CITY, TOWN

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR **NATIONAL PARK SERVICE** 

### NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES **INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

PS USE ONLY

RECEIVED OCT 1 4 1980

STATE

DATE ENTERED

	TYPE ALL ENTRIES (	COMPLETE APPLICAB	LE SECTIONS			
NAME	<i>!</i>					
HISTORIC	(M. S	2 122 bb 60	st offices !	931-196		
U.S.	Post Office Lelan	d, Mississippi				
AND/OR COMMON						
LOCATION	I	-				
STREET & NUMBER						
204 North Br	road Street		NOT FOR PUBLICATION			
CITY, TOWN			CONGRESSIONAL DISTR	ICT		
Leland	<u> </u>	VICINITY OF	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·			
STATE		CODE	COUNTY	CODE		
Mississippi		28	Washington	151		
CLASSIFIC	ATION					
CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRES	ENT USE		
_DISTRICT	XPUBLIC	X_OCCUPIED	AGRICULTURE	MUSEUM		
BUILDING(S)	PRIVATE	UNOCCUPIED	COMMERCIAL	PARK		
XSTRUCTURE	ВОТН	WORK IN PROGRESS	EDUCATIONAL	PRIVATE RESIDEN		
SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	ENTERTAINMENT			
OBJECT	IN PROCESS	X_YES: RESTRICTED	X GOVERNMENT	SCIENTIFIC		
	BEING CONSIDERED	YES: UNRESTRICTED	INDUSTRIAL	_TRANSPORTATION		
	NA	_NO	MILITARY	OTHER:		
AGENCY						
	DTEDO (Maradiaskia)					
REGIONAL HEADQUA	.d Real Estate and Bu	ildings Office	United States Po	stal Corrido		
STREET & NUMBER	d Real Escare and Du	ridings Office	United States FO	Star Service		
1 North Fron	t Stroot					
CITY, TOWN	it Street		STATE			
[emphis		VICINITY OF	TN 3810	3		
	OF LEGAL DESCR	<del></del>	111 0010			
	Of MEG/IL DEGO	11011				
COURTHOUSE. REGISTRY OF DEEDS, E	ETC. Chancery Clerk's	Office - Washingt	on County Courtho	use		
STREET & NUMBER						
Chancery Cle	rk's Office					
CITY, TOWN		- your	STATE			
Greenville			Mississippi			
	TATION IN EXIST	ING SHRVEYS				
WEI KEOEI	TATION IN EXIST	ING CORVETO				
TITLE						
DATE				-		
-Non	e-	FEDERAL	STATE _COUNTY _LOCAL	-		
DEPOSITORY FOR		-				
SURVEY RECORDS						



#### CONDITION

CHECK ONE

CHECK ONE

\_\_EXCELLENT
X\_GOOD
\_\_FAIR

\_\_DETERIORATED
\_\_RUINS
\_\_UNEXPOSED

X\_UNALTERED
\_\_ALTERED

X\_ORIGINAL SITE
\_\_MOVED DATE\_\_\_\_\_

#### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The United States Post Office in Leland is located in the central business district. It is Colonial Revival in style. A concrete foundation level rises above grade to the main lobby level which is differentiated by a changeover to brick masonry. The elevated main floor is made accessible by a flight of granite steps with cast iron railings. The exterior walls consist of one full story crowned by a wide limestone frieze and wooden cornice which is continuous on all four facades. A standing seam metal, hipped roof covers the lobby portion of the building while a flat, built-up roof covers the rear work area. An octagonal wooden cupola with louvered minor sides and a peaked metal roof crowns the roof ridge over the central bay. The street facade consists of five bays reading window-window-roof-window-window. All bays are articulated by recessed brick panels. The central doorway is highlighted by a flanking pair of fluted Corinthian pilasters, a multi-paneled, leaded transom light and an architrave with dentils and a one foot high cast stone eagle centered over it. Windows in this facade are wooden, double hung, eight over eight sash with limestone lintels and sills. The northeast and southwest facades contain five bays of windows each. A mailing vestibule and platform project from the rear (southeast) facade. A full basement level exists. Brick masonry laid in the common bond is used throughout.

The interior plan (see attached plan drawings) consists of an L-shaped public lobby with the postmaster's office on the northernmost corner. The remaining area is given over to a large workroom and aforementioned vestibule and platform. A partial mezzanine level containing a lookout is located over the vault area. The lobby contains a polychrome terrazzo floor, marble wainscoting, a five-sided wooden entry vestibule, and a slightly altered screenline.

A mural by Stuart R. Purser, created under the Treasury Department's Section of Fine Arts program, was completed and installed in 1940 at a cost of \$740. It is presently in a moderately good state of preservation. (See Fine Arts Inventory).

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

## 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	`* AF	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	SCULPTURE
1600-1699	XARCHITECTURE	EDUCATION	MILITARY	SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
1700-1799	XART	ENGINEERING	MUSIC	THEATER
1800-1899	COMMERCE	EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	PHILOSOPHY	TRANSPORTATION
$\frac{X}{2}$ 1900-	COMMUNICATIONS	INDUSTRY	X_POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	OTHER (SPECIEV)
		INVENTION		1.0

SPECIFIC DATES May, 1938	BUILDER/ARCHITECT	Unknown Office of the Supervising Archi-
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE		tect

#### 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 Leland, Mississippi, built in 1938, is significant as one of thirty-two constructed in the state with Public Works Administration funds during the Green Depression. It was designed by the Office of the Supervising Architect. (See also "Federal Construction Work 1913-1941").

#### Architecture

This Post Office and the City Hall represent the two most significant governmental public buildings in the community. Architecturally it shows influences of both the Style Modern—its prismatic quality of wall paneling, and the Colonial Revival—its cupola, hipped roof, and entry doorway with pilasters. The sophistication of the building's proportions, fenestration, and detailing suggest the hand of a very skillful designer, although no individual architect's name may be identified with it. The result, however, is the most sophisticated twentieth century architectural quality to be found in Leland.

#### 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 U.S. Post Office in Leland, Mississippi is significant because of the mural in the lobby above the postmaster's door. The work, done by Stuart Purser, a native of Arkansas and former Chairman of the Art Department at the University of Mississippi, was completed in 1940. The work, entitled "Ginning Cotton," is appropriate to the area because of the importance of cotton to the economy of that Delta town. (See also "The Treasury Department's Section of the Fine Arts Program").

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See bibliography attached to narrative entitled "The Treasury Department's Section of the Fine Arts Program" and "Federal Construction Work 1913-1941."

# **ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED**

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STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE	
Michael W. Fazio, Will ORGANIZATION Tomas Blackwell, Curti			DATE October 1, 1979 TELEPHONE	
	S Flanks			
CITY OR TOWN  Starkville			STATE Mississippi	
2 CERTIFICATION O				
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	en allowed 90 days in w ted level of significance i	ate this property to the which to present the nor	ATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNA National Register, certifying that the State Indicated and the State Review Board and the Local.	tate
LEGENAL HEL HEOLINIA CO.	****		<u></u>	
TITLE			DATE	
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# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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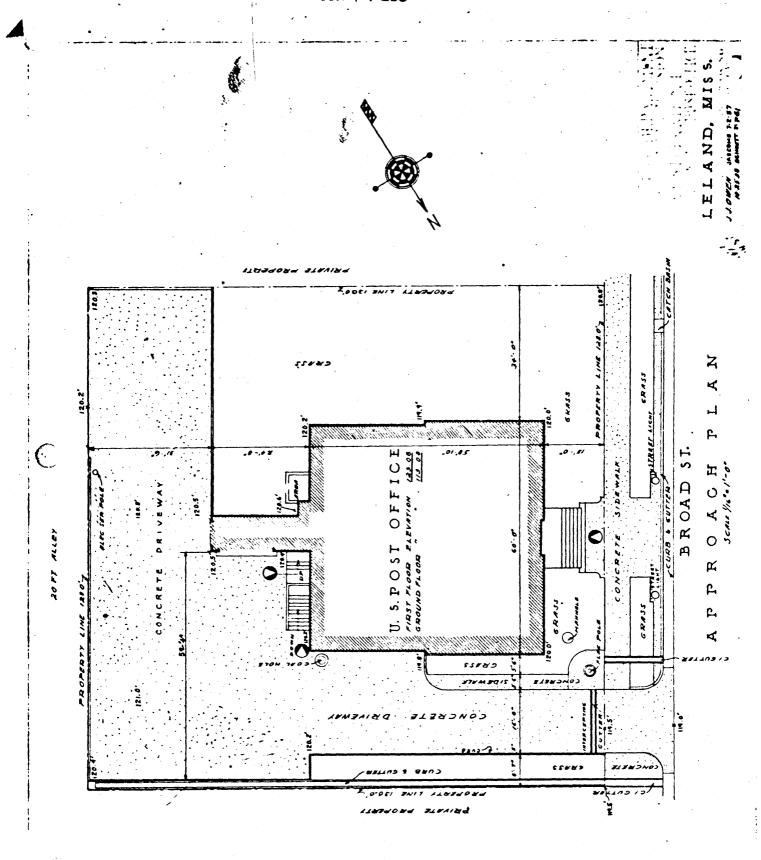
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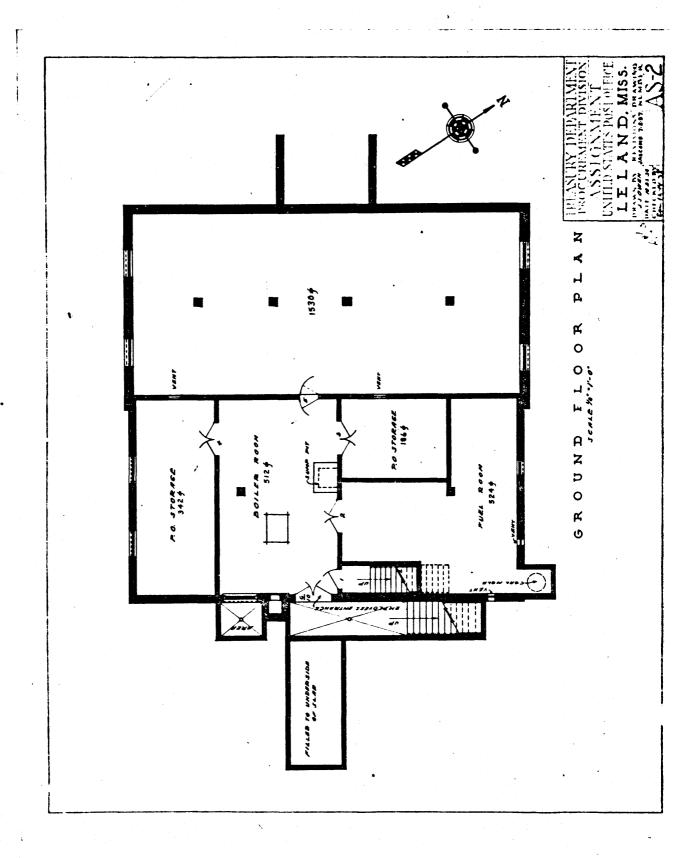
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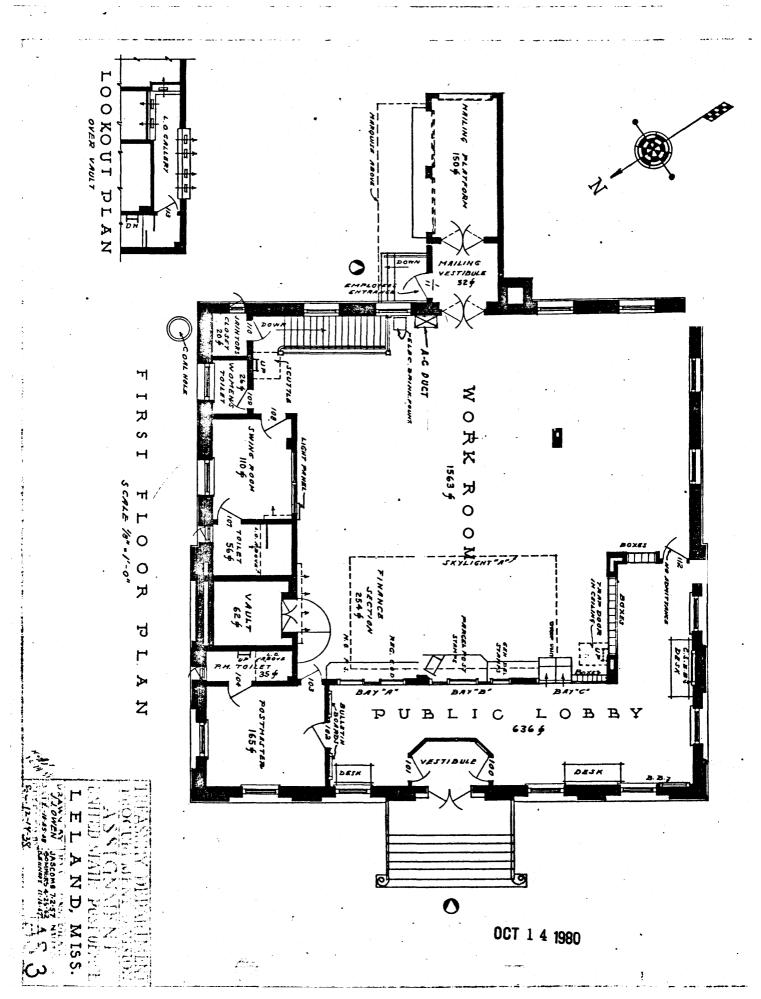
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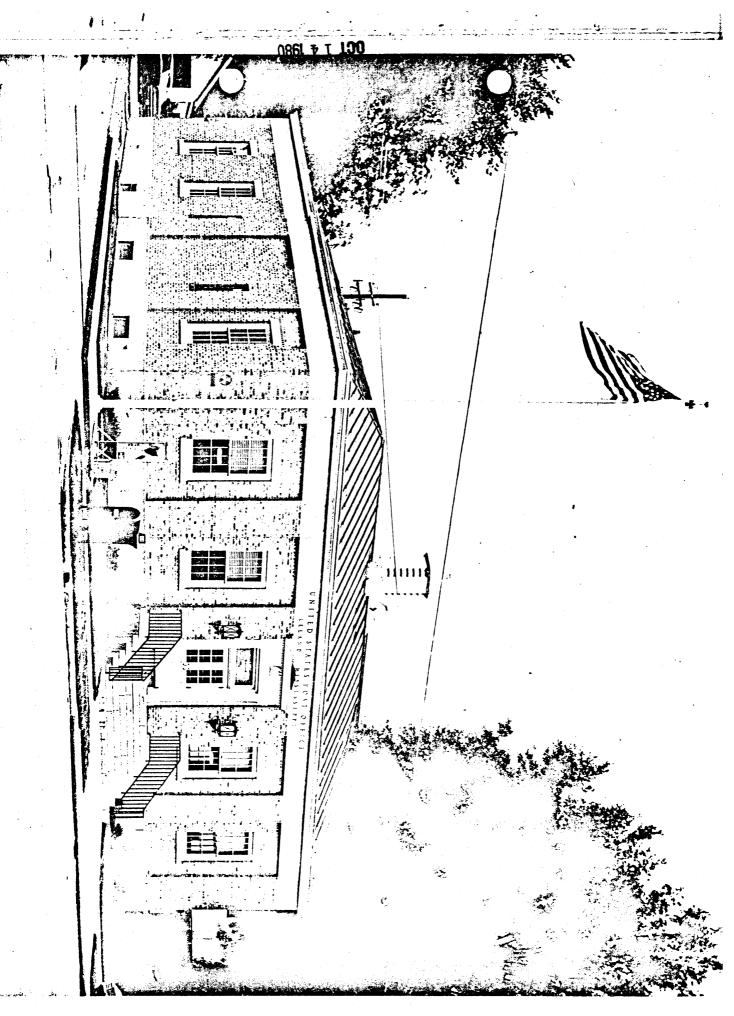
#### LELAND, MS

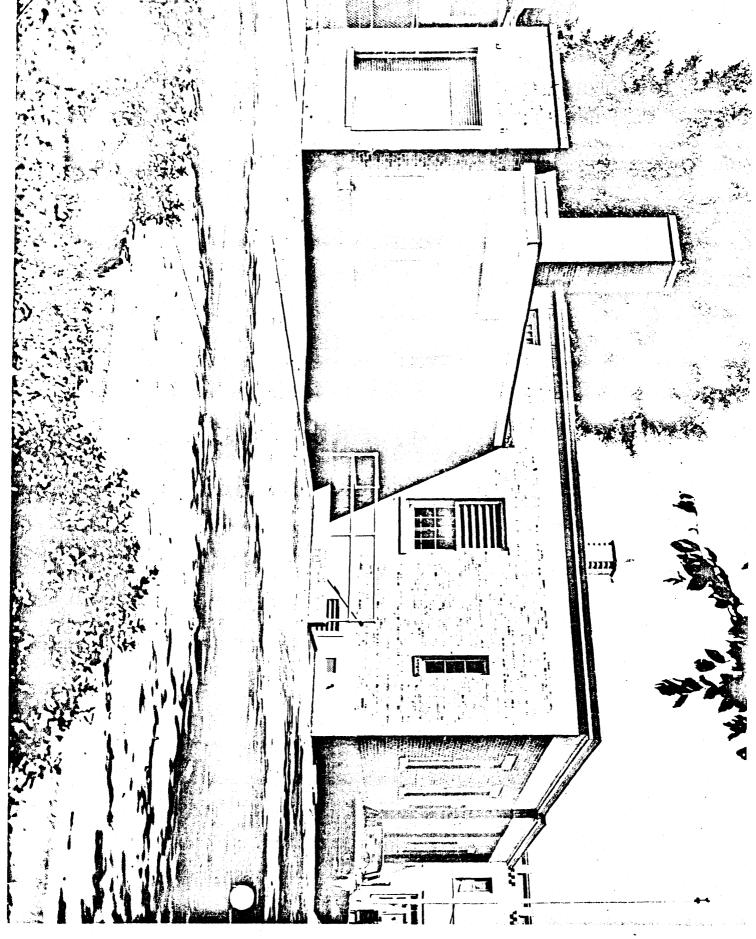
The South Thirteen (13) feet of Lot Six (6), all of Lots Seven (7), Eight (8) and Nine (9), and the North Half of Lot Ten (10), all in Block Eleven (11) of the Original Town of Leland, Washington County, State of Mississippi, according to map or plat thereof of record among the land records in the office of the Chancery Clerk of Washington County, Mississippi. Recorded 4 August 1938, Book 279, Page 324.













United States Post Office Leland, Mississippi

Exterior, front facade

OCT 1 4 1980



United States Post Office TR Leland, Mississippi

"Ginnin' Cotton", mural by

lobby.

Stuart R. Purser, in public

OCT 1 4 1980

