

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	

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

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
295 Main Street
CITY, TOWN
Woonsocket
STATE
Rhode Island

--- NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
VICINITY OF #1 Rep. Fernand J. St. Germain
CODE
44
COUNTY
Providence
CODE
007

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER vacant

4 AGENCY

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (If applicable)
United States Postal Service, Real Estate and Buildings Department
STREET & NUMBER
One Penn Plaza - Suite 1538
CITY, TOWN
New York
VICINITY OF
STATE
New York 10001

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
STREET & NUMBER
Clerk's Office, City Hall
69 Main Street
CITY, TOWN
Woonsocket
STATE
Rhode Island

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
Statewide Historic Preservation Report P-W-1: Woonsocket
DATE
September 1976
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS
Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission
CITY, TOWN
Providence
STATE
Rhode Island

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

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 former Woonsocket Post Office is a one-story classicizing Beaux-Arts structure occupying an entire block in Woonsocket's central business district. The building is set back from the street, providing a low walled planting strip filled with shrubs, grass, and a flagpole. The siting, the building's neo-classical monumentality, and its cast stone sheathing provide contrast with the adjacent brick late nineteenth and twentieth century commercial structures and make the Post Office a focal point of the streetscape.

Originally built between 1910 and 1912, the former Post Office also includes the enlargement of 1929-1930, when the original structure was extended to the north.

The rectangular structure sits on a three foot high, coursed granite basement. Thirteen bays wide and six bays deep, the exterior is articulated by massive piers supporting a Doric entablature and low parapet on the flat roof. Two entrances with cast iron "classical" fascia in the third and ninth bays, flanked by elaborate wrought iron lamps, are reached from the street by broad granite steps. Tripartite windows -- the central section is a double-hung sash window -- with tripartite transom windows fill the remaining bays. A loading dock fills the rear elevation.

The raised monitor roof -- over the mail sorting area -- has a modillion cornice, supported by regularly spaced consoles, and a circumferential anthemion and palmette acroteria frieze.

The greatest part of the interior space -- approximately the five rear bays -- is occupied by the mail sorting and service area: this open area is punctuated only by supporting piers. The lobby is sheathed with simple dark stained paneling. Two offices are on the southern side of the building.

Though well preserved, the building has been vacant since 1975, and the interior has suffered some deterioration caused by lack of regular maintenance. The building's structure remains sound.

B 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		

Supervising U. S. Treasury Dept.

SPECIFIC DATES 1910-1912 -- 1929-1930, ~~XXXXXX~~ ARCHITECT J. K. Taylor 1910-1912
Scuis Wetmore 1929-1930

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The former Woonsocket Post Office, typical of the Beaux-Arts style favored by the United States government for its buildings in the early years of the twentieth century, is the only representation of its type in Woonsocket, where the central business district is characterized by the many vernacular brick structures which line the downtown streets. The free adaptation and employment of classically derived motifs, well integrated into the contemporary form of the structure, make the former Post Office an interesting footnote to Woonsocket's architectural history and a local landmark of some distinction.

Completed in 1912 and enlarged sympathetically in 1929-1930, the former Woonsocket Post Office remained in use until the present facility was opened in 1975. The handsome building has been a focal point of the streetscape for over sixty years, contributing variety to the Main Street area.

The United States Postal Service has declared the building excess to postal needs, and the disposal of the building is imminent. Thus, we recommend that the former Woonsocket Post Office be declared eligible for inclusion in the National Register at this time.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Statewide Historic Preservation Report F-W-1: Woonsocket

Interview with R. Galipeau, Woonsocket Postmaster, 29 September 1977.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 21,191 sq. ft.

UTM REFERENCES

A	19	29,19,0,0	4,6,5,3,1,4,0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

Donald G. Trost, Senior Realty Acquisition Specialist

July 11, 1978

ORGANIZATION

Office of Real Estate, U. S. Postal Service

DATE

(202) 245-5271

STREET & NUMBER

475 L'Enfant Plaza West, S.W. Room 8700

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Washington,

STATE

D.C. 20260

12 CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

YES NO NONE

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 D. L. Warner
Director, Office of Real Estate

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION
ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



Former Woonsocket Post Office

Woonsocket, Rhode Island

Wm McKenzie Woodward

October 1977

Interior: Entrance Lobby



Former Woonsocket Post Office

Woonsocket, Rhode Island

Wm McKenzie Woodward

October 1977

Interior: General View of Workspace and Mail-sorting Room



Former Woonsocket Post Office

Woonsocket, Rhode Island

Wm McKenzie Woodward

October 1977

Exterior: Facade