

THE UNITED STATES POST OFFICE AND COURTHOUSE was constructed during the Depression years with Federal Benefits funding. In 1935, the Works Progress Administration was created as an agency of the Emergency Relief Program to provide nationwide work programs for the unemployed. The U.S. government appropriated \$65 million for public building projects in 1934, with an additional \$60 million in 1935 and again in 1936. Construction began on the building in 1935 and was completed in 1937. It was designed by Eric Kebbon, a Washington architect, and built by Beers Construction Company of Atlanta. The site of the building, at the corner of Park Avenue and Adams Street, was the site of the Leon County Courthouse between 1838 and 1879, and the Leon Hotel from 1883 until 1925, when it burned. Upon completion, the building served as the main Post Office for Tallahassee and as the Federal Courthouse. Today, this building from the New Deal era serves as a courthouse and as a continuing symbol of the Federal presence in Tallahassee. It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places as a contributing building in the Park Avenue Historic District in Tallahassee.



THE BUILDING

THE ARTIST



EDWARD "BUK" ULRICH (1889-1966) was born in Hungary and grew up in Kansas City, Missouri. After studying at the Kansas City Art Institute, he received a four-year scholarship to the Pennsylvania Fine Arts Academy, where he won the Cresson Memorial Traveling Scholarship, which enabled him to study in Europe in 1913 and 1914. Intrigued by the American West, "Buk" worked as a cowhand and incorporated many of the individuals he encountered in his artwork. After serving in World War I, Ulrich moved to California, where he completed his first mural for the famed Denishawn Dance Studio and was compensated in part with dancing lessons from Martha Graham. His public works include murals for Radio City Music Hall in New York City, the 1933 Chicago World's Fair and U.S. Post Offices in Columbia, Missouri; Concord, North Carolina; and New Rockford, North Dakota.

The Fine Arts Program of the General Services Administration (GSA) continues a tradition of art in Federal buildings that dates back more than 150 years. Today, GSA's Fine Arts Collection is one of the nation's largest and most diverse Federal collections, consisting of over 17,000 paintings, sculpture, graphics, textiles, and architectural arts originating from the 1850s. These works of art have evolved alongside American culture - from the heroic allegorical figures in the late 19th century Beaux Arts style, to the Art Deco forms of the 1930s New Deal programs, to the diverse expressions of contemporary artists today through GSA's Art in Architecture Program. The collection represents the history, culture, and ideals of our country. The Fine Arts Program maintains these public works of art as part of our cultural heritage and as a reminder of the important tradition of individual creative expression.



THE MURALS

HISTORY OF FLORIDA 1939



During the Great Depression, President Franklin Roosevelt's New Deal Programs offered work relief, and hope, to unemployed Americans. Commissioned through the New Deal's Section of Fine Arts of the Department of the Treasury, these eight murals illustrate Florida's past, its exploration, conquest, and settlement. The artist wrote ... *I found it very difficult to arrive at exact knowledge of early events, so pictorially no absolute statement could be made. I have tried however, to get the spirit of the various epochs and to treat them in an interesting manner.*

1) *Five Standards on Parade* shows the flags that have flown over Florida: Spanish, French, English, Confederate, and American. 2) *Aborigine* depicts the customs and life of Florida's native inhabitants at the time of early exploration. 3) *Spain's Influence* is illustrated by *Ponce de Leon* on his search for gold and the fabled Fountain of Youth on the Island of Bimini. In 1513, he mistakenly lands and christens *Pescua Florida*, the place of the flowers. 4) *French Authority* is depicted in the greeting of *Le Moyne* and *La Motte* in 1564. Here, the French Huguenots are brought to the stone marker indicating the site of the city of *St. Augustine*. 5) *John O'Neale* stands upon his flagship in 1586 and watches as the besieged Spanish town of *St. Augustine* burns, inaugurating English dominion. 6) *General Andrew Jackson*, the first American military Governor of the Territory of Florida, was instrumental in defeating the English during the war of 1812 and bringing order to Florida. 7) *Oceola* shows the self-made chief of the Seminoles appearing before General *Hernandez* and the U.S. Army to seek peace between his people and the settlers. 8) *Florida Today* depicts the winter playground of sunbathers and sport enthusiasts enjoying the outdoor life offered by the state.