

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Herington United States Post Office
other names/site number Same

2. Location

street & number 17 East Main Street not for publication
city, town Herington vicinity
state Kansas code KS county Dickinson code 041 zip code 67449

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	_____ buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	_____	_____ sites
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	_____	_____ structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	_____	_____ objects
		<u>1</u>	_____ Total

Name of related multiple property listing:
Kansas Post Offices that Contain Treasury
Department Section Artwork, 1936-1942

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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. See continuation sheet.

Roman Powers State Historic Preservation Officer February 16, 1989
Signature of certifying official Date
Kansas State Historical Society
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this 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.

removed from the National Register.

other, (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper _____ Date of Action _____

041-2420-0007

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)

20th Century Revival: Classical
 Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brick
 walls Brick
 Stone: limestone
 roof Other: tar and gravel
 other Stone: limestone

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Herington United States Post Office (c. 1936) is located at 17 East Main Street in Herington, Dickinson County, Kansas (pop. 2,930). The one story, flat roofed, red brick building has a northern facade orientation. The building measures approximately sixty-eight feet from east to west and fifty-five feet from north to south. A transomed, double door pierces the building's facade. Two large, multi-paned windows flank the doorway. Limestone surrounds accentuate these three openings. Steps lead up to the doorway, spanning the three openings described. A smaller, double hung window with a plain brick surround and limestone sill fenestrates each of the outer facade bays. This lesser fenestration is continued on the other elevations. A decorated limestone frieze and a wide limestone block waterable add additional ornamentation to the building. This post office is an example of the smaller class C or D standardized design type that was repeated throughout the country during the 1930s.

The mural, "Arrival of the First Train in Herington-1885" was installed on the east wall of the Herington Post Office above the postmaster's door and the two glazed bulletin boards that flank it. This is the traditional location for Section artwork in the smaller class C and D post offices. "Arrival of the First Train in Herington-1885" is an oil on canvas mural that depicts the arrival of the first Missouri Pacific train to Herington. Freund focuses attention on the black steam engine as it rolls into town. Well dressed people surround the train. Carriages abound in the foreground of the mural. The depot stands just behind the train. The original town of Herington stands in the background on the left side of the canvas. Monroe Herington's original ranch, windmill, and covered well stands in the background on the right side of the canvas. Freund employs an olive tone palette for the mural, drawing from the illustrative, lithographic style of Currier and Ives prints.

The mural was installed on October 8, 1937 and measured 11' by 5' before installation. A cornice surmounts the mural. The oil on canvas mural was maroflagged to the wall with casco waterproof glue. It was not varnished. In 1973 the mural was evaluated as moderately damaged. This condition has not improved. The canvas is bubbling, there are ceiling paint spots on it, and it is dirty.

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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A varnished wooden vestibule projects into the lobby, cutting off some view of the mural. This is a traditional design feature found in most of the post offices included in this nomination. The floors and wainscoting retain their original tiles. The postmaster's door, the surround, and the bulletin board surrounds are painted; originally these were varnished. The original hanging light fixtures have been replaced with almost flush mounted fluorescent lights.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Art
Politics/Government
Social History

Period of Significance

1937
1937
1937

Significant Dates

1937
1937
1937

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Freund, H. Louis: Artist
Simon, Louis: Supervising Architect
Stone, G.W.: Architect

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Herington United States Post Office (c. 1936) is being nominated to the National Register as part of the Kansas Post Office Artwork (1936-1942) Thematic Resources nomination at the local and state levels of significance under criteria A and C for its historical association with the Treasury Department's Section program and for the artistic significance of the mural that it contains. The mural, "The Arrival of the First Train in Herington-1885", was painted by Clinton, Missouri artist H. Louis Freund (1905 - ?) in 1937.

"The Arrival of the First Train in Herington-1885" is an oil on canvas mural that depicts a scene which is important to the community's founding. Monroe Herington, a large land owner in east central Kansas, induced the Missouri Pacific to build through his ranch by giving the railroad land, with the stipulation that the company erect a substantial depot where the present town of Herington stands. The mural depicts the arrival of the first Missouri Pacific train in Herington; it originated in and carried two thousand people to the young town of Herington for a large barbeque celebration put on by Monroe Herington. Herington became a major junction for three railroads, so the historical associations behind the subject material for the mural were very important to the community.

Freund's mural focuses attention on the black steam engine as it rolls into town. Well dressed people surround the train. Carriages abound in the foreground of the mural. The depot stands just behind the train. The original town of Herington stands in the background on the left side of the canvas. Monroe Herington's original ranch house, windmill, and covered well stands in the background on the right side of the canvas. Freund employs an olive tone palette for the mural, drawing from the illustrative, lithographic style of Currier and Ives prints. "The Arrival of the First Train in Herington-1885" is representative of the historically based, illustrative realism that was funded under the Section program.

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Freund sought the involvement of the community in the development of the subject material and presentation of the mural. In March, 1937 Freund wrote Herington Postmaster James Doyle asking him to suggest topics of local interest or historical significance for the mural. Freund concluded the letter, writing that, "As long as public money is being used to pay for the murals I believe that local citizens should have a chance to choose the subject matter to be portrayed. After all they are the ones who will be looking at them in the years to come." Freund corresponded with Doyle several times during the mural's planning and development, enclosing a sketch for criticisms and suggestions. Freund tried to accommodate the community by working to complete the mural before Herington's fifty year celebration but a delay in the Section review of his sketches pushed the installation into October. Postmaster Doyle's letter of acceptance to the Section for the mural was very favorable. Doyle writes that the mural "has been installed with satisfaction and has created a great deal of favorable comment and admiration from local newspapers and patrons of this office . . . the work is beautiful and we are indeed proud to have been favored with this artistic addition to the community."

Freund received the commission as a result of a second place finish in a twelve state Section competition. The contract was received on April 5, 1937 and the mural was installed on October 8, 1937. "The Arrival of the First Train in Herington-1885" was installed on the east wall of the lobby above the postmaster's door and the two glazed bulletin boards that flank it. It measured 11' by 5' before installation. Freund received \$520 for the commission. The Herington Post Office is an example of one of the many smaller class C or D type post offices that received Section artwork in Kansas. Freund is also responsible for the Section murals in the Heber Springs, Arkansas; Pocahontas, Arkansas; Windsor, Missouri; and Idabel, Oklahoma post offices.

Freund was already an accomplished artist when he received the Section commission for the Herington Post Office. He studied art at the University of Missouri, the St. Louis School of Fine Arts, and Princeton University. He travelled to Paris on a Carnegie Fellowship to study under Paul Moriset. Freund founded the Art School of the Ozarks in Eureka Springs, Arkansas with his wife.

Please see the Kansas Post Office Artwork (1936-1942) Thematic Resources cover nomination for additional information.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Falk, Peter Hastings. Who Was Who in American Art. (Madison, CT: Soundview Press, 1985).

General Services Administration. Treasury Department Section Records - Kansas Post Offices. Herington, Kansas.

Herington Postmaster's Correspondence Files on the Section Mural, 1937-1972. Tri-County Historical Society, Herington, Kansas.

Herington Times, 23 September 1937.

Kansas City Star 10 October 1937.

Mecklenburg, Virginia. The Public as Patron. (College Park, MD: University of Maryland Press, 1979).

See continuation sheet

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- 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

Specify repository:

Kansas State Historical Society

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of property Less than 1 acre

UTM References

A

1	4
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6	7	9	1	0	0
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4	2	8	1	9	4	5
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Zone Easting Northing

C

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B

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Zone Easting Northing

D

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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property is located on lots 1, 3, 5, 7, 9; Block 28, Herington, Kansas. The property is bounded to the north by Main Street, to the east by A Street and to the west and south by adjacent property lines.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the entire parcel that is historically associated with the property.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Martha Hagedorn-Krass, Architectural Historian
organization Kansas State Historical Society date February 16 1989
street & number 120 W. 10th telephone 913-296-5264
city or town Topeka state Kansas zip code 66612

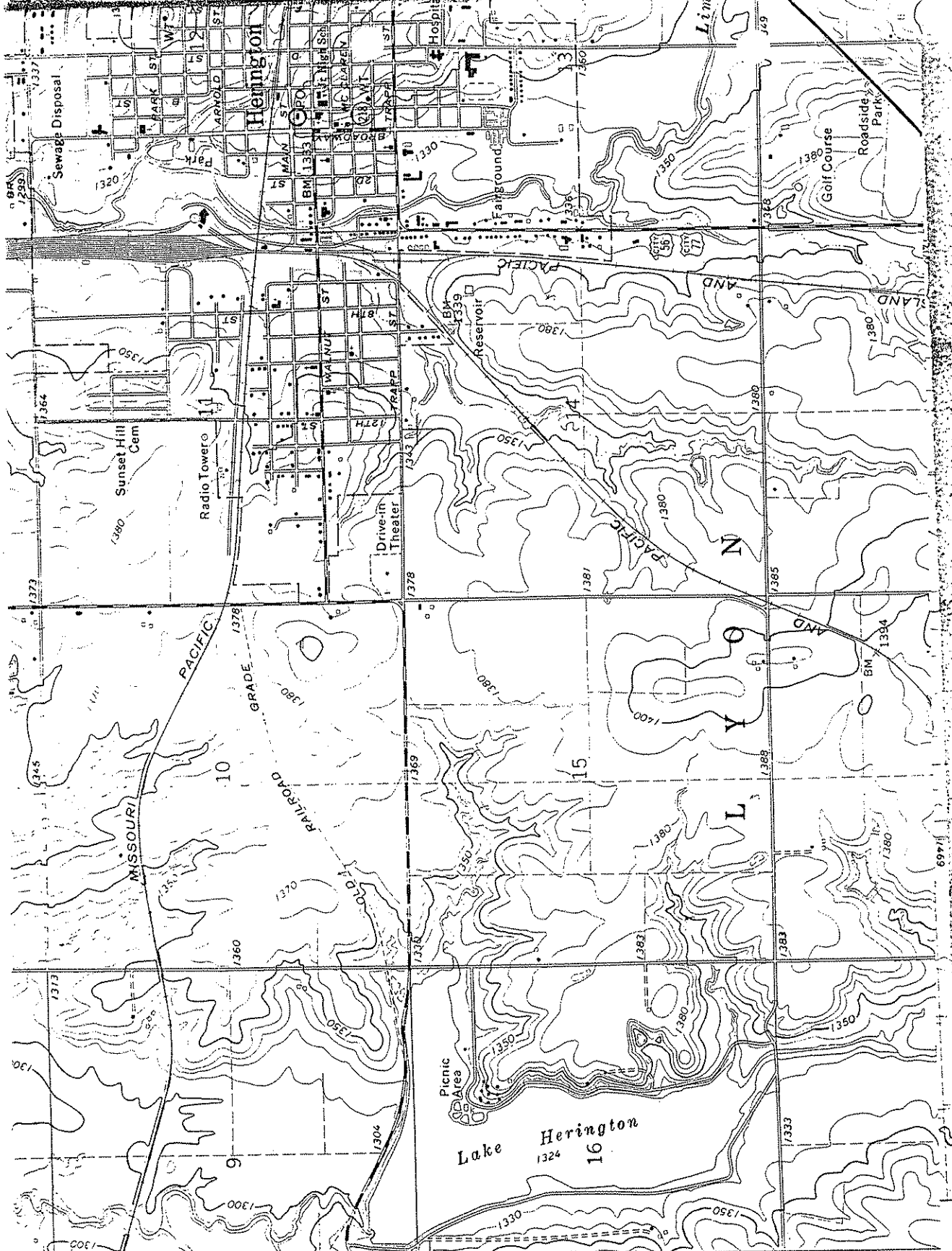
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Svedlow, Dr. Anthony V. (Mulvane Gallery, Washburn University, Topeka, Kansas). Personal interview with Martha Hagedorn-Krass, January 8, 1988.

Wichita Eagle-Beacon, 24 May 1972.



Herington United 4882
 Stokes Post Office
 Herington, Kansas
 (Herington Quad 40)
 UTM Coordinates
 14 679100
 4281945