

FINAL

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Michigan City Post Office
other names/site number 1909 Post Office 091-406-16007

2. Location

street & number 126 East 5th Street N/A ☐ not for publication
city or town Michigan City N/A ☐ vicinity
state Indiana code IN county LaPorte code 091 zip code 46360

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this ☒ nomination
☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of
Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property
☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant
☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

Indiana Department of Natural Resources

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

☐ entered in the National Register.

☐ See continuation sheet.

☐ determined eligible for the
National Register

☐ See continuation sheet.

☐ determined not eligible for the
National Register

☐ removed from the National Register

☐ other, (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Michigan City Post Office

LaPorte IN

Name of Property

County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- ☒ private
☐ public-local
☐ public-State
☐ public-Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- ☒ building
☐ district
☐ site
☐ structure
☐ object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing

Noncontributing

1	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

GOVERNMENT: Post Office

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE/TRADE: Financial Institution

WORK IN PROGRESS

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

19th & 20th c. REVIVALS: Colonial Revival

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation CONCRETE

walls BRICK

STONE: Limestone

roof STONE: Slate

other STONE

Narrative Description

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

8. Statement of Significance**Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- ☐ **A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ **B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ **C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ **D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- ☐ **A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ **B** removed from its original location.
- ☐ **C** a birthplace or grave.
- ☐ **D** a cemetery.
- ☐ **E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ **F** a commemorative property.
- ☐ **G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographic References**Bibliography**

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1909 - 1926

Significant Dates

1909

1926

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Taylor, James Knox

Michigan City Post Office
Name of Property

LaPorte IN
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than one

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1

1	6
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4	6	1	8	2	5	0
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Zone

Easting

Northing

2

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3

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Zone

Easting

Northing

4

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☐ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title J. Todd Gillette, Executive Vice President
organization Alliance Banking Company date 4/6/99
street & number 500 West Buffalo Street telephone 616-469-2265
city or town New Buffalo state MI zip code 49117

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white** photographs of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Alliance Banking Company
street & number 500 West Buffalo Street telephone 616-469-2265
city or town New Buffalo state MI zip code 49117

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Michigan City Post Office, LaPorte County, Indiana

The U.S. Post Office is located in the downtown historic district of Michigan City Indiana, and is one of the oldest and least-altered structures within that district. The building was constructed in three phases. The original single-story Georgian Revival structure was built in 1909 on a simple rectangular plan, with embellished brick masonry and limestone exterior walls, a substantial balustrade parapet, and a dormered, slate-tiled hip roof. A simple flat-roofed single-story masonry addition was built in 1926 onto the northern (rear) side of the original structure. This rear addition was further expanded in 1963 in a like style.

The foundation structure of the original section of the building is form-poured concrete, with a full basement. The 1926 and 1963 additions have form-poured concrete foundations with crawl-space. Four ground-level windows cased in limestone and fitted with wrought iron grillwork provide light into basement office spaces from the front of the building. The foundation, extending to the top line of these windows, is sheathed in grey limestone and capped by a belt of limestone base moulding, the top of which delineates the first level floor-line. The block at the southeast corner of this limestone course bears the inscription:

GEORGE B. CORTELYOU
SEC. OF THE TREASURY
JAMES KNOX TAYLOR
SUPERVISING ARCHITECT

A second broad (approx. 24 inch) course of limestone above the moulding provides a transition to dark-red brickwork. Four windows are arranged symmetrically either side of a central doorway. An entrance gained by ten granite steps was controversial even in 1909 for its height. Somewhat wider than the doorway at the top, the steps broaden as they descend within low, curved casings. The casings terminate with a pair of low monument ball-over-block newels. The doorway is recessed within a heavily ornamented architrave

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incorporating fluted and capiteled pilasters, a panelled header with date inscription (MCVIX) and a semi-circular clerestory window with clear glass set in ornamental radial mullions. This window has been painted on the exterior and walled off on the interior. The adjacent two windows, which together with the doorway form the central part of the front facade, echo the dimensions of the arched doorway, having arched tops with radial-patterned lites. The lower portion of each window incorporates a fifteen-light movable sash. Both the windows and door architrave openings are capped with ornamental limestone keystones, and are shouldered by limestone lintel blocks at the spring-line. Two plain, round limestone rondelles are inset into the brick masonry between, and at the same level as, the window and door-arch keystones. To either side of this central 52-foot span of front facade is a set-back facade section of 16 feet. The depth of set-back is approximately six inches, with limestone quoins set into the transition line. A single rectangular window occupies each set-back facade section. The windows incorporate movable eight-over-twelve sashes and a fixed four-lite head. The windows are framed in wood inset under flat arch limestone lintels with gauged brick and gauged stone springers. An ornamental swag of carved white marble is set into the masonry above each of these two rectangular windows. Each ornamental frieze bears a representation of fruits and flowers. The corners of the building repeat the limestone quoins. The eaves are built out in a complex series of cornice mouldings, including, from the brick-line to the upper-most fascia: a four-inch crown, a six-inch dentillated entablature, a three-inch crown, a three-inch vertical fascia, a twelve-inch horizontal extension with alternately recessed and raised dentil panels, a six-inch vertical fascia, a three-inch line of beading, a four-inch crown into a recessed six-inch horizontal extension, and finally, a three-inch by six-inch vertical fascia. The cornice system is constructed of carved and fitted stone, or moulded concrete, sections. A parapet encircles the

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roofline, set back approximately eighteen inches from the upper-most fascia. The parapet is composed of balustrade sections interspersed with recessed panel sections, capped with a continuous rail. The parapet is constructed of assembled stone, or moulded concrete, sections, of a part with the cornice-work. The hip roof is tiled in green slate. There are eight dormers altogether: three in front, three in back, and one on each side. Each incorporates Georgian/Greek Revival elements, including pilaster corner treatments, capital returns, dentilled eaves, and heavily corniced gables. Each also contains an arched window with volute keystone, echoing, in the cases of the front-and rear-facing dormers, the arched windows located directly below on their respective facades. In two instances (center dormer in front and east dormer in back), louvred vents have been retro-fitted into the window frames. A large brick chimney is located on the eastern face of the hip roof. Each side of the chimney is vented with a square, louvered opening. Each vent has a limestone sill; a six-inch continuous band of limestone caps the vents; this is topped by a course of bricks, and, terminating the chimney, an over-hanging limestone cap. A short length of covered metal stack extends from the center of the chimney. The metal appears to be original, or a close duplication of the original system.

The east- and west-side facades of the original 1909 building are simple and relatively unadorned compared to the front. Each contains three rectangular windows of the same dimensions and configured in the same fashion as those set into the step-back front facade sections; they are similarly capped with limestone keys and flat arch lintels with guaged brick and guaged stone springers. The single exception is the central window on the east facade, which is brick-filled around a one-foot by four-foot vertical two-lite bathroom window. This is original in design. Above each of the described windows on the east facade is a small, horizontally oriented, rectangular, four-lite window, providing light to

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the limited second-story space. The west facade supplants these windows with decorative limestone panels inset into the brickwork above the first story windows. The east and west facades of the original structure otherwise repeat the themes of the front: three basement windows set in bands of limestone to the first level floor-line, dark red brick masonry, ornamental cornices, parapet, tile roof, single dormer. All four corners of the building are articulated in limestone quoins.

The rear of the main section is visible only above the flat roofline of the combined 1926 and 1963 additions. Three semi-circular windows command the central portion of this facade, in counterpoint to the three central elements of the front facade. The windows are trimmed and capped in an identical manner. The rear also repeats the pattern of limestone quoins delineating the transition to set-back flanking sections. These sections incorporate, on the eastern flank, a small, horizontally oriented, rectangular, four-lite window identical to those described on the east facade, and, on the western flank, an inset limestone panel as described in connection with the west facade. The cornice, parapet, roof, and dormer treatments are identical to the front facade.

The 1926 and 1963 additions form, together, a homogeneous, single-story, rectangular, flat-roofed structure, joined to the original 1909 structure along the latter's entire back wall. The structure is constructed of red brick masonry above a poured concrete foundation. An eight-inch band of limestone separates the exposed concrete from the masonry at the first-level floorline. The floorline is on the same level as the front, or original, part of the building. The east facade of the rear addition incorporates a side entrance doorway, a raised concrete deck (originally the loading dock), and two sets of double doors. The side entrance doorway incorporates a single ground-level door with a nine-

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lite window panel, a raised-panel header, and a nine-lite transom window. All casings and trim are constructed of wood. To the immediate right (north) of this door way is the raised deck. A non-original red brick flower planter has been added to the street side of the deck. The deck has wrought-iron railing around its perimeter, also non-original. Access to the deck is gained from steps adjacent to the side entrance door, and by either of two sets of double doors accessing the building at floor level. Each of these door systems includes two stile and rail doors with nine-lite window sections in each, a raised-panel header, and a fifteen-lite transom window. The rear of the addition is plain, having five asymmetrically spaced 12-over-12 windows in wood casings on simple limestone sills. A vertical seam in the brick masonry three-quarters of the way west along the wall identifies the point at which the smaller 1963 addition begins. The west facade of the addition is equally plain, with brick masonry interrupted only by two windows, these being identical to the five along the rear of the building.

The interior of the building, due to its adaptive reuse as an office building since 1974, has been divided into more offices than the original floor plan called for, though many, if not most, original elements of woodwork and masonry have been carefully preserved. The front entrance leads through contemporary aluminum doors into a 14' by 27' reception area. The doors were probably installed in 1963 as part of a general modernization of the facilities, replacing the original oak-finished revolving door. Three doorways communicate with, first, the central lobby area; second, the Postmaster's Office; and, third, a stairwell up to the second floor and attic. The framed walls to the west and north are painted and papered. These are 1974 alterations; the wall to the west did not exist in the original plans, and that to the north replaced a period wall with windows, counter, and mail boxes. In contrast, the two original walls on the room's south and east sides are richly panelled and trimmed in

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painted poplar, extending to a height of fourteen feet. The woodwork combines Renaissance and Victorian flourishes on a raised panel field. The door to the Postmaster's Office is cased in a lugged architrave, over which is a panel with the carved inscription POSTMASTER, capped by a shallow pediment. An unpainted white oak writing counter, supported by decorative metal brackets, occupies the space between the Postmaster's Office and the staircase handrail, the latter being of a solid piece, ornamented with frieze detail and capped with a carved scroll. The staircase opening, aside from the rail detail, is plain. The reception area is dominated by an arched window, one of the two described as central elements in the front facade. The window woodwork reaches the ceiling at a height exceeding eighteen feet. The window casement detail includes doric pilasters up to the arch springline supporting an arched casement capped by a volute keystone. To the right of the window is a wall-mounted directory case set in a lugged architrave under an arched pediment. The entrance doors are set into an area of plain plaster, as modern aluminum double doors replaced the original oak revolving doorway at some point in the past, most likely with the 1963 remodeling. Original plaster-on-lathe walls continue above the woodwork cornice to a height of eighteen feet nine inches. A splashboard of grey marble supports the woodwork to a height of eight inches. The room, like all of the first-level public space, is carpeted over twelve-inch reinforced concrete floors.

To the immediate east of the reception area is the Postmaster's office. The 12' 6" by 19' room finds a departure from the styles prevalent in the reception area. The woodwork here is finished white oak, with conventional period trim and door profiles. Two doors on the room's north wall, once offering closet and bathroom spaces, now provide access to a 5' by 7' 6" wet bar. A third door opening on the same wall reveals the Postmaster's vault, a walk-in 4' by 5' fireproof records storage vault with original fixtures,

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including vault door, intact. Two doors exit the office, both on the west wall; one into the reception area, the other into the central lobby space. Both have inset single-panel white oak door frames with single-pane etched glass windows. The office is situated in the southeast corner of the building and has two windows, the first on the front facade, the second on the building's east facade.

To the immediate west of the reception area is an office (14' by 17') accessed not through the reception area but the central lobby space. It mirrors the reception area in most respects, as they occupied a single space until 1974. The field panelling, great arched window and directory case (here titled "BULLETIN," for FBI Most Wanted posters) are repeated with identical detail.

The 30' by 41' central lobby space is dominated by its 18' 9" ceiling height and three arched windows at second story height along the north wall. These windows are described above in reference to the rear, or north, facade of the original structure. The period interior casements appear to have been removed from these windows, although, as the rear half of the original building was not a public area but a sorting room, this may not be the case. The central lobby area communicates with nine other perimeter rooms, including the Postmaster's office, reception area, and the office described above. Continuing in a clockwise fashion, the other rooms include a corner office (14' by 18') with two windows; an office (15' by 16') with one west-facing window; an office (15' by 17') also with a single west-facing window; an open work area (30' by 84') representing the whole of the 1926 and 1963 additions, with seven windows and two sets of east-facing double doors; an office or conference room (12' by 19' 6") with an east-facing window, a north-facing window into a stairwell, and original painted carsiding wainscot; and, finally, a circa 1974-furnished 7' by 19' 6" restroom.

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The second floor, aside from attic space, is limited to a small suite originally used by the Collector of Customs. This includes a period restroom (6' by 9') with original fittings and salmon marble tile, a short corridor, an office (16' by 18' 6"), and a vertical shaft, accessed by a door, once utilized by the inspectors for clandestine observation of postal workers. The office is finished in non-original plywood panelling. The corridor walls are original plaster-on-lathe. The remaining 2,912 square feet of the second level is attic. The attic framework incorporates a triangulated steel support frame to accommodate the weight of the slate-tiled roof. Light is obtained by the noted dormers. The chimney stack traverses vertically through the attic at a point adjacent to the noted finished areas, or roughly 12' from the east wall of the building. Two large HVAC units, installed in the 1963 expansion and modernization project, occupy the central portion of the attic space, attended by a series of catwalks.

The garden-level basement remains in largely original condition, with painted masonry walls throughout. The basement extends under the entire 1909 structure as well as a single 16' by 16' section of the 1926 addition. It is accessed by two stairways. The first descends beneath the second-level stairway from a brief corridor separating the Postmaster's office from the reception area. The stairs are concrete over earth fill. The second descends from the east entrance of the 1926 addition, with access as well from the first level via a brief corridor. This stairwell originally provided exterior access to the basement, and all exterior masonry and window elements within the stairwell have been preserved. The window looks into the east-facing office with wainscot noted above. The steps are concrete over earth fill. The basement area includes a utility room with a single boiler unit providing heat; a central office/hallway area surrounding the utility room; a restroom, an employee kitchen and breakroom, three offices, and three stock rooms.

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There are no distinguishing features among the basement rooms aside from the impressively proportioned brick walls and masonry-arched doorways.

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Michigan City Post Office, LaPorte County, Indiana

The 1909 Michigan City Post Office is eligible for the National Register for its outstanding architecture. The structure is paradigmatic of a type of government building architecture once common but now increasingly rare. As a specimen of pre-World War I post office architecture, the 1909 Post Office is exceptional for the integrity and detail of design, and for the quantity of historical fabric that remains intact and in good condition. The building was rated "outstanding" in the LaPorte County Interim Report.

In September of 1903, the area's congressman, Judge Edgar D. Crumpacker of Valparaiso, announced that he was preparing to introduce a bill to fund a federal building for Michigan City. The federal building would provide a structure "where the affairs of the postal department and other government matters can be properly conducted." The Michigan City post office had enjoyed a "magnificent" increase in its business, with total revenues of \$110,554 during 1903. This increase of business made it necessary to add additional employees "and thus have the present quarters become inadequate for the convenient transaction of government business."

After much speculation and delay, on May 16, 1907, a telegram from Assistant Secretary of the Treasury Beckman Winthrop was received by Michigan City Postmaster A. H. Leist announcing that the old Farmer Hotel property at the corner of Fifth and Pine Streets had been selected as the site of the new building. The property was to be purchased for \$12,000. Preliminary drawings for the new building were sent from Washington and displayed at the existing post office on December 4, 1908. Dubbed "quite an imposing building" by the local paper, the design was well received by the community.

The exact date in 1909 on which construction began is not known, but documents indicate that work at an early stage was delayed in September of that year as a soft foundation was encountered. This was attributed to the fact that "some years ago a feed stable was located on the site and hay, manure and debris were allowed to remain buried there."

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The builders were compelled to dig several feet deeper than originally planned to find suitable foundation for the building's massive footings. The building was occupied in late November of 1910. It "afforded ample room for the post office force, with good lighting, heating and ventilating arrangements." The building was heated by steam and lighted by both electricity and gas. The building was said to be "practically fireproof and burglar-proof, and built to stand for generations." The main entrance on Fifth Street was reached by a flight of stone steps "where one enters the vestibule and pushes on one of the four wings of a massive oak door, which operates like a turnstyle" to enter the lobby. The lobby was 12 feet wide and ran the entire length of the building from the Postmaster's office in the southeast corner. The deputy's office, overlooking the work room, was in the northeastern corner of the building. The registry and money order department occupied the west end of the lobby along with 300 mail boxes. The general delivery and stamp clerks' windows were immediately opposite the main entrance. The rest of the main floor was a large work room used for the handling of the mail. In the basement, the carriers had a locker room, or "loafing room," directly under the Postmaster's office, with an outside and inside entrance. The boiler room, additional filing rooms and a shower bath completed the basement layout. On the second floor was an office for the Collector of Customs, reached by a stairway leading up from the east end of the lobby. The rest of the second floor and the attic were used for storage. One feature of the building that received considerable attention in the press was "the small secret ways between the walls for the use of the inspectors. By entering these secret ways an inspector will be enabled to get a full view of every department of the work room without his presence in the building being known... It will be possible for him to go from basement to attic by means of these secret ways and in the apprehension of crooks this plan has demonstrated its convenience." There were three shuttered "lookout rooms" or "peepholes" in which the inspectors sat.

Post offices and federal courthouses were significant additions to American cities at the turn of the century. The

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expansion of rural delivery routes and the dramatic growth of cities created the demand for U.S. government facilities throughout the nation. Congress changed the way the U. S. government built structures in order to keep pace. Congress funded about sixteen new post offices, one at a time, during the decade of the 1890s. The Treasury Department jumped to authorizing 150 projects at a time, with the passage of the first Omnibus Public Buildings Act by Congress in 1902. Two other similar omnibus acts were passed before 1914. The acts authorized planning and construction, but did not fund construction; each building fund required a separate act of Congress. Citizens and legislators therefore lobbied for each particular community's project.

James Knox Taylor, supervising Architect of the Treasury from 1897-1914, greatly influenced the standard and style of design of this new generation of Federal architecture. Architects McKim, Mead, and White and Richard Morris Hunt showcased the new Beaux-Arts classicism in the design of the Columbian Exposition grounds in 1891-3. The original colonial states also built pavilions in native "Colonial" style for the exposition grounds in Chicago. Taylor was influenced by the exposition and the subsequent demand for classical public buildings. In 1901, he officially announced that henceforth, new Federal building designs would be classical in style. Taylor did not standardize post office or courthouse design or construction, instead, he insisted that each commission was unique. Taylor kept this individual design system until his replacement in 1912. New government buildings from the period of 1900-1930 were often the first large scale expression of City Beautiful classicism in a given town. Frequently, these new classical buildings shared a number of characteristics; grand scale, heavy classical ornament, and Beaux-Arts inspired axial plans with pavilions. Often, post offices and courthouses were set on spacious lawns.

The Michigan City Post Office fits most of the tenets of the new Federal buildings. There were no grand examples of this new style of classicism in Michigan City before the Post Office. LaPorte County government extended local government

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facilities in Michgian City, building a new branch county courthouse not far from the Post Office site. The county seat is officially LaPorte, however, the need for county services in Michgian City rivaled those of the seat. The 1909 Michigan City Courthouse was a Neoclassical style structure, built of masonry, with heavy pilasters and round arches articulating each side. In overall massing and style, the 1909 courthouse is similar to the county and city hall buildings built later in Gary, Indiana.

These two classically-inspired buildings in downtown Michigan City remain the grandest governmental buildings of their type in the community. The Post Office differs from the county building because of its Colonial Revival sources - a variant of classicism. Although its plan and even main elevation are similar to other Indiana post offices of its era, the use of red brick and contrasting stone, Georgian dormers, and Georgian Revival moldings on the interior set it apart. The Anderson Post Office (1911), for example, has a similar plan to the Michigan City building, yet, it is two bays wider and has a Neoclassical Indiana limestone facade. A later Architect of the Treasury, Louis Simon, universally adopted Colonial Revival for medium to small town post offices in the 1930s. By this time, Federal building design had been standardized under the McAdoo System, with cost and architectural elaboration based on receipt and volume of the post office location. The U. S. Post Office adopted the McAdoo System in 1914, essentially ending the initial flourishing of Federal-sponsored classicism.

In February 1926 word came that a "much needed" addition had been approved by the Treasury Department. "Agitation for the expansion of the facilities" had begun eighteen months previously. The \$20,000 addition was finished on October 16, 1926. The 32-foot by 66-foot addition was pronounced by postal officials to be "a perfect unit to the old post office building and makes the completed office one of the most efficient and convenient in the entire postal service." The addition housed the city and rural delivery and parcel post departments, which left more room in the original building for the handling of local mail and "for officials who have

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heretofore been cramped for office space."

The building was further expanded and modernized in 1963. It was re-dedicated in a ceremony held November 3, 1963 on the site. It continued to house the post office until 1973, when the property was sold to Tonn & Blank, a commercial construction firm, for use as an office building. The lobby and work room were altered to provide office space: the lobby into two offices and a reception area, and the work room into two offices and a large open central area partitioned by movable work cubicles. The large open area created by the 1926 and 1963 additions were left unaltered, also partitioned with portable work cubicles.

Alliance Banking Company of New Buffalo, Michigan, has contracted to purchase the 1909 post office from the current owners, Parkside Partnership Ltd. Alliance will make necessary alterations to adapt the facility to a banking and insurance office.

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Verbal Boundary Description

The historic property occupies the southeast quarter, being lots 5 and 8, of block 19 of Elston's Original Survey, Michigan City, Indiana. The physical boundaries are Fifth Street to the South, Pine Street to the East, an alleyway running midway north-south through the block to the west, and the east-west midpoint of the adjacent parking lot to the north.

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