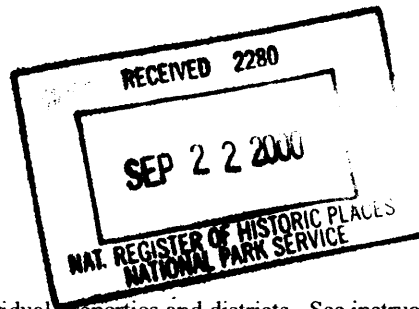


United States Department of Interior
National Park Service



1244

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 Medford Post Office
other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number	304 South Main Street	N/A	not for publication
city or town	Medford	N/A	vicinity
state Wisconsin	code WI	county Taylor	code 119 zip code 54451

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 J. Cook
Signature of commenting official/Title

July 26, 2000
Date

Deputy SHPO - WI
State or Federal agency and bureau

Medford Post Office
Name of Property

Taylor 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:)

Ethan 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 Limestone

walls Brick

roof Asphalt Shingles

other Limestone

Narrative Description

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

Medford Post Office
Name of Property

Taylor County
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

Period of Significance

1937

Significant Dates

1937

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Simon, Louis
Melick, Neal A.

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

Medford Post Office

Taylor 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

Acreeage of Property Less Than One Acre

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

1	<u>15</u>	<u>7/0/8/9/0/0</u>	<u>5/0/0/1/3/1/0</u>	3	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing

2	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	4	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	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 and Robert J. Gosse, Architect I		
organization	HNTB	date	12/29/93
street & number	11270 West Park Place	telephone	413-359-2300
city or town	Milwaukee	state	Wisconsin
		zip code	53224

Medford Post Office
Name of Property

Taylor 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 Medford Post Office
Medford, Taylor County, Wisconsin

Narrative Description

The Medford Post Office is located on the main thoroughfare in the heart of the business/commercial district of Medford, Wisconsin, the Taylor County seat. The Medford Post Office is a one-story building with a raised basement and a full attic story. The post office is a Georgian Revival building of red brick with a limestone portico and limestone trim. The granite cornerstone notes: "Henry Morgenthau, Jr., Secretary of the Treasury, James A. Farley, Postmaster General, Louis A. Simon, Supervising Architect, Neal A. Melick, Supervising Engineer, 1937."

The building is rectangular in plan with the public entrance/lobby entered from Main Street. The front elevation is organized symmetrically around the projecting entry portico. The portico is entirely of limestone. Unfluted columns with acanthus leaf capitals support the pediment. The entablature aligns with the limestone cornice of the main building and is engraved with the words "United States Post Office." There is some deterioration of the stonework where the portico joins the main building. The entry door within the portico is trimmed with fluted limestone pilasters supporting a limestone head with the inscription "Medford Wisconsin." The entrance is reached by a flight of stairs from the sidewalk.

The main body of the building is of red brick. Brick quoins accent the corners of the building. There are two windows on each side of the central entry portico. All of the windows of the front and side elevations have limestone lintels with central keystones. Above the cornice, a brick parapet with inset limestone balusters runs around the building. The placement of balusters aligns with the windows below. Behind the parapet is a central, hipped roof with dormers on all sides to light the attic story. The front façade has three dormers; the side elevations have four. The wood windows in the segmental arch dormers are original with multiple lights and dividing muntins. The windows and doors of the main building are modern, natural finish aluminum replacements.

The rear elevation is utilitarian, although the cornice does continue around the back of the building. The windows have simple surrounds. Dominating the elevation is a large, flat-roofed loading dock. The loading dock appears to be original to the building.

The interior lobby retains most of its historic features. The terrazzo floor, marble wainscot, stained wood trim, and doors are intact. The walls and ceiling are plaster. An aluminum framed window wall has been added to separate the post office boxes from the service portion of the lobby. The lighting fixtures are also modern.

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**National Register of Historic Places
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Section 7 Page 2 Medford Post Office
Medford, Taylor County, Wisconsin

While several aspects of the building have been modernized and there is some damage to the stonework, the building, overall, retains a high level of architectural integrity. Those elements of the façade that identify the post office as an example of the Georgian Revival design remain intact. These decorative features include the large portico with freestanding columns, balustraded parapet, window and door surrounds, and the quoins. While the absence of multi-light windows detracts from the general appearance, this alteration could be mitigated in the future through the installation of period replacement windows.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section 8 Page 3 Medford Post Office
Medford, Taylor County, Wisconsin

Statement of Significance

The Medford Post Office is an example of a federally owned post office in the context of the "United States Post Office Construction from 1913-1943, State of Wisconsin -- Milwaukee District" multiple property nomination. The Medford Post Office is considered eligible for listing under Criterion C for Architecture as an example of the Georgian Revival style applied to a small post office building. It is also locally significant as an example of the style.

Historic Context

The 1937 Medford Post Office is the first federally owned post office in Medford, Wisconsin. It is one of a group of post offices constructed throughout the state in the 1930s under the Federal Works Progress Administration. The history of post office construction in Wisconsin in this period and under this program is discussed in the multiple property nomination. The post offices constructed during this federal building initiative are of a variety of styles; most are simplified and lower cost versions of their high style examples. This building, however, retains the decorative carved stonework of the higher end buildings. The majority of the smaller evaluated post offices of this period do not display this level of ornamentation. The greater expenditure on detailing may be the result of this post office being located in the county seat.

Prior to the construction of the current post office, postal functions were housed in the Benn Building (NRHP, 1983), a two story, limestone commercial block built in the Beaux Arts style in 1912 by then Postmaster John Benn. Although Benn's term ended in November 1913, the post office remained in the Benn Building until the completion of the current Medford Post Office Building.

Significance

The Medford Post Office is a good, local example of the Georgian Revival style applied to a small post office. Georgian Revival designs are noted for their formal, symmetrical facades. Larger examples, usually non-residential, may have a freestanding, pedimented portico, as in this example. The building also is wrapped by a classical cornice with dentils and has a parapet.

Two other examples of classically inspired brick and stone buildings identified in Medford in the Wisconsin architectural survey include the 1913 Taylor County Courthouse designed by B. Mehner (NRHP, 1980) and the State Bank of Medford building. The courthouse, by its

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Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 4 Medford Post Office
Medford, Taylor County, Wisconsin

nature, is much larger and grander. The bank, a two-story building with a recessed colonnade, is characterized by two-story Doric columns placed on large plinths. While more massive in scale, the bank lacks a decorative portico and the high level of carved detailing seen on the post office building.

Through its use of classical vocabulary, this small building gains physical and visual prominence. The high level of decorative detail and the abundance of carved stone set this post office apart from the majority of other small post offices of the period, which were more restrained or utilitarian in their appearance. Despite the deterioration of the stonework and some alterations to the building, the Medford Post Office remains a locally significant example of the Georgian Revival style.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section 9/10 Page 5 Medford Post Office
Medford, Taylor County, Wisconsin

9. Bibliography

The following resources were consulted in addition to those included in the multiple property nomination "United States Post Office Construction from 1913-1943, State of Wisconsin-Milwaukee District":

Medford Post Office, cornerstone.

10. Geographical Data

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary corresponds to the following legal parcel: Lots 18 and 19 of Block 4, Wisconsin Central Railroad First Addition.

Boundary Justification

This boundary encompasses the Medford 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 6 Medford Post Office
Medford, Taylor County, Wisconsin

Photographs

The following information is the same for all photographs:

Medford Post Office
Taylor County, Wisconsin
Photographed by Joseph Jurkiewicz
1993
Negatives at State Historical Society of Wisconsin

1. View of front façade, facing northeast
2. Detail of pediment and frieze, front façade
3. Detail of capital, front façade
4. Deterioration of stonework
5. Upper façade detail
6. Side elevation, looking southeast
7. Back elevation, looking southwest
8. Interior view of lobby
9. Interior view of lobby