UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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RECEIVED OCT 1 4 1980

DATE ENTERED

FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC

U.S. Post Office -- Carthage, Mississippi

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

street & NUMBER 201 North Pearl Street		
CITY, TOWN		CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
Carthage	VICINITY OF	3
STATE	CODE	COUNTY CODE
Mississippi	28	Leake 79

2 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESE	ENTUSE
DISTRICT	X_PUBLIC		AGRICULTURE	MUSEUM
BUILDING(S)	PRIVATE		COMMERCIAL	PARK
	вотн	WORK IN PROGRESS	EDUCATIONAL	PRIVATE RESIDENCE
SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	ENTERTAINMENT	RELIGIOUS
OBJECT	IN PROCESS	XYES: RESTRICTED	X_GOVERNMENT	SCIENTIFIC
	-BEING CONSIDERED	YES: UNRESTRICTED	INDUSTRIAL	_TRANSPORTATION
	N/A	NO	MILITARY	OTHER:

4 AGENCY

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (If applicable)

Memphis Field Real	l Estate and Bui	ldings Office	United States	s Postal Service
STREET & NUMBER				
1 North Front Stre	eet			
CITY, TOWN			STATE	
Memphis		VICINITY OF	TN	38103
5 LOCATION OF L	EGAL DESCR	IPTION		
COURTHOUSE. REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Ch	nancery Clerk's	Office Leake	County Courthou	ıse
street & NUMBER P. O. Drawer 72				
CITY, TOWN		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	STATE	
Carthage			Miss	<u>issippi</u>
6 REPRESENTATI	ON IN EXISTI	NG SURVEYS		
TITLE				

DATE	
-None-	FEDERALSTATECOUNTYLOCAL
DEPOSITORY FOR	
SURVEY RECORDS	
CITY, TOWN	STATE



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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The United States Post Office in Carthage is located on the town square directly northwest of the courthouse. It is vaguely Colonial Revival in style with the prismatic quality of the Art Deco style. A concrete basement level rises above grade to the elevated main floor, which is made accessible by a flight of granite steps with cast iron railings. The basement with windows is revealed on the front facade by an areaway. A continuous pipe railing runs in front of this areaway at grade to either side of the central doorway. The exterior walls consist of one full story crowned by a wide limestone frieze and cornice. A simple hipped roof covered in slate shingles exists over the public lobby area with a hidden gutter system behind the cornice. Over the work area is a flat roof of the built-up variety surrounded by a low parapet. A square cupola with lowered central panels and corner lights crowns the roof ridge The main facade is divided into five bays reading windowover the central bay. window-door-window-window. The central doorway is articulated as a deeply recessed bay, as are all the window bays, and by a transom light with a decorative cast metal grill in front of it featuring an eagle. Additionally, two masonry abutments and a pair of freestanding lamp standards with dish-shaped globes flank the central doorway. Windows in this facade are wooden triple hung, six over six over six sash with limestone sills and large, limestone recessed panels under the sills running to the water table. The south and north facades consist of four bays each with the south facade modified slightly to accommodate the vault area. A slight setback also occurs behind the lobby space on these facades. A swing room and loading vestibule project from the center of the west facade. A full basement level exists. Brick masonry laid in the common bond is used throughout above the basement level.

The interior plan (see attached plan drawings) consists of an L-shaped lobby with the postmaster's office on the southeast corner. The remaining area is given over to a large workroom and the aforementioned rear projection. A small mezzanine level containing a lookout is located over the vault area. The lobby contains a polychrome terrazzo floor and granite wainscoting. The original screenline remains intact as does the entry vestibule.

A wood sculpture by Peter Dalton shows men working as logger, was commissioned under the Treasury Bureau's Section of Fine Arts program and was completed and installed in 1941 at a cost of \$750. (See attached Fine Arts Inventory form).

See "Composite Biographical Sketches of Artists" for further discussion.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AR AR	REAS OF SIGNIFICANCE CH	IECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW	
PREHISTORIC	ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	COMMUNITY PLANNING	LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	RELIGION
1400-1499	ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	CONSERVATION	LAW	SCIENCE
1500-1599	AGRICULTURE	ECONOMICS	LITERATURE	<u>X</u> SCULPTURE
1600-1699	XARCHITECTURE	EDUCATION	MILITARY	SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
1700-1799	XART	ENGINEERING	MUSIC	THEATER
1800-1899	COMMERCE	EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	PHILOSOPHY	TRANSPORTATION
<u>X</u> 1900-	COMMUNICATIONS	INDUSTRY	XPOLITICS/GOVERNMENT	OTHER (SPECIEY)
		INVENTION	and a second	
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SPECIFIC DATES September 3, 1939

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Shelby Olvy Yarborough

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Politics/Government

The first Public Buildings Act of 1913 and the second Public Building Act of 1926 were supplemented in 1933 by Congress, on the urging of Franklin Delano Roosevelt, with the Federal Emergency Administration of Public Works. Between 1933 and 1941 a tremendous amount of construction resulted in the United States, including four post offices in Mississippi constructed under the 1926 Act and thirty-two post offices in Mississippi constructed under 1933 PWA legislation.

The U.S. Post Office in Carthage, Mississippi, built in 1939, is significant as being one of thirty-two post offices constructed in the state with Public Works Administration funds during the Great Depression. It was designed by Shelby Olvy Yarborough. The building has the distinction of being the first federal building constructed in Leake County. (See also "Federal Construction Work, 1913-1941").

Architecture

The Courthouse, the City Hall, and this post office represent the three most significant governmental public buildings in the community and this building is the most significant of the three architecturally. Certainly the structure's prismatic quality, inherent in the rigid, punctured outer walls, can be traced to Style Moderne, but the amalgamation of this attribute with a hipped roof and cupola (also prismatic), typically Colonial Revival features, is unique. The refinement of proportion and detailing suggests that this structure's designer, Shelby Olvy Yarborough, was an architect of considerable ability.

Art

The Department of the Treasury's Section of Fine Arts Program was begun by Franklin Delano Roosevelt, and in two phases, the Public Works of Art Project and the Section of Painting and Sculpture, several thousand artists produced multiple thousand pieces of art throughout the United States, including sculpture and mural paintings.

The building is significant because of the beautiful wood carving which depicts lumberjacks at work. The carving is appropriate because the lumber industry makes an important economic contribution to the community. The handsome wood carving was done by sculptor Peter Dalton, of New York City. Mr. Dalton was commissioned by the Section of Fine Arts of the Public Buildings Administration to do the work.¹ (See also "The Treasury Department's Section of the Fine Arts Program").

¹Carthage, <u>Carthaginian</u>, March 6, 1941, p. 6.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See bibliography	attached to narrative	e entitled "Th	e Treasury Depa	artment's
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Tomas Blackwell, (urtie Franke		October 1,	1070
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CITY OR TOWN			STATE	
Starkville		······	Mississippi	<u></u>
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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS US	IE ONLY	
RECEIVED	OCT 1 4 1980	
DATE ENTE		

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

PAGE

CARTHAGE, MS

The Southerly 110 feet of Lot No. 1 and the Southerly 110 feet of the Easterly part of Lot No. 4 of Block 12 of the original survey of the Town of Carthage as of record in the Minute Book B, pages 62 and 63, of the Board of Police Records of Leake County, Mississippi. Recorded 6 March 1939 Land Deed Book No. 45, Page 237, Chancery Court, Leake County, State of Mississippi.

FINE ARTS INVENTORY PUBLIC BUILDINGS SERVICE GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATIONBUILDING 	
STATE: Dissigning CITY: Conthuse BUILDING: United States Fort Office	IUMBER
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FINE ARTS INVENTORY	DUILUME
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ARCHIVES VISUAL REFERENCES	*****
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DISPOSITION OF ART WORK FROM INVENTORY	
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ARTIST'S BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES:

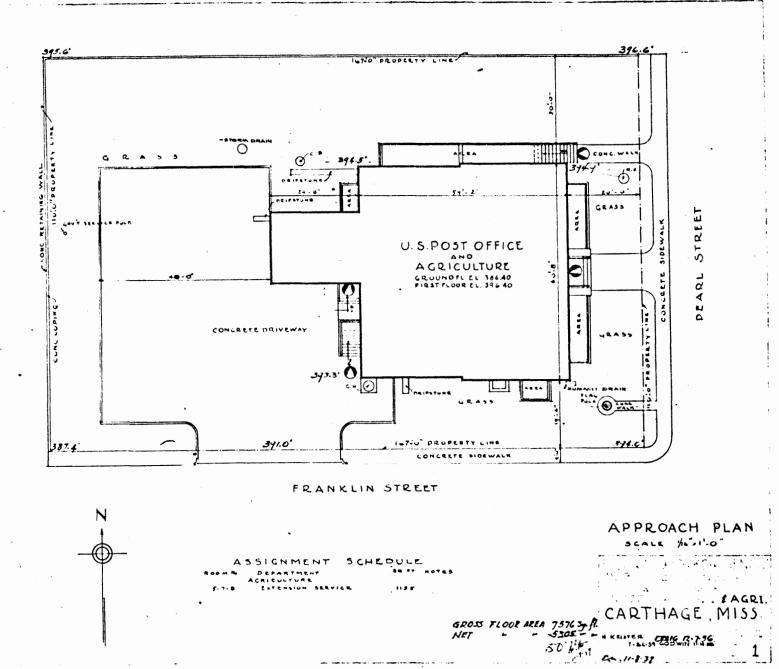
[INCLUDE ANY LOCAL "MEMORIES" OF ARTIST & HIS DIRECT RELATIONSHIP WITH THE COMMUNITY THROUGH RESIDENCE, VISITS OR RESEARCH]

FINE ARTS INVENTORY

PUBLIC BUILDINGS SERVICE GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

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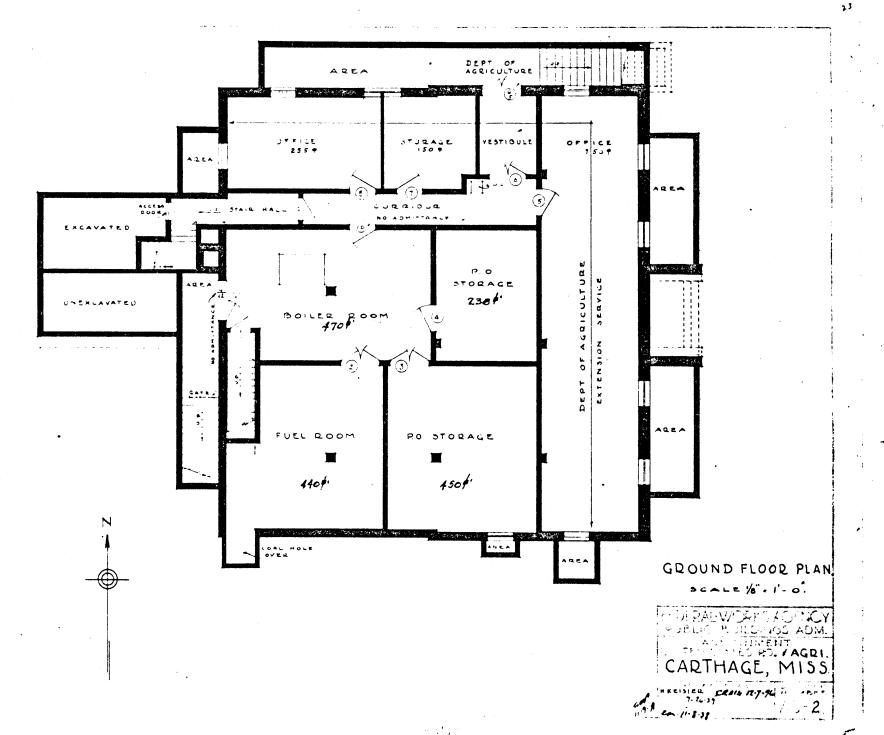
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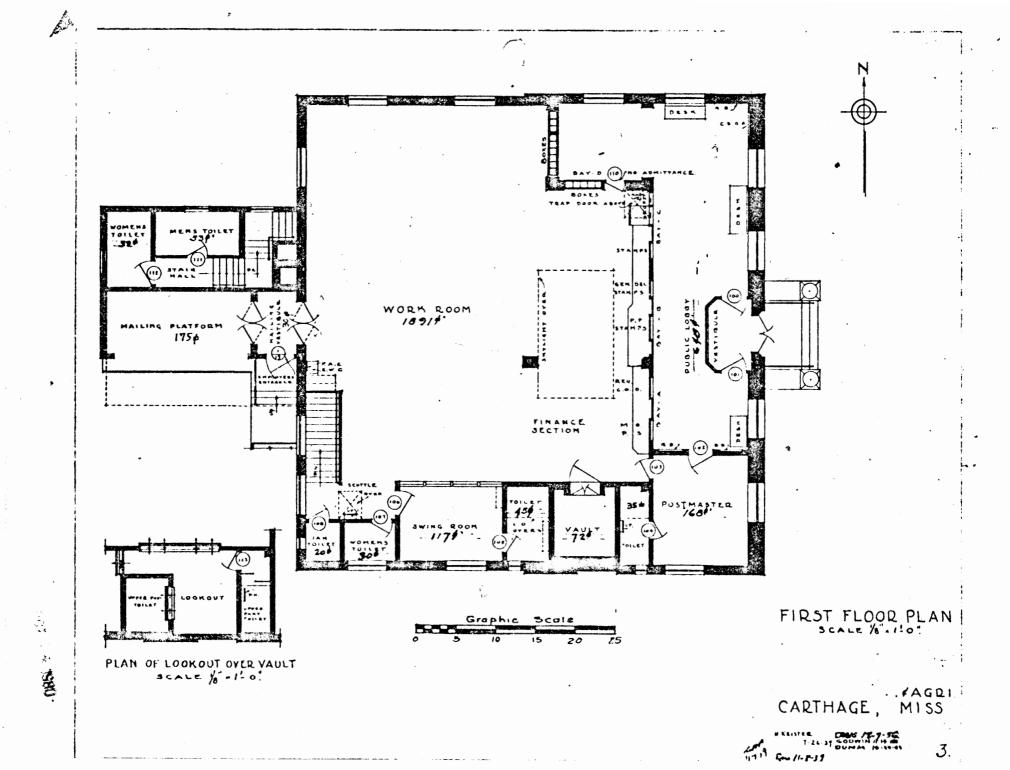
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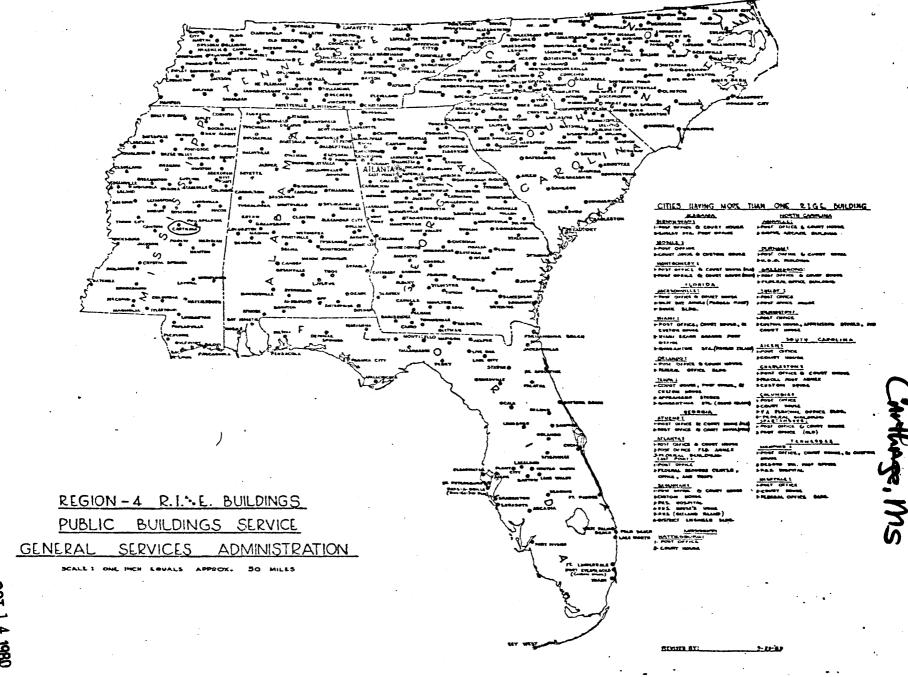
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