

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 NOV 27 1985

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

South Hadley Main Post Office

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

1 Hadley Street N/A

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

South Hadley

N/A VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

First Congressional District

STATE

Massachusetts 01075

CODE

1230

COUNTY

Hampshire

CODE

015

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

## CATEGORY

 DISTRICT BUILDING(S) STRUCTURE SITE OBJECT

## OWNERSHIP

 PUBLIC PRIVATE BOTH

## PUBLIC ACQUISITION

 IN PROCESS BEING CONSIDERED

## STATUS

 OCCUPIED UNOCCUPIED WORK IN PROGRESS

## ACCESSIBLE

 YES: RESTRICTED YES: UNRESTRICTED NO

## PRESENT USE

 AGRICULTURE MUSEUM COMMERCIAL PARK EDUCATIONAL PRIVATE RESIDENCE ENTERTAINMENT RELIGIOUS GOVERNMENT SCIENTIFIC INDUSTRIAL TRANSPORTATION MILITARY OTHER**4 AGENCY**

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (If applicable)

New England Field Real Estate and Buildings Office

STREET &amp; NUMBER

1050 Waltham Street

CITY, TOWN

Lexington

N/A VICINITY OF

STATE

Massachusetts 02173

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Hampshire Registry of Deeds

STREET &amp; NUMBER

33 King Street

CITY, TOWN

Northampton

STATE

Massachusetts

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

None

DATE

 FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input 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		

## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Situated on a pleasant, tree shaded common of a small New England town, this Post Office is a structure that reinforces the importance of this town center. Other buildings located around the common include a church and academic buildings circa 1880, two attractive frame houses of the early 1800's, which have been converted to restaurant use, a bank and small commercial buildings.

The Post Office situated to maximize its corner location is designed in a simplified classical style of symmetrical massing and unornamented surfaces. A sense of dignity and government strength is evident in the three bay entrance portico which fronts the common. Massive columns are sheathed in light limestone which support an entablature of THE same material which is carried around the building. The exterior is red brick laid in English bond with a granite base, granite steps (with wrought iron railings) provide access to the portico which has a floor of bluestone. Large scale window with wood double hung sash of 12/12 lights flood the interior with light; the roof is flat with a projecting monitor section in the center.

The lobby is not a particularly distinguished space, but contains many elements of the original design. The floor is terrazzo and there is a seven foot marble wainscot with plaster walls above; original mouldings, open grill work and the wood and glass entrance vestibule are intact.

The building was substantially enlarged and remodelled in 1968 to accommodate increased activity in postal services. This resulted in modernization of the lobby; partial acoustic ceiling, glass and aluminum partition and fluorescent light fixtures which detract from the original design of the interior. The exterior of the addition blends well with the original building and is not detrimental to the influential position of this public buiding.

# B 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

Constructed: 1940

## BUILDER/ARCHITECT

Leon Pernice, Architect

J.D. Hedia Construction Co. Builder

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This property is of prime importance in the enhancement of a small town common. The only building in the vicinity of this architectural style and with its strong presence it measures the progression of architectural development along with neighboring structures surrounding the green. The unusual curved colonade, bold and severe in design gives vitality and meaning to this public space which is a center of activity for the adjacent college community and surrounding area.

The South Hadley Post Office, designed by Architect Leon Pernice who practiced in West Springfield, Massachusetts, is typical of the period when federal buildings were built to designs that originated within the Public Buildings Administration. Speedy and efficient construction was emphasized to relieve unemployment and stimulate the economy. The design reflects the policy of the administration during this period which stipulated standardized plans, simplified classical design and a movement toward modernism. A one-of-a-kind property resulted when Architect Pernice enclosed the standardized building requirement with an exterior that incorporates regional expression along with the design prerequisites of the administration.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

"Democratic Vistas" by Marlene Park and Gerald Markowitz  
Temple University Press, Philadelphia, PA 19122 - ISBN prefix numbers 0-87722.  
History of Post Office Construction 1900-1940, July, 1982

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY .847

UTM REFERENCES

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

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The site located at the Northerly corner of Woodbridge and Hadley Streets is trapezohedron in form and contains approximately 36,900 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

Ellsworth H. Kent, 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 02184

# 12 CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

YES  NO

NONE

*Valerie A. Talmage* 9/19/85  
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 *James T. Coe* Director, Office of Real Estate

DATE NOV 25 1985

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

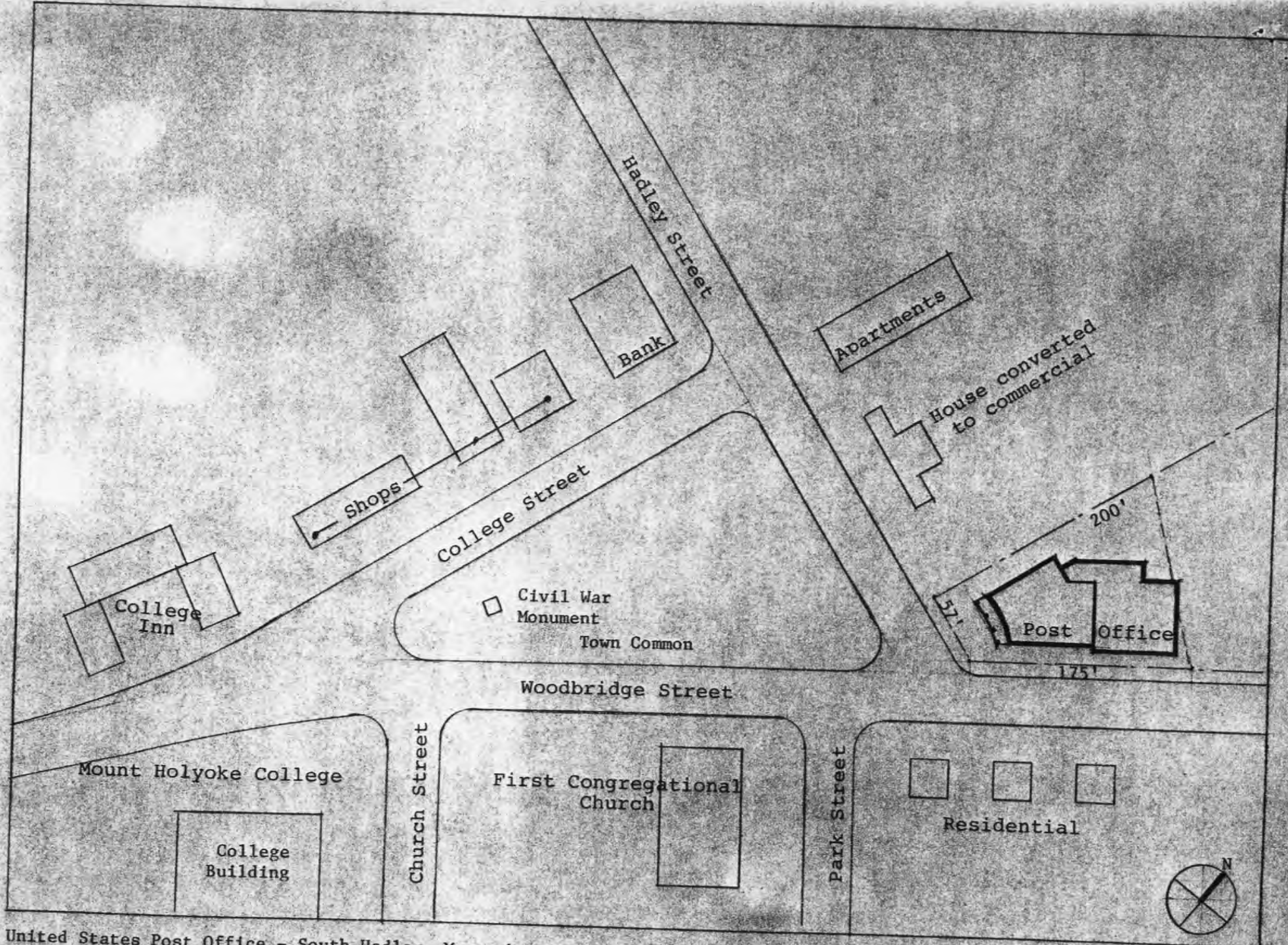
DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



United States Post Office - South Hadley, Massachusetts

less than 50 yrs

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

United States Post Office-South Hadley Main  
Post Office  
Hampshire County  
MASSACHUSETTS

Substantive Review NOV 27 1985  
Working No. \_\_\_\_\_  
Fed. Reg. Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date Due: 12/26/85 - 1/11/86 SAH  
Action: ACCEPT \_\_\_\_\_  
RETURN 1-10-86  
REJECT \_\_\_\_\_  
Federal Agency: U.S. Postal Service

- resubmission
- nomination by person or local government
- owner objection
- appeal

Substantive Review:  sample     request     appeal     NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

*see attached comment sheet*

Recom./Criteria Return  
Reviewer Savage  
Discipline Architectural History  
Date 1-2-86  
 see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for:  technical corrections cited below  
 substantive reasons discussed below

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
	Public Acquisition	Accessible	

4. Owner of Property

5. Location of Legal Description

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Has this property been determined eligible?     yes     no

7. Description

Condition

- excellent
- good
- fair
- deteriorated
- ruins
- unexposed

Check one

- unaltered
- altered

Check one

- original site
- moved    date \_\_\_\_\_

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- alterations/integrity
- dates
- boundary selection

8. Significance

Period Areas of Significance—Check and justify below

Specific dates Builder/Architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- applicable criteria
- justification of areas checked
- relating significance to the resource
- context
- relationship of integrity to significance
- justification of exception
- other

9. Major Bibliographical References

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle name \_\_\_\_\_

UTM References \_\_\_\_\_

Verbal boundary description and justification \_\_\_\_\_

11. Form Prepared By

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

\_\_\_ national \_\_\_ state \_\_\_ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

13. Other

- Maps
- Photographs
- Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to Beth Savage (202) 343-9550

Signed Patrick Ordus Date 1/10/86 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

REVIEW COMMENTS

U.S. Post Office-South Hadley, MA  
01/02/86

Significance: Please clarify the stylistic mode of design and further develop the statement of architectural significance. Since this property is less than 50 years old, please address criteria exception g. by discussing the exceptional significance of this property within the appropriate context.

Cited in Democratic Vistas by Park and Markowitz is a mural by Saul Levine located in this post office. If the mural is still extant, please evaluate the importance of it to the building and its relationship to the 1930s federally sponsored art programs, a recognized significant national cultural historical theme (see letter from Jerry L. Rogers to James Coe dated 12/05/86).

Photographs: Please provide a photo of the mural.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

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RECEIVED NOV 27 1985

DATE ENTERED MAY 28 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

South Hadley Main Post Office

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

1 Hadley Street

N/A

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

South Hadley

N/A VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

First Congressional District

STATE

Massachusetts 01075

CODE

1230

COUNTY

Hampshire

CODE

015

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

**CATEGORY**

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

**OWNERSHIP**

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- N/A  IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

**STATUS**

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

**PRESENT USE**

- AGRICULTURE
- MUSEUM
- COMMERCIAL
- PARK
- EDUCATIONAL
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- ENTERTAINMENT
- RELIGIOUS
- GOVERNMENT
- SCIENTIFIC
- INDUSTRIAL
- TRANSPORTATION
- MILITARY
- 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.

Hampshire Registry of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER

33 King Street

CITY, TOWN

Northampton

STATE

Massachusetts

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

None

DATE

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

# 7 DESCRIPTION

<b>CONDITION</b>		<b>CHECK ONE</b>	<b>CHECK ONE</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input 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		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Situated on a pleasant, tree shaded common of a small New England town, this Post Office is a structure that reinforces the importance of this town center. Other buildings located around the common include a church and academic buildings circa 1880, two attractive frame houses of the early 1800's, which have been converted to restaurant use, a bank and small commercial buildings.

The Post Office situated to maximize its corner location is designed in a simplified classical style of symmetrical massing and unornamented surfaces. A sense of dignity and government strength is evident in the three bay entrance portico which fronts the common. Massive columns are sheathed in light limestone which support an entablature of THE same material which is carried around the building. The exterior is red brick laid in English bond with a granite base, granite steps (with wrought iron railings) provide access to the portico which has a floor of bluestone. Large scale window with wood double hung sash of 12/12 lights flood the interior with light; the roof is flat with a projecting monitor section in the center.

The lobby is not a particularly distinguished space, but contains many elements of the original design. The floor is terrazzo and there is a seven foot marble wainscot with plaster walls above; original mouldings, open grill work and the wood and glass entrance vestibule are intact.

The building was substantially enlarged and remodelled in 1968 to accommodate increased activity in postal services. This resulted in modernization of the lobby; partial acoustic ceiling, glass and aluminum partition and fluorescent light fixtures which detract from the original design of the interior. The exterior of the addition blends well with the original building and is not detrimental to the influential position of this public building.

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input 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		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

## Local Context

Situated on the Northeast corner of a pleasant, tree shaded common of a small New England college town, this Post Office is a dominant structure that reinforces the cohesiveness and importance of the town center. Other buildings located around the common include the First Congregational Church and a stone academic building both circa 1880, two attractive frame houses of the early 1800's which have been converted to restaurant use, a bank and three small commercial buildings. The area is part of a historic district.

## Physical Appearance

The Post Office, situated to maximize its corner location is designed in a simplified classical style of symmetrical massing and unornamented surfaces. A sense of dignity and government strength is evident in the three bay entrance portico which fronts the common. Massive columns are sheathed in light colored limestone which support an entablature of the same material which is carried around the building. The exterior is red brick laid in English bond with a granite base; granite steps with wrought iron railings provide access to the portico which has a floor of bluestone. Large scale window with wood double hung sash of 12/12 lights flood the interior with light; the roof is flat with a projecting monitor section in the center.

The lobby is not a particularly distinguished space, but contains many elements of the original design. The floor is terrazzo and there is a seven foot marble wainscot with plaster walls above; original mouldings, open grill work and the

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

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

For NPS use only

received

date entered

APR 23 1986

Continuation sheet SOUTH HADLEY, MASSACHUSETTS Item number 7

Page 2

wood and glass entrance vestibule are intact. The most important feature of the lobby is a mural painted by Saul L. Levine in 1942.

Alterations

The building was substantially enlarged and remodelled in 1968 to accommodate increased activity in postal services. This resulted in modernization of the lobby; partial acoustic ceiling, glass and aluminum partition and fluorescent light fixtures which detract from the original design of the interior. The exterior of the addition blends well with the original building and is not detrimental to the influential position of this public building.



## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

"Democratic Vistas" by Marlene Park and Gerald Markowitz  
 Temple University Press, Philadelphia, PA 19122 - ISBN prefix numbers 0-87722.  
History of Post Office Construction 1900-1940, July, 1982

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY .847

UTM REFERENCES

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

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The site located at the Northerly corner of Woodbridge and Hadley Streets is trapezohedron in form and contains approximately 36,900 square feet.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Ellsworth H. Kent, 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 02184

## 12 CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

YES

NO

NONE

*Valerie A. Talmage 9/19/85*

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

*James T. Coe* Director, Office of Real Estate

DATE

NOV 25 1985

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE

5/28/86

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE				CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW
PREHISTORIC	ARCHEOLOGY PREHISTORIC	COMMUNITY PLANNING	LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	RELIGION	
1400 1499	ARCHEOLOGY HISTORIC	CONSERVATION	LAW	SCIENCE	
1500 1599	AGRICULTURE	ECONOMICS	LITERATURE	SCULPTURE	
1600 1699	X ARCHITECTURE	EDUCATION	MILITARY	SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
1700 1799	ART	ENGINEERING	MUSIC	THEATER	
1800 1899	COMMERCE	EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	PHILOSOPHY	TRANSPORTATION	
X 900	COMMUNICATIONS	INDUSTRY	POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES Constructed: 1940 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Leon Pernice, Architect  
J.D. Hedia Construction Co., Buil

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This property is of prime importance in the enhancement of a small college town common. The only building in the vicinity of this architectural style and with its strong presence it measures the progression of architectural development along with neighboring structures surrounding the green. The unusual curved colonade, bold and severe in design gives vitality and meaning to this public space which is a center of activity for the adjacent college community and surrounding area. The 800 acre campus of Mount Holyoke College is located across the street from the Post Office and forms an integral community visually, economically and socially with the town center.

The South Hadley Post Office, designed by Architect Leon Pernice who practiced in West Springfield, Massachusetts, is typical of the period when federal buildings were built to designs that originated within the Public Buildings Administration. Speedy and efficient construction was emphasized to relieve unemployment and stimulate the economy. The design reflects the policy of the administration during this period which stipulated standardized plans, simplified classical design and a movement toward modernism. A one-of-a-kind property resulted when Architect Pernice enclosed the standardized building requirement with an exterior that incorporates regional expression along with the design prerequisites of the administration.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

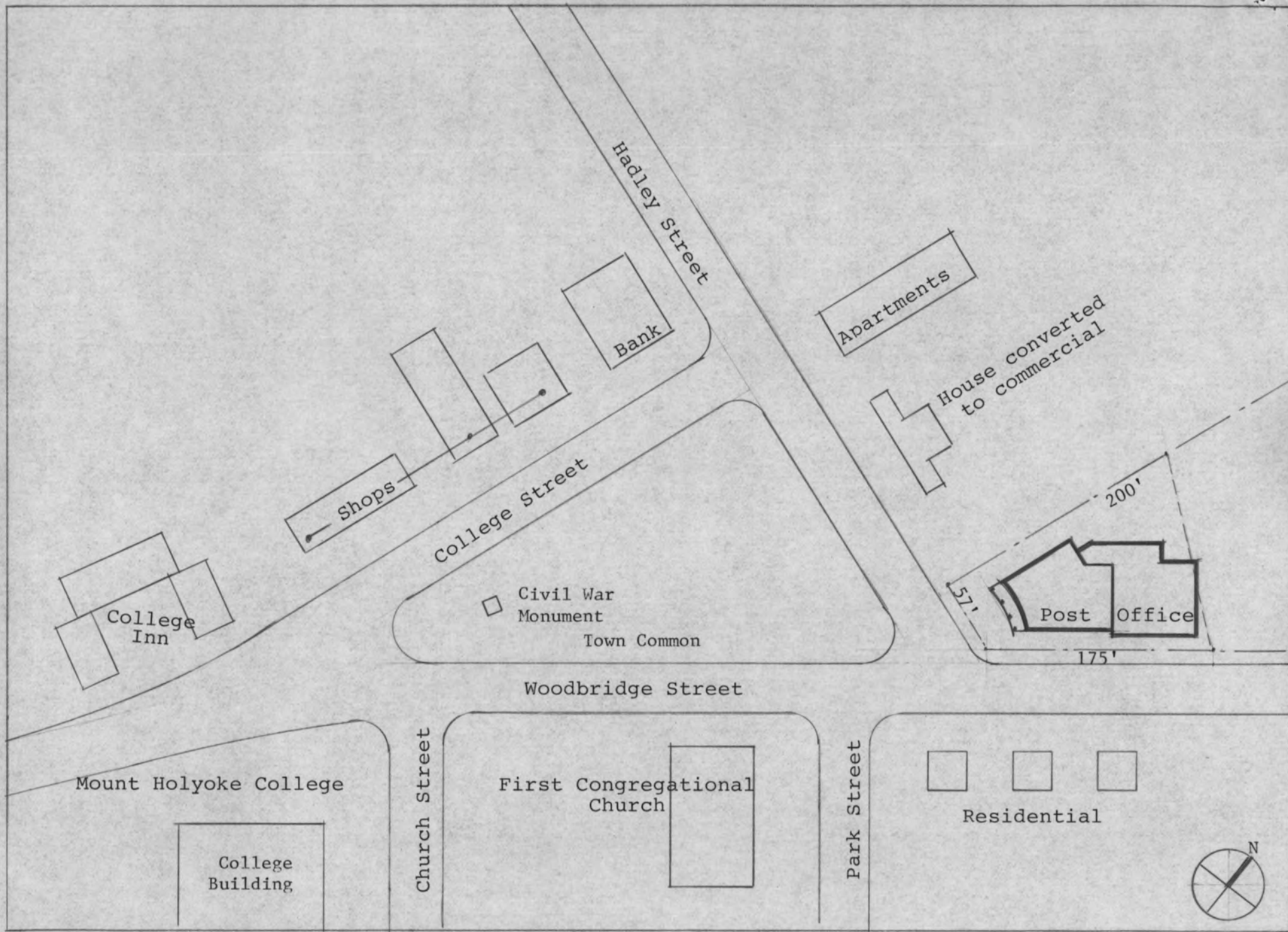
received April 23 1986

date entered

Continuation sheet SOUTH HADLEY, MASSACHUSETTS Item number 8

Page 2

In addition the mural in the lobby provides a significant and constant visual link with the neighboring college community. Painted in 1942 by Saul L. Levine, of Brooklyn, New York who studied painting at the Yale School of Fine Arts, it is titled, "Composite View of South Hadley" and depicts student activity at Mount Holyoke College. The college is a liberal arts college for women and was founded in 1837 by Mary Lyon. Originally affiliated with the Congregational Church, it is today an independent institution, a member of the Seven College Conference popularly known as the "seven sisters" and has an international student body of 1850 people. The mural, which underwent restoration in 1972, is featured in the book, "Democratic Vistas" by Marlene Park and Gerald Markowitz, a book that addresses post office and public art in the New Deal. This large work of art, executed in egg tempera, is exemplary of the work commissioned under the WPA to provide much needed work for artist during the final years of the Great Depression.



United States Post Office - South Hadley, Massachusetts

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

United States Post Office--South Hadley Main Post Office  
Hampshire County  
MASSACHUSETTS

**Substantive Review**

Working No. 4/27/85  
Fed. Reg. Date: 2/3/87  
Date Due: 6/7/86  
Action:  ACCEPT 5-28-86  
 RETURN  
 REJECT  
Federal Agency: U.S. Postal Service

- resubmission
- nomination by person or local government
- owner objection
- appeal

Substantive Review:  sample  request  appeal  NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

*see attached  
comments*

Recom./Criteria Accept A+C  
Reviewer Savage  
Discipline Architectural History  
Date 5/27/86  
\_\_\_\_\_ see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for: \_\_\_\_\_ technical corrections cited below  
\_\_\_\_\_ substantive reasons discussed below

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
	Public Acquisition	Accessible	

4. Owner of Property

5. Location of Legal Description

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

7. Description

Condition

- |                                    |                                       |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> excellent | <input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated |
| <input type="checkbox"/> good      | <input type="checkbox"/> ruins        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> fair      | <input type="checkbox"/> unexposed    |

Check one

- unaltered
- altered

Check one

- original site
- moved date \_\_\_\_\_

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- alterations/integrity
- dates
- boundary selection

---

**8. Significance**

Period \_\_\_\_\_ Areas of Significance—Check and justify below

Specific dates \_\_\_\_\_ Builder/Architect \_\_\_\_\_

Statement of Significance *(in one paragraph)*

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- applicable criteria
- justification of areas checked
- relating significance to the resource
- context
- relationship of integrity to significance
- justification of exception
- other

---

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

---

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of nominated property \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle name \_\_\_\_\_

UTM References \_\_\_\_\_

Verbal boundary description and justification \_\_\_\_\_

---

**11. Form Prepared By**

---

**12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification**

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

\_\_\_\_ national      \_\_\_\_ state      \_\_\_\_ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature \_\_\_\_\_

title \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

---

**13. Other**

- Maps
- Photographs
- Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

## Review Comments

### **USPO--South Hadley Main, Hampshire County, MA**

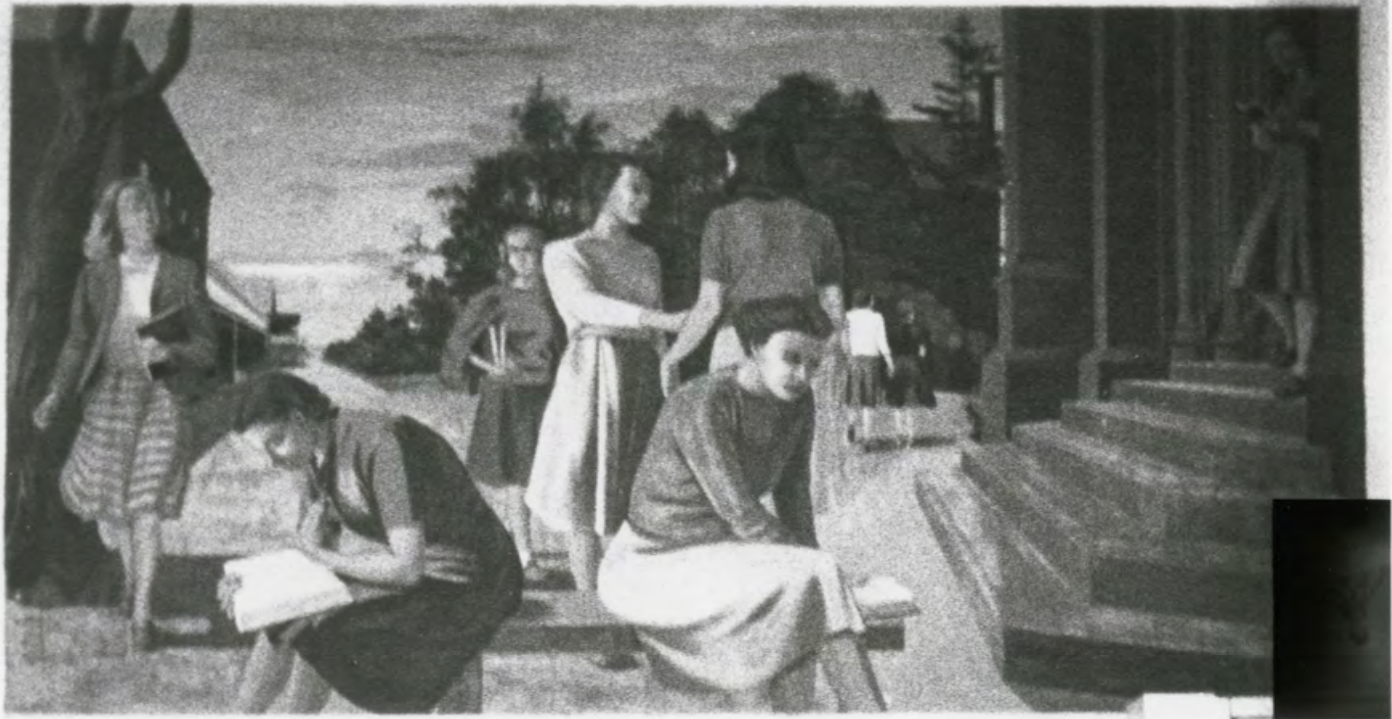
Although it is unlikely that the South Hadley Post Office is exceptionally significant for its architectural design, it is historically and artistically significant for its lobby mural entitled "Composite View of South Hadley" by Saul L. Levine which depicts student activity at Mount Holyoke College and the surrounding town. Founded in 1837, the college has always played a significant role in South Hadley. The mural which underwent restoration in 1972, is featured in Democratic Vistas: Post Offices and Public Art in the New Deal by Marlene Park and Gerald Markowitz as an important regional representative of New England Realism evident in artwork sponsored by the public art programs of the New Deal.



MAIN POST OFFICE  
SOUTH HADLEY, MA

South Hadley Main Post Office  
South Hadley, MA  
David R. Hooker  
May 6, 1983  
Earl R. Flansburgh and Associates  
Front elevation

11-27-85



MAIN POST OFFICE  
SOUTH HADLEY, MA

4/23/86

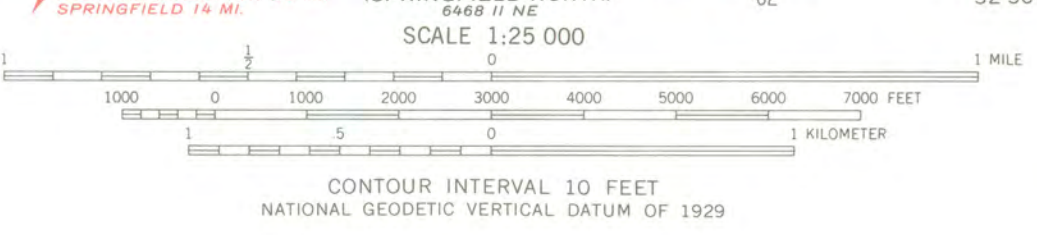
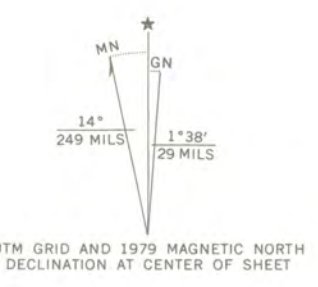


Feet Meters  
1 3048  
2 6096  
3 9144  
4 12192  
5 15240  
6 18288  
7 21336  
8 24384  
9 27432  
10 30480

To convert feet to meters multiply by .3048  
To convert meters to feet multiply by 3.2808

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey  
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and Massachusetts Geodetic Survey  
Topography by planetable surveys 1935. Revised 1964  
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum  
10,000-foot grid based on Massachusetts coordinate system,  
mainland zone  
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid,  
zone 18  
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown  
There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of the  
National or State reservations shown on this map  
Revisions shown in purple compiled from aerial photographs  
taken 1976 and other source data. This information  
not field checked. Map edited 1979

U.S. POST OFFICE  
SOUTH HADLEY, MA  
UTM REFERENCE:  
18/700010/4681110



ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Heavy-duty	Light-duty
Medium-duty	Unimproved dirt
Interstate Route	U.S. Route
	State Route



MT. HOLYOKE, MASS.  
N4215-W7230/7.5  
1964  
PHOTOREVISED 1979  
AMS 6468 I SE-SERIES V814

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092  
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



FIELD REAL ESTATE AND BUILDINGS OFFICE  
P.O. Box 324  
Lexington, MA 02173-0324

August 5, 1985

The Honorable Joseph Long  
Chairman, Board of Selectman, Town of South Hadley  
Town Hall  
116 Main Street  
South Hadley, MA 01075

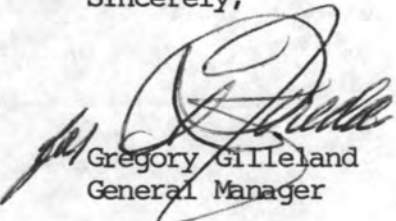
Dear Chairman Long:

The U.S. Postal Service in conjunction with the Massachusetts Historical Commission in Boston has evaluated the Main Post Office in South Hadley and has determined it is significant from an historical viewpoint.

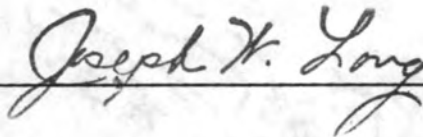
In view of the above evaluation, the U.S. Postal Service intends to nominate this building to the National Register of Historic Places. We would, prior to our taking formal action, appreciate receiving your concurrence.

If you concur with our proposed action, kindly return a signed copy of this letter in the enclosed envelope.

Sincerely,

  
Gregory Gilleland  
General Manager

Concur: \_\_\_\_\_



Enclosures

JPC/ljr

RECEIVED  
U.S. POSTAL SERVICE

AUG 13 9 19 AM '85

NEW ENGLAND FIELD REAL  
ESTATE & BLDG. OFFICE  
LEXINGTON, MA 02173

*[Faint, illegible handwritten text]*

11/1/85

1/1/1985

1/1/1985

1/1/1985  
1/1/1985

1/1/1985

*[Faint, illegible typed text]*

1/1/1985

1/1/1985

1/1/1985

1/1/1985





UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE  
Real Estate and Buildings Department  
475 L'Enfant Plaza, SW  
Washington, DC 20260-6400

November 25, 1985

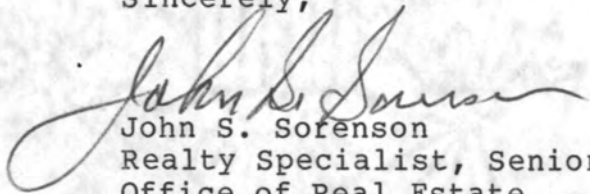
Ms. Carol D. Shull  
Chief of Registration  
National Register of Historic Places  
National Park Service  
Department of Interior  
Washington, D.C. 20240-1002

Dear Ms. Shull:

The Postal Service hereby submits a nomination for the post office located at 1 Hadley Street, Hampshire County, South Hadley, Massachusetts.

If you have any questions concerning this nomination, please call me at 202/268-3107.

Sincerely,

  
John S. Sorenson  
Realty Specialist, Senior  
Office of Real Estate

Enclosure

NOV 27 1985



# United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

P.O. BOX 37127

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20013-7127

IN REPLY REFER TO:

H32 (413)

DEC 5 1985

RECEIVED  
OFFICE OF REAL ESTATE

Mr. James T. Coe  
Director, Office of Real Estate  
U.S. Postal Service  
475 L'Enfant Plaza, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20260

DEC 10 1985

REAL ESTATE & BUILDINGS DEPT.

Dear Mr. Coe:

Thank you for your letter of October 21, 1985, concerning the recent Determination of Eligibility (DOE) for the group of Ohio post offices containing works of art commissioned by the Federal government during the 1930s.

The National Park Service is aware of the tremendous job performed by the United States Postal Service in surveying and inventorying the buildings under its jurisdiction in compliance with Executive Order 11593 and the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended. The Postal Service's initiative in preserving historically significant postal buildings is a model of diligence in the Federal government. I want to assure you that in reviewing DOE requests submitted by your agency, the National Park Service considers the opinion of the Postal Service's professional staff as seriously as that of the State Historic Preservation Offices.

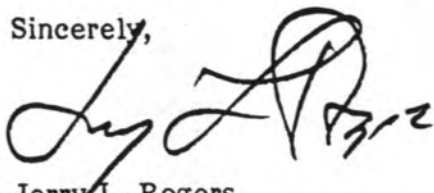
However, regarding the 1930s federally sponsored art program, we have a basic difference of opinion. As a class of properties, post office buildings containing examples of artwork produced under Federal government patronage during the Great Depression are exceptionally significant for their historic and artistic importance and for their ability to yield important information. These buildings meet three of the National Register Criteria for Evaluation: (1) for their historical association with a government sponsored program that had a major impact on the lives of citizens in over a thousand communities, (2) as integral parts of buildings representing a significant type, period, and style of artistic expression, and (3) for their unique information potential on the artistic temperament and techniques of the period and the social histories of the communities for which this artwork was specifically designed. Some of the buildings may also qualify under Criterion B for their association with artists of significant individual distinction.

The National Park Service regards works of art that are permanently affixed to interior walls to be integral parts of a building, and therefore as contributing to its historical significance. The significance of these works of art cannot be divorced from the locality for which they were commissioned, or from the specific building in which they were placed. Unlike most works of art, the murals, sculptures, and carvings created for the Treasury Department's Section on Fine Arts were designed for placement in specific buildings. The artwork had to be executed to meet the physical demands of each building's design. In keeping with the intent of the arts program to create original works of art which would be relevant to the American public, these works of art frequently depict scenes of local or regional importance. Though the art produced by this

Depression-era arts program is of exceptional significance in the social history of the country, each building still must be evaluated individually for historic integrity as representative of that program. In the case of the recent DOE, each building was found to contain artwork that met the National Register criteria and retained historic integrity from its period of significance.

We hope this elaboration of our reasoning on the recent DOE answers the questions you have raised. I am willing to discuss this further if you wish.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jerry L. Rogers". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "R".

Jerry L. Rogers  
Associate Director, Cultural Resources  
and Keeper of the National Register  
of Historic Places

JOHN CHLEBICKY -  
ACTION PLS.

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE

Washington, DC 20260

DATE: February 3, 1986

OUR REF: RB320:JSSorenson:sej:6432

SUBJECT: Request for Additional Documentation - Nomination  
South Hadley. MA

TO:

Gregory Gilleland  
General Manager  
New England FREBO

216  
RF - Action  
2/6/86

The attached nomination for the South Hadley Post Office is being returned for additional documentation as requested by the National Park Service (NPS). Kindly supply the necessary information and return the nomination to this office. Be sure to include the NPS's Evaluation/Return Sheet.

Please advise if I can assist you in this matter.



John S. Sorenson  
Realty Specialist, Senior  
Realty Management Division

Attachment

RECEIVED  
U.S. POSTAL SERVICE  
FEB 6 9 33 AM '86  
NEW ENGL AND FIELD REAL  
ESTATE S. D.D.S. OFFICE  
LEXINGTON, MA 02173



UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE  
Real Estate and Buildings Department  
475 L'Enfant Plaza, SW  
Washington, DC 20260-6400

April 16, 1986

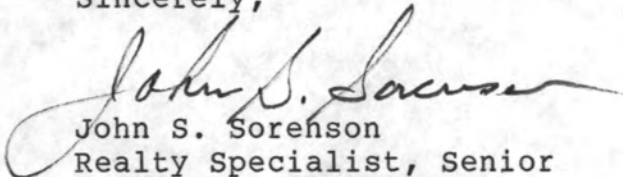
Ms. Carol D. Shull  
Chief of Registration  
National Register of Historic Places  
National Park Service  
Department of Interior  
Washington, D.C. 20240-1002

Dear Ms. Shull:

The Postal Service hereby resubmits a nomination for the post office located at 1 Hadley Street, Hampshire County, South Hadley, Massachusetts.

If you have any questions concerning this nomination, please call me at 202/268-3107.

Sincerely,

  
John S. Sorenson  
Realty Specialist, Senior  
Office of Real Estate

Enclosure

APR 23 1986