NPS Form 10-900
(Rev. 8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018

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.

009-3490-0007

1. Name of Property

historic name Hoisington United States Post Office

other names/site number Same

2. Location

street & number 121 E. 2nd Street ☐ not for publication

city, town Hoisington ☐ vicinity

state Kansas code KS county Barton code 009 zip code 67544

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
		Contributing	Noncontributing
☐ private	☒ building(s)	1	____ buildings
☐ public-local	☐ district	____	____ sites
☐ public-State	☐ site	____	____ structures
☒ public-Federal	☐ structure	____	____ objects
	☐ object	1	____ 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] State Historic Preservation Officer February 17, 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

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
roof Asphalt
other Stone: limestone

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Hoisington United States Post Office (c. 1936) is located at 121 E. 2nd Street in Hoisington, Barton County, Kansas (pop. 3,678). The one story, gable roofed, red brick building has a northern facade orientation. The building measures approximately fifty-nine feet from east to west and eighty feet from north to south. A transomed, double door with a wooden classical surround pierces the center of the building's facade. Steps lead up to the doorway. Two pairs of large, multi-paned, double paned windows flank the doorway. Similar windows pierce the lesser elevations of the building. A limestone watertable and a classical entablature grace the building. Fanlights pierce the gable ends. This post office is an example of a smaller class C or D standardized design type that was repeated throughout the country during the 1930s.

The mural, "Wheat Center", was installed on the east wall of the Hoisington Post Office lobby above the postmaster's door and the original bulletin board. This is the traditional location for Section artwork in the smaller class C and D post offices. The mural "Wheat Center" is an oil on canvas mural that depicts a harvest threshing scene. Tomlinson employs a primary palette of greens, golds, and blue greys for the mural. A white farm house and red barn stand in the center of the mural, encircled by the threshing activity. Wheat laden wagons roll across the field in front of the house to the thresher, carving figure eights into the field. Wagons harvest the wheat in the field behind the farmstead. A road cuts through the center of the canvas, making a triangular junction at the near horizon. Two other farmsteads dot the rolling landscape at the horizon.

The mural was installed on June 7, 1938. It measured 12' by 5' before installation and is surrounded with a small moulding and surmounted by a scalloped classical cornice. The mural was glued to the post office's lobby wall with a lithiphone and varnish mixture. A buttermilk topping was added to the canvas after installation to protect it. In August, 1973 the mural's condition was recorded as slightly defective. Although that defect was not apparent in 1987 it does not appear that the mural has ever been restored.

[X] See continuation sheet

A painted 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, however in most cases the vestibule is varnished. In the Hoisington case the painted vestibule is an original treatment. The floors and wainscotting retain their original tiles. The postmaster's door and bulletin board retain their original painted surrounds. An additional bulletin board has been added on the south part of the east wall. The original hanging lights 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 [X] statewide [X] locally

Applicable National Register Criteria [X] A [ ] B [X] C [ ] D

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

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)	Period of Significance	Significant Dates
Art	1938	1938
Politics/Government	1938	1938
Social History	1938	1938

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Tomlinson, Dorothea: Artist

Simon, Louis: Supervising Architect

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

The Hoisington 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, "Wheat Center", was painted by Des Moines, Iowa artist Dorothea Tomlinson (1898 - ?) in 1938.

"Wheat Center" is an oil on canvas mural that depicts a harvest threshing scene. Located in the center of wheat country, the harvest represented a very important aspect of the Hoisington economy. Tomlinson employs a primary palette of greens, golds, and blue greys for the mural. A white farm house and red barn stand in the center of the mural, encircled by the threshing activity. Wheat laden wagons roll across the field in front of the house to the thresher, carving figure eights into the field. Wagons harvest the wheat in the field behind the farmstead. A road cuts through the center of the canvas, making a triangular junction at the near horizon. Two other farmsteads dot the rolling landscape on the horizon.

Tomlinson wrote the Section's Forbes Watson of the mural in 1938:

> The mural is taken from an original sketch which I made in the field on a farm when they were harvesting. Tho (sic) primarily planned to be decorative, the subject matter is accurate in important details of the industry of threshing. Only essential material to the subject or the composition have been used and it is painted direct with extreme simplicity.

[X] See continuation sheet

> Its composition embodies repeats of two forms, an egg shaped circle and a triangle. The circle, as the mill wheel, is used in a less evident way to emphasize and unify the group, like in the center of interest the stack and the field across the road. The acute triangle, such as the intersection of the road, is used also less conspicuously in the space relationship of objects thruout (sic). The objects related are similar in color, type, and nature, so they are easily discernible.

"Wheat Center" presents a panaromic view of a common midwestern landscape, as if seen from a hot air balloon. Tomlinson presents a harmonious, pastoral view of agrarian America. Her style is clearly influenced by Grant Wood, placing her work solidly within the school of midwestern regionalism. "Wheat Center" encompasses the essence of the wheat harvest as a concept and in this way is representative of the regional social realism that was encouraged under the Section program.

The extent of community involvement in the development of the subject material and presentation of the mural is not clear in the Hoisington case although the subject material is very germaine to the central Kansas wheat growing community. Tomlinson was awarded the commission as a result of an honorable mention received in a Section competition. Tomlinson received the commission on November 9, 1937 and installed the mural on June 7, 1938. The mural measured 12' by 5' before installation. Tomlinson received $550 for the mural. Recalling the installation in 1975, Tomlinson writes that:

> In the morning, all was ready to place the mural. As is the custom, I the artist, mounted the scaffold first to take the center position to place the center of the painting at the center of the panel. Mr. Finnikin (Flenniken) and the mural helper followed with the mural. Covering the canvas with a fine soft cloth as we worked carefully to smooth the mural out in each direction from the center top and firmly press the two surfaces of adhesive together. Then, the so-called buttermilk topping added to cover and protect the canvas, and lastly, the molding was tacked into place.

Tomlinson also was responsible for the three Section murals in the Mount Pleasant, Iowa post office. The Hoisington Post Office is an example of one of the many smaller class C or D type post offices that received Section artwork in Kansas.

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

9. Major Bibliographical Reference

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

General Services Administration Treasury Department's Section Records. Hoisington, Kansas.

Hoisington Post Master's Correspondence file on the Section Mural.

National Archives. Public Building Services (RG121), Technical Questionnaires (Series 134) and Correspondence with Artists (Series 126). Hoisington, Kansas.

[X] 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:
- [X] 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

	Zone	Easting	Northing
A	14	519523	4262723
B			
C			
D			

[ ] See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property is located on lots 1, 2, and 3; Block 29 in Hoisington, Kansas. The property is bounded to the north by E. 2nd, to the east by Walnut, to the west by Main, and to the 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

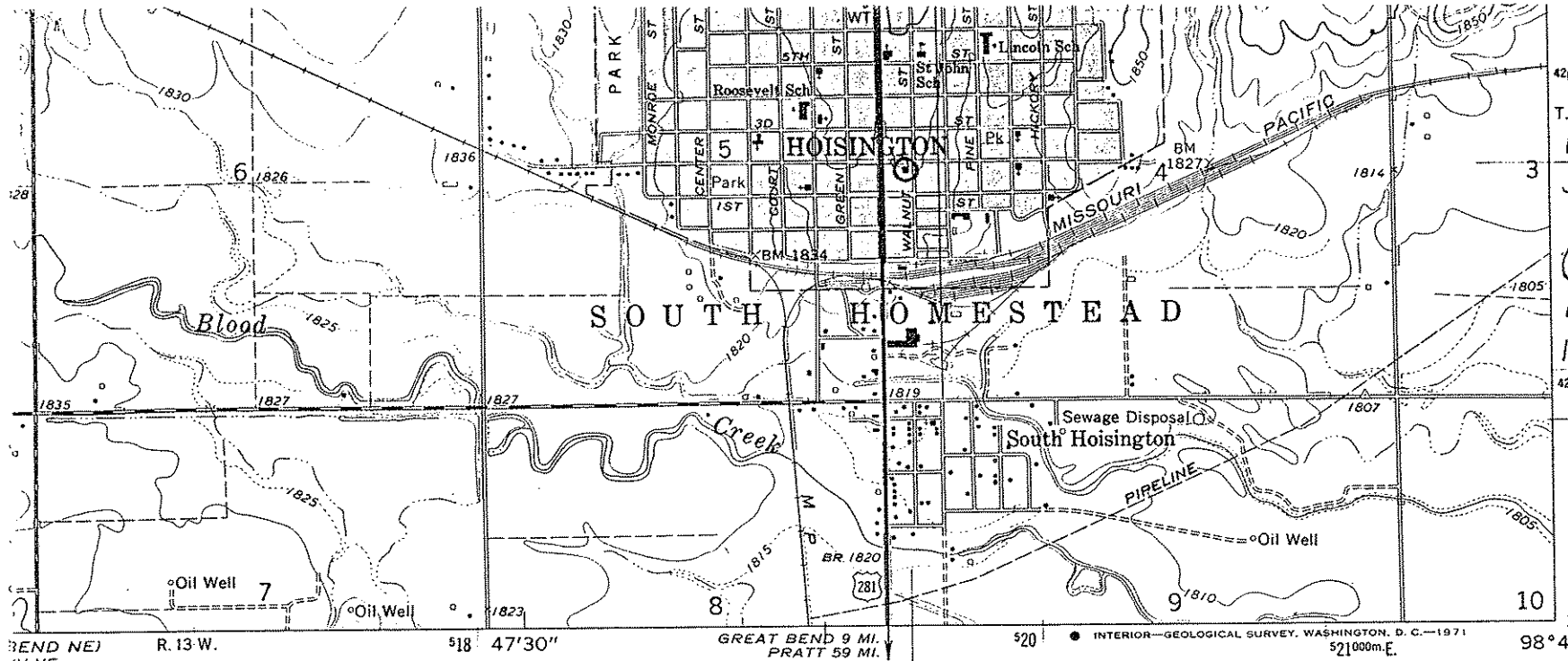
organization Kansas State Historical Society date February 17, 1989

street & number 120 W. 10th telephone 913-296-5264

city or town Topeka state Kansas zip code 66612

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

Topeka State Journal, 10 June 1938.



HOISINGTON UNITED STATES POST OFFICE
HOISINGTON, KANSAS
(HOISINGTON QUAD)
UTM COORDINATES
14 519523

(ELLINWOOD NW)
6260 I NW

:END NE)
IV NE

1:24 000

1 MILE

00 4000 5000 6000 7000 FEET

1 KILOMETER

RVAL 10 FEET
ENT 5-FOOT CONTOURS
.N SEA LEVEL

NAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
, COLORADO 80225, OR WASHINGTON, D. C. 20242
SURVEY, LAWRENCE, KANSAS 66044
AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Primary highway, all weather, hard surface

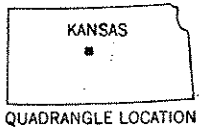
Light-duty road, all weather, improved surface

Secondary highway, all weather, hard surface

Unimproved road, fair or dry weather

U. S. Route

State Route



QUADRANGLE LOCATION

HOISINGTON, KANS.

N3830—W9845/7.5

1969

AMS 6261 III SE—SERIES V878