



HPO Project #: 18-0839
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State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

NATURAL & HISTORIC RESOURCES

HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE

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CATHERINE R. McCABE
Acting Commissioner

March 29, 2018

CERTIFICATION of ELIGIBILITY

Jill McGuire

Emerson N.J., 07630

Dear Ms. McGuire:

The preliminary application submitted for the Emerson Borough Hall, located 146 Linwood Avenue (Block 423, Lot 1), Emerson Borough, Bergen County, New Jersey has been carefully reviewed. We thank you for the time and the effort to prepare the application and supplemental materials.

Based on a review of available documentation, it is my opinion that the Emerson Borough Hall is eligible to be listed in the New Jersey and National Registers of Historic Places under Criterion A (in the area of politics & government for its association with the WPA and the WPA/FAP) and Criterion C (in the area of art for the murals). The period of significance is 1938-c1941. It is significant at the local level.

Built between 1938 and 1939, construction of this municipal building was funded by the Work Projects Administration (WPA). Later, circa 1941, murals were installed in the building, funded through the WPA's Federal Art Project (FAP). FAP was created not as means to employ artists (including muralists, musicians, writers and actors). It was a separate and distinct program from the Treasury Departments Section of Fine Arts (the Section) which was responsible for the art work placed in post offices. Emerson Borough Hall has 11 murals, an unprecedented number, they are:

1. "Call back the years" (located on the basement level in the former fireman's lounge)
2. "All right you guys, break it up!" (located on the basement level in the former fireman's lounge)
3. "Pepe's Gang" (located on the basement level in the former fireman's lounge)
4. "Firefighters of the Gay Nineties" (located on the basement level in the former fireman's lounge)
5. The World's Meanest: the hit-run driver, Version 1 (located on the basement level in the former jail cell)

6. The World's Meanest: the hit-run driver, Version 2 (located on the basement level in the former jail cell)
7. Don't Mix - Alcohol and Gas: Modern Conditions demand clear thinking . . . , Version 1 (located on the basement level in the former jail cell)
8. Don't Mix - Alcohol and Gas: Modern Conditions demand clear thinking . . . , Version 2 (located on the basement level in the former jail cell)
9. An untitled mural featuring an octopus (located on the basement level in the former fireman's lounge)
10. The Stage (located on the second floor, in the former community room, now a storage area)
11. A mural of unknown subject that was covered over when the fireplace was covered

If you wish to pursue registration, please contact Bob Craig of my staff at either (609-984-0541) or Bob.Craig@dep.nj.gov. The Historic Preservation Office advises you to notify the property owner if you intend to nominate this property to the New Jersey and National Registers of Historic Places. To help expedite our review and response, if additional consultation with the HPO is needed regarding the nomination of this property, please reference the HPO project number (18-0839) in any future calls, emails, or written correspondence.

Thank you for your interest in New Jersey's irreplaceable historic resources. If you have any further questions, please contact Andrea Tingey at 609-984-0539 or Andrea.Tingey@dep.nj.gov.

Sincerely,

Katherine J. Marcopul
Administrator &
Deputy State Historic
Preservation Officer

cc Elaine Kiernan Gold
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