

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 23 1986

DATE ENTERED 5-30-86

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

Milton Main Post Office

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

499 Adams Street

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Milton

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

N/A VICINITY OF

Eleventh Congressional District

STATE

Massachusetts 02186

CODE

0825

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
- 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 & 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 building and its property are in good condition. The post office is on the front (northern) portion of the lot with a paved vehicle maneuvering area to its rear. The site is landscaped with lawn and several shrubs; driveways to the rear provide access to Edge Hill Road and Hollis Street. The building is constructed of local quarried granite with oversized blocks acting as lintels. The gable ends are of stucco; the copper-covered pitched roof is topped by a highly detailed cupola. In plan, the building has a small vestibule leading to a public lobby, flanked by the Postmaster's office to the right and workroom space to the left. Behind the service screen is the workroom with a mail vestibule and platform beyond.

Fifteen steps with wrought-iron railings create the main approach. The front (north) elevation is a five-bay structure with a higher, pedimented three-bay projecting central entranceway which breaks down the volume of the building. The building's base is of projecting ashlar granite. Two replacement aluminum and glass doors are framed by original sidelights and fanlight, all set within an arched recess with large granite voussoirs. Oversized iron and glass electric lanterns flank the opening. This section is topped by a pediment with a carving of an eagle between two hatchets. Above the gable roof is a cupola of wood construction, circular in plan, with louvered side panels and a copper roof. Windows are double-hung, wood sash with 12/12 lights, large lintels and thin sills.

The east and west elevations are similar in detail to the front facade. Four bays long, the end bays are topped by smaller, plain gabled roofs with a flat roof in between. The south facade has the mail platform.

One enters into a highly carved, stained wood vestibule. Its side wood doors have brass railings. The carvings resemble a series of fluted Corinthian columns supporting a plain entablature with a denticulated cornice. The public lobby has a black and white checkerboard terrazzo floor, white marble wainscot with a black marble base and finishing strip, plaster walls and ceiling, and an ornamented, denticulated plaster cornice.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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

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date entered

Continuation sheet

Milton Post Office

Item number 7

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The right wall contains the Postmaster's office door, stained wood with simple trim, geometric detailed entablature and projecting cornice.

ART

On the west wall of the lobby is an oil mural entitled "The Suffolk Resolves; Tyranny and Revolt in the Colonies." The main section is above the Postmaster's door; a small, lower corner was removed by the addition of the new boxes. The display case to the right is flanked by two small vignettes. It would appear that a similar arrangement was present on the left side.

# 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: June 6, 1936 DEDICATION: January 27, 1937 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Louis A. Simon, Supervising Architect

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Overlooking the Southeast Expressway, the Milton Main Post Office serves as an attractive gateway to the architecturally rich residential areas, to the West, bordering Brook and Edgell Roads. Built in 1936, it is architecturally significant as a representative of the construction and design policies of the Public Works Administration (P.W.A.) during the late 1930's. Although it is slightly less than fifty (50) years old it is important as an example of P.W.A. Supervising Architect, Louis Adolf Simon's efforts to use local building materials, standardized construction methods and streamlined, efficient plans. In addition, this building contains an important mural by Guggenheim Fellowship winner, Elizabeth Tracy of Cambridge, MA.

This building is of a simple Colonial Revival design of the type employed in late 1930's post offices. Its simple, compact T-shaped form and logical 5-area plan facilitated a construction schedule of only seven months. It was the P.W.A.'s policy to build a post office as quickly as possible so that communities could benefit from them during the Depression. In keeping with government policy of the time, walls were constructed of local granite rather than an expensive imported stone. Ornamentation is minimal and limited to the elliptical arched entrance enrichment. This structure is dominated by a Colonial Revival cupola which serves as local landmark and more abstractly as a symbol of the Federal Government.

This building's design originated in the office of U.S. Supervising Architect, Louis Adolf Simon (c. 1870-1941). He was born in Boston and educated at M.I.T. He began a private practice in Washington, D.C. in 1894 and entered the office of the U.S. Treasury Supervising Architect in 1896. He served as the chief architect in this office from 1905-1933. From 1933 until his death in 1941, he was the U.S. Supervisory Architect. During his tenure, 406 post offices were designed in his department. In addition he was responsible for the design of the Federal Building at the New York World's Fair of 1939-1940.

The cornerstone for the Milton Main Post Office was laid on June 6, 1936. It reads "Henry Morgenthau, Secretary of the Treasury; James A. Farley, Postmaster General; Louis A. Simon, Supervising Architect; Neal A. Melnick, Supervising Engineer; 1936."

Construction was complicated by two events: much of the interior furnishings were damaged by fire in a storehouse in Lowell and the new postal equipment was in back-order. The building was dedicated on January 27, 1937. Its completion was of considerable local significance to the town. For the first time mail distribution would be centralized under one roof rather than being divided among five separate post offices. The prime advocate for the post office was Jesse B. Baxter, local politician and local president.



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

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Continuation sheet MILTON MAIN POST OFFICE

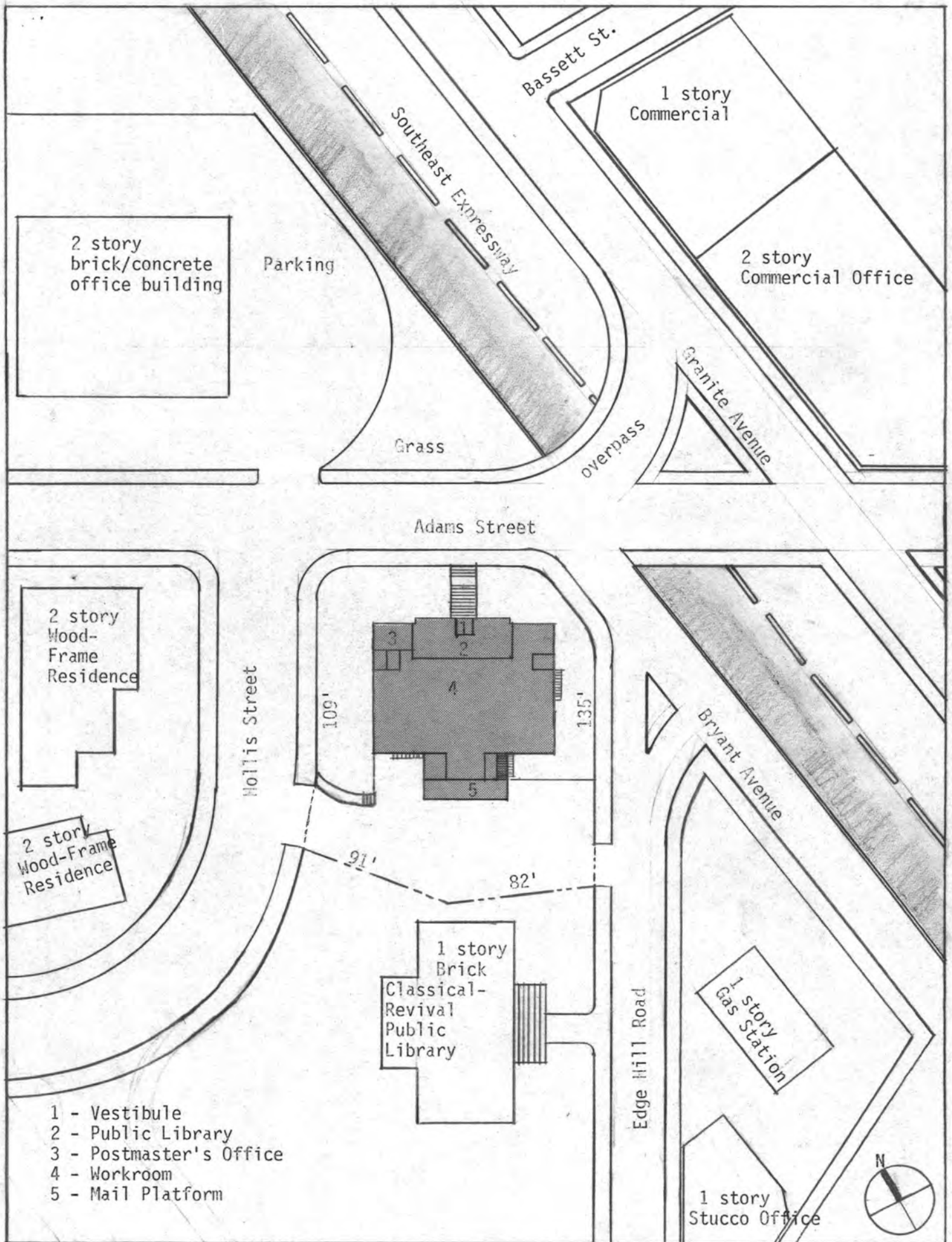
Item number 8

Page 2

The Post Offices' land had been known as "Baxter's Lot."

The Milton Main Post Office's lobby contains a mural which is a product of the Treasury Relief Art project. It was painted in 1930 by Elizabeth Tracy, a Cambridge resident. She graduated in Fine Arts in 1933 from Radcliffe College and was awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship in 1940. The Milton Main Post Offices mural depicts scenes related to the beginnings of the American Revolution including The Signing of the Suffolk Resolves at the home of Daniel Vose and the Boston Massacre. The Daniel Vose house has been preserved by the local historical society.

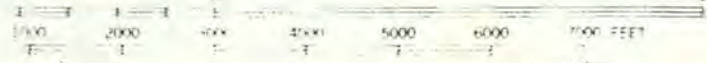
Economically, the construction of this post office provided local residents with jobs but its impact was apparently minimal in Milton, an affluent bedroom community of Boston. It is not too clear as to whether the Post Office's granite was quarried within the town limits. Quarrying had ceased to be an important industry in Milton by the early 1920's. Assuming that local granite was used in keeping with P.W.A. policies then the Milton Main Post Office's construction meant a temporary renaissance for Milton granite quarrying.



UNITED STATES POST OFFICE - MILTON, MASSACHUSETTS



SCALE 1:25 000



1 MILE

Primary highway  
hard surface  
Secondary highway

ROAD

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

United States Post Office--Milton Main  
Norfolk County  
MASSACHUSETTS

Substantive Review

Working No. APR 23 1986  
Fed. Reg. Date: 2/3/87  
Date Due: 5/22/86 - 6/7/83  
Action:  ACCEPT 5-30-86  
 RETURN  
 REJECT  
Federal Agency: US PS

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

Substantive Review:  sample  request  appeal  NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

*Well-preserved locally significant example of Colonial Revival Style. Also significant for associations w/WPA program in Milton. Mural entitled "The Suffolk Resolves - Oppression and Revolt in the Colonies," was executed by Cambridge artist Elizabetha Tracy.*

Recom./Criteria Accept A,C  
Reviewer Savage  
Discipline Arch. History  
Date 5/29/86

see continuation sheet

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

*as a product of the Treasury Relief Art project.*

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: \_\_\_\_\_



MILTON MAIN POST OFFICE  
Milton, MA  
Dennis Griggs  
Sullivan Design Group, Inc.  
May 1983  
Front elevation. Right view

Milton Post Office



MILTON MAIN POST OFFICE  
Milton, MA  
Dennis Griggs  
Sullivan Design Group, Inc.  
May 1983  
Front elevation

Milton Post Office



Milton Post Office

MILTON MAIN POST OFFICE  
Milton, MA  
Dennis Griggs  
Sullivan Design Group, Inc.  
May 1983  
Front elevation. Left view



102

SUPERINTENDENT



SHOWING OLIVETT  
Quality gifts at extraordinary prices



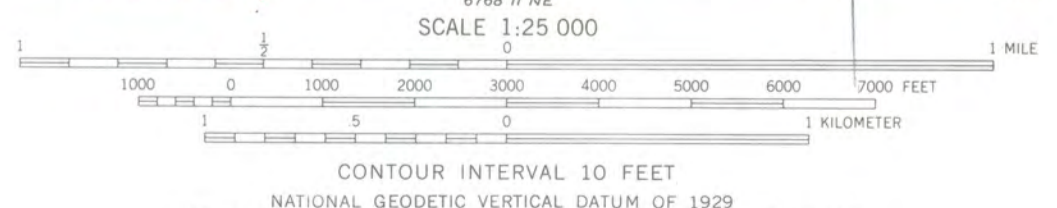
MILTON MAIN POST OFFICE  
Milton, MA  
Dennis Griggs  
Sullivan Design Group, Inc.  
May 1983  
Mural

Milton Post Office



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey  
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and Massachusetts Geodetic Survey  
Topography by planetable surveys 1943. Revised from  
aerial photographs taken 1969. Field checked 1970  
Selected hydrographic data compiled from USC&GS Charts 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  
1,000-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

U.S. POST OFFICE  
MILTON, MA  
UTM REFERENCE:  
19/331490/4680265



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

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

There may be private inclusions within the boundaries of  
the National or State reservations shown on this map  
Revisions shown in purple compiled in cooperation with the State of  
Massachusetts agencies from aerial photographs taken 1975 and other  
source data. This information not field checked. Map edited 1979

BOSTON SOUTH, MASS.  
N4215-W7100/7.5  
1970  
PHOTOREVISED 1979  
AMS 6768 I SE-SERIES V814

CHLENDY

EMC 10/7/85  
copy to Fred  
To Fred  
RE.



EXECUTIVE SECRETARY  
JOHN A. CRONIN

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

RECEIVED TOWN OF MILTON  
U.S. POSTAL SERVICE  
OFFICE OF SELECTMEN  
OCT 7 11 10 AM '85

SELECTMEN  
WALTER F. TIMILTY  
CHAIRMAN  
WILLIAM A. REILLY, JR.  
SECRETARY  
JAMES G. MULLEN, JR.

NEW ENGLAND FIELD REAL  
ESTATES & BLDG OFFICE  
LEXINGTON, MA 02173

October 3, 1985

Gregory Gilleland  
General Manager  
Field Real Estate and  
Buildings Office  
P.O. Box 324  
Lexington, Mass. 02173

Attn: Edward Kearney

East Milton Post Office

The Town of Milton Board of Selectmen is pleased to endorse the nomination of the East Milton Post Office to the National Register of Historic Places.

The Selectmen unanimously concur with your effort and urge you to proceed with the formal action required.

Please advise if we may be of any further assistance.

Very truly yours,

*John A. Cronin*  
John A. Cronin  
Executive Secretary

JAC/gk

cc: William Heath, Chairman  
Milton Historical Commission  
Cong. Brian Donnelly

P.S. We also hope that your efforts will encourage the Post Office to restore the E. Milton Post Office's beautiful copper roof which has been patched with unsightly asphalt shingles.



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

April 17, 1986

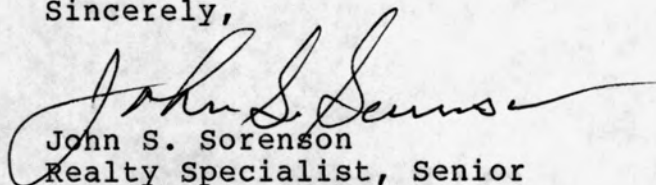
Ms. Carol D. Shull  
Chief of Registration  
National Register of Historic Places  
National Park Service  
Department of Interior  
Washington, D.C. 20240-1002

Dear Ms. Shull:

The Postal Service hereby submits a nomination for the post office located at 499 Adams Street, Norfolk County, Milton, 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