Form No. 10-306 (Rev. 10-74) PH0369501

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED AUG 23 1976
DATE ENTERED DEC 12 1976

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC
Bennington Post Office

AND/OR COMMON
U.S. Federal Building

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
118 South Street — NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN
Bennington — VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
District of Vermont

STATE
Vermont

CODE
50

COUNTY
Bennington

CODE
003

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
__DISTRICT	X PUBLIC	X OCCUPIED	__AGRICULTURE	__MUSEUM
X BUILDING(S)	__PRIVATE	__UNOCCUPIED	__COMMERCIAL	__PARK
__STRUCTURE	__BOTH	__WORK IN PROGRESS	__EDUCATIONAL	__PRIVATE RESIDENCE
__SITE	**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**	**ACCESSIBLE**	__ENTERTAINMENT	__RELIGIOUS
__OBJECT	__IN PROCESS	__YES: RESTRICTED	X GOVERNMENT	__SCIENTIFIC
	__BEING CONSIDERED	X YES: UNRESTRICTED	__INDUSTRIAL	__TRANSPORTATION
		__NO	__MILITARY	__OTHER:

4 AGENCY

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: *(If applicable)*
General Services Administration

STREET & NUMBER
18th & F Streets, NW

CITY, TOWN
Washington, — VICINITY OF

STATE
District of Columbia

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
Municipal Building - Town Clerks Office

STREET & NUMBER
205 South Street

CITY, TOWN
Bennington

STATE
Vermont

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
Vermont Historic Sites and Structures Survey

DATE
1974 — __FEDERAL X STATE __COUNTY __LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS
Vermont Division for Historic Preservation

CITY, TOWN
Montpelier

STATE
Vermont

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
X EXCELLENT	__DETERIORATED	__UNALTERED	X ORIGINAL SITE
__GOOD	__RUINS	X ALTERED	__MOVED DATE_____
__FAIR	__UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Federal Building, originally the United States Post Office, was completed in 1914, from designs by the office of James Knox Taylor, Supervising Architect of the Treasury Department between 1897 and 1912. Located at the northeast corner of South and Union Streets, the building measures 84' 0" by 60' 0". Nine bays wide and six bays deep, the building rises a full story above grade, resting on a full basement which functions as a podium. Although the fenestration implies one story on three elevations, the fenestration of the north elevation reveals a partial mezzanine. A shallow central pavilion occurs on all four elevations. The building is of concrete, tile, and brick bearing wall construction with concrete slab and beam floors. The exterior is clad in white Vermont marble. The low parapeted roof is sheet metal supported by steel trusses.

The principal (South Street) elevation has a Greek Doric hexastyle-in-antis portico which forms the extremely shallow pavilion. Its terminating antae project only slightly from the main mass. A stair of eight risers extends the full width of the portico. Cast metal lamps with torchere bases stand on plinths which flank the stairs and are beneath the piers of the central pavilion. The bottom two risers of the stair extend in front of the plinthes. A metal hand railing connects each end pier to the adjacent plinth. A pair of matched railings installed in the recent past also ascend the stair in the central bay.

In a departure from Greek precedent, the fluted Greek Doric columns of the portico rest on bases.[1] This aberration of the classical order perhaps represents Taylor's attempt to employ what Asher Benjamin believed to be a truly American order, that is a free mixture of Greek and Roman elements that typified inventive work of the Greek Revival.[2] Each column is paralleled by a pilaster on the rear wall of the portico. The central bay contains the wood and glass doors of the main entrance. The six other bays each contain a twelve over twelve, double-hung sash window. The door and window architraves consist of simple undecorated piers and lintels contained within the bays defined by the larger pilasters. Surmounting each lintel is a blind window with typical Greek grille work.

The building's entablature incorporates elements from three classical orders: Greek Doric, Roman Doric, and Tuscan. The entablature of the main mass is Tuscan, surmounted by a simple parapet. It is stepped once over the outer antae and again over the outer columns of the portico. The entablature of the pavilion itself is not Tuscan but rather Greek Doric. The metopes of the frieze are enriched with paterae of a Roman elegance. On either side of the pavilion is a wide unfenestrated wall articulated only by the Tuscan entablature and by the simple offset defining the basement story.

The Union Street (south) facade has a heptastyle pavilion. Each bay has a tall twelve over twelve, double-hung sash window. Under each window is an undecorated, slightly projecting sill. Above the lintel and below the entablature are fielded panels. On this side elevation, the basement is evidenced by small windows in each bay as well as by the simple offset. Because the planes of the bays and flanking walls are identical the entire south facade can be read as having either a central pilaster screen or projecting pavilion. The resultant ambiguity creates an unexpected tension.

The north elevation also has six bays, but without pilasters or Doric refinements in the entablature frieze zone. Above the six double-hung sash windows is a row of eighteen narrow, closely spaced windows defining the second floor or mezzanine.

The rear (east) elevation reflects the composition of the principal elevation. However, basement windows exist in each bay. The central seven bay pavilion is astylar with no recessed porch. The central door is surmounted by a four-over-four transom. Within each of the flanking bays is an eight-over-eight double-hung sash window with a slightly projecting sill. Each window is surmounted by a four light transom. Like the north elevation, the entire entablature is Tuscan. A small, low, flat-roofed wooden mailing vestibule has been added at the center door as has a crudely executed shed over the adjacent exterior cellar steps.

The interior of the building is one story high with a mezzanine on the northern wall. The mezzanine extends from the exterior wall to the pier of the portico. Originally, the interior was finished with ornamental plaster and mahogany. In 1967, the Post Office moved to a new and larger building nearby. At that time, the building was converted to a Federal office building and the entire interior gutted. A false ceiling was installed to enclose the office cubicles. Few original interior embellishments survive, except occasional doors, windows, and woodwork.

Notes

[1]While it can be argued that a footed Doric column is by defination a Roman Doric column, the general proportions of the shaft, the termination of the fluting at the echinus, and the robustness of the capital are decidedly Greek. See Nikolaus Pevsner, Hugh Honour, John Fleming, The Penguin Dictionary of Architecture, Fig. 64, and Sir Bannister Fletcher, A History of Architecture on the Comparitive Method, page 160.

[2]Benjamin Latrobe had developed a uniquely American order in the form of his corncob and tobacco leaf capitals at the Capitol in Washington. Pierre L'Enfant employed a modified Roman Doric order with unfluted columns and American stars in the metopes at the Federal Building in New York City.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
__PREHISTORIC	__ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	__COMMUNITY PLANNING	__LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	__RELIGION
__1400-1499	__ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	__CONSERVATION	__LAW	__SCIENCE
__1500-1599	__AGRICULTURE	__ECONOMICS	__LITERATURE	__SCULPTURE
__1600-1699	X ARCHITECTURE	__EDUCATION	__MILITARY	__SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
__1700-1799	__ART	__ENGINEERING	__MUSIC	__THEATER
__1800-1899	__COMMERCE	__EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	__PHILOSOPHY	__TRANSPORTATION
X 1900-	__COMMUNICATIONS	__INDUSTRY	__POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	__OTHER (SPECIFY)
		__INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1897-1912 BUILDER/ARCHITECT James Knox Taylor

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Federal Building is among the last of the works produced under James Knox Taylor for the Treasury Department, of which he was Supervising Architect from 1897 to 1912. The building demonstrates both Taylor's flexibility of design and his concern for Bennington's architectural heritage. While the building incorporates classical elements from several orders, the rather inventive combination of these elements as well as the general massing and marked planar quality render the building strikingly modern in appearance. Despite the use of Greek Doric columns on the principal elevation, the restraint, the delicacy, the lack of robust projection are more reminiscent of Roman orders. In fact, the frieze of the side or south elevation terminates at the outermost pier in the Roman Doric manner, that is, with the triglyph centered over the capital. However, the use of classical elements as a traditional symbol of a Federal presence and more particularly the use of Greek elements in deference to a Greek Revival vocabulary in Bennington are subordinate to this peculiarly early feeling of 1930's modernity. The Federal Building is low without a visible pitched roof. The composition is strongly horizontal, emphasized by a main entrance on the long facade. The stepped parapet is a commonly used motif in the Greek Revival period but here emphasizes the horizontality. Despite its early date, this building resembles such modernized classical work of the 1930's exemplified by Paul Cret's Folger Library in Washington of 1929-32.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

The Bennington Evening Banner, November 30, 1914, "New Post Office Will Be Opened On Tuesday." Bennington, Vermont

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than 1 (phone conversation S. Livingood)

UTM REFERENCES

	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
A	18	647230	4748360	B			
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
Office of Historic Preservation

ORGANIZATION
General Services Administration

DATE
August 5, 1976

STREET & NUMBER
18th & F Streets, NW

TELEPHONE
202-566-1370

CITY OR TOWN
Washington,

STATE
District of Columbia

12 CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

YES X NO ____ NONE ____

William B. Trimmer
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 X Local.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE Michael J. Shelley

TITLE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER DATE 8.17.76

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Acting DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION DATE 12/12/76

ATTEST: DATE 12/6/76

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Property Bennington Post Office

Bennington

State Vermont Working Number 8.23.76.4006

TECHNICAL

Photos 3

Maps 1

Acreage missing

CONTROL

OK - 8.24.76

HISTORIAN

Called for acreage 1 N 76 See form.

Accept Lewengood 1 N 76

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

Accept MJ Lewis 11-12-76

ARCHEOLOGIST

OTHER

HAER

Inventory _____

Review _____

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

Active

BRANCH CHIEF

Accept Cole 11/22/76

KEEPER

12/6/76

National Register Write-up _____ Send-back _____ Entered DEC 12 1976

Federal Register Entry 2-1-77 Re-submit _____

INT:2106-74

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service WASO No. 7

UNITED STA
FEDERAL BUIL
BENNINGTON VE

LK-VB-LB

WEST
Bennington Post Offic

1. U.S. Federal Building
2. Bennington, Vermont
3. Norman Askins, photographer
4. 7 July, 1974
   Bennington Co.
5. Negatives at General Services Administration, Washington, D.C.
6. West Elevation, from the west
7. One of three photographs

DEC 12 1976 AUG 23 1976

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

2-SA6-L6

SOUTH

Bennington Post office

1. U.S. Federal Building
2. Bennington, Vermont
3. Norman Askins, photographer
4. 7 July, 1974
5. Negatives at General Services Bennington Co.
   Administration, Washington, D.C.
6. South elevation from the south
7. Two of three photographs

DEC 12 1976 AUG 23 1976

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

U.S.
PROPERTY
NO
PARKING

91-1116-66

Bennington Post office

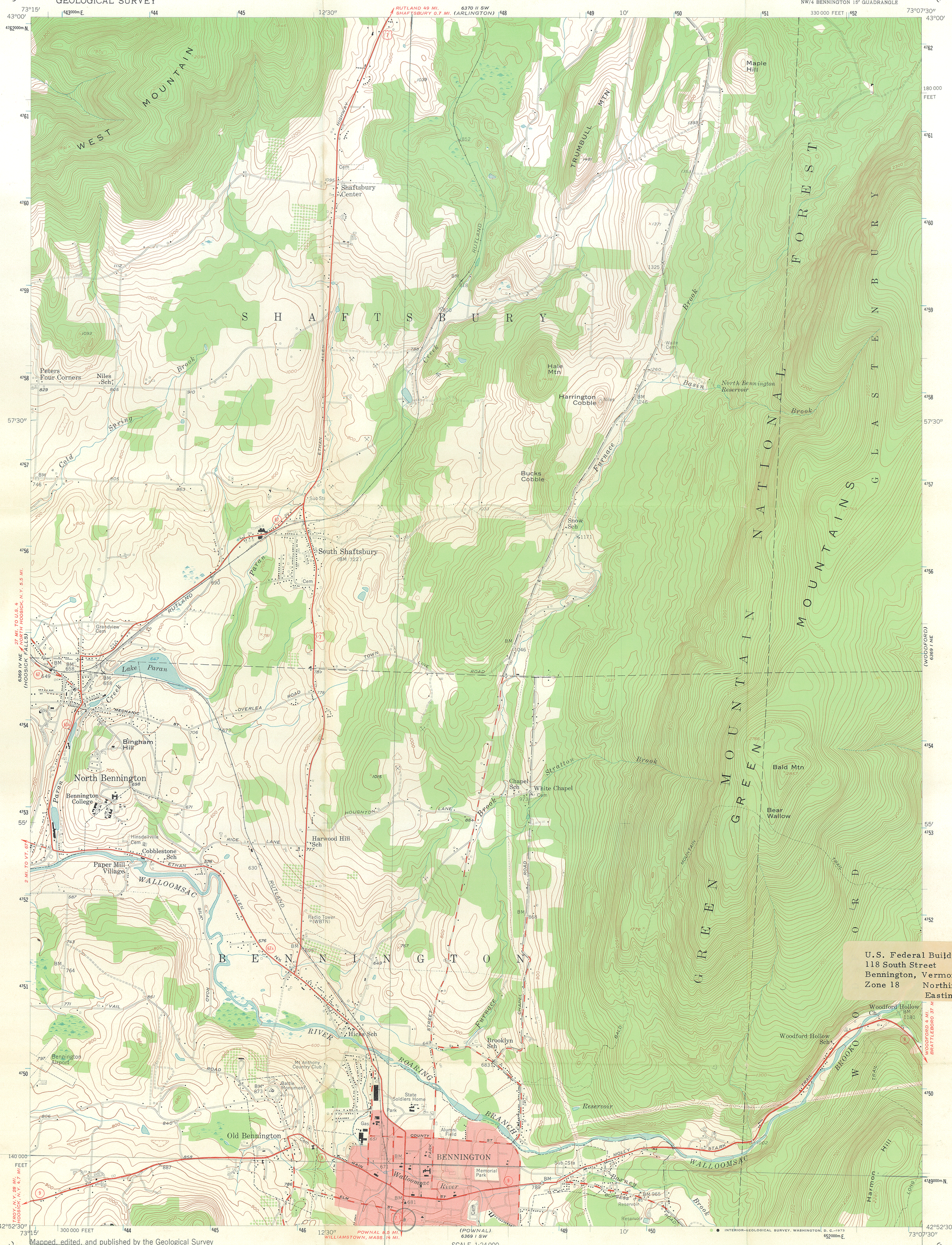
1. U.S. Federal Building
2. Bennington, Vermont
3. Norman Askins, photographer
4. 7 July 1974
5. Negatives at General Services Bennington Co. Administration, Washington, D.C.
6. East elevation, from the southeast
7. Three of three photographs

DEC 12 1976 AUG 23 1976

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

BENNINGTON QUADRANGLE
VERMONT—BENNINGTON CO.
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)
NW/4 BENNINGTON 15' QUADRANGLE



U.S. Federal Building
118 South Street
Bennington, Vermont
Zone 18 Northing 47 48 360
Easting 647 230

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey

Control by USGS, USC&GS, and USFS

Topography from aerial photographs by stereophotogrammetric methods. Aerial photographs taken 1942 and 1951.
Field check 1954

Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Vermont coordinate system

Red tint indicates area in which only landmark buildings are shown

Unchecked elevations are shown in brown

1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 18, shown in blue

MN GN
13½° 240 MILS
1°14' 22 MILS
UTM GRID AND 1954 MAGNETIC NORTH DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET

SCALE 1:24 000
1 ½ 0 1 MILE
1000 0 1000 2000 3000 4000 5000 6000 7000 FEET
1 .5 0 1 KILOMETER

CONTOUR INTERVAL 20 FEET
DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON, D. C. 20242
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

VT.
QUADRANGLE LOCATION

ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Heavy-duty — Light-duty
Medium-duty — Unimproved dirt
U. S. Route — State Route

INTERIOR—GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON, D. C.—1973

BENNINGTON, VT.
NW/4 BENNINGTON 15' QUADRANGLE
N4252.5—W7307.5/7.5

1954

AMS 6369 I NW—SERIES V813

RECEIVED
AUG 23 1976
NATIONAL REGISTER

WILLIAM B. PINNEY
DIRECTOR

STATE OF VERMONT
AGENCY OF DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS
DIVISION FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION
MONTPELIER, VERMONT 05602
(802) 828-3226

RECEIVED
AUG 23 1976
NATIONAL
REGISTER

August 11, 1976

Michael F. Mulloy
Historic Preservation Officer (PWA)
General Services Administration
Washington, D.C. 20405

Dear Mr. Mulloy:

Enclosed please find the National Register Nomination forms signed by William B. Pinney, State Historic Preservation Officer, for the U.S. Federal Building, Bennington, and the Federal Building, Newport.

Please note that we have corrected the Vermont state code to "50" (section 2) and have indicated the proper information in section 6.

Sincerely,

Jane A. McLuckie

Jane A.McLuckie
Architectural Historian
JAM/so

Enclosures

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

Public Buildings Service
Washington, DC 20405

18 AUG 1976

Keeper, National Register of
Historic Places
National Park Service
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Dr. Murtagh:

Enclosed are National Register Nominations for two properties in Vermont, namely, the Federal Buildings in Newport and Bennington.

We look forward to learning of your evaluation of these properties.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL F. MULLOY
Historic Preservation Officer
Environmental Affairs

Enclosures

RECEIVED
AUG 23 1976
NATIONAL REGISTER

Keep Freedom in Your Future With U.S. Savings Bonds

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE VERMONT

Date Entered DEC 12 1976

Name	Location
Sacketts Brook Stone Arch Bridge	Putney Windham County
Follett Stone Arch Bridge Historic District	Townshend Windham County
East Putney Brook Stone Arch Bridge	East Putney Windham County
U.S. Courthouse, Post Office and Customs House	Newport Orleans County
Bennington Post Office	Bennington Bennington County
Longfellow School	Rutland Rutland County

Also Notified

Hon. Robert T. Stafford
Hon. Patrick J. Leahy
Hon. James M. Jeffords
Mr. Michael F. Mulloy, CSA

Regional Director, North Atlantic Region

State Historic Preservation Officer
Mr. William B. Pinney
Director, Vermont Division of Historic Preservation
Pavilion Office Building
Montpelier, Vermont 05602

880 Mott 12/21/76

INT: 2950-75

NR Data Sheet

DATE: 11-12-76
Reviewer INITIALS: MJL

NR DOE

DEC 1-8 1976

NAME AS IT APPEARS IN FEDERAL REGISTER: Bennington Post Office

OTHER NAMES: Federal Building

LOCATION:

STREET & NUMBER 118 South St.

CITY, TOWN Bennington

VICINITY OF

STATE Vt. 50

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

COUNTY Bennington code 003

OWNER OF PROPERTY: (Circle) PRIVATE STATE LOCAL GOV'T MUNICIPAL COUNTY OTHER

ADMINISTRATOR (underline) FEDERAL (AGENCY NAME) GSA

NPS REGION: (CIRCLE) N.ATLANTIC MID ATLANTIC SOUTHEAST MIDWEST SOUTHWEST ROCKY MOUNTAIN WEST PACIFIC NORTHWEST

FEATURES:

INTERIOR	EXTERIOR	ENVIRONS
_ Substantially intact-1	✓ Substantially intact-2	_ Substantially intact-3
_ unknown - 4	_ unknown -5	✓ unknown -6
_ not applicable - 7	_ not applicable - 8	_ Not applicable-9

_ Interior, exterior, environs not intact-0

CONDITION – ✓ EXCELLENT _ DETERIORATED _ UNALTERED ✓ ORIGINAL SITE
_ GOOD _ RUINS ✓ ALTERED _ MOVED
_ FAIR _ UNEXPOSED _ Reconstructed _ Unknown
_ Unexcavated _ Excavated

ACCESS – Yes-restricted Yes-unrestricted No access Unknown

historic district? YES NO

WITHIN NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT? YES NO
IF YES, NAME:

WITHIN NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK? YES NO
IF YES, NAME:

ADAPTIVE USE: YES NO Saved? YES NO

FUNCTION(S): (use vocabulary words)

then- Post Office

now- Federal office building

SIGNIFICANCE:

4

_ ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC
_ ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC
_ AGRICULTURE
✓ ARCHITECTURE
_ ART
_ COMMERCE
_ COMMUNICATIONS
_ CONSERVATION
_ ECONOMICS
_ EDUCATION
_ ENGINEERING
_ EXPLORATION
_ INDUSTRY
_ INVENTION
_ LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE
_ LAW/Gov't/politics
_ LITERATURE
_ MILITARY
_ MUSIC
_ PHILOSOPHY
_ POLITICS/GOVERNMENT
_ RELIGION
_ SCIENCE
_ SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
_ TRANSPORTATION
_ OTHER (SPECIFY)
_ entertainment
_ health
_ recreation
_ settlement
_ socio/cultural
_ urban & commun planning

Claims

"first" YES NO "oldest" YES NO "only" YES NO

ARCHITECTURAL STYLE: Neo-Classical Revival

architect/m.builder: James Knox Taylor

engineer:

landscape/garden designer:

artist/artisan:

interior decorator:

builder/contractor:

ETHNIC GROUP:

NAMES: (label role & appropriate date)

personal

events

institutional

DATES:

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (Specific date or 1/4 of century): 1912-14

DATE(S) OF "MAJOR" ALTERATIONS: 1967

HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT DATE(S):

SOURCE: (OF NOMINATION) PRIVATE STATE LOCAL GOV"T MUNICIPAL COUNTY

OTHER FEDERAL AGENCY: GSA

ACREAGE: (to nearest tenth of an acre)

less than 1

COMMENTS: (include architectural information here)

Concrete, brick, and tile bearing wall construction, white Vermont marble facing; 1½ story over basement, rectangular, flat sheet metal roof; front center Doric hexastyle in antis portico with center entrance flanked by windows, each surmounted by a blind window with grille work; S side windows articulated by pilasters and surmounted by blind windows, decorative frieze; ~~over portico + sides~~ N mezzanine; interior altered, 1967. Neo-Classical Revival.

SIGNIFICANCE: (maximum two sentences) One of the last buildings designed by James Knox Taylor while Supervising Architect of Treasury (1897-1912); built as U.S. Post Office and adapted for use as Federal office building, 1967.