

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC

United States Post Office

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

105-111 Martin Street

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Wadesboro

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Eighth

STATE

North Carolina

CODE

037

COUNTY

Anson

CODE

007

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	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 AGENCY

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: *(If applicable)*

United States Postal Service
Field Real Estate and Buildings Office

STREET & NUMBER

4000 DeKalb Technology Parkway, #550

CITY, TOWN

Atlanta

VICINITY OF

STATE

Georgia

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Register of Deeds, Anson County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

114 N. Greene St.

CITY, TOWN

Wadesboro

STATE

N. C.

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

None

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The United States Post Office at Wadesboro, North Carolina, is located at the northeast corner of South Green and Martin Streets. Constructed in 1932-33, the essentially-unaltered Classical/Colonial Revival Style building is a two-story rectangle of cream brick with limestone trim.

Additional Information

Facing the side of the county courthouse located across the street, the long axis of the post office parallels Martin Street, with approximately ten feet of grass with low shrubs separating it from a wide sidewalk. On its west side the building is set back nearly twice as far, the grassed lawn containing two large magnolia trees, one on either side of the walk. At its north and east sides, the post office is surrounded by a paved parking lot.

The exterior of the building is faced with cream pressed brick laid in five and one common bond, and with slightly-recessed mortar joints. Limestone is used for the trim, except for the front and side steps, and the basement window well curbs, which are granite. A flat, ashlar stone watertable encircles the building above the basement window level. The main entablature consists of a narrow, stone, bipartite architrave topped by a cyma reversa molding; a brick frieze; and a projecting, stone cornice. The projecting cornice is made up of a base molding of a dentil course and a Greek ovolo, and a corona of a fascia topped by a cyma recta molding. Above the cornice is a brick parapet wall with a stone coping.

Windows on both levels have wooden sash and jambs. First floor windows are eight over eight, with round-arched fixed transoms that have a radial pattern of lights. These windows have a plain architrave with a molded backband. Below the windows are a limestone sill and a panelled spandrel, and there are small limestone springblocks and a keystone over each. The second floor windows are smaller, rectangular eight over eight, with a narrow jamb and limestone sills. Fixed aluminum storm sash have been installed over the double-hung sash on both levels.

The 81-foot front, or south elevation of the building is seven bays wide. Five central bays make up a slightly-projecting frontispiece defined by an arcade of six colossal stone pilasters with Greek Corinthian capitals. The entablature of the frontispiece echoes the main entablature, except that the frieze is of

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stone, with the incised legend, "UNITED STATES POST OFFICE." Above the entablature are six stone pedestals with sections of balustrade with turned stone balusters between them.

In front of the central entrance is a three-bay, two-tier set of platforms between projecting stone podia. The podia on either side have tall, cast-iron classical light standards. Two sets of modern wrought-iron handrails lead up to the entrance. The entrance itself is a round-arched single bay with a pair of flat, metal-sheathed glazed doors. Flanking the doors are Roman Doric colonnettes, supporting a transom bar with a dentil base molding. The frieze below the transom has painted letters reading, "WADESBORO, N.C. 28170." A fanlight with metal muntins fills the transom, which has the address painted in it.

In the watertable at the southwest corner of the building is a cornerstone with the inscription:

Ogden L. Mills
Secretary of the Treasury
Ferry K. Heath
Assistant Secretary
James A. Wetmore
Acting Supervising Architect
1932

At its 53-foot east side elevation, the post office is five bays deep, but there are only three, centrally-located windows on the second floor. Two of the second floor windows have had their upper sash replaced with a plywood panel with a metal vent in it. Exterior steps to the basement are located in the northeast corner.

On its west elevation, the post office is also five bays deep, but there are five second floor windows, as well. The central bay has an entrance door like that of the front elevation, with a small stone stoop in front. At either side of the door are large cast-iron lamps supported on scrolled wrought iron brackets.

The north, or rear elevation of the courthouse is recessed on the second floor, forming a deep U that is three bays wide with two bay pavillions on either side. A one-bay-deep, three bay, flat-roofed wing extends from the center of the first floor and is fronted by a flat-roofed metal canopy on pipe columns over a

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loading dock. A concrete block ramp has been added to the center of the loading dock. A large, steel fire escape runs from the ground at the northwest corner to the wing and first floor flat roofs. The center window at the base of the U has been replaced with an exit door, and the northwest first floor window has been bricked in except for a metal louver. On the rear corner of the east pavillion is a squat, brick and stone chimney.

Interior

On the interior, the principal space is an L-shaped lobby that runs across the front and part of the west side of the post office. This lobby is divided into bays by shallow plaster Tuscan pilasters, which support broad, plastered beams across the ceiling. The deep coffers between the beams have architraves and friezes and a small corona. Except for modern fluorescent light fixtures, the ceiling surfaces are flat and unornamented.

Wainscoting of white marble with black veining, accented by dark green marble chairrails and baseboards, circles the lobby and forms the bases for the pilasters. At the east end of the lobby, the stair to the second floor also has white marble steps, while the doors to the postmaster's office and the basement have molded white marble surrounds. The checkerboard grey and white terrazzo floor has dark green marble margins and dividing strips.

At both the front and west doors are classically-ornamented glass and mahogany-varnished wood rectangular airlocks. The window jambs are also of mahogany-varnished wood, and there are mahogany-varnished wood writing tables. The bays of the inner walls of the lobby have mahogany-varnished wood inserts, divided midway by horizontal bars. Triple vertical windows make up the top halves of these inserts, the top section of the center windows having been replaced by panels containing air registers. At the east end of the lobby the lower sections of the inserts are filled with a pair of service counters which have modern rolling metal windows. The central bay has a letter drop, and the west two bays in the front section of the lobby are filled with postal boxes. At the west end of the lobby are two more original bays of postal boxes, and an end bay with modern postal boxes.

Midway along the front lobby, at a corner of the front airlock, is a modern, satin-finished, glazed floor to ceiling divider.

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The L-shaped stair at the southeast corner of the lobby rises in three stages, with landings in between. It has a metal string and ornate wrought iron railings and handrails.

Centered along the eastern wall of the building is the Postmaster's Office. This room has plaster walls, a flat chairrail and baseboards, and oak parquet flooring. Opening off of the office are a walk-in safe and the postmaster's toilet.

Most of the rest of the first floor is taken up by an open work room, which has a high, bevelled-edge, tongue and groove, painted wood wainscot. Running across the high ceiling of this room is the enclosed postal inspector's gallery. In the northeast corner of the workroom is a steel stair that leads to a second floor locker room and toilet. Another stair leads into the basement. The basement has an east-west corridor that has finished plaster walls, door surrounds with baseboards, and five panel doors. The offices, mechanical rooms and storerooms that open off of the corridor have exposed brick, structural clay tile, and concrete walls.

On the second floor are suites of offices along an L-shaped corridor. The corridor has terrazzo floors with green marble baseboards and borders. Doors and door surrounds are mahogany-varnished pine. Original light fixtures have been replaced with modern fluorescent ones. The offices are simply finished, with plaster walls, a flat chairrail, and a small picture molding.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1932-1933

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Supervising
Architect's Office

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The United States Post Office in Wadesboro, North Carolina, constructed in 1932-1933, is significant as the first tangible Federal government presence in the town. Its erection reflects the rapid growth in Federal construction following the Public Buildings Act of 1926. Unusually large for a small-town post office, the carefully-composed Classical/Colonial Revival style building was designed as a companion for the existing Anson County Courthouse.

CRITERIA ASSESSMENT:

A. The Wadesboro Post Office is associated with the upsurge in public-building construction by the Federal government during the period 1926-1941, and, in particular, with the Depression-era public works programs of the 1930s.

C. While the post office has many features in common with the large numbers of post offices constructed during this period, it is an unusually large post office for a town of Wadesboro's size in the 1930s. Its carefully-composed Classical/Colonial Revival design in cream brick with limestone trim is an intentional effort to be compatible with the adjacent Anson County Courthouse.

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Wadesboro U. S. Post Office
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Wadesboro was founded in 1783 as New Town, the county seat for Anson County. Renamed Wadesboro in 1787 to honor Col. Thomas Wade, it remained a small and almost entirely agriculturally-dominated (cotton) town in a largely rural county until the late 19th century. In 1890 a cotton mill was built, followed by a cotton oil company in 1900.(1) The town was served by three railroads, and attracted an increasing amount of industry in the first quarter of the century, principally in textiles. Population grew from about 1,500 persons in 1900 to around 3,000 in 1930.(2)

From the opening of Wadesboro's first post office in 1828, until the construction of the Martin Street building, the post office operated out of rented quarters. In the 1890s the post office was located on the west side of S. Greene Street between Wade and Morgan Streets.(3) From 1902 to 1907, it was in the D. L. Saylor Building on the north side of Martin Street between Green and Rutherford Streets.(4) Between 1907 and 1925 the post office was located in an annex to the Little Building on the east side of Green Street between Wade and Morgan Streets, and from 1925 until 1933 it was at the northeast corner of Rutherford and Morgan Streets.(5)

Movement for construction of a government-owned post office building was begun in 1913, when Congressman R. N. Page secured an authorization to pay \$5,000 for a lot on which to build it. A few years later Congressman L. D. Robinson was able to have the amount increased to \$10,000. The onset of the First World War, however, stalled the project. (6) It was not until the passage of the Public Buildings Act of 1926, with the accompanying appropriations for the construction of public buildings around the country, that Congressman Walter Lambeth of Thomasville was able to get an appropriation for \$95,000 to purchase a lot and build Wadesboro's first Federal Building. (7)

In November of 1931, a 160x160 foot lot at the northeast corner of Martin and Greene Streets was purchased from Mrs. S. H. Threadgill for \$16,000. (8) The lot was a prominent one, across the street from the side entrance to the county courthouse. It had previously been occupied by a two-story frame house, at one time called the Wadesboro Inn.(9) Plans were prepared by the Supervising Architect's office in the Treasury Department, and the work put out for bids in late 1931.(10)

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CONTINUATION SHEET ^{Wadesboro U. S. Post Office}
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It was apparently not until bids had already been received in January of 1932 that local citizens and officials had a chance to view designs for the post office. They were not pleased. The site for the post office was across the street and down hill from the 1913 Classical Revival Anson County Courthouse, the pride of the county. The proposed post office was one-story, long and low, and given the topographical differences between the two sites, the height disparity would be exaggerated. (11) Viewed as a companion building to the county courthouse, the stock plan of the post office was no match. Then, too, a side entrance on S. Greene Street was desired. (12)

A committee led by Wadesboro attorney R. S. Pruett contacted Congressman Lambeth, who was able to prevail upon the Supervising Architect to send a representative to re-evaluate the situation. Following a visit by H. A. Whiton, it was decided to redesign the building, increasing its height to two stories and otherwise including the committee's suggestions. (13)

At that point it was expected that the post office, now to include other Federal offices, would be put out for bids in May. (14) However, the deepening Depression slowed government expenditures, and bids were not received until October 6. (15) The low bidder was William W. Sistler Construction Company of Simpson, Illinois, at \$59,640. (16)

Sistler started work in December of 1932. The concrete and brick masonry portions of the building were sublet to Henry Arthur of Statesville and proceeded rapidly, despite the winter weather. By mid-February most of the wall was up to the first floor level, and the retaining wall around the lot completed. (17) The greatest controversy associated with the construction was complaints by local workmen that there were no jobs for them in the project other than as laborers. (18) By early March the steel work for the second floor was being erected, and by the end of May the exterior brick and stone work were complete. (19)

Formal opening and dedication of the new post office took place in a ceremony on November 1, 1933. The official dedication address was given by J. Austin Latimer, secretary to Postmaster General James A. Farley. Also participating were Congressman Walter Lambeth, former Congressman L. D. Robinson of Wadesboro, Anson County Democratic Chairman R. S. Pruett, and Superior Court Clerk R. E. Little. (20)

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A final inspection of the post office took place on Monday, November 14, 1933, but the building could not be used until a shipment of coal for the boilers arrived.(21) As completed, it included the post office on the first floor, and six rooms for government agencies on the second floor. The county and home demonstration agents used three of the rooms, one was for the post office inspectors, and the other two rooms were for the Internal Revenue Service and the Civil Service. In the basement were the boiler rooms and storage and work space.(22) Finally, the Postmaster announced that the post office would move into the new building on Saturday, November 25.(23)

Post Office records indicate that the first postmaster in Wadesboro was Alexander Brandon, who took office on February 12, 1828. Twenty-four additional postmasters served in rented quarters. Charles A. Bland was Postmaster in Wadesboro when the new postoffice was constructed, having been appointed in 1930. In 1935 he was replaced by Fred M. Mills, who served until being succeeded by Grace A. Liles in 1947. George H. Ross became Postmaster in 1949, his tenure lasting until his retirement in 1972. Eddie Gathings was postmaster from 1972 until 1981, and Donald Stiles from 1982 to 1985. Since 1985 Ruby Johnson has been Postmaster.(24)

It is difficult to assess the impact of the Post Office's design on subsequent building in Wadesboro, coming as it did in the early years of the Depression. Certainly the post office, and the county courthouse that it was designed to match, were the two most prominent buildings in downtown when they were constructed and continue to be a significant complex. The new Law Enforcement Building, adjacent to the courthouse on Martin Street, shows an attempt to emulate the massing and color of the two earlier buildings. The post office has been well-maintained, little-altered, and continues actively to serve the needs of the City of Wadesboro.

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Footnotes

1

"Industrialization of a North Carolina Town," Baltimore, Daily Bulletin of the Manufacturers Record, July 18, 1928, n. p. (Clipping files, North Carolina Collection, UNC Library).

2

Sanborn Map and Publishing Company, maps, Wadesboro series, 1902, 1930.

3

Ibid, 1892, 1897.

4

Anson County Register of Deeds, deed book 35, p. 527.

5

Ibid, deed book 50, p. 40, deed book 51, p. 172 and deed book 65, p. 157.

6

"Post Office Is Dedicated With Fitting Ceremony," Wadesboro (N. C.) Messenger and Intelligencer, November 2, 1933, p. 1.

7

Ibid.

8

Anson County Deeds, deed book 73, p. 322.

9

Sanborn maps, 1908, 1914, 1930.

10

"Bids Are Received On New Post Office," Wadesboro Messenger and Intelligencer, January 7, 1932, p. 1.

11

"Citizens Want Better Post Office Building," Wadesboro Messenger and Intelligencer, January 14, 1932, p. 1.

12

Ibid.

13

"The Post Office Will Be A Two Story Structure," Wadesboro Messenger and Intelligencer, February 18, 1932, p. 1.

14

"Expect Early Action On New Post Office," Wadesboro Messenger and Intelligencer, September 8, 1932, p. 1, and "Plans For Post Office Arrive In Wadesboro," Wadesboro Messenger and Intelligencer, September 15, 1932, p. 1.

15

Ibid.

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16

"Post Office Bid Is \$59,640," Wadesboro Messenger and Intelligencer, October 13, 1932, p. 1.

17

"Contractors Start On The New Post Office," Wadesboro Messenger and Intelligencer, December 1, 1932, p. 1, and "Work Moves On Post Office," Wadesboro Messenger and Intelligencer, February 16, 1933, p. 1.

18

"Post Office Workers Receive Good Pay," Wadesboro Messenger and Intelligencer, February 2, 1933, p. 1.

19

"Work Moves On Post Office," Wadesboro Messenger and Intelligencer, March 9, 1933, p. 1. and "Much Building Being Done In Wadesboro," Wadesboro Messenger and Intelligencer, May 25, 1933, p. 1.

20

"Post Office Is Dedicated With Fitting Ceremony," Wadesboro Messenger and Intelligencer, November 2, 1933, p. 1 and "Wadesboro Postoffice Formally Dedicated," Charlotte (N. C.) Observer, November 2, 1933, n. p. (Clipping Files, North Carolina Collection, UNC Library).

21

"Post Office Building Passes Final Inspection," Wadesboro Messenger and Intelligencer, November 16, 1933, p. 1.

22

Ibid.

23

"To Move Post Office Saturday Afternoon," Wadesboro Messenger and Intelligencer, November 23, 1933, p. 1.

24

C. F. Murchie, Memorandum on Historical Data: Anson County, N. C., October 5, 1970, Wadesboro Postmaster's Records and general records of Wadesboro Postmaster.

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Anson County Register of Deeds. Deed and Lease Records.

Medley, Mary L. History of Anson County, North Carolina, 1750-1976. Wadesboro: Anson County Historical Society, 1976.

Sanborn Insurance Company. Maps, Wadesboro series, 1885, 1892, 1897, 1902, 1908, 1914, 1930.

Sharpe, Bill. A New Geography of North Carolina, vol. 3. Raleigh: Sharpe Publishing Company, 1961.

Wadesboro (N.C.) Messenger and Intelligencer. 1932-1933.

Wadesboro, N. C.. U. S. Post Office. Postmaster's Records.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See continuation sheets

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than 1

UTM REFERENCES Latitude - 34°58'37" Longitude - 80°04'36"

A	[][]	[][][][]	[][][][][]	B	[][]	[][][][]	[][][][][]
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	[][]	[][][][]	[][][][][]	D	[][]	[][][][]	[][][][][]

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The property being nominated consists of a 160x160 foot lot located on the northeast corner of S. Greene and Martin streets, as shown on the attached map.

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

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

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

David R. Black, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION

Black & Black, Preservation Consultants

DATE

August 1, 1986

STREET & NUMBER

620 Wills Forest Street

TELEPHONE

919 828-4616

CITY OR TOWN

Raleigh

STATE

North Carolina

12 CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

YES

NO

NONE

William S. P.
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

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

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE October 9, 1986

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

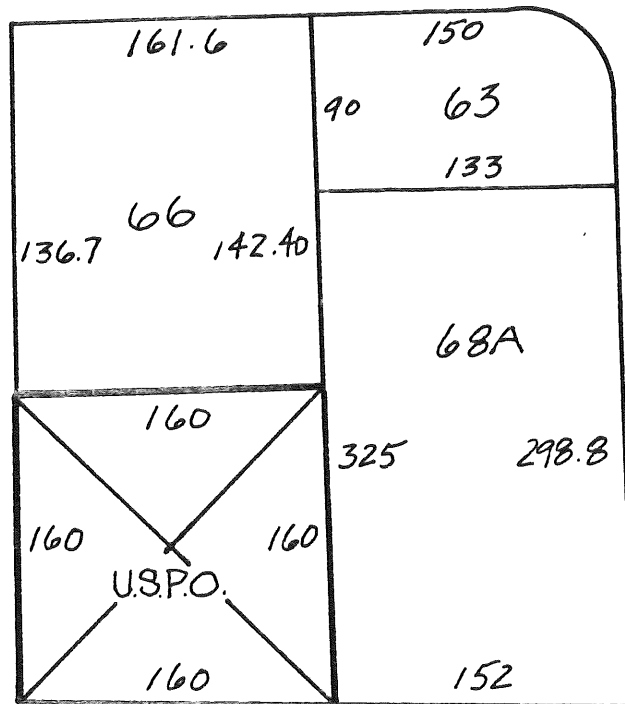
UNITED STATES POST OFFICE WADESBORO, N.C.



CASWELL STREET

S. GREEN STREET

S. WASHINGTON STREET



MARTIN STREET

TRACED FROM ANSON CO. TAX MAP W-31, DATED
NOVEMBER, 1961 1" = 100'

