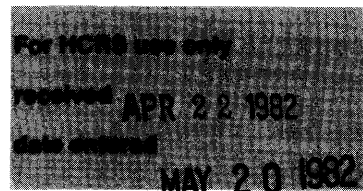


**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections



1. Name

historic Jennings Post Office
~~not~~ common Jeff Davis Parish Library Building

2. Location

street & number 118 W, Plaquemine Street n/a not for publication
 city, town Jennings n/a vicinity of congressional district 7th--John Breaux
 state LA code 22 county Jefferson Davis Parish code 053

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s) | <input type="checkbox"/> private | <input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied | <input type="checkbox"/> commercial |
| <input type="checkbox"/> structure | <input type="checkbox"/> both | <input type="checkbox"/> work in progress | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> educational |
| <input type="checkbox"/> site | Public Acquisition | Accessible | <input type="checkbox"/> entertainment |
| <input type="checkbox"/> object | <input type="checkbox"/> n/a in process | <input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted | <input type="checkbox"/> government |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> being considered | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted | <input type="checkbox"/> industrial |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> no | <input type="checkbox"/> military |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> museum |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> park |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> private residence |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> religious |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> scientific |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> other: |

4. Owner of Property

name Jefferson Davis Parish Police Jury
 street & number Courthouse
 city, town Jennings n/a vicinity of state LA 70546

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Jefferson Davis Parish Courthouse
 street & number State Street (no specific address) P. O. Box 799
 city, town Jennings state LA 70546

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title La. Historic Sites Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no
 date 1982 federal state county local
 depository for survey records La. State Historic Preservation Office
 city, town Baton Rouge state LA

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date N/A

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Jennings Post Office is a one-and-a-half story brick neo-Federal style public building set on the edge of the Jennings central business district. It served as the city's post office from its construction in 1915 until 1976. The police jury then purchased the building, which was renovated in 1979 for use as the parish library headquarters. The interior has been resurfaced, but most of the building's significant features are intact.

The ground story is mainly devoted to a single large room. There is also a rear service wing and a garret space devoted to offices. The exterior is of Flemish bond brick, while the water table, keystones, impost blocks, architrave, and cornice are of limestone. The ground story is surmounted by a parapet and a large pitched roof with wide gable parapets. Each ground story opening is ensconced within a semicircular brick archway. The three central bays of the five-bay facade are ensconced within a slightly projecting pavilion. Each of the five openings on the facade is surmounted by a pedimented dormer. The three central arches on the facade are filled with glass and have open lunettes. Lunettes also embellish each of the end gables.

The only major changes in the building since construction have been the removal of postal counters and the installation of plywood paneling on the interior. These changes should not be regarded as detrimental to the architectural significance of the Old Post Office because it is mainly significant for the contribution the exterior makes to the Jennings' townscape.

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 | | |

Specific dates 1915 **Builder/Architect** James A. Wetmore, Acting Supervising Architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph) Criterion C

The Old Jennings Post Office is locally significant in the area of architecture because it is a landmark in the town of Jennings. It is not noteworthy for its size, monumentality, or elaborateness, but rather for its progressive design, its restraint, and its sophistication. The Jennings central business district is largely characterized by contractor built commercial structures with their standard builder-vernacular forms and details. By contrast, the post office is the work of a "high style" architect and features elegant and restrained neo-Federal articulation. It represents a type of styling which would have been unexpected in a small town in rural Louisiana as early as 1915. It should be noted that this was before the White Pines architectural monograph series gave the more correct and restrained approach to Colonial Revival architecture widespread popular appeal.

iNB: Although James A. Wetmore is listed as the architect of record, the design was actually the work of Louis A. Simon. Although Wetmore was federal supervising architect from 1915 to 1933, he was a lawyer by training, and his design responsibilities were carried out by Simon, who was superintendent of the architectural section of the Office of the Supervising Architect.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Old Jennings Post Office Cornerstone
Craig, Lois and the Staff of the Federal Architecture Project, The Federal Presence:
Architecture, Politics, and Symbols in United States Government Building,

10. Geographical Data

Acree of nominated property approx. .18 acre

Quadrangle name Jennings, La.

Quadrangle scale 1=62500

UMT References

A

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|------|---|---|---------|---|---|---|---|----------|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 5 | 5 | 3 | 2 | 7 | 7 | 5 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 3 | 3 | 1 | 5 |
| Zone | | | Easting | | | | | Northing | | | | | | |

B

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|------|--|--|---------|--|--|--|--|----------|--|--|--|--|--|--|
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| Zone | | | Easting | | | | | Northing | | | | | | |

C

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| Zone | | | Easting | | | | | Northing | | | | | | |

D

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| Zone | | | Easting | | | | | Northing | | | | | | |

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| Zone | | | Easting | | | | | Northing | | | | | | |

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| Zone | | | Easting | | | | | Northing | | | | | | |

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| Zone | | | Easting | | | | | Northing | | | | | | |

H

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|------|--|--|---------|--|--|--|--|----------|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Zone | | | Easting | | | | | Northing | | | | | | |

Verbal boundary description and justification

Please refer to sketch map.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state n/a code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Carolyn F. Loos, Librarian

organization Jefferson Davis Parish Library

date January 1982

street & number P. O. Box 356

telephone 318-824-1210

city or town Jennings

state LA 70546

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature



Robert B. DeBlieux

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date 3-7-82

For HCERS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register



date

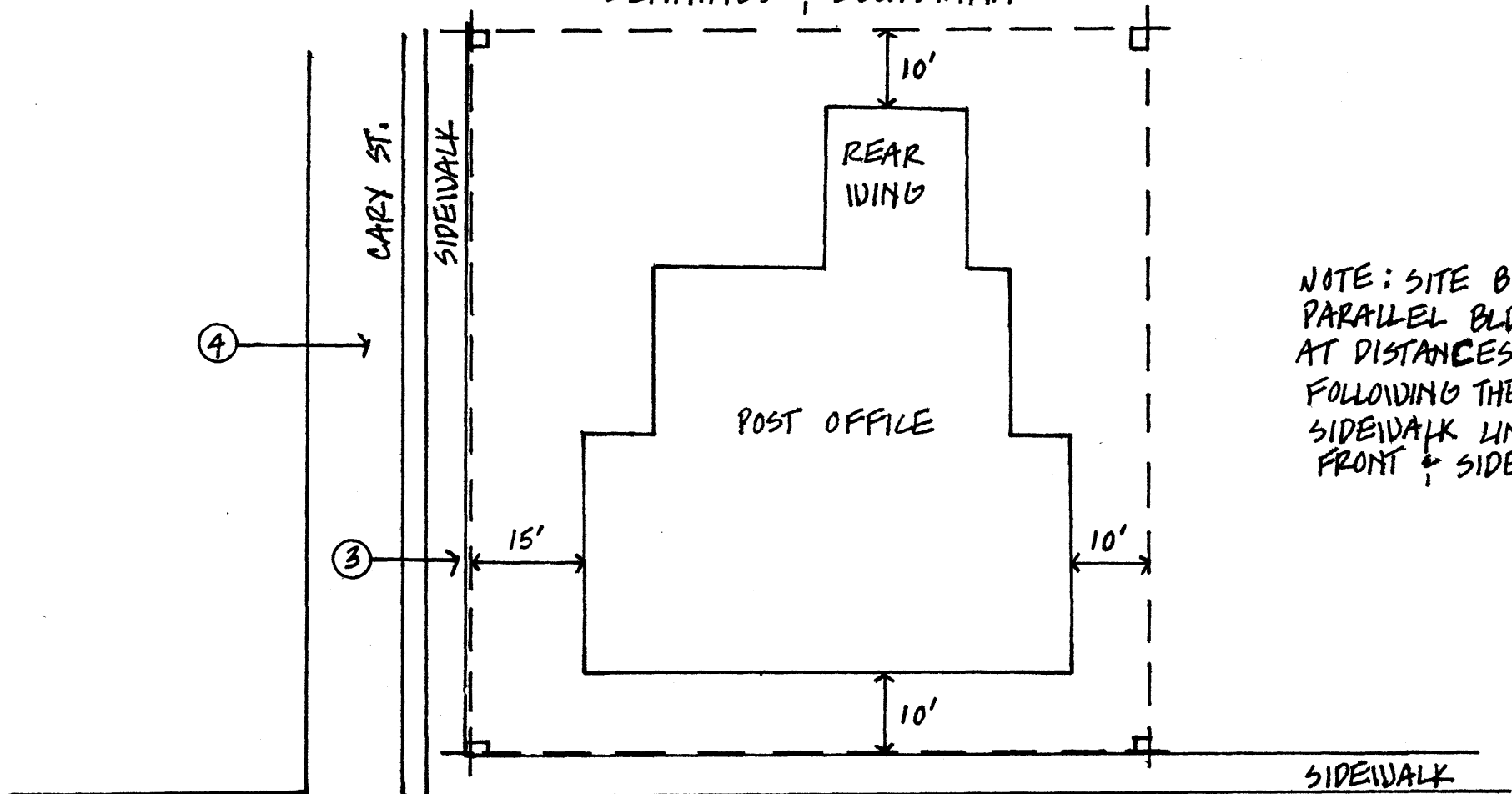
Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

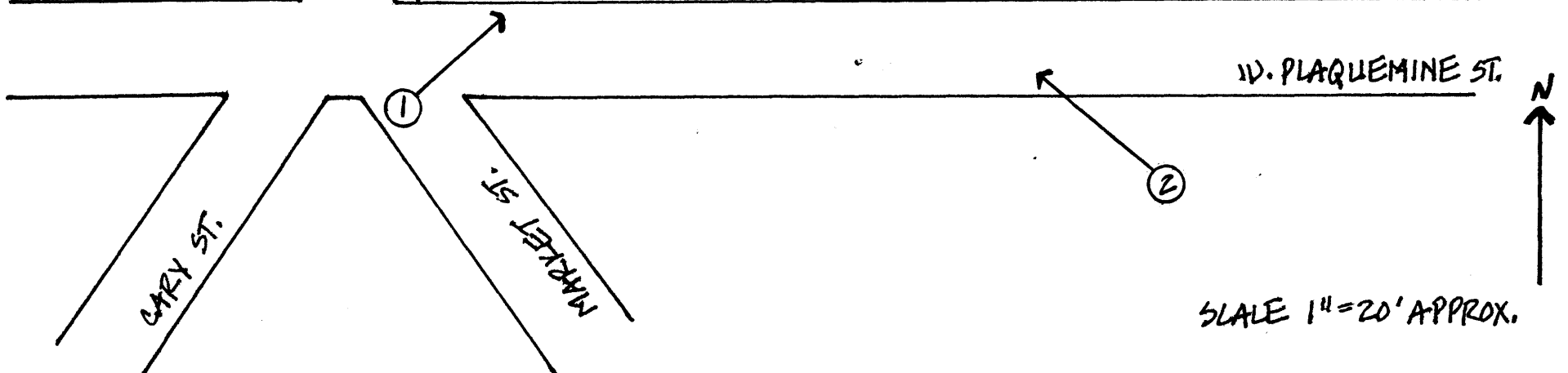
date

Chief of Bureau

OLD JENNINGS POST OFFICE
JENNINGS, LOUISIANA



NOTE: SITE BOUNDARIES
PARALLEL BLDG. FACADES
AT DISTANCES SHOWN,
FOLLOWING THE INSIDE
SIDEWALK LINE ON THE
FRONT & SIDE FACADE



SCALE 1" = 20' APPROX.