

S-307
United States Post Office
Crisfield
public

1933

The United States Post Office stands on the northwest corner of West Main Street and 4th Street in the center of uptown. The prominent Colonial Revival public building has a central three-bay block that is flanked by three-bay wings. Built in Flemish bond brick, the single-story structure is covered in slate and topped by a distinctive bell-shaped cupola. The front door is situated on a raised platform with access provided by a twin stair of marble steps surrounded by iron railings. The double-door entrance is framed by a classical entablature with an arched fanlight. The decorated ovolo molded door surround is flanked by fluted pilasters which support a cushion frieze and broken cornice. The cushion frieze is inscribed "Post Office." The wall surface to each side of the entrance is decorated with a round medallion with a relief sculpture of a classical profile.

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common Crisfield Post Office

2. Location

street & number West Main Street not for publicationcity, town Crisfield vicinity of First congressional districtstate Maryland county Somerset

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	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input checked="" 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
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name

street & number telephone no.:

city, town state and zip code

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Somerset Clerk Of Court liberstreet & number Somerset County Courthouse foliocity, town Princess Anne state Md. 21853

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. S-307

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The United States Post Office in Crisfield stands on the northwest corner of West Main Street and 4th Street approximately one block south of Md 413, also known as Maryland Avenue. The single-story Flemish bond brick Colonial Revival post office faces south.

The center ell-shaped main block is three bays across and flanked by three-bay wings. Each section has a molded brick watertable and is covered by a medium pitched slate roof. The center section is distinguished by brick quoins, a modillioned cornice and an octagonal cupola.

The south (main) facade of the center block is a symmetrical elevation with a classically inspired entrance and flanking nine over nine sash windows. The front door is situated on a raised platform with access provided by a twin stair of marble steps surrounded by iron railings. The double-door entrance is topped by a six-light transom and framed by a classical entablature with an arched fanlight. The decorated ovolo molded door surround is flanked by fluted pilasters which support a cushion frieze and broken cornice. The cushion frieze is inscribed, "Post Office". Above the cornice is an arched fanlight with a molded surround interrupted by a scrolled keystone. The wall space to each side of the entrance is marked by a round medallion with a relief sculpture of a classical profile. The flanking nine over nine sash windows are topped by arched fanlights. A limestone keystone is centered within the round brick arch.

The cupola is supported by octagonal weatherboarded base, while the south face is pierced by a small classical urn. Each corner of the cupola is distinguished by a plain pilaster which divides the eight sides. The four principal faces of the cupola have louvered vents, while the sides in between are solid panels. The bell-curved roof is surmounted by an iron weathervane. The cornerstone is located in the southeast corner of the main block and is inscribed with the 1933 construction date and the name of James A. Wetmore, the acting supervising architect. Also listed on the stone is the Secretary of the Treasury, William H. Woodin; Postmaster General, James A. Farley; and Assistant Secretary of the Treasury, Lawrence W. Roberts, Jr.

The flanking two-bay wings are connected to the main block by a slightly recessed one-bay hyphen. Each bay of the hyphen and wing is filled with a nine over nine sash finished with a limestone sill and a brick jack arch. A limestone keystone highlights the arch, and a small stone panel marks the area above each window of the wings.

8. Significance

Survey No. S-307

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"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1933 **Builder/Architect** James A. Wetmore

check: Applicable Criteria: A B C D
and/or
Applicable Exception: A B C D E F G
Level of Significance: national state local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The Crisfield Post Office is one of the most prominent Colonial Revival public buildings in the waterfront town. Built in Flemish bond brick, the single-story structure is finished in academic classical detail and topped by a distinctive bell-curved cupola. The post office was formerly located in the "downtown" section of Crisfield and combined with the Customs House. After the 1928 fire a new site was chosen for the post office in the newly rebuilt commercial district along West Main Street.

Description Continued

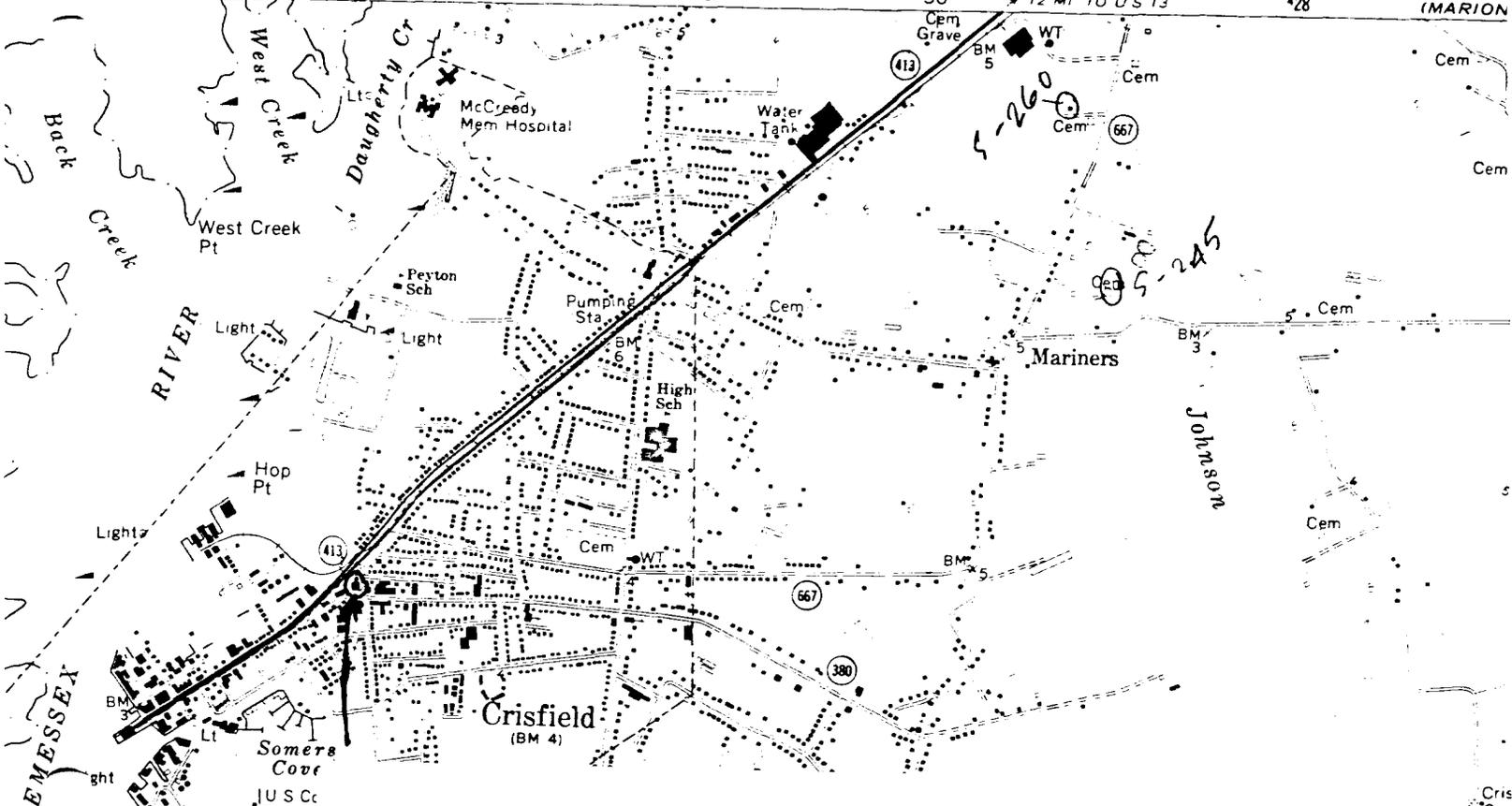
The east side elevation of the wing is a basically symmetrical facade with a center entrance and flanking nine over nine sash windows finished in the same manner as the south windows. The center side entrance is entered at the top of a flight of six marble steps and within a slightly recessed alcove. Tuscan columns flank the six-panel door and support a solid arched fan-shaped panel. The round arch is interrupted by a small keystone. Positioned directly to the north (right) of the door is a small grilled window opening. The molded cornice stretches across at the base of the roof, and it is finished with an intricate Greek key bed molding. Directly behind the east wing is the post office loading platform which fills the first floor space. The second floor is pierced by three 9/9 sash windows.

The north (rear) facade is an asymmetrical elevation with large casement type windows on the first floor, and smaller six over six sash windows light the second floor.

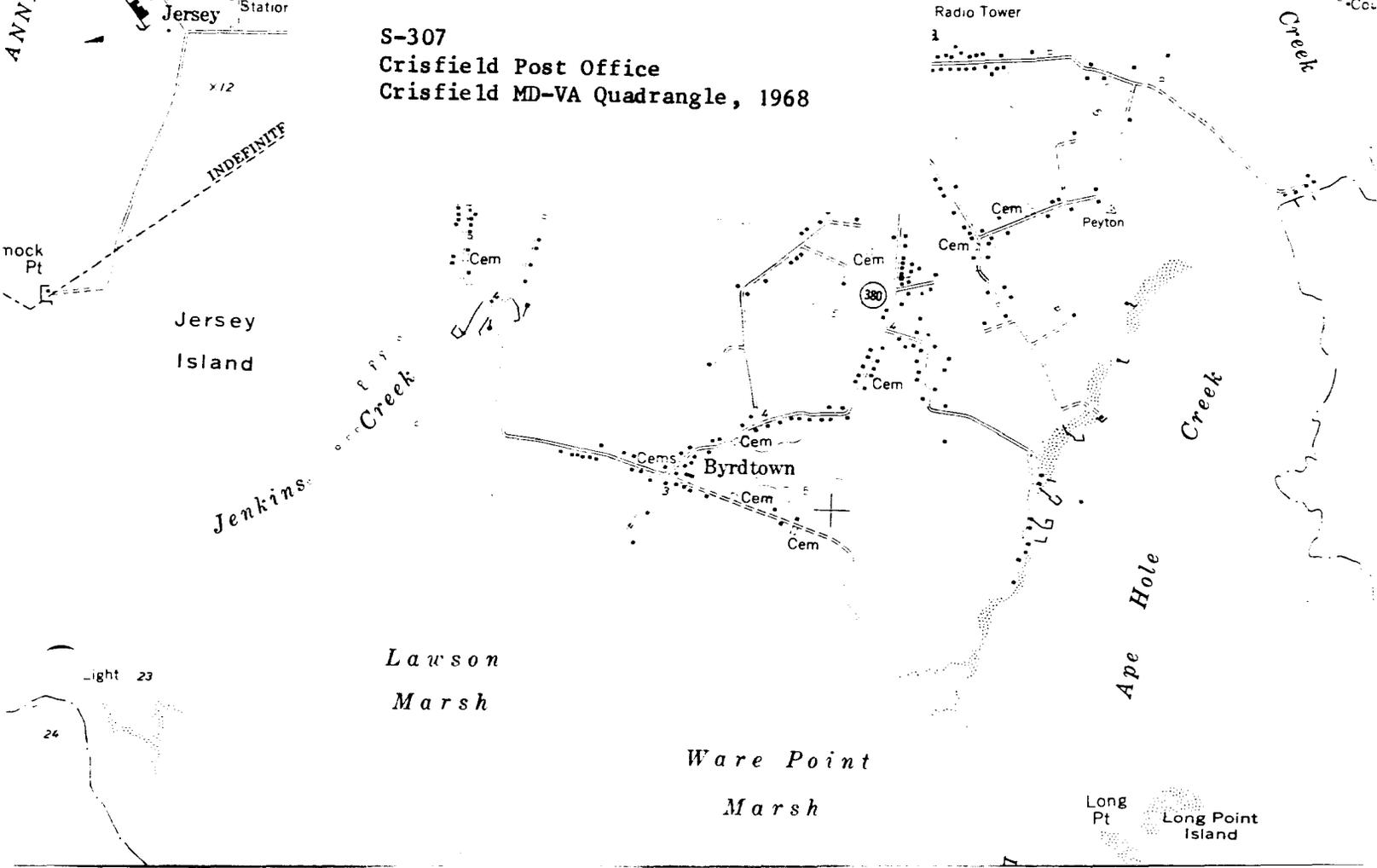
The lobby entrance interior has not been altered significantly since the 1930's. The high ceiling is embellished with a dentiled cornice, and retains the classically inspired glass chandeliers. Large six-panel doors are located in each side wall and are framed by classical surrounds. The east end door is inscribed with "Postmaster" while the west end was the "Accountant" office. High writing tables from the same period remain standing against the south wall. The work spaces are finished in a straight forward manner with less elaborate materials. The second floor was not seen.

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

424000m E. 2 760 000 FEET (VA.) 425 426 50' 12 MI TO U.S. 13 428 5860 III S (MARION)



S-307
Crisfield Post Office
Crisfield MD-VA Quadrangle, 1968





Crisfield Post Office
Crisfield, Somerset County
Southwest Elevation
7/85 Photographer - Paul Touart
Neg/Maryland Historical Trust

S-307



Crisfield Post Office
Crisfield, Somerset County
East Elevation
7/85 Photographer - Paul Touart
Neg/Maryland Historical Trust

S-307



Crisfield Post Office
Crisfield, Somerset County
East Door
7/85 Photographer - Paul Touart
Neg/Maryland Historical Trust

S-307



Crisfield Post Office
Crisfield, Somerset County
Front Door
7/85 Photographer - Paul Touart
Neg/Maryland Historical Trust

S-307