

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 **SEP 4 1987**  
**OCT 19 1987**  
DATE ENTERED

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  
ATTLEBORO MAIN POST OFFICE

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER 75 PARK STREET  
CITY, TOWN ATTLEBORO, VICINITY OF 4TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT  
STATE MASSACHUSETTS CODE 0050 COUNTY BRISTOL CODE 005

**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	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input checked="" 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 FIELD REAL ESTATE AND BUILDINGS OFFICE  
STREET & NUMBER 1050 WALTHAM STREET  
CITY, TOWN LEXINGTON, STATE MASSACHUSETTS 02173

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. BRISTOL COUNTY REGISTRY OF DEEDS  
STREET & NUMBER 441 NORTH MAIN STREET  
CITY, TOWN FALL RIVER, STATE MASSACHUSETTS 02720

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE NONE  
DATE  
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS  
CITY, TOWN STATE

## 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input 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 at the intersection of Park and Union Streets, the Attleboro Post Office is a dramatic representation of the statement that governmental buildings may be known for their monumentality rather than for their size. Physically imposing when compared to the one-story commercial buildings nearby, the Post Office is sited in the Park Square neighborhood of Attleboro, an area realizing the resurgence of civic and commercial construction in, what was, an underused and neglected area. The new Attleboro City Hall has just been completed (October 1985) on a site immediately to the east, and the Police Station is relocating to a refurbished building directly to the rear of the property.

Built in 1916 at a cost of \$85,000., rectangular in plan, some 100 feet long by 72 feet deep, the building contains 7,500 square feet of first floor space. The full basement is used for post office storage and mechanical spaces. A partial mezzanine in the front mass of the building serves as a swing room and locker space and dictates the front of the building as a two story section. The introduction of slight side facade projections and the differentiation of the parapets visually segment the building into two distinct masses, with the front, public lobby more enriched than the rear workroom.

The Attleboro Post Office is of formal, Neo-Classic design. With the exception of the broad, granite steps that rise to the slightly projecting podium, Indiana Limestone is the exclusive exterior material used on this edifice. The limestone base is separated from the primary wall mass by a gracefully cut watertable in the style of an unseated torus, set above a modular reveal. A simple base block, minutely protruding over the watertable, defines the major floor course.

The entrance portico dictates the style of design. The Classic Roman decastyle portico, sparingly used in Imperial Rome, is reminiscent of Hadrian's Temple of Venus and Rome. Monolithic limestone, Tuscan columns frame large vertical bays in the portico. Aluminum, muntined sash and entrance doors disturb the otherwise classic presence. Detailed blind panels with delicate sinkings rest over the unadorned window openings. Corresponding pilasters on the portico wall mirror the statement of the free-standing columns.

The end bays in the front facade are centered with a small, scaled-down version of the central bay window, incongruous with the remaining fenestration but functionally necessary due to the interior ceiling restrictions. The extended, front portion of each side facade exhibits

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

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... slightly projecting, three bayed pavilions with fenestration, panels and pilasters similar to, and complementing the main entrance.

The entablature is finely but simply detailed. Egg and dart mouldings separate the architrave from the frieze. Dentils, under a secondary egg and dart astragal band, are capped with a delicately carved corona and sima, surrounding the entire building. The cornice is capped with a high, unadorned limestone parapet on a projecting base, on the front mass of this ediface, visually segmenting the building into two distinct masses at the roof line. The rear workroom area, capped simply with the low, parapet base course is, while less dominant, a continuum in character, detail and use of material.

Lobby modifications have relocated the original placement of the lock-boxes and window stations in the service screen. The exterior bays of the entrance are repeated in the public lobby with plaster pilasters burying themselves on dadoes in the high, marble wainscotting. Diagonal marble block flooring is contained with perimeter strips set against a black, marble base. An elaborately detailed, plaster ceiling, with rosettes in coupled block, is the focal point of the lobby.

# 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 Constructed 1916

BUILDER/ARCHITECT James A. Wetmore, Act. Sup. Arch't.  
King Lumber Co., Contractor

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Constructed in 1916, the Attleboro Post Office possesses integrity of location design, setting, materials and workmanship as well as significant association with the rapid development of the City of Attleboro in the early twentieth century. It thus meets National Register criteria A and C.

Originally settled in 1643 by the Rehoboth and Seekonk Grants, the City of Attleboro was established as the Town of Attleborough in 1694 by William Blackstone. The town was actually founded as a haven from the religious persecution by the Plymouth and Massachusetts Bay leaders. The Attleboro area was the original stopping place of Roger Williams, who subsequently moved across the river to Rhode Island to rid himself of the religious tyranny of the Plymouth Patent. Named in honor of the English home of his ancestors, Blackstone's town covered the best farming land in Plymouth Colony and remained an agricultural community until the end of the Revolutionary War.

At the end of the eighteenth century however, industry created a new economic impact on this community. The jewelry trade, for which this city is famous, began in 1780, the first tannery began operation in 1787 and, at the turn of the century in 1801, the textile industry, which tremendously expanded the entire Blackstone Valley, began with Ebenezer Tyler's print cloth mill.

In 1789, the Postal Service started service in the northern precincts of Attleboro with Israil Hatch appointed as Postmaster. There has been some local question as to the original postmaster and his successors, largely due to the fact that the northern precincts of Attleboro, where the Postmaster and his office were located, became the Town of North Attleboro in 1887. The post office in the area then known as East Attleboro now became the Main Post Office for Attleboro.

Ezra Bartlett was first appointed Postmaster in 1820 and kept the mail, which was shipped in on the Taunton and Providence stages, in a small office next door to the Gideon Sweet House. Mr. Bartlett was followed in office by the Reverend Nathan Holman, who kept the mail in his

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

The Federal Presence - Craig, Lois A. MIT Press 1980  
 Field Guide to American Architecture, Rifkind, Carole Bonanza 1980  
 History of Post Office Construction, 1900-1940 July 1982  
 History of the Attleboros, Goddard, Henry Durant 1915  
 Historic Houses Etc., Attleboro Historical Society 1983

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 0.562 A

UTM REFERENCES

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

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION Beginning at a point on Park Street,  
 Thence running: Northwesterly 163' ± along Park Street  
 Southwesterly 140' ± along Union Street  
 Southeasterly 179' ±  
 Northeasterly 141' ± to the point of origin.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
N/A			
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

E. Brett Heenan, Preservation Coordinator

March 21, 1986

ORGANIZATION

THE BOSTON PARTNERSHIP, INC.

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

48 INMAN STREET

TELEPHONE

(617) 492-8866

CITY OR TOWN

CAMBRIDGE.

STATE

MASSACHUSETTS 02139

## 12 CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

YES

NO

NONE

*Valerie A. Talmage* 5/1/86  
 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 B. Sawyer*

TITLE Realty Acquisition Specialist, Principal

DATE

7-15-87

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

*Kathleen Andrews*

DATE

10/19/87

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

*Beth Savage*

DATE

10/19/87

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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received

date entered

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... office desk. In 1827, Orville Bolkcom was appointed Postmaster and the post office was located in Bolkcom's Tavern where it remained until 1850, when it moved to the Park Hotel, locally known as the "Bank Building", on Park Street. This move was due to lack of space and want of "more suitable space". Nathan Luther, who originated the 1850 relocation, and ever in need of adequate space, moved the office again to space in the Sturdy Building, and introduced lockboxes for the postal patrons. The final move to rental space was made by Postmaster Phillip Brady in 1886, when the office was moved to the Bates Opera House.

The spatial requirements of the Post Office were predicated upon the economic and physical growth of the community. With the initial industrialization of the town and the advent of the Boston and Providence Railroad in 1836, great impetus was given to development on new industries and commercial life in Attleboro. The dramatically expanding economy continued to enlarge the physical community and the demand for operational post office space was unabated.

For a town that always rented municipal office space, (until October, 1985) the town administration was of the opinion that a Post Office of sufficient size and stature for their community was more important than a Town Hall, and at the urging of the Daggett and Draper families, Congressmen Messrs. Ames of this district and Buffington of Fall River were petitioned for assistance. Attleboro Post Office however, was constructed as a "requirement of Government Business", not for the "convenience of the people", or "dictated by local reason".

As the receipts were in excess of sixty thousand dollars annually, the new post office was to be a first-class, designation 'B' building with veneered limestone or sandstone, and be fireproof throughout. An additional stipulation under the Classification Act determined that the valuation of the adjoining property be somewhat below the value of the prime commercial real estate in the area. The site chosen was at the intersection of Park and Union Street, literally across the tracks from the newly constructed, downtown commercial district with its Italianate and vernacular architectural styles.

Designed under Acting Supervising Treasury Architect James A. Wetmore, but with Louis A. Simon in charge, the Attleboro Post Office echoes the characteristics of James Knox Taylor's Neo-Classical, or "American Revival" monuments of mass and symmetry. Constructed on the eastern edge of the business district in a one-story commercial and residential

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... neighborhood, this ediface demonstrated tangible and visual evidence of the Federal Presence. Monumental in size and nature, this bold interpretation presented a projecting decastile portico to the public, set on a high base and captured with the smooth Indiana Limestone terminals.

This structure is a well preserved example of early twentieth-century Federal design, one of the outstanding classical edifaces in this city and an essential element of Attleboro's cityscape.

It is highly fitting that, after almost seventy years, the Post Office retained the magnetism to draw the first permanent City Hall and the newly created Police Station as immediate neighbors in this underused but excitingly renewed east rim of the central district.



UNITED STATES POST OFFICE  
75 PARK STREET  
ATTLEBORO, MA 02703

ATTLEBORO QUADRANGLE  
UTM: 19-3/10/860-46/45/860

87001767

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

US Post Office-Attleboro Main  
Bristol County  
MASSACHUSETTS

Substantive Review

SEP - 4 1987

Working No. \_\_\_\_\_  
Fed. Reg. Date: 2/7/89  
Date Due: 10/1/87 - 10/19/87  
Action:  ACCEPT 10-19-87  
 RETURN  
 REJECT  
Federal Agency: USPS

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

Substantive Review:  sample  request  appeal  NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

*Locally significant Non-Classical  
post office reflective of  
Attleboro's early 20th-century  
growth.*

Recom./Criteria: Accept AAC  
Reviewer: Stevage  
Discipline: Arch. / Postal History  
Date: 10/18/87  
\_\_\_\_\_ 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"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input 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

- 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

*Please indicate property on full USGS maps*

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

UNITED - STATES - POST - OFFICE



U. S. POST OFFICE  
75 PARK STREET  
ATTLEBORO, MA 02703  
PHOTO DATE-JUNE 1985

VIEW FROM NORTH  
FRONT ELEVATION

NEGATIVES @ USPS-FREBO  
LEXINGTON, MA 02173

UNITED STATES POST OFFICE

SPEED  
LIMIT  
30



U. S. POST OFFICE  
75 PARK STREET  
ATTLEBORO, MA 02703  
PHOTO DATE-JUNE 1985

VIEW FROM WEST  
RIGHT SIDE ELEV.

NEGATIVES @ USPS-FREBO  
LEXINGTON, MA 02173



U. S. POST OFFICE  
75 PARK STREET  
ATTLEBORO, MA 02703  
PHOTO DATE-JUNE 1985

VIEW FROM EAST  
LEFT SIDE ELEV.

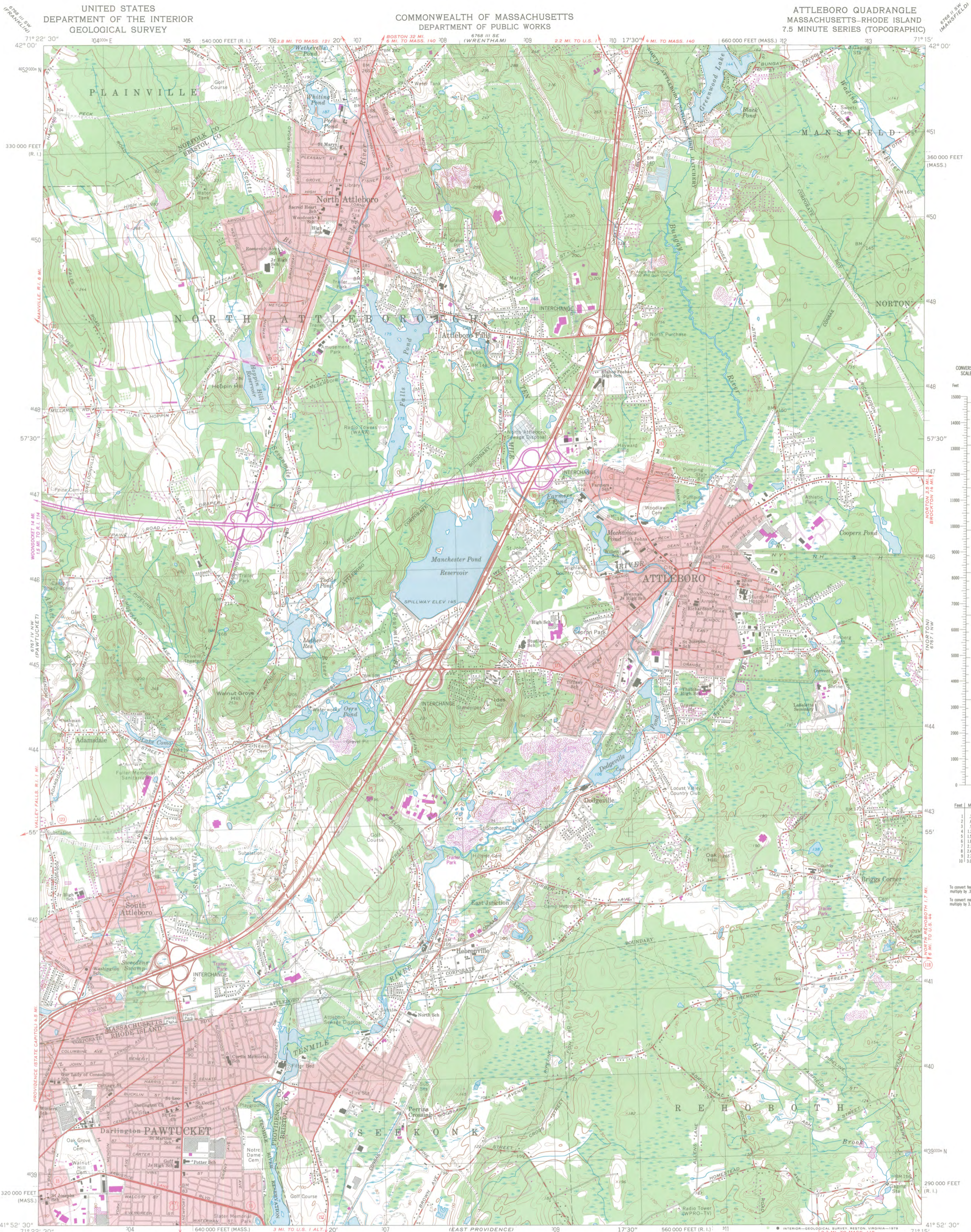
NEGATIVES @ USPS-FREBO  
LEXINGTON, MA 02173



U. S. POST OFFICE  
75 PARK STREET  
ATTLEBORO, MA 02703  
PHOTO DATE-JUNE 1985

COLUMN PLINTH  
AT ENTRANCE

NEGATIVES @ USPS-FREBO  
LEXINGTON, MA 02173



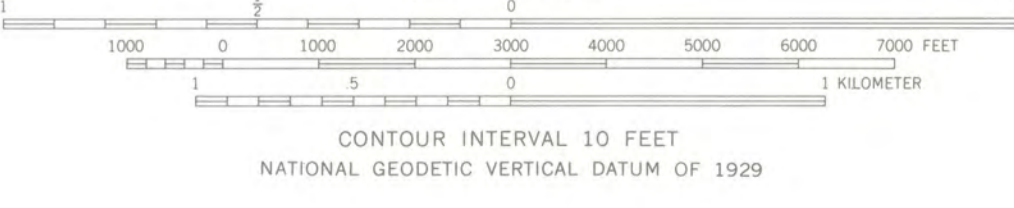
CONVERSION  
SCALES



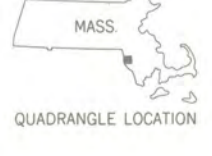
Feet	Meters
1	3048
2	6096
3	9144
4	12192
5	15240
6	18288
7	21336
8	24384
9	27432
10	30480

To convert feet to meters  
multiply by 3048  
To convert meters to feet  
multiply by 3.2808

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey  
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and Massachusetts Geodetic Survey  
Topography by planetable surveys 1935 and 1938-1939  
Revised 1964  
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum  
10,000-foot grids based on Massachusetts coordinate system,  
mainland zone, and Rhode Island coordinate system  
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid,  
zone 19  
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown  
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



CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET  
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929



ROAD CLASSIFICATION  
Heavy-duty ——— Light-duty ———  
Medium-duty ——— Unimproved dirt ———  
Interstate Route U.S. Route State Route

ATTELBORO, MASS.—R. I.  
N4152.5—W7115.7.5

1964  
PHOTOREVISED 1979  
AMS 6767 IV NE—SERIES V814

FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092  
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

July 29, 1986

The Honorable Kai On Shang  
Mayor, City of Attleboro  
City Hall  
29 Park Street  
Attleboro, MA 02703


Dear Mayor Shang:

The U.S. Postal Service in conjunction with the Massachusetts State Historic Preservation Officer in Boston has evaluated the Main Post Office in Attleboro 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: \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosure

cc: File 0018E  
Reading



UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE  
FACILITIES SERVICE CENTER  
REAL ESTATE DIVISION  
WINDSOR, CONNECTICUT 06006-0330

September 1, 1987

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

Dear Ms. Shull:

The Postal Service is pleased to submit nominations for the following Post Office facilities:

1. 119 Elm St., Worcester County, Millbury, MA
2. 217 Commerical St., Branstable County, Provincetown, MA
3. 37 Taunton Green, Bristol County, Taunton, MA
4. 2 Abbott St., Middlesex County, Woburn, MA
5. 58 Church St., Worcester County, Whitinsville, MA
6. 321 Main St., Middlesex County, Wakefield, MA
7. 48 Waterford Rd., Middlesex County, Winchester, MA
8. 75 Park St., Bristol County, Attleboro, MA
9. 90 Center St., Plymouth County, Middleborough, MA

Some of these nominations were submitted previously and returned in order that full quadrangle maps could be included. This has been done in all cases.

Should there be any questions concerning these nominations, please do not hesitate to call me on 203-285-7181.

Sincerely,

William S. Moncrief  
Real Estate Specialist, Principal

Enclosures

cc: John Sorenson  
Realty Acquisition Specialist, Principal  
Washington, DC

SEP 4 1987