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AUG 8 2000

NAT. REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM**

1. Name of Property

historic name: (Old) U.S. Post Office
other names/site number:

2. Location

street & number: 301 North Main Street not for publication ____
city or town: Ripley vicinity N/A
state: Mississippi code: MS county: Tippah code: 139 zip code: 38663

3. 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant ____ nationally ____ statewide ☒ locally. (____ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Kenneth H. P. Paul
Signature of certifying official

JUNE 30, 2000
Date

Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ____ meets ____ does not meet the National Register criteria. (____ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:
☒ entered in the National Register,
____ 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):

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Edson H. Ball

9.8.00

(Old) U.S. Post Office

Name of Nomination

Tippah County, Mississippi

County, State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property:

Private

Number of Resources within Property:

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Category of Property:

Building

Contributing

1

Noncontributing

buildings

sites

structures

objects

1

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**

Mississippi Post Offices Thematic Resources, 1931-1941

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions:

GOVERNMENT/Post Office

Current Functions:

COMMERCIAL/office

7. Description

Architectural Classification(s):

Colonial Revival

Materials:

foundation: brick
roof: not visible
walls: brick
other: limestone

Narrative Description:

See Continuation Sheets

8. Statement of Significance**Applicable National Register Criteria**

- X** **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.
- X** **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.

Areas of Significance

Politics/government
Architecture

Period of Significance

1938

Criteria Considerations:

Property is:

- ☐ **A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ **B** removed from its original location.
- ☐ **C** a birthplace or a grave.
- ☐ **D** a cemetery.
- ☐ **E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ **F** a commemorative property.
- ☐ **G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Significant Dates

1938

Significant Person(s)**Cultural Affiliation(s)****Architect/Builder**

Office of the Supervising Architect
Algernon Blair (Montgomery, AL)

Narrative Statement of Significance:

See continuation sheets.

9. Major Bibliographical References**Bibliography**

See continuation sheet.

Previous documentation on file (NPS)

- ☐ 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

Primary Location of Additional Data

- ☒ State Historic Preservation Office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other

Name of repository:

MS Department of Archives & History

(Old) U.S. Post Office

Tippah County, Mississippi

Name of Nomination

County, State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property: less than 1 acre

UTM References:	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
A	16	321520	3844830	C		
B				D		

___ See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description See continuation sheet.

Boundary Justification: See continuation sheet.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title:	Deborah Wise Oakley	
organization:	Mississippi Department of Archives & History	date: March 3,2000
street & number:	P.O. Box 571	telephone: (601) 359-6940
city or town:	Jackson	state: MS zip code: 39205

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

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.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner(s)

name:	Dixie Communication	
street & number:	301 North Main Street	telephone:
city or town:	Ripley	state: MS zip code:38863

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. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the 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 Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

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(Old) U.S. Post Office, Ripley
Tippah County, Mississippi

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

The old United State Post Office in Ripley is located in the central business district two blocks north of the Tippah County Courthouse. It is brick vernacular in style. A brick basement rises above grade to the main floor level with no differentiated water table. The elevated main floor is made accessible by a flight of limestone steps with cast iron railings. The exterior walls consist of one full story crowned by a limestone coping above a brick parapet which hides a flat, built-up roof over the whole structure. The street facade consists of four bays reading window-window-door -window-window. The central doorway is articulated by wooden fluted pilasters, a seven-light rectangular transom on architrave with guttae and a cornice with dentils. Windows in this facade are wooden, double-hung, eight over twelve sash with limestone lintels and sills. A mailing vestibule and platform project from the rear (west) elevation. Brick masonry laid in the English bond is used throughout. A full basement level exists.

The interior plan consists of a large public lobby with the old postmaster's office at the southeast corner. The remaining area, that was once a large workroom, has now been divided into office, but the walls are only partial height, allowing the lights and heating to convey the sense of one large workroom. A partial mezzanine level containing a lookout is located over the vault area. The lobby contains a polychrome, glazed tile floor and wainscoting. Additionally, the original wooden screenline and entry vestibule are intact.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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(Old) U.S. Post Office, Ripley.
Tippah County, Mississippi

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Architecture

The old Ripley Post Office, built in 1938, is a locally important work of mid-twentieth century architecture as a brick post office with Colonial Revival influence. It is a well-maintained example of the colonial style post offices built in Mississippi by the Federal Government during the Great Depression. This Post Office building, the City Hall and the Courthouse represent the three most important governmental public buildings within the community. As a prominent architectural landmark near the central business district, it represents not only the Federal presence in Ripley, but also the town's participation in the Union.

The old Ripley Post Office is an excellent of the post offices built under New Deal programs in Mississippi during the 1930s and early 1940s and retain a high degree of integrity.

Politics/Government

The old U.S. Post Office in Ripley, built in 1938, is significant for being one of the thirty-two post offices constructed in Mississippi during the Great Depression with funding from one of the New Deal public building programs, as part of an overall work relief program.

The old Ripley Post Office illustrates how the Federal government through Franklin Delano Roosevelt's leadership transformed its role from one of a "neutral arbiter to social welfare activist", a role the government has retained down to today. Ripley, along with the rest of rural Mississippi, suffered greatly during the Great Depression. The construction of its post office demonstrates how the Federal government sought to alleviate the economic hardships of an American community through work relief while also attempting to inspire and encourage that community through public beautification (Craig 1979-343).

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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(Old) U.S. Post Office, Ripley
Tippah County, Mississippi

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Craig, Lois and the staff of the Federal Architecture Project. The Federal Presence: Architecture, Politics, and Symbols in United States Government Building.
Cambridge: The MIT Press, 1979.

Original National Register nomination for the Mississippi post offices.

**GEOGRAPHICAL DATA
Verbal Boundary Description**

Boundary Justification

The boundaries described in this nomination are historically associated with the old U.S. Post Office in Ripley, Mississippi.

PHOTOGRAPHS

The following information is the same for all photographs:

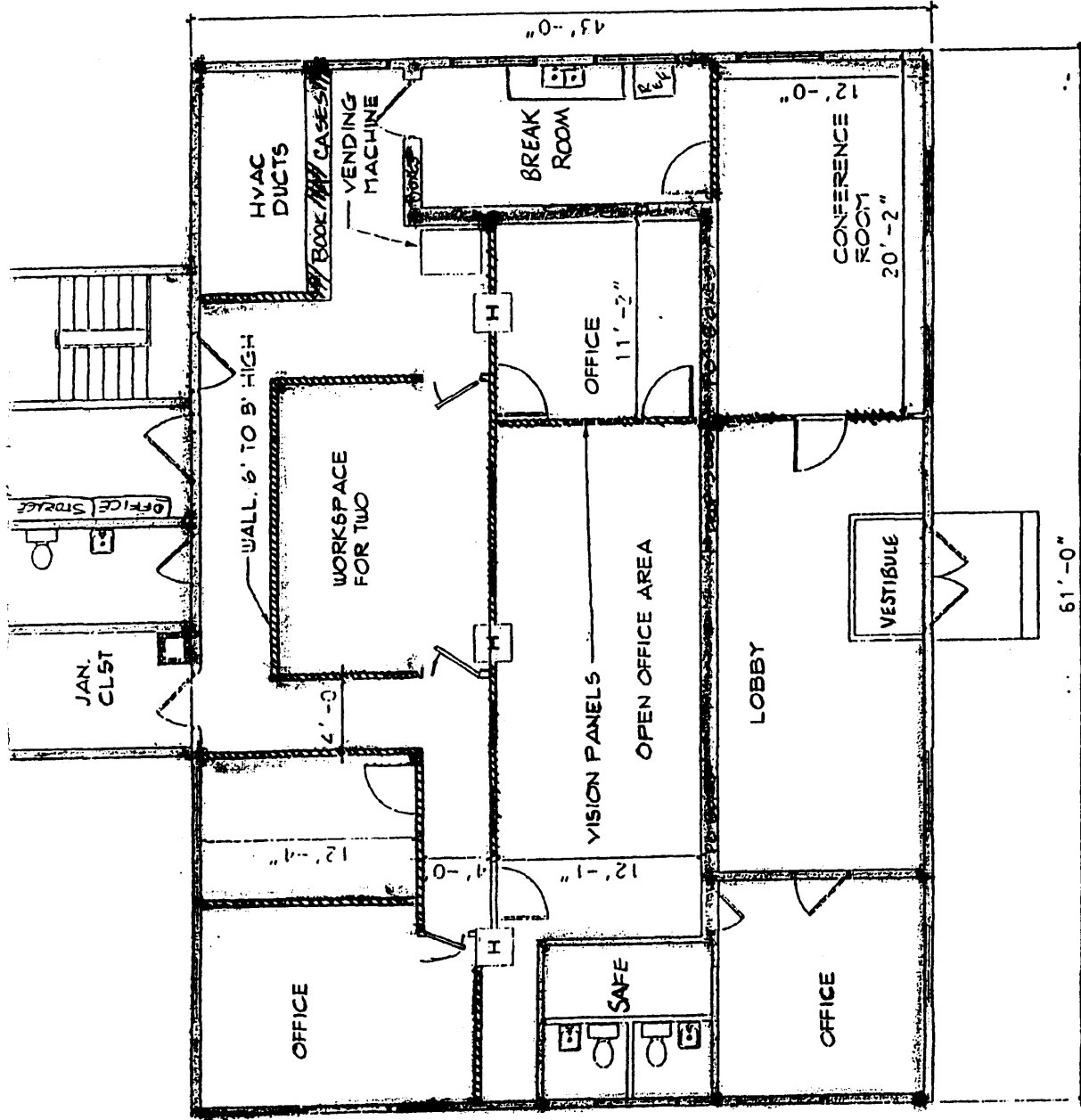
- 1.) (Old) U.S. Post Office
- 2.) Ripley, Tippah County, Mississippi
- 3.) Deborah Wise Oakley, MDAH
- 4.) February, 2000
- 5.) Mississippi Department of Archives & History

Photo 1 of 5	View of the east facade, facing west
Photo 2 of 5	View of south and west elevation, facing northeast
Photo 3 of 5	View of interior, entrance to Postmaster's Office
Photo 4 of 5	View of interior, lobby
Photo 5 of 5	View of interior, vault and lookout in workroom

(old) U.S. Post Office
 Ripley, Tipton, County, MS

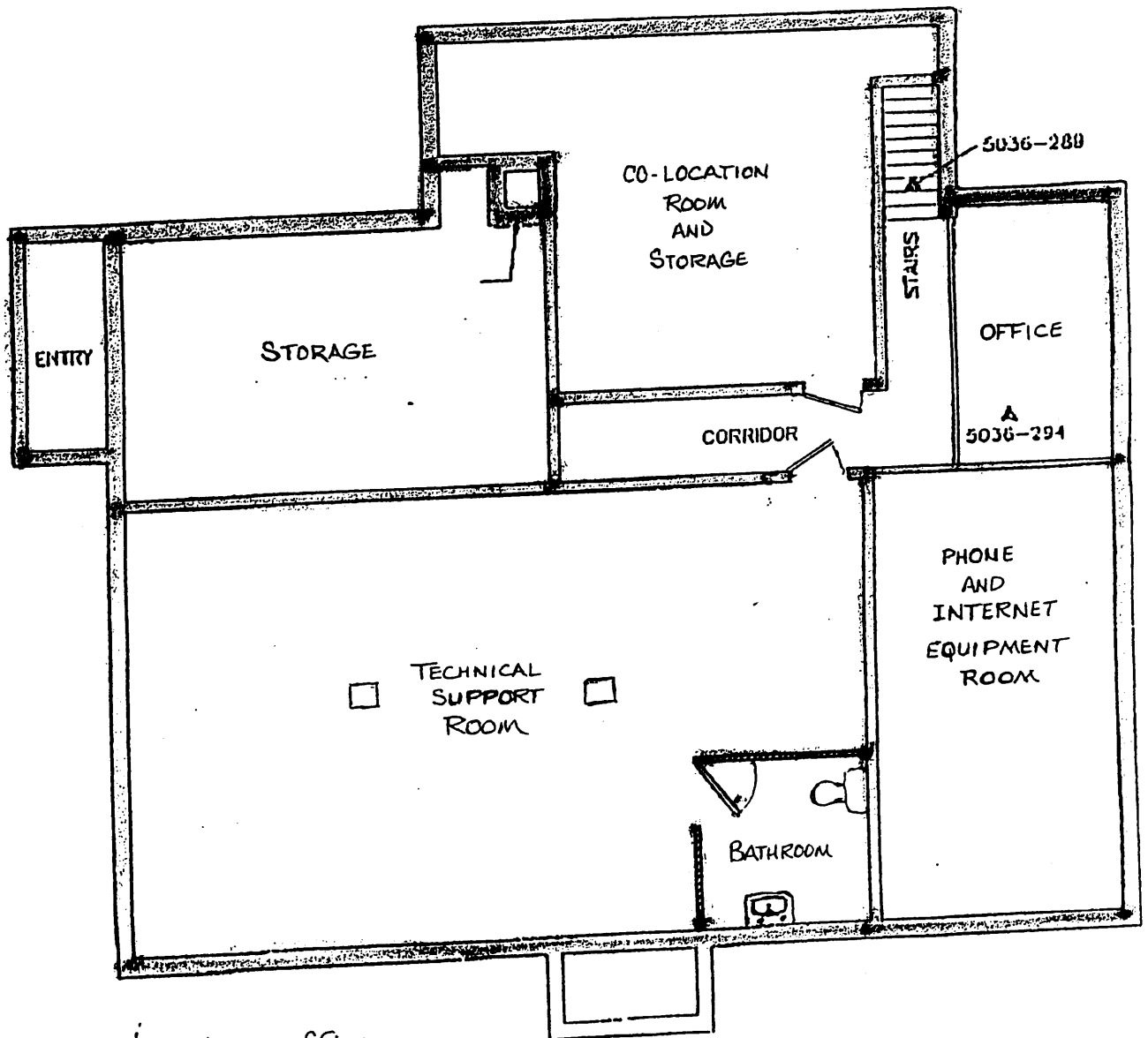
INTERIOR WALLS
 ADDED

EXISTING WALLS
 PAINTED



PROPOSED FIRST FLOOR PLAN DIXIE-NET WORLD HEADQUARTERS

6/14



(old) U.S. Post Office
Ripley, Tippah County, MS

BASEMENT
1" = 10'-0"
LEVEL
RENOVATIONS



(old) U.S. Post Office
Ripley, Tippah County, Mississippi
Deborah Wise Oakley, MDAH
February 2000
Photo 1 of 5



(dd) U.S. Post Office

Ripley, Tippah County, Mississippi

Deborah Wise Oakley, MDAH

February 2000

Photo 2 of 5



(old) U.S. Post Office

Ripley, Tippah County, Mississippi

Deborah Wise Oakley, MDAH

February 2000

Photo 3 of 5



(old) U.S. Post Office

Ripley, Tippah County, Mississippi

Deborah Wise Oakley, MDAH

February 2000

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(old) U.S. Post Office
Ripley, Tippah County Mississippi
Deborah Wise Oakley MDA+I
February 2000
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