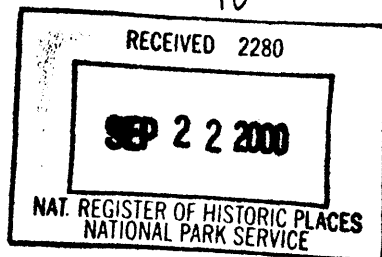


1254

**United States Department of Interior  
National Park Service**



**National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900A). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

**1. Name of Property**

historic name West Bend Post Office

other names/site number N/A

**2. Location**

street & number	607 Elm Street	N/A	not for publication
city or town	West Bend	N/A	vicinity
state	Wisconsin	code	WI
county	Washington	code	131
zip code	53095		

**3. State/Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally  statewide  locally. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  
( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

*Alicia L. Corbin*  
Signature of commenting official/Title

*July 26, 2000*  
Date

*Deputy SHPO - WI*  
State or Federal agency and bureau

West Bend Post Office

Washington

Wisconsin

Name of Property

County and State

**4. National Park Service Certification**

I hereby certify that the property is:

entered in the National Register.

See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the National Register.

See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register.

See continuation sheet.

removed from the National Register.

other, (explain:)

*Ethan H. Beall*

10/24/00

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**  
(check as many boxes as apply)

private

public-local

public-State

public-Federal

**Category of Property**  
(Check only one box)

building(s)

district

structure

site

object

**Number of Resources within Property**  
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

contributing      noncontributing

1      0 buildings

                                 sites

                                 structures

                                 objects

1      0 total

**Name of related multiple property listing:**  
(Enter "N/A" if property not part of a multiple property listing.)

US Post Office Construction 1913-1943

State of Wisconsin - Milwaukee District

**Number of contributing resources is previously listed in the National Register**

0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Government / Post Office

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Government / Post Office

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Colonial Revival

**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Foundation Brick

walls      Brick

roof      Metal

other      Limestone

**Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**  
(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for the National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations**  
(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Areas of Significance**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Art \_\_\_\_\_  
 Architecture \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance**

1935-1937 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates**

1935 \_\_\_\_\_  
 1937 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Person**  
(Complete if Criterion B is marked)

N/A \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**Architect/Builder**

Simon, Louis A. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Melick, Neal A. \_\_\_\_\_

**Narrative Statement of Significance**  
(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

West Bend Post Office  
Name of Property

Washington  
County and State

Wisconsin

### 9. Major Bibliographic References

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

**Previous Documentation on File** (National Park Service):

preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested previously listed in the National Register  
previously determined eligible by the National Register  
designated a National Historic landmark  
recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #  
recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

**Primary location of additional data:**

State Historic Preservation Office  
 Other State Agency  
 Federal Agency  
 Local government  
 University  
 Other

Name of repository:

### 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property Less Than One Acre

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	16	4/0/4/1/8/0	4/8/0/8/4/3/0	3			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2				4			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing

See Continuation Sheet

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet)

### 11. Form Prepared By

name/title	Charles W. Causier, AICP & Joseph G. Jurkiewicz, AIA		
organization	HNTB	date	12/29/93
street & number	11270 West Park Place	telephone	414-359-2300
city or town	Milwaukee	state	Wisconsin
		zip code	53224

West Bend Post Office  
Name of Property

Washington  
County and State

Wisconsin

### Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

#### Continuation Sheets

**Maps** A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.  
A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

**Photographs** Representative black and white photographs of the property.

**Additional Items** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

### Property Owner

Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

<b>name/title</b>	John S. Sorenson, Program Manager, Historic Preservation		
<b>organization</b>	US Postal Service, Customer Service Facilities		
<b>street&amp;number</b>	475 L'Enfant Plaza	<b>telephone</b>	202-268-3107
<b>city or town</b>	Washington	<b>state</b>	DC
		<b>zip code</b>	20260-6235

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects, (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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West Bend Post Office, Washington County, Wisconsin

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### Narrative Description:

The West Bend Post Office is large, a one-story, brick building with limestone trim. Built in 1935 in the Georgian Revival style, the front façade of the post office has a hipped roof central pavilion with flat roofed side pavilions. The building is located in the downtown business and commercial area of West Bend, Wisconsin.

The central pavilion of the front elevation is organized about the entrance. A flight of steps with a central and side railing leads to the doors from the sidewalk level. A handicap access ramp has been added to the right of the stairs. The double entrance doors are contained within an elaborate surround. Pilasters flank the doors. Above the entrance is a swan's neck pediment with an urn at the center. Behind the pediment is a semicircular window with radiating lights. This central window carries the theme of the windows on each side of the doors. These large windows are 21-over-27 light, double-hung with arched transoms with radiating lights. Below the side windows is a limestone panel. A brick surround accents each arched opening. The surround begins at a limestone block just below the springing of the arch. A limestone keystone is found at the top. The edges of the central pavilion are defined by limestone quoins at the corners, an Adamesque limestone frieze, a limestone water table, and a limestone, denticulated cornice. The metal, hipped roof is crowned by a cupola at its center.

The side pavilions are set back from the main block. These too have limestone quoins at the edges and a limestone water table. A band of limestone coping replaces the frieze and cornice. The windows are rectangular, 12-over-12 light with a limestone keystone above.

The building cornerstone notes: "Henry Morgenthau, Jr., Secretary of the Treasury, James A. Farley, Postmaster General, Louis A. Simon, Supervising Architect, Neal A. Melick, Supervising Engineer, 1935."

The side elevations are treated in a similar fashion to the side pavilions. To add visual interest, raised brick panels are located in the wall space above each window. The land on the east side of the building slopes downward, creating a fully exposed lower story on that side of the building. A sympathetic addition has been added to the rear of the building, doubling its size. The addition steps out slightly from the original block and uses a different type of brick, and louver type windows. The addition retains the water table, raised brick panels, and the keystones over the windows. A large projecting wing on the back rear of the west side of the building appears to be original to the structure. It is built of the same brick as the main body of the building and its corners are defined by quoins. However, the windows are the louver type found on the modern addition. A large, flat-roofed loading dock is located at the rear of the building.

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National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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West Bend Post Office, Washington County, Wisconsin

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The lobby is located on the Elm Street façade. It retains many of its original features, including a tile floor and wainscot, plaster walls and ceiling, and the original wood trim. Modern additions include an aluminum-framed vestibule and an aluminum and glass wall with a door, dividing the service portions of the lobby.

The east wall of the lobby contains a mural. Artist Peter Rotier painted the oil on canvas work, titled "The Rural Mail Carrier," in 1937.<sup>1</sup> In the foreground, the artist depicted the mail carrier approaching in his horse drawn wagon. A farmer leaves his horses and plowing to approach the mail carrier. In the distance can be seen a farmhouse and barn. A woman stands in front of the house, looking up toward the road. The road by which the mail carrier arrives winds between rolling hills into the background.

The mural and the post office building are in good condition.

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<sup>1</sup> Marlene Park and Gerald E. Markowitz, Democratic Vistas: Post Offices and Public Art in the New Deal (Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 1984).

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National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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West Bend Post Office, Washington County, Wisconsin

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### Statement of Significance:

The West Bend Post Office is an example of a Federal post office in the context of the multiple property nomination "United States post Office Construction from 1913 to 1943, State of Wisconsin – Milwaukee District." The building is nominated under Criterion C – Art for the mural located in the lobby and for Architecture as a locally significant example of the Colonial Revival style.

### Historic Context

This building is the first federally owned post office in West Bend, Wisconsin. Prior to its construction, postal functions were in various locations selected by the appointed post master. The first post office in West Bend opened in 1848 under Postmaster Ira Spence.<sup>2</sup>

The current post office was constructed during the peak of WPA building activity. In 1933, 368 new post offices were recommended across the country, of which 38 were to be built in Wisconsin.<sup>3</sup> A large majority of the post offices constructed throughout the country during this period came from a set of standard plans with some variations in the decorative treatment of their facades and the choice of materials for the interior lobby. The West Bend Post Office has the most elaborate façade of the three post offices included in the survey of the Georgian Revival substyle. The history of post office construction in Wisconsin during this period is discussed further in the multiple property nomination.

Many public buildings constructed during this period also received some form of federally funded artwork. The West Bend Post Office contains a mural painted by Peter Rotier. The historic context for public art in post offices of this era is also discussed in the multiple property nomination.

### Significance

The West Bend Post Office is considered eligible for listing by meeting the registration requirements for a federally owned post office as defined in the multiple property nomination for post office construction in Wisconsin from 1913 to 1943.

The post office is eligible under Criterion C, Art, for the mural found in the building's lobby. The mural "The Rural Mail Carrier," by artist Peter Rotier is a good example of types of works the Depression relief agencies funded for public buildings. The history of the postal service was one of the popular and promoted themes for post office art. This 1937, oil on canvas example depicts the rural landscape around

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<sup>2</sup> History of Washington and Ozaukee Counties, Wisconsin (Chicago: 1881), 396.

<sup>3</sup> America Builds: The Record of the PWA, Public Works Administration (Washington, DC: National Archives, 1939), appendix.



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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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West Bend Post Office, Washington County, Wisconsin

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West Bend, with its rolling hills and its farm architecture. It also shows the importance and the anticipation of the mail's arrival in rural areas. Peter Rotier is known to have painted one additional post office mural – "Wisconsin Rural Scene" (1940) at the Mayville Post Office in Mayville, Wisconsin.

The building itself is also significant under Criterion C in the area of Architecture as a good local example of the Georgian Revival style. The building maintains a high level of architectural integrity. It retains its arched windows, carved limestone trim, and cupola. The lobby also retains many of its original features, including the tile floor and wainscot and the wood trim. The date of the post office corresponds to the period of building restorations in Williamsburg, Virginia, which began in 1929. The wide publication of these restoration works renewed the public's interest in its architectural past as seen in these buildings and in other historical examples. The Colonial Revival, in all of its forms, was viewed as an American style with ties to America's past.

Together, the building and the mural within its lobby provide an example of the goals of the federal relief agencies through their construction efforts and arts patronage.

United States Department of the Interior  
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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 9/10 Page 5

West Bend Post Office, Washington County, Wisconsin

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### **9. Major Bibliographic References**

The following sources were consulted in addition to those included in the multiple property nomination:

America Builds: The Record of the PWA, Public Works Administration. Washington, DC: 1939.

History of Washington and Ozaukee Counties, Wisconsin. Chicago: 1881.

Park, Marlene and Gerald E. Markowitz. Democratic Vistas: Post Office and Public Art in the New Deal. Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 1984.

State Historical Society of Wisconsin. Reconnaissance files.

West Bend Post Office. Building cornerstone.

Woodson, Leigh Yankey. Wisconsin's New Deal Art. 1980.

### **10. Geographical Data**

#### **Verbal Boundary Description**

This property corresponds to the following legal description: Block 8, Lots 1-6 and North 20' of Lot 7, Assessor's Original Plat, Section 14, Town 11, Range 19.

#### **Boundary Justification**

This boundary encompasses the West Bend Post Office, parking lot, and surrounding yard. This is the limit of the original property holding.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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West Bend Post Office, Washington County, Wisconsin

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### Photographs

The following information is the same for all of the photographs:

West Bend Post Office  
West Bend, Washington County, Wisconsin  
Photographs by Joseph Jurkiewicz, 1993  
Negatives at the State Historical Society of Wisconsin

1. Mural "The Rural Mail Carrier"
2. Interior view, lobby.
3. Rear elevation, looking north.
4. Side elevation, looking west.
5. General street view, looking west.
6. Building cornerstone.
7. Front façade detail.
8. General street view, looking east.
9. Side elevation, looking southeast.
10. Front elevation, looking south.