### 1. Name of Property

**historic name** United States Post Office—Adel, Georgia  
**other names/site number** N/A

### 2. Location

- **street & number**: 115 East 4th Street  
- **city, town**: Adel  
- **county**: Cook  
- **state**: Georgia  
- **code**: GA 075  
- **zip code**: 31620

( ) not for publication

### 3. Classification

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ownership of Property</th>
<th>Category of Property</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(X) private</td>
<td>(X) building(s)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>( ) public-local</td>
<td>( ) district</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>( ) public-state</td>
<td>( ) site</td>
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<tr>
<td>( ) public-federal</td>
<td>( ) structure</td>
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<tr>
<td>( ) object</td>
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**Number of Resources within Property:**

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<th>Noncontributing</th>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>total</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register:** N/A  
**Name of previous listing:** N/A  
**Name of related multiple property listing:** N/A
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 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 the National Register criteria. ( ) See continuation sheet.

W. Ray Luce
Historic Preservation Division Director
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

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

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

( ) entered in the National Register

( ) determined eligible for the National Register

( ) determined not eligible for the National Register

( ) removed from the National Register

( ) other, explain:

( ) see continuation sheet

Keeper of the National Register Date
6. Function or Use

Historic Functions:
GOVERNMENT: post office

Current Functions:
RECREATION AND CULTURE: museum

7. Description

Architectural Classification:

LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS: Colonial Revival

Materials:
- foundation: BRICK
- walls: BRICK
- roof: ASPHALT
- other: MARBLE

Description of present and historic physical appearance:

Located in south Georgia, the United States Post Office—Adel, GA, is located two blocks south of the county courthouse in the small town of Adel in Cook County. The building is located on the corner of West 4th Street (Georgia Highway 37) and Parrish Avenue. The lot is a typical small town lot with a sidewalk, grassed lawn, and mature hardwoods (photographs 30 and 32). There is a driveway and parking area to the rear of the property off of Parrish Avenue.

The United States Post Office in Adel is a one-story, five-bay brick building designed in the Colonial Revival style (photograph 30). Its square shape, flat roof, and planar walls create the appearance of a massive block (photograph 30 and 32). The building rests on a poured-concrete foundation and has load-bearing brick walls (photograph 29).

The main entrance to the building is via broad, granite steps with a cast-iron railing (photographs 29 and 31). The original wooden double doors were replaced with aluminum double doors, but the building retains the original Classical door surround, with fluted pilasters supporting an entablature, and transom lights (photograph 31). Metal zip code numbers “31620” and the street address “115” are located above and below the transom (respectively). Metal letters with the words “United States Post Office” and “Adel, Georgia” are located above the central entrance (photograph 31). Marble is used for the beltcourse that wraps around all sides of the building, coping, and windowsills. The eight-over-twelve sash windows are intact as is the small, square cupola on top of the building (photograph 30).
The cornerstone of the building (photograph 5) reads:

James A. Farley, Postmaster General
John M. Carmody, Federal Works Administrator
W. Englebert Reynolds, Commissioner of Public Buildings
Louis A. Simon, Supervising Architect
Neal A. Melick, Supervising Engineer
1939

The side elevations feature six bays with large sash windows similar to those on the front façade. A blind window on the east façade forms part of the exterior wall of the vault (photograph 4). Two smaller windows flank the blind window. There are exterior entrances to the below-grade ground floor and window wells to provide access and let in light to the basement offices (photograph 2). The rear (north) façade has a projecting ell that serves as the mailing platform and employees' entrance (photographs 1 and 3).

The main public entrance is through the central double doors leading into a wood and glass vestibule on the first floor (photographs 16 and 20). The L-shaped lobby features Etowah pink marble wainscoting and terrazzo floors (photographs 16-20). A cove cornice molding joins the ceiling and the walls. The inset areas for post office boxes remain intact; the boxes were removed when the postal service moved into a new building (photograph 18). Original lobby desks remain in the lobby. Also remaining are the original wall-mounted bulletin boards with glass doors and incised subject headings, such as "United States Civil Service Commission" and "Bulletins" (photographs 19 and 20). The Adel post office did have a mural called *Plantation Scene* (1941) painted by Alice Flint, who created murals for the Fairfield, Connecticut, and Arabi, Louisiana, post offices (photographs 33 and 34). The mural is now located in the new, nonhistoric post office in Adel. A customer service counter with open service windows remains intact along the rear wall of the lobby (photograph 17). Several long, rectangular ventilation windows, open except for turned balusters, are located near the ceiling above the counter for ventilation and light to the workroom.

The workroom comprises the majority of the first floor. The workroom is a large open space where mail was received and sorted. The original wood floors remain under later tile floors. The room also retains its original wood wainscoting and window and door surrounds (photographs 6-8). A series of small rooms is located along the east side of the post office. The postmaster's office is located in the southeast corner and is entered from both the workroom and the lobby (photograph 13). The postmaster's office includes molded window surrounds, door surrounds, chair rail, and baseboard. The postmaster's office includes a small bathroom and the entrance to the lookout gallery. Entered from a ladder and located above the vault, the lookout gallery provided postal inspectors with ability to monitor the conduct of postal employees in the workroom (photograph 9 and 14). Because the interior of the gallery was painted black and the viewing windows consisted of only three narrow bands of glass set in the ceiling against a small black field, it was impossible for employees to know they were being monitored (photograph 15).
The vault, also along the east wall, was used to store money, stamps, and registered mail. It consists of a concrete floor, walls, and ceiling, and is secured with large steel door, with a combination lock (photograph 10). Also along the east wall is the swing room, which served as a breakroom for the letter carriers, and the swing room bathroom (photographs 11 and 12). In the northeast corner of the building are the women’s bathroom, janitor closet, and stairs to the ground floor offices. The rear (north) wall of the work room has the mailing vestibule that leads to the mailing platform and the employee’s entrance (photograph 28).

There is a full daylight basement, which housed the boiler room, fuel (coal) room, federal agency offices, and storage. The offices retain their original wood-and-glass doors, door and window surrounds, baseboards and chair rails (photographs 21-24). There are also separate restrooms for the basement offices on the main floor of the building. These bathrooms are only accessed from the basement via a separate staircase for security purposes.

Few changes have been made to the building. The post office boxes were removed when the post office functions moved to a new building. The door to the restroom off of the swing room was enlarged for handicap access.
8. Statement of Significance

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

( ) nationally   ( ) statewide   (X) locally

Applicable National Register Criteria:

(X) A    ( ) B    (X) C    ( ) D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): (X) N/A

( ) A    ( ) B    ( ) C    ( ) D    ( ) E    ( ) F    ( ) G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions):

ARCHITECTURE
COMMUNICATION
POLITICS AND GOVERNMENT

Period of Significance:

1939-1958

Significant Dates:

1939—date of construction

Significant Person(s):

N/A

Cultural Affiliation:

N/A

Architect(s)/Builder(s):

Simon, Louis A.—Supervising Architect, United States Treasury
Melick, Neal A.—Supervising Engineer, United States Treasury
Statement of significance (areas of significance)

In 1889, the city of Adel, the county seat of Cook County in south Georgia, was incorporated. The first Adel post office had been established 10 years earlier, and Joel J. Parish, the first postmaster in Adel, selected its name from the center portion of the name “Philadelphia”.

Cook County was named for Phil Cook, a former Secretary of State, and was created from Berrien County in 1918. Cook County encompasses 226 miles and is located approximately halfway between Macon, Georgia, and Jacksonville, Florida.

Plans for the post office were initiated in 1937. Construction of the United States Post Office in Adel began in 1939 and was completed in May of 1940 by the Office of the Supervising Architect of the Treasury under the auspices of the Public Works Administration. The Adel post office operated as a post office until 2001, when a new postal facility in Adel was constructed outside of downtown. The Adel post office is characteristic of post offices built in Georgia between 1932 and 1942 and was built from standardized plans. In Georgia, the Treasury Department provided plans for approximately 65 post offices in small towns between 1932 and 1942. Like the United States Post Office in Adel, most were one-story, five-bay buildings with a standardized floor plan of a full-width workroom, mailing platform at the rear of the building, and a L-shaped public lobby. The vast majority of post offices in Georgia built under the Public Works Administration are brick buildings in the Colonial Revival style. The building is being nominated at the local level of significance as an excellent and intact example of a United States Post Office in a small town in Georgia.

The United States Post Office in Adel is significant in the area of architecture as an excellent and intact example of a small town post office built in the Colonial Revival style. The post office has remained basically unchanged since its completion in 1940 and retains its interior and exterior character-defining features. The Adel post office is significant in the area of communication because the post office represents the introduction of new advances in mail delivery based on national standards for methods of receiving, sorting, and delivering mail. The Adel post office is significant in the area of politics and government because it represents the efforts of the federal government to improve the infrastructure of small towns through the nation during the New Deal era.

During the 1930s, the number of post offices built in the United States increased dramatically as numerous public works programs were initiated to spur economic recovery and provide work for the unemployed, many of whom worked in the building trades. In 1933, the Public Works Administration (PWA) was formed to administer the planning and construction of Federal and non-Federal public works projects. The Public Buildings Act (1926) and the Federal Employment Stabilization Act (1931) enabled the PWA to begin its program without delay by starting with Federal projects such as post offices. By 1939, the PWA completed 406 post offices, nearly one-eighth of the total 3,174 construction projects funded by the Public Works Administration.1

The role of the PWA in construction projects was similar to that of a bank or a large building and loan association. The PWA determined which projects received funding and ensured that its projects were completed according to the appropriate specifications. The Office of the Supervising Architect of the Treasury retained primary responsibility for design, construction, and allocation of post offices until 1939. By 1935, Treasury Department building projects were funded under the auspices of five separate programs: the original Public Building Program (1926); the PWA; the Emergency Relief and Construction Act (1932); the Emergency Construction Program (1934); and the Building Program for the District of Columbia (1926).²

In 1934, the Office of the Supervising Architect was reorganized and Louis A. Simon replaced Supervising Architect James W. Wetmore. The Supervising Architect's office, which lost its independence as a separate office in the Office of the Treasury Secretary, was replaced by the Public Buildings Branch of the Procurement Division of the Treasury Department. In February 1934, the Supervising Architect's office was moved from the Treasury Building to the Federal Warehouse Building, renamed the Procurement Building. In addition, the Office was reorganized into four divisions consisting of a Supervising Architect, a Supervising Engineer, a Chairman of the Board of Award, and a Chief of the Legal Section. Through the 1920s, the staff of the Office of the Supervising Architect developed standardized designs and floor plans for its buildings. The Supervising Architect's office rarely hired local architects to design its buildings as it had during the nineteenth and the early twentieth centuries. Local architects were hired from some projects from 1930 to 1934, when many of the Federal recovery programs were getting underway. In June 1934, the Treasury Department determined that it was not practical for private architects to handle small architectural projects. The staff of the Office of the Supervising Architect designed all of the remaining Federal buildings.³

Designs for post offices built between 1932 and 1942 followed standardized plans. Some stylistic variation was permitted on the facades, but the floor plans were well established by the early 1930s. Post offices built in small towns were usually one-story, rectangular-plan buildings. Much of the building was devoted to the large, full-width work room, where much of the mail handling and sorting operations were conducted. The work room included a vault and sometimes an area enclosed with wire-mesh screen to secure money orders and registered mail. The rear of the building contained the mailing vestibule and mailing platform for receiving deliveries of mail. A swing room was located above the mailing platform. The public lobby was located across the front of the post office. It contained an entrance vestibule, post office boxes, and customer service windows. Lobbies were usually L-shaped to provide space for additional post office boxes. As the only public space in the building, the lobby was often adorned with decorative architectural elements, including marble wainscoting, terrazzo floors, and coffered ceilings, and furnishings, such as lobby desks. The postmaster's office was generally located in a front corner of the building, with lobby and work room entrances.

²Emily Harris, *History of Post Office Construction*, 17.

The acceptance of standardized floor plans for post offices left little room for ingenuity on the part of the architect, except for the facades. Designs generated in the Office of the Supervising Architect under Louis A. Simon demonstrated greater stylistic variety than in the previous twenty-five years. During this period, more consideration was given to local architectural traditions. In California, for example, the Spanish or Mission style became popular. The small, Mission-style post office in La Jolla, built in 1935, is an example. The Colonial Revival style, built throughout the East, remained the most popular historical revival style for post offices as well as other PWA building types. Middle-Atlantic examples include the two U.S. Post Offices in New Castle, Delaware, and in Easton, Maryland, both completed in 1936.

Most popular were modern designs (such as streamline moderne or Art Deco) or designs that mixed one or more historical styles with the Stripped Classicism that dominated Federal building during the 1930s. Starved classicism, sometimes called PWA Modern, was described by Historian Lois Craig as a simplified classical style characterized by symmetrical massing, smooth expanses of unadorned planar surfaces, and reduced ornamentation. The style derived from the Beaux-Arts tradition and featured inspirational names or phrases incised on the facade as an economical decorative motif.

The PWA was organized in seven administrative regions that comprised the continental United States. Region No. 3, the Southeast, included the states of Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Tennessee, and Kentucky. C. W. Short and R. Stanley Brown observed in their survey *Architecture under the Public Works Administration, 1933-1939*, that "traditional architecture of the Colonial period still dominates design [in Region No. 3], except in Florida and Gulf coasts of Alabama and Mississippi where 'modern' has crept in."

The vast majority of post offices built in Georgia during this period were designed in the Colonial Revival style. Small post offices featured hip or side-gable roofs with cupolas, elaborate pedimented door surrounds, sometimes with fanlights, and window treatments that included plain stone lintels or gauged arches with keystones. Decorative details varied at each building; some included stone beltcourses, dentil cornices, brick panels and quoins, or incised lettering. Examples of this type include post offices built in the following towns in Georgia: Adel (1940), Ashburn (1940), Calhoun...
(1936), Commerce (1937), Corneila (1937), Cuthbert (1937), East Point (1935), Hawkinsville (1938), Millen (1938), Summerville (1938), and Sylvester (1937).

Less than a dozen post offices in Georgia were built in historical idioms other than the Colonial Revival or Neoclassical styles. Post offices in Buford (1941) and Vidalia (1936) were built in the Greek Revival style. Based on the same building type as the small Colonial Revival post offices, the two buildings feature modified Doric porticos with stout, unfluted columns, and incised lettering across the entablature. The post office in Eatonton (1932) is one of the few Mission-style post offices in Georgia.

Several post offices in Georgia were in built in the Art Deco style. Primarily built after 1935, these buildings are based on the same standardized plans that the Treasury Department used for its Colonial Revival-style post offices. These buildings feature few, if any, historical references. Ornament is minimal, often composed of corbelled brick window surrounds, stone beltcourses and coping, and relief sculptures above the windows and entrance on the main facade. Free-standing Art Deco lamps flank the entrance. Examples of this type include: Cairo (1935), Decatur (1935), Hartwell (1937), Manchester (1940), and Sylvania (1940).

National Register Criteria

The United States Post Office in Adel, Georgia, is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C in the area of architecture as a representative and highly intact example of post offices constructed in small towns in Georgia and throughout the United States between 1932 and 1942 by the Office of the Supervising Architect of the Treasury under the auspices of various New Deal programs. Designed in the Colonial Revival style, the small, one-story, brick post office in South Georgia is similar in size, scale, materials, and architectural style to many of the other approximately 65 post offices built in Georgia during this period.

The Adel post office is also eligible for listing under Criterion A in the areas of communication and politics and government because it represents the efforts of the federal government to improve the postal facilities and infrastructure of small towns throughout the nation during the New Deal era.

Criteria Considerations (if applicable)

N/A

Period of significance (justification)

The period of significance begins with the date of construction in 1939 and ends with the end of the historic period, 1958, to represent the continued use of the building as the U.S. Post Office for Adel until 2001.

Contributing/Noncontributing Resources (explanation, if necessary)
Section 8--Statement of Significance

There is only one building and it is contributing.
9. Major Bibliographic References


National Archives, College Park, Maryland. Records of the Public Building Service, BS Series—Completion views of Federal Buildings, Record Group 121, Box nos. 16-19.

_____. Records of the Public Building Service. General Correspondence and Related Records, 1910-1939, Record Group 121, Box no. 3796.

_____. Records of the Public Building Service. General Correspondence and Related Records, 1934-1939, Record Group 121, Box no. 3795.

_____. Records of the Public Building Service. Records of the Section of Fine Arts, Public Building Administration, and Its Predecessors; Case Files Concerning the Embellishment of Public Buildings, 1934-1943, Record Group 121, Box no. 18.

_____. Records of the Public Building Service. Prints: Photographs of Paintings and Sculptures Commissioned by the Section of Fine Arts, 1934-1943. Record Group 121-GA, Box no. 53.


Previous documentation on file (NPS): (X) N/A

( ) preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
( ) preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been issued
date issued:
( ) 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:

(X) State historic preservation office
( ) Other State Agency
( ) Federal agency
( ) Local government
( ) University
( ) Other, Specify Repository:

Georgia Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): N/A
10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property  Less than one acre.

UTM References

A) Zone 17  Easting 269009  Northing 3447112

Verbal Boundary Description

The property boundary is indicated by a heavy black line on the attached map, drawn to scale.

Boundary Justification

The boundary is the current legal boundary and the land historically associated with the post office.
11. Form Prepared By

State Historic Preservation Office

name/title  Gretchen A. Brock/National Register Coordinator
organization  Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources
mailing address  34 Peachtree Street, SW
city or town  Atlanta    state  Georgia    zip code  30303
telephone  (404) 656-2840    date  November 19, 2008
e-mail  gretchen.brock@dnr.state.ga.us

Consulting Services/Technical Assistance (if applicable) ( ) not applicable

name/title  Gail Hughes
organization  Cook County Historical Society
mailing address  180 Gary Lane
city or town  Adel    state  Georgia    zip code  31620
telephone  (229) 896-4360
e-mail  N/A

( ) property owner
( ) consultant
( ) regional development center preservation planner
(X) other: historical society member

Property Owner or Contact Information

name (property owner or contact person)  Gail Hughes
organization (if applicable)  Cook County Historical Society
mailing address  180 Gary Lane
city or town  Adel    state  Georgia    zip code  31620
e-mail (optional)  N/A
Name of Property: United States Post Office—Adel, Georgia
City or Vicinity: Adel
County: Cook
State: Georgia
Photographer: James R. Lockhart
Negative Filed: Georgia Department of Natural Resources
Date Photographed: August 2007

Description of Photograph(s):

Number of photographs: 34

1. Rear (north) façade; photographer facing southeast.
2. West façade; photographer facing east.
3. Mailing platform, rear façade; photographer facing southwest.
4. East façade; photographer facing west.
5. Detail, cornerstone, front façade; photographer facing north.
6. Interior, work room looking toward swing room; photographer facing southeast.
7. Interior, workroom; photographer facing east.
8. Interior, workroom; photographer facing west.
9. Interior, vault; photographer facing west.
10. Interior, detail of vault door with lookout holes above; photographer facing east.
11. Interior, swing room; photographer facing southeast.
12. Interior, restroom; photographer facing south.
13. Interior, postmaster's office; photographer facing northwest.
14. Interior, ladder to lookout room above vault; photographer facing east.
15. Interior, lookout room above vault; photographer facing south.
16. Interior, lobby; photographer facing west.
17. Interior, lobby; photographer facing east.
18. Interior, lobby; photographer facing north.
19. Interior, detail of original bulletin board; photographer facing south.
20. Interior, vestibule; photographer facing east.
21. Interior, ground floor, boiler room; photographer facing southwest.
22. Interior, ground floor, office; photographer facing southeast.
23. Interior, ground floor, offices; photographer facing northwest.
24. Interior, ground floor, detail of doorway; photographer facing east.
25. Interior, ground floor, detail of poured concrete foundation; photographer facing east.
26. Interior, ground floor, boiler room; photographer facing east.
27. Interior, ground floor, stair hall; photographer facing east.
28. Entrance from mailing platform to mailing vestibule; photographer facing south.
29. Front (south) and east facades; photographer facing northwest.
30. Front (south) façade; photographer facing north.
31. Detail, front entrance; photographer facing north.
32. Front façade and setting; photographer facing northeast.
33. Mural formerly located in the historic post office, now in the new, nonhistoric Adel post office (not within National Register boundary). *Plantation Scene* (1941) by Alice Flint.
34. Mural formerly located in the historic post office, now in the new, nonhistoric Adel post office (not within National Register boundary). *Plantation Scene* (1941) by Alice Flint.