

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

### SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 89002000

Date Listed: 11/28/89

US Post Office--Springville Main  
Property Name

Sanpete Utah  
County (4/17/90  
MLB CORRECTION) Utah  
State

US Post Offices in Utah 1900--1941  
Multiple Name

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This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

*Patrick Andrews*  
Signature of the Keeper

11/28/89  
Date of Action

=====  
Amended Items in Nomination:

The period of significance for this building was given as 1900-1941. Steven Stielstra of the USPS changed it to 1941 to reflect the building's date of construction. The nomination is now officially amended to reflect this change.

**DISTRIBUTION:**

- National Register property file
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

2000

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

OCT 16 1989

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Springville Main Post Office  
other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 309 South Main N/A not for publication  
city, town Springville N/A vicinity  
state Utah code UT county Utah code 049 zip code 84663

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	<u>      </u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u> sites
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u> structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u> objects
		<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: Historic U.S. Post Offices in Utah 1900-1941 Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

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  request for determination of eligibility 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  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.

[Signature] 12-19-88  
Signature of certifying official Date  
United States Postal Service  
State or Federal agency and bureau

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

[Signature] Nov 15, 88  
Signature of commenting or other official Date  
Utah State Historical Society  
State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register.  
 See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the National Register.  See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register.

removed from the National Register.

other, (explain:)

[Signature] 11/28/89  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

## 6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

U.S. Post Office

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

U.S. Post Office

## 7. Description

Architectural Classification  
(enter categories from instructions)

Colonial Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete

walls Brick

roof Slate

other Limestone

Tar composition

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Springville Main Post Office is a one-story building on a raised basement platform. The front facade is flat, symmetrically-arranged, Classically-proportioned and divided into five segmentally-arched bays--a centered entry bay flanked on each side by two window bays. Double wooden doors, leaded-glass sidelights, and a transom window fronted by a cast-aluminum eagle comprise the entry bay. Granite is used for the entry stairs, and wrought iron for the balusters and lanterns. Constructed of reinforced concrete foundation, floor slabs and basement walls, and framed with structural steel, the Colonial Revival building is faced with red brick. Limestone sills and panels provide window bay detailing. Brick dentils detail the plain cornice from which rises a slate-clad hipped roof which tops front half of the building; built-up tar composition covers the rear. Rectangular louvered wooden vents, resembling chimneys, mark the ends of the roof's ridge line.

### PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The front facade (west) is flat and symmetrical in elevation. Five bays divide the facade--a centered entry bay and two window bays flanking each side. Both the exposed basement wall and main floors are faced with red brick. A slightly projecting header course defines the water table at the juncture of the basement and main floors. The main floor wall is terminated by a decorative brickwork cornice, upon which rests a copper gutter. The brick work consists of a stretcher course, above which is set a header course consisting of alternating paired projecting headers (dentils) and trippled flush headers. The projecting headers support a stretcher course, upon which rests the gutter. The slate-clad hipped roof rises from the gutter line. Square, flat roofed wooden vents, with louvered sides, are set at the ridgeline corners at each end (resemble chimneys).

Each of the five bays is topped with a segmental brick arch. Voussoired brick forms the arches and extends to the

**8. Statement of Significance**

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

nationally  statewide  locally

Applicable National Register Criteria  A  B  C  D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)  A  B  C  D  E  F  G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Politics/Government

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Period of Significance

1900-1941

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Dates

Site acq.-1939

Const.-1941

\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Person

N/A

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Architect/Builder

Louis A. Simon, Supervising Archi-

tect/Federal Government

\_\_\_\_\_

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Springville MPO is a well-preserved and essentially unaltered example of a single-purpose post office in the Colonial Revival mode. Although not yet fifty years old, the building possesses exceptional significance on the local and state levels for its modern adaptation of the American Colonial design style. As the only example in the Northwest, this particular design is unique among those buildings of the late-1930s and early-1940s, wherein most all were modern designs, stripped of historical details. The building is also important in the growth of the community in that it represents the recognition of the city's stability by the federal government and symbolizes the link, through its elected officials, with Washington D.C.

ARCHITECTURE

With the exception of the removal of the skylights in the rear portion of the roof in 1965, the building is well-preserved and unaltered in its original construction. The building is the first federally-constructed post office in the city, and one of the last post offices constructed by the federal government prior to World War II. The building exhibits the use of fine materials in its modern adaptation of the Colonial Revival design style. The building, with its Classical proportions, symmetrical facade, segmentally arched bays, and entry bay detailing, is unique to the architectural forms of the city. In addition, the building also departs from most of its northwest counterparts in its use of a definable historical style, as opposed to the "stripped" or "starved" modern designs of the mid-to-late Depression era. Along with the Spanish Colonial Revival Springville Art Center, the Post Office is one of the two remaining examples of Depression-era public architecture in the city. Thus, the

See continuation sheet

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

1. The Springville Herald, various articles 1930-1941.
2. Original Floor Plans, 1940.
3. Construction Progress Photographs, March 21, 1941 - August 21, 1941.

Live site  
0.13

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- 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 # \_\_\_\_\_

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository:

USPS Facilities Service Center  
San Bruno, CA 94099-0330

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of property 0.33 acres

UTM References

A 12 448070 4445730  
Zone Easting Northing

B           
Zone Easting Northing

C         

D         

Quadrangle name: Springville  
Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

Beginning at the Northwest corner of Lot 3, Block 4, Plat "A" of Springville, thence East 140 feet, thence South 103 feet, thence West 140 feet, thence north 103 feet to beginning. The site is on the Southeast corner of Main Street and 300 South Street.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the property originally purchased by the federal government for the post office site.

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title H.J. "Jim" Kolva, Project Manager; Steve Franks, Research Assistant  
 organization Institute for Urban & Local Studies date August 1988  
 street & number West 705 1st. Avenue telephone (509) 458-6219  
 city or town Spokane state WA zip code 99204

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 1 Springville MPO

decorative brick work that terminates the wall. Flat brick piers topped by slightly projecting headers (dentils) separated by narrow gaps are located between the arched bays. The window bays contain flat arched double-hung wood sash with eight-over-twelve lights. The windows are covered by aluminum-framed storm windows. The sides of the windows within the niche formed by the piers are filled with brick (same bond as piers). A flat limestone sill, with a flat limestone panel beneath, defines the bottoms of the windows.

The entry bay is approached by three concrete steps to a broad concrete landing, then narrows to five granite steps and a granite approach landing. Wrought iron balusters flank the granite steps. Free-standing wrought iron lanterns are located on each side of the approach landing. The entry consists of double, recessed metal and glass panel doors (two lights each). A segmentally arched transom window with triangular leaded segments tops the doors. Half round fluted pilasters separate the door opening from leaded glass sidelights. Beneath the sidelights are wooden panels. Half round fluted pilasters also frame the juncture of the side lights and flanking brick piers. The pilasters support a segmentally-arched band which is ornamented with raised stars. A painted aluminum eagle with wings outstretched rests on the transom bar above the doors.

The north facade is faced with red brick and detailed similarly to the front facade. Articulation of the front portion of the building is provided by its slight projection from the rear. (Note that the rear face of the hipped roof was altered by the removal of the original sky-light housing in 1965). The facade is divided into three window bays--two in the front portion and one in the rear portion. The bays of the front portion are detailed and configured identically to those of the front facade. The bay of the rear portion is identical to those of the front, except that two-over-three light sidelights have replaced the brick fill of the front bays.

The south facade is treated similarly to the north, except that the rear portion contains three equally spaced window bays. The rear bays are narrower than those of the front and contain eight-over-twelve light double-hung wood sash.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number   7   Page   2   Springville MPO

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The rear facade consists of the brick enclosed loading vestibule which projects rearward from the main building and the concrete loading ramp which extends from the vestibule. The vestibule has a flat built-up tar composition roof and is centered on the main building. Single window bays, identical to those of the rear portion of the south facade, flank each side of the vestibule extension. Access between the concrete mailing platform and the vestibule is provided by a single double-door entry. A small, fixed sash window (twelve-light) covered by a metal grille, is west of the door. A double-hung wood sash window with eight-over-eight lights is in the west corner of the vestibule. The south side of the vestibule contains two four-over-four-light double-hung wood sash windows and the north side contains a single eight-over-eight-light double-hung wood sash window. The mail platform is covered by a flat metal roof with projecting marquee.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 1 Springville MPO

building is locally significant under Criterion C.

POLITICS/GOVERNMENT

As Springville's first and only federally-constructed post office, the building is locally significant under Criterion A. It represents the link between the federal government and the local community and functions as both a symbol and as an agency of the federal government. The building also symbolizes the federal government's recognition of the community's regional importance and is a manifestation of the successful lobbying efforts of the community through its elected representatives. Finally, as one of the last post offices constructed by the federal government prior to World War II it also represents the end of the Depression Era and the federal design philosophy of the late 1920s and 1930s.

LOCAL CONTEXT

Springville, "The Art Center," is in central Utah, approximately six miles south of Provo. The city had a 1980 population of 13,500 and is in a period of substantial growth. Springville has a diversified economy including heavy industry (U.S. Steel Geneva Works), a developing industrial park, cattle raising, general farming, and fruit growing. The city also prides itself on its Museum of Art and annual art exhibition.

The area was first settled by eight families sent by Brigham Young in the Autumn of 1850. First called Hobble Creek, the community was renamed Springville because of the many springs in the area. The first post office was established in 1851, with Aaron Johnson as the postmaster. Ranching and farming comprised the early economy which later diversified as the city progressed. The Utah Southern Railroad was extended from Salt Lake to Provo in 1871, but did not reach Springville until 1877 when it was extended into southern Utah. Several other rail lines were established in the 1880s and with the completion of the Denver & Rio Grande rail line the city's economic growth was assured. The City's population reached 2,849 in 1890 and grew to 3,422 in 1900. Growth slowed and population declined in the next two decades

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 2 Springville MPO

(in 1920 Springville's population was 3,010) and then began an upward trend. The city grew substantially in the 1930s, growing from 3,748 in 1930 to 4,796 in 1940. Springville was designated the fastest growing city in the state, and with the establishment of the Geneva Steel Works and other industrial plants in the 1940s reached a population of 6,475 in 1950.

The Springville Post Office is on the southeast corner of Main/300 South streets, at the southern edge of the city's central business district. Main Street is the primary business street and north-south arterial. The properties adjacent to the east of the post office are primarily single family in use, although the building immediately adjacent has been converted to office use. Two residences converted to offices are adjacent to the south of the post office. The one immediately adjacent predates the post office and is in the English Arts and Crafts style. Commercial uses, including a supermarket and drug store, are across Main Street to the west. Located diagonally from the post office, on the northwest corner of the intersection and to the north, is the old downtown business district comprised of one- and two-story brick buildings (late 1800s and early 1900s). Across 300 South to the north is a commercial building (converted gas station) and one-story commercial buildings further north.

LOCAL NEWSPAPER COVERAGE OF THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE  
SPRINGVILLE MAIN POST OFFICE

In 1939, the population of Springville was 5,686. Postal receipts were growing and Springville was the largest community in the state without a federal building.

On March 30, 1939, The Springville Herald carried a story with the headline "Chamber of Commerce Moves to Get Federal Building for Springville". The Public Building Committee Chairman, George A. Anderson, decided to contact J. Will Robinson (D), the Congressman from the district, to seek support for a federal building. Anderson urged the citizens to also write Congressman Robinson concerning a federal building.

The front page headline of the April 6, 1939 Herald

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 3 Springville MPO

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stated: "Robinson Pledges Support for FB". The accompanying article was based on a letter from Robinson to the president of the Chamber of Commerce, Claude Salisbury.

From another communication between Robinson and Salisbury an article appeared in The Springville Herald on May 4, 1939 claiming "New PO This Summer Is Probability". The hope was based on a bill that had already been passed appropriating several million dollars for federal buildings throughout the country. Robinson said it was somewhat difficult to get an appropriation, but he should be able to get some money for Springville.

One week later, on May 11, 1939, the Herald reported that the Chamber of Commerce had been successful and that Springville would get a new post office. The article also stated that sites for the post office were being solicited.

Four sites were submitted for the erection of a post office. The locations and prices were listed in the May 25, 1939 edition of the Herald. On October 26, 1939 it was reported that the new post office would be located on the corner of 3rd Street and Main, the site of Utah Oil Refining. Six months later, on April 4, 1940, the Herald reported that preliminary work was underway for a new federal building and construction would begin as soon as designs were completed in Washington, D.C.

Springville celebrated its 90th birthday on September 3, 1940. The Herald claimed that "Work on PO Expected to Begin Soon". The article said that Newstrom Davis of Denver had been awarded the contract for \$53,700. Postmaster J. Emmett Bird reported that construction would begin within 45 days. The article described the proposed building as "a modern adaptation of the traditional Colonial architecture".

The Springville Herald reported that construction on the federal building began on January 23, 1941. In an April 3, 1941 article it was reported that the building was 20 percent completed, and that 20 men, most local residents, were being employed.

On August 21, 1941, the Herald contained an article titled "New PO Nearly Completed". The article described the

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 4 Springville MPO

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building in detail. A week later the Herald included a photo of the new post office.

It was announced on November 6, 1941 that "Springville's New PO to Be Opened November 17". The article stated that a fine program had been arranged for the dedication ceremonies on November 15th and that the celebration would be directed by the Chamber of Commerce. Postmaster Bird also called attention to a first day issue of stamps with a rendering of the post office. Another article inviting the public to the dedication ceremonies appeared in the November 13th edition of the Herald.

The November 20th edition of The Springville Herald reported "Postal Building Dedicated at Formal Program". The article stated that hundreds attended the ceremony and heard various speeches and the high school band. Letters mailed that day bore the cancellation "New Federal Building" "Springville The Art Center" "First Days Cancellation November 17, 1941." A rendering of the new building was included on the cancellation stamp. The article traced the history of the post office from its establishment in 1851, to the first rural route in December of 1902, to the present. The article also listed all postmasters from the first, Aaron Johnson to Bird, the current postmaster.

Just three weeks after the dedication, the United States entered World War II.

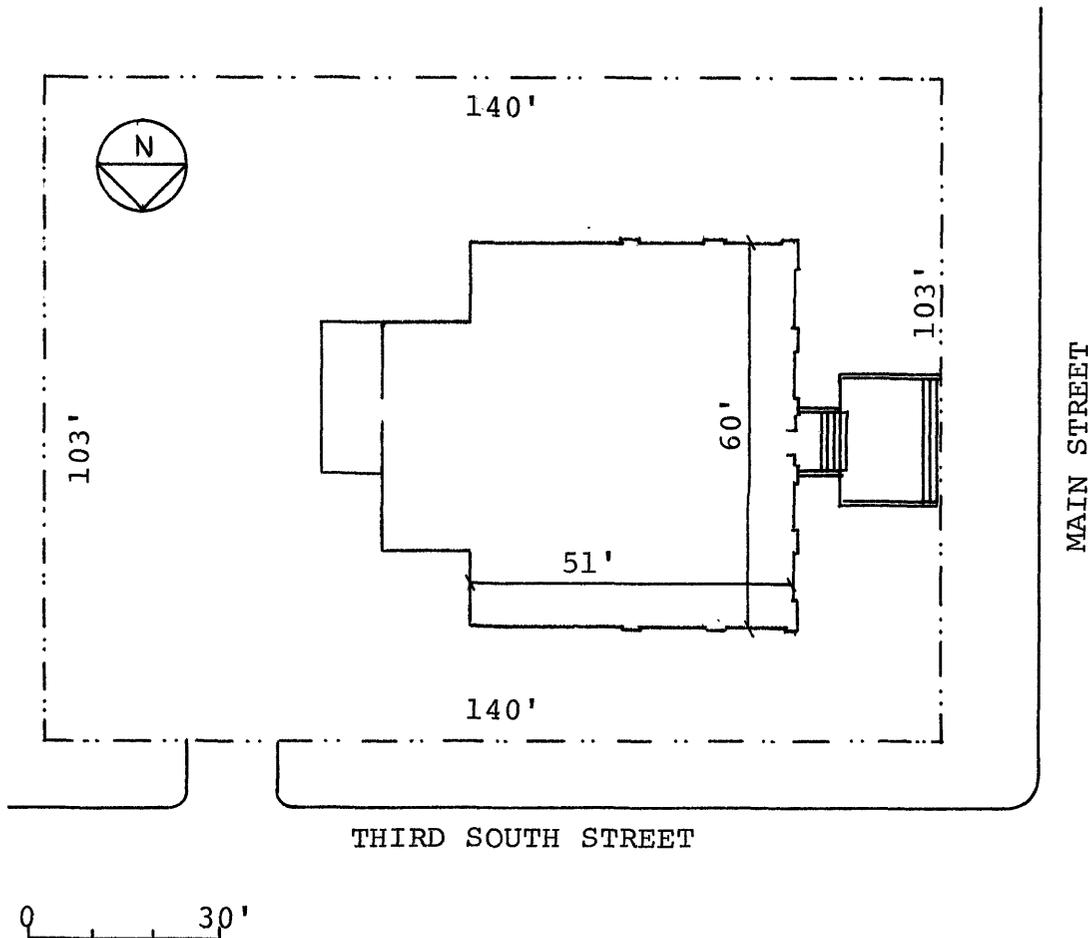
SPRINGVILLE

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 10 Page 1 Springville MPO

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**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number Photos Page 1 Springville MPO

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The following information is the same for all the photographs listed:

1. Springville MPO
2. Springville, Utah
3. Jim Kolva
4. December 1986
5. Negatives on file at USPS Facilities Service Center, San Bruno, CA.

Photo No. 1 (negative #5)  
6. View to southeast

Photo No. 2 (negative #4)  
6. View to east

Photo No. 3 (negative #3)  
6. View to northeast