

VERMONT PHILATELIC SOCIETY

www.vermontps.org
Meets annually

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COLLEGE POSTAL STATIONS

Several Vermont colleges have had postal stations that served the needs of the college communities. Currently, only two are still operating — Bennington College Rural Station and Bread Loaf community post offices.

Bennington College CPO was started on July 1, 1960, serving students at the liberal arts college in southwest Vermont. It has an enrollment of about 750, with tuition, room, and board costing about \$60,000 a year. According to the college website, the contract station has a supervisor and three postal clerks. These are employees of the college, not the USPS.

The college website notes that “as a USPS contract station, the Bennington College post office can make the same transactions as any hometown post office: sell stamps, stamped envelopes, and regular postcards; mail certified and insured packages; provide postage for all foreign correspondence. In addition to USPS Express Mail, the post office can send items overnight via UPS or Federal Express.” It is open weekdays from 10 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. and is closed on weekends.

The other station currently in operation is a summer only one at the Bread Loaf Campus of Middlebury about eighty miles north of Bennington. In the summer, Middlebury College sponsors a graduate school of English with three campuses in England, New Mexico, and Vermont. The first Bread Loaf post office began in 1874 as a fourth class post office, but changed to a rural station of Middlebury in 1955. It had been a summer post office since 1923.

The Bread Loaf campus main building’s reception desk is staffed by Middlebury College student employees.

There have been postal stations at the University of Vermont and St. Michael’s College, both in the Burlington area. Both were used mainly by college administrators and nonphilatelic examples are extremely hard to find.

CROSSROADS STAMP SHOW

The Vermont philatelic scene starts on April 4 with the annual Spring Crossroads Stamp Show at the Mid-Vermont Christian School, 399 West Gilson Avenue in Quechee from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The show is sponsored by the Upper Valley Stamp Club. ■

