

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 SEP 4 1987
 DATE ENTERED OCT 19 1987

 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

WINCHESTER MAIN POST OFFICE

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

48 WATERFIELD ROAD

__ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

WINCHESTER

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

__ VICINITY OF 7TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

MASSACHUSETTS

CODE

1503

COUNTY

MIDDLESEX

CODE

017

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 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

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY REGISTRY OF DEEDS

STREET & NUMBER

210 CAMBRIDGE STREET

CITY, TOWN

CAMBRIDGE

STATE

MASSACHUSETTS 02141

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 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

Sited on the west bank of the Aberjona River, the Winchester Post Office is located on the corner of Waterfield Road, a perimeter street to downtown Winchester, and Thompson Street. The front facade overlooks Ginn Field, a town park enhanced by the planted and well landscaped roadway, and the right side is directly adjacent to a meandering footpath that follows the river. The far bank of the river abuts Manchester Park, the large, well-treed Commons area of the town. The expanding growth of the commercial area has extended from the original downtown commercial district to the rear lot line of the Post Office, with quaint shops and semi-covered walkways that maintain the aesthetic appeal of the locale.

Almost square in plan, some 70 feet wide by 65 feet deep, the building consists of two stories on a full basement and contains 11,500 square feet of floor space. The second floor is set back from the side facades of the building and, constructed with a two-way gable roof, reduces the visual height of the building while enhancing the classical theme expressed in the basic design.

The building's solid brick foundations, sitting on spread footings, support the reinforced concrete first floor slab. Brick masonry walls, with steel columns and beams, carry the second floor and the wood roof framing members. The full range red brick exterior walls are laid in Flemish bond and are complimented by beige limestone panels, columns and trim. The bold limestone watertable caps the brick foundation and functions as a continuous stone lintel over the basement windows, a feature expressed, rather than concealed, in the design treatment.

The main facade, on Waterfield Street, reflects the classical portico enframing, with the simply denticulated limestone entablature and pediment carried by four freestanding Roman Doric columns that correspond to the limestone wall pilasters. The arched fan window, over the doors of the main entry bay, is flanked by small double-hung windows recessed in limestone surrounds, with architraves and blind panels over each window, reflecting a Palladian influence evident in this Neo-Classic design. The main entrance, with its classic, projecting portico mirroring the classical enframing of the entrance facade, is reflected on each side facade with a limestone central pavilion of similar proportion and pilasters creating the symbolic entrance motif.

The remaining multi-paned windows in the brick wall panels are symmetrically placed, discretely adorned with a plain, limestone key-stone centered in the flat brick arch. There is no exterior corner

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

**National Register of Historic Places
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... ornamentation on this building, perhaps reflecting the influence of the Classification System adhered to in this era of architectural design of governmental buildings.

A simple limestone architrave band separates the brick entablature from the remaining facade, acting as a belt course, and a narrow limestone cornice surrounds the entire, primary roof line. When constructed in 1927, the cornice carried a brick parapet, limestone capped, with stone ballusters corresponding to the locations of the pavilions and windows. The parapet was removed at an early, unknown date to combat leakage, and the remaining limestone parapet base is totally covered with metal flashing. The secondary, double gable roof is edged and articulated with crisp limestone detailing that surrounds the recessed pediments, reflecting the frieze of the main facade and unifying the structure as a single unit.

The unaltered lobby was beautifully designed and detailed. The high arched transom of the front entrance is carried through the formal vestibule and, repeating itself in the arched openings of the formal interior that correspond to the exterior pavilions. The forward section of the second level creates a dynamic clerestory element for the lobby, providing a steady flow of natural illumination that dramatically emphasizes the detail during daylight hours. A detailed plaster cornice, carried above the fanlight openings, gives particular identity and purpose to the clerestory.

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	Constructed 1927	BUILDER/ARCHITECT	James A. Wetmore, Act. Sup. Arch't. John P. Curley, Contractor
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE			Edmund J. Rapoli, Contr. for Bonding Company

The Winchester Post Office, constructed in 1927, possesses integrity of location, design, setting, materials and workmanship, as well with significant association with the commercial development of the Thompson Street and Waterfield Road area of the community. In addition, this building exemplifies the high standard of design set by the Treasury Architects in placing the monumentality of the Federal Presence in a small community, without overwhelming the existing townscape. It thus meets the National Register criteria A and C.

Originally a section of the Township of Charlestown, the Village of Waterfield separated from that community at the direction of the Puritan Church. The Church played an important role in politics at this time. Subsequently, the village became South Woburn, growing from the tiny farming community, typical in its geographical proximity to Boston, to a suburb with Woburn's industry to the north and the metropolitan area of Boston to the south. The village, with the introduction of the Lowell Branch of the Boston and Maine Railroad, incorporated as the Town of Winchester in 1850.

The first Post Office in town, then South Woburn, was established in 1841 with Dr. Moses C. Green appointed as Postmaster. Typical of the small but growing communities at the end of the nineteenth century, the post office moved from one small storefront to another, at the pleasure, or need for additional space, of the Postmaster appointed by the Administration in power at that time.

With the advent of the automobile, and with substantial rail service from Boston, Winchester matured into an affluent "Boston Bedroom" and, at the beginning of the twentieth century, the need for a permanent post office to identify the town as a substantial, established community was recognized by the citizenry.

In 1914, Congressman Samuel W. McCall, a resident of the town and representing this district in Washington, sponsored the omnibus housing bill that included monies for the new, permanent Winchester Post Office.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

The Federal Presence - Craig, Lois A. MIT Press 1980
 Field Guide to American Architecture, Rifkind, Carole Bonanza 1980
 History of Post Office Construction, 1900-1940 July 1982
 History of Winchester, Chapman, Robert G. Two Volumes- 1936, 1975

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 0.228 A

UTM REFERENCES

A	<u>19</u>	<u>324220</u>	<u>4701890</u>	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Beginning at a point on Waterfield Road,
 thence running: northwesterly 88' ⁺ along Waterfield Road
 northeasterly 115' ⁺ along Thompson Street
 southeasterly 115' ⁺
 southwesterly 115' ⁻ to the point of origin

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
N/A			

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

E. Brett Heenan, Preservation Coordinator March 25, 1986

ORGANIZATION

THE BOSTON PARTNERSHIP, INC.

DATE

(617) 492-8866

STREET & NUMBER

48 INMAN STREET

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

CAMBRIDGE,

STATE

MASSACHUSETTS 02139

12 CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

YES NO

NONE

Valerie A. Talmore 5/1/86

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 D. Larson

TITLE Realty Acquisition Specialist, Principal

DATE

7-14-87

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Patrick Andrews

DATE

10/19/87

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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

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date entered

Continuation sheet

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The onset of World War I however, and subsequent Federal Administrations hostile to the voters of the town, due to their party preference, delayed the action of the consideration of the new post office until 1926 when the Congressional Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds, of which Mr. McCall was now a member, appropriated sufficient funds for this project. Because of the continued pressure of a unified community, the Post Office became an important accomplishment for the citizens of Winchester.

Following Federal prerequisites, the selected site of the new second-class post office must have less value than the prime real estate of the commercial area. The new Post Office in Winchester was to be located on the site of an old plumbing shop, adjacent to the railroad depot but fronting on a newly established park. It was the desire of the town fathers that their "new, handsome government model" would stabilize and rejuvenate the Waterfield Road area, just one block from the central shopping district.

Designed during the tenure of Acting Supervising Architect, but under the capable direction of Louis A. Simon, and utilizing a variation of a standard plan, the Winchester Post Office represented the firm, solid Neo-Classic form of Federal stability that the town considered essential for its substantial identity, future growth and unification of the neighborhood. With its inherent warm brick tones, set off and articulated by the classical limestone detailing on the three facades viewed by the casual public, the Post Office is distinctive in its setting, contrasting the "kelly" brick, high metal corniced neighbors just to the north, and the romanesque and gothic civic buildings and churches dotting the community landscape.

To the satisfaction of the local government, later business and commercial development of the central shopping district expanded to the site of the Post Office, and this area became an integral part of the shopping district, bounded by parks and the river, symbolizing the important and successful role of the Post Office in the development of the community. The building, as a separate entity, contributes to the local historic and architectural heritage of Winchester.



UNITED STATES POST OFFICE
48 WATERFIELD ROAD
WINCHESTER, MA 01890

LEXINGTON QUADRANGLE
UTM: 19-3/24/220-47/01/890

BOSTON NORTH
67681 NE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

87001723

US Post Office-Winchester Main
Middlesex County
MASSACHUSETTS

Substantive Review

SEP - 4 1987

Working No. _____
Fed. Reg. Date: 2/7/89
Date Due: 10/1/87 - 10/19/87
Action: ACCEPT 10-19-87
 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:

Locally significant Neo-Classical design associated w/early 20th-century growth of the town

Recom./Criteria: Accept A+C
Reviewer: Sevare
Discipline: Architectural History
Date: 10/18/87
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 unaltered altered 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 *Please indicate property on full USGS maps*
- Photographs
- Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to _____

Signed _____ Date _____ Phone: _____

Comments for any item may be continued on an attached sheet



U. S. POST OFFICE
48 WATERFIELD ROAD
WINCHESTER, MA 01890
PHOTO DATE-JUNE 1985

VIEW FROM SOUTHWEST
FRONT ELEVATION

NEGATIVES @ USPS-FREBO
LEXINGTON, MA 02173



U. S. POST OFFICE
48 WATERFIELD ROAD
WINCHESTER, MA 01890
PHOTO DATE-JUNE 1985

VIEW FROM SOUTHWEST
FRONT ELEVATION

NEGATIVES @ USPS-FREBO.
LEXINGTON, MA 02173



U. S. POST OFFICE
48 WATERFIELD ROAD
WINCHESTER, MA 01890
PHOTO DATE-JUNE 1985

VIEW FROM RIVER
RIGHT SIDE ELEV.

NEGATIVES @ USPS-FREBO
LEXINGTON, MA 02173



U. S. POST OFFICE
48 WATERFIELD ROAD
WINCHESTER, MA 01890
PHOTO DATE-JUNE 1985

LEFT SIDE ELEV.
VIEW FROM WEST

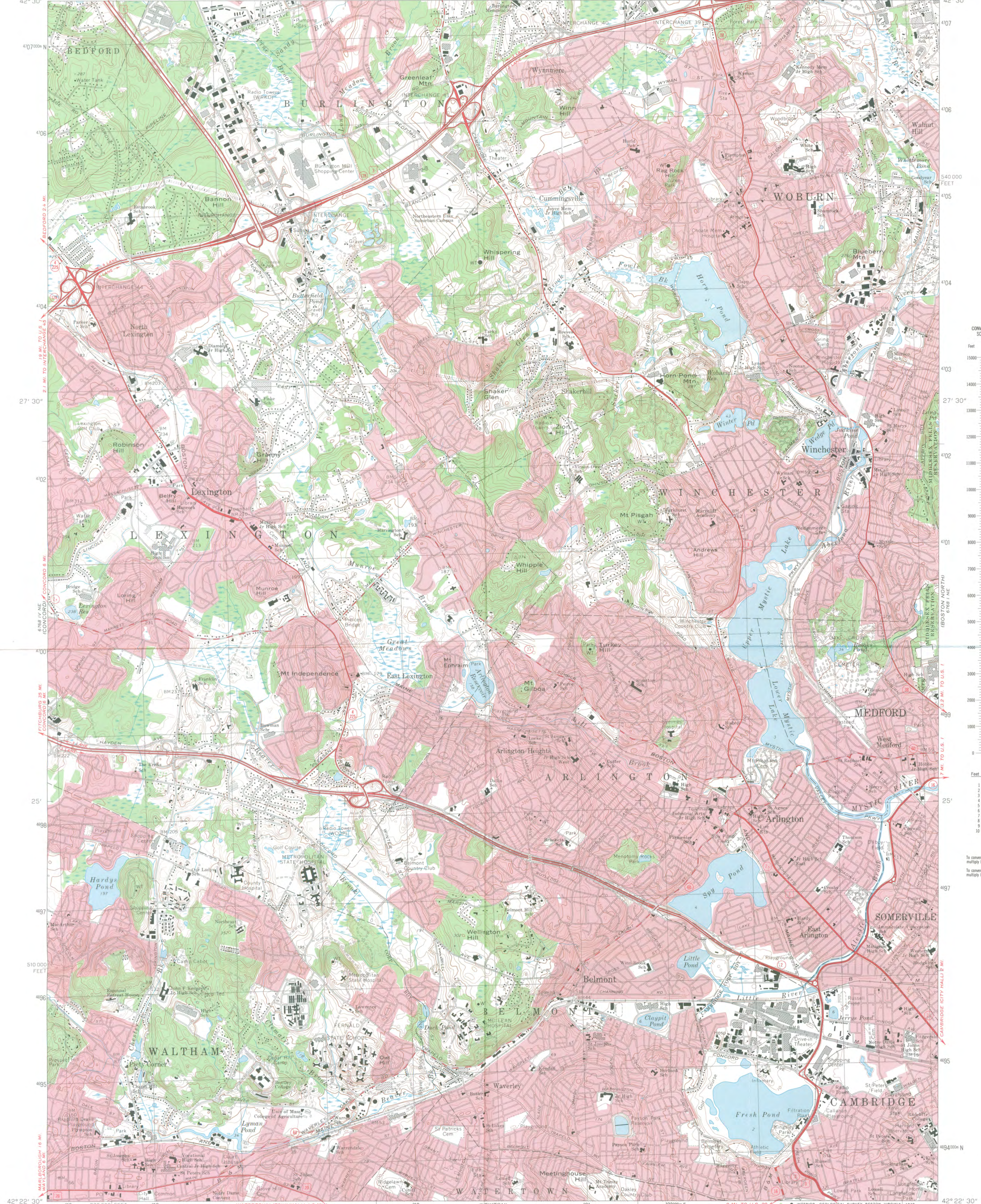
NEGATIVES @ USPS-FREBO
LEXINGTON, MA 02173



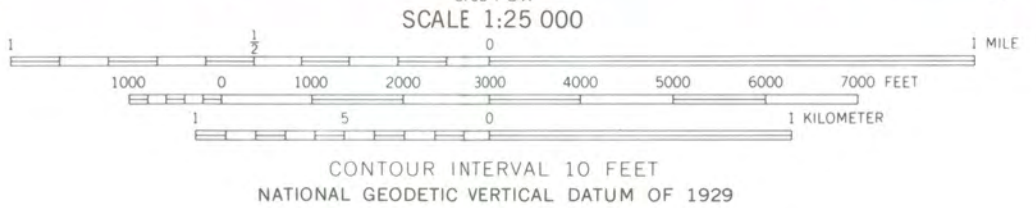
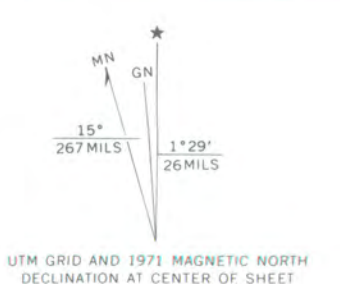
U. S. POST OFFICE
48 WATERFIELD ROAD
WINCHESTER, MA 01890
PHOTO DATE-JUNE 1985

LOBBY CLERESTORY

NEGATIVES @ USPS-FREBO
LEXINGTON, MA 02173



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
 Control by USGS, USC&GS, and Massachusetts Geodetic Survey
 Planimetry by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1939. Topography by planetable surveys 1943
 Revised from aerial photographs taken 1969. Field checked 1971
 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



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

July 29, 1986

The Honorable W. Chadwick Maurer
Town Manager, Town of Winchester
Town Hall
71 Mount Vernon Street
Winchester, MA 01890

Dear Town Manager Maurer:

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

Enclosure

cc: File 0018E
Reading



UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE
FACILITIES SERVICE CENTER
REAL ESTATE DIVISION
WINDSOR, CONNECTICUT 06006-0330

September 1, 1987

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

Dear Ms. Shull:

The Postal Service is pleased to submit nominations for the following Post Office facilities:

1. 119 Elm St., Worcester County, Millbury, MA
2. 217 Commerical St., Branstable County, Provincetown, MA
3. 37 Taunton Green, Bristol County, Taunton, MA
4. 2 Abbott St., Middlesex County, Woburn, MA
5. 58 Church St., Worcester County, Whitinsville, MA
6. 321 Main St., Middlesex County, Wakefield, MA
7. 48 Waterford Rd., Middlesex County, Winchester, MA
8. 75 Park St., Bristol County, Attleboro, MA
9. 90 Center St., Plymouth County, Middleborough, MA

Some of these nominations were submitted previously and returned in order that full quadrangle maps could be included. This has been done in all cases.

Should there be any questions concerning these nominations, please do not hesitate to call me on 203-285-7181.

Sincerely,

William S. Noncrist
Real Estate Specialist, Principal

Enclosures

cc: John Sorenson
Realty Acquisition Specialist, Principal
Washington, DC