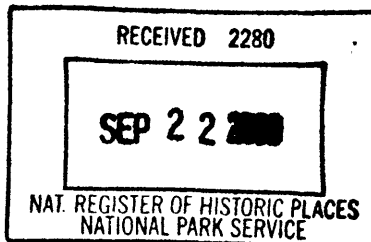


1245

**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 Lancaster Post Office
other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number	236 West Maple Street	N/A	not for publication
city or town	Lancaster	N/A	vicinity
state Wisconsin	code WI	county Grant	code 43 zip code 53813

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. G...
Signature of commenting official/Title

July 26, 2000
Date

Deputy SHPO - WI
State or Federal agency and bureau

Lancaster Post Office

Grant County

Wisconsin

Name of Property

County and State

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:)

Ethan H. Beall

10/24/00

Jan

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.)

United States 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.)

Lancaster Post Office
Name of Property

Grant 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

Acreeage of Property Less Than One Acre

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

1 15 6/8/6/9/7/0 4/7/4/6/2/5/0
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	date	12-29-93
organization	HNTB	telephone	414-359-2300
street & number	11270 Wet Park Place	zip code	53224
city or town	Milwaukee	state	Wisconsin

Lancaster Post Office
Name of Property

Grant County
County and State

Wisconsin

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.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section 7 Page 1 Lancaster Post Office
Grant County, Wisconsin

Narrative Description

The Lancaster Post Office is a one story, brick and limestone building located in the heart of the downtown area, approximately one block off the courthouse square, of Lancaster, Wisconsin. Built in 1938, the building is of the stripped modernist style favored by Federal and institutional buildings of the 1930s. At the front right of the building is a cornerstone. It notes: "Henry Morgenthau, Jr., Secretary of the Treasury, James A. Farley, Postmaster General, Louis A. Simon, Supervising Architect, Neal A. Melick, Supervising Engineer."

The flat -roofed building is constructed of tan brick with limestone trim. It sits on a concrete foundation. The plan of the building is rectangular with the main façade on West Maple Street. The front elevation is organized symmetrically about the entry. The entry steps leading to the front door are of granite with painted metal railings on either side. The central of the three pavilions of the front facade is faced with limestone. At the center is the door and a window on each side. Above each opening is a linear, stylized carving. Across the width of the central portion is carved: "United States Post Office Lancaster Wisconsin 53813." The zip code is a later addition, and it does not match the symmetrical placing of the lettered text. The two side pavilions have a single, recessed window with a limestone panel below. All of the windows and glass door are set in dark bronze aluminum and are replacements.

The side elevations follow the pattern of the end pavilions. Each side elevation has five windows. These are recessed and have limestone panels below. The panels extend to the concrete base of the building. The rear elevation features three windows and a one-story loading dock.

The interior lobby retains many original features, including its original terrazzo floor, marble wainscot, wood trim, and wood vestibule. The walls and ceiling are of plaster. The lighting fixtures are modern replacements.

Above the door to the Postmaster's office is a large mural, titled "Farm Yard." Tom Rost painted it in 1940.¹ The mural depicts a close-up of a large wagon filled to overflowing with hay. The wagon, pulled by a team of horses, is stopped before a barn. Several figures of men and children are shown around the wagon and filling the hayloft of the large barn which dominates the background, while chickens peck at the ground near the wagon. Several pigs in their pen are visible at the front right of the mural.

The mural and the post office building are in good condition.

¹ Leigh Yankey Woodson, Wisconsin's New Deal Art (1980).

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section 8 Page 2 Lancaster Post Office
Grant County, Wisconsin

Narrative Statement of Significance

The Lancaster Post Office is an example of a Federal Post Office 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 being nominated under Criterion C – Art for the WPA era mural "Farm Yard" by Tom Rost located in the post office lobby.

Historic Context

This building is the first federally owned post office in Lancaster, Wisconsin. Prior to its construction, postal services were conducted in various locations selected by a series of local postmasters. Postal service in Lancaster dates from 1838 and the first postmaster was George H. Cox.² The Lancaster Post Office was one of a series constructed in Wisconsin by the Public Works Administration in the 1930s. Many of the post offices were built from standard plans with slight variations in façade treatment. The Lancaster Post Office is of the same general design as the post office building in Lake Geneva, Wisconsin. (The latter is not being nominated due to lack of integrity.) The history of post office construction in Wisconsin during this period is discussed in the multiple property nomination.

Significance

The Lancaster Post Office is considered eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places by meeting the registration requirements for a Federally owned post office as specified in the multiple property nomination for post office construction in Wisconsin from 1913 to 1943.

The Lancaster Post Office is eligible under Criteria C, Art, for the mural in the lobby. This 1940 mural by Tom Rost is a locally significant example of Depression-era public art. Like many of the murals in the federal art program, "Farm Yard" depicts a regional theme. Here, men are engaged in the daily chores on a Midwestern farm. The scene includes pigs for which the locality is well known. In the background are characteristic Wisconsin rolling hills. The scene also depicts the bounty of the land, as seen in the overflowing hay wagon.

Tom Rost was born in Richmond, Indiana, on 14 February 1909. He studied painting at the Milwaukee State Teachers' College. His instructors included Gustave Moeller, Howard Thomas, and Robert Von Neumann. From October 1934 to April 1935, Rost worked as a government artist stationed at Camp Honey

² Castello N. Holford, History of Grant County, Wisconsin (Lancaster: 1900).

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 3 Lancaster Post Office
Grant County, Wisconsin

Creek in West Allis, Wisconsin, to record camp life. In the mid-1930s Rost was on the staff of the Art Department of the Milwaukee Journal, responsible for much of the illustration work and political cartoons. Rost's work is represented in the permanent collections of various Milwaukee County and municipal buildings, including the Milwaukee County Courthouse and public high schools. He is also represented at the University of Wisconsin and in Iowa public buildings. His other work for the Section of Fine Arts included murals for the post offices in Paoli, Indiana, and Elkhorn, Wisconsin.³

Although the original entry door and windows have been replaced, the rest of the exterior of the Lancaster Post Office remains intact. The interior lobby retains its original terrazzo floor, marble wainscot, plasterwork, wood trim, and vestibule. These elements serve to provide an appropriate setting for the locally significant mural located in the lobby.

³ Marlene Park and Gerald Markowitz, Democratic Vistas: Post Offices and Public Art in the New Deal (Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 1984), 209, 232.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section 9, 10 Page 4 Lancaster Post Office
Grant County, Wisconsin

9. Major Bibliographic References:

The following resources were consulted in addition to those included in the multiple resource nomination:

America Builds: The Record of the PWA, Public Works Administration. Washington, DC: 1939.

Holford, Castello N. History of Grant County, Wisconsin. Lancaster: 1900.

Lancaster Post Office. Building cornerstone.

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

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

10. Geographical Data

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary of the nominated property corresponds to the following legal description: Original plat, Block 22, Lots 1 and 2.

Boundary Justification

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

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section photos Page 5

Lancaster Post Office
Grant County, Wisconsin

Photos

The following information is the same for all of the photographs:

Lancaster Post Office
Lancaster, Grant County, Wisconsin
Photographed by Joseph Jurkiewicz, 1993
Negatives at the State Historical Society of Wisconsin

- 1.
2. Interior view, lobby.
3. Detail of Lobby, mural "Farm Yard"
4. Cornerstone
5. Side elevation, looking west.
6. Rear elevation, looking north.
7. Side elevation, looking east.
1. General street view.
10. Front elevation, looking south.