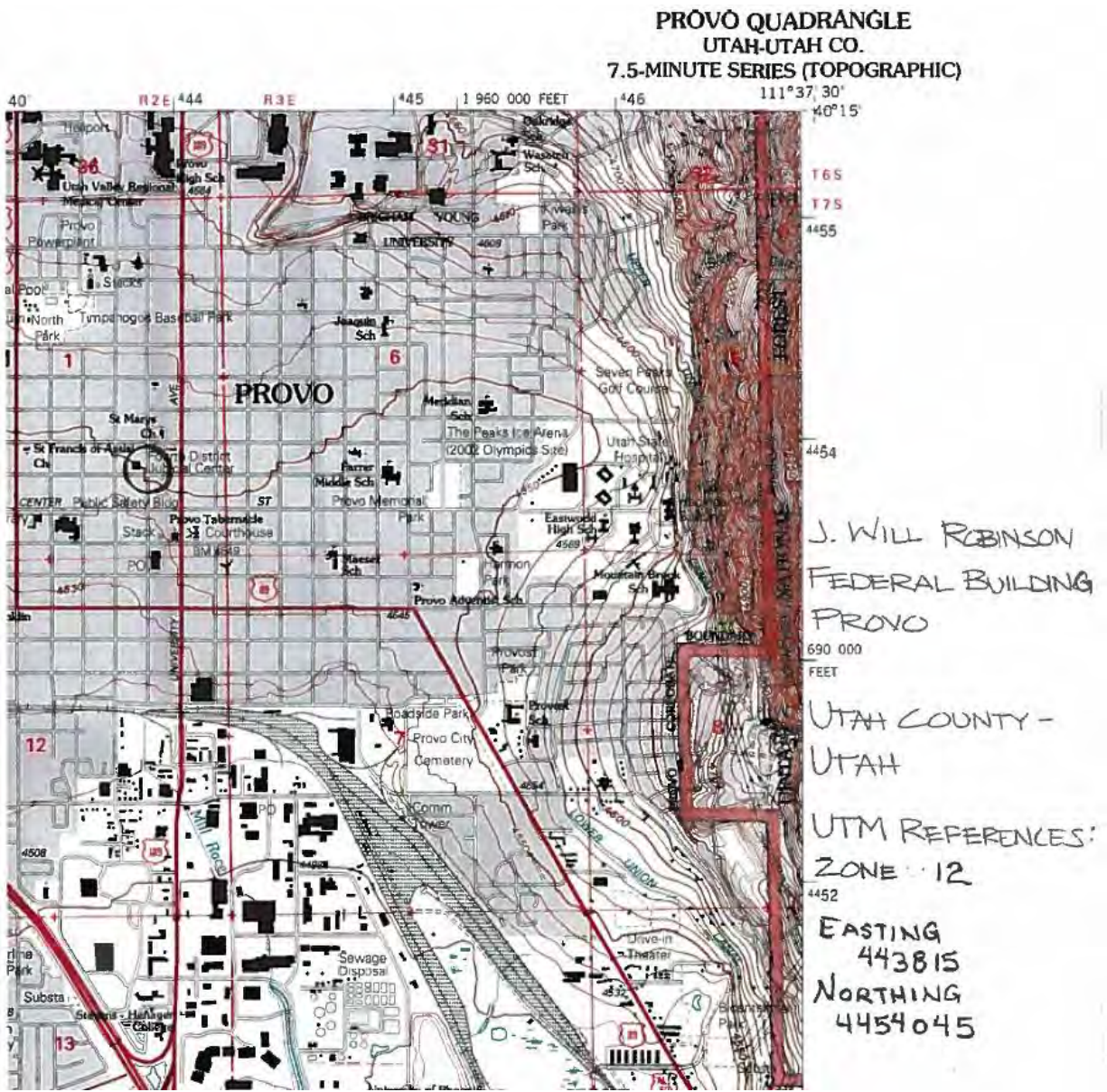
J. Will Robinson Federal Building, Provo, Utah, south elevation looking northwest showing switchback accessibility ramp design with compatible materials, as completed in 2015.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

U.S. Post Office
Utah County, Utah

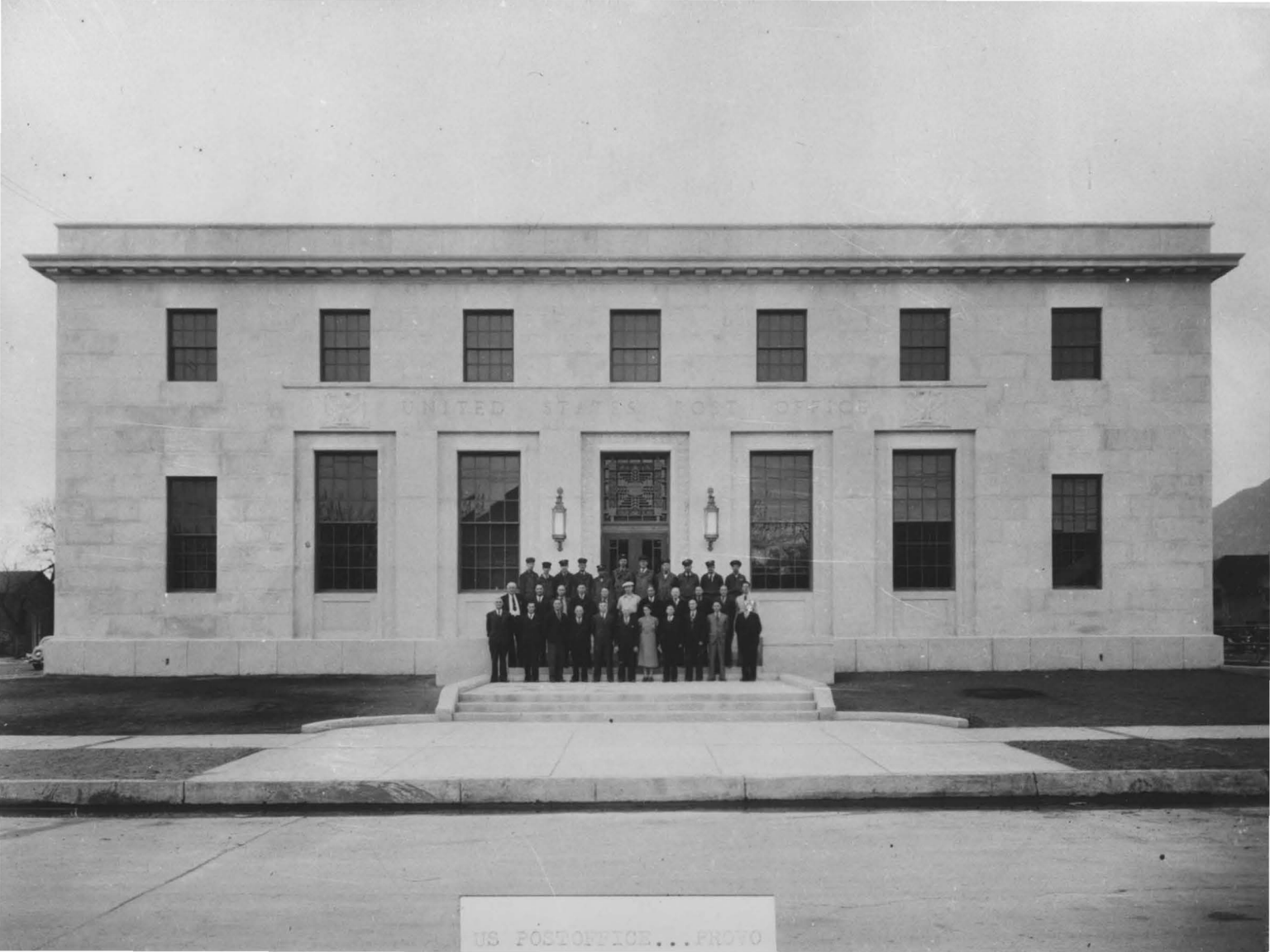
Section Map Page

Map – Supplemental Information (Original USGS Map Submitted with Nomination)



U.S. Post Office
Provo, Utah County, Utah

UTM References :
443815 Easting
4454045 Northing



UNITED STATES POST OFFICE

US POSTOFFICE...PROTO



FEDERAL BUILDING



100 NORTH



Y





FEDERAL BUILDING
ASSIGNED PARKING
SPECIAL PARKING FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

NO PARKING
IN FRONT
OF CURB



FEDERAL BUILDING







ELEVATOR 4
ELEVATOR 5









UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action:

Property Name:

Multiple Name:

State & County:

Date Received: 7/21/2017 Date of Pending List: 8/16/2017 Date of 16th Day: 8/31/2017 Date of 45th Day: 9/5/2017 Date of Weekly List: 9/7/2017

Reference number:

Nominator:

Reason For Review:

Accept Return Reject 9/5/2017 Date

Abstract/Summary Comments:

Recommendation/ Criteria

Reviewer Edson Beall Discipline Historian

Telephone _____ Date _____

DOCUMENTATION: see attached comments : No see attached SLR : No

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.



GSA Public Buildings Service



July 17, 2017

Mr. Paul Loether
Chief, NRHP & NHL Program
National Register of Historic Places
Mail Stop 7228
1849 C St, NW
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Mr. Loether:

The U.S. General Services Administration (GSA) is pleased to nominate the U.S. Post Office (current name: J. Will Robinson Federal Building) at 88 West 100 North Street, Provo UT, for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. The nomination is hereby submitted on disk in accordance with the May 6, 2013 guidance and includes the following:

- Signed original first page of the National Register of Historic Places nomination form;
- An original USGS Map;
- Disk 1 - The enclosed disk contains the true and correct copy of the nomination for the U.S. Post Office, located in Provo, UT, to the National Register of Historic Place; to include supplement data (two one page files), and
- Disk 2 - The enclosed disk contains the .tiff image files for the above referenced nomination.

The nomination reflects extensive review by the UT Historic Preservation Office and the UT State Historic Preservation Officer has concurred that the property meets the National Register criteria for listing. In accordance with 36 CFR Part 60.9(c), the appropriate local elected official was notified of GSA's intent to nominate the above referenced property to the National Register of Historic Places.

If for any reason any nomination package that GSA submits needs to be returned, please contact us and we will be pleased to pick it up as items returned to our offices via regular mail are irradiated and the materials severely damaged. Should you have any questions or concerns regarding this nomination package, please contact Claire Hosker at (202) 501-1578 or claire.hosker@gsa.gov.

Sincerely,

Beth L. Savage
Federal Preservation Officer
Director, Center for Historic Buildings

Enclosures

cc: Andrea Collins, Regional Historic Preservation Officer, GSA, Rocky Mountain Region