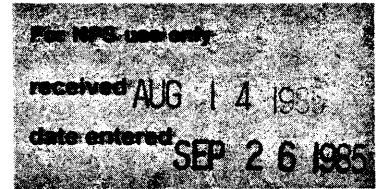


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#512 Old Las Vegas Post Office, 901 Douglas, ill. 9.

4. Owner: Silas Lopez, Las Vegas City Schools, 901 Douglas, Las Vegas, N.M.

7. Description: Flat roof; brick parapet and stone balustrade; stone cornice with entablature and dentils; 6/6 double-hung windows, paired, recessed with stone sill, and entablature/continuous lintel (2nd), 23/15 windows, recessed stone lintels, arch accents and scroll keystone (1st); both entrances, paired doors, Adamesque entablature, fan lights with wrought iron grills, front entrance, rusticated quoins surround; side entrance, recessed.

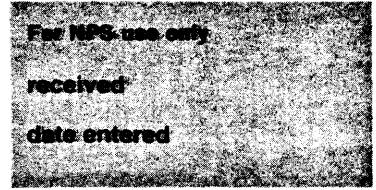
The old Post Office stands at the foot of University Hill (earlier called Zion Hill) in a two block area of mixed residential and institutional buildings including a state armory, an Elks Club, a grade school, a mortuary, a group of five small houses raised on a terraced embankment, and another nominated house.

8. Significance: Built in 1927, the Post Office building now serves as the offices for the (East) Las Vegas City School. If the City had had boosters pushing a clearly defined local style, as happened in 1921 with the Pueblo Style Post Office in Santa Fe, this building might have a more regional feel. The Spanish Colonial Revival Style, for example, used for the Douglas Avenue School, which went up across the street the same year, would have been a good choice. But lacking a clear direction, supervising architect James A. Wetmore, working in Washington, employed a popular Eastern style--the Georgian Revival. Put another way, the building shows the community following its fifty-year-long practice of looking to the East for its architectural imagery. Set in a New England town, it would have many similar companions, but in New Mexico it is the best of only a handful of Georgian Revival buildings in the state.

The two blocks of Douglas between Eighth and Tenth Streets (the P.O. is on the southwest corner at Ninth), developed during the 1880's with a group of six houses, two churches and a grade school. During the nineties the remaining lots were left vacant as the Douglas-Sixth Street commercial area spread west. When this expansion stalled about 1900 at Eighth Street, the area filled in with the Armory (1907-8), the Elks Club (1911-12), and mortuary (1926). This important institutional center was completed the next year when the Post Office replaced the wood frame Synagogue which was removed three blocks to the edge of the North New Town District.

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(#512 Old Las Vegas Post Office, continued)

10. Acreage: under 1. UTM Reference: 13 480240 3938660

Boundary: Lots 7-12 of Block 5 of the Blanchard and Company
Addition.