

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED AUG - 1 1983

DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

U.S. Post Office, Port Angeles, Washington

AND/OR COMMON

Old Post Office/Federal Building

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER *1st AND*

West First & Oak Streets

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Port Angeles

VICINITY OF

Third

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Washington

CODE

53

COUNTY

Clallam

CODE

009

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"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS N/A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
			<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 AGENCY

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: *(if applicable)*

General Services Administration, Public Buildings Service

STREET & NUMBER

GSA Center 15th & C Streets SW.

CITY, TOWN

Auburn

VICINITY OF

STATE

WA

98002

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Clallam County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

223 East 4th

CITY, TOWN

Port Angeles

STATE

WA

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

No known surveys of record

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Port Angeles U.S. Post Office combines aspects of Georgian, Federal and Renaissance Revival styles in a single two-story concrete structure.

The lower tiled portion of the mansard roof rises to a visible height above the balustraded parapet. (The upper roof of copper is nearly flat and cannot be seen from the street.) If this tile roof were not present in the original 1931 building plans, it would appear to be a later addition.

The heavy, rusticated Wilkeson sandstone columns and eagle-surmounted entablature surrounding the main entrance stand out as a flamboyant gesture in the otherwise reserved facade.

Medium-textured matte red brick laid in English bond with flush joints of cream mortar faces the exterior walls.

A stone water table, belt course, plain frieze, and molded cornice with dentils divide the building horizontally. Stone quoins accent the corners of the building and of the two end bays of the main facade.

Windows are wood frame and sash, multiple-light, double-hung with thin muntins. Sills are stone. Springers and keystones of the arched first floor windows are stone.

The main facade faces north/northeast (it will be referred to hereinafter as the north facade). Its two end bays project about 6" and are ornamented by two stone or terra cotta cartouches each. All seven bays of the north facade are otherwise similar except for the central bay containing the entrance. The typical bay contains one tall double-hung arched window, with 25 rectangular lights and a fan light on the first floor, and a pair of double-hung 4 over 4 rectangular windows on the second floor. This pattern is repeated in the three bays of the east and west facades and the two end bays of the south (rear) facade.

A one-story Postal Service workroom attached to the rear facade looks as though it could be an annex added sometime after construction, but it, too, was part of the original scheme. The workroom has large rectangular double-hung steel sash windows.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

The original main entrance consisted of double wood doors, each with a 12-light window, were embellished by 35 metal discs. Glass and aluminum doors were installed in 1969. A carved wooden lintel and wrought iron fanlight remain over the doors. Cast iron ornamental lamp standards remain in place along with the steep and narrow granite entrance steps, but original handrails have been replaced by aluminum rails.

Original landscaping called for ground cover, shrubs, and low trees on the west, a little lawn with flowering shrubs on the east, and a cluster of trees above the retaining wall in the southeast corner. The landscaping consists of a row of four small trees on the west side.

The building interior is modest, but attractive. In the public Postal Service lobby the floor is of fire-flashed tile (5-3/4" x 5-3/4" and 5-3/4" x 12") of varying shades of brown, buff, and orange, with a hard grey marble border; wainscot and window stools are of Utah Golden Travis marble. The vestibule and window and door trim are of dark wood, and the upper part of the postal screen is wrought iron in a very simple, largely rectangular pattern. The walls, ceiling, beams and cornice are of smooth plaster. The lock boxes have been removed and the service windows blocked since the Postal Service moved out, but most other original elements remain, including glass-topped wood writing tables. The six original hanging incandescent light fixtures remain in the lobby. These fixtures each consist of a cast bronze ring embellished with tiny human faces and an ovoid translucent glass globe.

Grey marble stairs with a wrought iron balustrade and wood handrail lead from the west end of the lobby to the second floor corridor.

The corridor remains practically unchanged. Its finish is similar to that of the lobby, but without wainscoting. Office doors have chipped glass translucent windows and operable transoms. Ceiling mounted translucent glass light globes are original.

No irreversible alterations have occurred in the second floor offices except for the replacement of incandescent light fixtures by fluorescent fixtures. Plaster walls and ceilings and wood doors, base trim, and picture molding remain.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7

PAGE 3

The basement has a cement floor, tiled in some areas, plaster walls and ceiling, and wood base and trim. Deep window wells allowing large windows provide light to basement rooms. Fluorescent fixtures have replaced incandescents in the basement and some new partitions have been added.

Restrooms have 2" square white ceramic tile floor and wainscot and grey marble trim, window stools, and toilet partitions. Walls and ceiling are plaster. Most of the original fixtures remain.

In sum, the building has not been significantly altered in the nearly 50 years since its construction.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) (community history)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES Built 1931 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Office of the Supervising Architect (J. A. Wetmore, Act'g.)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE
SIGNIFICANCE

Port Angeles (or Puerto de Nuestra Senora de los Angeles) was named by Spanish Explorer Francisco Eliza in 1791, and saw its first white settler, Angus Johnson, in 1857.

From 1861 to 1862 special treasury agent Victor Smith worked toward the goal of having Port Angeles named the Second National City (Washington, D.C., being the first).

President Abraham Lincoln signed the following Executive Order on June 19, 1862:

Port Angeles and Ediz Hook, in townships 30 and 31, ranges 5 and 6 west, for lighthouse purposes at Ediz Hook, from low water mark at the lowest, and on all sides not exceeding 10 acres; for military purposes, a reservation for five miles on east & west, & said harbor (Port Angeles) and Bay, including the tongue of land known as Ediz Hook, extending back from the water southward one mile."1

A second Executive Order directed that the 3,520 acres should be withheld from "sale or location of any kind whatsoever."2

Since that time, Port Angeles has felt a strong relationship with the Federal Government, albeit sometimes an adversary relationship.

Prospective settlers of Port Angeles naturally found the strictures imposed by the government reserve irritating. Led by a lawyer, John C. Murphy, these settlers moved from the beach into the reserved timberland to live as "squatters" and hope for the best.

Port Angeles won election as Clallam County seat in 1890, although not without argument from nearby Whisky Bend (now Dungeness). That same year the last of the local Indian "Potlatches" was held.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Newspapers:

Port Angeles Evening News, Port Angeles, Washington

"Welsh Rarebits", (July?), 1932

"'Reds Have No Place in U.S.', says High Mason as Cornerstone Laid",
Saturday, July 30, 1932, P. 1, Col. 8.

"New Federal Building is Officially Open Tonight", March 25, 1933, p.1, Col. 7

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 105' x 140'

UTM REFERENCES

A 10 467700 5329450
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

D

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Lots 8 - 10
 Block 32
 Townsite of Port Angeles

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE N/A CODE COUNTY CODE

STATE N/A CODE COUNTY CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Kristine Bak, Operational Planning Staff

ORGANIZATION

General Services Administration, PBS

DATE

September 9, 1980

STREET & NUMBER

GSA Center, 10PG

TELEPHONE

931-7266

CITY OR TOWN

Auburn

STATE

Washington 98002

12 CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

YES

NO

NONE

Carol E. Mon
 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

In compliance with Executive Order 11593, I hereby nominate this property to the National Register, certifying that the State Historic Preservation Officer has been allowed 90 days in which to present the nomination to the State Review Board and to evaluate its significance. The evaluated level of significance is National State Local.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

Whoth

TITLE

Historic Preservation Officer ~~xxxxxx~~

DATE

July 27, 1983

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Entered in the
National Register

DATE

~~DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF TECHNOLOGY AND ECONOMIC PRESERVATION~~

Melores Byers
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

9/1/83

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

In 1891 the President signed legislation opening the reserve and giving squatters prior rights to purchase their claims. A formal land survey was completed in 1893. In 1894 lots were auctioned beginning at the appraised minimum of \$5.00 thus ending the government reservation, but not Port Angeles' pride in its original designation as "Second National City." 1

Port Angeles' industrial era began in 1912 when the Milwaukee Railroad and Crown Zellerbach Corporation joined forces to service the demand for lumber in California and foreign countries. Over the years a pulp and paper industry grew up in Port Angeles and plywood and other related forest product industries developed. The town continued to grow. 2

An active fight to obtain a Federal building began in Port Angeles in 1913, but negotiations were interrupted by WWI.

For over 70 years the Port Angeles Post Office had led a peripatetic existence, and the "second national city" had been without a Federal building. When the site for a Federal Building/Post Office was finally chosen it was on one of the few plots of land still held in Federal reserve. A 1932 Port Angeles Evening News article reported:

. . . Forty years ago . . . it was promised . . . that the \$300,000.00 secured by the Government for the sale of the (reserve) lots would be reinvested in a Federal building here. The money, shrunken, through the years, has come back after forty years wandering and the present building represents that money."3

In 1931 A. D. Belanger of Seattle and Everett was chosen as contractor. Congress allocated \$130,000.00 for construction.

"Civic-spirited citizens, the Chamber of Commerce, Carpenters' Union, and other agencies were laboring to clear way for construction. Funds were raised, materials were donated, days and weeks of hard work were contributed that the last obstacle to the project might be moved.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 3

This remarkable mustering of civic pride and enterprise resulted in the building of a residence into which a squatter living on the Federal site moved, vacating the site and giving up all claim to it."⁴

The cornerstone for the new Federal building was laid on Saturday, July 30, 1932, with great pomp and ceremony. It was inscribed "A. W. Mellon, Secretary of the Treasury, James A. Wetmore, Acting Supervising Architect, 1931". The VFW and a naval detachment led a parade from the masonic temple to the building site where Mayor Ralph Davis; Congressman Lindley H. Hadley; and High Mason, Attorney Walter Meier, presided from the speakers' platform. "Stores were closed for the hour, and an immense crowd witnessed the ceremony."⁵

Meier's address ended with a ringing expression of hope that ". . . the spirit of service that shall emanate from this place will make us all better men, and more devoted citizens of the grandest nation on earth."⁶

The local newspaper believed that "it is probable that from now on the Post Office will stay 'put' until the cornerstone . . . crumbles to dust."⁷

At 8 p.m. on March 25, 1933, the newly completed Federal building was opened for public inspection.

"An edifice of richness and beauty, inside and out, of great utility value and enduring construction has been given Port Angeles in the Federal structure," reported the Evening News. The reporter was especially impressed by the "excellent natural, as well as electrical, lighting available in every position. . ."⁸

By 1978 the Port Angeles population of about 17,000 had outgrown the Federal Building and the Post Office moved to a new building outside the city center, contrary to 1932 predictions. The cornerstone is far from "crumbling to dust," and the building is proving to be of "enduring construction." It is, in fact, the finest building in Port Angeles' central business district. The only other building of comparable quality, in terms of both material and aesthetics, is the Clallam County Courthouse several blocks away, outside the major shopping area.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 4

The Federal building that might be easily overlooked among more illustrious neighbors, holds an important position as a symbol of local history and civic pride in Port Angeles.

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FOOTNOTES

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 5

1. William D. Welsh, A Brief History of Port Angeles, Washington (Port Angeles: The Port Angeles Division of Crown Zellerbach Corporation, 1968), p.11. First Published, 1941.
2. IBID.
3. "Welsh Rarebits," Port Angeles Evening News, (July?), 1932.
4. "New Federal Building Is Officially Open Tonight. . .History Is Being Written In Port Angeles This Evening," Port Angeles Evening News, Sat., March 25, 1933, p.1., col.7.
5. "Reds Have No Place In U.S. Says High Mason, As Cornerstone Laid," Port Angeles Evening News, Sat., July 30, 1932, p.1., col.8.
6. IBID.
7. "Welsh Rarebits," Port Angeles Evening News, (July ?) 1932.
8. "New Federal Building Is Officially Open Tonight. . .Structure Is Culmination Of Many Years of Civic Effort. . .," Port Angeles Evening News, March 25, 1933, p.1., col.7.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 2

Books:

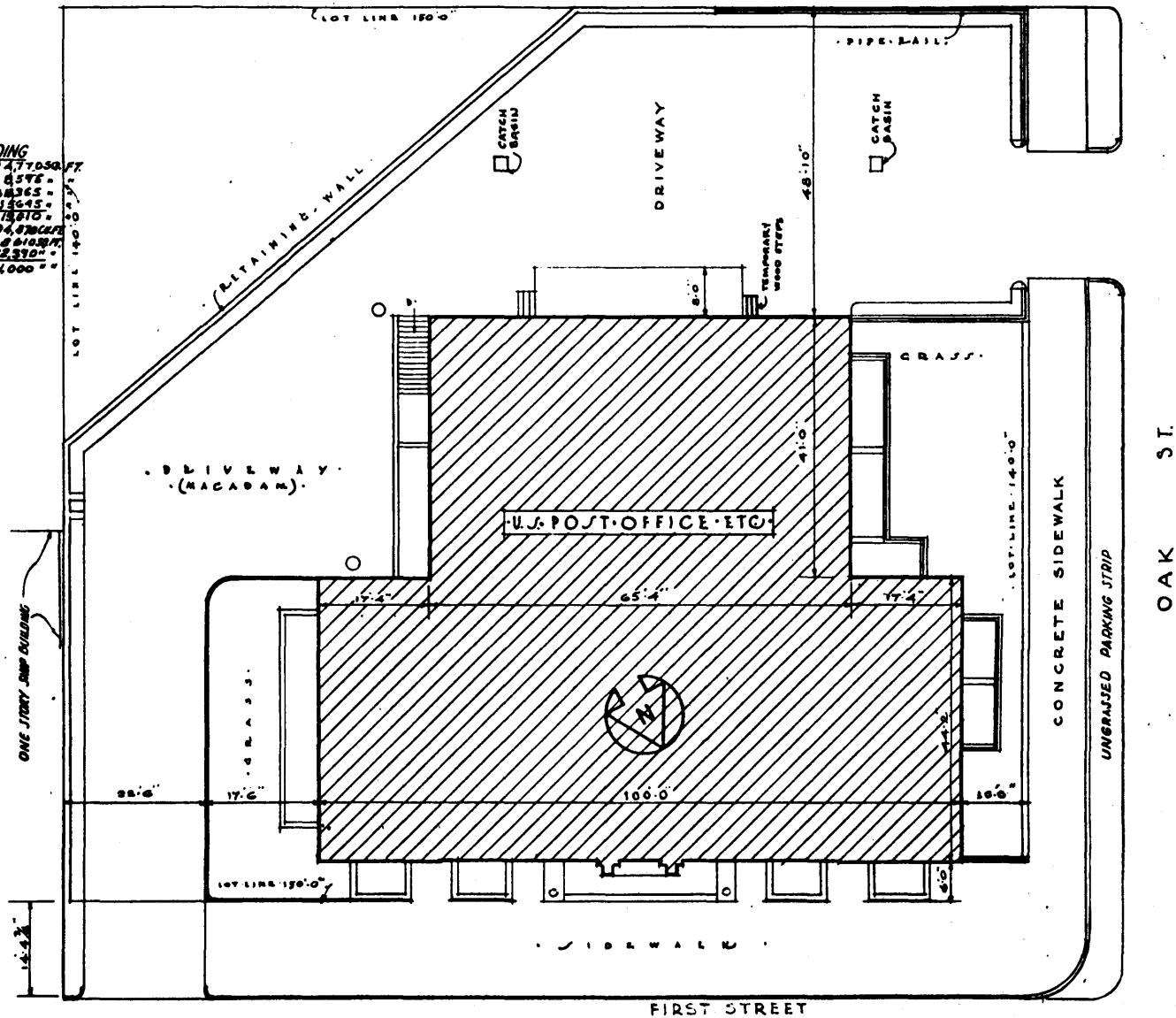
Welsh, William D. A Brief History of Port Angeles, Washington, Port Angeles: The Port Angeles Division of Crown Zellerbach Corp. 1968. (First Published, 1941)

Misc. information sources, GSA Center, Region 10, Auburn Washington:

Federal Space Situation Report, Port Angeles, Washington.
Operational Planning Staff, Public Buildings Service, GSA Center, Region 10.
May 9, 1978.

Construction Drawings (Microfilm)
U.S. Post Office, etc.
Port Angeles, Washington
Treasury Department 1931

GRAND TOTALS FOR BUILDING
 NET AGENCY AREA (NON P.O.) 7,705.00 SF
 NET AGENCY AREA (P.O.) 6,574.00
 NET ASSIGNABLE AREA 14,279.00
 MECH. CONST. & CONC. AREA 16,445.00
 GROSS AREA 30,724.00
 VOLUME 294,430 CU FT
 GROUND AREA OF BLDG. 28,618.50 SF
 NET AREA OF LOT 12,330.00
 GROSS AREA OF LOT 31,000.00



SITE PLAN
 Scale 1/8" = 1'-0"
 Graphic Scale
 0' 5' 10' 15' 20'

U.S. P.O. ETC.
 PORT ANGELES WASH.
 INC. NO. AS 1-4-21-30. DRAWN BY U.S.A.
 REVISED 8-11-21 KEY PLAN 32
 8-10-21