

CT Trust Resource ID: 1283

HISTORIC RESOURCE INVENTORY – BUILDING AND STRUCTURES

State Historic Preservation Office, DECD, One Constitution Plaza, 2nd Floor, Hartford, CT 06103

*Note: Please attach any additional or expanded information on a separate sheet.

Inventory form modified for the Creative Places - Arts & Letters Project

GENERAL INFORMATION

Building Name (Common): US Post Office--Norwich MainOther Name(s) (Historic): US Post Office--Norwich MainStreet Address or Location: 340 Main St., NorwichTown/City: Norwich

Village:

County: New LondonDesignation(s): SR, NROwner(s): UNITED STATES POST OFFICE P TPublic/Private: PublicLatitude: 41.5245 Longitude: -72.0714

PROPERTY INFORMATION

Present Use: Government: post officeHistoric Use: Government: post officeAccessibility to public: Yes Exterior visible from public road? YesInterior accessible? If yes, explain: During open hoursStyle of building: 20th century Georgian, Neo-Classical Revival Date of Construction: 1905, 1939Material(s) (Indicate use or location when appropriate) Brick, Cut StoneStructural Systems(s): Load bearing masonry, Structural iron or steelRoof(Type): Flat, Hip (Material): Slate, Built upNumber of Stories: 1 Approximate Dimensions: 86' x 140'Structural Condition: ExcellentExterior Condition: ExcellentLocational Integrity: On original site Moved, When: NAAlterations?: No If yes, explain: NARelated outbuildings or landscape features: ShedSurrounding Environment: High building density

Interrelationship of building and surroundings:

Located on the north side of Main Street near the edge of the downtown area. The facade faces south. A low retaining wall along the street forms the edge of a lawn area fronting the building. Steps and walks lead up to the entrance.

Other notable features of building or site:

This is a one-story Neo-classical-style building with a stone and brick exterior and a steel structural frame.

For description see National Register nomination: <http://pdfhost.focus.nps.gov/docs/NRHP/Text/86002271.pdf>

Architect: Taylor, James Knox / Simon, Louis A. Builder/Maker: Unknown

Historical or Architectural importance:

For building significance, see National Register nomination: <http://pdfhost.focus.nps.gov/docs/NRHP/Text/86002271.pdf>

In Norwich's Main Post Office, 'Taking Up Arms - 1776' was painted in 1940 by George Kanelous (1915-1998). A contemporary of Milton Bellin, Kanelous was born in 1915 in Uruguay, of Greek parents and came to the United States in 1918. He attended New Utrecht High School in Brooklyn, New York and won a scholarship sponsored by the Art Students League. Like Bellin, Kanelous studied with Yasuo Kuniyoshi and worked under noted muralist James Daugherty. Kuniyoshi recommended Kanelous for a further scholarship to study under him. After graduation, George joined the WPA, and painted the mural in Norwich (Zoe).

Sources:

DeCoste, Richard P. 1986. U.S. Post Office, Norwich National Register Nomination No. 86002271. National Park Service.

Zoe, Vivian. Fall 2012. 'Milton Bellin and the Federal Arts Project.' Muse newsletter of the Slater Memorial Museum, Norwich.

Norwich Post Office mural, Living New Deal web site. Accessed at: https://livingnewdeal.org/us/ct/norwich-ct/?post_type=projects

Photographer: Google Map street view Date:

View: South view

Form completed by: Charlotte Hitchcock **Printed On:** May 17, 2016

Organization: Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation

Address: 940 Whitney Avenue, Hamden CT 06517-4002

Threats: None known

Subsequent field evaluations:



Norwich Post Office (Google Street View photo)

FOR OFFICE USE:

Town # _____ **Site#** _____ **UTM** _____
District ☐ S ☐ NR **If NR, specify:** ☐ Actual ☐ Potential