

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	MAR 28 1986
DATE ENTERED	M. 9 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

Presque Isle Main Post Office

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

23 Second Street

N/A NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Presque Isle

N/A VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Second Congressional District

STATE

Maine 04769

CODE

6450

COUNTY

Aroostock

CODE

003

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	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" 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.

Aroostock County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Post Office Box 77

CITY, TOWN

Houlton

STATE

Maine 04730

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

None

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT
 GOOD
 FAIR

DETERIORATED
 RUINS
 UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

*Addition added in 1965

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

On the corner of Second and Church Streets, a tree lined intersection on the gently sloping hill one block away from central business district, but close to the important Town building, the Presque Isle Post Office occupies a stately location of great prominence in the community.

The immediate neighborhood contains few aesthetically noteworthy structures among which are older homes, some commercial buildings and structures modified to accept professional offices.

The plan of the building is rectangular in shape and consists of a first floor, basement and loading platform. It is 108' along its front face on the Second Street side and 77'-0" along the North face of Church Street. The loading platform is at the rear of the building. The building contains approximately 8,000 square feet and is situated on the Northwest corner of a lot containing approximately 29,976 feet.

The formal entrance which is centered at the front of the building leads to a general lobby which runs almost the full length of the building and is terminated on the South side by the Postmaster's office and on the North side (after turning the corner) by the workroom. Beyond the lobby in an Easterly direction, is a large workroom and beyond that is the loading platform. The basement contains the utility room, heater room and storage. Customer parking is in the Street at the front of the building.

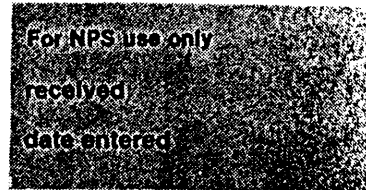
The building has a reinforced concrete foundation. A steel frame supports a reinforced concrete floor. The exterior materials are brick laid in garden bond coursing. The windows and doors on the original portion of the building are trimmed in granite and the base on which the building sits is granite. The windows are wood double hung.

The front of the building faces West on to Second Street. Its first floor is raised approximately four feet above the Street which provides the grass platform on which the building sits providing symmetrical massing. The main facade of the building is slightly forward of two smaller wings which are ostensibly unornamented surfaces. This helps to break down the scale of the building and provide a facility more in keeping with the residential character of the neighborhood. This face is supported on a granite water table which acts as an additional base with which to support a red brick exterior granite architrave and cornice and a slate hip roof. The wings contain the granite base, brick skin, granite architrave and cornice. The roof on each wing is flat. Each of the vertical corners of the main portion as well as the wings contain continuous vertical granite quoins.

There is a single main entrance at the center of the face of the building. It is surrounded by incised granite which is classically detailed and terminated with a broken pedimented architrave. The windows are ample 12/12 wood double hung with granite trim topped by a keystone at the center of each of the six. The windows are evenly spaced; three on each side of the main entrance to echo to the symmetrical attitude of the facade.

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

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



Continuation sheet PRESQUE ISLE MAIN POST OFFICE Item number 7

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The North face of the building contains a single symbolic Palladian window which has been formally detailed in granite. The South wall contains one of the larger windows similar to those contained on the front of the building along with two smaller openings. The frieze along the top of the building contains triglyph and Metope along with the engraved name "United States Post Office." The granite cornice encloses the gutter which is emptied through interior roof drains.

The original building was completed in the Spring of 1934 and was renovated in 1965. The renovation created an addition to the rear of the building and the exterior materials used in that addition were designed to match (as closely as possible) the original facade. The addition contains garden bond, red brick, exterior 12/12 wood double hung windows, and a flat tar and gravel roof. Since the addition is somewhat taller than the original building, the Architects chose to carry a granite trim around the building at the height of the original existing cornice. Above this trim the wall is capped with a metal gravel stop. The water table at the floor line of the original building is repeated along the faces of the new addition. The stylistic elements of the granite treatment of the original facade is not echoed in the austere addition.

The floor of the interior lobby is the original terrazzo. The white marble wainscot on the walls with the plaster walls above are original and well maintained. Unfortunately, the original plaster ceiling with its original hanging light fixtures have been replaced with a suspended acoustical tile ceiling. The original lobby has also been enlarged to provide for additional post office boxes and the railing to the basement is aluminum.

The facility is quite striking. It is detailed with refined sophistication, well composed, and proportioned. It offers a strong sense of stability and security to its neighbors.

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	1932: Dedication 1965: Addition	BUILDER/ARCHITECT	James A. Wetmore, Architect Alonzo J. Harriman, Architect
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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Presque Isle Post Office incorporates the elements of classic Revival Design under the supervision of James A. Wetmore, Architect for the U. S. Treasury Department; symbolic of both Americas, past and her future progress. It was designed to be an architectural symbol of the Federal Government.

In the early thirties when the country was beginning to feel the effects of the depression, the design and construction of post offices were an important attempt to rejuvenate the economy and offer relief to the design and construction industry. Although the design policy bowed to the economic needs of the day, there was a positive effort to construct buildings symbolic of government strength and ideals. The user accepted them as an effort on the part of the Government to sponsor prosperity.

Location, visibility and access were necessary to reinforce the idea of the Federal Presence which is one of the reasons why the Post Office in Presque Isle was placed on the important intersection of Second Street and Church Street. Its raised position on this site, its color, sensitive proportions and scale enhances an otherwise architecturally unsettled neighborhood.

Constructed in cooperation with a local contractor and supervision by the design team was of paramount importance. Alex C. Stewart, the Supervising Engineer, provided reports and photographs of all the important details of construction to L.A. Simon, the Superintendent of the A.D. Division in Washington, D.C. These documents were carefully scrutinized to insure that discrepancies in the work were quickly cured and that the quality of the construction was maintained.

With the attention given to the siting of the building, the formal design of the facility, the quality of the construction and the thorough supervision, this Post Office has continued to maintain its traditional role as an example of stability and confidence during a most difficult era in American history.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

City of Presque Isle - 125th Historical Booklet - 1858-1984

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 .70

UTM REFERENCES

A	19	575050	5170005	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The site is located at the northerly corner of Second Street and Church Street and is rectangular in shape and approximately 29,796 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

James J. Sullivan, Architect

ORGANIZATION

SULLIVAN DESIGN GROUP, INC.

DATE

September 5, 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

Eugene G. Shepleworth Jr.
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

James T. Coe

TITLE Director, Office of Real Estate

DATE March 20, 1986

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

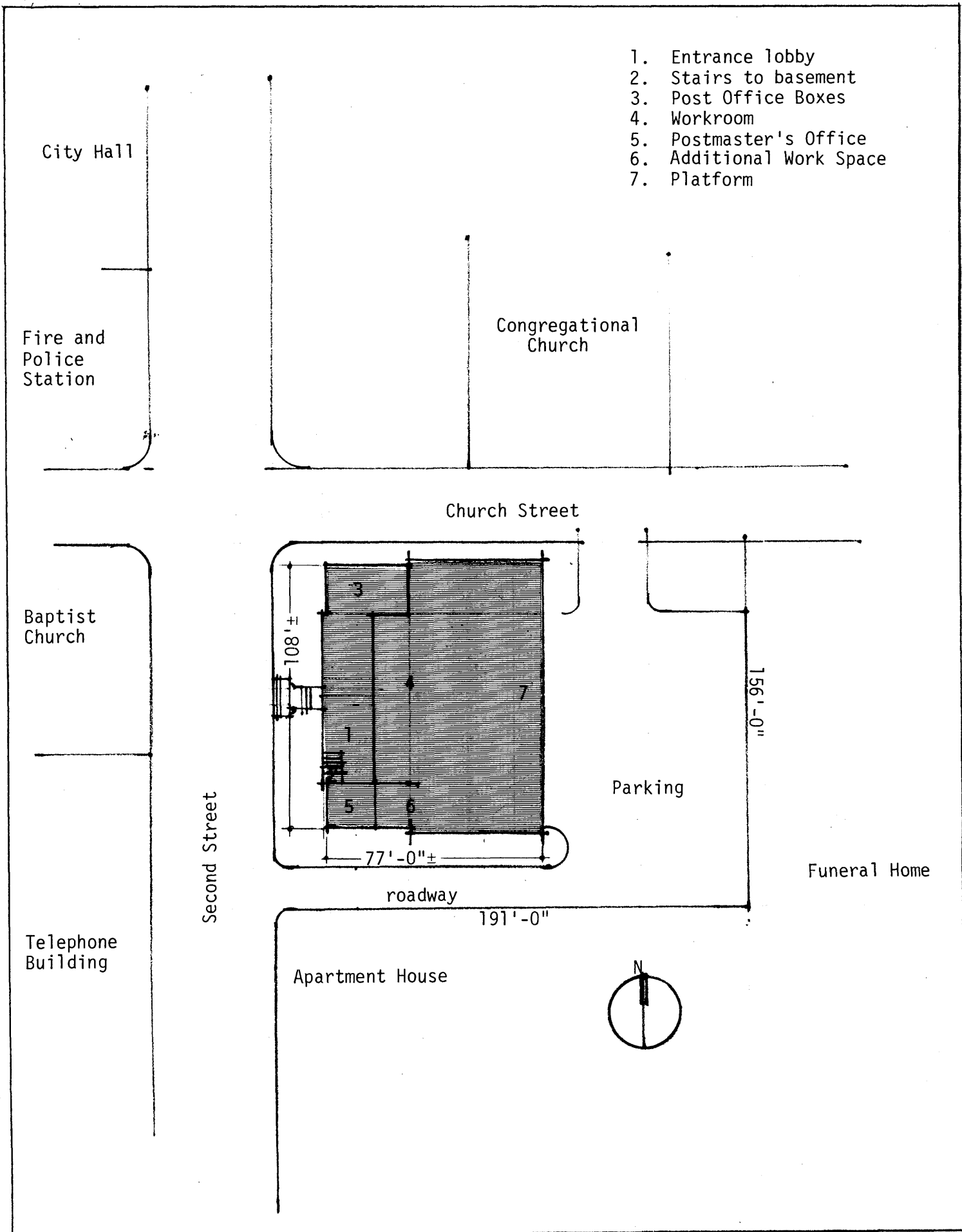
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

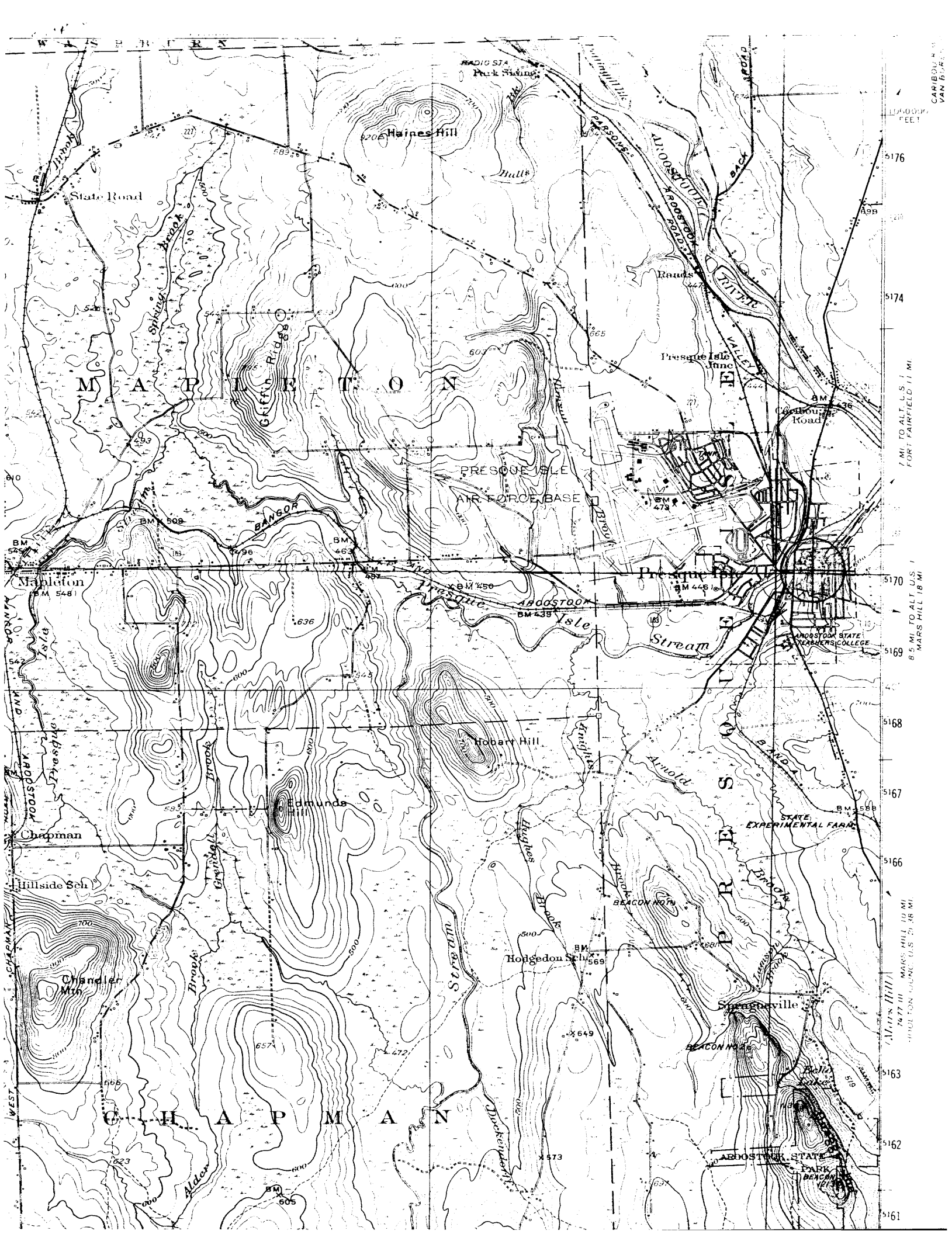
DATE 5/9/86

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 5-8-86

1. Entrance lobby
2. Stairs to basement
3. Post Office Boxes
4. Workroom
5. Postmaster's Office
6. Additional Work Space
7. Platform





100-0000
FEET

5176

5174

7 MI TO ALT. U.S. 1
FORT FAIRFIELD 11 MI

5170
8.5 MI TO ALT. U.S. 1
MARS HILL 18 MI

5168

5167

5166

5165

5163

5162

5161

MARS HILL
7477 MARS HILL 10 MI
FAIRFIELD 10 MI U.S. 248 MI

CARTON
VAN BUREN