

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	3
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 Courthouse

AND/OR COMMON

Littleton Main Post Office

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

165 Main Street

N/A NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Littleton

N/A VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Second Congressional District

STATE

New Hampshire 03561

CODE

0300

COUNTY

Grafton

CODE

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

4 AGENCY

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (If applicable)

New England 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 DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Grafton County Registry of Deeds and Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

North Haverhill

STATE

New Hampshire 03774

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 Main Street in the extended business district, this Post Office is surrounded by properties of mixed uses which include the Chamber of Commerce, a small supermarket, filling station and across the street, the Masonic Temple, bank, and Thayers Inn, the town's major hostelry. The neighboring real estate is well maintained, but of such diverse use and building types that a sense of disorder prevails with the Post Office dominating the scene.

An imposing structure three stories in height, it is faced with very attractive variegated brick laid in English bond lavishly trimmed in white marble. Marble is used to form a substantial base, the lower portion of the portico, columns, window trim, quoins, string course, frieze, cornice and an elaborate cupola. Broad granite steps lead to an entrance terrace paved in slate and the hand rails are made of bronze. The single entrance is recessed and arched with a fan light of leaded tracery, this detail repeated each side over casement windows set in wood panels with carved detailing. The lower portion of the portico supports a two-story colonaded section featuring four columns of the Ionic Order; the intervening spaces are filled with large double hung windows panelled below, trimmed in marble and accented with marble keystones. Carved marble feature panels are located between the lower fenestration and the smaller windows of the third floor; this treatment is continued around the main three-story portion of the building. Great care is taken to continue the rich architectural detailing in the two-story wing behind the main portion of the building; all windows on the first floor are arched, with fanlights, panels below and trimmed in the white marble. Further embellishments on the exterior include decorative grillwork at recessed niches in the lower front portico, railing for the second floor windows and around the areaways. In addition, the marble frieze has a repeated carved circular motif, the pediment an elliptical window, and the roof a balustrade of fret work each side of the marble cupola.

The interior architectural work is equally executed with great care and taste. The lobby is all in its original state except for the lighting. Flooring of multi-colored quarry tile is bordered in grey marble which is also used for stair treads. A black marble base is continued around the lobby and forms the risers of the stair, which has balusters of twisted wrought iron and a polished mahogany hand rail. There is wood wainscot with raised panels and carved top rail, a detail which is repeated in larger scale at the head of the boxes, service windows and vestibule screen. Plain plaster walls have raised plaster medallions on the entrance and inner walls and smaller ones are repeated on the cornice which supports a moulded tray ceiling.

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 1933: Constructed BUILDER/ARCHITECT James A. Wetmore, Sup. Architect
V & M Construction Co., Contractor

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

There can be little doubt that this structure is one of significance to the Town and state as well as to the nation. Its presence in the town of Littleton must be strongly felt by all who pass by and those who use its postal facilities. One cannot help but hope that a future opportunity will occur when the immediate surroundings can be altered to provide the building with a more sympathetic setting. Possibly, the grandest twentieth century Federal building in the state of New Hampshire, this property of exceptional architecture located in a rural area is a constant reminder of Federal power, organization and institutionalization. Constructed in 1933, at a time of expanded Federal building program to alleviate rampant unemployment, this structure is evidence of the ability of the office of the Supervising Architect, James A. Wetmore, to design structures of architectural merit symbolizing government strength and ideals.

This building which has a strong architectural presence on the main thoroughfare of this socio-economic center of northern New Hampshire was constructed in 1933. This was a time of an expanded Federal building program to alleviate rampant unemployment during the great depression. The Federal Employment Stabilization Act of 1931 stressed advanced planning to prevent unemployment and directed construction agencies to prepare six-year building plans. The appropriations for public building were increased by \$100,000,000. that year. Two hundred sixty-seven staff members were added to the Supervising Architect's office increasing the work force to almost eight hundred. Increased volume of building activity did not dramatically change design policy for small post offices, but for projects such as Littleton which combined post office and court house operations as well as offices for additional governmental agencies, special effort was taken to design a building symbolic of government strength and ideals. The Colonial Revival style selected for this structure was the second most popular architectural mode for Federal Government building design during the 1930's. Along with the Classical style, the Colonial Revival style was "symbolic of both American past and her future progress of increasing the architectural symbol of the Federal Government." This red brick with white marble trimmed building is characterized by Georgian Revival surface treatments (e.g. fanlights, keystone arches and wedge shaped lintel) and features an elaborate cupola with arched openings.

Possibly the grandest twentieth century Federal building in the State of New Hampshire, this property of exceptional architecture located in a rural area is a constant reminder of Federal power, organization and institutionalization.

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 .7518

UTM REFERENCES

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

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Northwest corner of the intersection of Main and Maple Streets - rectangular in shape with a boundary of 163.75 feet on Main Street and a boundary of 200 feet on Maple Street. Site contains 32,750 square feet.

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

Ellsworth H. Kent, Architect

ORGANIZATION

SULLIVAN DESIGN GROUP, INC.

DATE

August 29, 1985

STREET & NUMBER

44 Adams Street

TELEPHONE

(617) 848-1545

CITY OR TOWN

Braintree

STATE

Massachusetts 02184

12 CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

YES

NO

NONE

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 Local.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

TITLE Director, Office of Real Estate

DATE 02/24/86

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Patrick Andrus
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

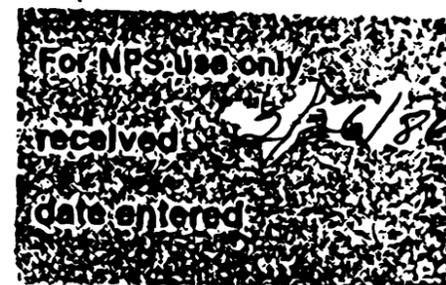
DATE 7/17/86

ATTEST: Peter H. Searge
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 7/15/86

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

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

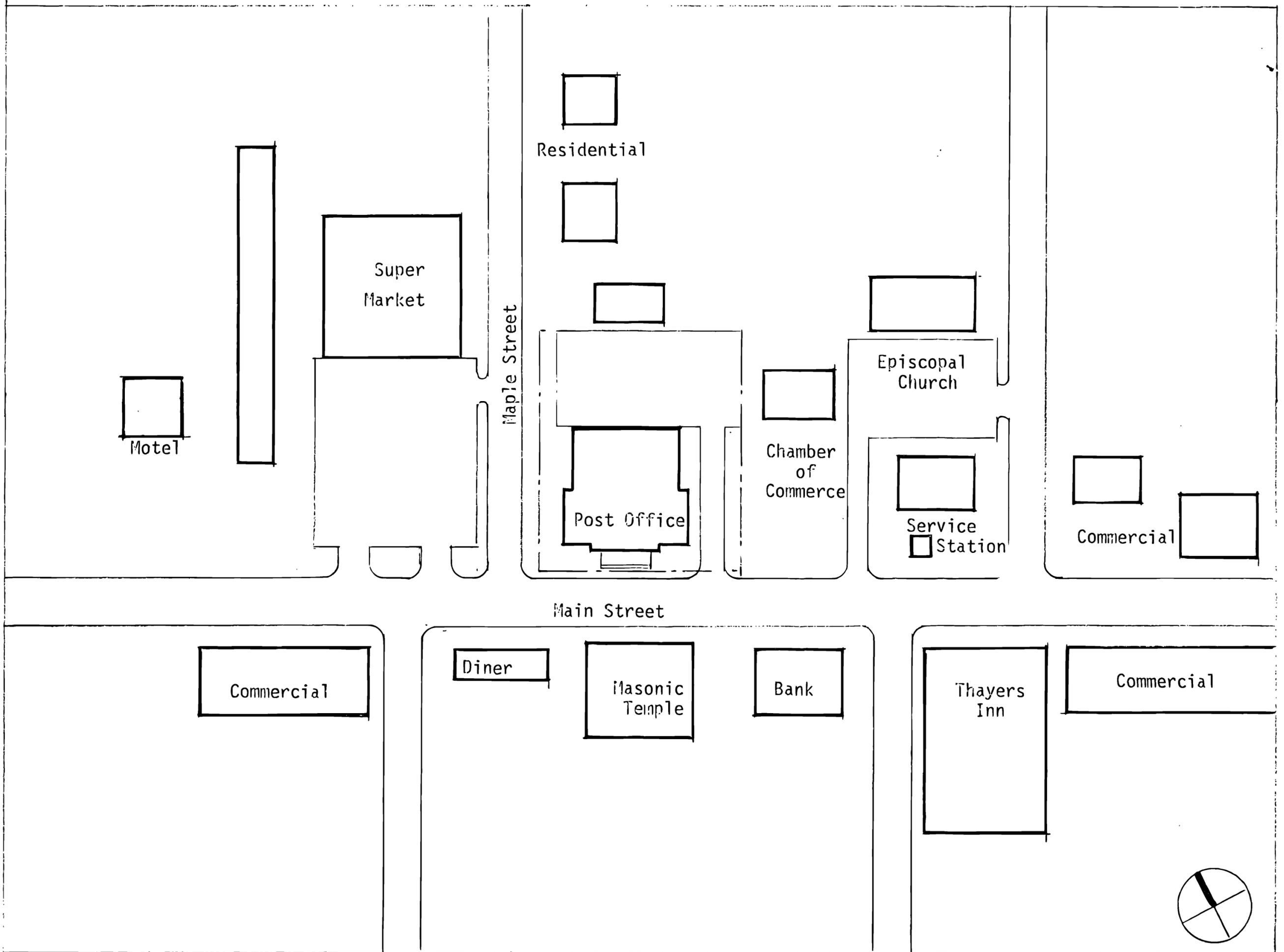


Continuation sheet LITTLETON MAIN POST OFFICE Item number 8

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This building's U. S. Treasury Supervising Architect was James A. Wetmore - born November 10, 1863 in Bath, New York; he was a graduate of Georgetown University. He began work as a law and court stenographer and joined the U. S. Treasury Department in 1885. Over a 45 year period, he held positions within the U. S. Treasury Department ranging from stenographer to Supervising Architect. During his tenure at least 2,000 buildings were designed in his office. He died March 4, 1940.

Carefully maintained over the years and essentially preserved in its original form, this building continues to be an important focal point within the community.



UNITED STATES POST OFFICE - LITTLETON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

2/20/86