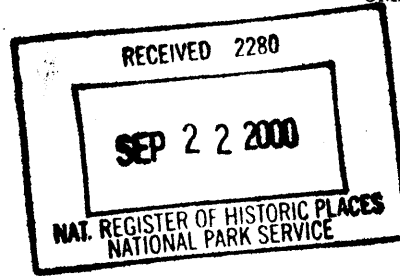


United States Department of Interior  
National Park Service



1251

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 South Milwaukee Post Office  
other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 2210 Tenth Avenue N/A not for publication  
city or town South Milwaukee N/A vicinity  
state Wisconsin code WI county Milwaukee code 079 zip code 53172

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. Cooney  
Signature of commenting official/Title

July 26, 2000  
Date

Deputy SHPO - WI  
State or Federal agency and bureau

South Milwaukee Post Office

Milwaukee County

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:)

*Edson A. Beall*

10/24/00

*Edson A. Beall*

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)  
Classical Revival

**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Foundation Limestone  
walls Brick

roof

other Limestone

**Narrative Description**

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

South Milwaukee Post Office  
Name of Property

Milwaukee County  
County and State

Wisconsin

**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)

Architecture

**Period of Significance**

1931

**Significant Dates**

1931

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

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

Wetmore, James

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

South Milwaukee Post Office  
Name of Property

Milwaukee County  
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

Acreege of Property Less Than One Acre

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

1	16	4/2/9/7/1/0	4/7/5/0/8/6/0	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 and 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

South Milwaukee Post Office  
Name of Property

Milwaukee County  
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**

Section 7 Page 1 South Milwaukee Post Office, Milwaukee County, Wisconsin

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**Narrative Description**

The South Milwaukee Post Office is a large, one-story building located in the business district of South Milwaukee. The building is Neo-Classical Revival in style, constructed in 1931 of cream brick and limestone. The building rests on an elevated basement and has a flat roof.

The façade consists of a colonnaded central portion between two end pavilions. Granite stairs lead from the sidewalk to the front doors. Located on the sidewalls are decorative pole lamps with white glass globes. The central colonnade contains eight unfluted, limestone, Ionic columns set close to the wall. Between the columns are 12-over-12 double hung windows and a door with a large transom in the center bay. Above each window is a limestone panel. The colonnade supports a limestone architrave that wraps around the front portion of the building. Above the architrave is a brick frieze topped by a projecting, denticulated limestone cornice. A brick parapet with limestone coping caps the building.

The side pavilions contain a single 12-over-12 window with a stone panel above. The same window arrangement is found in the first bay of the side elevation. After the first bay the side elevations step back and become simplified in their treatment. The architrave becomes a single, projecting course of brick and the cornice loses its dentils. The height of this stepped back portion is slightly lower than the front portion.

A limestone cornerstone reads: "A.W. Mellon, Secretary of the Treasury, James A. Wetmore, Acting Supervising Architect, 1931."

The building is somewhat unusual in the richness of the brickwork of the front facade. The textural quality of the brick serves as a counterfoil to the formality and severity of the colonnade and other limestone detailing. The brick is laid in Flemish bond with variations in the color of the headers and stretchers. Below each window is a panel of bricks laid vertically. The bricks in the frieze are also laid vertically with a diamond pattern over the outermost column.

In 1965 an addition was constructed at the rear of the building, more than doubling its size. This addition includes a loading dock across its entire width. While not as highly detailed as the original building, the addition is of similar materials and complements the original portion.

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section 7 Page 2 South Milwaukee Post Office, Milwaukee County, Wisconsin

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A large postal lobby is located in the front portion of the building. Some original features remain, including the terrazzo flooring and marble wainscot, and the cove molding with dentils at the ceiling. However, a large aluminum and glass dividing wall with doors has been added, separating the functions of the lobby. The wall ties into an aluminum vestibule. The lighting fixtures are also replacements.

The building is in good condition.

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

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Section 8 Page 3 South Milwaukee Post Office, Milwaukee County, Wisconsin

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**Narrative Statement of Significance**

The South Milwaukee Post Office is an example of a post office evaluated 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 for Architecture. It is one of the best later examples of the Neo-Classical Revival style identified in the survey area. The exterior of the building retains a high degree of architectural integrity. While it has had a major addition, the addition is not visible from the street and was sympathetically designed.

**Historic Context**

This is the first federally owned post office in South Milwaukee. The city was organized in 1892 and the first postmaster was George McCreedy.<sup>1</sup> In 1905 South Milwaukee had a population of 5,284. In the decades between 1910 and 1930 the city grew. By 1930 the population had reached 10,706. Its post office was a first class facility with receipts for 1929 reaching \$64,404.80. This qualified South Milwaukee for a Class C facility because it was first class city with annual receipts over \$60,000. As such it was to receive a building with brick facing and stone trim, wood frame construction, and simple ornamentation in the lobby.

Prior to the construction of the present building, the postal service held a ten year lease on a building at Tenth Avenue and Milwaukee Avenue. The lease was due to expire in 1931 and the city needed a new building. The South Milwaukee Civic Association was organized in 1924 for the sole purpose of securing a post office for South Milwaukee. When the post office was finally approved, the Association acted as an agent for land bids. They tried to obtain property near the city hall, but it proved too expensive. They were successful, however, in convincing federal authorities that the building should face onto Tenth Avenue, the main thoroughfare, and not on Michigan Street as planned.<sup>2</sup>

Construction on the new building began in November 1931 and was completed in June 1932, during the administration of Herbert Hoover. It reflects a period of post office construction just prior to an influx of federal construction money associated with the Depression relief programs. Further historic context on post office construction is found in the multiple property nomination.

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<sup>1</sup> Gertrude Endhoff, "South Milwaukee, Then and Now" (1970), 75.

<sup>2</sup> Noreen Roberts, "U.S. Postal Service Historic, Architectural and Archaeological Significance Survey - South Milwaukee Post Office," 1984.



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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section 8 Page 4 South Milwaukee Post Office, Milwaukee County, Wisconsin

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**Significance**

The South Milwaukee Post Office is locally significant as an example of the Neo-Classical Revival style. The building exhibits the characteristics of the style, including the large, Ionic order colonnade between end pavilions, an unbroken roofline with a cornice and parapet, linteled openings, and a symmetrical composition. The 1893 World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago and other exhibitions played an important role in popularizing the style. While at its most majestic in large scale buildings, such as McKim, Mead and White's Pennsylvania Station in New York or Henry Bacon's Lincoln Memorial in Washington, DC, the style was adapted for banks, libraries and other public buildings throughout the country. In Wisconsin noted examples include George Post's 1906 design for the State Capitol Building and Ferry and Clas's 1900 State Historical Society building, both in Madison.

As seen in other smaller examples, at the South Milwaukee Post Office stonework is paired with brick walls to decrease costs. In this example, the polychromy of the brickwork is somewhat unusual as the general effect in most buildings of the style is of smooth and continuous expanses of wall.

The building is also representative of federal construction before the full implementation of the relief programs. The building is a rare Wisconsin example of the early post office building program in the Hoover era. At the onset of the Depression, a fitful start was made at using public works projects for job creation. As a result, only a few post offices were constructed, with this being the single extant Wisconsin example. Unlike the majority of the post offices built in the state from the mid to late 1930's, this one utilizes more stonework and employs large-scale architectural features, such as the Ionic columns and the denticulated cornice. The building also has an obvious "style," while many later buildings, through the elimination of surface decoration and of architectural features, became essentially styleless.

The architectural integrity of the exterior of the building is good. Although the building has an addition, it is built of similar materials and is in keeping with the original portion. The addition is not visible from the street and does not detract from the façade. The building is recommended for listing as an example of the more decorative Neo-Classical Revival style used in a post office design just prior to the widespread implementation of federal relief programs.

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section 9, 10 Page 5 South Milwaukee Post Office, Milwaukee County, Wisconsin

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**9. Major Bibliographic References**

The following resources were consulted in addition to those listed in the multiple property nomination:

Endhoff, Gertrude. "South Milwaukee, Then and Now." 1970.

Grosvenor, Beth. How to Apply National Register Criteria to Post Offices. National Register of Historic Places, Bulletin 13. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of the Interior, 1984.

Roberts, Noreen. "U.S. Postal Service Historic, Architectural and Archaeological Significance Survey - South Milwaukee Post Office." 1984.

South Milwaukee Post Office. Building cornerstone.

State Historical Society of Wisconsin. Reconnaissance files.

**10. Geographical Data**

**Verbal Boundary Description**

The property corresponds to the following legal description: TK #771-0341; Addition 2 Townsite of South Milwaukee, NW and NE ¼ Section 11 5 22, lots 1-10 incl. Block 29.

**Boundary Justification**

This boundary encompasses the South Milwaukee Post Office, parking lot, and surrounding yard.

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section photos Page 6 South Milwaukee Post Office, Milwaukee County, Wisconsin

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**Photos**

The following information is the same for all the photographs:

South Milwaukee Post Office  
South Milwaukee, Milwaukee County, Wisconsin  
Photographed by Joseph Jurkiewicz, 1993.

1. Façade detail.
2. Interior lobby.
3. Façade detail with entry stairs and lamp.
4. Façade detail.
5. Cornice detail.
6. Rear elevation, looking east.
7. Building cornerstone.
8. Side elevation, looking south.
9. Front façade, looking west.