

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 **OCT 05 1988**
DATE ENTERED

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

1 NAME UNITED STATES POST OFFICES IN NEW YORK STATE --1858-1943--
THEMATIC RESOURCES
HISTORIC United States Post Office, Herkimer, Herkimer County

AND/OR COMMON

Herkimer Post Office

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

135 Park Avenue

___ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Herkimer

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

New York

___ VICINITY OF

CODE

036

COUNTY

Herkimer

CODE

043

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
___DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	___AGRICULTURE ___MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	___PRIVATE	___UNOCCUPIED	___COMMERCIAL ___PARK
___STRUCTURE	___BOTH	___WORK IN PROGRESS	___EDUCATIONAL ___PRIVATE RESIDENCE
___SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	___ENTERTAINMENT ___RELIGIOUS
___OBJECT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT ___SCIENTIFIC
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	___YES: UNRESTRICTED	___INDUSTRIAL ___TRANSPORTATION
		___NO	___MILITARY ___OTHER:

4 AGENCY

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: *(If applicable)*

United States Postal Service, Northeast Region, F.R.E.B.O.

STREET & NUMBER

90 Church Street

CITY, TOWN

New York

___ VICINITY OF

STATE

NY

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE.

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Herkimer County Office Building

STREET & NUMBER

North Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Herkimer

STATE

NY

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

United States Postal Service Inventory

DATE

1983

FEDERAL ___STATE ___COUNTY ___LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

N.Y.S. Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation

CITY, TOWN

Albany

STATE

NY

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 Herkimer Post Office is located at 135 Park Avenue on the corner of Prospect Street at the western edge of the commercial district of the Herkimer County village of Herkimer, New York. The building is set amidst commercial, institutional, and residential buildings. Adjacent to the post office to the east is a nineteenth-century Universalist Church; next to the church is a four-story late nineteenth century commercial building. Behind the post office is a residence that had been converted for commercial use. To the north, across Park Avenue, is an early twentieth century four-story apartment building that is now an inn and restaurant; adjacent to the Prospect Inn is a two-story apartment house. Across Prospect Street are a brick church from 1873 and several residences. The post office is set back from the sidewalk on a modestly landscaped site with a flagpole and a semi-circular paved entrance patio set in front of the steps. There is a parking lot to the rear of the building. The post office retains its integrity to a high degree on both the exterior and interior. This nomination includes one contributing building.

The one-story Herkimer Post Office is faced with red brick laid in Flemish bond above a granite-clad foundation. The five central bays of the seven-bay-wide facade are faced with terra-cotta and terra-cotta trim appears throughout. The five bays of the shallow projecting central pavilion are marked by fluted Corinthian columns of the type used on Greek Revival buildings. Each bay has a round-arched opening with multi-paned sash. The entrance in the central bay is placed within a swan's-neck pediment with a central urn. The pediment and urn are set in front of the arched window. A short flight of stairs with original iron railing leads to the doors; the doors are wooden replicas of the originals that replaced non-historic aluminum doors. All of the arched openings are recessed within concave intrados. The face of each arch springs from Doric pilasters. The Corinthian pilasters support a full entablature and a balustrade which continue around to the side and part of the rear elevations. In the center of the frieze are the words "UNITED STATES POST OFFICE" flanked by rosettes. The single brick bays to either side of the entrance pavilion are framed by quoins. Each window has a splayed brick lintel, terra-cotta keystone and sill and each contains a twelve-over-twelve double-hung wood sash. There are terra-cotta panels above the windows.

The post office is in the shape of a modified T. The front bays of the side elevations of the main block, have twelve-over-twelve double-hung sash, splayed brick lintels, and terra-cotta keystones, sills, and panels identical to those of the end bays of the front facade. Behind these windows, set back slightly on each side elevation, are three round-arched windows with multi-paned

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National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
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received
date entered

Herkimer Post Office, Herkimer, New York, Herkimer County
Continuation sheet

Item number

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double-hung wood sash and terra-cotta keystones. At the southwest corner of the rear facade is a similar window. There is a two-story rear projection which is the same height as the main building but with less decorative detail and smaller windows. The covered loading platform is set within this projection.

The rectangular public lobby is entered through a vestibule with marble inner walls and marble wainscot and wood paneling on the lobby face. It contains original paneled doors with arched lights. The lobby has mottled gray marble wainscot with black marble baseboards. The upper walls and deeply coved ceiling are plaster and the floor is terrazzo bordered with black marble. The entrance wall, the screenline wall, and the corners of the side walls have paired gray-veined white marble Ionic pilasters. These pilasters support a deep plaster entablature that is broken into small units by the windows. Segmental-arched vaults spring from the entablature along the window wall. There are cross vaults at each window. A heavy rectangular molding is located on the flat portion of the cove ceiling. The screenline is somewhat altered.

[REDACTED]

There are also new lockboxes and modern lighting.

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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

1933-4

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Ross Edgar Sluyter

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Herkimer Post Office is architecturally significant as a distinguished example of a Colonial Revival style public building in New York State. In addition to its elaborately detailed terracotta and brick exterior, the building has an interior that is particularly grand for a post office of this scale, making it one of the most unusual and distinctive post offices in the state. The Herkimer Post Office was designed by consulting architect Ross Edgar Sluyter and built in 1933-4. It was authorized in 1931 as part of the first large-scale authorization of public buildings intended to alleviate unemployment caused by the Great Depression. The post office is very similar to two other central New York post offices of the same period, neither of which was designed by Sluyter, Oneida (1931-2) and Norwich (1932-3) (both included in the thematic nomination.) These three buildings, form one of the most interesting groups of related post offices in the state, offering a sharp contrast to the simple and standardized designs that characterized most post office buildings of this period. They are distinguished by their high quality materials and their more fully developed, classically inspired forms and decoration, especially their imposing, yet elegant, facades with tall arched windows and pedimented entrances. The Herkimer Post Office is the most elaborately detailed of the three and the only one with its decorative details executed in terracotta.

Herkimer, originally known as Stone Ridge, was settled in the 1720s by Palatine Germans. The village of Herkimer, named for Revolutionary War hero General Nicholas Herkimer, was incorporated in 1807 and is the oldest village in Herkimer County. After the opening of the Erie Canal in 1825 and the corresponding increase in western grain production, Herkimer became a dairy farming center and it remains the commercial and industrial hub of a large agricultural region.

The first post office was established in Herkimer in 1798. The post office remained in leased quarters until the completion of the present building, when it moved from a site one-half block away at 111 Park Avenue. A post office was originally authorized for Herkimer in 1928, but no construction occurred. It was reauthorized

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as one of 136 New York State post office projects planned under the 1931 amendment to the Public Buildings Omnibus Act of 1926. The Omnibus Act allowed Congress to authorize a large number of new buildings in a single bill. The 1931 amendment was one of a series of public works bills which were passed in an effort to alleviate the widespread unemployment caused by the Great Depression. Land for the new post office was purchased in 1932. The building, which replaces four houses, was begun in 1933 and completed by the spring of the following year. The building contract was originally let to Woodward Engineering Corporation of New York City, but they defaulted and the building was completed by the Bedford Construction Company of Utica, New York.

The architect whose name is recorded on the cornerstone is Ross Edgar Sluyter, about whom nothing is known. Curiously, there are two other central New York post offices that are virtually identical in their basic design to the post office at Herkimer, but they were not designed by Sluyter. The architect of the Oneida Post Office (1930-32) is not known, but it may have been designed by Louis A. Simon, who was Superintendent of Architects in the office of the Supervising Architect of the Treasury under the direction of Acting Supervising Architect James A. Wetmore. The Norwich Post Office (1931-32) is the work of George Ketcham of Syracuse. Sluyter and Ketcham were both hired as consulting architects. A 1930 amendment to the Public Buildings Act of 1926 permitted the Office of the Supervising Architect to hire outside consultants to design buildings. This measure was planned to alleviate unemployment among architects. The consulting architects worked under guidelines set by the Supervising Architect's office. Some consulting architects, such as Delano & Aldrich at Glen Cove, John V. Van Pelt at Patchogue, and Schultze & Weaver at Scarsdale, were given extensive design leeway. Other architects appear to have been given far less freedom. It is probable that the Supervising Architect's office, with Louis A. Simon in charge of design work, established the basic form for these three post offices with the Oneida building and that Sluyter and Ketcham were required to use this exterior design. Their work probably consisted of preparing drawings and supervising construction. Sluyter may have been responsible for the interior of the Herkimer building, since it is quite monumental in comparison to most contemporary post offices. This, however, is not certain, since the interior design appears to be an elaboration of the interior form of the Oneida Post Office.

The Herkimer Post Office is an imposing Colonial Revival style building. Although it had appeared in federal design before 1920, the Colonial Revival, with its association with America's early history, became the most popular style for post offices in the 1920s and 1930s. (The earliest Colonial Revival style post office in New York State is that a Geneva--built 1905-06 and included in the thematic nomination.)

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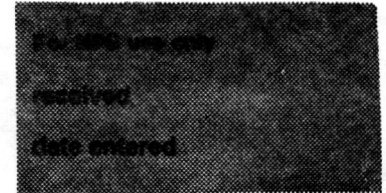
3

For the post offices, Georgian, Federal, and Greek Revival style forms were adapted for use on buildings serving twentieth-century needs. Details such as fanlights, transoms, multi-paned windows, classical columns, eagles, cupolas, etc., were arranged in a manner suggestive of eighteenth and early nineteenth century architecture without being imitative of a particular Colonial-era building. Among the Herkimer Post Office's finest Colonial Revival features are stylized Corinthian pilasters on the exterior, Ionic pilasters on the interior, round-arched windows, and the entrance, with a swan's-neck pediment with central urn.

As has been noted, the interior of the Herkimer building is quite unusual in the grandeur of its form and detail. The public lobby, where post office business is transacted, is rectangular in shape. It is typical in the dimensions of the room--somewhat modest, with a large workroom to the rear. What is unusual, is the use of sophisticated classical architectural forms, particularly the marble pilasters, full entablature, and coved ceiling with cross vaults. The interior is constructed with finely executed detail in marble, plaster, wood, and terrazzo and contains some original furniture. The Herkimer Post Office is one of the most imposing federal buildings of its size in New York State. It is in excellent repair and it lends a fitting sense of governmental grandeur to this Mohawk Valley community.

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Continuation sheet Herkimer County Item number 9

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Department of Archives and History. "Herkimer County Commemorative Brochure." Herkimer, New York, 1954.

Hardin, George A.. History of Herkimer County, New York: Illustrated with Portraits of Many of its Citizens. Syracuse: D. Mason & Company, 1893.

Murray, Thomas C. Panorama and History of Herkimer, New York: 1725-1900. Utica, NY: L.C. Childs & Son.

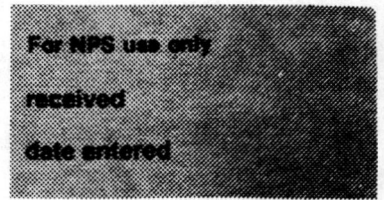
**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

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Herkimer Post Office, Herkimer, New York,

Continuation sheet Herkimer County Item number 11

Page 2



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United States Post Offices in New York State -- 1858-1943 -- Thematic Resources
Herkimer, Herkimer County, New York
135 Park Avenue
1" = 100'

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY US Post Office--Herkimer
NAME:

MULTIPLE US Post Offices in New York State, 1858-1943, TR
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: NEW YORK, Herkimer

DATE RECEIVED: 10/05/88 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 10/18/88
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 11/03/88 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 11/19/88
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 88002501

NOMINATOR: FEDERAL

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 11/17/88 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

RECOM./CRITERIA Return
REVIEWER Savage
DISCIPLINE Architectural History
DATE 11-17-88

DOCUMENTATION see attached ^{overall} comments (Y/N) see attached SLR Y/N

CLASSIFICATION

count resource type

STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

FUNCTION

historic current

DESCRIPTION

architectural classification
 materials
 descriptive text

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

BIBLIOGRAPHY

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

acreage verbal boundary description
 UTMs boundary justification

ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTATION/PRESENTATION

sketch maps USGS maps photographs presentation

OTHER COMMENTS

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to

_____ Phone _____

Signed _____ Date _____

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: RESUBMISSION

PROPERTY US Post Office--Herkimer
NAME:

MULTIPLE US Post Offices in New York State, 1858-1943, TR
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: NEW YORK, Herkimer

DATE RECEIVED: 3/27/89 DATE OF PENDING LIST:
DATE OF 16TH DAY: DATE OF 45TH DAY: 5/11/89
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 88002501

NOMINATOR: FEDERAL

DETAILED EVALUATION: Y

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 5/11/89 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

RECOM./CRITERIA
REVIEWER BL SAVAGE
DISCIPLINE
DATE MAY 11 1989

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

CLASSIFICATION

count resource type

STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

FUNCTION

historic current

DESCRIPTION

architectural classification
 materials
 descriptive text

SIGNIFICANCE

Period Areas of Significance--Check and justify below

Specific dates Builder/Architect
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Signed _____ Date _____



Herkimer Post Office
135 Park Ave., Herkimer
Herkimer County, New York State

United States Post Offices in
New York State --1858-1943--
Thematic Resources
Photo: Peter Shaver
Neg: Division for Historic
Preservation, Albany, New York

Date: 1986
View: Main facade, looking east
1 out of 4

Herkimer

UNITE

HERKIMER POST. OFFICE
135 PARK AVE. ZIP CODE 13350



Herkimer Post Office
135 Park Ave., Herkimer
Herkimer County, New York State

United States Post Offices in
New York State --1858-1943--
Thematic Resources
Photo: Peter Shaver
Neg: Division for Historic
Preservation, Albany, New York

Date: 1986
View: Front entrance
2 out of 4

Herkimer



Herkimer Post Office
135 Park Ave., Herkimer
Herkimer County, New York State

United States Post Offices in
New York State --1858-1943--
Thematic Resources
Photo: Peter Shaver
Neg: Division for Historic
Preservation, Albany, New York

Date: 1986
View: Rear, looking west
3 out of 4



Herkimer Post Office
135 Park Ave., Herkimer
Herkimer county, New York State

United States Post Offices in
New York State --1858-1943--
Thematic Resources
Photo: Peter Shaver
Neg: Division for Historic
Preservation, Albany, New York

Date: 1986
View: Interior, lobby
4 out of 4



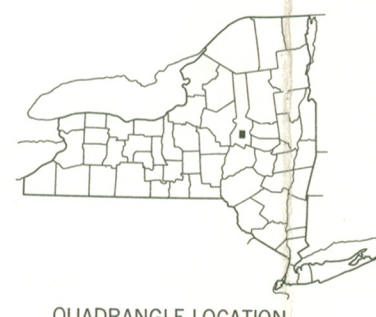
Prepared and published in 1978 by the New York State Department of Transportation, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration.

Map base from 1943 U.S. Geological Survey 7.5-minute quadrangle.

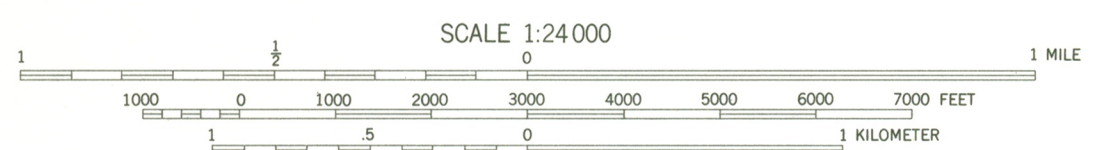
Map revisions made using 1977 aerial photography, construction plans, official records and other sources. Features revised include: highways and other transportation facilities; civil boundaries; recreation sites; hydrography; and buildings. Grey tint indicates intensely developed areas in which only landmark buildings are shown.

Revisions may not comply with National Map Accuracy Standards.

Correspondence concerning this and other maps of the Department of Transportation should be directed to: Map Information Unit, New York State Department of Transportation, State Campus, Albany, New York 12232.



QUADRANGLE LOCATION



SCALE 1:24000

Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum.

1000-meter ticks based on the New York Transverse Mercator grid. Between 72° and 78° West Longitude, this grid is identical to Zone 18 of the Universal Transverse Mercator grid. Areas east of 72° and west of 78° are direct mathematical extensions of Zone 18.

10,000-foot ticks based on the New York Plane Coordinate grid.



BOUNDARIES:

State.....

County.....

Town or City.....

Incorporated Village.....

ROADS:

Touring Route markers:

Interstate..... (I)

U. S. (U.S.)

State..... (S)

State Highway number and limit..... (SH)

County road..... (CR)

Interchange number..... (I)

Divided highways and streets:

Wide mall..... (W)

Narrow mall or barrier..... (N)

Undivided highways and streets:

4 or more lanes..... (4)

Less than 4 lanes..... (L)

Vehicle track; trail..... (V)



UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE
FACILITIES SERVICE CENTER
REAL ESTATE DIVISION
WINDSOR, CONNECTICUT 06006-0330

May 19, 1988

The Honorable Alfred A. Manieri
Mayor
Village of Herkimer
120 Green Street
Herkimer, NY 13350

Re: Herkimer, NY 13350 - Main Post Office

Dear Mayor Manieri:

We are pleased to inform you that the U.S. Postal Service, in consonance with the New York State Historic Preservation Officer, plans to nominate the above referenced post office facilities to the National Register of Historic Places. Our nomination will be forwarded to the keeper of the National Register on June 20, 1988.

We would very much appreciate your endorsement to this nomination. Please let us know if you may have any additional comments or recommendations at this time.

Signed by WSM

William S. Moncrief
Historic Preservation Coordinator

WSM/bb/0046E1

Village of Herkimer

Settled 1725

"Site of Historic Fort Dayton"

Herkimer, N. Y.

120 Green Street

13350-0805

1-315-866-3303

May 25, 1988

William S. Moncrief
Historic Preservation Coordinator
United States Postal Service
Facilities Service Center
Real Estate Division
Windsor, Connecticut 06006-0330



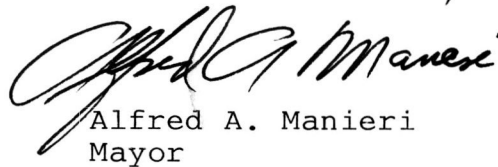
RE: HERKIMER, NEW YORK
MAIN POST OFFICE

Dear Mr. Moncrief:

Please be advised the Village Board of Trustees for the Village of Herkimer endorses your plans to nominate the Herkimer Post Office to the National Register of Historic Places.

Very truly yours,

VILLAGE OF HERKIMER,


Alfred A. Manieri
Mayor

AAM:dar
cc: Board of Trustees