Form No. 10-306 (Rev. 10-74)

#### 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 APR	3 1985
M/	AY <b>8</b> 1985

#### 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United States Post Office AND/OR COMMON Main Post Office **LOCATION** STREET & NUMBER 603 Main Street NOT FOR PUBLICATION CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT CITY, TOWN Racine lst VICINITY OF COUNTY CODE STATE CODE Wisconsin 55 Racine 101 **CLASSIFICATION** CATEGORY OWNERSHIP STATUS **PRESENT USE** XOCCUPIED DISTRICT \_\_\_AGRICULTURE \_\_MUSEUM BUILDING(S) \_\_\_PRIVATE \_\_UNOCCUPIED \_\_COMMERCIAL \_\_\_PARK \_\_STRUCTURE \_вотн ----WORK IN PROGRESS \_\_EDUCATIONAL -PRIVATE RESIDENCE \_\_SITE PUBLIC ACQUISITION ACCESSIBLE \_\_\_ENTERTAINMENT \_\_\_RELIGIOUS \_\_OBJECT N/AIN PROCESS X\_YES: RESTRICTED XGOVERNMENT \_\_SCIENTIFIC \_\_BEING CONSIDERED \_\_\_YES: UNRESTRICTED \_\_INDUSTRIAL \_\_TRANSPORTATION \_\_MILITARY \_\_NO \_\_OTHER:

## AGENCY

	REGIONAL HEADQUA	RTERS:( <i>If applicable</i> ) United States Postal Service	e,	
	STREET & NUMBER			
		475 L'Enfant Plaza West, SW		
	CITY, TOWN			STATE
		Washington VICINITY O	F	D.C. 20260
	LOCATION	OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION	N	
	COURTHOUSE. REGISTRY OF DEEDS,	ETC. Racine County Registry of	of Deeds - F	acine County Courthouse
	STREET & NUMBER	730 Wisconsin Avenue		
	CITY, TOWN			STATE
		Racine		Wisconsin 53403
6	REPRESEN	TATION IN EXISTING SU	RVEYS	
	TITLE	Wisconsin Inventory of Histo	oric Places	
	DATE	1975	FEDERAL XST	ATECOUNTYLOCAL
	DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS	State Historical Society of	Wisconsin,	816 State Street
	CITY, TOWN	Madison		state Wisconsin 53706

## 7 DESCRIPTION

CON	DITION	CHECK ONE	CHECK (	DNE
XEXCELLENT	DETERIORATED	UNALTERED	XORIGINAL	SITE
GOOD	RUINS	_XALTERED	MOVED	DATE
FAIR	UNEXPOSED			

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The United States Post Office, 603 S. Main Street, is a rectangular, two-story building, approximately 89' wide x 160' long x 50' tall (on Main Street side), with an inner structure of reinforced concrete on steel columns and girders. Indiana Bedford Limestone faces the major facades, while granite was used for the west stairs. It should be noted that the land slopes toward the east and away from Main Street to the extent that the basement walls are completely exposed at the eastern end of the building.

The main facade faces west onto S. Main Street. A two-story, six-columned Corinthian-style portico dominates this facade. Each Corinthian column is 33 inches in diameter and approximately 22 feet tall. Between the six columns is an arcade of alternate blind and open arches on the first floor, with a set of double windows located on the second floor above each arch. The inscription, "United States Post Office," can be seen in the frieze area of the portico. A denticulated cornice above the frieze is topped by a parapet, in the center of which is carved an eagle. There are open balustrades at either end of this parapet.

The north facade faces onto Sixth Street. It is composed of twelve bays of doubled windows, each bay separated by a Corinthian pilaster. These pilasters are paired at each end of the facade. The denticulated cornice with parapet above is continued, with open balustrades above each set of windows.

The east facade faces onto Lake Avenue. Except for the denticulated cornice and parapet, there is no ornamentation. The basement is fully exposed here and is the site of the loading dock. There are seven sets of double windows on both the first and second floors.

The south facade is not obscured by a high-rise elderly housing project and a parking structure. The west third of the south facade is faced with Bedford limestone, while the remainder is faced with common red brick.

Much of the interior, especially the first floor and basement is occupied by large open areas for the processing and handling of the mail. The large workroom on the first floor has a large skylight.

## 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AF	REAS OF SIGNIFICANCE CH	IECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW	
PREHISTORIC 	ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC AGRICULTURE ARCHITECTURE ART COMMERCE COMMUNICATIONS	COMMUNITY PLANNING CONSERVATION ECONOMICS EDUCATION ENGINEERING EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT INDUSTRY INVENTION	LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE LAW LITERATURE MILITARY MUSIC PHILOSOPHY POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	RELIGION SCIENCE SCULPTURE SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN THEATER TRANSPORTATION OTHER (SPECIEY)
SPECIFIC DAT	es 1930 <sup>1</sup>	BUILDER/ARCH	HITECT James A. We	etmore <sup>1</sup>

#### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

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The United States Post Office, 603 S. Main Street, is significangt locally as an example of a government building designed in a Neoclassical style. Congress appropriated the funds for this building on October 18, 1928, but it was not dedicated until July 25, 1931. "Acting Supervising Architect" of the U.S. Treasury, James A. Wetmore (1863-1940), used the popular and conservative Neoclassical style to give Racine's new post office a sense of imposing dignity. The west facade is balanced and well-proportioned, without being overwhelming. The grandeur of the fluted Corinthian columns and pilasters and the feeling of solidity from the Bedford limestone create a sense of tradition. The general contractor was Mads Madsen Co. of Minneapolis, Minnesota.

It is interesting to note that at the same time as the U.S. Post Office was being built, the Racine County Courthouse, designed by Holabird & Root, and Racine City Hall, designed by J. Mandor Matson, were also under construction.

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The United States Post Office, 603 S. Main Street, was determined to be Eligible by the Keeper on December 11, 1978.

<sup>1</sup>Cornerstone on U.S. Post Office building. <sup>2</sup>Racine <u>Times-Call</u>, July 15, 1931 supplement.

	ne County Board of	Supervisor, 19	77.	
Margo Drummond and 1977.	Mary Schuchman, Re	enewing our Roo	<u>ts</u> . Racine: Pr	eservation
Henry F. and Elsie tects. (Decea	Rathburn Withey, <u>H</u> ased). Los Angeles:	Biographical Di Hennessey &	ctionary of Amer Ingalls, Inc. 19	<u>ican Archi</u> - 70.
GEOGRAPHICAL	DATA			
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LIST ALL STATES AN	D COUNTIES FOR PROPERT	TIES OVERLAPPING S	TATE OR COUNTY BOUI	NDARIES
STATE	CODE	COÚNTY	S.	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY		CODE
FORM PREPAREI NAME / TITLE Robert D	). Long - Architect	ural Conservat	ionist DATE	
Architec	tural Conservation	Program	1/23/81	
STREET & NUMBER 730 Wash	nington Avenue		TELEPHONE 414/636-92	80
CITY OR TOWN Racine			STATE Wisconsin	53403
	OF NOMINATIO			2-13-85
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ST/	YES <u>X</u> NO.	NON X	TE HISTORIC PRESERVATION	OFFICER SIGNATURE
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