UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM
FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

NAME
HISTORIC
United States Post Office
AND/OR COMMON

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

CLASSIFICATION
CATEORY
DISTRICT
BUILDING(S)
STRUCTURE
SITE
OBJECT
OWNERsHIPS
PUBLIC
ACQUISITION

STATUS
OCCUPIED
UNOCCUPIED
WORK IN PROGRESS
ACCESSIBLE
YES: RESTRICTED
YES: UNRESTRICTED
NO

PRESENT USE
AGRICULTURE
COMMERCIAL
EDUCATIONAL
ENTERTAINMENT
GOVERNMENT
INDUSTRIAL
TRANSPORTATION
MILITARY
OTHER

AGENCY
REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS (if applicable)
United States Postal Service, Real Estate and Buildings Department

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION
COURTHOUSE
Clerk's Office, City Hall
STREET & NUMBER
69 Main Street
CITY, TOWN
Woonsocket
STATE
Rhode Island

REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS
TITLE
Statewide Historic Preservation Report P-W-1: Woonsocket
DATE
September 1976
DEPOSITORIY FOR SURVEY RECORDS
Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission
CITY, TOWN
Providence
STATE
Rhode Island
DESCRIPTION

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.
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.
**MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Statewide Historic Preservation Report F-H-1: Woonsocket


**GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACRES OF NOMINATED PROPERTY</th>
<th>21,191 sq. ft.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>UTM REFERENCES</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zone 19</td>
<td>Zone 19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>219,190</td>
<td>4,651,314</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STATE</th>
<th>CODE</th>
<th>COUNTY</th>
<th>CODE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**FORM PREPARED BY**

Donald G. Trost, Senior Realty Acquisition Specialist  
Office of Real Estate, U.S. Postal Service  
475 L'Enfant Plaza West, S.W. Room 8700  
Washington, D.C. 20260

**CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION**

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.

D. L. Warner  
Director, Office of Real Estate

**FOR NPS USE ONLY**

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

Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

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