

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	FEB 12 1986
DATE ENTERED	MAR 14 1986

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

1 NAME USPO in MT TR

HISTORIC

Glasgow Post Office & Courthouse

AND/OR COMMON

Glasgow Main Post Office

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

605 Second Avenue South

NA NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Glasgow

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

2

STATE

Montana

CODE

30

COUNTY

Valley

CODE

105

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

AGENCY

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (If applicable)

U.S. Postal Service, Western Regional Headquarters

STREET & NUMBER

850 Cherry Avenue

CITY, TOWN

San Bruno

NA VICINITY OF

STATE

California

94099

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Valley County Assessor's Office

STREET & NUMBER

Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Glasgow

STATE

Montana

59230

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

None

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE <u>NA</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Glasgow Main Post Office is three stories in height with a full basement. Reinforced concrete and steel framing provide structural support. The exterior is faced with buff-colored brick with major detailing elements provided by travertine. The imposing building with its flat facade and reduced Classical architectural elements, exemplified the Starved Classicism design style of the mid- to late-1930s. Symmetrically arranged, the front facade is distinguished by a slightly recessed central entry section faced in Montana travertine. Strong vertical emphasis is provided by four fluted piers which divide the three central bays. A wide, flat travertine course, suggesting a Classical entablature, terminates the building's vertical rise and horizontally ties the two-bayed end wings. The exterior of the building is well preserved and essentially unaltered from its original design.

PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Glasgow Post Office is three stories in height on a raised basement. The basement is reinforced concrete. Structural steel supports the buff-colored brick exterior of the first, second, and third floors. The roof is flat, built-up tar composition. Travertine and granite are used as exterior trim materials. Wrought iron used for entry and window well railings and aluminum is used for the entry landing light standards.

The front (north) facade is flat, symmetrical, and rectangular in shape. The central section of the facade is defined by recessing it slightly from the end wings and by use of travertine facing that lends contrast to the brick of the end wings. Three bays divide the central section and two bays divide each of the end wings.

The first floor consists of three entry bays in the center section (the central entry has been blocked) and two window bays at the ends. Cut granite faces the basement wall from grade level to the first floor level. Granite is also used for the main entry stairs,

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landing, and flanking buttresses. The central section, in which the main entry doors are located, is faced with dressed, flat travertine slabs. The entries consist of double aluminum framed glass doors. A double paneled transom bar (wood) separates the doors from a 6-light wood-framed transom window. As mentioned previously, the central entry door has been blocked (remains operable) with painted plywood panels. The transom bar and transom window of this entry remain exposed. One aluminum light standard with milky glass globe rests upon each of the buttresses flanking the entry landing (replaced the original bronze standards).

The windows of the end wings are slightly recessed from the buff brick facade. A travertine sill frames the bottom of the window and a plain, recessed travertine panel extends between the sill and the granite facing of the basement wall. The windows are double-hung sash with 6-over-9 lights.

The second and third stories each contain seven window bays which are aligned over those of the first floor. A flat travertine belt course divides the first and second floors. "United States Post Office and Courthouse" is incised in the travertine band over the entries. Four flat, fluted piers (travertine), extending from the top of the first floor to the flat travertine frieze of the third floor, divide the three central window bays. Partial fluted piers fill the junctures of the central section and end wings.

The second and third floor windows are linked by plain wooden spandrels (the original spandrels were intended to be black marble). The windows are all double hung wooden sash with 6-over-6 lights. The frieze is plain except for four incised circles which are aligned over the second and third floor piers. A simple molded cornice, which projects slightly, terminates the facade.

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The east and west facades are essentially identical. Both are flat and faced with buff-colored brick. Granite faces the basement walls. The facades are divided into five equally spaced bays. The window and facade treatments are consistent with the front facade. The first floor windows are recessed slightly from the facade. A travertine sill frames the bottoms and a plain travertine panel fills the space between the sill and granite basement facing. These windows are double-hung, metal sash with 6-over-9 lights.

On the west facade the center window opening has been partially bricked in around a smaller one-over-one metal swing window. A single aluminum framed entry door is located in the north corner of the east facade (replaced window and was completed in 1971 to provide handicapped access via a ramp that was also added).

A travertine belt course separates the first and second floors and a travertine frieze and cornice top the third floor (extensions of front facade detailing). The second and third floor windows and alignments are also identical on both facades. As with the front facade, they are linked by a plain wooden spandrel and consist of 6-over-6 light double hung wooden sash. One exception to this is the center second floor window of the west facade, which consists of paired 2-over-2 light double hung wood sash separated by a thick wooden mullion.

The rear (south) facade is also flat, except for the mail platform which extends rearward from the east corner. The platform is concrete, open to the sides and rear, and is covered by a flat metal roof. A flat metal marquee projects beyond the platform rearward. The facade is divided into seven bays with a square brick chimney between the second and third western-most bays. The first floor windows of the east and west wings are 6-over-9 light double hung wood sash (two each) and the three central windows are paired 4-over-6 light double hung sash.

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The second and third floor windows are identical. The end sections contain 6-over-6 double hung wood sash and the central section contains triple hung (2-light fixed, and 4-over-4 light hung) wood sash which extends through the second and third floors (corresponds with courtroom). Fire escapes are located on the second and third floors in the second window bays from the south-east corner. The lower sections of the original windows have been replaced by modern casement sash which swings open to provide access to the fire escapes.

The interior materials consist of primarily concrete floors, walls, and ceilings in the basement. Finished portions include vinyl asbestos tile and quarry tile flooring, plaster walls, and acoustical tile ceilings. The first floor materials include: lobby: terrazzo floors, plaster walls with travertine and paneled oak 4-foot wainscotting, and acoustical tile ceiling; postmaster's office: carpeted floors, plaster walls, and acoustical tile ceiling; workroom: hardwood floors, plaster walls with 5-foot wood tongue and groove wainscotting, and plaster ceiling. Second and third floor offices generally consist of hardwood floors (some offices are carpeted), plaster walls, and plaster/acoustical tile ceilings. The courtroom (abandoned in 1976) consists of cork tile flooring, plaster walls with 7-foot walnut veneer wainscotting, and 26-foot high plaster ceilings.

A mural entitled "Early Settlers and Residents and Modern Industries" (approximately 6' by 14') is located on the west wall of the lobby, over the postmaster's door. The mural was completed by Forrest Hill in 1942 at a cost of \$1,250. The mural depicts a variety of people including Indians, settlers, scouts, surveyors, and farmers, who appear to be observing the activities in the center. The center portion assumes the shape of Montana and depicts farming, ranching, local commercial activity, and the Fort Peck dam.

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The artist, Forrest Hill, was born in Park City, Montana, on May 1, 1909 and presently resides in Laurel, Montana. Although he received honorable mention in other mural design competitions, this is Hill's only federal mural work. He was employed as a draftsman for the Farmer's Union Central Exchange and has attended various art schools including a season at the Art Institute of Chicago in 1945. He presently works in oil, lithographs, and etching, and selects the western scene as his subject matter.

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 checked="" 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 Constructed 1939

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Louis A. Simon, Supervising Architect

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Although not yet 50 years old, the Glasgow Main Post Office possesses exceptional significance on the local level as the most imposing building in the city of Glasgow. Further it is one of the most significant examples of the use of Starved Classicism for a public building in the entire state. In its refined modern interpretation of the Classical form, the building manifests the sophistication and strength of the federal government. The construction of the building, as the city's first federal building and only federal court in the vast northeastern Montana area, was a major local event--an event that marked the federal government's recognition of the city as an important regional center.

ARCHITECTURE

The Glasgow Main Post Office is a well-preserved example of a combined post office and federal court house in the Starved Classical style. It is also an unusually large building for a small community having only a second class post office at the time. This was attributable to the large number of federal agencies in the city and the provision of a federal court. The other Montana cities receiving post offices in the mid-to late-1930's, even though larger in size than Glasgow, received substantially smaller single purpose post offices.

Starved Classicism characterized the federal design philosophy in the latter half of the Depression era. The building exhibits modern or the International design influence in its flat facades and lack of explicit articulated historical design elements, yet retains Classical symmetry and proportion. The suggestion of Classical elements is provided by the fluted piers which divide the window bays of the second and third floors and the flat, unadorned frieze which terminates the third floor. Aside from these details the facade is modern.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

1. Sanborn Map, October 1910, sheet 2; September 1920, sheet 5.
2. Vivian A Raladin, Compiler & Editor, "From Buffalo Bones to Sonic Boom", Glasgow Jubilee Committee, July 1962.
3. Floor Plans 1938.
4. Glasgow Courier, various articles 1936-1939.
5. Construction photos, May 1938, April 1939.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 0.358 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,3	3,7,8,2,4,0	5,3,3,8,9,8,0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

All of lots 1, 2 & 4 in Block 18 of the original townsite of Glasgow Valley County, Montana.

The site is rectangular and contains 120 feet of frontage along Second Avenue South with a depth and frontage of 130 feet along Sixth Street South.

Site Size = 15,600 sq. ft.

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

H.J. "Jim" Kolva

ORGANIZATION

Institute for Urban and Local Studies

DATE

September 1985

STREET & NUMBER

W 705 1st Avenue

TELEPHONE

(509) 458-6219

CITY OR TOWN

Spokane

STATE

Washington

99204

12 CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

YES___ NO___ NONE___

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

James T. Coe

TITLE

Director, Office of Real Estate

DATE

02/06/86

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

Lucy S. [Signature]

DATE

3/21/86

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

See Continuation Sheet for other listings

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The design represents the culmination of the evolution of federal design in the vastly expanded public buildings programs beginning at the turn of the century. The buildings prior to 1920 were designed in the Beaux-Arts tradition. A definite break is evident in the early stage of the Depression. The post offices in Havre (1932) and Lewiston (1931) strongly suggest the Classical influence in their more abundant historical detailing. Federal architecture after the mid-1930s evidenced greater refinement and attention to the modern influence. This is apparent in the Glasgow Post Office, which is larger in scale than either Havre or Lewistown. The Glasgow Post Office represents the end of the design evolution, which essentially ended with the outbreak of World War II. As such, it is a significant element in the state's legacy of federal architecture and intergal to the group of post offices included in this thematic nomination. Therefore the building has statewide significance under Criterion C.

POLITICS/GOVERNMENT

The Glasgow Post Office was constructed in a period of the city's growth that is significant in that the growth was generated by a major federal project, the Fort Peck Dam. Prior to the construction of the dam, the area's agricultural economy was in shambles, which in turn severely impacted the economy of Glasgow. The construction of the dam was one of the major reclamation projects in the United States (and largest earth-filled dam in the world at the time) and fueled the economy between 1934 and 1938. The construction of the post office, which involved a concerted local effort to gain appropriations for both the post office and the later appropriated federal court, coincided with the completion of the dam. The post office/federal building in its representation of the federal government essentially stands as a monument to the massive federal building as well as other relief programs which specifically assisted Glasgow during the Depression, making it locally significant under Criterion A. The dedication of the building was a major civic event which brought not only local citizens but also Montana governor, Roy E. Ayers; Senator James F. O'Conner; and Howard A. Johnson, chief justice of the state supreme court.

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LOCAL CONTEXT

Glasgow, the county seat of Valley County, is the service center for a large farming and stock raising area in Northeastern Montana. The Canadian border is 60 miles north. Fort Peck dam and reservoir, the world's largest hydraulically filled earth dam, is located 18 miles south of Glasgow. The 1980 census indicated a population of 4,458 for Glasgow and 10,244 for Valley County.

The site on which Glasgow is located was settled by Charles E. Hall in June of 1887. Hall anticipated the location of a siding for the approaching railroad. The St. Paul, Minneapolis & Manitoba Railroad (later Great Northern tracks reached Glasgow in July of 1887 and a clerk in St. Paul gave the siding the name of Glasgow. Hall constructed a log cabin, platted a townsite, and on August 20, 1888, established the first post office. He was also appointed postmaster. Valley County was established in March of 1893 and Glasgow was named as county seat.

Glasgow began to grow rapidly and in 1902 was incorporated. By 1910 the population was 1,158. Glasgow received a large influx of homesteaders in the mid part of the decade and the 1920 population reached 2,059. The city listed many improvements during the 1920s, but enjoyed only moderate growth and the 1930 census listed 2,216 residents in the city.

The first two years of the 1930s were disastrous for the areas agricultural economy. Drought, grasshoppers and low grain prices left the farmers against the wall. Senator T. J. Walsh informed President Hoover that three successive years of drought had made it necessary to feed half the population in more than eight Montana counties, with 900 families in Valley County alone. In January of 1932 it was reported that 90 percent of Valley County's farmers had been given assistance. City and school district budgets were reduced.

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However, 1933 brought news of the Fort Peck Dam project. An initial appropriation of \$25 million was made in late 1933. Construction commenced in late 1934. This project was the primary factor in a new growth period in Glasgow. Covering the period between 1933 and 1938 the construction of the Fort Peck Dam was one of the largest public works projects in the U.S., and during the peak construction period, employed over 10,000 workers. This project mitigated the agricultural depression which had affected the agriculturally based counties of the state, and by 1940 the city's population showed a 70 percent increase over 1930 to 3,799.

During this era, the city also received three other major federally assisted projects: the \$100,000 Deaconess Hospital (1935); the Civic Center WPA--(1938); and a \$120,000 highway underpass. In addition, various other WPA civic improvement projects, farm relief programs, irrigation projects and other federal relief programs brought substantial federal assistance to the area.

The Glasgow Post Office is fronted on the north by 2nd Avenue South, with 6th Street South located along the east side. The post office is located at the western end of the city's downtown business district. Commercial uses are located adjacent to the west and across the alley to the south. Commercial uses are also located to the north across 2nd, and to the east across 6th. None of the buildings in the immediate vicinity of the post office are historically significant or architecturally remarkable.

LOCAL PRESS COVERAGE OF THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE GLASGOW
MAIN POST OFFICE

In the local context, various articles included in the Glasgow Courier and the Glasgow Times between 1936 and 1939 reported the appropriation and construction of the

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post office. An article of October 26, 1936 in the Courier announced that "Post Office for Glasgow is Approved". Funds had been allocated from the 1934 Emergency Construction Act in the amount of \$140,000. This appropriation had culminated a year of hard lobbying effort by local civic groups. Postmaster J.P. Sternhagen surmised that the building would be larger than the typical-sized facility for second class post offices. He had stressed to federal officials, in making his appeal for a new facility, that many federal departments were located in the city. Bids were called on October 29th.

An article of December 1st reported that the federal site inspector was in Glasgow to inspect the 10 proffered sites. Site selection was announced in the issue of December 29th. A site offered by Paul R. Frjedl and Jerry Cahil was selected at a cost of \$7,500. Four of six lots originally included in the bid package were selected. (The site contained a 1-1/2 story frame residence, garage, shed, barn, and frame building used as a funeral home).

On July 29, 1937 the Glasgow Times reported that the city might receive a federal court. United action was sought by the Valley County Democratic organization in support of Senator Wheeler, the bill's sponsor. An article of August 19th reported that the post office bid requests would include a \$100,000 federal courtroom.

Bids on the revised building were called on March 25, 1938. An article of May 29th reported that Busboom and Rauh of Salina, Kansas, had submitted the lowest of 19 bids at \$169,700. The use of Montana stone for the floors and lobby walls was requested according to an article of April 14th. Commencement of work was announced in the May 5th issue of the Times. An article of June 5th listed several WPA projects in the city including the Civic Center and Post Office (the post office was not actually constructed under the WPA,

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however). On July 14th the Times reported that the construction of a power station at the Fort Peck project was assured. Over 4,200 workers were employed at the dam (down from a peak of over 10,000 in 1936). An article of October 13th reported that progress was being made: the building's concrete roof had been poured and all outside work was nearly complete. An article of November 24th reported that the interior plastering was nearly complete and that marble and tile work would begin soon.

Another progress report was given in the January 12, 1939 issue of the Times. The marble, tile, and terrazzo work would be completed in two weeks. Montana travertine, which had been quarried in Gardner and polished in Minnesota, would be used in the lobby. Black marble, quarried in Virginia, would be used for the exterior spandrels (but was apparently never used). Work also progressed on the Fort Peck Dam and on January 19th it was reported that \$8,350,000 could be expended during fiscal year 1940.

The post office opened for business on April 20th and, according to local counts, was patronized by 1,252 persons. Various articles from April through September discussed landscaping plans and setting a date for dedication. Finally, an article of September 14th in the Courier reported the formal dedication of the building which had taken place the previous Friday afternoon. The dedication was one feature of the Harvest Jubilee. Thomas Dignan presided, the high school Kiltie band opened the program, Reverend Siqueland gave the invocation, and J.P. Sternhagen recounted local post office history. Congressman James F. O'Conner, credited with obtaining the building's appropriation, presented the primary address. He ended his address by asking "Does anybody here want me to vote to sent our boys to Europe?". Many women in the audience replied "No!" The ceremony was broadcast on the local radio station.

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