

Kennett Post Office - A WPA Project - Built 1937

201 N. Main Street

The Kennett post office is one of two WPA construction-era buildings in Kennett. The city's first post office was unauthorized and opened December 9, 1846 in the first Dunklin County Courthouse when Dunklin County was only 10 months old.



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An official post office was established in 1860 and provided service once a week. In 1893 it resided on the north side of the square without a known location and subsequently appeared in several other locations.

Lions Club Credited with Today's Post Office

In 1933 the Kennett Lions Club petitioned the government to build a Public Works Administration building. In 1935, Kennett was one of 351 towns where federal buildings were planned. Construction began on August 24, 1936.

WPA Projects were part of the New Deal, a series of federal programs that helped the nation emerge from the Great Depression. WPA projects formed a national work relief program that replaced direct financial assistance.

Notable Features

The building has a gray Carthage marble exterior. When the cornerstone was laid on October 15 it was to much fanfare with the Kennett Municipal band, school children, and 2,000 onlookers. A copper box filled with newspapers, pictures, the program, and letterheads of local businesses was placed behind the cornerstone.

The interior was revealed to the public on March 31, 1937. "Postmaster E.H. Randol threw open the doors for the first time to allow the citizens of Kennett to see the interior. An enthusiastic crowd moved through the building ... admiring the workmanship and marveling at the details. The spacious lobby and lighting fixtures attracted much comment ... The catwalk for the post office inspectors induced much talk, and the sturdy new vault freeing the post office from the necessity of keeping excess stamps in one of the local banks was viewed with much satisfaction." It opened for business the following morning, April 1, 1937 at 7 a.m.

Source: Fran Cooper, Daily Dunklin Democrat, January 9, 2021.

Here is a building that will be serving the people of this community probably forty or fifty years from now. This will be a milestone in the progress of Kennett... We have looked forward to the time when Kennett would have a U.S. Post Office building, and now that dream is becoming a reality.

Dunklin Democrat Editor Paul C. Jones, April 1937



East side of the square 1907. An early post office is seen slightly to the left and behind the group of men.

