

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 9 1986

DATE ENTERED 5-23-86

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

Quincy Main Post Office

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

47 Washington Street

N/A — NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Quincy

N/A — VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Eleventh Congressional District

STATE

Massachusetts 02169

CODE

1060

COUNTY

Norfolk

CODE

021

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 MUSEUM COMMERCIAL PARK EDUCATIONAL PRIVATE RESIDENCE ENTERTAINMENT RELIGIOUS GOVERNMENT SCIENTIFIC INDUSTRIAL TRANSPORTATION MILITARY 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 DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Norfolk County Registry of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER

649 High Street

CITY, TOWN

Dedham

STATE

Massachusetts 02026

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Quincy Center Historic District

DATE

January 30, 1976

 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Quincy City Hall, Department of Planning and Community Development

CITY, TOWN

Quincy

STATE

Massachusetts

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		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Located within the Quincy Center Historic District, the Quincy Post Office is situated on one of the city's main throughways, Washington Street, at the corner of Maple Street. On the outskirts of the downtown business district, the adjacent buildings include an insurance company, commercial property, two churches (including the historic United First Parish Church), and the well-known H.H. Richardson designed Thomas Crane (Quincy Public) Library.

PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The building and its corner property are in excellent condition. Built of Indiana limestone with a granite base, the Post Office is on the front left part of the site, with a paved vehicle maneuvering area in the rear and to the right. To the sides of the main entry are a bus stop on the left and a landscaping of grass and shrubs to the right. In plan, the building has a large vestibule flanked by the Postmaster's office and workroom space, the public lobby behind with auxiliary services to each side, and the workroom, mail vestibule, and platform beyond the service screen.

Six granite steps with railings, wing walls and ornamental lampposts create the main approach to this two-story structure. The front (north) elevation is a seven-bay composition with a central five-bay pavilion. Paired pilasters boarder the pavilion and mark the original building's corners. The building's mass is reduced with vertical elements from the base to the entablature's soffit for door and window placement. Windows are wood sash, double-hung, the first floor with 8/12 lights, the second floor with 8/8 lights. Between them are recessed, decorated metal spandrels. The three entrances are framed with plain, crisp stone architraves. The later added second floor windows are distinguished by their limestone sills, some plain and others with dentils. An entablature with a denticulated cornice surrounds the original building. A shingled hip roof and low, stepped limestone parapet complete the main elevation.

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National Park Service

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date entered

Continuation sheet Quincy Post Office

Item number 7

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An original 1909 photograph shows that the building had a second floor retrofitted into it in 1933. The center doorway was the only entry while the outer doorways were windows. The window reveals were door height; above which were highly decorated panels. Over the door's lintel was a pediment with swags, medallions, and sculptured florals.

The east and west elevations, are similar in detail to the front elevation, replacing the original one-story windows and blind panels with two windows and a metal spandrel. The addition raises the entablature and cornice (no longer denticulated) height. The vertical slots are shallower, have limestone sills, and are infilled with large metal-framed casement windows. The new section, housing the two story height workroom, is covered by a flat roof. On the east side, a secondary entry once located in the first bay behind the front elevation (like the original front one) is now a window. The rear (south) elevation includes an enclosed mail platform.

Old photographs show the original south elevation had five grand arched window openings flanked by receiving doors.

The vestibule is rectangular, with stairs on each side to the second floor reached through stained wood doors. The floor is pale green and black checkerboard terrazzo with a black border. The walls are light Louisiana marble with thin, darker strips and a black base. Each entrance is opposed by two glass and wood framed inner doors with brass handles. Decorative metal grilles are throughout the space for heating. The ceiling and its molding are of plaster.

The public lobby has a black terrazzo floor with pale green borders, a Louisiana marble wainscot with a black marble base, plaster walls and molding, and a plaster ceiling. The left wall has stained wood doors to the workroom and manager's office. Above the customer box area and service area are large wood framed and smoked glass windows. A decorated entablature and denticulated cornice surrounds the room, depicting small scenes of ships, men and eagles within circular plates that are separated by swags and stars. Within the ceiling are three skylights, now infilled with panels (eight

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of which are new fluorescent fixtures). Eight original hanging brass and smoked glass fixtures are no longer operable.

An original photograph shows that the previous lobby extended the length of the front elevation with rows of Roman doric columns and pilasters supporting a detailed entablature, presenting a Classical loggia for the service area.

ALTERATIONS

The original 1909 building went through major alterations in 1932, adding on a large workroom, a second floor, and replacing the old interior. Two skylights above the service counter area in the workroom have been covered over. In the attic, it appears that exterior windows were once above these skylights. The roof once of copper, now retains only copper gutters.

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, 1907
 Dedication: Feb. 28, 1909

BUILDER/ARCHITECT James Knox Taylor, Architect

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE Dec. 15, 1933: Addition

The Quincy Main Post Office, designated as the James A. Burke Building in 1982, is a monumental structure in the Classical Revival style. Built in 1909, it was renovated and enlarged in 1933. It is architecturally significant as a product of the office of U.S. Treasury Supervising Architect James Knox Taylor. This buildings form, design, elements, plan and siting reflect early 1900's Federal Government design and construction policies.

A larger measure of this edifice's significance is inextricably bound to its siting. Together with H.H. Richardson's Romanesque Thomas F. Crane Library across the street, the Quincy Main post office illustrates important national trends in late 19th and early 20th century American architecture. This buildings restrained symmetrical, linear classical Revival surface treatments, boxy form, and monochromatic Indiana Limestone materials contrast with the library's irregular plan, polychromatic materials and robust curvilinear ornamentation. These two buildings form a "dialogue" reminiscent of Copley Square, Boston's Richardsonian Romanesque Trinity Church and the Renaissance Revival Boston Public Library. Indeed, the Quincy Main Post Office illustrates the return of "classicism" advocated by U.S. Treasury Supervisory Architect James Knox Taylor. During Taylor's tenure (1897-1912), government buildings were designed to express Classical and democratic ideals and to symbolize power, organization and institutionalization."

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. Treasury Supervising Architect. He was appointed Supervising Architect in 1897. During his tenure the number of building under Treasury Department control increased from 399 in 1879 to 1,126 in 1912. Most of the Post Offices outside major cities after 1904 were designed within Taylor's department. Examples of Taylor's work include U.S. government buildings at two world's fairs: The Trans Mississippi Exhibition (1897) and Louisiana Purchase Exposition (1904-5). Taylor's Boston area Post Offices included buildings at Brockton, MA (1898), Fitchburg, MA (1901), Lawrence, MA (1905), Beverly, MA (1911), Chelsea, MA (1912). After 1912, Taylor served as Director of the

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

"The Patriot Ledger", February 26, 1909 MA: Quincy; Dec. 15, 1933; Jan. 21, 1933;
 History of Post Office Construction 1900-1940, July, 1982
 Original photographs - property of Quincy Post Office
 Who was Who in America - James Knox Taylor
 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 .602

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,9	3,3,4,8,2,0	4,6,7,9,3,4,5	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Southeast to Northwest, 124.07' along Washington Street
 Northeast to Southwest, 159.19' along side lot line
 Northwest to Southeast, 41.57' perpendicular to side lot line
 Northeast to Southwest, 67.0' along side lot line
 Northwest to Southeast, 88.58' along rear lot line
 Southwest to Northeast, 208.73' along Maple Street Curved East corner of site is 17.31'

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.

STREET & NUMBER

44 Adams Street

CITY OR TOWN

Braintree

DATE

September 24, 1985

TELEPHONE

(617) 848-1545

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 Realty Specialist, Senior

DATE April 4, 1986

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Patrick Anderson

DATE 5/23/86

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST: *Bob Savage*

DATE 5/22/86

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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

**National Register of Historic Places
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received

date entered

Continuation sheet Quincy Main Post Office

Item number 8

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Department of Architecture at M.I.T.

Taylor advocated the construction of monumental government buildings with high quality building materials and individual rather than standardized design. The use of Indiana limestone for this building's facing materials illustrate Taylor's preference for expensive, imprinted stone. The use of limestone ties in with the advocacy of individualism in design - no effort was made to construct a Post Office in Quincy that would be compatible with the town's granite buildings.

The Quincy Post Office's most innovative feature was a "peephole" area. This included several hundred feet of secret passageways or "cat walks" where slits in the walls were used for looking into room where postal clerks were working. In this way, mail theft in the post office could be detected and employees loafing on the job could not do so in secret.

The Quincy Post Office's lot was purchased for \$12,000. Since 1878 it had been housed in a mansard cottage on Granite Street, near Hancock Street. Excavation started in October 1907. The building opened to the public on February 28, 1909. Present at the dedication ceremonies were two Congressmen who secured funds for this building, William Scarsfield McNary (1863-1930) and Harrison Henry Atwood (1863-1954).

In 1933, the "old structure was completely torn out and only the walls were left standing". The interior renovation, rear extension and new second floor cost \$240,000. The work was accomplished "without regard to cost". The new interior displayed "gold-tinted marble walls and expensive stone quarried in Louisiana". The new second floor contained Federal offices including an I.R.S. office. This building was reopened on December 19, 1933.

The Quincy Main Post Office's renovation and enlargement provided Quincy's unemployed with jobs at the height of the Depression. In 1933 major local industries such as granite quarrying were on reduced work schedules (in 1933, 87 granite firms in Quincy were on 3 day work schedules from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., "in order to spread employment in the industry". In addition, the city council killed a proposal to build a new \$500,000 City Hall that would have provided construction jobs.

In 1982 the Quincy Post Office became the only post office in the Greater Boston area named in honor of an individual. Within the vestibule

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National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
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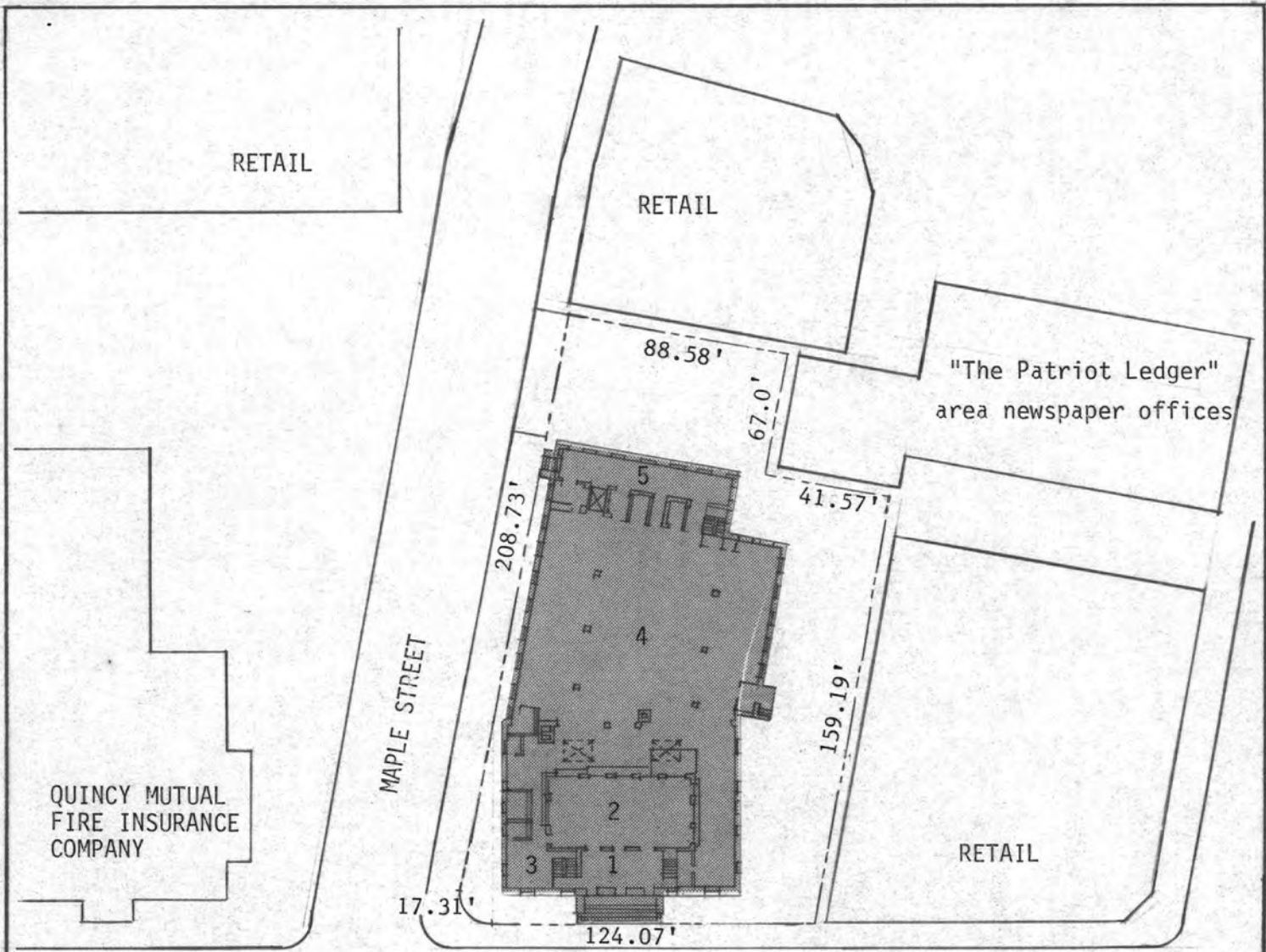
received

date entered

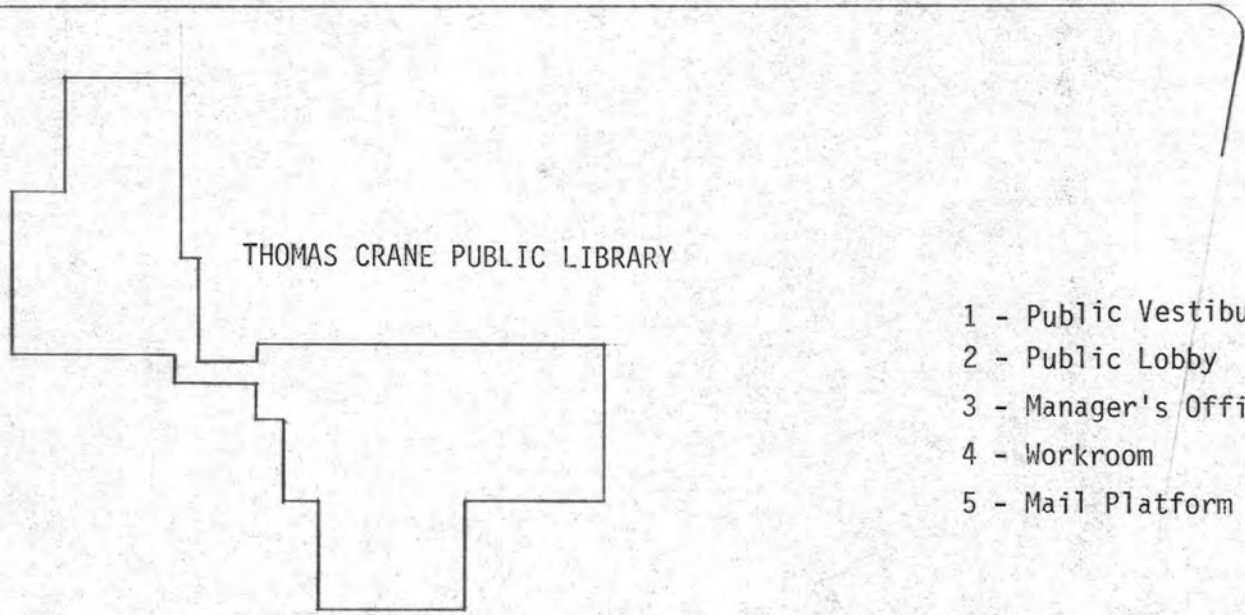
Continuation sheet Quincy Main Post Office Item number 8

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is a plaque that reads "This building is designated The James A. Burke Building in honor of the Congressman from the 11th Congressional district of Massachusetts who served with distinction from 1958 to 1978 by Act of Congress P.L. 97-314, October 14, 1982. Throughout a distinguished career of public service. James A. Burke stood with courage regardless of the issue". He maintained his offices on the second floor of the building and is best known for his work on behalf of the Medicare bill.



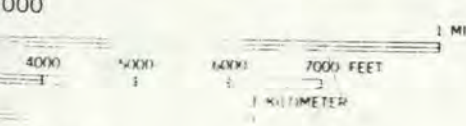
WASHINGTON STREET



UNITED STATES POST OFFICE - QUINCY, MASSACHUSETTS

- 1 - Public Vestibule
- 2 - Public Lobby
- 3 - Manager's Office
- 4 - Workroom
- 5 - Mail Platform





ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Primary highway hard surface	—————	Light-duty road, hard or improved surface	—————
Secondary highway hard surface	—————	Unimproved road	-----



AL 10 FEET

42° 1' 10" 00"

2 3

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

United States Post Office--Quincy Main
Norfolk County
MASSACHUSETTS

Substantive Review

Working No. 4-9-86
Fed. Reg. Date: 2/3/87
Date Due: 5/8/86 - 5/24/86
Action: ACCEPT 5-23-86
 RETURN
 REJECT
Federal Agency: U.S. POSTAL SERVICE

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

Substantive Review: sample request appeal NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

*Locally significant c. 1933 renovated
state Classical Revival Style. Conversion
was WPA project.*

Recom./Criteria Accept C
Reviewer Savage
Discipline Arch. History
Date 5/22/86
 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
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	
	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	
	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed	

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

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

8. Significance

Period _____ Areas of Significance—Check and justify below

Specific dates _____ Builder/Architect _____

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- applicable criteria
- justification of areas checked
- relating significance to the resource
- context
- relationship of integrity to significance
- justification of exception
- other

9. Major Bibliographical References

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

UTM References _____

Verbal boundary description and justification

11. Form Prepared By

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

____ national ____ state ____ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title _____ date _____

13. Other

- Maps
- Photographs
- Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to _____

Signed _____ Date _____ Phone: _____



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

RECEIVED
U.S. POSTAL SERVICE
AUG 29 10 09 PM '85
NEW ENGLAND FIELD REAL
ESTATE & BLDGS. OFFICE
LEXINGTON, MA 02173

August 20, 1985

The Honorable Francis X. McCauley
Mayor, City of Quincy
Quincy City Hall
1305 Hancock Street
Quincy, MA 02169

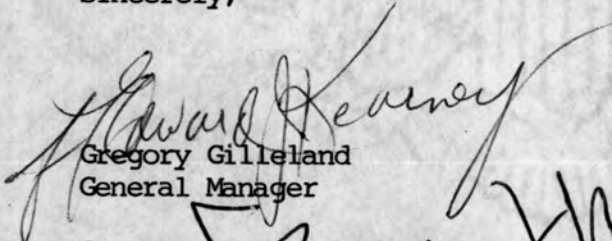
Dear Mayor McCauley:

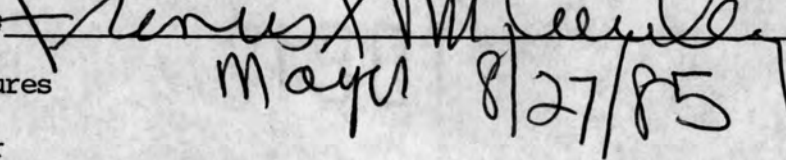
The U.S. Postal Service in conjunction with the Massachusetts State Historic Preservation Officer in Boston has evaluated the Main Post Office in Quincy and has determined it is significant from an historical viewpoint.

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
MAY 8/27/85



Quincy Post Office

QUINCY MAIN POST OFFICE

Quincy, MA

David R. Hooker

Earl R. Flansburgh and Associates

May 1983

Front elevation. Right view



UNITED STATES POST OFFICE

101

101

MAIL BOXES
1 2 3 4

Quincy Post Office

QUINCY MAIN POST OFFICE

Quincy, MA

David R. Hooker

Earl R. Flansburgh and Associates

May 1983

Front elevation



UNITED STATES POST OFFICE

T
P

Quincy Post Office

QUINCY MAIN POST OFFICE

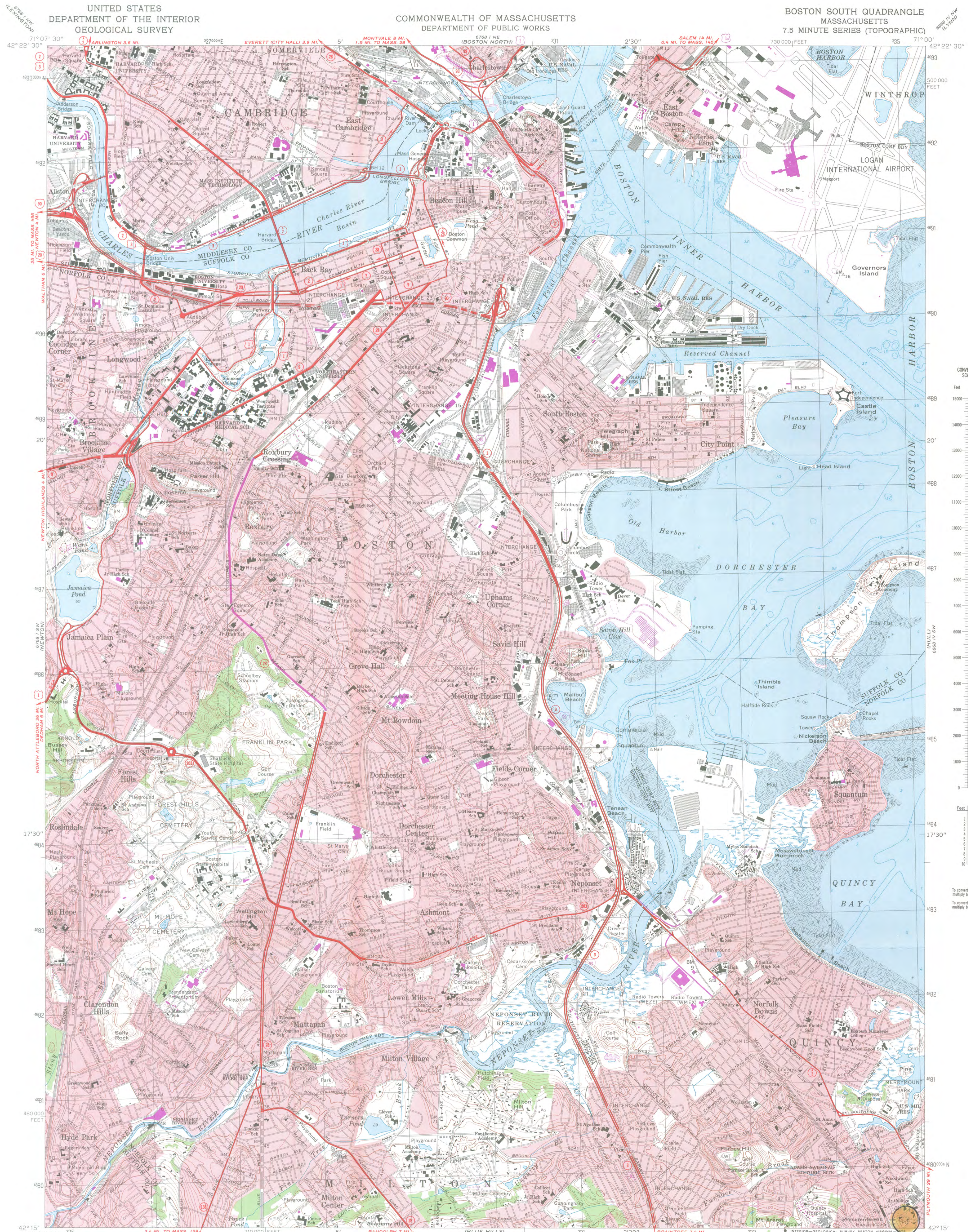
Quincy, MA

David R. Hooker

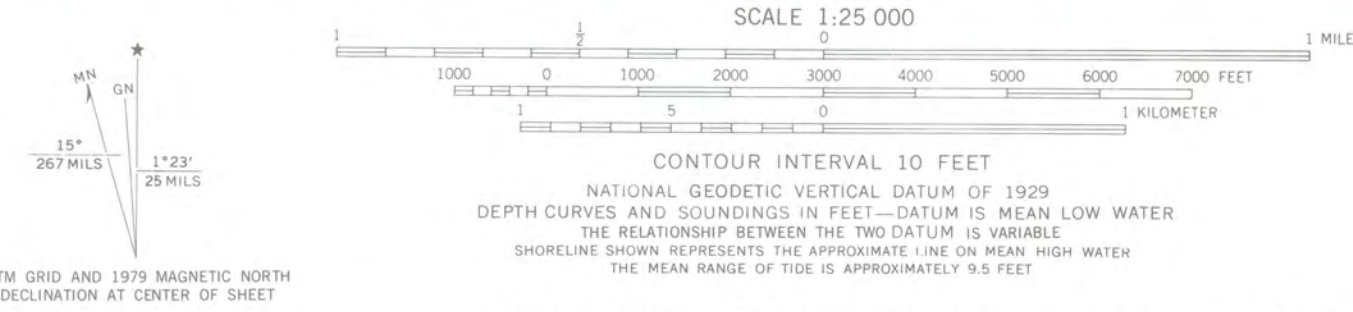
Earl R. Flansburgh and Associates

May 1983

Front elevation. Left view



Maped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and Massachusetts Geodetic Survey
Topography by planetable surveys 1943. Revised from
aerial photographs taken 1969. Field checked 1970
Selected hydrographic data compiled from USC&GS Charts 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
1 000-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



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

U.S. POST OFFICE
QUINCY, MA
UTM REFERENCE:
19/334820/4679345

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

There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of
the National or State reservations shown on this map
Revisions shown in purple compiled in cooperation with the State of
Massachusetts agencies from aerial photographs taken 1975 and other
source data. This information not field checked. Map edited 1979

BOSTON SOUTH, MASS.
N4215—W7100/7.5
1970
PHOTOREVISED 1979
AMS 6768 I SE—SERIES V814



UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE
475 L'Enfant Plaza, SW
Washington, DC 20260

April 4, 1986

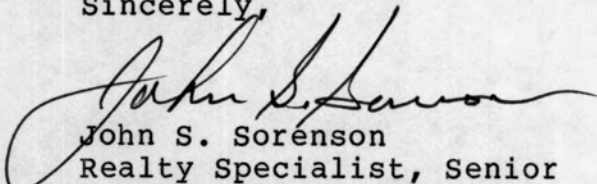
Ms. Carol D. Shull
Chief of Registration
National Register of Historic Places
National Park Service
Department of Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240-1002

Dear Ms. Shull:

The Postal Service hereby submits a nomination for the post office located at 47 Washington Street, Norfolk County, Quincy, Massachusetts.

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

Sincerely,


John S. Sorenson
Realty Specialist, Senior
Office of Real Estate

Enclosure

APR 9 1986