

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

435

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 an 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 Marshall U.S. Post Office
other names/site number Marshall Federal Building, Marshall U.S. Courthouse

2. Location

street & number 100 East Houston Street not for publication
city or town Marshall vicinity
state Texas code TX county Harrison code 203 zip code 75670

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)
[Signature] Date 3-1-1
Signature of certifying official
GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION
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] Date 3-1-01
Signature of commenting or other official
TEXAS SHPO
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. 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] Date of Action 4-25-01
Signature of Keeper



Marshall U.S. Post Office
Name of Property

Harrison County, Texas
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 in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1	0	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)

Cat: GOVERNMENT

Sub: Post Office

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: GOVERNMENT

GOVERNMENT

Sub: Offices

Courthouse

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Late 19th and 20th Century Revival: Classical Revival

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE: Limestone

walls Brick

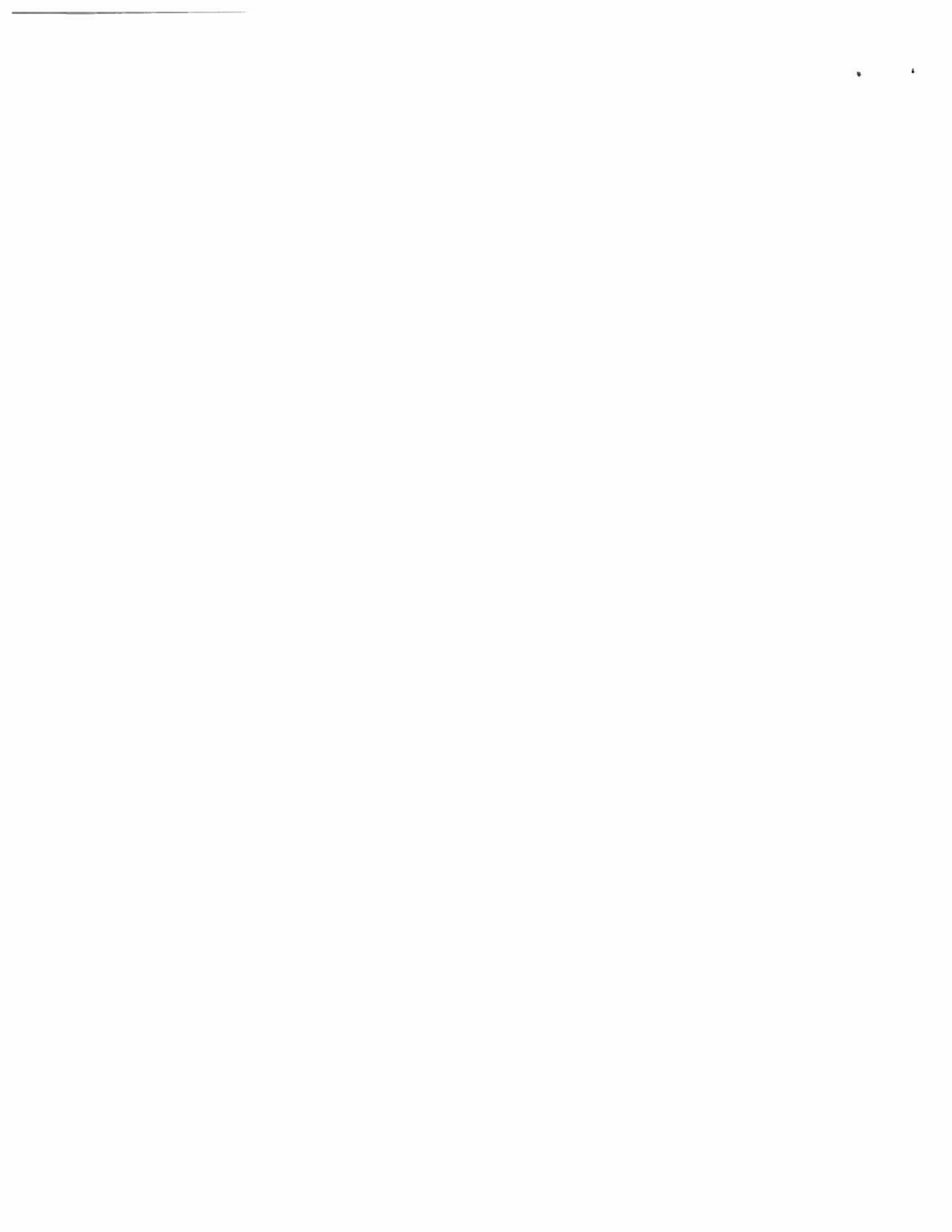
roof ASPHALT

other _____

Narrative Description

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

See Continuation Sheets pp. 5-8.



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.)

Property is:

- 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)

Politics/Government
Architecture

Period of Significance
1914-1950

Significant Dates
1915

Significant Person
(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)
N/A

Cultural Affiliation
N/A

Architect/Builder
Wenderoth, Oscar—Supervising Architect, U.S. Treasury Dept.
Shaul, George A., Seneca, Kansas—Contractor

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.) See Continuation Sheets pp. 9-14.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.) See Continuation Sheet pp. 15-16.

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:
General Services Administration, Greater Southwest Region, Fort Worth, TX
Harrison County Historical Society, Marshall, TX

Marshall U.S. Post Office
Name of Property

Harrison County, Texas
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 1 acre

UTM REFERENCES

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

15 371600 3601380

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.) See Continuation Sheet p. 17.

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.) See Continuation Sheet p. 17.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Ed Salo, Historian; Victoria Green Clow, Cultural Resources Project Manager

organization Geo-Marine, Inc. date July 18, 2000

street & number 550 East Fifteenth St. telephone (972) 423-5480

city or town Plano state TX zip code 75074

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 General Services Administration, Greater Southwest Region

street & number Fritz G. Lanham Federal Building, 819 Taylor Street telephone (817) 978-4229

city or town Fort Worth state TX zip code 76102

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

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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 5

**Marshall U.S. Post Office
Harrison County, Texas**

Narrative Description

The Marshall U.S. Post Office, built in 1914-1915, is an attractive, one-story (plus basement), brick structure. Designed by the Office of the Supervising Architect for the U.S. Treasury Department under the direction of Supervising Architect Oscar Wenderoth, its Classical Revival design is a significant example of early twentieth-century federal architecture. This style is revealed in the building's rectangular plan, flat-roof, cornice with dentils, and recessed central bay divided by four Ionic columns.

The U.S. post office in Marshall, the county seat of Harrison County, holds a prominent position in the central business district and faces the courthouse square. It served as the post office for 47 years (1915-1962). Although it no longer functions as a post office, the exterior of the Marshall U.S. Post Office building remains very much as it was when first built and still serves as an integral part of the community as the federal courthouse.

Exterior

The Marshall U.S. Post Office is an excellent example of a Classical Revival-style public building. The 1915 original structure had a rectangular footprint of nine bays in width and five bays in depth, with a postal loading bay on the west elevation. In the 1930s, the U.S. government built a three-bay addition to the rear of the post office. The primary façade is the north elevation. The tapestry brick walls extend one story, rising from the structure's limestone base to its flat roof, which is surrounded by a limestone cornice and a single limestone eave overhang, boxed with dentils. Above the overhang is a parapet with a blank cartouche, which is centered above the recessed main entrance bay on the north elevation. The remainder of the roofline is unadorned. Entries are located on the north (primary), south, east, and west elevations. Individual window units are generally aluminum and display a configuration of twelve-over-twelve (four middle windows) and six-over-six with a three-panel single-light transom (two outer windows) with limestone lintels. These windows are not historic. Historic photographs depict the original windows as large, single-light, sash windows with limestone lintels.

Limestone steps with limestone cheek walls introduce the building's original main entrance on the primary (north) façade. Pedestaled on the top of each cheek wall is an original light standard. Each standard has a cast-iron base and Doric shaft with a frosted globe on the top. The standards are dwarfed in contrast to the entrance's four massive cast-concrete columns with Ionic capitals. The entrance section is recessed, with Doric pilasters on the sides of the recesses.

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**Marshall U.S. Post Office
Harrison County, Texas**

Narrative Description (continued)

The entryway has nonhistoric, double, storefront-type doors. Directly above these doors, a plaque of nonoriginal aluminum letters forms signage stating the following.

**SAM B. HALL, JR.
FEDERAL BUILDING
AND
UNITED STATES
COURT HOUSE**

In addition to the plaque above the doors, the frieze above the pilasters also carries nonoriginal aluminum letters—which replace the historic inscription, UNITED STATES POST OFFICE—with the following wording.

UNITED STATES COURT HOUSE

Over the four inner windows and the entrance within the recess are bosses with decorative brickwork. The cornerstone on the northwest corner of the north elevation of the building carries the following inscription.

**WILLIAM G. MCADOO
SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY
OSCAR WENDEROTH
SUPERVISING ARCHITECT
1915**

The 1930s addition impacted the east, west, and south façades. The addition lengthen the east and west façades but did not change the general appearance of the building. The cornice with dentil work links the three elevations.

The west elevation is one story with eight bays and an exposed basement; a secondary entrance occupies the fourth basement bay. The first three bays are original, with windows similar in design to those on the primary façade. Above each window is brick detailing, and brick abstract pilasters surround both sides of each window. The next two bays (each with windows of ten-over-ten with a five-panel, single-light transom) were created after the postal loading bay was moved to the south (rear) elevation during the 1930s remodeling. The final three bays (the addition) consist of one brick-filled window and two four-over-four windows with no detailing or pilasters.



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**Marshall U.S. Post Office
Harrison County, Texas**

Narrative Description (continued)

The east façade is very similar to the west elevation. The east entrance has limestone steps leading to the basement, cheek walls, and a door. Six-over-six windows are along the basement level on this side. The east building face has the same patterns of bays as the west elevation, except for a recessed loading dock and a covered handicap entrance where the last three bays would be on the southeast corner of the building.

While largely functional in nature, the south (rear) elevation displays many of the same finishes and embellishments applied to the remainder of the building. This elevation is divided into four bays and the loading dock. The recessed area is partially filled by a wood-framed structure and a handicapped-access ramp. Windows are four-over-four aluminum, similar to the other façades. A secondary entrance is below the east bay.

Green spaces, plantings, sidewalks, and other landscape features characterize the site area immediately surrounding the building. Sparse shrubbery and narrow lawn areas border the south, west, and east elevations. Other site features include a contemporary flagpole on the northwest corner.

Interior

The Marshall U.S. Post Office has an modified L-footprint. The longer section of the L-footprint was designed to accommodate the building's postal function, while the shorter leg was a 1930s expansion. As the spatial needs of the post office increased, the post office was moved in 1962 from the 1915 building to a newly constructed post office. Since that time, the former postal work area and the postal lobby have been converted into office and court space, destroying the historic feel of the interior. Although little of the visible historic interior fabric remains intact, parts of the historic fabric are still present under the drop ceilings and behind partition walls. Additionally, some of the original flooring, possibly marble wainscoting, door frames, and chair rails may also be present.

Alterations

Overall, the Marshall U.S. Post Office retains a high degree of integrity in its setting, location, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. While modifications have occurred, they have not impacted the building's ability to convey its historic significance as a federal building nor its architectural significance as an excellent example of a Classical Revival-style public building. The only major addition, which occurred in the 1930s, is a historic addition and therefore contributes to the historic nature of the building.

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**Marshall U.S. Post Office
Harrison County, Texas**

Narrative Description (continued)

Alterations to the building have primarily affected the interior. The loss of the building's postal function in 1962 and the subsequent conversion to a courthouse resulted in the removal of all of the original postal boxes, sales windows, and postal tables. The lobby and postal workroom were reconfigured to create a courtroom and court-related offices with dropped acoustical ceilings, fluorescent lights, and partition walls.

Changes to the exterior of the building have been more sensitive. The addition made in the 1930s is compatible with the historic building. At some point in the building's history, the original wood windows were replaced with aluminum windows and contemporary storefront-type doors were installed at all entries. On the rear of the building, a handicap ramp and a small wooden structure were added to the loading dock.



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**Marshall U.S. Post Office
Harrison County, Texas**

Narrative Statement of Significance

Summary

The Marshall U.S. Post Office is eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for its association with the federal government at the local level and under Criterion C as a significant example of federal Classical Revival architecture from the early twentieth century. After its construction in 1914-1915, the building provided both a federal presence and postal services in Marshall through 1950, setting the building in the 50-year period of significance mandated by the National Register. The building, which is an outstanding example of a federally designed Classical Revival government building, is one of the few remaining historic buildings on the courthouse square in downtown Marshall.

Historical Significance

Background

Two years after the establishment of Harrison County in 1839, Peter Whetstone offered land for a courthouse, a church, and a school to the county commissioners in hopes that they would designate the area the county seat. The offer was accepted, and local political leader Isaac Van Zandt¹ named the town of Marshall after John Marshall, the chief justice of the U.S. Supreme Court. The town was incorporated in 1844 and expanded in 1850. Marshall grew in prominence, becoming the first town in Texas to have a telegraph. By 1860, Marshall had become one of the largest towns in East Texas, with a population of about 2,000. Though Marshall began as an agricultural community, the arrival of the railroad in the 1870s led to its expansion. During the early 1870s, the Texas and Pacific (T&P) purchased the Southern Pacific railroad, which had run a line from Caddo Lake to Marshall before the Civil War. Harrison County had offered the T&P

¹ Isaac Van Zandt was a prominent political leader. He represented Harrison County in the House of Representatives of the fifth and sixth Texas congresses, 1840-1842. In 1842 Sam Houston appointed him chargé d'affaires to the United States. In Washington, Van Zandt lobbied for the annexation of Texas. He attended the convention of 1845 and campaigned for the office of governor in 1847. During the campaign, he was stricken with yellow fever at Houston and died on October 11. "Van Zandt, Isaac," *The Handbook of Texas Online* http://www.tsha.utexas.edu/cgi-bin/web_fetch_doc?dataset=tsha.dst&db=handbook&doc_id=1362&query=van+zandt,+isaac.

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**Marshall U.S. Post Office
Harrison County, Texas**

Narrative Statement of Significance (continued)

a \$300,000 bond subsidy to locate its shops and general offices for Texas in Marshall. With T&P's arrival, the town bloomed and became a major cotton-marketing center for East Texas.²

W. W. O. Stanfield was the town's first postmaster, serving under the Republic of Texas, in 1841.³ The first United States post office, established in Marshall on May 22, 1846, was a frame building located on the square at the present location of the city fire station. Ira M. Freeman was appointed the first U.S. postmaster. For much of its early history, the Marshall post office was located in rented space in various buildings in the area of the courthouse square. In 1873, the post office was moved to a site on the west side of the courthouse square (106 East Houston Street), and later that year it was relocated to the building at 105 East Austin Avenue. It was moved yet again in 1874 into the Umbenstock building on the south side of the square, but two years later returned to 105 East Austin Street. In 1885, the post office moved to the old Capital Hotel (214 West Austin Street, the present Marshall Hotel) and remained there until the completion of the new federally built post office building in 1915.⁴

Throughout the years from its establishment in 1846 until 1950⁵, the Marshall post office had 28 postmasters:

No.	Postmaster	Initiation of Term	No.	Postmaster	Initiation of Term
1	Ira M. Freeman	May 2, 1846	15	Horace Welch	October 19, 1875
2	Casey Askew	March 8, 1847	16	John D. McAdor	February 14, 1876
3	Turner G. Pierce	December 26, 1849	17	Volney Hall	June 15, 1878
4	John Henderson	April 29, 1852	18	J. B. Williamson	May 2, 1881
5	Macaja Harris	October 7, 1852	19	W. C. Pierce	October 24, 1881
6	Casey Askew	January 27, 1853	20	R. L. Jennings	ca. 1885
7	Ozias J. Taylor	February 7, 1854	21	John W. Hudson	January 9, 1894
8	John P. Matt	December 11, 1854	22	W. E. Lancaster	March 9, 1894
9	Robert T. Hyde	July 25, 1856	23	Henry O. Wilson	May 24, 1898
10	Thaddius Harris	November 18, 1858	24	Horace C. Blalock	January 30, 1915
11	Henry Rawson	December 28, 1865	25	Henry O. Wilson	September 5, 1923
12	James W. Flanagan	October 31, 1871	26	William B. Lea (acting)	July 16, 1925
13	William Umbenstock	March 6, 1872	27	Ben C. McElroy	January 1, 1935
14	Nicholas Board	March 10, 1873	28	Tom J. Agnor	January 1, 1950

² "Marshall, Texas," *The Handbook of Texas Online* http://www.tsha.utexas.edu/cgi-bin/web_fetch_doc?dataset=tsha.dst&db=handbook&doc_id=8888&query=marshall,+texas.

³ The First Postmaster in Marshall, Panola Co., R. T. *The Harrison County Historical Society Newsletter*, March 1991.

⁴ "Locations of Postoffices." *News Messenger*, 18 August 1929.

⁵ W. A. Nunley. *Post Office, Marshall, Texas*. August 1966.



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**Marshall U.S. Post Office
Harrison County, Texas**

Narrative Statement of Significance (continued)

Construction

With the introduction of the railroad into the area in the 1870s, Marshall began to prosper. To address the needs of the growing area, the U.S. congress authorized in 1908 the purchase of a site for a new post office and other government offices in Marshall, with a limit of \$10,000.⁶ One reason for the need of a new post office was the constant increase in Marshall's postal receipts after the late 1890s:⁷

<u>Year:</u>	<u>Receipts:</u>
1896 —	\$9,731
1900 —	\$11,497
1910 —	\$24,310
1920 —	\$44,123
1930 —	\$62,000
1940 —	\$176,000
1950 —	\$300,306

On June 25, 1910, Congress authorized an additional \$65,000 for the construction of a new post office building in Marshall that was to include fireproof vaults, heating, ventilating, and approaches. The project would receive \$1,000 in 1912, \$40,000 in 1913, and \$24,000 in 1914 for completion.⁸ In late 1910, the federal government purchased Lots 1 and 2 of Block No. 1 of the original town survey of the city of Marshall, Texas, as the location for the new post office.

Designs for the building were prepared by the Treasury Department's Office of the Supervising Architect, under the direction of Oscar Wenderoth. George A. Shaul, of Seneca, Kansas, received the construction contract on September 8, 1913, and the completion date for construction was set for December 14, 1914. Shaul had his bond approved on September 23, 1913, and construction on the post office began on November 3, 1913. Inspection letters and the Treasury Record Book show that the construction of the post office was constantly behind schedule because of weather problems and the lack of construction materials. An April 7, 1914, report indicates that the construction was delayed by 27 percent, mainly because of the lack of limestone. A November 30, 1914, report stated that construction was 5 percent

⁶ *Acts of Congress*, 30 May 1908, vol. 35, p. 536, 489.

⁷ "Marshall Post Office to Mark 115th Anniversary." *Marshall News Messenger*, 30 April 1961, p. 12-B.

⁸ *Acts of Congress*, 25 June 1910, vol. 36, p. 683; 254; August 1912, vol. 37, p. 422; 23 June 1913, vol. 38, p.10; and 1 August 1914, vol. 38, p. 612.

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**Marshall U.S. Post Office
Harrison County, Texas**

Narrative Statement of Significance (continued)

behind, but the contractor still hoped to be ready for occupancy by December 1914. The work, however, continued until February 8, 1915.⁹

The postmaster for the new Marshall post office was Horace C. Blalock, who was appointed during construction of the new federal building. Blalock, a native of Harrison County, had worked for the post office since 1906. An article in the *Marshall Messenger* described the appointment of postmaster as a "long contest" and hinted that U.S. Congressman Martin Dies recommended Blalock because of the influence of Blalock's brother, Myron Blalock, who was a state representative.¹⁰ In early March 1915, Postmaster Blalock opened the newly built post office for the people of Marshall to inspect. A *Marshall Messenger* reporter commented that the crowd of people was steady all day and that what impressed "the visitor is the artistic elegance of the interior. The lobby is finished in solid oak and brass . . . with a Mosaic tile floor."¹¹ Another interesting feature of the new post office was an inspector's gallery, which ran the length of the workroom with a ladder on each end, so that the postmaster could watch the workers without their knowledge.¹²

Post-Construction

After its construction, the post office in Marshall met the needs of the community until the 1930s. To handle the growing postal needs of the area and to address a new safety law, the U.S. congress approved \$100,000 in 1937 in the "Third Deficiency Appropriation Act" for the extension and remodeling of the post office. This expansion might have been part of one of the many New Deal public-building projects that took place during the Depression to stimulate work for the unemployed.¹³

In the early 1960s, acknowledging the need for a new postal facility in Marshall, the government constructed a new post office away from the town's center and more accessible to the growing residential areas. The building was designed and built in the new "modern" architectural style; newspaper articles, however, indicate that not all citizens of Marshall approved of this new style.¹⁴ The relocation of the post office to the developing suburbs reflected the post-World War II

⁹ Richard Fouchy, 7 April 1914, 30 November 1914; and the Marshall, Texas, U.S. Post Office Treasury Department Record Book.

¹⁰ "Blalock Postmaster." *Marshall Messenger*, 12 January 1915, p. 1

¹¹ "Crowds Inspected the New Post Office" *Marshall Messenger*, 1 March 1915, p. 4.

¹² "Crowds Inspected the New Post Office." *Marshall Messenger*, 1 March 1915, p. 4.

¹³ *Acts of Congress*, 23 August 1936, vol. 50, p. 773.

¹⁴ "New Building is Modernistic." *Marshall News Messenger*, 20 April 1962, 6-A.

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Marshall U.S. Post Office
Harrison County, Texas

Narrative Statement of Significance (continued)

shift by the American culture to a more automobile-oriented society. Beth Boland describes these post-war post offices as “located near major roadways . . . rather than . . . in town centers. . . . Site plan concerns included adequate parking, tail-gate space, rail sidings, and drive-through service.”¹⁵ The new Marshall post office was designed to meet these changing attitudes, and, with the construction of the new postal building, the original Marshall U.S. Post Office was left without a function.

Post-war growth of East Texas also placed stress on local office space in existing federal buildings in the region. To meet the local demands in the federal judicial branch, the District Court for the Eastern District of Texas created the new Marshall division to supersede the older Jefferson division. A major reason for the new division was that the 1878 red brick courthouse in Jefferson did not have adequate space for the needs of the court, thus leading to the decision to remodel the Marshall U.S. Post Office and convert it into the new federal courthouse. The newly renovated Marshall courthouse opened June 27, 1964, with the Honorable Joe W. Sheehy, Chief Judge of the Eastern District of Texas, dedicating it. Not only did the building house the courthouse, it also served as the ground-floor office space for several federal agencies: the Alcohol and Tobacco tax office, the Internal Revenue Service office, the Selective Service office, the Social Security office, the army recruiting office, and the General Services Administration office.¹⁶

Architectural Significance

The Marshall U.S. Post Office was one of the many public buildings across the nation that was designed under the auspices of the Office of the Supervising Architect of the U.S. Treasury Department. For more than 75 years (the 1850s to 1939), this office was responsible for the design and construction of such public buildings as custom houses, post offices, and courthouses. The buildings the Treasury Department created were not only designed to serve a federal function but also to express the permanence and presence of the federal government in the cities and communities in which the buildings were located. Early in its history, the Office of the Supervising Architect employed a variety of architectural styles to convey this presence. In the 1870s and 1880s, medieval styles such as Gothic and Romanesque were popular. At the turn of the century, however, Neo-Classical-inspired architecture began to dominate. Neo-Classical styles were thought to express democratic values and to reflect the government’s assertion that “government buildings should be

¹⁵ Beth Boland. *How to Apply the National Register Criteria to Post Offices*. National Register Bulletin 13. Washington D.C.: U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Interagency Resources Division, 1994, 7.

¹⁶ Joe J. Fisher, “Remarks of Judge Joe J. Fisher at the Dedication of the United States Courthouse, Marshall Division,” *East Texas Historical Journal* pp. 145-146, and Mary Jane Maddox, “Federal Building Opening Saturday,” *Marshall News Messenger*, 26 June 1964, 1.

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Marshall U.S. Post Office
Harrison County, Texas

Narrative Statement of Significance (continued)

monumental and beautiful, and should represent the ideals of democracy and high standards of architectural sophistication in their communities.”¹⁷

Designed in the Classical Revival style, the Marshall U.S. Post Office is an excellent example of the use of the American idiom of this Neo-Classical architectural style. Inspired by the imagery of Greek and Roman architecture, architects such as Henry Bacon and Daniel Burnham offered an American interpretation of the Neo-Classical models. The government applied the style in the design of government buildings and monuments in Washington, D.C. As evidenced by the Marshall U.S. Post Office, the Treasury Department also considered the style appropriate for small-scale public buildings.

As Supervising Architect, Oscar Wenderoth oversaw the design of the Marshall U.S. Post Office. He served as Supervising Architect for the Treasury Department from 1913 to 1915. During his tenure, the federal construction policy changed because of the number of perceived “pork barrel” projects, which had resulted in the construction of grandiose buildings in small communities. In response to accusations of reckless spending, Congress passed the 1913 Public Buildings Act that prohibited the construction of new post offices in towns that had yearly postal receipts of less than \$10,000. In addition, the Department of the Treasury instituted a new policy that linked the size and ornamentation of a post office to the value of its real estate and its postal receipts. Furthermore, the Supervising Architect’s office attempted to use standard designs and floor plans when possible and not to employ private architects. These policies continued through the 1920s.¹⁸

The Marshall U.S. Post Office, which now serves as a federal courthouse, retains a significant level of its exterior integrity. The building is a physical representation of federal government policies and practices at the community level. It is also the only example of federally designed, Classical Revival-style architecture in Marshall. Furthermore, as one of the few extant historic buildings in the downtown area, the Marshall U.S. Post Office recalls a period in the town’s growth and development that is poorly represented in the city’s built environment.

¹⁷ Beth Boland. *How to Apply the National Register Criteria to Post Offices*. National Register Bulletin 13. Washington D.C.: U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Interagency Resources Division, 1994, 4.

¹⁸ Beth Boland. *How to Apply the National Register Criteria to Post Offices*. National Register Bulletin 13. Washington D.C.: U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Interagency Resources Division, 1994, 4.

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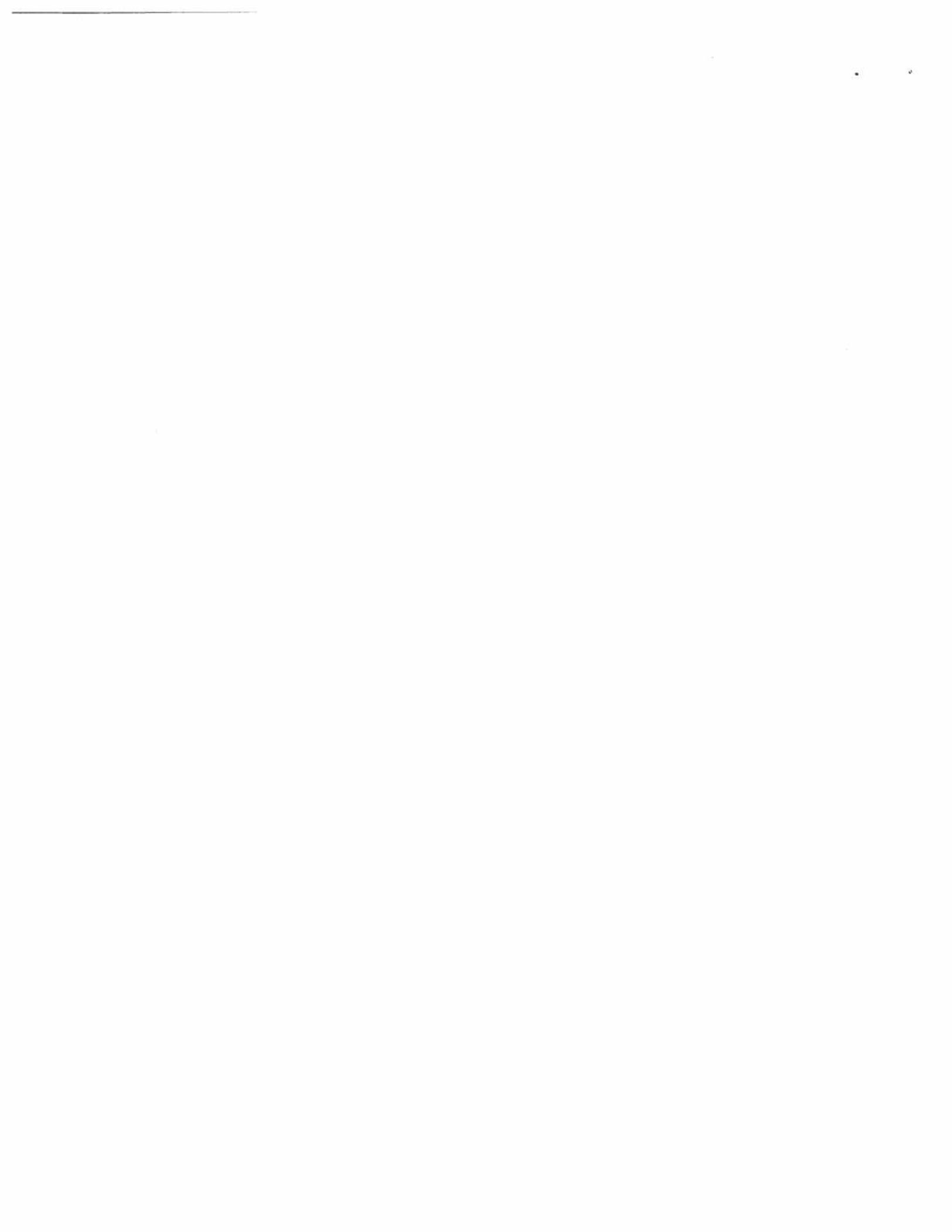
**Marshall U.S. Post Office
Harrison County, Texas**

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Harrison County, Texas**

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**Marshall U.S. Post Office
Harrison County, Texas**

Verbal Boundary Description

The Marshall U.S. Post Office is situated on Lots 1 and 2 of Block No. 1 of the original town survey of the city of Marshall, Texas.

Boundary Justification

All property lines are as they existed at the time of the building's construction.

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**Marshall U.S. Post Office
Harrison County, Texas**

Photographs

new

1. Marshall U.S. Post Office
2. Marshall Texas
3. Victoria Clow
4. November 1999
5. Geo-Marine, Inc., Plano, Texas
6. North (primary) elevation
7. Photo 1

Item numbers 1-5 are the same for all photographs. Item numbers 6 and 7 are listed below for each photograph.

6. East elevation
7. Photo 2

6. Southeast elevation
7. Photo 3

6. Handicap ramp, south elevation
7. Photo 4

6. Lamp stand base, north elevation
7. Photo 5

6. Brick detailing over windows, east elevation
7. Photo 6

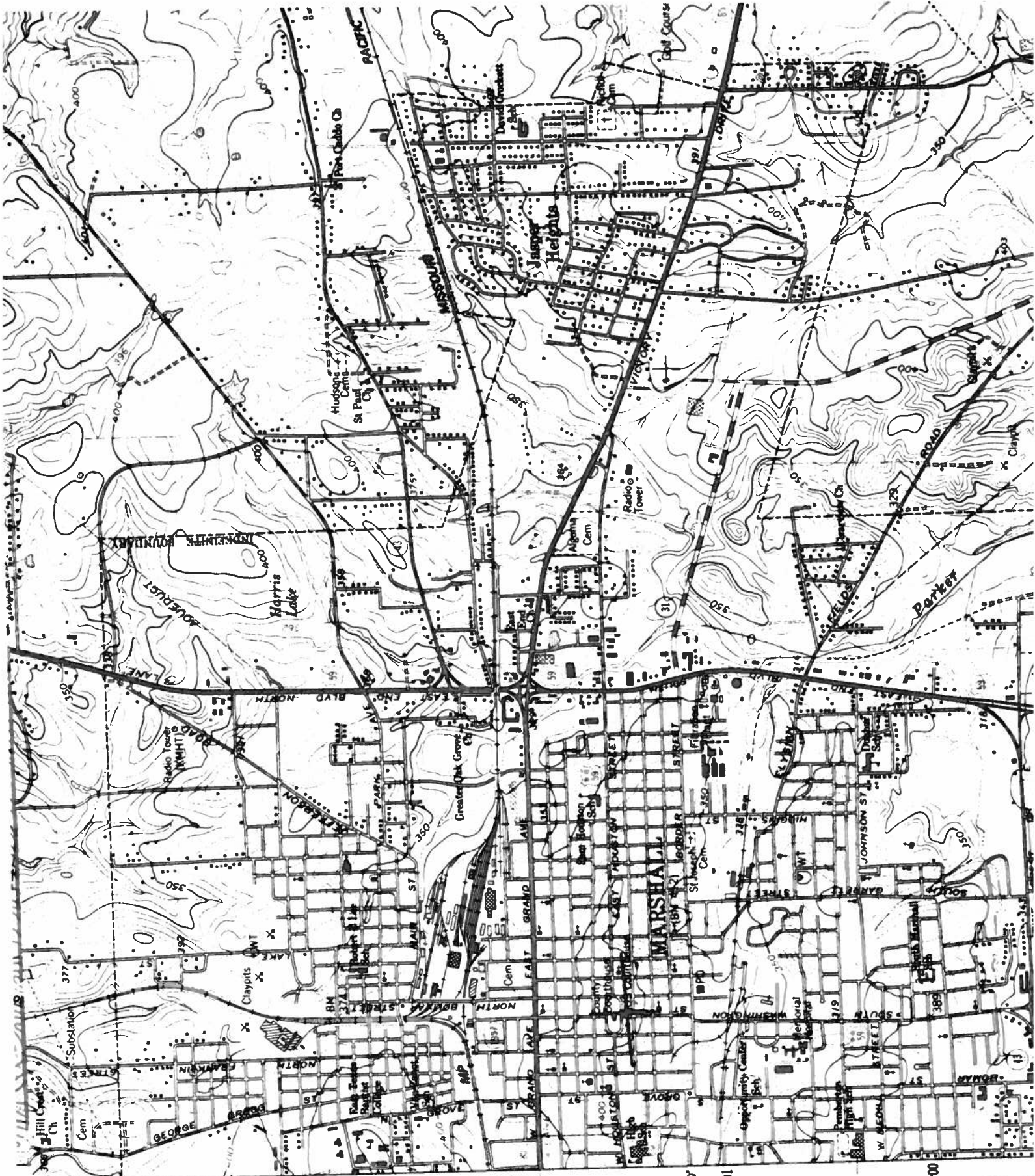
6. Façade details, north elevation
7. Photo 7

6. Plaster ceiling and walls of the original postal lobby, hidden by acoustical drop tile, northwest corner.
7. Photo 8

6. Courtroom, view from the west
7. Photo 9

6. Courthouse corridor, view from south
7. Photo 10





7149 III SW
(MARSHALL WEST)

U.S. Post Office
Marshall, Texas
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