



# governmentattic.org

*"Rummaging in the government's attic"*

Description of document: Final Report, Report of Investigation (ROI), closing memo, referral memo, and referral letters for Eleven (11) General Services Administration (GSA) Office of Inspector General (OIG) Works Progress Administration (WPA) Artwork closed investigations, 2011-2012

Requested date: 18-March-2013

Released date: 18-April-2013

Posted date: 05-May-2014

Source of document: OIG Freedom of Information Act Officer  
GSA Office of Inspector General  
1800 F Street, NW, Room 5326 (JC)  
Washington, DC 20405;  
Fax: (202) 501-0414  
Email: [OIGFOIA-PrivacyAct@gsaig.gov](mailto:OIGFOIA-PrivacyAct@gsaig.gov)

The governmentattic.org web site ("the site") is noncommercial and free to the public. The site and materials made available on the site, such as this file, are for reference only. The governmentattic.org web site and its principals have made every effort to make this information as complete and as accurate as possible, however, there may be mistakes and omissions, both typographical and in content. The governmentattic.org web site and its principals shall have neither liability nor responsibility to any person or entity with respect to any loss or damage caused, or alleged to have been caused, directly or indirectly, by the information provided on the governmentattic.org web site or in this file. The public records published on the site were obtained from government agencies using proper legal channels. Each document is identified as to the source. Any concerns about the contents of the site should be directed to the agency originating the document in question. GovernmentAttic.org is not responsible for the contents of documents published on the website.



U.S. GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION  
Office of Inspector General

---

April 18, 2013

Re: Freedom of Information Act Request (OIG Tracking No.: 13-030)

This is in response to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request dated March 18, 2013, in which you requested "a copy of the final report, the Report of Investigation (ROI), the closing memo, the referral memo, and the referral letter" for 12 specified WPA Artwork closed investigations. Your request was received in this office on March 22, 2013.

We searched OIG records and found documents responsive to your request which we are releasing to you with certain information redacted under Exemptions 3, 5, 6, 7(C), and 7(F) of the FOIA. Exemptions 6 and 7(C) relate to personal information regarding persons other than yourself. Release of information covered by Exemption (6) of the FOIA, 5 U.S.C. §522(b)(6), would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of the personal privacy of the persons mentioned in the records. Information withheld pursuant to Exemption 7(C) of the FOIA, 5 U.S.C. §522(b)(7)(C), relates to personal information regarding persons other than yourself that is contained in investigatory files. Release of this information could reasonably be expected to constitute an unwarranted invasion of the personal privacy of the persons mentioned in the records. Exemption 3 of the FOIA, 5 U.S.C. §522(b)(3), protects from public disclosure "matters that are specifically exempted from disclosure by statute." In addition, Exemption 5 of the FOIA, 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(5), protects information that is a pre-decisional part of the intra-agency deliberative process or is protected by the attorney-client privilege and would not be available by law to a party other than an agency in litigation with the agency. Finally, Exemption 7(F) of the FOIA, 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(7)(F), protects from disclosure information that could reasonably be expected to endanger the life or physical safety of any individual.

File number Z1132830 contained no documents responsive to your request.

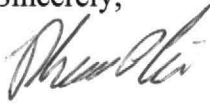
For your information, Congress excluded three discrete categories of law enforcement and national security records from the requirement of the FOIA. See 5 U.S.C. § 552(c) (2006 & Supp. IV (2010)). This response is limited to those records that are subject to the requirements of the FOIA. This is a standard notification that is given to all our



requesters and should not be taken as an indication that excluded records do, or do not exist.

You have the right to appeal the adequacy of our search or for disclosure of any undisclosed information by writing to the Freedom of Information Act Officer, Office of the Inspector General, General Services Administration, 1800 F Street, NW, Room 5326, Washington, D.C. 20405, within 120 days of your receipt of this letter. The appeal must be in writing and contain a statement of reasons for the appeal. Please enclose copies of your initial request and this response. The envelope and letter should be clearly marked as a "Freedom of Information Act Appeal."

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Richard P. Levi".

Richard P. Levi  
Counsel to the Inspector General  
(FOIA Officer)

Enclosure

**FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY**

**Northeast Regional Investigations Office**

May 10, 2012

MEMORANDUM FOR THE FILE

FROM:

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C), (b) (7)(F)  
(b) (6), (b) (7)(C), (b) (7)(F)  
SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE (JI-2)

SUBJECT:

**CASE CLOSING MEMORANDUM**

STOLEN WPA PAINTINGS: MILLS MANSION  
14 Main Street  
Mount Morris, NY 14510

File No: I1020537

This memorandum presents the findings of our investigation regarding the captioned matter. No additional investigative activity is necessary.

On September 23, 2008, the GSA Fine Arts Program (FAP) notified the General Services Administration/Office of Inspector General (GSA/OIG), National Capital Regional Investigations Office (JI-W), that two separate Works Progress Administration (WPA) paintings were stolen on September 20, 2008, from the Mills Mansion, 14 Main Street, Mount Morris, NY, a New York state historical landmark, where they were on display. Base on this information, JI-2 decided to conduct a preliminary inquiry and opened GSA/OIG case Z0821539.

According to the initial report, the two paintings were removed from the Mills Mansion while a volunteer gave two individuals a tour of the facility. Just before giving the tour, the volunteer reported a suspicious individual entered the property and asked for water for an overheating vehicle parked at the rear of the building. The volunteer assisted the person who also signed the guest log book and made a \$2 donation. After giving the tour, the volunteer locked the door, armed the alarm, and closed the property. When (b) (6), (b) (7)(C), (b) (7)(F) returned the following day and opened the facility, (b) (6), (b) (7)(C), (b) (7)(F) observed the paintings were missing.

On April 9, 2010, JI-2 presented evidence obtained during the preliminary inquiry to the United States Attorney's Office, Western District of New York and the case was accepted for criminal prosecution. Therefore, GSA/OIG case Z0821539 was converted to GSA/OIG case I1020537 and a criminal investigation ensued.

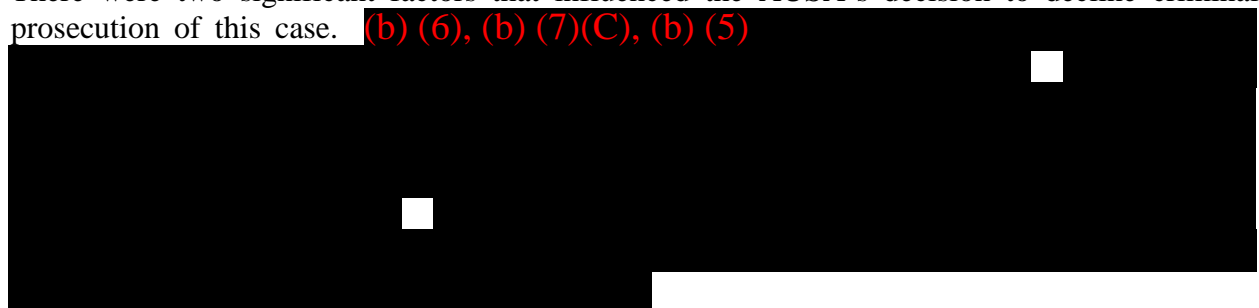
**FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY**

**FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY**

This investigation was conducted jointly with Investigator (b) (6), (b) (7)(C), (b) (7)(F) of the New York State Police (NYSP). Together, JI-2 and the NYSP coordinated the possible criminal prosecution of (b) (6), (b) (7)(C), (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) and (b) (6), (b) (7)(C), who had a history of stealing historic artifacts from several museums in Western New York. The NYSP also served as a liaison between JI-2 and other local law enforcement agencies which had similar cases pending against (b) (6), (b) (7)(C).

During the course of this investigation, JI-2 and the NYSP employed numerous investigative techniques to identify enough physical and circumstantial evidence to successfully prosecute (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) and or (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) for the theft of the two WPA paintings. JI-2 and the NYSP coordinated efforts to enter the paintings into the FBI National Stolen Art File (NSAF); (b) (3) (A); (b) (6), (b) (7)(C); obtained and reviewed multiple police incident reports; obtained and reviewed guest sign in log books from other museums the (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) were suspected or charged with stealing from; presented photo arrays to potential witnesses including the tourists from Indiana that were touring the Mills Mansion when the paintings were stolen; visited local antique and pawn shops and interviewed the brokers; and obtained hand writing exemplars from (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) and (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) for comparison to signatures from other museum log books where the (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) were suspected of stealing from.

Based on the evidence gathered during this investigation, JI-2 and the NYSP believe (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) and/or (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) were responsible for stealing the two WPA paintings from the Mills Mansion. However, the Assistant United States Attorney (AUSA) assigned to this case determined there was not enough physical evidence to convince a jury beyond a reasonable doubt to convict them. There were two significant factors that influenced the AUSA's decision to decline criminal prosecution of this case. (b) (6), (b) (7)(C), (b) (5)



On May 1, 2012, after all investigative leads were exhausted, the AUSA declined to criminally prosecute this case due to a lack of evidence. The two paintings have not been recovered, but are currently entered into the FBI NSAF.





FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

**U.S. GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION**  
**Office of Inspector General**

---

January 13, 2012

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE FILE (b) (6), (b) (7)(C), (b) (7)(F)

FROM: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C), (b) (7)(F) SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE (JI-3)

SUBJECT: Closing Memorandum  
Case No.: I1132711

On June 9, 2011, (b) (6), (b) (7)(C), NY, contacted the GSA OIG hotline and stated that in response to a May 30, 2011 airing of the Anitques Roadshow featuring the GSA OIG's recovery efforts of GSA New Deal artwork, (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) believed (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) had several Works Progress Administration (WPA) paintings in (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) possession. (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) later informed JI-3 agents that (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) had five pencil prints by an artist with the first name "Leslie" (last name unknown) and two watercolor paintings entitled "1937 Riverside Dr. at 159 St." and "Gloucester" by a Ben Ganz all dated in the WPA era. (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) advised that the paintings and prints did not have any WPA labels, plates or any other WPA identifiers on them. (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) opined they may have been WPA pieces or art because they were created during the WPA time period. (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) stated (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) did not want to take the painting out of their frames to check for labels because (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) is afraid of damaging the painting in the process.

The information provided by (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) was forwarded to (b) (6), (b) (7)(C), GSA Fine Arts Program (FAP) for (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) review. On December 30, 2011, (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) advised JI-3 that (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) researched WPA and Archive records for the paintings and prints, but was unable to determine if any of them were in fact a WPA piece of art. For this reason, GSA will not reclaim these pieces of art from (b) (6), (b) (7)(C). (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) advised that if any other information is uncovered in the future regarding the paintings and prints, (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) will advise JI-3 of such.

On January 13, 2012, (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) was advised that GSA has not been able to determine if any of the paintings or prints in (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) possession are WPA pieces of art. For this reason, GSA will not be taking possession of those paintings/prints. (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) advised that (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) did not send photos of the paintings as previously promised because (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) obtained a virus in (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) old computer. (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) has since purchased a new computer and will forward pictures of the two paintings to JI-3. Upon receipt, JI-3 will forward them to (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) for (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) records.

This case does not warrant further investigation.







FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

**U.S. GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION**  
**Office of Inspector General**

---

CENTRAL REGIONAL INVESTIGATIONS OFFICE

MEMORANDUM FOR FILE

FROM:

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C), (b) (7)(F)

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C), (b) (7)(F)

SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE (JI-5)

SUBJECT:

Closing Memorandum  
File Number: I1152940

This memorandum serves to close I1152940. On August 9, 2011, a referral from SA (b) (6), (b) (7)(C), (b) (6), (b) (7)(F), JI-3 provided information that a painting in possession by a possessor may be a federal owned painting funded by the Works Progress Administration (WPA). A subsequent field visit to the residence of said possessor identified the painting titled, "Lakeview Terrace" by Joseph Ersek. (b) (6), (b) (7)(C), Art in Architecture and Fine Arts Division, GSA requested that the painting be forwarded to Washington, DC for restoration. On May 29, 2012, the possessor signed the release of interest of Lakeview Terrace, and the painting was transported to (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)'s office. On July 18, 2012, Lakeview Terrace estimated value was placed at \$10,000.00.

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

Office of Investigations (JI-5)

230 South Dearborn Street, Suite 408, Chicago, IL 60604 (312/353-7779)





**U.S. GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION**  
**Office of Inspector General**  
**Pacific Rim Regional Office of Investigations**

---

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

June 1, 2012

MEMORANDUM FOR

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C), (b) (7)(F)

SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE (JI-9)

FROM:

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C), (b) (7)(F)

SPECIAL AGENT (JI-9)

SUBJECT:

Case Closing Memorandum

Case Title – WPA ARTWORK– MONTEREY PENINSULA  
UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT – MONTEREY, CA Case File  
Number – I1192760

This memorandum serves as the Final Report of Investigation in this matter.

On or about June 9, 2011, The Pacific Rim Regional Office (JI-9) Office of Inspector General (OIG) U.S. General Services Administration (GSA) received a referral from JI-3 concerning alleged Works Progress Administration (WPA) artwork. The complainant, who wished to remain anonymous, reported that the Monterey Peninsula Unified School District (MPUSD) was in possession of several pieces of WPA portable artwork. The complainant alleged that the suspected WPA artwork was improperly stored and unsecured, jeopardizing long-term preservation.

On June 10, 2011, the reporting agent (RA) and SA (b) (6), (b) (7)(C), (b) (7)(F) conducted a site visit at MPUSD and met with school administration officials. Consequently, JI-9 agents were able to secure MPUSD paperwork that identified numerous artwork as WPA. Furthermore, after review of school records and site visits to multiple facilities within the school district, approximately 10 paintings were identified, photographed and presumed New Deal era artwork. Additionally, one of the suspected WPA paintings by artist Patricia Cunningham, depicting Monterey fishermen, was located at Bayview Elementary School – the school was permanently closing and as a result, school administrators feared the painting would be lost or stolen. On June 17, 2011, JI-9 agents returned to the location and with the concurrence of MPUSD, seized the painting for safe keeping. That same day, JI-9 agents conducted a site visit at the Monterey Aquarium, based on a lead that revealed WPA artwork may be located at the aquarium. A painting entitled “Net Menders” by artist James Fitzgerald was labeled WPA. The painting was inspected, photographed and forwarded to the GSA Fine Arts Division.

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

## FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

On July 11, 2011, the GSA Fine Arts Division confirmed all 11 paintings as Federal Art Project, WPA, New Deal era artwork.

On August 3, 2011, the RA returned the Patricia Cunningham artwork bearing Monterey fishermen to the custody of MPUSD and advised administrators of GSA's claim of title regarding the aforementioned artwork.

On April 30, 2012, after MPUSD concluded their risk assessment/appraised value of the artwork, the RA received a signed loan agreement by the MPUSD. An independent appraiser hired by MPUSD appraised the value of all 11 WPA paintings at \$816,000.

On May 30, 2012, the GSA Fine Arts Division finalized the loan agreement.

Lastly, records recovered from the national archives revealed MPUSD was loaned a WPA painting entitled "Goatlings" by artist Tulita Westfall, on or about December 15, 1938. The presumed WPA painting remains unaccounted for.

Based on the above information, this case is closed and no further investigative activity is warranted unless future leads surface concerning "Goatlings."

Should you have any questions concerning this matter, please feel free contact me at (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) or the case agent, SA (b) (6), (b) (7)(C), at (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) or (b) (6), (b) (7)(C), (b) (7)(F) @gsaig.gov.

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY





**FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY**

**U.S. GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION**  
**Office of Inspector General**  
**New England Regional Investigations Office**

---

October 20, 2011

MEMORANDUM FOR: ROBERT A. PECK  
COMMISSIONER, PUBLIC BUILDING SERVICE (P)

FROM: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C), (b) (7)(F)  
SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE (JI-1)

SUBJECT: Letter Report  
**NEAR THE SHORE - WINTER – WPA RECOVERY**

Case Number: I1213045

On October 7, 2011, (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) and (b) (6), (b) (7)(C), Communications and Congressional Affairs, GSA OIG, received information of a Works Progress Administration (WPA) painting in the possession of (b) (6), (b) (7)(C), Archivist, MA Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR). (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) unearthed the painting *Near the Shore – Winter*, by artist Charles R Knapp, hanging in a DCR Field Office. (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) had recently watched an "Antiques Roadshow" segment on PBS that featured GSA's WPA Art Recovery Project. Realizing the discovery, (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) contacted GSA to verify its status as a piece of WPA artwork and to arrange for its return to federal care and custody.

On October 12, 2011, Works Progress Administration (WPA) painting *Near the Shore - Winter*, by Charles R. Knapp, was returned to the care and custody of the U.S. Government. The paintings will be cataloged and conserved by the GSA Fine Arts Program Office (FAP) while they locate a suitable place for public display. The artwork has an approximate value of \$900.00 and carries a significant historic value.

This report is furnished for your information only and no response is required. You are advised this report is from a system of records known as "GSA/ADM 24, Investigation Case Files," which is subject to the provisions of the Privacy Act of 1974. Consequently, this report may be disclosed to appropriate GSA officials who have a need for it in the performance of their duties pursuant to a routine use.

**FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY**

10 Causeway Street, Room 1007  
Boston, MA 02222





FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

**U.S. GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION**  
**Office of Inspector General**

---

June 6, 2012

MEMORANDUM FOR:

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)  
ACTING COMMISSIONER,  
PUBLIC BUILDINGS SERVICE (P)

FROM:

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C), (b) (7)(F)  
(b) (6), (b) (7)(C), (b) (7)(F)  
SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE (JI-3)

SUBJECT:

LETTER REPORT

**WPA PAINTING IN AUCTION – GRANITE STATUE OF  
ABRAHAM LINCOLN**

Case Number: I1233150

This memorandum presents the findings of our investigation regarding the captioned matter. This report is furnished for your information only.

On November 9, 2011, the U.S. General Services Administration (GSA), Office of Inspector General (OIG), Mid-Atlantic Regional Investigations Office (JI-3), received a hotline complaint which stated a granite statue of Abraham Lincoln, which was inscribed with “W.P.A. Art Project, N.Y.C.”, was recently sold at auction by the Dawson & Nye Auctioneers & Appraisers (Dawson & Nye), Bloomfield, NJ. JI-3 conducted an internet search of the Dawson & Nye website and confirmed a granite bust of Lincoln (Lincoln Piece), by A. William Mues, with the inscription “W.P.A. Art Project, N.Y.C.”, was sold on November 7, 2011 for \$1,320.

On November 9, 2011, a JI-3 agent telephonically contacted Dawson & Nye, regarding the Lincoln piece. The owner was informed that if the piece was created under the Works Progress Administration (WPA), it may be property of the federal government. The owner stated the piece was just sold, but was still located at (b) (6) gallery. Additionally, (b) (6) stated (b) (6) will contact the individual who purchased the piece and explain that they may be refunded since it may be a WPA piece of art. (b) (6) also said (b) (6) will ensure that the piece remains in the gallery until GSA determines the status of this piece.

On November 10, 2011, a JI-3 agent travelled to Dawson & Nye and confirmed the Lincoln Piece was inscribed with “W.P.A. Art Project, N.Y.C.”. Several photographs were taken of the piece and were provided to (b) (6), (b) (7)(C), GSA Fine Arts Program Office (FAP), PBS.



FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

On December 13, 2011, the FAP informed JI-3 that according to records maintained at the Archives of American Art in Washington, DC, the Lincoln Piece was created under the WPA. The FAP estimated the value of the piece to be \$2,300. On December 16, 2011, JI-3 travelled to Dawson & Nye and took custody of the Lincoln Piece. On February 2, 2012, the Lincoln Piece was delivered to the (b) (6), (b) (7)(C), FAP. According to the FAP, the Lincoln Piece will be loaned to the Lincoln Heritage Museum, Lincoln, IL, in July 2012, where it will be placed on display.

This report is furnished for your information only and no response is required. You are advised this report is from a system of records known as "GSA/ADM 24, Investigation Case Files", which is subject to the provisions of the Privacy Act of 1974. Consequently, this report may be disclosed only to appropriate GSA officials who have a need to know its contents.

Should you have any questions or require additional information, please contact me or Special Agent (b) (6), (b) (7)(C), (b) (7)(F) of my staff at (b) (6), (b) (7)(C).

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY





FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

**U.S. GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION**  
**Office of Inspector General**

---

**GREATER SOUTHWEST REGION INVESTIGATIONS OFFICE**

October 5, 2012

MEMORANDUM FOR THE FILE

FROM: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C), (b) (7)(F)  
SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE (JI-7)

SUBJECT: WPA Artwork – City of Raton, NM  
  
File No. I1272830

This is to advise you that the above-captioned investigation was officially closed on this date.

This investigation was initiated based on information received from the city of Raton, NM. The city of Raton identified potential WPA works of art in its collection, and the city manager contacted GSA in order to keep the artwork. Our office met with city officials and documented the artwork in city of Raton's collection for GSA.

As a result of our efforts GSA identified 20 works of WPA art in the Raton's collection. On August 21, 2012, GSA entered into a loan agreement with the city. The WPA art held by Raton appraised for \$362,850.00.

If you have any questions, please call Special Agent (b) (6), (b) (7) or me at (b) (6), (b) (7)(C).

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

Office of Investigations (JI-7)

819 Taylor Street, Room 10A34, Fort Worth, TX 76102 (817/978-2589)





**U.S. GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION**  
**Office of Inspector General**

---

**FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY**

April 2, 2012

MEMORANDUM FOR

GEOFFREY CHERRINGTON  
ASSISTANT INSPECTOR GENERAL  
FOR INVESTIGATIONS (JI)

FROM:

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C), (b) (7)(F)

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C), (b) (7)(F)

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C), (b) (7)(F)

SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE (JI-9)

SUBJECT:

Case Closing Memorandum

Case Title: Alleged WPA Artwork – Kern County Library –  
Bakersfield, CA  
Case File Number: I1293042

This memorandum serves as the final report in this matter.

In October 2011, the Pacific Rim Regional Office of Investigations (JI-9) received a referral from Mid-Atlantic Regional Investigations Office concerning information provided by an individual who requested anonymity alleging that the Kern County Library in Bakersfield, CA possessed five or six Works Progress Administration (WPA) paintings. JI-9 agents visited the library and discovered the following six suspected WPA Federal Art Project (FAP) portable paintings:

1. "California Oak" by artist Sophie M. Brannan,
2. "Spring Blossoms" by artist Sophie M. Brannan,
3. "Sierra From Shaw Flats" by artist George Post,
4. "Mother Lode" by artist George Post,
5. "Indian Weaver" by artist Louise Snider, and
6. "Spring Trees" by artist Renaldo Cuneo.

The U.S. General Services Administration (GSA) Fine Arts Program subsequently confirmed paintings 1, 3, 4, and 5 above as WPA FAP artwork.

On December 19, 2011, the Kern County Library entered into a long-term loan agreement with GSA concerning the artwork.

Furthermore, an alleged New Deal era lithograph titled "Capitano" by artist Lawrence Holmberg and art records noting paintings 2 and 6 above were also WPA FAP artwork were discovered in a

**FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY**

**FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY**

library facilities closet. JI-9 provided this information to the GSA Fine Arts Program, which confirmed the remaining artwork as New Deal era artwork. The Kern County Library subsequently returned the lithograph to the GSA Fine Arts Program. The total value of the recovery is valued at \$37,000.

Based on the preceding information, no further investigative activity is warranted and this case is closed.

Should you have any questions concerning this matter, please contact me at (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) or the case agent, Special Agent (b) (6), (b) (7)(C), (b) (7)(F), at (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) or (b) (6), (b) (7)(C), (b) (7)(F) [@gsaig.gov](mailto:gsaig.gov).

**FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY**





FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

**U.S. GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION**  
**Office of Inspector General**

---

January 30, 2012

MEMORANDUM FOR FILE

FROM:

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C), (b) (7)(F)

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C), (b) (7)(F)

SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE (JI-3)

SUBJECT:

CASE CLOSING MEMORANDUM

WPA Artwork Recovery Program

Case File No.: V11-3-2317

On January 24, 2011, the GSA OIG Mid-Atlantic Regional Investigations Office (JI-3) opened this proactive investigation to identify and recover lost, stolen or misplaced artwork created during the New Deal era (1932-1942). During the course of the investigations, JI-3 worked closely with the General Services Administration/Public Building Service's (GSA/PBS) Art in Architecture & Fine Arts Division to identify and recover lost, stolen or misplaced WPA art work.

New Deal artwork was created under art programs administered by the US Department of the Treasury, namely, the Public Works of Art Project (PWAP), the Treasury Relief Art Project (TRAP) and the Section of Fine Arts, and the Works Progress Administration's Federal Art Project (WPA/FAP). Eventually, these art projects were combined to create the Work Progress Administration (WPA). Artworks created under a New Deal are project are commonly referred to as WPA artwork.

During the investigation, JI-3 received information which resulted in 21 reactive cases being opened by JI-3 and five other GSA OIG offices. These reactive cases resulted in the direct recovery of seven (7) WPA paintings and sculptures. Additionally, there are over 25 pieces of potential WPA artwork that have been identified, which GSA OIG is assisting the GSA FAP in verifying the pieces of artwork are in fact WPA. For artwork verified as WPA, GSA OIG will assist the GSA FAP in recovering the artwork or entering into an allocation agreement with the entity in possession of the WPA artwork.







FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

**U.S. GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION**  
**Office of Inspector General**

---

**SOUTHEAST REGIONAL INVESTIGATIONS OFFICE**

MEMORANDUM FOR      GEOFFREY CHERRINGTON  
ASSISTANT INSPECTOR GENERAL  
FOR INVESTIGATIONS (JI)  
(b) (6), (b) (7)(C), (b) (7)(F)  
FROM:                     (b) (6), (b) (7)(C), (b) (7)(F)  
SPECIAL AGENT-IN-CHARGE  
OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS (JI-4)  
SUBJECT:                 Report of Investigation:  
POTENTIAL WPA ARTWORK AT ANTIQUE MALL

Our File No: Z11M2795

This memorandum presents the findings of our investigation. No further actions or referrals are necessary to close this matter.

This case was predicated on information received from complainant (b) (6), (b) (7)(C). (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) learned of the efforts to recover WPA artwork from an episode of the television show Antique Road Show. (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) observed paintings in a local antique mall in Lake City, Florida that (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) believed may be WPA artwork. Subsequently, the owner of the artwork in question, (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) was contacted and agreed to cooperate with the investigation.

Pictures of the twenty-five art pieces in question were taken and sent to (b) (6), (b) (7)(C), GSA Fine Arts Program for analysis. On February 8, 2012, (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) reported (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) had reviewed all of the photographs of the artwork and, in (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) expert opinion, none of these paintings were produced as part of the New Deal Federal Art Programs. Consequently, these paintings individually or collectively are not the property of the federal government.

This matter does not require any further investigation or action.





**U.S. GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION**  
**Office of Inspector General**

---

**FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY**

January 31, 2012

MEMORANDUM FOR GEOFFREY CHERRINGTON  
ASSISTANT INSPECTOR GENERAL  
FOR INVESTIGATIONS (JI)

FROM:

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C), (b) (7)(F)

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C), (b) (7)(F)

SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE (JI-9)

SUBJECT:

Case Closing Memorandum

Case Title: WPA Artwork – Ukiah Post Office – Ukiah, CA  
Case File Number: Z1293326

This memorandum serves as the final report in this matter.

On January 6, 2012, the Pacific Rim Regional Investigations Office (JI-9) received a U.S. General Services Administration Office of Inspector General (GSA OIG) Hotline referral concerning an alleged Work Progress Administration Federal Art Project mural on display at the Ukiah Post Office in Ukiah, CA. The complainant advised the Hotline that the Post Office was closing on January 14, 2012 and opined the artwork's preservation was at risk.

JI-9 subsequently contacted U.S. Postal Service management, acquired photographs of the mural, and determined it was still located in the Ukiah Post Office, a building secured with an alarm system. JI-9 then provided the photographs to the GSA Fine Arts Program for analysis.

On January 31, 2012, the GSA Fine Arts Program informed JI-9 that the Postal Service maintained exclusive title to the artwork. Furthermore, the Postal Service was aware of the mural's location and intended to secure the artwork for long-term preservation.

Based on the above information, this case is closed and no further investigative activity is warranted.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this matter, please contact me at (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) or the case agent, Special Agent (b) (6), (b) (7)(C), (b) (7)(F), at (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) or (b) (6), (b) (7)(C), (b) (7)(F) @gsaig.gov.

**FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY**

Pacific Rim Regional Investigations Office (JI-9)  
450 Golden Gate Avenue, Suite 7-5262, San Francisco, CA 94102