

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 DEC 11 1985  
DATE ENTERED 10 21 1985

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

Meriden Main Post Office

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

89 North Colony Street

N/A  NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Meriden

N/A VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Fifth Congressional District

STATE

Connecticut

CODE

0370

COUNTY

New Haven

CODE

009

**2 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
- MUSEUM
- COMMERCIAL
- PARK
- EDUCATIONAL
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- ENTERTAINMENT
- RELIGIOUS
- GOVERNMENT
- SCIENTIFIC
- INDUSTRIAL
- TRANSPORTATION
- MILITARY
- 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.

City Hall

STREET & NUMBER

142 East Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Meriden

STATE

Connecticut 06450

**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 type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" 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

The original building and its addition are located on a sloping lot at the corner of North Colony Street and Brooks Street. The principal facade is located on a main street at the edge of a commercial district and directly opposite a large Boys Club. The remainder of the building borders a neighborhood which is in need of upgrading and rehabilitation.

The building site itself is totally occupied by the Post Office and its parking area.

The Post Office Building consists of a rusticated limestone facade detailed with limestone classical ornamentation.

The building sits on a granite block foundation and has a steel frame superstructure. The main facade is divided into three bays, the center one of which projects forward. The central entrance bay is framed by rusticated limestone piers which define a recessed portico which contains 2-two story composite orders, fluted column shafts, a main entrance door framed with a projecting transom & cornice with a highly articulated center crest flanked by festoons and a 2nd story window with a Gibbs Surround motif. The remainder of the entry facade is heavily rusticated limestone with quoins at each corner. The windows have a modified Gibbs Surround with Jack arch lintels with voussoirs and a keystone. The windows are wood, double hung, divided into two sections vertically. The entry bay piers still support the original lanterns.

The building is capped by a denticulated cornice on top of which sits a solid raised parapet wall which is articulated to give the appearance of an open ballustrade. The side facades of the building are divided into five bays and contain a similar aesthetic expression as the flanking wings of the entry facade.

All of the exterior materials (limestone, granite, doors and windows) appear to be in good condition. The exterior and its 1932 addition appear to be unaltered with the exception of a main revolving door into the lobby which was removed and replaced by a standard door.

The original finishes in the lobby and public areas include white terrazzo floors with red marble borders and white marble bases. The lobby is highlighted with heavily molded oak woodwork and plaster ceilings. Although the lobby is in good condition, it has undergone some renovation in terms of lighting and electrical wiring, and a fairly recent mural depicts several historic sites in Meriden and commemorates the City's Tricentennial. The second floor, which originally housed various governmental agencies, is presently unoccupied and appears to be in fair 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 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	Original building designed in 1907; Addition: 1932	BUILDER/ARCHITECT	Original bldg. - James Knox Taylor Addition - James A. Wetmore
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## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The original post office was built by Congressional authorization under the provisions of the Tarsney Act (1893 to 1912) by James Knox Taylor, Supervising Architect, U.S. Treasury Department. The building was designed in 1907 and built in 1909 as only one of twelve post offices built that year by the U.S. Government. The post office is a striking example of Beaux Arts Classical Architecture, built of modern steel frame construction, and faced with a dressed limestone exterior embellished with classical ornament especially at the entrance. The building is probably the foremost example of classical eclecticism in the region, as well as being one of the most outstanding examples of architecture in Meriden.

During the period this building was built, each building was individually designed and built of fine materials and detailing to portray an image of monumentality and the solidity of the U.S. Government to the local community.

The building addition of 1932, by James A. Wetmore, Acting Supervising Architect of the U.S. Treasury is architecturally compatible to the original building and contributes to the building's value to the community. The addition was constructed under the Public Buildings Act of May 25, 1926 (Keyes-Elliott Act) to stimulate local building construction during the depression era.

## 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 .689

UTM REFERENCES

A	1 8	6 8 3 4 0 0	4 6 0 1 3 4 0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

### VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The site has 180 feet of frontage on North Colony Street and 166.75 feet of frontage on Brooks Street.

### 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

Richard P. DeCoste, Architect

ORGANIZATION

SULLIVAN DESIGN GROUP, INC.

DATE

July 23, 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

*John W. ...*  
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. ...*

Director, Office of Real Estate

DATE

12/6/85

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

*Patrick Andrews*

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

1/21/86

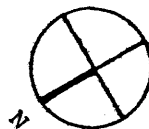
ATTEST:

*Betty G. ...*

DATE

1-16-86

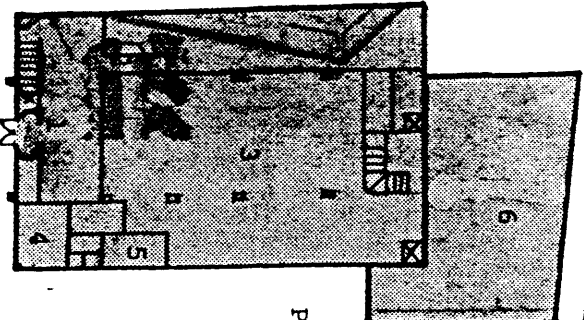
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



Commercial Building

BROOKS STREET

166.75'



Parking

180.10'

NORTH COLONY STREET

Commercial Building

- 1) Public Lobby
- 2) Box Lobby
- 3) Work Room
- 4) Postmaster
- 5) Assistant Postmaster
- 6) Mailing Vestibule (addition)

Boy's Club

WASHINGTON STREET

Church

UNITED STATES POST OFFICE • MERIDAN, CONNECTICUT