

HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM - STRAFFORD ROCKINGHAM REGIONAL COUNCIL
One Water Street, Exeter, New Hampshire 03833 Phone: (603)778-0885

TOWN: Rochester COUNTY: Strafford
SURVEY NUMBER: 91
COMMON NAME: Rochester Post Office
HISTORIC NAME: Rochester Post Office
LOCATION: 70 North Main Street
OWNER: US Government Post Office
ADDRESS: Rochester, NH
MAP & PARCEL #: 42/9 121-16
DATE: C. 1913 (mcmxiii)
SOURCE: Inspection
STYLE: Neo Classical

UTM: Z 19 /E 339500 /N 4796 375
USGS QUAD: Berwick Quad 15' series
FUNCTIONAL TYPE: Post Office
PRESENT USE: Post Office
ARCHITECT/BUILDER: Oscar Wendroth
CONDITION: Exc. Good X Fair Poor Ruins
INTEGRITY: Original Site X Moved Date
Major Alterations & Date:
LEVEL/SIGNIFICANCE: Natl. State Local X

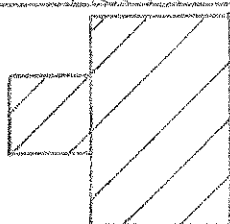
GENERAL DESCRIPTION: Structural System

1. # Stories 2 # Bays 5X5 Approx. Dimensions 50' X 50' Window Sash 12/12
Roof Style: Gable Hip Gambrel Flat X Shed Mansard Jerkinhead
Monitor Sawtooth Other
Appendages: Porches Towers Dormers Bay Windows Ells Chimneys
Wings Cupolas Sheds Garage Other
Entry Location: Center X Sidehall Other
2. FOUNDATION: Random Rubble Cut Granite Brick Concrete Concrete Block
Other X coursed sandstone
3. WALL STRUCTURE:
Wood Frame: Post & Beam Balloon Frame Other
Load Bearing Masonry: Stone Brick Concrete Block Other
Metal: Iron Steel X Other
4. WALL COVERING: Clapboard Wood Shingle Board & Batten Shiplap
Aluminum Novelty Stucco Stone Brick Sheet Metal Asphalt Shingles
Vinyl Asphalt Sheeting Composite Board Other
5. ROOF SHEATHING: Wood Shingle Asphalt Shingle Standing Seam Tin Slate
Pressed Metal Sheet Metal Rolled Asphalt Gravel Other
6. ENGINEERING STRUCTURE:

MAP (Indicate North in circle):



BRIDGE STREET



90

MAIN STREET

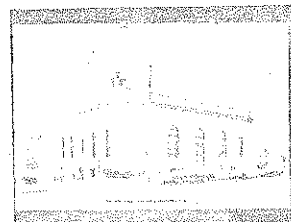
Union

9

10

11

PHOTO



Description of View: Three Quarter looking northwest
Negative File Number: R080/A6/9
Photographer: Roger Brevoort
Negative on file with: SRRC

ADDITIONAL ARCHITECTURAL AND STRUCTURAL DESCRIPTION:

The Rochester Post Office is a 35 bay, one story Neo Classical building. Three semi-circular arched openings in the central bays of the facade are the dominant features. The center bay contains the entry, which now has contemporary doors, although the original fan window is still within the arched section. Windows in the flanking bays have 12/12 sash, also topped by semicircular fan windows. All three openings are framed by a Gibbs surround motif of staggered quoins, with a carved keystone at the apex, and floral medallions on the spandrels. The surrounds are sandstone, which contrasts with the textured buff brick of the wall surfaces. The end bays have rectangular window openings, framed by surrounds with cornerblocks and flat keystones. Rectangular stone panels are inset above these end windows. The identical window treatment appears in the five bays of the side elevations.

A heavy block cornice and paneled brick parapet encircle the roofline. The building has a flat roof.

RELATED STRUCTURES AND CONTEXT:

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Evaluation & Historical Associations):

The Rochester Post Office was built in 1913 during the period when many public buildings were being constructed in the city center. It was designed by government architects in the Neo-Classical style used for federal and other major buildings of the period.

The Post Office is the major architectural component of North Main Street, important both visually and functionally to the downtown. At this date there is talk of re-locating the Post Office out of the downtown, a move which could have many ramifications.

REFERENCES:

MAP DATA:

SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT: Open Land _____ Woodland _____ Scattered Bldgs _____ Moderately Built Up _____
Densely Built Up _____ Residential _____ Commercial _____ Industrial _____ Agricultural _____
Roadside Strip Development _____ Other _____

BOUNDARY AND ACREAGE DESCRIPTION: (LOT SIZE) 130 X 130

Recorded By: Roger Brevoort

Date: 11/25/80

CONTINUATION SHEET

Description

A foundation of coursed sandstone serves as a base for the building, providing additional contrast with the main walls.

The architects name and construction date appear on the foundation at the southeast corner of the facade. On the south elevation, the same corner has a united states Geological survey benchmart.

