

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

1994  
OCT 16 1989

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

### 1. Name of Property

historic name Eureka Main Post Office

other names/site number N/A

### 2. Location

street & number Main and Wallace

N/A not for publication

city, town Eureka

N/A vicinity

state Utah

code UT

county Juab

code 023

zip code 84628

### 3. Classification

#### Ownership of Property

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

#### Category of Property

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

#### 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

Name of related multiple property listing:

Historic U.S. Post Offices in Utah 1900-1941

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 1

### 4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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.  See continuation sheet.

[Signature]  
Signature of certifying official

12-19-88  
Date

United States Postal Service

State or Federal agency and bureau

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

[Signature]  
Signature of commenting or other official

Nov 15 89  
Date

Utah State Historical Society

State or Federal agency and bureau

### 5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register.  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]  
Partick Andrews

11/28/89

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

## 6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)  
U.S. Post Office

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)  
U.S. Post Office

## 7. Description

Architectural Classification  
(enter categories from instructions)

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

Classical Revival

foundation Concrete

walls Stucco

roof Tar Composition

other

### Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Eureka Post Office is a one-story stucco building on a raised basement. Divided into five flat-arched bays --a centered entry bay flanked on each side by two window bays--the front facade is flat and lacks any significant ornamentation. Though the building lacks an identifiable style, its symmetry, proportion and slightly projecting wooden entry architrave suggest its Classical roots. The basement is reinforced concrete and the main floor consists of terra-cotta block faced with stucco; the main entry stairs and retaining wall are concrete. Terra-cotta, agricultural-tile panels aligned over the bays and Spanish-tile coping lend a faint Spanish Colonial flavor to the building. The roof is flat, built-up tar composition.

### PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The front facade (north) is simple in design with two window bays on either side of a centered entry bay, and is devoid of significant ornamentation. The bays are flat-arched and, except for the entry bay, are unframed. Set back and sited on an embankment which rises from the street, the building appears to dominate its adjacent neighbors. The main entry stairs accentuate this appearance. They intersect the sidewalk on either side of a flat concrete retaining wall, then rise laterally to an intermediate landing, and then, in a single straight run, rise to the entry landing.

The main entry consists of double wood-framed glass panel doors (ten lights each) which are set in a shallow alcove. Flat wooden pilasters with recessed panel molding support a simple entablature (also of wood) to form an architrave which frames the entry. Detailing includes the following: a triglyph pattern beneath the flat molded capitals; a molded shield centered over the entry; dentils along the base of the projecting cornice; and recessed wood panels framing the sides and ceiling of the entry alcove. Affixed to the wall on each side of the entry bay is a single wrought-iron lantern.

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The basement windows are fixed eight-light wood sash. The flat-arched window bays are double-hung wood sash with eight-over-eight lights. Aluminum-framed storm windows cover the original windows. Other than the flat cast-concrete sills, the window surrounds are undifferentiated from the stucco wall. Other facade detailing includes rectangular grilles formed by clay agricultural-drainage tiles (at base of parapet) aligned over the window bays, and a cast-concrete panel centered over the entry with the inscription "United States Post Office". The wall is terminated by a coping of Spanish tiles, laid perpendicular to the parapet. The center portion of the parapet above the entry bay steps up slightly with the coping running along the wall.

The side facades are identical to each other. The facades are flat with the exposed concrete basement wall and the stucco-surfaced main floor wall. Three window bays divide each facade. Fixed eight-light wood sash windows are set in the basement wall (covered by aluminum-framed storm windows). The main-floor windows are identical to those of the front facade. As in the front, rectangular grilles of agricultural-drainage tiles are aligned over the window bays. The parapet treatment is also identical to the front facade.

The rear facade is flat, faced with stucco and terminated with red Spanish tiles. Three bays divide the facade. The center bay contains the rearward projecting loading platform which is enclosed with wood siding and topped by a flat built-up tar composition roof. Two double loading doors open to the rear of the platform, a pedestrian door provides access to the west side, and a four-light wood sash window is in the east side. Triplet three-light windows (fixed), separated by thickened wooden mullions, are set above the platform roof. The bays flanking the platform consist of triplet windows, also separated by thickened wooden mullions. The sash is double-hung wood with nine-over-nine lights.

**8. Statement of Significance**

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

nationally  statewide  locally

Applicable National Register Criteria  A  B  C  D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)  A  B  C  D  E  F  G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Politics/Government

Period of Significance

1900-1941

Significant Dates

Site Acq.-1921

Const.-1923

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

James A. Wetmore, Acting Supervising

Architect/Federal Government

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

The Eureka Post Office is an unaltered and well-preserved small-town, single-purpose post office. It is significant, both stylistically and programmatically, as one of the few post offices constructed in the West and nation during the early-1920s. Utah received four post offices during this period (of nine still under USPS-ownership in the entire West); however, only Eureka is unaltered. Stylistically, the design motif of this period is a departure from the Beaux-Arts of the 1900 to 1920 period and its brief resurgence of the early 1930s. As a symbol of the federal presence and federal recognition of the city's permanence, the Post Office marks the zenith of Eureka's growth after which it faded to little more than another mining ghost town. The building is also designated as a landmark in the Eureka National Historic District.

ARCHITECTURE

Utah received four of the fifty-six post offices constructed by the federal government from 1920 to 1926; Park City (1921), Eureka (1923), Spanish Fork (1923), and Vernal (1925). Although Eureka is the only unaltered example, all of these buildings had common characteristics that marked a departure, and essentially an interlude, from the Beaux-Arts tradition that had ruled federal architecture. Utah's previously constructed post offices, up to the 1919 Richfield Federal Building and then those subsequently constructed from the 1931 Price Post Office to the 1934 Cedar City Federal Building, were clearly Beaux-Arts in influence. The buildings of the early-1920s, however, were markedly simplified. Indeed, they seem to belong to the modern, 'Starved Classical', building designs of the mid- to late-1930s. Though Classically symmetrical and proportioned, the buildings of

See continuation sheet

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

1. Notarianni, Philip F., Faith, Hope and Prosperity: The Tintic Mining District. Eureka, UT: Tintic Historical Society, 1983.
2. Notarianni, Philip F., "Historic Resources of the Tintic Mining District (Partial Inventory: Historic and Architectural Properties)" (National Register Nomination), October 1977.
3. The Eureka Reporter, various articles 1917 and 1923.
4. Original Floor Plans, 1922.
5. Construction Progress Photographs, December 4, 1922-August 5, 1923.

See continuation sheet

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

Specify repository:

USPS Facilities Service Center  
San Bruno, CA 94099-0330.

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreeage of property 0.34 acres

UTM References

A 1 2 4 0 4 4 8 0 4 4 2 3 1 2 0  
 Zone Easting Northing

C                              

B                                
 Zone Easting Northing

D                              

Quadrangle name: Eureka  
Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

Beginning at NE corner of Lot 14, Block 1, Plat "A", Eureka City Survey, thence S 24° 32' E 100.87 feet to SE corner of Lot 14, thence S 48° 27' W 117.82 feet to SE corner of Property owned by Eureka City, thence N 28° 30' W 66.35 feet to point, thence N 27° 29' W 76.93 feet to point on North boundary line of Lot 14, thence N 66° 27' E 62.04 feet to corner of Lot 14, thence N 71° 12' E 59.23 feet to beginning.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes property originally purchased by the federal government for the post office site.

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title H.J. "Jim" Kolva, Project Manager; Steve Franks, Research Assistant.  
 organization Institute for Urban & Local Studies date August 1988  
 street & number West 705 1st Avenue telephone (509) 458-6219  
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the early-1920s featured flat, unadorned facades with the only historical detailing limited to the entries. Furthermore, stucco rather than brick and stone (or terra cotta) was used as the exterior facing. (Note: except in regions with a Spanish tradition, where Spanish Colonial influenced design and materials, stucco was not used except during this period.) Quite possibly, this economy of design and material is a legacy of the First World War; only buildings authorized prior to the War were completed and it was not until the Public Buildings Act of May 25, 1926 that any new construction laws were enacted. Those buildings that had been authorized were constructed under a limited funding base.

Thus, the Eureka Post Office, as the only unaltered post office from this 1920s design period in Utah, is significant on the state level under Criterion C.

POLITICS/GOVERNMENT

The building is the first federally-constructed post office in the city and was constructed at perhaps the city's peak period of growth and development. After the 1920s the city began a steady decline which has continued to the present day. The building is only one of nine USPS-owned post offices constructed in the West during the early-1920s. From 1920 to the early 1930s the federal building program came to a virtual standstill. During this period federal building programs were under evaluation and although the Public Buildings Act of 1926 established the foundation for the massive building programs of the Depression era, initial activity under the Act was slow and it was not until 1930 that significant construction began.

As the city's first and only federally-constructed post office the building symbolizes the federal government's recognition of the community's stability and permanence. Functioning as both a symbol and agency of the federal government and representing the link between the federal government and the local community, the building is locally significant under Criterion A.

LOCAL CONTEXT

Eureka, with a 1980 population of 670, is a "ghost" of

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its former self. The former mining town, which reached its heyday in the 1920s, has steadily declined in population in correspondence with the ebbing mining industry. Most of the downtown business district, which is in a state of slow decay, is located within a national historic district.

According to local legend, the Tintic area was home to "lost Spanish mines" which preceded the booming mining operations of the late 1800s and early 1900s. The mining district bears the name of a Ute chief, Tintic. Skirmishes took place in the late 1850s between the Utes and cattlemen. After discovery of an ore outcropping by Mormon cowboys, the Tintic Mining District was formed in 1869. Incorporation was followed by an influx of prospectors and miners in the early 1870s.

Eureka's beginnings stem from the staking of the Eureka Hill mine in 1870. Eureka Gulch became the area of settlement for miners, prospectors, settlers, and their families. The settlement rapidly became the district's business center. In 1880 Eureka claimed 122 residents and boomed to a population of 1,733 in 1890. The Juab County Courthouse was erected in 1891 (subsequently moved to Nephi). Eureka was incorporated in 1892. The Rio Grande Western branch line was extended from Springville and the city continued in its development.

Labor strife, the panic of 1893, and a fire which devastated the city's business district in 1893 all dealt blows to the city's prosperity. The construction of new mills in 1894 brought about a slow but steady recovery to the mining district. The mill construction brought prosperity back to the city by the mid-1890s. By 1900 the population climbed to 3,325. Growth continued through the 1920s with populations of 3,829 in 1910 and 3,908 in 1920. Mine production peaked in 1925, then plummeted by 1933. Population began to decline from 3,041 in 1930 to 2,292 in 1940 and 1,318 in 1950.

The Eureka Post Office is at the east edge of the city's business district along Main Street. Lliff Street forms the rear (south) boundary of the site. Adjacent to the east is the frame Methodist Episcopal Church (historic landmark) and attached mobile home. A two-story brick commercial building (predates post office) is adjacent to the west of the Post

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Office. Across Main Street to the north is a service station and motel (modular construction). Single-family residences, in various states of repair, are across Lliff Street to the south.

The post office and the church adjacent to the east are in the Eureka Historic District (NHD). The church is also designated as a landmark within the district.

LOCAL NEWSPAPER COVERAGE OF THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE EUREKA MAIN POST OFFICE

Unfortunately, newspapers are unavailable between November of 1918 and November of 1923, the years spanning the construction of the building. An article of December 28, 1917 in The Eureka Reporter announced that the government was about to erect a federal building in the city. W. E. Cook of the Attorney General's Office was in the city to determine the land valuations in the city. An appropriation of \$55,000 had been made for the building. Apparently the property of P. J. Fennel had been offered some years earlier for a sum of \$5,000.

Progress photos taken during the construction of the post office indicate the dates of the various erection stages. A photo dated April 12, 1919, shows the site prior to construction. Two frame houses originally occupied the site. A December 4, 1922 photo shows the completion of the excavation and placement of forms for the concrete work. On May 3, 1923, the basement was completed and the terra-cotta block walls were in place. Photos of August 5, 1923 show the completed building--unchanged to the present day.

A final newspaper article of December 21, 1923, reported that the post office had received a Christmas present from Uncle Sam--a new cancelling machine. According to the article, the machine brought great rejoicing to the staff. According to Postmaster Beesley, "Uncle Sam could not have sent to the office anything that would have been more appreciated."

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Inventory—Nomination Form**

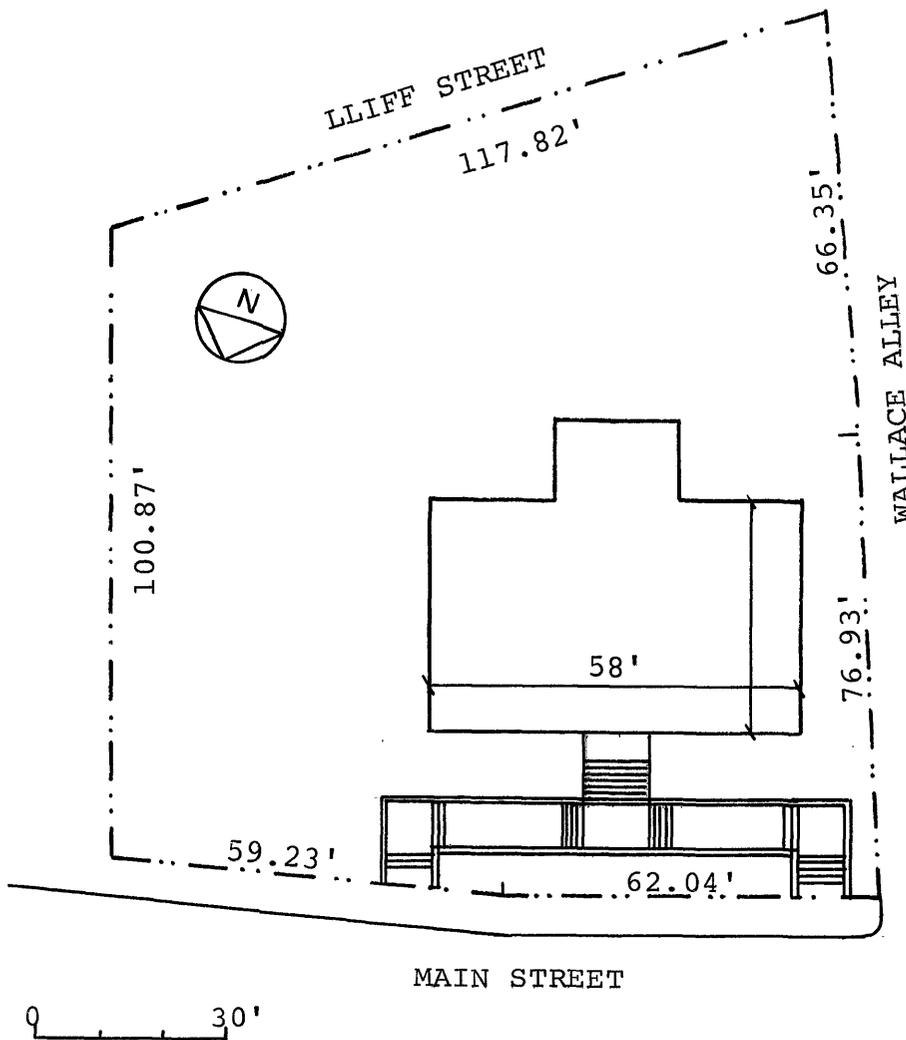
For NPS use only  
received  
date entered

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The following information is the same for all the  
photographs listed:

1. Eureka MPO
2. Eureka, Utah
3. Jim Kolva
4. December 1984
5. Negatives on file at USPS Facilities Service Center,  
San Bruno, CA.

Photo No. 1 (negative #5)

6. View to southwest

Photo No. 2 (negative #4)

6. View to south

Photo No. 3 (negative #3)

6. View to southeast