

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

JAN 30 1989

NATIONAL
REGISTER

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 St. Anthony Main Post Office
other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 48 West First North N/A not for publication
city, town St. Anthony N/A vicinity
state Idaho code ID county Fremont code 043 zip code 83445

3. Classification

Ownership of Property

- ☐ private
☐ public-local
☐ public-State
☒ public-Federal

Category of Property

- ☒ building(s)
☐ district
☐ site
☐ structure
☐ object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>1</u>	<u> </u> buildings
<u> </u>	<u> </u> sites
<u> </u>	<u> </u> structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u> objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing:

Historic U.S. Post Offices in Idaho 1900-1941

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

United States Postal Service

State or Federal agency and bureau

Date

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

Signature of commenting or other official

Idaho State Historic Preservation Office

State or Federal agency and bureau

Date

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:)

Bruce J. Noble, Jr.3/16/89

for Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

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SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 89000136 Date Listed: 3/16/89

US Post Office--St. Anthony Main	Fremont	ID
Property Name	County	State

US Post Offices in Idaho 1900-1941 MPS
Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

Bruce J. Noble Jr.
for _____
Signature of the Keeper

3/16/89
Date of Action

=====
Amended Items in Nomination:

The period of significance defined for this property is 1900-1941. This period pre-dates the property's date of construction and also extends into the less-than-fifty-year-old range without addressing criterion exception G. To resolve this issue, this property will be listed with a period of significance defined as 1938-1939. These changes were discussed with Steven S. Stielstra of the United States Postal Service during a 3/14/89 telephone conversation.

DISTRIBUTION:

National Register property file
Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

U.S. Post Office

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

U.S. Post Office

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)

Classical Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete

walls Brick

roof Tar composition

other Limestone, Wood

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The St. Anthony Main Post Office is a one-story building which rests atop a raised basement platform. The front elevation is flat, symmetrical, and Classically-proportioned. Five flat-arched bays divide the front facade: two window bays flanking a centered entry bay. The building's structure consists of concrete footings and floors, brick walls, and steel framing. The exterior is faced from grade with red brick in American bond. Limestone and wood are used to provide facade detailing. Concrete steps and a granite landing form the entry, which is flanked by wrought-iron railings and bronze lanterns. The roof is flat, built-up tar composition.

PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The front facade (north) is horizontal in orientation and symmetrically-arranged. The centered entry bay contains two original, two-panel wooden doors with single-glass panels in each. A transom bar with two recessed panels rests over the doors. Set above the transom bar is a seven-light transom window (horizontally-oriented). The entry doors and transom window are framed by flat, fluted wooden pilasters which support a simple wooden entablature. Bronze, octagonal lanterns, affixed to the facade, are located on either side of the entry. The entry is reached by six concrete steps and a granite landing which are flanked by wrought-iron railings.

Two window bays flank each side of the entry. Framed with flat limestone sills and wide limestone lintels, the windows consist of eight-over-twelve-light double-hung wooden sash. Slightly recessed brick panels (same bond as rest of wall) are located beneath each of the window sills. Raised brass letters "United States Post Office", "Saint Anthony Idaho" are affixed to the facade and centered over the entry. The building is terminated by a limestone coping course.

The east facade contains four window bays which are detailed identically to those of the front facade. The spacing between the windows is equal, with a slightly reduced span between the end windows and the building corners. Each of

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)

Politics/Government

Art

Period of Significance

1900-1941

Significant Dates

Const.-1938

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Louis A. Simon, Supervising Architect/Federal Government

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

The St. Anthony Main Post Office is an unaltered example of a small-town single-purpose post office. Constructed from standardized plans, the building is typical of the simplified designs of the late-Depression era. Economy and rapid construction ruled the massive public works programs of that period. The building and the mural it contains, one of only six post office murals in the state, carry a strong association with the federal relief programs of the New Deal. The artwork is an example of the American Regionalism fostered by the Section of Fine Arts-Public Works Agency. The building is significant in its symbolism of the federal presence and as the city's first federally-constructed post office. It stands as a legacy to those public-minded citizens who worked to gain a federal building for their city.

POLITICS/GOVERNMENT

While the building is a standardized design, as the city's first Federal building and a legacy of the government's massive Depression era public works programs, it is an important symbol in the community. It demonstrates the Federal government's recognition of the community's permanence and its importance as a local center of government and commerce. It is also symbolic of the efforts of the local community, through their elected officials in Washington, to obtain a federal building for their city. Indeed, having a federal building was so important to the community that the county donated the major portion of the site. These factors contribute to make the building locally significant under Criterion A.

☒ See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

1. Fremont County News (St. Anthony), various articles 1937-1938.
2. Original Floor Plans, 1938.
3. Construction Progress Photographs, June 20, 1937-December 20, 1937.
4. "Historical Edition." Fremont County News, 8 August 1963.
5. "Elizabeth Lochrie." Who Was Who in American Art. Madison, CT: Sound View Press, 1984, p. 376.

Previous documentation on file (NPS): N/A

- ☐ 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 # _____

☐ See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- ☐ State historic preservation office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☒ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other

Specify repository:

USPS Facilities Service Center,
San Bruno, CA 94099-0330

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 0.36

UTM References

A 11 2 4 4 5 2 4 0 4 8 6 8 2 4 0
Zone Easting Northing

C

Quadrangle name: St. Anthony

Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

B
Zone Easting Northing

D

☐ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

West 17.5' of Lot 6 and Lots 7,8,9 & 10, Block 60 of St. Anthony Townsite. Southeast corner of West 1st. North Street and North 1st. West Street. Beginning at the Northwest Corner of the site, E125', S125', W125', then N125' to point of beginning.

☒ See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the site originally purchased by the federal government for the post office site.

☐ See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title H.J. "Jim" Kolva, Project Manager; Steve Franks, Research Assistant
organization Institute for Urban & Local Studies date August 1988
street & number West 705 1st Avenue telephone (509) 458-6219
city or town Spokane state WA zip code 99204

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the windows has a slightly recessed brick panel beneath. Red brick faces the facade which is terminated with a limestone coping course.

With a couple of minor exceptions, the west and east facades are identical. In the west facade one of the window bays has been filled-in with brick (original construction) and one small vertically-oriented window, consisting of two-over-two-light double-hung wooden sash, flanks each side of the brick-filled window.

The rear facade is faced with red brick and consists of a centered projecting loading platform with two window bays flanking either side. The windows are detailed identically to those described above. A square brick chimney, which projects several feet above the building, rises from juncture of the loading platform and main building (eastern corner). The platform is concrete and enclosed on the south and east sides by red brick walls. The west side contains the open loading bay and a single pedestrian door. On the east side, the loading vestibule extends eastward beyond the wall of the dock (to the interior side of the window). A flat metal roof with projecting marquee covers the platform.

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Like the building that houses it, the St. Anthony mural represents the efforts of the federal government, through its public works and art programs, to assist communities during a period of national economic emergency. It is thus locally significant under Criterion A. In addition, the mural, through its visual presentation, relates the social history of the area and represents a significant type of artistic expression, and is thus also locally significant under Criterion C.

Entitled "The Fur Traders," the mural is attached to the wall over the postmaster's door in the lobby. It was painted in oil on canvas by Elizabeth Lochrie in 1939. The mural depicts a frontier trading post with buckskin-clad traders dealing with the Indians--cloth and utensils for furs. The traders stand watch with cradled muskets as the bargaining takes place.

Elizabeth Lochrie was a nationally prominent Montana artist who was born in Deer Lodge in 1890 (deceased, 1981). She attended Deer Lodge Schools and studied art at the Pratt Institute with summer courses at Stanford University. Ms. Lochrie resided in Butte and is represented in collections in Montana and throughout the nation. Other major mural works include post offices in Burley (1938) and Dillon, Montana (1938) and the State Hospital in Galen, Montana. In addition to oil, she worked in water color (third in 1939 national water color competition), pencil (first in 1937 national pencil competition), and bronze. She exhibited at major galleries throughout the United States.

The mural was completed under the auspices of the Federal Works Agency Section of Fine Arts. Federal sponsorship of visual arts programs began in 1933 when President Roosevelt authorized the development of the Public Works of Art Project (PWAP). This and subsequent programs were intended to provide work-relief for artists. After the demise of the PWAP program in June 1934, the Treasury Relief Art Project (TRAP) was established in July 1935. The Section of Painting and Sculpture, later the Section of Fine Arts, was established in October of 1934 by the Treasury Department. This was the program primarily responsible for murals and sculpture found in post offices throughout the country. Commissions were

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awarded on the basis of anonymous competitions without reference to artists need. In July of 1939, after reorganization of the Executive Branch, the entire building program of the Treasury Department and the Section were transferred to the new Federal Works Agency. The Section of Fine Arts-Federal Works Agency operated the program until June of 1943 when the activities of WWII shifted priorities. It was under this program that the St. Anthony mural and murals in Burley, Buhl, Blackfoot, Kellogg, and Preston were completed.

The Section, which was administered in Washington, dealt directly with the artists, and selected artists through national and regional design competition. The Section sought the best decorative art that it could find for designated federal buildings. The intent of the program's administrators was that the work would reflect the themes and styles of the American scene, with a hope that it would strike a responsive chord in the general public. Although the program is attributed with having fostered an American Regionalism, art critics could never find a coherent body of work that was truly Regionalist or representative of particular sections of the American scene in the form of localized subject matter. Further, the work resulting from the programs tended to pursue an inoffensive middle ground of style and content which was sometimes viewed as producing limp platitudes rather than strong statements. This resulted from the requirement for final approval from Washington as well as compliance with local preferences. The strife or dark side of the Depression was not portrayed, but instead the nostalgic and positive events of the American Scene were depicted.

LOCAL CONTEXT

St. Anthony, county seat of Fremont County, straddles Henrys Fork of the Snake river. In eastern Idaho, approximately 40 miles northeast of Idaho Falls, St. Anthony is on the main Idaho route to Yellowstone National Park. Agriculture, primarily grains and sugar beets, provides the base for the local economy. In 1980 St. Anthony's population was 3,212.

St. Anthony was founded in 1890 by Carlos H. Moon, who established his home on the present-day corner of Main and Bridge Streets. He was soon followed by the Ross and Wyath families. Named by Moon after St. Anthony Falls, Minnesota,

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for many years the area was known all over the Snake River valley as the "Moon Corner." Not long after St. Anthony was founded a post office opened (October 3, 1888), with M. J. Gray serving as the first postmaster.

Fremont County was created in 1893, shortly after Moon's arrival. St. Anthony was named temporary county seat; in 1894 voters voted it the permanent county seat. The railroad came to St. Anthony in 1899; a year later the town's population was 411.

In 1901 the Miller Brothers Grain company was established in St. Anthony, followed two years later by the State Industrial Training School. St. Anthony's Civic Club was organized in 1908; it would later evolve into the Booster's Club and later still the Chamber of Commerce. In 1909 construction began on the Fremont County Court House, after the town donated the \$10,000 site and \$30,000 toward its construction. The city park was established in 1916; a year later, during the flu epidemic of 1917-19, the first hospital was established. Between 1910 and 1920 St. Anthony's population grew from 1,238 to 2,957. In 1930 it dropped to 2,778. The population dropped again in 1940 and 1950, from 2,719 to 2,695. Between 1960 and 1970 it grew slightly, from 2,700 to 2,877. In 1980 St. Anthony's population was 3,212.

On the southeast corner of West 1st. North Street and North 1st. West Street, the St. Anthony Post Office is one block west of Bridge Street, the city's main business street. The building fronts on West 1st. North Street and faces north. Adjacent to the east of the Post Office is a one-story commercial building and to its east the main business block. Across the alley to the south of the Post Office are one- and two-story commercial buildings fronting on Main Street. A one-story concrete block machine shop is across the street to the west. Single-family houses are to its west. The Fremont County Courthouse (two-and-one-half story, red brick, Neo-Classical, 1910) occupies the block kitty-cornered from the Post Office. Across the street, north of the Post Office, are two frame commercial buildings. The WPA-constructed City Hall/Civic Center (two story, painted concrete, PWA Moderne, 1941) is one block southwest of the Post Office.

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Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 4 St. AnthonyLOCAL NEWSPAPER COVERAGE OF THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE
ST. ANTHONY MAIN POST OFFICE

"Government Calls for Bids on New Federal Building" read a Fremont County News headline of March 25th, 1937. (Earlier issues of the Fremont County News, from 1931-1936, are missing. Thus, this is the first available mention of St. Anthony's federal building.) The contract for the proposed \$80,000 federal building and post office would be let April 30th and announced at that time by Postmaster Wando Andrasen.

On May 13th it was reported that local voters had approved an additional \$10,000 to add an auditorium and library to the new high school that was being built. An article of July 1st reported that a new hardware and appliance store would soon open and made note of heavy visitor traffic to Yellowstone. In October it was announced that the WPA waterworks project to replace St. Anthony's wooden mains with steel mains had been resumed and would employ up to 25 people (October 21st article). The same newspaper issue also noted "All Records Are Broken By Park"--a half a million people had visited Yellowstone during the past year.

By the end of 1937 the federal building was nearly completed and was expected to be ready for occupancy in January 1938 (December 2nd article). "Federal Building Dedication Planned" read a banner headline of January 6th, 1938. Formal dedication services were planned for January 15th with the winter sports carnival to follow the ceremony. The Chamber of Commerce was in charge of the program, which would include school bands, the American Legion, Boy Scouts, Postal and Treasury representatives, and Mayor A. G. Miller. The building would be open for public inspection afterwards and it was expected that mail would be distributed beginning January 17th "if certain materials that are holding up completion of the building arrive."

"Dedication, Carnival Set For Saturday" declared another banner headline on January 13th. The paper noted that while the contractor was Viesko and Hannaman of Salem, Oregon, local firms had furnished much of the materials and work. The same issue featured large ads by the Chamber of Commerce, Viesko and Hannaman, and the local Tri-State Lumber Company inviting the public to the dedication. Viesko and Hannaman's ad noted: "We congratulate the people of St. Anthony upon

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their new Federal Building and we are certain it will be a source of civic pride and convenience."

On the 20th it was reported that the dedication events had been "well attended" but a delay was possible in the use of the building. There was "a possibility" the post office might move into the new building that weekend, but "a considerable amount of painting" remained to be completed. A month later bids were requested for the seeding of the new post office grounds (February 24th article).

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**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only

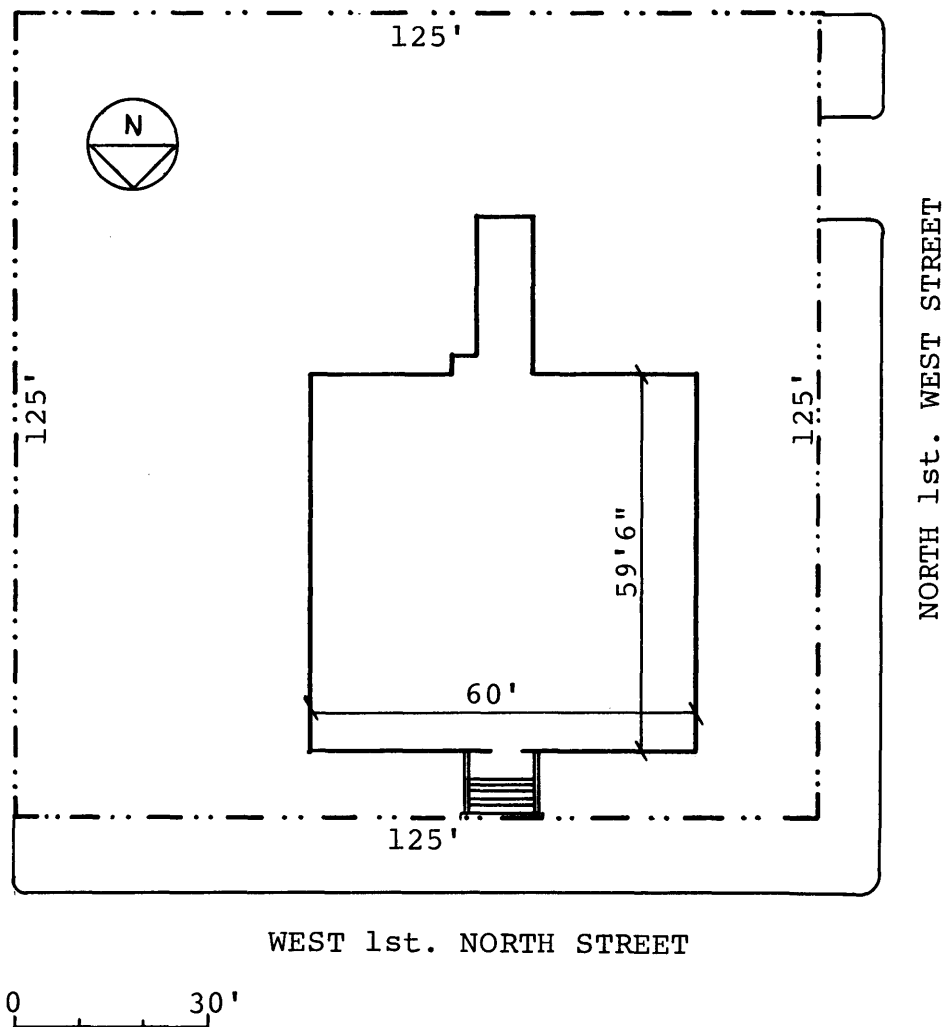
received

date entered

Continuation sheet ST. ANTHONY MPO

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The following information is the same for all the
photographs listed:

1. St. Anthony MPO
2. St. Anthony, Idaho
3. Jim Kolva
4. August 1986
5. Negatives on file at USPS Facilities Service Center,
San Bruno, CA.

Photo No. 1 (negative #1A)

6. View to southeast

Photo No. 2 (negative #2A)

6. View to south

Photo No. 3 (negative #3A)

6. View to southwest

Photo No. 4 (negative #20A)

6. Lobby mural



USPS-IDAHO

ST. ANTHONY MPO

PHOTO NO. 1

FREMONT County



USPS - IDAHO

ST. ANTHONY MPO

PHOTO NO. 2

FREMONT COUNTY



USPS - IDAHO

ST. ANTHONY MPO

PHOTO NO. 3

FREMONT COUNTY



POSTMASTER

BULLETIN

BULLETIN

COLLECT
THESE
DISTINCTIVE
STAMP

USPS - IDAHO

ST. ANTHONY MPO

PHOTO NO. 4

FREMONT COUNTY