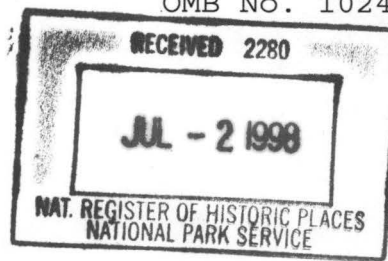


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

=====

1. Name of Property

=====

Historic Name: Wynne Post Office

Other Name/Site Number: CS0022

=====

2. Location

=====

Street & Number: 402 E. Merriman Avenue

Not for Publication: NA

City/Town: Wynne

Vicinity: NA

State: AR County: Cross Code: 037

Zip Code: 72396

=====

3. Classification

=====

Ownership of Property: Public-Federal

Category of Property: Building

Wynne Post Office
Name of Property

Cross County, Arkansas
County and State

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>1</u>	<u> </u> buildings
<u> </u>	<u> </u> sites
<u> </u>	<u> </u> structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u> objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0

Name of related multiple property listing: Arkansas Post Offices with Section Art

=====

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

=====

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets _____ does not meet the National Register Criteria. _____ See continuation sheet.

John Brown, FPO
Signature of certifying official

4/1/98
Date

USPS
State or Federal agency and bureau

Wynne Post Office
Name of Property

Cross County, Arkansas
County and State

In my opinion, the property x meets _____ does not meet the National Register criteria. _____ See continuation sheet.

Cathryn A. Slatu
Signature of commenting or other official

3-2-98
Date

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program
State or Federal agency and bureau

=====

5. National Park Service Certification

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I, hereby certify that this property is:

☒ entered in the National Register W. R. Fryer 8/14/98
_____ See continuation sheet.
☐ determined eligible for the
National Register
_____ See continuation sheet.
☐ determined not eligible for the
National Register
☐ removed from the National Register
_____ other (explain): _____

Signature of Keeper Date
of Action

=====

6. Function or Use

=====

Historic: GOVERNMENT Sub: Post Office

Current : GOVERNMENT Sub: Post Office

Wynne Post Office
Name of Property

Cross County, Arkansas
County and State

=====
7. Description
=====

Architectural Classification:

Art Deco

Materials: foundation Concrete roof Asphalt
walls Brick other _____

Describe present and historic physical appearance:

SUMMARY:

The Wynne Post Office is a one-story, brick masonry structure designed in a restrained interpretation of the Art Deco style and featuring a full basement. The building is built on an essentially square plan, but features a 1971 addition that projects from east side of the structure and the east end of the building's rear; this addition is relatively unobtrusive, however, and the building retains sufficient integrity to warrant its inclusion in the National Register. The entire building is surrounded with a projecting cornice and has a flat, built-up asphalt roof with parapet.

ELABORATION:

The Wynne Post Office is a one-story, brick masonry structure designed in a restrained interpretation of the Art Deco style and featuring a full basement. The building is built on an essentially square plan, but features a 1971 addition that projects from east side of the structure and the east end of the building's rear; this addition is relatively unobtrusive, however, and the building retains sufficient integrity to warrant its inclusion in the National Register. The entire building is surrounded with a projecting cornice and has a flat, built-up asphalt roof with parapet.

The front, or south, facade centers around twin aluminum doors; a set of concrete stairs with simple metal rails provides access to these doors. A

flat shed roof projects above the doors and the stoop; there is a recessed panel above that and then a carved concrete panel with a "head-on" image of a small, single-engine airplane above that. The door arrangement is flanked by twin, double-hung, three-over-three windows. A carved panel depicting a "head-on" view of a locomotive between two telegraph poles tops the west window arrangement, while a carving of a "head-on" view of a large ocean-going vessel completes the east arrangement. These in turn are each flanked by another double-hung, three-over-three window. Raised aluminum letters between the top of the parapet and the cornice line read: UNITED STATES POST OFFICE/WYNNE ARKANSAS 72396. A handicapped-access ramp runs along the west front of the building, terminating at the stoop. The cornerstone is located on the east corner of the original building. It reads: HENRY MORGENTHAU JR/SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY/JAMES A FARLEY/POSTMASTER GENERAL/LOUIS A SIMON/SUPERVISING ARCHITECT/NEAL A MELICK/SUPERVISING ENGINEER/1936. The 1971 addition protrudes from the east side of the building's front, inset significantly from the front facade of the original building; it is fenestrated by a single, double-hung, three-over-three window.

The east facade of the building is fenestrated by two widely separated double-hung, three over three windows.

The rear, or north, facade, begins with the rear of the eastern addition, an unfenestrated brick expanse with a shed roof shielding a long loading dock. The end of this section cuts sharply southward at its terminus and rejoins the rear of the original building. There is a single door in this cutback section. The rear of the original building features a pair of swinging doors, a single door, and a multi-pane window. A shed roof protrudes above the loading dock; it is supported on its east side by a stand-alone brick wall.

The west facade of the structure, from north to south, features a blank brick section, then five nine-over-nine, double-hung windows. Air-conditioning units are located beside the building on this facade.

Significant interior features include the original wooden vestibule, marble wainscoting, and a 1940 mural titled "Cotton Pickers" by Ethel Magafan.

Despite the 1971 alterations to the building, the Wynne Post Office retains a large degree of historic integrity and is in fact one of the least-altered of the surviving post office structures with Section artwork. As such, it remains eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places with local significance.

Wynne Post Office
Name of Property

Cross County, Arkansas
County and State

=====

8. Statement of Significance

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Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: Statewide.

Applicable National Register Criteria: A

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): NA

Areas of Significance: Politics/Government

Period(s) of Significance: 1936-40

Significant Dates: 1936-40

Significant Person(s): NA

Cultural Affiliation: NA

Architect/Builder: Louis A. Simon, Supervising Architect
Farnsworth Construction Co., New Orleans,
Builder

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above:

SUMMARY:

The Wynne Post Office is associated with the historic context Arkansas Post Offices with Section Art as a U.S. Postal Service structure containing a mural financed through the U.S. Treasury Department's Section on Fine Arts. As such, it is eligible with statewide significance for its association with

the Section's efforts to employ Depression-era artists and place art in post offices around the country.

ELABORATION:

On September 28, 1935, the *Wynne Daily Star Progress* reported that a lot on Merriman Avenue was picked as the site of a new post office for Wynne. Post Office Inspector Floyd Elliot recommended the location, and the Department of the Treasury paid Mrs. Lizzie Collins \$6,000 for the property.

A January 10, 1936, article noted that a cap of \$65,000 was placed on construction costs of the structure, projected to be a one-story structure with a basement. Though the January article predicted a swift beginning to construction, it was summer before work began. An August 19 *Star Progress* article quoted construction superintendent C.W. Saffell of the Farnsworth Construction Company of New Orleans as saying the building would be ready for occupancy by the first of the year. This proved a bit ambitious: a December 31 article said interior plaster work was just beginning and that Wynne Postmaster Clarence Coffin was hoping to move into the new structure in late February or early March. Ultimately, the building did not open until late April, a delay ameliorated in part by a decision to keep the new building open until 7 p.m. each night instead of closing at 6 p.m.

The original specifications for the Wynne Post Office included a \$560 allocation for a 12' by 4'6" mural above the postmaster's door. On August 5, 1938, Section chief Ed Rowan invited Ethel Magafan of Colorado Springs, Colorado, to submit designs for the Wynne structure "on the basis of the merit of the design [Magafan] submitted ... in the Fort Scott, Kansas Competition." Magafan accepted the commission in a September 12 letter, pledging to "go to Wynne at the end of this month" to seek inspiration for the mural.

On January 5, 1939, Magafan submitted two pencil sketches "using the theme of negro cotton pickers" for the Wynne post office. The Section deemed a sketch of workers in a cotton field as "the most interesting," Rowan wrote on January 16, adding that "the need, however, of the same type of penetrating observation which you brought to bear on the Auburn, Nevada mural is felt in proceeding with this design and I trust that you will be able to authenticate this work in the same convincing manner." Magafan replied on March 5 that "when I was in Arkansas the negroes were picking cotton. I made many sketches of them at work, and also have done research on the subject. I hope to make

my Wynne, Arkansas mural as convincing as the Auburn, Nebraska mural."

By early June, Magafan submitted the required 2" color sketch of her mural proposal. Rowan noted one figure with a disproportionately small head and a male figure "which does not seem entirely realized," but accepted the work. The Section released Magafan's first payment of \$150 on June 27, 1939.

On October 26, Rowan notified Magafan that arrangements were complete for her to install the mural in the Wynne Post Office. Magafan wrote Rowan on November 8 that she was "very anxious to install it immediately and would appreciate it if you would wire me collect if it meets your approval." The next message from Rowan, dated December 2, was a terse note reading: "ON YOUR VISIT WYNNE ARKANSAS DID POSTMASTER APPROVE COTTON SUBJECT MATTER." Magafan replied on the same date that Rowan's telegram left her "a wee bit bewildered as to why there is any discussion about the cotton as subject matter. Upon arriving at Wynne, I discovered there were fields of cotton on all sides as far as I could see. When I visited the Postmaster I naturally asked about the crops and things of importance in Wynne. About all the Postmaster could suggest was orchards and cotton. As he himself suggested cotton I took for granted he approved of it." Rowan's next telegram, dated December 6, read simply: THANKS LETTER DECEMBER SECOND EXPLANATION SATISFACTORY PROCEED INSTALLATION FIRST CONFERRING WITH POSTMASTER RELATIVE CONVENIENT DATE ACCOUNT HOLIDAY RUSH". Her second payment of \$150 was approved on December 13.

Magafan installed the mural around the first of the year in 1940, writing Rowan on January 3 that "the Postmaster and his crew were pleased with it and the local people seemed very interested, although some of them didn't even know the meaning of the word mural." Postmaster Coffin notified Rowan on January 15 that the mural "seems to be satisfactory, we have had numerous compliments on the work." Coffin enclosed an undated *Star Progress* clipping noting the installation of the work by Magafan and her twin sister, Jenne. Magafan is quoted on her inspiration for the work: "When I was here last year I made many sketches of the negroes at work and found that your landscape here offered much interesting material for an artist to use ... I was very interested in negroes at work in the fields and thought it would make good subject material for a mural." The Section approved the final payment of \$260 on January 29.

In addition to the Wynne and Auburn, Nebraska, murals, Magafan's work was also featured at postal facilities in Madill, Oklahoma, and at the South

Wynne Post Office
Name of Property

Cross County, Arkansas
County and State

Denver Branch, proving her a prolific and popular Section collaborator. Ethel Magafan's mural "Cotton Pickers" remains the centerpiece of the Wynne Post Office nearly 60 years after its installation. It is, unfortunately, deteriorating and is in need of conservation work.

The Wynne Post Office is associated with the historic context Arkansas Post Offices with Section Art as a U.S. Postal Service structure containing a mural financed through the U.S. Treasury Department's Section on Fine Arts. As such, it is eligible with statewide significance for its association with the Section's efforts to employ Depression-era artists and place art in post offices around the country.

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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Wynne Daily Star Progress, September 28, 1935; January 10, March 24, May 9, June 2, August 19, and December 31, 1936; April 17, 20, 24, and 26, 1937.

U.S. Treasury Department Section on Fine Arts materials in National Archives.

Falk, Peter Hastings, ed. *Who Was Who in American Art*. Madison, CT: Soundview Press, 1985.

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 # _____

Wynne Post Office
Name of Property

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Primary Location of Additional Data:

- ☒ State historic preservation office
☐ Other state agency
☐ Federal agency
☐ Local government
☐ University
☒ Other -- Specify Repository: Arkansas History Commission

=====
10. Geographical Data
=====

Acreage of Property: Less than one

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

A 15 701220 3899940 B _____
C _____ D _____

Verbal Boundary Description:

Beginning at a point formed by the intersection of the northern edge of Merriman Avenue with a perpendicular line running parallel with the building's eastern elevation and located approximately 50 feet to the south thereof, proceed northerly along said line for approximately 200 feet; thence proceed westerly along a perpendicular line for approximately 200 feet; thence proceed southerly along a perpendicular line for approximately 200 feet to its intersection with the northern edge of Merriman Avenue, thence proceed easterly along said edge to the point of beginning.

Boundary Justification:

This boundary contains all of the properly historically associated with this resource that retains its integrity.

Wynne Post Office
Name of Property

Cross County, Arkansas
County and State

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11. Form Prepared By

=====

Name/Title: Mark Christ/Community Outreach Coordinator

Organization: Arkansas Historic Preservation Program Date: 1/14/98

Street & Number: 1500 Tower Bldg., 323 Center St. Telephone: (501) 324-9880

City or Town: Little Rock State: AR ZIP: 72201

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Wynne Post Office
NAME:

MULTIPLE Post Offices with Section Art in Arkansas MPS
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: ARKANSAS, Cross

DATE RECEIVED: 7/02/98 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 7/14/98
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 7/30/98 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 8/16/98
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 98000914

NOMINATOR: STATE

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

___ACCEPT ___RETURN ___REJECT _____DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

^

The Wynne Post Office is significant under National Register Criterion A in the area of Politics/Government, for its historic association with the Federal government's Depression era programs to bring original works of art to the public and to provide relief to artists. Erected in 1936, the post office contains a fine example of a U. S. Treasury Department, Section of Fine Arts-sponsored mural painting, dating from 1940. [*Cotton Pickers*, Ethel Magafan]
(The SHPO has verified the current condition of the building as documented in the photos.)

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept Criterion A

REVIEWER Raul R Lusignea

DISCIPLINE HISTORIAN

TELEPHONE _____

DATE 8/14/98

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N



Wynne Post Office

Wynne, Cross Co., AR

Photo by Joe DeRose

June 1989

Negative on file at AHPP

View from southwest



Wynne Post Office
Wynne, Cross Co., AR
Photo by Joe DeRose

June 1989

Negative on file at AHPP

View from Northwest



Wynne Post Office

Wynne, Cross Co., AR

Photo by Joe DeRose

June 1989

Negative on file at AHPP

Window Detail

HENRY MORGENTHAU JR

SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY

JAMES A FARLEY

POSTMASTER GENERAL

LOUIS A SIMON

SUPERVISING ARCHITECT

NEAL A MELICK

SUPERVISING ENGINEER

1936

Wynne Post Office

Wynne, Cross Co., AR

Photo by Joe De Rose

June 1989

Negative on file at AHPP

Cornerstone



Wynne Post Office

Wynne, Cross Co., AR

Photo by Joe DeRose

June 1989

Negative on file at AHPP

Interior detail



PRESS SELECTION



STAMPS



**\$8.75 OVER
365 DAYS**



Every down item is new delivery
Express Mail service including Saturday
holiday. And letters of up to 3oz go to

WE DELIVER  EXPRESS

Wynne Post Office

Wynne, Cross Co., AR

Photo by Joe DeRose

June 1989

Negative on file at AHPP

Interior detail



Wynne Post Office

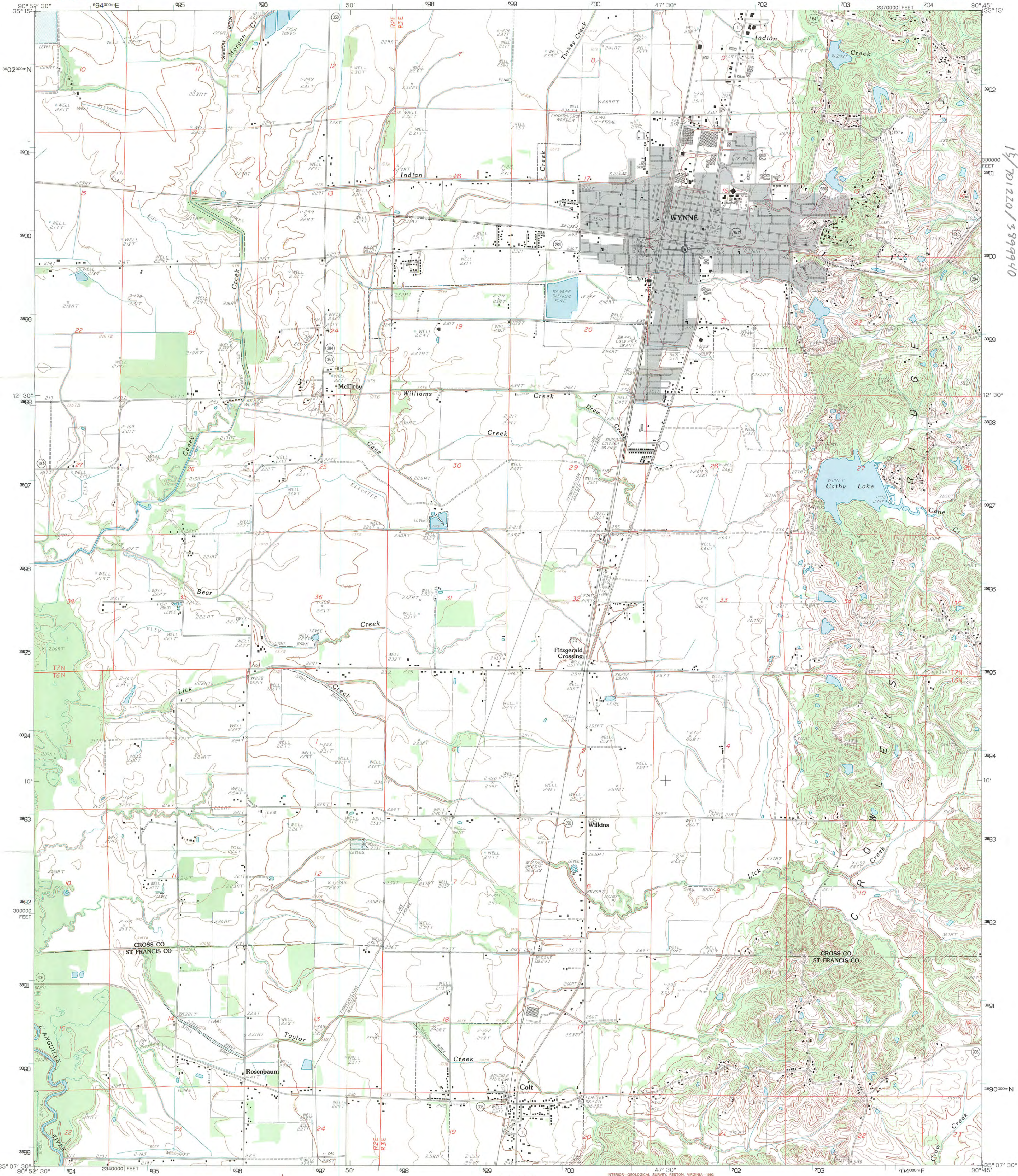
Wynne, Cross Co., AR

Photo by Joe De Rose

June 1989

Negative on file at AHPP

Interior Mural detail



Wynne Post Office
Wynne, Cross County, Arkansas
15/701220/389940

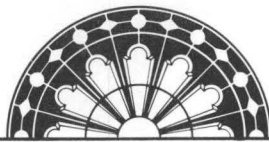
PRODUCED BY THE UNITED STATES GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
CONTROL BY.....USGS AND NOS/NOAA
COMPILED FROM AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHS TAKEN.....1979-80
FIELD CHECKED.....1982. MAP EDITED.....1984
PROJECTION.....LAMBERT CONFORMAL CONIC
GRID: 1000-METER UNIVERSAL TRANSVERSE MERCATOR.....ZONE 15
10,000-FOOT STATE GRID TICKS.....ARKANSAS, NORTH ZONE
UTM GRID DECLINATION.....1°16' EAST
1992 MAGNETIC NORTH DECLINATION.....2°00' EAST
VERTICAL DATUM.....NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929
HORIZONTAL DATUM.....1927 NORTH AMERICAN DATUM (NAD 27)
The difference between 1927 North American Datum and North
American Datum of 1983 (NAD 83) for 7.5-minute intersections
is given in USGS bulletin 1875. The NAD 83 is shown by
dashed corner ticks
There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of any
Federal or State reservations shown on this map
No distinction made between houses, barns, and other buildings
Gray tint indicates area in which selected buildings are shown
Photinspected from 1990 source; no major culture or drainage
changes observed. Boundaries revised and names verified 1992

PROVISIONAL MAP
Produced from original
manuscript drawings. Infor-
mation shown as of date of
photography.

SCALE 1:24 000
CONTOUR INTERVAL 5 AND 10 FEET
CONTROL ELEVATIONS SHOWN TO THE NEAREST 0.1 FOOT
OTHER ELEVATIONS SHOWN TO THE NEAREST FOOT
To convert feet to meters multiply by 30.48
To convert meters to feet multiply by 3.2808
THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
AND THE ARKANSAS GEOLOGICAL COMMISSION, LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS 72204

5 FEET 10 FEET			QUADRANGLE LOCATION		
1	2	3	1	2	3
4	5	6	4	5	6
7	8	9	7	8	9

ROAD LEGEND
Improved Road
Unimproved Road
Trail
Interstate Route
U.S. Route
State Route
WYNNE, ARKANSAS
PROVISIONAL EDITION 1984
MINOR REVISION 1992
35090-B7-TF-024



ARKANSAS
HISTORIC
PRESERVATION
PROGRAM



August 19, 1998

Mr. Paul Lusignan
U.S. Department of the Interior
National Register of Historic Places
National Park Service
800 North Capitol Street, Suite 250
Washington, DC 20002.

Re: Multiple-property National Register nomination of Arkansas Post Offices with
Section Art

Dear Paul:

As you requested this morning, this letter is to verify that the 1989 photographs submitted with the Wynne Post Office nomination accurately represent the building's current condition. This was verified through a site visit to the property. Please let me know if I can provide any further assistance.

Sincerely,

Mark Christ
Community Outreach Director

