

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**  
FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED FEB 28 1986

DATE ENTERED JUL 17 1986

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

United States Post Office

AND/OR COMMON

Dover Main Post Office

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

133-137 Washington Street

N/A NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Dover

N/A VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

First Congressional District

STATE

New Hampshire 03820

CODE

0090

COUNTY

Strafford

CODE

017

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

**CATEGORY**

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

**OWNERSHIP**

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- N/A IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

**STATUS**

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

**PRESENT USE**

- AGRICULTURE
- COMMERICAL
- EDUCATIONAL
- ENTERTAINMENT
- GOVERNMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MILITARY
- MUSEUM
- PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- RELIGIOUS
- SCIENTIFIC
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER:

**4 AGENCY**

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (If applicable)

New England Field Real Estate and Buildings Office

STREET & NUMBER

1050 Waltham Street

CITY, TOWN

Lexington

N/A VICINITY OF

STATE

Massachusetts 02173

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Strafford County Registry of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER

Justice and Administration Building - Country Farm Road

CITY, TOWN

Dover

STATE

New Hampshire 03820

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

None

DATE

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

## 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Main Post Office at Dover, New Hampshire, occupies a one acre site at the intersection of Washington and Chestnut Streets in Central (Lower) Square. Its rectangular floor plan of 13,300 square feet consists of the original 1911 one-story construction. Significant additions include an expanded loading platform and workroom in 1963 and a relocated lobby and postmaster's suite.

The monotone building construction utilized beige brickwork and varied its coursing to delineate quoins, banding, and accent panels. Limestone was used to form the window openings, architrave cornice, festoons, and sill panels. The later additions utilize a similar brick tone and running bond coursing and does not detract from the original building. The Southwest facade of 1911 was completely removed to accommodate the 1963 and 1979 additions. These additions are capped with a flat, stone ballast, asphalt roof. The original building still retains a hipped, standing seamed tin roof.

The original facade on the northeast side of the building is comprised of five bays; the center bay forming the main entrance. Renovations included the removal of the grand exterior staircase, lampposts, doors, and woodwork that served this entry. The masonry opening was left intact and an arched 28/20 window unit was installed which is compatible with its flanking 12/12 double hung with two 3/3 sidelite counterparts. Consequently, the original entry can still be discerned. 12/12 units without side lights but with an eight (8) paned glass transom embrace the central arched windows and are repeated on the remaining sides. On the northwestern facade (Chestnut Street) the side stone and concrete entrance steps with iron railings have been removed. The door opening, once served by these steps, has also been converted in a careful manner to match the existing double hung 12/12 windows. The original cantilevered loading platform on the southeast facade has been removed as its original capacity was designed to accommodate two horse-drawn wagons. The expanded loading platform of the 1963 construction better serves the incoming flow of tractor trailers, step vans, and post office jeeps.

The building relates much of its showey Beaux-Arts expression through the use of richly carved architrave, cornice, and window openings. The 1911 entrance was graced with an intricately carved festoon and keystone which is still in place today. The original parapet, however, featured a stone balustrade which was removed and replaced with concrete infill panels.

As discussed the floor plan was changed somewhat by the renovations. As a result the original lobby details, including marble wainscoting, wood trim and plaster mouldings have been removed.

For these renovations, some attempt was made through the use of similar construction materials and methods (i.e. tan brick, coursing, window and sill heights) to relate

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

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

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date entered

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to the existing structure. However, they are functional in design and appearance with little expression. The glass and metal panel lobby and metal lockboxes are typical of modern post offices today.

Due to this recent construction, however, the appearance of the building and grounds is excellent. Lush plantings of yews, junipers, and flowering shrubs encompass the building perimeter and obscure the renovation work along the foundation and former door openings.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES	1908: Designed	BUILDER/ARCHITECT	James Knox Taylor, Architect
	1911: \$65,166.00 Construction		U.S. Treasury Department

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE	Snow Construction Company
1963: Loading Dock-Workroom Addition	Alfred T. Granger, Architect
Lobby Addition and Interior Renovation	Hanover, New Hampshire
	Alonzo B. Reed, Arch. Boston, MA

Regardless of any major impact the additions and renovations had on the original building, the Dover Post Office is a significant example of the French Beaux-Arts design work of John Knox Taylor, Supervising Architect for the Treasury Department. An advocate for the return to the classic style of architecture for government buildings, he felt that such designs expressed democratic ideals and symbolized power, organization, and institutionalization. Its price tag was \$65,166.00 in 1909, and was individually designed for Dover, New Hampshire. It was Taylor's belief that Federal Buildings must be built to last and so must be of high quality materials and construction. The Dover Post Office, one of his later works (as he resigned in 1912), typifies these ideals.

Three sides of the original structure have remained intact, experiencing minor renovations. Although the original entrance has been removed, enough of the building's significant integrity and expression is recognizable. It is also possible to rebuild such exterior elements that have been removed without a major disruption to the existing floor plan. A restoration of the original interior, however desirable, would be a sizeable undertaking.

Within the context of its community, the Dover Post Office still sits one block from the heart of the historical central business district. The Post Office itself is surrounded by a mixture of commercial establishments, apartment complexes, and civic uses, much of which have been included in recent urban development and community development revitalization programs.

Dover Post Office is, indeed, a monumental building with a "Moderne" addition which does not compromise its integrity. Its place on the National Register of Historic Places will help to ensure that the remaining structure will survive, intact, and may encourage its review for future restorative work. Certainly, the existing imagery, materials, and details are of sufficient character to merit its nomination.

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

History of Post Office Construction 1900-1940, July, 1982

Craig, Lois, ed., The Federal Presence: Architecture, Politics, and Symbols in the United States Government Building, Cambridge, Massachusetts: The MIT Press, 1979

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1.256

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,8	3,4,7,4,4,0	4,7,8,3,9,6,0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The rectangular site maintains approximately 205 feet frontage on Washington and Green Streets and approximately 267 feet frontage along Green and Fayette Streets.

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

Robert W. St. John, Architect

ORGANIZATION

SULLIVAN DESIGN GROUP, INC.

DATE

August 29, 1985

STREET & NUMBER

44 Adams Street

TELEPHONE

(617) 848-1545

CITY OR TOWN

Braintree

STATE

Massachusetts 02184

## 12 CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

YES

NO

NONE

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

In compliance with Executive Order 11593, I hereby nominate this property to the National Register, certifying that the State Historic Preservation Officer has been allowed 90 days in which to present the nomination to the State Review Board and to evaluate its significance. The evaluated level of significance is National  State  Local.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

TITLE Director, Office of Real Estate

DATE 02/24/86

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Patrick Andrews

DATE 7/17/86

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

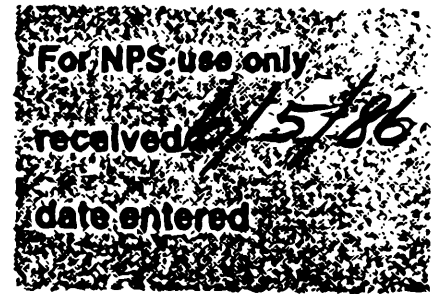
ATTEST: Bethel Swasey

DATE 7/15/86

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form



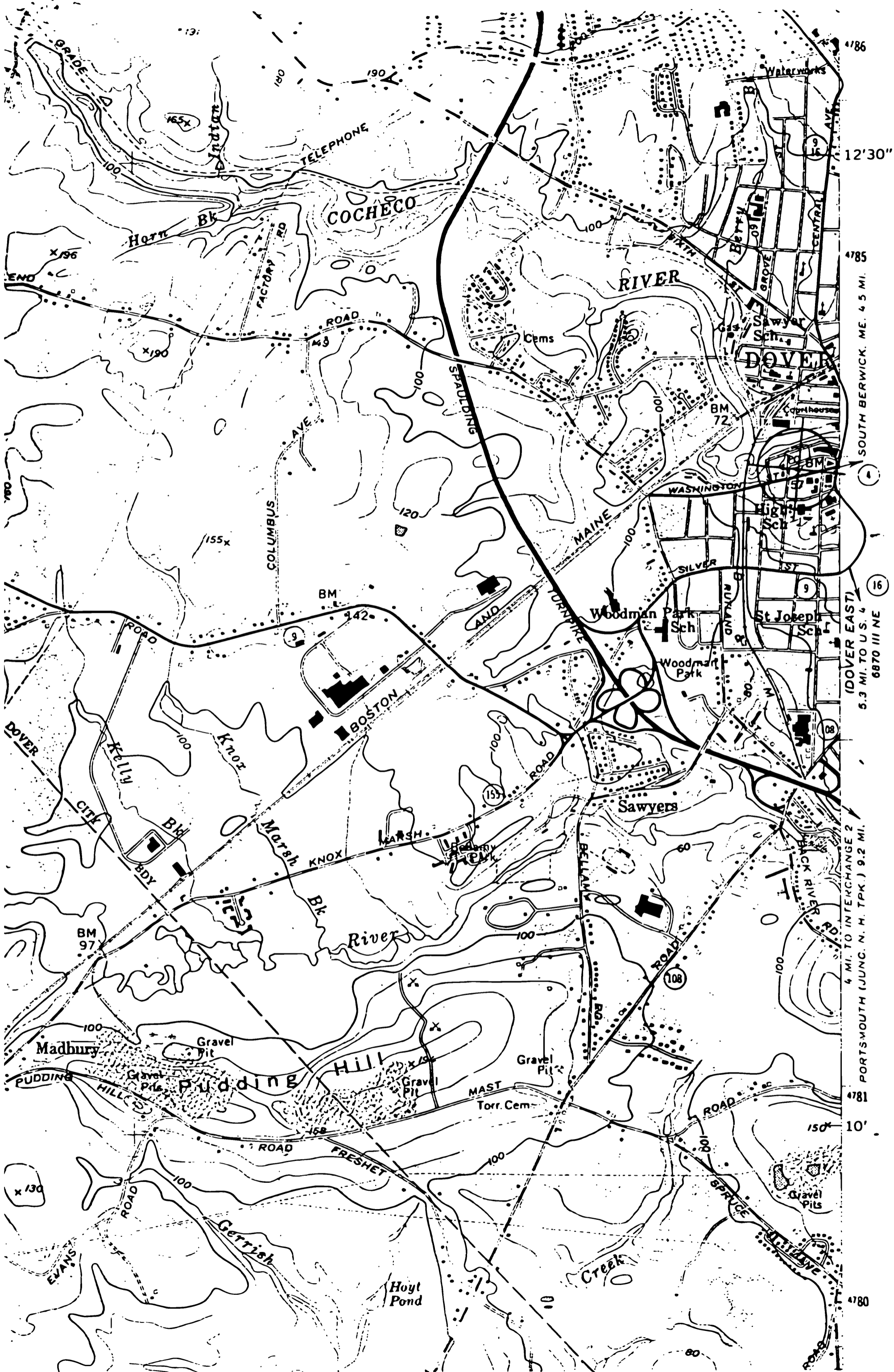
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It is unfortunate that the additions of 1963 have obliterated the original interior plan and details. The roles of Alonzo B. Reed and Alfred T. Granger as contributing Architects is not historically significant as their work encompassed the addition of mail boxes, acoustical ceilings, fluorescent lighting, aluminum entrance doors and similar "up grades" as the design criteria of the 1960's called for. Consequently, it is only exterior and structural shell of the original 1911 building that can be considered for historic nominations as it is the only beaux-arts style building in the surrounding neighborhood.



2/24/86

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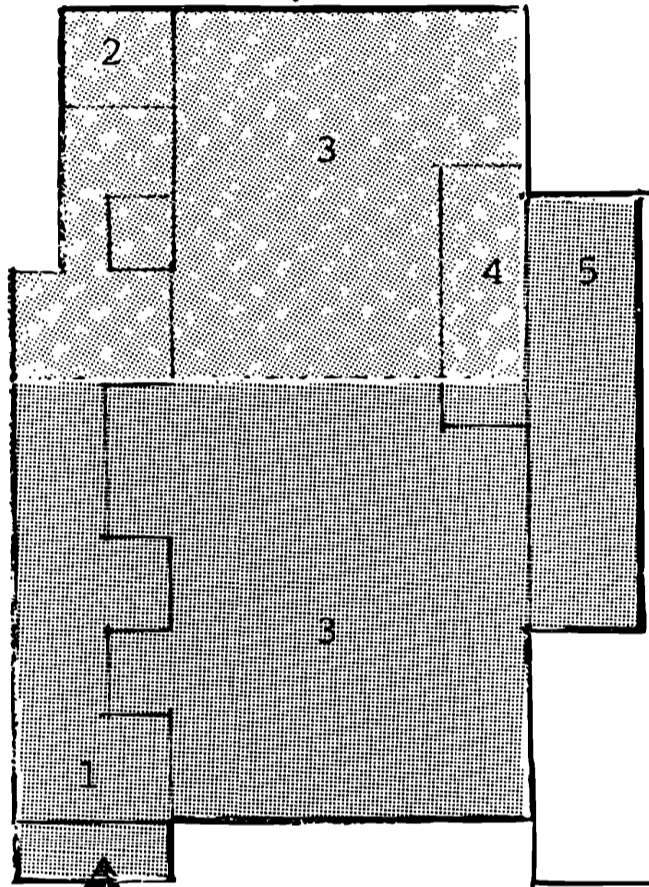
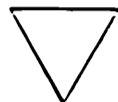
3 STORY BRICK  
STORE

2 STORY BRICK  
FEDERAL BUILDING

PARKING

W A S H I N G T O N   S T R E E T

Original Entry (Closed), 1911



LOADING AREA

- 1 - PUBLIC LOBBY
- 2 - POSTMASTER
- 3 - WORKROOM AREA
- 4 - MAIL VESTIBULE
- 5 - MAIL PLATFORM

- ORIGINAL BLDG.
- ADDITION

2 STORY  
WOOD  
FRAME  
GOTHIC  
REVIVAL  
CHURCH

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2 STORY  
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OFFICES

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Present Entry, 1963



PARKING AREA

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G R E E N   S T R E E T

6 STORY BRICK  
APARTMENTS

6 STORY BRICK/CONCRETE  
APARTMENT BUILDING

