

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 5 1985  
DATE ENTERED JAN 16 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

Greenwich Main Post Office

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

310 Greenwich Avenue

N/A NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Greenwich

N/A VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Fourth Congressional District

STATE

Connecticut 06830

CODE  
0256

COUNTY

Fairfield

CODE  
001

**2 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 & NUMBER

1050 Waltham Street

CITY, TOWN

Lexington

N/A VICINITY OF

STATE

Massachusetts 02173

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Town Hall

STREET & NUMBER

Town Clerk, Field Point Road

CITY, TOWN

Greenwich

STATE

Connecticut 06830

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Post Office, Greenwich, Connecticut - Historic Resources Inventory

DATE

1979

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Connecticut Historical Commission

CITY, TOWN

Hartford

STATE

Connecticut

## 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

The Greenwich Post Office is centrally located within the Greenwich shopping/business district on a wedge shaped site bounded by Greenwich and Arch Streets which intersect in front of the building to form a small triangular town park featuring a war memorial obelisk surrounded by well maintained planting beds, shrubbery, walkways, and established trees. The concave main facade of this wedge shaped building along with a free standing flag pole centered in the front plaza acts as backdrop for the war memorial obelisk to create a visually spacious pedestrian plaza despite its relatively small area. The sides of the building fan out parallel to the street lines, and turn in at right angles at the rear of the building, to a 1936 extension (workroom and loading dock) which is well set back from both street lines.

Consisting of one high story plus full basement, this building is constructed with light buff colored rough textured brick in common bond, on a brick foundation, trimmed in stone with a flat built up roof on a structure of steel and wood framing. Designed in a neo-classical style, the front main entrance consists of six corinthian columns framing a recessed entrance loggia, and supporting a moulded stone entablature which carries around the entire building. This is topped by five open balustrades above the concave facade which continues around the other facades as a brick masonry parapet wall. The walls flanking the loggia feature recessed stone niches and contain circular entrance vestibules (no longer used). The front entrance lobby wall and side walls have high monumental windows framed with decorative classical column pilasters.

The lobby is high, spacious, follows the curve of the front loggia and features brown and white terrazzo floors with red and white marble borders and black marble baseboards. Walls are white painted plaster and wood trim with classical moulding and ornamentation.

A wall mural depicting the founding of Greenwich, by artist Victoria Hutson Hutley of West Cornwall, CT., in 1939, is located on the left side of the lobby but is difficult to view due to an office extension into the lobby. Another mural which was removed due to an extension of the service counter area into the lobby on the right side, has apparently been lost. The lobby also contains newer fluorescent lighting and an aluminum entrance vestibule, cut into the center window. Outside lighting has been added to the front loggia, although the original large hung decorative lanterns still remain.

The 1936 rear addition is well integrated in materials and details with the original building, and visually hidden due to its setback from the street.

# 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	Designed:	1915	BUILDER/ARCHITECT	James A. Wetmore, Acting Sup.
	Constructed:	1917		Architect, U.S. Treasury Dept.
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE			E. T. Abbott Construction Company	
	Addition:	1936	Louis A. Simon, Sup. Architect U.S. Treasury Dept.	

## Architecture

The Greenwich Post Office was designed in 1915, a time of transition from the design policies of James Knox Taylor (Supervising Architect of the Treasury through 1912) and Oscar Wenderoth (1913 to 1914) in which government buildings were basically treated as individual projects; to a new policy initiated the following year under Acting Supervising Architect, James Wetmore, whose building types were standardized for use in many communities.

This building appears to be one of the final projects, reflecting the original policy of individual design and Neo-Classical details favored by James Taylor which were intended as monuments to bring Federal ideas and sophisticated architecture to small communities.

This building is a good example of symmetrical Neo-Classical styling, proportion and ornament and retains all of its original exterior appearance (except for the new aluminum entrance doors and light fixtures).

The Post Office is one of three important historic buildings facing the intersection of the town center to form a municipal focus for Greenwich; the others being a Victorian former Havemeyer building, a neo-classical school. Other structure completing the center are predominantly two and three story commercial blocks of Neo-Classical design. The excellent condition of most buildings, attractive landscaping, and restrained signage contribute to the historic and architectural cohesiveness of the downtown district.

The unique plan of the Post Office Building in adapting to the triangular site and its unified planning with the adjacent war memorial park is an inspired example of urban design.

# 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 .5

UTM REFERENCES

A	1 8	6 1 5 5 3 0	4 5 4 2 1 0 0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Southeast to Northwest 160' along Greenwich Avenue  
 East to West 88' along Borough Park  
 Northeast to Southwest 171' along Arch Street  
 West to East 199' along rear lot line from Arch Street to Greenwich Avenue

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

Sylvan Limon

ORGANIZATION

SULLIVAN DESIGN GROUP, INC.

DATE

July 17, 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

*[Signature]*  
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

*[Signature]*

Director, Office of Real Estate

DATE

11-26-85

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

*[Signature]*  
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

1/16/86

ATTEST: *[Signature]*

DATE

1-15-86

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES POST OFFICE • GREENWICH, CONNECTICUT

Neo-Classical  
Commercial  
Block

GREENWICH AVENUE

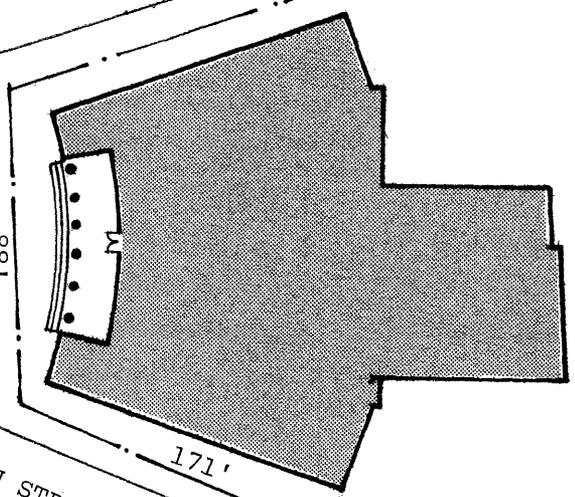
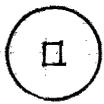
199'

160'

88'

Monument

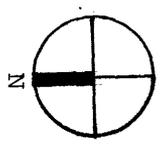
Borough  
Park



171'

ARCH STREET

Park



Havermeyer  
Building