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): <u>US Post Office--Norwich Main</u> Other Name(s) (Historic): <u>US Post Office--Norwich Main</u>

Street Address or Location: 340 Main St., Norwich

Town/City: Norwich Village: County: New London Designation(s): SR, NR

Owner(s): UNITED STATES POST OFFICE P T Public/Private: Public

Latitude: 41.5245 Longitude: -72.0714

#### PROPERTY INFORMATION

Present Use: <u>Government: post office</u> Historic Use: <u>Government: post office</u>

Accessibility to public: Yes Exterior visible from public road? Yes

Interior accessible? If yes, explain: <u>During open hours</u>

Style of building: 20th century Georgian, Neo-Classical Revival Date of Construction: 1905, 1939

Material(s)(Indicate use or location when appropriate) Brick. Cut Stone

Structural Systems(s): Load bearing masonry, Structural iron or steel

**Roof**(*Type*): Flat, Hip (*Material*): Slate, Built up

Number of Stories: 1 Approximate Dimensions: 86' x 140'

Structural Condition: Excellent Exterior Condition: Excellent

Locational Integrity: On original site Moved, When: NA

Alterations?: No If yes, explain: NA

Related outbuildings or landscape features: Shed Surrounding 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:

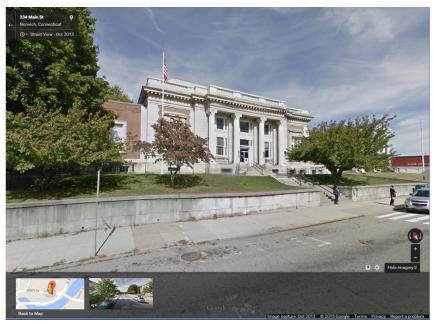
View: South view

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)

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Town #\_\_\_\_\_ Site#\_\_\_ UTM \_\_\_\_\_ District □S □NR If NR, specify: □Actual □ Potential