

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	OCT 25 1985
DATE ENTERED	DEC 9 1985

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Douglas Post Office and Customs House

AND/OR COMMON

Douglas Main Post Office

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

601 - 10th Street

NA NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Douglas

NA VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

5

STATE

Arizona

CODE

04

COUNTY

Cochise

CODE

003

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 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	NA IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Thematic Group	<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"/> OTHER:
			<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
			<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION

AGENCY

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (If applicable)

United States Postal Service, Western Regional Office

STREET & NUMBER

850 Cherry Avenue

CITY, TOWN

San Bruno

NA VICINITY OF

STATE

CA 94099

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Cochise County Assessor, Cochise County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Drawer 168

CITY, TOWN

Bisbee

STATE

AZ 85603

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Survey of all Pre-1945 Buildings in Douglas, Arizona

DATE

1983

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Arizona State Historic Preservation Office

CITY, TOWN

Phoenix

STATE

AZ 85007

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input 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 Douglas MPO is a restrained version of Beaux-Arts styling. The front facade is defined by simple pilasters which frame the main doors and the public lobby windows. The lobby floor is terrazzo. The structure is centrally located one block east of the principal north/south street in the community. There are no government or civic buildings, except for the small Copper Queen Library, in the immediate vicinity.

PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Douglas Main Post Office is a restrained version of the Beaux-Arts style. It is one and one-half stories with a full basement. The front facade has brick pilasters with concrete bases and capitals loosely based on the Tuscan style. There is a plain entablature which defines the base of the second story which includes simple mouldings with dentils. The cornice is a simply defined concrete band. Unadorned rectangular concrete plaques are set above the front doors and windows. There is also a concrete band at the base of the structure. The original doors, windows, and wrought iron grates over the windows were replaced during the 1960s. Information on these fixtures was not available. However, the original cast bronze entrance lights are still in place.

The public lobby has a simple terrazzo floor. The lockbox lobby retains much of the original oak trim while the counter area was completely remodeled in the 1960s. None of the original fixtures remain. There is no art work or painted detailing.

Despite the replacement of windows and doors, the structure has undergone no major alterations and retains its original configuration. It, therefore, exhibits a high degree of integrity as a representative example of its style and type.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)		
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION				

SPECIFIC DATES **Designed 1912, built 1915** BUILDER/ARCHITECT **OSA/Wetmore**

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Douglas Post Office represents the design philosophy of the federal government in the first two decades of the 20th Century. It is a fine example of the Beaux-Arts tradition, executed in the Neo-Classical design style. Although Douglas is fortunate to have several fine examples of the Neo-Classical style, the Post office is considered to be the major example. The building was constructed in the city's primary period of growth and is a contributing structure to the Douglas Historic District which encompasses the most significant area of the city that was constructed during this period. Finally, the securing of funding for the building, site selection, and the completion of the building were major local events which involved the interaction of local citizens and the federal government in the process of obtaining the city's first federal building (combination post office, custom house and federal offices).

ARCHITECTURE

The Douglas Post Office is of both local and state significance in its well preserved execution of Neo-Classical design. The building is Arizona's only remaining federally constructed post office from the 1900 to 1920 era during which period the Beaux-Arts tradition dominated federal design philosophy. (The Douglas building was preceded by a federal building constructed in Phoenix in 1913, which has since been razed.) Although the Neo-Classical design style was commonly used in federal architecture throughout the United States during this era, the Douglas Post Office is the only example remaining in Arizona. It might also be noted that the Neo-Classical style was used liberally in Douglas during the pre-1920 period. The Post Office is considered to be the major example of this style in the city.

The building presents the monumental character of the federal government. A broad, seven-stepped entry platform provides approach to a slightly projecting central salient. Seven bays, articulated by flat brick pilasters, provide vertical emphasis to the central portion which is tied to the end wings by a strongly horizontal stone entablature. The use of brick and stone in defining these elements represents quality and solidity.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Douglas Historic District, Nomination Form. Donald Abbe and staff, Texas Tech University. March 1984
 Floor plans and elevations drawings, 1917.
Douglas Daily Dispatch, 1910 through 1917.
 Sanborn Map, April 1929. p. 2.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 0.47 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A

1	2	6	3	7	6	8	0	3	4	6	8	5	3	6
ZONE				EASTING				NORTHING						

B

ZONE				EASTING				NORTHING						

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The Douglas Main Post Office is located adjacent to the southeast corner of F Avenue and 10th Street. The site is described as Lots 17-22, Block 88 (409-3) of the original Douglas Townsite (see attached maps).

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
NA	NA	NA	NA
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
NA	NA	NA	NA

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Paul R. Secord, VP H. Jim Kolva

ORGANIZATION

Beland/Associates, Inc. Institute for Urban and Local Studies

DATE

August 1984/August 1985

STREET & NUMBER

16 S. Oakland, Suite 204 W. 705 First Avenue

TELEPHONE

818-796-8093 509-458-6219

CITY OR TOWN

Pasadena, CA 91101 Spokane, WA 99204

STATE

12 CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

YES

NO

NONE

Donna J. Schuber
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

TITLE *James T. Coe* Director, Office of Real Estate

DATE **OCT 22 1985**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

See Continuation sheet for listing
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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POLITICS/GOVERNMENT

As evidenced by the following section on the local press coverage of the events leading to the construction of the federal building, the establishment of the city's first federal building was a major local event. The process of selecting a building site and lobbying to secure appropriations for construction involved the concerted efforts of local citizens in their interaction with the federal government. The construction of the building during the city's major growth period established a concrete symbol of the federal government and demonstrated the recognition of the stability of the city by that government. It is also important to note that the Douglas Post Office is the only remaining governmental building from this era of the city's growth and development.

LOCAL CONTEXT

Located in historic Cochise County, Douglas is a gateway to Mexico with which it shares a border. With a 1984 population of 14,065, the city economy is based on manufacturing, retail trade, agriculture, and services. The city is also the home of the Phelps-Dodge copper smelter which has played a major role in the city's economy since its founding.

The area around Douglas was first settled by cattle ranchers after the Civil War, including "Texas" John Slaughter who became involved in the development of the original Douglas townsite in 1900. Copper from the mines at Bisbee provided the impetus for the development of Douglas. Dr. James Douglas, working with Phelps Dodge of the Copper Queen Consolidated Mining Company, decided that the area in which the city of Douglas developed would be a good location to which to extend a rail line and construct a smelter. At the same time the Calumet and Arizona Mining Company proposed a similar scheme, and two smelters were soon developed. In the fall of 1900 a group including James S. Douglas, John Slaughter, William Brophy, and others, and a rival group headed by Charles A. Overlock, joined forces to lay out the first townsite in January of 1901. Soon thereafter (April 9, 1901) the first post office with C.A. Overlock as postmaster was established.

Douglas literally sprang from the earth. From not being in existence in 1900, Douglas boomed to a population of 6,437 in 1910. By 1920, the population had reached 9,916 but leveled and declined (following the copper industry) to a low of 8,623 in 1940, before gradually increasing to today's level. The period between 1900 and 1920 was the city's most significant developmental period, during which time the central business district and major civic buildings, including the post office, were constructed.

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The city is fortunate to have retained many of the prominent buildings of that era which include the Brophy Building (1906-07), Phelps Dodge Mercantile (1902), Post Office Block (1902, which housed the post office until around 1912), Gadsden Hotel (1906, reconstructed in 1929 after being destroyed by fire), Grand Theater (1917), as well as major portions of the business district constructed during that period. It might be noted that the Neo-Classical design style was used liberally in Douglas and many fine examples remain, including the Douglas Post Office which is considered to be a major example. Finally, the above-mentioned buildings, including the post office, are included in the Douglas Historic District.

LOCAL NEWS COVERAGE OF THE DOUGLAS POST OFFICE CONSTRUCTION

At the opening of the year 1910 the Douglas Daily Dispatch was touting the great future of the City of Douglas. An issue of January 9, 1910 was headlined with "Statehood Absolutely Sure". Douglas was destined to become one of the great railway and industrial centers of one of the richest counties on earth. Only eight years old, the city had a population of 12,000 to 15,000 and boasted many fine buildings. The spring of the year was rife with articles anticipating the passage of the statehood bill and the wooing of the Southern Pacific Railroad.

On June 21, President Taft signed the enabling act for statehood with a copper pen from Douglas. The following day the Dispatch carried the headlines "Cameron Gets \$15,000 for Douglas Building Site". The secondary heading was captioned with "State Maker Secures Appropriations for Arizona". According to a telegram from Ralph Cameron, delegate to Congress from Arizona, the Omnibus Public Buildings Bill had passed the House, authorizing building sites for Douglas, Globe and Tucson (all for \$15,000). According to Albert M. Sames, Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Douglas Republican Club, Cameron "again has shown that he is the first representative Arizona has had in many years who has gotten results." After the political endorsement of Cameron, it was added that the proposed building would be a credit to the city and would be large enough to house federal offices including the Department of Customs and Immigration.

Articles of July 23rd, July 27th, and August 3rd reported the local maneuvering to provide sites for the proposed building. The article of the 23rd was headed with "Citizens to Help Buy Site for Post Office". Real estate agent C.A. Taylor was said to have \$3,500 in subscriptions from property owners adjoining property at the corner of G and 8th to bring the price down to the \$15,000 allocated by the federal government. C.A. Milch and W.H. Brophy were the lot owners.

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According to an article of the 27th, five site offers were sent to Washington, D.C. Competition was reported as having been keen between local property owners, with several bidders cutting prices to an extremely low figure in order to have their sites selected. They were enabled to offer low prices by obtaining subscriptions from adjacent property owners who anticipated considerably enhanced land values by virtue of being next to the post office. There was also talk that Copper Queen had offered the library site (considered to be the most desirable location) for a nominal price: "As the report is said to come from a reliable source, the real estate men's camp has taken somewhat of a gloomy cast." The sites that had been offered were reported in the August 3rd issue of the Dispatch. The Copper Queen site was included. Also mentioned was the offer of only a single site in Globe for its proposed federal building.

News of the post office site did not appear again until October 2, 1910, when it was announced that Mr. Cameron had "after earnest persistent effort succeeded in securing the designation of a person from the Treasury Department to investigate the selection of the sites". News of the post office faded and other major events captured the attention of Douglas. The fight for statehood was continuing and revolution was creating turmoil in Mexico. On April 14, 1911, the Mexican revolution entered the streets of Douglas when stray bullets killed and maimed several Americans. An appeal was made to President Taft for protection. The year closed with news of a new smelter being constructed by Shattuck, Arizona statehood, and a boom in local business.

The Copper Queen site at the corner of 10th and F was purchased on March 18, 1912 for \$14,000. However, the building did not soon follow and Douglas citizens grew impatient. An article of December 26, 1914 reported that the Secretary of the Chamber of Commerce, Oscar K. Goll, had recently written letters to the Arizona congressional delegation requesting action on the federal building. Apparently, the letter was stimulated by a newspaper item with a Globe dateline stating that a meeting of Globe businessmen and subsequent work had resulted in a promise that their federal building would be acted upon immediately. According to Goll, Douglas had better claim to getting a building before Globe because the site was purchased and appropriations were scheduled well before the Globe site was purchased. This preferred treatment reported to have been given Globe "is plainly unfair." It was reported that in closing his letter, Goll assured the representatives that he was prepared to camp on their tails and "pester the life out of them" until the promised appropriations had been secured.

Mr. Goll received a response from Senator Ashurst in January of 1915. According to the report by the Dispatch on January 15th, Ashurst included a reply from B.R. Newton, Assistant Secretary of the Treasury, dated January 5th. Newton stated that because of the tremendous load being placed on the Office of the Supervising Architect, it would probably not be until the spring of 1917 that Douglas would receive its building. It was number 110 on the list to be taken up the next July for design. He

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added that since the Globe site had been acquired prior to the Douglas site, it would precede Douglas in getting its building. The year 1915 closed on a positive note when the Dispatch announced on December 29th that the sketch plans for the new post office had been approved. The building would be brick with stone trim and would front 10th.

A month later (January 26, 1916) the possibility of including a federal court in the post office was discussed. However, such an addition would cause a delay in the building plans. In the meantime, Pancho Villa was rampaging Mexico and Douglas soldiers were ready to fight. The city was booming and several new buildings were under construction (including the Elks Temple, located across from the federal building site). A May 20th article reported that \$40,000 had been appropriated in the sundry civil bill for both Douglas and Globe. This amounted to (with the previous appropriations) a total of \$100,000 for Douglas. The plans were drawn and the site had been cleared several weeks earlier. The library building which had occupied the site was moved adjacent to the east (where it continues to rest).

On August 22, 1916, it was reported that the federal building would start shortly. Mr. C.H. Curnow, the representative of Grant Fee who had received the construction contract, had just arrived from San Francisco. He was securing contracts from local excavators and suppliers for construction of the building which was bid at a price of \$74,000. Ground was finally broken and work proceeded. An article of November 14 reported the cornerstone laying ceremony which had taken place the previous day. Postmaster M.C. Hankins presided over the ceremony and S.W. White provided the primary address. A special metal box (undoubtedly copper) was placed within the Indiana limestone cornerstone by local dignitaries.

The progress of the building's construction received little attention in the local press during 1917. The economy was still booming and news of World War I covered the front pages. Apparently, the completion of the building was anti-climatic after the battle to secure a site and appropriations for the construction. But, finally on November 3, 1917, it was announced that the new post office would be on exhibition that evening. A lengthy account provided a detailed description of the building even to the detail of stating that the building had "7 fine Seth Thomas clocks"; the sewers than run through the walls have plugs installed at convenient places for easy access; and the toilet of the swing room had elaborate plumbing and the first shower bath ever installed in this city." An article of November 4th reported that large crowds had visit the post office open house which had been filled with people from 7:00 p.m. to well past 9:00 p.m. The postmaster was busy all evening explaining the different parts of the building.

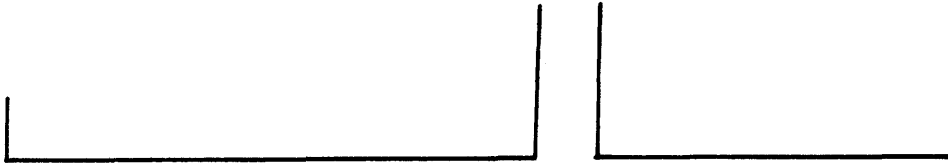
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CONTINUATION SHEET Douglas MPO ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 1

Source: Sanborn Map, Douglas Arizona, April 1929, page 2.



TENTH STREET

