

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

Historic name Gillette Post Office

Other names/site number Gillette City Hall, Bailey's Bar and Grill, Win Kitchen and Bath Design

2. Location

Street & Number 301 South Gillette Avenue

Not for Publication ☐

City or Town Gillette

Vicinity

State Wyoming

Code WY

County Campbell

Code 005

Zip Code 82716

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official

Date

State or Federal Agency or Tribal government

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

Signature of Keeper

Date of Action

 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):

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

 X private

 public-local

 public-State

 public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

 X building(s)

 district

 site

 structure

 object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing

Noncontributing

 1

 building(s)

 sites

 structures

 objects

 1

 0 Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.) Historic US Post Offices in Wyoming, 1900-1941

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Government	Sub: Post Office

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Commerce	Sub: Specialty Store

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Classical Revival

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation	Concrete
roof	
walls	Brick
other	Sandstone

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)
See Continuation Sheets

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- ☒ A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- ☐ A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ B removed from its original location.
- ☐ C a birthplace or a grave.
- ☐ D a cemetery.
- ☐ E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ F a commemorative property.
- ☐ G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

Politics/Government

Social History

Economics

Period of Significance

1934-1935

Significant Dates

1935 – construction of post office

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

U.S. Treasury - Louis A. Simon Supervising Architect

Blauner Construction Company

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

See Continuation Sheets

Name/title	Kara Hahn			
Organization	WY State Historic Preservation Office	Date	28 July 2008	
Street & number	2301 Central Ave	Telephone	307-777-7828	
City or town	Cheyenne	State	WY	Zip code 82002

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

Name			
Organization		Telephone	
Street & number			
City or town	State	WY	Zip code

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.). A federal agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to range from approximately 18 hours to 36 hours depending on several factors including, but not limited to, how much documentation may already exist on the type of property being nominated and whether the property is being nominated as part of a Multiple Property Documentation Form. In most cases, it is estimated to average 36 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form to meet minimum National Register documentation requirements. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, 1849 C St., NW, Washington, DC 20240.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet-Additional Documentation

Section 7 Page 1

Description

Constructed in 1935 via the Public Works Administration (PWA), the post office is a five bay brick building. While the majority of the building is one-story, the façade is two. The post office has a primarily rectangular footprint, a flat roof, sits on a concrete foundation, and is devoid of much ornamentation. Although the interior of the building underwent multiple alterations, the exterior remains relatively intact with few modifications.

The west side or front facade is composed of brick with a few sandstone elements. Resting on a concrete foundation, the red brick is laid in a common bond with a soldier course at the raised basement. The building is five bays consisting of four windows and the entrance. Unlike many other historic post offices in Wyoming, the building in Gillette is asymmetrical with the front entrance on the left side of the façade. Leading to the entrance are six concrete steps with handrails. The entrance contains two ten lite wood doors painted white with brass kick plates. Above the door is an ornamental five lite transom with the wood also painted white. The lites are round-arch in shape. The door surround consists of carved sandstone. Resting above the door surround is a triangular sandstone pediment with dentils. To the right of the entrance is a lamp, which appears to be original.

The other four bays consist of eight-over-eight lite double-hung wood frame windows. These are resting on sandstone sills and topped with flat gauged arches and sandstone keystones. Centered above each window is decorative brickwork. Above the brickwork is a sandstone sill course. Directly above the sill course and in the second story are four four-over-four lite double-hung wood frame windows each aligning with the first story windows. Located over the entrance is a sandstone block bearing the words "United States Post Office Gillette WYO." Above the windows and sandstone block is a sandstone cornice. There is the return to the common bond brick above the cornice terminating at the roof with sandstone coping.

The north elevation continues the same common bond and soldier course from the west façade. At the right corner of the north elevation is the cornerstone, which is engraved sandstone and states, "Henry Morgenthau Jr. Secretary of Treasury, James A. Farley Postmaster General, Louis A. Simpson Supervising Architect, Neil A. Melick Supervising Engineer, 1935." To the left of the cornerstone, on the first floor, is an eight-over-eight lite double-hung wood frame window with a sandstone sill and soldier arch. A sandstone sill course runs above the windows. On the second story, above the sill course, is decorative brick detailing. Located above the brick detailing is a sandstone cornice. Above the cornice there is the return to the common bond brick terminating at the roof with sandstone coping. To the left of the decorative brickwork and the window, the second story ends and the roofline drops down. It too has sandstone coping. Continuing along the elevation are the remaining five windows. They are eight-over-eight lite double-hung wood frame windows. These have sandstone sills and soldier arches, but unlike the facade no sandstone keystones. At the left end of the elevation, the building begins to change use and starts to function as a loading dock.

The rear of the building or the east elevation contains the least ornamentation as this served as the loading area and mailing platform for the post office. Although the rest of the building is a rectangular form of approximately fifty-two feet by seventy-five feet, the loading dock does not conform to that shape. In the center of the east elevation is an eleven feet by twenty-one feet projection or mailing vestibule that connects a concrete loading dock to the rest of the building. The loading dock, measuring forty-five feet by ten feet, is covered with a cantilevered roof that is supported by six beams.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet-Additional Documentation

Section 7 Page 2

The mailing vestibule is also on a concrete foundation with red bricks laid in a common bond and a soldier course. Near the right corner of the east elevation, is a six-over-six lite double-hung wood frame window. The vestibule also contains a six-over-six lite double-hung wood frame window and both windows have sandstone sills and soldier arches. To the left of the window are concrete steps leading to the loading dock. The vestibule contained two sets of double doors; however, one set of doors is now boarded shut. The second set of doors are ten lite wood paneled with a six lite transom above the doors. Around the corner of the mailing vestibule is another six-over-six lite double-hung wood frame window and on the left portion of the elevation is the fourth six-over-six lite double-hung wood frame window, both windows have sandstone sills and soldier arches. Near the far left side of the elevation is a red brick chimney.

The south elevation is similar to the north in character but contains a few distinct differences. The first floor of the south elevation, like the north, contains six eight-over-eight lite double-hung wood frame windows with sandstone sills and soldier arches. Near the rear of the building, on the right side of the elevation, is a staircase that leads to the basement. Midway down the stairs, beneath a first-story window is a four-over-four lite wood frame window, which provides light to the basement. At the bottom of the stairwell is an air conditioner and metal door. Beyond the stairwell, at the left edge of the elevation is an eight-over-eight lite double-hung wood frame window. As with the other first story windows, it too has sandstone sill and soldier arch. On the second story, centered above the first floor window is a four-over-four lite double-hung wood frame window.

Although the exterior remains virtually intact, little of the interior reflects the 1935 post office. Since serving as the local post office, it became City Hall, a restaurant, and is currently under construction for a new retail business. Upon entering through the exterior white double doors is a small vestibule that retains the original wood paneled walls. A second set of ten lite wood paneled doors lead to the original public lobby, which is somewhat intact. Small amounts of marble and the original wainscoting are still present. However, beyond these few details, little of the original first floor remains as the different occupants altered the floor to serve a variety of purposes. Like the first floor, the subsequent owners altered the basement, changed the function, and slightly altered the layout.

In contrast to the basement and first floor, the mezzanine level retains some of the original layout and design. The stairs leading to this level are located in the original position and the original wood is still evident. This floor contains only three rooms, all retaining the same layout, but surface updates are apparent. The steps lead directly into a room initially called the swing room, but currently used for storage. Directly off of this room, to the north, is a bathroom. The marble floor is still intact. A small door, on the east side of the swing room near the stairs, leads to the lookout gallery, which is now also used for storage space. It is a narrow hallway, which runs the length of the swing room and bathroom, and provides a view of the first floor. The gallery contains multiple horizontal slits or vents that enabled the postmaster to look directly onto the staff and customers. Although spatially similar to the initial construction, alterations to the carpet and walls are apparent on this floor. The rest of the building's interior has changed since the construction of the post office, but the exterior closely resembles the original 1935 building.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet-Additional Documentation

Section 8 Page 3

Statement of Significance

The Gillette Post Office is a well-preserved example of a classical revival of the mid-1930s. This 1935 building displays a quality of design and craftsmanship that marks the building as one of the finest high style buildings in the county. This quality made it a prominent structure in the downtown area. And as one of Gillette's first federal buildings, its construction was a major event in the city. In addition, the post office, which represented the link between the federal government and the local community, acted as a symbol of the federal government. The post office further represented the massive public buildings programs of the 1930s, specifically the PWA, that were intended to assist local communities during a period of national economic emergency. This building, eligible under Criteria A and C, is significant to the town of Gillette due to its use of classical design, its representation of the federal government, and the jobs provided during its construction.

Changes in the Post Office's official policy regarding design and construction of new postal buildings are reflected in the architecture of the Gillette Post Office. During the early 1900s and 1910s Congressional Representatives allocated large sums of money for the construction of post offices as a means of currying favor and garnering votes from their constituents. By 1915 this changed with increased public scrutiny and oversight from the Public Buildings Commission. Congress decreased funding for new buildings; however, when money was granted, the Post Office specifically designed each building. As evidence of this decrease in spending, Congress did not allocate funding for any federal buildings in Wyoming between 1913 and 1927. The Great Depression became the impetus for expansion of the building program. The Gillette Post Office became one of fifteen federal buildings constructed in Wyoming between 1927 and 1941. In an effort to create jobs, various public works programs such as the Works Progress Administration, Civilian Conservation Corp, and PWA, authorized expenditures of funds on a wide array of projects, including post offices. However, in an effort to conserve funds, these buildings were no longer individually designed; rather they followed standardized plans. In 1931, the Department of Treasury, which oversaw the Federal Post Office Program, produced "cabinet sketches" or standardized floor plans. While these plans varied slightly, depending on size and location, few options were available to customize a building. Not only were standardized designs used to save money, but also the designs themselves became less ornate or stylized in order to conserve funds.

The Gillette Post Office reflects these sentiments in its architectural design. Although it contains some classical elements, they are rather minimal. The building retains a few classical details in the sandstone pediment, cornices, and keystones. Since construction, the exterior of the post office underwent few alterations. There are no additions to the building, the windows and front entrance are original, even the rear loading dock still maintains its design and function. One of the few exterior alterations is the boarding shut of one set of the rear double doors. The integrity of the location, material, design, and craftsmanship are good, although the setting is slightly altered as downtown of Gillette has changed somewhat over the past 73 years. Although the interior exhibits only a few of the characteristics of the original building, the feeling of the post office is maintained on the exterior.

Few monumental buildings existed in Gillette, thus providing distinction for the post office. In a small town, a classical revival was an anomaly. In addition to the architectural design and size of the building, the post office represented a federal presence in the town. Located in the county seat and the largest city in the county, this building, which was one of the only federal buildings in the area, represented the federal government to the local community. As stated in the Multiple Property Listing, the "buildings in their architectural form exhibit an important symbol of the federal government, and its relationship to the local community."

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet-Additional Documentation**

Section 8 Page 4

Although the federal government was evident through farm subsidies and rural aid programs, the post office offered a physical reminder of its presence. According to the Multiple Property Listing, at the time of construction, the government consciously chose to use architecture as a means of representing itself to the people. In Gillette, the building not only became a federal presence to the community, it also served as an opportunity for the citizens to interact with the federal government. Local leaders communicated with the Department of Treasury regarding plans, contractors, size, and design of the building. They also maintained contact with the Wyoming Representatives in Washington D. C. The City of Gillette formally submitted a request of \$77,000 for the construction of a new post office building via the PWA program. Congress approved the proposal, but only appropriated \$64,000. In April of 1934, a group of local citizens appealed for additional money to complete a full second floor for the building; however, Congress denied Gillette the funds. These same individuals requested U.S. Senator Robert D. Carey to continue the appeal.

Beyond the physical building and interaction with the federal government, the actual construction became an example of the public works programs developed by the federal government. The PWA hoped to promote employment and increase purchasing power through the construction of public works projects. This building is an example of the PWA at the local level. For the 6 April 1935 edition, the News-Record, the local paper, interviewed Louis Blauner, President of the Blauner Construction Company, contracted to build the post office. He stated, "All labor on the edifice will be furnished by local men as one of the main objects of the government's building of federal buildings is to help each individual community." As with the rest of the country, Gillette suffered from the Great Depression and the construction of a new building offered some relief to city residents. The News-Record continually addressed the shortage of work with a nearly daily article discussing the number of jobs available due to government subsidy programs. The post office provided a tangible benefit in the form of jobs.

In a small town, such an undertaking became a significant event and the building an important facet of the community. The News-Record regularly commented on the progress of the building. Numerous articles appeared during 1934-1935 debating proposed sites and possible construction companies. At least twice in 1935 the design sketch of the building occupied the front page of the News-Record. The groundbreaking, completion of the basement, brickwork, and move into the building were also noted and closely followed by both the people and the paper. The opening, dedication, and first mail run served as huge events for the area attended by local citizens, delegates from the surrounding towns, as well as Senators and Congressional Representatives. State Senator W. B. Saunders spoke at the dedication ceremony and the News-Record printed the entire address the following day. The large-scale construction and dedication of the post office served as a major event for the community.

The Gillette Post Office derives its significance from its impact on the local community during 1934-1935. The post office provided an example of designed architecture infrequently seen in an isolated Wyoming town. The building itself offered a tangible representation of the federal government to the small community of Gillette. In addition, its construction provided an influx of money to the local economy and a representation of the programs developed by the federal government, specifically the PWA, to provide jobs.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet-Additional Documentation**

Section 10 Page 5

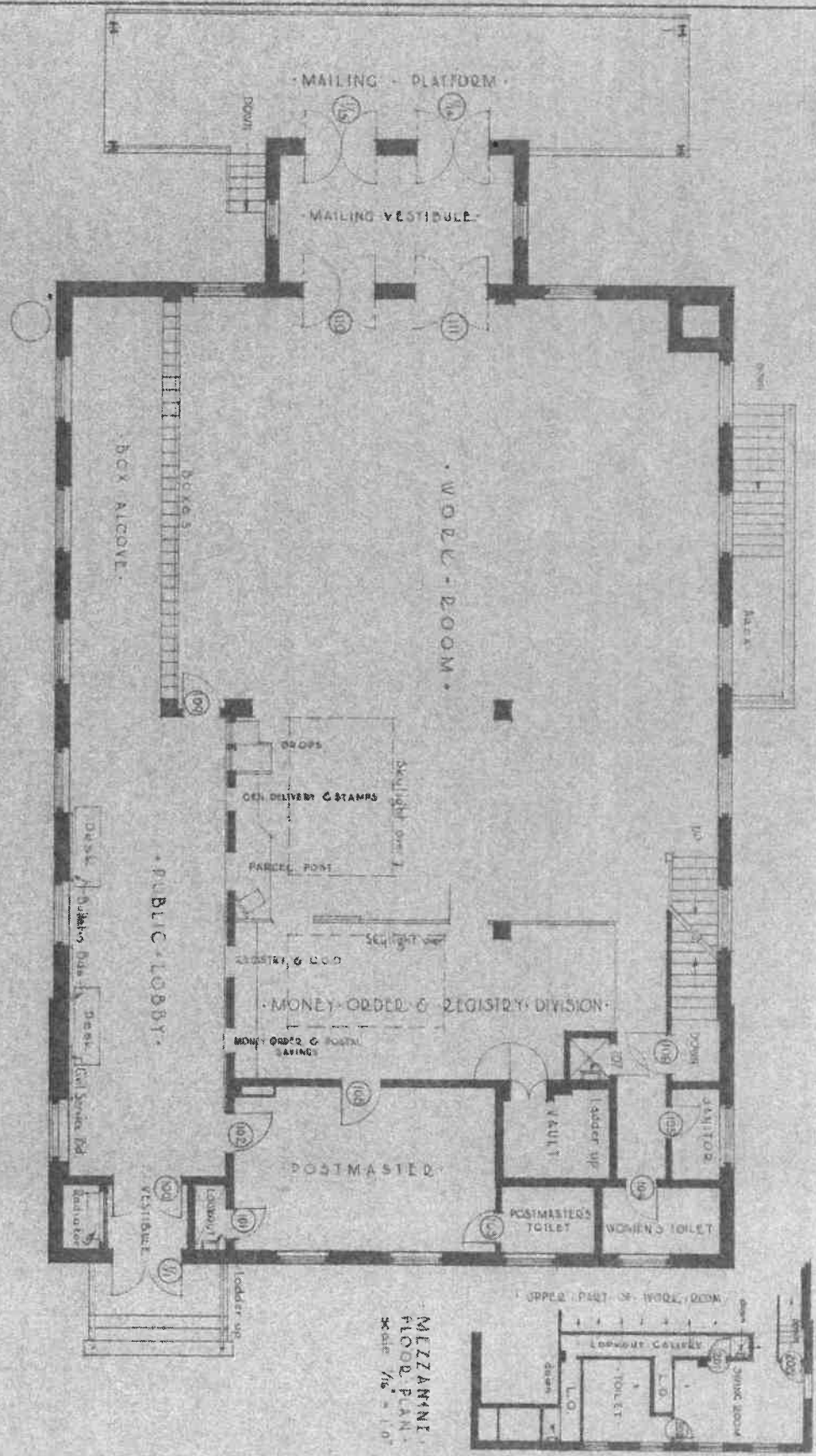
Major Bibliographic References

- Armstrong, Ellis L., ed. History of Public Works in the United States: 1776-1976. Chicago: American Public Works Association, 1976.
- Campbell County Clerk. Grantor Book. Gillette: Campbell County Courthouse.
- Campbell County Courthouse. Tax Assessor's Office Property Cards. Gillette: Campbell County Courthouse.
- Campbell County Historical Society. Campbell County: The Treasured Years. Marceline: Walsworth Publishing Company, 1991.
- Craig, Louis, and Staff of the Federal Architecture Project. The Federal Presence: Architecture, Politics, and Symbols in United States Government Buildings. Cambridge: MIT Press, 1975.
- McAlester, Virginia, and Lee McAlester. A Field Guide to American Houses. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1998.
- News-Record (Gillette). 23 November 1933; 15 February 1934; 25 January 1935; 12 April 1935; 16 April 1935; 19 April 1935; 1 May 1935; 6 June 1935; 20 August 1935; 27 August 1935; 16 November 1935; 21 November 1935; 22 November 1935; 3 December 1935; 5 December 1935.
- Short, C. W., and R. Stanley-Brown. Public Buildings: Architecture Under the Public Works Administration 1933-39, Volume 1. Da Capo Press: New York, 1986.
- Smith, Jason Scott. Building New Deal Liberalism, the Political Economy of Public Works, 1933-1956. Cambridge University Press: New York, 2006.

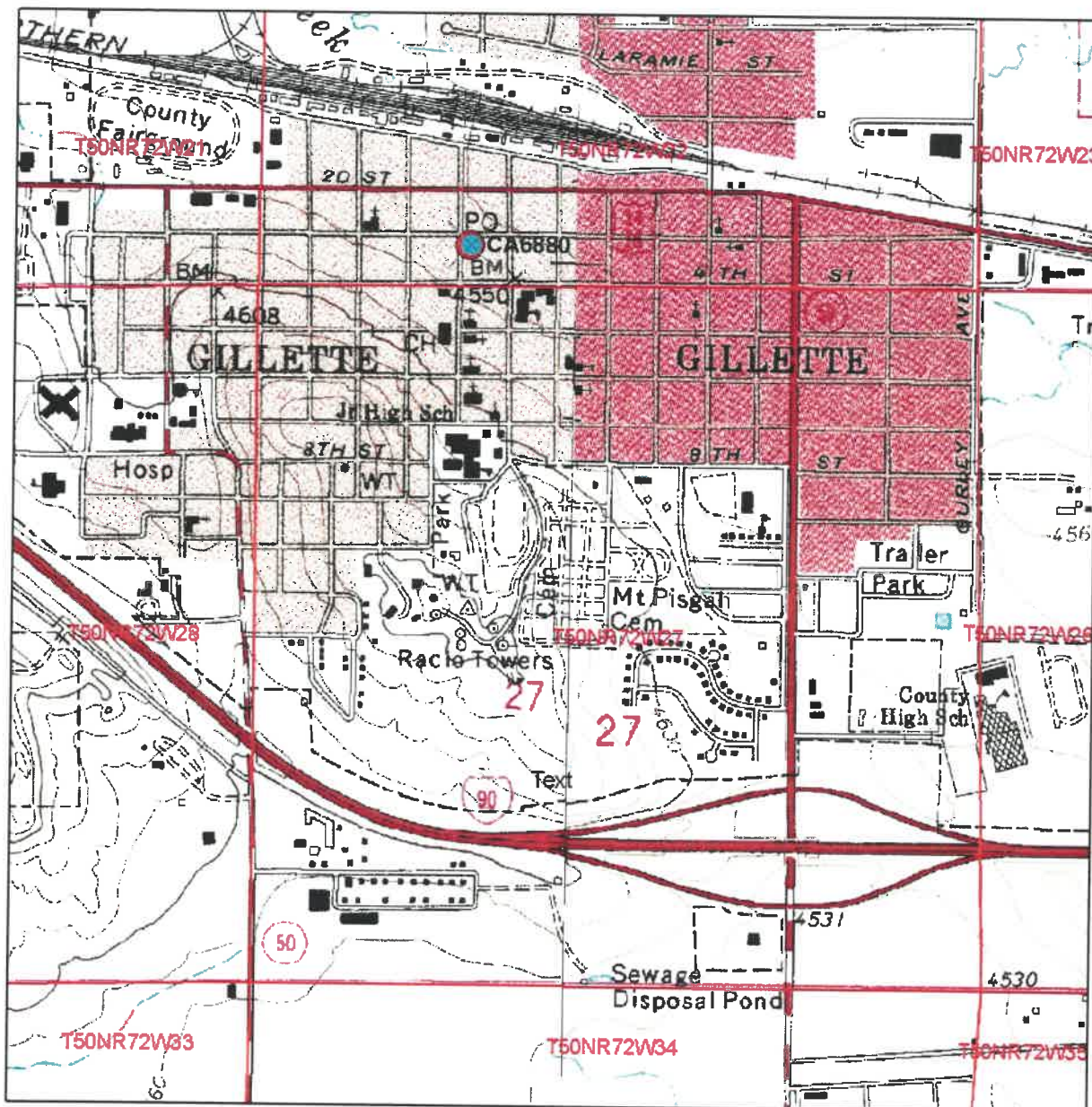
ASSIGNMENT - FIRST & G.
 MEZZANINE FLOOR PLANS.

Scale 1/8" = 1'-0"

UNITED STATES POST OFFICE
 GILLETTE, WYOMING
 DRAWING NO. 42225
 DESIGN BY F. M. MOSS



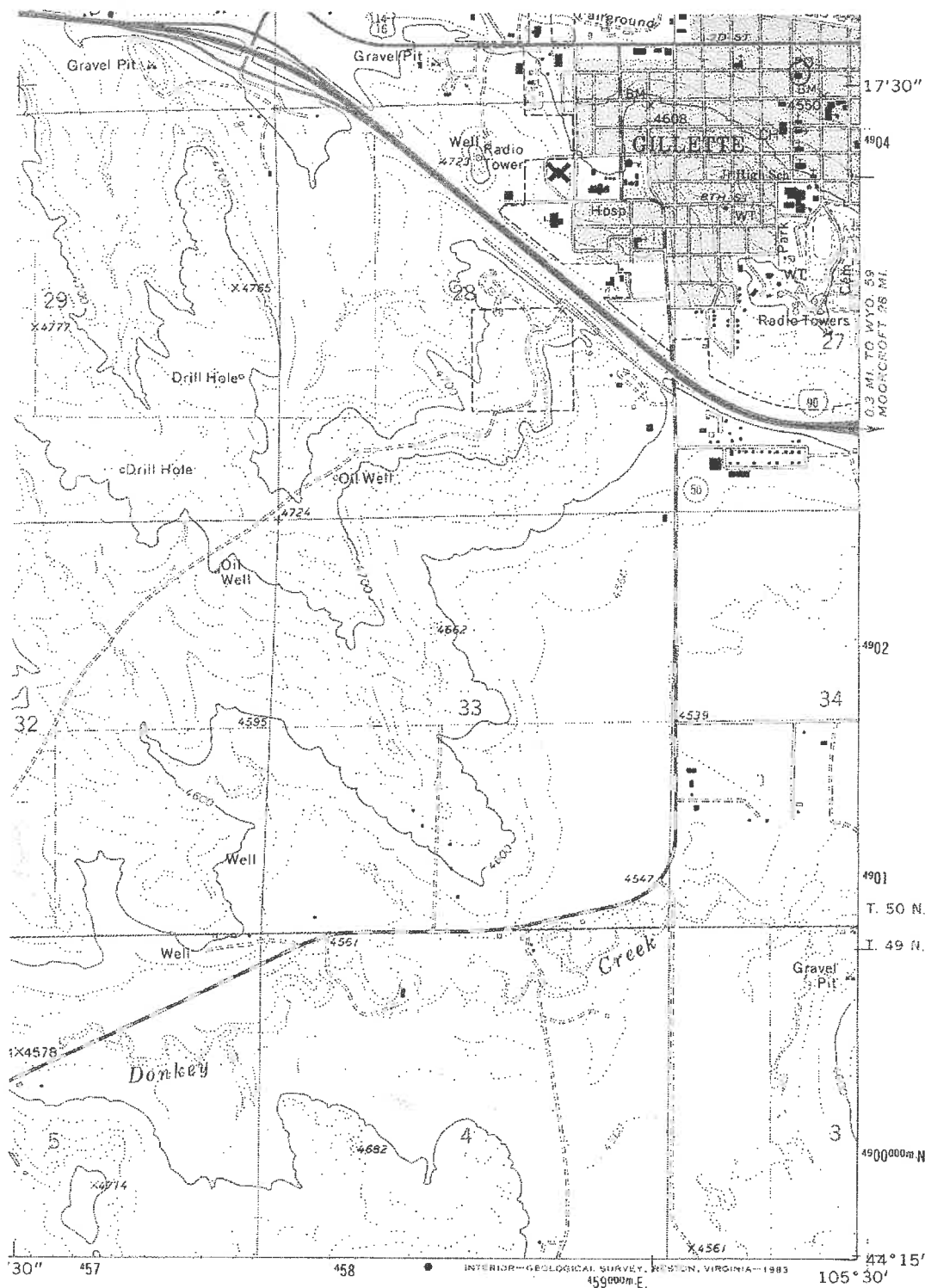
Gillette Post Office



Gillette Post Office (48CA6880)
 Gillette West, Wyo. USGS Topographic Map 1971
 T5)N R72W S.27 NENW
 UTM Reference Points
 1. 13/459819mE/4904435mN

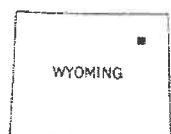
0 0.1 0.2 0.4 Miles

A scale bar with markings for 0, 0.1, 0.2, and 0.4 miles, used to measure distances on the map.



Gillette Post Office
 Gillette, Campbell County
 UTM Reference Point:

MILE



QUADRANGLE LOCATION

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Primary highway, hard surface
 Secondary highway, hard surface
 Light-duty road, hard or improved surface
 Unimproved road
 Interstate Route
 U. S. Route
 State Route

GILLETTE WEST, WYO.
 N4415—W10530/7.5

1971

DMA 4872 I SE-SERIES V874

(THE GAP)
 4972 II NW