

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	
DATE ENTERED	

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

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

UNITED STATES POST OFFICE, JOLIET, ILLINOIS

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

150 NORTH SCOTT STREET

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

JOLIET

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

17

STATE

ILLINOIS

VICINITY OF

CODE  
17

COUNTY  
WILL

CODE

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

**4 AGENCY**

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (If applicable)

United States Postal Service, Real Estate and Buildings Department, Central Region

STREET & NUMBER

433 West Van Buren Street

CITY, TOWN

Chicago

VICINITY OF

STATE

Illinois

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Will County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

14 West Jefferson

CITY, TOWN

Joliet

STATE

Illinois

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE Requested Determination as to Eligibility for Inclusion in Federal Register:

United States Postal Service, Real Estate Field Office

DATE

By letter of October 6, 1978

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

~~DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS~~

Subject: Historic Significance Survey, Main Post Office,  
Joliet, Illinois 60431

~~CITY, TOWN~~

~~STATE~~

## 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

The United States Post Office, Joliet, IL was constructed between August, 1901 and June, 1903 on a site bounded by Steele Place on the north, Scott Street on the west and Clinton Street on the south. It is a free standing, two-story building with a partial basement.

The exterior is light colored limestone with granite entrance steps. The entrance is through double doors under a canopy set between two of the four two-story engaged fluted ionic columns at the front of the building. Above the entrance door canopy, is a transom topped by a curved pediment with a cartouche. The entrance stairs descend between the two center columns to a wide porch-like base set two steps above the sidewalk. The original government issue lampposts which flanked the entrance at the edge of the porch-like base have been removed, but are stored in the basement of the Post Office. The building is topped by a balustrade above the cornice. Directly above the entrance is an elaborate cartouche interrupting the balustrade. The facade of the building is rusticated.

The second floor windows are wood frame 8 over 8 double hung with molded sills and back bent trims, decorative shoulders, keystones and supporting corbels. The first story windows are considerably taller than the second story windows as is characteristic of this architectural style. The first story windows are wood frame, 8 over 8 double hung with a 4 pane transom. Those windows have molded sills, back bent trims, decorative shoulders and are topped by a cornice...

Architecturally, the building does not fit exactly into any one style. The design is most characteristic of Renaissance Revival. The building shows a definite studied formalism within a tightly contained cube and is symmetrical, all characteristic of the Renaissance Revival style. This style of architecture was most common during the period 1840-1890 and was still being practiced for public buildings in 1900 when this building was being designed.

The Joliet Post Office has undergone some changes since 1903. In 1931/1932 an expansion project was undertaken enlarging the workroom and upgrading the mailing platform and vestibule. The addition was designed to the rear of the original building in substantially the same style as the original 1903 building. In 1932, the interior lobby was also expanded in keeping with the original 1903 design.

Other than these alterations, the building remains substantially the same as it was originally constructed.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)		
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION				

Contractor: Adam Groth

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT. Govt. Supervisor: Ennis R. Austin  
Supervising Architect: James Knox Taylor

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The United States Post Office in Joliet, IL was built between August, 1901 and June, 1903. James Knox Taylor was the supervising architect. The contractor was Adam Groth of Joliet, IL. The building has been used as the Post Office since that time, but is scheduled to be vacated in 1981 when construction on a new facility is completed.

On March 3, 1899, Congress appropriated \$100,000 for a new Post Office building for Joliet, IL. A site bounded by Steele Place on the north, Scott Street on the west, and Clinton Street on the south, was acquired from Frances Steel Robinson and Theodore W. Robinson on October 23, 1899 for \$15,000. The property measured 120 feet along Scott Street and 158.25 feet along Clinton Street. The construction contract was awarded to Adam Groth of Joliet, IL on August 17, 1901, and ground was broken on August 22, 1901. The Post Office opened for business on June 28, 1903. Reviews were favorable: The Monday, June 29, 1903 edition of the Joliet Daily Republican commented:

"The new building now ranks among the finest architectural piles of the middle west....colonial style of beauty so vividly brought out in the new Joliet building.

"Of this style no building in these parts stands out so well for massiveness and symmetry and general charm.

"The interior furnishes one of the finest lobbies in the land - tile floor, Vermont marble wainscoting, heavy oak columns and paneling, excusitely hand carved, stucco ceilings in finely ornamented relief work, and an air of solidity that characterizes all of the Groth work."

Increased mail volume required an expansion of the original building. The first expansion was made prior to 1930 and involved a small addition to the dock area located on the east side of the building. On July 3, 1930, Congress appropriated \$185,000 for acquisition of additional land and for expansion of the original building. By deed dated June 26, 1931, additional property was acquired from the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad Company for \$32,400. The acquired property contained 10,800 square feet of land measuring 72 feet along Clinton Street and 150 feet in depth. The expansion project was undertaken in 1931-1932, enlarging the workroom and upgrading the mailing platform and vestibule. The function and physical appearance of the expanded building has remained basically unchanged over the past fifty years.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 3

The Joliet Post Office is an architectural and historically significant building. Throughout the years, this building has functioned as a provider of a necessary public service, a symbol of growth, a source of community pride and a distinctive architectural creation which has survived the passage of time and retained its basic architectural integrity. The Joliet Post Office is a physical link that connects present day Joliet to the past history and development of this community. As such, this building is an important landmark and a valuable resource to the people of Joliet.

EXHIBITS

1. Copy of October 6, 1978 letter, including Historic Significance Survey
2. Acts of Congress
3. Copy of deed for original site
4. Photo reproductions of site prior to construction
5. Photo reproductions illustrating monthly construction progress between 04/02 & 06/03
6. Photo reproductions showing interior of new building
7. Assignment approach plan of new building
8. Copy of deed for additional property acquired to expand original building
9. Copy of survey for additional property acquired to expand original building
10. Assignment drawings noting space layout after expansion
11. Current photographs of building

# MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

The Postmaster, Joliet, IL is the custodian for the original photographs in Exhibits 4 and 5.

James Knox Taylor was the architect and Adam Groth was the contractor for the original building.

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 0.68 acres

UTM REFERENCES Approximately 80° 04' 57" longitude and 41° 31' 41" latitude

A	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

B	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
D	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

### VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The property is bounded by Steele Place on north, Scott Street on the west, Clinton Street on the south, and the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad property on the east, in Joliet, IL.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Michael E. Kunstadt, Sr. Realty Management and Acquisition Specialist

ORGANIZATION

Real Estate Division, Central Region, U. S. Postal Service

STREET & NUMBER

433 West Van Buren Street

CITY OR TOWN

Chicago

DATE

April 13, 1981

TELEPHONE

(312) 886-5065

STATE

Illinois

## 12 CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

YES

NO

NONE

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE [Signature] 5/5/81

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

Charles W. Maxson  
Field Supervisor, Real Estate Field Office

DATE

April 13, 1981

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE ILLINOIS

Date Entered **AUG 20 1981**

Name

Location

United States Post Office

Joliet  
Will County

Also Notified

Honorable Charles H. Percy  
Honorable Alan Dixon  
Honorable George M. O'Brien  
Mr. Buren A. Reese, Jr.  
U.S. Postal Service

For further information, please call the National Register at (202) ~~343-6401~~

272 3504

**COPY OF CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION**