

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

SEP 08 1989

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 16). 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 Kingman United States Post Office

other names/site number Same

2. Location

street & number 425 N. Main Street

not for publication

city, town Kingman

vicinity

state Kansas

code KS

county Kingman

code 095

zip code 67068

3. Classification

Ownership of Property

- private, public-local, public-State, public-Federal

Category of Property

- building(s), district, site, structure, object

Number of Resources within Property

Table with 2 columns: Contributing, Noncontributing. Rows for buildings, sites, structures, objects, 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. Signature of certifying official: Ramon Power, State Historic Preservation Officer, Date: February 27, 1989. Agency: Kansas State Historical Society.

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, determined eligible for the National Register, determined not eligible for the National Register, removed from the National Register, other (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper: [Handwritten Signature], Date of Action: 10-17-89

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

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)

20th Century Revival: Classical
Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brick

walls Brick

roof Asphalt

other Limestone

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Kingman United States Post Office (c. 1940-1941) is located at 425 N. Main Street in Kingman, Kingman County, Kansas (pop. 3,563). The one story, truncated hipped roof, red brick building has an eastern facade orientation. A one story, one bay flat roofed wing projects from both the south and north elevations. The building measures approximately fifty-five feet from north to south and sixty-three feet from east to west. A double door pierces the center of the building's facade, surmounted by a large arched transom. Steps lead up to the doorway. Two large, multi-paned, 1/1 double hung window flank the doorway. The facade corners on the main unit are bevelled at a forty-five degree angle. One large, multipaned 1/1, double hung window pierces the facade elevations of the wings. Similar fenestration is employed on the lesser elevations. This post office is an example of the smaller class C or D standardized design type that was repeated throughout the country during the 1930s and 1940s.

The mural, "In the Days of the Cattlemen's Picnic", was installed on the south wall of the Kingman Post Office lobby above the postmaster's door. This is the traditional location for Section artwork in the smaller class C and D post offices. "In the Days of the Cattlemen's Picnic" is an egg tempera on canvas mural depicting preparations for a rodeo that was part of the annual celebration put on by the Cattlemen's Association of Kingman. Cowboys herd cattle and horses around the corral as men and women lean against the fence and others watch the activity from horseback and a bicycle. Wilbur employs a primary palette of dusty beige, burnt seina, and green for the mural.

The mural was installed on July 1, 1942. It measured 11'2" by 5'8 3/4" before installation and is surmounted by a cornice moulding. The mural was painted on a coarse cotton canvas that was coated with a thin gesso. The tempera medium was based on a lean-medium emulsion of egg, linseed oil and water. A coat of emulsion was applied after the painting was thoroughly dry but it was not varnished. Wilbur suggested cleaning the mural gently with a soft sponge or rag, using as little water (or water and Ivory soap) as possible. In cleaning strokes she emphasized following the forms of the picture rather than using horizontal, vertical, or circular motions. If needed, the picture could be blotted dry with

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Continuation Sheet**

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a clean rag. The mural was restored by Marion Iserman of Denver, Colorado in the early 1970s. In August, 1973 the condition of the mural was assessed as good and remains as such.

A varnished, wooden vestibule projects into the lobby, but does not cut off any view of the mural because of the angled outer corner of the lobby. The vestibule is a traditional design feature found in most of the post offices included in this nomination. The lobby retains its original marble wainscotting. The south wall appears to have been modernized, the bulletin boards have been covered with panelling. This panelling is used throughout the lobby on the walls above the marble wainscotting. Additionally the postmaster's door and the surround appear to have been replaced. The floor tiles do not appear to be original. The original light fixtures have been replaced with almost flush mounted fluorescent lights. Although these changes do affect the integrity of the lobby the mural itself is not affected.

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

1942
1942
1942

Significant Dates

1942
1942
1942

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Wilbur, Jesse S.: Artist
Simon, Louis: Supervising Architect

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

The Kingman United States Post Office (c. 1940-1941) 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 association with the Treasury Department's Section program and for the artistic significance of the mural that it contains. The mural, "In the Days of the Cattlemen's Picnic", was painted by Bozeman, Montana artist Jessie S. Wilbur (1912-?) in 1942. Because the mural is less than fifty years old, criteria consideration G, which allows for exception significance in the case of properties achieving significance within the past fifty years, is also a factor. The National Register has identified post offices containing Section artwork as being exceptionally significant if they retain integrity from their period of significance.

"In the Days of the Cattlemen's Picnic" is an egg tempera on canvas mural depicting preparations for a rodeo that was part of the annual celebration put on by the Cattlemen's Association of Kingman. Cowboys herd cattle and horses around the corral as men and women lean against the fence, and others watch the activity from horseback and a bicycle. Wilbur employs a primary palette of dusty beige, burnt seina, and green for the mural. Wilbur does not try to illustrate a particular time so much as to capture the event in general. Of the mural Wilbur said, "An artist does not try to photograph . . . but tries first to form an interesting organization and by using significant details, suggest the spirit of the scene." "In the Days of the Cattlemen's Picnic" is representative of the regional, illustrative realism that was funded under the Section program.

The extent of community involvement in the development of the subject material and presentation of the mural is not clear in the Kingman case. Wilbur likely received the Kingman commission as a result of designs previously submitted to the Section. Wilbur received the contract for

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

General Services Administration. Treasury Department's Section Records - Kingman, Kansas.

Kingman Leader Courier, 29 June 1942.

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

Wichita Eagle-Beacon, 21 May 1972.

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

Acreage of property Less than 1 acre.

UTM References

A 1 4 5 7 8 2 6 0 4 1 6 6 6 7
 Zone Easting Northing

C

B
 Zone Easting Northing

D

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description The nominated property is located on lots 83, 85, 87, 89, 91, 93, and S½ 95 on Main Street in Kingman, Kansas. The property is bounded to the east by Main Street, to the west by an alley, and to the north and south 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
 organization Kansas State Historical Society date February 27, 1989
 street & number 120 W. 10th telephone 913-296-5264
 city or town Topeka state Kansas zip code 66612

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the mural on September 29, 1941 and the mural was installed on July 1, 1942. "In the Days of the Cattlemen's Picnic" was installed on the south wall of the lobby above the postmaster's door. It measured 11'2" by 5'8 3/4" before installation. A cornice moulding surmounts the mural. Wilbur received \$800 for the mural. The Kingman Post Office is an example of one of the many smaller class C or D type post offices that received Section artwork in Kansas.

Wilbur was born in Whitewater, Wisconsin. She studied art and education at the Colorado State College of Education, Greeley, receiving her Master's Degree in 1938. She then taught in art in Delaware and Iowa before moving to a position at the Montana State College, where she was employed when she received the Kingman commission.

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