

1248



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

2. Location

street & number	122 South Pearl Street	N/A	not for publication
city or town	Berlin	N/A	vicinity
state Wisconsin	code WI	county Green Lake	code 47 zip code 54923

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. Coakley
Signature of commenting official/Title

July 26, 2000
Date

Deputy SHPO - WI
State or Federal agency and bureau

Berlin Post Office

Green Lake 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

10/24/00

for

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(check as many boxes 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)

Modern Movement

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

Foundation brick

walls brick

limestone

roof

other

Narrative Description

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

Berlin Post Office
Name of Property

Green Lake 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)

Art

Period of Significance

1938

Significant Dates

1938

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.)

Berlin Post Office
Name of Property

Green Lake 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 3/4/3/7/6/0 4/8/6/9/9/1/0
 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

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	414-359-2300
city or town	Milwaukee	state	Wisconsin
		zip code	53224

Berlin Post Office
Name of Property

Green Lake 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.

Kewaunee Post Office
Name of Property

Kewaunee 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)

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section 7 Page 1 Kewaunee Post Office, Kewaunee County, Wisconsin

Narrative Description

The Kewaunee Post Office is a one-story, tan brick building with limestone trim. It is located in the business district of Kewaunee, Wisconsin. The building sits on a raised basement and has a flat roof. The plan of the building is rectangular and the public entrance and lobby are on the Ellis Street façade. Built in 1937, the Kewaunee Post Office is of the minimalist modern style favored for public and institutional buildings in the 1930s.

The front façade is organized in five bays with the front door in the center. Above the door is a four light transom window. All of the openings of the front façade are set in recessed panels. The three center bays have limestone relief panels above the door and windows. From left to right, they depict a train, a plane, and a boat. Above the windows of the two end bays are simple, limestone lintels. Below each of the windows is a limestone panel. The two windows on either side of the door are larger, having four over four lights; those of the side bays have three over three. The window storms, entrance door and transom panel are bronze finished aluminum and are not original. A wide flight of stairs leads to the landing by the front door. The stairs are granite with brick and limestone sides with pole lamps on either side.

The front facade is framed vertically by bands of limestone. A limestone water table provides a base for the window panels. Above the windows is a limestone belt course, an area of brick, and limestone coping. In the brick area are set raised metal letters, stating: "United State Post Office" and "Kewaunee Wisconsin 54214." The zip code is a later addition.

Located at the bottom front left of the building is a cornerstone. It 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 side elevations carry on a variation of the front facade. Each side elevation has six double-hung windows; all have four-over-four lights with bronze finished aluminum. The windows on the ends have limestone panels underneath, reaching the water table. All six have limestone lintels. The rear of the building features an original, one-story loading dock.

The interior lobby retains its original tile floor and wainscot. The walls and ceiling are of plaster. The wood windows, marble sills, wood trim, and wood vestibule remain.

Above the door to the postmaster's office is a large mural. Artist Paul Faulkner painted "Winter Sports" in 1940.¹ While the majority of the murals in Wisconsin post offices are oil on canvas, this work is a fresco. The scene depicts the crest of a hill with girls and boys skiing and sledding. The middle ground is a frozen

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

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Section 7 Page 2 Kewaunee Post Office, Kewaunee County, Wisconsin

river valley with skaters and hockey players. In the background is the outline of a city and bluffs along the river.

The Kewaunee Post Office is similar in design to the post offices in Prairie du Chien and Shawano, Wisconsin. All date from the same period. The Kewaunee example has retained somewhat more architectural integrity than the others have.

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Section 7 Page 1 Berlin Post Office
Green Lake County, Berlin, Wisconsin

Narrative Description

The Berlin Post Office is located on the fringe of the downtown business district and adjacent to a residential area. Built in 1936, it is a one-story building of tan brick and sandstone. The building is devoid of any historical references and is loosely Art Moderne in its styling. Located at the front right corner of the post office is a cornerstone, which reads: "Henry Morgenthau, Jr., Secretary of the Treasury, James A. Farley, Postmaster General, Louis A. Simon, Supervising Architect, Neal A. Melick, Supervising Engineer, 1936."

The building sits on a raised basement faced in brick. It has a flat roof with a coping of granite and metal. The front façade is a three-part composition; this tri-partite organization is common to many of the post offices in the related multiple property nomination. The central portion is faced with vertically placed limestone panels. The double front doors are located symmetrically in the center of the facade. Above the doors is a large, square, plate glass window. The window is a replacement. To either side of the entrance is a double hung window with twelve-over-twelve lights. The windows are set in a slightly recessed panel. All of the double hung windows have wood frames, and appear to be original. The entrance is reached by a flight of stairs. The stairs are of granite and contained within sidewalls built of large stone blocks. A decorative lamp, placed on a tall, metal pole, is located on each of the sidewalls.

The walls to the side of the central portion are of tan brick, as is the remainder of the exterior cladding. Located within a flat recess in the center of each side portion is a nine-over-nine double hung window. The windows sit on a limestone sill and there is an additional limestone sill at the base of the recess. This motif is repeated on the side and rear elevation windows. There is a loading dock at the rear of the building. Above the roofline of the rear dock are small clerestory windows, which provide additional light in the main lobby.

The front, central portion of the building is devoted to the post office lobby. The interior retains its original terrazzo floor, marble wainscot, wood vestibule and trim, and built in mailboxes. The walls and ceiling are of plaster. A simple cornice circles the space. The ceiling lighting fixtures are new. Above the door to the postmaster's office is a mural. Painted in 1938 by Raymond Redell, a WPA artist, it is titled "Harvesting Cranberries."¹ Painted in the realistic style favored in Public Works projects, the mural depicts five men working in a cranberry bog. The background features a farm scene, with a large house, barn, and two children playing with a dog.

¹ Berlin Post Office, date on mural.

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National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 2 Berlin Post Office
Green Lake County, Berlin, Wisconsin

Narrative Statement of Significance

The Berlin 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 area of art. The post office contains a WPA mural in an intact historic setting, giving a full impression of a post office in the mid-1930s.

Historic Context

This building was the first federally owned Post Office in Berlin, Wisconsin. Prior to its construction, postal services were conducted in various locations selected by a series of local postmasters. Postal service in Berlin dates from 1846.² The front façade is a three-part composition; this tri-partite organization is common to many of the post offices in the related multiple-property nomination. The front façade is a three-part composition; this tri-partite organization is common to many of the post offices in the related multiple-property nomination. This post office was one of several constructed in Wisconsin by the federal Public Works Administration in the 1930s. The history of post office construction in Wisconsin in this period and under this program is detailed in the multiple property nomination form.

Significance

The Berlin Post Office is eligible for listing by meeting the requirements specified in the multiple property nomination for post office construction in Wisconsin from 1913 to 1943. Its eligibility is under Criterion C, Art, as a local example of federally funded Depression-era public art. A discussion of the artistic approach is included in the multiple property text.

Raymond Redell painted the mural in the Berlin Post Office lobby. Titled “Harvesting Cranberries” it depicts five men working in a cranberry bog. The theme is appropriate to the Berlin area as it was a major cranberry producing region of the state in the mid to late nineteenth century. In the 1870s speculators from the Berlin area developed the marches in the area west of Green Lake County. Redell completed a second New Deal post office mural in Wisconsin – “Wisconsin Countryside” in Waupaca (1940).

² Lulubelle C. Gillett, Early Houses in Berlin, Wisconsin, and the People Who Lived in Them (Stevens Point: 1976).

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Section 8 Page 3 Berlin Post Office
Green Lake County, Berlin, Wisconsin

Conclusion

The Berlin Post Office is significant under Criterion C as an intact example of a public works era public building, complete with its contemporary mural. The exterior and public interior spaces of the building are largely unaltered. As a setting for the mural, the lobby retains its terrazzo floor, marble wainscot, and woodwork. The mural is locally significant as an example of federally funded public art and is representative of many other works of its period in its choice of theme and artistic style.

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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

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Berlin Post Office
Green Lake County, Berlin, Wisconsin

9. Major Bibliographical References

The following resources were consulted in addition to those included in the multiple property nomination:

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

Berlin Post Office, cornerstone.

Gillett, Lulubelle C. Early Houses in Berlin, Wisconsin, and the People Who Lived in Them.
Stevens Point: 1976.

Reconnaissance Files. State Historical Society of Wisconsin.

10. Geographical Data

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property corresponds to the following legal description: "Original Plat, south 126 feet of lots 5 and 6, block 19.

Boundary Justification

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

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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section photos Page 5

Berlin Post Office
Green Lake County, Berlin, Wisconsin

Photographs:

The following information applies to all photographs:

Berlin Post Office
Green Lake County, Wisconsin
Photographed by Joseph Jurkiewicz
1993
Negatives in the possession of HNTB, Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Individual information:

1. Interior view of lobby
2. Mural "Harvesting Cranberries"
3. Detail – cornerstone
4. Rear elevation, looking east
5. Side elevation, looking south
6. Front elevation, looking west
7. Side elevation, looking north