

Georgia Department of Natural Resources

Historic Preservation Division

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

United States Post Office-Adel Listed in National Register

ATLANTA (February 9, 2009) –The United States Post Office-Adel was listed in the National Register on January 15, 2009. The nomination is supported by the property owner, the Cook County Historical Society and the nomination materials were prepared by a member of the historical society.

Located in downtown Adel, construction of the United States Post Office began in 1939 and was completed in May 1940 by the Office of the Supervising Architect of the Treasury under the auspices of the Public Works Administration. 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 an 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 including the original Classical door surround with fluted pilasters supporting an entablature and transom lights. 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

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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. It operated as a post office until 2001, when a new postal facility was constructed outside of downtown.

The Adel post office is significant in the area of communications 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. It 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 during the New Deal era.

The National Register is the federal government's official list of historic buildings, structures, sites, objects, and districts worthy of preservation. According to Richard Cloues, deputy state historic preservation officer, listing in the National Register recognizes a property's significance and ensures that the property will be taken into account in the planning of federally funded or licensed projects. In addition, owners of National Register properties may be eligible for rehabilitation tax incentives.

The Historic Preservation Division (HPD) of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources serves as Georgia's state historic preservation office. Their mission is to promote the preservation and use of historic places for a better Georgia. HPD's programs include archaeology protection and education, environmental review, grants, historic resource surveys, tax incentives, the National Register of Historic Places, community planning and technical assistance. For more information, call 404-656-2840 or visit their Web site at www.gashpo.org.

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Photo available from Helen Talley-McRae (helen.talley-mcrae@dnr.state.ga.us). Caption information: Completed in 1940, *the United States Post Office in Adel is an excellent example of a small town post office built in the Colonial Revival style.* (Credit: Photo courtesy GA Department of Natural Resources/Historic Preservation Division.)