

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

JAN 28 1986
MAR 10 1986SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

U.S. Post Office

AND/OR COMMON

Federal Building

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

50 Kearney Square

CITY, TOWN

Lowell

VICINITY OF

5

STATE

Massachusetts

CODE

025

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☐ ENTERTAINMENT☒ GOVERNMENT☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ MILITARY☐ MUSEUM☐ PARK☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ RELIGIOUS☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ OTHER**4 AGENCY**

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (If applicable)

General Services Administration, Office of Public Buildings and Real Property

STREET & NUMBER

J.W. McCormack Post Office and Courthouse Building

CITY, TOWN

Boston

VICINITY OF

STATE

Massachusetts

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Middlesex Registry of Deeds, Northern District

STREET & NUMBER

360 Gorham Street

CITY, TOWN

Lowell

STATE

Massachusetts

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

None

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

☐ EXCELLENT ☐ DETERIORATED
☒ GOOD ☐ RUINS
☐ FAIR ☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☒ UNALTERED
☐ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

1. Type of Structure: Federal Building, former U.S. Post Office
2. Building Placement: Detached - the building occupies approximately 32% of the 38,188 sf site, with south frontage on Kearney Square, west side on the Eastern Canal and the east side bordering the Concord River. Its rear faces a complex of industrial mill buildings. The Federal Building is located on the periphery of the Lowell Locks and Canals Historic District.
3. General Characteristics:
 - a. Shape - The building is rectangular, measuring 140' x 88'. The 90' long mezzanine level extends out 12' in the rear of the building over the mailing platform.
 - b. Stories - There are three stories plus basement and mezzanine. The roof is hipped and once contained a skylight (removed 1970's).
 - c. Materials - The building has a structural system of steel beams and columns and concrete slabs, a facade of gray dressed granite on the front and two sides, and yellow brick in common bond in the rear. The entablature and ballustrade are of gray terra cotta.
4. Special Features: The architectural style of the building is Neo-Classical with many high quality details. These include a full entablature, ballustrade and Doric central portico. The first floor windows on the front and sides are round-arched and topped with keystones. Windows on the rear first and all of the second floor are rectangular, while those of the mezzanine level and third floor are square. All windows are of the metal sash type. The front portico contains three pedimented doorways, and quoins are used on the four corners of the building. A tall copper lamp stands on each side of the front portico at the base of the steps. Each consists of an ornate low base, tall fluted stem and an octagonal lantern at the top.

The interior lobby retains much of its historical integrity, with marble walls, terrazzo floors, and at each end of the room, two Doric columns forming an arch. Light fixtures are original as well, and the overall effect is light and airy. The existence of three penstocks in the basement prevents utilization of the entire basement space.
5. Outbuildings: A small structure (approximately 12' x 25') constructed in 1975 contains the East Merrimack Street Siphon, for which the City of Lowell was granted an easement (23' x 36'). It is located on the southeastern corner of the lot, between the building and the Concord River.
6. Other Manmade Elements: A paved parking lot exists in the rear of the building and a gray dressed granite wall runs along the bank of the Concord River, northeast of the building.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
☐ PREHISTORIC	☐ ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	☐ COMMUNITY PLANNING	☐ LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	☐ RELIGION
☐ 1400-1499	☐ ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	☐ CONSERVATION	☐ LAW	☐ SCIENCE
☐ 1500-1599	☐ AGRICULTURE	☐ ECONOMICS	☐ LITERATURE	☐ SCULPTURE
☐ 1600-1699	☒ ARCHITECTURE	☐ EDUCATION	☐ MILITARY	☐ SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
☐ 1700-1799	☐ ART	☐ ENGINEERING	☐ MUSIC	☐ THEATER
☐ 1800-1899	☐ COMMERCE	☐ EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	☐ PHILOSOPHY	☐ TRANSPORTATION
☒ 1900-	☐ COMMUNICATIONS	☐ INDUSTRY	☐ POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	☐ OTHER (SPECIFY)
		☐ INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

1930

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

George Augustine Daidy

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The U.S. Post Office in Lowell was designed by one of its few native architects at the time, George Augustine Daidy, and is important in its Neo-Classical Style. The Supervising Architect of the Treasury was James A. Wetmore, and A.W. Mellon was Secretary of the Treasury. Construction occurred under the Works Progress Administration, a depression era public buildings program, at a time when the Treasury Department employed private architects. The Federal Building represents the government's policy toward public buildings in that era, namely that they be of lasting benefit and enduring character.

The original fabric of the building is intact and in good condition, retaining its historical integrity. The building is a focal point in the Kearney Square area and has been associated with events which have contributed to local and state history. Its architecture embodies the characteristics of fine workmanship, design and style.

Prior to construction of the present Federal Building, the site had undergone several building changes. An 1821 map of Lowell notes a "Homestead" standing on a portion of the lot and subsequent maps of 1831 and 1832 record a building of similar plan labeled "Mansion House", which seems to have straddled the Eastern Canal, extending onto the western part of the lot.

Between 1839 and 1841, this property was built up with two brick rows of "tenement" houses constructed for the Massachusetts Cotton Mills by the Proprietors of Locks and Canals. There were two streets laid out on the property at this time; Hancock Street extended along the east bank of the Eastern Canal, while Mill Square ran at right angles to Hancock Street along the southern boundary of the Massachusetts Mill Yard. In 1910-11, these two brick rows were demolished to allow construction of Section 12 of the Massachusetts Cotton Mills. It was a five story brick building which had frontage on the Concord River from Section 8 of the Massachusetts Mills to East Merrimack Street. Section 12 extended along East Merrimack Street over the Eastern Canal to Canal Street. In 1929-30, Section 12 was demolished.

In 1929, the site was purchased for a Post Office for \$120,000. George Augustine Daidy, a Lowell native and an architect for the Public Buildings Administration, designed the building. Construction began in 1930 with the Lowell firm of Johnson and Melloy as contractor. The building is constructed over three penstocks, extending from the Concord River to the Pawtucket Canal, through which water flows to a power plant. Occasional water problems in the building's basement are experienced.

The building's current use as a Federal Building is mainly as a Veterans Administration Clinic, with other Federal agencies located there as well. The interior has largely been altered for these purposes with the exception of the lobby, which retains much of its original integrity. The Government has determined that disposal of this property will occur in the future. Inclusion in the National Register will insure that this valuable asset to the City of Lowell will remain intact.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Daidy, George Augustine "A Historical Record of the Design and Construction of the Lowell, Massachusetts Post Office", mss. in Special Collections, U. of Lowell Library
Lowell Sun, June 6, 1965

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY .877 acre

UTM REFERENCES

A

1	9
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3	1	0	9	0	5
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4	7	2	3	7	9	5
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ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B

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ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

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D

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ZONE EASTING NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION
See attached map

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
N/A			
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Elaine Lazarus, Community Planner

ORGANIZATION

General Services Administration, RED, OPR

DATE

August 5, 1985

STREET & NUMBER

J.W. McCormack Post Office & Courthouse Building

TELEPHONE

617-223-2707

CITY OR TOWN

Boston

STATE

Massachusetts

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

Paul J. Onstad, Jr.

TITLE

GSA. Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

1/27/86

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Patrick Andrews

DATE

3/10/86

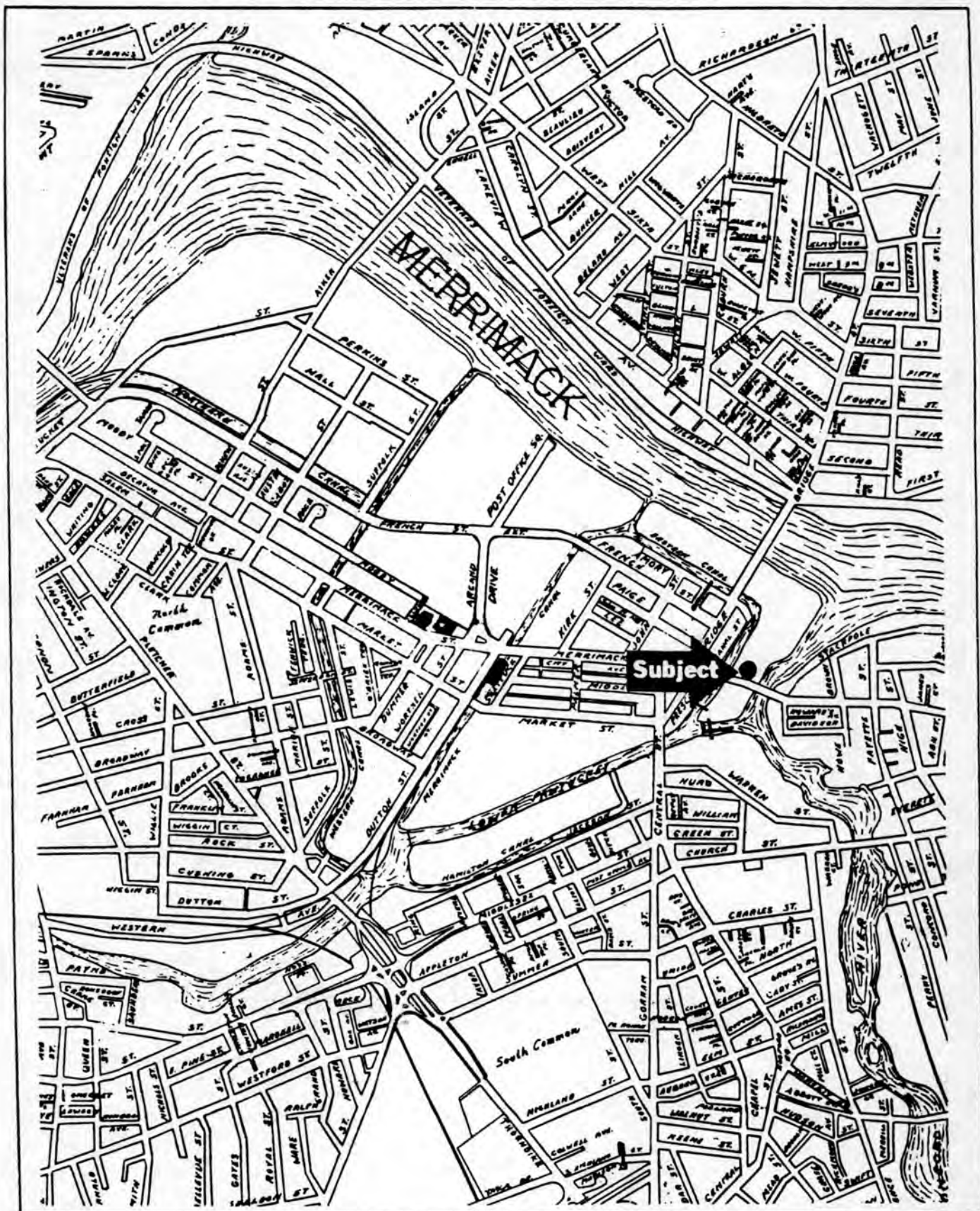
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

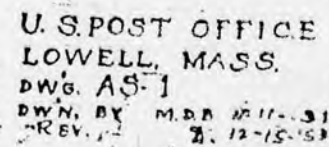
DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STREET MAP SHOWING LOCATION OF SUBJECT



ASSIGNMENT
APPROACH PLAN
SCALE $\sim \frac{1}{32}'' = 1'-0''$



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

U.S. Post Office
Middlesex County
MASSACHUSETTS

Substantive Review

Working No. JAN 28 1986
Fed. Reg. Date: 2/3/87
Date Due: 2/27/86 - 3/14/86
Action: ☒ ACCEPT 3-16-86
☐ RETURN
☐ REJECT
Federal Agency: GSA

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

Substantive Review: ☒ sample ☐ request ☐ appeal ☐ NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

*Fine locally significant institutional example
of Classical Revival Style designed by
Lowell architect George Augustine Dady.*

Recom./Criteria Accept C
Reviewer Savage
Discipline Architectural History
Date 3-3-86
_____ 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

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| ☐ excellent | ☐ deteriorated |
| ☐ good | ☐ ruins |
| ☐ fair | ☐ 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

Please provide "Level of Significance"
OK. as per FPD. SS.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title _____

date _____

13. Other

- ☐ Maps
- ☐ Photographs
- ☐ Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to _____

Signed _____ Date _____ Phone: _____



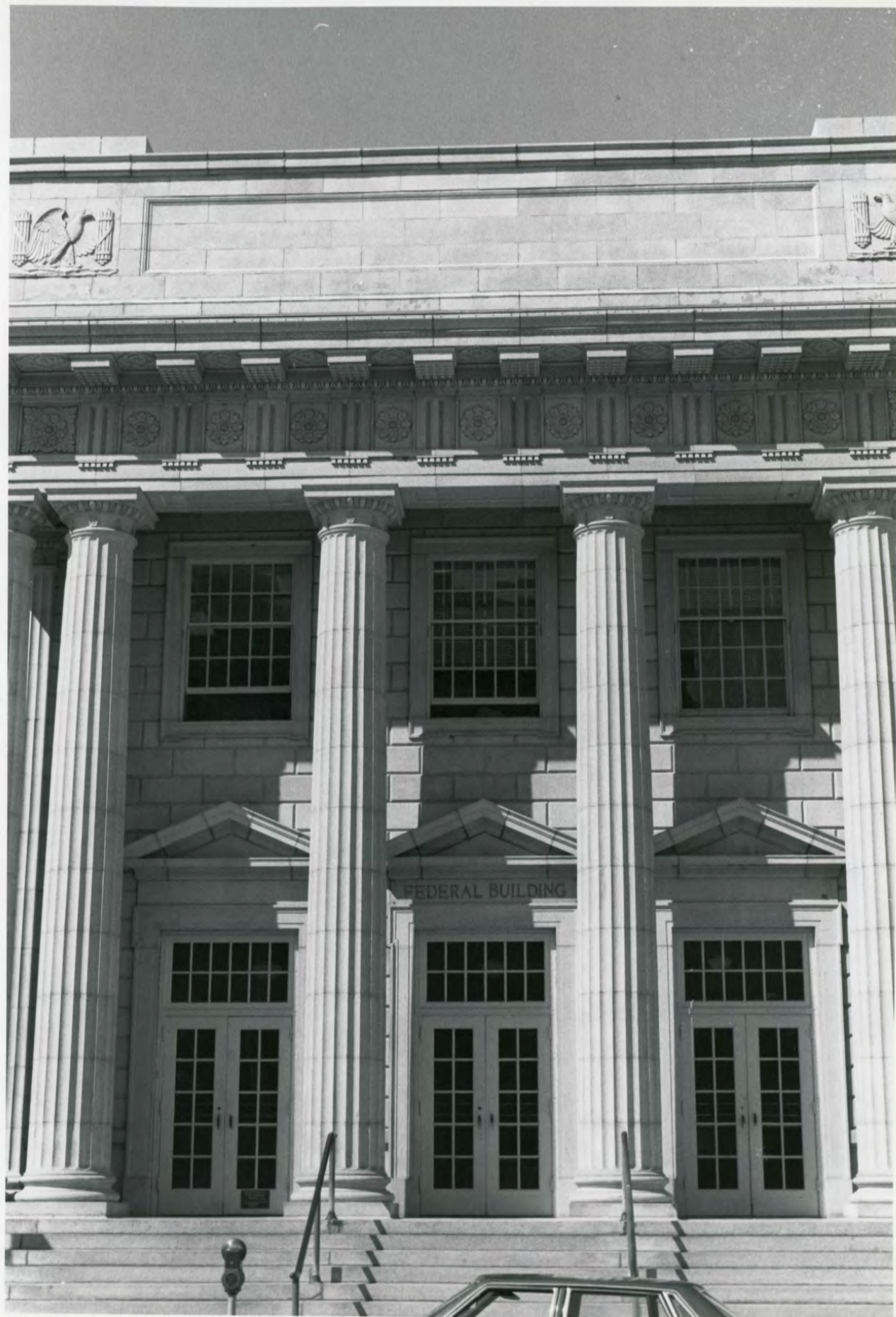
Federal Building, Lowell, MA
E. Savolainen, 7/17/85
General Services Administration
Public Buildings and Real Property
Boston, Massachusetts

A. Looking Northwest - Front of building
#1



Federal Building, Lowell, MA
E. Savolainen, 7/17/85
General Services Administration
Public Buildings and Real Property
Boston, Massachusetts

B. Northeast - Area behind building
#2



Federal Building, Lowell, MA
E. Savolainen, 7/17/85
General Services Administration
Public Buildings and Real Property
Boston, Massachusetts

Northeast - Front portico
#3



Federal Building, Lowell, MA
E. Savolainen, 7/17/85
General Services Administration
Public Buildings and Real Property
Boston, Massachusetts

D. West - East Merrimack Street Siphon
#4 in foreground



Federal Building, Lowell, MA
E. Savolainen, 7/17/85
General Services Administration
Public Buildings and Real Property
Boston, Massachusetts

East - Lobby
#5



Federal Building, Lowell, MA
E. Savolainen, 7/17/85
General Services Administration
Public Buildings and Real Property
Boston, Massachusetts

F. West - Lobby
#6



Federal Building, Lowell, MA
E. Savolainen, 7/17/85
General Services Administration
Public Buildings and Real Property
Boston, Massachusetts

East - Front and side of building
#7



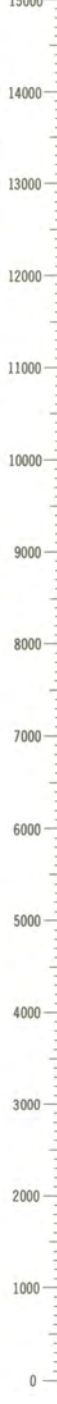
Federal Building, Lowell, MA
E. Savolainen, 7/17/85
General Services Administration
Public Buildings and Real Property
Boston, Massachusetts

South - Rear of building
#8



CONVERSION
SCALES

Feet Meters



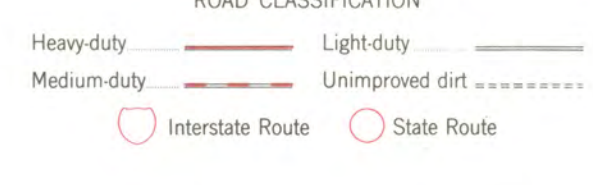
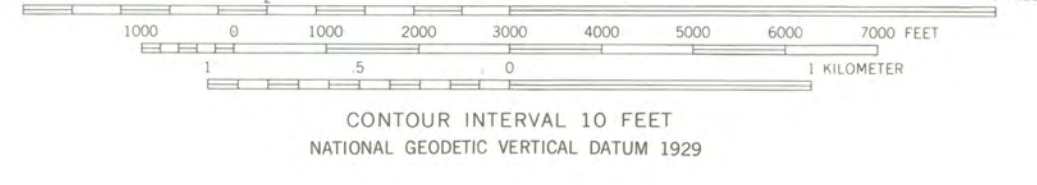
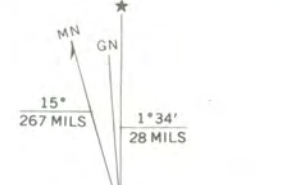
Feet Meters

1	3048
2	6096
3	9144
4	12192
5	15240
6	18288
7	21336
8	24384
9	27432
10	30480

To convert feet to meters
multiply by 0.3048

To convert meters to feet
multiply by 3.2808

Maped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and Massachusetts Geodetic Survey
Topography by planetable surveys 1939 and 1944. Revised 1966
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Massachusetts coordinate system,
mainland zone, and New Hampshire coordinate system
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid
zone 19
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown
There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of
the National or State reservations shown on this map
Revisions shown in purple compiled in cooperation with State of
Massachusetts agencies from aerial photographs taken 1977 and other
source data. This information not field checked. Map edited 1979



LOWELL, MASS.-N. H.
N4237.5-W7115/7.5
1966
PHOTOREVISED 1979
AMS 6769 III NE-SERIES V814

Federal Building
Lowell, MA
UTM Reference:
19J310905/4723795