

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	JAN 31
DATE ENTERED	SEP 25 1986

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

Milford Main Post Office

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

6 West River Street

N/A NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Milford

N/A VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Third Congressional District

STATE

Connecticut 06460

0385

COUNTY

New Haven

CODE

06460

**2 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"/> 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.

Milford Town Hall Building

STREET & NUMBER

City Clerk

CITY, TOWN

Milford

STATE

Connecticut 06460

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

None

DATE

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

AUG 15 1983

## 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

The Milford Post Office is part of a grouping of municipal structures in the center of Milford, just North of the older commercial core of the city which starts one block South, at a main track railroad overpass. A small triangular park formed by the intersecting street pattern, with its war memorial statue, provides the focus for the Post Office, an adjacent Neo-Colonial courthouse building, a Neo-Colonial Town Hall, a brownstone Gothic Church, a smaller wood framed parish house and an older two-story commercial block. Large street trees and areas of planting contribute to the overall impression of quality and importance to the area. A large municipal park behind the Town Hall extends the green space beyond.

The Post Office stands detached on the corner of a lot it shares with the Neo-Classical courthouse.

It is rectangular in plan, with a narrow mailing platform extending into the rear parking area from the building center, and consists of one-story and a partial basement containing mechanical/storage areas plus a few offices (formerly designed for other Federal agencies). Up a short flight of stone steps, a center entrance leads to a small public lobby with an interior box lobby extension next to the Postmaster's offices at the Northeast corner. The remaining floor contains the large work room and mailing vestibule. A mezzanine housing the swing room runs along the South wall.

Construction is of steel and concrete with masonry exterior walls of red brick laid in an English bond with cut limestone trim. A decorative limestone cornice sits below a brick parapet, broken on the front facade by three limestone balustrades over keystone arches above the entrance doors, and flanking palladian style wood windows with a lower stone balustrade at the sill portion.

The entrance doors are topped with a stone cornice and frieze spanning stone columns at each jamb.

These three bays are symmetrical in a wall projection which expresses the lobby behind. All corners have brick quoins. Three monumental rectangular windows on each side elevation are broken up in the palladian style, (without the top arch). The front portion of the building has a slate hip roof; the remainder being flat. Decorative metal grillwork set into the bricks conceal ventilation louvers above the windows.

The lobby floor is finished in a rectangular tile pattern of light tones of brown and blue, bordered by a white marble base. A white marble wainscot sits against plaster walls with a moulded plaster ceiling above, with painted wood trim. Original light fixtures have been replaced by flush mounted ceiling fluorescent lighting. The most interesting lobby features are large iron grille screens set above the service windows, two of which are palladian in design. The wood vestibule with a glass ceiling appears to be original. The exterior is original except for the aluminum entrance doors.

**8 SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input checked="" 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:    1929    BUILDER/ARCHITECT    James A. Wetmore, Acting Sup.  
                               Built:             1931    Architect for the Treasury Dept.

Architecture

The Milford Post Office is of Neo-Colonial design and is typical of many post offices and public buildings designed between the end of World War I and the depression. The Public Buildings Act of May 25, 1926 provided appropriation for an increased building program to meet the growing need, and marked the continuing trend towards an increased emphasis on efficiency in Federal construction, through the use of standardized plans for small structures. The scale of the structure fits well with the surrounding buildings and establishes a Federal presence in a local municipal grouping.

Community Planning

The Milford Post Office's primary significance lies in the contribution it makes to the government center of Milford. The building anchors a key corner of the complex which is basically a group of civic buildings located around a town green. The basic separation of the Milford commercial center from this government center has allowed the area to maintain the feeling of an older New England town despite its growth to a current population of 52,000 and its change from a town to a city. The City of Milford is currently studying programs to help revitalize and preserve the character of their civic complex.

# 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 .75

UTM REFERENCES

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

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

North to South 132 feet along West River Street  
 East to West 250 feet along Darina Place  
 South to North 132 feet along rear lot line  
 West to East 250 feet along side lot line

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

Sylvan Limon, Architect

ORGANIZATION

SULLIVAN DESIGN GROUP, INC.

DATE

July 15, 1985

STREET & NUMBER

44 Adams Street

TELEPHONE

(617) 848-1545

CITY OR TOWN

Braintree

STATE

Massachusetts 02173

# 12 CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

YES

NO

NONE

*[Signature]*  
 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

*[Signature]* Director, Office of Real Estate

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

*[Signature]*  
 DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

9/25/86

ATTEST: *[Signature]*  
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

9/25/86

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

## REVISION

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input checked="" 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
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<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: 1929 BUILDER/ARCHITECT James A. Wetmore, Acting Sup.  
 Built: 1931 Architect for the Treasury Dept.

### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Neo-Colonial design of the Milford Post Office is a good example of the Georgian Revival style, typical of many post offices and public buildings designed between the end of World War I and the Depression. Architecturally, it is significant as a local example of the U.S. Treasury Department's policy during the 1910's and 1920's to erect "buildings adapted to local conditions and in keeping with the importance of the communities in which they are erected." The monumentality, expensive building materials and lavish interior treatments, typical of the earlier 1900's post office designs, is nowhere in evidence. The strong Palladian window motif, stone trim and ballusters on the brick walls, provides a structure in scale with its neighboring buildings and establishes a Federal presence in a local municipal grouping.

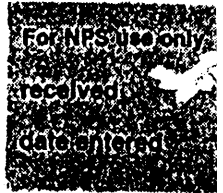
The Public Buildings Act of May 25, 1926 provided appropriation for an increased building program to meet the growing space requirements and marked the continuing trend towards an increased emphasis on efficiency in Federal construction, through the use of standardized plans for smaller structures. This building falls within Class "C" of the Secretary of the Treasury's 1915 Classification of Buildings by virtue of its location within a "second class city" and the type of materials employed in its construction.

James A. Wetmore, Acting Supervising Architect for the Treasury Department was born November 10, 1863 in Bath, New York and 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 2000 buildings were designed in his office. He died March 4, 1940. Although the Public Buildings Act of May 25, 1926 (Keyes-Elliott Act) authorized the Secretary of the Treasury to hire outside architects in "special cases," to prepare designs and floor plans that would serve as a guide for working drawings and specifications produced within the Supervising Architect's office, there is no known local architect for this project.

During the course of our survey of Post Office buildings in the six New England States, we found an essentially identical architectural design in the facade and lobby of the Post Office in Newburyport, Massachusetts constructed in 1928. The plan of the building behind the lobby is somewhat different due to the configuration of the site. A local architect was involved in that project.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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



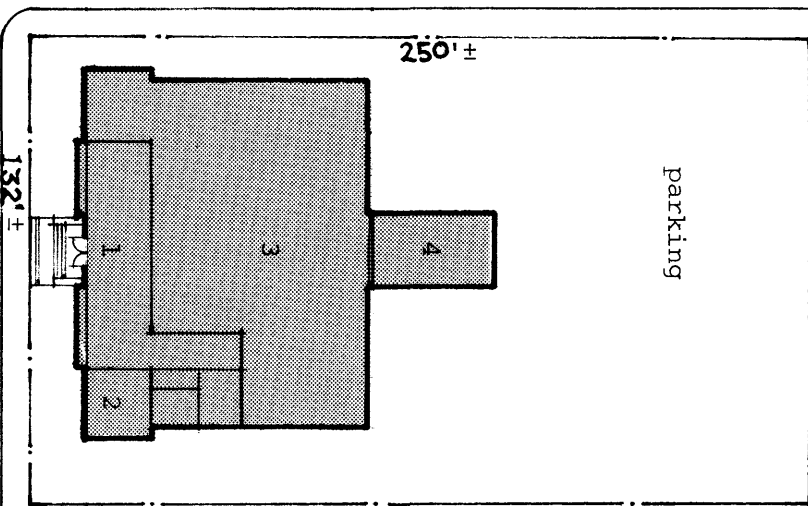
Continuation sheet MILFORD MAIN POST OFFICE Item number 8 Page

Community Planning

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commercial building

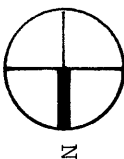
Darina Place



- 1. Lobby
- 2. postmaster
- 3. work area
- 4. mailing platform

Court House and Town Office Building

neo-classical school building



West River Street

War Memorial Park

Episcopal Church

Parish House

2 story commercial block

Millford Town Offices

Town Park

UNITED STATES POST OFFICE  
MILFORD, CONNECTICUT