

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 NOV 5 1986

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

WHITINSVILLE MAIN POST OFFICE

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

58 CHURCH STREET

___ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

WHITINSVILLE

___ VICINITY OF

3RD CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

MASSACHUSETTS 01588

1470

WORCESTER

027

3 CLASSIFICATION

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

___ VICINITY OF

MASSACHUSETTS 02173

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

WORCESTER COUNTY REGISTRY OF DEEDS

STREET & NUMBER

2 MAIN STREET

CITY, TOWN

STATE

WORCESTER,

MASSACHUSETTS 01608

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 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 on Church Street, the eastern approach to the Village Center, the Whitinsville Post Office borders Memorial Park, an attractive well-planted Green and occupies a prominent site at the Gateway to Whitinsville. The Post Office also borders upon the Whitinsville Historic District, a heritage area that encompasses many buildings of historic significance and varied architectural periods. This district was listed on the National Register in 1979.

A basic square in plan, some 65 feet wide by 55 feet in depth, consisting of one story and full basement, the building covers 3,770 square feet of floor space. Construction cost was just under \$50,000. The building was designed and constructed of uniform thickenss bearing walls supported by reinforced concrete foundations on spread footings. The floor is cast-in-place, reinforced concrete slab and the flat roof is steel framed. The pitched hip roof covering the front central portion of the building was framed with wood rafters.

The basic floor plan is similar to many post offices constructed during this era, yet the distinct robust treatment of the front entrance surround on this building differs markedly from the Art-Deco or Moderne motifs of similar buildings in surrounding communitites.

The Whitinsville Post Office is of Colonial Revival design featuring a stunning entrance, accentuated with four wide, flat, cast stone pilasters, segmenting the entrance into three equal and proportionate bays. Monumental multi-paned wood windows in each bay flank the similarly transomed front entrance doors in the central bay. The original doors have been replaced with wide-stile aluminum and glass doors which detract from the original design intent. Colonial style raised wood sill panels enhance the flanking entrance windows. The window units are encased in narrow colonial wood surrounds, slightly recessed from the face of the cast stone pilasters.

On either side of the stone entrance surround is a single multi-paned, double hung wood window set in brick segmental arches. The window head trim and top sash in arched to the configuration of the brick, thus strengthening its design feature. Each of the other facades continues with five of the familiar, six over six wood windows set in the same segmental arches, unifying the building as a single statement.

Six granite stpes, bordered with 'colonial' wrought iron railings, terminating gracefully on the bottom granite step as fluted, colonial posted lanterns, lead up to the granite entrance platform.

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Continuation sheet

Item number 7

Page 1

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The warm brick facades terminate vertically at an unadorned cast stone frieze, toned to the foundation veneer, set under a continuous narrow colonial wood cornice that unifies the two separate roofs. The roof of the rear mass of the building is flat, successfully screened from casual view by the dominant front, slate hipped roof which is surmounted by a tall beacon-like, octagonal cupola with louvered sides, capped with a copper roof and weathervane. The closed sides of the cupola replace the original glazed openings. A copper bracketed snow guard protects the main entrance door.

With the exception of an added plaster partition that separates the lockbox lobby from the service windows, the lobby remains unaltered and is in remarkable condition. Green and gray terrazzo floors are edged with gray Vermont marble. A lighter shade of gray wainscoting surrounds the lobby and compliments the floor. Dark lustered birch trims the screen line windows and lock boxes as well as the original wood-muntined glass vestibule.

Despite its relatively small size, the site is well treed and landscaped, enhanced by a park on the right side of the property and the plantings of a serene Gothic churchyard to the rear. The delightful landscaping of the Post Office is meticulously maintained and reflects the excellent care and attention afforded this building.

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 1937 | BUILDER/ARCHITECT | Louis A. Simon, Sup. Arch't. |
| | Constructed 1938 | | Blauner Construction Co. |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

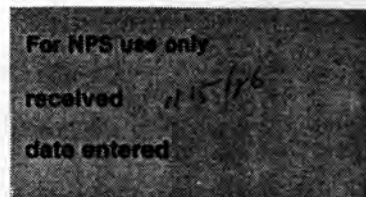
Although less than fifty years old, The Whitinsville Post Office possesses integrity of location, design, setting, materials and workmanship as well as significant association with the efforts of the Federal Government to relieve unemployment and stimulate the economy through the rapid construction of governmental structures during the depression era. Additionally, it is locally significant as visual and tangible evidence of the Federal Government's activist role and a symbolic representation of its strengths and ideals. The Whitinsville Post Office thus meets the National Register Criteria A and C.

Whitinsville, and its post office, is a latter-day manifestation of the power and vision of one family. Originally part of the Plantation of Medham, Northbride and Uxbridge opted for separate town charters in 1727. Northbride, of which Whitinsville is the main village and commercial district, became a separate town in 1772. The distances that the citizens had to travel to the established town churches was the main reason that new towns, and churches developed during these times.

In 1790, Paul Whitin arrived at one of the hamlets, called South Northbridge, and founded an iron works on the banks of the Mumford River. Formerly a farming community, the area grew under the economic benefits created by Mr. Whitin who, upon controlling the water rights by 1810, established the first cotton mill in the area. The small hamlet by this time had become "Whitin's Village", or Whitinsville. With the continued development of water power on the river and the associated ponds, Whitin, now the Whitin Company, expanded the economic diversity of the community by manufacturing the mill and loom machinery required by the developing mill industry in New England. The majority of the total Northbride economic base was now centered in Whitinsville, but the community was unable to support the growing population. The Whitin Company then proceeded to develop and construct a planned community patterned after the successes of Lowell, Pullman and Gary, the first communities totally built for specific industries in the United States.

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The Whitin Company developed housing, stores, churches and even recreational areas for their employees. With the Dudley family, who were related by marriage, they built office space for firms not owned by the Whitin Company, but necessary for the continued trade and economic growth of the company and area.

The first post office in Whitinsville was established in 1834, with rented space in the Whitin Office Block on Memorial Square, on the corner of Main and Forest Streets, with Paul Whitin Jr., son of the Village founder, as appointed Postmaster. Subsequent moves to the Bates Store, the Taft Block, Memorial Block, Bank Building and in 1922, to the Pythian Building, demonstrated the ever-increasing spatial demands for postal service, and the continued growth of the area.

The textile recession of the mid-1920's and the subsequent economic disaster during the 1930's, while not completely catastrophic to the Village because of the diversified industries of the single company, put many workers on part-time shifts and furloughed many others. As with the other textile communities, recovery was a slow process and any economic stimulation was a victory to be pursued.

The Whitinsville Postmaster, William McCarrick, had been attempting for some time, without success, to obtain a new post office of sufficient size and stature for the community, the only village structure that the Whitin Company could not attempt. Typical to the political scale of descending importance, small communities were the last to be considered in the quest for Federal Works monies, particularly when the voting record of the community was not for the benefit of the congressional delegation now seated.

Postmaster McCarrick's continued efforts were rewarded in 1937, when the Government selected a site of the edge of the business district. Using Federal guidelines, only a first-class post office could be situated on land equal in value to the downtown commercial property. Designed by the Office of Supervising Architect, Louis A. Simon, and constructed in 1938, this Colonial Revival building, based on a standard layout, is striking, distinguished by the overscaled stone elements surrounding the main entrance and the tall, beacon-like cupola finial. The warm use of brick surrounding the arched colonial windows ties the structure to the architectural heritage of the community. Blauner Construction Company of Illinois, the General Contractor, used many area sub-contractors and filled out his carpentry and labor forces with local help, thus easing unemployment and stimulating the economy during the construction period.

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Standing as a sentinel at the eastern edge of the Whitinsville Historic District and local "Heritage Area", this colonial ediface harmonizes well with the other important, historical structures of varied architectural styles, that grace the Memorial Square neighborhood.

Under a Federal grant from the Section of Fine Arts, artist Milton Horn created and cast his bas-relief sculpture, entitled, "Blacksmith Shop" in 1939, which adorns the lobby. The Section of Fine Arts was the continued attempts of the earlier Public Works of Art Project, funded by the Treasury Department under the management of Edward Bruce. Bruce convinced Treasury Secretary Henry Morgenthau Jr. to continue the Art Section when the original Project, part of the Works Progress Administration, was phased out.

A warm, graceful reminder of the Federal Presence of an era past, the Whitinsville Post Office exemplifies the contribution of Government Building Programs to the construction environment of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and represents the fine, revival style of that period.

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 Northbridge, Kerrick, William Unp. 1978

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 0.473 A

UTM REFERENCES

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|-----------|------------|------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|----------|---|------|---------|----------|--|--|--|--|
| A | <u>19</u> | <u>279</u> | <u>810</u> | <u>46</u> | <u>65</u> | <u>29</u> | <u>0</u> | B | | | | | | | |
| | ZONE | EASTING | NORTHING | | | | | | ZONE | EASTING | NORTHING | | | | |
| C | | | | | | | | D | | | | | | | |

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION Beginning at a point on Church Street,
 thence running: Southwesterly 163' + along Church Street
 Southeasterly 41' +
 Southerly 57' +
 Southeasterly 130' +
 Northeasterly 156' +
 Northwesterly 39' - to the point of origin.

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

| STATE | N/A | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |
|-------|-----|------|--------|------|
| STATE | | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

E. Brett Heenan, Preservation Coordinator March 25, 1986

ORGANIZATION

THE BOSTON PARTNERSHIP, INC.

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. Taenag 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 State National State Local .

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

John S. [Signature]
 TITLE Realty Acquisition Specialist, Principal

DATE

11-3-86

FOR NPS USE ONLY

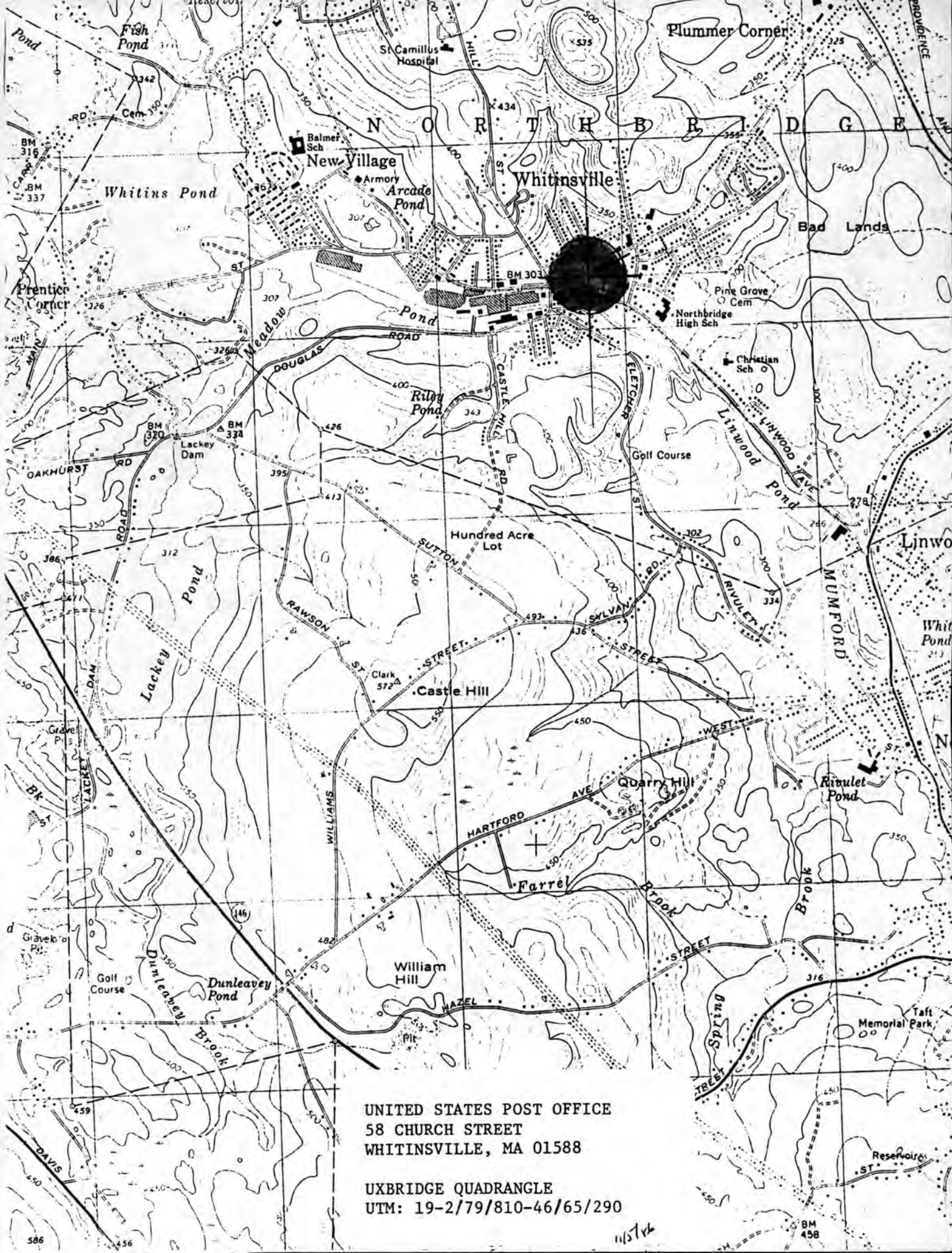
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION
 ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



UNITED STATES POST OFFICE
58 CHURCH STREET
WHITINSVILLE, MA 01588

UXBRIDGE QUADRANGLE
UTM: 19-2/79/810-46/65/290

115746

86003433
less than 50

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

US Post Office--Whitinsville Main
Worcester County
MASSACHUSETTS

Substantive Review

Working No. NOV 5 1986
Fed. Reg. Date: _____
Date Due: 12/4/86 - 12/30/86
Action: ACCEPT
RETURN 12-9-86
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:

Post Office appears eligible for listing, please note technical problem on reverse.

Recom./Criteria Return
Reviewer Savage
Discipline Architectural History
Date 12/9/86
_____ 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

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> excellent | <input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated |
| <input type="checkbox"/> good | <input type="checkbox"/> ruins |
| <input type="checkbox"/> fair | <input type="checkbox"/> unexposed |

Check one

- unaltered
- altered

Check one

- original site
- moved date _____

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 *Please provide original full USGS map.*
- Photographs
- Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to Beth Savage (202) 343-9550

Signed Patrick Andrews Date 12/9/86 Phone: _____

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| | N/A 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: |

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TITLE

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DATE

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DEPOSITORY FOR
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|---|---------------------------------------|---|---|
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| <input type="checkbox"/> GOOD | <input type="checkbox"/> RUINS | <input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED | <input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____ |
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|---|--|---|---|--|
| <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 1937 | | BUILDER/ARCHITECT Louis A. Simon, Sup. Arch't. |
| | Constructed 1938 | | Blauner Construction Co. |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Although less than fifty years old, The Whitinsville Post Office possesses integrity of location, design, setting, materials and workmanship as well as significant association with the efforts of the Federal Government to relieve unemployment and stimulate the economy through the rapid construction of governmental structures during the depression era. Additionally, it is locally significant as visual and tangible evidence of the Federal Government's activist role and a symbolic representation of its strengths and ideals. The Whitinsville Post Office thus meets the National Register Criteria A and C.

Whitinsville, and its post office, is a latter-day manifestation of the power and vision of one family. Originally part of the Plantation of Medham, Northbride and Uxbridge opted for separate town charters in 1727. Northbride, of which Whitinsville is the main village and commercial district, became a separate town in 1772. The distances that the citizens had to travel to the established town churches was the main reason that new towns, and churches developed during these times.

In 1790, Paul Whitin arrived at one of the hamlets, called South Northbridge, and founded an iron works on the banks of the Mumford River. Formerly a farming community, the area grew under the economic benefits created by Mr. Whitin who, upon controlling the water rights by 1810, established the first cotton mill in the area. The small hamlet by this time had become "Whitin's Village", or Whitinsville. With the continued development of water power on the river and the associated ponds, Whitin, now the Whitin Company, expanded the economic diversity of the community by manufacturing the mill and loom machinery required by the developing mill industry in New England. The majority of the total Northbride economic base was now centered in Whitinsville, but the community was unable to support the growing population. The Whitin Company then proceeded to develop and construct a planned community patterned after the successes of Lowell, Pullman and Gary, the first communities totally built for specific industries in the United States.

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 Northbridge, Kerrick, William Unp. 1978

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 0.473 A

UTM REFERENCES

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|------|---------|----------|------|---------|----------|---|--|--|--|--|--|
| A | 1,9 | 27,9 | 8,1,0 | 4,6 | 6,5 | 2,9,0 | B | | | | | |
| | ZONE | EASTING | NORTHING | ZONE | EASTING | NORTHING | | | | | | |
| C | | | | | | | D | | | | | |
| | ZONE | EASTING | NORTHING | ZONE | EASTING | NORTHING | | | | | | |

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION Beginning at a point on Church Street,

thence running: Southwesterly 163'± along Church Street
 Southeasterly 41'±
 Southerly 57'±
 Southeasterly 130'±
 Northeasterly 156'±
 Northwesterly 39'± to the point of origin.

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

| STATE | N/A | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |
|-------|-----|------|--------|------|
| STATE | | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

E. Brett Heenan, Preservation Coordinator March 25, 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. Taenage 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

TITLE Realty Acquisition Specialist, Principal

DATE

11-3-86

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE

10/15/87

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

10/15/87

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 11/15/86

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number 8

Page 1

The Whitin Company developed housing, stores, churches and even recreational areas for their employees. With the Dudley family, who were related by marriage, they built office space for firms not owned by the Whitin Company, but necessary for the continued trade and economic growth of the company and area.

The first post office in Whitinsville was established in 1834, with rented space in the Whitin Office Block on Memorial Square, on the corner of Main and Forest Streets, with Paul Whitin Jr., son of the Village founder, as appointed Postmaster. Subsequent moves to the Bates Store, the Taft Block, Memorial Block, Bank Building and in 1922, to the Pythian Building, demonstrated the ever-increasing spatial demands for postal service, and the continued growth of the area.

The textile recession of the mid-1920's and the subsequent economic disaster during the 1930's, while not completely catastrophic to the Village because of the diversified industries of the single company, put many workers on part-time shifts and furloughed many others. As with the other textile communities, recovery was a slow process and any economic stimulation was a victory to be pursued.

The Whitinsville Postmaster, William McCarrick, had been attempting for some time, without success, to obtain a new post office of sufficient size and stature for the community, the only village structure that the Whitin Company could not attempt. Typical to the political scale of descending importance, small communities were the last to be considered in the quest for Federal Works monies, particularly when the voting record of the community was not for the benefit of the congressional delegation now seated.

Postmaster McCarrick's continued efforts were rewarded in 1937, when the Government selected a site of the edge of the business district. Using Federal guidelines, only a first-class post office could be situated on land equal in value to the downtown commercial property. Designed by the Office of Supervising Architect, Louis A. Simon, and constructed in 1938, this Colonial Revival building, based on a standard layout, is striking, distinguished by the overscaled stone elements surrounding the main entrance and the tall, beacon-like cupola finial. The warm use of brick surrounding the arched colonial windows ties the structure to the architectural heritage of the community. Blauner Construction Company of Illinois, the General Contractor, used many area sub-contractors and filled out his carpentry and labor forces with local help, thus easing unemployment and stimulating the economy during the construction period.

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

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

For NPS use only

received 11/5/86

date entered

Continuation sheet

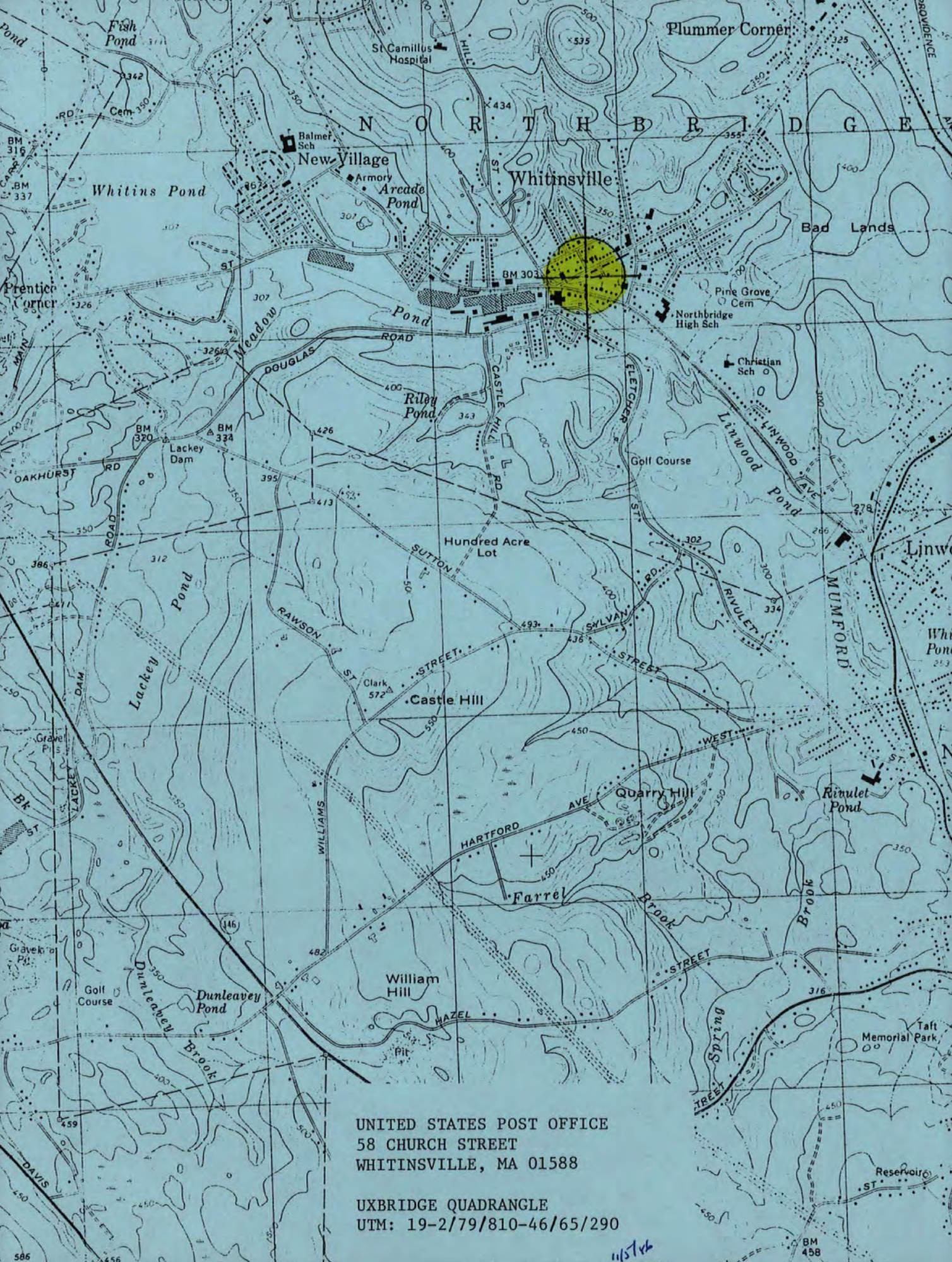
Item number 8

Page 2

Standing as a sentinel at the eastern edge of the Whitinsville Historic District and local "Heritage Area", this colonial ediface harmonizes well with the other important, historical structures of varied architectural styles, that grace the Memorial Square neighborhood.

Under a Federal grant from the Section of Fine Arts, artist Milton Horn created and cast his bas-relief sculpture, entitled, "Blacksmith Shop" in 1939, which adorns the lobby. The Section of Fine Arts was the continued attempts of the earlier Public Works of Art Project, funded by the Treasury Department under the management of Edward Bruce. Bruce convinced Treasury Secretary Henry Morgenthau Jr. to continue the Art Section when the original Project, part of the Works Progress Administration, was phased out.

A warm, graceful reminder of the Federal Presence of an era past, the Whitinsville Post Office exemplifies the contribution of Government Building Programs to the construction environment of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and represents the fine, revival style of that period.



UNITED STATES POST OFFICE
58 CHURCH STREET
WHITINSVILLE, MA 01588

UXBRIDGE QUADRANGLE
UTM: 19-2/79/810-46/65/290

11/5/76

586

BM 458

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

US Post Office--Whitinsville Main
Worcester County
MASSACHUSETTS

Substantive Review

Working No. 11-5-86
Fed. Reg. Date: 2/7/89
Date Due: 10/19/87
Action: LACCEPT 10-15-87
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:

*Exceptionally significant Colonial
Revival post office containing
Bas relief sculpture entitled
"Colonel Paul Whitin - Blacksmith"*

Recom./Criteria Accept A+C
Reviewer Savage
Discipline Architectural History
Date 10/14/87
see continuation sheet

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

*executed in 1939 under a
federal arts grant of the
Treasury Dept.'s Section of
Fine Arts.*

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

- excellent deteriorated
- good ruins
- fair unexposed

Check one

- unaltered
- altered

Check one

- original site
- moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

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

REQUEST FOR DECISION ON PROPERTIES ACHIEVING SIGNIFICANCE WITHIN THE LAST 50 YEARS

Names of Nominated Properties:

Recommendation:

USPO - Whitinsville main, MA

Accept A+C

USPO - millbury main, MA

"

Others (see attached): yes no

Explanation of recommendation:

attached to this sheet (see below)

attached to individual property evaluation/return sheet

attached to MRA/Theme cover evaluation/return sheet

Additional Comments:

The artwork exhibited in both Post Offices is cited in Park & Markowitz's Democratic Vistas: Post Offices and Public Art in the New Deal.

"An Incident in the King Philip War, 1670," was painted by Joe Lasher in the Millbury P.O. and

"Colonel Paul Whitin - Blacksmith" was executed in Whitinsville. Although <50 years of age, both

Reviewer: Savage / Andrus

Date: 10/14/87

post offices contain art work of the New Deal era Federal programs and thus fulfill eligibility under criteria A+C.



U. S. POST OFFICE
58 CHURCH STREET
WHITINSVILLE, MA 01588
PHOTO DATE: JUNE 1985

VIEW FROM WEST
RIGHT SIDE ELEV. *mlt*

NEGATIVES @ USPS-FREBO
LEXINGTON, MA 02173



U. S. POST OFFICE
58 CHURCH STREET
WHITINSVILLE, MA 01588
PHOTO DATE: JUNE 1985

VIEW FROM NORTH
FRONT ELEVATION

alsta

NEGATIVES @ USPS-FREBO
LEXINGTON, MA 02173



POSTMASTER

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COURTESY

Dear Postal Customer:

You are the reason for our work here. Your presence is our inspiration. We welcome it. You deserve to be met with every courtesy and with the utmost attention to your needs.

Meeting those needs is a most continuous and difficult task in a traditional setting of the U.S. Postal Service.

If you feel that you have not received that courteous and efficient service, we encourage you to let us know about it. Please mention the name of the office and a CUSTOMER SERVICE CARD available from a Window Clerk or Letter Carrier.

It is the same office. If you have received courteous and efficient service, we would like to have your comments.

We thank you for using the U.S. Postal Service. We will improve your business and look forward to serving your future postal needs.

Chief of Bldg. & Const. Serv.

NOTICE OF REWARD

REWARD FOR INFORMATION LEADING TO THE ARREST AND PROSECUTION OF ANY PERSON WHOSE NAME APPEARS ON THIS LIST AS A SUSPECT IN THE FOLLOWING CASES:

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100. [Name]

U. S. POST OFFICE
58 CHURCH STREET
WHITINSVILLE, MA 01588
PHOTO DATE: JUNE 1985

LOBBY-WEST WALL
WPA SCULPTURE

11/12

NEGATIVES @ USPS-FREBO
LEXINGTON, MA 02173



U. S. POST OFFICE
58 CHURCH STREET
WHITINSVILLE, MA 01588
PHOTO DATE: JUNE 1985

VIEW FROM EAST
LEFT SIDE ELEV. *11/17/85*

NEGATIVES @ USPS-FREBO
LEXINGTON, MA 02173



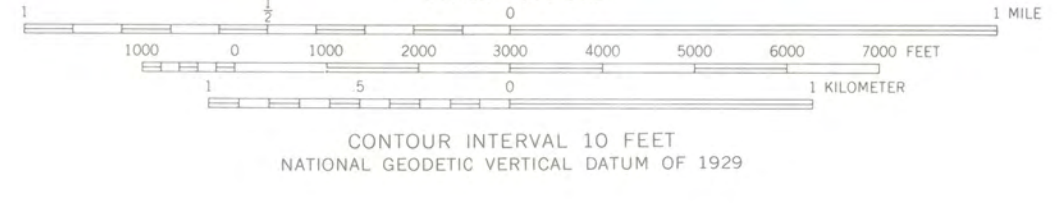
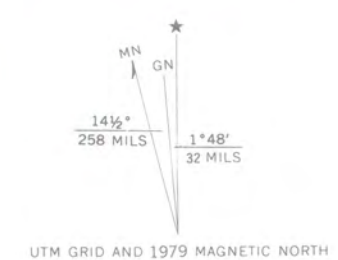
U.S. POST OFFICE
WHITINSVILLE MAIN
19 219 810
44 65 290



To convert feet to meters multiply by 0.3048
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 1942-1943. Revised from
aerial photographs taken 1967. Field checked 1969
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

There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of
the National or State reservations shown on this map
Revisions shown in purple completed 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



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, all weather, hard surface
Secondary highway, all weather, hard surface
Light-duty road, all weather, improved surface
Unimproved road, fair or dry weather
State Route

UXBRIDGE, MASS.—R. I.
N4200—W7137.5/7.5
1969
PHOTOREVISED 1979
AMS 6668 II SW—SERIES V814



UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE
Facilities Service Office
P.O. Box 324
Lexington, MA 02173-0324

July 29, 1986

The Honorable J. Alfred Benoit
Chairman, Board of Selectman, Town of Northbridge
Town Hall - Memorial Square
Whitinsville, MA 01588

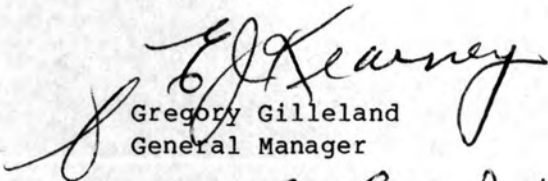
Dear Chairman Benoit:

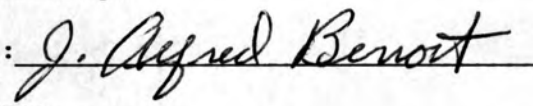
The U.S. Postal Service in conjunction with the Massachusetts State Historic Preservation Officer in Boston has evaluated the Main Post Office in Whitinsville and has determined it is significant from an historical viewpoint.

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

NEW BRIDLAND FIELD OFFICE
LEXINGTON, MA 02173
AUG 5 8 56 AM '86



UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE
Facilities Department
475 L'Enfant Plaza. SW
Washington, DC 20260-6400

November 3, 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 58 Church Street, Worcester County, Whitinsville, Massachusetts.

If you have any questions concerning this nomination, please contact me at (202) 268-3107.

Sincerely,

John S. Sorenson
Realty Acquisition Specialist, Principal
Realty Acquisition Division
Office of Real Estate

Attachment

NOV 5 1986



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



correction

corrected
12/16/87
dsl

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Office of the Secretary of State
Michael Joseph Connolly, Secretary

Massachusetts Historical Commission

Valerie A. Talmage

Executive Director

State Historic Preservation Officer

November 4, 1987

Carol Shull
National Register of Historic Places
Department of Interior
National Park Service
P.O. Box 37127
Washington, D.C. 20013-7127

Dear Ms. Shull:

The Massachusetts Historical Commission staff have identified two mistakes in the October 23, 1987 entry of the National Register of Historic Places which need to be rectified. They are:

1. Massachusetts, Nantucket County, Siaconset, Sankaty Head Light (Lighthouses of Massachusetts - TR) Sankaty Head (10/15/87).

The town in which Sankaty Head Light belongs is Nantucket, therefore listing should be as follows: Massachusetts, Nantucket County, Nantucket, Sankaty Head Light (Lighthouses of Massachusetts - TR) Sankaty Head.

- ✓ 2. Massachusetts, Worcester County, Whitinsville, U.S. Post Office - Whitinsville Main, 58 Church Street (10/15/87).

The town in which the Whitinsville Post Office lies is Northbridge. Therefore, listing should be as follows:

Massachusetts, Worcester County, Northbridge, U.S. Post Office - Whitinsville Main, 58 Church Street.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Valerie A. Talmage
Executive Director
State Historic Preservation Officer
Massachusetts Historical Commission

xc: #'s 66 & 67 on attached sheet

VAT/kmh

