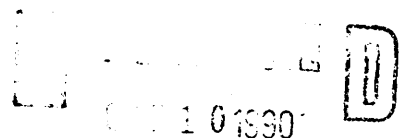


NPS Form 10-900
(Rev. 8/86)
Wisconsin Word Processor Format (1331D)
(Approved 3/87)

OMB No. 1024-0018



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL
REGISTER**

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries. Use letter quality printer in 12 pitch, using an 85 space line and a 10 space left margin. Use only 25% or greater cotton content bond paper.

1. Name of Property

historic name NEENAH UNITED STATES POST OFFICE

other names/site number The Old Post Office

2. Location

street & number 307 South Commercial Street N/A not for publication

city, town Neenah N/A vicinity

state Wisconsin code WI county Winnebago code 139 zip code 54956

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	No. of Resources within Property	
		contributing	noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)		
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> objects
		<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A
No. of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination ___ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria. ___ See continuation sheet.

Jeff Haw 10/2/90
Signature of certifying official Date
State Historic Preservation Officer-WI
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria. ___ See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

**Entered in the
National Register**

entered in the National Register.
___ See continuation sheet

Melona Byer 11/8/90

___ determined eligible for the National Register. ___ See continuation sheet

___ determined not eligible for the National Register.

___ removed from the National Register.

___ other, (explain:)

fa Signature of the Keeper Date

6. Functions or Use

Historic Functions
(enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions
(enter categories from instructions)

Government/Post Office

Commerce/Restaurant

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)

Materials
(enter categories from instructions)

Colonial Revival

foundation Limestone

walls Brick

roof Slate

other Limestone

Bronze

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Neenah U. S. Post Office is located three blocks south of the central business district in the industrial city of Neenah. Situated on the southwest corner of South Commercial Street and Columbian Avenue, the building is a two-story Georgian Revival post office of masonry construction built between 1916 and 1918. The site is two blocks from the central business district in a transitional area of gas stations, small office buildings and single family residences converted to multi-family and commercial uses.

The plan configuration is rectangular with a one-story brick receiving dock on the west side added in 1956. The roof is hipped with three hipped dormers on the east and west elevations, one on the south. The foundations and watertable are dressed ashlar limestone, the walls are red brick with an English bond, and the roofing materials are slate shingles. The fenestration is formally balanced and has stone architrave trim. Ten windows are double-hung, multi-paned sash on the first floor. These have stone spandrels and sills. The ten second floor and seven dormers are multi-paned casement. On the east facade two large stilted arch windows flank an identical arch containing the front entry and a large leaded fan light. These arches are ornamented with limestone keystones and skewbacks. Identical windows on the west facade are still intact but have been boarded over and partially covered by the receiving dock. The front entry consists of limestone architrave trim, double bronze doors, and flanking bronze lanterns. The limestone door surround includes a frieze with acanthus ornament below a bracketed cornice. The denticulated cornice at the roofline is also limestone. A brick interior chimney is located on the north roof slope.

A short flight of steps stretches from the sidewalk to the main entrance. The principal landscape feature is banked foundation turf. An exterior basement entrance of frame construction was added to the south facade in the 1970 s and is distinguished by its gabled roof and board-and-batten siding. A similarly constructed main floor entrance was also added to the south side of the receiving dock along the west side of the main mass. These two incompatible frame additions do not lessen the appreciation of the overall building design and have had little structural impact. The masonry receiving dock was added to the west facade in the 1950 s. It is flat roofed but repeats the foundation line and is constructed of matching brick. Two large docks are located on the north and south facades of this addition. This addition covers over the three stilted arch windows but maintains the scale and fabric of the main mass.

X See continuation sheet

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Section number 7 Page 1 Neenah United States Post Office
Neenah, Winnebago County, WI

The interior originally consisted of a two-story work area and service lobby flanked by two small offices. The lobby was ornamented with marble wainscotting, a vaulted ceiling, and three large stilted arch transoms that repeated the window and entry arches. A small staircase adjacent to the south office led to a second floor meeting room and observation catwalks. Another small staircase adjacent to the north office led to the locker rooms and lounge. This plan was extensively altered in the 1970's when converted to a restaurant and discotheque. A bar, dining area, and kitchen now occupy the principal first floor spaces. Some marble wainscotting, the stilted arch transoms, and the vaulted ceiling remain intact in the lobby.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: nationally statewide X locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B X C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance

(enter categories from instructions)	Period of Significance	Significant Dates
Architecture	1916-1918 (1)	1916-1918 (1)
_____	_____	1956 (2)
_____	_____	_____

_____	Cultural Affiliation
_____	N/A
_____	_____
_____	_____

Significant Person	Architect/Builder
N/A	Wetmore, J/Sample, Wm. architects (1)
_____	Grindele, C W, Co., builders (1)

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Neenah U. S. Post Office is nominated to the National Register for its local significance under criterion C. The post office embodies the distinctive characteristics of Georgian Revival design addressed in the Cultural Resource Management Plan. It is also reflective of a significant period of industrial transition and economic growth in the community.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Neenah began in 1835 as an industrial and agricultural mission for the Menominee Indians. Its early white settlement, attracted by the water power of the Fox River, started a few years later. Developing in the 1850's as an important Wisconsin flour milling center, Neenah's industrial economy evolved into a nationally prominent center for paper milling in the late 19th century dominated by Kimberly-Clark Corporation. After the turn of the century the local paper industry turned from bulk papers to consumer products, a successful move which resulted in rapid industrial expansion.

Neenah incorporated as a village in 1850, and as a city in 1872. The post office was established in 1844, and the first federally subsidized structure constructed for postal purposes was the Henry Sherry Block (145 W. Wisconsin Avenue; Wisconsin Avenue Historic District, NRHP 1984) built in 1884. Home delivery began from that building in 1899. The Neenah U. S. Post Office was authorized in 1916 and constructed by the Treasury Department under Secretary William McAdoo and Supervising Architect James A. Wetmore. William Sample of Chicago was the assisting architect, and C. W. Grindele Company was the builder. Neither is known to have executed any other work in the area. A receiving dock added in 1956 kept the building in use until the present post office building was constructed in 1967.

 X See continuation sheet

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Section number 8 Page 1 Neenah United States Post Office
Neenah, Winnebago County, WI

The Neenah U. S. Post Office was constructed during a significant period of industrial transition and economic growth. In response to federal reciprocity agreements with Canada, the paper industry shifted from pulp and newsprint papers to consumer products such as tissue, waxed paper, and cardboard. The transition to consumer products stimulated a new level of local economic growth and resulted in the construction of five commercial structures that reflected this new prosperity. The five include the Equitable Reserve Association Building built in 1909, the Valley Inn hotel built in 1916, the First National Bank built in 1921, and the National Manufacturer's Bank built in 1923. Of these only one extant is the Equitable Reserve Association Building, a Classic Revival office building located at 116 S. Commercial St.

ARCHITECTURE

The Neenah U. S. Post Office is of local architectural significance as an outstanding example of Georgian Revival design. No other examples of this style were identified in the 1982 Neenah Intensive Survey. Georgian in symmetry, massing, and simplicity, the design includes distinctively Federal features such as a fan light, a classical door surround, and Palladian windows. The architectural study unit of the Cultural Resource Management Plan identifies the combination of Georgian and Federal features as characteristic of Georgian Revival design which was popular in Wisconsin from 1900 to 1940.

The commercial application of this style is not discussed in the plan, but other examples can be found in the immediate vicinity, the most prominent of which is the 1931 Menasha U. S. Post Office (NRHP 1986). Like its counterpart in Menasha, the Neenah U. S. Post Office retains the general characteristics of a Class C Federal Building for a first class post office as defined in the 1915 regulations. A first class post office was one that met a specified level of receipts, and Class C categorized the building materials allowed in its construction. The Class C building was characterized by brick facing, stone trim, and marble interior finish, all of which are clearly evident in the Neenah U. S. Post Office. The similarity of design and materials between the two post offices is also consistent with the policy of the Supervising Architect to duplicate design and floor plans whenever possible.

Although interior modification has changed the large, open work area characteristic of post offices, the lobby and side offices retain sufficient historical fabric to be identified as a product of federal building regulations. The exterior strongly reflects a federal esthetic and presence only slightly encumbered by contemporary additions. Together these elements make the Neenah U. S. Post Office far more pristine than the commercial buildings a block away in the Wisconsin Avenue Historic District.

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Neenah, Winnebago County, WI

- (1) Neenah Daily News. April 22, 1918; p. 3, col. 1-3.
- (2) Shattuck, 389.

* Since the building is being nominated for architectural significance alone, the period of significance encompasses the buildings construction date (1916-1918).

9. Major Bibliographical References

Adams, Peter J. Neenah Historical and Architectural Survey Project. Neenah Community Development Department, 1982. Neenah, Wisconsin.
Shattuck, S. Frank. History of Neenah. Private, 1958. Neenah, Wisconsin.
Wyatt, Barbara. Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin: Vol. 2. State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1986. Madison, Wisconsin
Neenah Daily News. April 22, 1918; p. 3, col. 1-3.

Previous documentation on file (NPS): See continuation sheet
[X] preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
previously listed in the National Register
previously determined eligible by the National Register
designated a National Historic Landmark
recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #
recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #
Primary location of additional data:
[X] State Historic Preservation Office
Other State agency
Federal agency
[X] Local government
University
Other
Specify repository:
City of Neenah

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of property .82 acres (less than one acre)

UTM References

A 1/6 3/8/3/0/4/0 4/8/9/3/2/3/0 B / / / / / / / / / / / /
Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing
C / / / / / / / / / / / / D / / / / / / / / / / / /

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

Bassets Addition, Lots 1, 2, 14, 15, 16, and the east ten feet of Lot 3, Block 1
See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the entire city lot area that has been historically associated with the property.
See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Mary Kidd, Gail Cummings, Peter Adams
organization Neenah Landmarks Commission date February 1, 1988
street & number 211 Walnut Street telephone 414/729-4665
city or town Neenah state Wisconsin zip code 54956

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Neenah, Winnebago County, WI

Photographic Materials - Identification

Neenah U. S. Post Office
Neenah, Winnebago County, WI
Photos by Gail Cummings, February 1988

- Photo #1 of 5: View from northeast.
- Photo #2 of 5: View from east, main entry detail
- Photo #3 of 5: View from north
- Photo #4 of 5: View from northwest
- Photo #5 of 5: View from south