



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 Edgerton Post Office
other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number	104 North Swift Street	N/A	not for publication
city or town	Edgerton	N/A	vicinity
state Wisconsin	code WI	county Rock	code 105
			zip code 53534

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.)

Signature of commenting official/Title

Date

Deputy SHPO - WI
State or Federal agency and bureau

July 26, 2000

Edgerton Post Office

Rock

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

10/24/00

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)
Colonial Revival

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

Foundation granite
walls brick

roof metal

other limestone / wood

Narrative Description

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

Edgerton Post Office
Name of Property

Rock
County and State

Wisconsin

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)

Architecture

Art

Period of Significance

1939-1941

Significant Dates

1939

1941

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.)

Edgerton Post Office
Name of Property

Rock
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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	3/3/0/7/4/0	4/7/4/4/1/0	3			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2				4			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		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 & Robert J. Gosse, Architect I	date	12-29-93
organization	HNTB	telephone	414-359-2300
street & number	11270 West Park Place	zip code	53224
city or town	Milwaukee	state	Wisconsin

Edgerton Post Office
Name of Property

Rock
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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 Edgerton Post Office, Rock County, Wisconsin

Narrative Description

The Edgerton Post Office is located on a street off of the main thoroughfare in the downtown commercial district of Edgerton, Wisconsin. The one-story, brick building with a limestone and granite base was built in 1939. It is Georgian Revival in style.

The cornerstone reads: "James A. Farley, Postmaster General, John M. Carmody, Federal Works Administrator, W. Englebert Reynolds, Commissioner of Public Buildings, Louis A. Simon, Supervising Architect, Neal A. Melick, Supervising Engineer, 1939."

The plan of the building is T-shaped, with the public entrance/lobby located on North Swift Street. The front portion of the building has a standing seam, side gable roof. A wood cupola is centered on this roof, aligned with the door, and is topped with a weathervane. Behind this portion of the building is a flat-roofed, rectangular section. A third section at the back gives the building a T configuration.

The main façade is symmetrical about the entrance. The front doors are reached by granite stairs. A painted metal railing and a pole lamp are on either side. The entrance is located within a slightly recessed arched. Within the arch, a pair of wood, fluted columns and pilaster-like piers support a section of entablature with dentils below the cornice. In the area below the arch is an eagle in relief. Between the columns and below the entablature is the door with a transom panel above. The transom contains wood tracery and appears to be original. The door and its sidelights are modern replacements.

On each side of the door are two windows. These have 12 over 12, double-hung lights. They appear to be original; however, aluminum storm windows have been added. Each window has a limestone lintel and sill. Framing the outer windows are brick, pilaster-like projections. The use of these pilasters gives the façade a three-part composition. The stepping out of the frieze between and including these projections reinforces the separation of the outer pavilions. The frieze wraps around the entire building, unifying its various parts. A line of dentils below the cornice adds visual interest. The gabled ends of the front section also have the denticulated molding, forming a full pediment with a half round window in each of the gable ends. An original loading dock at the rear of the building consists of a flat roof extending over the loading area. Metal tie rods from the main building support it.

The interior has the original terrazzo floor and marble wainscot, as well as the original stained wood vestibule. The walls and ceiling are of plaster and appear to be original, although new lighting has been added. The stained wood trim around the post office boxes, windows, and doors remain.

Above the door to the postmaster's office is a 1941 mural by Vladimir Rousseff.¹ Titled "Tobacco Harvest," it depicts a family coming to a hearty meal during the tobacco harvest, an important crop in this

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

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Section 7 Page 2 Edgerton Post Office, Rock County, Wisconsin

part of the state through the early twentieth century. The mural has less of the stark realism prevalent in other federally commissioned works of the period. Evident are traces of Cubism and abstraction, especially in the treatment of the barn in the background. The shadows on the figures and their clothing give them a facet-like appearance. The perspective is somewhat unusual in that the viewer is not looking at a scene depicted in front of him, but down at the table where the family is gathered to eat. Rouseff painted the mural in 1941 during the Depression relief era under the public works programs.

Both the building and the mural are in good condition.

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Section 8 Page 3 Edgerton Post Office, Rock County, Wisconsin

Statement of Significance

The Edgerton Post Office is an example of a Federal post office in the context of the "United States Post Office Construction from 1913-1943, State of Wisconsin – Milwaukee District" Multiple Property Nomination. It is eligible for listing under Criterion C in the areas of art and architecture. The building is a good intact example of the Colonial Revival style post office from the 1930s and is also significant for the mural of high artistic merit found in its lobby.

Historic Context

This building is the first federally owned post office in Edgerton. Prior to its construction in 1939, postal functions were located in a series of buildings owned or leased by each postmaster. The first post office in Edgerton was founded in 1853 and the first postmaster was William Hall.² The Edgerton Post Office is one of several built in the State from 1933 to 1939 under the auspices of the Public Works Administration. The history of post office construction in Wisconsin in this period and under this program is detailed in the above-referenced multiple property nomination. Included in this building is a mural by Vladimir Rousseff, undertaken as part of the WPA artists' program. The historic context of public art in post offices of this era is also included in the multiple property nomination.

This is one of two similarly designed post offices in the survey: DePere and Edgerton. Edgerton's post office features a transom over the door and is executed in brick, whereas the smaller version at DePere is built of Lannon stone.

Significance

The Edgerton Post Office is a good, local example of the Georgian Revival style applied to a small public building. Elements of the style present on this building include: the semi-circular fanlight in the gable ends, straight window heads, the wrap-around denticulated cornice, the cupola, and the elaborate treatment of the door surround. The use of projecting bands of brick gives the impression of massive pilasters delineating the tripartite composition popular in many eighteenth century buildings and in the later revivals of these styles. The building has had few exterior or interior lobby alterations and retains a high degree of architectural integrity. The Wisconsin architectural inventory does not include any similar buildings in the City of Edgerton.

The Edgerton Post Office is further eligible for the mural contained in its lobby. This 1941 mural is by artist Vladimir Rousseff and is a good example of government funded art found in post offices throughout the country in the 1930s and early 1940s. The history of this art program is found in the multiple property

² William Fisk Brown, Rock County, Wisconsin, vol. 2 (Chicago: 1908).

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Section 8 Page 4 Edgerton Post Office, Rock County, Wisconsin

nomination. Vladimir Rousseff was born in 1890 in Bulgaria. His father intended the 16 year old Vladimir to study business in Constantinople. Instead, the young man bought a ticket to America. After supporting himself with a variety of work, Rousseff enrolled in night classes at the Art Institute of Chicago. In addition to the mural at the Edgerton Post Office, Rousseff is known to have received commissions for murals for the post offices in Salem, Illinois, and in Iron Mountain, Michigan. The Iron Mountain project consisted of five panels depicting mail transportation in the West.³ Rousseff also painted the mural "A. Grignon Trading With the Indians" at the post office in Kaukauna, Wisconsin, in 1938.

The theme of the Edgerton mural depicts a locally important scene – the tobacco harvest. In general, many post office murals depict a local industry, local scenery, or an event of local significance. The area around Edgerton was one of the first in the state to grow tobacco. With the waning of the wheat crop in Wisconsin, tobacco became an important cash crop in the southern counties of the state. Because most of the tobacco crop grown in Wisconsin was and is used for cigars, the harvesting is by hand so as not to damage the leaves. Edgerton and nearby Stoughton became important centers for tobacco buying and manufacture by the late nineteenth century with competing warehouses and agencies from Chicago, New York and other eastern cities playing an important role in the commerce and the agricultural production of the area.

In conclusion, the Edgerton Post Office is eligible for listing under Criterion C for Art and Architecture as an example of a small Colonial Revival style post office with an intact interior mural. Both the building and the mural retain high degrees of integrity and display the variations in style found in public works projects.

³ Marlene Park and Gerald E. Markowitz, Democratic Vistas: Post Offices and Public Art in the New Deal (Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 1984), 209, 215.

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Section 9/10 Page 5 Edgerton Post Office, Rock County, Wisconsin

9. Major Bibliographic References

The following sources were consulted in addition to those included in the multiple property nomination for post offices in Wisconsin built between 1913 and 1943.

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

Brown, William Fisk. Rock County, Wisconsin. Chicago: 1908.

Edgerton Post Office. Building Cornerstone.

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

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

10 Geographical Data

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary of this property corresponds to the following legal description:

“Swift’s Addition. SW ¼ part of lot 3 lying East of the East line of lot 4 extended southerly, Lots 22, 23 all in Block 14.”

Boundary Justification

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

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Section photos Page 6

Edgerton Post Office, Rock County, Wisconsin

Photographs

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

Edgerton Post Office
Edgerton, Rock County, Wisconsin
Photographs by Joseph Jurkiewicz
Photographed 1993
Negatives at the State Historical Society of Wisconsin

1. General view, North Swift Street
2. Interior of lobby
3. Interior, detail of mural
4. Detail, cupola
5. Detail, front door
6. Side elevation, view looking southwest
7. Back elevation, view looking southeast
8. Front elevation, view looking northwest