

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED FEB 7 1984

DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

U. S. Post Office and Customhouse

AND/OR COMMON

Downtown Station (Old Main Post Office)

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

2421 13th Street

NA NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Gulfport

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

NA VICINITY OF

5th

STATE

Mississippi

CODE

28

COUNTY

Harrison

CODE

047

3 CLASSIFICATION**CATEGORY**☐ DISTRICT☒ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT**OWNERSHIP**☒ PUBLIC☐ PRIVATE☐ BOTH**NA PUBLIC ACQUISITION**☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED**STATUS**☒ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS**ACCESSIBLE**☒ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☐ NO**PRESENT USE**☐ AGRICULTURE☐ MUSEUM☐ COMMERCIAL☐ PARK☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ RELIGIOUS☒ GOVERNMENT☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ MILITARY☐ OTHER:**4 AGENCY**

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (If applicable)

Memphis Field Real Estate & Buildings Office, U. S. Postal Service

STREET & NUMBER

1 North Front Street, P. O. Box 3744

CITY, TOWN

Memphis

NA VICINITY OF

STATE

Tennessee 38173-0744

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE.

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Harrison County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

1801 23rd Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Gulfport

STATE

Mississippi 39501

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Statewide Survey of Historic Sites

DATE

June, 1983

☐ FEDERAL ☒ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Mississippi Department of Archives and History

CITY, TOWN

Jackson

STATE

Mississippi

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

☐ EXCELLENT
☒ GOOD
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED
☐ RUINS
☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☐ UNALTERED
☒ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Situated on a partially raised basement, the Gulfport Post Office is a two-story, hip-roof, seven-by-three-bay, dressed ashlar structure of Second Renaissance Revival design, which is embraced along its south (rear) and east elevations by single-story wings, also of stone construction. The symmetrical, well-proportioned facade (north elevation) is comprised of flanking two-story pavilions which project slightly to enclose the ends of the central, five-bay, loggia porch. A monumental stair ascends from the sidewalk to the porch's arcade of round arches carried on Doric columns. Stone pilasters along the back wall of the porch echo the arrangement of the Doric colonnade and aid in supporting the transverse arches of the groin-vaulted porch ceiling, from which hang decorative metal lanterns in the three central bays. An iron-balustraded balcony supported by console brackets surmounts the porch. With the exception of the five round-arched openings sheltered by the porch, the building's fenestration is flat-arched and highly decorative. The windows are tall, narrow, and recessed in deep openings with those of the first story consisting of paired, one-over-one, double-hung sash, each of which is crowned by a square transom light filled with astreated tracery. The entire window opening is topped by a cornice head with molded stone frieze. Second-story windows are simpler but have shallow, balustraded balconies supported by stone brackets. The entire building is encircled by a heavy entablature with paneled frieze and dentiled-and-modillioned cornice and is capped by a tile roof. The highly decorated, classical theme of the post office's exterior design is carried into the public lobby, which employs marble Tuscan pilasters to support the beams of a coffered ceiling and which is partially lighted by a series of clerestory windows formed by the facade's round-arch transoms. Greek key motifs and classical cornices are used for ornamentation. A non-intrusive, one-story, stone-veneered addition was made to the rear of the post office in 1963.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK 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	☒ ARCHITECTURE	☐ EDUCATION	☐ MILITARY	☐ SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN		
☐ 1700-1799	☐ ART	☐ ENGINEERING	☐ MUSIC	☐ THEATER		
☐ 1800-1899	☐ COMMERCE	☐ EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	☐ PHILOSOPHY	☐ TRANSPORTATION		
☒ 1900-	☐ COMMUNICATIONS	☐ INDUSTRY	☐ POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	☐ OTHER (SPECIFY)		
		☐ INVENTION				

SPECIFIC DATES	1910/1963	BUILDER/ARCHITECT	James Knox Taylor, Supv. Architect George E. Moore & Sons, Nashville, TN, Contractor
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE			

Completed in 1910, the Gulfport Post Office is one of the earliest and best preserved public/commercial structures in the city of Gulfport. It is a beautifully proportioned building with elegant and tasteful embellishments and is significant as one of the finest examples of Second Renaissance Revival architecture in Mississippi.

The original building was designed and constructed under the supervision of the Treasury Department. The 1963 addition to the building was designed and constructed under supervision of the General Services Administration. The Gulfport Post Office has been housed in this building from its first day. The cornerstone reads: Franklin MacVeagh, Secretary of Treasury; James Knox Taylor, Supervising Architect; MCMIX. It is our opinion that only the original building is of historic significance.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Gulfport Post Office Files

The Daily Herald Biloxi and Gulfport, Mississippi Coast, October, 1934

The Coast of Mississippi, Produced by the Hancock Bank

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1

UTM REFERENCES

A 16 298910 3361080
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

D

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The property nominated is indicated by the crossed lines on the accompanying U. S. G. S. map entitled Gulfport South Quadrangle. Scale 1:24000.

See continuation sheet for Verbal Boundary Description.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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NA

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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NA

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Ila Ree Odom/Realty Management & Acquisition Analyst

ORGANIZATION

Field Real Estate & Buildings Office

DATE

June 3, 1983

STREET & NUMBER

1 North Front Street, P. O. Box 3744

TELEPHONE

901/521-3131

CITY OR TOWN

Memphis

STATE

Tennessee 38173-0744

12 CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

YES ☒

NO ☐

NONE ☐

Deputy *[Signature]* STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

In compliance with Executive Order 11593, I hereby nominate this property to the National Register, certifying that the State Historic Preservation Officer has been allowed 90 days in which to present the nomination to the State Review Board and to evaluate its significance. The evaluated level of significance is ☐ National ☐ State ☒ Local.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

TITLE Director, Office of Real Estate

DATE 2/2/84

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

[Signature]

DATE 3/19/1984

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE

This building is located at the intersection of Twenty-fifth Avenue and Thirteenth Street. The front, facing north, is on Thirteenth Street and west side is on Twenty-fifth Avenue with the east side of building adjoining a public alley. The parking and maneuvering area in rear of building extends south to the service road of Beach Boulevard or U. S. Highway 90.

Legal description of property is as follows:

A tract of land lying and being in the City of Gulfport, County of Harrison, State of Mississippi, more particularly described as follows:

Lots 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14, and 50 feet off the north end of Lot 10, Block 188, Plat of Original Gulfport, Mississippi.



Water 30 x 100
Graphic Scale

144 of 5	SECOND FLOOR PLANS ASSIGNMENT PLANS	DATE: 10/10/1964 BY: J. H. HARRIS FOR: J. H. HARRIS TO: J. H. HARRIS FROM: J. H. HARRIS SUBJECT: J. H. HARRIS	144 of 5
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U. S. POST OFFICE & CUSTOMHOUSE
GULFPORT, MISSISSIPPI

Photographer: Ila Ree Odom/USPS

Date: April 19, 1983

Front View - Facing South

No. 1 of 3 Photographs



U. S. POST OFFICE & CUSTOMHOUSE
GULFPORT, MISSISSIPPI

Photographer: Ila Ree Odom/USPS

Date: April 19, 1983

Right View - Facing Southwest

No. 2 of 3 Photographs



U. S. POST OFFICE & CUSTOMHOUSE
GULFPORT, MISSISSIPPI
Photographer: Ila Ree Odom/USPS
Date: April 19, 1983
Left View - Facing Southeast

No. 3 of 3 Photographs