

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name (former) United States Post Office Building
other names/site number Waynesville Municipal Building

2. Location

street & number 106 South Main Street N/A not for publication
city, town Waynesville N/A vicinity
state North Carolina code NC county Haywood code 087 zip code 28786

3. Classification

Ownership of Property

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

Category of Property

☒ building(s)
☐ district
☐ site
☐ structure
☐ object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
1	0
	buildings
	sites
	structures
	objects
1	0
	Total

Name of related multiple property listing:

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously
listed in the National Register NA

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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 36 CFR Part 60.
In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official

Date

1-28-91

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this 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

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)
GOVERNMENT: post office

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)
GOVERNMENT: city hall

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)

Classical Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation brick

walls brick

roof asphalt

other granite

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The (former) United States Post Office, now the Municipal Building, in Waynesville, North Carolina, is located on the southwest corner of Main Street and Church Street. The brick, two-story building of 1917 faces east, looking across Main Street to the new Fire and Police Building. Behind the Post Office building is a wide parking and delivery area, with entrance on Church Street and exit on Main Street, south of the building. A small garden area occupies the space between the building and sidewalk on Main Street, and two handsome lamp posts on heavy granite bases, contemporary with the building, stand on either side of the concrete main entrance steps. A modern handicapped access ramp, added prior to 1989, extends south from the open porch area to the sidewalk.

The rectangular building, approximately 58 feet by 72 feet and constructed of brick in Flemish bond, displays restrained Neo-Classical Revival style design. Its Main Street facade is seven bays, with the central entrance reached from a flat concrete deck. On each side of the double, replacement metal and glass entrance doors are two double-hung, eight-over-eight windows enframed by monumental brick Ionic pilasters with granite bases and capitals. Multi-paned transoms cap these windows and the entrance. The two wider outer bays of the facade have single, six-over-six windows on the first story and single windows of three-over-six sash on the second. Six-over-six first and three-over-six second-story windows mark the three-bay side elevations of the building's main block. All windows have granite sills and brick lintels. A granite architrave runs around the front and sides of the main block, serving as the second-story window's lintels, while a wide granite drip course runs around the entire building. On the north and rear elevations, small basement windows are sandwiched between the drip course and a granite water table. A brick soldier course is immediately above the granite drip course. The remainder of the main block's entablature consists of a brick frieze and a denticulated granite cornice, above which extends a plain brick parapet with granite coping. The roof of the entire building is flat and the foundation is brick.

The rear third of the building is a tall single story set back about one foot from the side elevations of the main block. This was the original post office work room. This portion has a simple molded granite cornice in line with the main block's architrave and a brick parapet with

☒ See continuation sheet

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stone coping. On each side elevation is one tall window with eight-over-eight sash surmounted by an eight-light transom. Most of the five-bay rear (west) elevation is frame with pairs of eight-over-eight windows with eight-light transoms and three vertical panels below. Projecting from the center bay is a short, box-like frame vestibule with panelled walls, molded cornice, replacement casement windows and modern metal and glass door on the south side. A concrete ramp leads from this door to the south driveway. The area behind the building was recontoured at a lower-than-original grade when the parking lot was installed so that the basement is now a "walk-out" with an entrance below the vestibule.

The front entrance opens to a marble-floored lobby which occupies the five central bays. The lobby is two-story and graced with heavy Doric piers on marble bases, Doric pilasters, dentil cornice at the level of the top of the transoms, and rich crown molding. The Doric piers frame a recess once lined with post office boxes and now containing a free-standing steel, three-run stairway which rises to the second floor. Flat, multi-paned skylights, original to the building, illuminate the staircase recess. At the renovation of 1989, glass partitions in anodized aluminum frames were installed in the lobby between the front wall and piers framing the staircase, allowing additional office space on each side of the lobby. These areas contain the original stairways. The staircase on the north side of the building is straight-run and that on the south side is a handsome, steel dog-leg type with winders and oak handrail. The original post office work room, which stretched two stories high across the rear of the building, is now the city council chamber. An office has been added by partitioning an area at each side of the wide room. On the second floor, one new and two original restrooms, a work room and offices have been added in what had been considered "attic" space. The building has a full basement with brick piers, concrete floor and arched doors. A double door of board and batten provides access to the outside.

Interior detailing of the building includes wainscoting of wood with vertical flat panels. Doors are wood with five horizontal panels or, in some cases, three horizontal panels below and three vertical panels above. Most of the brass hardware in the building is original.

Sometime before 1989, a drive-through window was added to the west elevation and a handicapped access ramp to the facade. In 1989 interior renovations were completed and included the addition of a steel, three-run stairway in the lobby, glass partitions and additional office and work space on the first and second floors. All of the alterations, including removal of columns next to the lobby piers and a skylight directly above the post office box recess, could be reversed without damage to the original fabric.

9. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally

Applicable National Register Criteria ☒ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

POLITICS/GOVERNMENT

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1917-1940

Significant Dates

1917

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Wetmore, James, Consulting Architect

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.
SUMMARY:

The (former) United States Post Office building in Waynesville is eligible for the National Register under Criteria A and C because it illustrates the attempt by the Office of the Supervising Architect of the United States to provide improved federal facilities across the country in Neo-Classical Revival style buildings symbolic of democracy, as well as for the architectural styling itself. The rapid growth of population across the nation at the turn of the twentieth century demanded expanded postal facilities, which were in turn used to convey an important political and governmental image. Constructed in 1917, the brick, two-story building served as Waynesville's post office until 1966 when it was purchased by the Town of Waynesville to serve as its Municipal Building. Some interior renovations have taken place, but the integrity of the building has not been compromised.

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ARCHITECTURE AND POLITICS/GOVERNMENT CONTEXTS:

By 1845 the United States government had erected only a few buildings outside of the District of Columbia and, except for custom houses in New York and Boston, those buildings were of little architectural significance. An act of Congress was required for the construction of any federal building and once authorized, it became the responsibility of the Secretary of the Treasury, as part of his obligation to supervise the spending of all monies appropriated by Congress. He oversaw the letting of all contracts for building materials and for local supervision, and as more buildings were constructed, more detailed and hence expensive drawings and construction documents were required. Any project was potentially subject to pressures from Congress, from the Administration and from the local representatives. (1)

In 1853 Treasury Secretary James Guthrie, appointed by President Franklin Pierce, set up a division in the Treasury Department entitled Construction Branch of the Treasury. The Construction Branch continued to appoint supervising architects and control over all aspects of site selection, materials and construction, as well as the design of all buildings, was transferred from local commissioners to the new central division directly under the control of the Secretary of the Treasury. (2) From 1866 to 1897, the Construction Branch, now called the Office of the Supervising Architect, constructed nearly 300 buildings across the nation. These buildings, designed by a succession of Supervising Architects, represented the variety of architectural styles which characterized the private architectural practice of the day. (3) It was the World's Columbian Exposition of 1893 in Chicago, where a fantasy city of buildings was designed in a common classical vocabulary and arranged according to a grand urban plan, that set the classical mode as the correct symbolic expression of the political values of the nation. (4) Classical architecture, especially under the tenure of Supervising Architect James Knox Taylor (1898-1912), was the dominant style for 800 federal buildings constructed during the Taylor period, and Taylor was able to transform the federal image across the nation and in the territories of the Phillipine Islands, Hawaii and Puerto Rico. (5)

The United States Postal Service developed rapidly between its establishment in 1775 and the beginning of the twentieth century. By 1901 there were 76,945 post offices across the nation, and by 1911 the postal service was providing a collection and delivery service, registered mail, postal money orders, international money orders, parcel post, insurance, certified mail and postal savings. (6) The rapidly growing population of the country demanded improved and expanded postal facilities, creating an opportunity for the federal government to establish a national image through the construction of new buildings.

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In 1916, in defending the role of the federal government in providing magnificent buildings in small towns, the chairman of the House Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds, Frank Clark of Florida, described the symbolic role played by the nation's public buildings:

(the American country boy) sees very little of the blessings of government beyond the post office and the rural carrier, and if I had the power I would erect for every presidential post office throughout the broad domain of the Republic a Government building representative of the sovereignty and the glory of this great country . . . suppose here and there it should be a little more expensive in dollars and cents to own a building than it is to rent. Is it worth nothing to inspire patriotism and love of country in the hearts and minds of the youth of the country? No youth or citizen ever looked upon a Federal building in which the business of his country was being conducted but that he became a better American. (7)

The classical vision inspired by the 1893 Columbian Exposition and introduced by James Knox Taylor in hamlets, villages, towns and cities across the nation established the national image of the United States. Lowry Bates, in his 1985 book entitled, Building a National Image, writes, " (a building of high quality) became an object that raised the aesthetic - if not the moral and intellectual - level of the town's inhabitants and was soon joined by other civic structures - schools, libraries, city halls - designed in a similar style." (8) The Waynesville post office, designed in 1916 by James Wetmore (who followed James Knox Taylor as Supervising Architect) is an excellent, if restrained, example of the traditional public building of the era, and is Waynesville's oldest remaining Neo-Classical Revival style building.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND:

Waynesville, the seat of Haywood County, was incorporated in 1871, but until the turn of the century its fame and fortune lay with the inns and spas which flourished in the country outside the town, where tourists came to take advantage of the scenery and climate. In 1871, Judge David Schenck, riding the judicial circuit in western North Carolina, declared Waynesville "an old dilapidated town, dirty and dingy," and elected to spend the night at the White Sulphur Springs Hotel near Waynesville, which he said was, ". . . one of the lovely spots in the world." (9) The railroad arrived in Waynesville in 1883, and by 1905 the city had a water system, electricity, paved streets and sidewalks, textile mills, a tannery and a furniture factory. Perhaps the strongest spur to the

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growth and development of Waynesville and Haywood County was the establishment of the Champion Paper Company in nearby Canton in 1906, followed by other major lumber companies. The first automobile appeared in Waynesville in 1905, and by 1910 Waynesville, with a population of 2,008, was a thriving summer resort and developing industrial and commercial center. (10) There were twenty-five hotels and boarding houses in town and in the vicinity, including the Eagles Nest, White Sulphur Springs Hotel, Chestnut Park Lodge, Miller House, Hotel Gordon, Suyeta Park Hotel and the Piedmont Hotel at Lake Junaluska. (11) The United States Post Office was located on the east side of Main Street near Depot Street, where it remained until 1917.

In 1911, C. E. Ray, a wealthy merchant of the town, sold a lot on the corner of Main Street and Church Street to the United States of America for \$5,945.00. (12) The lot, approximately three-tenths of an acre, was vacant although a documentary photograph shows it to have had a concrete sidewalk on the Main Street boundary. South of the lot stood the Hotel Waynesville, a large, rambling Second Empire style house of weatherboard. Behind the lot on Church Street, where later the Masonic Hall (1927, NR) would stand, were several one-story, gable-roofed cottages. On Ray's lot in 1917 would appear a modestly high-style, Neo-Classical Revival federal building unlike any building then in existence in the little town.

Supervising Architect for Waynesville's new federal building was James A. Wetmore. Construction superintendent was Charles M. Pritchett, who had spent five years in the Phillipines as supervising engineer for the Phillipine government and had supervised the construction of several post office buildings in the continental United States. Postmaster was Frank W. Miller and there were four clerks on the staff. (13) The Neo-Classical Revival design of the new building was later imitated in the construction of the Citizens Bank and Trust Company building on Main Street and the Masonic Hall on Church Street.

In 1966 the Post Office building was sold to the City of Waynesville for \$65,600.00 (14) Since that date, it has been used as the city Municipal Building or "town hall." In 1989 interior renovations created a new public stairway, city council chamber and additional offices and work space.

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FOOTNOTES

1. Lowry, Bates, Building a National Image: Architectural Drawings for the American Democracy, 1789-1912, 1985, pp. 47-49.
2. Ibid., pp. 51-51.
3. Ibid., p. 58.
4. Ibid., p. 74.
5. Ibid., p. 78.
6. Encyclopaedia Britannica, Inc., Encyclopaedia Britannica, Macropaedia, 1974. Volume 14, pp. 886-887.
7. Lowry, op. cit., p. 81.
8. Ibid., p. 82.
9. Van Noppen, Ina W., and John J., Western North Carolina Since the Civil War, 1973, pg. 52.
10. Cotton, Randall, The Built Environment of Haywood County, 1983 pp. 24-27.
11. Haywood County Register of Deeds, Book 32, page 342.
12. The Carolina Mountaineer, "The 1916 Pictorial Story of Haywood County," p. 13.
13. Downtown Waynesville Association, architectural description of the Municipal Building.
14. Haywood County Register of Deeds, Book 213, page 447.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Allen, W.C., Centennial of Haywood County and its County Seat, Waynesville, Courier Printing Company, Waynesville, 1908.
Downtown Waynesville Association, architectural description of the Municipal Building.
Carolina Mountaineer, reprint of Special Industrial and Resort Edition of 1911 "The 1916 Pictorial Story of Haywood County," no date.
Cotton, Randall, The Built Environment of Haywood County, NC Division of Archives and History, 1983.
Encyclopaedia Britannica, Inc., Encyclopaedia Britannica, Macropaedia, Volumn 14, Chicago, 1974.
Haywood County Register of Deeds, Haywood County Courthouse, Waynesville.
Lowry, Bates, Building a National Image: Architectural Drawings for the American Democracy, 1789-1912, National Building Museum, Washington, 1985.
Van Noppen, Ina W. and John J., Western North Carolina Since the Civil War, Appalachian Consortium Press, Boone, 1973.

☐ See continuation sheet

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 # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- ☒ State historic preservation office
☐ Other State agency
☐ Federal agency
☐ Local government
☐ University
☐ Other

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 0.3 acre

UTM References

A

1	7
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3	1	9	6	1	0
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3	9	2	8	9	7	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Zone Easting Northing

B

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Zone Easting Northing

☐ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The (former) United States Post Office building property comprises parcel number 0902 in Haywood County, North Carolina, as shown on map number 8615.10 of the county Department of Planning.

☐ See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The nominated property comprises all the land historically associated with the building as recorded in the Haywood County Register of Deeds, Book 32 at page 342 and Book 213 at page 447.

☐ See continuation sheet

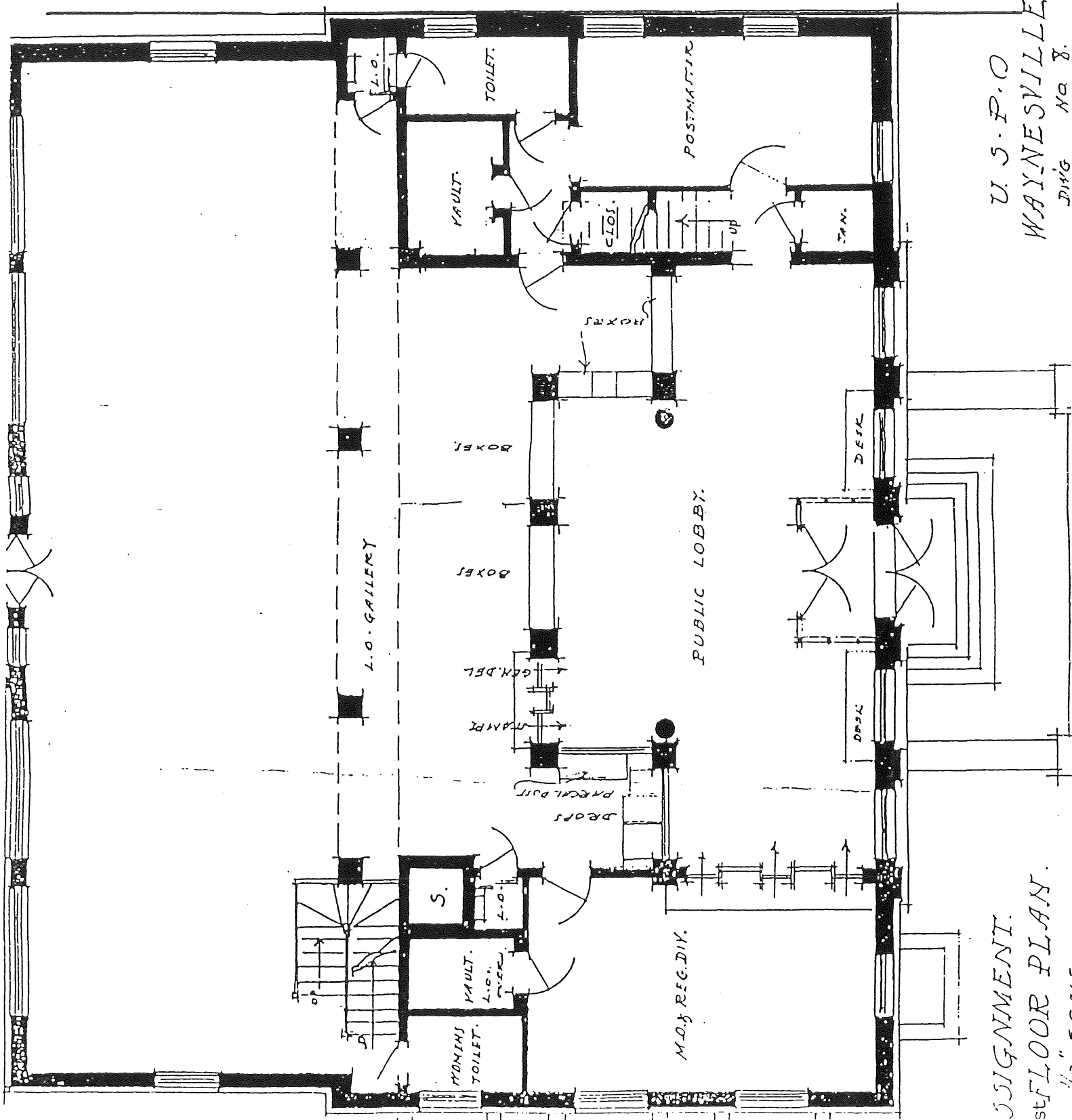
11. Form Prepared By

name/title Carolyn A. Humphries
organization _____ date October 1, 1990
street & number Route 2, Box 175 telephone 704: 526-9462
city or town Highlands state NC zip code 28741

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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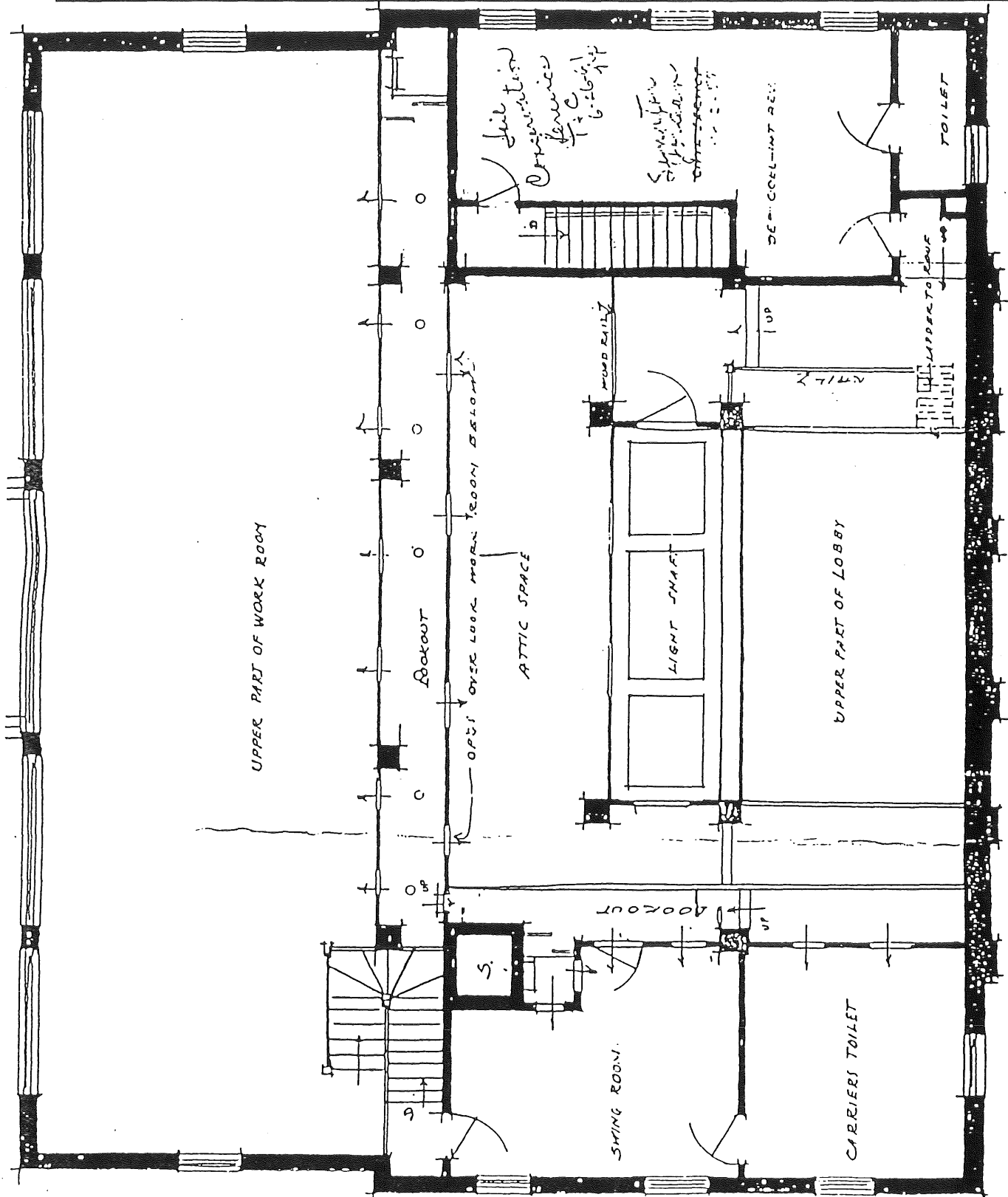
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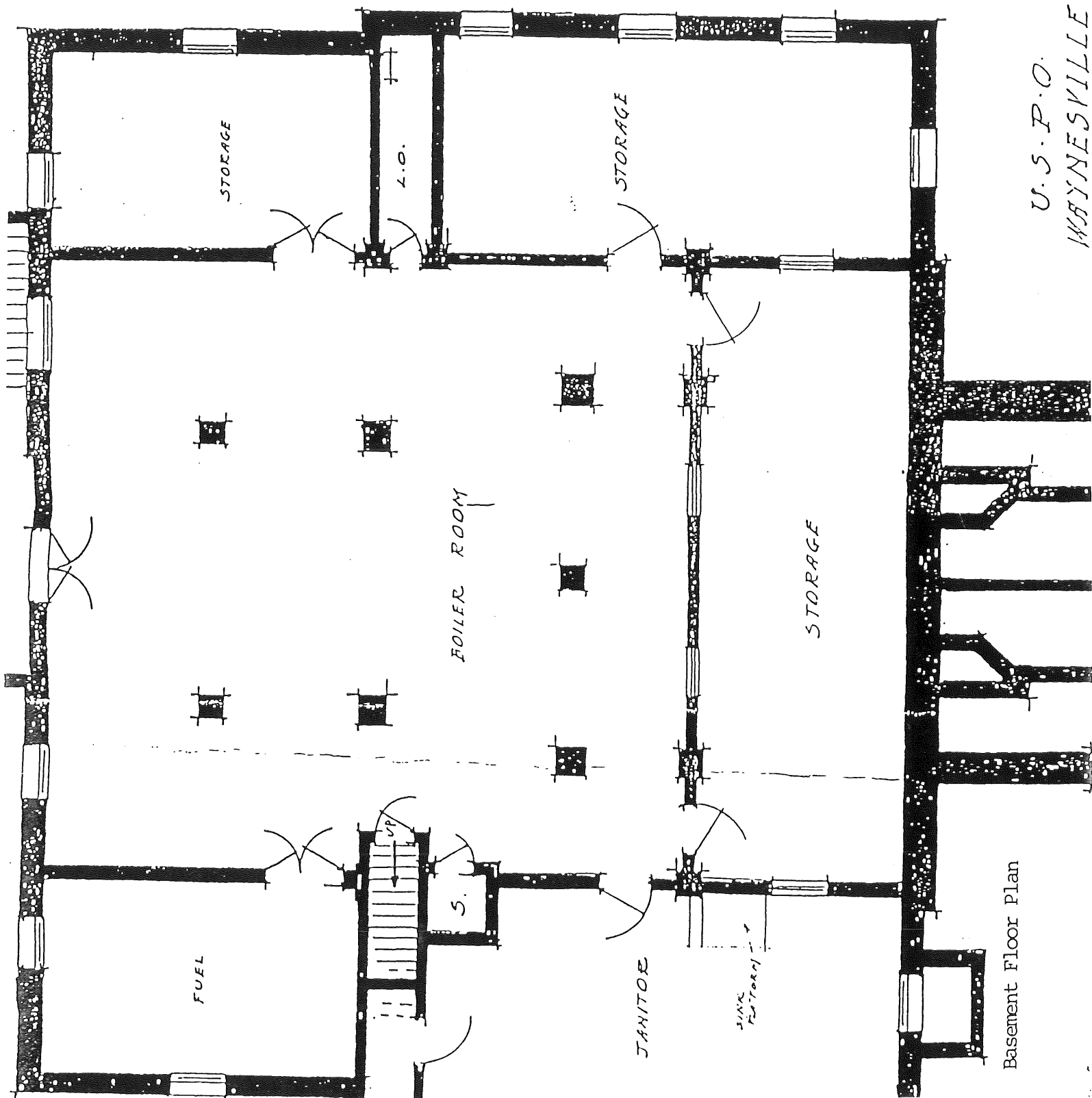
U.S.P.O.
WAYNESVILLE, N.C.

SSIGNMENT
Lezantine Floor Plan

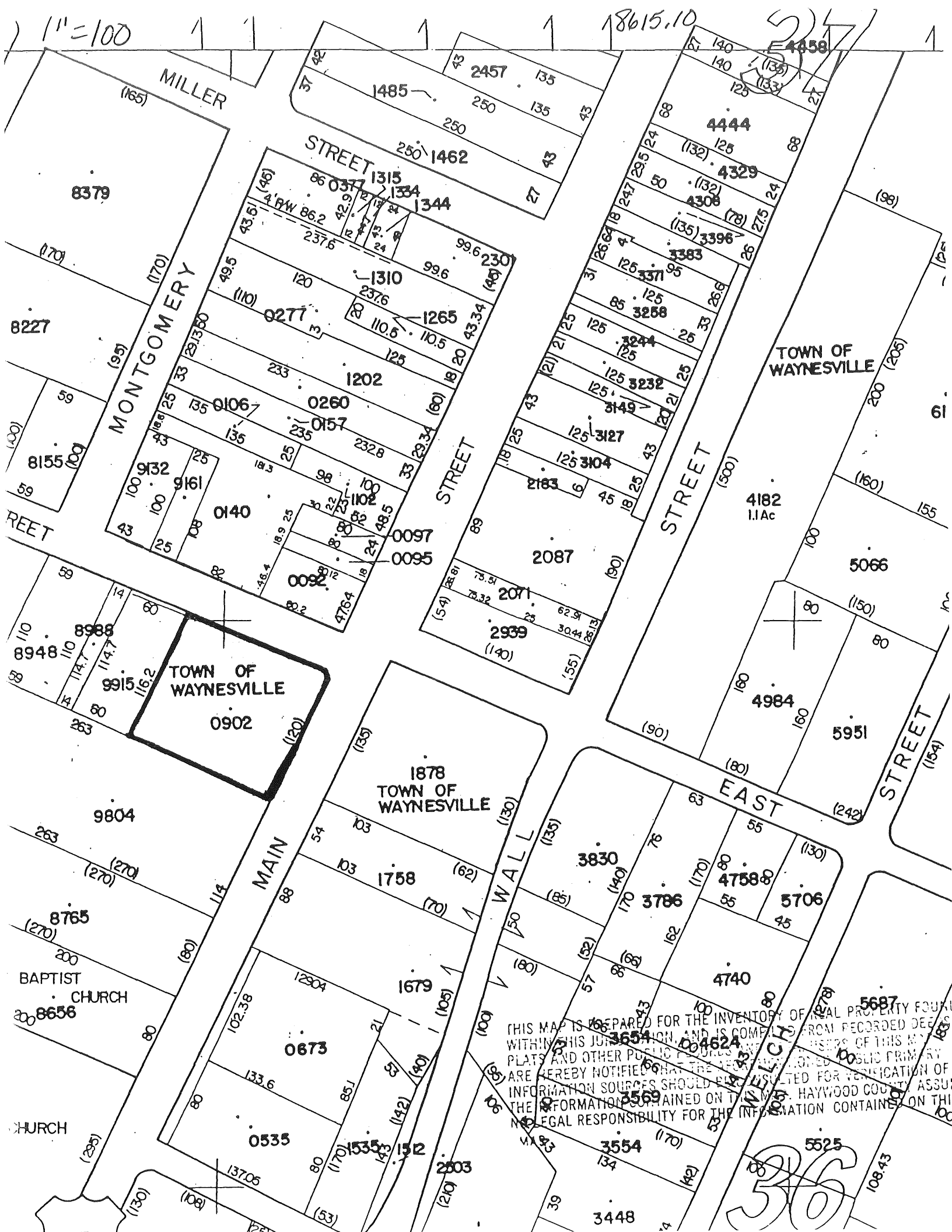
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National Park Service

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Basement Floor Plan



1"=100

18615.10

4458

MILLER
(165)

STREET

MONTGOMERY
(170)
(95)

TOWN OF
WAYNESVILLE

STREET

STREET

STREET

TOWN OF
WAYNESVILLE

TOWN OF
WAYNESVILLE

EAST

STREET

BAPTIST
CHURCH

CHURCH

THIS MAP IS PREPARED FOR THE INVENTORY OF REAL PROPERTY FOUR
WITHIN THIS JURISDICTION AND IS COMPILED FROM RECORDED DEEDS
PLATS AND OTHER PUBLIC RECORDS. THE USERS OF THIS MAP
ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED THAT THE INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREON
INFORMATION SOURCES SHOULD BE CONSULTED FOR VERIFICATION OF
THE INFORMATION CONTAINED ON THIS MAP. HAYWOOD COUNTY ASSU
NO LEGAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE INFORMATION CONTAINED ON THI

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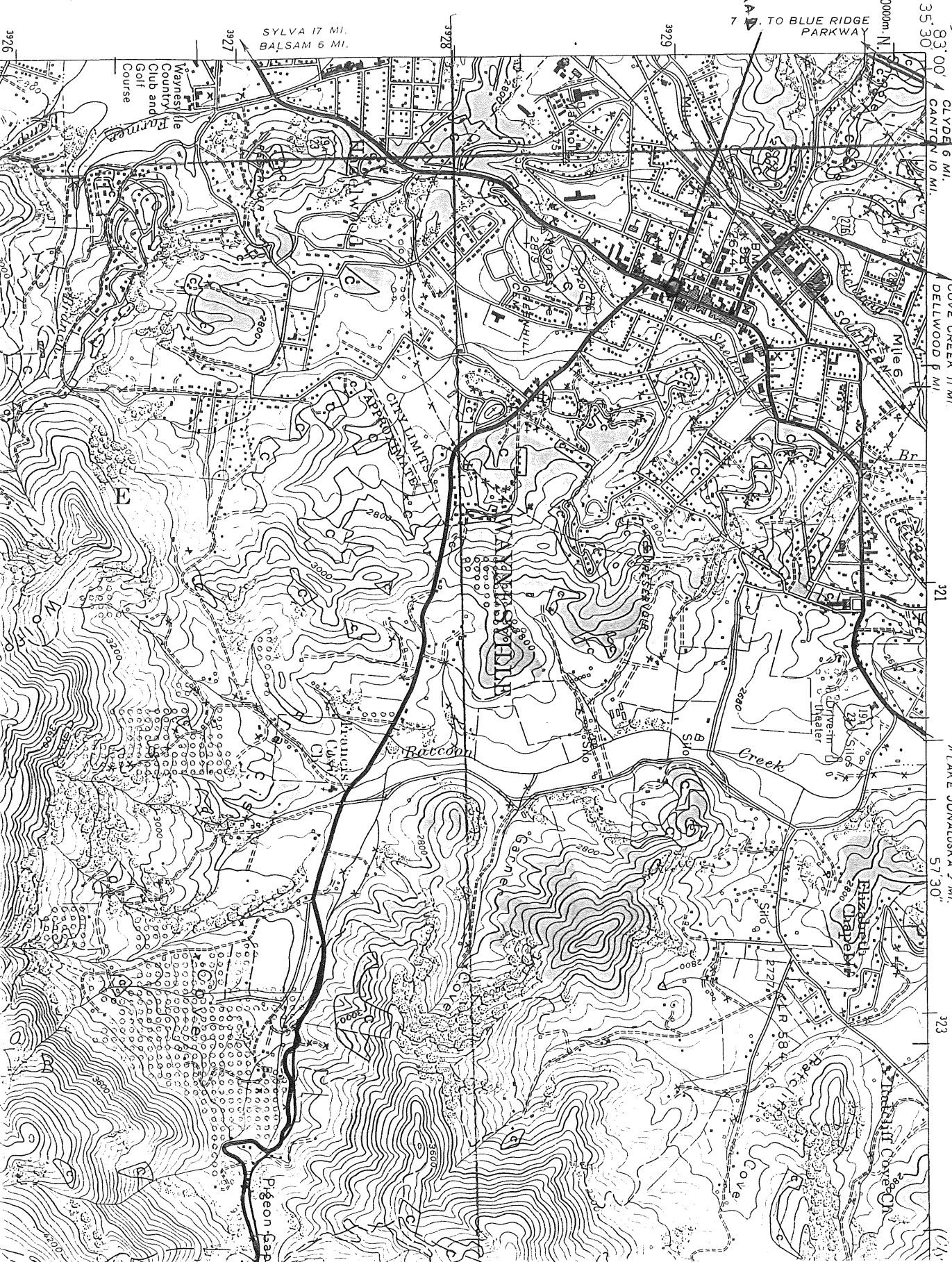
*(Dellwood 173-S-E)
4355 11 SE*

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

UNITED STATES
TENNESSEE V
MAPS AND S

(Former) U.S.
Post office
Building
WAYNESVILLE, N.C.
WAYNE COUNTY
WAYNESVILLE QUAD
Zone 17

Easting
319610
Northing
3928970



35 30
83° 00' 4
CLYDE 6 MI.
CANTON 10 MI.
DELLWOOD 8 MI.
COVE CREEK 11 MI.

ASHEVILLE 30 MI.
LAKE JUNALUSKA 2 MI.
57° 30'

SYLVA 17 MI.
BALSAM 6 MI.
Waynesville
Country
Club and
Course

