# **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 National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form.* If any 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 certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).

1. Name of Property		
Historic name Maryville Post Office		
Other names/site number Maryville Public Library		
Name of related Multiple Property Listing <u>N/A</u>		
2. Location		
Street & number _ 509 North Main Street	N/A	not for publication
City or town Maryville	N/A	vicinity
State Missouri Code MO County Nodaway Code 147	Zip co	ode 64468
3. State/Federal Agency Certification		
As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this <u>X</u> nomination request for determination of eligibility meets th for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedur requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property <u>X</u> meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance: national statewide <u>X</u> local Applicable National Register Criteria: A B <u> Z D B Defect SHP6 8-8-27 Signature of certifying official/Title Date Missouri Department of Natural Resources State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.</u>	al and pr	ofessional
Signature of commenting official Date		
Title State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Govern	ment	
4. National Park Service Certification		
I hereby certify that this property is:		
entered in the National Register determined eligible for the N	lational Reg	gister
determined not eligible for the National Register removed from the National	Register	
other (explain:)		
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action		_

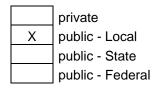
United States Department of the Interior NPS Form 10-900

Maryville Post Office Name of Property

#### 5. Classification

#### **Ownership of Property**

(Check as many boxes as apply.)



Х	building(s)
	district
	site
	structure
	object

**Category of Property** 

(Check only one box.)

## National Park Service / National Register of Historic Places Registration Form OMB No. 1024-0018

Nodaway County, Missouri County and State

#### Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	_
1		buildings
		sites
	1	structures
	2	objects
1	3	Total
		-

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

6. Function or Use	
Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions.)	Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions.)
GOVERNMENT: Post Office	EDUCATION: Library
7. Description	
Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions.)	Materials (Enter categories from instructions.)
LATE 19 <sup>TH</sup> AND 20 <sup>TH</sup> CENTURY REVIVALS:Beaux-Arts	foundation: STONE: Limestone
	walls: STONE: Limestone
	roof: ASPHALT
	SYNTHETICS: plastic, vinyl
	other: METAL: Iron

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION ON CONTINUATION PAGES

Х

Maryville Post Office Name of Property

## 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.)

А

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.



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.



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 grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
  - G less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

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# STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE ON CONTINUATION PAGES Major Bibliographical References

 Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

 Previous documentation on file (NPS):
 Primary location of additional data:

 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67 has been requested)
 X State Historic Preservation Office Other State agency

 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_previously listed in the National Register
 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Federal agency

 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_previously determined eligible by the National Register
 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Local government

 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_designated a National Historic Landmark
 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_University

- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): \_

National Park Service / National Register of Historic Places Registration Form OMB No. 1024-0018

Nodaway County, Missouri County and State

### ARCHITECTURE

Areas of Significance

#### **Period of Significance**

1911-1912

#### **Significant Dates**

1912

#### **Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

#### **Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

#### Architect/Builder

Taylor, James Knox, Supervising Architect of the

Unites States Department of the Treasury

- X Other
- Name of repository: Maryville Public Library

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Maryville Post Office		١	Nodaway County, N	lissouri
Name of Property	-	-	County and State	
10. Geographical Data				
Acreage of Property4	_			
Latitude/Longitude Coordinates Datum if other than WGS84: (enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)				
1 40.350095 -94.872594 Latitude: Longitude:	3	Latitude:	Longitude:	
2 Latitude: Longitude:	4	Latitude:	Longitude:	
UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.) NAD 1927 or NAD 1983	3			
1 Zone Easting Northing		3 Zone	Easting	Northing
2 Zone Easting Northing		4 Zone	Easting	Northing
Verbal Boundary Description (On continuation	۱ she	et)		

#### **Boundary Justification** (On continuation sheet)

organization Maryville Public Library	date January 1, 2022
street & number 509 North Main Street	telephone (660)582-5281
city or town Maryville	state MO zip code 64468

#### **Additional Documentation**

11. Form Prepared By

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- 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. Key all photographs to this map.
- Continuation Sheets
- Photographs
- Owner Name and Contact Information
- Additional items: (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

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.460 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement**: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 hours per response including 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 Office of Planning and Performance Management. U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

Maryville Post Office Name of Property Nodaway County, Missouri County and State

## **Photographs**

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

## Photo Log:

Name of Property	Maryville Post Office/ Maryville Public Library	
City or Vicinity:	Maryville	
County: Nodaw	vay County State: MO	
Photographer:	Stephanie Patterson	
Date Photographed:	November 18-19, 2021	
Description of Ph	otograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:	
1 of 31: Façade a 2 of 31: Façade a 3 of 31: Façade a 4 of 31: South el 5 of 31: South el 6 of 31: Northwe 7 of 31: North pa 8 of 31: Stucco a 9 of 31: Culvert o 10 of 31: Typical 11 of 31: 1 of 2 F 12 of 31: Main er 13 of 31: Central 14 of 31: Ground 15 of 31: South e 16 of 31: West lo 17 of 31: Typical 18 of 31: Post of 20 of 31: Ruth R 21 of 31: Confere 22 of 31: Marble 23 of 31: Marble 24 of 31: Childre	(west), facing east showing closeup of engaged columns and arched windows, facing east and south elevation, facing northeast evation facing north evation and stucco addition, facing north st corner of property, facing southeast rking lot, facing east iddition, facing south on east edge of property, facing south basement window with iron gate, facing east reestanding light fixtures showing details, facing east try door, facing east pediment of façade roofline showing Roman numerals, facing east level cornerstone, facing east entrance close-up, facing north bby showing vaulted ceilings, facing south marble pilaster and decorative plaster, facing east fice depository window, facing north fice depository window (closer), showing lettering and iron bars, facing north obb Price Conference Room, mural facing south ence Room, painted molding detail, facing east wainscoting, facing west wainscoting, facing south or show, facing southeast iouth) staff hallway, facing east	
26 of 31: Former	postmaster's office, dentil molding and picture rails, facing northwest	
28 of 31: Basem	assistant postmaster's office, window and chair rail, facing southwest ent arched double doors (into fuel room) facing south basement arched single door facing south	

- 30 of 31: Interior basement coal cellar door, facing south
- 31 of 31: Basement iron ladder to postal inspector surveillance platform, facing west and up.

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## Figure Log:

Include figures on continuation pages at the end of the nomination.

Figure 1: Contextual Map. Source: Midland GIS Solutions, LLC, Maryville

- Figure 2: Site Map. Source: Midland GIS Solutions, LLC, Maryville
- Figure 3: Current Floor Plan
- Figure 4: Photo Key, Main Floor
- Figure 5: Photo Key, Basement
- Figure 6: Plans for Maryville Post Office, Main Floor, U.S. Postal Department, 1912.
- Figure 7: Plans for Maryville Post Office, Basement, U.S. Postal Department, 1912
- Figure 8: Construction Photo of Maryville Post Office Façade, 1912
- Figure 9: Postcard showing awnings on Post Office Façade, postmarked 1949
- Figure 10: East elevation, 1913
- Figure 11: South and east elevations, facing northwest, February 2022
- Figure 12: Original east elevation columns and cornice as visible from inside 2000 addition, facing south, February 2022
- Figure 13: North segment of east elevation exposed inside north addition foyer, February 2022
- Figure 14: Photo of Maryville Post Office Lobby,
- Figure 15: Inside south staff entrance, February 2022
- Figure 16: Robb Fine Arts Room (formerly postal clerk's office), February 2022
- Figure 17: Northeast interior of original postal workers space, February 2022
- Figure 18: Photo of the Bank Midwest Building, 402 North Main Street, November 2021

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Maryville Post Office
Name of Property
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County and State N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

#### SUMMARY

The 1912 Maryville Post Office—which as of 1962, currently serves as the Maryville Public Library occupies a .4-acre lot at 509 North Main Street in Maryville, Nodaway County Missouri. The one-story building constructed from dressed limestone faces west in the northeast corner of North Main and Fifth Streets. Its west-facing facade (photo 1) is rectangular, symmetrical, and shows a series of embedded Tuscan columns and arched windows. These classical elements, along with the mix of traditional Greek and Roman forms in the colonnade, are associated with Beaux-Arts Classicism.<sup>1</sup>

Attached behind the original building facing eastward, a nearly 5,000 square-foot one-story, flat roof, stucco addition was constructed in 1999 and completed in 2000 to roughly double the square footage of the main floor library (figure 3 and photos 5 and 8). The west facade and north/south elevations were untouched and left to display their original character (photos 1-6)

The original boundary of the property includes a shallow north parking lot (contributing structure), paved for automobiles at some later date. Two non-contributing objects also stand on the property: a stone and concrete public library sign with uplight added to the southwest corner of the lot in 2009 (photo 3), and an aluminum flagpole installed in 2015 with uplight on the northeast corner (photo 6).

An interior restoration in 2000/2001 uncovered original arched ceilings, marble pilasters, and dentil molding, (photos 16-17 and 26) most of which remain fully visible to the public.<sup>2</sup> In 2008, an original post office service window was also uncovered (photos 18 and 19).

#### SETTING

The nominated building is located at 509 North Main Street in Maryville, Nodaway County, Missouri (Figures 1 and 2). With a current population of 10,633,<sup>3</sup> Maryville is a rural "college town" in northwest Missouri, home to Northwest Missouri State University. The town is situated 43 miles north of St. Joseph, MO and approximately 30 miles south of the Missouri/Iowa border.

The 1912 Marvville Post Office building sits on a lot formerly occupied by a livery Stable and a marble engraving shop.<sup>4</sup> At that time, Barmann's Carriage Factory stood across the street.<sup>5</sup> Currently, the post office building and its north parking space face a one-story late 20<sup>th</sup> century brick bank across the street. On the north is a one-story late 20<sup>th</sup> century building currently used as a dance studio. Southward, across 5th street a lot currently stands vacant. Two blocks south is the historic Nodaway County Courthouse and its square, where several two-story 19th century brick commercial buildings still stand, as well as a new County Administration Center built in 2008. Adjacent blocks are residential and populated with one and two-story houses mostly from the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20th century periods.

The 0.4-acre property occupies the southwest corner of the northeast block at 5th and Main Streets in Maryville. The post office building sits near the southwest corner of the property. The current public concrete sidewalk (outside of the boundary) along Main and 5<sup>th</sup> Streets bounds the building's shallow flat lawn, which is nearly 15 feet deep on both the south and west sides (photos 3 and 4). The lawn is currently landscaped with an assortment of flowering trees, shrubs and flowers. A brick and concrete

<sup>4</sup> Sanborn Map Company, Maryville, Nodaway County, Missouri, 1910. Care of Nodaway County Historical Society.

Whiffen, Marcus. American Architecture Since 1780 (MIT: 1969), 152. One of the major intentions of the 2001 restoration was to remove hanging ceilings and wood paneling installed when the post office was converted to a public library in 1962. As a result, the original vaulted ceilings, molding, and marble pilasters were uncovered and became visible to the public. U.S. Census Bureau, U.S. Census 2020, Accessed at https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/maryvillecitymissouri

Ibid.

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Maryville Post Office Name of Property

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Name of multiple listing (if applicable) sign added in 2009 is a non-contributing object at the southwest corner. It's engraved with the words "Maryville Public Library" (photo 3). Near the northwest corner of the property, a flag pole with an inground uplight installed in 2015 is a non-contributing object (photo 7). A parking lot, added with the addition in 2000, is a non-contributing structure (photo 7). It is a concrete pad running along the north

County and State N/A

Nodaway County, Missouri

elevation from the sidewalk on the west to the neighboring building on the property to the west. There are ten spaces and a shallow, concrete ramp extending from the sidewalk running between the building and the lot.

The sign, flag pole, and parking lot are considered non-contributing resources due to their installation after the Period of Significance. Two non-historic staple-style public bike racks were installed in 2020 (photo 6), one on the City sidewalk and one just inside the boundary of the southwest corner of the north parking lot. The bike racks are not counted as resources due to their small size, and one is outside of the boundary.

On the east side of the building, an original parking lot and protruding vestibule once served postal operations from the back (figure 10). In 1999-2000, the vestibule and parking lot were removed and built over with a 5,000 square-foot building addition (photos 5 and 8). The addition extends eastward to within two (2) feet of the west edge of an adjacent 1-story unadorned utility building currently owned by CenturyLink. The two-feet of separation between the properties provides for a concrete culvert to channel water southward to city storm drains (photo 9).

#### EXTERIOR DESCRIPTION

The building is covered by a low-profile hipped roof with a flat top, and rimmed at the edge with an original limestone balustrade on the west, north and south (photos 1, 4, 8). The balusters are carved in a bulbous, tapered shape set on a thick, square base. An original rectangular chimney stack is located near the north central edge. In 2017, original standing seam metal cladding (figures 9 and 10) was removed and replaced with TPO membrane on the uppermost surface and EPDM on the lowest surface perimeter, between the asphalt-shingled slope and the original balustraded rim. An original roof scuttle is centered directly above the facade and just inside the balustrade. Within inches of the scuttle, a historic wooden flag pole hung with a U.S. flag was installed (figure 9). It was removed sometime before 2008. On the west, north, and south elevations of the original building, a series of original modillions support the limestone cornice (photos 2,3, and 5). The frieze features low relief circles placed above the columns and pilasters.

The main floor is 3.5 feet above grade, supported by a limestone foundation cut by 11 (eleven) deep set original basement windows. Ten out of eleven of these window frames holds an original wood threepaned window, covered on the exterior with a secondary storm window. One exception on the south side is filled in by a panel holding an exterior water faucet installed in 2021. All eleven are secured on the exterior by their own original horizontal gate of solid iron bars on a hinge (photo 10). A substantial portion of the limestone blocks from the foundation up are highly dressed and tooled.

#### Façade (west elevation)

Flanked by a succession of three embedded Tuscan columns and large, story-height arched windows on bulkheads on either side, the focal point of the main facade is the Main Street entrance facing west (photos 1,2, and 12). All primary level facade windows are original wood sash with a four-light fixed arch transom over a mulled set. The set consists of a wide four-over-four light double hung window flanked by two narrow two-over-two double hung windows. Three of these large assemblies are evenly spaced on either side of the central entryway. Added dimension and embellishment are achieved by each arched window receding behind a narrow half-pilaster on each side, a scroll style keystone on top, and a carved, raised panel below the stone sash. The façade's broad Roman colonnade terminates at each end with a narrow bay of two raised panels separated by an architrave in line with transom height and enclosed

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	ne of Property Jaway County, Missouri
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Nam	ne of multiple listing (if applicable)

between a set of story-height pilasters (photos 1 and 3). Shortly after the 1912 construction, awnings were installed on each of the six arched windows. A postcard featuring the building and postmarked 1949 (figure 9) shows those awnings and suggests they remained in place until that time. The awnings have since been removed.

From the Main Street sidewalk, the building is approached by the original low, straight central granite staircase that spans the three central bays. The staircase is buttressed at the bottom with one large original limestone block on either side (photos 1 and 12). The original revolving door has been replaced with a clear anodized aluminum storefront system with two doors however original wood framing and trim is intact. A narrow black pin-striped awning was installed in 2009 to provide some protection from inclement weather (photo 12).

The central pediment of the roofline balustrade is carved with the Roman numerals *MCMXII*, marking the date of construction (photo 13). The frieze just below the cornice--likely featuring an engraving labeling the building as a U.S. Post Office—has been covered with wood panels and lettering that identifies the building as *Maryville Public Library* (photos 13 and 1). A series of modillions support the limestone cornice.

On the cornerstone located on the south west corner of the building, is engraved "*Franklin MacVeagh, Secretary of the Treasury, James Knox Taylor, Supervising Architect, MCMXII*" (photo 14). Several feet above, a small Civil Defense sign is mounted designating the building as a 1960s fallout shelter.

#### South and North Elevation

On the original portions of the north and south elevation, the details of the entablature and balustrade continue from the façade and full-height limestone pilasters provide visual interest, defining six bays and mimicking the façade's Tuscan columns through repetition of their capitols and bases (photos 3-8). The bays on either end of the original portion are similar to that of the façade's end bays: narrow bays with two raised panels separated by an architrave and void of fenestration. The four remaining bays are vertically divided by a tripartite raised panel design and flanked by smaller half-pilasters capped with an architrave over the central fields. The windows are covered with non-historic storm windows.

On the South Elevation, the second bay contains a side entrance approached from the 5<sup>th</sup> Street sidewalk by an original granite straight staircase buttressed by original limestone blocks. The door is a non-historic aluminum-framed glass door and non-historic awning that provides entrance for staff (photos 3 and 4). The window in the third bay is an original small, rectangular wood single-light casement. Bays four and five both have an original large, eight-over-eight double hung wood window.

Extending eastward and terminating just two feet from an adjacent commercial lot, the 2000 single-story addition is significantly lower in stature, capped with a flat roof, and faced with stucco the color of light tan to coordinate with the natural limestone of the original building (photos 4- 5, figure 11). The addition is recessed slightly where it connects to the original building and projects at a shallow right angle roughly twenty feet east. The windows are fixed and align horizontally with the original portion's windows in no regular pattern: a small single light rectangular window, a large single light square window with an arched single light above, follow by three small single light rectangular windows. Without adornment, it features a flat roof, one arched fixed window and four small rectangular fixed windows of irregular size. It is otherwise unadorned.

On the North Elevation, bays two, three, and four each have a large original rectangular window opening similar to those on the South Elevation, but replacement has occurred due to hail damage. The bay two window retains its sash but has been coved on the interior. The bay four and five eight-over-eight

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Nodaway	County, Missouri
County an N/A	d State
Name of n	nultiple listing (if applicable)

windows have been repaired with tempered glass (photos 7 and 8). The much smaller window opening in bay three serves an original restroom. It was reframed and outfitted with an exhaust fan in 2021.

Extending eastward, the line of the 2000 stucco-faced addition projects just two feet out near the original building to shelter a new north recessed entrance with a pair of aluminum-framed glass doors and ADA-access via its elevator to the building's main floor. The addition's windows are similar to those on the south elevation, featuring one single light square with an arched top light and two small single light rectangular windows near the east corner.

#### East elevation

The east elevation is that of the 2000 one-story stucco-clad addition. Except through a two-foot wide culvert that separates it from a neighboring property (photo 9) the current east elevation is not visible due to its close proximity to the building on the adjacent property (photo 9 and figure 11).

#### Original east elevation

The original building's east elevation (figure10)—originally the post offices' rear receiving area—was constructed without the limestone pilasters and modillions that ornament the other three elevations. This original elevation is now mostly housed within the 2000 addition, with the exception of the central cornice and pediment (figures 11 and 12). Out of the five original large story-height windows, the central three have been stripped of their windows, sashes, and lower walls to provide a thoroughfare between the original building and its addition designed by Vernon Reed Architects. The original supporting posts are intact and currently covered with drywall, with the exception of the top third of their original limestone surface, which is exposed and very visible from inside the addition (figure 12). The original limestone cornice is visible through a non-historic fixed skylight in the addition (figure 12). The original secondary 16-light window on the north bay is intact and visible on the bottom half of each. The original secondary 16-light window and sash was removed to provide passage between the original building and its addition along the north side. The original limestone walls adjacent to that window are intact and mostly visible inside the library staff workroom.

#### INTERIOR DESCRIPTION

The interior has a largely open floor plan front to back (west to east), with secondary spaces lining the perimeter of the north and south walls (figure 3). The main entrance from the west façade was originally through a revolving door (figures 6 and 14). Today, an aluminum-framed glass double door vestibule provides entry to that main lobby.

The lobby runs north/south and features the original barrel-vaulted ceiling (photo 16 and figure 14) and a series of marble pilasters on both sides along that corridor. Each pilaster rises to meet a decorative plaster relief that runs along each arch (photo 17). Portions of the ceiling and molding were repaired during the 2001 restoration.

On the north end of the lobby facing south, an original large arched wood-framed multi-panel post office service window is intact (photos 18 and 19), with some minor wood matching replacement only on the counter portion. Still featuring its original metal bars and painted Postal Savings Depository, the window communicates the historic use of the space as a part of a postal savings bank. Postal Savings Banks were first authorized by the federal government in 1910.<sup>6</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Boland, Beth. National Register Bulletin 13: How to Apply the National Register Criteria to Post Offices, (U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1994). 3.

United States Department of the Interior	
National Park Service	Maryville Post Office
National Register of Historic Places	Name of Property Nodaway County, Missouri
Continuation Sheet	County and State N/A
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Behind the window, that original postal clerk space has been walled off. That room was redecorated in 2008/09 to serve as the Robb Fine Arts Room for the purpose of honoring Philip K. Robb, a major contributor to the library's 2000/2001 renovation. During the 2008 redecoration of that room, two small domes were inserted in the ceiling to match a small non-historic dome inserted within the secondary south staff entrance in 2001 (Figure 15). Also in 2009, the door to this former postal clerk's office was replaced with a decorative iron gate (partly visible in figure 16). The bones of an original vault are still in place, although in 2009, portions of it were filled in with built-in wood shelves, and the original door to the vault was replaced with another decorative iron gate similar to the one partly visible in figure 16.

The south half of the front lobby was sectioned off in drywall and glass in 2001 to designate space for a conference room open for use by both public and library staff (photo 16). Within the conference room, non-historic Chinoiserie panels featuring excerpts from Milton's poetry were hand painted and hung as a mural at that time under the arched south wall of the room (photo 20), and along the east side of the room, where additional non-historic lighting was added. Also within the room and around the southwest corner, original decorative plaster was repaired and painted in colors of red and gold (photo 21). The segment of vaulted ceiling over the room was painted a light green blue to match the veining in the original marble pilasters. Original marble wainscoting runs along the west wall (photo 22), but damaged portions along the south baseboards were replaced in 2001 and painted with a faux-marble finish (photo 23) to blend in with the original marble pilasters and wainscoting. At least one damaged original marble panel in the southwest corner of the room was replaced in 2001 with original marble taken from the wall of the building's basement men's restroom. California Artist Jean Horihata performed all decorative painting in 2001 in the room under the commission of private benefactor Philip Robb.<sup>7</sup>

Along the main lobby's long east side, a series of columns supporting arches were originally interfiled with post office boxes that served lobby customers. Behind the P.O. boxes, was the large main working space for post office staff (figure 6, 14 at left). When the property was converted to a public library in 1962, the P.O. boxes were removed, providing open access to the central space, which features 21'-25'-high ceilings (partially visible on left in photo 16 and figure 17). Original hanging globe lamps have been replaced with similar fixtures. A few uplights were added to the upper walls at that time to draw attention to the high ceilings.

This main public area, as well as staff office areas, is now carpeted in a color to match the light bluegreen veining in the original marble throughout the building. As a nod to the county's agricultural heritage, a barn-shaped structure was added to the southeast corner in 2001 to enhance the public library's children's reading area (photo 24 and figure 3). Across the old postal staff workroom, on the north, an original secondary space was divided and walled off in 2001, and most recently in 2020 to provide two public study rooms--each roughly 6'X17' —and one storage closet (figures 3 and 17). Those small rooms are currently separated from an original restroom by a narrow hall (figure 17).

Through the east wall of the original building, the new addition provides a library circulation desk, behind which is a primary work room for library staff. Most of the space provided by the addition is a large public area currently housing library book stacks and public use computers (figure 3). A fixed skylight built as part of the 2000 addition runs 20.5 feet along the edge of the original east elevation. It's centered above where the three middle windows originally were, and allows for segments of that elevation to be easily seen from below, including the tops of the two limestone supporting posts and the cornice (figure 12).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> The Making of a Room: Renovation of the Maryville Public Library, directed by Phillip Gray, produced by Phillip D. Robb, DVD.

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In the southwest corner of the original post office building, another revolving door was removed—likely in 1962--leaving behind its cylindrical shell wall, and replaced with a single aluminum glass door and sidelight to provide side entry for staff (figure 15). A spiral staircase to the basement (figure 6) was removed in 2001 and replaced with a double-L staircase.

Eastward, along the south perimeter of the original building, a short, narrow hall shows more original marble wainscoting (photo 25). Its dentiled molding, along with the molding in the adjacent restroom— originally a janitor's closet and toilet—was decoratively painted red and gold in 2001 as an extension of the Ruth Robb Conference Room project.

The hallway leads through an original paneled door with textured glass to the original postmaster's office, which still features original dentil molding (photo 26), original chair rails and picture rails, and an original rectangular eight-over-eight double hung wood window. An original vault off the postmaster's office now serves as a fortified storage closet for historical documents owned by the library.

Just east, through an original five-paneled oak door and frame, the original building terminates at its southeast corner with the original Assistant Postmaster's office, which minus the vault, is identical to the former, featuring the same dentiled molding and a similar window (photo 27). The Asst. Postmaster's original east window now contains a doorway leading into the southwest corner of the 2000 addition, which currently serves as the Internet network hub and additional back-office work space for library staff.

#### Basement

The Maryville Post Office basement is accessible from the northeast by a flight of original concrete steps now carpeted and covered by the 2000 addition which also supplements access with a foyer outfitted with both a staircase and elevator to the elevated main floor. Access at the southwest corner from the main floor was originally gained with a spiral staircase. In 2001, it was removed and replaced with a double-L shaped staircase.

The original basement is divided into 6 rooms (figure 7), including a large central boiler room, a fuel room on the southeast corner, and an original men's restroom area with showers in the northeast corner. The boiler system was removed in 1992 and replaced with four natural gas furnaces. Three furnaces, are installed along the north edge of the original boiler room and enclosed behind a fire-rated wall. Several original architectural details still remain. Original arched doors still provide access between the basement rooms (photos 28 and 29). The fuel room—now used for one furnace and for storage—still shows the original exterior coal chute from the inside, as well as three interior cast-iron doors to the original coal cellar (photo 30).

#### Attic, including a hidden infrastructure

The Maryville Post Office attic is accessed by two original wrought-iron ladders. One provides attic access from the main floor through a space originally planned as a janitor's closet and toilet, and now serving as a restroom. The other runs up from the north side of the basement (photo 31) to allow appointed postal inspectors to climb to hidden platforms built to support the monitoring of postal employees as they sorted mail. This hidden surveillance infrastructure is reportedly a distinguishing feature of many historical post offices in America,<sup>8</sup> and its remaining structure is a favorite attraction for local building contractors to this day.

#### INTEGRITY

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> Tucker, Greg. ``Hidden Spy System still exists in the old Post Office,'' as printed in the *Daily News Journal*, November 27, 2011. Accessed at http://rutherfordtnhistory.org/hidden-spy-system-still-exists-in-the-old-postoffice/

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While the 2000 addition to the back significantly affected the integrity of the building, the facade and north/south elevations have remained intact, with few superficial alterations. The only elevation affected was unique in that it alone originally lacked much of the detailing of the other three, including the balustrade, columns, arches and modillions that distinguish the building within its community. Plain square columns and pediment (Figure 24)—now only partly visible (Figures 11 and 12)--distinguish the original east elevation. Corresponding to the original building, the addition covering the east elevation features a flat roofline, lower than its parent building. By positioning the 2000 construction in the least obtrusive area—directly behind the historic building—the addition stands completely out of sight while viewing the façade. Cladding the addition in stucco color-coordinated to the building's limestone exterior and lack of ornamentation also diminishes the addition's visual impact. Furthermore, several portions of the original east elevation remain visible inside the addition (figures 12 and 13). The northeast corner is featured prominently inside the north foyer (figure 13). Inside the original building, a significant number of other original architectural elements remain visible throughout, most notably the barrel-vaulted ceilings, marble pilasters, and the original post office service window.

#### Location

The building remains unmoved from its original site of construction in 1912. Figure 8 shows a scene from the construction of the façade in 1912.

#### Setting

Located one block north of the Nodaway County Courthouse Square, the building's adjacent "Downtown Maryville" environment has remained a hub of civic participation, local government, and commerce. Many of the 19<sup>th</sup> century brick storefronts around the courthouse square remain intact in fair condition. Across the street from the nominated building, a former carriage factory has been demolished. That lot is currently occupied by a one-story drive-thru bank branch built in new traditional style.

#### Design

Throughout its exterior and interior, essential features remain that reveal a conscious effort by its original designers to follow and imitate classical precedents in architecture, ornamentation, and craft.

#### Materials and Workmanship

Nearly all of the building's original Bedford Quarry limestone, and marble, cast iron, and wood are intact and visible to the public, providing an accessible artifact of human construction skills present in the U.S. at the turn of the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries.

#### Feeling and Association

With its façade and north/south elevations fully intact, this building has maintained its original presence as a relatively monumental structure within its setting, replete with classical details characteristic of the public buildings of its time. Inside, a significant change caused by the conversion of the building into a public library included the removal of original post office boxes that once separated the public lobby from the large mail sorting room used by postal employees (figure 17). That open space—still serving as a public library--was nearly doubled in 2000 with the construction of the stucco addition. But today, a revealed original Post Office service window, vaulted ceilings, and detail of the front lobby (photos 18 and 19), is a visible reminder of the original use of the building. A hidden human surveillance infrastructure originally used during random audits by postal inspectors, also testifies to the building's early history (photo 31).

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#### SUMMARY

The Maryville Post Office, now housing the Maryville Public Library, located at 509 North Main Street, Maryville, Nodaway County, Missouri is locally significant under National Register of Historic Places Criterion C in the area of ARCHITECTURE. The 1911-1912 construction date is also the Period of Significance. This one-story limestone building with a low-profile hipped roof stands out by providing local residents and visitors a rare and excellent Marvville example of the Beaux-Arts style of early 20th Century Classical Revival Architecture, popular at the time of its construction, built at the end of a period that vielded several elaborate post offices in the U.S. In contrast to the soaring tower and cupola of the 1888 high-Victorian courthouse down the street, the Maryville Post Office, with its long rectangular symmetrical composition and low-lying hipped roof, exemplifies the shift toward a more basic classical design taken by American Architecture in the late 19th and early 20th century.<sup>9</sup> Additional Beaux-Arts features include a façade-wide story-height colonnade, sequences of pilasters, tripartite relief panels, a rooftop balustrade and modillion cornice line on three elevations, and a light-colored masonry exterior.<sup>10</sup>

#### NARRATIVE

#### Maryville History, County of Nodaway

In 1845, the Northwest Missouri County of Nodaway was recognized by the State legislature.<sup>11</sup> Soon after, the town of Maryville was named its county seat.<sup>12</sup>

Fed on agriculture, and watered by the One Hundred and Two River, Maryville was named after the wife of the first postmaster, Amos Graham.<sup>13</sup>, <sup>14</sup>

By 1890, a brick-built commercial district was rapidly growing out from a new county courthouse on Main Street between 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Streets. By the first years of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, Downtown Maryville was fully active with industry, dry goods stores, banks, hotel accommodations, and a theater,<sup>15</sup> The U.S. Census Bureau reported Maryville's population to be just 4,762 in 1910.

But already by 1907, from its space in the brick block of Fourth Street, north of the courthouse square,<sup>16</sup> Maryville Postmaster Scribner Beech was urging Maryville citizens and postal customers to sign and send a petition for a new post office building to Missouri Congressman Charles Booher.<sup>17</sup>

As a result, a new post office was built and served its purpose until 1962, when the post office moved to a building better suited to the evolving changes in mail handling. At that time, the City of Maryville acquired the property and transferred it to the Maryville Public Library Board of Trustees under the condition it

Rybczynksi, Witold. A Clearing in the Distance: Frederick Law Olmsted and America in the Nineteenth Century. (New York: Scribner, 1999) 373-374. <sup>10</sup> McAlester, Virginia S. A Field Guide to American Houses (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2015) 475-478.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> Steiner, Michael J., Images of America: Nodaway County. (Charleston: Arcadia Publishing, 2008)7.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> Ibid, 7. <sup>13</sup> Ibid, 17.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> Steiner, Michael J. and Brent Trout. Images of America, Maryville. (Charleston: Arcadia Publishing, 2013). 7.

Ibid, 10-23.

<sup>&</sup>quot;The Post Office on Third Street: Weaver Building Rented by Government" The Maryville Republican, May 5, 1910.

<sup>&</sup>quot; 'SIGN THE PETITION: Must be given to Congressman at Once'' Maryville Republican (October 31, 1907).

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serve the public as a library for a minimum of 20 years.<sup>18</sup> In its fulfillment of each role, the building has remained open to the public, offering free and low-cost services to citizens of all ages and socioeconomic backgrounds.

#### Influence of Ecole des Beaux-Arts and the 1893 World Columbian Exposition

The Maryville Post Office was built at a time when American architecture was still predominantly led by graduates of the Ecole des Beaux-Arts in France.<sup>19</sup> The American departure from Victorian architecture, and its emphasis on vertical lines and delicate ornamentation toward a more serious-minded allegiance to ancient building elements was famously showcased and accelerated by the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago.<sup>20</sup> Those influences were especially pronounced in the construction of public buildings,<sup>21</sup> which resulted in a generation of train stations, post offices, custom houses, and libraries that were broad in mass, and instantly recognizable by the ubiquitous presence of columns, arches, and pilasters. These elements demonstrated the fusion of Greek and Roman influence and were always positioned in a strictly symmetrical arrangement.<sup>22</sup> Exterior walls showed multiple advancing and receding planes to compound the visual interest. The most elaborate Beaux-Arts buildings in the U.S. also featured coupled columns, and figure sculpture.<sup>23</sup> While some featured a centrally domed roofline, Beaux-Arts buildings often present a flat or low-profile hipped roof, much like the Paris building itself that housed the Ecole des Beaux-Arts. The roofline balustrade, modillion cornice, and light-colored stone walls are also characteristic of American Beaux-Arts architecture.<sup>24</sup>

#### John Knox Taylor, Supervising Architect, and early 20th Century Post Office Construction.

Established in the early 1850s, the U.S. Office of Supervising Architect oversaw design and construction of all federal government buildings—including post offices, federal courthouses, and custom houses scattered across the United States—until those duties were transferred to the Public Works Administration in the 1930s. Maryville Post Office was constructed during the last year of tenure for James Knox Taylor, who served as Supervising Architect of the Treasury from 1897 to 1912.<sup>25</sup> Taylor's name—along with then Treasury Secretary Franklin MacVeagh— is engraved on the building's southeast cornerstone (photo 14). Taylor's work showed a preference for classical and early American styles in his design and he was known to use high quality and long-lasting building materials.<sup>26</sup> Consequently, Maryville Post Office was constructed from Vermont granite and Bedford Quarry limestone,<sup>27</sup> with plenty of marble enhancing the interior space.

The following year, the 1913 Buildings Act marked the end of constructing elaborate and individualized new post office buildings for small town America, in favor of lower-cost construction materials and standardized design. The new legislation classed cities and towns according to their annual postal receipts, and limited materials such as limestone facing and interior marble to furnish post offices where receipts totaled \$60,000 or more.<sup>28</sup>

#### Beaux-Arts Style and the Maryville Post Office

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>18</sup> Quitclaim Deed, December 10,1962. Courtesy of Nodaway County Recorder's Office.
<sup>19</sup> Rybczynski, 388.
<sup>20</sup> Whiffen, 152.
<sup>21</sup> Ibid.
<sup>22</sup> Whiffen, 149.
<sup>23</sup> Ibid.
<sup>24</sup> McAlester, 476-478.
<sup>25</sup> Boland, 3.
<sup>26</sup> Ibid.
<sup>27</sup> 'Car of Cement Came, Work on P.O. Resumes,'' The Maryville Tribune, (May 23, 1921).
<sup>28</sup> Boland, Appendix E.

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Located one block north of the Nodaway County Courthouse (extant, listed 10/11/1979), and mostly surrounded by 19<sup>th</sup>-century brick storefronts and mid-century modern commercial properties, the 1912 former Maryville Post Office is the only building in Maryville that substantially represents the American brand of Beaux-Arts influence. This nominated building's broad, rectangular mass, flat-hipped roof, and symmetrical arcaded and colonnaded façade echo the American Beaux-Arts style on display at the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition<sup>29</sup> and later exemplified by the architectural firm of McKim, Mead and White in Boston's iconic 1895 Public Library and New York's 1910 Penn Street Station.<sup>30</sup>

The Beaux-Arts favor toward columns and arches is most obvious in the Maryville Post Office building's façade, and repeated inside the front lobby, where the original barrel-vaulted ceiling is supported by a corridor of marble pilasters, each topped with plaster relief, also common to the style. This building also exhibits the modillion cornice frequently seen on Beaux-Arts buildings. The Beaux-Arts tendency to advance and recede planes on the exterior is represented by patterns of raised panels, varying sizes of pilasters, and bas relief details on the entablatures.

The end result gives both the impression of substantial mass in relation to its surroundings, and relatively elaborate detailing as a stone structure surfaced all over with distinctive features of the Classical Revival typical of its date of construction. With original wood, iron, and marble inside, the interior is also replete in the distinctive features of public building construction in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century (photos 17-19, 22, and 26-31).

Recalling the features of a Third Century Roman Arcade,<sup>31</sup> the building's Main Street entrance is flanked on either side by a succession of embedded Tuscan columns and large, full-height arched windows. Building on a theme of repeating ornament, the entablature features a horizontal row of carved flat discs, and is topped by a modillion cornice and balustrade that rim the entire building. (See photos 1-3)

The building's overall commitment to Classical forms is embellished with four original iron light fixtures cast to mimic Corinthian columns. Two are freestanding at the main approach (photos 1 and 11), and two are attached to the building at either side of the south staff entrance (photo 15). The original globe-shaped lamps were replaced with carriage-style lamps in 2009 to conform with a Downtown Maryville Revitalization effort centered on the Nodaway County Courthouse Square.

Inside the main lobby, a barrel-vaulted ceiling is supported on each side by a series of marble pilasters, revealing the building's Roman classical roots (photo 16).

An original post office service window was revealed in 2008/9 after a false wall was removed (photos 18 and 19). Its iron bars and original painted glass provide witness to the building's history as one the postal savings banks authorized by the U.S. Government after 1910 for the purpose of encouraging rural and working-class citizens to deposit their savings in a federal institution.<sup>32</sup> On either side of the window are marble pilasters featuring dentil molding. The building itself features numerous examples of dentil molding and marble construction throughout (photos 17, 22, and 26)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>29</sup> Gelernter, Mark. A History of American Architecture (Lebanon, NH: University Press of New England, 1999). 203

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>30</sup> Ibid, 202.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>31</sup> Janson, H.W. *History of Art*, 4<sup>th</sup> Edition (New York: Harry Abrams: 1991). 229.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>32</sup> Bruns, James H. Great American Post Offices (Smithsonian Institution, John Wiley & Sons, 1998) 85-88.

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#### Architecture in Maryville

Nodaway County and its county seat of Maryville are in a largely agricultural rural setting with NWMSU college campus within city limits. The other most notable free-standing non-residential buildings in Maryville built between 1880 and 1917 include the Bank Midwest building, the Nodaway County Courthouse, and the historic NWMSU Administrative building, all described below. No formal architectural surveys in Nodaway County have been documented, but conversations with Tom Carneal,<sup>33</sup> local historian and retired NWMSU Professor of American and Asian History, and Scott Kuhlemeyer,<sup>34</sup> A.I.A. and current Director of Capital Programs at NWMSU, both confirm this author's observation that the specific combination of a relatively flat roofline, broad rectangular limestone facade, and the arched colonnade that spans it, mark this nominated property as the only Beaux Arts Style building in Maryville. The closest comparisons are buildings featuring related styles that also grew from the Classical Revival movement at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century:

#### Bank Midwest Building, 402 North Main Street (figure 18)

Built around 1917, this is an excellent example of Neo-Classical style. It shows a shallow full-façade porch featuring four massive freestanding Doric columns supporting a triangular pediment. The deep side elevations are smooth masonry block with rectangular instead of arched windows and a more restrained use of ornamentation. These elements, along with its monumental scale, distinguish the Bank Midwest Building as Neo-Classical<sup>35</sup> rather than the Beaux-Arts style displayed by the 1912 Maryville Post Office building.

#### CONCLUSION

Situated in a small rural Northwestern Missouri town among examples of Italianate, Victorian, and midcentury modern, the original Maryville Post Office building at 509 North Main Street in Maryville, Nodaway County, Missouri is unique in both Maryville and Nodaway County as an excellent and rare example of the Beaux-Arts style, eligible for listing to the National Register of Historic Places for its local significance under Criterion C: ARCHITECTURE with a 1911-1912 Period of Significance. With its monumental mass, low-lying hipped roof, repetition of columns, arches, modillions, and low relief ornamentation, and use of dressed limestone and marble-faced interiors, this building is a reflection of a significant development in U.S. architectural history and a visually impressive building relative to its rural downtown surroundings.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>33</sup> Carneal, Thomas. Conversation with author. Email and phone conversation. Maryville, Mo. December 1, 2021.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>34</sup> Kuhlemeyer, Scott. Conversation with author. Email. Maryville, Mo. December 8, 2021 <sup>35</sup> Whiffor 167

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>35</sup> Whiffen, 167.

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#### **Verbal Boundary Description**

The Maryville Post Office and its surrounding property occupy all of Lots Five (5) and Six (6) in Block Two (2) of the Original Town [now City] of Maryville, comprising .4000 acre, more or less.

The northern boundary is an alleyway owned by the city of Maryville. The west boundary is Main Street. The south boundary is East 5<sup>th</sup> Street. The east boundary meets a building currently owned by CenturyLink, Inc., a telecommunications company. The two properties are separated by a two-foot-wide uncovered concrete culvert (photo 9).

#### **Boundary Justification**

The current property listed on this application has retained its original property lines (All of lots Five 5) and Six (6) in Block 2 of the original Town (now City) of Maryville. <sup>36 37</sup>

*National Register Bulletin 16A* recommends to "Select boundaries that encompass the entire resource, with historic and contemporary additions."<sup>38</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>36</sup> "Deed," June 14, 2009. Courtesy of Nodaway County Recorder's Office, Accessed March 28, 2022.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>37</sup> "Quitclaim Deed", December 10, 1962. Courtesy of Nodaway County Recorder's Office, Accessed November 23, 2021.

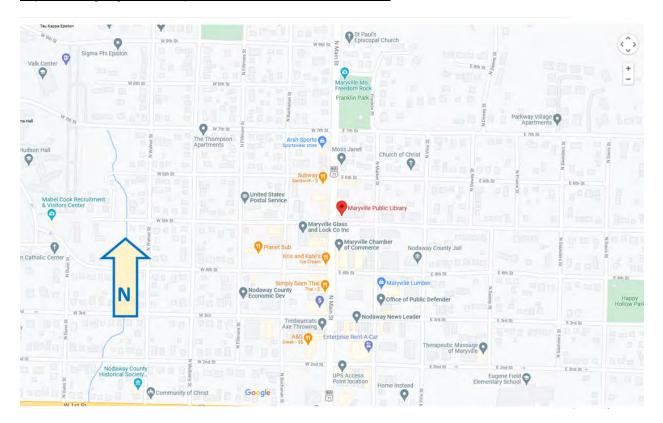
<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>38</sup> U.S. Department of the Interior. *National Register Bulletin 16A*: How to Complete the National Register *Form*, Revised 1997.

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Figure 1: Contextual Map, *Google Maps*, Accessed February 1, 2022, <u>https://www.google.com/maps/@40.3499363,-94.8747944,17z</u>



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Figure 2: Site Map, Midland GIS Solutions, 2021

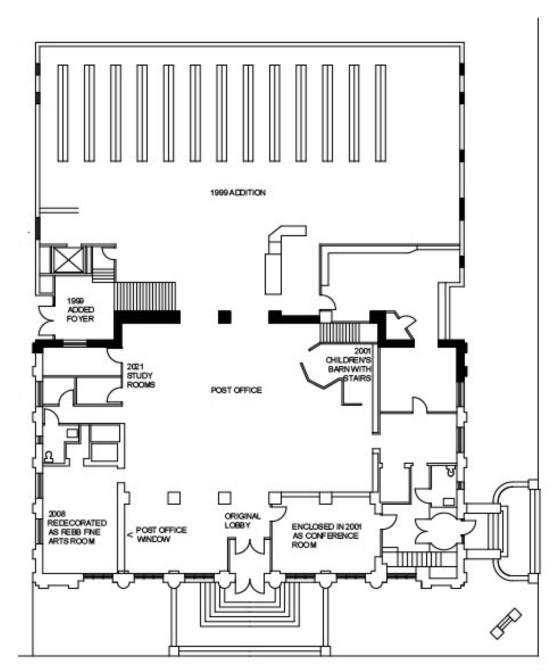
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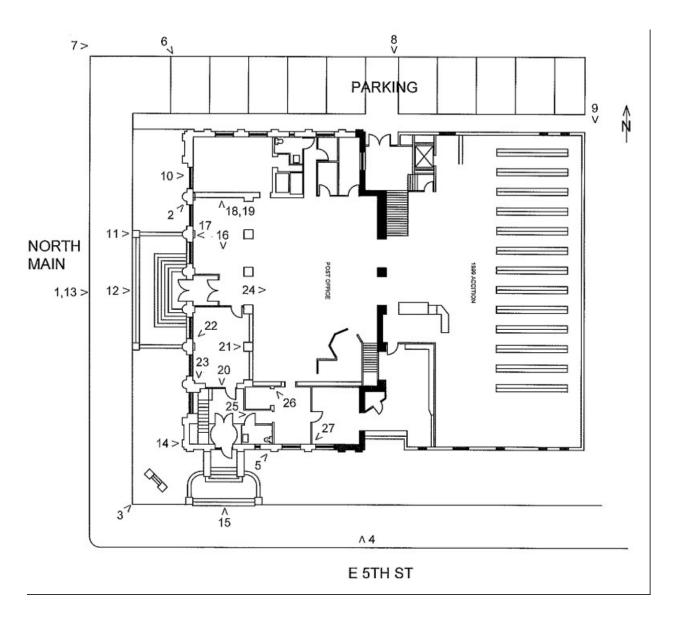
Figure 3: Current Floor Plan, Michales Joy, *Updated First Floor Plan, Maryville Public Library*, 2022. Based on Blueprint, *Maryville Public Library Addition*, Vernon Reed, Reed Architects, 1999.



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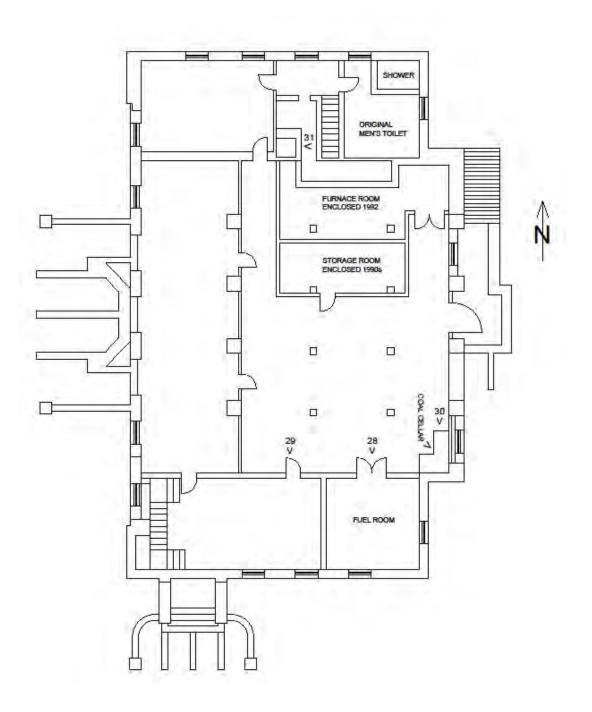
Figure 4: Photo Key, MAIN FLOOR, Michales Joy, 2021.



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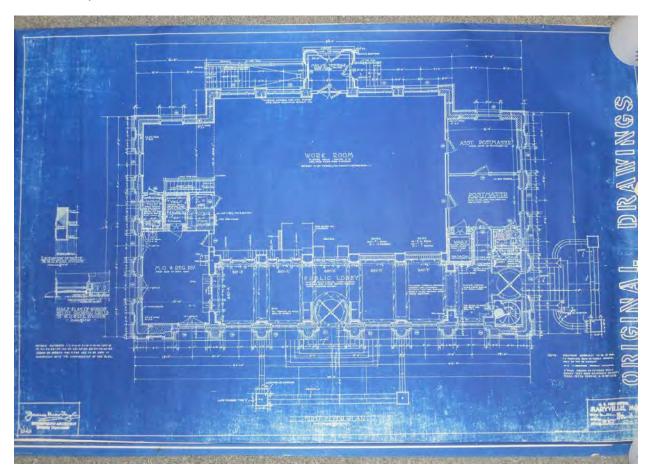
Figure 5: Photo Key, Basement, Michales Joy, 2022.



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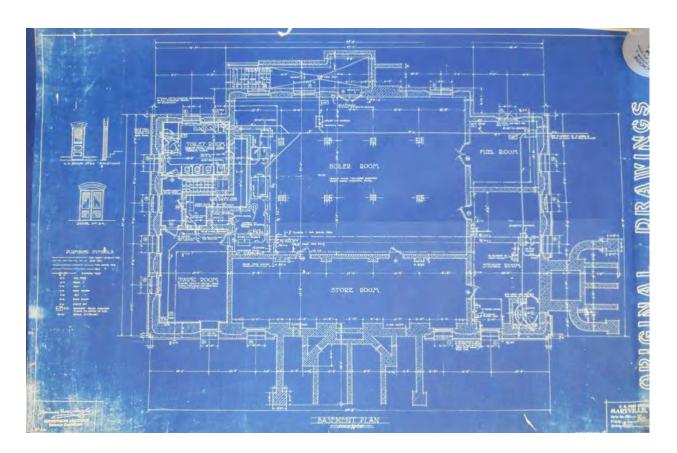
Figure 6: *Plans for Maryville Post Office*, Main Floor, U.S. Postal Department, 1912. Housed at Maryville Public Library.



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Figure 7: *Plans for Maryville Post Office, Basement*, U.S. Postal Department, 1912. Housed at Maryville Public Library.



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Figure 8: Construction Photo, Maryville Post Office West Facade, facing southeast, 1912. Housed at Maryville Public Library.

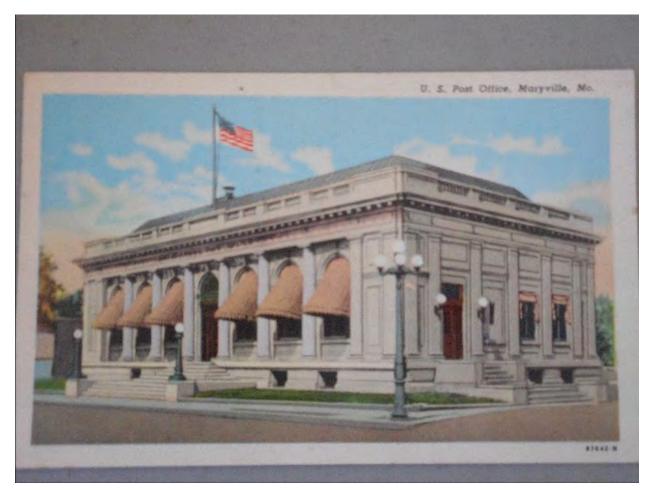


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Figure 9: Vintage postcard showing awnings and rooftop flag on Post Office façade, postmarked 1949, housed at Maryville Public Library.

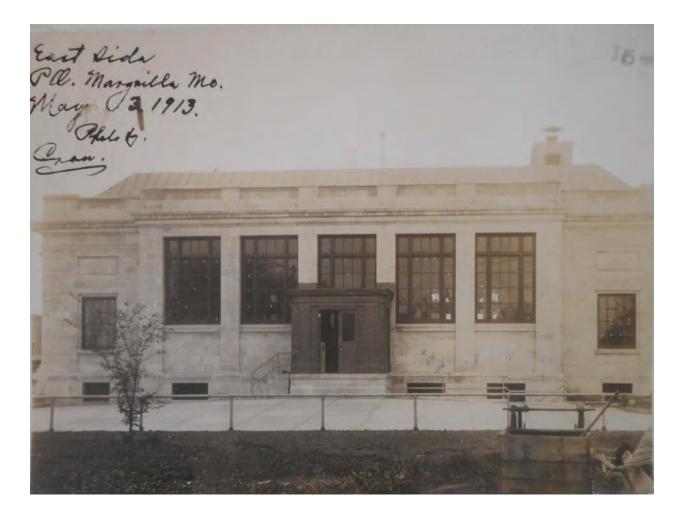


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Figure 10: Original East Elevation, facing west, 1913. Now covered with 1999 Library Addition. Photo housed at Maryville Public Library.



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Figure 11: South and east elevations, facing northwest, Stephanie Patterson, February 2022



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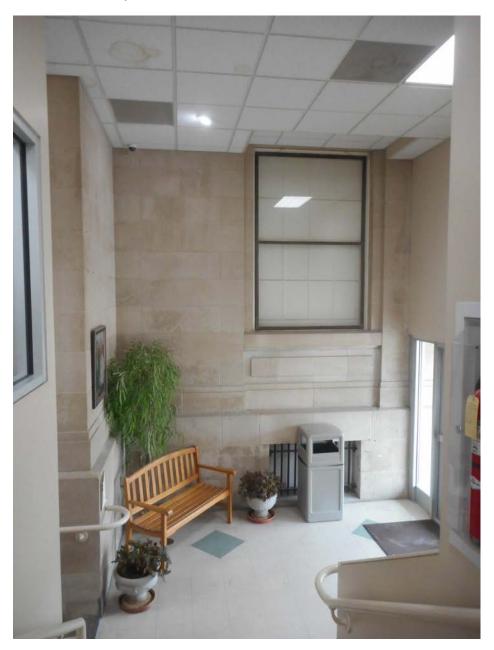
Figure 12: East elevation columns and cornice, facing south, Stephanie Patterson, February 2022



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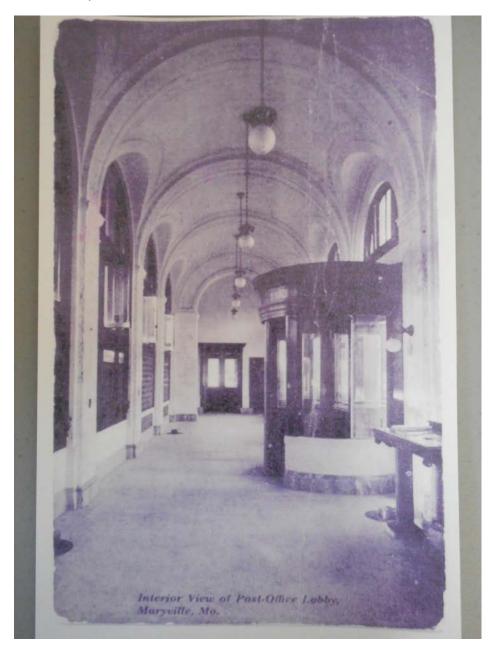
Figure 13: North segment of original east elevation exposed inside addition's north foyer, Stephanie Patterson, February 2022.



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Figure 14: Historical photo of Post Office public lobby, facing south, date unknown, housed at Maryville Public Library.



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Figure 15: Inside south staff entrance, facing north, Stephanie Patterson, February 2022.

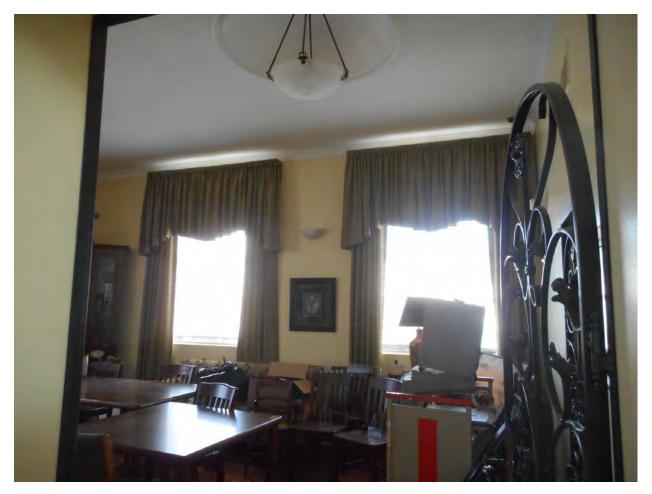


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Figure16: Robb Fine Arts Room (formerly postal clerk's office), Stephanie Patterson, February 2022



NPS Form 10-900 United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

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Figure 17: Northeast interior of Original Postal Workers Space, Stephanie Patterson, February 2022



NPS Form 10-900 United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

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Figure 18: Bank Midwest Building, Stephanie Patterson, November 2021







## MARYVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY























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