

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

United States Post Office

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

1701 Charleston Avenue

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

CITY, TOWN

Mattoon

VICINITY OF
CODE

22

STATE

Illinois

COUNTY

Coles

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	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES RESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" 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 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

U.S. Postal Service

STREET & NUMBER

475 L'Enfant Plaza

CITY, TOWN

Washington

VICINITY OF

STATE

D.C.

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Coles County Clerk

STREET & NUMBER

P.O. Box 207 Coles County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Charleston

STATE

Illinois

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS (Also see continuation sheet 1)

TITLE

Coles County Register of Significant Places

DATE

February 21, 1979

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Coles County Regional Planning Commission

CITY, TOWN

Charleston

STATE

Illinois

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CONTINUATION SHEET 1

ITEM NUMBER 6

PAGE 1

REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

Inventory of Architecture Before World War II in Coles County
October, 1973 X State
Illinois Department of Conservation
Springfield Illinois

DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT

DETERIORATED

GOOD

RUINS

FAIR

UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED

ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE

MOVED DATE _____

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

Construction of the U.S. Post Office in Mattoon was completed in 1913. It has one full story, a partial second story, and a full basement. The basement is only partially below grade, creating a podium upon which the rest of the building sits.

The exterior is of light colored limestone and granite. The entrance stairs and the interior lobby floor are marble. The main entrance consists of seven arches leading to a portico. The windows and door in the portico are also arched. Between the entrance arches are six cartouches with marble insets. The frieze above the three center arches is decorated with carved insignias and there are other ornamentations around the building. Two original government issued lampposts flank the center arches and two original light fixtures are attached to the wall by the east door of the building.

Architecturally, the building does not fit perfectly into any one style. However, its design includes characteristics of important styles being employed in the early twentieth century. One of these is Neo-Classicism or Classical Revival, which was common during the period of 1900 - 1920. The Post Office is symmetrically arranged and finished with a smooth surface, qualities found in Neo-Classicism. The large marble stairs and the low roof line of the building also characterize this style. But in Classical Revival style, Greek traditions such as columns and pedimented porticos are used. The portico of the Post Office is not pedimented and the design emphasizes arches and arched windows more common in the Roman tradition. These characteristics are more in keeping with Second Renaissance Revival style, which was popular from about 1890 to 1920. Also typical of this style are the ornamentations above the windows and doors and under the cornice. The architecture of the Post Office illustrates the discipline and order intended by these two styles, both of which were often used in public building construction.

The Mattoon Post Office has undergone some changes since 1913. In 1957, a loading dock was added to the back (southwest) side of the original structure. This addition is not at all visible from the front of the building. Also, in 1970, the roof was completely replaced. Other than these alterations, the building remains substantially the same as it was originally constructed.

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		

SPECIFIC DATES Completed, October, 1913 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Supervising Architect: James Knox Taylor
Builder: Mangnus Yeager and Son,
 STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE Danville, Illinois

The U.S. Post Office in Mattoon was built in 1913. James Knox Taylor was the Supervising Architect. The builders were Mangnus Yeager and Son of Danville, Illinois. The building has been used as the Post Office since that time, but is scheduled to be vacated in 1980, when a new Post Office will be built elsewhere. In February, 1979, the Post Office became the first site named to the Coles County Register of Significant Places:

The establishment of a Mattoon Post Office in 1855 was a direct result of the area's economic development caused by the crossing of two railroads there with direct connections to Chicago and New York. 1855 was also the same year the City of Mattoon was incorporated. As the city grew, a new Post Office became necessary, and in 1910, Congress appropriated \$70,000 for the present structure.

In downtown Mattoon, the Post Office is one of the few buildings that possesses architectural value and basic integrity. The "Inventory of Historic Landmarks in Coles County" and the "Inventory of Architecture Before World War II in Coles County," together identified only five buildings of interest in the central business district and only 15 in the entire city of Mattoon. Among these, the Post Office stands out as one of the finest structures in the city. Mattoon contains no other buildings of this era built in a similar style and with such high quality. The basic integrity of the building remains relatively undisturbed. The loading dock addition is not visible from the front of the building and does not substantially detract from its appearance.

The status of the Mattoon Post Office as a provider of a necessary service for 66 years, as a symbol of the city's growth and development, and as an outstanding local architectural creation, makes it an extremely important local landmark and a valuable resource to the people of Mattoon. In the context of its surroundings, the Mattoon Post Office is an outstanding structure.

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Kimball, Constance and Marta Ladd, eds., History of Coles County. Dallas: Taylor Publishing Co., 1976.

Architect's Specifications; James Knox Taylor, Supervising Architect; U.S. Postal Service, Washington D.C.

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 0.55

UTM REFERENCES

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

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Lots 1, 2, and the east 50 feet of lot 3; block 147; Original Town of Mattoon, Illinois.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

David Hight / County Planner

ORGANIZATION

Coles County Regional Planning Commission

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

Box 471 - 701 Monroe Avenue

TELEPHONE

(217) 348-0521

CITY OR TOWN

Charleston

STATE

Illinois

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL STATE LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

TITLE

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE ILLINOIS

Date Entered DEC 6 1979

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
U. S. Post Office	Mattoon Coles County
Sandwich City Hall	Sandwich DeKalb County

Also Notified

Honorable Charles H. Percy
Honorable Adlai E. Stevenson
Honorable Daniel B. Crane
Honorable Tom Corcoran

COPY OF NATIONAL REGISTER

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

X - Dot where lines cross marks the location of the Mattoon Post Office

INTERIOR
EY

STATE OF ILLINOIS ARCOLA 13 MI.
HUMBOLDT 7.5 MI.
DEPARTMENT OF REGISTRATION AND EDUCATION
COOKS MILLS 6.3 MI. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY DIVISION
(Arcola)

