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JUN 20 1994

Ala. Historical Commission



# Alabama Register Property Information

## 1. Name

historic ONEONTA FEDERAL BUILDING

and/or common ONEONTA POST OFFICE

## 2. Location

street & number 210 2ND AVE E

city, town ONEONTA \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of

state ALABAMA county BLOUNT

## 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

## 4. Owner of Property

name U S POSTAL SERVICE - MAJOR FACILITIES OFFICE

street & number 1407 UNION AVE 11TH FLOOR

city, town MEMPHIS \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of state TN 38166-0331

## 5. Please use space below to sketch floor plan/site plan.

SEE FLOOR PLANS INCLUDED

## 6. Description

**Condition**

excellent  
 good  
 fair

deteriorated  
 ruins  
 unexposed

**Check one**

unaltered  
 altered

**Check one**

original site  
 moved date \_\_\_\_\_

**Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance**

THE ONEONTA POST OFFICE IS A ONE-STORY, WITH FULL BASEMENT, BRICK POST OFFICE BUILDING CONTAINING 4,938 SQUARE FEET ON EACH FLOOR. THE SITE FRONTS 138 FEET ON THE NORTH SIDE OF SECOND AVENUE AND EXTENDS BACK TO A DEPTH OF 135 FEET.

THE EXTERIOR OF THE BUILDING IS RED COMMON BRICK LAID IN AN ENGLISH BOND STYLE. THE WATER TABLE AND CAP ARE HAMMER FINISHED WHITE MARBLE. ROOF IS BUILT-UP TAR AND GRAVEL. THE WINDOWS ARE DOUBLE HUNG WOOD SASH WITH 8/12 LIGHTS. THE SILLS AND LINTELS ARE ALSO WHITE MARBLE, HAMMER FINISHED. UNDER EACH WINDOW ENCASEMENT THE BRICK ARE LAID IN HEADER COURSE. THE FRONT ENTRANCE IS A SEMICIRCULAR ARCH AROUND A BRONZE EAGLE. THE HEAD OF THE MAIN DOOR IS A SIMPLE PLAIN LINTEL WITH PILASTERS. THERE ARE TWO LAMPS POSTS ON THE FRONT STEPS.

THE INTERIOR OF THE BUILDING IS TYPICAL OF MOST POST OFFICES CONSTRUCTED DURING THIS ERA. THE CUSTOMER LOBBY HAS BRICK FLOOR WITH WHITE MARBLE BORDER BASE AND WAINSCOTTING WALLS AND CEILINGS ARE PLASTER WITH PLAIN MOLDING. THE WORKROOM HAS HARDWOOD FLOORS, PLASTER WALLS WITH HARDWOOD WAINSCOTTING.

IN 1965 AN ADDITION WAS MADE TO THE RIGHT SIDE OF THE POST OFFICE WITH MATCHING DESIGN AND DETAILS CHANGING THE FRONTAL APPEARANCE FROM A BALANCED BILATERAL DESIGN WITH CENTRAL DOOR WITH TWO WINDOWS ON EACH SIDE TO TWO WINDOWS ON ONE SIDE AND FOUR WINDOWS ON THE OTHER.

IN 1991 A HANDICAPPED RAMP OF BRICK WITH MATCHING METAL BALISTERS WAS ADDED TO THE FRONT AND ONE OF THE FRONT WINDOWS WAS REPLACED WITH A METAL DOOR TO ACCOMODATE THE RAMP.

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

THE ONEONTA FEDERAL BUILDING NOW KNOWN AS THE ONEONTA POST OFFICE WAS BEGUN IN 1937 AND DEDICATION WAS HELD AFTER COMPLETION AUGUST 6, 1938. ONE OF TWO WPA BUILDINGS REMAINING IN ONEONTA, IT IS THE MOST ATTRACTIVE COMMERCIAL BUILDING IN TOWN. THE BLOUNT COUNTY ACTIVITIES BUILDING NOW AN ANNEX OF THE LESTER MEMORIAL METHODIST CHURCH, IS THE ONLY OTHER WPA BUILDING. IT WAS ADDED TO THE ALABAMA REGISTER JULY, 1991.

THE ORIGINAL BUILDING COST \$66,000.00 AND THE LOT \$4,750. IT WAS CONSTRUCTED ON THE SITE OF THE H. C. MCPHERSON HOME WITH THE HOME BEING RELOCATED AND SERVING TODAY AS THE BLOUNT COUNTY CHILDREN'S CENTER. THE BUILDING INITIALLY SERVED AS A POST OFFICE ON MAIN FLOOR WITH OFFICES FOR THE COUNTY FARM AGENT, HOME DEMONSTRATION AGENT AND OTHER FARM ACTIVITIES IN THE BASEMENT. THE MURAL OVER THE POSTMASTER'S DOOR WAS EXECUTED BY ALDIS BROWN OF MADISON, CONNECTICUT, A GRADUATE OF YALE SCHOOL OF FINE ARTS. THE MURAL, MEASURING 12 FT BY 4 FT IS A SERIES OF OVERLAPPING SCENES DEPICTING BLOUNT COUNTY OF 1939. IN THE CENTER, FARM GIRLS ARE GATHERING COTTON WHILE ON THE RIGHT A WOMAN FEEDS HOGS AND A BOY HOLDS A CALF. TO THE RIGHT, TWO MEN REST. IN THE MIDDLE DISTANCE IS A TINNED ROOF FARMHOUSE, AND BEYOND IS A BARN WITH CYCLONE CELLAR. AN A.A.A. TERRACED FIELD IS CONTRASTED WITH GROUND LEFT TO THE ELEMENTS, GULLIED AND WORTHLESS. A COVERED BRIDGE COMPLETES THE RURAL SCENE. IN THE DISTANCE ARE SUGGESTED THE CITY OF BIRMINGHAM DAM, CHAMPION IRON ORE MINES AND BUILDINGS OF ONEONTA.

THE SECTION OF FINE ARTS, PUBLIC BUILDINGS ADMINISTRATION, FEDERAL WORKS AGENCY WAS CREATED WITH THE AIM OF SECURING MURALS AND SCULPTURE OF DISTINGUISHED QUALITY APPROPRIATE TO THE EMBELLISHMENT OF FEDERAL BUILDINGS. APPROXIMATELY 1% OF THE TOTAL OF LIMIT OF COST OF THE BUILDINGS WAS RESERVED FOR THE DECORATION. THE SECTION HELD OPEN ANONYMOUS COMPETITIONS, NATIONAL, REGIONAL, STATE OR LOCAL, TO WHICH ALL CITIZENS ARTISTS OF THE UNITED STATES WERE ELIGIBLE.

IN 1965, AN ADDITION OF 5632 SQUARE FEET WAS ADDED AT A COST OF \$185,000., DAVIS, SPEAKE AND THRASHER OF BIRMINGHAM, ARCHITECTS. IN 1991, A HANDICAPPED ACCESS RAMP WAS ADDED TO THE FRONT OF THE BUILDING REQUIRING ONE OF THE WINDOWS TO BE REPLACED WITH A DOOR.

THE BUILDING WILL BE VACATED BY THE POSTAL SERVICE IN 1995 FOR A NEW BUILDING. THE NEW OWNER WILL BE BLOUNT COUNTY WHO WILL USE THE BUILDING AS A COURTHOUSE ANNEX.

For the year ended 31st December 1955

The following statement shows the account of the ...

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# 7. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

**Specific dates** 1937-1938  
DEDICATION 8-6-1938 **Builder/Architect** NEAL A MELICK

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

THE ONEONTA FEDERAL BUILDING NOW KNOWN SIMPLY AS THE ONEONTA POST OFFICE HAS BEEN A LANDMARK FOR OVER 50 YEARS. THE WPA BUILDING NOT ONLY IS THE MOST ATTRACTIVE BUILDING IN THE TOWN'S COMMERCIAL DISTRICT BUT THE MURAL INSIDE IS INDIGENOUS TO THE AREA, DEPICTING CHARACTERISTIC SCENES OF BLOUNT COUNTY OF WHICH ONEONTA IS THE COUNTY SEAT.

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## 8. Major Bibliographical References

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THE SOUTHERN DEMOCRAT 1936 - 1939

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE, MAJOR FACILITIES OFFICE, MEMPHIS, TN., REAL ESTATE FILES  
ONEONTA POST OFFICE, POSTMASTER'S FILES

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## 9. Geographical Data

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Acreage of nominated property 4/10 ACRE

Quadrangle name ONEONTA

Quadrangle scale 1"=2000'

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Verbal boundary description and justification

138' X 135'

BLOUNT COUNTY TAX MAPPING OFFICE BLOUNT COUNTY COURTHOUSE

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## 10. Form Prepared By

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name/title C WARREN WEAVER, ARCHIVIST

organization BLOUNT COUNTY

date 5-11-94

street & number 220 2ND AVE

telephone 625-4284

city or town ONEONTA

state ALABAMA

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**11.** Please submit color slides of the property with this form.

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**12.** Please return ALABAMA REGISTER form to:

ALABAMA REGISTER COORDINATOR  
ALABAMA HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
468 SOUTH PERRY STREET  
MONTGOMERY ALABAMA 36130-0900