

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 Salina United States Post Office and Federal Building
other names/site number Smoky Hills Museum

2. Location
street & number 211 W. Iron
city, town Salina
state Kansas code KS county Saline code 169 zip code 67401

3. Classification
Ownership of Property: [X] public-local
Category of Property: [X] building(s)
Number of Resources within Property: Contributing 1, Noncontributing 0, Total 1

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 [X] 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 [X] meets [] does not meet the National Register criteria. [] See continuation sheet.
Signature of certifying official: [Signature] State Historic Preservation Officer
Date: March 16, 1989
State or Federal agency and bureau: Kansas State Historical Society

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

169-4900-0188

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Government: Post Office

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Recreation and Culture: Museum

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Moderne Movement: Moderne

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brick

walls Stone: limestone

roof Other: Tar and gravel

other Metal: Aluminum

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Salina United States Post Office and Federal Building (c. 1937-1938) is located at 211 W. Iron in Salina, Saline County, Kansas (pop. 41,843). The two story, flat roofed, limestone building has a northern facade orientation. The building measures approximately one hundred and twenty feet from east to west and one hundred and seventeen feet from north to south. The facade of the building is comprised of three groups of three multipaned, metal windows. These are linearly aligned windows with inset marble panels between the first and second levels. The Section sculpture projects from the building on the wall space that flanks the center grouping. This center grouping contains the double door. Limestone steps lead up to the doorway, spanning the width of the center window grouping. Similar fenestration is employed on the lesser elevations. The Salina Post Office is an example of one of the larger class B post offices that received Section artwork in Kansas. The former post office presently houses the Smoky Hill Museum.

"Land" and "Communication" is carved from the same Indiana limestone employed for the body of the post office. The two figures stand on pedestals and are carved from solid blocks of stone that projected from the building. The man, "Land", or "Olaf" as the Salina Journal half-jokingly referred to him, is a tall, strong, solid fellow. He looks toward the west with a calm and serene visage. Large hands hang by his side, he holds an axe against his right leg. His boots are heavy, he wears simple overalls and a long sleeved, collared shirt. He is short haired and clean shaven. "Communication", the woman and child, face east. The woman stands with her back slightly arched and her arms slightly raised. The boy stands behind his mother's skirt. The woman is solid, her hands are large, her cheek bones are high, and her hair is shoulder length. She wears a long dress with above the elbow sleeves. The boy has innocent angelic features and short hair. He wears shorts and a tee-shirt and stands barefooted. "Land" was completed in May, 1940 and "Communication" was completed several months later. Each piece of sculpture measured approximately eight feet high and thirty inches wide when it was finished.

See continuation sheet

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

1940
1940
1940

Significant Dates

1940
1940
1940

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Mose, Carl C.: Artist
Rich, Lorimer: Architect
Lundberg, A.M.: Contractor

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

The Salina United States Post Office and Federal Building (c. 1937-1938) 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 sculpture that adorns its facade. The two pieces of sculpture, "Land" and "Communication", were designed by St. Louis, Missouri sculptor Carl C. Mose (1909-1973) in 1939 and executed on site by his assistant Jon Jonson in 1940. Because the sculpture is less than fifty years old, criteria consideration G, which allows for the exceptional significance in the case of properties achieving significance within the past fifty years, is also a factor. The National Register has identified post offices containing Section artwork as being exceptionally significant if they retain their integrity from their period of significance.

"Land" and "Communication" is carved from the same Indiana limestone employed for the body of the post office. The two figures stand on pedestals and are carved from solid blocks of stone that projected from the building. Mose wrote that, "The figures are to be considered as architectural abstractions more than as a type - as sculpture must be on a building - but I want this work to belong to Salina." The figures represent the pioneering spirit of the Kansas settlers through the family unit. Allegorically, the man symbolizes agriculture and the woman and child symbolize the relationship of the family and the community to federal services. The man, "Land", or "Olaf" as the Salina Journal half-jokingly referred to him, is a tall, strong, solid fellow. He looks toward the west with a calm and serene visage. Large hands hang by his side, he holds an axe against his right leg. His boots are heavy, he wears simple overalls and a long sleeved, collared shirt. He is short haired and clean shaven. "Communication", the woman and child, face east. The woman stands with her back slightly arched and her arms

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slightly raised. The boy stands behind his mother's skirt. The woman is solid, her hands are large, her cheek bones are high, and her hair is shoulder length. She wears a long dress with above the elbow sleeves. The boy has innocent angelic features and short hair. He wears shorts and a tee-shirt and stands barefooted. This art depicts common aspects of the community without applying an individual character to any of the elements, allowing each element to represent a totality. Mose's farm family becomes larger than life, representing all pioneers and farmers, their spirit and the dignity therein. To a certain extent "Land" and "Communication" stand as greek statuary on a cultural temple, their blank faces and immortal proportions making them larger than life. Mose's "Land" and "Communication" are representative of the social realism that was encouraged under the Section program.

A regional competition for the Salina sculpture was sponsored by the Section in October, 1938 with a February, 1939 deadline. Sculptors from a thirteen state region that included Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Missouri, Nebraska, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas, Utah, and Wyoming were invited to enter the competition. The competition committee was comprised of Mrs. C.A. Seward of Wichita, who was the wife of the president of the Kansas Federation of Art and the chairperson, Miss Prescott of Salina, Dr. Charles Schwartz of Salina, Wichita artist Glenn Golton, and Chicago sculptor Freeman Schoolcraft. The Section's Edward Rowan attended the local judging, after which the submissions were sent to Washington for a final decision. Rowan attended the judging for Lorimer Rich, the building's architect. Mose's two clay models, "Land" and "Communication" were selected by the Section over models from thirty-three other sculptors.

Although there was not really any negative press about the Mose works specifically, negative sentiments about the "cut and dried" nature of the competition arose after the Section awarded the Salina Post Office eight cubist murals painted by New York City artists Isabel Bates and Harold Black in 1939. Negative commentary about the sculpture competition surfaced in an effort to stir up anti-mural support. The murals were finally delivered to the post office in 1942, but they were stored in the basement until 1949, when they were removed to Washington, D.C. Salina very likely would have enthusiastically accepted a mural or grouping of murals done by a well known Kansas artist, such as Birger Sandzen or Albert T. Reid.

Mose spent nine months sculpting, altering, building, and changing the clay models. He worked with full-size clay models anchored onto a wooden

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framework against a wall. Jonson followed Mose's plaster of Paris models closely, working with compressed air and manual tools to carve the figures from solid limestone blocks. "Land" was completed in May, 1940 and "Communication" was completed several months later. Each piece of sculpture measured approximately eight feet high and thirty inches wide when it was finished. Mose was awarded \$7000 for the commission. The Salina Post Office is an example of one of the four class B post offices that was constructed in Kansas and received Section artwork.

Mose was born in Copenhagen, Denmark. He studied under Lorado Taft, Albin Polasok, and Leo Lontelli. Mose headed the Minneapolis School of Art and taught at Carleton College and the Corcoran School of Art before joining the staff of Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri. Mose was responsible for many commercial, religious, and public sculptings, monuments, and bas-reliefs. In addition to the Salina commission Mose's Kansas representation includes the sculptings for the St. Mary's of the Plains College in Dodge City. Mose is also responsible for the Section sculpture at Maplewood, Missouri Post Office.

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. Salina, Kansas.

Salina Advertiser-Sun, 22 October 1942.

Salina Journal; 6 February 1937, 13 September 1939, 5 October 1939, 10 October 1939, 8 May 1940, 13 May 1940, 13 October 1939.

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

Acreage of property Less than 1 acre

UTM References

A 1, 4 6, 2, 0 5, 4, 5 4, 2, 9, 9 7, 6, 7
 Zone Easting Northing

C

B

D

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property is located on lots 109, 111, 113 & 115 in Salina, Kansas. The property is bounded to the north by Iron Avenue, to the west by 7th Street, and to the east 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 March 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.

Topeka Capital, 16 October 1938.



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SALINA UNITED STATES
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 SALINA, KANSAS
 (SALINA QUAD)
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