

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

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

Laconia Main Post Office

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

33 Church Street

N/A

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Laconia

N/A VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

First Congressional District

STATE

New Hampshire 03246

CODE

0260

COUNTY

Winnipesaukee

CODE

001

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
- 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

N/A VICINITY OF

STATE

Massachusetts 02173

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Belknap County Registry of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER

64 Court Street

CITY, TOWN

Laconia

STATE

New Hampshire 03246

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" 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

The Laconia Post Office is located on a corner site a short distance from the central business district which has been rehabilitated and features a pedestrian mall. Properties in the immediate vicinity are of mixed uses including religious structures, commercial buildings, municipal facilities and residential. The property is a prominent one, conveniently located for automotive access and a focus for the surrounding neighborhood. Two buildings of considerable architectural merit, the Gale Memorial Library and the railroad station are within the area and the Post Office extends the authority of their presence.

The building symmetrically designed to reflect its corner location has an imposing colonaded entrance front featuring six columns in front of six engaged pilasters, all of the Corinthian Order. Broad granite steps lead to the entrance and are flanked by two ornate lamp standards of wrought iron with globular lamps. The five bays of the colonade contain the doorway centered between two bays of casement windows with transoms; the frieze is capped with a bold projecting denticulated cornice which is carried around the building. Each side facade features three windows articulated by brick pilasters with stone capitals and plain stone panels above the windows. These panels repeat those used above the windows in the colonade which are elaborately carved in relief.

The lobby has been completely modernized and is architecturally undistinguished, but two murals painted by Loran Percy in 1980 and 1982 reflect the national grandeur of the area and provide interest and color to the space.

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 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	1916: Designed 1917: Constructed	BUILDER/ARCHITECT	James A. Wetmore, Architect U. S. Treasury Department
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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE	1983: Lobby Modification	Henry W. Erickson, Architect Laconia, New Hampshire
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The significance of this building is limited to its architectural design as an expression of post office building activity prior to World War I. The policy of constructing buildings of uniformity and reflective of the business economy of the region is evident in this property. The architecture is based on the elements of Beaux-Arts massing featuring an entrance of imposing scale with attention to detail executed in stone and with symmetry demonstrated in the plan and architectural treatment of the facades. Even though this design standard was carried out in far less ambitious terms than previous structures constructed under the administrations of James Taylor and Oscar Wenderoth, the resulting properties incorporated fundamental design principals which expressed classical and democratic ideals symbolizing power and organization.

The Laconia Post Office symbolizes the direction of governmental policy of this era and is located in a region that is significantly benefitted by its architectural presence.

Located within a potential historic district as defined by a plan drafted in 1981 by Rist-Frost Associates, Consulting Engineers, but omitted as a national register candidate, the Laconia Post Office never-the-less symbolizes era and is a contributing architectural feature within the immediate neighborhood. The exterior is preserved in its original form (except for the entrance doors) and is representative of the development of the town as it relates to other significant structures in the area.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

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 .6617

UTM REFERENCES

A	1 9	3 0 0 0 4 0	4 8 2 2 0 7 5	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

East corner at intersection of Church and Beacon Streets with 185 foot boundary on Church Street and 160 foot boundary on Beacon Street. Site contains approximately 28,825 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

August 30, 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

[Signature]
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

[Signature]
James T. Coe

TITLE

Director, Office of Real Estate

DATE

02/24/86

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

[Signature]
Patrick Andrews

DATE

7/15/86

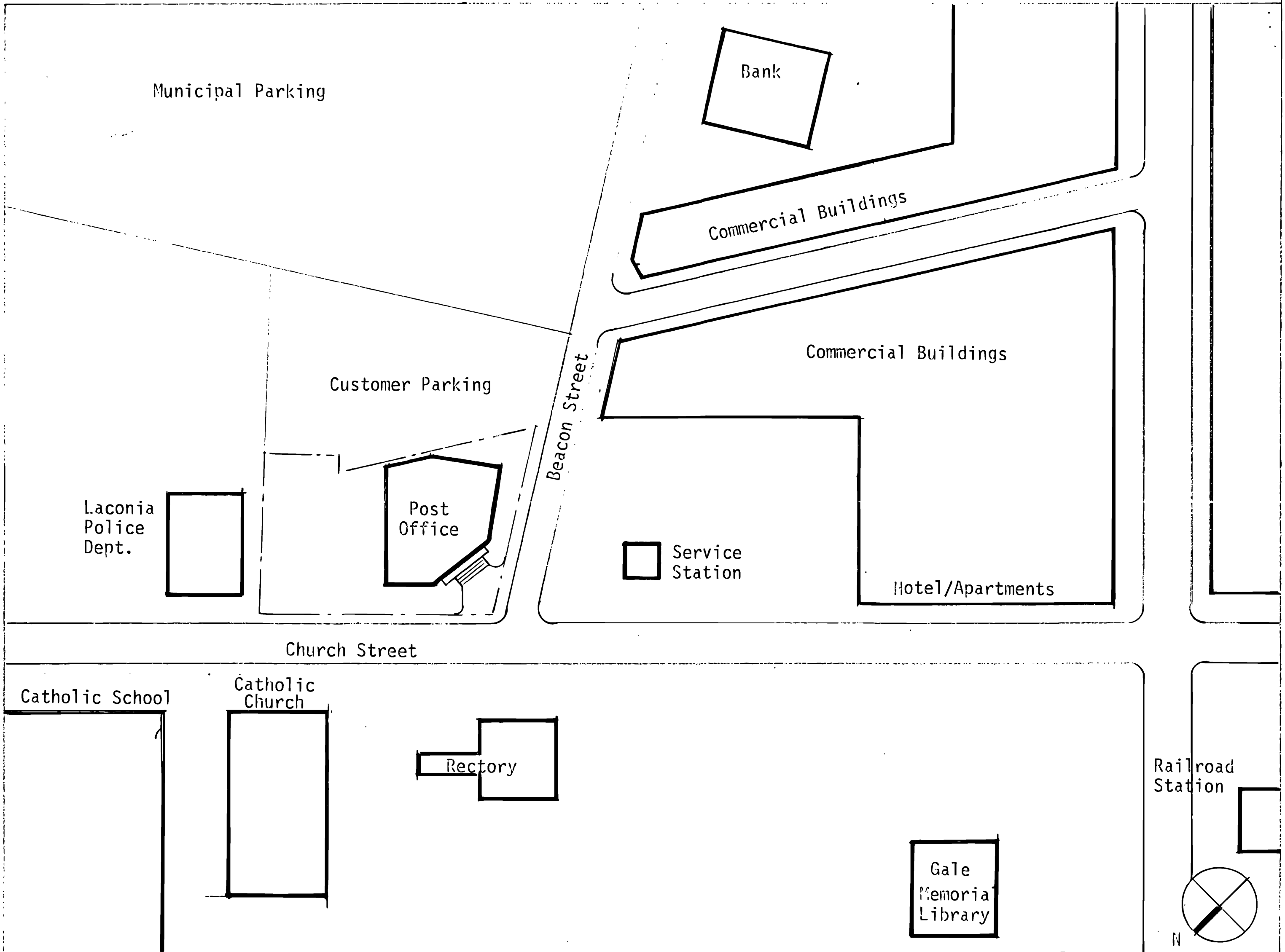
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST: *[Signature]*
Keeper of the National Register

DATE

7/15/86

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



Municipal Parking

Bank

Commercial Buildings

Customer Parking

Beacon Street

Commercial Buildings

Laconia
Police
Dept.

Post
Office

Service
Station

Hotel/Apartments

Church Street

Catholic School

Catholic
Church

Rectory

Gale
Memoria
Library

Railroad
Station

