NPS Form 10-900 (January 1992) Wisconsin Word Processing Format (Approved 1/92) 124

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 Kewaunee Post Office historic name other names/site number N/A 2. Location 119 Ellis Street N/A not for publication street & number N/A city or town Kewaunee vicinity WI state Wisconsin code county Kewaunee code 61 zip code 54216

# 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this  $\underline{X}$  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  $\underline{X}$  meets \_ does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant \_ nationally statewide  $\underline{X}$  locally. (\_ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

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

Cor gnature of commenting official/Title

July 26,2002 Date

Deputy Stillo

State or Federal agency and bureau

Kewaunee Post Office		Kewaunee Cou	unty Wisconsin	
Name of Property		County and Sta	te	
4. National Park Servic	e Certification	A = A = A = A = A = A = A = A = A = A =	<i></i>	
hereby certify that the property is: entered in the National Register.		$\chi / \Lambda \chi_{0} / \chi$	is MAA	
See continuation sheet.	YOUSEN	The Durk A	10124100	
determined eligible for the			<u></u>	
National Register.		,	•	
See continuation sheet.				
determined not eligible for the				
National Register.				
See continuation sheet.			· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
removed from the National	•			
Register.	/)			
other, (explain:)	IL-M			
······································		Vacan	Date of Action	
	Signature of the	Keeper	Date of Action	
. Classification				
Ownership of Property	Category of Property		ces within Property	
(check as many boxes as	(Check only one box)	(Do not include prev	viously listed resources	
as apply)		in the count)		
private	$\mathbf{X}$ building(s)	contributing	noncontributing	
public-local	district	1	0 buildings	
public-State	structure		sites	
X public-Federal	site	structures		
object		objects		
		1	0 total	
Name of related multiple pr	operty listing:	Number of contrib	uting resources	
Enter "N/A" if property not p	part of a multiple property	is previously listed	in the National Register	
isting.)				
United States Post Office Con	struction 1913-1943	0		
State of Wisconsin – Milwauk				
6. Function or Use	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·			
YY		Comment Frances		
Historic Functions	- stien -)	Current Functions	totational	
(Enter categories from instructions)		(Enter categories from instructions)		
Government / Post Office		Government / Post Office		
		· · · · ·		
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	<u>- m 2 0000, - 1, - 1, - 1, - 1, - 1, - 1, - 1</u>	······································		
. Description				
Architectural Classification		Materials		
(Enter categories from instructions)		(Enter categories from instructions)		
Modern Movement		Foundation Brick		
		walls Brick		
	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	6		
<u></u>	······	roof other Limestone		
		outer Linestone		

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

Kewaunee Post Office	Kewaunee County	Wisconsin	
Jame of Property	County and State		
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.)	Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions) Art		
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.			
$\underline{X}$ 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.	Period of Significance 1940		
_ D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.	Significant Dates		
Criteria Considerations (Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)			
<ul> <li>Property is:</li> <li>A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.</li> <li>B removed from its original location.</li> </ul>	Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked) N/A		
C a birthplace or grave.	Cultural Affiliation		
_D a cemetery.	N/A		
E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.			
<ul> <li>F a commemorative property.</li> <li>G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.</li> </ul>	Architect/Builder Simon, Louis A. Melick, Neal A.		

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

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Kewaunee Post Office Name of Property Kewaunee 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 #

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less Than One Acre

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

1	16	4/6/0/1/5/0	4/9/2/2/7/0/0	3			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2				4			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone See Cor	Easting tinuation Sheet	Northing t

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 Wet Park Place			telephone	414-359-2300
city or town	Milwaukee	state	Wisconsin	zip code	53224

#### Primary location of additional data:

- X State Historic Preservation Office
- \_ Other State Agency
- \_ Federal Agency
- Local government
- \_ University
- \_ Other
  - Name of repository:

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## **Statement of Significance**

The Kewaunee Post Office is an example of a Federal post office in the context of the multiple property nomination form "United States Post Office Construction from 1913 to 1943, State of Wisconsin – Milwaukee District. The Kewaunee Post Office is being nominated under Criterion C – Art for the WPA mural "Winter Sports" located in its lobby.

## **Historic Context**

This building is the first federally owned post office in Kewaunee, Wisconsin. Prior to its construction, postal services were conducted in various locations selected by the local postmaster. This post office is one of several constructed in Wisconsin by the Federal Public Works Administration in the 1930s. It is similar to those in Prairie du Chien and in Shawano, Wisconsin, and is an example of the standardized design procedures employed by the federal government during this period. The history of post office construction in Wisconsin under the federal relief program is explained in the multiple property nomination.

In the lobby of the Kewaunee Post Office is a mural painted by Paul Faulkner titled "Winter Sports."<sup>2</sup> The resulting work was based on an entry by the artist in the 1939 Wisconsin Competition.<sup>3</sup> The historic context for mural art in the post offices of this era is also discussed in the multiple property nomination.

## Significance

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

It is eligible under Criterion C, Art, for the mural of high artistic value found in the lobby. This mural, painted by artist Paul Faulkner, is a good example of Depression-era art designed under the auspices of the Public Works Administration (PWA) and the Works Progress Administration (WPA).

Faulkner first presented his work in the 1939 Wisconsin Competion and then painted the Kewaunee Post Office mural when he won that commission. Faulkner also painted a mural in Clarion, Iowa, as a part of

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Karal Ann Marling, <u>Wall-to-Wall America: A Cultural History of Post Office Murals in the Great Depression</u> (Minneapolis: 1982), 206.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Marling, p. 206.

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this program.<sup>4</sup> Characteristic of federally funded art projects, "Winter Sports" is painted in a realistic style and presents a theme relevant to the region. Here, a variety of winter activities in the Midwest are depicted as youngsters ski, sled, skate, and toboggan.

Paul Faulkner was born 2 April 1913 in North Platte, Nebraska. He received his BFA from the University of Nebraska and also studied at the Art Institute of Chicago with Edgar Britton. His work was exhibited in the 48 States Competition held in 1939. Faulkner worked on a number of government art projects, including assisting with the murals for the Department of the Interior Building in Washington, DC. In 1950 Faulkner was appointed an instructor at the Layton School of Art in Milwaukee.

In conclusion, the Kewaunee Post Office is locally significant as a largely unaltered, PWA project with an intact mural. The post office lobby retains its original woodwork and tile flooring and wainscot providing an historic setting for the work "Winter Sports" by Paul Faulkner. The mural is a local, representative example of federally funded art of the period.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Marling, p.206. Marlene park and Gerald E. Markowitz, <u>Democratic Vistas: Post Office Art in the New Deal</u> (Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 1984), 210, 232.

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#### 9. Major Bibliographic References

The following sources were consulted in addition to those included in the multiple property nomination for post office in Wisconsin builtbetween 1913 and 1943:

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

Falk, Peter Hastings (Ed.). Who Was Who in American Art. Sound View Press, 1985.

Kewaunee Post Office. Building cornerstone.

- Marling, Karal Ann. <u>Wall-to-Wall America: A Cultural History of Post Office Murals in the Great</u> Depression. Minneapolis: 1982.
- Park, Marlene and Gerald E. Markowitz. <u>Democratic Vistas: Post Offices and Public Art in the New Deal</u>. Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 1984.

State Historical Society of Wisconsin. Reconnaissance files.

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

#### 10. Geographical Data.

#### **Verbal Boundary Description**

The nominated property corresponds to the following legal description of a parcel located in the City of Kewaunee: "Government lot 4 S17 T23N R25E. Part of Governemnt Lot 4: COM AT INSECTN OF E LN OF MAIN ST & N LN OF ELLIS ST TH N 140 E 110 FT S 140 FT W 110 FT TO P.O.B."

#### **Boundary Justification**

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

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#### **Photos**

The following information is the same for all photographs:

Kewaunee Post Office Kewaunee, Kewaunee County, Wisconsin Photographed by Joseph Jurkiewicz, 1993 Negatives at the State Historical Society of Wisconsin

- 1. Façade detail, cornerstone.
- 2. Interior view, lobby.
- 3. Interior view, mural "Winter Sports."
- 4. Rear elevation, looking south.
- 5. Side elevation, looking east.
- 6. Side elevation, looking west.
- 7. Front elevation, looking north.