

INDIVIDUAL PROPERTY FORM FOR

Fayetteville

MULTIPLE RESOURCE OR THEMATIC NOMINATION

1 NAME

HISTORIC

(Former) United States Post Office

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

301 Hay Street

— NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Fayetteville

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

7th

STATE

North Carolina

VICINITY OF

CODE

037

COUNTY

Cumberland

CODE

051

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	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input 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
	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER: Library

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

County of Cumberland

STREET & NUMBER

P.O. Box 449

CITY, TOWN

Fayetteville

VICINITY OF

STATE
North Carolina 28302

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC

Register of Deeds, Cumberland County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

P.O. Box 2039

CITY, TOWN

Fayetteville

STATE
North Carolina 28302

6 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Linda Jasperse, Principal Investigator, City of Fayetteville

ORGANIZATION

Consultant for Survey and Planning Branch

DATE

November 18, 1982

STREET & NUMBER

Division of Archives and History, 109 E. Jones Street

TELEPHONE

1-919-733-6545

CITY OR TOWN

Raleigh

STATE

North Carolina 27611

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input 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 (Former) United States Post Office in Fayetteville, built between 1909 and 1911 and expanded to the rear in 1935, exhibits the Neo-Classical Revival style which was prevalent in commercial, governmental, and public architecture of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. One of the three buildings in downtown Fayetteville to follow this trend, the Post Office building is distinguished by one-story five-bay construction and fine detailing.

Resting on a foundation of brick, granite, and polished limestone blocks, the brick building is punctuated at the front by a central door flanked by two window openings on each side. The central entrance, approached by seven telescoping steps with flanking cast-iron lamp posts, contains a double door and a transom. It bears a surround enriched with acanthus and circular motifs, talon ornament, rosettes, and a scrolled keystone. Single windows flanking echo this form, and together with the door create a three-bay central mass which dominates the front facade. Corners of the center portion are delineated by quoins, the cornice by dentil and modillion rows, and the roof edge by a balustrade which obscures a tin-covered hip roof.

The two outer front bays, which form side wings to the center section, contain bold but smaller and less-detailed windows. These contain double l/l sash and are topped by both a divided transom and segmented lintel consisting of a jack arch with an enlarged central keystone. This window treatment is carried around to the sides, which consist of four bays along the original main block and three along the rear addition. Above window-level is a continuous cyma recta molding course which also ornaments the front facade.

The interior of the building, once containing marble appointments, is now cleared for use as a branch of the local library system.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

____ NATIONAL

____ STATE

 X

____ LOCAL

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 type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

1909 to 1911

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

unknown

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Documented by a rare daily account of construction, the (former) United States Post Office was erected on a downtown lot between 1909 and 1911. It was the first of three Fayetteville structures to exhibit the Neo-Classical Revival style, popularized around the turn-of-the-century and reflected mainly in commercial, public, and/or governmental architecture. The structure, distinguished by one-story five-bay construction and detailing which includes ornamented door and window surrounds with acanthus, talon, and scrolled keystone ornament as well as a fine roofline balustrade, stands as an example of the forms public architecture took locally during the prosperous years of the early twentieth century. Still being used for public service as a library, it demonstrates historical continuity in a city which has undergone rapid and dramatic growth throughout the twentieth century.

CRITERIA ASSESSMENT

- C. The (Former) United States Post Office at Fayetteville, 1909-1911, is reflective of the Neo-Classical Revival trends so prevalent in late nineteenth/early twentieth century American commercial and public architecture.

Fayetteville's early twentieth century main post office was erected between November, 1909, and May, 1911, on the southwest corner of Hay and Maxwell streets. The downtown lot on which it was built was transferred from the Fayetteville Independent Light Infantry, whose headquarters at that time were located next door on Maxwell Street, to the United States Government in 1907.¹ A two story frame dwelling then used as a boarding house was cleared to make way for new construction, which by official bond dated 15 November 1909 commenced on 29 November 1909.²

A complete record group documenting construction activity, consisting of a daily diary kept by the government building superintendent and monthly photographs which document building progress, is extant and reveals the following. First, tight supervisory control was exercised by superintendents and foremen who conscientiously kept records of the number of employees and the amount of time it took to complete a job. Second, building materials such as brick, stone, and mortar were sent back to the provider if supervisory personnel considered them to be of unacceptable quality. Third, progress was slower than anticipated, for late shipments, delivery of low-quality materials, and inclement weather caused frustrating but unavoidable delays. Altogether, it took superintendents, subcontractors, laborers, custodians, engineers, rodmen, plumbers, carpenters, masons, stonecutters, tanners, marble-cutters, plasterers, and painters approximately eighteen months to complete the new building, from the digging of the foundation in November and December, 1909, to the putting of finishing touches on interior marble wainscot and other accents in February, 1911. The Post Office was first occupied on 4 April 1911 and completely finished the following month.³

Because of Fayetteville's rapidly growing population and commercial development, expansion of the existing building became necessary. In 1935, the Upchurch Construction Company of Atlanta, Georgia, C.W. Stone, Superintendent of Architecture, and Evan A. Lyon, Construction Engineer, among others, were responsible for erecting a major south wing.⁴

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Please see continuation sheet.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Less than 1

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,7	6,9,3	2,2,0	3,8	8,0	8,1,0
	ZONE	EASTING		NORTHING		

B						
	ZONE	EASTING		NORTHING		

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

All of Lot 11, Block H, Map 78-2-3-4, Cross Creek Township, as outlined in red on map. See map section.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

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(Former) United States Post Office
Continuation sheet

Significance/
Historical
Background

Item number 8

Page 2

The 1950s mark the beginning of the transition of the post office facility to a library, which the structure serves as today. In 1956, a small part of library services were moved to the old post office. After the construction of a spacious and modern post office and federal building on Green Street in the middle 1960s, the old Hay Street building was converted entirely into the Frances Brooks Stein Branch of the Cumberland County Library System in April of 1970.⁵ One of the few pre-1912 post offices in North Carolina still in public use, the building demonstrates historical continuity in a city which has undergone dramatic growth during this century.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

(Former) United States Post Office
Continuation sheet

Significance/
Historical
Background

Item number 8

Page 3

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Reference Notes:

¹The Fayetteville Independent Light Infantry to the United States, 30 April 1907, Cumberland County Deeds, Office of the Register of Deeds, Fayetteville, Book 143, Page 1.

²Daily diary and photographs of construction progress, 1909-1911, in possession of Edward M. Kennedy, Manager of Delivery and Collection, Customer Services Division, United States Post Office, 301 Green Street, Fayetteville, North Carolina, hereinafter cited as photographs and/or diary.

³Photographs and diary.

⁴Photographs.

⁵Post Office Scrapbook, United States Post Office, 301 Green Street, Fayetteville, North Carolina; Vertical File "Post Offices and Postmasters," Anderson Street Library, Fayetteville, North Carolina; Library Slide/Tape presentation, developed by the Friends of the Library, Cumberland County Public Library System, Cumberland County, North Carolina.

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Item number

9

Page

2

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Cumberland County Records: Deeds.

Fayetteville, North Carolina. Cumberland County Library System. Anderson Street Library. Vertical File, "Post Offices and Postmasters."

Fayetteville, N. C. United States Post Office, 301 Green Street. Customer Services Division. Edward M. Kennedy, Manager of Delivery and Collection. Photographs and diary of construction progress, United States Post Office, Fayetteville, North Carolina, 1909-1911.

Friends of the Library. Slide/Tape presentation on the Cumberland County Public Library System. Cumberland County, North Carolina.

Post Office Scrapbook, United States Post Office, 301 Green Street, Fayetteville, North Carolina, 1909-1911.

