

SUMMARY OF PROPOSED NATIONAL REGISTER/GEORGIA REGISTER NOMINATION

1. Name: United States Post Office—Adel, Georgia.
2. Location: 115 East 4th Street, Adel, Cook County, Georgia. *USGS Quadrangle: Adel, GA.*
- 3a. Description: Located two blocks south of the Cook County Courthouse in downtown Adel, the United States Post Office in Adel is a one-story, five-bay brick building designed in the Colonial Revival style. Its square shape, flat roof, and planar walls create the appearance of a massive block. The building rests on a poured-concrete foundation and has load-bearing brick walls. The main entrance to the building is via broad, granite steps with a cast-iron railing. The original wooden double doors were replaced with aluminum double doors, but the building retains the original Classical door surround with fluted pilasters supporting an entablature, and transom lights. Marble is used for the beltcourse that wraps around all sides of the building, coping, and windowsills. The eight-over-twelve sash windows are intact as is the small, square cupola on top of the building. The L-shaped lobby features a wood-and-glass entrance vestibule and marble wainscoting and terrazzo floors. The lobby retains the original standardized glass-enclosed bulletin board and postmaster's office and restroom. The Adel post office did have a mural called *Plantation Scene* (1941) painted by Alice Flint, who created murals for the Fairfield, CT, and Arabi, LA post offices. The mural, furniture, fixtures, and post boxes were removed by the U.S.P.S. when it vacated the building. The workroom where mail was received and sorted is a large open space with wood floors under later tile and wood wainscoting. The vault is located at the southeast corner of the workroom and the mailing vestibule, men and women's restrooms, and stairs are at the northwest corner. A lookout room is located above the vault, which enabled postal inspectors to surveil postal employees in the workroom. The rear employees' entrance leads to the mailing platform on the exterior of the building. There is a full daylight basement, which housed the boiler room, fuel (coal) room, offices, and storage. The post office is located on a city lot with a grassed lawn, foundation plantings, and mature trees.
- 3b. Period of Significance: 1939-1957.
- 3c. Acreage: Less than 1 acre.
- 3d. Boundary Explanation: The boundary is the current legal boundary and the land historically associated with the post office.
- 4a. National Register Criteria: A and C.
- 4b. National Register Areas of Significance: Architecture, Communication, and Politics and Government.
- 4c. Statement of Significance: Construction of the United States Post Office in Adel began in 1939 and was completed in May of 1940 by the Office of the Supervising Architect of the Treasury under the auspices of the Public Works Administration. The Adel post office operated as a post office until 2001, when a new postal facility on Adel was constructed outside of downtown. The Adel post office is characteristic of post offices built in Georgia between 1932 and 1942 and was built from standardized plans. In Georgia, the Treasury Department provided plans for approximately 65 post offices in small towns between 1932 and 1942. Like the United States Post Office in Adel, most were one-story, five-bay buildings with a standardized floor plan of a full-width workroom, mailing platform at the rear of the building, and a L-shaped public lobby. The vast majority of post offices in Georgia built under the Public Works Administration are brick buildings in the Colonial Revival style.

The United States Post Office in Adel is significant in the area of architecture as an excellent and intact example of a small town post office built in the Colonial Revival style. The post office has remained basically unchanged since its completion in 1940 and retains its interior and exterior character-defining features. The Adel post office is significant in the area of communication because the post office represents the introduction of new advances in mail delivery based on national standards for methods of receiving, sorting, and delivering mail. The Adel post office is significant in the area of politics and government because it represents the efforts of the federal government to improve the infrastructure of small towns through the nation during the New Deal era.
- 4d. Suggested Level of Significance: The building is being nominated at the local level of significance as an excellent and intact example of a United States Post Office in a small town in Georgia.
5. Sponsor: The nomination is supported by the Cook County Historical Society, which is the property owner, and the nomination materials were prepared by a member of the historical society.