UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED OCT 2 5 1985

DATE ENTERED FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS NAME HISTORIC Main Post Office AND/OR COMMON U. S. Post Office 2 LOCATION STREET & NUMBER Corner of Morford and Court Square NOT FOR PUBLICATION CITY, TOWN CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 4th McMinnville VICINITY OF COUNTY CODE STATE CODE Warren NA Tennessee 2 CLASSIFICATION **CATEGORY** OWNERSHIP STATUS **PRESENT USE** X_PUBLIC __DISTRICT XOCCUPIED. __AGRICULTURE __MUSEUM X_BUILDING(S) __PRIVATE __UNOCCUPIED __COMMERCIAL __PARK __STRUCTURE _BOTH __EDUCATIONAL **WORK IN PROGRESS** __PRIVATE RESIDENCE **PUBLIC ACQUISITION** __SITE **ACCESSIBLE** ENTERTAINMENT __RELIGIOUS NA IN PROCESS __OBJECT X GOVERNMENT _YES: RESTRICTED __SCIENTIFIC __BEING CONSIDERED XYES: UNRESTRICTED __INDUSTRIAL _TRANSPORTATION _NO MILITARY __OTHER: **AGENCY** REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (If applicable) U. S. Postal Service STREET & NUMBER P. O. Drawer 3744 CITY, TOWN STATE Memphis Tennessee 38173-0744 VICINITY OF LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION COURTHOUSE. REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Warren County Courthouse STREET & NUMBER Corner of Morford and Court Square CITY, TOWN STATE McMinnville Tennessee REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS TITLE NA DATE __FEDERAL __STATE __COUNTY __LOCAL **DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS** CITY, TOWN STATE

CONDITION

__DETERIORATED

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X_ORIGINAL SITE __MOVED DATE

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Facing Court Square, the McMinnville post office is situated on a relatively flat site on the center fringe of the Central Business District of a town of approximately 15,000 people. McMinnville, Tennessee is located in the east central portion of Tennessee approximately 75 miles from Nashville. Constructed in 1931, the facade is Georgian Revival.

The two-story brick building is rectangular in plan over a raised basement. The fenestration of the building employs windows with a jack arch and large keystone. There is a slate composition roof with dormer windows, balustrade and dentilated cornice. The exterior is further highlighted by brick quoins at the corners of the building and classical blank tablets above the building's tall windows. The most prominent exterior feature is the tetra style pedimented portico on a raised base with a double flight of steps.

The interior of the building is in very good condition. A glass and oak wood wall separates the window service area from the lockbox section in the L-shaped lobby. Lobby walls are enhanced with oak molding and marble floors. Situated on the left of the lobby is the Postmaster's office and directly behind is the workroom.

An addition/remodeling occurred in 1963. The workroom was extended, dock area moved from rear to south side of the building and Postmaster's office was remodeled with walnut paneling and carpeting. Also, nine to ten offices were added to the second floor. The addition retains the original style of the building.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

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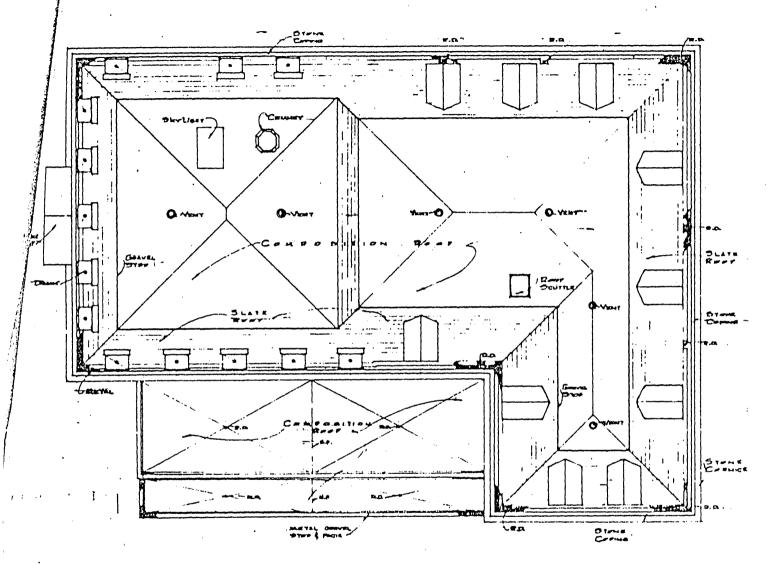
Dwarfing the entire southeast corner of Morford at Court Square, the post office is located directly across from the potentially-historic courthouse. Although overshadowed by the most stately structure of Norman Architecture built in 1897, the Post Office building does not lack for charm and uniqueness. Constructed of the finest building materials during a period of great wealth and progress, it is one of the tallest buildings domiciled on the town square.

Unlike the Greek Revival style library (Yearwood and Johnson, 1931) the Post Office derives its distinction from the simplicity of its form and elements. The rectangular, red brick elongated windows with white jack arches, attenuated portico columns and roof balustrade reflect the building's strong Federal style. It is the only public building of this style in McMinnville and represents the finest example in the county.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

McMinnville at a Milestone Mrs. Priest, Librarian, Magnus Memorial Library Dr. Schultz, County Historical Society

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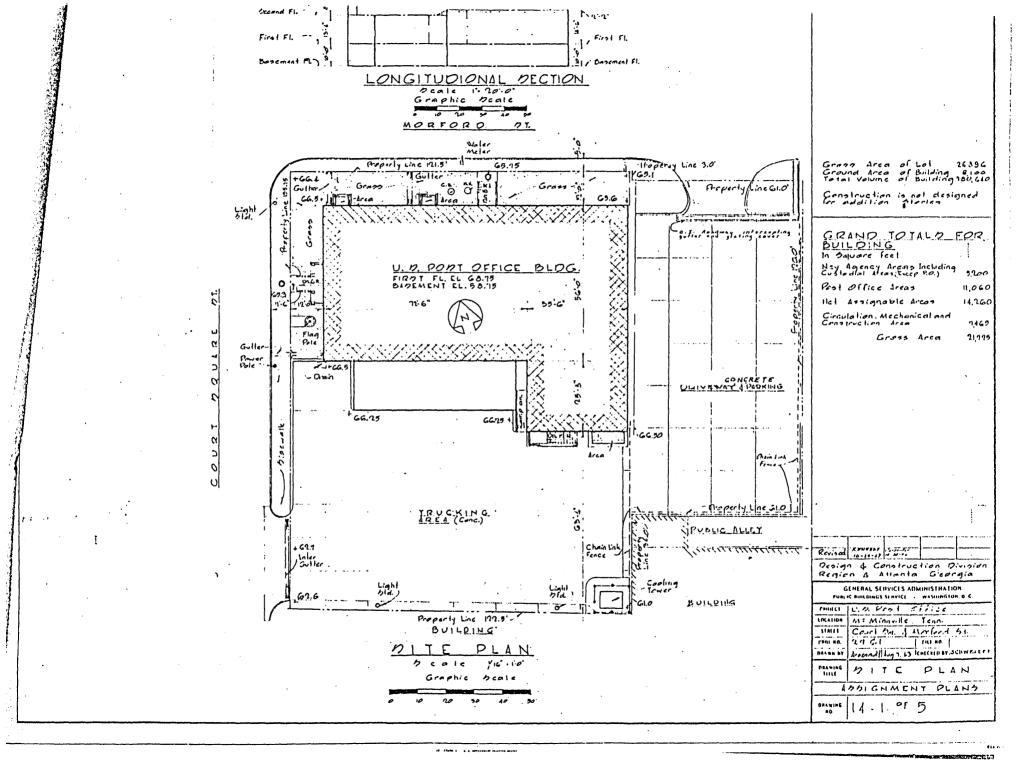


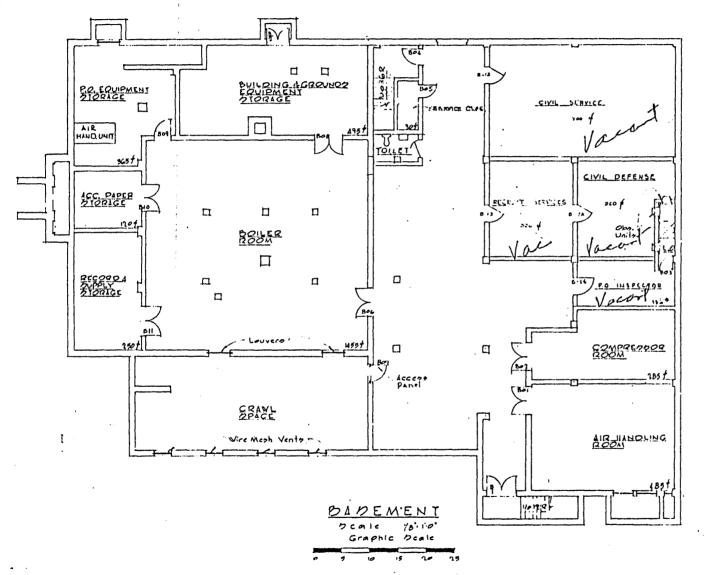
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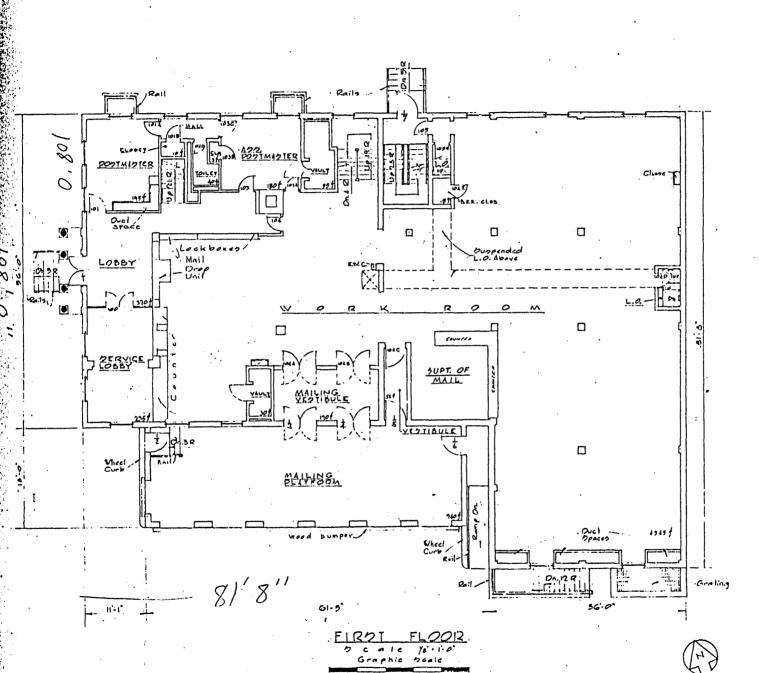
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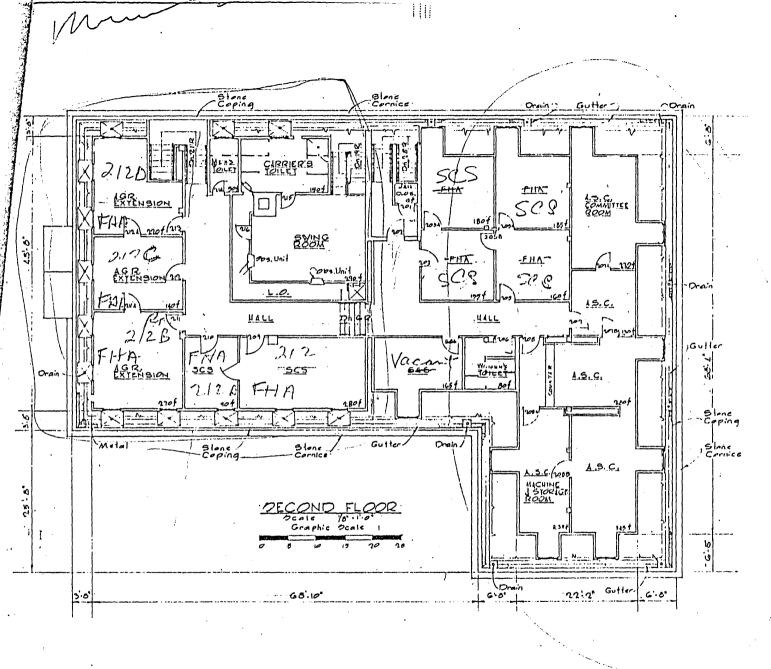
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