

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

1260



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

**2. Location**

street & number	335 East Walworth Avenue	N/A	not for publication
city or town	Delavan	N/A	vicinity
state	Wisconsin	code	WI
county	Walworth	code	127
zip code	53115		

**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.)

*Alucia L. ...*  
Signature of commenting official/Title

*July 26, 2000*  
Date

*Deputy SHPO - WI*  
State or Federal agency and bureau

Delavan Post Office

Walworth 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:)

*Edson H. Beall*

*10/24/08*

*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.)

US 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)

Classical Revival

**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Foundation Brick

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)

Government

Architecture

**Period of Significance**

1914

**Significant Dates**

1914

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

Wenderoth, Oscar

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

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

Delavan Post Office  
Name of Property

Walworth 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    16    3/6/5/2/0/0    4/7/2/1/1/9/0  
    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

<b>name/title</b>	Charles W. Causier, AICP and Joseph G. Jurkiewicz, AIA		
<b>organization</b>	HNTB	<b>date</b>	12-29-93
<b>street &amp; number</b>	11270 Wet Park Place	<b>telephone</b>	414-359-2300
<b>city or town</b>	Milwaukee	<b>state</b>	Wisconsin
		<b>zip code</b>	53224

Delavan Post Office  
Name of Property

Walworth 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.)

<b>name/title</b>	John S. Sorenson, Program Manager, Historic Preservation		
<b>organization</b>	US Postal Service, Customer Service Facilities		
<b>street&amp;number</b>	475 L'Enfant Plaza	<b>telephone</b>	202-268-3107
<b>city or town</b>	Washington	<b>state</b>	DC
		<b>zip code</b>	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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Walworth County, Wisconsin

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**NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION:**

The Delavan Post Office is a large, two-story building located on the main street of downtown Delevan's business district. It sits on a neatly landscaped corner lot. Built in a simplified Neo-Classical Revival style, the post office is faced with light brown brick with raked mortar joints and limestone detailing. The building rests on a raised brick foundation with a limestone watertable and has a flat roof. The cornerstone reads: "William G. McAdoo, Secretary of the Treasury, Oscar Wenderoth, Supervising Architect, 1914."

Wide granite stairs lead from the sidewalk to the front doors, located at the center of the three-part elevation. Cast metal pole lamps with glass globes stand on either side of the landing. The lamps appear to be original. The central portion of the building steps forward. Six brick pilasters with Tuscan capitals mark the bay divisions. The pilasters rise to the height of a carved, stone architrave that wraps around the building. Above the architrave is a brick frieze and then a denticulated cornice. Above the carved cornice is a brick parapet with stone coping. The parapet steps up at the three central bays. In its center is a stone panel inscribed "United States Post Office."

At the center of the facade is a replacement door with a transom above. Between the remaining columns is an eight-over-eight window with a four light transom above. The windows are modern replacements designed to match the originals. Above each transom is an elaborate carved stone lintel, resembling a section of cornice. In the wall space above each of the central portions openings is a stone panel framed in brick. The outer portions of the front elevation have one window per floor. The ground floor window is six-over-six. It has a simple stone sill and lintel. The second floor has nine lights; the architrave serves as its lintel.

The side elevations use the same window treatment as the outer bays. An opening on the east side of the building has been bricked in. An addition with a loading dock has been added to the rear of the post office. It is built of similar materials and does not detract from the appearance of the original portion of the building.

The interior lobby, located at the front of the building, has had some alterations. Plaster walls with marble piers remain. Some of the wood trim at the doors is original, as is the terrazzo floor. The post office contains a mural painted in 1984 by Rosemary Roth. It depicts vignettes from the city's history.

The building is in good condition.

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Walworth County, Wisconsin

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**NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:**

The Delavan 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 post office is significant under Criterion C for Architecture and Criterion A for Government. The post office represents one of the very few examples of federal post office construction in the state undertaken prior to the adoption of the McAdoo standardization system in 1915. As a result, this building was designed as an independent project and not as one of many module designs used in multiple locations after the implementation of the McAdoo system. It also is a good, local example of the Neo-Classical Revival style. The architectural elements of the building are largely intact and the rear addition is sympathetic to the original design and materials. Situated on the edge of the business district, the post office is a focal point for the community.

**Historic Context**

The Delavan Post Office is the first federally owned post office building in the community. Founded here in 1836, the local post office moved from location to location with the appointment of each postmaster, until the construction of this building in 1913.<sup>1</sup>

As part of the larger context of federally owned post offices in Wisconsin, the Delavan Post Office represents an early example of this type of federal construction. It was authorized under the Public Building Omnibus Act of 1912.<sup>2</sup> Further historic context on federal construction during this period is found in the multiple property nomination.

The Delavan Post Office is one of four post offices identified by the state inventory as designed by Oscar Wenderoth. His other designs include the former Waukesha Post Office (1913), the Menomonie Post Office (1913), and the Sparta Post Office (1915). The design of the Waukesha Post Office was unique in the state. The building has a semi-circular portico with fluted Doric columns. The building recalls, on a smaller scale, elements of William Strickland's design for the Philadelphia Exchange of 1832-1834.

Oscar Wenderoth (1873-1938) was a native of Philadelphia where he trained in local architects' offices. Wenderoth joined the office of the Supervising Architect in 1897. Ten years later, he was the office's Chief Draftsman. In 1912, President Taft appointed Wenderoth the head of the Supervising Architect's Office. His work there involved the design of Government buildings, primarily post office design. He left federal employment in 1929 due to failing eyesight.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> "History of Devlevan," n.d. Pamphlet in the collection of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin.

<sup>2</sup> Louis Melvis, The American Postal Service: History of Postal Service from the Earliest Times (Washington, DC: 1917): 32-33.

<sup>3</sup> Henry Withey and Elsie Rathburn Withey, Biographical Dictionary of American Architects (Deceased) (Los Angeles: Hennessey and Ingalls, Inc., 1970). 644.

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**Significance**

The Delavan Post Office meets the registration requirements for a federally owned post office as specified in the multiple property nomination.

The Delavan Post Office is considered eligible for listing under Criterion A, Politics/Government, as a relatively rare example in Wisconsin of a post office designed and constructed as an individual composition before the adoption of the Public Buildings Act of 1913. After this time, the majority of post offices were built by the Treasury Department to standardized designs. These later post offices tended to be of a more austere design, as a result of the need to generate a large number of designs in a short period and to keep costs down.

The Delavan Post Office is also recommended for listing under Criterion C, Architecture, as a local example of the Neo-Classical Revival style applied to a public building. This style was chosen for a number of public buildings, libraries, and banks. This building has a stepped parapet that expresses the hierarchy of the entrance, a denticulated cornice, and large Tuscan pilasters that support a simple architrave. The post office does not have the massive, stone columns associated with the style; however, the simplification of architectural elements as seen here is typical of the style's application to smaller and less costly buildings.

The Delavan Post Office remains largely intact, retaining most of its architectural and site integrity. The main façade presents much the same appearance as when it was built. The rear addition does not detract from the original character of the building and the replacement windows have been designed to match the originals and retain the overall composition of the building. The Delavan Post Office's location in the downtown makes it a prominent landmark in the community.



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Section 9/10 Page 4 Delavan Post Office  
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**9. Major Bibliographic References**

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

Delavan Post Office. Building cornerstone.

“History of Delavan.” Undated pamphlet in the State Historical Society of Wisconsin collections.

Melvis, Louis. The American Postal Service: History of the Postal Service from the Earliest Times.  
Washington, DC: 1917.

Withey, Henry and Elsie Rathburn Withey. Biographical Dictionary of American Architects (Deceased).  
Los Angeles: Hennessey and Ingalls, Inc., 1970.

**10. Geographical Data**

**Verbal Boundary Description**

The property corresponds to the following legal description:

“Commencing on N LN Walworth Avenue, 44’ E of SE COR BLK 10 O.P., E 120.9’, N 161’, W 120.9”,  
S TO POB. City of Delavan.”

**Boundary Justification**

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

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**Photos**

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

Delavan Post Office  
Delavan, Walworth County, Wisconsin  
Photographed by Joseph Jurkiewicz, 1993  
Negatives in the possession of HNTB, Milwaukee, Wisconsin

1. Front façade, facing north.
2. Detail, exterior pole lamps.
3. Rear elevation – loading dock, looking south.
4. Side elevation, looking west.
5. Cornerstone.
6. Interior of lobby, mural.
7. Side elevation, looking east.