

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 NOV 27 1985

DATE ENTERED JAN 10 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

Great Barrington Main Post Office

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

222 Main Street

 NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Great Barrington N/A VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

First Congressional District

STATE

Massachusetts

CODE

0440

COUNTY

Berkshire

CODE

003

**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)*

New England Field Real Estate and Buildings Office

STREET &amp; NUMBER

1050 Waltham Street

CITY, TOWN

Lexington

N/A VICINITY OF

STATE

Massachusetts 02173

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Southern Berkshire Registry of Deeds

STREET &amp; NUMBER

334 Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Great Barrington

STATE

Massachusetts 01230

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

None

DATE

 FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

# 7 DESCRIPTION

## CONDITION

EXCELLENT  
 GOOD  
 FAIR  
 DETERIORATED  
 RUINS  
 UNEXPOSED

## CHECK ONE

UNALTERED  
 ALTERED

## CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE  
 MOVED DATE \_\_\_\_\_

\*Canopy over loading platform in

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE rear

The Main Post Office of Great Barrington occupies a half acre site along Route 41, a central artery in this rural Berkshire town. The site is located in an area of medium density with adjacent commercial properties of one and two story structures.

Primarily a one story masonry structure, the exterior red brick wall finish consists of Flemish bond coursing with marble lintels. The window openings house the original 12/12 double hung wood sashes with aluminum storm windows.

A white projecting tetrastyle Tuscan portico articulates the recessed entry to the public lobby. The smooth columns, heavier than the usual proportions, support a plain frieze and pediment. The columns and pilasters are painted concrete. The pediment, entablature and cornice are painted wood. The brick recessed entry is also painted.

In the rear, a projecting canopy was constructed in 1960 over the loading platform and bays. This structure is supported, in part, by two masonry wing walls. The exterior brickwork closely resembles the coursing and materials of the original construction.

A low profile hip roof covers the square building plan. Rising above the center of this construction is a large square mass that formerly contained the clerestory lights. A new standing seam metal roof now closes off the original skylight and covers the supporting roof structure in its entirety.

The basement and foundation are reinforced concrete with solid slab floor. White marble wainscotting still graces the public lobby accenting the original dark terrazzo floor surface. The wood and glass vestibule has been meticulously maintained and still retains a suggestion of Art Deco with its wood pediment and trim. The painted woodwork around the post office boxes is original.

There are no other buildings or other manmade structures on the site. Two crab apple trees frame the portico at the main entrance which is bordered by a low privet hedge.

1000 088

007 011 80 3501v

# 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)		
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION				

SPECIFIC DATES	Designed: 1935 Constructed: 1936	BUILDER/ARCHITECT	Louis A. Simon, Sup. Architect Lorimer Rich, Architect
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE	D.A. Sullivan & Sons, Contractor Northampton, Massachusetts		

The Great Barrington Post Office is a unique example of McAdoo's Classification System for Federal Buildings Class C Construction. Given its central location within the county seat, it could produce receipts that are equal to that of a second-class city. Therefore, the character of the building was given brick facing with stone trim, wooden doors, frames and sashes, and very simple forms of ornamentation on the interior.

In June of 1934, it was dictated that the use of private architects for the design of public buildings be curtailed and that all remaining Federal buildings be designed by the Office of the Supervising Architect. Consequently, this Post Office was produced during a time when standard plans were used to minimize the number of individual drawings and encourage swift project completion.

Working with a standard floor plan, Lorimer Rich, a private Architect, utilized the wide latitude left for architectural innovation and produced this somewhat unusual design for the mid 1930's. It was constructed in 1936 by D. A. Sullivan & Sons.

The main facade, with its unusual Tuscan pillars, suggests a Center Revival Temple front that remains in complete accord with the Colonial and Classical Revival buildings in the surrounding community.

The Great Barrington township, located in southwestern Berkshire County, is one of the largest townships in Western Massachusetts in both area and population. The Housatonic River flowing north to south through the center of the township brought a number of mills of various types to the area. Two stages once passed daily from Hartford, Connecticut to Albany, New York, through the center of Great Barrington. In the 1840's, the railroad was completed which expedited and increased passenger, freight, and mail service.

The present building, located in the heart of the transit area, is the eighth building to house the Post Office and the only structure designed to accommodate the single purpose activities of this department. Previous locations included the registry of deeds, various stores, and personal houses, depending on the nature of the politically appointed Postmaster. From Moses Hopkins (appointed the first Postmaster in 1797) to Edward C.

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Postal History of Berkshire County Massachusetts 1790-1981, 1982 Leo L. Lincoln and Lee C. Drickamer, Excelsier Printing Co., North Adams, MA

History of Post Office Construction 1900-1940, July 1982

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY .5

UTM REFERENCES

A	18	635400	46731080	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Rectangular in shape, the site maintains approximately 102 feet of frontage along Main Street (Route 41). It is approximately 170 feet deep with the building size of 64- $\frac{1}{2}$  x 64- $\frac{1}{2}$  x 47'- $\frac{1}{2}$ .

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Robert W. St. John

ORGANIZATION

SULLIVAN DESIGN GROUP, INC.

DATE

July 12, 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

*Valerie A. Talmage* 9/19/85  
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

TITLE *James T. Cor* Director, Office of Real Estate

DATE

11-25-85

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

*Patrick W. Anders*  
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

1/10/86

ATTEST: *Beth L. Savage*  
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

1-10-86

**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

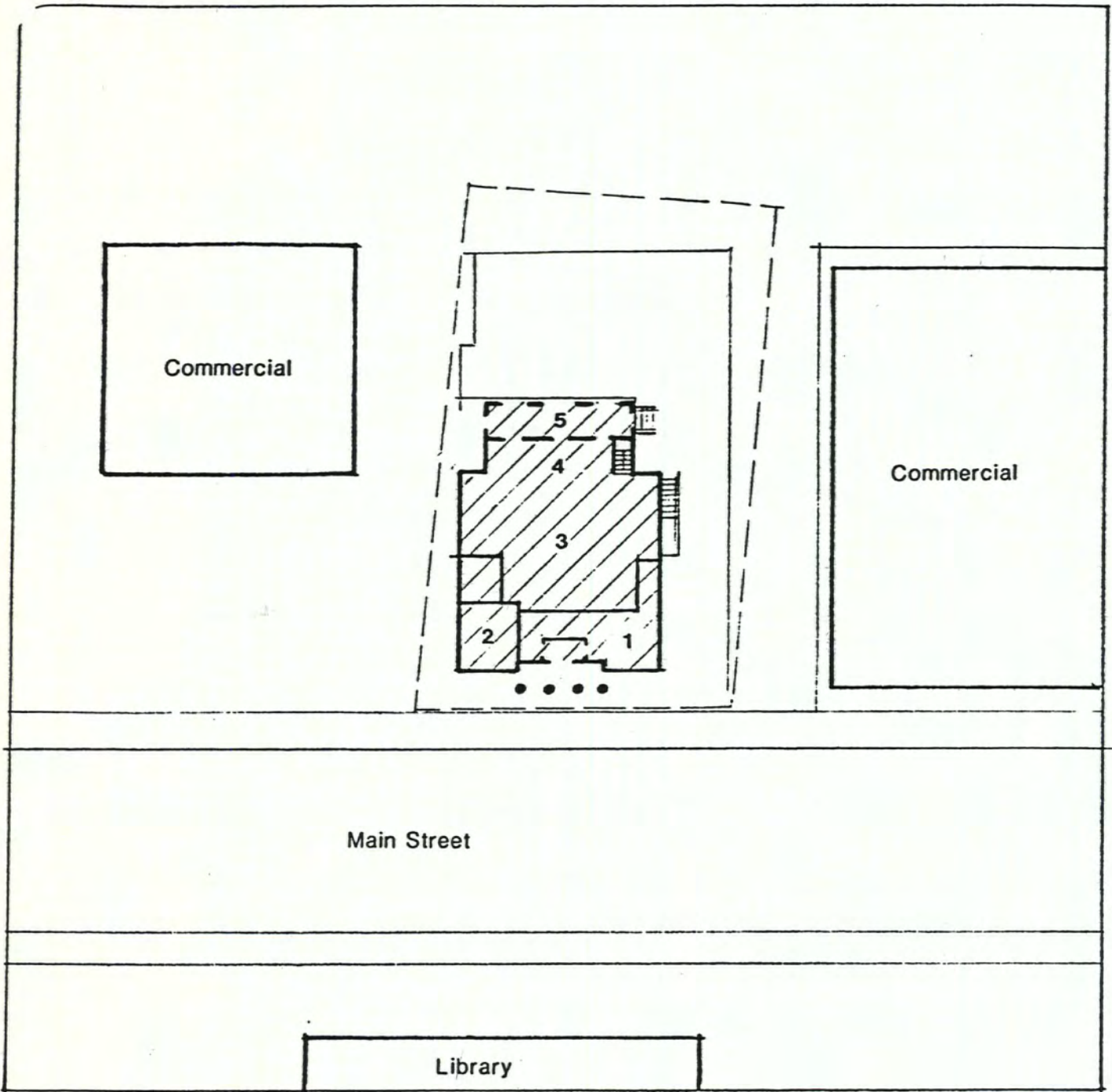
Item number eight (8)

Page 2

Tyler in 1935, thirteen postmasters served.

It is significant that the present structure represents an end to the haphazard location of the Post Office as dictated by the political appointment, administration, and system of the time.

Although it is not a monumental structure or richly detailed as other structures of its era, the Great Barrington Post Office displays an understated elegance and a quality of workmanship that is worthy of its importance to the surrounding communities and of a place in the National Register of Historic Places.



- 1. LOBBY
- 2. POSTMASTER'S OFFICE
- 3. WORKROOM
- 4. MAIL VESTIBULE
- 5. MAIL PLATFORM

▨ ORIGINAL BUILDING (BEFORE ADDITION)



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

86000163

United States Post Office-Great Barrington  
Main Post Office  
Berkshire County  
MASSACHUSETTS

NOV 27 1985

Working No. \_\_\_\_\_  
Fed. Reg. Date: 2/3/87  
Date Due: 12/26/85 - 1/11/86 *204.*  
Action:  ACCEPT 1-10-86  
 RETURN  
 REJECT  
Federal Agency: U.S. Postal Service

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

Substantive Review:  sample  request  appeal  NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

*a locally significant late, institutional example  
of Academic Eclecticism manifested in the  
Colonial Revival mode.*

Recom./Criteria Accept C  
Reviewer Savage  
Discipline Architectural History  
Date 1-10-86  
\_\_\_\_\_ 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

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**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

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**9. Major Bibliographical References**

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**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of nominated property \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle name \_\_\_\_\_

UTM References \_\_\_\_\_

Verbal boundary description and justification \_\_\_\_\_

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**11. Form Prepared By**

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**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 \_\_\_\_\_

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**13. Other**

- Maps
- Photographs
- Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_



MAIN POST OFFICE  
GREAT BARRINGTON, MA  
02130

Great Barrington Main Post Office  
Great Barrington, MA  
David R. Hooker  
May 6, 1983  
Earl R. Flansburgh and Associates  
Front Elevation



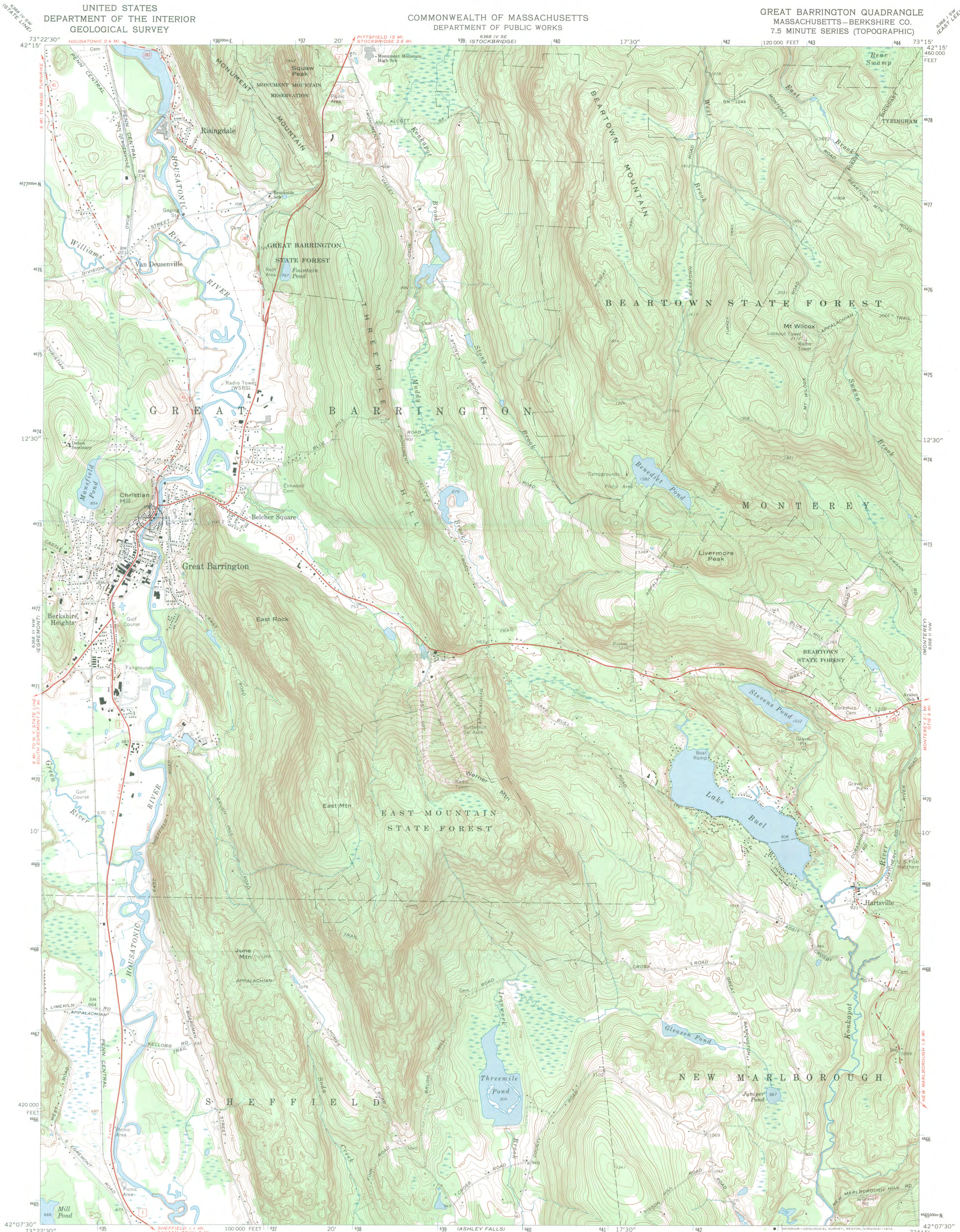
MAIN POST OFFICE  
GREAT BARRINGTON, MA  
02130

Great Barrington Main Post Office  
Great Barrington, MA  
David R. Hooker  
May 6, 1983  
Earl R. Flansburgh and Associates  
Front elevation. Right view



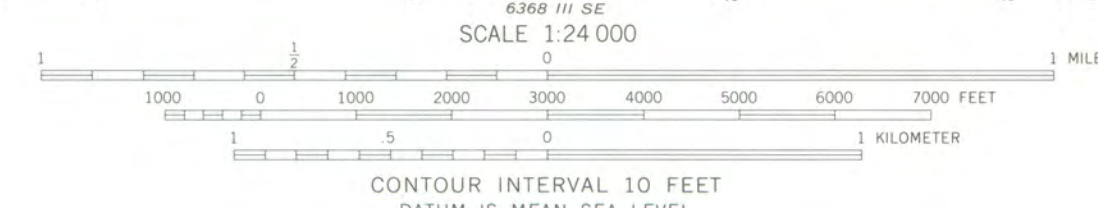
MAIN POST OFFICE  
GREAT BARRINGTON, MA  
02130

Great Barrington Main Post Office  
Great Barrington, MA  
May 6, 1983  
Earl R. Flansburgh and Associates  
Front elevation. Left view

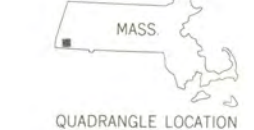


Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey  
Control by USGS, USC&GS, Massachusetts Geodetic Survey and  
Massachusetts Harbor and Land Commission  
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs  
taken 1942. Field checked 1946. Revised from aerial  
photographs taken 1971. Field checked 1973

Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum  
10,000-foot grid based on Massachusetts coordinate system,  
mainland zone  
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,  
zone 18, shown in blue  
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where  
generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked



CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET  
DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL



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

GREAT BARRINGTON, MASS.  
N4207.5—W7315/7.5

1973

AMS 6368 III NE—SERIES V814

U.S. POST OFFICE  
GREAT BARRINGTON, MA  
UTM REFERENCE:  
18/635400/4673080

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

June 17, 1985

The Honorable Richard Louison  
Chairman, Board of Selectman, Town of Great Barrington  
Town Hall  
Main Street  
Great Barrington, MA 01230


Dear Chairman Louison:


The U. S. Postal Service in conjunction with the Massachusetts Historical Commission in Boston has evaluated the Main Post Office in Great Barrington and has determined it is significant from a 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

JPC/ljr

RECEIVED  
U.S. POSTAL SERVICE

JUN 27 10 27 PM '85

NEW ENGL  
ESTATE  
LEVER  
FIELD REAL  
ESTATE  
OFFICE  
1173



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

November 25, 1985

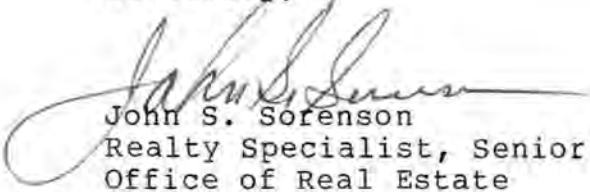
Ms. Carol D. Shull  
Chief of Registration  
National Register of Historic Places  
National Park Service  
Department of Interior  
Washington, D.C. 20240-1002

Dear Ms. Shull:

The Postal Service hereby submits a nomination for the post office located at 222 Main Street, Berkshire County, Great Barrington, 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

11/27/85