

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

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

Peterborough Main Post Office

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

23 Grove Street

N/A  NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Peterborough N/A VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Second Congressional District

STATE

New Hampshire 03458

CODE

0400

COUNTY

Hillsborough

CODE

001

**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	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.

Hillsborough County Registry of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER

300 Chestnut Street

CITY, TOWN

Manchester

STATE

New Hampshire 03101

**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		

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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Post Office at Peterborough, New Hampshire, is a one story, 5,735 square foot structure that occupies a 16,200 square foot site on the banks of the Nubanusit River. Square in plan, the brick Post Office is located on Grove Street in a commercial neighborhood that includes a bank, the Historical Society, small department stores and the Townhouse, Peterborough's Town Hall.

The building is simple in architectural detail and features header-bond brick coursing with a hipped slate roof. The carved wood cornice is similar to the former Ball-Bearing building, a turn of the century structure diagonally across the street.

The center entrance is highlighted by a fan window transom which is encased in a broken pediment supported by simple pilasters. A metal and plexiglass canopy structure was added in 1982. The entry is flanked on either side by two wood sash, 8/8 double hung windows with aluminum storm frames. A distinctive limestone key stone serves as their only ornamentation. These windows are the building standard and are repeated on the remaining sides.

The building interior is a standard plan for post offices of this era. The lobby floors are square orange and blue quarry tile with unusual strawberry marble wainscotting. The walls are plaster with a moulded plaster cornice. The original vestibule and pendent light fixtures are still in place. The major interior feature of significance is a W.P.A. mural by Marguerite Zorach, a local artist. The depiction of winter mail delivery by horse and sleigh at a country store is simply portrayed and is set above the postmaster's door.

## 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 checked="" 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: 1935	BUILDER/ARCHITECT	Louis A. Simon, Architect
	Constructed: 1936		Loucke & Clark, Contractor

### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Main Post Office at Peterborough, New Hampshire was conceived and erected as a simple prototype. It represents the effort on the part of the Federal Government to reach out (at a minimum of cost) to the smaller communities of America and establish a presence during a time of turmoil, depression, and economic recession. It is a dignified Neo-Georgian structure with the simplest of Federalist detailing. It is the corner stone of a block of Georgian revival structures (with identical brick work) that culminates at the Peterborough Town Hall Building. Typical of Louis A. Simon's smaller buildings, it gives the maximum effect with an economy of means.

Unfortunately, very little, at this writing, is known of the interior mural artist, Marguerite Zorach. Thought to have been a local resident, Marguerite utilized an earthtone palette of red and brown oils. Her mural is a street scene; a site of much activity with a disquieted horse as its focus. The minimum use of shadow and perspective makes for a flat portrayal of buildings and characters. This thoughtful rendition of the arrival of mail is charming and entertaining in its simplicity.

Given the excellent condition of the building, it is of special importance as its original features, however straightforward, are virtually unaltered. Indeed, the louvered workroom skylight is still in use today.

## 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 .371

UTM REFERENCES

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

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The rectangular site maintains approximately 100 feet frontage on Grove Street and approximately 152 feet along the Nubanusit River. The remaining sides border a parking lot and access road which serves the Post Office and the adjacent bank.

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

Robert W. St. John, 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  National  State  Local.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

TITLE Director, Office of Real Estate

DATE 02/20/86

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

*Vatrick Andrus*

DATE 7/17/86

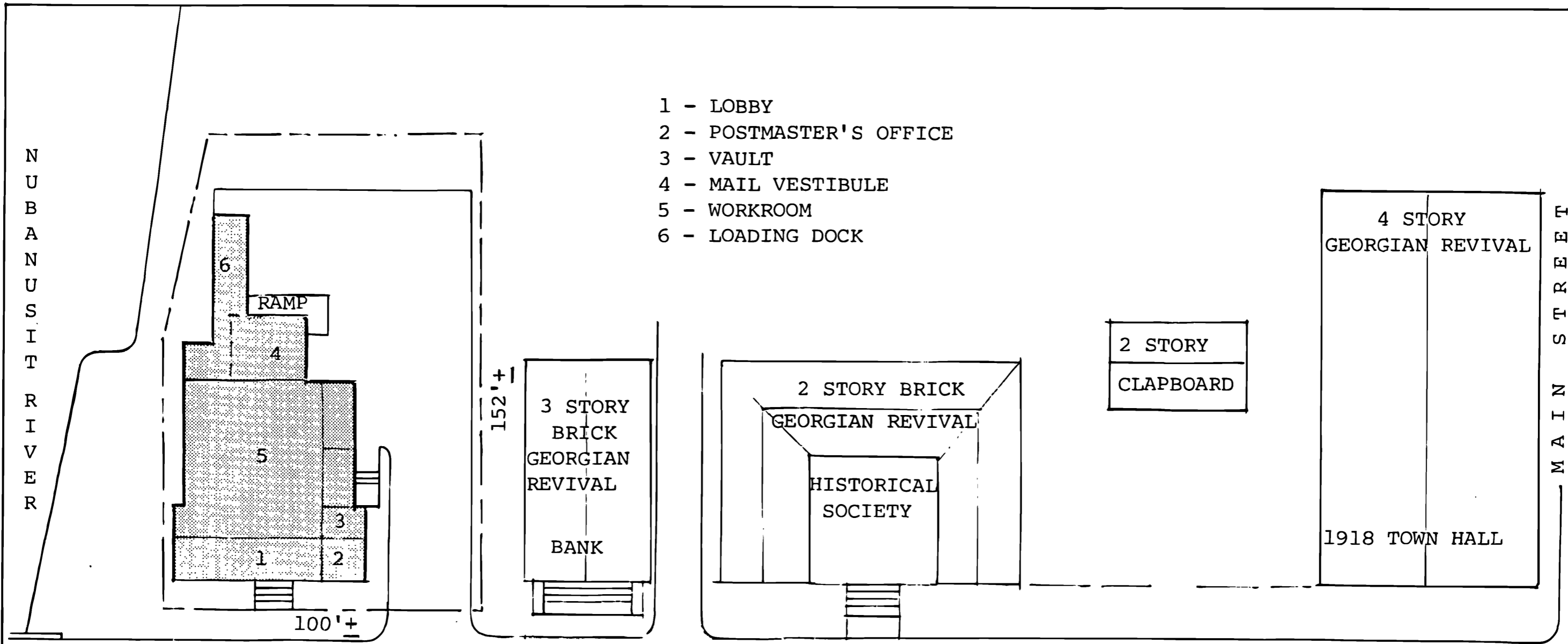
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST: *Robert L. Savage*

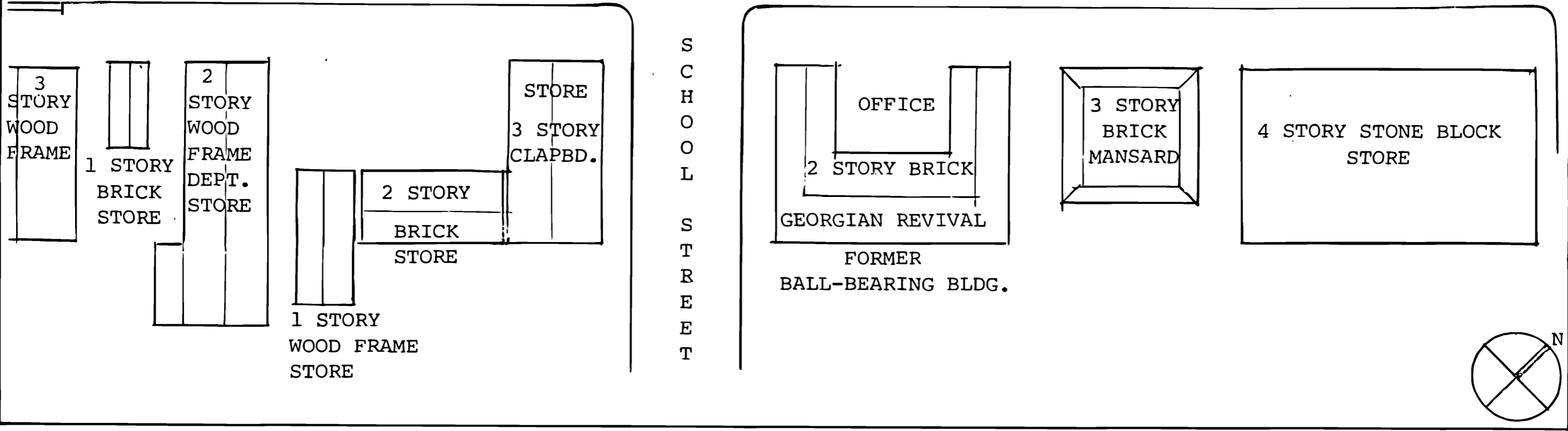
DATE 7/15/86

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

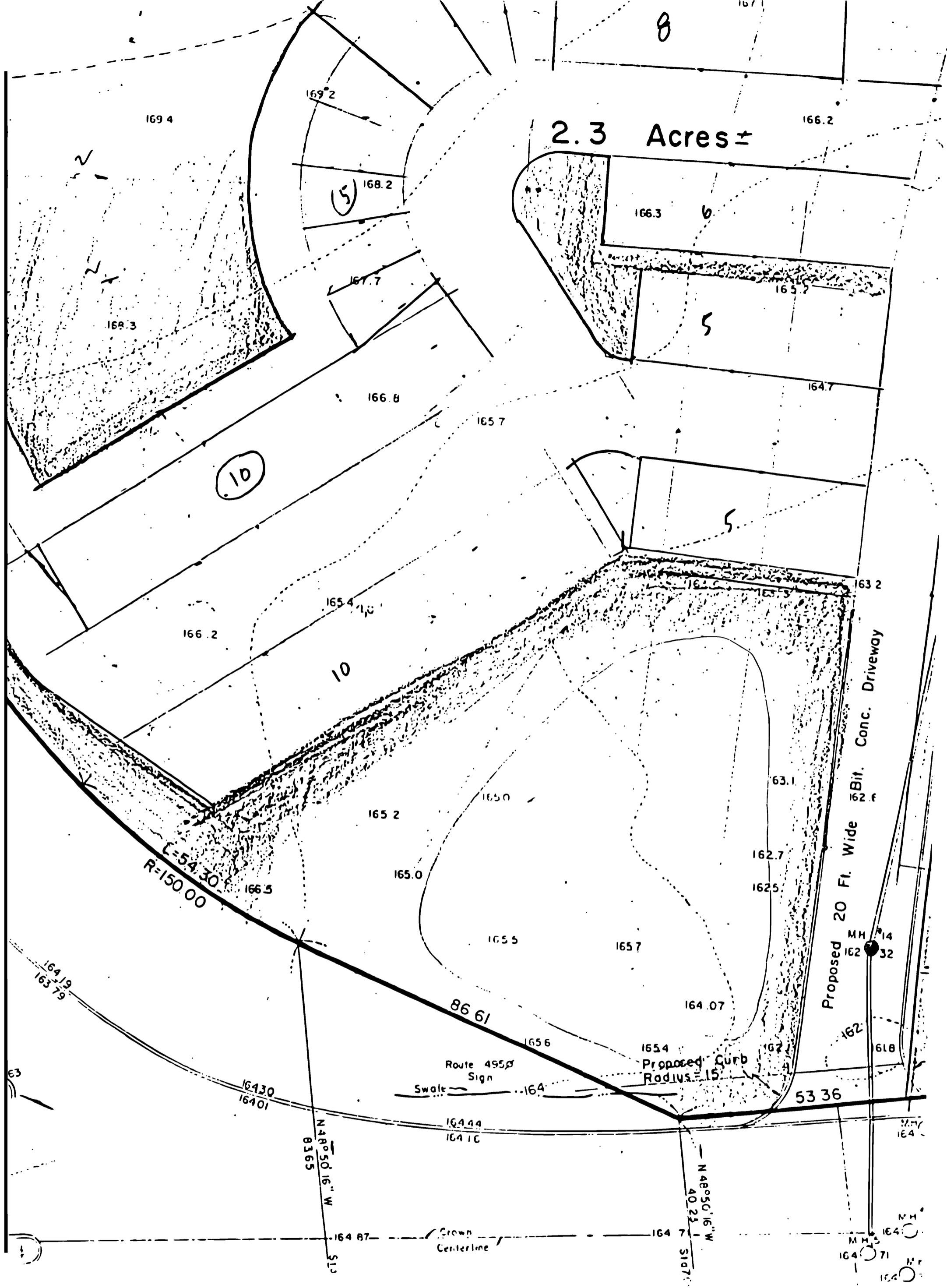
- 1 - LOBBY
- 2 - POSTMASTER'S OFFICE
- 3 - VAULT
- 4 - MAIL VESTIBULE
- 5 - WORKROOM
- 6 - LOADING DOCK



GROVE STREET



SCHOOL STREET



2.3 Acres ±

10

10

166.3

6

5

5

L=54.30  
R=150.00

Proposed 20 Ft. Wide  
Bit. Conc. Driveway

Proposed Curb  
Radius = 15'

Route 495<sup>th</sup>  
Sign

Swale

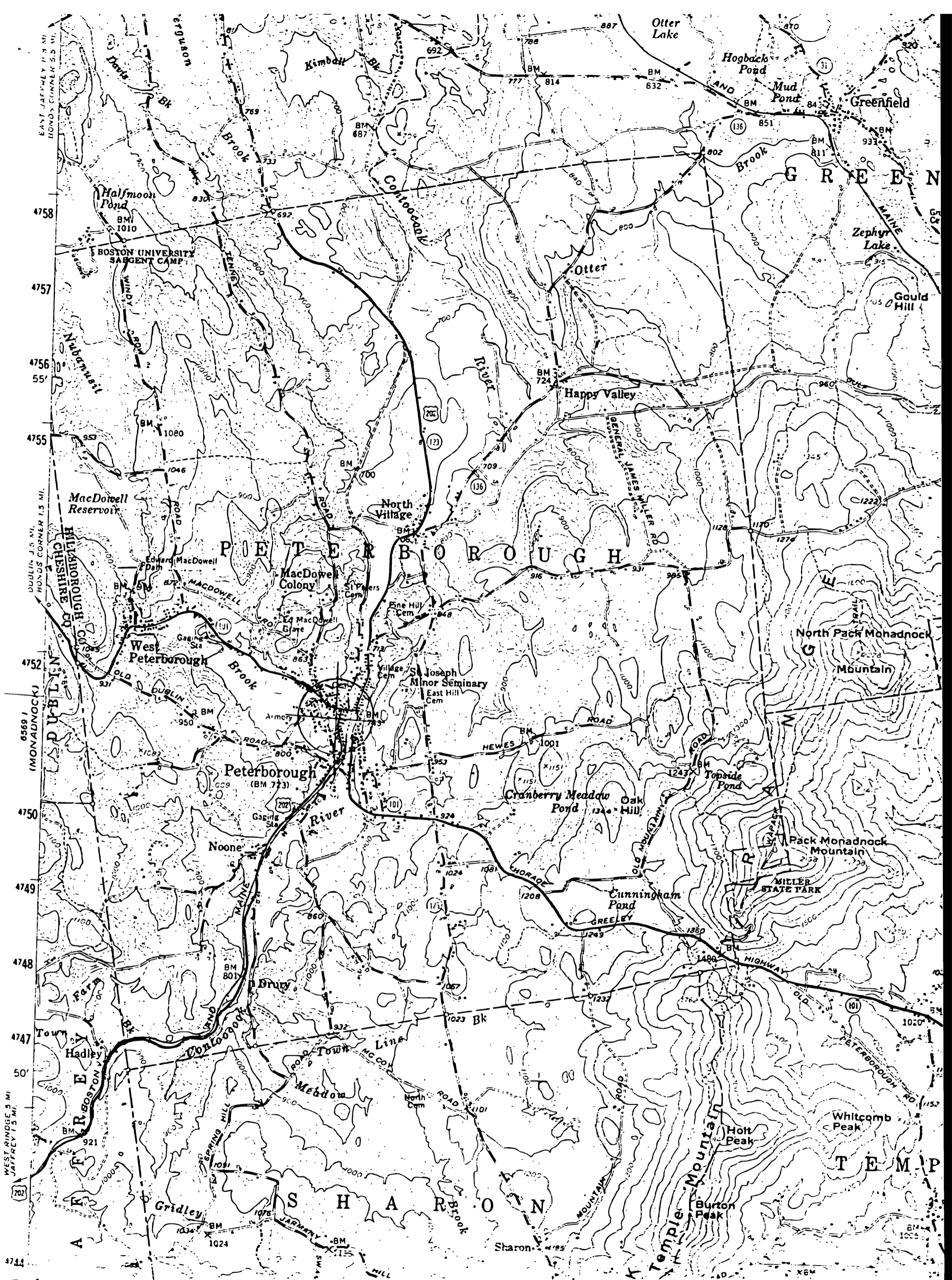
Crown  
Centerline

MH 14  
32

MH 71

MH 164

MH 164



2/2/84