

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	DEC 12 1985
DATE ENTERED	JUN 21 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

Naugatuck Main Post Office

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Church Street and Cedar Streets N/A NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Naugatuck N/A VICINITY OF Fifth Congressional District

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

Connecticut 06770

0410

New Haven

009

2 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	N/A IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<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"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 AGENCY

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (If applicable)

New England Field Real Estate and Buildings Office

STREET & NUMBER

1050 Waltham Street

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Lexington

N/A VICINITY OF

Massachusetts 02173

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Town Hall

STREET & NUMBER

285 Church Street

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Naugatuck

Connecticut 06770

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 type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" 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

The original building and its addition are located in a town common area adjacent to several other historically significant McKim, Mead & White buildings. The building site is almost totally occupied by the post office and its parking area.

The building itself was originally designed as a Class C post office and consists of rough textured light buff colored brick laid in running bond and sits on a granite foundation. The building is trimmed in ivory colored cast terra cotta ornament with marble accents set in decorative brick panels in a frieze and just below the terra cotta and wood bracketed cornice. A hipped red clay tile roof caps the original building. The addition, which has a flat roof, is clad in a harmonizing brick color yet lacks many of the ornaments of the original building. The building structure consists of masonry exterior walls on a concrete foundation with steel framing for the floor, ceiling and roof with concrete decks. All of the exterior building materials are in excellent condition.

The original building interior is a simple rectangular box with a center entrance leading to a lobby, flanked by the Registry Division and the Postmaster's office. To the rear of the lobby is the work room. The 1951 addition was an extension to the work room as well as relocating the postmaster's office and including a larger box lobby. The lobby has a molded plaster ceiling and plaster arches surrounding wood trimmed service windows, with terrazzo and marble floor. Other spaces within the building have plaster walls and ceilings. The interior materials and finishes are in excellent condition. The small lobby has retained its original proportions and much of its detail.

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	Designed: 1915		BUILDER/ARCHITECT
	Built: 1916	Addition: 1951	James A. Wetmore, Acting Sup. Architect, U.S. Treasury Dept.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The original building was one of the first post offices designed and built under the Public Buildings Act of 1913. The Omnibus Building Act developed a process of standardization to determine building size and projected cost of building construction. This building was among the first of forty-five buildings built throughout the United States in 1916. The Omnibus Act established categories for States and Cities based on geographic and population conditions and the use of type sets of plans and specifications in the erection of buildings which were to be used solely for post offices in the same group. The building was also one of the finest buildings by James A. Wetmore as Acting Supervising Architect, U.S. Treasury Department.

The Post Office is located on the edge of the Town Common and has become a vital "anchor" to define the edge of the downtown area as well as being a major architectural influence. The post office is located in an area containing several buildings of historic importance adjacent to the commercial and municipal center of Naugatuck.

Naugatuck is the home of Uniroyal Rubber Co. where Charles Goodyear played an important role in the pioneering operations of the company with his patents and inventions. Naugatuck developed and grew for many reasons (its geographic location along the river and in relation to other major towns, home of a major company (Uniroyal), etc.) and became an important stagecoach and eventually railroad stop. Naugatuck became a major Communication and Cultural Center in Western Connecticut necessitating the construction of a major post office facility to add prominence and prestige to the downtown area. At approximately the same time period, many other prominent buildings were being constructed in the downtown area, the most notable of which were those by the well-known firm of McKim, Mead & White. The structures varied in their expression (Neo-Colonial, Neo-Classical and Victorian) and their use (Congregational Church, Salem School, Hillside School and the Whittemore Memorial Library) and set the time for the new post office building which was designed in a Mediterranean influenced Italianate design, which was somewhat uncommon in the eclectic period especially for buildings in New England.

Although the post office and the McKim, Mead & White buildings, which are all in close proximity, vary in architectural expression, they are all

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 0.3427

UTM REFERENCES

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

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The Post Office building is located on the corner of Cedar and Church Streets. The site is almost square with approximately 104 feet of frontage on Church Street and 116 feet of frontage on Cedar 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

Richard P. DeCoste, Architect

ORGANIZATION

SULLIVAN DESIGN GROUP, INC.

DATE

July 23, 1985

STREET & NUMBER

44 Adams Street

TELEPHONE

(617) 848-1545

CITY OR TOWN

Braintree, Massachusetts 02184

STATE

MA 02184

12 CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

YES

NO

NONE

[Signature]
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

[Signature]

Director, Office of Real Estate

DATE

11-26-85

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

[Signature]

DATE

1/21/86

ATTEST DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

[Signature]

DATE

1-16-86

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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

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

For NPS use only

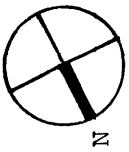
received

date entered

Continuation sheet NAUGATUCK MAIN POST OFFICE Item number 8

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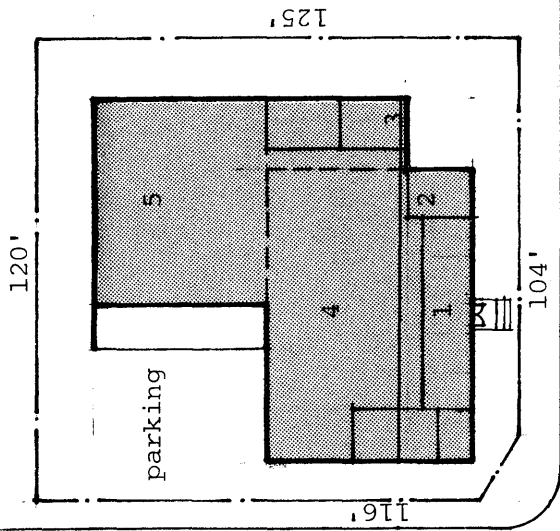
examples of high quality period structures which display an architectural quality which are unequalled by todays standards and which will probably not be duplicated again. Each building is capable of being singled out as an exemplary piece of architecture by itself, but when combined together they form a Town Common which will not be surpassed in rural New England. All of the buidlings are well maintained and substantially landscaped. The post office building is one of the finest buildings in the area as well as being one of the best architecturally designed post office in the State of Connecticut.



- 1. public lobby
- 2. postmaster
- 3. assistant postmaster
- 4. work room
- 5. work room (addition)

Cedar Street

Telephone Company
Neo-Colonial



bank
Neo-
classical

bank
Neo-
classical

library by
McKim Mead & White

Modern City Hall

Church Street

Business area

Y.M.C.A.
3 story building
Neo-classical

Victorian Church

residences

residences

Church by
McKim Mead & White

Town
Green