LOCATION
DING NAME: Common: __________ Post Office ________ Historic: ________

CITY: Middletown __________ Village: __________ County: Middlesex

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

ER(S): United States of America

SE: Present: ________ Vacant ________ Historic: Post Office

SSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: X yes _ no

Interior accessible: yes, explain: __________ X no

ION
YLE OF BUILDING: Renaissance Revival

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1916

ERIAL(S) (indicate use or location when appropriate):
- clapboard
- wood shingle
- board & batten
- aluminum siding
- other: __________

TRUCTURAL SYSTEM:
- wood frame: post and beam __ balloon
- load bearing masonry: structural iron or steel
- other: __________

OF type: gable __ gambrel

material: wood shingle __ roll asphalt __ tin __ slate
- asphalt shingle __ built up __ tile __ other: sheet metal

BER OF STORIES: 2

PPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS: 61' x 70' (ell 65' x 70')

CONDITION: Structural: excellent __ good __ fair __ deteriorated

Exterior: excellent __ good __ fair __ deteriorated

TEGRITY: Location: X on original site moved, when:
Alterations: _no X 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

ROUNDING ENVIRONMENT:
- open land __ woodland __ residential __ scattered buildings visible from site
- commercial __ industrial __ rural __ high building density

TERRELATIONSHIP 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 and Trust building 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

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


20. SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATIONS:

21. THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>none known</th>
<th>highways</th>
<th>vandalism</th>
<th>developers</th>
<th>x other:</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>renewal</td>
<td>private</td>
<td>deterioration</td>
<td>zoning</td>
<td>explanation:</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

CONTINUATION SHEET
Item number: ______ Date: 1/90

Post Office
291 Main Street, Middletown, CT 06457