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Arkansas post office murals records, 1938-1942

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Arkansas post office murals records

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

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Summary Information

Repository	Arkansas State Archives
Title	Arkansas post office murals records
Date [inclusive]	1938-1942
Extent	0.5 Cubic feet 1 box
Language	English
Language of Materials	Materials entirely in English.

Preferred Citation

Arkansas Post Office Murals records, Arkansas State Archives, Little Rock, Arkansas.

Biographical/Historical Note

Post offices built in the 1930s during Franklin Roosevelt's New Deal were decorated with enduring images of America. Post office murals, while often mistaken for WPA art, were created by artists hired by the Treasury Department's Section of Fine Arts. "The Section" was established in 1934 and administered by the Procurement Division. Artists were selected through regional competitions based on anonymous sketches. Scenes of local interest and events were most desirable, with genre themes of Americans at work or leisure as the most popular subject matter.

Scope and Contents

This collection contains research materials concerning thirteen post offices collected by the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program. These photocopied materials include the correspondence, contracts, and images proposed by the artists to the Fine Arts Section of the Public Buildings branch of the United States Treasury Department. Twenty-one post office murals were painted in Arkansas. Not all remain extant.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

Arkansas State Archives 7/14/2009

Conditions Governing Access

This collection is open for research use.

Conditions Governing Use

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Immediate Source of Acquisition

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program, Little Rock, Arkansas, 1999.

Collection Inventory

1. Berryville, relief sculpture created by Daniel Olney, 1940

2. Dardanelle, painted by Ludwig Mactarian, 1939

4. DeWitt, painted by William Traher, 1941

3. DeQueen, painted by Henry Simon, 1942

5. Lake Village, painted by Avery Johnson, 1940

6. Monticello, relief sculpture created by Berta Margoulies, 1940

7. Morrilton, painted by Richard Sargent, 1939

8. Nashville, painted by John T. Robertson, 1939

9. Paris, painted by Joseph Paul Vorst, 1940

10. Piggott, painted by Dan Rhodes, 1940

11. Siloam Springs, painted by Bertram R. Adams, 1940

12. Van Buren, painted by E. Martin Hennings, 1940

13. Wynne, painted by Ethel Magafan, 1940

14. "Arkansas Post Offices and the Treasury Department's Section Art Program, 1938-1942," by Sandra Taylor Smith and Mark Christ