

Texas Historical Commission staff (AD), 5/27/2009, rev. 7/16/2009

27" x 42" Official Texas Historical Marker with post

Bee County (Job #09BE01) Subject Bl, PO (Atlas ) UTM: 14 622587E 3142462N

Location: Beeville, 111 N. St. Mary's St.

### **BEEVILLE POST OFFICE**

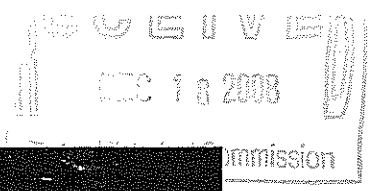
THE FIRST POST OFFICE WAS ESTABLISHED IN BEEVILLE IN 1859, THE YEAR AFTER THE TOWN'S FOUNDING. THE 1918 BUILDING WAS THE FIRST BEEVILLE POST OFFICE CONSTRUCTED ON FEDERAL PROPERTY—PREVIOUS LOCATIONS WERE COUNTY- OR PRIVATELY-OWNED. THE BUILDING IS A SIGNIFICANT EXAMPLE OF SMALL TOWN POST OFFICE DESIGNS PRODUCED BY THE U.S. TREASURY DEPARTMENT IN THE EARLY TWENTIETH CENTURY.

SOON AFTER CONSTRUCTION BEGAN, A TRAGIC INCIDENT OCCURRED WITH GREAT LEGAL IMPLICATIONS. J.P. HERMES AND ROBERT B. BROWN, BOTH CONTRACTED TO REMOVE EXCAVATED DIRT FROM THE FOUNDATION, WERE HOSTILE TOWARDS EACH OTHER, AND BROWN BEGAN CARRYING A GUN TO THE WORKSITE FOR PROTECTION. ON MAY 7, 1917, BEFORE A CROWD OF WITNESSES, HERMES THREATENED BROWN WITH A KNIFE, AND BROWN PULLED OUT HIS PISTOL AND SHOT AND KILLED HERMES THEN WALKED TO THE COURTHOUSE AND TURNED HIMSELF IN. BROWN WAS FOUND GUILTY OF HOMICIDE, BUT THE CASE WAS LATER APPEALED TO THE U.S. SUPREME COURT. IN AN OPINION DELIVERED BY JUSTICE OLIVER WENDELL HOLMES, THE COURT RULED THAT BROWN HAD ACTED IN SELF DEFENSE, THUS ESTABLISHING THE RIGHT TO USE LETHAL FORCE WHEN FACING A LETHAL ATTACK.

THE 1918 POST OFFICE IS A ONE-STORY BRICK AND LIMESTONE BUILDING WITH A RAISED BASEMENT. THE DESIGN FEATURES CLASSICAL REVIVAL STYLE ARCHITECTURE AND SYMMETRICAL FAÇADES. THE PRIMARY ENTRANCE INCLUDES A PEDIMENTED PORTICO ON FOUR DORIC COLUMNS AND A RECESSED DOORWAY TOPPED BY A SEMICIRCULAR FANLIGHT. THE FLAT ROOF INCLUDES A CAST STONE STRINGCOURSE AND BRICK PARAPET WITH REGULARLY-SPACED WOODEN BALUSTRADES. IN 1961 A COMPATIBLE WING WAS ADDED TO THE NORTH AND WEST SIDES OF THE ORIGINAL FLOOR PLAN.

RECORDED TEXAS HISTORIC LANDMARK – 2009

MARKER IS PROPERTY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS



**TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION**

**RECORDED TEXAS HISTORIC LANDMARK MARKERS:  
2009 Official Texas Historical Marker  
Sponsorship Application Form**

Valid October 15, 2008 to January 15, 2009 only

This form constitutes a public request for the Texas Historical Commission (THC) to consider approval of an Official Texas Historical Marker for the topic noted in this application. The THC will review the request and make its determination based on rules and procedures of the program. Filing of the application for sponsorship is for the purpose of providing basic information to be used in the evaluation process. The final determination of eligibility and therefore approval for a state marker will be made by the THC. This form is to be used for Recorded Texas Historic Landmark (building marker) requests only. Please see separate forms for either Historic Texas Cemeteries or subject markers.

**Proposed marker topic**                      Beeville Post Office

**County:** Bee

**Town:**                                      Beeville, Texas                      Hwy 59/181

**Street address of marker site or directions from town noted above:**

**111 N. St. Mary's Street  
Beeville, Texas 78102**

**Marker Coordinates:**

UTM Zone 1 Easting 62258      Northing 3142447

**Boundary Description**

Lot 1 Block 37 in the original townsite of Beeville, the lot measuring 140 x 150 feet and situated southwest of the intersection of North St. Mary's and Bowie Street (see attachments).

**NOTE:** Recorded Texas Historic Landmark markers must be placed at the structure being marked.  
Yes

**Recorded Texas Historic Landmark markers definition:** Recorded Texas Historic Landmark (RTHL) markers are awarded to structures deemed worthy of preservation for their historical associations and architectural significance. RTHL is a legal designation and comes with a measure of protection; it is the highest honor the state can bestow on a historic structure, and the designation is required for this type of marker. The RTHL designation becomes effective upon approval by the THC. Official Texas Historical Markers signify the RTHL designation, which comes only through application to and approval by the THC and must include public display of an Official Texas Historical Marker. Owners of RTHL-designated structures must give the THC 60 days written notice before any alterations are made to the exterior of the structure. RTHL status is a permanent designation and is not to be removed from the property in the event of a transfer of ownership. Only the THC can remove the designation or recall the marker. The marker must remain with the structure and may not be removed or displayed elsewhere until

or unless the THC gives express approval in writing for such action. Once designated as RTHL, properties are subject to provisions of Texas Government Code, Section 442.006(f).

**Criteria:**

1. **Age:** Structures eligible for the RTHL designation and marker must be at least 50 years old.
2. **Historical significance:** Architectural significance alone is not enough to qualify a structure for the RTHL designation. It must have an equally significant historical association, and that association can come from an event that occurred at the site; through individuals who owned or lived on the property; or, in the case of bridges, industrial plants, schoolhouses and other non-residential properties, through documented significance to the larger community.
3. **Architectural significance:** Structures deemed architecturally significant are outstanding examples of architectural history through design, materials, structural type or construction methods. In all cases, eligible architectural properties must display integrity; that is, the structure should be in a good state of repair, maintain its appearance from its period of significance and be considered an exemplary model of preservation. Architectural significance is often best determined by the relevance of the property to broader contexts, including geography. Any changes over the years should be compatible with original design and reflect compliance with accepted preservation practices, e.g., the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation*.
4. **Good state of repair:** Structures not considered by the THC to be in a good state of repair are ineligible for RTHL designation. The THC reserves the sole right to make that determination relative to eligibility for RTHL markers.

**Special National Register considerations for RTHL marker applications:** If a structure has been individually listed in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) under either Criterion A or B and Criterion C (Architecture), the historical text compiled as part of the National Register nomination process may be submitted as part of the marker process, provided it includes the required reference notes and other documentation. Acceptance of the National Register information for the purposes of the marker process will be up to the sole determination of the THC. Listing in the NRHP does not guarantee approval for an RTHL marker. See the THC web site at <http://www.thc.state.tx.us/markerdesigs/madnrcrit.html> for National Register criteria.

**Check this box if the property is individually listed in the NRHP. Yes.**

**APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS**

Any individual, group or county historical commission (CHC) may apply to the THC to request an Official Texas Historical Marker for what it deems a worthy topic. Only complete marker applications that contain all the required elements and are submitted online as required can be accepted or processed by the THC (for RTHL markers, the required elements are: sponsorship application form; narrative history; documentation; legal description of the property; site plan; floorplan; historic photograph; and current photographs clearly showing each side of the structure).

- Completed applications must be duly reviewed, verified and approved by the county historical commission (CHC) in the county in which the marker will be placed.
- The sponsorship application form, narrative history and documentation must be submitted as Microsoft Word or Word-compatible documents and sent via email attachments to the THC by no later than January 15, 2008.
- Required font style and type size are a Times variant and 12-point.
- Narrative histories must be typed in a double-spaced (or 1.5-spaced) format and include separate sections on context, overview, significance and documentation.

- The narrative history must include documentation in the form of reference notes, which can be either footnotes or endnotes. Documentation associated with applications should be broad-based and demonstrate a survey of all available resources, both primary and secondary.
- Upon notification of the successful preliminary review of required elements by the THC, a non-refundable application fee of \$100 is required. The fee shall be submitted to the THC within ten working days of application receipt notification.

**APPROVAL BY COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION**

The duly appointed marker representative (chair or marker chair) noted below for the county historical commission will be the sole contact with the THC for this marker application. To ensure accuracy, consistency and efficiency, all information from and to the THC relative to the application—and throughout the review and production processes—will be via direct communication with the CHC representative. All other inquiries (calls, emails, letters) to the THC will be referred to the CHC representative for response. By filling out the information below and filing the application with the THC, the CHC representative is providing the THC with notice that the application and documentation have been reviewed and verified by the CHC and that the material meets all current requirements of the Official Texas Historical Marker program.

**As chair or duly appointed marker chair, I certify the following:**

x Representatives of the CHC have met or talked with the potential marker sponsor and discussed the marker program policies as outlined on the THC web site. CHC members have reviewed the history and documentation for accuracy and made corrections or notes as necessary. It is the determination of the CHC that the topic, history and documentation meet criteria for eligibility.

**CHC comments or concerns about this application, if any:** We have included ancillary appendices.

Note: This application had been submitted several years ago; however, there were some misinterpretations of the THC procedural guidelines. Also, there were some delays with the USPS with regards to returning signed documents required by THC.

The applicants (Bee County Historical Commission) will be the **sole sponsor of this application.**

**Name of CHC contact** (chair or marker chair): Dr. Barbara Welder

**Mailing address:** P.O. Box 4422 **City, Zip:** Beeville, Texas

**Daytime phone** (with area code): 361 362 8788 **Email address** [babswel@aol.com](mailto:babswel@aol.com)

**PERMISSION OF PROPERTY OWNER FOR MARKER PLACEMENT**

**Property owner** United States Postal Service : Attention Dallan Wordekemper

**Address:** 4301 Wilson Bldg. Ste. 300 **City, state, zip:** Arlington, Va. 22203-1861

**Phone:** 703 526 2778 **Email address:**

**Legal Description of the property** Lot 1, Block 37 in the original town site of Beeville; the lot measuring 140 x 150 feet and situated southwest of the intersection of North St. Mary’s and Bowie streets.

Upon receipt of the application, the THC will provide the owner with a letter that outlines the legal responsibility of ownership under the Recorded Texas Historic Landmark statute. The letter must be signed by the owner and returned to the THC before the evaluation can be completed.

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**Address:** 4301 Wilson Bldg. Ste. 300 **City, state, zip:** Arlington, Va. 22203-1861

**Phone:** 703 526 2778 **Email address:**

**Legal Description of the property** (metes and bounds, lot and block, etc.): *see p 4 - NR application*

Upon receipt of the application, the THC will provide the owner with a letter that outlines the legal responsibility of ownership under the Recorded Texas Historic Landmark statute. The letter must be signed by the owner and returned to the THC before the evaluation can be completed.

**NOTE:** The property owner will not receive any additional copies of correspondence from the THC. All other correspondence—notice of receipt, request for additional information, payment notice, inscription, shipping notice, etc.—will be sent via email to the CHC representative, who is encouraged to share the information with all interested parties as necessary. Given the large volume of applications processed

annually and the need for centralized communication, all inquiries about applications in process will be referred to the CHC for response. The CHC is the sole liaison to the THC on all marker application matters.

### **SPONSORSHIP PAYMENT INFORMATION**

Prospective sponsors please note the following:

- Payment must be received in full within 45 days of the official approval notice and must be accompanied by the THC payment form. The THC is unable to process partial payments or to delay payment due to processing procedures of the sponsor. Applications not paid in the time frame required may, at the sole discretion of the THC, be cancelled or postponed.
- Payment does not constitute ownership of a marker; Recorded Texas Historic Landmark markers and other Official Texas Historical Markers are the property of the State of Texas.
- If, at any time during the marker process, sponsorship is withdrawn, a refund can be processed, but the THC will retain the application fee of \$100.
- The Official Texas Historical Marker Program provides no means of recognizing sponsors or property owners through marker text, incising or supplemental plaques.

**Marker sponsor :** Bee County Historical Commission

**Contact person :** Dr. Barbara Welder

**Mailing address:** Box 4422, **City, zip:** Beeville, Texas 78104  
**Physical Mailing:** 1111 North Adams Street, Beeville, Texas 78102

**Email address (required):** [babswel@aol.com](mailto:babswel@aol.com) **Phone:** 361 362 8788

### **SHIPPING INSTRUCTIONS**

In order to facilitate delivery of the marker, neither post office box numbers nor rural route numbers can be accepted. To avoid additional shipping charges or delays, use a business street address (open 8 a.m.—5 p.m., Monday through Friday).

**Name:** Bee County Historical Commission  
Bee County Courthouse Att: Judge David Silva

**Street address:** 105 W. Corpus Christi, Room 109 **City, zip:** 78102  
**Note:** Be sure to specify Room 109

**Daytime phone :** 361 362 3260 or 361 362 3220 **Email :** [babswel@aol.com](mailto:babswel@aol.com)

### **TYPE AND SIZE OF RECORDED TEXAS HISTORIC LANDMARK MARKERS**

As part of its review process, the THC will determine the appropriate size marker and provide options, if any, for the approved topic based on its own review criteria, including, but not exclusive of, historical significance, replication of information in other THC markers, relevance to the Statewide Preservation Plan and the amount of available documented information provided in the application narrative. In making its determination, however, the THC will also take into account the preference of the CHC, as noted below.

The sponsor/CHC prefers the following size marker:

27" x 42" RTHL marker with post (\$1500)

**SUBMITTING THE APPLICATION (via email required)**

When the CHC has determined the application is complete, the history has been verified and the topic meets the requirements of the Official Texas Historical Marker Program, the materials should be forwarded to the THC via email at the following address: [markerapplication@thc.state.tx.us](mailto:markerapplication@thc.state.tx.us).

- The CHC or marker chair should send an email containing the following attachments (see attachment function under file menu or toolbox on your computer):
  - 
  - **This application form + National Register – Criterion A and Criterion C**
  - **The narrative history (including documentation) National Register Application**
  - **Legal description of the property – application**
  - **Detailed floor plan for each floor of the structure – application**
  - **Detailed site plan of the property – application**
  - **At least one historic photograph – application**
  - **Current photographs clearly showing each side of the structure- application**

**RECORDS RETENTION BY CHC:** The CHC must retain hard copies of the application as well as an online version, at least for the duration of the marker process. The THC is not responsible for lost applications, for incomplete applications or for applications not properly filed according to the program requirements. For additional information about any aspect of the Official Texas Historical Marker Program, see the Markers page on the THC web site (<http://www.thc.state.tx.us/markerdesigs/madmark.html>).



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 1

Beeville Post Office  
Beeville, Bee County, Texas

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## Description

The 1918 Beeville Post Office is a 1-story brick and limestone building with a raised basement at the southwest corner of St. Mary's and Bowie streets in downtown Beeville, Texas. Built from standard - but localized - plans created under U.S. Supervising Architect James A. Wetmore, the design features classical proportions and façade treatments, with simplified detailing that exhibits the influence of Classical Revival architecture. The symmetrical primary façade (facing east) includes a white pedimented portico on four Doric columns. The recessed doorway is topped by a semi-circular fanlight. The building's flat roof includes a simple cast stone stringcourse and brick parapet with regularly-spaced wooden balustrades. Despite the 1961 addition of a sympathetic 1-story wing to the north and west, the building retains a high degree of integrity.

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The Beeville Post Office sits on the northeast quadrant of the block immediately north of the Bee County Courthouse, in the heart of Beeville. The one-story red brick building sits on raised basement approximately six feet above grade, which provides space for small rectangular basement windows on the south and east sides. The main entrance is set under a prominent Doric Order portico, which is centered on the original 5-bay east façade, and is accessed by a short flight of stairs up from the sidewalk. The vaulted entryway features nonhistoric steel double doors set under an intricate fanlight. The vault is flanked by 9/9 sash windows. An accessibility ramp connects to the north side of the portico, and doubles back down to the sidewalk level. Banisters were added down the center of the front steps during a 1979 remodeling.

The north side of the building and a portion of the west side are obscured by a 1-story 1961 addition. The addition is the same height as the historic building, and features red brick, a cast stone stringcourse, and keystones that match those features of the 1918 post office. The east elevation of the addition features a USPS plaque and raised metal text identifying the post office, set between 8/8 sash windows. The tall Palladian window on the north facade, a twin to the still existing window on the south side of the original building, was destroyed when the addition was built. The loss of symmetry in the original structure, however, is compensated by the careful matching of the dark red brick and the faithful copying of the rectangular windows, topped by flat arches with cast stone keystones, and the matching white stringcourse on the east side of the new wing. The windows and the white trim on the east, north and west walls of the addition are in line with those on the original portion of the building. Postmaster Art Contreras had all the trim repainted in April 2005.

The 1961 addition doubled the space of the original building and though lacks the level of detailing of the original building, its scale, design and materials are sympathetic to the original to the degree that postal employees express surprise when told that much of their work space was built in the 1960s. The 1961 plans and specs have not been located, but according to newspaper accounts, the addition cost \$225,000. Although the decorative white wooden balustrade is still intact on the original section of the building, the parapet on the 1961 addition is plain brick. Both the original and new section of the basement (under the 1961 addition) are poorly lighted, poorly ventilated and vacant. Records and receipts of the old rural post offices are kept in a room in the center front of the old basement. Civil Defense water cans stored along the north wall of the basement serve as evidence that the basement was to be used as a fallout shelter during the Cold War. Leaks seem under control at the present time, and both the old and new sections of the building are in good condition.

The south elevation features four bays, dominated visually by a Palladian window in the third bay. The 12/12 metal sash window is topped by a semi-circular fanlight, and is set between smaller 6/6 metal sash windows. An exterior basement door on the south side is accessed by a short flight of stairs ten steps down from grade below the Palladian window. The

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Beeville Post Office  
Beeville, Bee County, Texas

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US Army Recruiting Station occupied this basement space through the 1970s. By 2005, this south entry was no longer in use.

The north elevation is the longest wall of the addition, and is largely red brick with the same stringcourse detailing found in the rest of the building, and an asymmetrical arrangement of six windows in groups of two (to the east) and four (to the west). The rear elevation features a 2-bay loading dock on a small extension of the addition protruding to the west, and spaces for truck parking on the north.

The post office interior has been modernized with nonhistoric furniture, counters, wall finishes and interior metal doors. Additional post office boxes in the lobby cover the east and south windows, and have taken up a large part of the floor space with extensions containing still more boxes. The last influx of boxes came after closing of the town's first and last substation, in a building leased from 1984 to 2003. Two large portraits of Jane Long (an early pioneer known as the "Mother of Texas") and one of her descendants that once hung in the lobby were rescued from the basement in the 1970s by Miss Ida Campbell and stored in the McClanahan house, Beeville's oldest building (circa 1860).

In his Beeville Main Street Architectural Survey, Architect Gerald Moorhead, FAIA, describes the post office as "the image of a Georgian country house based on the Palladian villa," that "brings a high architectural standard to a small town." The original section of the Beeville Post Office has been altered very little on the exterior, and it retains a high degree of integrity. Comparison of a 1940s postcard and the original blueprints with current conditions clearly reveals the substantial amount of remaining historic fabric. The 1961 addition to the building's north and west sides is both distinguishable and compatible and therefore detracts only slightly from the original design. Despite minor changes in the building's setting it continues to reflect the original conditions of its downtown site and is still clearly recognizable as a post office.

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National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Beeville Post Office  
Beeville, Bee County, Texas

## Statement of Significance

The 1918 Beeville Post Office was Bee County's first federal building and is a significant example of the small town post office designs produced by the U.S. Treasury Department in the 1910s. The building represents the local effects of public building construction undertaken by the federal government beginning in the 1910s. Under the guidance of U.S. Supervising Architect James A. Wetmore, the design followed standardized post office plans, adding some unique architectural embellishment that lends the building its individual character. The resulting Classical Revival forms based on Colonial precedents, is representative of federal buildings constructed across America during the period, and it is one of Bee County's most prominent local examples of these trends. The building is nominated to the National Register under Criterion A in the area of Government and Criterion C in the area of Architecture, both at the local level of significance.

## Development of Bee County and Beeville in the 19<sup>th</sup> and Early 20<sup>th</sup> Centuries

Founded in 1858 from five surrounding counties, Bee County lies in the heart of south Texas, in what was once unfenced open grassland 90 miles southeast of San Antonio and 60 miles north of Corpus Christi. Only thirty miles from the Spanish missions and presidio in Goliad (founded in 1749), Bee County benefited from the presidio and the missions' runaway horses and cattle. Long before the Civil War, Spaniards and their successors in the Republic of Mexico needed settlers to secure their position, especially from the much feared French. In the early 1830s, the Republic of Mexico invited Irish settlers to accept land grants in the McMullen & McGloin Colony and in the Power & Hewetson or Refugio Colony, with a portion of both covering the future Bee County. The invitation to colonize was also accepted by some Hispanics from Goliad, by at least one wealthy Mexican citizen from below the Rio Grande and by some Anglos from other colonies on the other side of the Guadalupe River. Ties with the Mexican Republic were broken in 1836, but many of these first permanent settlers returned to their land when the war was over, and many of their descendants remain in Bee County. After the Mexican War of 1848 and the establishment of the border on the Rio Grande rather than the Nueces River, other settlers joined them.

Beeville, the county seat of Bee County, is on Poesta Creek at the intersection of U.S. Highway 181 and State Highway 59 in central Bee County. This first county seat, known as Beeville-on-the-Medio, was organized in 1858, on the east bank of Medio Creek seven miles east the current town. The current town of Beeville was platted in 1859 as townsite named Maryville (renamed Beeville in 1859). The Beeville post office was established in 1859, followed by the construction of the first courthouse in 1860. The 1878 courthouse burned in 1911, and was replaced in 1912 by the current brick courthouse (NR 2001).<sup>1</sup>

In 1880 the community only had about 300 inhabitants, but the population began to increase after 1886 when the San Antonio and Aransas Pass Railway built its Corpus Christi to San Antonio line through the town, followed by the establishment of the Gulf, Western Texas and Pacific Railroad line northeast to Victoria, Houston, and Galveston in 1889.<sup>2</sup> The town of Beeville first incorporated in 1890 (the corporation was dissolved the following year), when the populated was reported as 1,311. By 1900, with the help of the railroad, farming began to replace ranching. New settlers from all parts of Texas, and from the South and Midwest, came to Beeville to buy small farms and plant vegetables,

<sup>1</sup> Handbook of Texas Online, s.v. "BEEVILLE, TX," <http://www.tsha.utexas.edu/handbook/online/articles/BB/heb4.html> (accessed October 26, 2005).

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

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National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Beeville Post Office  
Beeville, Bee County, Texas

cotton, corn and (optimistically) even oranges. Ranchers whose fathers had been trail drivers subdivided and sold their land and settled down to become stock farmers, with barbed wire fences and windmills. Droughts and freezes did not discourage these new pioneers. In town, merchants thrived as they thrived in the cycles of rain and drought. The native grasses were plowed under and overgrazed.

The railroad transformed the land. The population of the county had risen from 3,720 in 1890, to 7,720 in 1900, climbing to 12,090 by 1910. The population of Beeville followed the same trend, rising from 1,311 in 1890, to 2,311 in 1900, and 3,269 in 1910. At the junction of two railroads with two depots (until the Southern Pacific takeover of the S.A.A.P. Railway in 1925), Beeville was connected to national and world markets. From 1910 to 1918, there were four passenger trains a day at the two Beeville depots.

## Beeville Post Office

The few records regarding the location of early Beeville post offices are gleaned from old newspaper articles. Postmaster Lock Adkins (1927-1935) worked as a postal employee in three locations, on the site of the Rialto Theater at 112 North Washington, in the Beasley-Flournoy Building at 307 North Washington and finally, in the 1918 post office. The pre-1918 post office locations were on county or private property, not federal property. The project had started in 1911 when the United States of America purchased the building site that forms Lot 1 on the northeast quarter of Block 37, on the corner of St. Mary's and Bowie Street. The property is on the original town site map of Beeville on land that was originally part of the Mexican Colonial Grant to Ann Burke, who landed at Copano, on May 16, 1834.

The Office of the Supervising Architect of the Treasury oversaw the design of federal buildings, including post offices, from the 1850s through the 1940s. James Knox Taylor (Supervising Architect, 1897-1912) promoted the construction of individually designed monumental buildings based on classical or early American traditions. While private architects designed many of the larger projects, the Office of the Supervising Architect designed most of smaller buildings, including post offices. The 1913 Public Buildings Act served as a response to public concerns about the cost of previous federal building programs. While the Act authorized the construction of a large number of public buildings, it also prohibited the construction of new post office buildings in small communities (defined as those whose postal receipts totaled less than \$10,000). The Department of the Treasury issued standardized plans and design guidelines, including a classification system that identified appropriate structural and stylistic characteristics for post offices based on annual postal receipts.<sup>3</sup> *McAdoo's 1915 Classification System for Federal Buildings* allowed the construction of monumental post offices in large cities, but specified that post offices in smaller towns should be "ordinary class of building, such as any businessman would consider a reasonable investment."<sup>4</sup>

The characteristics of the Beeville Post Office are in keeping with those of a "Class C" federal building, described in the 1915 classification systems as having "brick facing with stone or terra-cotta trimmings; fireproof floors; non-fireproof roof; frames, sashes, and doors wood; interior finish to exclude the more expensive woods and marbles; the latter used

<sup>3</sup> Boland, Beth. *How to Apply the National Register Criteria to Post Offices* (National Register of Historic Places Bulletin 13, revised 1994), 3.

<sup>4</sup> Boland, 24. Original guidelines published in the *Secretary of the United States Treasury Department's Annual Report on the Finances*, 1915 (U.S. Government Printing Office, 1915).

United States Department of the Interior  
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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Beeville Post Office  
Beeville, Bee County, Texas

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only where sanitary conditions demand; public spaces restricted to very simple forms of ornament.”<sup>5</sup> The architectural drawings for the building bear the official stamp of the U.S. Treasury, with the signature of “J.A. Wetmore,” the Supervising Architect under Secretary of the Treasury, William McAdoo.” Although title page of the plans is dated 1915, construction of the Beeville Post Office did not begin until 1917. Few historical records regarding the building are on file at the post office.

Soon after construction began, a tragic incident occurred in the excavation for the foundation. Under contract to haul away the excavated dirt, Drayman J. P. Hermes had been threatening the other contracted drayman, Robert B. Brown, with his life. As a consequence, Brown had begun carrying a pistol when he went to work. On May 7, 1917, Hermes threatened Brown with a knife, whereupon Brown retrieved a pistol from his jacket. Before a crowd of witnesses, Brown shot and killed Hermes, and immediately walked to the courthouse, one block south, and turned himself in. With the widow Hermes and her children in the courtroom, Brown was found guilty of homicide in federal court in Corpus Christi. In 1921, James R. Dougherty and other attorneys argued the case before the U.S. Supreme Court. Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes ruled that Brown had acted in self defense, thus establishing the right to stand one’s ground in federal law.<sup>6</sup>

## Current Use and Preservation

The 1918 Beeville Post Office continues to serve the community in its original function, but like many small towns, there always looms a threat to close it and move its operations to a different site. The City of Beeville cleared space for an adjoining parking lot, and in 1989 they sold it at cost to the USPS, with the hopes that doing so would allow easier access for postal trucks and keep the post office site viable. South of the post office, this large corner lot helped with the still increasing number of cars and provided an exit lane to Corpus Christi Street (south) for mail trucks and employees. Many citizens of Bee County support its preservation on its original site in the center of town.

The Beeville Post Office is an excellent example of the standardized buildings constructed by the Treasury Department in the 1910s, which featured classical forms in the nostalgic spirit of the popular Colonial Revival style. The county’s first federal building, the post office has always been one of the town’s most architecturally elaborate buildings, and it illustrates the efforts of the U.S. government during the period to build substantial, prominent buildings in towns across the country. The exterior of the building is remarkably intact, and it retains a high degree of integrity. It is nominated to the National Register under Criterion A in the area of Government and Criterion C in the area of Architecture, both at the local level of significance.

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<sup>5</sup> Ibid.

<sup>6</sup> *Brown v. United States*, Supreme Court Citation, Vol. 256, p. 335, 1921. Citation found at <http://caselaw.lp.findlaw.com/cgi-bin/getcase.pl?court=US&vol=256&invol=335> [accessed October 27, 2005].

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Beeville

Post Office  
Section 8 Page 6  
Beeville, Bee County, Texas

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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Beeville

Post Office  
Section 8 Page 7  
Beeville, Bee County, Texas

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Bob,

I have had two conversations with Postmaster Art Contreras this week. He is pleased about the NR and RTHL markers and would like to be notified by THC in the same format we discussed.

Contact:

Postmaster Art Contreras, 111 N. St. Mary's Street, Beeville, Tx. 78102

Phone: 361 358 3727

Thanks,

Barbara



(Oct. 1990)

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM**

**1. NAME OF PROPERTY**

**HISTORIC NAME:** Beeville Post Office

**OTHER NAME/SITE NUMBER:** N/A

**2. LOCATION**

**STREET & NUMBER:** 111 North St. Mary's Street

**CITY OR TOWN:** Beeville

**STATE:** Texas

**CODE:** TX

**COUNTY:** Bee

**CODE:** 025

**NOT FOR PUBLICATION:** N/A

**VICINITY:** N/A

**ZIP CODE:** 78102-4604

**3. STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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 of certifying official

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Federal Preservation Officer, United States Postal Service

\_\_\_\_\_  
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 of commenting or other official

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State Historic Preservation Officer, Texas Historical Commission

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

**4. NATIONAL PARK SERVICE CERTIFICATION**

I hereby certify that this property is:

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

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): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**5. CLASSIFICATION**

**OWNERSHIP OF PROPERTY:** Public-Federal

**CATEGORY OF PROPERTY:** Building

<b>NUMBER OF RESOURCES WITHIN PROPERTY:</b>	<b>CONTRIBUTING</b>	<b>NONCONTRIBUTING</b>
	1	0 BUILDINGS
	0	0 SITES
	0	0 STRUCTURES
	0	0 OBJECTS
	0	0 TOTAL

**NUMBER OF CONTRIBUTING RESOURCES PREVIOUSLY LISTED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER:** 0

**NAME OF RELATED MULTIPLE PROPERTY LISTING:** NA

**6. FUNCTION OR USE**

**HISTORIC FUNCTIONS:** GOVERNMENT/post office

**CURRENT FUNCTIONS:** GOVERNMENT/post office

**7. DESCRIPTION**

**ARCHITECTURAL CLASSIFICATION:** Late 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Century Revivals: Neoclassical

**MATERIALS:** FOUNDATION CONCRETE  
WALLS BRICK  
ROOF ASPHALT  
OTHER WOOD

**NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION** (see continuation sheets 7-5 through 7-6).

**8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

**APPLICABLE NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA**

- 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:** N/A

**AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE:** Government, Architecture

**PERIOD OF SIGNIFICANCE:** 1917-1956

**SIGNIFICANT DATES:** 1917

**SIGNIFICANT PERSON:** N/A

**CULTURAL AFFILIATION:** N/A

**ARCHITECT/BUILDER:** Wetmore, James A (Supervising Architect); Blair, Algenon (contractor)

**NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE** (see continuation sheets 8-7 through 8-9).

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES**

**BIBLIOGRAPHY** (see continuation sheets 9-10 through 9-11).

**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 (*Texas Historical Commission*)
- Other state agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University

**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

**ACREAGE OF PROPERTY:** less than one acre

<b>UTM REFERENCES</b>	<u>Zone</u>	<u>Easting</u>	<u>Northing</u>
1.	14	622558	3142447

**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:** Lot 1, Block 37 in the original town site of Beeville; the lot measuring 140 x 150 feet and situated southwest of the intersection of North St. Mary's and Bowie streets.

**BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION:** Nomination includes all property historical associated with the building

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

**NAME/TITLE:** Margaret Lyne Moser (with Gregory Smith, THC National Register Coordinator)

**ORGANIZATION:** Bee County Historical Commission

**DATE:** July 14, 2005

**STREET & NUMBER:** PO Box 4422

**TELEPHONE:** 361-358-3344

**CITY OR TOWN:** Beeville

**STATE:** Texas

**ZIP CODE:** 78104

**ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION**

**CONTINUATION SHEETS**

**MAPS** (see continuation sheet Figure-12 and Figure-13)

**PHOTOGRAPHS** (see continuation sheet Photo-17)

**ADDITIONAL ITEMS** (see continuation sheets Figure-13 through Figure-16)

**PROPERTY OWNER**

**NAME:** United States Postal Service (Dallan C. Wordekemper, Federal Preservation Officer)

**STREET & NUMBER:** 4301 Wilson Blvd., Ste. 300

**TELEPHONE:** (703) 526-2779

(361) 358-3727 (Beeville Postmaster)

**CITY OR TOWN:** Arlington

**STATE:** VA

**ZIP CODE:** 22203-1861

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

# **National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet**

Section Figure Page 12

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Beeville Post Office  
Beeville, Bee County, Texas

**Plat of Beeville (no date)**

Post Office - in Red

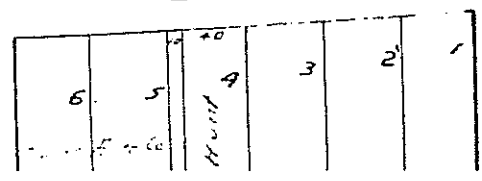
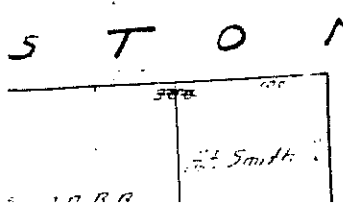
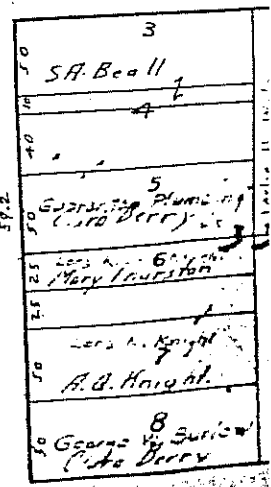
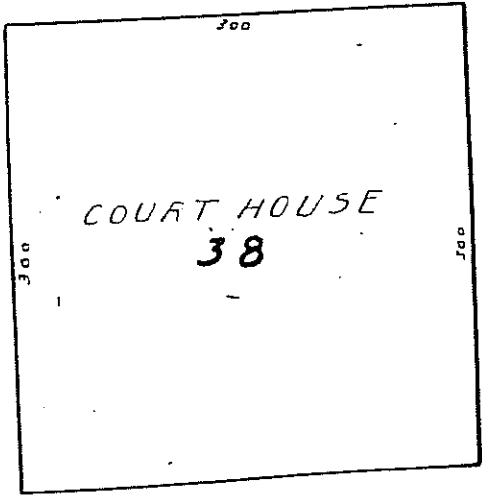
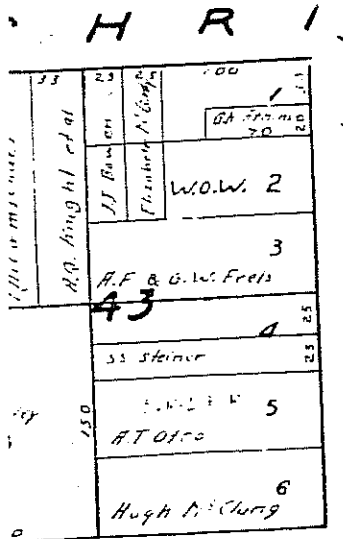
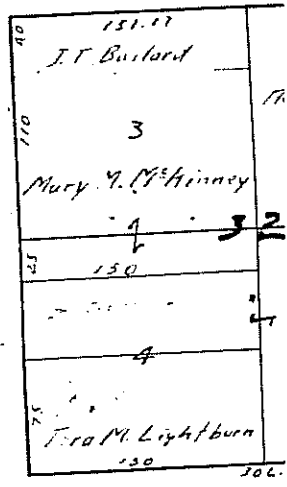
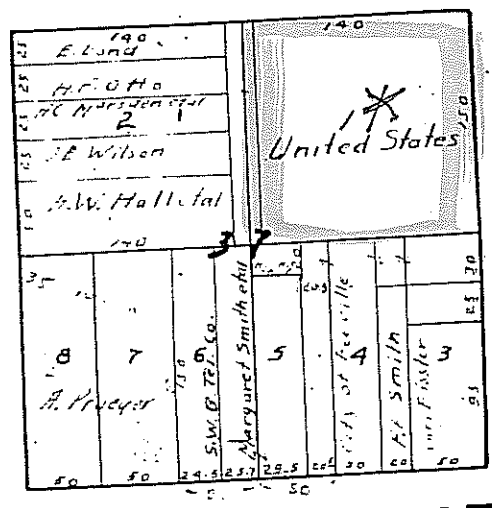
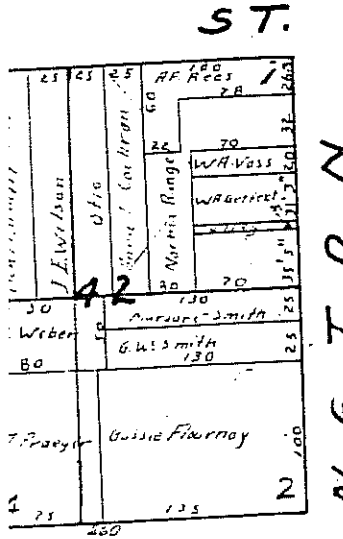
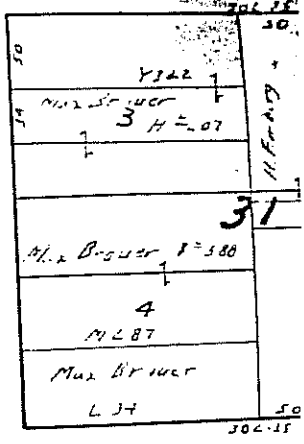
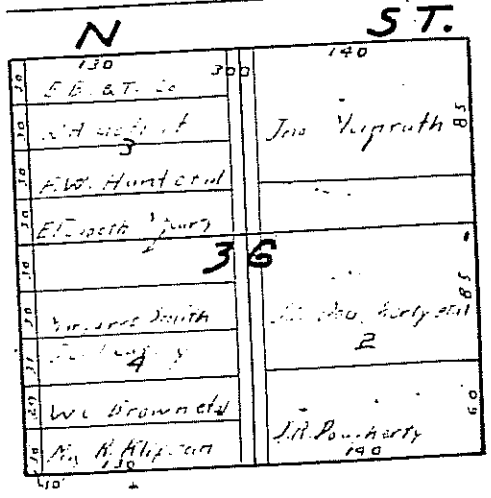
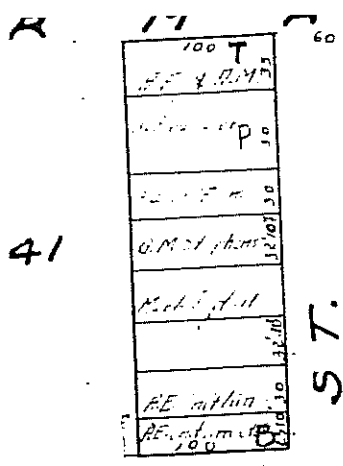
St. Mary & Bowie

11 10 4

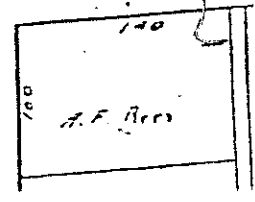
2.

to U.S. Postal Service for \$90,000

(2)



MARY'S



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

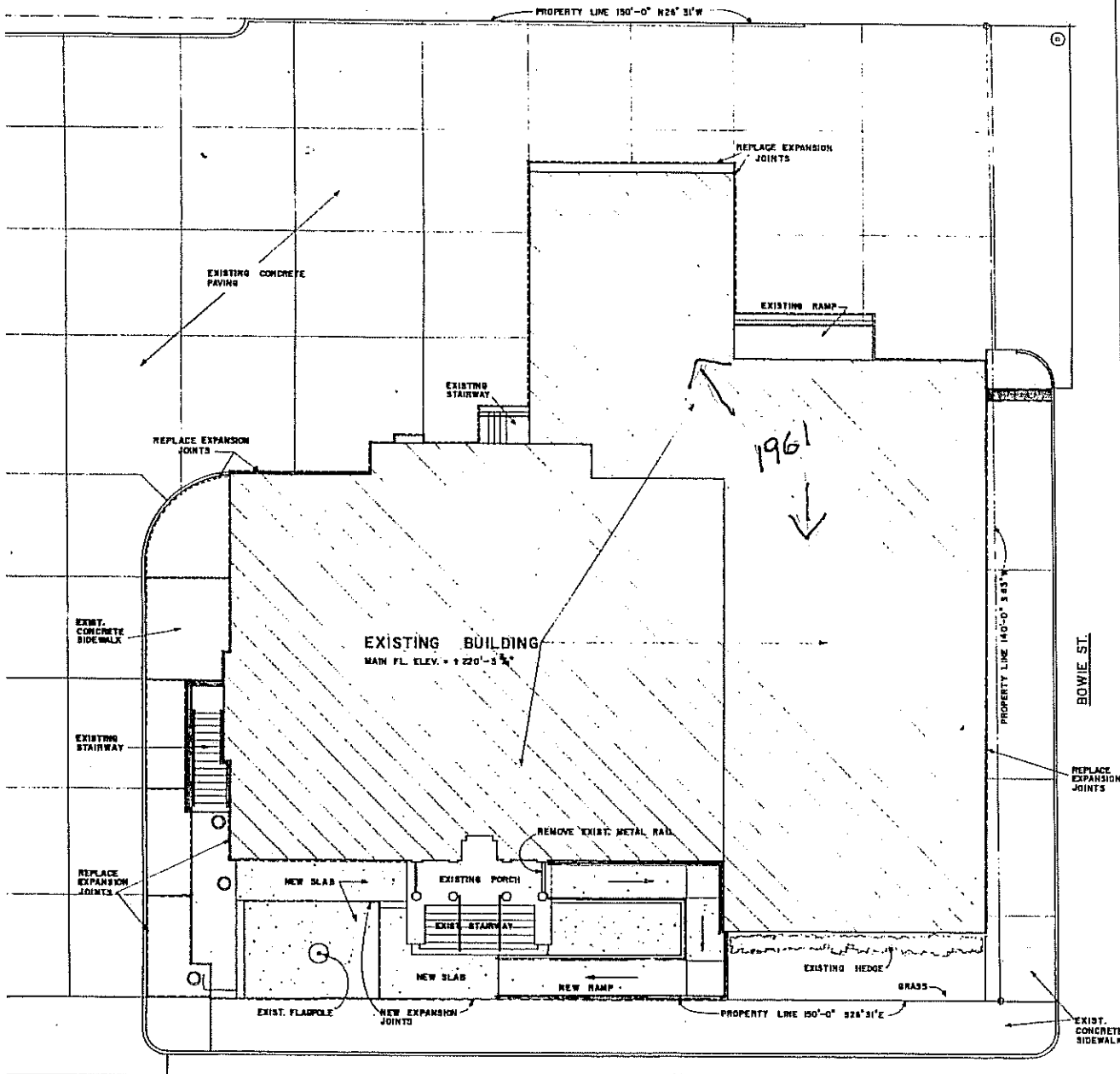
# **National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet**

Section Figure Page 13

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Beeville Post Office  
Beeville, Bee County, Texas

**1979 plan, showing current footprint with 1961 addition**



SITE PLAN  
SCALE: 1/8"=1'-0"



ST. MARYS ST.

RENOVATION OF  
**MAIN POST OFFICE**  
**BEEVILLE, TEXAS**

FOR  
**U.S. POSTAL SERVICE**  
**1979**

CHRISTIAN-PENNINGTON ASSOC. — ARCHITECTS  
CORPUS CHRISTI, TEXAS

WILLIAMS AND MILLER—MECHANICAL ENGINEERS  
BATH AND ASSOCIATES—ELECTRICAL ENGINEERS

	<b>UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE</b>	
	REAL ESTATE & BUILDINGS DALLAS, TEXAS 75201	
	PROJECT NO.	RENOVATION OF <b>BEEVILLE MAIN POST OFFICE</b> BEEVILLE, TEXAS
	DRAWN <i>FO</i> CHECKED <i>SP</i> DATE	CHRISTIAN, PENNINGTON, — ASSOCIATES ARCHITECTS AND PLANNERS 880 STARR CORPUS CHRISTI, TEXAS 78402-2222



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National Park Service

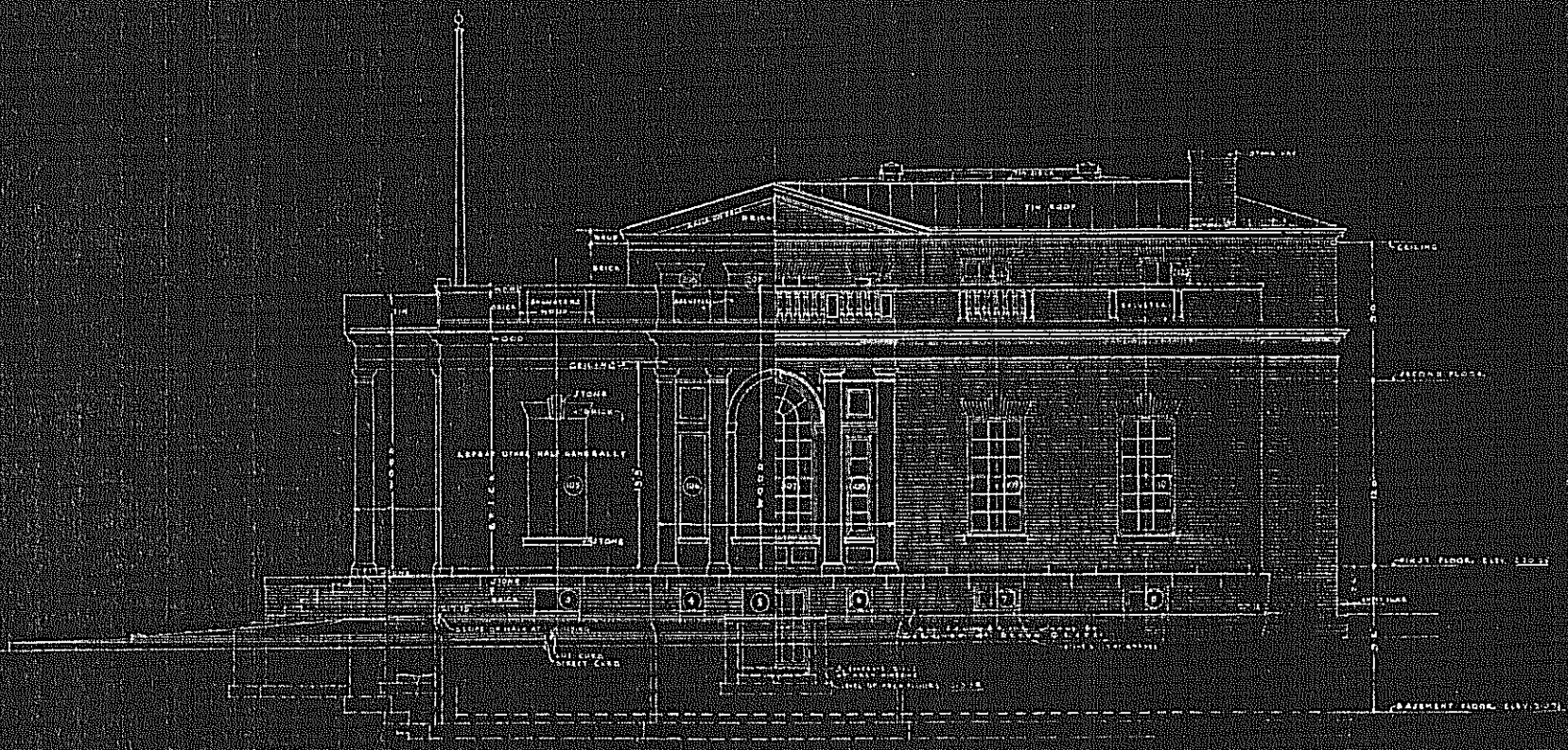
# **National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet**

Section Figure Page 14

Beeville Post Office  
Beeville, Bee County, Texas

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**Bowie Street elevation (original north side), 1918 plans**



CURBS TO BE OMITTED AS NOTED ON DRAWING #1

SIDE ELEVATION (BOWIE ST)

SCALE 1/4" = 1'-0"

BUILDING U.S. POST  
 ON BEVERLY  
 DRAWN BY [unclear]  
 CHECKED BY [unclear]  
 DRAWING No. 101

11906

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

# **National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet**

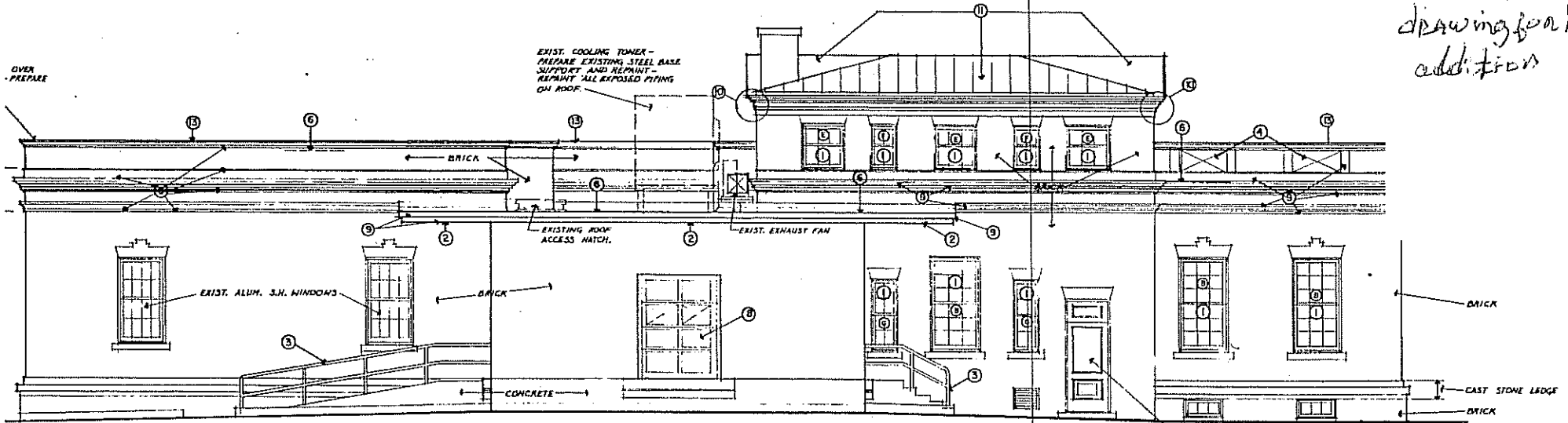
Section Figure Page 15

Beeville Post Office  
Beeville, Bee County, Texas

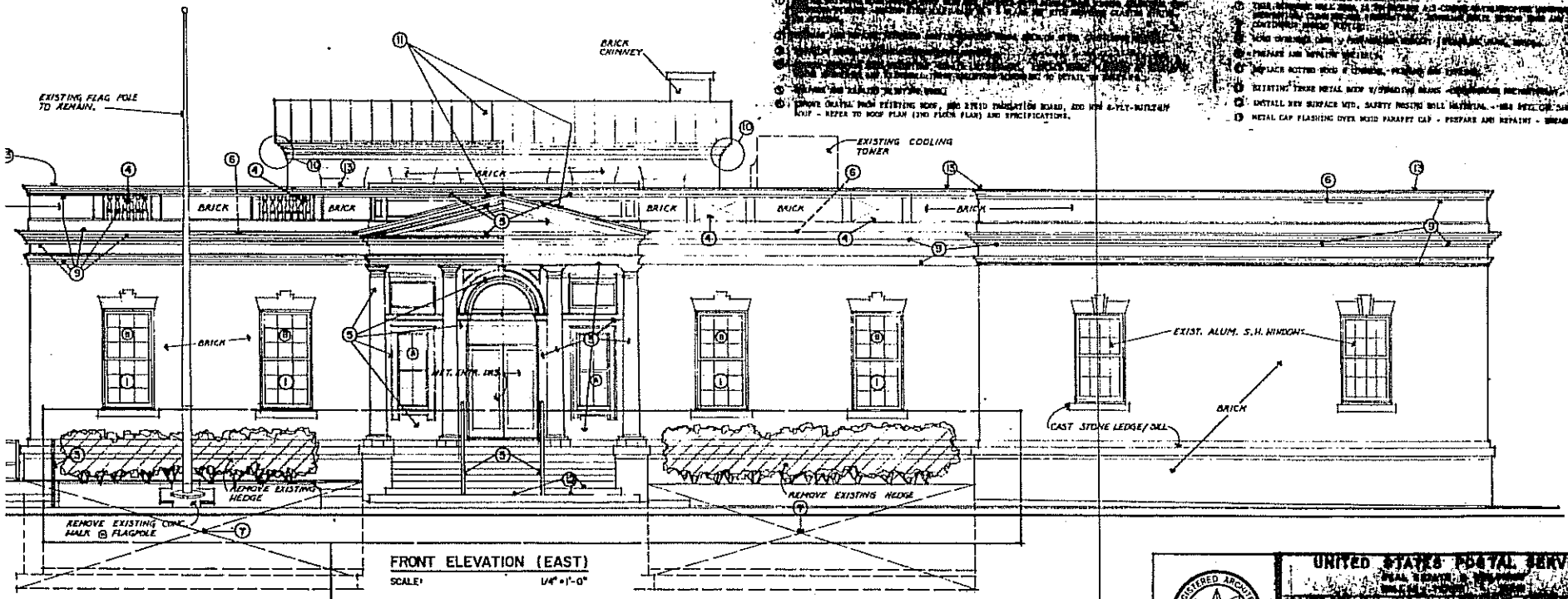
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**East and west elevation, 1979 remodeling plans**

E.P. 5  
drawing for 19  
addition



REAR ELEVATION (WEST)  
SCALE: 1/4" = 1'-0"



FRONT ELEVATION (EAST)  
SCALE: 1/4" = 1'-0"

1. THIS ELEVATION WILL BE USED AS THE BASIS FOR THE PREPARATION OF THE CONTRACT DOCUMENTS AND FOR THE PREPARATION OF THE BIDDING DOCUMENTS.
2. THE CONTRACTOR SHALL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR OBTAINING ALL NECESSARY PERMITS AND APPROVALS FROM THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES.
3. THE CONTRACTOR SHALL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR OBTAINING ALL NECESSARY PERMITS AND APPROVALS FROM THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES.
4. THE CONTRACTOR SHALL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR OBTAINING ALL NECESSARY PERMITS AND APPROVALS FROM THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES.
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6. THE CONTRACTOR SHALL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR OBTAINING ALL NECESSARY PERMITS AND APPROVALS FROM THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES.
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9. THE CONTRACTOR SHALL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR OBTAINING ALL NECESSARY PERMITS AND APPROVALS FROM THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES.
10. THE CONTRACTOR SHALL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR OBTAINING ALL NECESSARY PERMITS AND APPROVALS FROM THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES.
11. THE CONTRACTOR SHALL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR OBTAINING ALL NECESSARY PERMITS AND APPROVALS FROM THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES.

REGISTERED ARCHITECT  
STATE OF TEXAS

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE  
MAIL SERVICE IN THIS AREA  
POST OFFICE BOX 11906  
DALLAS, TEXAS 75221

PROJECT NO.  
DRAWN BY  
CHECKED BY  
DATE

AGENCY: CIVIL ENGINEERING & ARCHITECTURE  
AGENCY: CIVIL ENGINEERING & ARCHITECTURE  
AGENCY: CIVIL ENGINEERING & ARCHITECTURE  
AGENCY: CIVIL ENGINEERING & ARCHITECTURE

11906

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

# **National Register of Historic Places**

## **Continuation Sheet**

Section Figure Page 16

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Beeville Post Office  
Beeville, Bee County, Texas

**Postcard featuring Beeville Post Office (no date; c. 1940s)**

APPENDIX A

LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF BEEVILLE POST OFFICE

Sale of land from A. Praeger and Lizzie Praeger

to

United States of America

1911

*Boa legal description*

11906

THE STATE OF TEXAS,  
COUNTY OF BEE.

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS:- That we, A. Praeger, and Lizzie Praeger, husband and wife, of the County of Bee, State of Texas, for and in consideration of the sum of FIVE HUNDRED (\$500.00) Dollars, to us cash in hand paid by The United States of America, and other valuable considerations to us moving, Have Granted, Sold and Conveyed, and by these presents do Grant, Sell and Convey unto the said The United States of America, all those two certain tracts or parcels of land lying, being and situated in the County of Bee, in the State of Texas, and being a part of Colonial Grant, made by the State of Coahuila and Texas, to Anna Burke, described as follows, to-wit:-

FIRST, A lot of land thirty (30) feet by one hundred (100) feet out of Block number Thirty seven (37) in the Original Town of Beeville, described by metes and bounds as follows:-

BEGINNING at a point on Bowie Street one hundred and ten (110) feet West of the northeast corner of Block number 37, of the Original town of Beeville, running south one hundred (100) feet, parallel with St. Mary's street, thence west thirty (30) feet parallel with Bowie street thence north along an alley one hundred (100) feet to Bowie street, thence East thirty (30) feet along Bowie street to the place of Beginning, and being the same property conveyed to A. Praeger by G.M. Fizer, by deed recorded in volume "q" on page 499 of the Deed-Records of Bee County, Texas.

SECOND, A Lot or parcel of land, fifty (50) by one hundred and forty (140) feet, out of said Block number Thirty seven (37) of the Original Town of Beeville, described by metes and bounds as follows:-BEGINNING at a point on the eastern boundary line of said Block number THIRTY-SEVEN, and on the western boundary line of St. Mary's street, whence the northeast corner of said Block Thirty-seven bears north 28°31' west along said boundary line one hundred (100) feet, thence South 28°31' east along said boundary line fifty (50) feet, thence south 83° west one hundred and forty (140) feet to an alley, thence north 28°31' west with said alley-fifty (50) feet, thence north 83° east one hundred and forty (140) feet to the place of beginning, and being the same property conveyed to A. Praeger by Thomas Tyson, and others by deed-recorded in volume "E-2" on pages 415, 416, of the Deed-Records of Bee County, Texas.

304 100  
50 x 140

50-559-56

*\** PD

THE STATE OF TEXAS,  
COUNTY OF BEE.

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS:- That we, Ed Swanton and Caroline Swanton, husband and wife, of Railey, Idaho, for and in consideration of the sum of Four Thousand and Five Hundred Dollars, (\$4,500.00) to us in hand paid by the United States of America, the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, have Granted, Sold and Conveyed, and by these presents do grant sell and convey unto the said United States of America, all that certain lot or parcel of land situated in the County of Bee and State of Texas, being a lot one hundred (100) by one hundred and ten (110) feet out of the northeast corner of Lot Number one (1) in block, number Thirty-seven (37) in the original town of Beeville, the said lot hereby conveyed is described by metes and bounds as follows:-

BEGINNING at the Northeast corner of said Lot Number one, at the intersection, of St. Marys street and Bowie street, thence South 28°31' East with the western boundary of St. Marys Street one hundred (100) feet to a stake in the northeastern boundary of said Block No. 37, thence South 83° West with the boundary of a tract conveyed by G.M. Fizer, to Patterson & Kavanaugh, one hundred and ten (110) feet to the boundary of a lot conveyed by G.M. Fizer to A. Praeger, thence North 28°31' West, with said boundary of said Praeger lot one hundred feet to the west corner of the lot hereby conveyed, in the southern boundary of said Bowie Street, thence North 83° East with said boundary of Bowie Street, at one hundred and ten feet to the place of beginning.

TO HAVE AND TO HOLD, the above described premises, together with all and singular the rights and appurtenances thereto in anywise belonging, unto the said United States of America and its assigns forever, and we do hereby bind ourselves, our heirs, executors and administrators, to warrant and forever defend, all and singular the said premises unto the said United States of America and its assigns against every person whomsoever lawfully claiming or to claim the same, or any part thereof. WITNESS our hands this 30<sup>th</sup> day of June, A.D. 1911.

Ed Swanton,  
Caroline Swanton.

THE STATE OF IDAHO,  
COUNTY OF BLAINE.

Before me, Leon Fuld, a Notary Public, in and for Blaine County, Idaho, on this day personally appeared, Ed Swanton, known to me to be the person whose name is subscribed to the foregoing instrument, and acknowledged to me that he executed the same for the purposes and consideration therein expressed.

Given under my hand and seal of office, this 7<sup>th</sup> day of July, A.D. 1911.  
Leon Fuld, Notary Public,  
in and for Blaine County, Idaho.

(Seal)

4,500

TO HAVE AND TO HOLD, the above described premises, together with all and singular the rights and appurtenances thereto in anywise belonging, unto the said The United States of America, and its assigns forever, and we do hereby bind ourselves, our heirs, executors and administrators, to Warrant and Forever Defend, all and singular the said premises unto the said The United States of America, and its assigns, against every person whomsoever lawfully claiming or to claim the same or any part thereof. WITNESS our hands, at Beeville, Texas, this the 10<sup>th</sup> day of August, A.D. 1911. Albert Praeger, Lizzie Praeger.

THE STATES OF TEXAS, )  
COUNTY OF BEE. ) Before me, R.L. Cox, a Notary Public, in and for Bee County, Texas, on this day personally appeared A. Praeger and Lizzie Praeger, his wife, both known to me to be the persons whose names are subscribed to the foregoing instrument, and acknowledged to me that they each had executed the same for the purposes and consideration therein expressed, and the said Lizzie Praeger, wife of the said A. Praeger, having been examined by me privily and apart from her husband, and having the same fully explained to her, she, the said Lizzie Praeger, acknowledged such instrument to be her act and deed and declared that she had willingly signed the same for the purposes and consideration therein expressed, and that she did not wish to retract it. Given under my hand and seal of office, this 10<sup>th</sup> day of August, A.D. 1911. R.L. Cox, Notary Public, Bee County, Texas. - - -  
#27, (Seal)

STATE OF TEXAS, )  
COUNTY OF BEE. ) I, DAN TROY, County Clerk, of said County, do hereby certify that the foregoing DEED, with its Certificate of Authentication, was filed for record in my office APRIL 27<sup>th</sup> 1912, at 10, 0<sup>o</sup> Clock a-m, with this Certificate of Record, was duly recorded May 1: 1912, in the Dead-Records, of said County, in Volume #50, pages 559-560. To Certify which, WITNESS My Hand, and Official, Seal, at office in Beeville, Texas, this May 1<sup>st</sup> 1912. Dan Troy, County Clerk, Bee County, Texas. - - -  
(Seal) @\*\*\*\*\*@\*\*\*\*\*@

THE STATE OF TEXAS, )  
COUNTY OF BEE. ) KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS: - That we, H.W. Womack and wife, Ellen-Elizabeth Womack, for and in consideration of the sum of Seventy-five, (\$75.00), to us in hand paid the receipt of which is acknowledged, Have Bargained, Sold and Conveyed, And by these presents, Do Grant, Sell and Convey, unto T.M. Cox, County Judge of Bee County, Texas, and to his successors in office, for the use of Bee County, Texas, the following piece or parcel of land situated in Bee County, Texas, about 1-1/2 miles S.E. from the town of Papalota, Beginning at a point on the South line of land owned by D.C. Stroman, and North line of the land conveyed connects with West line of the S.A.&.A.P. railroad, right of way, Thence in a westerly direction with the Stroman, line Fifty-feet, thence in a southerly direction and parallel with the S.A.&.A.P. Ry, to the North line of land owned by J.C. Ziegler, Thence in an Easterly direction with Ziegler, line Fifty Feet, to the west line of the said S.A.&.A.P. Ry' - right of way, Thence in a Northerly direction with said west line of said Railway, to the place of beginning.

TO HAVE AND TO HOLD, the above described premises, together with all and singular the rights and appurtenances thereto in any wise belonging unto the said T.M. Cox, County Judge, as aforesaid and his successors, in office, And we, do hereby bind ourselves, our heirs, executors and administrators, to warrant and forever defend the above premises against every person whomsoever, lawfully claiming or to claim the same or any part thereof. WITNESS our hands this the 22<sup>nd</sup> day of APRIL, A.D. 1912. H.W. Womack, Ellen Elizabeth Womack,

THE STATE OF TEXAS. )  
on this day personally appeared -



APPENDIX B

Article " ON JUNE 5, 1918 POSTOFFICE WILL BE OPEN TO PUBLIC"

*Beeville Bee-Picayune, Thursday May 30, 1918, No. 34*



Tired of Sowing Wheat? You don't know what it is to be Tired!

### SUCCESSFUL SESSION OF THREE VOLUNTEER GRAMMAR SCHOOL CLOSED.

#### EXERCISES AT GRAND OPERA HOUSE LARGELY ATTENDED PROCEEDS GIVEN RED CROSS

The Beeville Grammar School closed the 1917-18 term with appropriate exercises at the Grand Opera House last Friday evening, May 24th, when thirty-nine boys and girls were given certificates of promotion, entitling them to matriculate in the high school next session.

The stage was tastefully decorated with flags and red, white and blue bunting and the exercises throughout were fully in keeping with the patriotic spirit of the times.

A short playlet, entitled "A Texan Mother-in-Law," constituted the first part of the program and kept the audience in an uproar. Leonard Sikes as "chief of police" and Pat Breeding as "an Irish potenteman" made excellent peace officers. Peter Skangarout was the name of Morris Miller, the poor, hen-pecked son-in-law, and Mrs. Lanky (Jenelle Miller) surely knew how to manage him. Eleanor Pressay as "Berlinda, Mrs. Lanky's daughter," would cry and plead for leniency and mercy for her husband, but to no avail. Edward Hardeman made a good "dinky laundryman," but Mrs. Lanky objected to his presence and chased him off the stage.

The pupils all performed their parts well and merited the applause received.

During the second part of the program the girls of the class beautifully executed the "Join or Die" drill and the boys staged a military scene so realistically that we could not see at picture the boys "over there." The accompanying songs and music brought tears to the eyes of many in the audience.

Miss Josephine Hand pleased the audience with a violin solo, beautifully accompanying an old favorite, "The Mocking Bird," with variations.

Part three of the program opened with the class song, "My Own United States," followed by a piano duet by Misses Catherine Lyon and Eleanor Pressay, which won hearty applause. The welcome address was given by Charles Kimbrough in a clear and distinct voice. Misses Edith Robinson and Jenelle Miller played a piano duet entitled "With What and How." An explanation was given by Mrs. W. E. Mathra with Miss Mary Handlin as accompanist, was well received.

The certificates of promotion were presented by Prof. W. E. Mathra, who made an encouraging and appropriate talk to the class and made the following announcements:

The following pupils were neither absent nor tardy during the entire term: Nina Adams; Lyla Dolan, Willie Belle Hale; Lilla Mae Lockett, Dorothy Marsh, Jenelle Miller, Irene McKeown, Edith Robinson, Dan Rice, John Kusmeier and Morris Miller. Pat Breeding and Hughes Burger were absent one day each, due to sickness.

The following have never been tardy in any grade: Lilla Mae Lockett, Mary Miller, Irene McKeown and Tholman Floyd.

### RYAN ADAIR HENRY DORR AND THURSTON MAY ENLIST AND WILL REPORT IN HOUSTON

Results obtained for the recruits have secured in Beeville yesterday the first to enter this branch of the service.

Bryan Adair and Thurston May have turned 21 and would have to register next Wednesday, June 5th, while Henry Dobbie is but twenty, but decided to go along, as it is only a question of time and he will not be drafted. He is the fourth son of Mr. and Mrs. R. J. Dobbie to enlist, Frank Eldridge and Lee Dobbie being in the army. Thurston is the only son of Mr. and Mrs. I. H. May, while Bryan is the second son to enlist from the Adair family. Eldridge Adair being in the coast artillery.

The recruits were signed up by Postmaster Quinn and all passed the physical examination by Dr. G. M. Stephens. Maurice Simons enlisted in the navy yesterday, also, and was sent to Corpus Christi for the preliminary examination.

W-S-S  
ON JUNE 5TH POSTOFFICE WILL BE OPEN TO PUBLIC.

New Building is Soon to Be Occupied and Postmaster Quinn Wants All to Inspect It.

Next Wednesday, June 5th—registration day for all boys who have turned 21 within the year—is to be open house day at the new postoffice building to all who desire to inspect it.

The building passed its final examination this week and will shortly be occupied, after which it will not be possible for the general public to inspect it throughout. Accordingly, Postmaster Quinn decided that next Wednesday would be a good time for the general public to check the building over. He and others of the postoffice force will be present from 9 a. m. to 12 m. and from 4 to 7 p. m. to show all who call over the building.

The building is complete in every detail, needing only touching up here and there, but some of the furniture and electrical fixtures have not yet arrived. However, since the final inspection has been held, Postmaster Quinn has decided to occupy the building and the move will be made shortly and at a time when it will inconvenience the general public the least.

W-S-S  
FEDERAL COURT NOW IN SESSION FOR THE MAY TERM.

Grand Jury Empaneled after Reports Four Bills of Indictment on First Day—Citizenship Granted.

With Judge Hutchison of Mustang, successor to the late Judge Waller T. Burns, presiding, Corpus Christi Division of federal district court Monday morning at 10 o'clock started the May term with every prospect of having one of the busiest sessions in several years. Four bills of indictment were returned during the day and citizenship papers were granted to five applicants. This constituted the business of the

### ED CROSS QUOTA WAS MORE THAN DOUBLED IN BEE COUNTY.

SECRETARY MARSH'S FIGURES ARE \$13,420 SUBSCRIBED AND \$2,000 PAID IN.

For county over-subscribed its Red Cross War Fund quota by more than 125 per cent. Which he did on Monday evening it was certain the drive would go over 100 per cent, and until Secretary Marsh received all reports to report over the quota. The county had over the top.

According to Mr. Marsh's figures, a was pledged in Bee county during drive \$13,420; but quota was \$9,000. The total pledged \$2,000 over goal each. The chairman and secretary and others and the public generally worked faithfully throughout the seven days there could be but one result, of the doubling of the quota, for committee set out with that in mind. That it should go \$4,420 above even, is very gratifying. Had the country done as well the county would have constituted a news story would not look good to the knicker. It was, however, the \$100,000,000, out to be obtained throughout the Gulf district, of which Texas is a

### LABORERS CAN BE HAD OUT OF MEXICO, REPORT.

FARMERS INTERESTED ARE ASKED TO CALL AT PROGRESSIVE LEAGUE SATURDAY.

The shortage of farm labor is still a problem of most Bee county farmers, and the Progressive League is still attempting to handle the situation.

Secretary Marsh has written many letters and talked with department of labor officials over the long distance telephone and he has secured almost all the information he will be able to secure, he believes.

This information he would rather give to the farmers in person, believing it will be more satisfactory, and desires to meet all interested farmers who want one or more laborers—at his office Saturday afternoon, June 1st, at 2:30 o'clock.

Mr. Marsh states that he is informed that there is plenty of laborers across the Rio Grande at the ports of entry, who are anxious to enter Texas and do farm work; who, in fact, are almost starving in Mexico, and who are to be had at a less wage than Mexicans already on this side of the border—the only stipulation being that certain papers must be signed, and all this will be explained to the farmers interested.

## APPENDIX C

### Picture and Description of New Addition in 1962

#### "Beeville's New Post Office"

"This is the way Beeville's newly constructed Post Office Building appears. It was occupied Monday, May 6, 1962. The old structure was remodeled and a large wing was added on the north side at a total cost of \$225,000. Postmaster Teal Adkins has set Saturday, June 16 from 2 to 5 p.m. as Open House Day. It has been said that Beeville has one of the most beautiful federal buildings in South Texas. "

*Beeville Bee-Picayune*, Thursday May 24, 1962, Vol. 75, No. 51, p.1

# Beeville Bee-Hive

Published weekly on Thursday By Beeville Publishing Co., Inc. Bee, Est. 1886; Pledge, 1890; Consolidated May 31, 1928 Second-Class Postage Paid at Beeville, Texas

Vol. 75—No. 51 10¢ A COPY BEEVILLE, TEXAS, THURSDAY, MAY 24, 1956 TWENTY-TWO PAGES—THREE SECTIONS

day is Stores main Closed

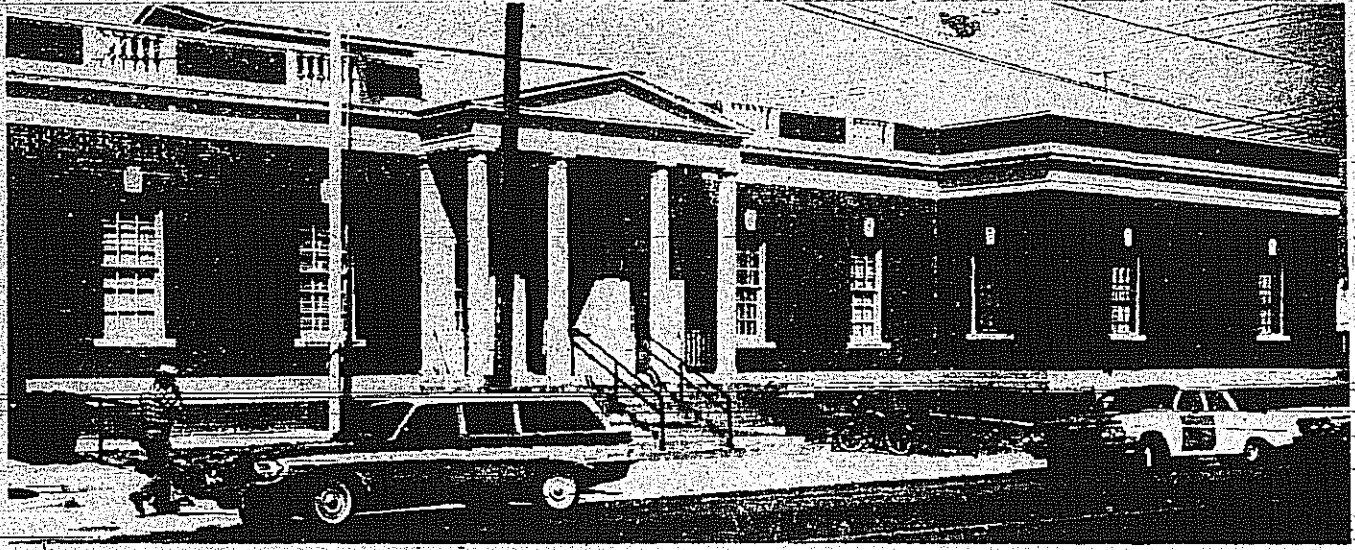
Monday, May 29. Day, and is one of those that the Chamber of Merchants Commends for observing business houses closed.

### Participation in Horse Shows Expected

Anticipation and large participation expected at open house sponsored by the Bee County Fair Association in Beeville this week. The contest, directed by Mrs. J. W. Adams, is the first of the series of horse shows to be put on at the fair grounds in Beeville. A show featuring more than 100 young horses will be held at the same place at night.

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**BEEVILLE'S NEW POST OFFICE**—This is the way Beeville's newly constructed Post Office Building appears. It was occupied Monday, May 8. The old structure was demolished and a large wing was added on the north side, at a total cost of \$225,000. Postmaster Teal

Adkins has set Saturday, June 10, from 2 to 5 p.m. as Open House Day. Some kind of program will be presented, and coffee and cookies will be served. The program will be taken on a guided tour through the building. The program in detail will be announced in the near future. It has been said that "Beeville has one of the most beautiful Federal buildings in South Texas," and the general public will be given opportunity to examine it before on June 10. (Harrison Photography)

## Navy's Chuting Stars New Feature of Chase Field's June 17 Event

The appearance of the Navy's famed Blue Angels and Chuting Stars will highlight the NAAS Chase Field Open House and Air Show slated for this local station June 17. The open house will be the climax of the month-long drive for funds to aid the local auxiliary of the Navy Relief Society.

While the Blue Angels are known to most everyone in the area, the appearance of the Chuting Stars will bring a new show into this area for the first time. The idea for a parachute demonstration team was conceived in 1959 by the Chief of Naval Operations and the team was organized in January, 1961, in connection with the Navy's 50th anniversary of Naval Aviation.

The "Chuting Stars" performed their first exhibition at NAS Norfolk on April 10, 1961. When their tour was finished in November, the team had conducted more than 50 performances throughout the country, highlighted by their demonstrations at Pensacola, Fla. for all naval aviators past and present.

In November, 1961, the Chief of Naval Operations assigned the Chuting Stars as a permanent unit of the Navy to stimulate interest and promote morale in the Naval Service.

On January 8, the team started their training at El Centro, and in 21 "good weather days" executed over 1,170 free-fall jumps before returning to Pensacola. The team has completed approximately 425 jumps, including 720 jumps with landing flaps. After a training session in Pensacola, the Chuting Stars traveled to the Marine Air Station, El Paso, Calif., and gave their first exhibition of the 1962 season on April 6.

## Conservation Awards Event To Be Monday

The annual conservation awards program will be held at a joint meeting of the Beeville and Baytown Lions Club on the Beeville school cafeteria at Baytown Monday night, May 28, at 7:30 o'clock. Awards will be given to the conservationist in the Bee County school system at Baytown Monday night, May 28, at 7:30 o'clock. Awards will be given to the conservationist in the Bee County school system at Baytown Monday night, May 28, at 7:30 o'clock.

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## Absentee Voting for June 2 Election Will End Tuesday

Absentee voting will close on Tuesday, May 23. All persons who intend to be out of the city after that time may have their votes counted by casting them before that time in the absence of the office of the county clerk at the Bee County Courthouse at Beeville.

The second Democratic primary will be held Saturday night, June 3. Those absentee votes had been cast up until 10 o'clock this Monday will be counted.

## Drive for Chamber of Commerce Members Is Kicked Off This Morn

A week-long drive for membership in the Chamber of Commerce will get under way this morning at 8 o'clock at the Chamber of Commerce building on Broadway. The drive is being conducted by the Chamber of Commerce, which has a goal of adding 500 new members this year.

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## Youth Questioned After Wild Ride Through Beeville

A group of youth was questioned by police after a wild ride through Beeville. The group was seen driving recklessly through the town at high speeds.

## Three Will Go to Boys State To Be Held in Austin

Three youth will be selected to represent Beeville at the Boys State camp to be held in Austin. The camp is a week-long program for young men.

Anticipation and large participation expected at open house sponsored by the Bee County Fair Association in Beeville this week. The contest, directed by Mrs. J. W. Adams, is the first of the series of horse shows to be put on at the fair grounds in Beeville. A show featuring more than 100 young horses will be held at the same place at night.

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### Invited to Last Dance

Invited to Last Dance USO Tonight. The USO is sponsoring a dance at the fair grounds on Saturday night.

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Invited to Last Dance USO Tonight. The USO is sponsoring a dance at the fair grounds on Saturday night.

### 1-Day Services

1-Day Services. Various services will be provided for one day only.

APPENDIX D

Photo and caption: "Post Office Work"

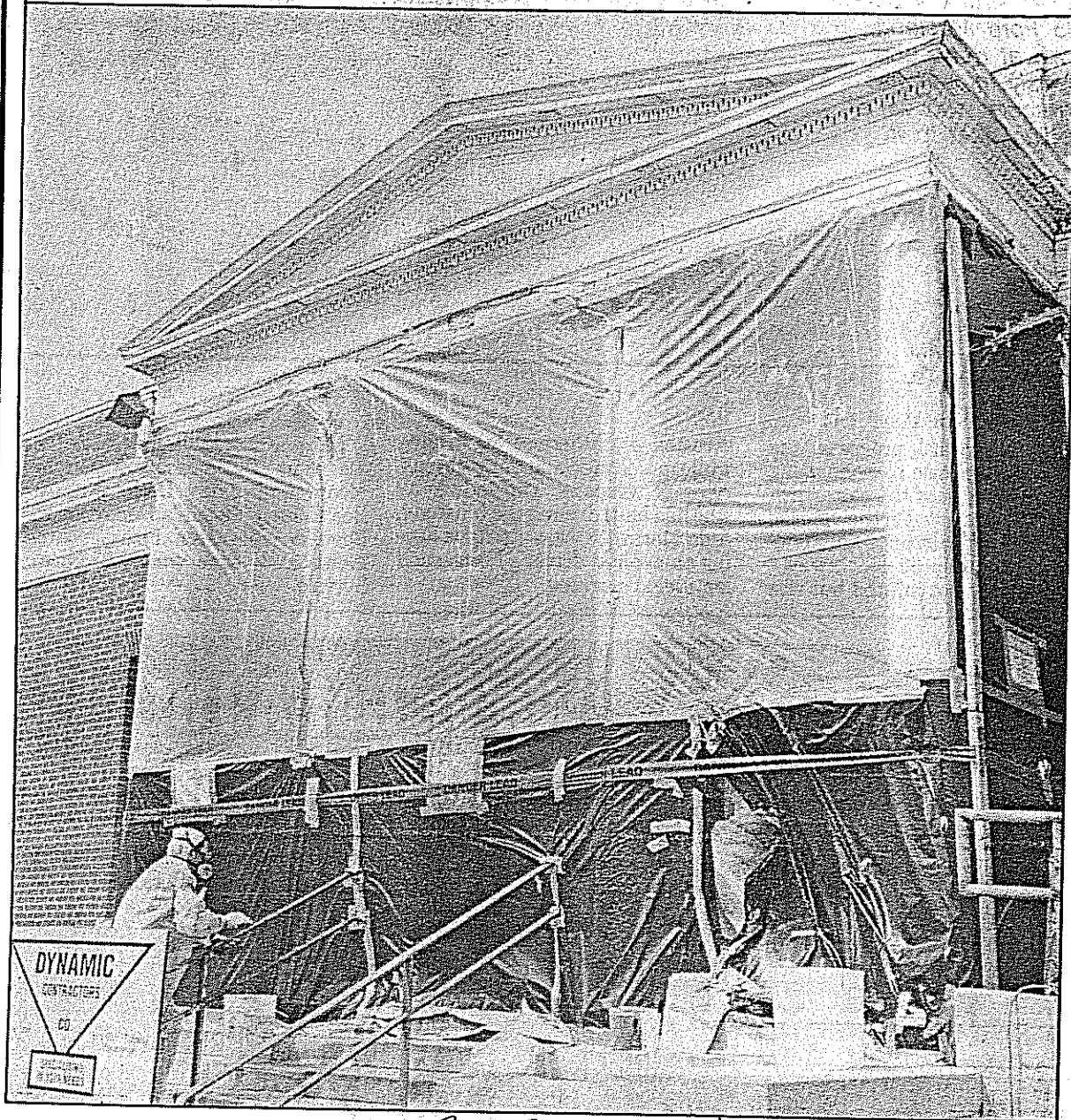
Description of Lead Base Paint Removal from Walls

*Beeville, Bee Picayune. May 5, 1995*

From original photo by Grady Harrison, Photographer

11906

# Post office work



*Bee Pic 5-31-95*

Grady Harrison photo

Plastic sheets were taped over the entrance of the downtown Beeville Post Office last weekend as workers from Dynamic Contractors of Dallas began

stripping the old, lead-based paint off the walls. Postmaster George Blackmon expects the paint removal crew to be on the job about six weeks.

APPENDIX E

Photos

Rear, Side, Front Views of Beeville Post Office

Supplement to Application Narrative

List of Postmasters of Beeville, Post Office



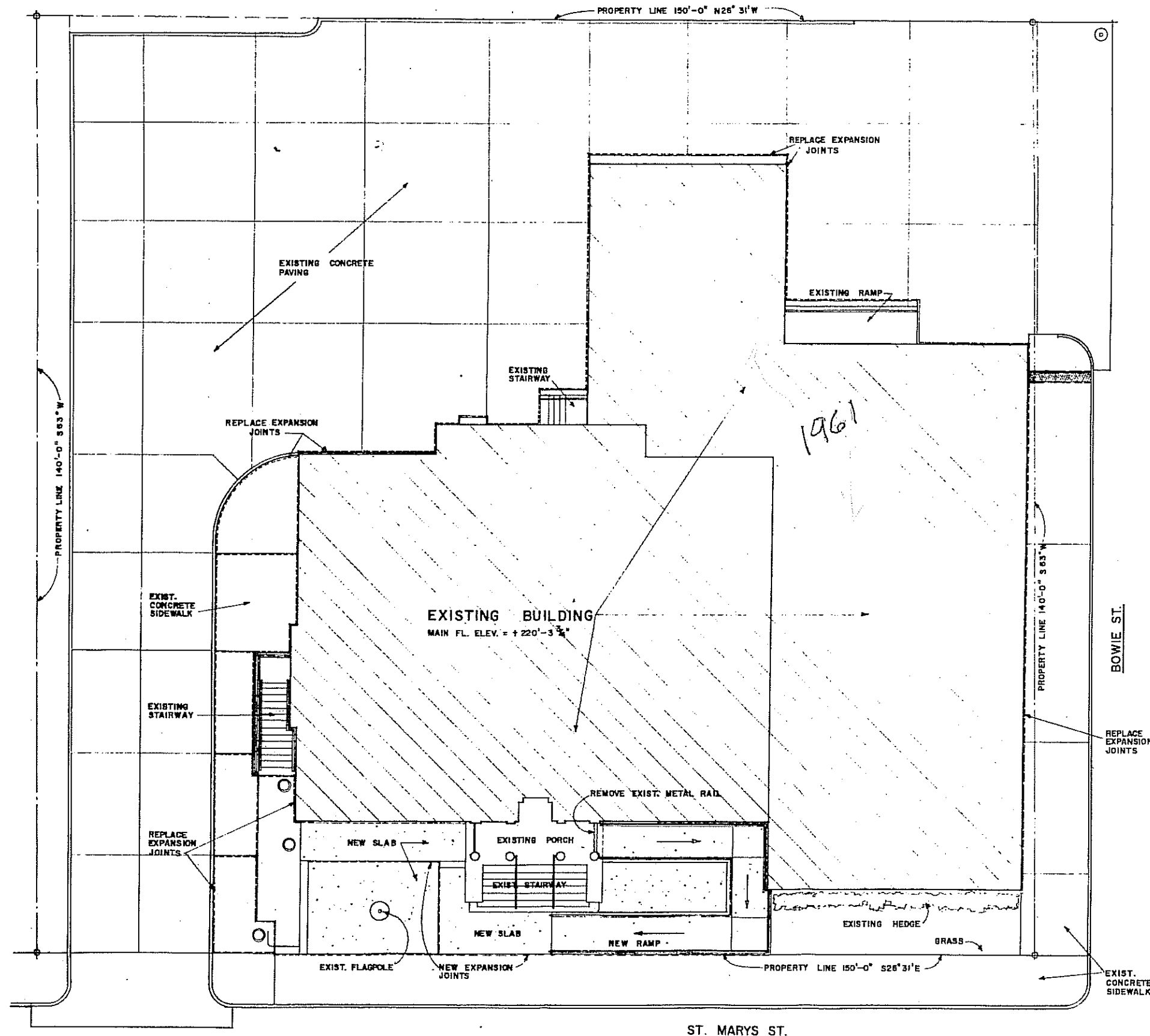
<b>Postmasters, Beeville</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Date Appointed</b>
Michael Seeligson	Postmaster	10/31/1857
Henderson Williams	Postmaster	5/6/1859
**George W. McClanahan	Postmaster	12/22/1860
*Paul H. Breeden	Postmaster	4/7/1862
*Patterson Clark	Postmaster	9/3/1862
*George W. McClanahan	Postmaster	12/22/1864
*Daniel A. James	Postmaster	1/20/1865
N.C. Webster	Postmaster	4/17/1866
Miss Eliza M. Cobb	Postmaster	7/25/1866
Thomas Martin	Postmaster	4/24/1867
Thomas R. Adkins	Postmaster	7/6/1871
George W. McClanahan	Postmaster	11/29/1872
William M. Smith	Postmaster	5/5/1874
Allen C. Jones	Postmaster	12/5/1877
August Klim	Postmaster	11/9/1880
Daniel Troy	Postmaster	1/3/1883
Richard B. Skaggs	Postmaster	6/7/1883
John W. Flournoy	Postmaster	11/3/1885
Walter E. Johnson	Postmaster	7/17/1889
Mary E. Johnson	Postmaster	11/20/1890
William S. Howard	Postmaster	12/12/1894
John W. Bell	Postmaster	5/12/1897

James T. Ballard	Postmaster	12/13/1905
Ellis M. Quinn	Postmaster	12/20/1914
Paul B. Mueller	Postmaster	12/23/1922
Lock M. Adkins	Postmaster	1/15/1927
Dorothy A. Wilson	Acting Postmaster	2/28/1935
Dorothy A. Wilson (Hancock)	Postmaster	8/26/1935
Cordelia Cherry Hill	Acting Postmaster	4/30/1943
Cordelia Cherry Hill (Pagel)	Postmaster	7/2/1947
Walter Teal Adkins	Acting Postmaster	12/13/1957
Walter Teal Adkins	Postmaster	8/18/1958
Ralph Keller	Officer-in-Charge	1/10/1980
Jane G. "Scullawl" Evans	Postmaster	5/17/1980
Jerry J. Hierholzer	Officer -in-Charge	5/27/1987
George W. Blackmon	Postmaster	9/12/1987
Domingo Rodriguez	Officer-in-Charge	4/13/1996
Ella Kay Dippel	Officer-in-Charge	7/22/1996
Bonnie K. Ryder	Postmaster	1/4/1997
Kay Gonzalez	Officer-in-Charge	Jan. 2004-Aug. 2004
Michelle Wagner	Officer-in-Charge	Aug. 2004-Mar.2005
Art Contreras	Postmaster	March 2005

\*\*McClanahan reappointed under Confederacy, August 6, 1861

\*Appointed by the Confederacy

( )--Change of name by marriage



RENOVATION OF  
**MAIN POST OFFICE**  
**BEEVILLE, TEXAS**

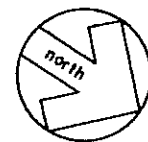
FOR  
**U.S. POSTAL SERVICE**

**1979**

CHRISTIAN-PENNINGTON ASSOC. — ARCHITECTS  
 CORPUS CHRISTI, TEXAS

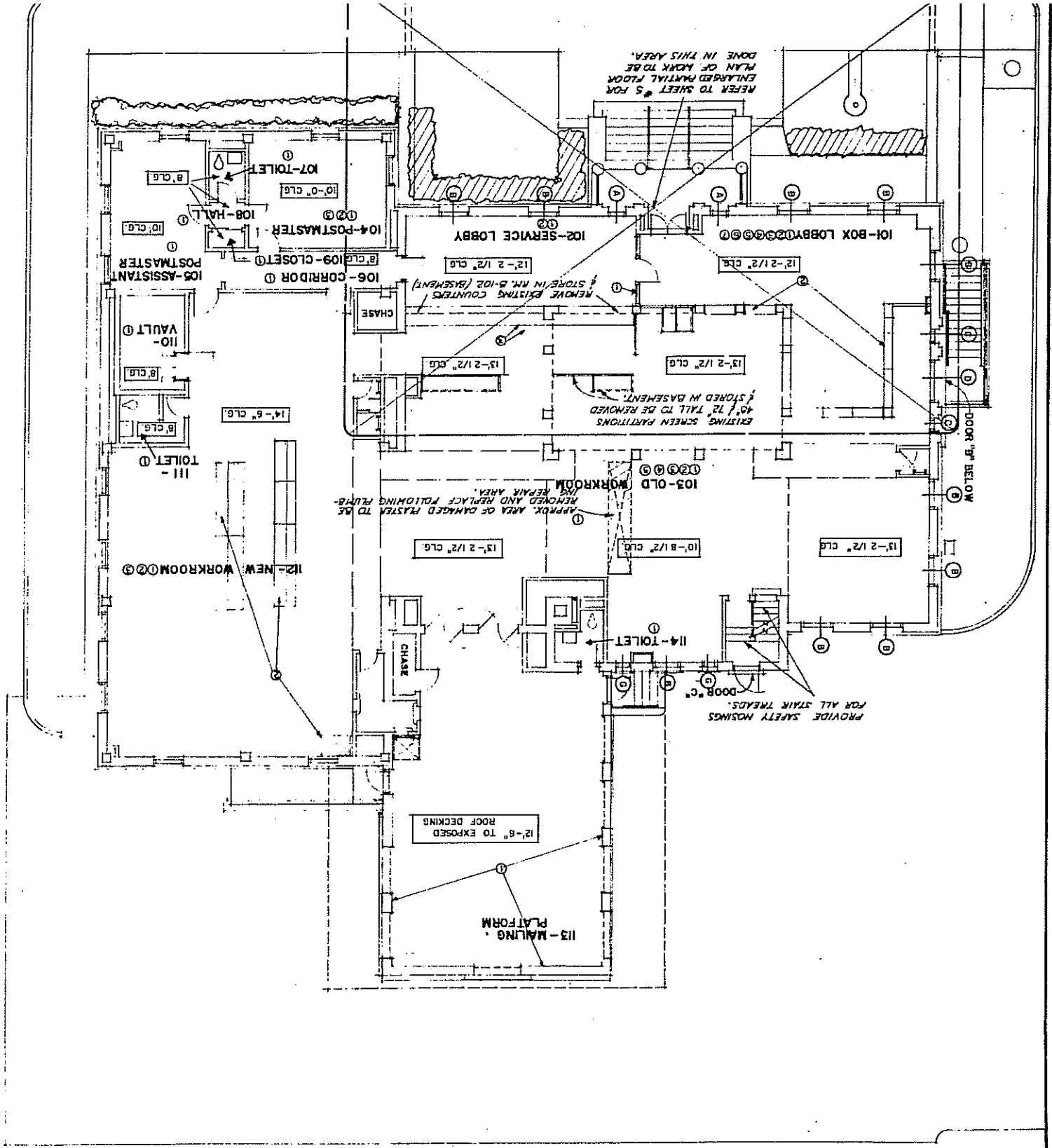
WILLIAMS AND MILLER—MECHANICAL ENGINEERS  
 BATH AND ASSOCIATES—ELECTRICAL ENGINEERS

**SITE PLAN**  
 SCALE: 1/8"=1'-0"



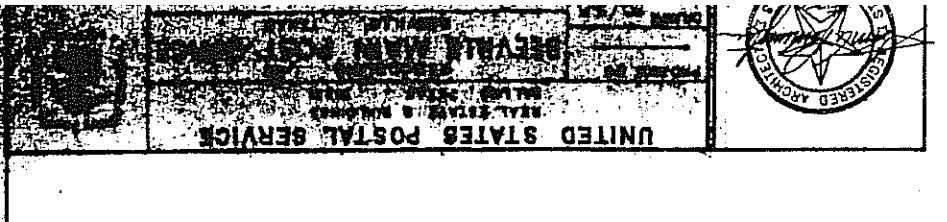
	<b>UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE</b> REAL ESTATE & BUILDINGS DALLAS, TEXAS 75201		
	PROJECT NO. _____ DRAWN P.O. CHECKED S.P.	REMODELING OF <b>BEEVILLE MAIN POST OFFICE</b> BEEVILLE, TEXAS	
	CHRISTIAN, PENNINGTON, — ASSOCIATES ARCHITECTS AND PLANNERS 820 STARR		

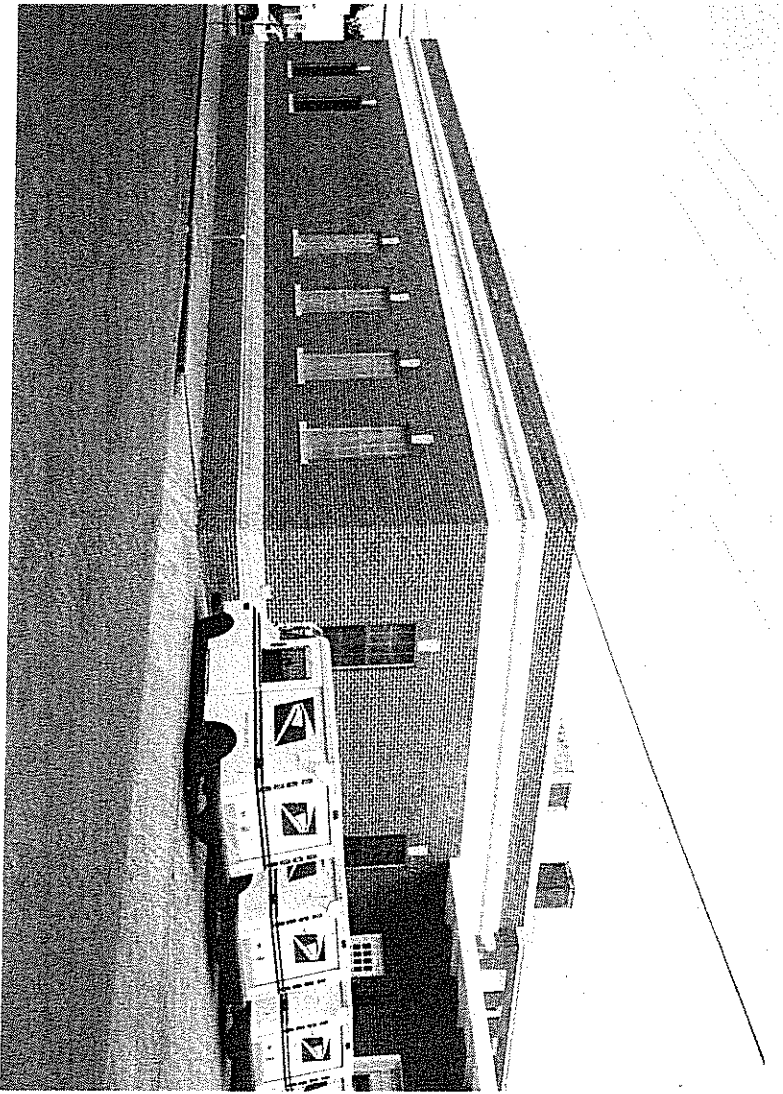
10015  
Plan



### INTERIOR FINISH AND REWORK SCHEDULE

ROOM	EXISTING FINISHES	NEW WORK IN THIS CONTRACT
101-BOX LOBBY	FLOOR: TERRAZZO WITH METAL STRIPS & 24\"/>	
102-SERVICE LOBBY	FLOOR: TERRAZZO WITH METAL STRIPS & 24\"/>	
103-OLD WORKROOM	FLOOR: LANGRISH SHEET OVER 3/4\"/>	
104-POSTMASTER	FLOOR: VINTL. WALLS: OAK PLYWOOD - HANGING & TALK. CEILING: AC. TIE BASE: W/12-21/2\"/>	
104-POSTMASTER	FLOOR: VINTL. WALLS: PLASTER CEILING: CONCRETE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 PATCH APPROX. 15 SQ. FT. OF PLASTER CLG. FOLLOWING REPAIR OF 2ND FLOOR SWANK TYPE. EXIST. PLASTER IS SAND FINISH WITH PATCHED FINISH APPLIED TO EXPOSED METAL TIN LATH.</li> <li>2 REMOVE EXISTING LOCK ROADS, REPLACE w/ 1/2\"/&gt; </li></ul>
107-TOILET	FLOOR: VINTL.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 REMOVE ALL EXISTING PLASTER SURFACES (WALLS, CEILING, CONCRETE FLOOR).</li> <li>2 PATCH PLASTER TO ORIGINAL SMOOTH FINISH AND REPAIR WITH 3/4\"/&gt; </li></ul>
110-VAULT	FLOOR: VINTL. WALLS: PLASTER CEILING: CONCRETE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 REMOVE ALL EXISTING PLASTER SURFACES (WALLS, CEILING, CONCRETE FLOOR).</li> <li>2 PATCH PLASTER TO ORIGINAL SMOOTH FINISH AND REPAIR WITH 3/4\"/&gt; </li></ul>
112-NEW WORKROOM	FLOOR: LANGRISH SHEET OVER 3/4\"/>	
113-MAILING PLATFORM	FLOOR: LANGRISH SHEET OVER 3/4\"/>	





REAR



SIDE



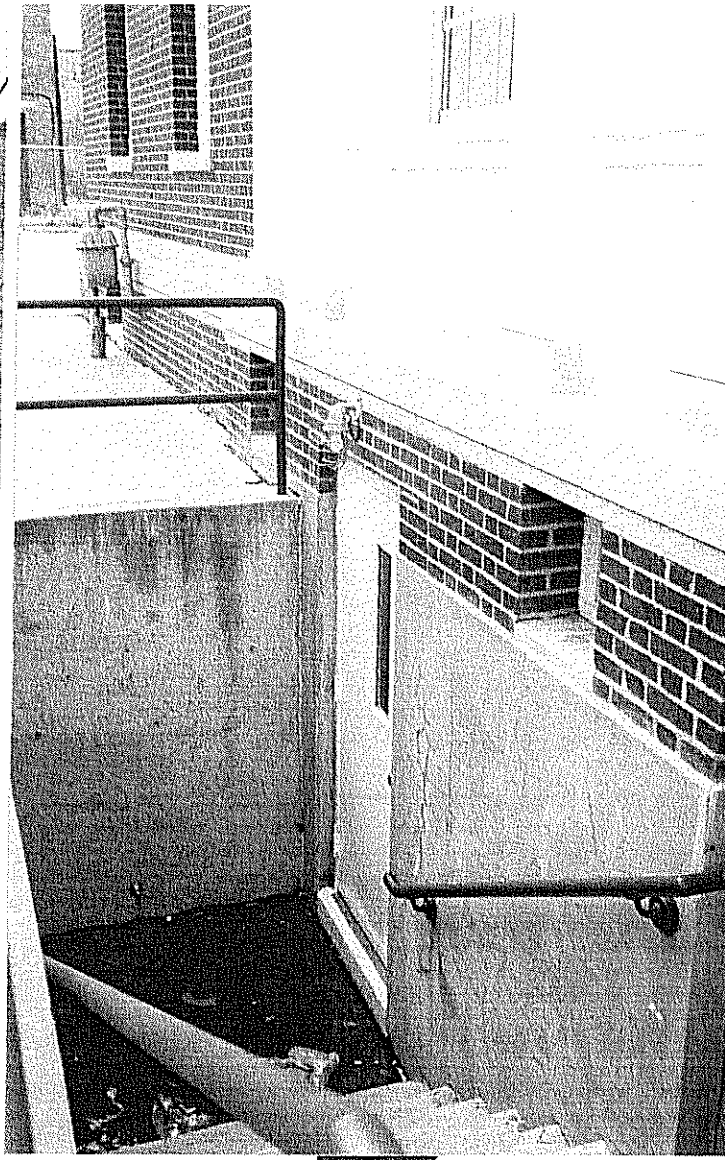
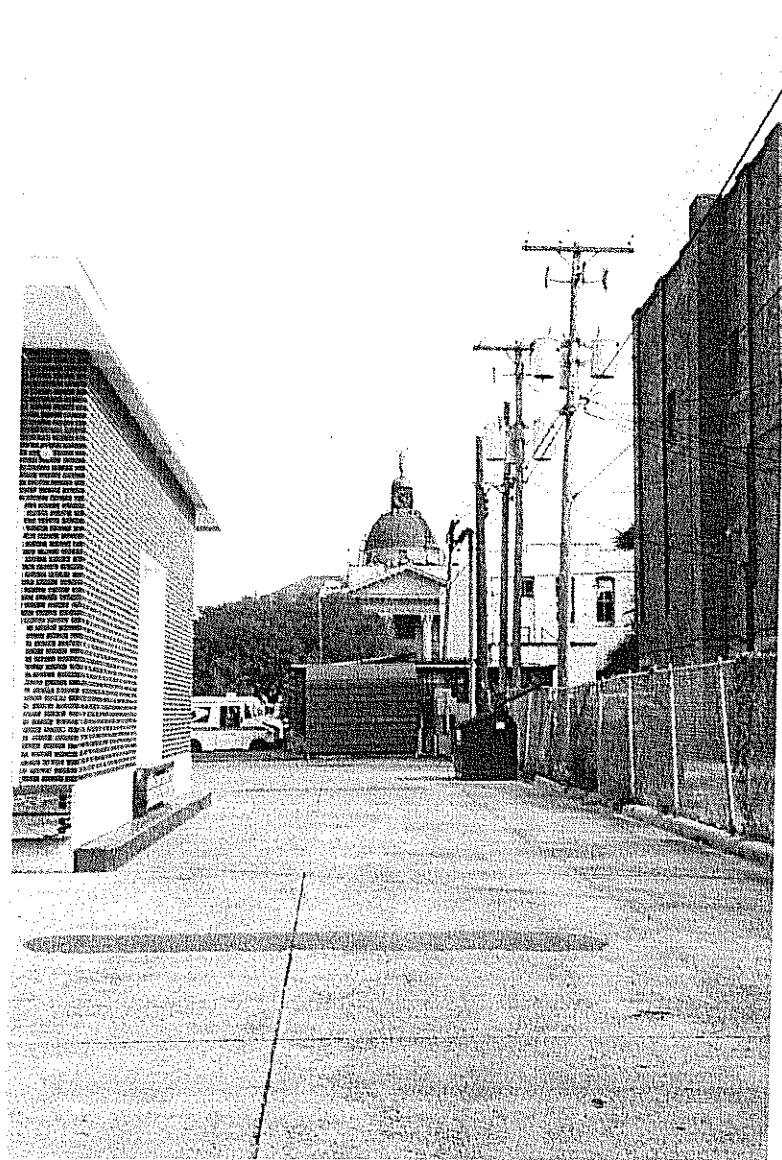
FRONT



*FRONT*



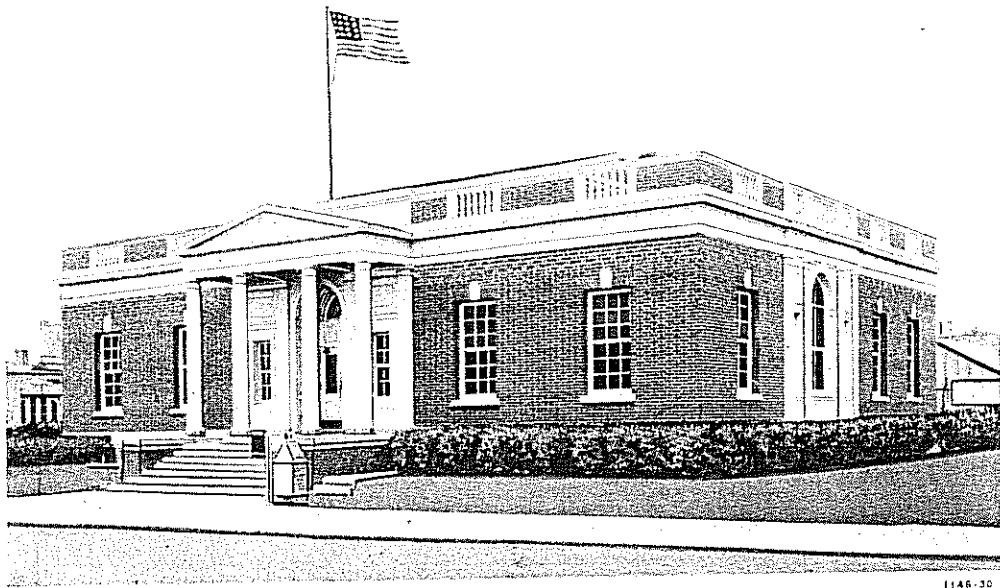
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REAR

11104

Federal Post Office Building, Beeville, Texas

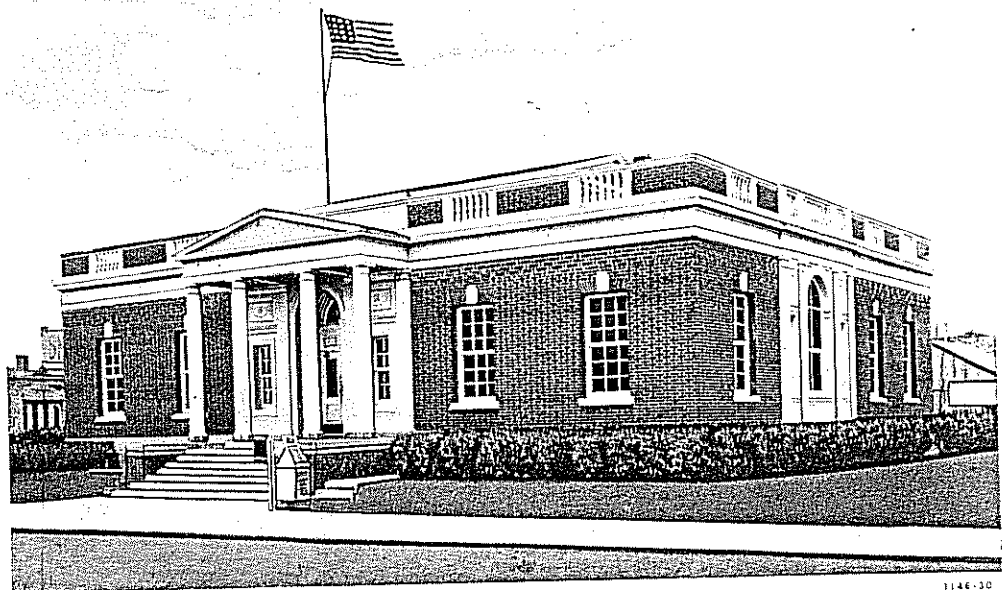


1146-30

*Beeville Post Office, 1918*



Federal Post Office Building, Beeville, Texas



1146-30

<p><i>J. A. Wynn</i> ACTING SUPERVISING ARCHITECT <b>TREASURY DEPARTMENT</b> APPROVED <i>[Signature]</i> DATE <i>1/17/16</i> Supt. DRAFTING DIVISION Supt. STRUCTURAL DIVISION Supt. MECHANICAL DIVISION</p>	<p>BUILDING <b>U.S. POST OFFICE</b> CITY <b>BEEVILLE, TEX.</b> DRAWN BY <i>ALAN WYNNE</i> DATE <i>1/17/16</i> CHECKED BY <i>[Signature]</i> DATE <i>1/17/16</i> DRAWING No. <b>101</b></p>
--	--