

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 APR 17 1987  
DATE ENTERED MAY 19 1987

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

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC  
Yellowstone Main Post Office  
AND/OR COMMON  
Yellowstone Main Post Office

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER  
Mammoth  
CITY, TOWN  
Yellowstone National Park  
STATE Wyoming CODE 82190  
VICINITY OF NA  
COUNTY Park CODE 056  
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT NA  
CODE 029

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Thematic Group	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
	NA	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**4 AGENCY**

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (if applicable)  
United States Postal Service, Western Regional Headquarters  
STREET & NUMBER  
850 Cherry Avenue  
CITY, TOWN  
San Bruno  
VICINITY OF NA  
STATE CA CODE 94099

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Yellowstone National Park  
STREET & NUMBER  
NA  
CITY, TOWN  
Yellowstone National Park  
STATE Wyoming

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE Historic Resources of Yellowstone National Park (Partial Inventory: Fort Yellowstone-Mammoth Hot Springs Historic District, Ft. Yellowstone Powerhouse)  
DATE October 17, 1977  
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS National Park Service, Rocky Mountain Regional Office  
CITY, TOWN Denver  
STATE Colorado

## 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE <u>NA</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Yellowstone Main Post Office (Mammoth) is a two story concrete building on a raised basement with a shingled hipped roof. Random ashlar stone faces the basement and frames the semicircular arches of the three central bays. The symmetrical front facade consists of three sections divided by concrete quoins-- a five bay central section and single bay wings at each end. Two of the three original entrances have been blocked and altered to resemble Palladian windows which flank the remaining entry bay. The centered double door entry is topped by a fan window. Flat-arched windows are centered in the end wings and between the quoins dividing the sections and the arched bays. Seven flat-arched window bays, aligned over the first floor bays, extend slightly above the roof eaves to create segmentally-arched dormers. Demarkation of the first and shortened second stories is provided by a slightly projecting sill course.

### PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The structure is two stories in height and rests on a slightly raised platform. The basement, which is partially unexcavated, is constructed of concrete. Reinforced concrete is used for the structural members of the first and second floors. Exterior materials consist of sandstone facing from grade level to the first floor windows, stucco on the first and second floors, and hipped slate roof. Granite is used for the main entry stairs. Sandstone is also used for the pillars which support the side porches.

The front facade (north) is flat, symmetrical in elevation, and consists of seven bays. Ashlar random-range, quarry-faced sandstone (of local origin) faces the exterior wall from grade level to the sandstone belt course beneath the first floor window line. The remainder of the wall is faced with stucco. Quarry-faced sandstone also frames the three central bays which consist of the entry bay and flanking window bays. Six granite steps with flanking square granite

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

SPECIFIC DATES Building Completed 1937 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Federal Government/Louis A. Simon,  
OSA

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Although the Yellowstone Main Post Office is included as a contributing structure in the Fort Yellowstone-Mammoth Hot Springs Historic District, and as such is listed in the National Register of Historic Places, it possesses exceptional significance in the overall context of Wyoming architecture. In its French Renaissance Moderne Design, the building is the only example of its type in the state of Wyoming and the west. Though the design is based upon the standardized plans of the Supervising Architect's office, it has been tailored to fit the context of the Mammoth complex. The result is a stately chateau which looks as if it belongs in a major national park.

## ARCHITECTURE

The French Renaissance Moderne Mammoth Post Office is a rare example of its design type--the only example in a western post office. Even so, it retains the basic elements of the "Starved Classicism" of mid- to late-1930s design as exhibited by its symmetry, balance and rhythm. The facade is flat and the historical architectural detailing, for example the quoins, is rudimentary. The high and steeply pitched roof and side wall dormers are essentially superimposed elements which provide a French Renaissance flavor. In spite of this, the building is successful and is appropriate in its national park setting. Furthermore, the random ashlar sandstone used to face the exposed basement wall and to frame the three central bays provide a rustic contrast to the otherwise rigidly formal facade.

As a "one of a kind" design the Yellowstone Main Post Office is one of a very few examples in the west that has been matched to its context. Aside from the Spanish-influenced styles of the southwest and the distinctive locally quarried sandstone post office of Manitou Springs, Colorado, for example, standardized national design styles ruled the architecture of the federal government. Of course, the context of this building is special and atypical of the downtown core. The post office is consistent in style to the Mammoth

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

1. Munn, James, "Historic Resources of Yellowstone National Park (Partial Inventory: Fort Yellowstone-Mammoth Hot Springs Historic District, Ft. Yellowstone Powerhouse):", October 17, 1977.
2. Haines, Aubrey L., "Postal Service in Yellowstone Park", (Yellowstone National Park Headquarters at Mammoth: unpublished file material) August 15, 1966.
3. National Park Service, Yellowstone National Park, "Press Release for Yellowstone Main Post Office, Mammoth", January 15, 1938.
4. Yellowstone Main Post Office, Construction progress photos, June 1936-December 1937.
5. Yellowstone Main Post Office, Floor plans, 1967.

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 0.69

UTM REFERENCES

A	1, 2	5, 2, 3, 8, 2, 0	4, 98, 0, 2, 2, 0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The site, located in the Fort Yellowstone-Mammoth Hot Springs Historic District, is rectangular with 200 feet of frontage (north boundary) along U.S. Route 89 and a depth of 150 feet.

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

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

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

H. J. "Jim" Kolva, Senior Associate

ORGANIZATION

Institute for Urban and Local Studies

DATE

June 1986

STREET & NUMBER

W. 705 1st Avenue

TELEPHONE

(509) 458-6219

CITY OR TOWN

Spokane

STATE

WA 99204

## 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

*John S. Leman*

TITLE

Realty Acquisition Specialist, Principal

DATE

2-9-87

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE

MAY 19 1987

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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buttresses and granite landing front the bays. Sculpted Indiana limestone grizzly bears rest atop the buttresses. The entry bay consists of double entry doors (wood with single glass panels) topped by a multi-paned fanlight. The arched window bays consist of 6-over-6 double-hung wood sash with 4-light side lights. A semicircular-arched fanlight, identical to that over the entry doors, tops the windows. A sectioned granite panel is set beneath the granite sill. Single bronze lanterns, affixed to the wall, flank the entry.

Twelve-over-twelve light double-hung wood sash windows are located to either side of the arched windows of the entry landing. These windows are equally spaced between the arched windows and stucco quoins which project slightly from the facade. Single windows, identical to those just described, are located at each end of the facade. Stucco quoins mark the corners of the building.

The second floor windows are smaller than those of the first floor and are dormered. A narrow stucco belt course extends across the facade at the sill line of these windows. The windows are flush with the facade line and topped by a segmentally-arched roof which projects slightly above the eave line of the sloping roof. As such, the window bays create breaks in the eave line. These windows consist of 6-over-6 light double-hung wood sash. The slate-clad hipped roof is visible above the second floor and extends below the ceiling line.

The side facades (east and west) are identical except for the placement of the side entries and their porches. Sandstone facing, consistent with that of the front facade, extends from grade to the belt course marking the bottoms of the windows. Stucco faces the remainder of the first and second floors. The corner quoins of the front facade extend to the side facade corners. The roof and eave line are treated similarly to that of the front. The ridge line of the roof steps down slightly from the front to the hipped roof of the rearward extending wings.

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The entry portico (topped with slate-clad hipped roof) of the west side is centered on the facade. Square sandstone pillars support the roof at each corner. A single wooden door with a 6-light glass panel is located within the porch at the southern side, and a 6-over-6-light double-hung wood sash window is located on the northern side. The porch is flanked by single 12-over-12-light double-hung wood sash windows. The portico of the east facade is located at the south corner of the building and is identical in size and design to that of the west side. A single door on a raised landing provides access to the building. Wrought iron ballustrades are located along the landing and the stairs. Two windows are located north of the portico and are identical to those of the west side. The second floor windows of both sides are identical to those of the front facade.

The rear facade displays the U-shaped plan of the second floor. The first floor, however, contains the workroom in the area between the projecting side wings. The exterior is faced with stucco with the exception of sandstone along the basement wall. The loading platform with a single double-doored loading bay is located on the east wing. A flat metal roof covers the platform. The west wing contains a single 12-over-12-light double-hung wood sash window. Four 20-over-20-light double-hung wood sash windows are located in the first floor section between the wings. The windows are equally spaced with a square chimney located in the center of the facade. Quoins identical to those of the front facade mark the corners of the wings. The second floor of each wing contains a single 6-over-6-light double-hung wood sash window (same treatment as front and sides). The windows along the interior of the U consist of 6-over-6-light double-hung wood sash windows that are set beneath the eave line (which is raised slightly). Three 2-over-2-light double-hung wood sash windows are located in the dormers above the eave line.

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Motor Inn (1936-1937) and Cafeteria (1936), both Moderne buildings with a Colonial flavor, but is superior in quality of design and materials. The Yellowstone Main Post Office, as a rare and unique example of its design type, is significant on a state-wide level under Criterion C.

LOCAL CONTEXT

The Yellowstone Main Post Office is located in the Mammoth Hot Springs area of Yellowstone National Park. Mammoth Village houses the park headquarters staff, a medical clinic, motel, restaurant, several shops, and a museum. The post office fronts on a boulevard strip at the north edge of a cluster of buildings which include the visitor center to the west, administration building to the south, clinic to the east, and dormitory and maintenance buildings further south. The administration building and visitor center as well as several of the buildings housing park staff were constructed between 1891 and 1913 to house the Fort Yellowstone Army Garrison. These buildings replaced Fort Sheridan which was established when the First U.S. Cavalry took over park administration in the late 1880s under the command of Captain Moses Harris. These buildings are constructed of native stone and are best described as a military version of Colonial Revival. The medical clinic is single-storied brick of modern design (1960s).

A complex containing the motel, restaurant, and dormitory buildings is located to the northwest of the post office (approximately two blocks). The motel and restaurant structures were constructed in the 1930s by private park concessioners. The style of these buildings is best described as "Colonial Moderne".

The Post Office is included in the Fort Yellowstone-Mammoth Hot Spring Historic District and is a contributing structure to that district.

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PRESS COVERAGE OF THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE YELLOWSTONE  
POST OFFICE

The following is an excerpt from a Department of Interior, National Park Service news release of January 15, 1938, to the AP, UP, Livingston Enterprise, Park County News, and Cody Enterprise. The release provides local background on the Yellowstone Post Office construction.

Visitors to Yellowstone National Park next summer will be served at the new post office at Mammoth Hot Springs just completed by the Procurement Division of the Treasury Department, which branch of the government is responsible for the construction of federal post offices. Postmaster Claude Anthony, to whom the new post office was turned over on December 30 by the contractor, announced today that open house will be held on Monday evening, January 17, to dedicate the new structure and all visitors are welcome.

Started during the summer of 1936, the new post office is the third of the new structures to be completed in the Mammoth Group. The first structure to be completed at Mammoth since the Yellowstone was taken over by the National Park Service in 1918 was the apartment house building, which was accepted in February 1936. ... The second, the utility building, which houses the government garage, was completed and accepted on May 26, 1937. While the new post office was expected to be in readiness for the summer of 1937 the unsatisfactory progress made by the contractor prolonged the construction, necessitating the letting of a second contract by the bonding company, who took over the work from the original contractor, in order to complete the project.

The contract for the new post office building was let to Seigfus Brothers of Salt Lake



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City, Utah in the spring of 1936 on their bid of \$87,468. Due to the unsatisfactory progress made by Siegfus Brothers, the surety company, The Central Surety and Insurance Corporation of Kansas City, assumed responsibility for the completion of the project and on April 21, 1937 let a contract to Coomer & Small of Souix City, Iowa for its consummation. Not alone does the new structure provide for the handling of mail for the entire Yellowstone Park but it is constructed to provide living quarters for the postmaster and his assistants and the clerks needed to augment the force during the summer season. The quarters of the clerks and postmaster occupy the second floor of the building. ... The new building is modern in every respect, with an individual heating system and janitorial service. The walls of the lobby are faced with travertine from the mines above Gardener and the entire structure, both inside and out, presents a most pleasing view to the eye of the observer, is a distinct improvement over the cramped quarters formerly occupied by the Post Office Department, and should tend to improve considerably service to the public.

The present postmaster, Claude Anthony, has been filling this position since July 1935, succeeding Chester A. Lindsley, who occupied the postmastership of the park from May 1922 to July 1, 1935, when he retired. Mr. Lindsley succeeded George A. Whittaker, former park scout, who served as postmaster from 1913 when he purchased the post office store at Mammoth from Lyall and Henderson. Postmaster Whittaker dispatched his mail from a portion of his Mammoth general store but during the time he occupied the postmastership the park had not been visited by more than 82,000 people during any one year, most of whom came to the park by train, whereas

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now the office takes care of the mail for almost a half million people, necessitating branch offices at Old Faithful, Thumb Lake, Fishing Bridge, Canyon, and Tower Falls.

Also of note from an article entitled "Postal Service in Yellowstone Park" by Aubrey L. Haines: the first post office in the park was established as Mammoth Hot Springs, National Park County, on March 2, 1880, with Clarence M. Stephens as postmaster; Postmaster Anthony and another career post office employee took their own lives in 1940 over an irregularity in the post office operation; and the first day covers in commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the National Park Service in the Department of the Interior received the Yellowstone National Park, Wyoming cancellation on August 25, 1966.

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