

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	DEC 19 1985
DATE ENTERED	1/22/86

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

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC  
Canon City Post Office and Federal Building  
AND/OR COMMON  
Canon City Main Post Office

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER  
5th Street and Macon Avenue  
CITY, TOWN  
Canon City  
STATE  
Colorado  
VICINITY OF  
NA  
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT  
2  
COUNTY  
Fremont  
CODE  
043  
NOT FOR PUBLICATION

**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	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<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
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**4 AGENCY**

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

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.  
Fremont County Assessor  
Fremont County Courthouse  
STREET & NUMBER  
P.O. Box 306  
CITY, TOWN  
Canon City  
STATE  
CO 81212

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE  
None Known.  
DATE  
\_\_\_\_ FEDERAL \_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_ COUNTY \_\_\_\_ LOCAL  
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS  
CITY, TOWN  
STATE

## 7 DESCRIPTION

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

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### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Canon City Main Post Office is a rectangular box with Renaissance Revival detailing. The front elevation is articulated by seven arches, six of which frame windows, while the middle arch frames the front entrance. The composition is topped with a tile roof. The lobby was a terrazzo floor and contains a considerable amount of marble detailing. Nearly all of the original fixtures are present. The structure is rigidly symmetrical. (1930)

### LOCAL CONTEXT

Canon City was a favorite Indian camping area. It was founded in the mining boom of 1859, and after the mining activity subsided, became an agricultural center. The State Penitentiary and mills helped insure the town's prosperity.

The post office is one block north of the central business district, bordering a residential area. The previous post office was in a building catty-corner across the street to the southwest. There are numerous late-19th and early-20th century structures in Canon City, although there is no designated historic district.

The original site survey could not be located, and no information on any previous structures was obtainable. The site appears to have been originally platted for residences. Basement excavation probably destroyed any evidence of previous structures. No historic, archaeological, or paleontologic sites are known within or adjacent of the subject property.

### PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The building appears to be in excellent condition, and both it and the grounds are being extremely well maintained.

The one and one-half story building is constructed of reinforced concrete and hollow tile with a facing of terracotta. It has a Spanish tile roof.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

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Continuation sheet

Canon City PO

Item number

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The public lobby floor is terrazzo outlined in marble, and there are marble steps leading to the second floor. The workroom floor is linoleum. There is neo-classic ceiling molding, and oak paneling.

The floor plan is roughly rectangular with its main entrance and lobby facing to the south. There is a full basement as well as a small second floor, which contains various governmental offices.

The structure is an excellent example of pre-Depression Beaux-Arts inspired post office architecture. It has an elaborate facade incorporating various classical motifs, most notably those associated with the Renaissance Revival. Features of note include: the front arched windows and entrance with simple pilasters, medallions between the arches, large bases with a balustrade, and oversized keystones, oversize iron lanterns flanking the main entrance, large windows with molded sills supported by corbels and triangular pedimented heads, a wide cornice with dentils, and a tile roof. Nearly all the interior features, including the light fixtures, are original.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

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SPECIFIC DATES	1931	BUILDER/ARCHITECT	OSA/James A. Wetmore, Acting Sup. Architect
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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE  
The Canon City Main Post Office is a nearly unique example of a style of architecture which had almost completely died out by the early 1930s. It is monumental in proportion, with excellent detailing. There are no other comparable buildings known in the region.

### ARCHITECTURE

This is an extremely late example of the Italian Renaissance Revival style. In plan and elevation, the structure represents the Supervising Architect's classical box: a one and one-half story section in front and a one story section in the rear. This form was practically unique to post offices and, as such, came to be a formal signifier of the building's function. The building is thus significant as an important example of a type, under Criterion C. The Renaissance Revival detailing places the structure in opposition to the prevailing architectural taste of the Thirties, and is important as an example of the federal government's design conservatism. The building is locally important as the only monumental Renaissance Revival building. The structure relates more to the post offices of the Twenties and Teens than of the Thirties, and possesses extraordinarily fine materials and high levels of craftsmanship throughout.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

None Known.

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 0.48 acre

UTM REFERENCES

A 13 478990 4254620  
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B           
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C           
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

D           
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Lots 5 through 8, block 23, original Canon City Townsite.  
 (see attached maps).

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

Paul R. Secord, Vice President/ H. James Kolva

ORGANIZATION

Institute for Urban  
 Beland/Associates, Inc./ and Local Studies

DATE

August 1984 / August 1985

STREET & NUMBER

16. S. Oakland Ave. Suite 204/W. 705 1st. Ave. ( 818) 796-8093 / (509) 458-621

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Pasedana / Spokane

STATE

CA 91101 / WA 99204

## 12 CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

YES

NO

NONE

*Balsara Sudler*

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

*James T. Cor*

TITLE Director, Office of Real Estate

DATE

December 17, 1985

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

*See Continuation sheet for listing*

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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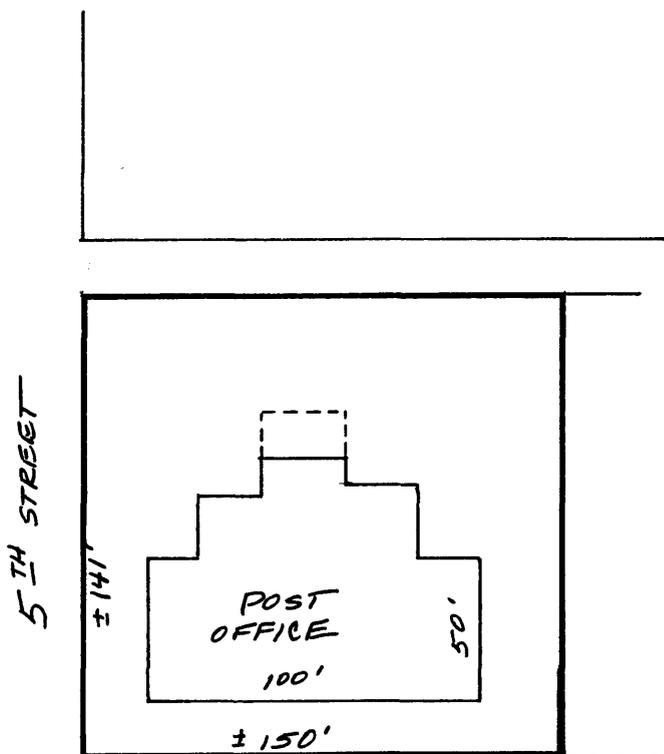
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CONTINUATION SHEET Canon City MPO ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 1

Source: Sanborn Map, Canon City, Colorado,  
Oct. 1926, page 3.



MACON STREET

N  
1" = ± 60'

