

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

Photo I card
Map number
BUREAU ONLY
DATE OF NOMINATION

1. NAME
COMMON: United States Post Office
AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION
STREET AND NUMBER: High and Broad Streets
CITY OR TOWN: Westerly
STATE: Rhode Island, 02891
CODE: 44 COUNTY: Washington

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	STATUS	ACCOMPLISHED
<input type="checkbox"/> District	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> In Process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Completed	Yes
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building	<input type="checkbox"/> Private	<input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Uncompleted	Res
<input type="checkbox"/> Site	<input type="checkbox"/> Both		<input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Unr
<input type="checkbox"/> Structure				No
<input type="checkbox"/> Object				

4. USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	Com
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Cultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

5. PRESENT OR PREVIOUS NAME
United States Government: General Services Administration

6. CITY OR TOWN: Washington STATE: District of Columbia

7. LOCATION OF RECORD DESCRIPTION
HOUSE NUMBER OR OTHER IDENTIFYING DATA: Westerly Town Hall
ADDRESS: High and Broad Street
CITY OR TOWN: Westerly STATE: Rhode Island

8. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS
NAME OF SURVEY:
DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

9. ADDRESS AND NUMBER
CITY OR TOWN: STATE: C

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Erected in 1913-1914 from designs by James Knox Taylor, the Westerly Post Office reflects the trend throughout the first decades of the XX Century for public buildings of neo-classic architectural style, with suavity and dignity in form and--as much as possible--monumentality in appearance. Steel-framed, the building is set upon a granite basement--itself upon a plateau above street level--and is faced on its principal elevations with (now coal-grey) veined Vermont marble. It is of truncated wedge-shape, the wider end of the wedge being a segmental curve in sympathy with the street curve which it faces. The building is covered by a flat-topped hip roof of dull green glazed tile of the Greek pan-and-cover pattern.

At the sidewalk, a set of wide granite steps projects convexly, echoing the façade approached, and, flanked by acanthus-leaved columnar bronze lamp standards, leads to the (west) entrance front of the post office. This curved front, of one tall and imposing storey in height, contains a shallow portico with eight fluted Doric columns set in antis between two wide terminating piers or pavilions. Within the portico are the central main entrance with bronze doors and eight very tall windows set in cast iron, mullioned frames. Above the portico runs a full entablature, with frieze and guttae, supporting a cornice made of coloured, matte-glazed terra-cotta ornamented with spaced lions' heads. On its side elevations the building has six tall pilasters between wide piers, enclosing five window spaces. The rear of the building is without architectural character, having only a loading platform and necessary openings.

Within, the front portion of the building is occupied by a long, high public lobby--its inner wall also a segmental curve--taking up all the space behind the colonnade and tall windows. The end areas behind the antae are filled at one end by offices and at the other by the registered-mail department. The outer curved wall has an oval glazed vestibule projecting inwards from the central entrance, and beneath two of the tall windows remain original writing-desks upheld by scrolled brackets. The inner wall, marked off into bays by a series of slightly projecting piers, has in its central portions the customer-service windows and at the ends banks of mailing slots and delivery boxes; above the sales windows etc. are tall, narrow-mullioned openings which help light the area filling up the rear of the building--a large mail-sorting room.

Adornment of the interior is confined to the lobby area. Here, the high ceiling is coffered and painted ivory, its mouldings picked-out in gold. A plaster frieze runs around the walls below it and has triglyphs with metopes containing flat discs. Below this the walls are of smooth plaster until they reach a marble wainscot. The lobby floor is

(See Continuation Sheet)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Rhode Island	
COUNTY Washington	
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ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

7. Description.

a combination of terrazzo and marble. The vestibule, sales-windows, grilles, mullions and writing desks are of cast iron elaborately ornamented with classical motifs and painted a verdigris colour. The office areas are very plainly treated with mahoganised birch woodwork.

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1913-1914

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi- | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | osophy | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human- | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | itarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This building is a most handsome structure, thoughtfully planned for its site and thereby dominating the curving intersection it overlooks. It is--to repeat--handsome, but in an expertly understated manner--partly due, perhaps, to governmental economies and partly due to the leaning away, by 1913, from the more florid types of Beaux-Arts design and towards simpler classical adaptations (as in the Lincoln Memorial). The medium-sized town of Westerly was very fortunate to receive such an example of good taste in the pre-World-War-I years and is fortunate still to have this building in unspoilt condition and setting to-day. In architectural quality it is vastly superior to the many pasteboard-colonial-style public buildings constructed during the 1920's-1940's: it has both complexion and muscle.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

U. S. Works Progress Administration. Federal Writers' Project: Rhode Island. A Guide ... (Boston, 1937), p. 305.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES							
CORNER	LATITUDE				LONGITUDE							
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds			
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"	41°	22'	36"N	71°	49'	50W
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"						
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"						
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"						

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **Not more than one acre**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Richard B. Harrington, Consultant

ORGANIZATION: **Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission** DATE: **March 2, 1971**

STREET AND NUMBER:
State House, 90 Smith Street

CITY OR TOWN: **Providence** STATE: **Rhode Island** CODE: **RI**

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name _____

Title _____

Date _____

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date _____

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

WESTERLY
DOWNTOWN HD



Westerly, High Street; The Westerly Post Office

26th



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

STATE	Rhode Island
COUNTY	Washington
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME		
COMMON: United States Post Office		
OLD OR HISTORIC:		
2. LOCATION		
STREET AND NUMBER: High and Broad Streets		
CITY OR TOWN: Westerly		
STATE	CODE	COUNTY:
Rhode Island	44	Washington
3. PHOTO REFERENCE		
PHOTO CREDIT: Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission		
DATE OF PHOTO: 1971		
NEGATIVE FILED AT: Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission, State House, 90 Smith Street, Providence, Rhode Island		
4. IDENTIFICATION		
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.		

Cast iron writing-desk in lobby.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



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COUNTY

Washington

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

1. NAME

United States Post Office

2. LOCATION

3. STREET AND NUMBER

90 Smith Street

4. CITY

Providence

5. STATE

Rhode Island

CODE

COUNTY:

44

Washington

6661
100

6. PHOTO REFERENCE

Photo credit: Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission

DATE OF PHOTO: 1971

7. DEVELOPER: AT: Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission

State House, 90 Smith Street, Providence, Rhode Island

8. IDENTIFICATION

9. DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

Detail of ceiling and window in lobby.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



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High and Broad Streets

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Westerly

STATE:

Rhode Island

CODE

111

COUNTY:

Washington

CODE

009

3. PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT: Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission

DATE OF PHOTO: 1971

NEGATIVE FILED AT: Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission,
State House, 90 Smith Street, Providence, Rhode Island

4. IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

View towards north-west, showing entrance colonnade and ornamental lamp-standard.



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CITY OR TOWN:

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STATE:

Rhode Island

CODE

41

COUNTY:

Washington

CODE

009

3. PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT: Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission

DATE OF PHOTO: 1971

NEGATIVE FILED AT: Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission,
State House, 90 Smith Street, Providence, Rhode Island

4. IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

Exterior seen from the south-east.

GEOGRAPHICAL COORDINATES.
Latitude: 41° 22' 36" N
Longitude: 71° 49' 50" W



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

STATE Rhode Island	
COUNTY Washington	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
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CITY OR TOWN:

Westerly

STATE:

Rhode Island

CODE

44

COUNTY:

Washington

CODE

009

3. MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE:

U. S. Geological Survey

SCALE: 1: 24,000

DATE: 1953

4. REQUIREMENTS

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

1. Property boundaries where required.
2. North arrow.
3. Latitude and longitude reference.