NPS Form 10-900
(Rev. 8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

JAN 30 1989

NATIONAL REGISTER

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: Wallace Main Post Office
other names/site number: N/A

2. Location

street & number: 403 Cedar Street — N/A ☐ not for publication
city, town: Wallace — N/A ☐ vicinity
state: Idaho — code: ID — county: Shoshone — code: 079 — zip code: 83873

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
		Contributing	Noncontributing
☐ private	☒ building(s)	1	____ buildings
☐ public-local	☐ district	____	____ sites
☐ public-State	☐ site	____	____ structures
☒ public-Federal	☐ structure	____	____ objects
	☐ object	1	0 Total

Name of related multiple property listing:
Historic U.S. Post Offices in Idaho 1900-1941

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 1

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: 1-18-89

United States Postal Service
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: 12/14/88

Idaho State Historic Preservation Office
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. — Bruce J. Noble, Jr. — 3/16/89
☐ 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

NPS Form 10-900-a
(8-86)

OMB Approval No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ **Page** _____

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 89000137 **Date Listed:** 3/16/89

US Post Office--Wallace Main | Shoshone | ID
Property Name | **County** | **State**

US Post Offices in Idaho 1900-1941 MPS
Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

for Bruce J. Noble Jr. 3/16/89
Signature of the Keeper **Date of Action**

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Amended Items in Nomination:

The period of significance defined for this property is 1900-1941. This period pre-dates the property's date of construction and also extends into the less-than-fifty-year-old range without addressing criterion exception G. To resolve this issue, this property will be listed with a period of significance defined as 1936-1939. Also, 1935 will not be entered as a significant date because this date corresponds with the acquisition of the site and pre-dates the construction of the property. These changes were discussed with Steven S. Stielstra of the United States Postal Service during a 3/14/89 telephone conversation.

DISTRIBUTION:
National Register property file
Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)
U.S. Post Office

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)
U.S. Post Office

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)
Classical Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)
foundation Concrete
walls Brick
roof Tar composition
other Sandstone

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Wallace Main Post Office is a two-story building on a raised basement platform. Symmetrical in elevation and Classically-proportioned, the single-story front facade features a projecting three-bay central salient which rises above the flanking single-bay end wings (flat-arched). Set toward the building's rear on the east side is the loading dock which opens to the front. A second story, over the dock, extends across the rear of the building. A portion of this rear second story was added to the building in the mid-196Øs. Reinforced concrete is used for the footings and basement walls; steel frames the structure. Buff-colored brick faces the exterior and the trim detailing (basement wall, water table course, belt course, pilasters, entablature, and window surrounds) is sandstone. Concrete is used for the entry steps. Bronze lanterns are affixed to the wall flank-ing the entry. A flat, built-up tar composition roof covers the building.

PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The front facade (south) consists of the main building which is one story in height and a two-story wing to the rear and east. Symmetrical in elevation and Classically-proportioned, the facade of the main building is articulated by slightly projecting the central section and extending it above the single-bayed end wings.

The central salient is divided by three bays: a centered entry bay and flanking window bays. Sandstone faces the exposed basement wall, above which is a sandstone water table course. A sandstone belt course, between the window bays and along a line formed by the tops of the architrave framing the bays, extends to the flat brick piers which define the corners. (Actually, piers are only suggested by a one-inch projection from the facade plane.) A vertically-ribbed aluminum coping (covers original sandstone coping) terminates the facade.

[X] See continuation sheet

8. 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)
Architecture
Politics/Government

Period of Significance
1900-1941

Significant Dates
Site acq.-1935
Const.-1936

Cultural Affiliation
N/A

Significant Person
N/A

Architect/Builder
Harry B. Carter, Consulting Architect; Louis A. Simon, Supervising Architect/Federal Government

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

The Wallace Main Post Office is a well-preserved example of a small-town combined post office and federal office building. Designed in the Neo-Classical mode, the building represents the transition between the Beaux-Arts tradition of early-1900s Federal architecture and the modern or International design influence. Though the facade is relatively simple, the Classical order flat sandstone surrounds of the three central bays suggest a stronger link with the past than with the more modern designs which followed. The building was the city's first federally-constructed post office and symbolizes the link with the federal government. It is also within the boundaries of the Wallace Historic District.

ARCHITECTURE

Although the Wallace Post Office received an addition in the mid-1960s, the integrity of the original design is good and the building is well-preserved. It was patterned from standardized designs and floor plans developed by the Office of the Supervising Architect (Department of the Treasury). Although the front facade of the main building is similar to that of the Burley Post Office, site configuration apparently dictated the placement of the loading dock at the side of the building rather than the rear (as was the rule in post office design). Site configuration also allowed the use of two stories at the rear of the building while maintaining a single-story front. (Although no evidence was located, it is probable that the building was originally designed to accommodate the 1965-66 addition.)

The design of the building is transitional in that its historical architectural elements are well-defined--in the

☒ See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

1. Wallace Press Times, various articles 1935-1936.

2. "Wallace History Colorful--Originated 1884," The Wallace Miner. 16 December, 1937, p. 15.

3. Original Floor Plans, 1934.

4. 1965 Addition Floor Plans, 1965.

5. Construction Progress Photographs, October 22, 1934-June 23, 1936.

☐ 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:
USPS Facilities Service Center
San Bruno, CA 94099-0330

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 0.29

UTM References

	Zone	Easting	Northing
A	11	580850	5258010
B			
C			
D			

Quadrangle name: Wallace
Quadrangle scale: 1:62,500

☐ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

Lots 1, 3, 5, 7, & 9, Block 15 of Wallace Townsite. Northeast corner of Fourth Street and Cedar Street, Beginning in the southwest corner, N100.12', E125.57', S100.06', W125.57' to beginning.

☒ See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the property originally purchased by the federal government for the post office site.

☐ See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title H.J. "Jim" Kolva, Project Manager; Steve Franks, Research Assistant
organization Institute for Urban & Local Studies date August 1988
street & number West 705 1st Avenue telephone (509) 458-6219
city or town Spokane state WA zip code 99204

Five concrete steps, flanked by sandstone buttresses, approach the main entry. The entry consists of double aluminum-framed glass panel doors (original doors replaced). A molded transom bar of wood and featuring a raised keystone separates the doors and a ten-light wood sash transom window. The entry bay, as are the flanking window bays, is framed by flat sandstone pilasters which support a sandstone entablature. Bronze lanterns are affixed to the wall between the entry and flanking window bays. The windows consist of double-hung wood sash with ten-over-fifteen lights. Flat limestone panels are between the sills and water table.

The end wings, lower in height than the central salient, extend to the line formed by the tops of the bays. The exposed basement wall is faced with brick, with the water table defined by a brick header course. Aluminum coping terminates the facade. Each wing contains a single window bay. Framing the windows are flat sandstone surrounds which are recessed slightly for emphasis. The sash is double-hung wood with six-over-six lights. Visible above the east wing and set back 21 feet is the blank brick wall of the second story.

The two-story wing attached to the east side of the main building is set back 47 feet from the front facade. The first floor is the loading dock which is open to the front. A marquee with an aluminum fascia projects over the loading area. Three equally-spaced window bays divide the flat brick second story. The sash is double-hung wood with two-over-four lights. Aluminum coping terminates the wall.

The west facade, with the grade sloping down to the north, consists of the single-story portion of the original building and the two-story rear addition. The recessed wall of the original central section, which extends to the addition, is visible above the wing. The south corner, with one window bay, and the addition, divided by three window bays, project approximately four feet from the mid-portion of the facade, which contains four window bays. Buff-colored brick extends from grade to the aluminum coping. A brick header course defines the water table in the original building. The windows of the original building are framed with sandstone and consist of six-over-six light double-hung wood sash. The equally-spaced bays of the addition are unframed except for a flat sill. The first- and second-floor windows are identical--double-hung wood sash with three-over-six lights.

The east facade is buff-colored brick from grade to the aluminum coping. The wing of the main building is one story in height in the front half and rises to two stories in the rear half. A two-story wing extends east from the side of the main building. Two window bays divide the single-storied portion. Framed with sandstone, the sash is ten-over-ten light double-hung wood.

Northerly from the one-story portion, the two-story section contains one bay with first- and second-floor windows, a square chimney (corresponding to a second bay), and two window bays in the second story above the roof of the loading dock. The single first-floor window is smaller than those of the second floor and consists of four-light wood sash. The second-story windows are double-hung with three-over-six light wood sash. The eastward extending wing is divided into three bays with first- and second-floor windows identical to those of the west facade of the addition.

The rear facade (north) consists of the original two-story portion and the two-story addition to the west side. Both are clad in buff-colored brick and are unembellished. The first floor of the original building contains two garage doors, while the addition contains five garage doors and a single pedestrian door. The second story of the original contains seven window bays, while the addition contains ten window bays. The windows are identical with three-over-six light double-hung wood sash.

Neo-Classical mode--yet the facade has been flattened with these elements essentially embedded in the facade plane. The use of sandstone architraves (pilasters and entablature) to frame the central bays, the symmetry, and the massing are characteristic of the Beaux Arts tradition of federal design. The flatness of the facade and simplification of the historical elements indicate the modern or International influence that dictated the design styles of the mid- to late-1930s. Even though the facade is flat and relatively simple, the use of sandstone for the architraves surrounding the central bays and the articulation of the central facade, impart a sense of quality and sophistication that is characteristic of Federal design of the period. The building is locally significant under Criterion C.

POLITICS/GOVERNMENT

As Wallace's first federally-constructed post office, the building is locally significant under Criterion A. It symbolizes the presence of the federal government and its recognition of the stability of the community. It is also a legacy of the federal government's aid to small communities, through its public works programs, during the Depression era. The construction of the building was a major civic event, one that evoked a sense of pride amongst local citizens. It also represented the successful result of many years of lobbying efforts on the part of local citizens, through their elected officials in Washington. In his address at the dedication ceremony, Congressman Compton White stressed the importance of the silver taken out of the mines of Wallace in the operation of the federal government and the importance of this link between the area and the national economy.

LOCAL CONTEXT

Wallace is located in the historic Coeur d'Alene mining district of northern Idaho. The seat of Shoshone county, Wallace today has an economy based on mining and retail trade. In 1980 its population was 1,736.

In 1884 Colonel W. R. Wallace and several other men packed to the site of what is now Wallace and built a cabin. The party platted the ground and established a general layout of the town, then known as Placer Center. Also in 1884 lead

ore was discovered in the area and placer mining ceased and prospecting followed in earnest. A post office was established on a special route on August 17, 1886 with Mrs. Lucie Wallace as postmistress. In 1887 a city government was set up (Col. Wallace was elected mayor; Jack Dunn, D. C. McKissick and two others were named commissioners) and the town was officially named Wallace, in honor of Col. Wallace. With the arrival of the Burlington Northern Railroad in 1887 Wallace became the major supply point and economic center for the rich lead-silver Coeur d'Alene mining district. The town was incorporated in 1888; Col. Wallace, Horace King, C. M. Hall, C. W. Vender, and D. C. McKiss were appointed as the first board of trustees. By 1890 there were 878 people living in Wallace.

On July 27, 1890 fire destroyed the entire business section of Wallace. The town, originally built of wood, was rebuilt primarily with brick as the town began to reap the tremendous benefits of the developing lead-silver mines. In 1893 a city charter was obtained; W. S. Haskins was elected the first mayor under the new system. About this time a system of waterworks were installed and hydroelectric plants were constructed near the city. City postal delivery service was established in 1895, with two letter carriers, one substitute carrier, and 13 letter boxes. In 1898 Wallace became the political center of the region in addition to the economic center when it was made the county seat. By 1900 Wallace's population had grown to 2,265; it grew to 3,000 in 1910 before dropping slightly to 2,816 in 1920. It climbed to 3,634 in 1930 and to 3,839 in 1940, which would prove to be its peak population. By 1950 it had dropped to 3,149; between 1960 and 1970 it dropped further, from 2,412 to 2,206. In 1980 Wallace's population was 1,736.

The Wallace Main Post Office is on the northeast corner of Cedar Street and Fourth Street. The building fronts Cedar Street, facing the south. The Post Office is at the west edge of the city's central business district. Adjacent to the east of the Post Office is a small office building (one story, brick, 1939) and to its east, the Elks Building (two story, brick, Neo-Classical, 1924, NHR). Across the alley to the north of the Post Office is the rear wall of a modern motel (two story, concrete block). Across Fourth to the west is the Holy Trinity Church (1910, NHR). Single-family houses

are north and west of the church. A modern medical office building is kitty-cornered from the Post Office. Single-family houses are to its west and south. The First Congregational Church (1957) is across Cedar, south of the Post Office. Single-family houses are adjacent to its east and south.

The Wallace Historic District, which embraces the commercial core of downtown Wallace, is one block east of the Post Office. Fifth Street forms the western boundary of the district. The district includes the 1905 post office building.

LOCAL NEWSPAPER COVERAGE OF THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE WALLACE MAIN POST OFFICE

"New Postmaster To Be Appointed Soon" reported the Wallace Press-Times on January 3rd, 1935. The term of the current postmaster, M. A. Corner (who had served since 1933), was expiring. The paper listed various prominent candidates for the position, including R. E. Weniger, former Shoshone County sheriff. On January 23rd the paper announced that Weniger had been appointed postmaster. Soon thereafter it was reported that plans for Wallace's proposed new post office had been received; construction bids for the structure, to be built at 4th and Cedar, would be opened February 15th (January 28th article). "Cleveland Firm Is Low on P.O. Bid" reported the Press-Times on February 26th. The William McDonald Construction Company had been awarded the contract with its bid of $50,300. The paper reported $101,000 had been allotted for the new building and that the site had recently been purchased at a cost of $11,500. The property was purchased from Mrs. Laura Barnard (two lots), and Sigurd Torkelson, Mrs. L. J. Whitney, and Mrs. Frances E. Keating (one lot each).

In May, however, the paper reported that post office bids would be readvertised; the previous bids were rejected because clear title had not yet been obtained and the low bidder refused to extend his bid to April 30th. The next lowest bid was $66,792, $3,200 higher than the allocation. (Other articles of the time noted that silver prices were continuing to rise (April 12th article) and that district mines had earned $3 million (May 12th article)). Before long

the government received clear title to the post office property (May 25th article) and bids were again called for (June 1st article). On July 24th it was announced that the McDonald Construction Company of St. Louis had won the contract with a bid of $65,450. "P.O. Work Will Start Soon" declared the Press-Times on October 8th; the federal construction engineer had arrived on Monday and construction would start on October 15th, with the first task being to raze the structures on-site. On October 24th it was reported work had begun; between 12 to 30 men would be employed in the project which, it was hoped, would be completed by May 1st. Towards the end of the year it was reported that a postal inspector was in town to arrange the purchase of furniture (November 19th article) and that $5,328 of WPA funds were to be used in Wallace for a new community center and various street improvements (November 23rd article).

On February 4th, 1936 the Press-Times reported that Wallace's postal receipts had climbed from $2,663.68 in January 1935 to $3,336.54 in January 1936; the large increase was attributed to the general improvement in business conditions. Another large gain was reported for March (April 2nd article). On July 24th it was announced that a $300,000 mine ore mill would be constructed at Burke.

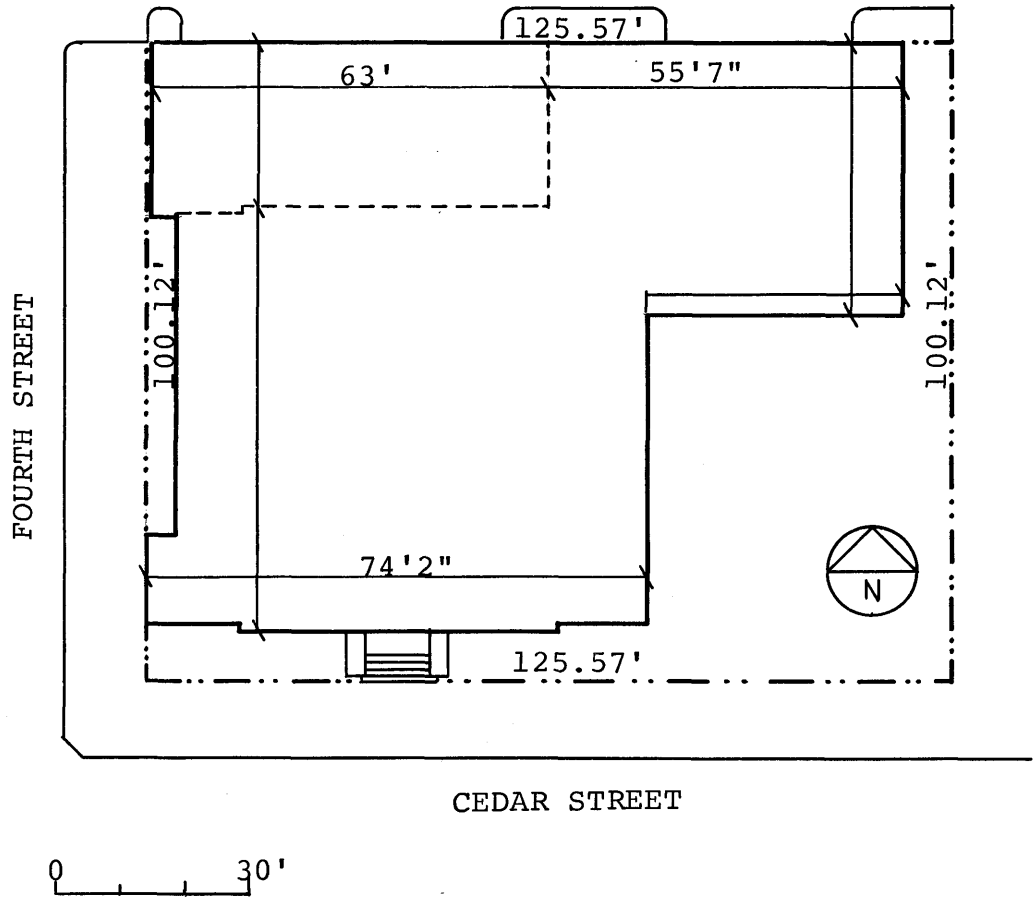
"P.O. Dedication Program Set For 2:30 Tomorrow" headlined the Press-Times on August 29th. The paper reported that the "dream come true" was the culmination of years of effort on the part of certain business interests and noted that the occasion would also mark the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the Wallace post office. For the dedication program Postmaster Weniger would be master of ceremonies, the Board of Trade, Rotary Club, and Gyro Club would participate, Miss Josephine Boyd's Orchestra was to play "America," Mayor Herman J. Rossi would give the welcome, and Congressman Compton I. White was scheduled to give a 20 minute address. An in-depth article of August 31st reported that the program had taken place as planned, with postmasters from Coeur d'Alene, Sandpoint, Mullan, Kellogg, and Murray also participating. The paper also printed part of Congressman White's address, focusing on his discussion of the area's mining and the part that silver pays in paying the operating expenses of congress. The paper included a history of postal service in Wallace and a summary of the events leading to the construction of the new building. It was reported that the project

was authorized under the emergency construction act of June 19, 1934 and that by August 31, 1935 the total cost limit was $100,000. It was noted that in addition to postal space the building contained offices on the second floor for the forestry service and the internal revenue service.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received
date entered



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number Photos Page 1 Wallace MPO

The following information is the same for all the photographs listed:

1. Wallace MPO
2. Wallace, Idaho
3. Jim Kolva
4. February 1987
5. Negatives on file at USPS Facilities Service Center, San Bruno, CA.

Photo No. 1 (negative #2)
6. View to northeast

Photo No. 2 (negative #7)
6. View to north

Photo No. 3 (negative #14)
6. View to northwest

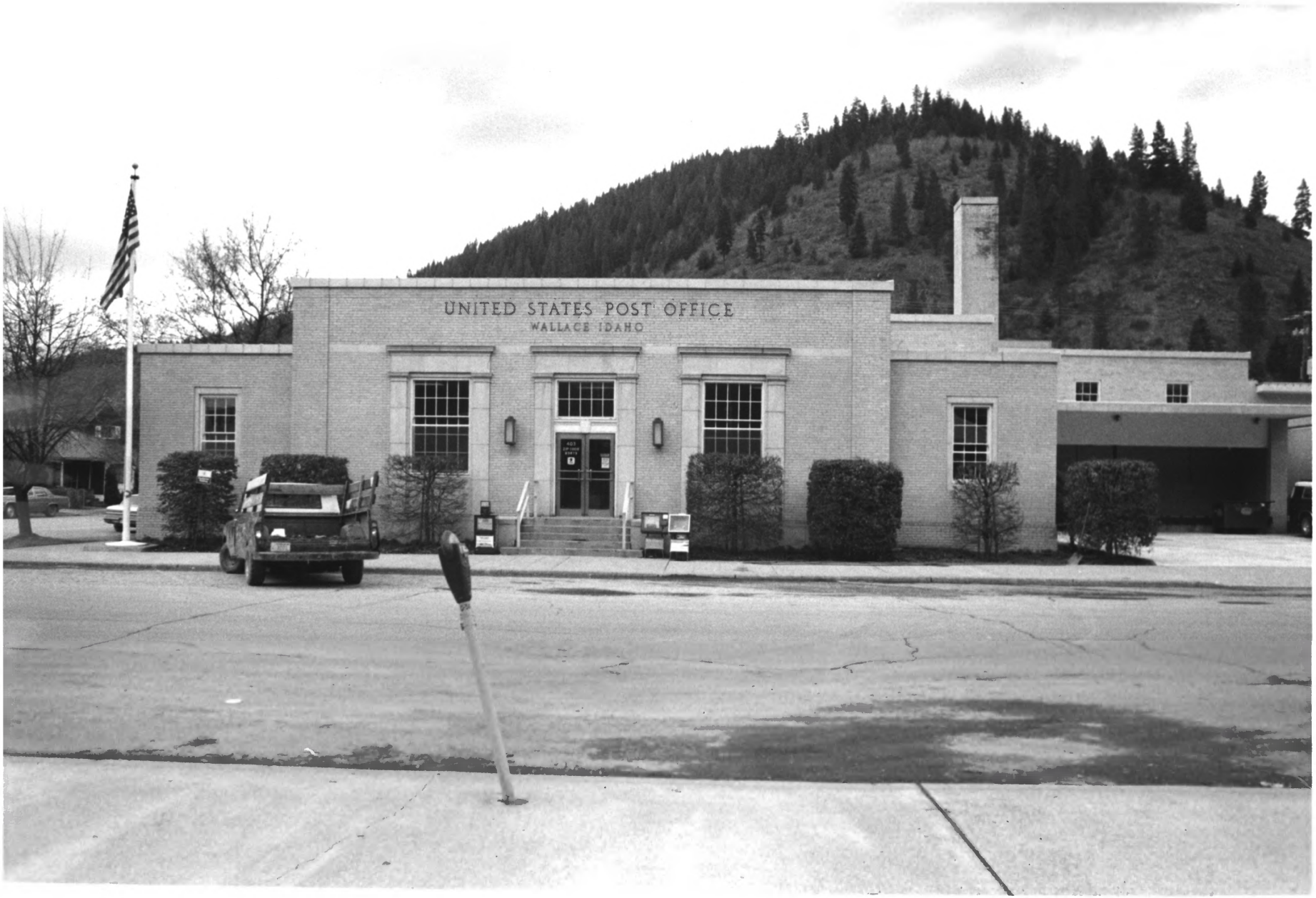

UNITED STATES POST OFFICE
WALLACE IDAHO

USPS - IDAHO

WALLACE MPO

PHOTO NO. 1

SHOSHONE COUNTY


UNITED STATES POST OFFICE
WALLACE IDAHO

USPS - IDAHO
WALLACE MPO
PHOTO NO. 2
Shoshone County


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PHOTO NO. 3
SHOSHONE COUNTY