

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

RECEIVED

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

AUG 16 1988

NATIONAL
REGISTER

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 United States Post Office
other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 81 North Forest Street NA not for publication
city, town Camden NA vicinity
state Tennessee code TN county Benton code 005 zip code 31807

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>one</u>	_____ buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	_____	_____ sites
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	_____	_____ structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>one</u>	_____ objects
			_____ Total

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register none

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] 8/10/88
Signature of certifying official Date
United States Postal Service, Memphis Facilities Service Center
State or Federal agency and bureau

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

[Signature] 6/21/88
Signature of commenting or other official Date
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, Tennessee Historical Commission
State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register. [Signature] 7/23/88
 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 the Keeper Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

United States Post Office

United States Post Office

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

Neo-Georgian

Late 1900's

foundation Concretewalls Brick and Plasterroof Composition; Tar and Gravelother

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

Situated in the heart of the central business district, the post office occupies the corners of Rosemary Avenue, West Main Street, and Lake Street. It covers an entire block and is convenient and accessible to all commercial and business establishments. Directly across the street is the Benton County Courthouse. On the same side as the post office to the east is the court square. To the west on the next block and adjacent to the post office is the town bank.

The post office is a one-story, L-shaped structure (see attached floorplan) measuring 84' x 98' on a 19,618 square foot site. A parking and maneuvering area, along with a mailing platform, are to the rear and south of the building. Not unlike the interior of most other post offices of this type, the first floor consists of a customer lobby with formica counters and workroom space leading to the back dock. The walls are brick and plaster with 14' high ceilings. During the expansion which occurred in 1968, offices for the postmaster and his assistant, new restrooms, and an employee swingroom were added to the east side. Also, the workroom and customer lobby were enlarged at the rear. Although the customer lobby still boasts its terrazzo floors, workroom flooring was changed to vinyl tile. The half basement remains intact consisting of an equipment room, a vestibule, and three storage rooms.

The exterior is quite interesting. Viewing the building from across the street, one's eye travels from the bonding of cut limestone spandrel at ground level up to where the conservative and double-hung sash windows are inset into the dark-red brick facade. A cornice faced with dentils borders the meeting of roof with walls. As the eye continues upward, it is noted that the composition roof is gabled with a soft slope and topped with a white painted wood-louvered cupola.

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 N/A

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Period of Significance

Significant Dates

Architecture

1936

1936

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Louis A. Simon, Supervising Architect
Neal Melick, Construction Engineer

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

Possessing its own style and character, the main post office building depicting Neo-Georgian classical features is the only one of its type in the town of Camden. Its origins date to the beehive activity days of the Works Progress Administration (WPA) whose theme was high quality in order to ensure public works of an enduring character and lasting benefits. Although built according to a standardized plan, its architectural style reflects a massing of Georgian and simplified elements not normally found in small communities such as Camden.

Designed in 1936 by Louis A Simon, Supervising Architect, and constructed by Neal A. Melick, Construction Engineer, Department of the Treasury, both known for quality workmanship, it is obvious from the durability and structural condition that this is another quality product emanating from the WPA era. Commanding the entire block at the corners of Lake Street, Rosemary Avenue and West Main Street, the structure's uniqueness of style has not diminished through the years. Standing as a visible symbol of the Federal government's public works progressive construction program, the post office building has not been duplicated in the local community and is considered a forerunner of its time.

The blending of modern features with Georgian classical details has not detracted from the facade's integrity and character. Especially noteworthy are the double-hung sash windows, wood-louvered cupola and the striking portico entrance flanked by fluted columns. These symmetrical details do not fail to place this building in a class of distinction.

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

Public Buildings: A Survey of Architecture of Projects Constructed by Federal and Other Governmental Bodies between the Years of 1933 and 1939 with the Assistance of the Public Works Administration, Washington, DC, U. S. Government Printing Office, 1939.

American Architecture Since 1780, A Guides to the Styles, Marcus Whiffen, M.I.T. Press Cambridge, Mass., and London, England, (1969) pp.159-160.

Identifying American Architecture, A Pictorial Guide to Styles and Terms, 1600-1945, John J.-G. Blumenson, American Association for State and Local History, Nashville, TN. p. 19.

See continuation sheet

Previous documentation on file (NPS): N/A

- 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: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of property .459

UTM References

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Zone Easting Northing

B

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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D

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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

Property fronts 126 feet on Main Street and 159 feet on Rosemary Avenue and Lake Street.

See continuation sheet

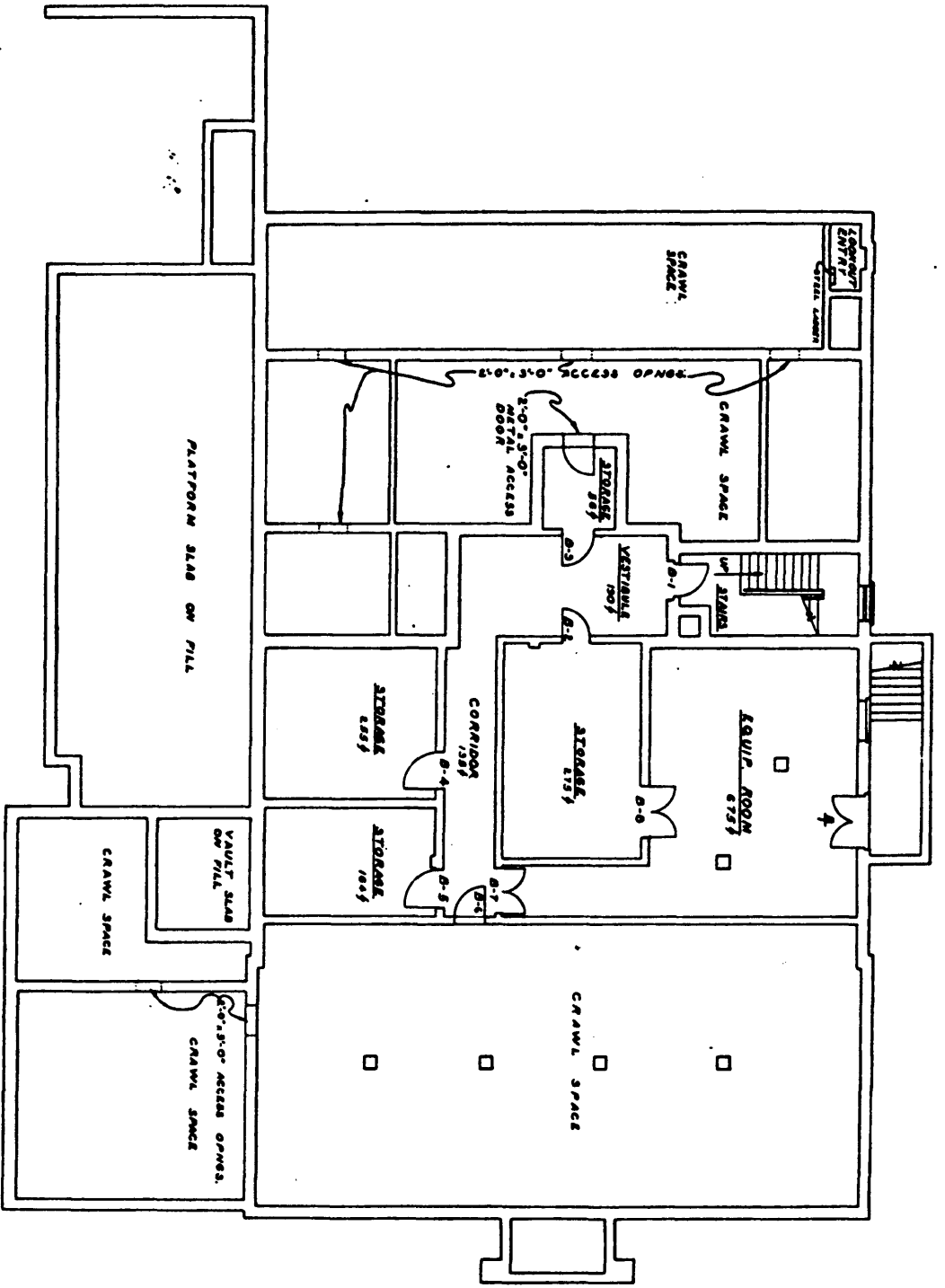
Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the parcel that has been associated with the property.

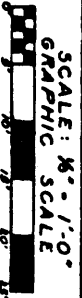
See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Ethel Hayes, Real Estate Specialist
 organization U. S. Postal Service date May 18, 1988
 street & number 1407 Union Avenue telephone (901) 722-7417
 city or town Memphis state Tennessee zip code 38166-0330



BASEMENT FLOOR PLAN

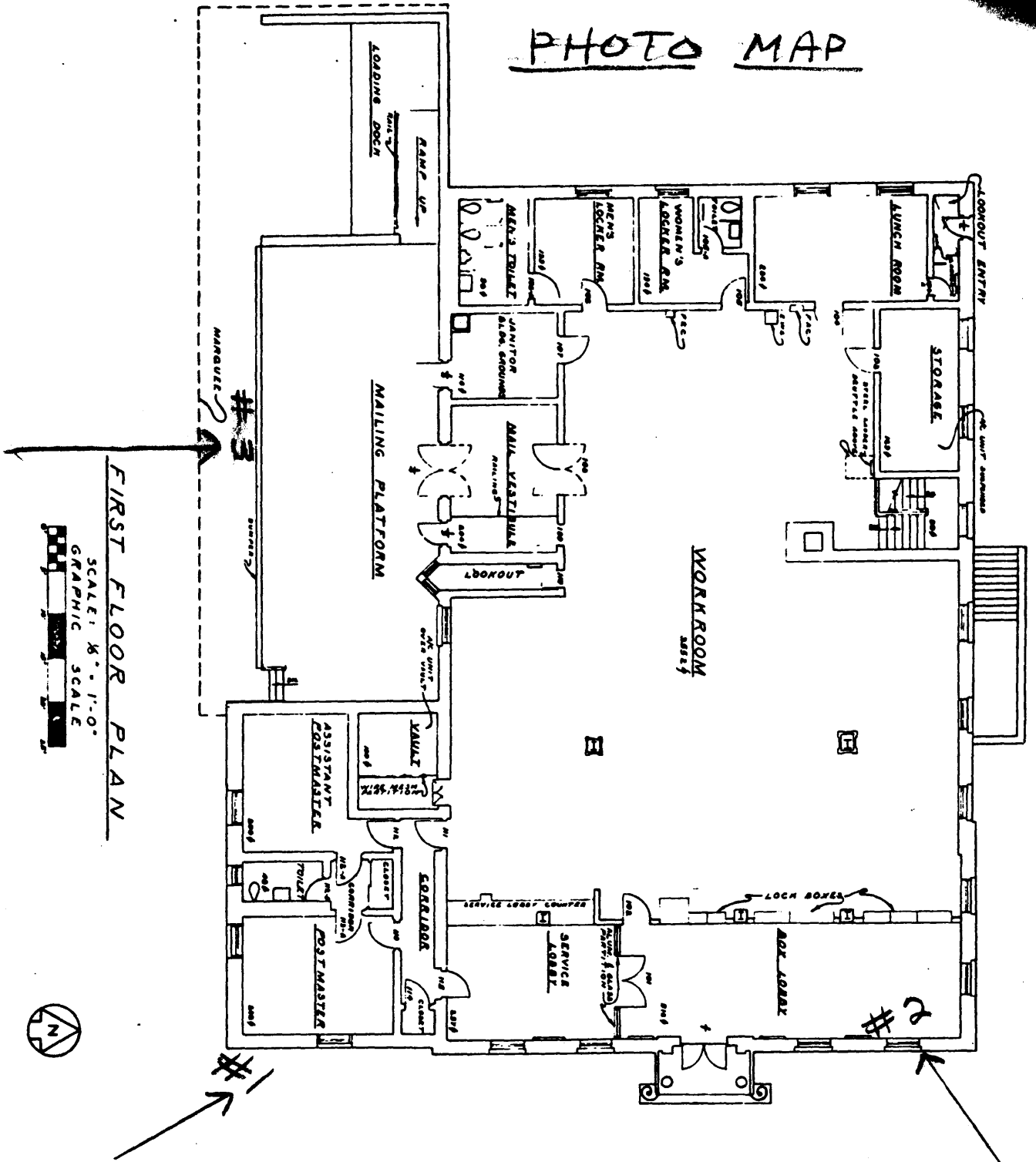


BASEMENT PLAN
IN SQUARE FEET

NET ASSIGNABLE AREA 770
GROSS AREA 1901

DESIGN & CONSTRUCTION DIVISION	
REGION 4 - ATLANTA, GA.	
GENERAL SERVICE ADMINISTRATION	
HEAD OFFICE: 1000 W. Peachtree St. N.E.	
PROJECT	U.S. POST OFFICE
CITY	CAMDEN, TENN.
STREET	WEST MAIN & LAKE ST.
MAIL NO.	
PROJECT NO.	44-0-00
DESIGNED BY	S.A.C.
DRAWN BY	
CHECKED BY	
DATE	
BASEMENT FLOOR PLAN	
ASSIGNMENT PLANS	
NO.	14-2 OF 4

PHOTO MAP

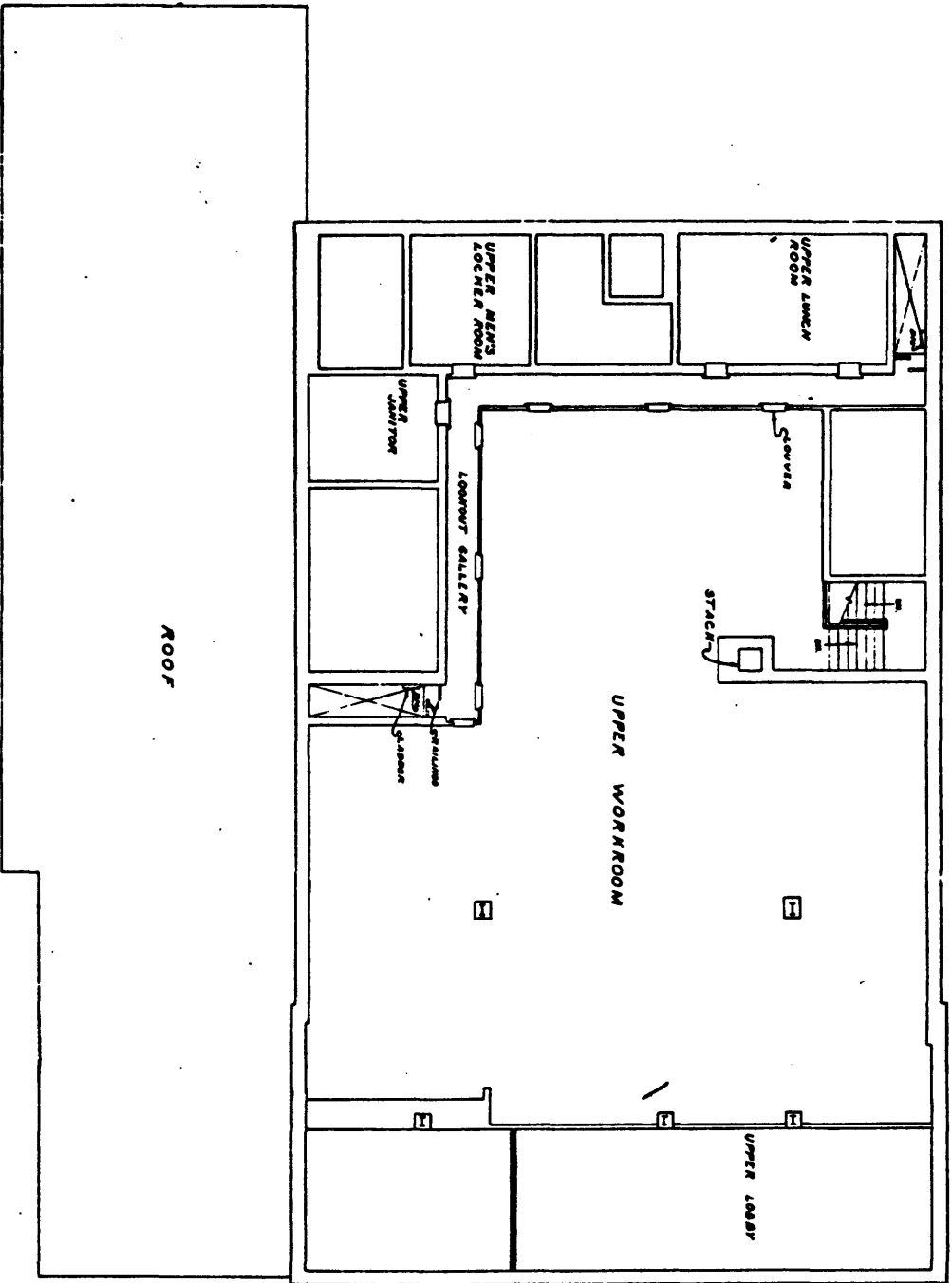


FIRST FLOOR PLAN

SCALE: 8" = 1'-0"
GRAPHIC SCALE



FIRST FLOOR PLAN IN SQUARE FEET	
NET ASSIGNABLE AREA	9075
GROSS AREA	9234
DESIGN & CONSTRUCTION DIVISION REGION 4 - ATLANTA, GA.	
GENERAL SERVICE ADMINISTRATION POSTAL SERVICE BLDG. - WASHINGTON, D.C.	
PROJECT: U.S. POST OFFICE	
LOCATION: CAMDEN, TENN.	
SITE: WEST MAIN & LAKE ST.	
DESIGNED BY: [Redacted]	DATE: 5/2/52
DRAWN BY: [Redacted]	NO. 14-3 OF 4
ASSIGNMENT PLANS	



UPPER PART OF FIRST FLOOR PLAN

SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0"
GRAPHIC SCALE



<p>UPPER PART OF FIRST FLOOR PLAN IN SQUARE FEET</p>	
NET ASSIGNABLE AREA	0
GROSS AREA	0
<p>DESIGN & CONSTRUCTION DIVISION REGION 4 - ATLANTA, GA.</p>	
<p>FEDERAL SERVICE ADMINISTRATION FEDERAL SERVICE CENTER - WASHINGTON, D.C.</p>	
PROJECT	U.S. POST OFFICE
LOCATION	CAMDEN, TENN.
STREET	WEST MAIN & LAKE ST.
PLAT NO.	
OWNER	POSTAL SERVICE
DESIGNED BY	U.S.A.E.
DRAWN BY	
CHECKED BY	
DATE	
NO.	14-4 OF 4