

# **United States Postal Service Postal Historic Structure Report Developmental History**

**for**

**Burlingame Main Post Office  
220 Park Road  
Burlingame, CA 94010**

**Final**

**February 2013**

*Prepared for:*

**United States Postal Service  
Real Estate and Assets Facilities Headquarters  
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# 1 INTRODUCTION

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Tetra Tech Inc. (Tetra Tech) Inc. was tasked by the United States Postal Service (USPS) and Coldwell Banker Richard Ellis (CBRE) to conduct historic research and site documentation of the Burlingame (California) Main Post Office located at 220 Park Road ([Figure 1](#)). The scope of the study included:

- Conducting a cultural resource record search and sacred site search;
- Conducting a site visit and documenting historic features;
- Completing Part 1 of the Historic Structures Report as outlined in *National Register Brief 43: The Preparation and Use of Historic Structure Reports*;
- Documenting the USPS delineation of the Area of Potential Effect (APE) for future undertakings;
- Preparing the Department of Parks and Recreation Form (DPR) Form 523A for the post office property; and
- Developing a proposed List of Interested Parties.

Copies of forms and correspondence are provided as [Appendices A](#) through [C](#) to this report.

## 1.1 STUDY SUMMARY

This report was prepared to obtain background information on the Burlingame Main Post Office to obtain baseline knowledge of the historic character and defining features of the property and general conditions of the building. The USPS also wished to gain information on the historical significance of the post office and its eligibility determination for listing on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP).

Tetra Tech conducted a site visit to the post office, photographed and recorded the building on California DPR Form 523A, and conducted research regarding the origins of the building. Tetra Tech concludes that the Burlingame Main Post Office is eligible for listing in the NRHP under Criteria A and C, that the property retains a high degree of historic integrity, and that is in good condition on both the interior and exterior.

## 1.2 PROJECT DATA

The USPS is the owner of the Burlingame Main Post Office building and the land where it is located. The post office is not currently listed on the NRHP, the California Register of Historical Resources (CRHR), or local listing at the time this report was prepared. However, during previous local surveys, it was determined that the post office appears to be eligible for the NRHP individually and as a contributor to a NRHP- eligible district.

Tetra Tech evaluated the building for listing in the NRHP under the NRHP criteria and the significant themes presented in *National Register Bulletin 13: How to Apply the National Register Criteria to Post Offices* and the NRHP Nomination Form: *Significant U.S. Post Offices in California—1900-1941 Thematic Resources*, as well as using the guidance of *National Register Bulletin 15: How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation*. Tetra Tech staff contributing to the project included Julia Mates, Historian/Architectural Historian, and Kara Brunzell, Historian. Both Ms. Mates and Ms. Brunzell meet the History and Architectural History professional qualifications as outlined by the federal government in Title 36, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 61.



V:\Postal\_Service\GIS\Layouts\Project Location - 220 Park Rd., Burlingame, CA.mxd 11/27/12 - YE



Quad San Mateo, CA Landgrant - San Mateo

## Project Location

US Postal Service  
Burlingame, California



## Figure 1



## 2 RECORD SEARCH

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### 2.1 AREA OF POTENTIAL EFFECT (APE)

The USPS established the APE for the potential undertaking to the Burlingame Main Post Office. The direct APE is defined as the Burlingame Main Post Office building itself. The indirect APE is defined as portions of the area bounded by Burlingame and Howard Avenues and within the area bounded by Hatch Lane and Primrose Road, as shown in [Figure 2](#). The indirect APE was delineated as such because buildings and structures located on parcels where undertakings include lease, sale, alteration, or demolition of the Burlingame Main Post Office could directly or indirectly affect historic properties located on those parcels.

### 2.2 NRHP ELIGIBLE OR LISTED PROPERTIES WITHIN APE

Tetra Tech conducted a records search at the Northwest Information Center (NWIC) at California State University, Sonoma (NWIC No. 12-0405). The search included archaeological as well as architectural historic sites within a quarter-mile radius of the Burlingame Post Office so that the USPS could consider effects to any historical properties that are present within this boundary.

No archaeological resources were identified at the location of the post office or within a quarter-mile radius of the post office.

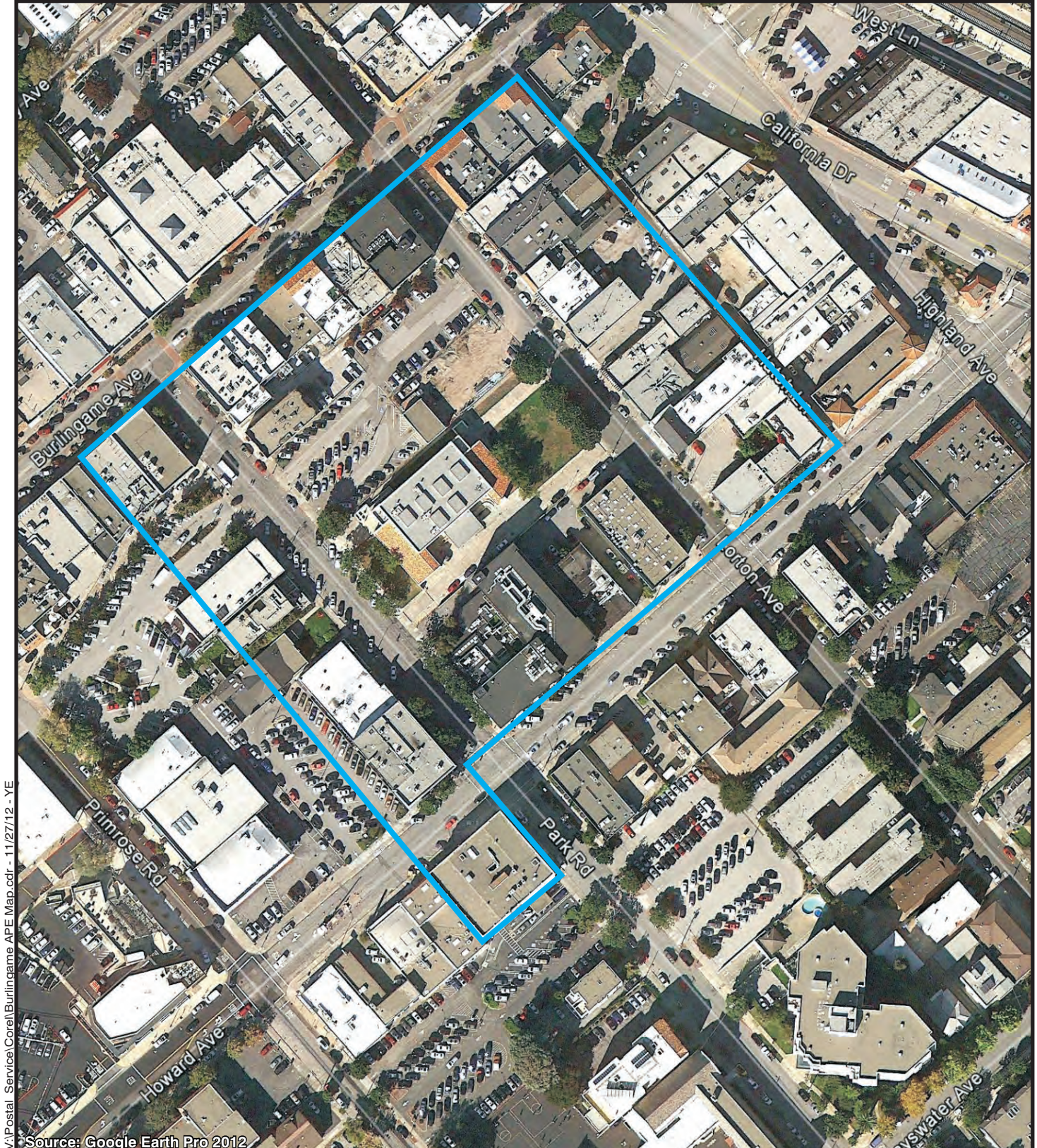
One aboveground (architectural) resource was identified at the location of the post office (the post office itself). Two aboveground (architectural) resources were identified within a quarter-mile radius of the post office.<sup>1</sup> There is one property within a quarter-mile radius of the project site on the California Point of Historical Interest. There are two properties within a quarter-mile radius that are listed on the CRHR and one property listed on the NRHP.

The post office was previously surveyed and found potentially eligible for the NHRP and CRHR. In addition to the Burlingame Post Office building, two other NRHP- and CRHR-eligible architectural properties lie within the APE and are identified in [Table 1](#). Two more architectural properties within the APE are on a list of properties that are architecturally or historically important on a local level, but do not rise to the level of NRHP or CRHR eligibility. They are also identified in [Table 1](#).

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<sup>1</sup> The Burlingame Post Office is not formally listed on any national, state, or local registers at the time this report was written; however, this report does identify the post office as having been determined eligible for listing in the NRHP under Criteria A and C.





V:\Postal\_Service\Core\Burlingame APE Map.cdr - 11/27/12 - YE

Source: Google Earth Pro 2012

# APE MAP

220 Park Road  
Burlingame, California



 APE Boundary



## Figure 2



TABLE 1. NRHP OR CRHR ELIGIBLE ARCHITECTURAL PROPERTIES WITHIN APE

Address / Name	Date of Construction	National Register/California Register Status Code	Distance from Burlingame Post Office
1190 Burlingame Ave/ Burlingame Railroad Station	1894	1S Individual property listed in NR by the Keeper. Listed in the CR.	0.02 mile
220 Park Road/ Burlingame Main Post Office	1941	3S Appears eligible for NR as an individual property through survey evaluation. <sup>2</sup>	0 mile
Burlingame Hotel/ 287 Lorton Avenue	1926	3S Appears eligible for NR as an individual property through survey evaluation. <sup>3</sup>	0.01 mile
1111 Burlingame Ave.	1912	5DR Appears to be a contributor to a district that appears eligible for local listing or designation through survey evaluation. <sup>4</sup>	0.02 mile
241 Park Road/ Burlingame Women's Club	1913	6L Determined ineligible for local listing or designation through local government review process; may warrant special consideration in local planning. <sup>5</sup>	0.01 mile
220 Park Road	1941	3S: Appears eligible for NR as an individual property through survey evaluation (current survey) <sup>6</sup>	Subject

<sup>2</sup> This determination was made as part of the 2008 survey, although a California Historical Resource Status Code was not assigned.

<sup>3</sup> This determination was made as part of the 2008 survey, although a California Historical Resource Status Code was not assigned.

<sup>4</sup> This determination was made as part of the 2008 survey, although a California Historical Resource Status Code was not assigned.

<sup>5</sup> This determination was made as part of the 2008 survey, although a California Historical Resource Status Code was not assigned.

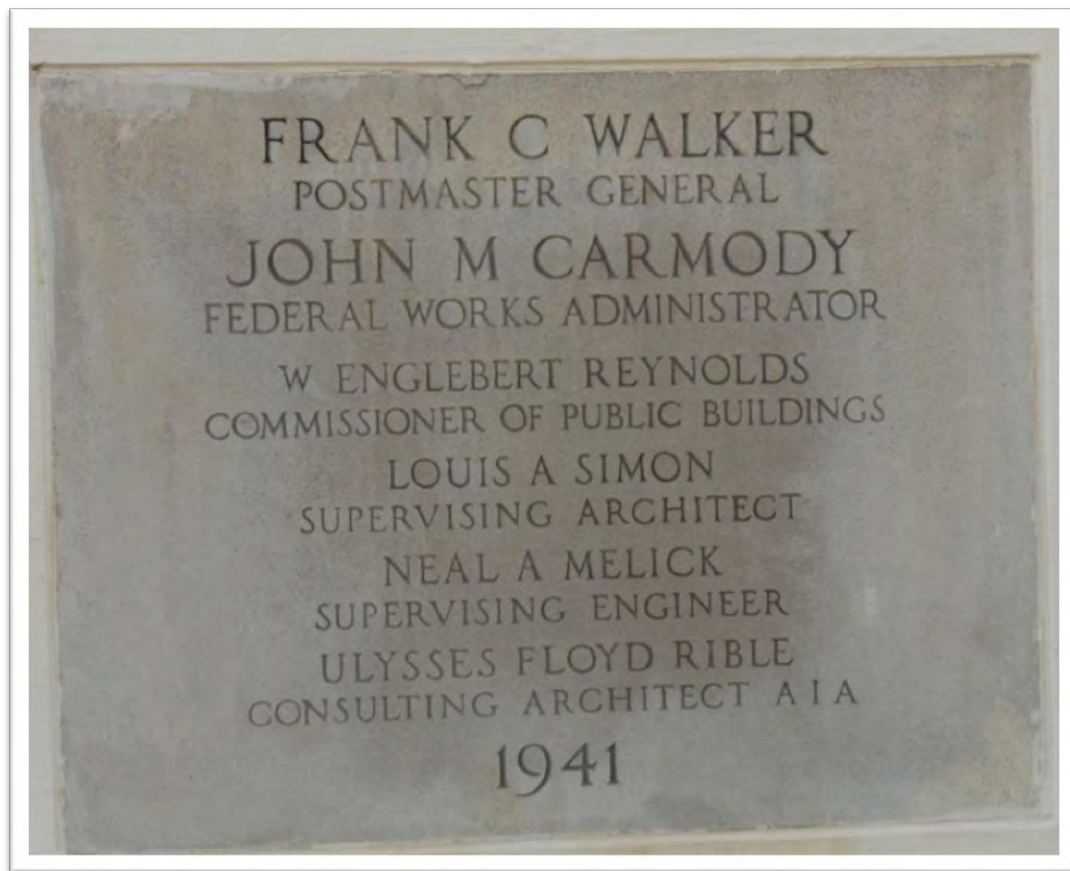
<sup>6</sup> The current survey and evaluation has made this determination, although the CA SHPO has not yet concurred.

## 3 DEVELOPMENTAL HISTORY

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### 3.1 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

The Burlingame Post Office on Park Road was constructed in 1941 and is a Public Works Administration (PWA) building, designed predominantly in the Spanish Eclectic style of architecture (Photographs 1 and 2). The building was constructed during a period when the federal government was increasing its buildings program, which had been halted during World War I and the stock market crash of 1929. The federal government's Public Building Program, created by the Public Buildings Act of 1926, was expanded in the 1930s and amended in 1931. When the act was amended, it allowed the Treasury Department's Office of the Supervisory Architect to employ outside professionals and technical service persons who were not civil servants to increase employment of architects as architectural firms, one-half of which had failed during the depression.<sup>7</sup>



**Photograph 1: Plaque on Burlingame Main Post Office**

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<sup>7</sup> United States Postal Service, Office of Real Estate, *History of Post Office Construction, 1900-1940*, United States Postal Service, Washington, D.C., 1982, p.15.



**Photograph 2: Construction of Burlingame Main Post Office, 1941  
(Photograph hangs on wall at Burlingame Main Post Office)**

A series of other federal legislation was enacted during the early 1930s that allowed government to assist in reducing the unemployment in the country and appropriated large amounts of money to construct public buildings, including post offices. Staff members were added to the Supervising Architect's office, and several thousand architectural firms were commissioned to design federal buildings in 1931.<sup>8</sup> Despite an increased volume in building activity, the Treasury Department achieved rapid construction during this period by taking measures to ensure that a minimal number of drawings were required for each post office. The Treasury Department produced a set of "Cabinet Sketches" that provided standard floor plans for post offices of different sizes; however, individual treatment was given to exterior details.<sup>9</sup> The Supervising Architect's Office prepared several manuals to assist with streamlining designs of new buildings, including a codified Manual of Design in 1937, in which 11 designs were created to meet the "varying requirements of the Post Office Department and the section architectural traditions."<sup>10</sup> The policy was that the drawings and specifications permitted "to the greatest practicable extent the use of materials and products native to the localities has resulted in stimulating employment and spreading the benefits of the building program."<sup>11</sup> The dominant style of the post office interior floor plans of the 1930s contained a public lobby separated from the workroom and standard arrangements of the offices, platform, and an inspectors' gallery or "look out."<sup>12</sup> Stylistic differences in details were permitted among post office buildings.

<sup>8</sup> *History of Post Office Construction, 1900-1940*, p. 15.

<sup>9</sup> *History of Post Office Construction, 1900-1940*, p. 16.

<sup>10</sup> *History of Post Office Construction, 1900-1940*, p. 20.

<sup>11</sup> *History of Post Office Construction, 1900-1940*, p. 20.

<sup>12</sup> *History of Post Office Construction, 1900-1940*, p.23.



The Burlingame Main Post Office reflects this federal standardization of the layout of post offices, with its interior arrangement of the public lobby, service counter, post office boxes in the walls of the lobby, workroom (where postal service workers would sort mail), and loading bays. Often, post offices constructed during this period would contain large offices for the postmaster, assistant postmaster, and other administrative employees. This layout was standardized among post offices to accommodate postal machinery and provide the postmaster and postal personnel the space to conduct their activities. The materials, design, and style of fixtures and decorative elements on the exterior and interior of the post offices were individualized from building to building, while the basic layout of post offices constructed during the 1930s was the same.

In 1933, the National Industrial Recovery Act created the PWA, which was authorized to distribute funds to both federal and non-federal agencies for construction projects that would benefit the public. After the PWA was created, buildings constructed with federal involvement increased. These New Deal-era programs were established in the 1930s primarily to aid economic recovery, encourage rapid construction, increase employment, and stimulate the economy. In 1939, the PWA listed the local post office as the most typical and widely used of its building projects.<sup>13</sup>

Construction of federal buildings remained under administration of the Treasury Department until 1939, when the federal government placed the Public Buildings Administration under the control of the Federal Works Administration (FWA). Most of the policies developed during the early 1930s, however, were continued for several years after the reorganization.<sup>14</sup> Federal construction of local post offices continued until 1942, when U.S. entry into World War II shifted priorities to the war effort and put an abrupt halt to construction.<sup>15</sup> The Burlingame Main Post Office on Park Road is an example of PWA post office construction.

Spanish Eclectic building styles were extremely popular in California in the 1920s and 1930s.<sup>16</sup> Spanish inspired architectural styles were used for residences as well as commercial and public buildings. Examples of the style in Burlingame include the NHRP-listed Burlingame Railroad Station, its original post office on Burlingame Avenue, and the Burlingame Main Post Office on Park Road. Spanish Eclectic-style elements of its exterior include stucco cladding, multiple roof heights and forms, red clay tile roof covering, and decorative stucco venting.

## 3.2 BRIEF CONTEXT THE CITY OF BURLINGAME

Though Burlingame's initial street grid was laid out 1866, it did not begin to attract residents in earnest until the Burlingame Country Club was founded in 1893. Its railroad station and post office were opened the next year.<sup>17</sup> The country club sponsored

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<sup>13</sup> *History of Post Office Construction, 1900-1940*, p. 16.

<sup>14</sup> *History of Post Office Construction, 1900-1940*, p. 28.

<sup>15</sup> *History of Post Office Construction, 1900-1940*, p. 30.

<sup>16</sup> Virginia and Lee McAlester, *A Field Guide to American Houses*, Alfred A. Knopf, New York: 2006, p. 417 – 418.

<sup>17</sup> City of Burlingame, "Draft Inventory of Historic Resources, Burlingame Downtown Specific Plan", Prepared by Carey & Company Inc., 2008, <http://www.burlingame.org/modules/showdocument.aspx?documentid=3181>, p. 6 – 7.

construction of the railroad station, which was designed by George H. Howard Jr. and J.B. Mathison. Its architects gave the station the arcade, red clay tile roof, stucco cladding, and shaped parapet of the newly popular Mission Revival style.<sup>18</sup>

Despite the presence of the country club, Burlingame remained a rural hamlet into the twentieth century, with its principal street a dirt road surrounded by open fields.<sup>19</sup> Its slow pattern of growth was finally reversed in 1906, when the San Francisco earthquake and fire spurred many displaced San Franciscans to relocate in Burlingame. The railroad station, though intended for the use of country club members, allowed the new residents to commute into San Francisco.<sup>20</sup> Burlingame was incorporated in 1908.<sup>21</sup>

An era of explosive growth followed incorporation, and by 1920 Burlingame had grown to more than 4,000 residents. In 1912, architect J. Foley designed Burlingame's first purpose-built post office. The small Spanish Eclectic style building at 1111 Burlingame Avenue was in use until 1918, when the post office was again relocated and it was converted to commercial use.<sup>22</sup> By the mid-1930s, Burlingame was a city of 13,000 with more than 250 local businesses.<sup>23</sup> Burlingame continued to grow during the twentieth century and by 2000 was a bedroom community of 28,000.<sup>24</sup>

### 3.3 DESIGNERS AND BUILDERS

The Burlingame Main Post Office was designed by Los Angeles-based architect Ulysses Floyd Rible in 1941. Neal A. Melick was the Supervising Engineer and Louis A. Simon served as the Supervising Architect on the project and remained in that role in the Office of the Supervising Architect of the U.S. Department of Treasury from 1933 to 1939. As such, Simon oversaw many of the PWA and Work Progress Administration (WPA) construction projects. The Burlingame Main Post Office was constructed during the federal New Deal era, when programs were established to construct federal buildings and offset unemployment after the Great Depression.<sup>25</sup>

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<sup>18</sup> Southern Pacific Railroad Company, *National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form, Burlingame Railroad Station*, Prepared by Dorothy F. Regnery and Elliot Evans for the Junior League of Palo Alto, August 1977, p.2.

<sup>19</sup> *National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form, Burlingame Railroad Station*, p. 3.

<sup>20</sup> *National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form, Burlingame Railroad Station*, p. 4.

<sup>21</sup> Burlingame Historical Society, *A Short History of Burlingame*, Burlingame Historical Society, <http://www.burlingame.org/modules/showdocument.aspx?documentid=3181>. Accessed December 2012.

<sup>22</sup> "Draft Inventory of Historic Resources, Burlingame Downtown Specific Plan", p. 28.

<sup>23</sup> "Draft Inventory of Historic Resources, Burlingame Downtown Specific Plan", p. 9.

<sup>24</sup> City of Burlingame, 2012, Website: <http://www.burlingame.org/index.aspx?page=900>. Accessed December 2012.

<sup>25</sup> *The Living New Deal, Still Working for America*, Projects for Designer Louis A. Simon, Supervising Architect, Robert A. Murray, and Neal Melick, Website: <http://livingnewdeal.berkeley.edu/designers/>. Accessed November 13, 2012.

## 4 CHRONOLOGY OF DEVELOPMENT AND USE

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### 4.1 USE

The Burlingame Main Post Office is located in a downtown setting, an area characterized by one- to three-story commercial buildings, many of which share side walls so that only their façades are visible from the street. The pattern is interrupted occasionally by parking lots, stand-alone buildings, and most notably by the post office property with its large landscaped area. The post office, along with its landscaping, parking, garage and loading area, is on a 1.25-acre parcel that stretches from Park Road to Lorton Avenue mid-block. The block's other boundaries are Burlingame and Howard Avenues. The building was constructed to serve as a post office and has continued to be used in that capacity since it was completed. Photograph 3 shows the building as it appeared shortly after it was constructed, Photograph 4 shows the building as it appears currently.



**Photograph 3: Burlingame Main Post Office, shortly after construction, 1942**





**Photograph 4: Burlingame Main Post Office**  
**Photograph taken November 2012**

## 4.2 ORIGINAL CONSTRUCTION

The primary architectural style expressed by the Burlingame Main Post Office is Spanish Eclectic; although decorative elements also evoke the Art Deco style. Also called Spanish Colonial Revival, the Spanish Eclectic style drew inspiration from the long and diverse architectural history of Spain and the Western Hemisphere's Spanish Colonies and was extremely popular in California in the 1920s and 1930s.<sup>26</sup> Art Deco, the earliest modernistic architectural style, was used extensively for public and commercial buildings throughout the United States during the same era.<sup>27</sup> The Burlingame Main Post Office was designed by Ulysses Floyd Rible and was constructed of concrete in 1941. Spanish Eclectic architecture was characterized by low-pitched roofs with red clay tile covering and minimal overhangs and smooth wall surfaces, elements featured on this building (Photographs 5 through 8).<sup>28</sup> The primary mass of the one-story, rectangular plan building is flat-roofed. Projecting bays facing both Park and Lorton and are covered with very shallow-pitched roofs. Stucco cladding, multiple roof heights and forms, red clay tile roof covering, decorative stucco venting, and a decorative “chimney” on the southwest elevation (adjacent to the loading dock) anchor the post office in the Spanish Eclectic style. Art Deco details include exterior reliefs above both entryways and below the windows.<sup>29</sup> Fenestration throughout the building consists of tall, rectangular windows divided into multiple lights by metal sashes. Though the different elevations of the building feature different sizes of windows, all

<sup>26</sup> Virginia and Lee McAlester, *A Field Guide to American Houses*, Alfred A. Knopf, New York: 2006, p. 417 – 418.

<sup>27</sup> U.S. Postal Service, Western Regional Office, National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form, *United States Post Office Construction from 1913 – 1943*, January 1994, p. 23.

<sup>28</sup> McAlester, p. 417.

<sup>29</sup> “Draft Inventory of Historic Resources, Burlingame Downtown Specific Plan”, 25.

four elevations feature large windows designed to provide daylight to post office box, lobby, and workroom areas.

The Park and Lorton elevations of the Burlingame Main Post Office are identical, so the building effectively has two primary façades. Both Park and Lorton feature lawns and formally planted trees along the streetscape. Although its address is 220 Park Road, the post office is sited closer to the Park side of the block, giving the Lorton entrance a much larger lawn and a more formal appearance. The flat roofs of the primary volume of the building and the slightly projecting entrance bays are topped with parapets and unadorned cornices. The roof of the entrance bay is slightly lower than that of the main section. Two mirrored wings project in front of the entry bays on the southwest and northeast of the building's main section. These wings also feature a cornice detail at the top of the walls, but have shed roofs that project forward from the wall of the main building. The roofs of the projecting sections are lower than those of the other three parts of the building.

The post office's strongest decorative element consists of large, identical, cast-stone reliefs depicting a female figure that adorn the walls over each entrance. The two copies of the relief sculpture, titled "The Letter," were completed in 1941 by artist James L. Hansen.<sup>30</sup> Entrances are bronze-framed double doors, with a transom above featuring an eagle relief worked in the same material. The tall, rectangular windows that face both streets feature metal sashes arranged in side-by-side vertical rows five lights high. The eagle motif on the transom is repeated below the windows in cast stone. Art Deco ornament on federal post offices characteristically reworked standard federal motifs, as seen with the decorative eagles on this building.<sup>31</sup> Stuccoed vents, inspired by Spanish architectural precedents, are centered on the two projecting wings' northwest-facing ends (adjacent to the entry doors), as well as on their street-facing elevations.

The northwest elevation of the post office's main section, which faces the parking lot, is typical of "side" façades of post offices built during this era. Without doors or ornamentation except the restrained cornice that tops the entire building, smooth walls are punctuated by seven tall, rectangular windows. Windows are the same type as those on street-facing facades, except that the vertical rows are six lights high, making the side windows rather taller. A concrete masonry unit garage building has been constructed in the parking lot just north of this side of the building.

The post office's southwest elevation features the concrete loading dock, which is set back between the projecting wings and under a canopy for protection from the weather. The main section of the building features metal sash windows that are six lights high and three across, making them the largest windows in the building. The projecting wings' southwest ends are asymmetrical gables. The southwest ends of these wings are slightly different. The fenestration pattern on the Park-facing wing, including the decorative eagles below the windows, is continued around the end and onto the side that faces the loading dock. The wing that faces Lorton, but features small double-hung windows and

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<sup>30</sup> Living New Deal, Department of Geography, University of California Berkeley: 2012, Internet website: <http://livingnewdeal.berkeley.edu/projects/burlingame-post-office-the-letter-burlingame-ca/>. Accessed November 2012.

<sup>31</sup> U.S. Postal Service, Western Regional Office, National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form, Significant U.S. Post Offices in California, 1900-1941, Thematic Resources, November 1984, p. 22.

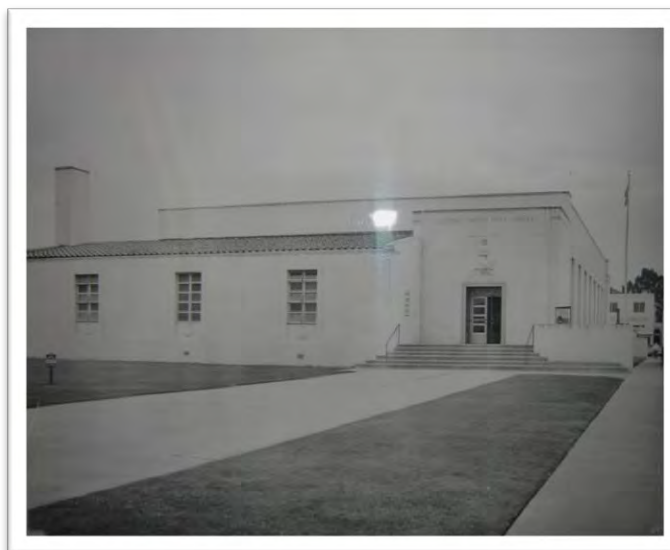
an industrial-style metal door on its southwest end. It also has a decorative “chimney” atop its asymmetrical gable end, breaking up the otherwise perfect symmetry of the building and recalling the look of a vernacular Spanish village.

The Burlingame Main Post Office reflects the federal standardization of the layout of post offices in the 1930s, with its interior arrangement of the service lobby, individual clerk windows, post office boxes in the walls of the lobby, workroom, offices, break rooms, a boiler room, and loading bays.

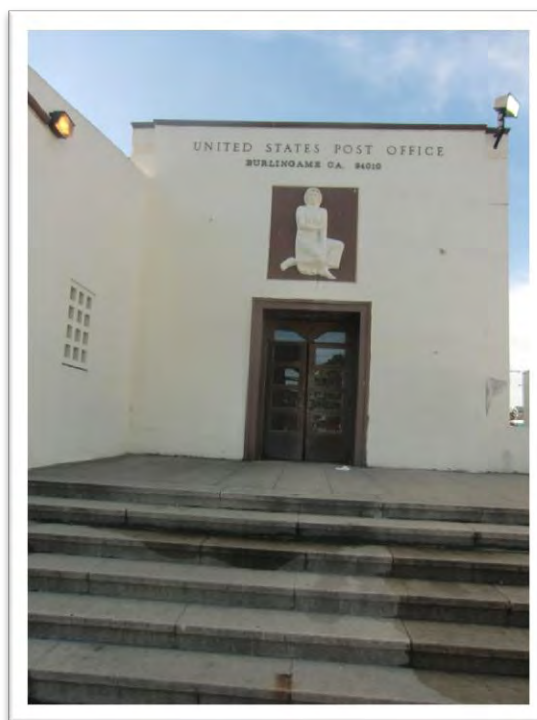
The interior of the Burlingame Main Post Office does not reflect the Spanish Eclectic style that dominates its exterior. Its decorative elements, which are rather rich given the modest size of the building, primarily evoke the related Art Deco and Streamline Moderne styles (Photographs 9 through 15). Hanging metal lamps, which feature a federal star motif, express a Streamline Moderne aesthetic. Ceilings are adorned with simple crown molding. Wide louvered vents run along the wall over the service windows. Walls are covered in gray marble wainscoting, while floors are contrasting light and dark terrazzo. Vestibule walls are covered in marble from floor to ceiling. The strongest decorative elements in this rather restrained interior are its windows and doors. The sheer size of the windows makes them notable, and they allow natural light to flood the interior. Trimmed heavily in bronze, the impressive doors feature an Art Deco-style eagle relief on the transom identical to those on the exterior. Original, bank-teller style service windows are also trimmed in gold metal, as are doors between vestibule and lobby and cantilevered service desks. Some doors in other materials have been painted gold.

Large, metal framed windows are found throughout the building, but the non-public spaces have few other decorative elements. The workroom, locker rooms, meeting rooms, the postal inspectors’ gallery, and other non-public spaces do not reflect the Spanish Eclectic or Art Deco styles and are generally utilitarian spaces. The workroom does, however, feature original wood wainscoting and trim. In addition to the natural light provided by the large windows, the workroom is lit by original skylights.





**Photograph 5: Burlingame Main Post Office, Lorton façade, 1956**



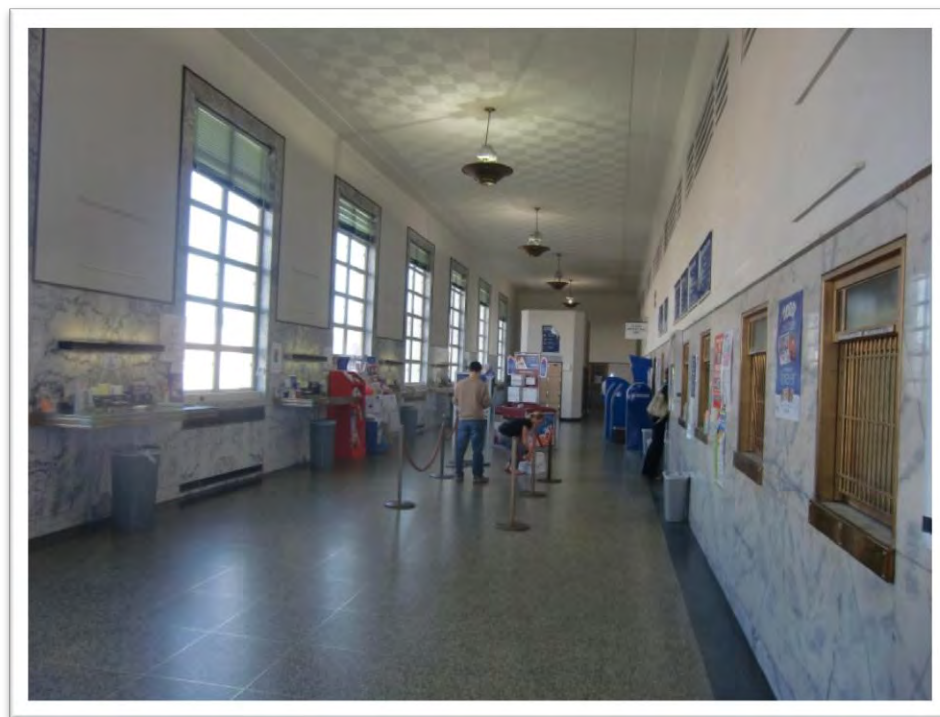
**Photograph 6: Burlingame Post Office  
Lorton Street entrance with Art Deco style details**



**Photograph 7. Burlingame Post Office, window detail**



**Photograph 8: Detail, window relief**



**Photograph 9: Lobby**



**Photograph 10: Original hanging light fixtures in lobby**

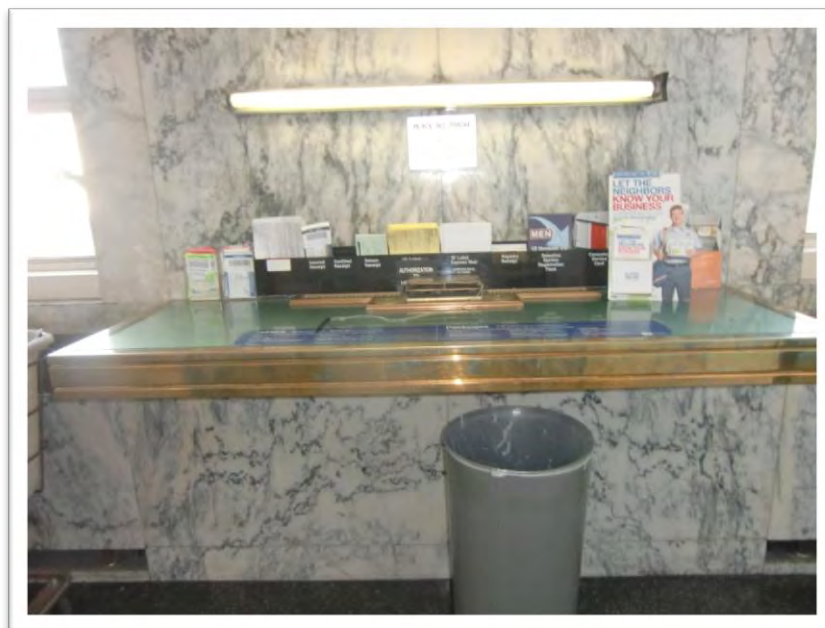




**Photograph 11: Vestibule with marble walls and brass trim**



**Photograph 12: Interior of entry door with eagle relief**



**Photograph 13: Original built-in lobby furniture**



**Photograph 14: Original service window**



**Photograph 15: Workroom with original wainscot**

### 4.3 ALTERATIONS

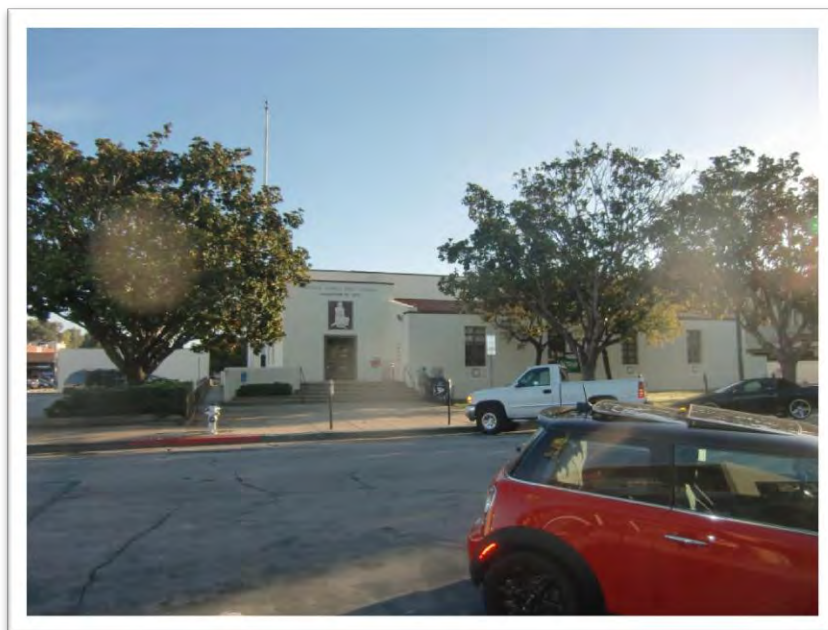
The post office has been well maintained and altered very little over the years. The garage was added circa 1956, but it is separate from the main post office building and does not mar its setting (Photographs 16 and 17). The street trees on both sides of the building were planted sometime after 1956. In its first 15 years, the only landscaping around the building was lawn. No other alterations appear to have been made to the exterior. In 1968, drawings were created for a major remodel. Plans included closing the entrance and vestibule that face Lorton Street, creating a new entrance at the center of the lobby, and additions that would have given the building a rectangular plan, but none of these plans was carried out.<sup>32</sup> A Draft Historic Resource Inventory created in 2008 found the post office National Register eligible, and its condition does not appear to have changed since that report.<sup>33</sup>

The interior of the post office has been remarkably well preserved. Though many post offices retain “high style” interior features such as marble wainscoting, few remain as unaltered as this one. Original bank-teller style service windows have been retained in contrast to the usual policy, which replaced these windows at most post offices with open counters for service decades ago. Most post offices have also replaced the original post office boxes, but Burlingame retains the originals, which match the metal trim so prominent in the lobby. Details like metal-trimmed bulletin boards, the service desks discussed above, and even pen holders have all survived the post office’s 71 years of use. A free-standing carousel for mail sorting was installed circa the 1980s, but it is visually unobtrusive (Photographs 18 and 19).

<sup>32</sup> Stradford, “U.S. Post Office, Burlingame, California, Extension and Modernization”, U. S. Post Office, Office of Research and Engineering, Washington, D.C., 15 November 1968.

<sup>33</sup> “Draft Inventory of Historic Resources, Burlingame Downtown Specific Plan”, 23.



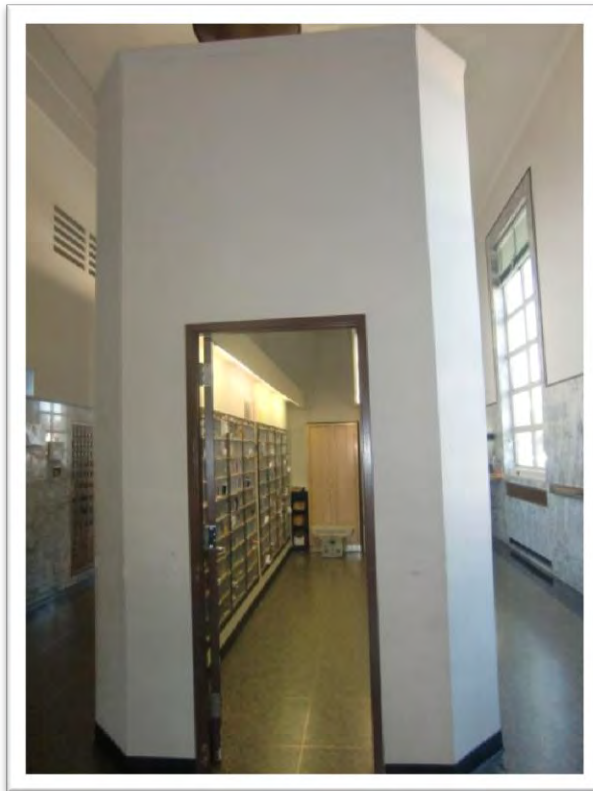


**Photograph 16: Park Road elevation with street trees**

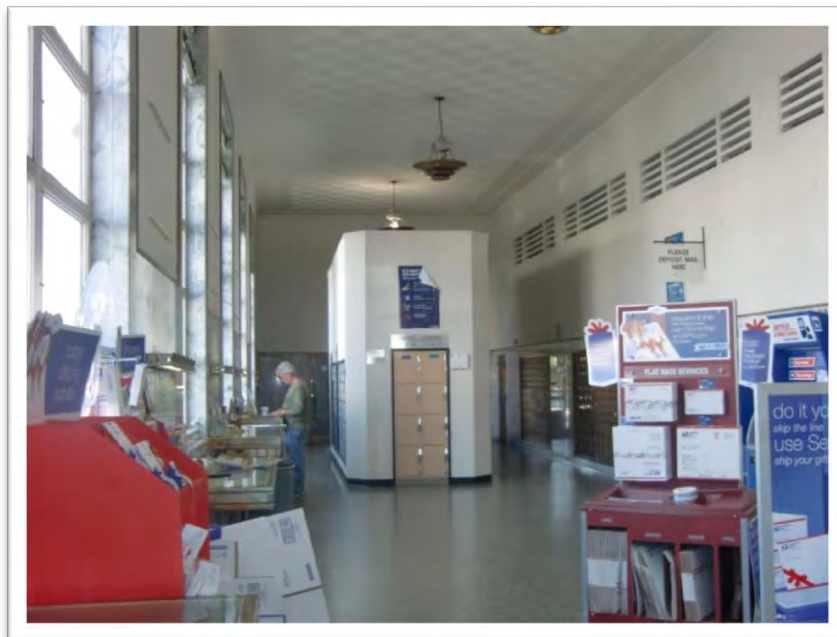


**Photograph 17: Detached garage addition**





**Photograph 18: Carousel addition at northwest end of lobby**



**Photograph 19: Carousel addition taken from south end of lobby**

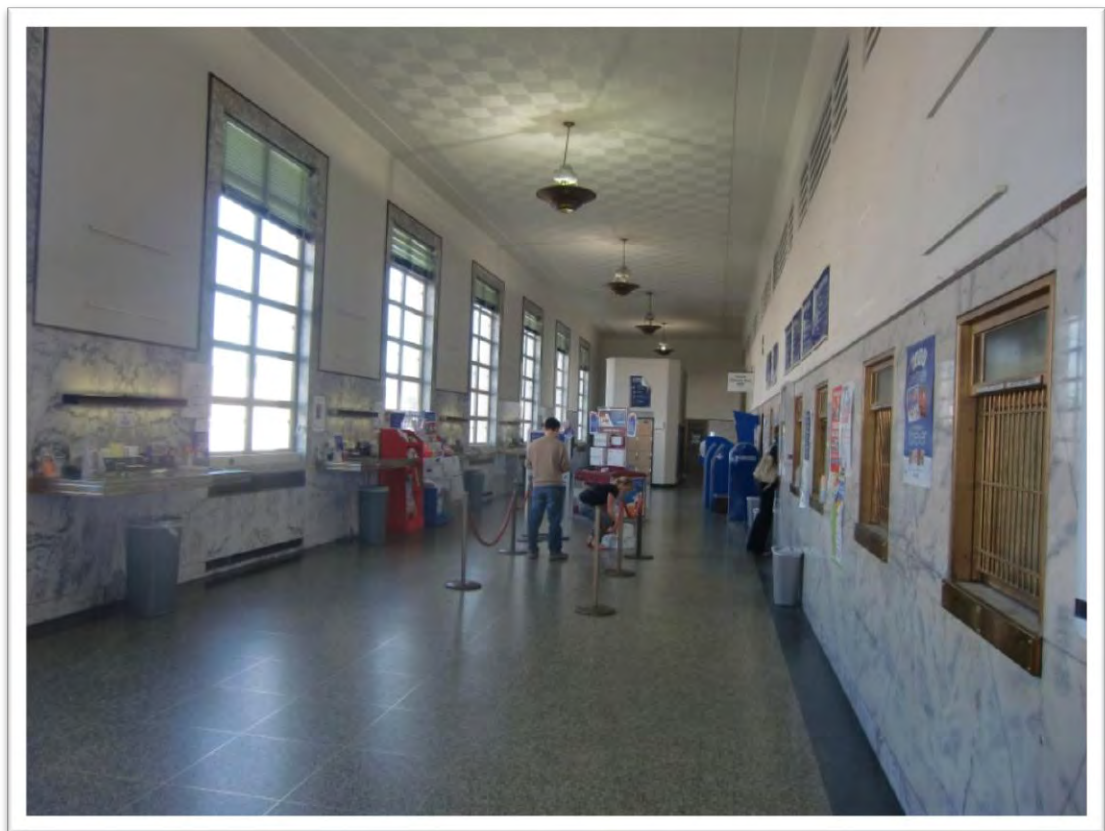
## 5 PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

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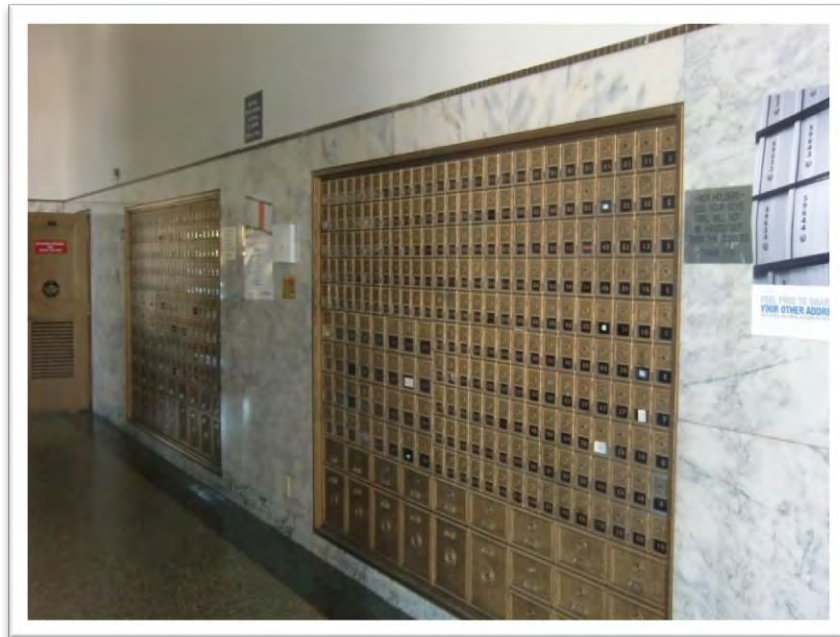
The interior space of the Burlingame Main Post Office is typical of post offices constructed under the PWA. Although the exterior of the building evokes the Spanish Eclectic architectural style, interior materials and stylistic elements reflect the related Art Deco and Streamline Moderne styles, which were also popular in California during this period. The alterations that have taken place to the interior spaces over time also reflect common alterations that were made to older post offices in the U.S. in the 1950s and 1960s.

### 5.1 SPATIAL ARRANGEMENT

The Burlingame Main Post Office features a public space that consists of a lobby with service windows, tall tables, and post office boxes (Photographs 20 and 21). The main entryway to the lobby is through a vestibule that is reached by the door that faces Park Road. Original bank teller-style service windows and original post office boxes have been retained. The floor of the public space is terrazzo.



**Photograph 20: Lobby**



**Photograph 21: Original post office boxes**

The Lorton Street entryway is into a vestibule that leads to a long hallway. The postmaster's office, as well as the break room and boiler room, are off this hallway. Behind the open counter is the workroom, a large open space filled with sorting equipment. A lookout gallery is located above the lobby and workroom area. It appears that the gallery is hidden behind the louvered vents above the counter space. The post office also contains a loading bay at the rear of the building.

## **5.2 ALTERATIONS**

Alterations to the interior space are limited to the addition of a free-standing carousel for parcel lockers to the lobby (Photographs 18 and 19). Common alterations that have been made in other post offices, such as replacement of the original post office boxes with modern aluminum ones and removal of original service windows in favor of open counters, have not been made in this post office.

The exterior of this post office remains unaltered, with the exception of a detached garage addition and the addition of street trees and other plantings.

## **5.3 PROMINENT ELEMENTS AND MATERIALS**

As discussed in Chapter, 4, the interior of this post office contains several stylistic features of the Art Deco/Streamline Moderne period. Prominent interior architectural elements and include the spatial organization of the public lobby area, Streamline Moderne-style hanging light fixtures, original cantilevered slide bars (tall tables) for patron use, and a marble wainscot.

Prominent exterior elements and materials are the identical Art Deco-style cast stone relief sculptures over both doors and eagle reliefs under the windows. Bronze-framed double doors, with a transom above featuring an eagle relief worked in the same material, also evoke Art Deco. Other exterior elements are inspired by Spanish architectural precedents, such as stucco cladding, red clay tile roof, and decorative stucco wall vents.



## 6 EVALUATION OF SIGNIFICANCE

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The criteria for identifying historical resources under the National Register of Historic Places are in Section 106 of the National Preservation Act. The NRHP criteria are codified in 36 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Part 60. Guidance for evaluating historical significance is provided and explained in guidelines published by the Keeper of the National Register.<sup>34</sup> *National Register Bulletin 13: How to Apply the National Register Criteria to Post Offices* provides guidance on how to apply the National Register criteria to evaluate postal office buildings and provides significant themes under which post office buildings may be associated and characteristics that reflect those themes.

Historic significance is judged by applying NRHP Criteria A through D. The NRHP guidelines state that a historic resource's "quality of significance in American history, architecture, archeology, engineering and culture" is determined by meeting at least one of the following (properties may be significant at the local, state, or national level):

- Criterion A: Association with events or trends significant in the broad patterns of our history;
- Criterion B: Association with the lives of significant individuals;
- Criterion C: A property that embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction that represents the work of a master, or that possesses high artistic values;
- Criterion D: Has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important to history or prehistory.

Criterion D is usually reserved for archaeological sites if they have yielded, or may likely yield, information important in pre-history or history. The property must have, or have had, information to contribute to our understanding of history and the information must be considered important. In general, Criterion D is used to evaluate historic sites and archaeological resources.

Eligibility for listing on either the NRHP rests on significance and integrity. A property must have both factors to be considered eligible. Loss of integrity, if sufficiently great, would overwhelm the historical significance of a resource and render it ineligible. Likewise, a resource can have complete integrity, but if it lacks significance, it must also be considered ineligible. "Integrity" is determined through applying seven factors to the historical resource: location, design, setting, workmanship, materials, feeling, and association.

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<sup>34</sup> The most widely accepted guidelines are contained in the U.S. Department of Interior, National Park Service, "Guidelines for Applying the National Register Criteria for Evaluation," *National Register Bulletin 15* (U.S. Government Printing, Washington, DC, 1991, revised 1995 through 2002).

## 6.1 EVALUATION OF BURLINGAME MAIN POST OFFICE

The Burlingame Main Post Office on Park Road is not currently listed in the NRHP, the California State Historical Resources Inventory, or local listings. A Draft Historic Resource Inventory created in 2008 found the post office NRHP eligible, and its condition does not appear to have changed since that report.<sup>35</sup> Tetra Tech has evaluated the building under the NRHP criteria and has determined it to be eligible for listing in the NRHP under Criteria A and C. Tetra Tech has prepared a California DPR 523A form, which is [Appendix A](#).

Criterion A: The Burlingame Main Post Office is significant under Criterion A for its association with the New Deal-era public works programs and policies under the significant theme of Politics/Government, as defined in *National Register Bulletin 13: How to Apply the National Register Criteria to Post Office*.

Criterion B: This property is not significant under Criterion B because it is not important for its association with any significant historic person. Under the significant theme of Politics/Government, the post office is not associated with the career of an important political leader in the community, state, or nation. The post office was designed by architect Ulysses Floyd Rible, with Louis A. Simon as Supervising Architect. However, it would be inappropriate to use the association of the post office with these individuals under Criterion B for the evaluation because this factor would be better considered under Criterion C for the work of a master. The property does not appear to meet the criteria for listing on the NRHP under this criterion.

Criterion C: This property is significant under Criterion C within the historic context and significant historic theme of Politics/Government. The property embodies distinctive characteristics of a post office designed and constructed between 1930 and 1942 in plan, structure, design, and ornamentation. The Burlingame Main Post Office contains many distinctive elements of its type — post offices constructed between 1930 and 1942 by the federal government, as exemplified by the standard interior spatial arrangement, and high-quality materials and workmanship.

Criterion D: In rare instances, buildings themselves can serve as sources of important information about historic construction materials or technologies and can be significant under Criterion D. However, the Burlingame Main Post Office does not appear to be a principal source of important information in this regard.

## 6.2 PERIOD OF SIGNIFICANCE

The significant, historic-character defining features of the Burlingame Main Post Office are of the Spanish Eclectic and Art Deco/Streamline Moderne styles. The period of significance for the post office and its historic character defining features is 1941, the date the post office was constructed. The building represents a period when important federal policies in public works programs in the nation and the historic character

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<sup>35</sup> Carey & Co., 23.

defining features exemplify this period in the architecture and stylistic features used for the interior and exterior of the building. The property is an example of a period of federal building construction that emphasized a simple government character reflecting the region, using materials requiring little maintenance and of sufficient capacity to meet the needs of the federal government.

Though the Burlingame Main Post Office's architectural ornamentation is unique, the property represents policies in the history of public works programs in that many aspects of its design were dictated by federal policy and common to many post offices of the era. The first of these was its siting, roughly two blocks from the center of Burlingame. Before 1930, post offices were sited on a town's main street and as near the railway station as possible. As mail increasingly travelled by truck, rather than train, in the twentieth century, the siting strategy was altered. After 1930, the policy was to site post offices, whenever possible, a block or two away from the central hub of downtown to make the location easy to find while easing access for mail trucks.<sup>36</sup> Whenever possible, corner lots were chosen for visibility as well as ease of access.<sup>37</sup> The Burlingame post is virtually unique in that occupies the center of its block. However, by designing the building with identical entryways on both Park and Lorton, the architect was able to create accessibility equal to that of a corner lot. Large windows, designed to provide daylight to the interior, were used in virtually all post offices constructed during this era. The post office's interior plan was also a product of federal planning. By 1933, most post offices were constructed according to standard plans, although façade ornamentation could vary widely, as is the case with the Burlingame Main Post Office.<sup>38</sup>

### 6.3 SIGNIFICANT/HISTORIC CHARACTER DEFINING FEATURES

Interior character-defining features of this post office are the following:

- The original hanging light fixtures;
- The marble wainscoting, including marble on vestibule walls;
- Metal trim used throughout the interior;
- The original tall tables used for post office patrons; and
- The original service windows;
- Original bronze bulletin board;
- Federal star motifs;

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<sup>36</sup> U.S. Postal Service, 1994, p. 16.

<sup>37</sup> U.S. Postal Service, 1994, p. 29.

<sup>38</sup> Beth M. Boland, *National Register Bulletin 13: How to Apply the National Register Criteria to Post Offices*, U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Interagency Resources Division, National Register of Historic Places: 1984, Revised 1994, p. 4.

- Terrazzo flooring;
- Original windows and doors to and within lobby;
- Cantilevered service desks;
- Original post office boxes; and
- Original built-in lobby furniture, such as tables.

Exterior character-defining features of this post office are the following:

- The overall mass and plan of the main façade of the post office;
- The poured concrete exterior siding and smooth stucco wall cladding;
- Original metal frame windows;
- Original bronze doors;
- Red clay tile roof;
- Cast stone Art Deco relief sculptures over the main entrances and under the windows; and
- Bronze relief of a woman over the entrance doors.

The property has undergone few alterations except for the addition of a free-standing carousel to the lobby and construction of a detached garage in the parking lot. These elements and those features located in the workroom and in other non-public spaces are not considered historic character defining features. The modern carousel with additional post office boxes is not a historic character defining feature.

#### **6.4 INTEGRITY**

The Burlingame Main Post Office retains a high degree of all seven types of integrity: location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. The property's location and setting have remained the same since its period of significance, 1941, and it remains in the downtown area of Burlingame. Intact are the original design, workmanship, stylistic details, and virtually all of the building's original materials. The historic character of the building continues to convey a sense of feeling and association with its period of significance and is an excellent example of a building constructed during the period of important national policies of public works in the significant area of politics and government.



# 7 **CONDITION ASSESSMENT**

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The USPS requested that Tetra Tech provide a brief assessment of the condition of building materials and elements at the Burlingame Main Post Office. Tetra Tech was not asked to conduct materials testing or analysis or to recommend testing or treatment of materials. The following condition assessment provides a brief summary of the existing conditions of materials and elements that were visible at an “arm’s length” or more at the time Tetra Tech recorded the property and does not include a full treatment recommendation. The USPS did not request conditions assessment of systems such as heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems or of electrical systems and are not discussed below.

## **7.1 INTERIOR**

The interior materials and features of the building are also in excellent condition. The walls and ceilings as well as the marble wainscot appear as they did when the building was originally constructed. The bright metal trim throughout the lobby, louvered vents, metal chandeliers, marble wainscoting, original windows and doors have been well preserved as have the marble wainscot, original service windows, post office boxes, original lobby built-in counters, vestibules and terrazzo flooring. Overall, the interior of the entire interior public space is in excellent condition.

## **7.2 EXTERIOR**

The exterior board-formed concrete walls and finishes are also in good condition and have been well-maintained. There appears to be no evidence of poor maintenance that is threatening the building’s preservation. The original poured concrete walls and decorative details on the façade of the building, including the Art Deco relief sculptures over the main entrances and under the windows and bronze relief over the doors. No broken or missing fragments detected as viewed from the sidewalk.

## 8 QUALIFICATIONS

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Tetra Tech Historian Kara Brunzell conducted research, reviewed project information, and prepared the text for this report. Ms. Brunzell meets the history and architectural history professional qualifications, as outlined by the federal government in Title 36, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 61. She has a Master's Degree in History/Public History from California State University, Sacramento and more than 3 years of experience.

Julia Mates, Historian/Architectural Historian, meets the History and Architectural History professional qualifications as outlined by the federal government in Title 36, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 61. Ms. Mates conducted the site visit and recorded property, evaluated the property for listing in the NRHP, and prepared the text for this report. Ms. Mates has a Master's Degree in History/Public History and more than 10 years of experience conducting historic resource projects.

## 9 REFERENCES

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- Blumenson, John J.-G. 1981. *Identifying American Architecture: A Pictorial Guide to Styles and Terms, 1600 – 1945*. W.W. Norton, New York.
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- U.S. Postal Service, Office of Real Estate. 1982. *History of Post Office Construction 1900 – 1940*, United States Government Printing Office, Washington D.C. July 1982.
- U.S. Postal Service, Western Regional Office. 1984. *National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form. Significant U.S. Post Offices in California, 1900-1941, Thematic Resources*. November 1984.
- U.S. Postal Service, Western Regional Office. 1994. *National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form. United States Post Office Construction from 1913 – 1943*. January 1994.

**APPENDIX A**

**DPR 523 FORMS**

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State of California – The Resources Agency  
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION  
PRIMARY RECORD

Primary # \_\_\_\_\_  
HRI # \_\_\_\_\_  
Trinomial \_\_\_\_\_  
NRHP Status Code \_\_\_\_\_

Other Listings \_\_\_\_\_  
Review Code \_\_\_\_\_ Reviewer \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Page 1 of 11

\*Resource Name or # (Assigned by recorder) Burlingame Main Post Office

**P1. Other Identifier:** US Post Office

\*P2. Location:  Not for Publication  Unrestricted  
and (P2b and P2c or P2d. Attach a Location Map as necessary.)

\*a. County San Mateo

\*b. USGS 7.5' Quad San Mateo Date 1997 T 4S; R 4W;      ¼ of Sec     ; B.M.     

c. Address 220 Park Road City Burlingame Zip 94010-4206

d. UTM: (give more than one for large and/or linear resources) Zone 10; 558522 mE/ 4159164 mN

e. Other Locational Data: (e.g., parcel #, directions to resource, elevation, etc., as appropriate)

Assessor's Parcel Number: 029-204-250

\*P3a. Description: (Describe resource and its major elements. Include design, materials, condition, alterations, size, setting, and boundaries) The primary architectural style expressed by the Burlingame Main Post Office is Spanish Eclectic; although decorative elements also evoke the Art Deco style. The Burlingame Main Post Office was designed by Ulysses Floyd Rible and was constructed of concrete in 1941. The primary mass of the one-story, rectangular plan building is flat-roofed. Projecting bays facing both Park and Lorton and are covered with very shallow-pitched roofs. Stucco cladding, multiple roof heights and forms, red clay tile roof covering, decorative stucco venting, and a decorative "chimney" on the southwest elevation (adjacent to the loading dock) anchor the post office in the Spanish Eclectic style. Art Deco details include exterior reliefs above both entryways and below the windows. (See Continuation Sheet)

\*P3b. Resource Attributes: (List attributes and codes) HP14. Government Building

\*P4. Resources Present:  Building  Structure  Object  Site  District  Element of District  Other (Isolates, etc.)



P5b. Description of Photo: (View, date, accession #) Main façade, camera facing Northwest, October 30, 2012

\*P6. Date Constructed/Age and Sources:  
 Historic  Prehistoric  Both  
1942/ USPS Property Detail Report

\*P7. Owner and Address:  
United States Post Office  
Real Estate and Assets Facilities  
Headquarters  
475 L'Enfant Plaza SW, Room 6670  
Washington, DC 20260-1862

\*P8. Recorded by: (Name, affiliation, address)  
Kara Brunzell & Julia Mates  
Tetra Tech, Inc.  
1999 Harrison Street, Suite 500  
Oakland, CA 94612

\*P9. Date Recorded: October 30, 2012

\*P10. Survey Type: (Describe) Intensive

\*P11. Report Citation: (Cite survey report and other sources, or enter "none.") USPS. Postal Historic Structure Report, Burlingame Main Post Office. Prepared by Tetra Tech, Inc. 2012

\*Attachments: NONE  Location Map  Sketch Map  Continuation Sheet  Building, Structure, and Object Record  Archaeological Record  District Record  Linear Feature Record  Milling Station Record  Rock Art Record  Artifact Record  Photograph Record  
 Other (list) \_\_\_\_\_

**\*P3a. Description (continued):**

Fenestration throughout the building consists of tall, rectangular windows divided into multiple lights by metal sashes. Though the different elevations of the building feature different sizes of windows, all four elevations feature large windows designed to provide daylight to post office box, lobby, and workroom areas.

The Park and Lorton elevations of the Burlingame Main Post Office are identical, so the building effectively has two primary façades. Both Park and Lorton feature lawns and formally planted trees along the streetscape. Although its address is 220 Park Road, the post office is sited closer to the Park side of the block, giving the Lorton entrance a much larger lawn and a more formal appearance. The flat roofs of the primary volume of the building and the slightly projecting entrance bays are topped with parapets and unadorned cornices. The roof of the entrance bay is slightly lower than that of the main section. Two mirrored wings project in front of the entry bays on the southwest and northeast of the building's main section. These wings also feature a cornice detail at the top of the walls, but have shed roofs that project forward from the wall of the main building. The roofs of the projecting sections are lower than those of the other three parts of the building.

The post office's strongest decorative element consists of large, identical, cast-stone reliefs depicting a female figure that adorn the walls over each entrance. The two copies of the relief sculpture, titled "The Letter," were completed in 1941 by artist James L. Hansen.<sup>1</sup> Entrances are bronze-framed double doors, with a transom above featuring an eagle relief worked in the same material. The tall, rectangular windows that face both streets feature metal sashes arranged in side-by-side vertical rows five lights high. The eagle motif on the transom is repeated below the windows in cast stone. Art Deco ornament on federal post offices characteristically reworked standard federal motifs, as seen with the decorative eagles on this building.<sup>2</sup> Stuccoed vents, inspired by Spanish architectural precedents, are centered on the two projecting wings' northwest-facing ends (adjacent to the entry doors), as well as on their street-facing elevations.

The northwest elevation of the post office's main section, which faces the parking lot, is typical of "side" façades of post offices built during this era. Without doors or ornamentation except the restrained cornice that tops the entire building, smooth walls are punctuated by seven tall, rectangular windows. Windows are the same type as those on street-facing façades, except that the vertical rows are six lights high, making the side windows rather taller. A concrete masonry unit garage building has been constructed in the parking lot just north of this side of the building.

The post office's southwest elevation features the concrete loading dock, which is set back between the projecting wings and under a canopy for protection from the weather. The main section of the building features metal sash windows that are six lights high and three across, making them the largest windows in the building. The projecting wings' southwest ends are asymmetrical gables. The southwest ends of these wings are slightly different. The fenestration pattern on the Park-facing wing, including the decorative eagles below the windows, is continued around the end and onto the side that faces the loading dock. The wing that faces Lorton, but features small double-hung windows and an industrial-style metal door on its southwest end. It also has a decorative "chimney" atop its asymmetrical gable end, breaking up the otherwise perfect symmetry of the building and recalling the look of a vernacular Spanish village.

<sup>1</sup> Living New Deal, Department of Geography, University of California Berkeley: 2012, Internet website: <http://livingnewdeal.berkeley.edu/projects/burlingame-post-office-the-letter-burlingame-ca/>. Accessed November 2012.

<sup>2</sup> U.S. Postal Service, Western Regional Office, National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form, Significant U.S. Post Offices in California, 1900-1941, Thematic Resources, November 1984, p. 22.

The Burlingame Main Post Office reflects the federal standardization of the layout of post offices in the 1930s, with its interior arrangement of the service lobby, individual clerk windows, post office boxes in the walls of the lobby, workroom, offices, break rooms, a boiler room, and loading bays.

The interior of the Burlingame Main Post Office does not reflect the Spanish Eclectic style that dominates its exterior. Its decorative elements, which are rather rich given the modest size of the building, primarily evoke the related Art Deco and Streamline Moderne styles (Photographs 2 through 13). Hanging metal lamps, which feature a federal star motif, express a Streamline Moderne aesthetic. Ceilings are adorned with simple crown molding. Wide louvered vents run along the wall over the service windows. Walls are covered in gray marble wainscoting, while floors are contrasting light and dark terrazzo. Vestibule walls are covered in marble from floor to ceiling. The strongest decorative elements in this rather restrained interior are its windows and doors. The sheer size of the windows makes them notable, and they allow natural light to flood the interior. Trimmed heavily in bronze, the impressive doors feature an Art Deco-style eagle relief on the transom identical to those on the exterior. Original, bank-teller style service windows are also trimmed in gold metal, as are doors between vestibule and lobby and cantilevered service desks. Some doors in other materials have been painted gold.

Large, metal framed windows are found throughout the building, but the non-public spaces have few other decorative elements. The workroom, locker rooms, meeting rooms, the postal inspectors' gallery, and other non-public spaces do not reflect the Spanish Eclectic or Art Deco styles and are generally utilitarian spaces. The workroom does, however, feature original wood wainscoting and trim. In addition to the natural light provided by the large windows, the workroom is lit by original skylights.



**Photograph 2: Burlingame Main Post Office, Lorton façade, 1956**



**Photograph 3: Burlingame Post Office  
Lorton Street entrance with Art Deco style details**

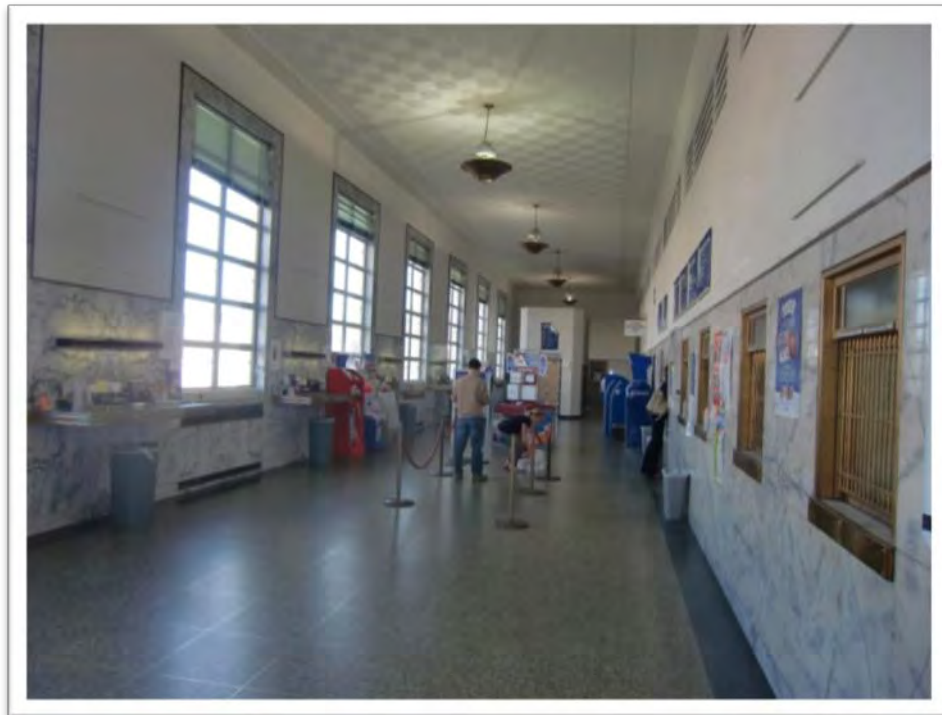


**Photograph 4. Burlingame Post Office, window detail**





**Photograph 5: Detail, window relief**



**Photograph 6: Lobby**



**Photograph 7: Original hanging light fixtures in lobby**



**Photograph 8: Vestibule with marble walls and brass trim**



**Photograph 9: Interior of entry door with eagle relief**

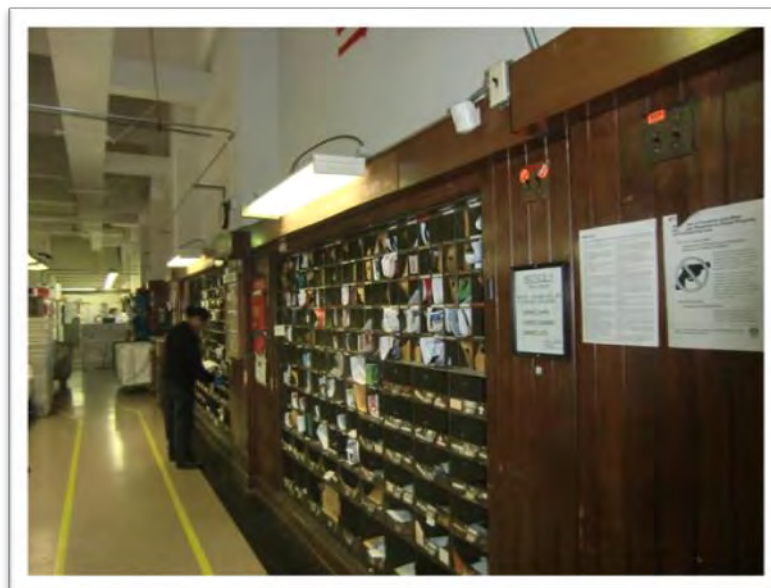


**Photograph 10: Original built-in lobby furniture**





Photograph 11: Original service window



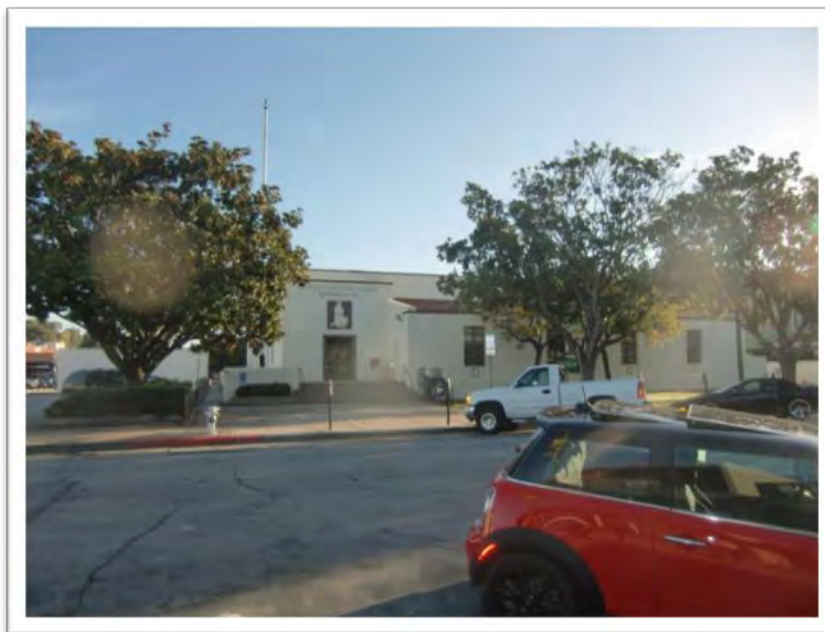
Photograph 12: Workroom with original wainscot



## ALTERATIONS

The post office has been well maintained and altered very little over the years. The garage was added circa 1956, but it is separate from the main post office building and does not mar its setting (Photograph 14). The street trees on both sides of the building were planted sometime after 1956. In its first 15 years, the only landscaping around the building was lawn. No other alterations appear to have been made to the exterior. In 1968, drawings were created for a major remodel. Plans included closing the entrance and vestibule that face Lorton Street, creating a new entrance at the center of the lobby, and additions that would have given the building a rectangular plan, but none of these plans was carried out.<sup>3</sup> A Draft Historic Resource Inventory created in 2008 found the post office National Register eligible, and its condition does not appear to have changed since that report.<sup>4</sup>

The interior of the post office has been remarkably well preserved. Though many post offices retain “high style” interior features such as marble wainscoting, few remain as unaltered as this one. Original bank-teller style service windows have been retained in contrast to the usual policy, which replaced these windows at most post offices with open counters for service decades ago. Most post offices have also replaced the original post office boxes, but Burlingame retains the originals, which match the metal trim so prominent in the lobby. Details like metal-trimmed bulletin boards, the service desks discussed above, and even pen holders have all survived the post office’s 71 years of use. A free-standing carousel for mail sorting was installed circa the 1980s, but it is visually unobtrusive (Photographs 15 and 16).



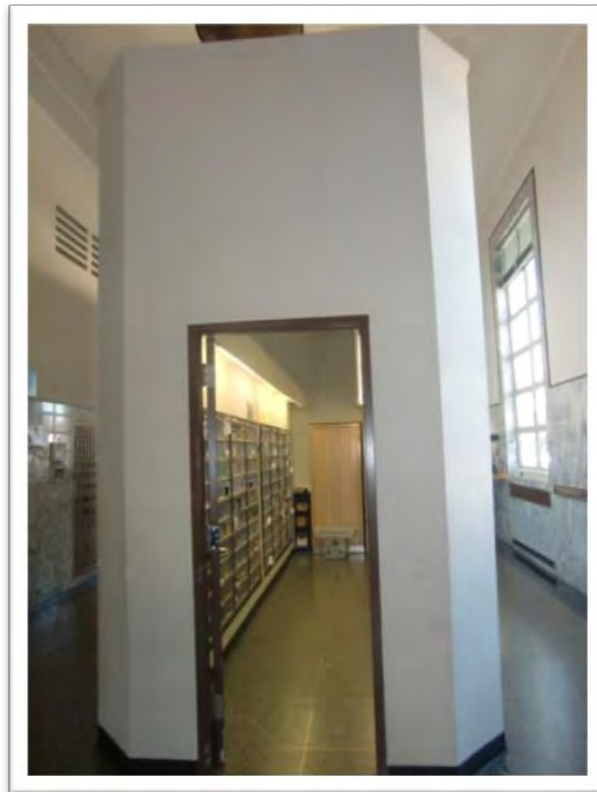
**Photograph 13: Park Road elevation with street trees**

<sup>3</sup> Stradford, “U.S. Post Office, Burlingame, California, Extension and Modernization”, U. S. Post Office, Office of Research and Engineering, Washington, D.C., 15 November 1968.

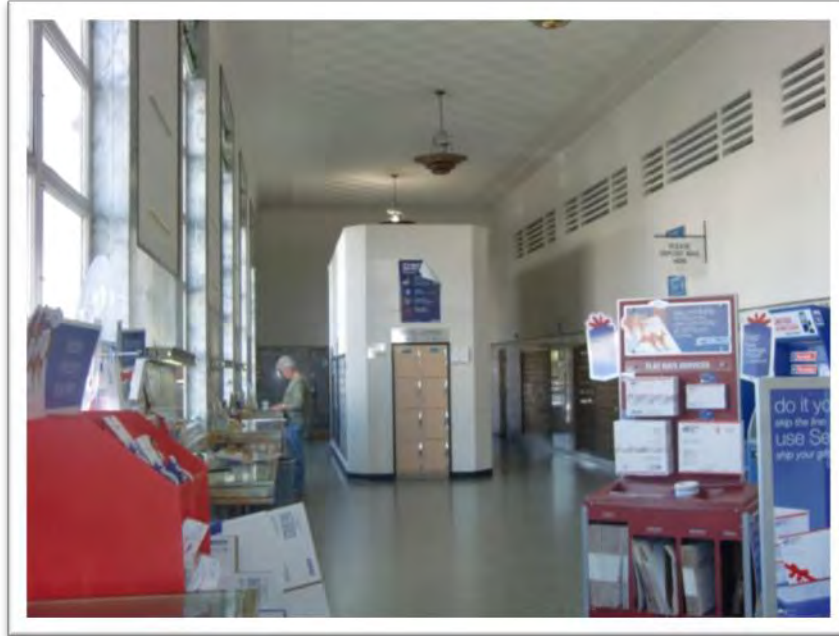
<sup>4</sup> “Draft Inventory of Historic Resources, Burlingame Downtown Specific Plan”, 23.



**Photograph 14: Detached garage addition**



**Photograph 15: Carousel addition at northwest end of lobby**



**Photograph 16: Carousel addition taken from south end of lobby**

**APPENDIX B**

**NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE  
CONSULTATION REQUEST**

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Julia E. Mates  
Historian/Architectural Historian

December 10, 2012

California Native American Heritage Commission  
915 Capitol Mall, Room 364  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Subject:** Sacred Lands File Search Request for Burlingame Post Office, 220 Park Road, Burlingame, California (San Mateo 7.5 minute quadrangle)

To Whom It May Concern:

In accordance with the procedures set forth at 39 C.F.R. 241.4, the United States Postal Service (Postal Service) is relocating the retail services from the Burlingame Post Office on Park Road.

The Burlingame Post Office was constructed in 1941 and eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. The Postal Service intends to dispose of (sell) the post office building and the land upon which the building is located. On behalf of the Postal Service, Tetra Tech would like to inform you of the proposed project and to request a copy of the current Native American contacts list for the area so that we may coordinate with the appropriate tribal leaders to determine if there are tribal concerns within the area. In addition, we are requesting a Sacred Lands File Search to identify areas of traditional importance that have been identified on or near the project site.

Please send this information to me at: 1999 Harrison Street, Suite 500, Oakland, California 94612. If you have any questions or would like additional information, you can contact me at (510) 302-6300 or [julia.mates@tetratech.com](mailto:julia.mates@tetratech.com). Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Julia E. Mates'.

Julia E. Mates  
Historian/Architectural Historian

Enclosures: Project Location Map

Cc: Mr. Dallan Wordekemper, Real Estate Specialist/Federal Preservation Officer, US Postal service  
Ms. Ann Yarnell, Facilities Environmental Specialist, US Postal Service



**APPENDIX C**

**LIST OF INTERESTED PARTIES**

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List of Interested Parties:

City of Burlingame  
501 Primrose Road  
Burlingame, CA 94010-2997

Burlingame Historical Society  
P.O. Box 144  
Burlingame, CA 94011

California Preservation Foundation  
5 Third Street Suite 424  
San Francisco, CA 94103

National Trust for Historic Preservation  
1785 Massachusetts Avenue Northwest  
Washington, DC 20036