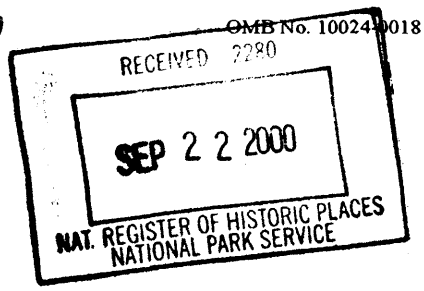


1250



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 Columbus Post Office
other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number	211 South Dickason Boulevard	N/A	not for publication
city or town	Columbus	N/A	vicinity
state	Wisconsin	code	WI
county	Columbia	code	21
zip code	53925		

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. Cor...
Signature of commenting official/Title _____ Date July 26, 2000

Deputy SHPO - WI
State or Federal agency and bureau _____

Columbus Post Office
Name of Property

Columbia 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.)

United State Post Office Construction 1913-1943
State of Wisconsin - Milwaukee District

**Number of contributing resources
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 Granite

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.)

Columbus Post Office

Columbia County

Wisconsin

Name of Property

County and State

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

Acreage of Property Less Than One Acre _____

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

1	1/6	3/3/6/5/5/0	4/8/0/0/1/0/0	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 E. Causier, AICP & Joseph Jurkiewicz, AIA		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	

Columbus Post Office
Name of Property

Columbia 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 Columbus Post Office
Columbus, Columbia County, Wisconsin

Narrative Description:

The Columbus Post Office is located on a secondary street on the fringe of the business and commercial district of Columbus, Wisconsin. The one story, flat roofed building, constructed in 1938 in a minimalist modern style, is nearly identical to the post office in Mayville, Wisconsin. The cornerstone notes: "Henry Morgenthau, Jr., Secretary of the treasury, James A. Farley, Postmaster General, Louis A. Simon, Supervising Architect, Neal A. Melick, Supervising Engineer, 1938."

The Columbus Post Office is constructed of tan brick with limestone trim and sits on a granite base. There is a wide limestone fascia that wraps around the perimeter of the building and is engraved with the words "United States Post Office." The plan is rectangular with the public entrance and lobby on Dickason Boulevard.

The elevation is organized symmetrically about the entry. There is an iron grille with an eagle in front of the transom panel above the door. Granite stairs with limestone sides lead to the door. The original pole lamps remain on either side of the stairs. The triple-hung windows are original. There are two on either side of the front door. The windows are organized in groups of six lights with each grouping delineated by a wider mullion. At the base of each window is a granite panel.

The side elevations are treated in a similar manner to the front façade. Each has four bays with triple-hung windows, although on the northeast elevation the bay to the right of the center has been bricked in. There has been an addition of a large, four bay loading dock on the rear of the building.

The lobby contains its original terrazzo floor and marble wainscot. The walls and ceiling are of plaster. The wood trim and entrance vestibule are also original. Above the door to the postmaster's office is a mural by Arnold Blanch titled "One Hundredth Anniversary." Blanch painted the mural in 1940. The mural depicts a rustic log cabin with a banner inscription "Columbus Settled in 1840" directly above the door to the office. To either side, in large scale, are depicted a farmer and his wife. Neat furrows draw the eye back to a farmstead. Cows graze in the foreground. In the background is a grouping of buildings, including a two-story house and a large barn with an attached silo. The mural is painted in a realistic style with vibrant colors.

United States Department of the Interior
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National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 2 Columbus Post Office
Columbus, Columbia County, Wisconsin

Statement of Significance

The Columbus Post Office is an intact example of a Federal post office evaluated in the context of the multiple property nomination "United States Post Office Construction from 1913 to 1943, State of Wisconsin – Milwaukee District." The Columbus Post Office is being nominated under Criterion C for Art.

Historic Context

This building is the first federally owned post office building in Columbus. Prior to its construction, postal services were conducted in various locations selected by a series of local postmasters. Postal service in Columbus dates from 1845 and the first postmaster was H. A. Whitney.¹

The Columbus Post Office was one of a series constuted in Wisconsin by the federal Public Works Administration in the 1930s. It is identical to the post office building in Mayville, Wisconsin; however, the Columbus example retains a higher degree of architectural integrity because its original windows are intact. These two examples demonstrate the modular or master design system adopted for post office construction under which numerous projects used the same design, modified only for size or budget constraints.² The historic context for post office construction during this period in Wisconsin and the federal sponsorship of art for these buildings is found in the previously cited multiple property nomination.

Significance

The Columbus Post Office is considered eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places for its Depression-era mural. Arnold Blanch painted this colorful mural, titled "One Hundredth Anniversary," in 1940. In keeping with the region, the mural depicts an agricultural theme and the growing prosperity of its setting, Columbus, Wisconsin. The small log house in the foreground is contrasted by the prosperous farmstead with a large home and substantial outbuildings. Framing the composition are the farmer and his wife. The man is shown not merely as someone who can raise cows and grain, but as a builder with a saw and square. The woman is shown with the additional bounty of the farm, a bucket of produce and a covered basket, presumably holding baked goods.

The work is representative of government sponsored art during the Depression. Murals painted throughout the United States in public buildings were a means of employing America's artists during the Depression and a way to bring art to the general population. In many of the Wisconsin examples, as seen here, the mural is a celebration of rural life with a focus on the bounty of the land. This mural also calls attention to

¹ J.E. Jones, A History of Columbia County, Wisconsin, Vol. 1 (Chicago: 1914).

² America Builds: The Record of the PWA. Public Works Administration (Washington: DC: 1939), appendix.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 3 Columbus Post Office
Columbus, Columbia County, Wisconsin

the skills and attributes of the local farmers and their wives and demonstrates how in 100 years the area had been transformed from rustic wilderness to prosperous farms. AS was the intention of the murals program, the work is easily understood by the viewer and is a celebration of the locale.

Blanch is known to have painted two additional murals for the Fine Arts Section, these include murals in the post offices in Fredonia, New York, and in Norwalk, Connecticut.³ Blanch was born in Mantonville, Minnesota, in 1896. Prior to his post office mural work, Blanch was known as an easel painter whose work was represented in leading galleries in the United States.⁴

The Columbus Post Office retains a largely historic setting for Blanch's mural, "One Hundredth Anniversary." With the exception of modern lighting fixtures, the setting for the mural is much the same as it would have been at the time of the mural's installation. The Columbus Post Office is nominated for this representative example of public art from the public works era.

³ Marlene Park and Gerald Markowitz, Democratic Vistas: Post Offices and Public Art in the New Deal (Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 1984), 205, 220, 232.

⁴ Exhibition of Mural Designs for Federal Buildings (Ottawa: National Gallery of Canada, 1940), 7.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section 9, 10 Page 4 Columbus Post Office
Columbus, Columbia County, Wisconsin

9. Major Bibliographic References

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

Columbus Post Office. Building cornerstone.

Exhibition of Mural Designs for Federal Buildings. Ottawa: National Gallery of Canada, 1940.

Jones, J.E. A History of Columbia County, Wisconsin. Vol. I. Chicago: 1914.

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

10. Geographical Data

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated boundary corresponds to the following legal description: Lots 9 and 10, Block 8, Ludington's plat.

Boundary Justification

This boundary encompasses the Columbus 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 Columbus Post Office
Columbus, Columbia County, Wisconsin

Photographs

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

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

1. Interior view of lobby
2. Mural
3. View of rear elevation, looking northwest
4. View of side elevation, looking southwest
5. Detail of ironwork, front elevation
6. View of side elevation, looking northeast
7. View of front elevation, looking southeast