

PH0670367

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED MAY 31 1977

DATE ENTERED DEC 21 1977

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

**

United States Post Office

AND/OR COMMON

The Old Post Office

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Corner of Irby Street and W. Evan Street

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Florence

VICINITY OF

#6

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

South Carolina

045

Florence

041

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

___DISTRICT

PUBLIC

___OCCUPIED

___AGRICULTURE

___MUSEUM

BUILDING(S)

PRIVATE

UNOCCUPIED

___COMMERCIAL

___PARK

___STRUCTURE

___BOTH

___WORK IN PROGRESS

___EDUCATIONAL

___PRIVATE RESIDENCE

___SITE

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

___ACCESSIBLE

___ENTERTAINMENT

___RELIGIOUS

___OBJECT

___IN PROCESS

YES: RESTRICTED (exterior)

___GOVERNMENT

___SCIENTIFIC

___BEING CONSIDERED

___YES: UNRESTRICTED

___INDUSTRIAL

___TRANSPORTATION

___NO

___MILITARY

___OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

c/o David L. Warner, Director, Office of Real Estate

STREET & NUMBER

U. S. Postal Service

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Washington

VICINITY OF

D. C. 20260

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Clerk of Court, Florence City County Complex

STREET & NUMBER

Irby Street

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Florence

South Carolina

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Inventory of Historic Places in South Carolina

DATE

1973 (update)

___FEDERAL STATE ___COUNTY ___LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

South Carolina Department of Archives and History

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Columbia

South Carolina

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The old U.S. Post Office building in Florence is an example of the Second Renaissance Revival style. A massive three-story building with hipped roof, the edifice features a cut sandstone basement and first level. Upper floors are of tan brick. The roof is characterized by circular "Eye of a Bull" dormers and heavy cornice brackets supporting projecting eaves.

Windows on the front (south), right (east), and left (west) facades are identical. The street level features segmentally arched windows with radiating voussoirs; the second level has 2/2 triangular pedimented windows with console-supported sills; and the third level has 1/1 windows surrounded by sandstone reveals with keystones and supported by sandstone sills with brackets.

Both the south and east facades have a portal surmounted by radiating voussoirs.

The rear facade reveals a ca. 1935 three-story addition. Constructed of similar materials as the rest of the structure, it also duplicates its scale and proportion.

INTERIOR: The first floor is divided into two main sections: a large foyer and an area that was used as work space by the postal service. These areas are separated by a wall of oak paneling with windows and mail slots incorporated into the wall. The floors of the foyer are terrazzo bordered by Italian marble; the floor tiles are joined together by bronze seams. The stairs are marble with oak banisters, while the floors of the work area are of oak. Decorative work on the first floor includes plaster consoles connected by festoons, and arches with patera motifs. Most of the light fixtures, sconces, and brass door accessories are original. Directly inside the main entrance is a large screen of pressed glass and oak.

On the second floor is the old Federal courtroom; its ceiling rising two stories. Two large oak double doors topped by triangular pediments lead into the courtroom. Outstanding features include fluted pilasters with Ionic capitals; three semicircular arched windows on the north wall, and much of the original furniture.

The remainder of the 2nd and 3rd floors are divided into offices. The basement level is also divided into many service rooms.

SURROUNDINGS: The old Post Office is located on a strategic corner in downtown Florence. At present it is vacant and for sale. The Florence Museum has expressed an interest in the structure, but, at present, funds are not available. Although in good condition, the building is beginning to show signs of neglect.

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		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Located in the center of downtown Florence, the Old United States Post Office is a significant example of the Second Renaissance Revival style of architecture. A local landmark and a focal point of the downtown area, the old Post Office served as a center of government for over seventy years. It has served as the seat for Federal Court and has contained Congressional (John L. McMillan) as well as other government offices.

On March 9, 1871 the South Carolina Legislature incorporated the town of Florence. As a railroad transfer point and a center for commercial trade, the town grew. In 1888 Florence County was formed, and Florence became the county seat. With the economic growth of the town, as well as its new responsibility as a seat of government, the physical expansion of the town was inevitable. As part of this development, the U.S. Post Office was constructed ca. 1906.

Architecturally, the U.S. Post Office building in Florence is an outstanding example of the Second Renaissance Revival style. A massive form with a wide projecting cornice and hipped roof characterizes the style. Significant features include white sandstone construction for the basement and street levels, segmentally arched windows with radiating voussoirs, triangular pedimented windows with console-supported sills on the second level, heavy cornice brackets supporting the widely projecting eaves, and a hipped roof of medium pitch accentuated by circular "Eye of a Bull" dormers.

The interior of the structure is equally well detailed, featuring English oak paneling, marble stairs, decorative plaster consoles, swags, patera and ionic pilasters, and terrazzo and oak flooring.

A major three-story addition to the rear of the building ca. 1935 duplicated the scale and proportion of the original structure along with many of the decorative architectural features.

In 1975 a new post office was constructed. The old Post Office is now vacant, and the property is for sale. Many of Florence's early structures associated with its political and commercial development are no longer standing; hence, as a symbol of the town's history, the Post Office is irreplaceable. It is hoped that an adaptive use will be found for the structure.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Baker, Steve. "A Brief History of Florence." Florence, S.C.; Home Federal Savings & Loan Association, 1974.

Acts & Joint Resolutions of the General Assembly of the State of South Carolina Passed at the Regular Session of 1888. Columbia, S.C.: James H. Woodrow, State Printer, 1889, pp. 168-172. (continued)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than 1 acre

UTM REFERENCES

A	17	613045	3784050	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Mary Ann Eaddy/Steve Smith, Historic Preservation Division

(Mrs. Hugh L. Willcox, Jr.
Florence City-County Historic
Commission)

ORGANIZATION

S. C. Department of Archives & History

DATE

March 16, 1977

STREET & NUMBER

P. O. Box 11,669, Capitol Station

TELEPHONE

(803) 758-5816

CITY OR TOWN

Columbia

STATE

South Carolina 29211

12 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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Charles E. Lee

TITLE Charles E. Lee, State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE 4/14/77

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

ATTEST:

Wm. J. Smith
Charles E. Lee

DATE 12/21/77
DATE 12-14-77

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9

PAGE one

Acts & Joint Resolutions of the General Assembly of the State of South Carolina
Passed at the Regular Session of 1870-1871. Columbia, S.C.: Republican
Printing Company, 1871, pp. 678-682.

Interview with Dr. Wayne King, Professor of History, Francis Marion College,
February 3, 1977.

Florence County Deeds, Book 0, Page 378.