

PH 08 0381

Form 10-300
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Rhode Island	
COUNTY: Washington	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 71.8.44.0017	DATE 8/12/71

1. NAME

COMMON:
United States Post Office

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
High and Broad Streets

CITY OR TOWN:
Westerly

STATE: Rhode Island, 02891 CODE: 44 COUNTY: Washington CODE: 009

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes: Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
United States Government: General Services Administration

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Washington STATE: District of Columbia CODE: 11

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Westerly Town Hall

STREET AND NUMBER:
49 Broad Street

CITY OR TOWN: Westerly STATE: Rhode Island CODE: 44

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

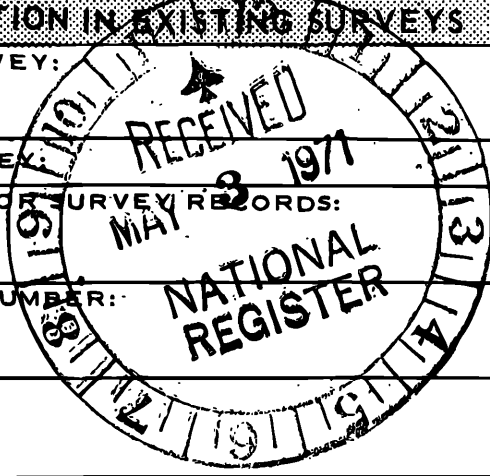
TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: COUNTY: ENTRY NUMBER: DATE: FOR NPS USE ONLY

71.8.44.0017 8/12/71

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)

 Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated Ruins Unexposed

(Check One)

 Altered Unaltered

(Check One)

 Moved Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

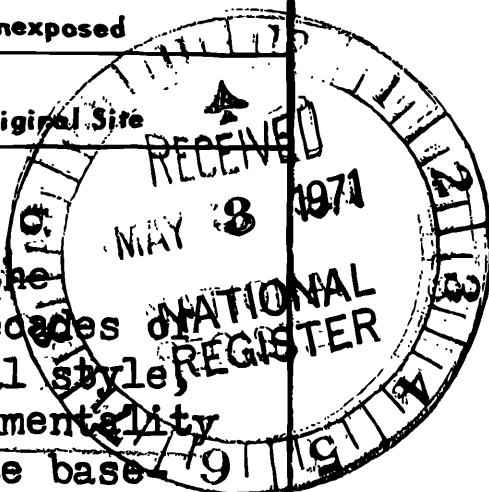
Erected in 1913-1914 from designs by James Knox Taylor, the Westerly Post Office reflects the trend throughout the first decades of the XX Century for public buildings of neo-classic architectural style, with suavity and dignity in form and--as much as possible--monumentality in appearance. Steel-framed, the building is set upon a granite base--itself upon a plateau above street level--and is faced on its principal elevations with (now coal-grey) veined Vermont marble. It is of truncated wedge-shape, the wider end of the wedge being a segmental curve in sympathy with the street curve which it faces. The building is covered by a flat-topped hip roof of dull green glazed tile of the Greek pan-and-cover pattern.

At the sidewalk, a set of wide granite steps projects convexly, echoing the façade approached, and, flanked by acanthus-leaved columnar bronze lamp standards, leads to the (west) entrance front of the post office. This curved front, of one tall and imposing storey in height, contains a shallow portico with eight fluted Doric columns set in antis between two wide terminating piers or pavilions. Within the portico are the central main entrance with bronze doors and eight very tall windows set in cast iron, mullioned frames. Above the portico runs a full entablature, with frieze and guttae, supporting a cornice made of coloured, matte-glazed terra-cotta ornamented with spaced lions' heads. On its side elevations the building has six tall pilasters between wide piers, enclosing five window spaces. The rear of the building is without architectural character, having only a loading platform and necessary openings.

Within, the front portion of the building is occupied by a long, high public lobby--its inner wall also a segmental curve--taking up all the space behind the colonnade and tall windows. The end areas behind the antae are filled at one end by offices and at the other by the registered-mail department. The outer curved wall has an oval glazed vestibule projecting inwards from the central entrance, and beneath two of the tall windows remain original writing-desks upheld by scrolled brackets. The inner wall, marked off into bays by a series of slightly projecting piers, has in its central portions the customer-service windows and at the ends banks of mailing slots and delivery boxes; above the sales windows etc. are tall, narrow-mullioned openings which help light the area filling up the rear of the building--a large mail-sorting room.

Adornment of the interior is confined to the lobby area. Here, the high ceiling is coffered and painted ivory, its mouldings picked-out in gold. A plaster frieze runs around the walls below it and has triglyphs with metopes containing flat discs. Below this the walls are of smooth plaster until they reach a marble wainscot. The lobby floor is

(See Continuation Sheet)



S E E I N S T R U C T I O N S

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

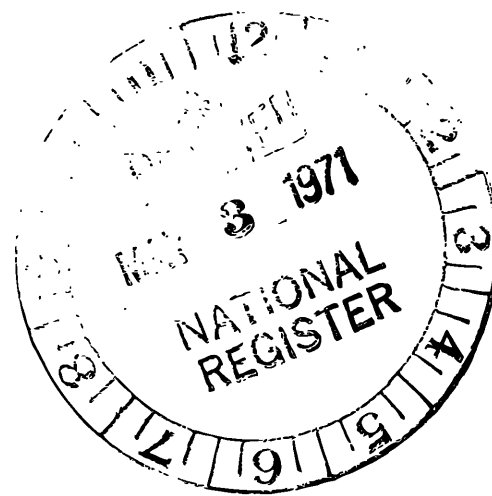
(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Rhode Island	
COUNTY Washington	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
01.8.44.0017	8/12/71

(Number all entries)

7. Description.

a combination of terrazzo and marble. The vestibule, sales-windows, grilles, mullions and writing desks are of cast iron elaborately ornamented with classical motifs and painted a verdigris colour. The office areas are very plainly treated with mahoganised birch woodwork.



SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1913-1914

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This building is a most handsome structure, thoughtfully planned for its site and thereby dominating the curving intersection it overlooks. It is--to repeat--handsome, but in an expertly understated manner--partly due, perhaps, to governmental economies and partly due to the leaning away, by 1913, from the more florid types of Beaux-Arts design and towards simpler classical adaptations (as in the Lincoln Memorial). The medium-sized town of Westerly was very fortunate to receive such an example of good taste in the pre-World-War-I years and is fortunate still to have this building in unspoilt condition and setting to-day. In architectural quality it is vastly superior to the many pasteboard-colonial-style public buildings constructed during the 1920's-1940's: it has both complexion and muscle.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

U. S. Works Progress Administration. Federal Writers' Project: Rhode Island. A Guide ... (Boston, 1937), p. 305.

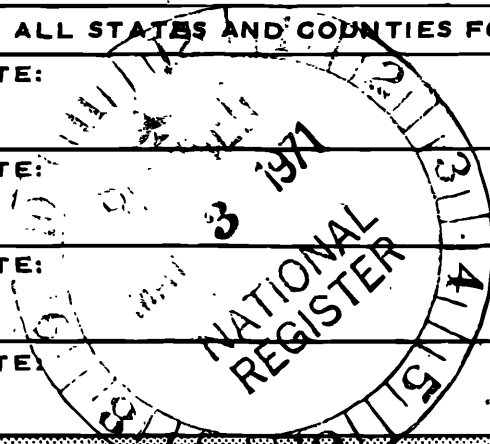
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		41° 22' 36" N	71° 49' 50" W	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: Not more than one acre

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Richard B. Harrington, Consultant

ORGANIZATION: **Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission** DATE: **March 2, 1971**

STREET AND NUMBER:
State House, 90 Smith Street

CITY OR TOWN: **Providence** STATE: **Rhode Island** CODE: **44**

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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 National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name: *Frederick Williams*

Title: State Liaison Officer

Date: April 28, 1971

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

Ernest A. Connelly
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

AUG 12 1971

Date: _____

ATTEST:

William J. Harty
Keeper of The National Register

JUN 30 1971

Date: _____

19/263290/4584 340
 UTM REF
 12-16-75 Wm
 SEE INSTRUCTIONS

GEOGRAPHICAL COORDINATES.
Latitude: 41° 22' 36" N
Longitude: 71° 49' 50" W



**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM**

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

STATE Rhode Island	
COUNTY Washington	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 71,844.0017	DATE 8/12/71

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON: United States Post Office
AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
High and Broad Streets

CITY OR TOWN:
Westerly

STATE:
Rhode Island

CODE
44

COUNTY:
Washington

CODE
009

3. MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE:
U. S. Geological Survey

SCALE: 1: 24,000 ASHAWAY

DATE: 1953

4. REQUIREMENTS

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

1. Property boundaries where required.
2. North arrow.
3. Latitude and longitude reference.

