

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 APR 30 1986

DATE ENTERED 6-4-86

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

Beverly Main Post Office

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

161 Rantoul Street

N/A NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Beverly

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

N/A VICINITY OF

Sixth Congressional District

STATE

Massachusetts 01915

CODE

0100

COUNTY

Essex

CODE

009

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

4 AGENCY

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (If applicable)

New England Real Estate and Buildings Office

STREET & NUMBER

1050 Waltham Street

CITY, TOWN

Lexington

STATE

N/A VICINITY OF

Massachusetts 02173

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Registry of Deeds, Salem Probate Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

36 Federal Street

CITY, TOWN

Salem

STATE

Massachusetts 01970

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

None

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

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

LOCAL CONTEXT

The Beverly Post Office is located several blocks southwest of the city's commercial district on Rantoul Street, between Broadway Street and Railroad Avenue. Its site gently slopes down from the front elevation towards Odell Park, a landscaped city block across the street. On the park's opposite side, facing the post office, is the railroad station. Adjacent to the building are small retail and variety shops, two car dealerships, and an apartment block. It appears that urban development projected in 1910 did not materialize, leaving the office within this low-grade commercial area.

PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This Ohio sandstone building and its corner lot are in very good condition. The Post Office is centered on the front portion of the site with sided vehicle maneuvering areas accessible to the side streets. The site is landscaped with lawn and shrubs; the back half is surrounded by a chain-link fence. In plan, the building has a public lobby flanked by the Assistant Postmaster's office to the right and a secondary entry to the left, leading to the Postmaster's office. Behind is the workroom with the mail vestibule and platform off to the left.

Thirteen wide granite steps, with granite wing walls featuring iron lampposts, mark the main entry. The front (northwest) elevation is a nine-bay structure with a seven-bay centered lobby pavilion. Six Tuscan columns support the loggia's unornamented entablature with denticulated cornice, which surround the entire original structure. The portico's soffit consists of a series of sandstone beams with recessed infill plaster panels; each panel contains a spherical fixture while the center panel supports an oversized cylindrical brass and glass lantern. The recessed lobby wall employs careful alignment of large casement windows separated by sandstone pilasters. The replacement aluminum doors are set below a bowed wood lintel. Flanking the loggia are single bays containing a blind panel with smaller festooned panel above. Recessed end wings contain one wood framed, double-hung, 9/9 light window with flat projecting lintels, stone sills and decorative consoles. A solid sandstone parapet caps the main portico with rectangular panels repeating the window and column rhythm below. The front elevation is topped with three wood-trimmed, fixed sash dormers projecting from the now shingled gable roof. The ridge tower has an open octagonal wood balustrade with urns and an open wood columned belfry with parquetry ceiling, topped by a gold-leaf, copper cupola.

The northeast and southwest side elevations are similar in appearance to the front facade. A flat roof covers the flanking end: bays below the gabled end and its arched attic window. A secondary entry is on the northeast side; it has a granite stairway, flanking torch lights, bowed lintel, and small window above. The rear elevation, once denoted

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

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

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet BEVERLY MAIN POST OFFICE

Item number 7

Page 2

by five recessed bay panels with raised pilaster portico delivery entry, was replaced in 1935 with a buff-colored brick extension with quoins, a sandstone entablature, and large double-hung windows. The mail platform is on the northeast side and truck docks are to the southwest.

One enters from Rantoul Street through an oak revolving door shell into the two-story high public lobby. It has a vaulted plaster ceiling with coffers and cornicing, a terrazzo floor with a thin band of Genesee light green marble and wide one of Victoria pink Tennessee marble, a green brocadillo marble wainscot and base, plaster walls, marble stools, and flat plaster pilasters with marble pedestals framing each bay. The service screen contains three service counters, mail slots, and three bays of boxes. Above each is a large pivoting oak frame and glass panel window. The left side has an oak and glass partition separating the lobby from the Postmaster's vestibule (and side entry). This space has a plaster domed ceiling, oak wood revolving door shell, and highly carved arched door trimming.

ALTERATIONS

In addition to the 1935 extension, the service screen functions have been switched and two skylights in the workroom and a high vaulted area on the work side of the service screen have been covered over. Revolving doors were installed sometime between original construction and alteration dates.

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 Construction Began: Oct. 1910 James Knox Taylor - Architect
 Dedication: July 12, 1912 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Henry Merritt Wallis - Builder

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Overlooking Odell Park and the railroad station, the Beverly Main Post Office building is an important landmark in Beverly. Built in 1910-1911, it is architecturally significant as a Federal Government building representative of the early 20th Century construction and design tenents of the U.S. Treasury Department. In addition, it is significant as one of the later works of James Knox Taylor's tenure as U.S. Supervising Architect (1897-1912). Individualism of design, high quality materials and symbolic content were the hallmarks of Post Offices built during the Taylor years.

James Knox Taylor (1857-?) was born in Knoxville, Illinois. He attended M.I.T. from 1877-1879. During the 1880's and 1890's he was employed in private practice in New York, St. Paul and Philadelphia. In 1895 he began work as a draftsman in the office of the U.S. Supervising Architect in Washington, D.C. He was appointed Supervisory Architect in 1897. During his tenure the number of buildings under Treasury Department control increased from 399 in 1899 to 1,126 in 1912. Most of the Post Offices outside major cities after 1904 were designed within the Treasury Department. Examples of Taylor's works included U.S. Government buildings at the Trans Mississippi Exhibition (1897) and Louisiana Purchase Exposition (1904-05). Taylor's Boston area post offices included buildings at Brockton, Ma (1898), Fitchburg, MA (1901), Lawrence, MA (1905), and Chelsea, MA (1912). After 1912, Taylor became the Director of the Department of Architecture at M.I.T.

Stylistically, the Beverly Main Post Office is an unusual, highly successful marriage of Classical tradition with the Colonial Revival (Georgian) style. Its main facade is dominated by a monumental Turcan columned loggia. The cupola topped gable roof with its three Colonial Revival dormers strikes a domestic note which contrasts with the formation of the main facade. It was stated in the Beverly Evening Times (7/13/1912) that the "Beverly Post Office was designed especially for Beverly and is the first of this type - a one story building with pitch roof to be built by the U.S. Government. The norm for this type of building was generally one story with a flat roof."

Constructed of Ohio Sanditone with a Chelmsford granite base, this buildings' material illustrates Taylor's advocacy of employing only high quality materials in Post Office construction. After 1915, when government building design became less individual and more economical and standardized, greater efforts were made to utilize local building materials rather than expensive imported stone. The lobby for this building was furnished with marble wainscotting, plaster cornices and a marble floor bordered with pink and green marble.

The Beverly Main Post Office represents the "return to classicism" advocated by James Knox Taylor. The ascendancy of classicism in architecture was a national trend

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

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

"Beverly Evening Times", July 13, 1912 - May 20, 1911 - pages 1, 3, 6; May 22, 1911 - pgs. 1 & 5
 Beverly Main Post Office - Who's was Who in America - James Knox Taylor

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 0.526

UTM REFERENCES

A	[1,9]	[3,4,5]	[2,8,10]	[4,7,12]	[0,3,5]	B	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING	ZONE	EASTING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		
C	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	D	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

North to Southwest, 185' along Rantoul Street
 Northwest to Southeast, 110' along Railroad Avenue
 Southwest to North, 40' from Railroad Avenue along rear lot line
 Northwest to East, 36.4' along Railroad Avenue
 Southwest to Northeast, 148.76 along rear lot line
 East to Northwest, 141' along Broadway Street

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

Steven M. Smith, Project Manager

ORGANIZATION

SULLIVAN DESIGN GROUP, INC.

DATE

September 24, 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

Valerie Talmage

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

John S. Lawson

TITLE

DATE

4/15/86

FOR NPS USE ONLY

HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Patrick Andrews

DATE

6/4/86

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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

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



Continuation sheet Beverly Main Post Office

Item number 8

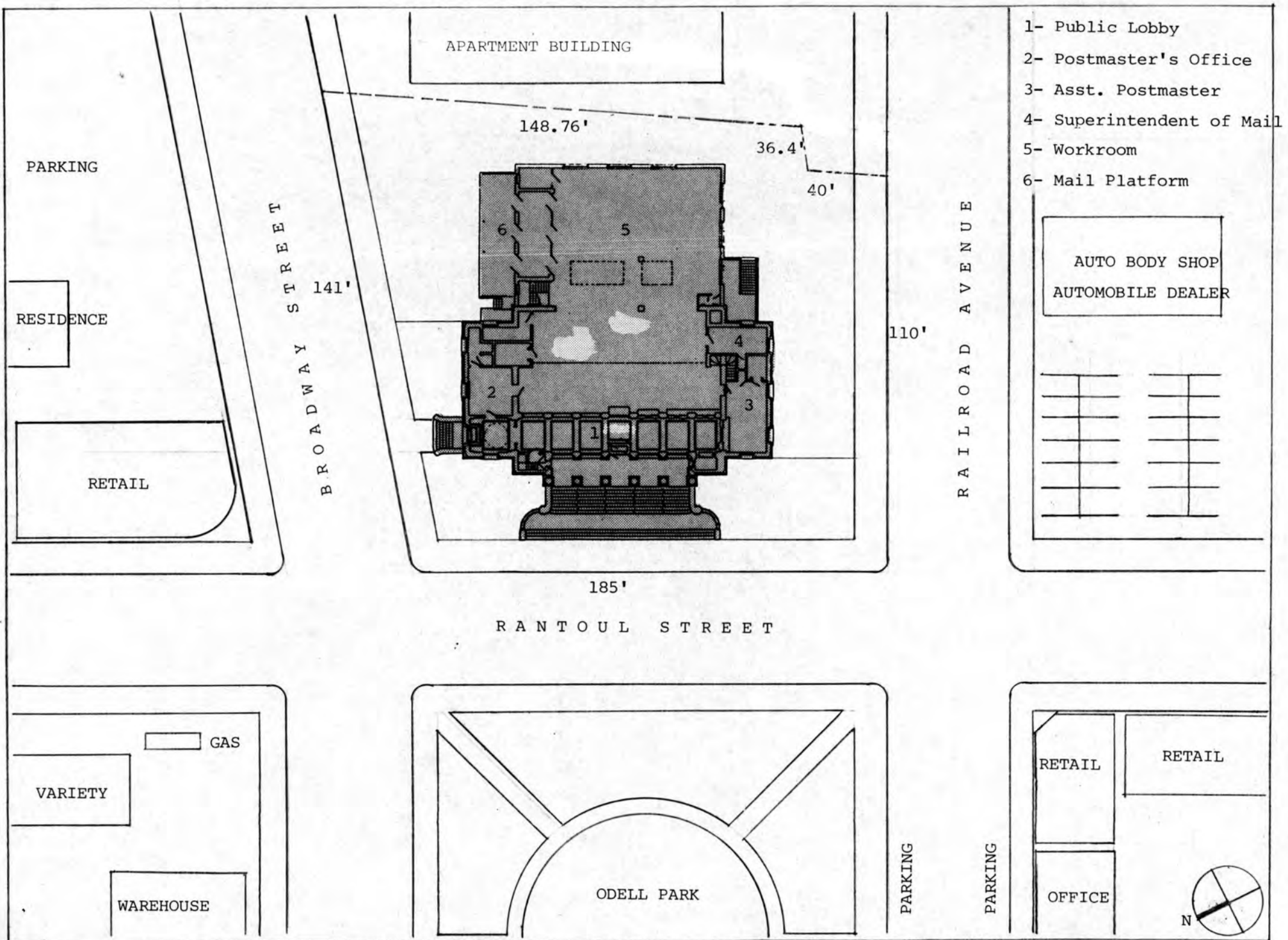
Page 2

with roots in the Chicago World's Fair of 1893. Both Classical and Colonial Revival design was utilized in Federal government buildings to "express classical and democratic ideals and to symbolize power, organization and constitutionalization."

The contract for the Beverly Main Post office was awarded in September, 1910. The Foster building, a three story wooden structure, was removed from the site. The cornerstone was laid May 20, 1911; it reads "Franklin MacVeagh, Secretary of the Treasury; James Knox Taylor, Supervising Architect, MCMX." It was officially dedicated on July 12, 1912. Congressman Augustus P. Gardner is credited with introducing the bill to provide further purchase of the site and erection of the building on January 12, 1903. The appropriation for the Beverly Post Office was \$20,000.00 for the land and \$75,000.00 for the building.

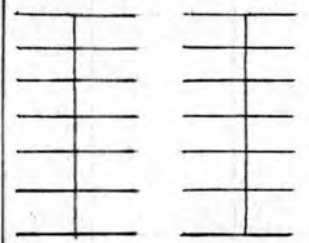
The Beverly Main Post Office building was constructed during prosperous times in Beverly. Congressman Gardner noted that "when [this Post Office] is completed, it will be sufficiently large to care for the increase in business of Beverly with a population of 75,000 people." Its construction apparently provided jobs for workers associated with Beverly's seasonal shipbuilding trades. In 1911, 173 building permits were issued in Beverly with a total construction value of \$950,000.00. In addition, newspaper articles deemed the financial outlook as "good" for shoe manufactures, an important local industry.

In 1935, a buff colored brick extension was added to this building under the auspices of the Public Works Administration (P.W.A.).



- 1- Public Lobby
- 2- Postmaster's Office
- 3- Asst. Postmaster
- 4- Superintendent of Mail
- 5- Workroom
- 6- Mail Platform

AUTO BODY SHOP
 AUTOMOBILE DEALER



UNITED STATES POST OFFICE - BEVERLY, MASSACHUSETTS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

U.S. Post Office-Beverly Main
Essex County
MASSACHUSETTS

Substantive Review

Working No. APR 30 1986
Fed. Reg. Date: 2/3/87
Date Due: 5/30/86 - 6/04/86
Action: ACCEPT 6-4-86
 RETURN
 REJECT
Federal Agency: U.S. P.S.

- resubmission
- nomination by person or local government
- owner objection
- appeal

Substantive Review: sample request appeal NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

*Interesting locally significant example
of Academic Eclecticism executed in
combination of Classical + Colonial
Revival modes.*

Recom./Criteria accept C
Reviewer Savage
Discipline Arch. History
Date 6-4-86
_____ see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for: _____ technical corrections cited below
_____ substantive reasons discussed below

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

Category Ownership Status Present Use
Public Acquisition Accessible

4. Owner of Property

5. Location of Legal Description

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Has this property been determined eligible? yes no

7. Description

Condition Check one Check one
 excellent deteriorated unaltered original site
 good ruins altered moved date _____
 fair unexposed

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- alterations/integrity
- dates
- boundary selection



Beverly Post Office

BEVERLY MAIN POST OFFICE
Beverly, MA
David R. Hooker
Earl R. Flansburgh and Assoc.
August 1982
Front elevation



Beverly Post Office

BEVERLY MAIN POST OFFICE
Beverly, MA
David R. Hooker
Earl R. Flansburgh and Assoc.
August 1982
Front elevation. Left view



BEVERLY MAIN POST OFFICE

Beverly, MA

David R. Hooker

Earl R. Flansburgh and Assoc.

August 1982

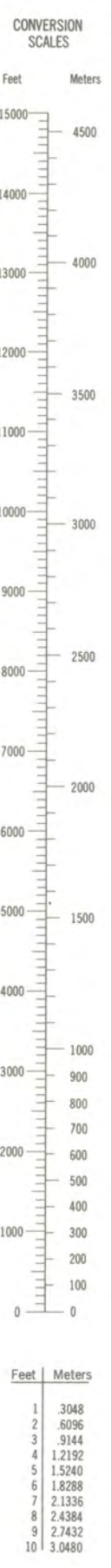
Front elevation. Right view

Beverly Post Office

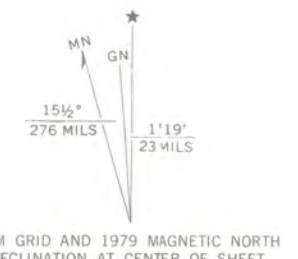


BEVERLY MAIN POST OFFICE
Beverly, MA
David R. Hooker
Earl R. Flansburgh and Assoc.
August 1982
Lobby

Beverly Post Office



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 1938. Topography by planimetric surveys 1942
Revised from aerial photographs taken 1969. Field checked 1970
Selected hydrographic data compiled from USC&GS Charts 240 and
241 (1970). 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 tidewater 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
1 MILE
1 KILOMETER
CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929
DEPTH CURVES AND SOUNDINGS IN FEET—DATUM IS MEAN LOW WATER
THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE TWO DATUMS IS VARIABLE
SHORELINE SHOWN REPRESENTS THE APPROXIMATE LINE OF MEAN HIGH WATER
THE MEAN RANGE OF TIDE IS APPROXIMATELY 9 FEET
THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Primary highway, hard surface
Secondary highway, hard surface
Light-duty road, hard or improved surface
Unimproved road
Interstate Route
U. S. Route
State Route

SALEM, MASS.
N4230—W7052.5/7.5
1970
PHOTOREVISED 1979
AMS 6869 III SW—SERIES V814

U.S. POST OFFICE
BEVERLY, MA
UTM REFERENCE:
19/345280/4712035

Revisions shown in purple compiled in cooperation with State of Massachusetts agencies from aerial photographs taken 1977 and other source data. This information not field checked. Map edited 1979



UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE
Real Estate and Buildings Department
475 L'Enfant Plaza, SW
Washington, DC 20260-6400

April 24, 1986

Ms. Carol D. Shull
Chief of Registration
National Register of Historic Places
National Park Service
Department of Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240-1002

Dear Ms. Shull:

The Postal Service hereby submits a nomination for the post office located at 161 Rantoul Street, Essex County, Beverly, Massachusetts 01915.

If you have any questions concerning this nomination, please call me at 202/268-3107.

Sincerely,

for *Michael E. Kunstadt*
John S. Sorenson
Realty Specialist, Senior
Realty Management Division
Office of Real Estate

Enclosure

APR 30 1986



FIELD REAL ESTATE AND BUILDINGS OFFICE
P.O. Box 324
Lexington, MA 02173-0324

August 19, 1985

The Honorable F. John Monahan
Mayor, City of Beverly
Beverly City Hall
191 Cabot Street
Beverly, MA 01915

Dear Mayor Monahan:

The U.S. Postal Service in conjunction with the Massachusetts State Historic Preservation Officer in Boston has evaluated the Main Post Office in Beverly and has determined it is significant from an historical viewpoint.

In view of the above evaluation, the U.S. Postal Service intends to nominate this building to the National Register of Historic Places. We would, prior to our taking formal action, appreciate receiving your concurrence.

If you concur with our proposed action, kindly return a signed copy of this letter in the enclosed envelope.

Sincerely,

Gregory Gilleland
General Manager

Concur: _____

Enclosures

JPC/ljr