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.

1. Name of Property

historic name Eureka United States Post Office

other names/site number same

2. Location

street & number 301 North Oak Street ☐ not for publication

city, town Eureka ☐ vicinity

state Kansas code KS county Greenwood code 073 zip code 67045

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.

Ramon Powers State Historic Preservation Officer December 27, 1988

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

093-1746-0014

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

[X] See continuation sheet

a polyvinyl acetate palette. This paint is designed to retain its shade longer than the oils originally employed and provides a way of variating 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.

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

Kirkland, Vance: Artist

Simon, Louis: Architect

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

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

[X] See continuation sheet

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.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Eureka Herald; 4 August 1938, 17 February 1983, 7 July 1983.

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

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

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.

☐ 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

	Zone	Easting	Northing
A	14	737880	4189345
B			
C			
D			

☐ See continuation sheet

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 propety lines.

☐ See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

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

☐ See continuation sheet

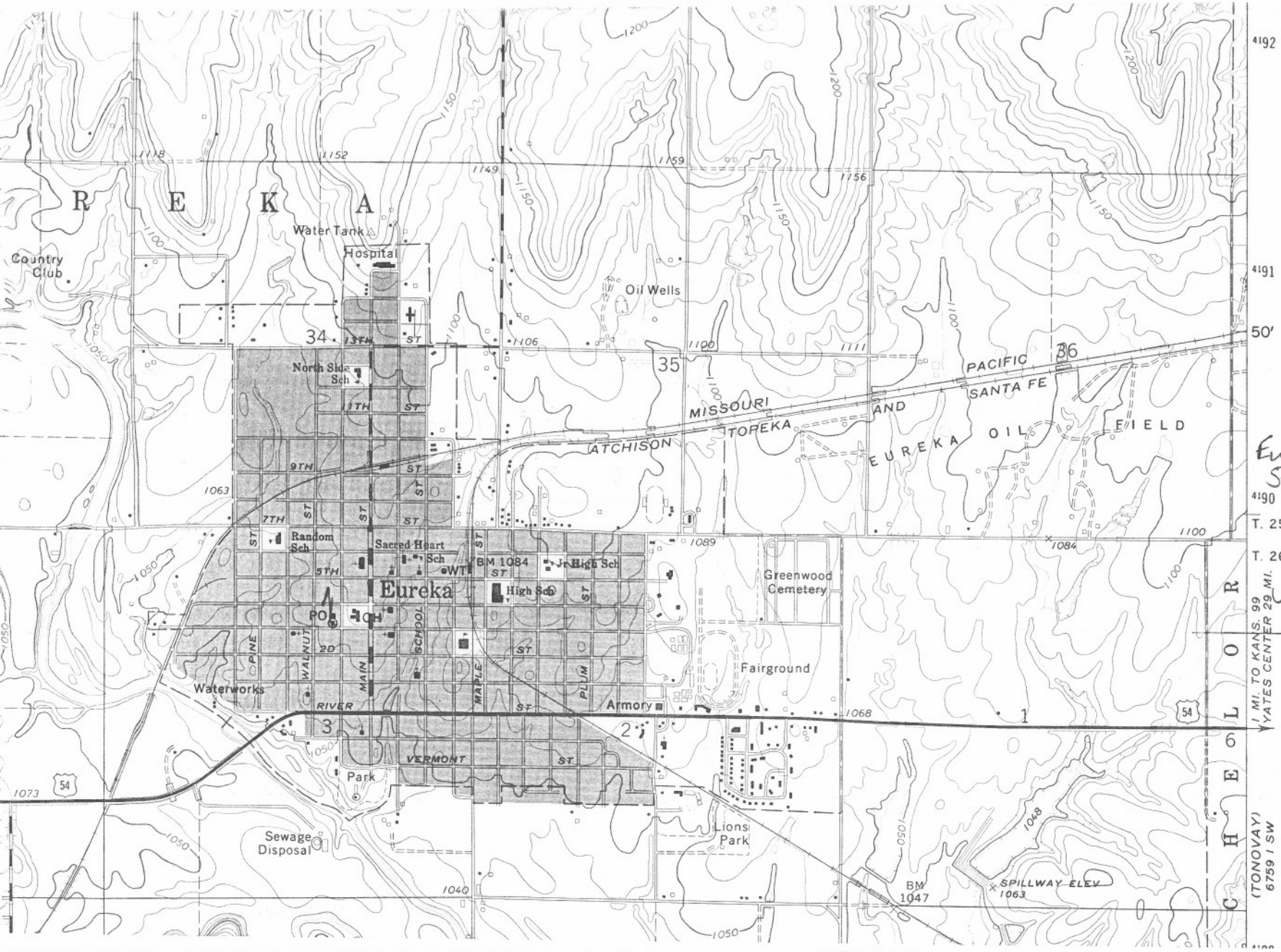
11. Form Prepared By

name/title Martha Hagedorn-Krass, Architectural Historian

organization Kansas State Historical Society date December 27, 1988

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

city or town Topeka state Kansas zip code 66612



Eureka United States Post Office
Eureka, Kansas
(Eureka Quad)
UTM COORDINATES
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