

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Conway Post Office
other names/site number Horry County Museum

2. Location

street & number 428 Main Street not for publication
city or town Conway vicinity
state South Carolina code SC county Horry code 051 zip code 29526

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this x 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 x meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide x locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official

Date

Elizabeth M. Johnson, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, S.C. Dept. of Archives and History, Columbia, S.C.
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:

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

- 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):

Conway Post Office
Name of Property

Horry County, South Carolina
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
_____	_____	sites
_____	_____	structures
_____	_____	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)
N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed
in the National Register
0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Category: Government

Subcategory: Post Office

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Category: Recreation and Culture

Subcategory: Museum

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Classical Revival

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete
Walls Brick
roof Other: Composite
other Brick

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Conway Post Office
Name of Property

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- 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.
- 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.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- 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.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1935-36

Significant Dates

1935-36

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Simon, Louis A. (Architect)
McCaskill, J. D., General Superintendent,
Seymour Ruff & Sons, Baltimore, MD,
(Contractor)

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

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:
S.C. Dept. of Archives & History,
Columbia, S.C.

Conway Post Office
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10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than one acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

Zone Easting Northing
1 17 680658 3745640

 See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kweku Ainuson [with the assistance of the SHPO staff]
organization Strom Thurmond Institute date 19 June 2008 street &
number Clemson University telephone (864) 656-0216 city or town
Clemson state SC zip code 29631

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

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name City of Conway
street & number 206 Laurel St telephone (843) 488-9888
city or town Conway state SC zip code 29528

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 Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Conway Post Office
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Narrative Description

The Conway Post Office is a rectangular one-story, four-bay wide brick building constructed in the Classical Revival architectural style at the southeast corner of Main Street and Fifth Avenue in the city of Conway, South Carolina. Set upon a bevel-capped reinforced concrete foundation, the building features an off-center double-leaf door entrance near the corner of Fifth Avenue. A brick soldier course rests upon the concrete foundation and serves visually as a water table. A cornerstone incised simply with the date "1935" is located just above the brick soldier course left of the entrance and near the building's northwest corner. Accessed by a broad set of concrete steps with decorative iron railing, the entrance contains a five-light fixed transom and Doric pilastered surround below a large moulded wood fanlight. The fanlight's arched brick surround rests upon square stone impost blocks. Original lanterns are attached the wall to either side of the entrance. Three window bays of identical dimensions as the entrance complete the facade's fenestration. They contain eight-over-eight sash windows with plane surrounds, fanlights identical to that at the entrance, brick arched surround and impost blocks. The window surrounds extend below the windows to the concrete foundation and contain recessed wood panels below the window sills. An identical window is located on either end elevation of the building's main block. The building has a cast stone cornice line and brick parapet with cast capstone. It extends to the rear in a lower profiled block with simple twelve-over-twelve sash windows on either side elevation and a capstone that corresponds in height to the main block's cornice. The roof on both the main block and rear extension is flat with a parapet. A square brick stack rises from the rear portion of the building and is a remnant of the steam heating plant that once serviced the building.

A loading deck was added to the rear of the building in 1970. In 1979, the loading dock was enclosed with frame structure and painted white.

The interior was modified to fit the purposes of the Horry County Museum when the building became a museum in 1981. It still retains its L-shaped public lobby areas with terrazzo floors, plaster walls and bronze decorative air circulation grilles. Vestiges of the entrance air pocket or vestibule remain, but the post office boxes and drawers were superseded by museum exhibit cases. An original safe with the Great Seal of the United States painted on it remains in the building.

Integrity

The exterior of the building has not seen any significant alteration since it was constructed in 1935. The additions made in 1970 and 1979 did not in any way alter the Classical Revival architectural design.

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Conway Post Office
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Narrative Statement of Significance

The Conway Post Office was the first Federal post office built in the city of Conway. Built in 1935-1936 at the corner of Main Street and Fifth Avenue, the Conway Post Office today stands as an excellent example of a New Deal-era post office produced by the Public Works Division of the United States Department of the Treasury. It is also significant as a design directed by Louis A. Simon, Supervising Architect of the Department of the Treasury, who oversaw a staff of architects designing post offices, courthouses, office buildings, and other federal government buildings under the administration of President Franklin D. Roosevelt during the Depression and World War II. At the time that it was built, it represented the collective will of the people of Conway to fight for what they thought they deserved – a federally funded post office that was substantial and well equipped enough to handle the increasing postal traffic that had been brought about by the economic growth that the city was experiencing. Through their Congressman in Washington, the city of Conway lobbied for and received a federal building.

This well preserved building epitomizes the Classical Revival architectural style that was so popular in the early 1900s. Today, in the city of Conway, the Conway Post Office is one of the few existing public buildings that boast the Classical Revival design. This distinctive architectural design makes it eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C.

Additional Information

Kingston Township and village and township were established in 1735, and in 1801 the inhabitants of All Saints and Prince George Parishes petitioned the South Carolina General Assembly to create a new judicial district in the region. Horry District was established in 1801 with Kingston as the new county seat. Kingston was renamed Conwayborough in honor of General Robert Conway, and finally renamed Conway in 1883.

The first post office in Conwayborough opened in 1807.¹ The Conwayborough (later Conway) post office would be operated out of rented spaces for the next 129 years, until the Conway Post Office was built in 1935-36. The population of Conway grew steadily during the fifty years from 1880 to 1930, so much so that citizens began to advocate petitioning Washington for a separate federally-funded and –designed post office.²

An article in the *Horry Herald* in the summer of 1934 observed, “Conway should have had a Federal Building long ago. . . . For years the business done by the Conway Post Office has been greatly increasing. The Conway post office has become more and more important and it needs more and more room to take care of the business it transacted therein.”³

¹ A. Goff Bedford, *The Independent Republic: A Survey History of Horry County, South Carolina* (Conway: Horry County Historical Society, 1989).

² “Several Make Bids on Site,” *Horry Herald* (Conway, S.C.), July 26, 1934.

³ *Ibid.*

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U.S. Congressman Thomas Gasque, in whose congressional district Conway was located, took the matter up in Washington, and the *Horry Herald* published a telegram from Gasque reading, "Congressman Gasque just assured by the Treasury Department and the Fourth Assistant Post Master General that a post office for Conway is assured and that bids will be asked for lots and building within the next two weeks. Mr. Gasque states that he has been working on this project for the past several years and is delighted to know that he has at last succeeded in acquiring a building for Conway."⁴

On Monday, July 23, 1934, the Conway Post Master opened bids for a site to build the new post office.⁵ Eight bids in all were presented for a site for the building of the structure. Colonel D.A. Spivey, a local businessman and politician, submitted bids for two sites. One site was on Kingston Lake south of Fourth Avenue; the other was located at the corner of Fifth Avenue and Main Street, across from Conway Methodist Church. The site at the corner of Fifth Avenue and Main Street was chosen as the site for the construction of the new post office, with a cost of construction estimated at \$65,000.⁶

The anxiety of the people of Conway for a new post office can be seen from an article that appeared in the *Horry Herald* on March 14, 1935, titled "Work Begins On New P.O." "Many people interested in the new post office for Conway will be glad to know that preliminary work on it will begin this week, in fact has already doubtless begun as this issue of the *Herald* is printed."⁷ J. D. McCaskill, a native of Chesterfield, South Carolina, and general superintendent of Seymour Ruff and Sons Contractors of Baltimore, had just arrived in Conway to begin the preliminary work for the construction of the new post office.⁸

By February 1, 1936 the building had been completed, inspected and accepted. During the same week, the postmaster and the postal employees moved into the new building to begin work.⁹ A story appearing in the *Horry Herald* on February 6, 1936, summarizes how important this new post office was to Conway:

The mails of last Saturday afternoon were distributed in the new building. All of the incoming mail was removed from the boxes at the old place and everything moved over by Saturday afternoon. The mails of last Sunday were delivered at the new building. The new building is nicely arranged on the inside with numerous mail boxes and drawers and plenty of room within which the work of the post office may be carried on with satisfaction. The windows are nicely arranged. The people already know about the building and its cost. It is floored with tile and plastered with hard surface throughout the rooms and departments. It is heated by steam heat; has every modern convenience.¹⁰

⁴ "Conway Gets New Post Office," *Horry Herald*, June 28, 1934.

⁵ *Ibid.*

⁶ "Several Make Bids On Site."

⁷ "Work Begins On New P.O.," *Horry Herald*, March 14, 1935; see also "Work Begins: P.O. Site," *Horry Herald*, March 21, 1935.

⁸ *Ibid.*

⁹ "Post Office is in New Place," *Horry Herald*, February 6, 1936.

¹⁰ *Ibid.*

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This post office served the city of Conway until it was replaced by a new federal post office in 1977. In 1981, the renovated building was reopened as the Horry County Museum; it serves the community in that capacity today.

Architectural Significance

The architectural design of the Conway Post Office is significant as it represents the Classical Revival architectural style that became popular in the country at this time. The Conway Post Office and the Horry County Courthouse designed by Leitner and Wilkins of Wilmington, N.C. are the only two remaining public buildings in Conway from this period constructed using the Classical Revival architectural design.

An architectural masterpiece, the Conway Post Office stands as a testimony to the prosperity of Conway during the late 1800s and the early 1900s. Featuring an off-center entrance with large fanlight above, and eight-over-eight sash windows with fanlights above and wooden panels below, a concrete cornice line and a side elevation which has a twelve-over-twelve windows, the post office represents the quintessential Classical Revival design.

Criteria and Period of Significance

The Conway Post Office meets the requirements for listing in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with Criterion C. The Classical Revival architectural design of the Conway Post Office is a particularly good interpretation of a style that was mainly used in the country from the 1880s to the 1940s. The building has been well preserved and stands beautifully as a local example of the Classical Revival architectural design. It is also a good local example of a building being constructed specifically in response to the commercial growth of Conway during the early twentieth century. The building's period of significance is 1935-1936 when construction was begun and completed.

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Conway Post Office
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Select Bibliography

Bedford, A. Goff. *The Independent Republic: A Survey History of Horry County, South Carolina*. Conway: Horry County Historical Society, 1989.

Gragg, Rod. *The Illustrated History of Horry County*. Myrtle Beach: Publisher, 1994.

Lewis, Catherine H. *Horry County, South Carolina, 1730-1993*. Columbia: University of South Carolina Press, 1998.

New South Associates. "A Historical and Architectural Survey of Conway, Horry County, South Carolina." Stone Mountain, Ga.: New South Associates, 2005.

Wells, John E., & Robert E. Dalton. *The South Carolina Architects, 1885-1935: A Biographical Dictionary*. Richmond: New South Architectural Press, 1992.

Newspaper Articles

Horry Herald (Conway, S.C.)

"Conway Gets New Post Office." June 28, 1934.

"Post Office Is In New Place." February 6, 1936.

"Several Bids Made On Site." July 26, 1934.

"Work Begins On New P.O." March 14, 1935.

"Work Begins On New P.O. Site." March 21, 1935

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Conway Post Office
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Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary of the nominated property is illustrated as the parcel at the corner of Fifth Avenue and Main Street, Horry County Tax Parcel # 137-02-06-027, marked by a heavy black line as "Conway Post Office."

Boundary Justification

The nominated property includes the historic post office and the city lot on which it is located.

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Section number Photographs Page 11

Conway Post Office
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The following information is the same for each of the photographs:

Name of Property: Conway Post Office
Location of Property: 428 Main Street
Conway, Horry County, South Carolina

Name of Photographer: Bradley S. Sauls, S.C. Department of Archives and History
Date of Photographs: September 2008
Location of Original Digital Files: S.C. Department of Archives and History, Columbia, S.C.

1. Facade
2. Facade
3. Facade Entrance Detail
4. Facade Left Oblique and Entrance Detail
5. Cornerstone
6. Lobby Detail
7. Back Room
8. Back Room