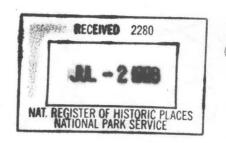
United States Department of the Interior National Park Service



916

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

1. Name of Property	
Historic Name: <u>Lake Village Post Office</u>	
Other Name/Site Number: CH0062	
2. Location	
Street & Number: 206 S. Cokley St.	
27	
No	ot for Publication: NA
City/Town: Lake Village	Vicinity: NA
eroff four. <u>Bane village</u>	v10111107. <u>1111</u>
State: AR County: Chicot Code: 01	7 Zip Code: <u>71653</u>
3. Classification	
=======================================	
Ownership of Property: Public-Federal	
Category of Property: <u>Building</u>	

Number of Resources within Property:
Contributing Noncontributing
_1 buildings
sites
structures
objects
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: $\underline{}$
Name of related multiple property listing: <u>Arkansas Post Offices with</u> Section Art
4. State/Federal Agency Certification
As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act
of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this 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 See continuation
sheet. /
John Sumo FP8 41.198
Signature of certifying official Date
USPS

State or Federal agency and bureau

determined not eligible for the

___ other (explain): _____

___ removed from the National Register _____

National Register

A Signature of Keeper Date

of Action

6. Function or Use	
Historic: GOVERNMENT	Sub: Post Office
Current : GOVERNMENT	Sub: Post Office
7. Description	
Architectural Classification:	
Colonial Revival	
Materials: foundation <u>Concrete</u> walls <u>Brick</u>	

Describe present and historic physical appearance:

SUMMARY

The Lake Village Post Office is a one-story, brick masonry structure designed in the Colonial Revival style of architecture and featuring a full basement. The building is built with an essentially square plan, but features a large addition to the southwest created by enclosing and expanding the original projecting rear loading dock. The entire building is surrounded with a small cornice just below the gutters and a flush cornice below that. The foundation is of brick atop poured concrete. The eastern portion of the structure is topped by a hipped roof; at its center is a cupola fenestrated on all four sides with 12-pane stationary windows. The cupola is topped by a bell cast pyramid roof with a weather vane at its apex. Immediately behind the hipped

roof is a flat roof surrounded by a low parapet. The addition protrudes behind this section and also features a flat roof; a non-historic flat shed roof extends past the dock.

ELABORATION

The Lake Village Post Office is a one story, brick masonry structure designed in the Colonial Revival style of architecture and featuring a full basement. The building is built with an essentially square plan, but features a large addition to the southwest created by enclosing and expanding the original projecting rear loading dock. The entire building is surrounded with a small cornice just below the gutters and a string course below that. The foundation is of brick atop poured concrete. The eastern portion of the structure is topped by a hipped roof; at its center is a cupola fenestrated on all four sides with 12-pane stationary windows. The cupola is topped by a bell cast pyramid roof with a weather vane at its apex. Immediately behind the hipped roof is a flat roof surrounded by a low parapet. The addition protrudes behind this section and also features a flat roof; a non-historic flat shed roof extends past the dock.

The eastern, or front, facade features a central, aluminum frame door flanked by wooden half columns. The columns support a lintel accented with a dentil course; this is topped by a fabric awning emblazoned with the zip code 71653. A set of concrete stairs leads to the front door. The doors are flanked on both sides by twin double-hung, 12-over-12 windows. The cornice extends across the front of the building below the gutters; the brick below that is emblazoned with the words UNITED STATES POST OFFICE. Below that is the string course and immediately above the door is affixed the words LAKE VILLAGE ARKANSAS. On either side of the door are recessed areas with twin six-oversix windows; the concrete recessed areas are surrounded by simple metal railings. A cornerstone in the lower southern corner of this facade is inscribed: HENRY MORGENTHAU JR., SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY/JAMES A. FARLEY, POSTMASTER GENERAL/LOUIS A. SIMON, SUPERVISING ARCHITECT/NEAL A. MELICK, SUPERVISING ENGINEER/1938.

The easternmost part of the north facade is fenestrated by one eight-over-12 double-hung window, followed to the west by one two-over-two double-hung half window, a recessed area large enough to hold a full-sized window, another two-over-two double-hung half window, another eight-over-twelve double-hung window, and a four-over-four double-hung half window. Below the initial two-over-two window is a set of concrete stairs leading to a basement door. Below

the final eight-over-12 window is a recessed area fenestrated with an eight-over-eight window; this recessed window area is also topped with a simple metal railing, as is the area where the stairs descend to the basement area.

The western facade, north to south, is fenestrated with a two-over-two double-hung half window and two eight-over-twelve double-hung windows. The addition then projects westward. Its northernmost area has a small set of steps leading to a door, then a large, roll-up bay door, and then an eighteen-pane stationary window. Beyond this is the loading dock, which extends across the rear of the building and features two swinging doors. The loading dock up to the addition's junction with the historic part of the structure is topped by a flat shed roof.

Beginning at the western corner of the south facade, a ramp leads off of the loading dock. Heading east, the addition is fenestrated by twin 20-pane stationary windows. The addition cuts in sharply to the north to rejoin the original structure, which is fenestrated by four eight-over-12 windows. Two more recessed, fenestrated basement areas are included in this section.

Noteworthy interior details include the original wooden vestibule, marble wainscoting, original post office boxes, and original counters, doors, and memo cabinets. The most prominent interior feature is a mural, titled "Lake Country Wildlife," by Avery Johnson.

The Lake Village Post Office is in good condition and retains the majority of its historic fabric. The modern addition, built in 1967 by ACS Construction Company, is largely unnoticeable from the front of the building and thus does not affect the basic architectural integrity of the building.

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8.	Statement	of	Significance
===	========	====	

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

Applicable National Register Criteria: A

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): NA

Lake	V	'illage	Post	Office	
Name	of	Property			

Chicot County, Arkansas
County and State

	T		
eriod(s) of Signific	ance: 1938-4	1	
ignificant Dates:	1938-41		-
ignificant Person(s)	:_N/A		
Cultural Affiliation	N/A		

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

SUMMARY

The Lake Village Post Office is associated with the historic context <u>Arkansas</u> <u>Post Offices with Section Art</u> as a U.S. Postal Service structure containing a mural financed through the U.S. Treasury Department's Section on Fine Arts. As such, it is eligible under Criterion A with statewide significance for its associations with the Sections efforts to employ Depression-era artists and place art in post offices around the country.

ELABORATION

In August, 1937, Congress passed an appropriation bill providing a \$23 million lump sum for construction of public buildings. Included in the allocation was \$75,000 for a new post office for Lake Village, the seat of the Chicot County, Arkansas's southeasternmost county. Though details of construction could not be located, the building apparently was completed by 1939.

On August 21, 1939, Edward B. Rowan, assistant chief for the U.S. Treasury

Name of Property

Department's Section on Fine Arts, wrote Artist Avery Johnson of Denville, N.J., and invited him to "submit designs for a mural decoration for the Lake Village, Arkansas, Post Office on the basis of competent work [previously] performed under the Section." Johnson, who was working on designs for the 48 States mural competition, wrote Rowan on September 27 to accept the invitation.

Johnson was among the winners of that competition, which apparently delayed the Lake Village project. He did not submit information needed to prepare the contract for the mural until December of 1940. The final contract called on Johnson to create a mural 12' wide by 5' 3" tall, covering a total area of about 63 square feet. Johnson was to receive \$750 for the work, which was to be executed in oil on canvas.

Johnson submitted two color sketches as proposals for the Lake Village mural. Rowan informed him on January 17, 1941, that "the one with the cypress trees in the center is preferred. This has the standing deer on the right." Johnson's first payment of \$150 was approved on February 3, 1941.

While the Lake Village mural was not visited with the local controversy met by some Arkansas mural proposals, the location of a clock in the area where the mural was to be located elicited a flurry of no less than seven letters and memos between Washington, D.C., Lake Village, and Denville, N.J. Lake Village Postmaster John F. Mulligan informed Rowan on December 20, 1940, that the clock "can be moved easily to the center of the Public Lobby directly in the rear of the Vestibule and over the Parcel Post and Stamp Window. This will place same in the most central location possible in the Lobby." Rowan requested permission of the Supervising Architect on January 4, 1941, for the clock to be moved; bids were accepted and Mr. M.L. Rhodes of Lake Village was hired on February 24, 1941, to relocate the clock, a task for which he was paid \$35.

In March 1941, Johnson submitted a full-size cartoon of the mural to the Section. "I am also forwarding a print to the local committee down there and will await the approval both of your office and this committee before proceeding with the finished painting," he wrote in a March 3 letter to Edward Bruce, Fine Arts Section chief. Both apparently were approved, and Johnson was issued a \$250 dollar payment on April 1, 1941.

The finished mural was approved for installation on July 23, 1941, and Johnson sent it for installation by a Mr. Purser, who had installed another of the artist's murals in the Leland, Miss., post office previously. The

Name of Property

mural was hung on Sunday, August, 10, 1941. An August 15, 1941, article in The Chicot Spectator includes a lengthy interview with the artist, noting that Johnson "was especially interested" in the area's heavy deer population around Lake Chicot "and the deer were consequently made the most prominent element in the design."

Postmaster Mulligan reported the mural safely installed as of September 29, 1941, and Johnson's final \$350 payment was approved on October 29.

The Lake Village commission was one of six Johnson received for post office murals through the Section. The others were located at Bordentown, N.J., Mareilles, Ill., Liberty, Ind., North Bergen, N.J., and Catonsville, Md.

Despite the 1967 addition, the Lake Village Post Office remains a remarkably intact expression of Depression-era Colonial Revival design in a government building. It's historic value is only enhanced by Avery Johnson's "Lake Country Wild Life," a mural that celebrates both the natural bounty of southeast Arkansas and the Depression-era drive to put all Americans, including artists, to work.

The Lake Village Post Office is associated with the historic context <u>Arkansas</u> <u>Post Offices with Section Art</u> as a U.S. Postal Service structure containing a mural financed through the U.S. Treasury Department's Section on Fine Arts. As such, it is eligible under Criterion A with statewide significance for its associations with the Section's efforts to employ Depression-era artists and place art in post offices around the country.

The Chicot Spectator, August 15, 1941.

Arkansas Gazette, September 10, 1937.

U.S. Treasury Department's Fine Arts Section materials, National Archives.

Falk, Peter Hastings, ed. "Who Was Who in American Art," (Madison, CT: Sound View Press, 1985).

Previous documentation on file (N.S.):
<pre>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 #</pre>
Primary Location of Additional Data:
<pre>X State historic preservation office Other state agency Federal agency Local government University X Other Specify Repository: Arkansas History Commission</pre>
10. Geographical Data
Acreage of Property: Less than one
UTM References: Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing
A <u>15 659780 3689020</u> B

Verbal Boundary Description:

Beginning at a point formed by the intersection of the western edge of South Cokley Street with a perpendicular line running parallel with the building's northern elevation and located approximately 50 feet to the north thereof, proceed westerly along said line for approximately 200 feet; thence proceed southerly along a perpendicular line for approximately 200 feet; thence proceed easterly along a perpendicular line for approximately 200 feet to its intersection with the western edge of South Cokley Street; thence proceed northerly along said edge to the point of beginning.

Boundary Justification:

This boundary contains all the property historically associated with this resource that retains its integrity.

11. Form Prepared By
=======================================
Name/Title: Mark Christ/Communications and Development Director
Organization: Arkansas Historic Preservation Program Date: October 14, 1997
Street & Number: 1500 Tower Bldg., 323 Center St. Telephone: (501) 324-9880
City or Town: Little Rock State: AR ZIP: 72201

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION
PROPERTY Lake Village Post Office NAME:
MULTIPLE Post Offices with Section Art in Arkansas MPS NAME:
STATE & COUNTY: ARKANSAS, Chicot
DATE RECEIVED: 7/02/98 DATE OF 16TH DAY: 7/30/98 DATE OF WEEKLY LIST: 7/14/98 DATE OF WEEKLY LIST: 7/14/98
REFERENCE NUMBER: 98000916
NOMINATOR: STATE
REASONS FOR REVIEW:
APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N
COMMENT WAIVER: N
ACCEPTRETURNREJECTDATE
ACCEPTRETURNREJECTDATE ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:
The Lake Village Post Office is significant under National Register Criterion A in the area of Politics/Government, for its historic association with the Federal government's Depression era programs to bring original works of art to the public and to provide relief to artists. Erected in 1938, the post office contains a fine example of a U. S. Treasury Department, Section of Fine Arts-sponsored mural painting, dating from 1941. [Lake Country Wild Life, Avery Johnson]
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Lake Village, Chicot Co., AR
Photo by B. Cox

July 1996

Negative on file at AHPP

Interior mural detail



Lake Village Post Office Lake Village, Chicot Con, AR Photo by B. Cox July 1996 Negative on File at AHPP View from East



Lake Village Post Office
Lake Village, Chicot Co., AR
Photo by B. Cox

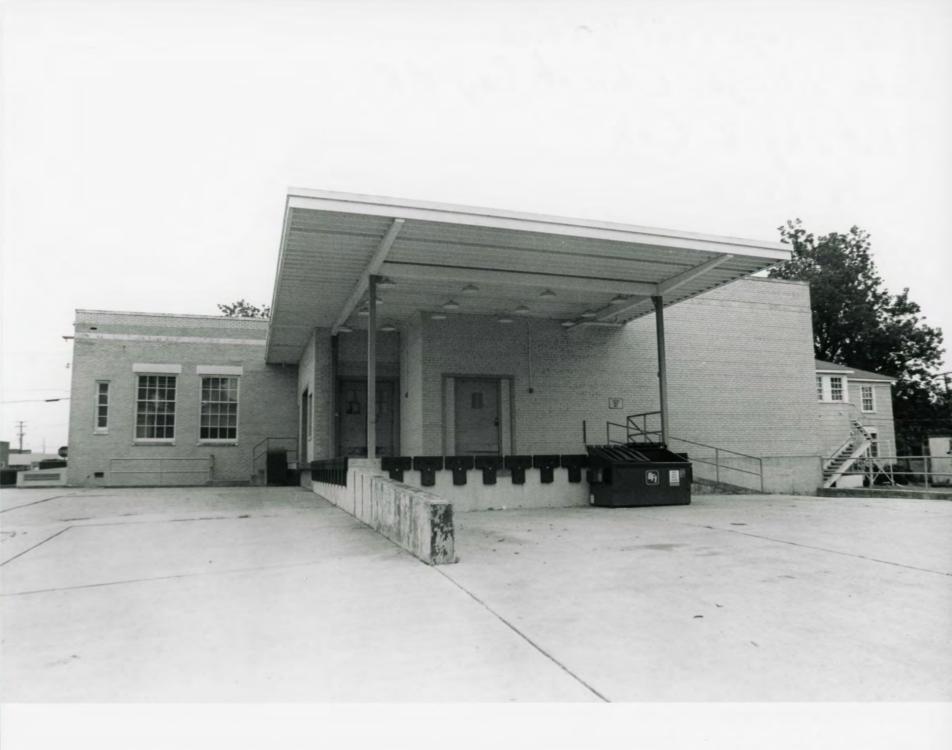
July 1996

Negative on file at AHPP

At the South Side detail



Lake Village, Chicot Co, AR
Lake Village, Chicot Co, AR
Photo by B. Cox
July 1996
Negative on file at AHPP
North side detail



Lake Village, Chicot Co., AR
Lake Village, Chicot Co., AR
Photoby B. Cox
July 1996
Negative on file at AHPP
View from Northwest



Lake Village Post Office
Lake Village, Chicot Co, AR
Photo by B. Cox

July 1996

Negative on file at AHPP

View from Northwest



Lake Village Post Office Lake Village, Chicot Co., AR Photo by B. Cox July 1996 Negative on file at AHPP East side detail



Lake Village Post Office Lake Village, Chicot Co., AR Photo by B. Cox July 1996 Negative on file at AHPP View from Southwest



Lake Village Post Office
Lake Village, Chicot Co., AR
Photo by B. Cox

July 1996

Negative on File at AHPP

Interior Letail

