



APR 27 1990

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

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 Kellogg Main Post Office
other names/site number 012212

2. Location

street & number 302 South Division N/A not for publication
city, town Kellogg N/A vicinity
state Idaho code ID county Shoshone code 079 zip code 83037

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

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>1</u>	<u> </u> buildings
<u> </u>	<u> </u> sites
<u> </u>	<u> </u> structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u> objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing:
Historic U.S. Post Offices in Idaho 1900-1941

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.

Thomas G. Green
Signature of certifying official
Idaho SHPO
State or Federal agency and bureau

4-23-90
Date

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

State or Federal agency and bureau

Date

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:)

Antoinette A. Rice

5/30/90

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. DescriptionArchitectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)

Classical Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete

walls Brick

roof Tar composition

other Terra cotta

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Kellogg Main Post Office is a one-story structure which rests on a concrete basement platform. Owing to its symmetry and design proportions, its style can be termed Classical Revival; however, the flat facade and lack of architectural design lend it a modern appearance. The structure consists of concrete footings, steel framing and brick walls. The exterior is red brick and the details of the facade are composed of terra cotta. The built up tar composition roof is flat. Concrete steps lead up to the main entrance, flanked by wrought iron balusters. The building has a 50 percent basement, with the remainder excavated but unfinished.

PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The front facade (east) is symmetrical in elevation, flat, and faced with red brick. Two window bays flank each side of the centered entry bay. The windows are fixed 20-light thermopane with vinyl-clad rails and muntins. The surrounds are clad with white anodized aluminum. White terra cotta is used for sills and lintels. (The original windows were 8-over-12 double hung wood sash.)

The entry consists of double aluminum-framed glass doors. A two-panel transom bar is located over the doors, with a 7-light transom window overhead. The opening is framed with fluted wooden pilasters (flat) which support a simple wooded entablature. "United States Post Office, Kellogg, Idaho" in raised aluminum letters is centered over the entry. One wrought iron lantern, affixed to the wall, flanks each side of the entry. The entry is reached by five concrete steps (originally granite) to a granite landing. Simple wrought iron ballustrades flank the stairs. The facade wall is topped with terra cotta coping.

The north facade contains four window bays, identical to those of the front facade. The spacing between the windows is equal, with a slightly reduced span between the end windows and the corners. Brick is used to face the entire facade, including basement wall. Terra cotta is used, as on the front facade, for sills, lintels, and coping. The square red brick chimney is visible to the rear and rises above the parapet. Also visible is the flat projecting loading platform which opens to the south. The platform is enclosed with red brick and is lower in elevation than the main portion of the building.

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 N/A

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Politics/Government
Art
Architecture

Period of Significance

1937-38
1941

Significant Dates

1937-38
1941

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Simon, Louis A., Supervising Architect
Department of the Treasury

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

A legacy of the Depression Era federal building program, the Kellogg Main Post Office is characteristic of small town post offices constructed throughout the United States during the Roosevelt Administration. The mural, one of only six post office murals in Idaho, provides a further association with the federal relief policies of the New Deal. The artwork is a significant example of the American Regionalism fostered by the Section of Fine Arts-Public Works Agency, as well as representing the work of an established artist. The post office is significant as a symbol of the federal presence in this small, northern community in the state, and is a local example of the broad economic patterns of this nation's history.

POLITICS/GOVERNMENT

Although the structure is a standardized design, it is significant under Criterion A because it was the first federally constructed post office in Kellogg, it represents the efforts of the local community, through their elected officials in Washington, to obtain a federal building for their town, and it is an example of the public architecture built through the PWA. It demonstrates the Federal government's recognition of the community's permanence and its importance as a local center of government and commerce.

ART

Like the building that houses it, the Kellogg mural represents the efforts of the federal government, through its public works and art programs, to assist communities during the Depression. For this reason the structure is significant under Criterion A. The mural relates the history of the area and represents a recognized type of artistic expression, making it locally significant under Criterion C.

Entitled "Discovery" (approximately 5' x 12'), it is located on the south wall of the lobby, over the postmaster's office door. The mural was painted by Fletcher Martin in 1941 at a cost of \$740. The mural depicts the discovery of the Bunker Hill Mine in 1886 by Noah Kellogg, Phil O'Rourke, and the historic jackass.

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

Kellogg Evening News, June 18, 1938.
Kellogg Evening News, May 1938.
Who's Who in American Art, 1966.
Lois A. Craig, The Federal Presence, Cambridge, Mass., The MIT Press, 1978.
Anthony H. Anderson, U.S. P.O. Historic Architecture and Archaeological Significance Survey, Kellogg Main Post Office, 1984.

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 # _____

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository:

Idaho State Historical Society

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property Less than one acre

UTM References

A

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

C

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B

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Zone Easting Northing

D

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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

Lots 13-17, North 20 feet of Lot 18, Block 28, Kellogg Townsite

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the site originally purchased by the federal government for the post office site.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Elizabeth Egleston, State Architectural Historian
organization Idaho State Historical Society date August 29, 1989
street & number 210 Main St. telephone (208) 334-3861
city or town Boise state Idaho zip code 83702

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The south facade is essentially the same as the north in design and materials. Four window bays, spaced identically to the north side, dominate the facade. One of the bays is filled with brick (original construction). This bay is also flanked by one small vertically oriented window on either side (1-over-1 light).

A below grade entry to the basement is indicated by a pipe railing to the west end of the building. The loading platform projects from the rear of the building. The platform is concrete with brick walls and a flat composition roof. A metal marquee projects to the south over the loading area. A loading bay and pedestrian door provide access to the platform.

The rear facade consists of the narrow flat brick wall of the loading platform which projects from and is centered on the main portion of the building. Two windows, identical to those of the front and side facades, flank each side of the enclosed platform.

Interior materials consist of concrete floors, walls and ceiling in the basement; quarry tile floors with 4-foot quarry tile wainscoting over plaster walls, and acoustical tile ceiling in the lobby (oak paneling is located over the wall above the service counters); carpeted floors, plaster walls and acoustical tile ceiling in the postmaster's office; hardwood floors, plaster walls (with 4-foot wood tongue and groove wainscoting) and plaster ceiling in the work room; tile floors, plaster walls (with 4-to-6 tile wainscoting) and plaster ceilings in the restrooms; and carpeted floors, plaster walls, and plaster ceilings in the swing room.

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Fletcher Martin, who resided in Los Angeles at the time of his Kellogg post office commission, was born in Palisade, Colorado in 1904. Martin has shown in exhibitions and taught at art schools throughout the nation. He has also completed murals in the San Pedro (California) federal building and La Mesa (Texas) post office. He is listed in Who's Who in American Art.

The mural was completed under the auspices of the Federal Works Agency Section of Fine Arts. Federal sponsorship of visual arts programs began in 1933 when President Roosevelt authorized the development of the Public Works of Art Project (PWAP). This and subsequent programs were intended to provide work-relief for artists. After the demise of the PWAP program in June 1934, the Treasury Relief Art Project (TRAP) was established in July 1935. The Section of Painting and Sculpture, later the Section of Fine Arts, was established in October of 1934 by the Treasury Department. This was the program primarily responsible for murals and sculpture found in post offices throughout the country. Commissions were awarded on the basis of anonymous competitions without reference to artists need. In July of 1939, after reorganization of the Executive Branch, the entire building program of the Treasury Department and the Section were transferred to the new Federal Works Agency. The Section of Fine Arts-Federal Works Agency operated the program until June of 1943 when the activities of WWII shifted priorities. It was under this program that the Kellogg mural and murals in Burley, Buhl, Blackfoot, St. Anthony, and Preston were completed.

The Section, which was administered in Washington, dealt directly with the artists, and selected artists through national and regional design competition. The Section sought the best decorative art that it could find for designated federal buildings. The intent of the program's administrators was that the work would reflect the themes and styles of American life, with a hope that it would strike a responsive chord in the general public. The work resulting from the programs tended to pursue an inoffensive middle ground of style and content, resulting from the requirement for final approval from Washington as well as compliance with local preferences.

The strife and dark side of the Depression was not portrayed, but instead the nostalgic and positive events of American life were depicted. Similarly, negative views of local scenes were usually viewed with displeasure by town residents. In the case of Kellogg, Martin's first attempt at a mural design for the Kellogg post office (winner in the 48-state competition of 1939) portrayed an injured miner being carried on a stretcher. This proved to be controversial--it was labeled as pessimistic by local residents and was rejected. His second attempt, which presently exists, was more favorably received.

It should be noted that this artwork is protected by an agreement, dated October 10, 1975, between the USPS and the National Collection of Fine Arts of the Smithsonian Institute. This agreement is a memorandum between the two agencies wherein the USPS specifically states that they will be responsible for taking prudent measures to maintain the art in good condition or to find a suitable location or recipient for such artwork in the event of sale or disposition of the building in which the art is located.

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LOCAL CONTEXT

Kellogg, which lies within the renowned Silver Valley of northern Idaho, had a 1980 population of 4,235. From its founding in the late 1880s to the present day, the economy of Kellogg has been based on mineral extraction and refining (although the closure of the Bunker Hill mine in 1981 caused a severe economic downturn which presently exists). The Bunker Hill mine was discovered in 1885 by Noah Kellogg, an unemployed carpenter, and his "jackass." Within a short time the area was teeming with miners, although prospectors had been in the area for several years seeking gold and several rushes had occurred.

The site which Kellogg now includes was first called Jackass and was later named Milo after the creek on which it was located. In March of 1886 Milo was surveyed and timber was cleared for the new town. On Christmas Day in 1886 a narrow gauge railroad was completed to Wardner Junction (now Sunnyside in Kellogg) by D. C. Corbin. The town began to grow.

In 1887, the name was again changed to Kellogg in honor of Noah Kellogg. A post office, with Mrs. Hattie Welch as the post master, was established in 1887. The 1890 census showed a population of 324. In 1900 the population reached 823 and grew significantly to 1,552 in 1910 and 3,017 in 1920. During this period the major buildings of the business district were constructed. The city showed growth through 1940 (in spite of the Depression and several years of depressed silver prices) from 4,124 in 1930 to 5,070 in 1940.

The Kellogg post office is located in a commercial zone. The properties immediately to the north across East Portland are also zoned commercial and in commercial use (a modern drive-in bank). The properties to the east across South Division Street are zoned commercial and consist of an apartment building/restaurant, and single family residences (none of remarkable architectural character). The remainder of the block to the south is zoned residential and are in residential use. The properties adjacent to and south of the post office are zoned residential and in residential use. The properties to the west across the alley are in commercial use.

LOCAL NEWSPAPER COVERAGE OF THE POST OFFICE

In the local context, Postmaster A.T. Combs was given custodianship of the site selected for the post office on May 25, 1937. The site consisted of three properties at the southwest corner of Portland Avenue and Division Street, which had been sold by C.B. Forbes, E. Mae King, and the McConnell estate. Four structures were located on the site: two residences, and the Ross Photographic Studio.

An article in the Kellogg Evening News of June 18, 1938, reported that the low bidder for the construction of the post office had been Benjamin H. Shelton of Colfax, Washington. Shelton had been awarded the contract with a bid of \$51,413. According to the Evening News, excavation commenced on October 13th and was being pushed so that the 10-month contract period could be met. Silver was the major topic of the

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news in December as President Roosevelt was ready to sign the "Silver Bill." It was also reported that the mining industry had made a comeback in 1937. Silver prices had increased and six years of the worst depression in history seemed to be ending.

In May of 1938 the Evening News reported that the mines of the Coeur d'Alene District had set a world record for net profits. On June 23rd, the planning for the dedication program for the new post office was reported. The dedication was reported on June 25th. Congressman C.I. White, who sponsored the bill authorizing the post office construction, postal inspector Paul D. Bently of Seattle, Kellogg Mayor J. W. McGrane, and several other speakers addressed the attending residents. The Kellogg High School Band, Boy Scouts, Camp Fire Girls, and American Legion participated in the ceremonies.