



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.<br>American Architecture Since 1780, A Guides to the Styles, Marcus Whiffen, M.I.T. Press Cambridge, Mass., and London, England, (1969) pp.159-160.<br>Identifying American Architecture, A Pictorial Guide to Styles and Terms, 1600-1945, John J.-G. Blumenson, American Association for State and Local History, Nashville, Tennessee. p. 19.

Previous documentation on file (NPS): N/A
$\square$ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requestedpreviously listed in the National Registerpreviously determined eligible by the National Register designated a National Historic Landmark recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey \# $\qquad$recorded by Historic American Engineering Record \#

## 10. Geographical Data

## Acreage of property <br> $\qquad$

UTM References


## Verbal Boundary Description

Beginning at a stake in the intersection of Randolph and Lafayette streets; west with the south margin of Lafayette Street 99 feet to the intersection of an alley and Lafayette street; thence with the east margin of said alley south 198 feet to the intersection of said alley and Jackson street; thence with the north margin of Jackson Street east 99 feet to a stake in the intersection of Jackson. Street with Randolph Street; thence with the west margin of Randolph Street north 198 feet to the Beginning.

Boundary Justification
The boundary includes the parcel that has been associated with the property.
11. Form Prepared By


## 8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:


State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.
Possessing the same Neo-Georgian classical features and characteristics as the Post Office at Camden, Tennessee, the Ripley, Tennessee Post Office also originated during the Works Progress Administration. The Works Progress Administration (WPA) was implemented immediately after World War I to provide employment to starving young artists and craftsmen and to give a boost to a flagging economy. In addition to the employment of skilled artisans, this era also stressed quality workmanship and the use of quality materials in construction. Like Camden, this building is another product of the WPA era.

It was designed in 1938 by Supervising Architect Louis A. Simon, Department of the Treasury, and constructed by Neal A. Melick, Supervising Engineer, and built according to a standardized plan. The actual construction was performed by Frank Inman Construction Company and Contractors, Memphis, Tennessee. Mr. Simon and Mr. Melick were prodigies of this very progressive era that emphasized enduring quality and lasting benefits in addition to innovative architectural styles.

The structure's uniqueness of style has not been duplicated in the local community nor has it diminished through the years. Standing as a visible symbol of the Federal government's public works progressive construction program, it is considered a forerunner of its time.

The blending of modern features with Neo-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 denticulated entrance flanked by iron lamplights. These symmetrical details do not fail to place this building in a class of distinction.

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)
U. S. Post Office
7. Description

Architectural Classification (enter categories from instructions)

Neo-Georgian

Describe present and historic physical appearance.
Unlike other post offices which were built on the town square in the central business district, this post office is situated on a 19,602 square foot site approximately one block east of the courthouse. The building fronts 76' on Jackson Street and extends 94.8 feet along Randolph Street.

The post office is a one-story, rectangular structure (see attached floorplan) raised over a half basement. A parking and maneuvering area along with a mailing platform is at the rear of the building. Not unlike the interior of most other post offices, the first floor consists of a customer lobby with formica counters and workroom space leading to the back dock. The walls are plaster with $14^{\circ}$ high ceilings. During the expansion which occurred in 1965, several offices were added to the basement and the swingroom was updated. Also, the workroom and customer lobby were enlarged at the rear. The customer lobby with its terrazzo floors, plaster walls, and marble wainscot with marble border reflects the grandness of an ancestral castle. It is significant to note that the renovation implemented a change from tradition: the walls were painted very modern soft hues such as blue, lemon yellow, lime and orange. They have since been changed to more subdued colors such as beige, tan, and white.

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. A cornice faced with dentils borders the meeting of roof with walls. As the eye continues upward, it is noted that composition roof is gabled with soft slope and topped with a white, wood-windowed cupola. The denticulated entrance flanked by iron lampposts is overshadowed by the U. S. Postal Service emblem, "The American Eagle.". Iron railings inset into the granite steps serve as a safety device as well as provide protection across the front facade.

## United States Department of the Interior

## National Park Service

 <br> \section*{\title{National Register of Historic Places <br> \section*{\title{
National Register of Historic Places <br> <br> <br> Registration Form
}} <br> <br> <br> Registration Form
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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
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historic name U. S. Post Office
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other names/site number

## 2. Location

| street \& number 117 | East Jackson Avenue |  | NAn ot for publication |  |  |  |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| city, town |  |  | Ripley |  |  |  | NA vicinity |
| state Tennessee | code | TN | county | Lauderdale | code | 097 | zip code |

## 3. Classification

Ownership of Property


Category of Property

| X | building (s) |
| :--- | :--- |
| $\square$ | district |
| $\square$ | site |
| $\square$ | structure |
| $\square$ | object |



Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register NA

## 4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this $\square$ nomination $\square$ 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 $\ddagger$ yppinion, the property $\square$ meets $\square$ does not meet the National Register criteria. $\square$ See continuation sheet.


In my opinion, the, property $\square$ meets $\square$ does not meet the National Register criteria. $\square$ see continuation sheet. signature of commenting or other officfor
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:
$\triangle$ entered in the National Register.
$\square$ see continuation sheet.
$\square$ determined eligible for the National Register. $\square$ See continuation sheet.
$\square$ determined not eligible for the National Register.


