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SEP 08 1989

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

NATIONAL  
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms (National Register Bulletin 18). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Goodland United States Post Office  
other names/site number Same

2. Location

street & number 124 East 11th Street  not for publication  
city, town Goodland  vicinity  
state Kansas code KS county Sherman code 181 zip code 67735

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	_____ buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	_____	_____ sites
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	_____	_____ structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	_____	_____ objects
		<u>1</u>	_____ Total

Name of related multiple property listing:  
Kansas Post Offices that Contain Treasury  
Department Section Artwork, 1936-1942

Number of contributing resources previously  
listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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.  See continuation sheet.  
Ramon Powell State Historic Preservation Officer February 14, 1989  
Signature of certifying official Date  
Kansas State Historical Society  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting or other official Date  
\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this 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.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain:)

Beth Boland 10/17/89  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

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**6. Function or Use**

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Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Government: Post Office

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Government: Post Office

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**7. Description**

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Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

20th Century Revival: Classical  
Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone: limestone

walls Brick

roof Other: tar and gravel

other Limestone

Wood

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Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Goodland United States Post Office (c. 1935-1936) is located at 124 East 11th Street in Goodland, Sherman County, Kansas (pop. 5,708). The one story, flat roofed, red brick building has a southern facade orientation. The building measures approximately sixty-five feet from east to west and eighty feet from north to south. A double door pierces the center of the building's facade, set in an arched recession with a wooden surround. The fanlight has been covered. Steps lead up to the doorway. Two sets of arched window openings fenestrate the facade. Although the fanlights have been either removed or covered, the multi-paned, 1/1 double hung window treatment is retained. A limestone cornice decorates the facade's upper wall, continuing across the first bay of the east and west elevations. The building has a rear extension which resulted in some fenestration changes to the original structure. A loading dock projects from the west elevation. This post office is an example of a smaller class C or D standardized design type that was repeated throughout the country during the 1930s.

The mural, "Rural Free Delivery", was installed on the west wall of the Goodland Post Office lobby above the postmaster's door and the double framed bulletin boards. This is the traditional location for Section artwork in the smaller class C and D post offices. "Rural Free Delivery" is an oil on canvas mural that depicts the delivery of mail to a Kansas farm. A farm family gathers at the picket fence as the U.S. Mail Carrier rides up in his horse and buggy. The carrier hands the father a letter, the father stands in the center of the canvas. His wife stands behind him, struggling with two young children. On the left side of the canvas the older girl and boy swing on the fence gate. On the right side of the canvas the grandmother, wearing a hooded shawl and leaning on a cane, walks away from the family. Sunflowers, the Kansas state flower, grow along the white picket fence. A green field stretches out beyond the family. A neighboring farmstead stands on the horizon, meeting the blue sky and the huge, billowing white clouds. The figures are slightly blocky and cubist, with rough facial features and a heavy emphasis on facial shadowing.

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The mural was installed on March 22, 1937 and measured 12' 1/8" by 4' 3" before installation. It was glued to the wall with white lead and varnish. In August, 1973 the mural's condition was assessed as good and remains as such.

A varnished wooden vestibule projects into the lobby, cutting off some view of the mural. This is a traditional design feature found in most of the post offices included in this nomination. The lobby floor retains its original tiles. The postmaster's door and the bulletin boards retain their varnished wood surrounds. The panelled wooden wainscoting is retained, as is the classical ceiling moulding. The duct or beam that surmounts the mural appears in a c. 1937 photograph of the mural. The original hanging light fixtures have been replaced with almost flush mounted fluorescent lights. The service windows along the north wall of the lobby have been altered.

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The selection of rural free delivery as the subject material for the Goodland mural was significant. Until rural free delivery, farmers were isolated from current news, events, and to a certain extent, store bought goods. Rural free delivery began in the late 1890s and by 1926 the last routes had been established. By the time that Adams painted the Goodland mural, rural free delivery had become a symbol of rural American farm life. Adams uses rural free delivery as a symbol of everyday life, letting it represent the democratic tradition.

In a 1964 interview done with the Smithsonian, Adams indicated that there was little community involvement in the development of the subject material and presentation of the mural. He states that: "I think probably most of us (Section artists) would endeavor to develop the material for our designs out of a regional motivation, either landscape or the activities of a particular community. I know both (Section murals) of mine were." When asked what the Section projects did as far as art appreciation was concerned he said, ". . . they certainly brought the communities and residents of the communities into contact with painting, in many instances for the first time . . ."

Adams was awarded the Goodland commission as a result of competent designs submitted for a Section competition, but there was no competition for the Goodland commission. Adams received the contract for the mural on June 15, 1936 and the mural was installed on March 22, 1937. "Rural Free Delivery" was installed on the west wall of the post office lobby above the postmaster's door and the double framed bulletin boards. It measured 12' 1/8" by 4' 3" before installation. Adams received \$985 for the commission. Adams was also responsible for the Section mural in the Deming, New Mexico post office. The Goodland Post Office is an example of one of the many smaller class C or D type post offices that received Section artwork in Kansas.

Adams was born in Topeka, Kansas and studied at the Chicago Institute and the Art Students League in New York City. He was a well regarded contemporary realist painter who was influenced by Dasburg and worked in the tradition of Rivera and Orozco. Adams was the youngest and last member to be elected to the Taos Society of Artists, his integration of cubism and realism place him outside the tradition of work normally associated with the Taos School. Adams taught at the University of

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New Mexico in Albuquerque from 1929 until his retirement in 1963. Adams' works are represented in major museums and collections throughout the country.

Please see the Kansas Post Office Artwork (1936-1942) Thematic Resources cover nomination for additional information.

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Loomis, Sylvia. Interview with Kenneth M. Adams at his Studio, 643 Cedar Street, Albuquerque, New Mexico, 23 April 1964. (The Oral History Collections at Archives of American Art. Smithsonian Institution).

National Archives. Public Building Services (GR 121), Technical Questionnaires (Series 134). Goodland, Kansas.

Park, Marlene and Gerald Markowitz. Democratic Vistas. (Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 1984).

Samuels, Peggy and Harold. The Illustrated Biographical Encyclopedia of Artists of the American West. (Garden City, NY: Doubleday, 1976).

Svedlow Dr. Anthony V. (Mulvane Gallery, Washburn University, Topeka, Kansas). Personal interview with Martha Hagedorn-Krass, January 8, 1988.

Topeka Daily Capital, 9 November 1947.

**8. Statement of Significance**

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally  statewide  locally

Applicable National Register Criteria  A  B  C  D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)  A  B  C  D  E  F  G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Art  
Politics/Government  
Social History

Period of Significance

1937  
1937  
1937

Significant Dates

1937  
1937  
1937

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Adams, Kenneth M.: Artist  
Simon, Louis: Supervising Architect  
Lundgren and Carlson: Builder

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Goodland United States Post Office (c. 1935-1936) is being nominated to the National Register as part of the Kansas Post Office Artwork (1936-1942) Thematic Resources nomination at the local and state levels of significance under criteria A and C for its historical associations with the Treasury Department's Section program and for the artistic significance of the mural that it contains. The mural, "Rural Free Delivery", was painted by Albuquerque, New Mexico artist Kenneth Miller Adams (1897-1966) in 1937.

"Rural Free Delivery" is an oil on canvas mural that depicts the delivery of mail to a Kansas farm. A farm family gathers at the picket fence as the U.S. Mail Carrier rides up in his horse and buggy. The carrier hands the father a letter, the father stands in the center of the canvas. His wife stands behind him, struggling with two young children. On the left side of the canvas the older girl and boy swing on the fence gate. On the right side of the canvas the grandmother, wearing a hooded shawl and leaning on a cane, walks away from the family. Sunflowers, the Kansas state flower, grow along the white picket fence. A green field stretches out beyond the family. A neighboring farmstead stands on the horizon, meeting the blue sky and the huge, billowing white clouds.

Adams employed a figurative style in "Rural Free Delivery", the figures are slightly blocky and cubist, with rough facial features and a heavy emphasis on facial shadowing. The essence of this piece is to be visually accessible, this is achieved by combining cubism with the basic tenets of realism. The figures in "Rural Free Delivery" do not represent particular individuals so much as all rural farm families and all rural mail carriers. "Rural Free Delivery" is representative of the regional social realism that was encouraged under the Section program.

See continuation sheet

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

Falk, Peter Hastings. Who Was Who in American Art. (Madison, CT: Soundview Press, 1985).

Fuller, Wayne E. RFD - The Changing Face of Rural America. (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1964).

General Services Administration. Treasury Department Section Records - Kansas Post Offices. Goodland, Kansas.

Harmsen, Dorothy. Western Americana. (Flagstaff, AZ: Northland Press, 1971).

Kansas City Star, 23 May 1935.

See continuation sheet

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- 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

Specify repository:

Kansas State Historical Society

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreege of property Less than 1 acre

UTM References

A 1, 4 | 2, 6, 6, 5, 2, 0 | 4, 3, 5, 8, 8, 2, 0  
 Zone Easting Northing

C    |    |   

B    |    |     
 Zone Easting Northing

D    |    |   

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property is located on S 15' Lot 8 and all of lots 9-12, Block 60 in Goodland, Kansas. The property is bounded to the south by E. 11th, to the east by Broadway, and to the west and north by adjacent property lines.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the entire parcel that is historically associated with the property.

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Martha Hagedorn-Krass, Architectural Historian  
 organization Kansas State Historical Society date February 14, 1989  
 street & number 120 W. 10th telephone 913-296-5264  
 city or town Topeka state Kansas zip code 66612