

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 **MAY 23 1986**

DATE ENTERED **AUG 6 1986**

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Rossville Post Office

AND/OR COMMON

Main Post Office

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

301 Chickamauga Avenue

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Rossville

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

VICINITY OF

7

STATE

Georgia

CODE

N/A

COUNTY

Walker

CODE

295

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	<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"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
			<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
			<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 AGENCY

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (If applicable)

Field Real Estate and Buildings Office, U. S. Postal Service

STREET & NUMBER

1 North Front Street, P. O. Drawer 3744

CITY, TOWN

Memphis

STATE

Tennessee

VICINITY OF

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE.

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Walker County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

South Duke Street

CITY, TOWN

Lafayette

STATE

Georgia

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

N/A

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

JUL 16 1986

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT
 GOOD
 FAIR
 DETERIORATED
 RUINS
 UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Dominating the corner of Chickamauga and McFarland Avenue, the Rossville Georgia Post Office is situated on an 18,410 square feet flat site in the center of the city. Located in Walker County in the northwest portion of the state, the two-story, Georgian Revival structure depicts classical details. Built over a raised basement, the original building is rectangular in plan. The fenestration of the building employs tall twelve over twelve windows with a jack arch and large keystone with a tile mansard roof. Punctuated across the front with dormer windows, the post office building presents an imposing appearance.

Directly below the roof is a concrete cornice with dentils underneath. The most prominent feature of the exterior is the tetra-style pedimented portico on a raised base with a double flight of concrete steps. The United States Postal Service emblem of an eagle has been inset into the transom over the double, wood doors.

The interior of the building is in good condition. Upon entering a vestibule of mahogany wood and glass, one exits from the right to approach the window service area. The box section is housed at the right adjacent to the staircase with access through an arched overhang. The effect of the beautiful, pink marble which covers five feet of the lower lobby walls, the entire floor, facing around the walls, overwhelms and elicits feelings of admiration. It is said that the same type of marble in this post office graces the halls of portions of the White House additions and the walls and floors of the State Capitol Building in Atlanta. All of the marble was obtained from the same source - the granite quarry in Gainsville, Georgia.

On the second floor are four offices which contain hardwood floors with some carpeting and plaster walls. Access to the various rooms is via a long hallway leading from the stairs.

In 1962, the building was enlarged. The addition, extending along Chickamauga Avenue at a right angle is not in direct proportion to the original structure. However, the theme, facade design, and interior characteristics are in accord and have been adapted throughout. The expansion included a doubling of the workroom space, covering of the workroom floors with vinyl tile and extension to the customer box section. The original marble quarry was reopened to insure that a complete match of marble was available for the expansion. Drawings for the addition were made by the Selmon T. Franklin firm, Chattanooga, Tennessee and the construction was performed by Joe Garner, a local contractor.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

1931

BUILDER/ARCHITECT James C. Miller, Contractor
Campbellville, KY

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

L. C. Guess, Architect

The Post Office has always played a major role in the local history and development of Rossville, Georgia. Its location at the corner of Chickamauga and McFarland was once the home of the Cherokee Indians. The Chief of the Tribe, John Ross, who was one-eighth Indian and seven-eighths Scottish, established the first post office in his home. Mr. Ross' home called, "The John Ross House," which is on the National Register of Historic Places, is located directly behind the post office property.

The site for the post office was acquired through the efforts of Congressman Gordon Lee in 1913. Although the land was purchased eighteen years earlier from the prominent McFarland family, the appropriation of \$75,000 for the construction of the building was not obtained until 1931 by Congressman Malcolm C. Tarver, Congressman of the seventh District.

Built during a period of economy and efficiency and when unemployment was at its highest, the post office was erected under the supervision of Supervising Architect James A. Wetmore, Department of the Treasury. The General Contractor was James C. Miller from Campbellville, Kentucky and the architect was L. C. Guess (origin unknown). Little is known of the contractor and nothing is known of the architect. However, there were approximately 400 buildings built under Superintendent Wetmore's tenure.

At the time the building was completed in 1931, Charles Robert Jones was incumbent postmaster. He retired the same year and was immediately succeeded by George W. Bryan who served two years and Dr. J. S. Alsobrook, a descendent of Mayor Alsobrook, who served nine years. A listing of all postmasters from inception to the present is enclosed with this nomination.

Another significant characteristic is that the property enhances the geographic area. Architecturally, it is the only building that reflects a modest impression of Georgian Revival and embodies traits that are distinctive from any other buildings in the Rossville area. It contrasts with the more modern City Hall and Library established in the late 1930's.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Rossville Open Gate, July 1932
 History of Walker County
 Chattanooga, News-Free Press, February 1968
 James Fleming, Rossville Library
 Jewel Stafford, Librarian, Rossville, Georgia

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY .445 or .5 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A	1, 6	615, 614, 1, 0	3, 817, 213, 0, 0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Beginning at a point on the Southwest side of Chickamauga Avenue, 120 feet from the former intersection of Chickamauga Avenue and McFarland Avenue. Thence South 130 feet to a point 3 feet from a stone, thence 171 feet to a point on the Southeast line of McFarland Avenue, thence East 96.37 feet along McFarland to a point in a curve thence with the arc of the 90 degree curve, 76.1 feet, to a point, thence South 76.6 feet to the point of beginning.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Ethel N. Hayes, Real Estate Specialist DATE November 27, 1985

ORGANIZATION

Memphis Field Real Estate and Buildings Office

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

P. O. Drawer 3744 901/576-2069

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Memphis Tennessee 38173 0744

12 CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

YES NO

NONE

Ethel N. Hayes
 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 *John S. Dawson*

TITLE Realty Specialist, Senior

DATE May 19, 1986

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER	
<i>John Bell Crook</i>	DATE <u>8/6/86</u>
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION	DATE
ATTEST:	DATE
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER	

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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CONTINUATION SHEET

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According to Rossville history, it appears to be the third or fourth secular building built in the early 1930's. Until 1950, it certainly was the tallest edifice. Its height and dominance played a key role in Rossville development. It was from the Chickamauga and McFarland intersection that the thriving central business district emanated.

A third important feature is that it is the "gateway" to Chickamauga National Park, a historical battleground during the "War Between the States," which is located only five miles south of the post office. One must past its austere and commanding presence to enter the park. A final contributing factor is its designation as a local landmark by Rossville citizenry, being the first public building viewed upon entering Georgia from Tennessee.

There is no doubt that the subject property is perceived as a symbol of community pride and architectural achievement and that its integrity of location, materials, feeling and qualities should be preserved for future generations.