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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

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 United States Post Office  
other names/site number N/A

### 2. Location

street & number 112 Main Avenue N/A not for publication  
city, town Kaukauna N/A vicinity  
state Wisconsin code WI county Outagamie code 087 zip code 54130

### 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	<u>      </u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u> structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A  
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 [Signature] Date 1/22/92  
State Historic Preservation Officer-WI  
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): \_\_\_\_\_

Entered in the  
**National Register**

[Signature] 1/22/92

[Signature] Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

GOVERNMENT/post office

VACANT/not in use

7. Description

Architectural Classification (enter categories from instructions)

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

Colonial Revival

foundation concrete

Georgian Revival

walls brick

Moderne

roof composition

other stone

wood

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The former United States Post Office at Kaukauna is a small federal building constructed in 1936-1937 in the Colonial Revival Style with Georgian Revival elements and influences of the Moderne Style. It stands on approximately a half acre of land located at the southeasterly corner of Main Avenue and Maple Street on Island No. 4 in the lower Fox River where it runs through the center of the City of Kaukauna in Outagamie County. At this point Main Avenue is the city's central thoroughfare, linking the Island with commercial districts which developed on the north side of the river around Wisconsin Avenue and on the south side of the river around Second Street in this northeastern Wisconsin city of about 12,000. (1)

The buildings on the Island around this stretch of Main Avenue are two and three story public buildings constructed, for the most part, in the first half of the twentieth century. To the northwest, across the street from the post office, are the Kaukauna Public Library (1905) at 111 Main Avenue and a three story commercial building which was formerly the Kaukauna City Hall (1922) at 101 Main Avenue. To the northeast, across Maple Street and an intervening parking lot, are the main building of Kaukauna High School (1922), the Civic Auditorium and Gymnasium (1933-34), and an addition to the high school (1963). (2)

The post office faces to the northwest and is set back about 25 feet from the sidewalk on Main Avenue and about 30 feet from the sidewalk on Maple Street. An asphalt driveway with concrete curbing runs along the northerly (Maple Street) side of the building; it widens into a parking area which abuts the northerly and easterly edges of a concrete loading dock at the rear. The land on both sides of the building runs downhill from Main Avenue, but the building sits on a level grade, with a gentle slope on all but the Main Avenue side. Evergreen shrubs are set along the foundation and in front of the basement window wells to the left and right of the central steps at the front of the building, and much less disciplined evergreens flourish between the two exterior stairwells on the Maple Street side. Relatively young deciduous trees grow at the front and on both sides of the building.

The post office is comprised of two distinct sections. The front section is large and rectangular, and is one story with a high ceiling; the rear section is a much smaller, central wing, also rectangular, with two low stories beneath a parapet of the same height as the front section. Designed and built together, they create a T-plan, with its stunted tail to the rear. The building is of masonry construction with a concrete foundation and a flat, composition roof. The exterior walls on all sides are surfaced with a brownish-red face brick laid up in an American bond and accented with sills, coping, and decorative details of grey stone.

[x] See continuation sheet

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The front (westerly) facade is precisely symmetrical and the surface detail is essentially flat. Three steps of a wide concrete stoop lead to a central doorway, which is balanced, right and left, by a pair of identical windows on each side. These large, double-hung, twelve-over-twelve, wooden sashes are set flush within the red brick wall; and their grey stone sills project only slightly from the flat plane of the wall. The window frames are painted white. On each side of the steps, set within a window well that has an iron grill, are two, six-over-six, double-hung windows which provide light to basement offices. The double doorway is set under a round arch with a wide stone frame of smooth-faced, rusticated grey stone with rebated joints. Above the doors is a fanlight protected by an ornamental grill of wrought iron. The doorway and its surround are the principal decorative features of the facade.

A stone stringcourse, impressed with a Vitruvian scroll and interspersed with rosettes, is set at the base of the flush parapet all along both sides of the building. It wraps around all four corners of the front section and stops, on both the right and left, about a quarter of the way along the expanse of the front facade; it ends in the back at the projection of the rear wing. This stone stringcourse is the only decorative stonework on the side or rear walls of the building.

Six windows, matching those on the front, are spaced evenly along the northerly wall. Below them, to the right and left, are twin stairwells with a basement doorway and small-pane basement windows in each. Four windows like those on the front and two, much smaller, four-over-four, double-hung windows are balanced in pairs along the southerly wall—the twin pairs of larger windows on the ends and the smaller pair in the middle. A single well with basement windows like those on the front is centered under the most westerly pair of windows on this side. One large window, matching those on the front, is set in the back wall of the front section on each side of the rear wing.

The back half of the lower story of the rear section is an open shipping dock—all but its rearmost two and a half feet protected by the second story above. Two, wide and open bays face the rear, with a narrower open bay on the northerly and southerly sides of the wing. A set of double doors provides access from the dock to the building. Next to them, in the northerly corner of the wall is a small casement window with eight divided lights. Another window like it is set just above the foundation in the enclosed half of the northerly side of the wing. They provide light to an interior stairway to the basement. A larger, six-over-six, double-hung window is set in the enclosed half of the lower level on the southerly side of the wing. Eight windows matching it are evenly spaced on the upper level—two on each of the sides and four across the back. A single chimney stack—set within the crook of the ell where the front and rear sections meet on the northerly facade—is the only element of structural mass which breaks the strict symmetry of the building on any of its sides.

The interior walls and ceilings of the building are plaster; the window and door frames are dark stained oak. The public lobby is L-shaped, running along the doorway and all

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but the most southerly of the windows on the front, as well as along the three most westerly windows on the Maple Street side. It has a fourteen foot ceiling with cove moldings and a quarry tile floor. There is a quarry tile wainscoting with a wooden crown molding around the walls. The main entrance of the building leads to a paneled vestibule which projects into the lobby. The vestibule has doors to the right and left, with a ribbon of fixed, small-pane windows set at waist height between them. On the right of the lobby is a doorway to the postmaster's office. Centered above it is a framed mural. Straight ahead are three bays of postal service windows surrounded in wood paneling with a metal grillwork above it. On the left the lobby turns a corner and runs along a single bay designed to hold post office lock boxes, with the same metal grillwork above its wooden paneling. At the end of this leg of the "L" is a doorway to the work room.

The postmaster's office is in the southwesterly corner of the building, with one window facing the front and two windows along the southerly side of it. The ceiling is fourteen feet high with a narrow wooden molding, and the floor is varnished hardwood. A low wooden chair rail runs all around the room. The window and door moldings match those in the lobby. A small lavatory opens off the room in the southeast corner, with access beyond it to metal ladders which lead down to the basement or up to a "lookout gallery," from which the work room can be observed. The wall opposite the side windows has two doorways, one leading to the lobby and the other directly to the work room.

The work room comprises the remainder of the front section of the building. It has an unadorned fourteen foot ceiling with two skylights above the area just behind the postal service screens that separate it from the lobby. The floor is varnished hardwood. The door and window moldings are simpler than those in the lobby, and a dark wooden wainscot runs around the walls and around the room's central posts. In the southwest corner, adjacent to the postmaster's office, is a built-in vault with the enclosed lookout gallery above it, only slits in the wall providing for observation of the work room.

Along the back wall of the work room, in the enclosed portion of the rear wing on the lower level, are a small area with access ladders to the basement and to another lookout gallery above, a small storage room, and a "mailing vestibule" (leading to the open "mailing platform" behind it)—all with doors opening directly on the work room—as well as stairways to the basement and to the mezzanine. The mezzanine (the upper level of the rear wing) is one long, low ceilinged room with a rest room at its southerly end and an enclosed lookout gallery in its southwest corner. The basement includes rooms intended for use as offices by the Internal Revenue Service and other local federal agencies, as well as two storage rooms, a boiler room, and a fuel storage room. All the areas have painted walls of concrete block, painted concrete pillars and ceilings, and painted concrete floors.

On the whole, the post office stands today very much as it was built. Almost no exterior alterations have been made. A number of window panes are cracked or broken, and some of the windows were boarded up to protect them from vandalism after the building was vacated,

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but the original sashes still exist behind the plywood. The lettering on the front of the building which once read: "United States Post Office, Kaukauna, Wisconsin," has been removed. Originally, there was a canopy at the rear over the exposed portion of the mailing platform. It was supported by five turnbuckles and hooks in the back wall, on each side of and between the windows of the upper level. That canopy has disappeared, only the vestigial flanges for the hooks remain, and the brick shows a "white" stripe where the canopy once met the wall. The interior has been altered only a bit more. The wire mesh partition or cage around the vault area and the money order and C.O.D. windows has been removed. The post office lock boxes have been pulled out, only wooden partitions remaining. All the original lighting fixtures have been removed or replaced, except in the basement. The incandescent, hanging light fixtures have been replaced in the lobby and the postmaster's office with enclosed fluorescent boxes which hug the ceiling and in the work room with six strips of suspended fluorescent fixtures. The domed fixtures in the mezzanine have been removed. But the building has been reasonably well maintained, although some of the paint is flaking both inside and out.

Kaukauna's 1930s post office retains a high degree of integrity. It stands at its original location, still set among the municipal, educational, and community buildings which formed a civic center for Kaukauna during the 1930s, the period of its historical significance. It retains the essential configuration and floor plan of a small post office in the 1930s, but more importantly, it retains almost every element of its architectural fabric. Its original materials have been preserved, and its Colonial Revival Style, modified by influences of the Moderne, displays the unmistakable character of a design by the federal government executed during the years of the Great Depression and the New Deal.

### Notes to Section 7

- (1) The gross population of Kaukauna is 11,982, according to "1980 - 1990 Census Population for Wisconsin Counties" (Madison: State Data Center, Department of Administration, State of Wisconsin, 1991).
- (2) Melanie Betz and Carolyn Kellogg, Final Report: Intensive Historic Resource Survey, City of Kaukauna (Kaukauna: Community Development Department, City of Kaukauna, 1983), intensive survey forms 17/30, 17/31, & 21/3.

**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)

Politics/Government

Architecture

Period of Significance

1934 - 1938 (1)

Significant Dates

1934 (2)

1937 (3)

1938 (4)

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Simon, Louis A., Supervising  
Architect (5)

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

INTRODUCTION

The former United States Post Office at Kaukauna is locally significant under National Register Criteria A and C. Under Criterion A, it is significant in the area of Politics/Government as an evocative local symbol of federal social and cultural policies during the years of the Great Depression and the New Deal. Under Criterion C, it is significant as a fine example of the Colonial Revival Style as it was interpreted by staff architects working for the federal government during the 1930s and as it was built in small towns like Kaukauna during those years of the Great Depression.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Kaukauna was first settled by Native Americans and French-Canadian fur traders. Sometime before 1760, Charles de Langlade and his son-in-law, Pierre Grignon, who were fur traders from Green Bay, established a trading post at Grand Kaukalin (one of a variety of early names for Kaukauna). When Pierre died in 1795, his son, Augustin, took charge of the post, although he did not actually settle in Kaukauna until 1813. Dominique Ducharme, also a fur trader, is reputed to have been the first permanent white settler. When he arrived in 1790, there was already at Kaukauna an Indian village of more than 1,500 inhabitants. In 1793 Ducharme obtained from the Menominee Indians a deed for more than a thousand acres of land north of the Fox River. Around 1800 he sold that land to his younger brother, Paul, who sold a portion of it to Augustin Grignon in 1812. Augustin's sons, Charles and Alexander, took over the family business and homestead when their father and mother moved to Butte des Mort in 1830. Paul Ducharme sold the remainder of his land to John Lawe, another Green Bay trader, who gave the land to his son, George. In 1839 George Lawe came to Kaukauna, opened a trading post, and started a farm. (6)

The City of Kaukauna is divided into north and south sides by the Fox River. The north side was the first to be settled. That was where the Grignons, the Ducharmes, and Lawe lived and maintained their trading posts. In 1850 Lawe had a portion of his land platted as the Townsite of Kaukauna—consisting of seventeen blocks on the north side of the river—just in time for the influx, in 1851, of hundreds of canal workers who built the locks and dams that opened the Fox River to navigation. Houses and shops were rapidly built along

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Wisconsin Avenue to accommodate the workers; but when the canal was completed, the workers moved on and the new buildings were vacated just as rapidly. They were sold and moved, becoming houses, barns, and storage buildings for farms to the north of town. Only the Grignons and Lawe and a few other settlers were left in the "Village of Kaukauna," as it was called, although it was never incorporated. In 1861 the railroad came to Kaukauna; it was included on a line of the Chicago and Northwestern between Milwaukee and Green Bay. By 1870 the village had a hotel, lumber, saw, flour, and grist mills, stove, spoke, and axe handle factories, a school with about forty pupils, and eight to ten new buildings under construction. The 1870s brought a quickening of activity: Colonel H.A. Frambach built the first of the paper mills which were to become Kaukauna's principal industry; churches were organized and a bank was established; new stores opened along Wisconsin Avenue and the city's first newspaper was published, all on the north side of the river. (7)

There was some settlement on the south side of the river during the French and Indian period, but county histories record only the fact and no details. In 1825 Daniel Whitney, still another Green Bay trader, built a sawmill on the south bank, almost opposite to one that Augustin Grignon had built on the north bank nearly ten years before. Whitney also had a trading post at Statesburg, where the Stockbridge and Munsee Indian tribes, under a government treaty, had established a community in 1822. The settlement stretched for four or five miles along the south side of the Fox River at the Grand Kaukalin and extended for nearly two miles into the interior. It numbered about 225 people. Another treaty in 1834 moved the Stockbridge Indians to the western shore of Lake Winnebago, and development on the south bank declined. The south side of Kaukauna was a wilderness when, in 1872, tracks for the Milwaukee, Lake Shore and Western Railway were laid along the south banks of the river for the railroad's line from Manitowoc to Antigo. In 1880 officials of the railroad platted the Village of Ledyard and in 1881 they moved the northern office of the line from Manitowoc to Ledyard. Two years later it was a boom town, with a population of nearly a thousand railroad workers. A commercial district developed along Second Street to serve their needs. (8)

In 1884 a charter was granted to the Village of Ledyard, but there was a great deal of opposition to its incorporation—in effect, separating Kaukauna and Ledyard, which would, according to a dissenting petition, "create a destructive rivalry and neutralize the energies of both." A movement was begun to merge the two, and only a year later an act of incorporation was passed by the state legislature uniting the two villages as the City of Kaukauna. However, the union did not dispel the rivalry between the north and south sides. An island which had been created in the river by cutting through a portion of the south bank in 1880 to build the Kaukauna Water Power Canal—Island No. 4—was considered neutral territory by both sides; so an opera house on the island was chosen as the site for the first city council meeting. By 1886 a city hall and a firehouse had been built next to the opera house. The Island maintained its neutrality; it became a sort of civic center. The public library was built there in 1905 and a high school in 1891. (Classes were moved to the north side in 1897, but the present high school was opened on the Island in 1923.) A municipal building was built there in 1922, a civic auditorium in 1933, the

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post office in 1936, and a war memorial in 1943. The city hall was moved to a remodeled building at 201 West Second on the south side of the river in 1975, and the post office was moved to a new building at 120 Doty on the north side of the river in 1988. (9)

POLITICS/GOVERNMENT

Kaukauna's 1930s post office is significant as a local symbol of the domestic policies and programs carried out by the federal government during the years of the Great Depression in America. The building was planned, constructed, and fully completed between 1934 and 1938, during the time when President Franklin Delano Roosevelt was implementing the domestic policies of the New Deal, which have affected the lives and welfare of Americans ever since.

The blueprints for a new post office at Kaukauna were prepared by the Procurement Division of the Treasury Department in 1934, during the initial year of its operation as "one of the greatest, if not the greatest, architectural client and producer in the world," according to a contemporary assessment by Edward Bruce. President Roosevelt had authorized the creation of the Procurement Division by executive order in June of 1933, to supervise the planning, building, decorating, and maintenance of all federal buildings in the United States. Construction bids for the Kaukauna Post Office had been solicited and received soon after the specifications were ready, but the bids had to be rejected because they had been compiled under the codes of the NRA, which were found unconstitutional by the United States Supreme Court in May of 1935. A new request for bids was prepared, and in February of 1936, the firm of Charles Bloss and Sons of Ashland, Wisconsin, was awarded the contract for construction. The building was completed in 1937 and opened to the public on March 6th. (10)

The Section of Fine Arts at the Treasury Department (which had grown out of the Public Works of Art Project, also initiated in 1933) contracted with a Wisconsin artist, Walter Vladimir Rousseff, to paint a mural for the new building. In the 1930s, provision for murals (or at least one mural) became a conventional part of the budget and the interior design of almost every federal building, but most especially of post offices. The program was an attempt, during the Great Depression, to bring original works of art to the people while providing work for some of the country's professional artists. Between 1934 and 1943, the Section of Fine Arts awarded 1,371 commissions. Each of those works was supposed to be appropriate to the locality where it would be displayed, and it was also supposed to be a literal representation of some aspect of "the American scene." (11)

Rousseff had been born in Silistria, Bulgaria, in 1890. He studied at the Art Institute of Chicago and made his home at Fish Creek, Wisconsin. He won a number of awards for his paintings: the Harry A. Frank prize for "Summer Idylls" in 1926; the Marshall Fuller Holmes prize for "Study for a Mural" in 1928; and the Martin B. Cahn prize for "Figure with Still Life" in 1930; all awarded by the Art Institute of Chicago. His work was collected by the Art Institute and the Swift School in Chicago and by the Municipal Art League. Several of



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his paintings were reproduced in Art Digest and the American Magazine of Art. Rousseff painted murals for the Nichols School, Evanston, Illinois, and for post offices in Iron Mountain, Michigan, and Salem, Illinois, as well as in Kaukauna. For this commission he chose to imaginatively recreate a scene from the early history of Kaukauna, and he entitled his mural "A. Grignon Trading with the Indians," honoring one of Kaukauna's earliest settlers and one of the area's pioneer families. The mural was completed in 1938 and is the property of the United States Postal Service, but it is on indefinite loan to the Kaukauna Area School District, the present owner of the building. (12)

Kaukauna's 1930s Post Office was in the planning stages and under construction from 1934 to 1937. It was fully completed in 1938, with the conventional addition of a mural over the door to the postmaster's office. During those Depression years, Franklin Roosevelt was implementing the social programs of the New Deal which became the basis for government policies of provision for the public welfare which Americans have come to expect and now rely upon. "With the farm and labor legislation of 1938," Samuel Eliot Morison concluded, "the domestic program of the New Deal was rounded out. Not all the cards had been dealt, but the nature of the game was fairly well established"; and "the thesis that the federal government is ultimately responsible for the people's welfare, employment, and security, became generally accepted." During the period public works became the outward signs of New Deal policies; buildings and structures from that period have since become symbols of the New Deal and America's struggle in the 1930s through depression to renewal. The Kaukauna Post Office is such a symbol. It is the only building in Kaukauna which unalterably displays its FWA lineage. The Civic Auditorium (1933-34) stands nearby on the Island and was also built as a part of a public works project, but it has been altered substantially—its entryway obscured by a ramp and a metal canopy, its windows changed considerably, and its architectural mass engulfed by a high school addition in the 1960s. The Post Office remains substantially as it was built, and it recalls locally a pivotal period of our government's history. (13)

ARCHITECTURE

Kaukauna's 1930s Post Office is architecturally significant as a local example of the Colonial Revival Style as it was adapted by staff architects to federal buildings during the 1930s. It displays elements of Georgian Revival interpreted in the context of the Moderne Style, which was so influential in America during those Depression years of active building under public works projects by the federal government.

The Colonial Revival Style developed at the turn of the twentieth century, when American architects—strongly influenced by the revived interest in American traditions generated by the Philadelphia Centennial in 1876—began to incorporate architectural elements from the Georgian and Federal Styles (and to a lesser extent from the Dutch Colonial) into their building designs. The preferred colonial type for public buildings in the 1930s was, as it had been in the decades before, eighteenth century American Georgian—with its symmetrically balanced facade, multi-paned windows, and classical ornament, especially adorning

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doorways and windows. "Both officially and unofficially the federal government was committed to the colonial. This was an image dear to the heart of Franklin Delano Roosevelt, both before and during his long presidency," David Gebhard has written. "Whether it was a small post office in a midwestern town, a school in New England, or a collegiate building in the Pacific Northwest, the characteristic design was a red brick structure whose facade presented a balanced composition, accentuated usually by small-pane windows, central ornamented entrances, and the roof surmounted by a cupola and spire." The cupola and spire were not used here, but the red brick, the small-pane windows, the balanced composition, and the central ornamented entrance are apparent colonial and Georgian elements which were adapted to the design of the Kaukauna Post Office, as is the fanlight over the main entrance. (14)

"Traditional design predominates in Federal work," concluded C.W. Short and R. Stanley-Brown in their survey of federal buildings from the 1930s, "although some trend toward the 'modern' may be noted, particularly in the Middle West . . . ." That trend toward the modern can clearly be seen in the design for the Kaukauna Post Office. During the Depression some government buildings began to shed their classical or colonial dressings for the svelte severity of Art Deco or the stylish streamline of the Moderne. "By 1930," Gebhard also wrote, "modernized Classicism was applied to public buildings, which exhibit smooth facades (with, of course, the 'correct' proportions) and classical details such as pilasters and entablatures drawn onto the surfaces, in some instances almost like delicate pencil lines on paper." That is precisely how the design of the Kaukauna Post Office was treated. The building is modern and rectilinear, the decoration is classical, and the proportions are Palladian. The planes of the brick wall are essentially flat. The windows are set flush into the wall, only the sills projecting at all, and very slightly at that. The spare elements of classical decoration—the arch around the doorway and the wave scroll at the base of the parapet—are set shallowly, barely "drawn onto the surfaces." The capstones above the main entrance are raised only the thickness of one stone above the others, merely hinting at a central pavilion while remaining otherwise flush with the plane of the wall. (15)

Kaukauna's 1930s Post Office was designed by the Public Works Branch of the Procurement Division of the Treasury Department. The Supervising Architect at the time was Louis A. Simon. Simon came from Baltimore and received his training at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. After just two years of private practice, he took a job in the Office of the Supervising Architect at the Treasury Department in 1896 and stayed there for his entire career. He was chief of the Architectural Division from 1905 until 1933, when he was appointed Supervising Architect. He served in that post, overseeing the New Deal years of active federal building, until 1941, when he retired. He returned during the war years to serve as an architectural consultant for the government from 1942 to 1944. He died in 1958. Most of the post offices built during Simon's tenure were designed by the staff of the Office of the Supervising Architect. Only for the largest of offices were private architectural firms engaged, or employed as consultants. Kaukauna's Post Office was not so grand a building. It was one of the smallest types—

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"typical of the so-called 'one-man' post offices," according to Short and Stanley-Brown, "where the postmaster manages the work unaided by an assistant postmaster." Neither was the design unique. How many times it was reproduced in other small towns in the United States is not recorded by Short and Stanley-Brown; they show but one execution of the design, which was built in Newport, New Hampshire, in 1935. (16)

Although it is not unique in design, Kaukauna's 1930s Post Office is a good example of its type and its time. It is a specific sample of a "one-man" post office from the 1930s, standing today substantially as it was built, never having been augmented by later expansions nor adulterated by having been "brought up-to-date" through remodeling. It is also an intact example of the Colonial Revival Style as it was executed in small federal buildings during the 1930s, with apparent touches of the Moderne Style, that was then so influential in American architecture. It is the only building of its kind in Kaukauna and is worthy of being listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

### Notes to Section 8

- (1) These years encompass the time between the design of the building and the year when the building was fully "completed" with the installation of the conventional mural over the postmaster's door. Remarkably, those years coincide almost exactly with Franklin Delano Roosevelt's implementation of his domestic policies under the New Deal.
- (2) The date of the building's design as shown on a set of the original Treasury Department's blueprints, which are in the possession of the present owner of the building, the Kaukauna Area School District.
- (3) The year the post office opened; The Kaukauna Times, March 5, 1937, p. 1.
- (4) The year of the completion of Vladimir Rousseff's mural; Virginia Botsford and Pauline Ehrlich, eds., American Art Annual, 35 (Washington, D.C.: The American Federation of Arts, 1941), 657.
- (5) Blueprints.
- (6) Mary Grogan-Seleen, "Kaukauna: 'Lion of the Fox,'" Voyageur, 2 (Summer 1985), 4-5; The Lion of the Fox River Valley (Kaukauna: Sun Publishing, 1891), p. 6; Dr. H.B. Tanner, History of the Streets of Kaukauna (Kaukauna: Times Publishing, 1931), pp. 24, 30-31 (the pages are not numbered, so someone else's count may differ).
- (7) Commemorative Biographical Record of the Fox River Valley Counties of Brown, Outagamie and Winnebago (Chicago: J.H. Beers & Company, 1895), pp. 466, 543-44; Grogan-Seleen, pp. 7-8; Thomas Ryan, History of Outagamie County (Chicago: Goodspeed Historical Association, 1911), pp. 557, 581; The Lion of the Fox River Valley, p. 64.

9. Major Bibliographical References

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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:

Kaukauna Area School District  
Kaukauna, Wisconsin 54130

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property Less than one acre

UTM References

A 16 398640 4903420  
 Zone Easting Northing

C \_\_\_\_\_

B \_\_\_\_\_  
 Zone Easting Northing

D \_\_\_\_\_

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

Ledyard Plat, the North 100 feet of the South 140 feet of Lots 1, 2, and 3, Block 2, in the City of Kaukauna, Outagamie County, State of Wisconsin.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The verbal description defines the parcel of land on which the post office was originally built and stands on today. There are no other buildings or structures on the plot, and the entire parcel of land is historically associated with the property.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Don Rintz, Consulting Historian

organization \_\_\_\_\_ date June 14, 1991

street & number 1730 College Avenue telephone (414) 637-2413

city or town Racine state WI zip code 53403

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 6 United States Post Office  
Kaukauna, Outagamie County, WI

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### Notes to Section 8 (continued)

- (8) Grogan-Seleen, pp. 6-8; Reuben Gold Thwaites, ed., Collections of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 15 (Madison: Democrat Printing Company, 1900), 25-27; Elihu Spencer, Pioneers of Outagamie County (Appleton, WI: Post Publishing, 1895), p. 295; The Lion of the Fox River Valley, p. 57.
- (9) Ryan, pp. 580-81; Tanner, p. 93; Birdseye map of Kaukauna (Kaukauna: Sun Publishing, 1886); Ed Von Berkel, "Education Progress," Kaukauna 175th Jubilee Album (Kaukauna: Morgan Printing, 1965), p. 29; Grogan-Seleen, pp. 8-9. The dates of the new city hall and post office come from the offices of the mayor and the postmaster.
- (10) Original blueprints; the Edward Bruce quotation is from "The Treasury Department Art Program," Art in Federal Buildings (Washington, D.C.: Art in Federal Buildings Incorporated, 1936), p. 284; Appleton Post-Crescent, February 13, 1936; Samuel Eliot Morison, The Oxford History of the American People (New York: Oxford University Press, 1965), p. 969.
- (11) Bruce, p. 284; Botsford and Ehrlich, p. 657; Lois Craig, ed., The Federal Presence: Architecture, Politics, and Symbols in the United States Government Building (Cambridge, MA: The MIT Press, 1979), p. 372.
- (12) Peter Hastings Falk, ed., Who Was Who in American Art (Madison, CT: Sound View Press, 1985), p. 532; Botsford and Ehrlich, p. 657.
- (13) Morison, pp. 985-86; Betz and Kellogg, intensive survey form 17/30.
- (14) Barbara Wyatt, ed., Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin, 2 (Madison: Historic Preservation Division, State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1986), "Architecture," 2-17; Gebhard, "The American Colonial Revival in the 1930s," Winterthur Portfolio, 22 (Summer/Autumn 1987), 142.
- (15) Short and Stanley-Brown, Public Buildings: A Survey of Architecture of Projects Constructed by Federal and Other Governmental Bodies Between the Years 1933 and 1939 (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1939), p. II; Gebhard, "About Style, Not Ideology," Architecture, 72 (December 1983), 40.
- (16) Who Was Who in America (Chicago: The A.N. Marquis Company, 1960), p. 788; Short and Stanley-Brown, p. 254.

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Kaukauna, Outagamie County, WI

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National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number Photos Page 1

United States Post Office  
Kaukauna, Outagamie County, WI

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### PHOTOGRAPHIC DOCUMENTATION

The following applies to all photographs:

United States Post Office  
112 Main Avenue  
Kaukauna, Outagamie County, WI  
Photos by Don Rintz, May 1991  
Negatives at The State Historical Society of Wisconsin

Photo #1 of 4: Exterior. View looking east.

Photo #2 of 4: Exterior. View looking south.

Photo #3 of 4: Exterior. View looking north.

Photo #4 of 4: Interior. Lobby.  
View looking southwest toward the  
postmaster's office.

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National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number Owner Page 1

United States Post Office  
Kaukauna, Outagamie County, WI

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### OWNER

United States Post Office  
112 Main Avenue  
Kaukauna, Outagamie County, WI 54130

is owned by

Kaukauna Area School District  
101 Oak Street  
Kaukauna, WI 54130