

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC Lumberton, N. C. Post Office

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

606 North Elm Street

— NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Lumberton,

— VICINITY OF

Seventh

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

North Carolina

037

Robeson

075

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" 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 RESIDENTIAL
<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 type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
	N/A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER vacant

4 AGENCY

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (If applicable)

United States Postal Service

STREET & NUMBER

2245 Perimeter Park Drive

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Atlanta

— VICINITY OF

Georgia

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Robeson County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

North Elm Street

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Lumberton

N. C. 28358

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

N/A

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

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 Lumberton, North Carolina, Post Office is a rectangular structure built in the Beaux Arts style in 1931. The structure is one-story-with-attic, load-bearing masonry laid in 1:4 common bond brick. The original roof was covered with a steep standing-seam copper roof in 1965. This roof provided room for additional federal offices.

The structure rests on a raised cut-limestone basement with molded water-table from which brick pilasters with plain stone capitals, which give the impression of a colonnade, rise. These pilasters define all bays and support a plain entablature, dentil cornice and blind stone-capped parapet. All bays are 12 over 12 sash with stone lintels and sills. Over each bay is a plain stone panel. Smaller bays are set in each side facade of the basement. The second bay on the south side has been infilled with red 1:4 common bond brick. The cornerstone is inscribed: "A W MELLON SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY JAMES A WETMORE ACTING SUPERVISING ARCHITECT 1931".

The main four-by-seven-bay block is 69 by 75 feet. To the rear is a 65 by 73 foot addition built in 1965 in style, scale and detail identical to the original block. Only slight difference in brick color and mortar, and the flat roof, show the joining of the addition to the original block. The pilasters, bay details and roof treatment are all beautifully integrated with the original block.

The entrance and four 12-over-12 bays are recessed slightly behind a colonnade of fluted stone columns with a variation of Doric column capitals with rosettes and egg and dart echinus. The central door surround is metal topped by an eight-light transom. Over the door in gold lettering is "LUMBERTON, N. C. 28358". The columns support a plain stone entablature with "UNITED STATES POST OFFICE" in brass lettering, a stone dentil cornice and a blind stone-topped parapet. The parapet was continued around the roof line of the 1965 addition.

Bays on the main facade have stone sills, and lintels which are joined by a plain stone band supported by the brick and stone pilasters which define the bays. Over each of the five central bays are plain stone panels. Wide, shallow steps lead to the colonnade and are flanked by ornate wrought iron lamp-posts with white glass globes.

Flanking the five central bays are two smaller projecting blind bays with stone architraves, the sills of which are supported by stone consoles. Beneath each bay are plain panels which rest on the water-table band.

The entry leads to a small molded wood and glass vestibule with two side entrances. These doors are fifteen-light with brass fittings. The back wall is three-part paneled wood wainscot on stone course, with fifteen-light center section and three-light sidelights. Wood pilasters, in imitation of the exterior brick pilasters, support a molded cornice. The interior walls are sheathed with marble to a height of eight feet, with plaster above. The floor is terrazzo. The ceiling has been covered with an acoustical tile on grid ceiling with drop florescent lights.

To the north are the original brass post boxes which remain, and an alcove added to accomodate newer boxes, which have been removed. The lobby and boxes form an "L" down the north side of the lobby. In the northwest corner is a closed-string stair with plain railing which leads to the upper offices. An original set of brass-railed steps with a diamond motif leads to the basement.

To the south are the two original offices. These offices are plain with plaster walls. Entrance from the lobby is through a panel and glass door set in a marble surround.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 1

Over this door is a broken marble pediment with dentil cornice supported on fine stone consoles. Flanking the door are brass and glass display cases.

The main desk is at the rear of the lobby area. Behind it is the original mail-handling area and behind that, without dividers, is the mail-handling area created by the addition. This addition has exposed block walls and is unadorned. Access to the original offices on the north side of the main block is in the northwest corner. The addition is also loadbearing masonry with exposed block walls. Off the addition to the rear is the loading dock. Steps lead to the basement area which houses, beneath the addition, a recreation room, locker room and storage area. Under the original block are storage space and the boiler room which still contains the original boiler.

The Lumberton, North Carolina, Post Office remains in good condition, although in need of some maintenance. It sits on half of a block in the central business district of Lumberton, and serves as an anchor at one end of a main commercial street. The site has low foundation plantings, an alley on the south side, and parking lot to the rear. It is an important, nearly intact, example of federal Beaux Arts architecture in the rural southeastern portion of the state. It is a sophisticated structure built and finished with expensive materials and detailing, and is one of few such structures in the town of Lumberton.

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

SPECIFIC DATES 1931 BUILDER/ARCHITECT James A. Wetmore,
Supervising Architect

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Robeson County was created from a portion of Bladen County by an act of the state legislature in 1788. The county was named in honor of Revolutionary War officer Col. Thomas Robeson of Bladen. Additional land was acquired from Bladen County in 1788 and from Richmond County in 1796. Land was lost to Cumberland County in 1791 and to Hoke County in 1911. The courthouse was built at Red Bluff Plantation owned by John Willis. The Act of Incorporation created the town of Lumberton, named for the Lumber River, to be the county seat in 1788.

Robeson County was, and still is primarily rural. The county has a large (35%) Indian population. At the turn of the century sixty post offices, mainly in small railroad towns and villages, were found in Robeson County. With the advent of better roads and rural mail delivery the post offices in the county were consolidated until today there are only fourteen in the 948-square-mile county.

The Lumberton Post Office, built in 1931, is an example of the Beaux Arts style of architecture and was constructed of expensive materials and with fine detailing. The structure occupies half a city block in the central business district of the town and serves as a valuable reminder of Lumberton's past.

The Lumberton Post Office was designed by James A. Wetmore (1863 - 1940), Architectural Supervisor of the United States Treasury. It is one of three recorded examples of his work in the state although his office is credited with over 2000 structures in the country. The Beaux Arts styling was the forerunner of the style for WPA post offices of which there are several examples in the state. The basic style, massing and materials are found in eastern North Carolina, the most similar being the Mount Olive Post Office which was also designed by Wetmore and was constructed in 1931.

The town of Lumberton has replaced much of its historic architecture over the course of the years. The town has also experienced urban sprawl which has resulted in shopping centers at its outskirts and the removal of downtown business to those areas. There are only a few examples of historic fabric extant in Lumberton, and the Post Office is one of the pivotal structures in the downtown area.

Criteria Assessment:

A. Important in the historic fabric and context of the development of the county and the town of Lumberton. The Post Office represents the consolidation of postal service in rural North Carolina during the 1920s and 1930s.

B. The work of James A. Wetmore, Supervising Architect for the Treasury during the 1930s. This is one of three examples of his work in the state.

C. Example of the Beaux Arts style, relatively intact, both exterior and interior. One of few historic high style structures in the town of Lumberton.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Saunders, William L. and Clark, Walter. State Records of North Carolina, Vol. 24. Goldsboro: Nash Bros. Printers, 1886 - 1907.

Withey, Henry F. and Elsie Rathburn. Dictionary of Biographies of American Architects (deceased). Los Angeles: Hennessey & Ingalls, 1970.

Ross, Thomas. One Land, Three People. Lumberton, N. C.: Thomas Ross, 1982.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Less than one acre

UTM REFERENCES

A	1	7	6	8	2	5	8	6	3	8	3	2	6	5	0	B										
	ZONE		EASTING			NORTHING			ZONE		EASTING			NORTHING												
C																D										

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The Lumberton Post Office is located on the north half of the block bounded by Elm Street, Seventh and Sixth Streets, and Chestnut Street. The lot is 101' x 216'. See attached plat map, property outlined in red. Lumberton Tax map #33, Lot #91

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

STATE	N/A	CODE	COUNTY	N/A	CODE
STATE		CODE	COUNTY		CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

E. Virginia Oswald

ORGANIZATION

DATE

May 25, 1984

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

Route 1, Box 309

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Apex,

N. C. 27502

12 CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

YES

NO

NONE

William S. Priefer
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

In compliance with Executive Order 11593, I hereby nominate this property to the National Register, certifying that the State Historic Preservation Officer has been allowed 90 days in which to present the nomination to the State Review Board and to evaluate its significance. The evaluated level of significance is ___ National ___ State ___ Local.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

TITLE

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

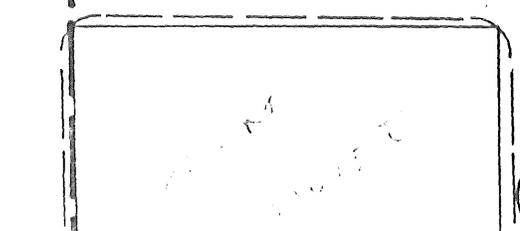
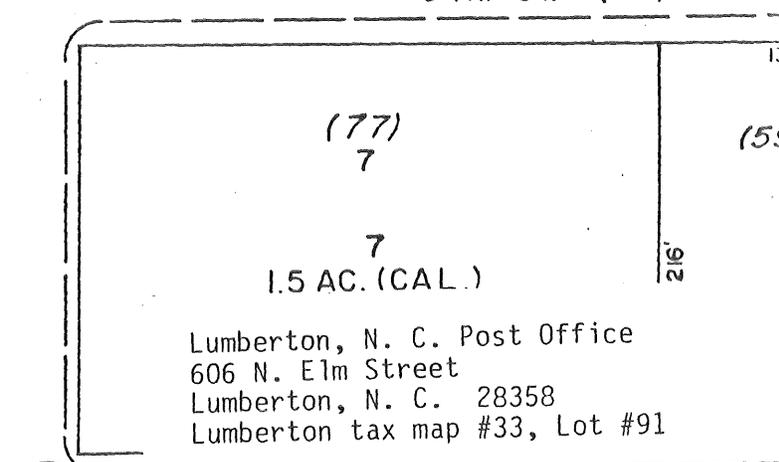
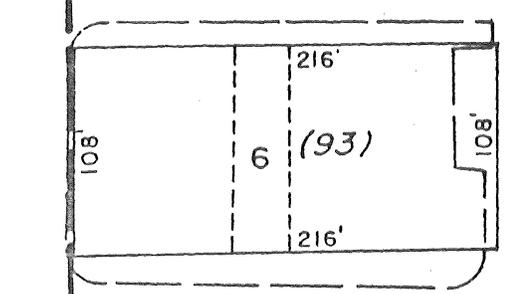
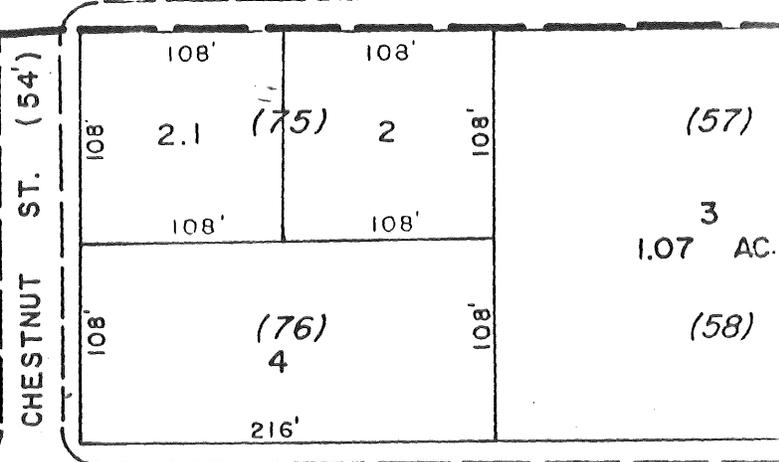
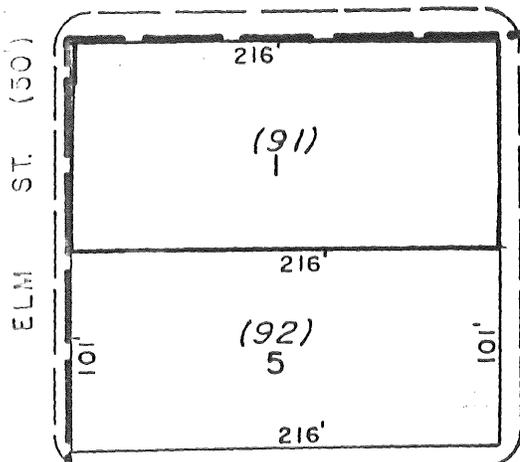
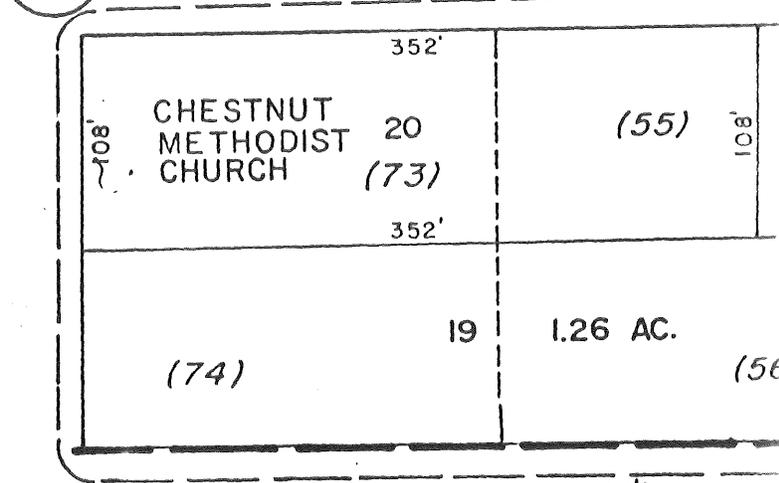
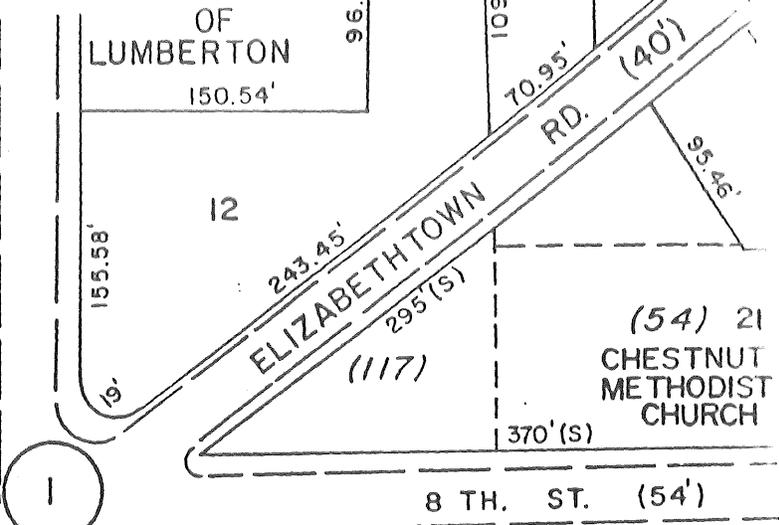
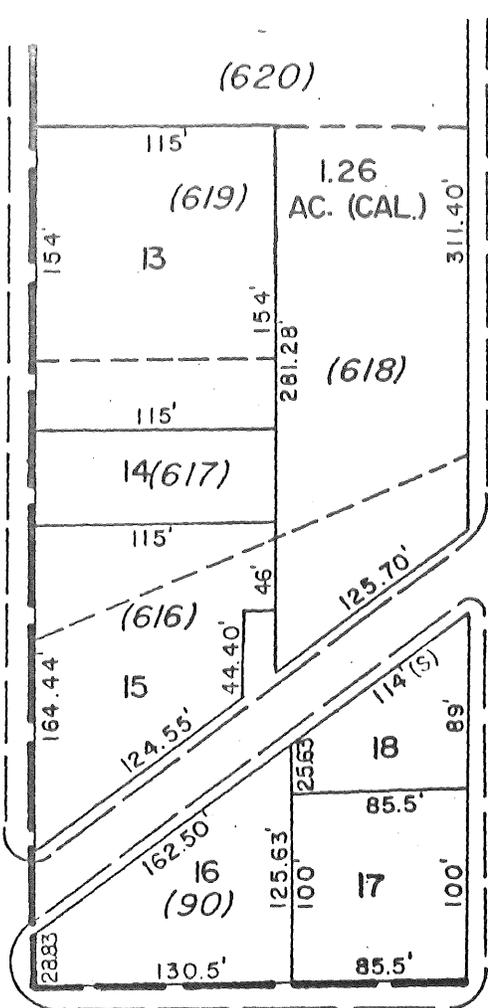
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION
ATTEST:

DATE

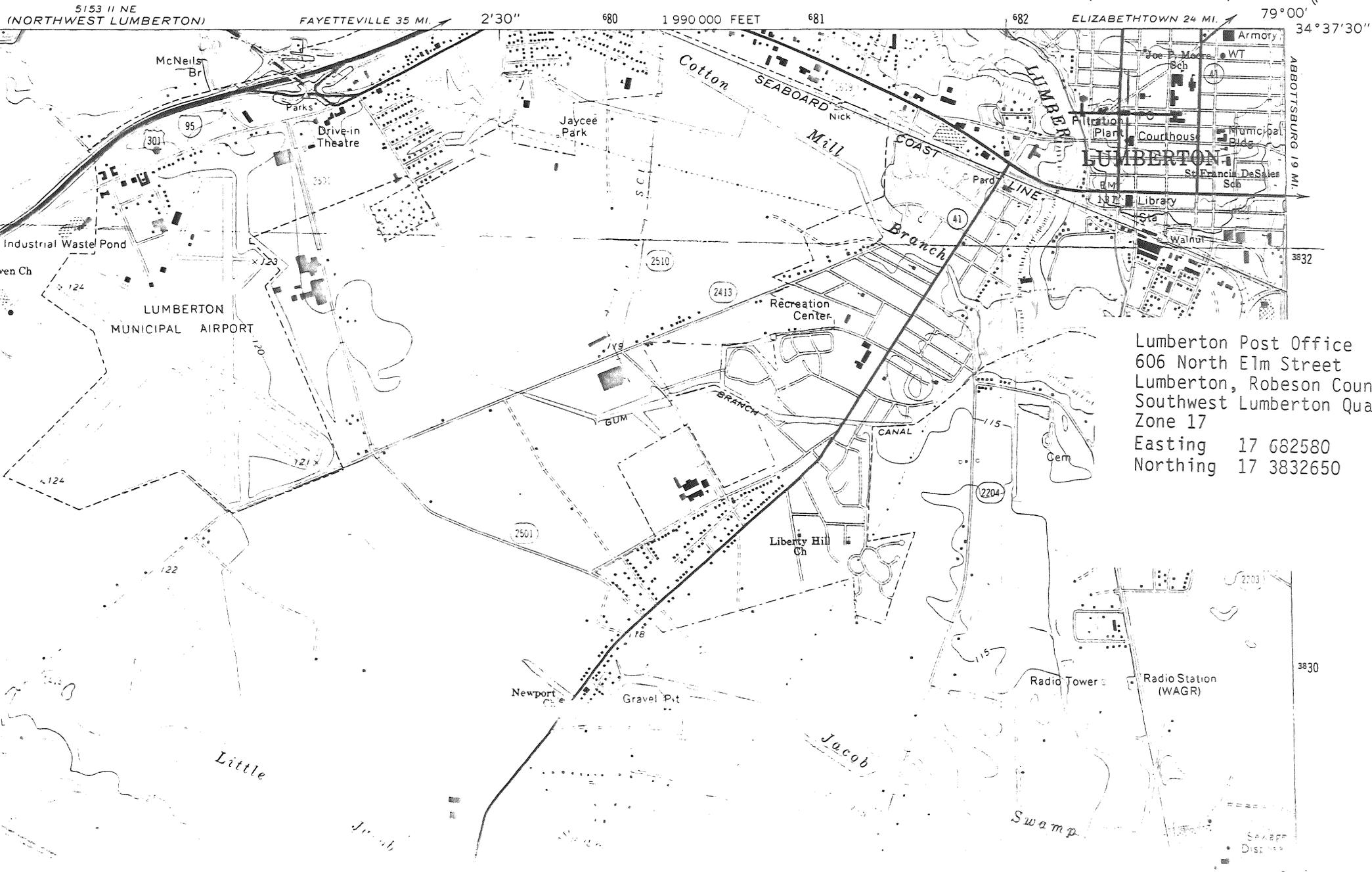
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



2

SOUTHWEST LUMBERTON QUADRANGLE
 NORTH CAROLINA-ROBESON CO.
 7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

533 III NW
 NORTHEAST LUM



Lumberton Post Office
 606 North Elm Street
 Lumberton, Robeson County
 Southwest Lumberton Quad
 Zone 17
 Easting 17 682580
 Northing 17 3832650

5153 II NE
 (NORTHWEST LUMBERTON)

FAYETTEVILLE 35 MI.

2'30"

680

1 990 000 FEET

681

682

ELIZABETHTOWN 24 MI.

79°00'

34°37'30"

ABBOTTSBURG 19 MI.

3832

3830



UNITED STATES POST OFFICE

R...
CUSTOMER
PARKING ONLY

10