

731



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts: See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).

1. Name of Property

historic name Tallulah Post Office

other names/site number Madison Parish Health Unit

2. Location

street & number 606 Snyder St.

NA	not for publication
NA	vicinity

city or town Tallulah

state Louisiana code LA county Madison code 065 zip code 71301

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

national ___ statewide ___ X local

Pam Breau
Signature of certifying official Pam Breau

7-23-13
Date

State Historic Preservation Officer
Title

Louisiana Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official

Date

Title State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register

___ other (explain:)

Jim Gubert
Signature of the Keeper

7/11/2013
Date of Action

Tallulah Post Office
Name of Property

Madison Parish, LA
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

- private
- public - Local
- public - State
- public - Federal

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
		district
		site
		structure
		object
1	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

NA

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

GOVERNMENT/post office

HEALTH CARE/Clinic

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

Classical Revival

foundation: concrete
walls: brick
roof: asphalt
other: _____

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Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

Summary Paragraph

The Tallulah Post Office (1934) is a brick and concrete story-and-a-half institutional building located at the southern edge of the historic Tallulah Central Business District (Madison Parish). The Classical Revival building in its day would, most likely, have been termed “Southern Colonial.” Despite mainly interior alterations, the building still strongly conveys its Classical Revival architectural identity, which is the basis of its significance.

Narrative Description

Overall Character:

The former post office has a squarish main block with a centrally placed, modestly sized rear wing. The first story is elevated about two feet above grade. It is set above a poured-in-place concrete basement/service story. The main block includes an upper half story. This is housed within a modified hip roof that culminates in a flat top roof section. At one time this flat roof section featured a balustrade (a “widow’s walk”), since lost (see historic photograph at the end of this document). The rear wing has its own small half story.

The building is entered at the center via a small elevated platform, with steps on each side which ascend to the level of the first floor. This platform is recessed beneath the roof. The central entrance doorway opens to a modest internal vestibule. This opens at each side to the old front postal service area that spans most of the width of the building. Behind it is the location of the old service counter, now walled in. Behind that is the old postal operations area which also takes in the rear wing. The wing also features a basement furnace with a prominent chimney stack and a central stair that ascends to the upper half story. There was also a rear loading dock, since bricked in.

The upper story of the wing contains a small run of steps that gives access to the upper story of the main front block. This is a most curious area. It contains an oblong observation gallery, with an inside railing on all four sides, that permitted postal supervisors to peer through a large window set in the ceiling of the first story and observe the workings of employees as they interacted with the public, sorted mail and performed other tasks. This “big brother” observation area is lit by a north light roof set above the flat top of the main block’s modified hip roof. This feature, with its sloping shed roof, was not meant to be visible, or at least noticeable, from the front of the property. (Photo 1 was taken from a railroad bridge, and the shed roof is visible. Photo 2 was taken from grade level – as most people would see the building.)

The brick exterior walls are constructed in the old way, of multiple layers of brick laid up in common bond. This is in contrast to the convention of the period -- brick veneer over a less expensive structural material such as hollow tile or concrete block. One can speculate that this choice of a more labor-intensive method of construction was in line with the New Deal philosophy of using as many workers as possible on a job, to aid employment.

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Façade:

The five bay façade features a central entrance set within a structural brick arch. The opening is topped with a half-round transom divided into panes as might befit a design of the Federal Period. Below the transom is a paneled area. Twelve-over-twelve Federal style windows, two on each side of the entrance, are capped with structural brick jack arches. The entrance platform is marked with a wrought-iron (looking) balustrade with decoratively twisted slender balusters. Below the balustrade is a recessed front-facing concrete panel. Brick pilasters mark the edges of the façade.

The highlight of the façade is its strongly formed Tuscan Order gallery. It follows the regular bay rhythm of the façade openings. The columns rest upon high bases which correspond to the level of the raised first story. They rise to a modified entablature, which includes a frieze and a deep cornice, but no architrave. Nonetheless, it is sized correctly in relationship to the columns, which makes for a handsomely proportioned gallery.

Side Elevations (Main Block):

The east elevation of the main block has four bays. Three of the bays feature twelve-over-twelve windows; the other bay takes the form of a recessed brick panel over a side entrance door. The west elevation is pierced by four, twelve-over-twelve windows. In both side elevations the angular side of the north light wall is visible above the hip roof.

Rear Elevation:

The rear of the main block features four, twelve-over-twelve windows. The rear wing is “shoe-horned” between two of the windows, one of which is partially bricked in. The rear elevation includes a stair to the basement, the prominent furnace chimney, and a side entrance to the rear wing. At one time the back of the rear wing had a wide loading dock at the first story; this has been bricked in. Above the old loading dock are three windows that light the upper half story. These are set within a gable with small gable end returns. Relatively recently the rear wing has been fitted with three fixed awnings (one on each of its three sides) and a wheelchair ramp with railings.

Interior Details:

The old post office is now a public health clinic and little of its original interior character survives. Ceilings have been lowered and walls covered in paneling. A notable exception to the foregoing is the wall separating the lobby and the entrance vestibule. Both sides of this wall display pillars, an entablature, internal windows and a paneled dado. In addition, the public area in front still retains its paneled dado.

Exterior Alterations:

In addition to the rear elevation changes noted above and the loss of the widow’s walk, a photograph appearing in a 1957 publication (same photograph referred to above) shows the post office with the brickwork painted white. The exterior walls are now exposed red brick, a condition that appears to be of long standing.

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The paint removal process does not appear to have damaged the brickwork to any great degree. Finally, the front door is modern.

Assessment of Integrity:

Although some might feel the former Tallulah Post Office has partially lost its integrity of association due to the conversion of its interior into a health care facility, its integrity of location and setting remain. Additionally, it still feels like a historic building. Furthermore, the basis of its architectural significance was and is the exterior, where the design, workmanship and materials survive largely intact. Thus, the building retains its grand Classical Revival exterior articulation and its Federal period exterior details – the source of its architectural significance.

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | G | less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years. |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | N/A | Criteria Considerations not applicable |

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply)

Property is:

- | | | |
|--------------------------|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | A | owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | B | removed from its original location. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | C | a birthplace or grave. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | D | a cemetery. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | E | a reconstructed building, object, or structure. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | F | a commemorative property. |

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Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

architecture

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above)

NA

Cultural Affiliation

NA

Period of Significance

1934

Architect/Builder

Federal Works Agency

Significant Dates

1934

Period of Significance (justification)

The period of significance is 1934, the date of construction.

Criteria Consideratons (explanation, if necessary) NA

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria)

The former Tallulah Post Office is locally significant in the area of architecture (Criterion C: Design and Construction) as a landmark in the parish seat of Tallulah, Madison Parish. It achieves this distinction due to its imposing and intensively articulated Classical Revival façade. The period of significance is 1934, the date of construction.

Narrative Statement of Significance (provide at least one paragraph for each area of significance)

Historical Background:

Tallulah is the seat of a decidedly rural parish in the rich delta lands of northeastern Louisiana. Madison Parish was created in 1838, and Tallulah dates its founding to 1857. By the 1880s, the small community was at the juncture of two railroads. In 1882 parish voters transferred the parish seat from Delta to Tallulah. Agriculture and timber harvesting formed the backbone of the economy. The population in 1890 was 847. In 1930, Madison Parish's total population was 14,829; Tallulah's 3,332.

The Classical Revival Style:

The architectural world has long looked to classical antiquity for inspiration. Surely the most famed instance was the Italian Renaissance, when architects rediscovered the classical world and reinvented it in cities

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such as Florence. In the mid-eighteenth century English architects discovered Ancient Greece and gave us the Greek Revival.

A renewed interest in classical motifs came in the United States in the last years of the nineteenth century, blossoming in the early twentieth century. It is generally agreed that the World's Columbian Exposition of 1893, held in Chicago, played a huge role in reviving classicism (in contrast to what some might call the architectural excesses of the Victorian Age). Dubbed the "White City," the fair featured monumental and imposing Roman style classical buildings, in white plaster, set in a vast and verdant landscape of parks, lagoon and grand avenues.

The very earliest phase of this revived classicism is the Beaux-Arts style, taking its cue from the grand buildings of the Exposition. Appearing closely on its heels was a more chaste, less theatrical interpretation, the Classical Revival style. The Classical Revival style was an immensely popular style for commercial and institutional buildings in the United States from c.1905 through the 1920s and beyond. As the decades passed, it generally became more and more restrained. In the Deep South, it remained popular into the post-World War II years (reminding Southerners of white-columned antebellum mansions). And it remained a model for federal buildings into the modern era as well.

The Classical Revival style is first and foremost a formal and symmetrical style. Its buildings are often termed grand and imposing. The most important (character-defining) element of the style is the column in its various orders. Huge white columns appear in stately pedimented porticoes and in grand colonnades. Other Classical Revival features include pilasters, modillion cornices (often outlining a pediment), and pedimented doorways. While arches are seen, openings are more often than not square head.

Local Architectural Context:

While Tallulah has never been comprehensively surveyed for historic structures, the staff of the LA SHPO in the late 1980s conducted a windshield survey for purposes of preparing National Register nominations under Criterion C. While the community has a long history, its historic building stock has been diminished by floods and other factors. The windshield survey at that time estimated some 150, 50+ year old buildings, almost all of which were plain folk bungalows, nondescript cottages, Colonial Revival cottages or plain commercial buildings. There are also a handful of generic Queen Anne Revival cottages.

As confirmed in fieldwork for this nomination, easily the most notable exceptions to the foregoing generally modest patrimony are six major examples of the Classical Revival taste, dating from the 1920s through the post-World War II years. Five boast grand pedimented porticos: Tallulah High School (National Register nomination in progress), the parish courthouse (National Register), the First Baptist Church, the First Methodist Church and the Tallulah Men's Club Building (National Register). The sixth, the candidate, features a handsome columnar façade.

All of the six are of roughly comparable architectural quality and deserve to be considered for the National Register. Two are already listed individually under Criterion C, the high school is under consideration, and the candidate and the First Baptist Church appear to be individually eligible under Criterion C. (The First Methodist Church is of comparable architectural quality, but some would argue that it is not eligible due to an

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integrity issue. The present steeple appears to be an addition, and it is not in proportion to the original pedimented portico, being much slighter in visual weight.)

The foregoing landmarks might have been called in their day "Southern Colonial" – i.e., the white columned look of some of the old plantation houses still extant in the region. Clearly this was the style of choice for major institutional buildings in the community (per above). The tenacity of this beloved architectural icon can be seen in the Madison Parish Courthouse, built in 1939, when the modern Art Deco look was the vogue for government buildings in the state, and in the 1950 First Baptist Church, built when modernism was indeed triumphant for commercial and instiutional buildings.

With its well-proportioned columnar gallery spanning the façade and its Federal Period-style details, the former Tallulah Post Office is an architectural landmark in the community to even the casual observer.

Developmental history/additional historic context information (if appropriate) SEE ABOVE

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form)

Conveyance Records, Madison Parish Courthouse.

Souvenir Program, Tallulah Centennial, 1857-1957.

Tallulah Post Office Blueprints, dated 1934, in possession of Madison Parish Historical Society.

Windshield surveys of Tallulah, Louisiana by consultants and National Register staff.

Previous documentation on file (NPS): NA

- 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 # _____
- Not applicable – no previous documentation on file

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
 - Other State agency
 - Federal agency
 - Local government
 - University
 - Other
- Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____ NA _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than an acre
(Do not include previously listed resource acreage)

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet) NAD 83

1	15	670670	3587020	3	_____	_____	_____
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2	_____	_____	_____	4	_____	_____	_____

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Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

Verbal Boundary Description (describe the boundaries of the property)

Legal property description: Lots 125, 126 & 127, Original Town [Tallulah].

Boundary Justification (explain why the boundaries were selected)

Boundaries follow the property lines of the parcel of land historically associated with the post office.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Jonathan Fricker
organization Fricker Historic Preservation Services, LLC date February 2013
street & number 6016 North Shore Dr. telephone 225-246-7901
city or town Baton Rouge state LA zip code 70817
e-mail jonathanfricker@gmail.com

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Continuation Sheets**
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Photographs:

Submit clear and descriptive black and white photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

Name of Property: Tallulah Post Office

City or Vicinity: Tallulah

County: Madison Parish **State:** LA

Photographer: Donna Fricker

Date Photographed: May 2012

Location of Digital Files: LA Division of Historic Preservation

Tallulah Post Office

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County and State

Description of Photograph(s) and number:

Photo 1 of 8
Camera facing north, northeast
Façade

Photo 2 of 8
Camera facing west-northwest
Façade

Photo 3 of 8
Camera facing north
Front doorway

Photo 4 of 8
Camera facing south, southeast
Side elevation

Photo 5 of 8
Camera facing south, southwest
Rear

Photo 6 of 8
Camera facing southeast
Rear

Photo 7 of 8
Camera facing southeast
Side elevation

Photo 8 of 8
Interior (front)

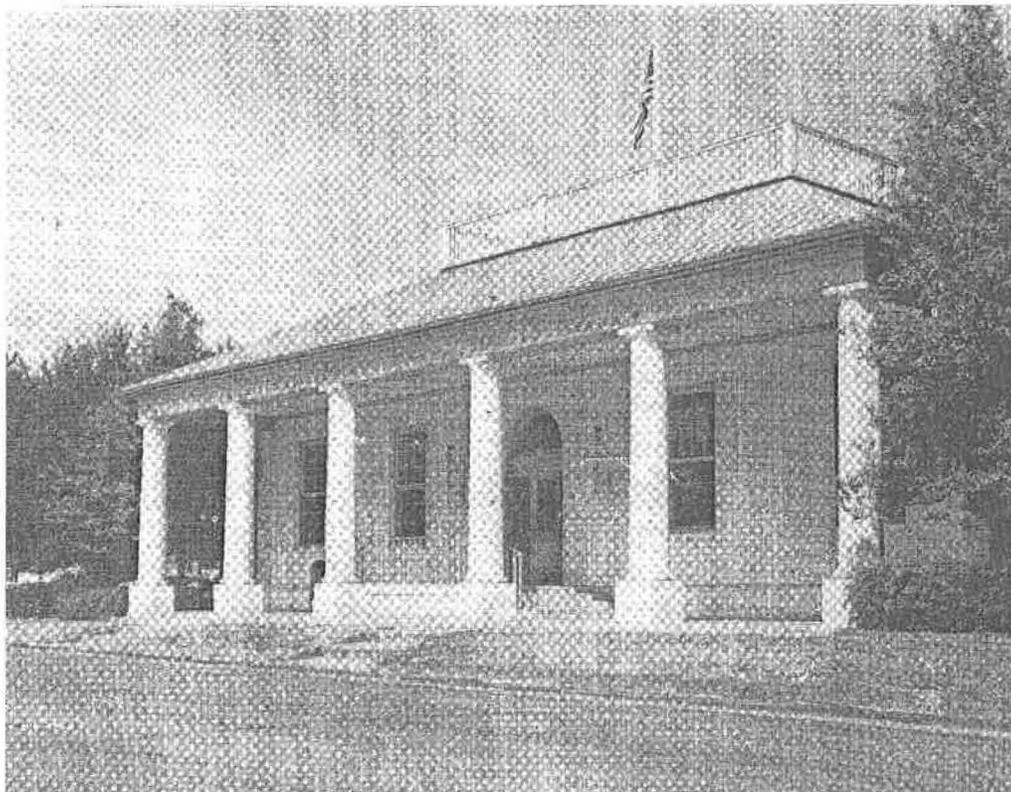
Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC

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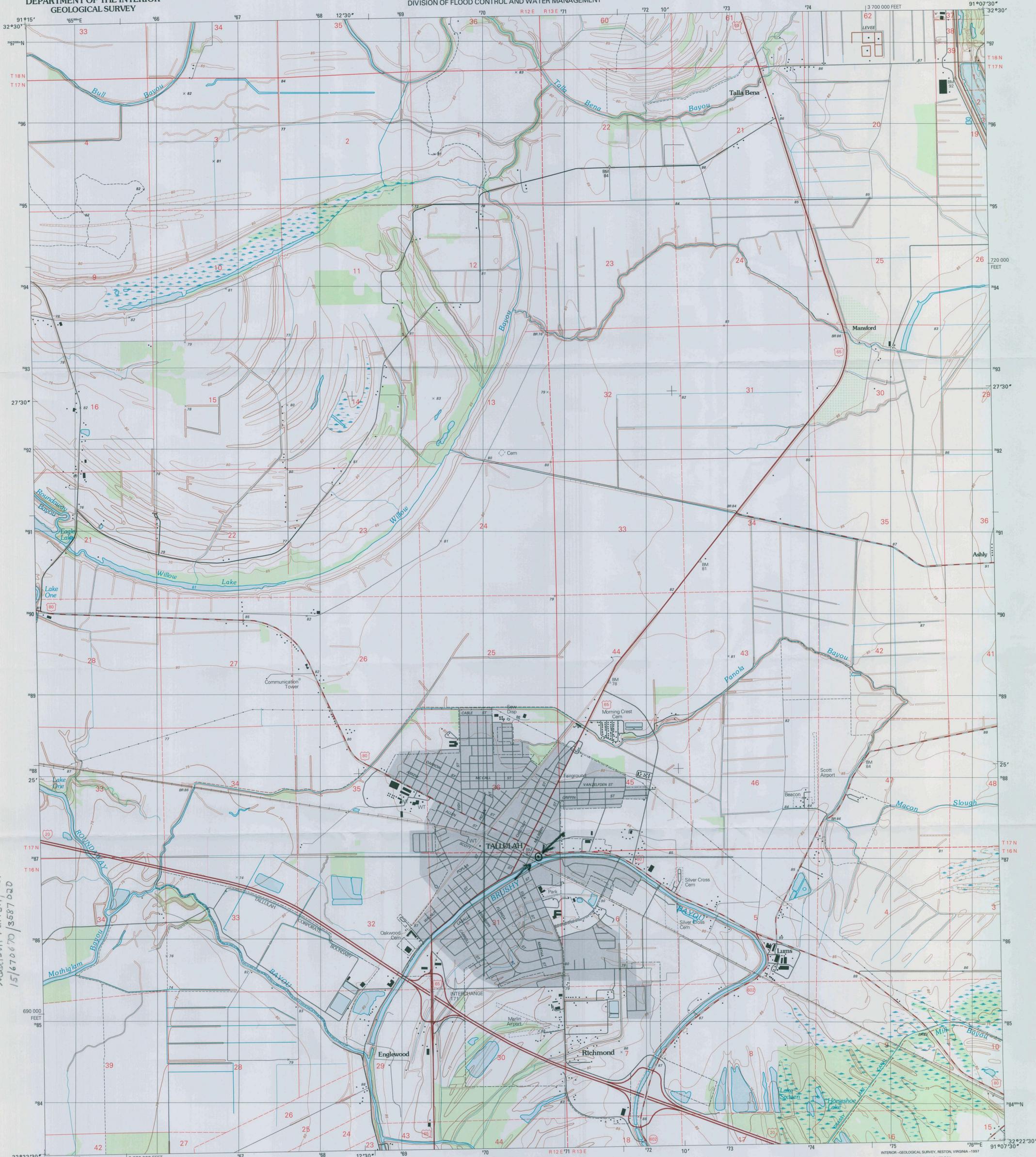


Historic Photo of Tallulah Post Office, c. 1957, from:

Souvenir Program



**Tallulah Centennial
1857 - 1957**

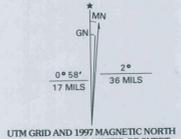


Tallulah Post Office
Madison Parish, LA
151670670/3587620

Produced by the United States Geological Survey in cooperation with State of Louisiana agencies. Topography compiled 1962. Planimetry derived from imagery taken 1994-95. Public Land Survey System and survey control current as of 1963. Contours that conflict with updated major features are dashed.

North American Datum of 1983 (NAD 83). Projection and 1000-meter grid: Universal Transverse Mercator, zone 15. 10 000-foot ticks: Louisiana Coordinate System of 1983 (north zone).

North American Datum of 1927 (NAD 27) is shown by dashed corner ticks. The values of the shift between NAD 83 and NAD 27 for 7.5-minute intersections are obtainable from National Geodetic Survey NADCON software.



CONTOUR INTERVAL 5 FEET
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929
TO CONVERT FROM FEET TO METERS, MULTIPLY BY 0.3048

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, P.O. BOX 25286, DENVER, COLORADO 80225
AND LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND DEVELOPMENT, BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA 70804
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



1	2	3	1 Panther Lake
4	5	6	2 Soundwater
7	8	9	3 Eagle Bend
			4 Tardal
			5 Ashly
			6 Waverly SE
			7 Fortune Fork
			8 Mound

NEW ORLEANS MAP CO., INC.
2727 EDENBORN AVE.
METAIRIE, LA 70002
(504) 455-6766

TALLULAH, LA
1994

DMA 77481-NW-SERIES V885



X



MADISON PARISH
HEALTH UNIT

MADISON PARISH
HEALTH UNIT







RESERVED
PARKING











UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Tallulah Post Office

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: LOUISIANA, Madison

DATE RECEIVED: 8/02/13 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 8/26/13
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 9/10/13 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 9/18/13
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 13000731

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: Y SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 9/11/2013 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

*Good, late example of classical Revival. Typical of U.S. Post offices
Constructed in the 1930s*

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept C

REVIEWER J. Gubler DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



JAY DARDENNE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

State of Louisiana
OFFICE OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR
DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE, RECREATION & TOURISM
OFFICE OF CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT
DIVISION OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION

July 26, 2013

TO: Mr. James Gabbert
National Park Service 2280, 8th Floor; National Register of Historic Places
1201 "I" Street, NW; Washington, DC 20005

FROM: Patricia Duncan, Architectural Historian, National Register Coordinator
Louisiana Division of Historic Preservation *Pat Duncan*

RE: Tallulah Post Office, Madison Parish, LA

Enclosed please find a nomination form with supporting materials for the above referenced property or historic district. Should you have any questions, please contact me at 225-219-4595.

PD/pld
Enclosures:

- 1 Original National Register of Historic Places nomination form
- NA Multiple Property Nomination form
- 1 CD with electronic images and digital copy of nomination
- 0 Separate CD with digital copy of nomination
- 8 Photograph(s)
- 1 Original USGS/NOAA map(s)
- 0 Location/Latitude-Longitude Maps
- 0 Sketch map(s)/figure(s)/exhibit(s)
- 0 Piece(s) of correspondence
- 0 Other _____

COMMENTS:

- _____ Please ensure that this nomination receives substantive review
- _____ This property has been certified under 36 CFR 67
- _____ The enclosed owner(s) objection(s) do _____ do not _____ constitute a majority of property owners.
- _____ Other: