

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

JAN 28 1986
MAR 10 1986

DATE ENTERED

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC

U.S. Post Office

AND/OR COMMON

Federal Building

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

50 Kearney Square

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Lowell

VICINITY OF

5

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

Massachusetts

025

Middlesex

017

3 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
- MUSEUM
- COMMERCIAL
- PARK
- EDUCATIONAL
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- ENTERTAINMENT
- RELIGIOUS
- GOVERNMENT
- SCIENTIFIC
- INDUSTRIAL
- TRANSPORTATION
- MILITARY
- OTHER

4 AGENCY

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: *(If applicable)*

General Services Administration, Office of Public Buildings and Real Property

STREET & NUMBER

J.W. McCormack Post Office and Courthouse Building

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Boston

VICINITY OF

Massachusetts

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Middlesex Registry of Deeds, Northern District

STREET & NUMBER

360 Gorham Street

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Lowell

Massachusetts

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input 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

1. Type of Structure: Federal Building, former U.S. Post Office
2. Building Placement: Detached - the building occupies approximately 32% of the 38,188 sf site, with south frontage on Kearney Square, west side on the Eastern Canal and the east side bordering the Concord River. Its rear faces a complex of industrial mill buildings. The Federal Building is located on the periphery of the Lowell Locks and Canals Historic District.
3. General Characteristics:
 - a. Shape - The building is rectangular, measuring 140' x 88'. The 90' long mezzanine level extends out 12' in the rear of the building over the mailing platform.
 - b. Stories - There are three stories plus basement and mezzanine. The roof is hipped and once contained a skylight (removed 1970's).
 - c. Materials - The building has a structural system of steel beams and columns and concrete slabs, a facade of gray dressed granite on the front and two sides, and yellow brick in common bond in the rear. The entablature and ballustrade are of gray terra cotta.
4. Special Features: The architectural style of the building is Neo-Classical with many high quality details. These include a full entablature, ballustrade and Doric central portico. The first floor windows on the front and sides are round-arched and topped with keystones. Windows on the rear first and all of the second floor are rectangular, while those of the mezzanine level and third floor are square. All windows are of the metal sash type. The front portico contains three pedimented doorways, and quoins are used on the four corners of the building. A tall copper lamp stands on each side of the front portico at the base of the steps. Each consists of an ornate low base, tall fluted stem and an octagonal lantern at the top.

The interior lobby retains much of its historical integrity, with marble walls, terrazzo floors, and at each end of the room, two Doric columns forming an arch. Light fixtures are original as well, and the overall effect is light and airy. The existence of three penstocks in the basement prevents utilization of the entire basement space.
5. Outbuildings: A small structure (approximately 12' x 25') constructed in 1975 contains the East Merrimack Street Siphon, for which the City of Lowell was granted an easement (23' x 36'). It is located on the southeastern corner of the lot, between the building and the Concord River.
6. Other Manmade Elements: A paved parking lot exists in the rear of the building and a gray dressed granite wall runs along the bank of the Concord River, northeast of the building.

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

1930

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

George Augustine Daidy

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The U.S. Post Office in Lowell was designed by one of its few native architects at the time, George Augustine Daidy, and is important in its Neo-Classical Style. The Supervising Architect of the Treasury was James A. Wetmore, and A.W. Mellon was Secretary of the Treasury. Construction occurred under the Works Progress Administration, a depression era public buildings program, at a time when the Treasury Department employed private architects. The Federal Building represents the government's policy toward public buildings in that era, namely that they be of lasting benefit and enduring character.

The original fabric of the building is intact and in good condition, retaining its historical integrity. The building is a focal point in the Kearney Square area and has been associated with events which have contributed to local and state history. Its architecture embodies the characteristics of fine workmanship, design and style.

Prior to construction of the present Federal Building, the site had undergone several building changes. An 1821 map of Lowell notes a "Homestead" standing on a portion of the lot and subsequent maps of 1831 and 1832 record a building of similar plan labeled "Mansion House", which seems to have straddled the Eastern Canal, extending onto the western part of the lot.

Between 1839 and 1841, this property was built up with two brick rows of "tenement" houses constructed for the Massachusetts Cotton Mills by the Proprietors of Locks and Canals. There were two streets laid out on the property at this time; Hancock Street extended along the east bank of the Eastern Canal, while Mill Square ran at right angles to Hancock Street along the southern boundary of the Massachusetts Mill Yard. In 1910-11, these two brick rows were demolished to allow construction of Section 12 of the Massachusetts Cotton Mills. It was a five story brick building which had frontage on the Concord River from Section 8 of the Massachusetts Mills to East Merrimack Street. Section 12 extended along East Merrimack Street over the Eastern Canal to Canal Street. In 1929-30, Section 12 was demolished.

In 1929, the site was purchased for a Post Office for \$120,000. George Augustine Daidy, a Lowell native and an architect for the Public Buildings Administration, designed the building. Construction began in 1930 with the Lowell firm of Johnson and Melloy as contractor. The building is constructed over three penstocks, extending from the Concord River to the Pawtucket Canal, through which water flows to a power plant. Occasional water problems in the building's basement are experienced.

The building's current use as a Federal Building is mainly as a Veterans Administration Clinic, with other Federal agencies located there as well. The interior has largely been altered for these purposes with the exception of the lobby, which retains much of its original integrity. The Government has determined that disposal of this property will occur in the future. Inclusion in the National Register will insure that this valuable asset to the City of Lowell will remain intact.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Daidy, George Augustine "A Historical Record of the Design and Construction of the Lowell, Massachusetts Post Office", mss. in Special Collections, U. of Lowell Library
 Lowell Sun, June 6, 1965

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY .877 acre
 UTM REFERENCES

A	1,9	3,10,9,0,5	4,7,2,3,7,9,5	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION
 See attached map

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
N/A			
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE Elaine Lazarus, Community Planner	DATE August 5, 1985
ORGANIZATION General Services Administration, RED, OPR	TELEPHONE 617-223-2707
STREET & NUMBER J.W. McCormack Post Office & Courthouse Building	CITY OR TOWN Boston
CITY OR TOWN Boston	STATE Massachusetts

12 CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

YES

NO

NONE

Valerie A. Talmage
 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 *Paul J. Onstap, Jr.*

TITLE *GSA. Historic Preservation Officer*

DATE *1/27/86*

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Patrick Andrews

DATE *3/10/80*

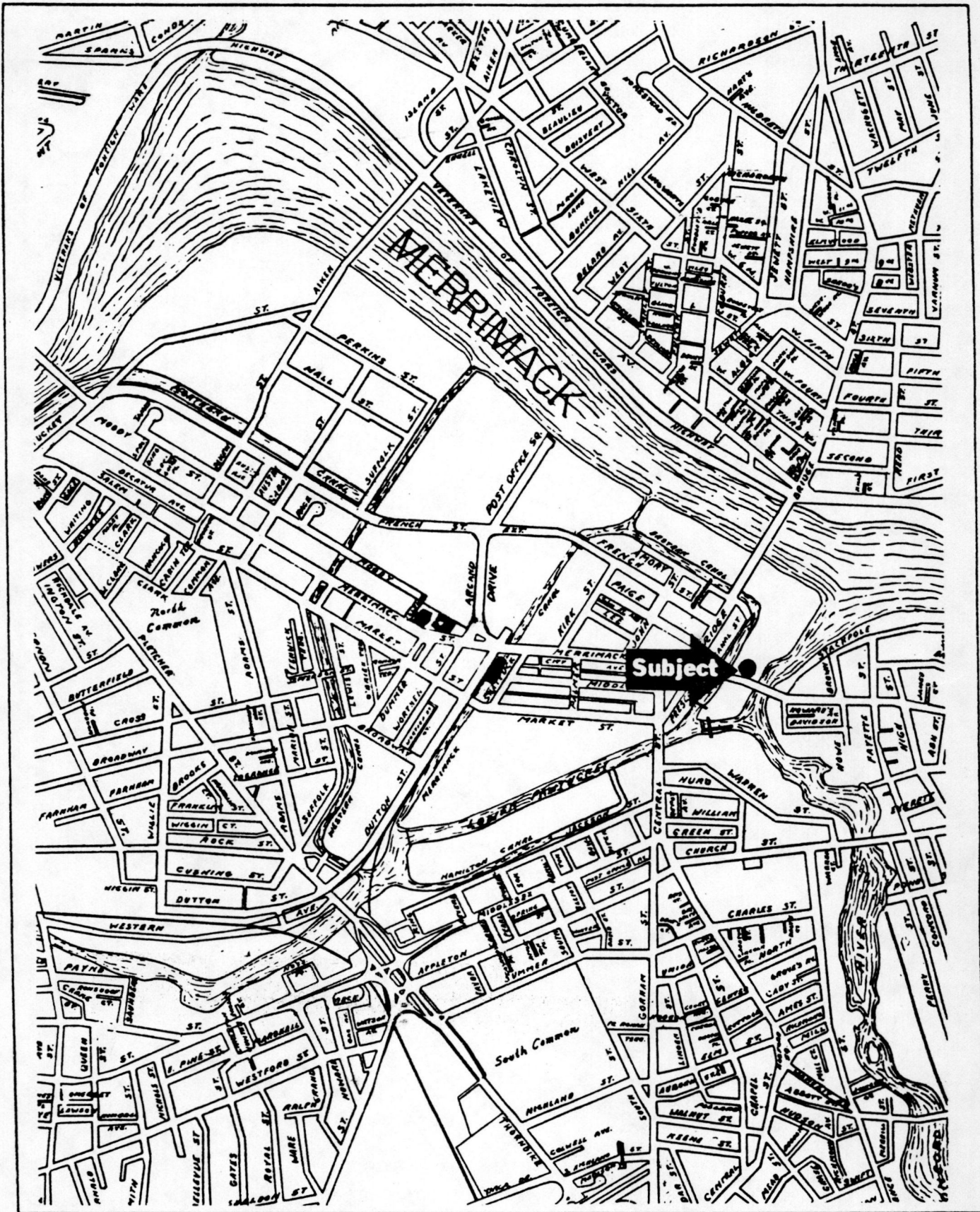
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

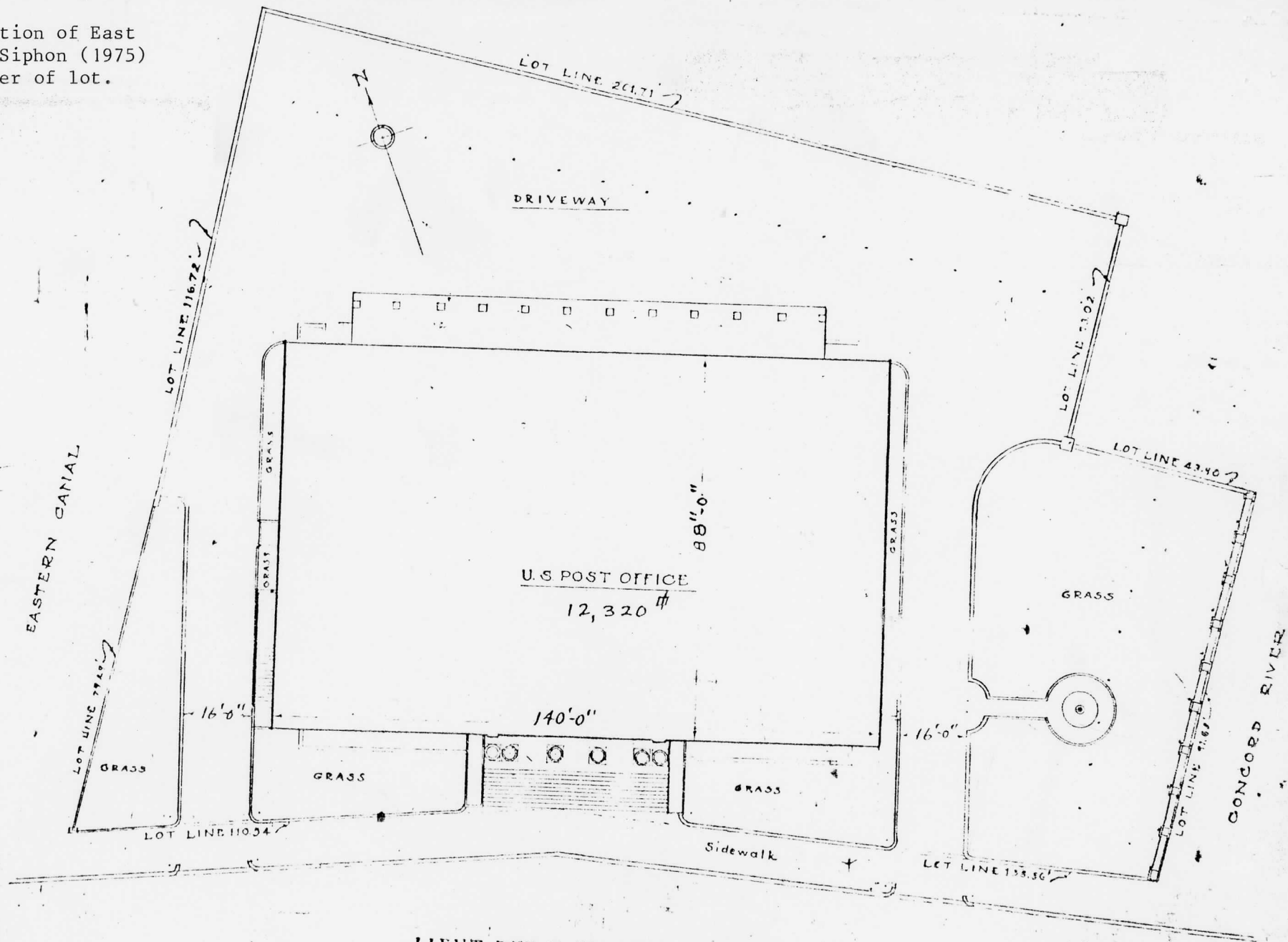
DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STREET MAP SHOWING LOCATION OF SUBJECT



Federal Building, Lowell, MA
 Site Plan - 1953
 Prior to construction of East
 Merrimack Street Siphon (1975)
 on southeast corner of lot.



ASSIGNMENT
 APPROACH PLAN
 SCALE 1/32" = 1'-0"

LIEUT PAUL T. KEARNEY SQUARE

U.S. POST OFFICE
 LOWELL, MASS.
 DWG. AS-1
 DWN. BY M.D.B. 11/17-53
 REV. 7. 12-15-53

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

U.S. Post Office
Middlesex County
MASSACHUSETTS

Substantive Review

Working No. JAN 28 1986
Fed. Reg. Date: 2/3/87
Date Due: 2/27/86 - 3/4/86
Action: ACCEPT 3-10-86
 RETURN
 REJECT
Federal Agency: GSA

- resubmission
- nomination by person or local government
- owner objection
- appeal

Substantive Review: sample request appeal NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

*Fine locally significant institutional example
of Classical Revival Style designed by
Lowell architect George Augustine Dady.*

Recom./Criteria Accept C
Reviewer Savage
Discipline Architectural History
Date 3-3-86
_____ see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for: technical corrections cited below
 substantive reasons discussed below

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

Category	Ownership		Status		Present Use
	Public	Acquisition	Accessible		

4. Owner of Property

5. Location of Legal Description

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Has this property been determined eligible? yes no

7. Description

Condition	Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed	
	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	
	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- alterations/integrity
- dates
- boundary selection

8. Significance

Period _____ Areas of Significance—Check and justify below

Specific dates _____ Builder/Architect _____
Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- applicable criteria
- justification of areas checked
- relating significance to the resource
- context
- relationship of integrity to significance
- justification of exception
- other

9. Major Bibliographical References

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

UTM References _____

Verbal boundary description and justification _____

11. Form Prepared By

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

____ national ____ state ____ local

*Please provide "Level of Significance"
OK. as per FPO. 28.*

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title _____ date _____

13. Other

- Maps
- Photographs
- Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to _____

Signed _____ Date _____ Phone: _____



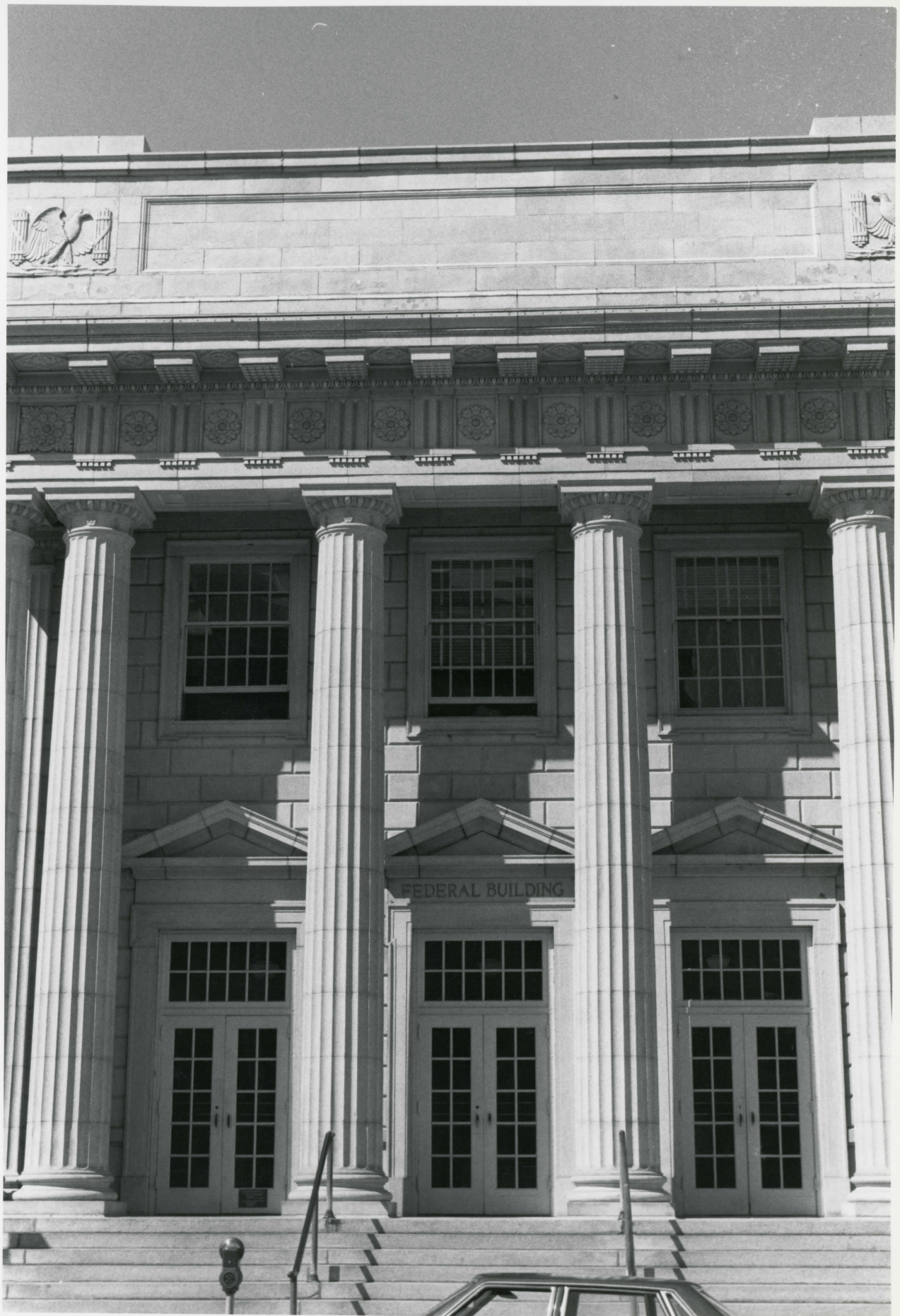
Federal Building, Lowell, MA
E. Savolainen, 7/17/85
General Services Administration
Public Buildings and Real Property
Boston, Massachusetts

A. Looking Northwest - Front of building
#1



Federal Building, Lowell, MA
E. Savolainen, 7/17/85
General Services Administration
Public Buildings and Real Property
Boston, Massachusetts

B. Northeast - Area behind building
#2



Federal Building, Lowell, MA
E. Savolainen, 7/17/85
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Public Buildings and Real Property
Boston, Massachusetts

Northeast - Front portico
#3



Federal Building, Lowell, MA
E. Savolainen, 7/17/85
General Services Administration
Public Buildings and Real Property
Boston, Massachusetts

D. West - East Merrimack Street Siphon
#4 in foreground



ASSIGNED
PARKING
ONLY

Federal Building, Lowell, MA
E. Savolainen, 7/17/85
General Services Administration
Public Buildings and Real Property
Boston, Massachusetts

East - Lobby
#5



Federal Building, Lowell, MA
E. Savolainen, 7/17/85
General Services Administration
Public Buildings and Real Property
Boston, Massachusetts

F. West - Lobby
#6



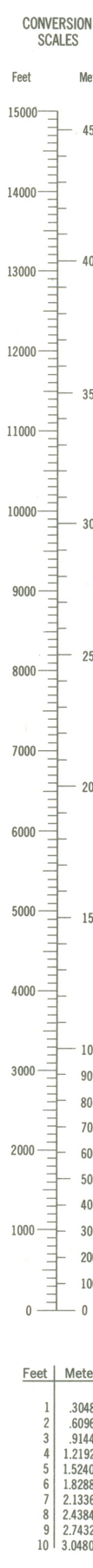
Federal Building, Lowell, MA
E. Savolainen, 7/17/85
General Services Administration
Public Buildings and Real Property
Boston, Massachusetts

East - Front and side of building
#7

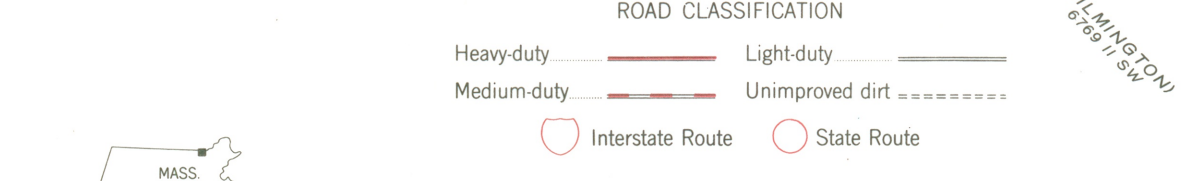
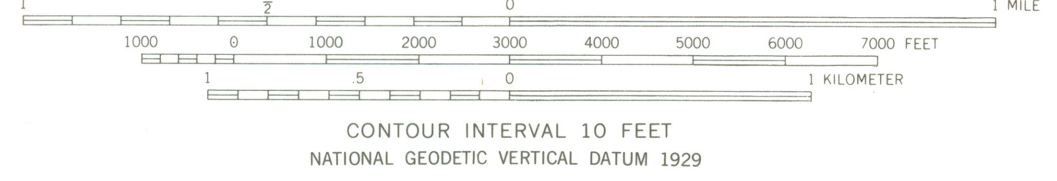
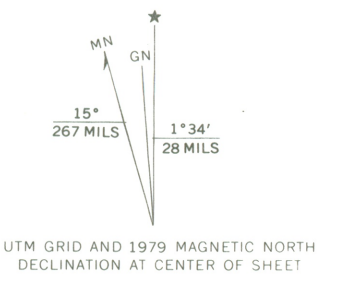


Federal Building, Lowell, MA
E. Savolainen, 7/17/85
General Services Administration
Public Buildings and Real Property
Boston, Massachusetts

South - Rear of building
#8



Maped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and Massachusetts Geodetic Survey
Topography by planetable surveys 1939 and 1944. Revised 1966
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grids based on Massachusetts coordinate system,
mainland zone, and New Hampshire coordinate system
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid
zone 19
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown
There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of
the National or State reservations shown on this map
Revisions shown in purple compiled in cooperation with State of
Massachusetts agencies from aerial photographs taken 1977 and other
source data. This information not field checked. Map edited 1979



LOWELL, MASS.—N. H.
N4237.5—W7115.7/5
1966
PHOTOREVISED 1979
AMS 6789 III NE—SERIES V814

Federal Building
Lowell, MA
UTM Reference:
19/310905/4723795

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST