



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

historic name Sturgeon Bay Post Office
other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number	359 Louisiana Avenue	N/A	not for publication
city or town	Sturgeon Bay	N/A	vicinity
state Wisconsin	code WI	county Door	code 29 zip code 54235

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

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

Alicia L. Goch
Signature of commenting official/Title

July 26, 2000
Date

Deputy SHPO - WI
State or Federal agency and bureau

Sturgeon Bay Post Office
Name of Property

Door County
County and State

Wisconsin

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the 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.
 See continuation sheet.
 removed from the National
Register.
 other, (explain:)

Edson H. Beall 10/24/00

for
Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(check as many boxes as
as apply)

private
 public-local
 public-State
 public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

building(s)
 district
 structure
 site
 object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources
in the count)

contributing	noncontributing
1	0 buildings
	sites
	structures
	objects
1	0 total

Name of related multiple property listing:
(Enter "N/A" if property not part of a multiple property
listing.)

U.S Post Office Construction 1913-1943
State of Wisconsin - Milwaukee District

**Number of contributing resources
is previously listed in the National Register**

0

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)
Modern Movement

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

Foundation Concrete

walls Brick

roof

other Limestone

Narrative Description

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

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.)

- 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.
- 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.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Art

Period of Significance

1940

Significant Dates

1940

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Simon, Louis A.

Melick, Neal A.

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

Sturgeon Bay Post Office
Name of Property

Door 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 #

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State Agency
- Federal Agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

10. Geographical Data

Acres of Property Less Than One Acre

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

1 16 4/7/0/2/9/0 4/9/6/4/5/0/0
 Zone Easting Northing

3 _____
 Zone Easting Northing

2 _____
 Zone Easting Northing

4 _____
 Zone Easting Northing

See Continuation Sheet

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

Sturgeon Bay Post Office

Door County

Wisconsin

Name of Property

County and State

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional Items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name/title	John S. Sorenson, Program Manager, Historic Preservation		
organization	US Postal Service, Customer Service Facilities		
street&number	475 L'Enfant Plaza	telephone	202-268-3107
city or town	Washington	state	DC
		zip code	20260-6235

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects, (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 1 Sturgeon bay Post Office, Door County, Wisconsin

Narrative Description

The Sturgeon Bay Post Office is a small, one-story, red brick building with limestone trim. It was built in the simplified style referred to as "Starved Classicism". The post office sits on a raised, concrete foundation and has a flat roof. It was constructed in 1937 to the designs of the Office of the Supervising Architect and is located in the business and commercial district of Sturgeon Bay, in Door County, Wisconsin. The building's cornerstone reads: "Henry Morgenthau, Secretary of the Treasury, Louis A. Simon, Supervising Architect, Neal A. Melick, Supervising Engineer, 1937."

Exterior

The main block of the front elevation is five bays wide. The central three bays are faced with slightly curved, vertical, limestone panels that extend from the foundation to the roof coping. The curvature of the panels gives a minimalistic impression of a colonnade. A flight of granite stairs with limestone sides leads from the sidewalk to the front doors, located at the center of the elevation. Above the paired metal and glass doors is a square, plate glass transom. Located at the base of the stair walls are period light fixtures consisting of a decorative pole supporting a saucer shaped light.

With the exception of the central stone facing, there is a lack of surface decoration. As a result, the windows provide the rhythm of the façade. The two middle windows, those located in the central portion of the façade, are somewhat wider than the other windows on the building. Each of the remaining two side bays of the front elevation has a single window. The windows are slightly recessed from the wall plane. The surrounds are defined by a setback the width of one brick. All of the windows have limestone sills. One sill is located below the window. A second sill is located at the base of the setback at the level of the watertable. All of the windows are modern replacements.

The side elevations follow the pattern of the end bays. There is an asymmetrical extension of the building on the right side, but this wing is set back and does not detract from the symmetry of the front façade. A loading dock is located at the rear of the building. The side elevation on the northeast elevation has an accessible ramp leading from the sidewalk level to a side door. The ramp is of recent construction. Located at the base of the ramp are two lighting fixtures matching those of the front stairs.

Interior

The postal lobby is located at the front of the building. The interior retains its original terrazzo floors and marble wainscot and some of its original wood trim. The original wood vestibule has been replaced with an aluminum and glass vestibule. The lobby has been enlarged from its original dimensions to create more space for mailboxes.

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Section 7 Page 23 Sturgeon bay Post Office, Door County, Wisconsin

Above the door to the postmaster's office is mural by artist Santos Zingale. Painted in 1940 it is titled "Fruits of Sturgeon Bay." The tempera mural depicts the fishing industry. On the left, a group of fisherman is gathered on the pier with their catch packed in boxes; another group departs in a boat on the right side of the work. The crests of waves and outspread wings of swooping gulls create movement in the painting. The painting is predominantly in blues and browns, hues popular in many other post office murals of the period.

The building and mural are in good condition.

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Section 8 Page 3 Sturgeon bay Post Office, Door County, Wisconsin

Statement of Significance

The Sturgeon Bay Post Office is evaluated in the context of the multiple property nomination "United States Post Office Construction from 1913 to 1943, State of Wisconsin – Milwaukee District." The building is nominated under Criterion C for Art for the 1940 mural "Fruits of Sturgeon Bay" by Santos Zingale located in the post office lobby.¹

Historic Context

This building is the first federally owned post office in Sturgeon Bay. The history of post office construction in Wisconsin in this period is discussed in the multiple property nomination. This post office was one of a series constructed in Wisconsin by the Public Works Administration in the 1930s. The mural in the lobby was also painted under the auspices of federal programs. The historic context for public art is also discussed in the multiple property nomination.

Significance

The Sturgeon Bay Post Office is eligible for listing under Criterion C -Art for the mural found in its lobby. This mural by Milwaukee artist Santos Zingale is a good example of the Depression era art designed under the auspices of the Public Works Administration (PWA) and the Works Projects Administration (WPA).² The mural, "Fruits of Sturgeon Bay," celebrates one of Sturgeon Bay's industries – fishing. The mural is similar to others commissioned for post offices by the Section of Fine Arts in that it depicts the common man employed in his trade. It is also a typical scene in the area and its subject matter would be familiar to anyone residing in Sturgeon Bay who viewed the work. A number of murals found in the post offices inventoried depict scenes of local commerce, including cheese making, dairy farming, tobacco farming, and barley-threshing. In "Fruits of Sturgeon Bay," the figures in the mural illustrate the beginning and end stages of commercial fishing; one group is boxing the day's catch, while another departs from the docks in a fishing boat. The depiction of stages of production was a common approach to mural subjects.

The building exterior remains largely intact, except for the replacement of the original windows and the addition of a ramp on the side elevation. The interior has had some alterations, but many original features remain. The Sturgeon Bay Post Office maintains a largely intact setting for Santos Zingale's 1940 mural, which depicts the local fishing industry. The Sturgeon Bay Post Office is eligible for listing for Criterion C in the area of art for the representative example of a public works mural located in its lobby.

¹ Marlene Park and Gerald E. Markowitz, Democratic Vistas: Post Offices and Public Art in the New Deal (Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 1984), 233.

² Leigh Yankey Woodson, Wisconsin's New Deal Art (1980).

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Section 9, 10 Page 4 Sturgeon bay Post Office, Door County, Wisconsin

9. Major Bibliographic References

The following sources were consulted in addition to those included in the multiple property nomination:

Park, Marlene and Gerald E. Markowitz. Democratic Vistas: Post Offices and Public Art in the New Deal. Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 1984.

Sturgeon Bay Post Office. Building cornerstone.

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:
Assessor's map, easterly 122 feet of lots 1 and 2 and all of lots 3 and 4, block 14.

Boundary Justification

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