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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

RECORDED
APR 25 1991

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

NATIONAL
REGISTER

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 Clarkston Main Post Office
other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 949 6th Street N/A not for publication
city, town Clarkston N/A vicinity
state Washington code WA county Asotin code 003 zip code 99403

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>1</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing:
Historic U.S. Post Offices In Washington, 1893 - 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] 1-11-90
Signature of certifying official Date

U.S. 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] 12/15/89
Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register. Autawicth & Rice 5/30/91
 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:)

for 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)

Moderne

Other: Colonial Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete

walls Brick

Limestone

roof Tile

other

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Clarkston Main Post Office is a one-story, buff-colored brick building on a raised concrete basement. The front facade is symmetrical, divided into five bays, and devoid of significant detailing. A centered entry bay with two equally-sized window bays on either side break the otherwise plain facade. Granite steps and landing, flanked by square concrete buttresses, provide access to the entry. Above the entry doors and fronting a transom window is an ornate aluminum grille in which a low-relief sculpted eagle is centered. The facade is terminated by a plain limestone frieze with a slightly projecting molded cornice. A hipped roof, clad with tile, covers the front portion of the building while the rear is covered by a flat built-up tar composition roof. Centered on the ridge of the hipped roof is a square copper and glass cupola.

PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The front facade (west) is divided into five flat-arched bays. The main entry bay is centered and flanked on each side by two window bays. The entry bay is slightly recessed from the brick-faced facade and framed in wood. The entry consists of double metal doors with six-light glass panels, topped by a nine-light transom window which rests atop a plain wooden door head. An ornate painted aluminum grille, in which a low-relief sculpted eagle is centered, is set in front of the transom window. Single free-standing lanterns in a torch motif rest atop each of the entry buttresses.

The window bays are identical to each other and of the same dimension as the entry bay. They consist of triple-hung, six-light wood sash windows which are set above a plain sandstone panel. The panel is slightly recessed and rests on the limestone facing of the raised basement wall. A plain limestone frieze extends across the facade between the line marking the tops of the bays to a plain, slightly projecting sandstone cornice. "United States Post Office," "Clarkston, Washington" is carved into the frieze and centered on the

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The tile-clad hipped roof is topped by a square cupola--a copper base, centered copper louvers flanked by four-light glass panels, and flat copper cap. A weather vane is set atop the cap.

The north facade is flat and divided into two sections--the front section projecting slightly relative to the rear. Each section contains two window bays identical in design and detail as those of the front facade. Sandstone faces the exposed basement wall, frieze above the window bays, and cornice. Brick faces the remainder of the facade. The hipped roof overlies the front section and the flat built-up tar composition roof covers the rear.

The south facade is almost identical to the north facade. It differs in that one window bay is filled with brick (original construction) and one small one-over-one-light, double-hung, wood sash window flanks each side of the brick-ed-in window.

The rear facade is similar in design and use of materials as the front except that in place of the entry is a brick-enclosed concrete loading platform. Extending rearward, the platform is slightly offset from the center of the building. The platform opens to the north with a single metal overhead loading door and a single metal pedestrian door. The west and south sides are solid brick. A flat roof with a metal marquee which projects over the loading area covers the platform. Two window bays, identical to those of the front and sides of the main building, flank each side of the platform. A smaller vertically-aligned window with one-over-one-light, double-hung, wood sash occupies the northern corner.

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
Art
Politics/Government

Period of Significance

1941

Significant Dates

Site acq.-1939
Const.-1941

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Simon, Louis A., Supervising Architect/Federal Government

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

Though not yet fifty years old, the Clarkston MPO is exceptionally significant on the state level for architecture and on the local level for politics/government and art. Although the design is a duplicate of several other western post offices, it is the only example of Depression era Federal architecture in Clarkston. Moreover, it is the only example of its design-type in Washington. The building and the bas-relief wood sculpture therein represent the efforts of the federal government, through its public works and art programs, to assist communities during a period of economic emergency. The building is one of eighteen in the state to contain a New Deal artwork which represents a significant type, period, and style of artistic expression which, through its visual expression, relates to the social history of its locality. Finally, the building, the city's first federally-constructed post office, symbolizes the linkage between the federal government and the local community.

ARCHITECTURE

The Clarkston MPO is a well-preserved and unaltered example of a small-town single-purpose post office in the Starved Classical style. The building exhibits the modern or International design influence in its flat facades and lack of explicitly articulated historical design elements, yet retains Classical symmetry and proportion. Flat brick piers, extending from the exposed basement wall to a broad sandstone band, divide the five bays of the facade. These elements are reductions of the pilasters, columns, and entablatures of the Beaux-Arts designs. Ornamentation is stripped and limited to an ornate grille in which is set a low-relief eagle sculpture (also standardized) which rests above the entry doors. Although the building is given an American Colonial flavor by

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

1. Clarkston Herald; various articles 1937 - 1941.
2. Original Building Plans; 1939.
3. Kuntz, Guy T., Construction Engineer. "Daily (Construction) Diary." 31 July 1940 - 8 March 1941.
4. Weatherly, Bob. "Rain, Shine, Sleet Sleet, or Hail..." Valley American, 20 July 1983.
5. Webber, Bert, ed. Postmarked Washington: Asotin, Spokane, Whitman. Fairfield, WA: Ye Galleon Press, 1987.

Previous documentation on file (NPS): N/A

- 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 0.35

UTM References

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5	1	3	9	5	1	0
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Zone Easting Northing

B

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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D

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Quadrangle Name: Clarkston
Quadrangle Scale: 1:24,000

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

Lots 40, 41, 42, 43 & 44, Block 5, Clarkston. The site is on the North-east corner of Sixth Street and Chestnut Street. Beginning at the South-west corner, thence N125', E122'6", S125', W122'6" to point of beginning.

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 March 1989
street & number West 705 First Avenue telephone (509) 458-6219
city or town Spokane state WA zip code 99204

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use of a hipped roof and cupola, the design is modern.

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. Those buildings of the early-1930s carry over this tradition, yet begin to show the transition to the modern. While the Classical influence remains clear and the historical detailing retains its definition, the facades become flatter and tend toward simplicity. Federal architecture after the mid-1930s evidences greater refinement and attention to the modern influence. Standardization and economy became the rule. This is strongly evident in the Clarkston MPO which represents the end of the design evolution, which essentially ended at the onset of World War II. As such, it is a significant element in the state's legacy of federal architecture and is integral to the group of post offices included in this thematic nomination. Therefore, the building has statewide significance under Criterion C.

POLITICS/GOVERNMENT

As the city's first federally-constructed post office and a legacy of the massive federal public works programs which were designed to assist local communities during a period of national economic emergency, the building is locally significant under Criterion A. It also represents nearly a decade of lobbying on the part of local citizens, through their elected officials in Washington, to secure a federal building. The appropriation and construction phases of the building's evolution were important local events that were followed closely in the local press. For example, when the appropriation for the building was reported in 1938, the Clarkston Herald observed:

Credit for this splendid achievement should be given to local citizens who have laid the groundwork for the past 10 years for a new post office and federal building in this city, whose efforts have been brought to a climax through their own efforts in cooperation with their Congressman.

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ART

A wood carving (approximately 3 feet by 5 feet), entitled "Lewis and Clark" is on the south wall of the lobby over the postmaster's door. This carving was completed by J. D. McGovern in 1940 and depicts the figures of Meriwether Lewis and William Clark. McGovern is not listed in the standard biographies. This bas-relief wood sculpture, like the building in which it is contained, represents the efforts of the federal government to assist communities during a period of economic emergency. The sculpture also represents a significant type, period, and style of artistic expression which, through its visual expression, relates to the social history of its locality. Thus, it is locally significant under Criterion A and C.

LOCAL CONTEXT

Clarkston, located along the Snake River, is the largest city in Asotin County and the most inland port in Washington. Clarkston serves as a retail and service center to the surrounding region; light industry also contributes to the local economy. In 1987 it had an estimated population of 6,730.

In 1805 the Lewis and Clark Expedition passed through the region; 90 years later, in 1895, a Northern Pacific Railroad engineer, E. H. Libby, saw the industrial, residential, and agricultural potential of the area. The development of an irrigation canal project stimulated agricultural production and early population growth. In 1896 the growing town was platted as Vineland by the Lewiston Water and Power Company. In 1900 the town's name was changed to Clarkston in memory of William Clark of the Lewis and Clark Expedition (Lewiston, across the Snake River, was named in honor of Meriwether Lewis). William H. Clemenson was appointed postmaster at the same time the name was changed.

By 1910 Clarkston had a population of 1,257; it grew to 1,859 in 1920 and to 2,870 in 1930. In the 1940s Clarkston experienced significant growth, growing from a population of 3,116 in 1940 to 5,617 in 1950. With the "taming" of the Snake River and development of port facilities, over the years Clarkston's economy shifted from primarily agriculture

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to retail, services, and light industry. Clarkston's population has remained fairly stable since 1950, growing slightly to 6,209 in 1960 to 6,312 in 1970, and 6,903 in 1980.

The Clarkston MPO is on the northeast corner of 6th and Chestnut Streets, at the southern edge of the city's business district. The Masonic Lodge, which was moved from the post office site when the post office was constructed, is north of the post office. North of the Masonic Lodge is a parking lot with commercial uses further north. A motor parts store, restaurant, and other commercial uses are across 6th Street to the west. A park is on the southwest corner of the intersection. The Asotin County Library (Carnegie Library, 1913) is at the southeast corner of the intersection (south of the post office across Chestnut Street). Several buildings of the Clarkston High School complex are south and east of the library (including the original C. F. Adams High School, two-story, brick, Classical Revival, 1923). The area east of the post office across an alley is single-family residential.

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

In 1937 the Clarkston Herald reported news of new development for Clarkston. The Chamber of Commerce was requesting \$100,000 for a new school building (April 2nd article), Congressman Knute Hill had announced a new bridge project across the Snake River between Lewiston and Clarkston that would be a joint Washington/Idaho project (May 28th), airport construction work was underway with the help of a \$35,000 WPA appropriation (June 11th), and construction of a new \$14,448 parochial school began (July 16th). On September 10th the Herald announced: "Federal Building Now Up To Congressman"; the Chamber of Commerce's committee on the federal building had been advised by its chair, William Huyette, that it was within the power of Congressman Hill to place a building in Clarkston and that the committee should increase its activity since Clarkston was the largest city in Hill's district on schedule for a federal building.

On October 22nd it was reported that Congressman Hill had visited Clarkston. In his welcoming address Huyette stated that Clarkston was in need of better postal facilities

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and concluded that while wheat growers, agriculture, and industry in general had been helped by the government, the Congressman should look to securing "relief" for the "poor forgotten fruitgrower" of which there were so many in the district.

News of 1938 included that 222 parcels of land would be sold for taxes (February 11th article), the \$748,337 bridge contract was let (March 4th), the first air mail would be flown from Clarkston on May 19th (May 13), and a new \$500,000 project to create a storage lake on the Asotin creek and irrigate 10,000 acres was proposed (June 17th). On July 8th a Herald headline read "New Federal Building for Clarkston"; Congressman Hill had telegraphed Clarkston Mayor Dr. Frank P. Lint that Clarkston had received funds for site acquisition and construction of a federal building, which was to be built at once. The paper published a photo of Hill and wrote:

Credit for this splendid achievement should be given to local citizens who have laid the groundwork for the past 10 years for a new post office and federal building in this city, whose efforts have been brought to a climax through their own efforts in cooperation with their Congressman.

Names of the Chamber's federal building committee members were also published: William Huyette, chair; Ewing Johnson; August Peterson; Harley R. Tucker, and John N. Haven. Credit was given to former Postmaster Julius L. Raaberg of Spokane for gathering data for the committee and Postmaster A. W. Wilson for his aid. Just one week later it was reported that the official call for site bids would be published on July 22 and 29, to be opened August 4th; a corner lot measuring 120' x 170' or 145' x 170' was needed (July 15th article).

Indeed, on July 22nd the Herald reported the call for bids, noting the official publication of the request for bids in that issue. On August 5th it was reported that nine sites had been offered, ranging from \$1,800 to \$4,050. "Federal Building Site Chosen" was the news of October 7th; the government had accepted the Clarkston Masons Lodge site at the northeast corner of Chestnut and 6th Streets. The Lodge

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had asked \$3,000 for the site but accepted \$2,000, and the historic Masonic Temple would be moved.

Over a year would pass before it would be reported that the Masonic Temple was to be moved to its new site two lots immediately north of the post office site (January 19, 1940 article). On February 16th it was reported that the Masons had received a \$2,000 check for their six lots at 6th and Chestnut and a week later it was announced the Temple was in its new location (February 23rd). In March the Chamber of Commerce's federal building committee learned that plans and specifications were done (March 1st article), in May it was announced that bids were to be opened on May 31st (May 3rd article), and in June it was reported that L. F. Dow of Los Angeles had submitted the lowest of the twelve bids (June 7th) and had been awarded the \$55,000 construction contract, to be completed in 210 days (June 28th).

"Begin Work on New PO" was the news of July 26th (Superintendent of Construction T. T. Mackie noted that local labor would be used as much as possible) and on August 2nd it was reported that digging on the site had commenced. Two weeks later the Herald reported "New Post Office Rises Rapidly"; the forms for the basement walls were practically completed (August 16). The steady progression of Clarkston's federal building continued with the news on September 6th that the Masons would lay the cornerstone sometime within the month. On the 13th it was reported that the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of the State of Washington and Alaska had dedicated the post office; the Clarkston High School state championship band led a parade down 6th Street and the "crowning event" was the placing of a copper box in the cornerstone.

February 1941 brought the news that the building was completed; the Herald wrote of it being a "splendid addition" to Clarkston's civic center, since it was across the street from the public library, near the high school, Vernon Park, and a proposed site for the city-county building (February 28th article). On March 7th it was reported that the Draft Board had moved into the new building; a week later, on March 14th, it was reported that, "after being an orphan of the street since its being established here some 42 years ago," the post office had also moved to its new home. The building was described as "the pride of Clarkston and Asotin County

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and will be the United States' headquarters in the County for all federal activities."

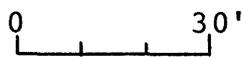
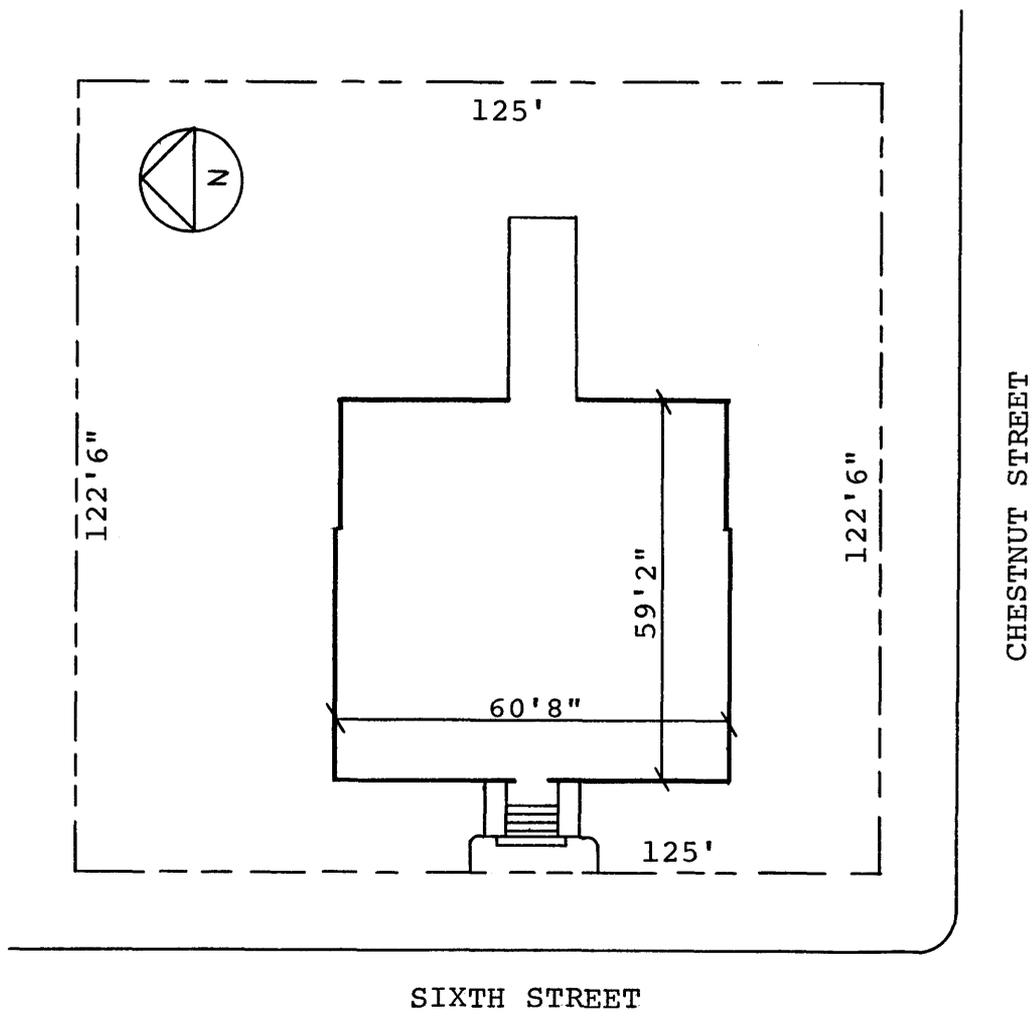
News of the post office dedication was reported in April and May. On April 25th it was announced that a special cachet was planned for the event scheduled for May 10th, the 85-piece high school band would play, and the Rotary Club, Chamber of Commerce, ladies club, and fraternal organizations would participate. On May 2nd it was explained that the dedication would cap the festivities planned for May 7-10 as part of the National and Inter-American Music Week, while the May 9th Herald featured a full page ad for the dedication, including a photo of the new \$75,000 federal building.

On May 16th it was reported that 3,000 people had participated in the dedication celebration, which included a "colorful parade," baseball game, and "spectacular outdoor musical pageant." In addition, three transport planes of the Zimmerly Brothers Air Transport had performed advanced maneuvers during the parade. During his address, Attorney Arnold stated: "I dedicate this building to the community. Men may rise and fall but the community will live forever. I dedicate this to the United States of America and particularly to the fundamentals of Democracy." Arnold also spoke of how the cost of killing in wars during Ceasar's time was 75 cents; the Napoleonic war, \$12; World War I, \$2,000; and the "present conflict," \$15,000.

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Section number Photos Page 1 CLARKSTON MPO

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

1. Clarkston MPO
2. Clarkston, Washington
3. Jim Kolva
4. July 1984
5. Negatives on file at USPS Facilities Service Center, San Bruno, CA.

Photo No. 1 (negative #15)

6. View to southeast

Photo No. 2 (negative #11)

6. View to east

Photo No. 3 (negative #2)

6. View to northeast

Photo No. 4 (negative #13)

6. Lobby woodcarving