

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 17 1986

DATE ENTERED

MAY 27 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

Weymouth Landing Post Office

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

103 Washington Street

N/A NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Weymouth

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Eleventh Congressional District

STATE

Massachusetts 02188

N/A VICINITY OF

CODE

1465

COUNTY

Norfolk

CODE

021

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
 COMMERCIAL
 EDUCATIONAL
 ENTERTAINMENT
 GOVERNMENT
 INDUSTRIAL
 MILITARY
 MUSEUM
 PARK
 PRIVATE RESIDENCE
 RELIGIOUS
 SCIENTIFIC
 TRANSPORTATION
 OTHER

4 AGENCY

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (If applicable)

New England Field Real Estate and Buildings Office

STREET & NUMBER

1050 Waltham Street

CITY, TOWN

Lexington

STATE

Massachusetts 02173

N/A VICINITY OF

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Norfolk County Registry of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER

649 High Street

CITY, TOWN

Dedham

STATE

Massachusetts 02026

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

None

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

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

PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Weymouth Landing Post Office is located on one of Weymouth's main traffic routes, Washington Street. Over the years it has become a focal point for the shifting commercial district to the north. The once privately-owned residences around it have been converted to storefront properties, creating a small-scale commercial strip for the town. The building is set back from the street to not only give it a pleasant approach but also to integrate it's massiveness within the local context.

The building and its grounds are in good condition. The Post Office is on the front portion of the lot with a paved vehicle maneuvering area to the rear and a driveway on the right side. The site is landscaped with lawn and shrubs. In plan, the building is fronted by the public lobby with the Postmaster's office to the right. Behind the service screen is the workroom with a separate building volume for the mail vestibule and platform beyond.

Seven granite steps with wrought-iron railings, which terminate with electric lampposts, create the main approach to the building. The front (northeast) elevation is a five-bay structure that uses simple projecting pilasters to create a three-bay central entrance. The elevations are composed of seam-faced Weymouth ashlar granite with a projecting ashlar base. A wood entablature with a denticulated cornice surrounds the building, conforming to the changing planes of the pilasters. The windows are double-hung, wood framed with 12/12 lights, granite lintels and sills. Granite recessed panels extend down to the base. The entrance, in a segmental arched opening using granite voussoirs, contains quartered plain wood pilasters and engaged fluted Doric columns, both with a small granite base, supporting a denticulated frieze. A rectangular fanlight appears over

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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

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received

date entered

Continuation sheet Weymouth Post Office

Item number 7

Page 2

the replacement aluminum and glass entry doors. The tympanum has an eagle in bas-relief. A pitched slate roof runs parallel to the street, covering the first third of the building; the back two-thirds are topped by a flat roof and a parapet wall. Perched on top is a cupola with a wood cornice and base, fixed metal louvers, lead coated copper roof, and copper weathervane.

The northwest and southeast side facades are similar in detail to the front elevation. There is a half-circular window centered within each gabled end. The rear (southwest) elevation has the mailing platform.

One enters through an original vestibule of mahogany and glass, with side doors and brass handles, into the public lobby. This space has a terrazzo floor, pale green in color with a black framing strip, walls divided into thirds (the bottom being an Italian marble wainscot with a black marble base, the middle stained mahogany, the top plaster), and a plaster ceiling.

ART

On the right (northwest) wall of the lobby is an oil mural on heavy canvas entitled "Landing of the Weston Company." Measuring twelve feet by five feet, it has been inserted in a recessed space of duplicate size above the Postmaster's door, as if a frame was planned to surround it.

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 checked="" 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 Construction began: Nov. 30, 1940
 Dedication: Oct. 23, 1941
 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Louis A. Simon, Sup. Architect
 T.W. Cunningham, Inc., Builder

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Built in 1940-1941, the Weymouth Landing Post Office in an area characterized by parking lots, low rise 19th/early 20th century houses. Architecturally it is significant as a structure which reflects nation-wide trends in government building design and construction during the 1930's and 1940's. Its compact form contains an efficient arrangement by public and work areas - economy, standardization and functionalism are important components in their building's plan. Local granite, rather than a more expensive imported stone was used in its construction in an effort to bolster the local economy. The choice of Colonial Revival rather than Classical Revival for its design may represent an historical reference to an early English settlement located in Weymouth during the early 1620's. Although this building is not yet 50 years old, it would appear to be eligible for National Register of Historic Places status based primarily on its architectural significance. This building possesses a highly symmetrical main facade with Colonial Revival entrance treatments and a distinctive cupola at the center of its gable roof.

Although blueprints date back to 1938, construction began November 30, 1940. The cornerstone was laid on May 15, 1941 and reads "Frank C. Walker, Postmaster General; John M. Carmody, Federal Works Administrator; W. Englebert Reynolds, Commissioner of Public Buildings; Louis A. Simon, Supervising Architect; Neal A. Melnick, Supervising Engineer, 1941." Constructed at a cost of \$78,000.00, the dedication was held on October 23, 1941. It was the first Federal building erected in Weymouth. Funding for this building was secured by Congressman Richard Wigglesworth (1891-1960). Born in Boston, he was educated at Milton Academy and Harvard (1912). He represented Weymouth in Congress from 1928-1958.

The Weymouth Landing Post Office building was the first of three Federal projects erected in Weymouth during the early 1940's. These buildings included a Navy Derrigiblebase in South Weymouth and a housing project in North Weymouth. The construction of this Weymouth Landing Post Office provided a boost to the town's economy. Local "seam-faced granite" was used in its construction. For nearly 185 years, "seam-face granite" had been commercially quarried from the granite pit straddling the Weymouth-Hingham granite pit straddling the Weymouth-Hingham town line on Washington Street. The quarrying of these materials in Weymouth reached its peak in 1920 when more than 200 people were employed in the trade. Nearly 500,000 square feet of seam-face granite was shipped annually from the East Weymouth railroad yard. C.B. Kevitt in Weymouth Massachusetts, a New England town notes that "Weymouth seam-face granite will be found in many commercial and public buildings throughout the Eastern part of the United States."

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Weymouth, Massachusetts, A New England Town C.B. Kevitt, 1975
 "The Weymouth News", January 27, 1972, Volume 8, Number 3 MA: Weymouth
 "The Weymouth Gazette and Transcript", October 24, 1941, Volume 75, Number 23
 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 0.564

UTM REFERENCES

A	19	337620	4675655	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Southeast to Northwest - 145.0' along Washington Street
 Northeast to Southwest - 142.0' along side lot line
 Northwest to South - 155.08' along rear lot line
 Southwest to Northeast - 197.0' along side lot line

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Steven M. Smith, Project Manager

ORGANIZATION

SULLIVAN DESIGN GROUP, INC.

STREET & NUMBER

44 Adams Street

CITY OR TOWN

Braintree

DATE

September 24, 1985

TELEPHONE

(617) 848-1545

STATE

Massachusetts 02184

12 CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

YES

NO

NONE

Valerie Talmage

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

John S. ...

TITLE

Realty Specialist, Senior

DATE

April 4, 1986

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

[Signature]

DATE

5/29/86

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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

For NPS use only

received

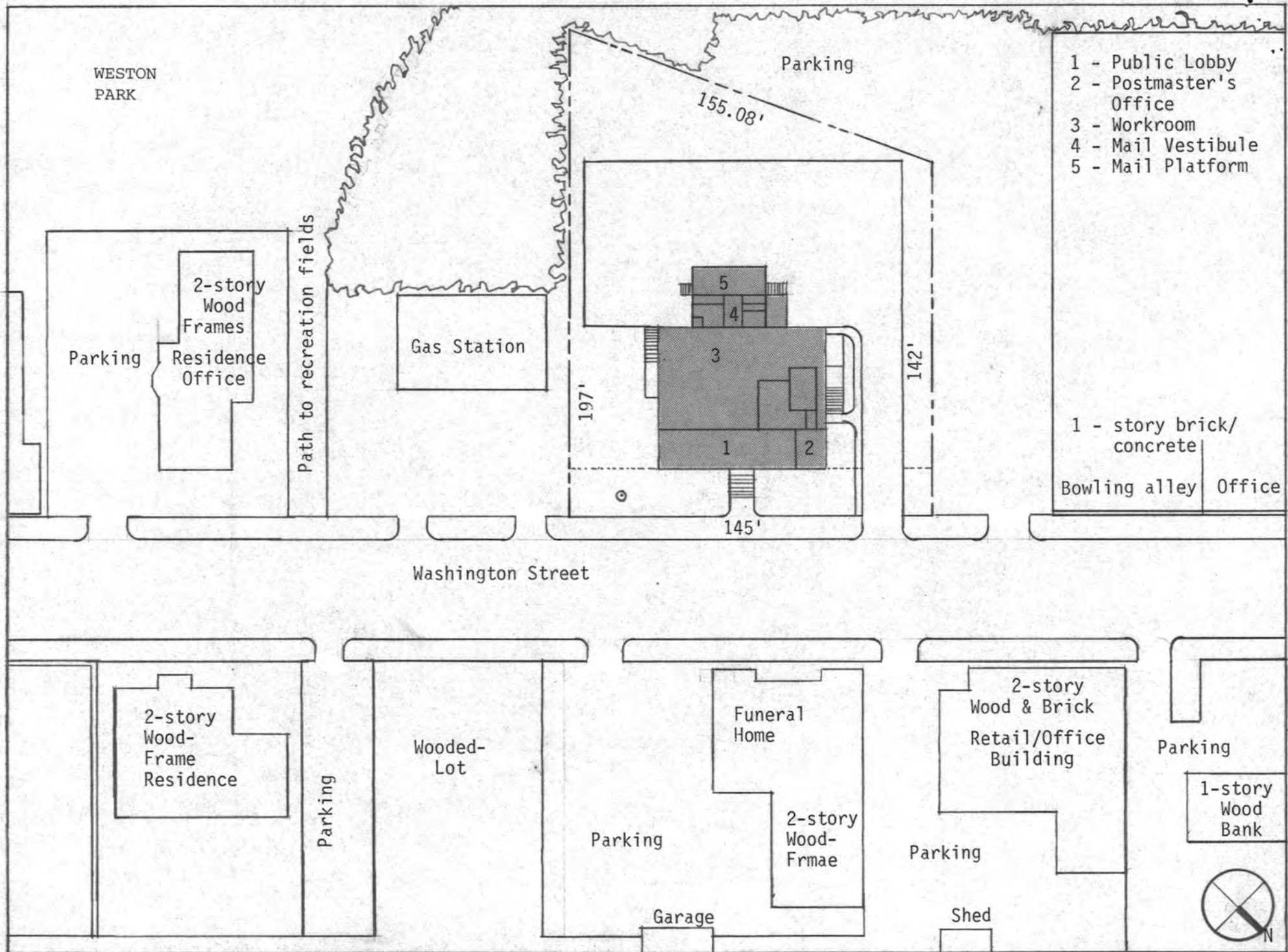
date entered

Continuation sheet Weymouth Landing Post Office Item number 8

Page 2

The Weymouth Landing Post Office represents a later addition to the town's collection of seam face granite structures. The oldest seam face granite structure in town is the Bela Pratt House (1804) on Washington Street near the Hingham line. Other important local examples of seam face granite construction in Weymouth include the Fogg Library in South Weymouth, the Tufts Library on Broad Street, and the Central Fire Station in East Weymouth. The Weymouth Post Office buildings construction during the early 1940's helped to temporarily revive the quarrying industry. In general Weymouth economy had seen more productive days. Shoe manufacturing, the town's major 19th century industry, had been reduced from a high 775 factories to only 3 factories by 1930.

In addition, the Weymouth Landing Post Office contains a mural by Guy Pene du Bois, an internationally acclaimed artist. He was also an art and music critic and writer/editor for Arts and Decoration Magazine. The Weymouth Landing Post Office mural was painted in 1942 and was funded by the Treasury Department's Section of Painting and Sculpture. It depicts Pilgrims landing on Weymouth's shore in 1622. Dubois attended the school of art in New York. His work is represented in the collections of museums across the country.



UNITED STATES POST OFFICE - WEYMOUTH, MASSACHUSETTS



250
86001186

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

United States Post Office--Weymouth Landing
Norfolk County
MASSACHUSETTS

Working No. APR 17 1986
Fed. Reg. Date: 2/3/87
Date Due: 5/15/86 - 6/1/86
Action: ACCEPT 5-27-86
 RETURN
 REJECT
Federal Agency: USPS

- 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 Suzanne
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 Public Acquisition	Status Accessible	Present Use
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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

Acreege 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--Weymouth Landing, Norfolk County, MA

Although not yet 50 years old, the 1940 United States Post Office at Weymouth Landing possesses exceptional historical and artistic significance for its lobby mural entitled "First Landing at Weymouth," created in 1942 by internationally acclaimed artist Guy Pene du Bois under the auspices of the Treasury Department's Section of Painting and Sculpture. The mural depicting the landing of the Pilgrims on Weymouth's shore in 1622 is an important regional representative of artwork installed in Federal buildings during the 1930s and 40s in an effort to bring art to the public and to visually immortalize significant historical events. (This mural is listed in the Park and Markowitz Appendix: Section Murals and Sculpture by State and the artist is mentioned regarding other works).

Blueprints for the Weymouth Post Office were extant in 1938, however construction did not begin until 1940. The Post Office was the first Federal building erected in Weymouth. The Post Office is also significant as a fine example of seam-faced granite construction, an important local building material, in the Colonial Revival mode. For nearly 185 years, the quarrying of seam-faced granite has been an important commercial activity in Weymouth and adjacent Hingham. The construction of the Post Office during the early 1940s helped to temporarily revive the quarrying industry and provide employment for the economically depressed town.



UNITED STATES POST OFFICE

BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

POSTAL SERVICE

Weymouth Post Office

WEYMOUTH LANDING POST OFFICE

Weymouth, MA

David R. Hooker

Earl R. Flansburgh and Associates

July 1983

Front elevation. Left view



UNITED STATES POST OFFICE

BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

WEYMOUTH BRANCH

OUTSIDE
DELIVERY

WEYMOUTH
BRANCH

THE LAW ON
THE SEA

Weymouth Post Office

WEYMOUTH LANDING POST OFFICE
Weymouth, MA
David R. Hooker
Earl R. Flansburgh and Associates
July 1983
Front elevation



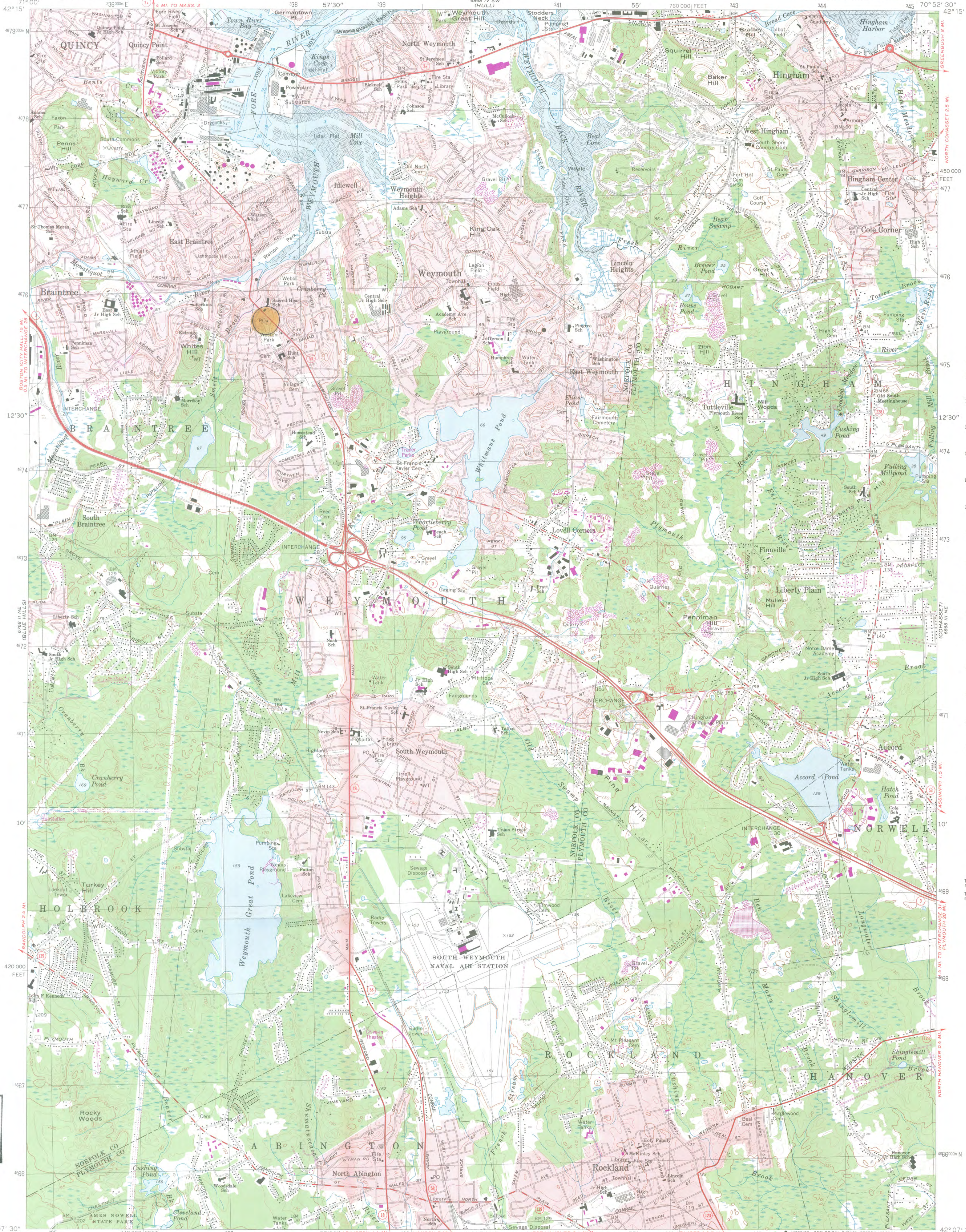
Weymcutth Post Office

WEYMOUTH LANDING POST OFFICE
Weymouth, MA
David R. Hooker
Earl R. Flansburgh and Associates
July 1983
Mural



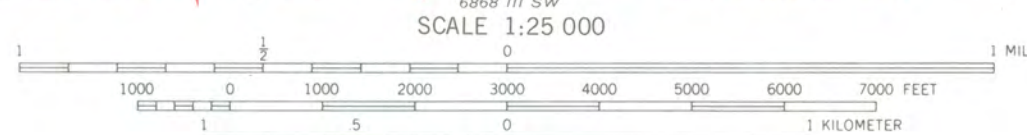
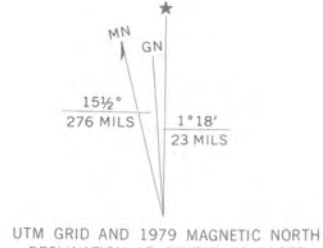
Weymouth Post Office

WEYMOUTH LANDING POST OFFICE
Weymouth, MA
David R. Hooker
Earl R. Flansburgh and Associates
July 1983
Front elevation. Right view



U.S. POST OFFICE
WEYMOUTH, MA
UTM REFERENCE:
19J337620/4675655

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and Massachusetts Geodetic Survey
Planimetry by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs
Topography by planimetric surveys 1936. Revised from
aerial photographs taken 1969. Field checked 1971
Selected hydrographic data compiled from USC&GS Chart 246 (1971)
This information is not intended for navigational purposes
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Massachusetts coordinate system,
mainland zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid,
zone 19
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



CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929
DEPTH CURVES AND SOUNDINGS IN FEET-DATUM IS MEAN LOW WATER
THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE TWO DATUMS IS VARIABLE
SHORELINE SHOWN REPRESENTS THE APPROXIMATE LINE OF MEAN HIGH WATER
THE MEAN RANGE OF TIDE IS APPROXIMATELY 9.5 FEET

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

Revisions shown in purple compiled in cooperation with State of
Massachusetts agencies from aerial photographs taken 1977 and other
source data. This information not field checked. Map edited 1979



ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Primary highway, hard surface — Light-duty road, hard or improved surface
Secondary highway, hard surface — Unimproved road
Interstate Route — U. S. Route — State Route

WEYMOUTH, MASS.
N4207.5—W7052.5/7.5
1971
PHOTOREVISED 1979
AMS 6868 III NW—SERIES V814



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



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



August 20, 1985

The Honorable Francis E. Murphy
Chairman, Board of Selectman, Town of Weymouth
Weymouth Town Hall
75 Middle Street
Weymouth, MA 02188

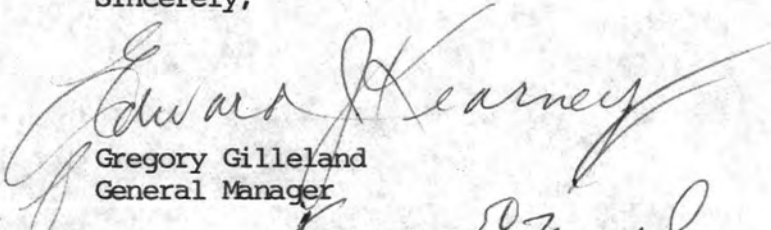
Dear Chairman Murphy:

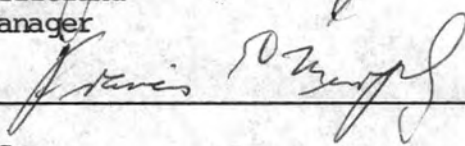
The U.S. Postal Service in conjunction with the Massachusetts State Historic Preservation Officer in Boston has evaluated the Main Post Office in Weymouth and has determined it is significant from an historical viewpoint.

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



FIELD REAL ESTATE AND BUILDINGS OFFICE

PO Box 33
Lexington, MA 02170-0033

RECEIVED
U.S. POSTAL SERVICE

SEP 10 10 35 PM '85

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

August 20, 1985

The Honorable Francis A. ...
Chairman, Board of Selectmen, Town of Weymouth
Weymouth Town Hall
75 Middle Street
Weymouth, MA 01988

Dear Chairman:

The U.S. Postal Service, in conjunction with the Massachusetts State Historic Preservation Office in Boston has evaluated the Main Post Office in Weymouth and has determined it is significant from an historical viewpoint.

In view of the above evaluation, the U.S. Postal Service needs to nominate this building to the National Register of Historic Places. We would like to our taking local action, agencies receiving your concurrence.

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

Sincerely,

Gregory G. ...
General Manager

Enclosures

JGC/jc



UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE
475 L'Enfant Plaza, SW
Washington, DC 20260

April 9, 1986

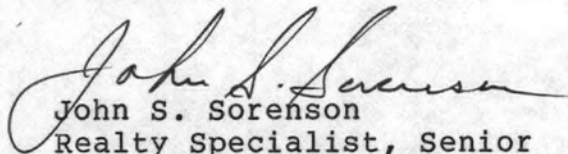
Ms. Carol D. Shull
Chief of Registration
National Register of Historic Places
National Park Service
Department of Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240-1002

Dear Ms. Shull:

The Postal Service hereby submits a nomination for the post office located at 103 Washington Street, Norfolk County, Weymouth, 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

Rec'd.
APR 17 1986