

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 7 1986
 DATE ENTERED JUN 18 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

Arlington Main Post Office

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

10 Court Street

— NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Arlington

N/A VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Eighth Congressional District

STATE

02174

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

Massachusetts ~~02351~~

0037

Middlesex

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
 ENTERTAINMENT
 GOVERNMENT
 INDUSTRIAL
 MILITARY
 MUSEUM
 PARK
 PRIVATE RESIDENCE
 RELIGIOUS
 SCIENTIFIC
 TRANSPORTATION
 OTHER
4 AGENCYREGIONAL 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 DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Cambridge Registry of Deeds, Cambridge Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

208 Cambridge Street

CITY, TOWN

Cambridge

STATE

Massachusetts 02140

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

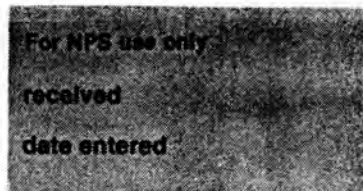
PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The building sits on the front part of the site with the main vehicle maneuvering area to its rear with access to it on the north edge, and a staff parking area to the south. The site is landscaped with lawn, shrubs and several trees. The Arlington Post Office is designed in a simplified version of the Georgian Colonial Revival style. It's distinctive features include a slate hipped roof, wood cupola, brick quoins, and a limestone entrance architrave. The building is symmetrical in both plan and elevation with a later addition that almost doubles the size of the original structure. In plan, the building is fronted with a small vestibule and a public lobby flanked by the Postmaster's office and service areas to the right and workroom space to the left. Behind the service screen is the workroom, mail vestibule, and platform.

Seven granite steps with wrought-iron railings create the main approach. The building rises above its granite base with brick laid in Flemish bond and limestone detailing. The front (east) elevation divides the seven-bay structure into a three-bay central, slightly projecting portion with two-bay wings. The center portion contains three arched openings; the center arch houses the replacement aluminum and glass entry doors framed by a limestone architrave with keystone, fan light, and rusticated pilasters supporting an entablature; cast bronze lamps are to either side of the entry. Double-hung, 15/15 light wood sash windows with fan lights flank the entry in the recessed outer arches with limestone keystone, springer stones, and panel below. The windows in the flanking bays are double-hung with wood sashes, 12/12 lights, limestone sills and flared lintels with keystones. The original part of the building is marked by its brick quoins and limestone cornices. The roof of the center portion is raised above the flanking sides; the cornice features a small limestone

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form



Continuation sheet Arlington Post Office

Item number 7

Page 2

band with a larger limestone denticulated cornice above and is topped with an octagonal open columned wood belfry and copper cupola. A metal rain diverter has been added above the entry, weakening the effect of the simple rooflines.

The side elevations are similar in detail to the front of the Post Office. The mail platform is located in the back.

One enters the building through an original vestibule which has a white marble wainscot with nicely carved stained oak and glass panels above. The inner doors to the north and south are also of replacement aluminum and glass. A partition wall of plaster, glass and aluminum runs along the south end of the vestibule to separate the post office box area from the service area. The lobby area has a white marble wainscot three and one-half feet high with a black marble base and a beige and black checkerboard terrazzo floor with black marble edging. The walls and ceiling are of plaster; the east and west walls curve to meet the ceiling molding, also of plaster. The window sills and postmaster's entry are of stained wood.

ALTERATIONS

The major changes to the building, the addition, metal diverter, and the lobby alterations were done in 1964. Also at that time, two skylights over the original workroom were removed and a suspended ceiling installed.

ART

On the north wall of the lobby, around the Postmaster's door, is a heavy canvas mural installed in 1938 above the wainscot. Entitled "Purchase and Use of the Soil," it is 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	Excavation: July 4, 1935	BUILDER/ARCHITECT	Ross & Reid Stone Setting Co., builder
	Dedication: April 26, 1936		Maurice P. Meade, Con. Architect
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE	Addition: 1965		Lord & Den Hartog & Assoc. Architects Fenton G. Keys, Assoc. Engineer

Built in 1935, the Arlington Main Post Office building is part of Arlington Center's collection of architecturally significant structures dating from the early 19th century - mid 20th century (including Robbins Library (1914) and the Federal Revival City Hall). Architecturally this building is significant as a reflection of 1930's Public Works Administration (P.W.A.) policies advocating standardized construction and more efficient planning. For example, sites for new post office buildings during the 1930's were chosen with an eye toward more efficient service rather than prominent display on a major thoroughfare - the Arlington Main Post Office is located on a residential side street. The Colonial style was chosen for its design perhaps in reference to Arlington historical associations with British and American skirmishes related to the Battle of Lexington and Concord. The Colonial Revival style was the second most popular architectural mode for Federal government building design during the 1930's. Along with the Classical style, the Colonial Revival style was "symbolic of both American past and her future progress and increasingly the architectural symbol of the Federal Government." This modern scaled red brick and white stone trimmed building is characterized by Georgian Revival surface treatments (e.g. fanlights, keystone archs and wedge shaped lintel). It is dominated by a distinctive cupola with arched openings. Its overall appearance is more domestic than institutional rendering it compatible with its residential neighbors.

The appropriation for the Arlington Main Post Office building was \$175,000.00. The local Chamber of Congress and more specifically Arthur Birch is credited with securing the funds for this structure. Excavation began on July 4, 1935. On September 19, 1935 the cornerstone was laid. It reads Henry Morgenthau, Jr., Secretary of the Treasury, James A. Farley, Postmaster General, Louis A. Simon, Supervisory Architect, Neal A. Melnick, Supervisory Engineer, Maurice P. Meade, Architect 1935.

This building's consulting architect, Maurice P. Meade was also responsible for Somerville's Main Post Office (1935-1936). He was born in Boston in 1883 and graduated from M.I.T. in 1908. Between 1910-1940 his office is variously listed at 44 Bromfield St. and 80 Boylston St. He designed the Church of the Sacred Heart in North Quincy. He retired in 1954 and died October 4, 1955.

At the time of this building's dedication, it was called "similar to some of Harvard University's buildings." Its interior was deemed "handsomely finished." Arlington painter and interior decorator William L. Crooch is credited with the interior treatments. The lobby contains a mural by William C. Palmer of New York City. The mural depicts

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

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

For NPS use only

received

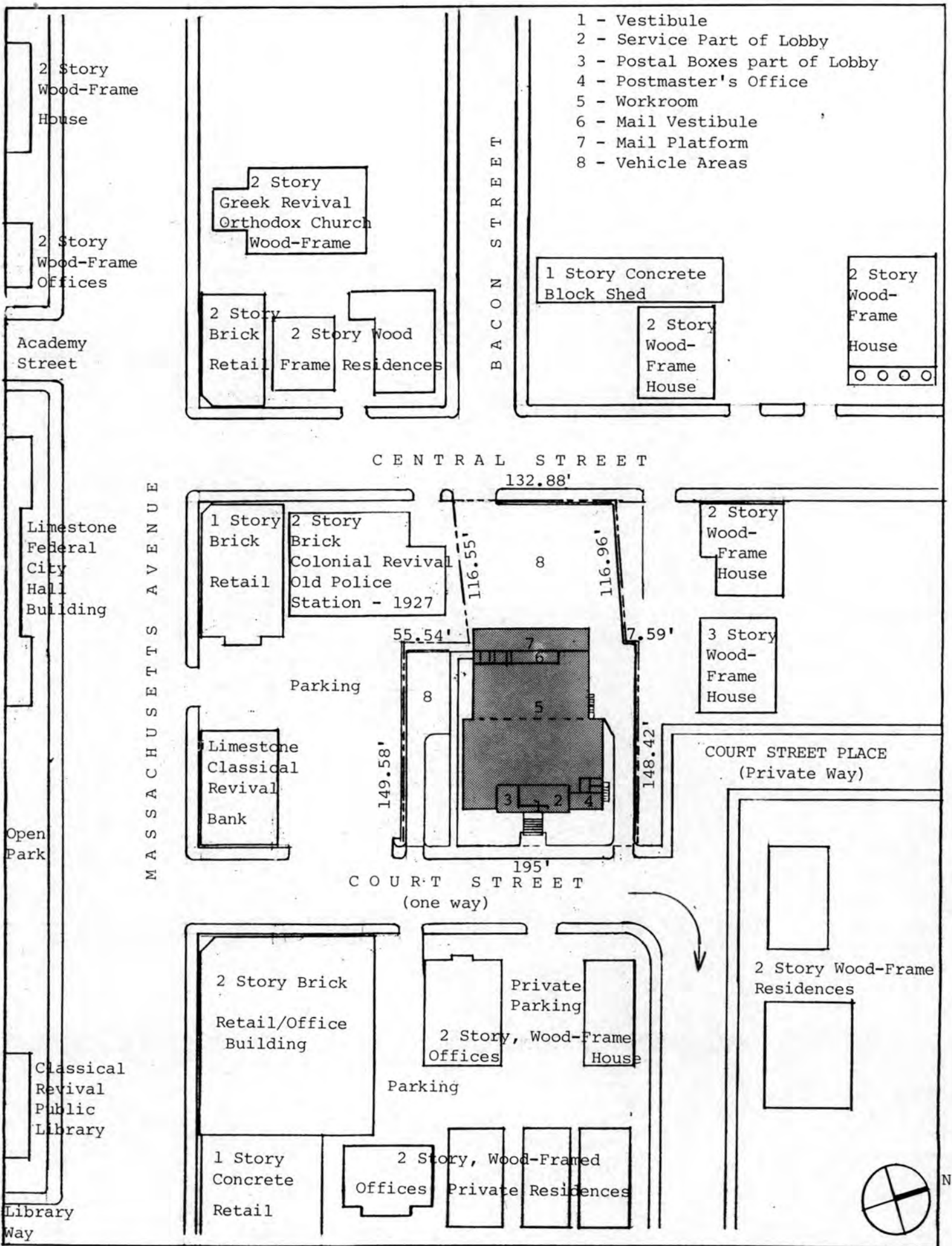
date entered

Continuation sheet Arlington Main Post Office Item number 8

Page 2

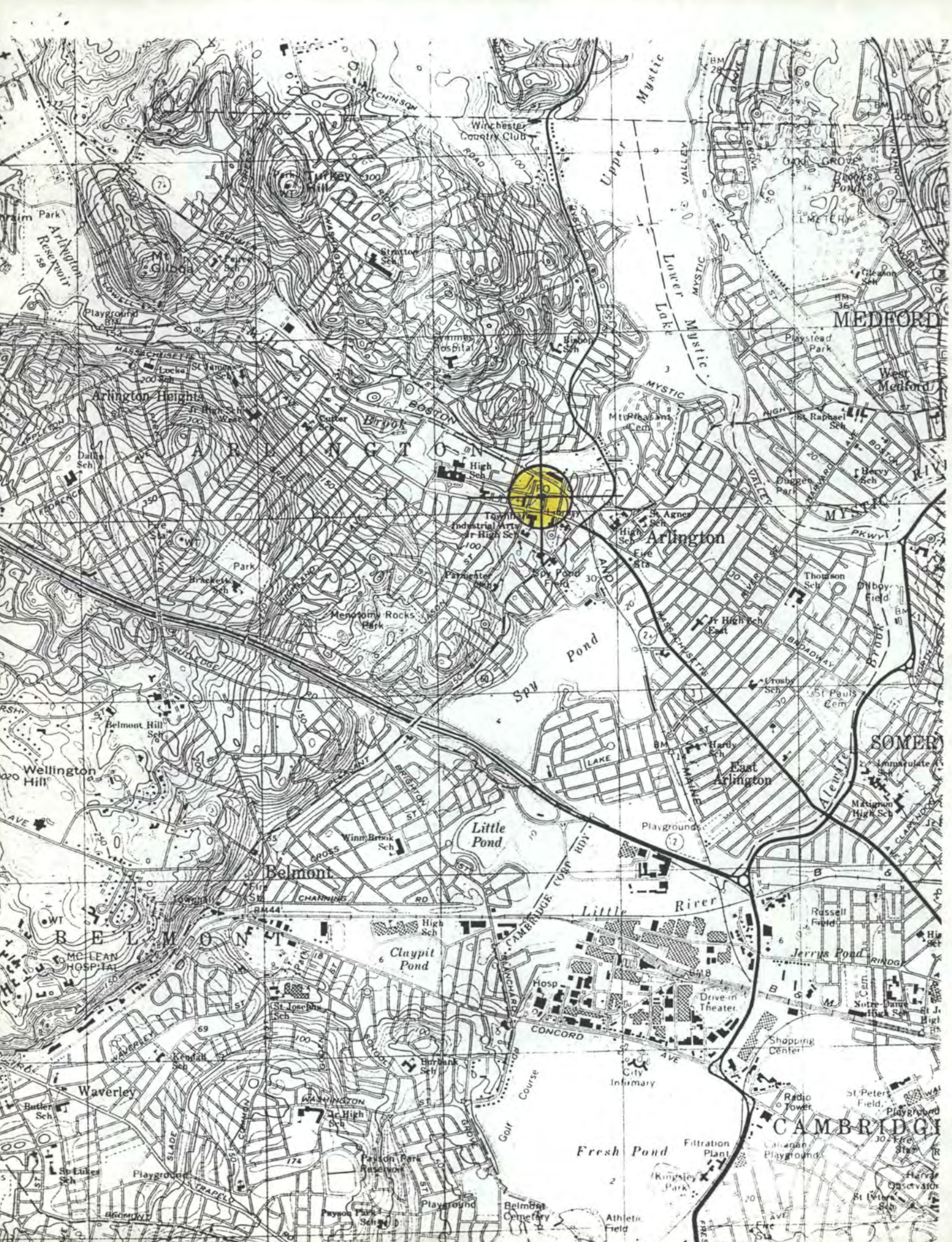
scenes from old Menotomy (now Arlington and vicinity) including the purchase of Menotomy from Squaw Sachem. Palmer is known for a mural in the former Washington Post Office Department building.

The Arlington Main Post Office building provided jobs to local citizens during the Depression, including Ralph Hoffman, Plumbing Contractor, The Columbia Cornice Company and the Smalley Granite Company. At the end of 1935, 650 persons were working on Work Progress Administration (W.P.A.) jobs. The Arlington Main Post Office was built to meet the mail service needs of a rapidly growing community. In 1915, Arlington encompassed 2,470 dwelling houses. By 1935 the number of residences had risen to 6,893 representing an increase of 179% in twenty years - even though construction came to a virtual halt after 1931.



- 1 - Vestibule
- 2 - Service Part of Lobby
- 3 - Postal Boxes part of Lobby
- 4 - Postmaster's Office
- 5 - Workroom
- 6 - Mail Vestibule
- 7 - Mail Platform
- 8 - Vehicle Areas

UNITED STATES POST OFFICE - ARLINGTON, MASSACHUSETTS



86001351

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

U.S. Post Office--Arlington Main
Middlesex County
MASSACHUSETTS

Substantive Review

Working No. MAY 7 1986
Fed. Reg. Date: 2/3/87
Date Due: 6/5/86 - 6/21/86
Action: ACCEPT 6-18-86
 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:

modest, locally significant representative of Colonial Revival Style. Well-preserved lobby is intact and adds to property's significance due to mural entitled "Purchase & Use of the Soil" by William C. Palmer.

Recom./Criteria Accept A + C
Reviewer Savage
Discipline Architectural History
Date 6-17-86
____ 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

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <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: _____



UNITED STATES POST OFFICE

Arlington Post Office

ARLINGTON MAIN POST OFFICE
Arlington, MA
David R. Hooker
Earl R. Flansburgh and Associates
May 1983
Front elevation



Arlington Post Office

ARLINGTON MAIN POST OFFICE

Arlington, MA

David R. Hooker

Earl R. Flansburgh and Associates

May 1983

Front elevation. Left view



COURT ST
ONE WAY

UNITED STATES POST OFFICE

Arlington Post Office

ARLINGTON MAIN POST OFFICE
Arlington, MA
David R. Hooker
Earl R. Flansburgh and Associates
May 1983
Front elevation. Right view



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SUPERINTENDENT

OF THE RESERVE

AND

AGRICULTURE

AND

INDUSTRY

AND

COMMERCE

AND

MANUFACTURES

AND

ARTS

Arlington Post Office

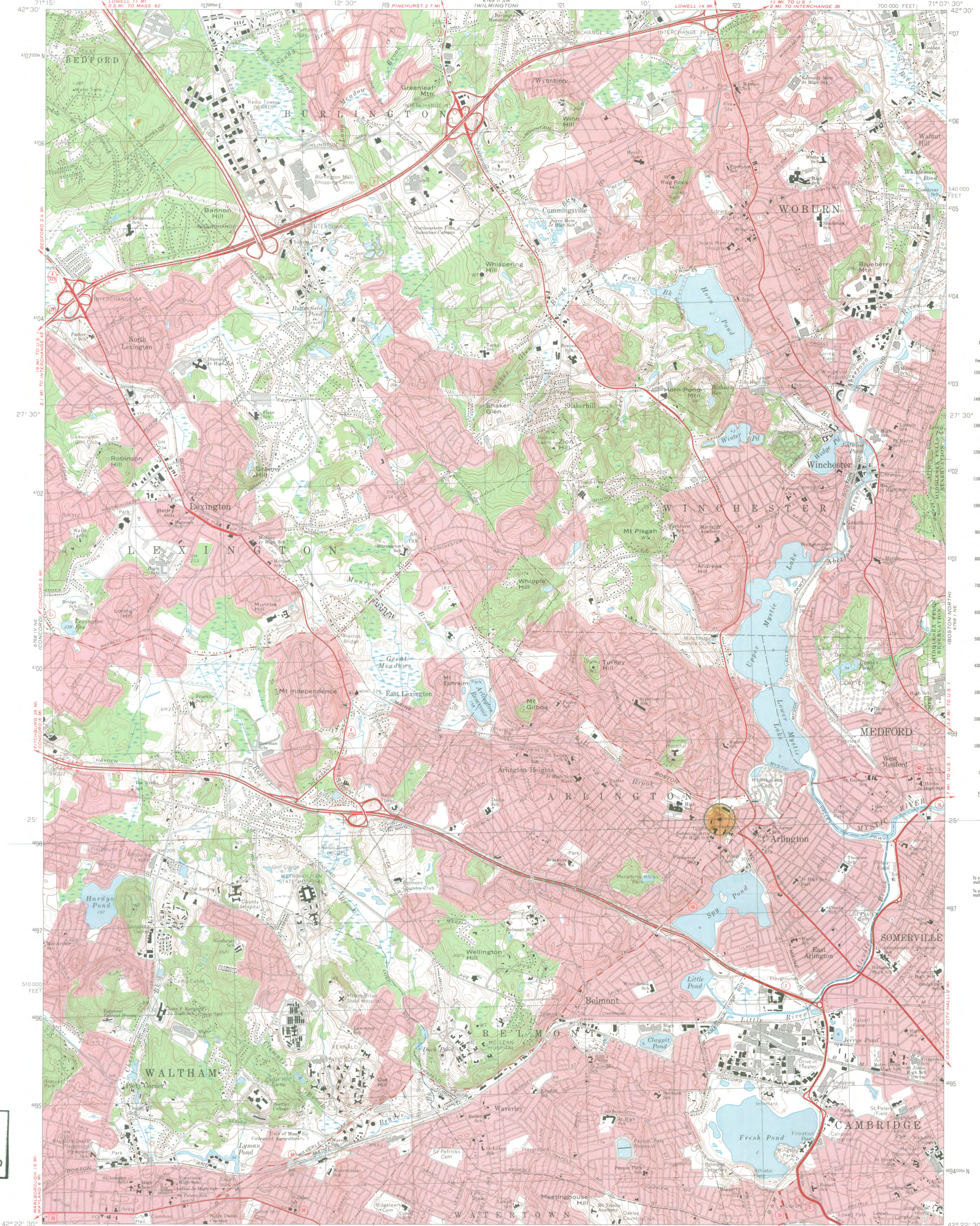
ARLINGTON MAIN POST OFFICE
Arlington, MA
David R. Hooker
Earl R. Flansburgh and Associates
May 1983
Mural

ARLINGTON, MA

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

LEXINGTON QUADRANGLE
MASSACHUSETTS - MIDDLESEX CO.
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)



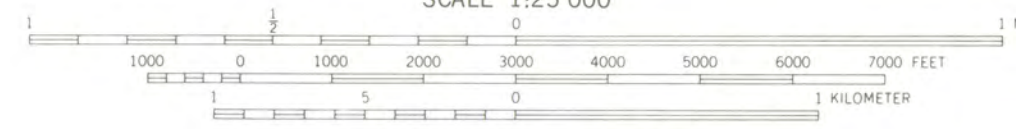
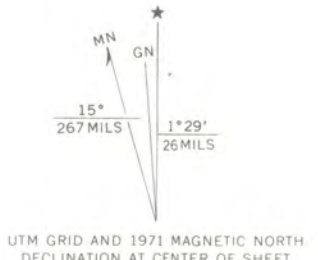
U.S. POST OFFICE
ARLINGTON, MA
UTM REFERENCE:
19J322595/4698080

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and Massachusetts
Geodetic Survey

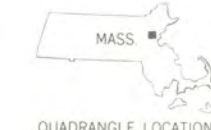
Planimetry by photogrammetric methods from aerial
photographs taken 1939. Topography by planimetric surveys 1943
Revised from aerial photographs taken 1969. Field checked 1971

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



CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929



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

LEXINGTON, MASS.
N4222.5—W7107.5/7.5
1971
AMS 6768 | NW—SERIES V814

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



FIELD REAL ESTATE AND BUILDINGS OFFICE

P.O. Box 324
Lexington, MA 02173-0324

August 19, 1985

The Honorable Donald Marquis
Town Manager, Town of Arlington
Arlington Town Hall
730 Massachusetts Avenue
Arlington, MA 02174

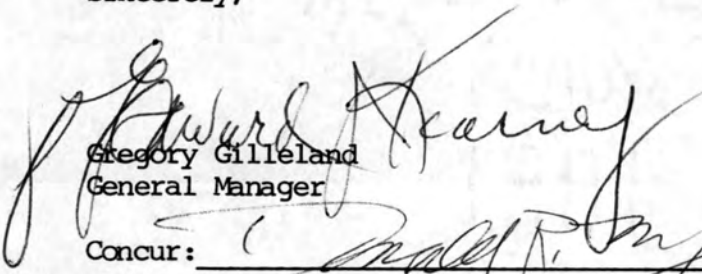
Dear Town Manager Marquis:

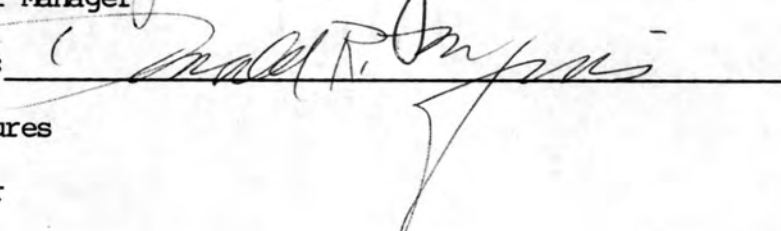
The U.S. Postal Service in conjunction with the Massachusetts State Historic Preservation Officer in Boston has evaluated the Main Post Office in Arlington and has determined it is significant from an historical viewpoint.

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

TOWN OF ARLINGTON

AUG 26 1985

FIELD REAL ESTATE AND BUILDINGS OFFICE
PLANNING & COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

RECEIVED
U.S. POSTAL SERVICE

SEP 10 10 31 PM '85

NEW ENGLAND FIELD REAL
ESTATE BLDGS. OFFICE
LEXINGTON, MA 02173

August 19, 1985

The Honorable Donald Marquis
Town Manager, Town of Arlington
Arlington Town Hall
130 Massachusetts Avenue
Arlington, MA 02174

Dear Town Manager Marquis:

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

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

Sincerely,

Gregory Gilliland
General Manager

CGG:ljr

Enclosures

3PC/ljr



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

May 5, 1986

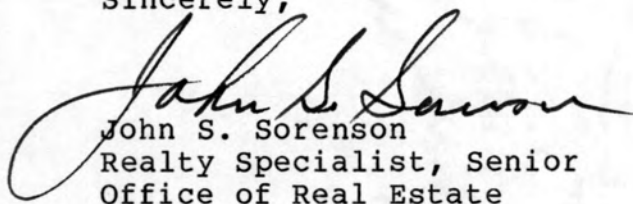
Ms. Carol D. Shull
Chief of Registration
National Register of Historic Places
National Park Service
Department of Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240-1002

Dear Ms. Shull:

The Postal Service hereby submits a nomination for the post office located at 10 Court Street, Middlesex County, Arlington, 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

MAY 7 1986