

**FOR OFFICE USE ONLY**

TOWN NO.: \_\_\_\_\_ SITE NO.: \_\_\_\_\_

UTM: 18 / - / - / - / - / -

QUAD: \_\_\_\_\_

DISTRICT: \_\_\_\_\_ S NR: \_\_\_\_\_ ACTUAL POTENTIAL

OF CONNECTICUT  
 CUT HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
 Prospect Street, Hartford, Connecticut 06106  
 86 3005

**RESOURCES INVENTORY FORM**  
 Buildings and Structures

**IDENTIFICATION**

BUILDING NAME: Common: Post Office Historic: same

TOWN/CITY: Middletown VILLAGE: \_\_\_\_\_ COUNTY: Middlesex

ADDRESS & NUMBER (and/or location): 291 Main Street

COUNTRY(S): United States of America  PUBLIC  PRIVATE

USE: Present: Vacant Historic: Post Office

ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road:  yes  no  
 Interior accessible:  yes, explain \_\_\_\_\_  no

**DESCRIPTION**

STYLE OF BUILDING: Renaissance Revival DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1916

MATERIAL(S) (indicate use or location when appropriate):

<input type="checkbox"/> clapboard	<input type="checkbox"/> asbestos siding	<input type="checkbox"/> brick
<input type="checkbox"/> wood shingle	<input type="checkbox"/> asphalt siding	<input type="checkbox"/> fieldstone
<input type="checkbox"/> board & batten	<input type="checkbox"/> stucco	<input type="checkbox"/> cobblestone
<input type="checkbox"/> aluminum siding	<input type="checkbox"/> concrete: type: _____	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> cut stone: type: <u>limestone ashlar</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> other: _____		

**STRUCTURAL SYSTEM:**

wood frame:  post and beam  balloon

load bearing masonry  structural iron or steel

other: \_\_\_\_\_

**ROOF:** type:

gable  flat with skylight  mansard  monitor  sawtooth

gambrel  shed  hip  round  other \_\_\_\_\_

material:

wood shingle  roll asphalt  tin  slate

asphalt shingle  built up  tile  other: sheet metal

NUMBER OF STORIES: 2 APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS: 61'x70' (e11 65'x70')

CONDITION: Structural:  excellent  good  fair  deteriorated

Exterior:  excellent  good  fair  deteriorated

INTEGRITY: Location:  on original site  moved, when: \_\_\_\_\_

Alterations:  no  yes, explain: Minor interior changes; south annex loading area added 1950's

RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES:

barn  shed  garage  other landscape features or buildings: \_\_\_\_\_

carriage house  shop  garden

SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT:

open land  woodland  residential  scattered buildings visible from site

commercial  industrial  rural  high building density

INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS: This fine, two story example of the Renaissance Revival style is located on the south west corner of Court and Main Streets facing the Connecticut River. Across Court Street to the north is the massive Liberty Savings Bank and to its south, across a parking lot, is the Connecticut Bank and Trust building. Together these three buildings give this section of the central business district a solid and classical look.

17. OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING OR SITE (interior and/or exterior):

**SIGNIFICANCE**

Architect: (Supervising) James A. Wetmore Builder: W.H. Frissell & Co., New York City

18. HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE: In 1911, the United States Government decided to build new Post Office facilities in Middletown. Preparations for construction began shortly thereafter. The selection of the building's location was a topic of much controversy. The Government finally chose this location, Federally owned since 1841, in the center of Middletown's commercial and financial district.

Contemporary sources indicate that the new Post Office was a source of civic pride for the citizens of Middletown. Its facade of smooth limestone distinguished it in a city center where brick and Portland brownstone were the common building materials. The classical facade displays a two story arrangement of arched windows and pilasters supporting an elaborate entablature. The interior features a large two story open lobby.

The old Post Office ceased operation in 1977, ending 136 years of Federal use of that site.

**PHOTOGRAPH**

photographer: Elizabeth Loomis  
date: 5/78 view: east  
negative on file: Roll 25, #13

**COMPILED BY:**

name: Elizabeth Loomis date: 6/78  
organization: Greater Middletown Preservation Trust  
address: 27 Washington St., Middletown, Ct. 06457



19. SOURCES: Elizabeth Reynolds and Joellyn Kuhnlein "United States Post Office", GMPT Report (unpublished, 1974)

20. SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATIONS:

21. THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE:

none known  highways  vandalism  developers  other: \_\_\_\_\_  
 renewal  private  deterioration  zoning  explanation: \_\_\_\_\_

Presently, the building is vacant. No governmental use has been found, and the building will be offered for private development.

STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
CONNECTICUT HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
59 South Prospect Street, Hartford, Connecticut 06106  
HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY FORM  
For Buildings and Structures

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CONTINUATION SHEET

Item number: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: 1/90

Post Office  
291 Main Street, Middletown, CT 06457

