

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

MAY 16 1986

DATE ENTERED

JUN 20 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

Lynn Main Post Office

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

51 Willow Street

N/A NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Lynn

N/A VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Sixth Congressional District

STATE

Massachusetts 01901

0650

Essex

009

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	N/A <input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<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.

Registry of Deeds, Salem Probate Court

STREET & NUMBER

36 Federal Street

CITY, TOWN

Salem

STATE

Massachusetts 01970

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 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

PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The building's exterior, public spaces, and grounds are in very good condition. This two-story, saw-finished Chesterfield granite and structural steel building functions as both the Post Office and Federal building. The structure houses about 24,100 square feet on the front half of the site, leaving small landscaped areas on the sides of the Willow Street entry. The back half of the site, encloses a paved vehicle maneuvering area. In plan, the building is fronted by the major vestibule flanked by offices, including the Postmaster's office. Beyond is the public lobby with a secondary vestibule to the right and workroom space to the left. Behind the service screen is the workroom, mail vestibule and platform.

Five low, granite steps form the main approach from Willow Street. The front (southwest) elevation is an eleven bay structure with a raised three bay central entrance; two-story projecting pilasters, with an ornamental capital belt course, define this area. Smaller inset pilasters frame each of the three entries and support simple block-like friezes with Greek detailing and cornices. Bronze and glass infill panels with Roman grilles extending from the entablature soffits to the replacement aluminum doors, terminating into a flat entablature containing a low-relief eagle with spread wings. Above the entrance are recessed sculptured panels; the outer two being floral motifs of laurel leaves surrounding a chevron and two side hatchets, the inner an eagle with outstretched wings within a floral wreath. A darker granite is used at the main frieze level, featuring bundled reeds, Greek key borders, palmettos, and other Greco-Roman motifs. Above is a projecting cornice with modillions and geometric spiral carvings. The entry is heightened with a plain parapet and decorative coping. The wings' cornice

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

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

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Continuation sheet

Lynn Post Office

Item number 7

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line and capital-level belt course continue with simple geometric bands, the latter one breaks at each recessed window strip, which extends down to the extracted base and includes two bronze-framed windows, the upper 16 light and the lower 24 light, with a plain entablature/lintel in between.

The side elevations are similar in detail in their first bay with the front facade. The cornice line then simplifies to an unornamented belt. The southeast side, along Oxford Street, contains a secondary entrance that repeats on a one-to-one bay plan the scheme of the front facade in the span of three bays. The rear (northeast) elevation includes a one-story mail platform renovated with concrete blocks.

The Willow Street main vestibule is two-stories in height with a receding, concentric coffered plaster ceiling with molding. Centered is an original hanging hexagon brass and smoked glass fixture. Three inner sets of recessed bronze doors with plate glass windows above are opposite the exterior entrances. The middle set of doors is presently covered with paneling. To the northwest is an entry to the stair corridor for the second floor. A marble wainscot raises to door height; above plaster walls with ornamental geometric spiral patterns outline each section. Black marble with green veins is used at base level and to frame each opening. Between each entry is a decorative bronze heating grille. A pale terrazzo and black marble floor includes a pale star within a black circle in the center of the lobby. The secondary vestibule has all marble walls, a plaster ceiling, bronze inner doors, and a Westfield green and Hamil pink marble floor. There is an opening made here leading to a new set of fire stairs.

The public lobby is "L" shaped; one enters from the main vestibule to the center of the long side. This part, spanning seven bays, is two-stories in height. The walls are of plaster with a marble wainscot. The coffered ceiling and its molding are also of plaster. Above the northeast wall are

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bronze frame and glass windows that reach up to a highly detailed entablature and cornice supported by Westfield green marble columns with detailed capitals. Gold, red, and blue paint highlight the geometric and naturalistic patterns on the capitals and entablature. At the top of the "L" shaped lobby the ceiling drops to a one-story level with a denticulated cornice for one bay to house an additional service area. The ceiling also drops at the low end, creating a hall to the Assistant Postmaster's office, workroom, a set of marble stairs, and secondary entry.

ART

There are two oil, heavy canvas murals measuring sixteen and one-half feet long and six feet, two inches high, covering the long panels at the ends of the two-story height part of the lobby. Depicting Lynn's industrial, labor, business, and cultural heritage, they are titled: "1629 - Early and Modern Industries of Lynn - 1936" (to the northwest) and "Colonial and Contemporary Civic Culture" (at the opposite end). Bordered in marble with a white plaster entablature below, they are in excellent condition.

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 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	Cornerstone: Apr. 20, 1933 Dedication: Dec. 28, 1933	BUILDER/ARCHITECT	Edward H. Hoyt & Assoc. & Ripley & LeBoutillier, Assoc. Architects
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE	W.E.O'Neil Construction Company		
	Alterations and exterior addition: 1975	Robert L. Scagliotti, Architect	
	Alterations: 1978	Shepley, Bulfinch, Richardson, Abbott	

Situated in downtown Lynn, Massachusetts, the Lynn Main Post Office building is the most architecturally distinguished structure in an area dominated by late 19th and early 20th century commercial and factory buildings. Dubbed "the Million Dollar Federal Building" it was constructed between April and December 1933 at a cost of \$100,000.00. Architecturally it is significant as a later example of a Type A building within Secretary of the Treasury McAdoo's 1915 Public Buildings Classification System. Type A buildings were existed in larger cities. They were built of marble or granite and contained fine interior finish, murals, special interior lighting fixtures, etc. Erected between April and December, 1933 their short period of construction underlines the U.S. Supervising Architect's offices policy of employing standardized construction methods to bring economic benefit to a particular community as quickly as possible. Architecturally their building represents an austere interpretation of the Classical Revival style. Its monochromatic chesterfield granite facades are characterized by ranges of rusticated Doric pilasters interspersed with multi pane windows set in rectangular panels. The overall effect is primitive and very compelling. The Classical Revival style was frequently employed in government buildings during the 1930's to symbolize Democracy and stability during the uncertain Depression years.

The Lynn Main Post Offices' lot had been occupied by five brick factory buildings. These buildings included the Barnard estate factories along Willow Street to the corner of Oxford, the Keene building on Oxford Street, and the Grover factory on the corner of Buffum and Oxford. The firm of J.J. Grover and Sons was one of the oldest firms in the shoemaking business in the United States. In August of 1930 an appropriation of \$700,000.00 was secured for the proposed Post Office. The cornerstone was laid on April 20, 1933 and reads: "Ogden L. Mills, Secretary of the Treasury; Edward H. Hoyt and Associates; Ripley & LeBoutillier, Associate Architects; James A. Wetmore, Acting Supervising Architect, 1932." It was dedicated on December 28, 1933. The erection of a new Post Office had been urged in Congress during the early 1920's as one of the first acts of U.S. Congressman Lawrence Joseph Connery (1895-1941). Connery was a native of Lynn and a graduate of Georgetown Law in Washington, D.C. For many years he operated an office supply and printing business in Lynn, MA

The old post office building had become inadequate since the advent of the parcel post business. The Post Office's construction provided jobs for "24 riggers, iron workers, carpenters and laborers."

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

"Daily Evening Item" April 21, 1933 MA: Lynn
 History of Post Office Construction 1900-1940, July, 1982
 Boston Public Library Architects File - Dictionary of American Architects, Deceased,
 1970 by Henry Withey
 The Lynn Telegram News - 4/21/33-pg. 1, 15; 12/28/33-p. 1 & s; 4-11-33; 4-2-33-p. 17;
 1-30-33 p. 1 & 2.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1.88

UTM REFERENCES

A	19	339955	4703020	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The Post Office is located with Willow Street to the Southeast, Oxford Street to the Southwest, Buffum Street to the Northwest, and Barker Court to the Northeast.

Northeast to Southwest - 211.17' along Willow Street
 Southeast to Northwest - 398.81' along Oxford Street
 Southwest to Northeast - 227.08' along Buffum Street

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

Steven M. Smith, Project Manager

ORGANIZATION

SULLIVAN DESIGN GROUP, INC.

DATE

September 23, 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
 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. Sullivan

TITLE Realty Specialist, Sr.

DATE May 12, 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 6/20/86

ATTEST:

Beth L. Savage
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 6-19-86

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 Lynn Main Post Office

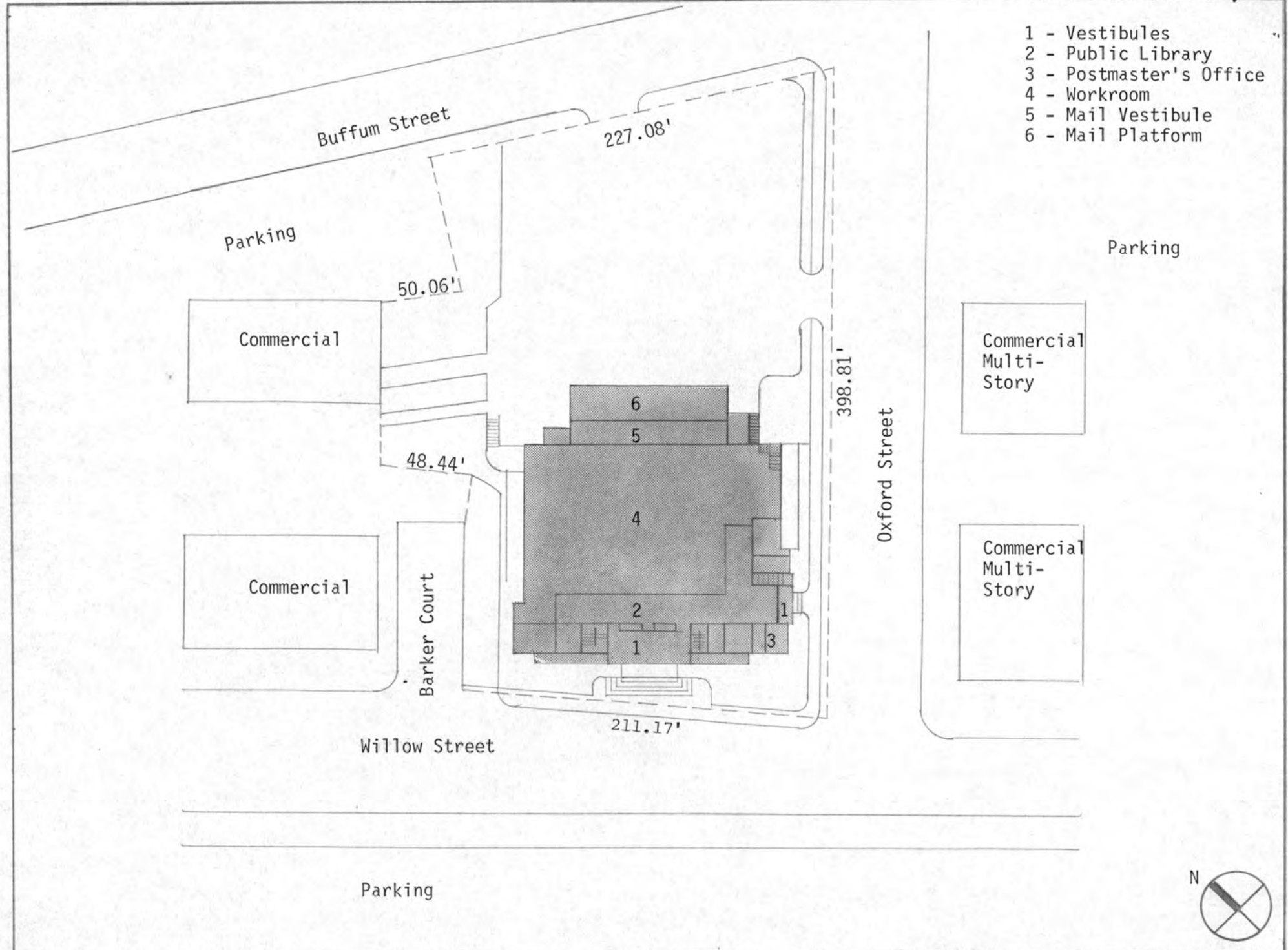
Item number 8

Page 2

It would provide permanent jobs for at least 174 employees. Its construction provided a boost to the local economy at a time when welfare expenditures for Lynn residents reached \$1,136,000.99 (1932) and were continuing to rise. In addition the Mayor was exploring the feasibility of discarding Civil Service as this system took jobs away from people. In an effort to aid the unemployed, the City initiated a Sports Night Program. Despite economic hardships in Lynn during the early 1930's, the City encompassed two larger General Electric plants, 459 industrial plants and continued to be the "Center of the Shoe Industry."

The building is also noteworthy for its lobby murals by William Riseman, a 25-year old Yale graduate. Contracted at a price of \$3712, they were installed in June of 1936. The Northwest mural depict Lynn's shoe industry and General Electric Company. The Southeast mural depicts Lynn's cultural history. The section of painting and sculpture of the Procurement Division, U.S. Treasury Department provided the funding for these murals.

The Lynn Main Post Office represents the work of Edward H. Hoyt and Associates and Ripley and LeBoutillier. Information was not available on Hoyt and Associates. Herbert G. Ripley of Ripley and LeBoutillier was a prominent Boston Architect based for many years at 45 Bromfield Street. Herbert G. Ripley (1869-12/15/1942) was born in Melrose and educated at M.I.T. (Class of 1890). After college he went to Chicago to work with Charles B. Atwood, chief designer for Daniel Burnham, on the Columbian Exposition buildings (Chicago World Fair 1893). He returned to Boston to work as chief draftsman in the firm of Peabody and Stearns. Between 1928 and 1942 he practiced with A.B. LeBoutillier. Ripley was a talented watercolorist and author of many articles on architecture. At the time of his death in 1942 he was completing a history of the Boston Society of Architects. He is credited with the design of the Levi Warren High School in West Newton.



UNITED STATES POST OFFICE - LYNN, MASSACHUSETTS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

U.S. Post Office--Lynn Main
Essex County
MASSACHUSETTS

Substantive Review

Working No. _____
Fed. Reg. Date: 2/3/87
Date Due: 6/13/86 - 6/30/86
Action: ACCEPT 6-20-86
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:

Some locally significant representative of Classical Revival (stripped or starved Classicism particularly) Style. Additionally significant for c. 1936 murals by William Reseman depicting Lynn's cultural + industrial heritage executed under the auspices of the Department of the Treasury's New Deal Public Art Program.

Recom./Criteria Accept A+C
Reviewer Savage
Discipline Architectural History
Date 6-19-86
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		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

- 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: _____



Lynn Post Office

LYNN MAIN POST OFFICE

Lynn, MA

David R. Hooker

Earl R. Flansburgh Associates, Inc.

July 1983

Front elevation



UNITED STATES POST OFFICE

UNITED STATES POST OFFICE

POST OFFICE

POST OFFICE

LYNN MAIN POST OFFICE

Lynn, MA

David R. Hooker

Earl R. Flansburgh Associates, Inc.

July 1983

Front elevation. Right view



Lynn Post Office

LYNN MAIN POST OFFICE

Lynn, MA

David R. Hooker

Earl R. Flansburgh Associates, Inc.

July 1983

Front elevation. Left view



Lynn Post Office

LYNN MAIN POST OFFICE

Lynn, MA

David R. Hooker

Earl R. Flansburgh Associates, Inc.

July 1983

Lobby



Lynn Post Office
Lynn, Massachusetts

LYNN MAIN POST OFFICE
Lynn, MA
David R. Hooker
Earl R. Flansburgh Associates, Inc.
July 1983
Mural



CHANNEL

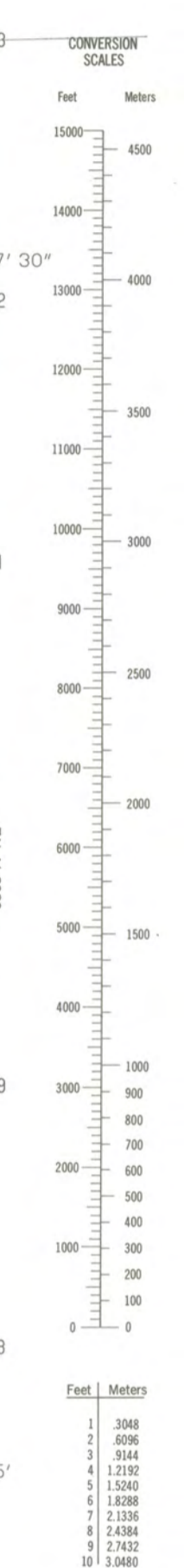
N A H A N T

Little Nahant

Little Nahant Beach

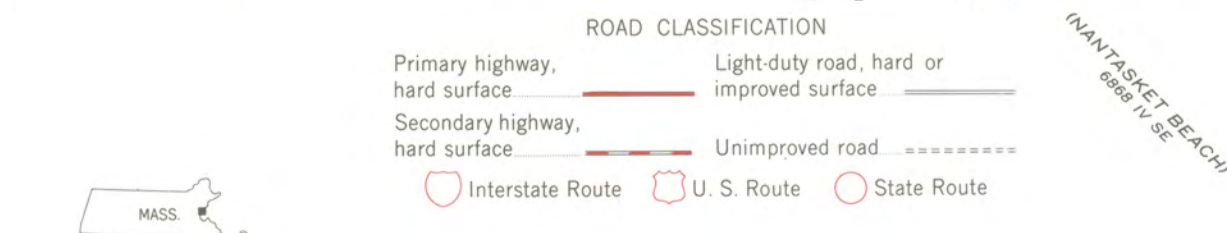
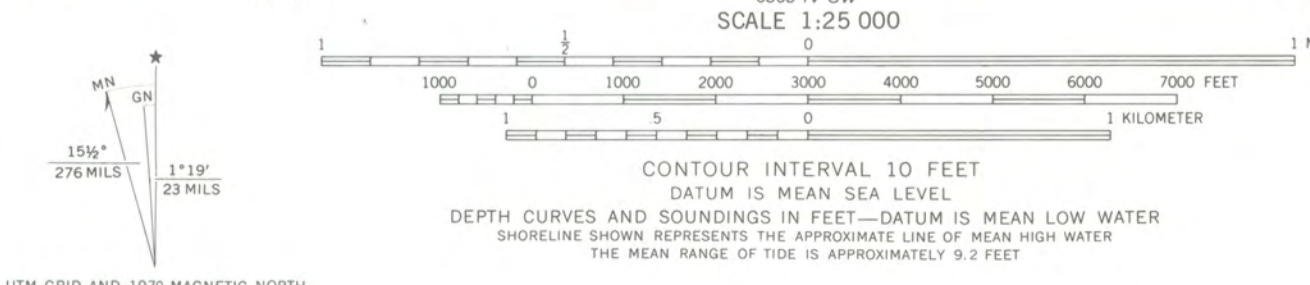
U S Coast Guard Station

BLACK



U.S. POST OFFICE
LYNN, MA
UTM REFERENCE:
19/339955/4703020

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, USC&S, and Massachusetts Geodetic Survey
Planimetry by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs
taken 1959. Topography by planimetric surveys 1943. Revised from
aerial photographs taken 1969. Field checked 1970
Selected hydrographic data compiled from USC&S Charts 240(1970), 246
and 248 (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
Boundaries in tidewater areas from information supplied by
Massachusetts Department of Public Works
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown



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

LYNN, MASS.
N4225-W7052.5/7.5
1970
AMS 8888 IV NW-SERIES V814



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

August 20, 1985

The Honorable Antonio J. Marino
Mayor, City of Lynn
Lynn City Hall
City Hall Square
Lynn, MA 01901

Dear Mayor Marino:

The U.S. Postal Service in conjunction with the Massachusetts State Historic Preservation Officer in Boston has evaluated the Main Post Office in Lynn 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



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

May 12, 1986

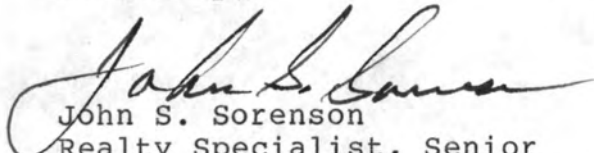
Ms. Carol D. Shull
Chief of Registration
National Register of Historic Places
National Park Service
Department of Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240-1002

Dear Ms. Shull:

The Postal Service hereby submits a nomination for the post office located at 51 Willow Street, Essex County, Lynn, Massachusetts.

If you have 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.
MAY 16 1986