

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

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1. *Name of Property*

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Historic Name: Post Office Building, Old

Other Name/Site Number: Nacogdoches Public Library

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2. *Location*

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Street & Number: 206 E. Main

Not for Publication: N/A

City/Town: Nacogdoches

State: TX County: Nacogdoches

Code: 347

Zip Code: 75961

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3. *Classification*

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Ownership of Property: Public-local

Category of Property: Building

Number of Resources within Property:

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

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

Name of related multiple property listing: Nacogdoches Multiple-Property Nomination

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.

Signature of certifying official

Date

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

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: _____

Materials: foundation	Brick; Cast-Stone
walls	Brick; Cast-Stone
roof	Unknown
other	_____

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: _____

Applicable National Register Criteria: C

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) : _____

Areas of Significance: Architecture

Period(s) of Significance: 1917

Significant Dates: 1917

Significant Person(s): Not Applicable

Cultural Affiliation: Not Applicable

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.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Historic Context List of References.

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 -- Specify Repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property: less than one acre

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

A	_____	_____	_____	B	_____	_____	_____
C	_____	_____	_____	D	_____	_____	_____

____ See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description:

Addition: City of Nacogdoches
 Block: 14
 Lot: 1

Boundary Justification:

Property includes area historically associated with building being nominated.

11. Form Prepared By

Name/Title: Ed Galloway/Research Assistant
 Organization: Hardy-Heck-Moore
 Street & Number: 2112 Rio Grande
 City or Town: Austin

Date: June 1990
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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 round-arched openings on the front 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 five-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 water-table 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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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 it 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.

