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  Eureka United States Post Office
   other names/site number  same

2. Location
   street & number  301 North Oak Street
   city, town  Eureka
   state  Kansas  code  KS  county  Greenwood  code  073  zip code  67045
   not for publication  vicinity

3. Classification
   Ownership of Property  Category of Property  Number of Resources within Property
   □ private  □ building(s)  Contributing  1  buildings
   □ public-local  □ district  Noncontributing  sites
   □ public-State  □ structure  structures
   □ public-Federal  □ object  objects
   □ 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.
   Signature of certifying official  State Historic Preservation Officer  December 27, 1988
   Kansas State Historical Society  Date

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

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Eureka United States Post Office (c. 1936) is located at 301 North Oak Street in Eureka, Greenwood County, Kansas (pop. 3,425). The one story, flat roofed, red brick and limestone building has an eastern facade orientation. The building measures approximately sixty-four feet from north to south and sixty-two feet from east to west with a twenty-two foot by twenty-eight foot rear projection. A double door surmounted by a transom pierces the center of the building's facade. Steps lead up to the doorway. Two sets of large, multi-paned windows flank the doorway. Limestone panels surround the windows and the door on the facade, supporting a limestone architrave and concluding in the limestone foundation. Six windows of similar design pierce the north and south elevations of the building. This post office appears to be an example of a class B post office, rather than the more common class C or D type that was constructed in Kansas during the 1930s and 1940s.

The mural "Cattle Roundup" was installed on the north wall of the Eureka Post Office lobby above the postmaster's door and the two bulletin boards that flank it. This is the traditional location for Section artwork in the smaller class post offices. "Cattle Roundup" is an oil on canvas mural that depicts cowboys rounding up cattle in the Flint Hills near Eureka, in southeast Kansas. Kirkland places a bull, a cow, and a calf in the foreground of the canvas, the herd thunders behind them. A lead cowboy encircles the herd. Kirkland uses warm tones of browns and greens to portray a scene that was very common and close to the heart of the Eureka area.

"Cattle Roundup" was installed on August 5, 1938, and was attached to the wall with white lead and linseed oil. It measured 12' 6" by 5' 5" before installation and is framed with a small moulding. The surface was glazed slightly. In 1973 the mural's condition was assessed as good.

In 1983, Anton Rajer, Associate Conservator of Art with the Nelson Atkins Museum in Kansas City, Missouri cleaned, touched up, and varnished the mural. Rajer gently rolled over the mural with cotton swabs dipped in a weak solution of trisodium phosphate, aerosal, and water to clean the mural. He varnished the clean mural with Acryloid B-72, a reversible varnish. He then inpainted the deteriorating parts of the picture with
a polyvinyl acetate palette. This paint is designed to retain its shade longer than the oils originally employed and provides a way of varying between the original paint and the restoration paint. A finish coat of Acryloid F-10 varnish was then applied. Rajer received numerous contracts from the United States Post Office in the early 1980s to restore Section artwork in the midwest and the plains states. He was responsible for the restoration of the mural at the Neodesha, Kansas post office in 1983. The Eureka mural is in good condition.

A varnished, wooden vestibule projects in to the lobby, cutting off some view of the mural. This is a tradition design feature found in most of the post offices included in this nomination. The floors and the wainscotting retain their original tiles. The postmaster’s door and bulletin boards retain their original surrounds. The original hanging light fixtures have been replaced with almost flush mounted fluorescent lights.
The Eureka 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, "Cattle Roundup", was painted by Denver artist Vance Kirkland (1904-?) in 1938.

"Cattle Roundup" is an oil on canvas mural that depicts cowboys rounding up cattle in the Flint Hills near Eureka, in southeast Kansas. Cattle were the driving force of the Eureka economy in the 1930s when the mural was painted. Kirkland places a bull, a cow, and a calf in the foreground of the canvas, the herd thunders over the hills behind them. A lead cowboy encircles the herd, Kirkland uses warm tones of browns and greens to portray a scene that was very common and close to the heart of the Eureka area. "Cattle Roundup" is representative of the illustrative realism that was funded under the Section program.

Kirkland studiously incorporated community comments into the subject material and presentation of the mural. Of his visit to Eureka in 1938 Kirkland wrote the Section's Edward Rowan:

I made a trip to Eureka and spent considerable time with the postmaster. He helped me get ideas from the businessmen, the newspaper editors, and the people in general concerning the subject matter for the mural in the post office. Eureka is the center of the cattle industry in Kansas. Considerable oil is obtained in this region, but the boom is over and cattle is the most important and vital industry. In fact, I believe it is the only industry. Every man I talked to was either a cattleman who lived on a ranch
outside of the town or a retired cattleman living in town. The businessmen all seemed to own cattle somewhere near and could talk about cattle much easier than their own business. In fact, everybody talked about cattle and their vote was unanimous in wanting their post office to have a mural dealing with some phase of cattle raising. I choose the roundup. I'm sure you will understand the reason without me saying.

Of the completed mural, the Eureka Herald wrote that "the result shows that the time and effort was not wasted." Kirkland remembered that some people complained that the cows were too fat until one man said that the fat cows should remind everyone to improve their herd.

Kirkland received the commission for the Eureka Post Office on the basis of designs submitted for another competition, in which he was awarded an honorable mention. The commission was received on February 14, 1938 and the mural was installed on August 5, 1938. "Cattle Roundup" was installed on the north wall of the Eureka Post Office lobby above the postmaster's door and the two bulletin boards that flank it. The mural was attached to the wall with white lead and linseed oil. It measured 12'6" by 5'5" before installation and is framed by a small moulding.

Kirkland received $590 for the commission. The Eureka Post Office appears to be an example of one of the smaller class B type post offices that received Section artwork in Kansas.

Kirkland studied at the Cleveland School for Art, and organized the Kirkland School for Art in Denver in 1932. In 1972 he was a Professor of Art Emeritus at the University of Denver School of Art. Kirkland also was responsible for the mural that hangs in the Sayre Oklahoma Post Office.

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

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


National Archives. Public Building Services (RG 121), Technical Questionnaires (Series 134) and Correspondence with Artists (Series 126).

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

Wichita Eagle-Beacon, 23 May 1972.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property less than 1 acre

UTM References

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Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property is located on Lots 5 and 6, Block 23, Eureka, Kansas. The property is bounded to the east by Oak Street, to the south by 3rd Street and to the north and west by adjacent property lines.

Boundary Justification

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

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Martha Hagedorn-Krass, Architectural Historian
organization Kansas State Historical Society
date December 27, 1988
street & number 120 W. 10th
city or town Topeka
state Kansas
zip code 66612
