

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

For HCRS use only

received AUG 11 1981

date entered SEP 14 1981

1. Name

historic Old Post Office Building

and/or common Same

2. Location

street & number 360 Washington Street

not for publication

city, town Lynn

vicinity of

congressional district

Sixth

state Massachusetts

code 025

county

Essex

code 007

3. Classification

Category

district

☒ building(s)

structure

site

object

Ownership

☒ public

private

both

Public Acquisition

in process

being considered

Status

☒ occupied

unoccupied

work in progress

Accessible

☒ yes: restricted

yes: unrestricted

no

Present Use

agriculture

commercial

educational

entertainment

☒ government

industrial

military

museum

park

private residence

religious

scientific

transportation

other:

4. Owner of Property

name United States Marine Corps

street & number 360 Washington Street

city, town Lynn

vicinity of

state Massachusetts 01902

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Essex County Registry of Deeds/Essex County Courthouse

street & number

city, town Salem

state Massachusetts

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Inventory of the Historic
Assets of the Commonwealth

has this property been determined eligible? yes ☒ no

date 1977

federal ☒ state county local

depository for survey records Massachusetts Historical Commission

city, town Boston

state Massachusetts 02108

7. Description

Condition

☐ excellent
☒ good
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered
☒ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Old Lynn Post Office is a two story Renaissance Revival style building occupying a lot with frontage on Washington, Liberty, and Willow Streets. The structure contains three sections, a rectangular plan, front section built in 1897-1898, a one-story loading platform added to the rear wall (east) of the front section between 1924 and 1938, and a concrete block garage added to the north wall of the loading platform in the mid-twentieth century.

The building's front section (original structure) rests on a basement of dressed granite ashlar. The basement is below grade level at the building's north end, is exposed to an open light well on the west facade and is largely above ground at the south end. The building's upper floors are constructed of yellow brick with ornate trimmings glazed yellow terracotta (i.e. modillions, egg and dart mouldings, bead and reel mouldings and all window trim). At the second story, the building becomes "U" shaped in plan with an open court on its east (rear) wall. The structure is enclosed by a hip roof covered with metal sheathing which is partially concealed by a solid parapet.

WEST FACADE: The building's major facade faces Liberty Street and is made up of nine bays, symmetrically arranged. The outermost, end bays are semi-circular and contain the buildings major entries. Both entry bays are approached from flights of granite stairs with stepped solid railings. Each entry is at the first story and is set at a 45° angle to the major facade. Although original doors have been replaced, both entries retain original decoration consisting of polished granite columns with marble Ionic capitals supporting a brick and terracotta entablature. Above each entry is a single window set in an eared frame with a cornice; each window is framed by brick pilasters which rise to egg and dart moulded capitals. These pilasters continue through the entablature and parapet, terminating in terracotta acroteria at the base of the dome. Each end bay is covered by a high dome which is sheathed in copper. Copper sheathing is embossed with a fish-scale pattern and vertical ribs; each dome terminates in a moulded base supporting a ball-finial. The remaining seven bays of the west facade consist of five identical center bays (with windows) flanked by two outer (blank) bays. Each outer bay contains a pair of brick pilasters which rise from a moulded base to a brick and terracotta entablature and cornice which extends around the building at the top of the first story. At the second story are two shorter pilasters in the same position, rising to support an architrave and modillioned cornice, which extends around the entire building. Both sets of pilasters have bead and reel mouldings and egg and dart mouldings at their capitals. Above the second story cornice is a brick parapet with a terracotta coping. The center five bays each contain one rectangular window at the basement, and arched window set in a moulded surround with keystone at the first and a rectangular window set in a moulded surround with keystone at the first and a rectangular window set in an eared surround with a moulded cornice at the second story. Sash of the basement is 2/2; that of the first story is tri-partite consisting of three sets of 2/2 sash surmounted by a three-pane semi-circular light; that of the second story is 2/2.

SOUTH ELEVATION: Facing Washington Street, the south elevation shares the same general arrangement of bays with the west facade. The south elevation consists of two outer, pilastered bays flanking three bays containing windows. The western-most first story window has been partially filled with brick

NORTH ELEVATION: Facing Willow Street, the north elevation is identical to the south elevation, except that it has no basement windows, as a change in the grade levels places most of the basement beneath street level at the north end.

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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date entered

AUG 11 1981

SEP 14 1981

Continuation sheet

Item number

7

Page

2

EAST ELEVATION: Of the east elevation of the original structure, only one bay at its south end and the second story of its northernmost bay are visible. The southern bay contains one window centered at the first and second stories. The first story window is set in a moulded frame with an arched head and keystones. The second story window is set in an eared frame; the second story window of the northernmost bay is identical.

ADDITIONS: Centered on the east wall of the original building is a one-story addition, built of yellow brick with concrete trim. Facing south (Washington Street) this addition has a loading platform which is served by two entries with double metal doors. Set between these doors is a window with metal framed sash. A second window exists just west of the loading platform. Attached to the north wall of this addition and to the rear wall of the original structure is a concrete block garage, which extends northward to Willow Street and has two over-sized entries to allow truck access. Both additions have flat tar and gravel roofs.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
☐ prehistoric	☐ archeology-prehistoric	☐ community planning	☐ landscape architecture	☐ religion
☐ 1400-1499	☐ archeology-historic	☐ conservation	☐ law	☐ science
☐ 1500-1599	☐ agriculture	☐ economics	☐ literature	☐ sculpture
☐ 1600-1699	☒ architecture	☐ education	☐ military	☐ social/
☐ 1700-1799	☐ art	☐ engineering	☐ music	☐ humanitarian
☒ 1800-1899	☐ commerce	☐ exploration/settlement	☐ philosophy	☐ theater
☐ 1900-	☐ communications	☐ industry	☒ politics/government	☐ transportation
		☐ invention		☐ other (specify)

Specific dates 1896 Builder/Architect Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Old Lynn Post Office Building possesses integrity of location, design, materials, and workmanship. It is significant for its associations with civic growth in Lynn and as a unique local example of Renaissance Revival style architecture. Designed in 1896 and built in 1897-1898, the building is constructed of yellow brick with ornate classical trim (mouldings, pilaster capitals, entablatures, and cornices) made of glazed, yellow terracotta. Unusual features of the building include its two semi-circular entry bays located at the structure's north-west and southwest corners. Each bay contains an entry framed by Ionic columns of polished granite each bay is capped by a dome covered with copper sheathing, embossed with a fish-scale pattern. With the exception of the main entries' doors, which have been changed, the exterior of the Old Lynn Post Office is in original condition. The Post Office meets criteria A and C of the National Register of Historic Places.

The rapid growth of Lynn's business and population in the 1880s and 1890s created the need for a large central post office to handle the city's increasing volume of mail. In 1891, sites for such a building were considered, although the present lot was not selected until 1895, when government architects who are unnamed in local accounts prepared plans for a large Romanesque Revival style building. For reasons unknown, the first proposed building was never built; instead the plans were withdrawn and the present building's design was accepted in July of 1896. Construction began in 1897 and was finished in 1898. From its opening in 1898 until its replacement by the present post office in the 1930s, #360 Washington Street contained a post office at its first story for the Collector of Internal Revenue and for the Collector of Customs. Since the 1930's, the building has been used as a U.S. Marine Corps Armory. At present, much of the first story is occupied by the offices of the Lynn Economic Opportunity Center.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Lynn City Item. May 8, 1891, p.2; Jan. 4, 1895, p. 3; July 17, 1896, p.4; Sept. 3, 1897, p. 3.

Lynn Scrapbooks. (Unpublished collections at the Lynn Public Library) Vol. II, pp. 11 & 43; Vol. 30, p. 59; Vol 34, p. 19-2; Vol 37, p. 55.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 17,664 sq. ft.

Quadrangle name Lynn

Quadrangle scale 1:25000

UMT References

A 19 339810 4703010
Zone Easting Northing

B
Zone Easting Northing

C

D

E

F

G

H

Verbal boundary description and justification

Land and building on the east side of the Liberty Street between Washington and Willow Streets, shown on Lynn Assessor's Map, Sheet 21, Block 643, Lot #1.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Candace Jenkins, Registration Director w/ Brian Pfeiffer, City of Lynn

organization Massachusetts Historical Commission

date April 1981

street & number 294 Washington Street

telephone (617) 727-8470

city or town Boston

state Massachusetts 02108

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Peterson L. Weslowski

title Executive Director, Massachusetts Historical Commission

date 7/28/81

For HCRS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

for William H. Bravaman
Keeper of the National Register

date 9/14/81

Attest: Patrick Adams
Chief of Registration

date 9/14/81



SEP 14 1981

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Name of Property

Old Post Office Building

State, County

MA

Federal Agency

Essex County

The above nomination is being returned to you because of problems in the areas checked below and/or on the back of this form. Please return this form when the nomination is resubmitted.

Technical Review☐ Name☐ Location☐ Classification☐ Category☐ Ownership☐ Status☐ Present Use☐ Owner of Property☐ Location of Legal Description☐ Representation in Existing Surveys☐ Description☐ Condition☐ Original Site/Moved (w/date)☐ Significance☐ Period☐ Areas of Significance☐ Specific Dates☐ Major Bibliographical References☐ Geographical Data☐ Acreage☐ Quad Name☐ Quad Scale☐ UTM☐ Verbal Boundary Description and/or Site Plan or Tax Map☐ Form Prepared By☒ Certification☒ Level of Significance☐ SHPO Signature☒ Federal Signature☐ Photographs☐ Missing☐ Not Adequate in Quality☐ Maps☐ USGS Map☐ Site Plan/Sketch Map☐ Historic District Map☒ Comments:

All state nominations should be submitted on white national Register Inventory forms. Please provide evidence that the U.S. Marine Corps representative has had an opportunity to comment on this nomination.

☐ Substantive Review Problems (see reverse)

Signed

*Melanie Byers**6/11/81*

AUG 11 1981

☐ Description
☐ Incomplete/Inaccurate: _____
☐ Alterations: _____
☐ Dates: _____
☐ Boundary Selection/Justification: _____
☐ Other: _____

☐ Significance
☐ Too Weak or General: _____
☐ Poorly Related to Resource: _____
☐ Confusing/Incomplete: _____
☐ Context: _____
☐ Integrity: _____
☐ Period of Significance Unclear: _____
☐ Exception(s) to Criteria not Justified: _____
☐ Other: _____

☐ Bibliography: _____

☐ Geographical Data
☐ Acreage: _____
☐ VBD: _____

☐ Certification: _____

☐ Photographs:
☐ Inadequate Coverage: _____
☐ Poorly Labeled/Not Keyed to Map
☐ Other: _____

☐ Maps		
☐ USGS	☐ Sketch	
☐	☐	Missing
☐	☐	Location of Resource(s)
☐	☐	Boundary Lines
☐	☐	Discrepancies
☐	☐	Other

☐ Comments

Name Old Post Office Building
State, County MA Essex
Working Number 5.11.81.153

Fed Nom or Request-Agency _____
Federal Register Date _____

☒ Nomination
☐ Determination of Eligibility
☐ On Nomination Form

☒ Bldg(s)
☐ Site
☐ Object
☐ Structure
☐ District

Within:
☐ Multiple Resource Area
☐ Thematic Group

Maps /
Photos /

Nomination prepared by:
☒ State Staff
☐ Local
☐ Other

Action:
☐ ACCEPT
☒ RETURN 6.11.81
☐ REJECT

Check if Appropriate:
☐ State Request for Review
☐ Keeper's Decision to Review
☐ 2nd Return

I. Evaluation of Resource (cont. on back if necessary)

eligible for listing for AEC - however this must be returned for technical deficiencies (see return sheet). Patrick Anders - Historian - 6/4/81

II. Evaluation of Nomination

	Good Adequate Poor			Comments
1. Descriptive Statement Short Format ☒ Yes ☐ No	☒			
2. Significance Statement Short Format ☒ Yes ☐ No	☒			
3. Concepts/Integrity	☒			
4. Concepts/Criteria	☒			
5. Concepts/Boundaries	☒			
6. Contextual Evaluation	☒			

General Comments (cont. on back if necessary):

Reviewer/Date Patrick Anders 6/4/81

See Attached _____

Name - Old Post Office Building *Substantive Review* *DUE* *9/25/81* *2nd Entry*
State, County MA, Essex dnr-3
Working Number 5.11.81-153 Fed Nom or Request-Agency
Federal Register Date 2.2.82

☒ Nomination ☒ Bldg(s) Within:
☐ Determination of Eligibility ☐ Site ☐ Multiple Resource Area
☐ On Nomination Form ☐ Object ☐ Thematic Group
☐ Structure
☐ District

Maps 1/1
Photos 1

Nomination prepared by:

☒ State Staff
☐ Local
☐ Other

Action:

☒ ACCEPT 9/14/81
☐ RETURN
☐ REJECT

Check if Appropriate:

☐ State Request for Review
☐ Keeper's Decision to Review
☐ 2nd Return

I. Evaluation of Resource (cont. on back if necessary)

significant for criteria A&C - original problem has been cleared up
accept - Patrick Andrus, 9/14/81
HISTORIAN

II. Evaluation of Nomination

	Good	Adequate	Poor	Comments
1. Descriptive Statement Short Format ☒ Yes ☐ No	☒			
2. Significance Statement Short Format ☒ Yes ☐ No	☒			
3. Concepts/Integrity	☒			
4. Concepts/Criteria	☒			
5. Concepts/Boundaries	☒			
6. Contextual Evaluation	☒			

General Comments (cont. on back if necessary):

Reviewer/Date Patrick Andrus

See Attached



MAY 11 1981

Old Post Office
Lynn, Mass.

Essex County

Brian Pfeiffer 1978
91 Westland Ave., Boston

SEP 14 1981

View facing northeast

Lynn
Old Post Office
UTM REFERENCES:
19/339810/4703010

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

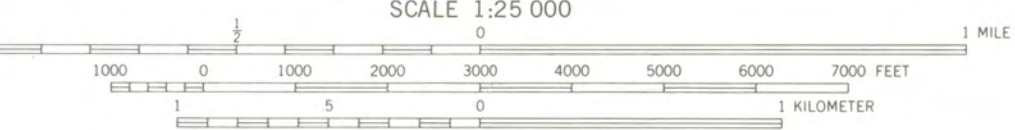
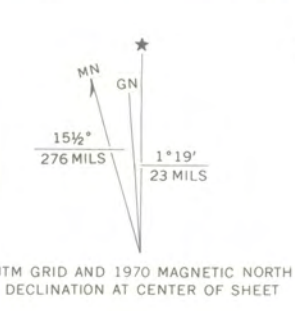
LYNN QUADRANGLE
MASSACHUSETTS
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)



SEP 14 1981



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and Massachusetts Geodetic Survey
Planimetry by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs
taken 1939. Topography by planetable surveys 1943. Revised from
aerial photographs taken 1969. Field checked 1970
Selected hydrographic data compiled from USC&GS Charts 240(1970), 246
and 248 (1971). This information is not intended for navigational purposes
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Massachusetts coordinate system,
mainland zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid,
zone 19
Boundaries in tidal areas from information supplied by
Massachusetts Department of Public Works
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown



SCALE 1:25 000
CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET
DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL
DEPTH CURVES AND SOUNDINGS IN FEET—DATUM IS MEAN LOW WATER
SHORELINE SHOWN REPRESENTS THE APPROXIMATE LINE OF MEAN HIGH WATER
THE MEAN RANGE OF TIDE IS APPROXIMATELY 9.2 FEET



ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Primary highway, hard surface
Secondary highway, hard surface
Unimproved road
Interstate Route
U.S. Route
State Route

LYNN, MASS.
N4222.5—W7052.5/7.5

1970

AMS 6868 IV NW—SERIES V814



COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
Office of the Secretary of State

MASSACHUSETTS
HISTORICAL
COMMISSION

294 Washington Street
Boston, Massachusetts
02108
617-727-8470

MICHAEL JOSEPH CONNOLLY
Secretary of State

February 20, 1981

Mayor Anthony Marino
Lynn City Hall
Lynn, MA.

Dear Mayor Marino:

The Old Post Office is being considered by the Massachusetts Historical Commission for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. The National Register is the nation's official list of important cultural resources. It includes buildings, districts, sites, structures, and objects which retain their historical character and demonstrate some aspect of our local, state or national history. An explanation of the criteria used to evaluate potential nominations is enclosed.

Listing in the National Register places no legal constraints on what an owner may do with their property when using private funds. The intent of the program is to recognize the value of historic resources and to provide some protection from federally funded, assisted, or licensed undertakings through comment by the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation. Additionally, owners of property listed on the National Register become eligible to apply for up to 50% federal matching grants-in-aid for approved preservation or rehabilitation projects.

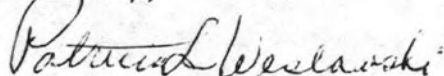
If the property is depreciable under IRS regulations (that is income producing) and is listed in the National Register either individually or as a contributing part of an historic district, there are certain provisions of the Tax Reform Act of 1976 that may apply. Section 2124 of that act encourages preservation of depreciable historic structures by allowing favorable federal tax treatment for approved rehabilitations. In addition, it discourages destruction of historic structures by eliminating tax incentives for their demolition and for new construction on their former site.

If the property contains coal resources and is listed in the National Register certain provisions of the Surface Mining and Control Act of 1977 make it less likely that surface mining of the coal will be permitted by the state or federal government.

If you wish to comment on the significance of the property and its relationship to the National Register criteria, you may do so either by

submitting written comments by March 25, 1981 or by attending the State Review Board meeting on April 8, 1981 and presenting your comments in person. A copy of the form, which explains why the property is thought to be important, is available in the local library and town/city hall. A notification has been sent to the property owner.

Sincerely,



Patricia L. Weslowksi
State Historic Preservation Officer

PLW/mt
encl.

xc: local historical commission
local newspaper (if district nomination)

The meeting will be held at 1:00 P.M. at the Charlestown Navy Yard

submitting written comments by March 25, 1981. We are attending the
 State Review Board meeting on April 8, 1981 and presenting your
 comments in person. A copy of the form, which explains why the property
 is thought to be important, is available in the local library and town
 city hall. A notification has been sent to the property owner.

Sincerely,

Richard L. Westowski

Richard L. Westowski
 State Historic Preservation Officer

RLW/mf
 enc.

cc: local historical commission
 local newspaper (if district nomination)

The meeting will be held at 1:00 P.M. at the Charleston Navy Yard





**MASSACHUSETTS
HISTORICAL
COMMISSION**

**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
Office of the Secretary of State**

294 Washington Street
Boston, Massachusetts
02108
617-727-8470

MICHAEL JOSEPH CONNOLLY
Secretary of State

February 20, 1981

Col J. H. Greenwood
U.S. Marine Corps
Hedd Historical Branch
Headquarter, Marine Corps.
Washington DC 20380
Dear Col. Greenwood:

The Old Post Office in Lynn is being considered by the Massachusetts Historical Commission for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. The National Register is the nation's official list of important cultural resources. It includes buildings, districts, sites, structures, and objects which retain their historical character and demonstrate some aspect of our local, state or national history. An explanation of the criteria used to evaluate potential nominations is enclosed.

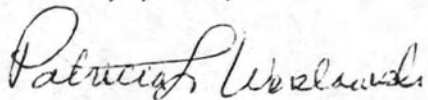
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If you wish to comment on the significance of the property and its relationship to the National Register criteria, you may do so by either submitting written comments by **March 25, 1981** or by attending the State Review Board meeting on **April 8, 1981** and presenting your comments in person. A copy of the statement of significance which explains why your property is thought to be important, is enclosed.

Sincerely yours,



Patricia L. Weslowski
State Historic Preservation Officer

PLW/mt

Encls.

The meeting will be held at 1:00 P.M. at the Charlestown Navy Yard





**MASSACHUSETTS
HISTORICAL
COMMISSION**

**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
Office of the Secretary of State**

294 Washington Street
Boston, Massachusetts
02108
617-727-8470

MICHAEL JOSEPH CONNOLLY
Secretary of State

July 27, 1981

Jerry Rogers
400 G. Street, NW
Washington, DC 20243

Dear Mr. Rogers:

Enclosed is the revised National Register nomination form for the Old Post Office Building in Lynn. This was originally submitted to your office on May 4, 1981. It has been retyped on a white state nomination form and a copy of our notification letter to the US Marine Corps has been included. If any additional information is required, please let me know.

Sincerely,

Candace Jenkins

Candace Jenkins
Registration Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission

CJ/lk



ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE **MASSACHUSETTS**

Date Entered **SEP 14 1981**

Name

Location

Old Post Office Building

**Lynn
Essex County**

Also Notified

**Honorable Edward M. Kennedy
Honorable Paul E. Tsongas
Honorable Nicholas Mavroules**

North Atlantic Region, NPS

**State Historic Preservation Officer
Mrs. Patricia L. Waslovski
Executive Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission
294 Washington Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02108**

NR

Eady/ce/9-25-81

For further information, please call the National Register at (202) 343-6401.

272-3504