

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

Monroe N. C. Post Office

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

407 North Main Street

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Monroe

VICINITY OF

Eighth

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

North Carolina

CODE

037

COUNTY

Union

CODE

099

**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	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER Post Office

**4 AGENCY**

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (If applicable)

United States Postal Service

STREET & NUMBER

2245 Perimeter Park Drive

CITY, TOWN

Atlanta

VICINITY OF

STATE

Georgia

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Union County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Monroe

STATE

North Carolina 28110

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

N/A

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 Monroe, North Carolina, Post Office is a two-story, seven-by-four bay, load-bearing masonry structure laid in English bond red brick. It is a mature example of Neo Classical federal architecture built in 1913. The main block rests on a raised cut ashlar basement with molded watertable. The cornerstone contains the date of construction and architect's name. The building is situated on the north side of a slope so the south facade of the basement is underground; the north facade is exposed. There is a sympathetic two-story addition to the south and one to the northwest (rear). These additions, built in 1966 and laid in Flemish bond brick of a slightly lighter color than the original, are similar in scale, style and materials. The bays, however, are tall, flat-arched with keystone, rectangular bays composed of six stacked lights on the side of the rear addition and on the main facade of the south addition. The scale and style of these bays is at odds with the original bays.

Bays on the north side of the original block are eight-over-eight rectangular sash set in slightly recessed round-arched with stone keystone niches. In the arch are small tile diamond motifs. The second floor bays are four-over-four rectangular bays with narrow stone sills. Two similar pairs of bays flank the five central bays on the main facade. Over the side bays is a plain molded stone band surmounted by a soldier course and more ornate dentil and molded stone cornice, all of which is topped by a stone-capped blind parapet which conceals a low hip roof. This cornice treatment was continued over the additions but the parapet was not.

The main facade of the original block is very elaborate in its Neo Classical detailing. A classical portico, supported by academic Corinthian columns, projects slightly across the five central bays. The bays are fifteen-over-fifteen sash with segmental round-arched lights set in slightly recessed brick and stone arches with stone keystones. A molded stone band runs across the tops of the keystones. Over this band over each bay is an elaborate molded stone panel featuring classical urn and festoon with rosette motif. Limestone pilasters with plain capitals define the bays on the porch facade. The Corinthian columns of the portico support an entablature with "UNITED STATES POST OFFICE" flanked by medallions. Over this is a dentil cornice, a projecting molded stone band and a blind paneled parapet of stone and brick. The brick-filled panels feature a diamond motif of brick and tile.

Entrance is through double plate glass doors which replaced the original double paneled wood and glass doors. A brass and plate glass vestibule was added immediately inside the lobby when the lobby was remodeled in 1966. There is very little original fabric remaining. The floor is replacement terrazzo, the walls are now sheathed in marble and new post boxes have been added. The original boxes remain, but the combination locks have been replaced with key locks. The main desk is a replacement and has been moved to the southwest corner of the lobby. The original ceiling, which features an elaborate molded plaster cornice, has been covered by a grid ceiling with florescent lights. One portion of the original fabric does remain, however. The original, elaborate wrought iron and marble stair is still in the southeast corner of the lobby. To the south are the original offices, and behind them are the offices housed in the addition. To the rear of the original block and in the addition to the rear are mail-handling areas and loading dock.

The Monroe Post Office is a sophisticated example of federal Neo Classical architecture. It is situated on a city block facing a greenspace and pedestrian mall built when the new county courthouse was built to the north. Main Street was closed for two blocks

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CONTINUATION SHEET

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to accomodate the courthouse and to provide the mall before the Post Office. The Post Office provides an anchor between the old and new architecture of the town of Monroe. To the north is the new county courthouse. To the south is the older architecture of Monroe. The Post Office is diagonally across an intersection from the old Union County Courthouse (NR) which is a very elaborate, sophisticated example of late Victorian architecture.

# 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"/> CULTURE		
<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)		
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION				

SPECIFIC DATES                      1913                      BUILDER/ARCHITECT      Oscar Wendroth, Supervising Architect

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Union County was formed from parts of Anson and Mecklenberg Counties on December 19, 1842. The act which formed the new county stipulated that the seat be located not more than two miles from the center of the county. When the first site, High Hill, proved unavailable the commissioners selected the present-day site of Monroe. The town was incorporated in 1844 and was named for former President James Monroe.

Monroe was the mid-point between Richmond, Virginia, and Atlanta, Georgia, on the Seaboard line. It was the site of railyards, roundhouse, shops and homes of many of the railroad employees. Some of these houses still stand. The Post Office, built in 1913, represents the prosperity and growth of the town during the early twentieth century. The town of Monroe is still an important rail center, and is the home of new financial ventures, as well as the seat of county government for Union County.

The Monroe Post Office is a mature, restrained example of the Neo Classical style in federal architecture. The Post Office exterior is relatively intact, with two sympathetic additions made in 1966. One is to the south side and one is to the rear. The structure is sited on a north slope and occupies a city block. The Post Office was designed by Oscar Wendroth who was Supervising Architect for the Federal Government Treasury Department from 1912 to 1928 when he resigned due to failing eyesight. Wendroth was responsible for much federal architecture, especially post offices. Three other examples of Wendroth's post offices remain in the state: Rocky Mount, Tarboro, and Greenville. All three examples are in the eastern portion of the state; the Monroe Post Office and the Charles B. Jonas Federal Building in Charlotte, N. C., are the only examples of Wendroth's work in the western portion of the state.

Criteria Assessment:

A. Important to the history of Monroe which was the mid-point between Atlanta and Richmond on the Seaboard line. The Post Office reflects the importance and prosperity of the town as county seat and rail center.

B. Designed by Oscar Wendroth (1873 - 1938), Head of the United States Supervising Architect's Office from 1912 to 1929. Wendroth assisted in the design of many government structures, specializing in post offices. Three other known examples of his post offices exist in the state; one federal building designed by Wendroth is in Charlotte, N. C.

C. Is a mature, restrained relatively intact example of the Neo Classical style in federal architecture, a very popular style in the early twentieth century.

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Walden, H. Nelson, History of Union County. Charlotte, N. C.: Heritage Printers, Inc., 1964.

Withey, Henry F. and Elsie Rathburn, Dictionary of Biographies of American Architects (deceased). Los Angeles: Hennessey & Ingalls, 1970.

N. C. Division of Archives and History Survey and Planning Historic Structures files, Raleigh, N. C.

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 3/4 acre

UTM REFERENCES

A	17	540990	3871120	B				
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING	
C				D				

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The Post Office site occupies one block, 180' x 180'. See plat map attached, Monroe Tax Map #9-232, lot #101.

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

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

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

E. Virginia Oswald

ORGANIZATION

DATE

May 29, 1984

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

Route 1, Box 309

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Apex

N. C. 27502

## 12 CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

YES  NO

NONE

*William S. Phipps*  
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

DATE

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:

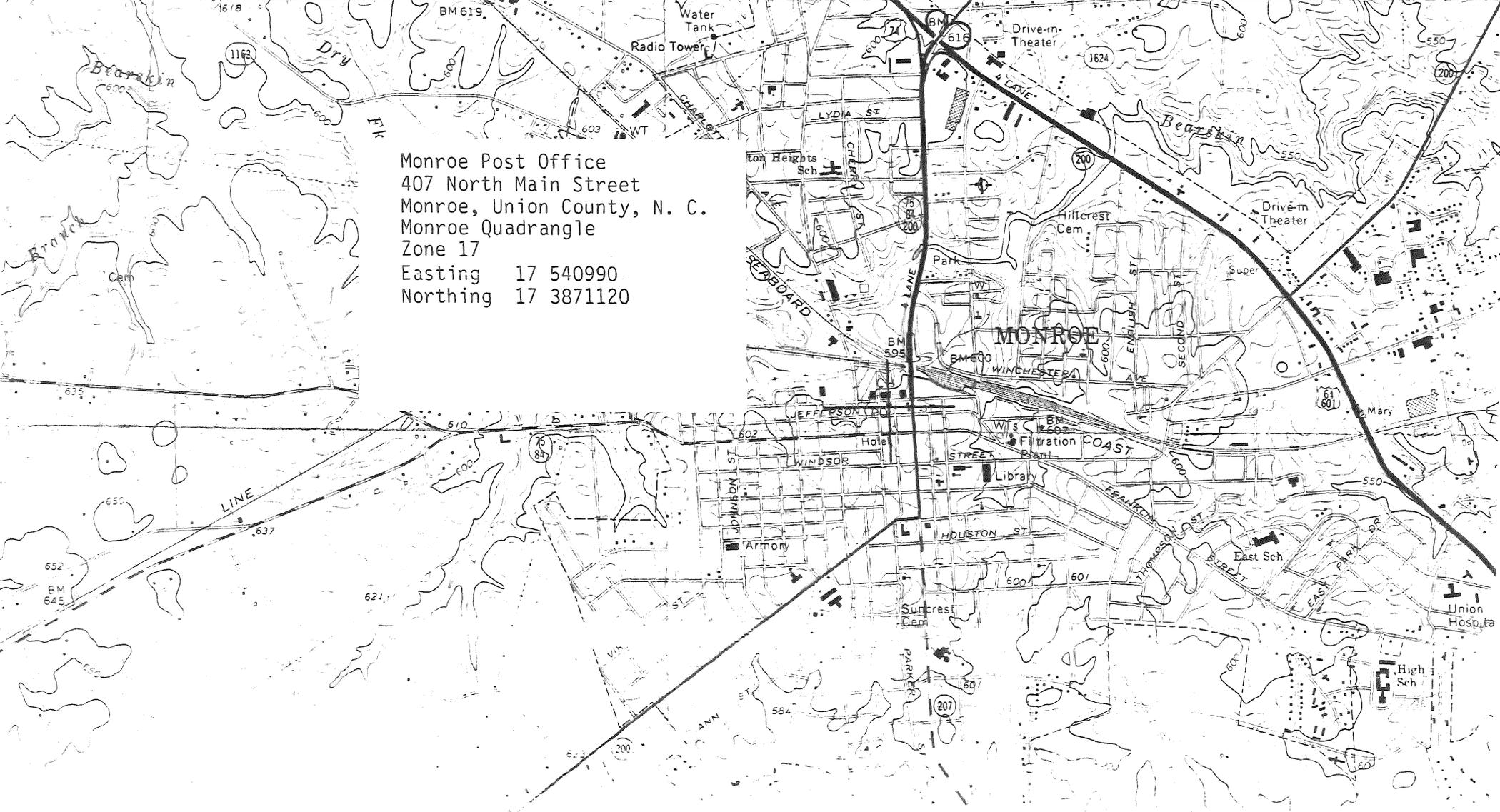
DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



37 35' 539 4854 II SE (BAKERS) CHARLOTTE 22 MI. BAKERS 4 MI. 601 CONCORD 31 MI. 32'30" 542 543 9 MI. TO N. C. 218

Monroe Post Office  
407 North Main Street  
Monroe, Union County, N. C.  
Monroe Quadrangle  
Zone 17  
Easting 17 540990  
Northing 17 3871120



#3

Union County  
Monroe

