

NPS Form 10-900  
(Rev. 8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM

NATIONAL  
REGISTER

1. Name of Property

Historic Name: Post Office Building, Old

Other Name/Site Number: Nacogdoches Public Library, Site No. 151

2. Location

Street & Number: 206 E. Main St.

Not for Publication: N/A

City/Town: Nacogdoches

State: TX County: Nacogdoches

Code: 347

Zip Code: 75961

3. Classification

Ownership of Property: Public-local

Category of Property: Building

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	0	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0

Name of related multiple property listing: Historic and Architectural Resources of Nacogdoches, Texas

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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. \_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

Laurie J. Jannell  
Signature of certifying official

30 Dec. 1991  
Date

State Historic Preservation Officer, Texas Historical Commission

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property \_\_\_ meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register criteria. \_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register Antonieta J. Lee 2/14/92  
\_\_\_ 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 Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic: Government

Sub: Post Office

Current : Education

Sub: Library

=====  
7. Description  
=====

Architectural Classification:

LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS: Classical Revival

Other Description: N/A

Materials:	foundation	Brick
	walls	Brick
	roof	Asphalt
	other	Concrete

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

  X   See continuation sheet.

=====  
8. Statement of Significance  
=====

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: locally

Applicable National Register Criteria: C

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) : N/A

Areas of Significance: Architecture

Period(s) of Significance: 1917

Significant Dates: 1917

Significant Person(s): N/A

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Architect/Builder: Wetmore, James A.

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

  X   See continuation sheet.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

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The Old Post Office Buildings is a 1- and 2-story brick institutional building with a modified rectangular plan. Although brick is the predominant building material, cast stone and stucco are also used as contrasting materials. The three found-arched openings on the principal facade are perhaps the building's most distinctive features and, along with the modillions and other classically inspired detailing, are suggestive of the Classical Revival style. The buildings occupies the public square and thus is the focal point of the central business district.

The 5-bay front, which faces north onto Main Street, is symmetrically arranged with slightly projecting end bays and a round-arched opening in the three middle bays. The entrance is set within the central bay and includes double doors with transom and sidelights. The three arches have cast stone reliefs in varying patterns. A cast-stone watertable and brick foundation extend around the base of the front and continue to the rear and side elevations. Other noteworthy features include the simple cornice that caps the first story and the second floor which rises from the rear of the building.

The Old Post Office is in good condition and, despite its conversion into a municipal library, is virtually unaltered.

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National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
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The Old Post Office Building is nominated to the National Register under Criterion C because it is a rare local example of Classical Revival architecture and remains virtually unaltered. It occupies the old Principal Square which was set aside when Nacogdoches was founded in 1779. The construction of this building in 1917 closed a chapter in local history as the city began to turn its back on its Spanish heritage. The building also is indicative of community wide development during the early 20th century and is related to *Community Planning and Development in Nacogdoches: 1830-1940*.

When Nacogdoches was formally established and streets were laid out, town founder Antonio Gil Ybarbo followed Spanish traditions and set aside two public squares in the central part of town. One, which was near the present intersection of Main and North streets, was called the Religious Square where a Catholic church was built. The other, known as the Principal Square, was two blocks to the east on El Camino Real (Main Street). This square soon became Nacogdoches' primary center of activity and eventually attracted merchants and businessmen who erected buildings on property facing onto the square. As the city prospered in the late 19th and early 20th century, property nearby became quite valuable and new buildings were erected; however, the square itself remained undeveloped. Its importance to the community stemmed from its role as the symbolic heart of the city and its use as a center of social gathering. Moreover, its survival through this era of intense development provided a tangible link to Nacogdoches' early Spanish heritage.

By the 1910s, land in the city's downtown was densely developed and when efforts were made to erect a federal post office building, the Principal Square was selected as the building site because of its central location. James E. Wetmore acted as the supervising architect for the project. The Post Office used the building until 1964. The Nacogdoches Public Library presently uses the facilities.

As it stands today, the Old Post Office Building is an important local landmark because it occupies the old Principal Square which has been the focal point of Nacogdoches since its establishment in 1779. Many historic buildings still stand nearby, however, few retain their integrity to such a noteworthy degree. Furthermore, the old Post Office is one of the few local examples of a building with Classical Revival detailing.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Historic Context List of References.

Previous documentation on file (NPS): N/A

- 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 -- Specify Repository: Texas Historical Commission, Austin, TX

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property: less than one acre

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

A	15	343000	3497400	B	_____	_____
C	_____	_____	_____	D	_____	_____

See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description:

Addition: Original Town  
 Block: 14  
 Lot: 1

Boundary Justification:

Property includes area historically associated with building being nominated.

11. Form Prepared By

Name/Title: Edward A. Galloway/Research Assistant  
(with assistance from Dwayne Jones, THC)

Organization: Hardy-Heck-Moore

Date: June 1990

Street & Number: 2112 Rio Grande

Telephone: 512-478-8014

City or Town: Austin

State: TX Zip: 78705

1/6/92

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

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Nacogdoches MPS  
TEXAS

Date Listed

COVER	Substantive Review	Date Listed
92000014	Blount, Eugene H., House	2/14/92
92000008	Cotton Exchange Building, Old	2/14/92
92000009	Davidson, Maria A., Apartments	2/14/92
92000010	Hayter Office Building	2/14/92
92000015	Hoya Land Office Building	2/14/92
92000007	Jones, Roland, House Substantive Review	2/14/92
92000011	Post Office Building, Old Substantive Review	2/14/92
92000016	Roberts Building	2/14/92
92000013	Southern Pacific Railroad Depot	2/14/92
92000017	Sterne--Hoya Historic District	2/14/92
92000018	Virginia Avenue Historic District	2/14/92
92000019	Washington Square Historic District Substantive Review	2/14/92
92000012	Woodmen of the World Building	2/14/92

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Post Office Building, Old  
NAME:

MULTIPLE Nacogdoches MPS  
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: TEXAS, Nacogdoches

DATE RECEIVED: 1/06/92 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 1/21/92  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 2/06/92 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 2/20/92  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 92000011

NOMINATOR: STATE

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N  
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N  
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: Y NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT  RETURN  REJECT 2/14/92 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

*The Old Post Office Building is one of the few local examples of  
Classical Revival architecture in Nacogdoches.*

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept 1c  
REVIEWER Autawilla Lee  
DISCIPLINE History  
DATE 2/14/92

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y N



CLASSIFICATION

\_\_\_ count \_\_\_ resource type

STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

FUNCTION

\_\_\_ historic \_\_\_ current

DESCRIPTION

\_\_\_ architectural classification  
\_\_\_ materials  
\_\_\_ descriptive text

SIGNIFICANCE

Period Areas of Significance--Check and justify below

Specific dates Builder/Architect  
Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

- \_\_\_ summary paragraph
- \_\_\_ completeness
- \_\_\_ clarity
- \_\_\_ applicable criteria
- \_\_\_ justification of areas checked
- \_\_\_ relating significance to the resource
- \_\_\_ context
- \_\_\_ relationship of integrity to significance
- \_\_\_ justification of exception
- \_\_\_ other

BIBLIOGRAPHY

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

\_\_\_ acreage \_\_\_ verbal boundary description  
\_\_\_ UTM's \_\_\_ boundary justification

ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTATION/PRESENTATION

\_\_\_ sketch maps \_\_\_ USGS maps \_\_\_ photographs \_\_\_ presentation

OTHER COMMENTS

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to

\_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

*The Old Post Office building is one of the few  
classical revival buildings in Rochester.*



POST OFFICE BUILDING, OLD  
NACOGDOCHES CO., TEXAS  
5 OF 30



Please refer to the map in the  
Multiple Property Cover Sheet  
for this property

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64500647