

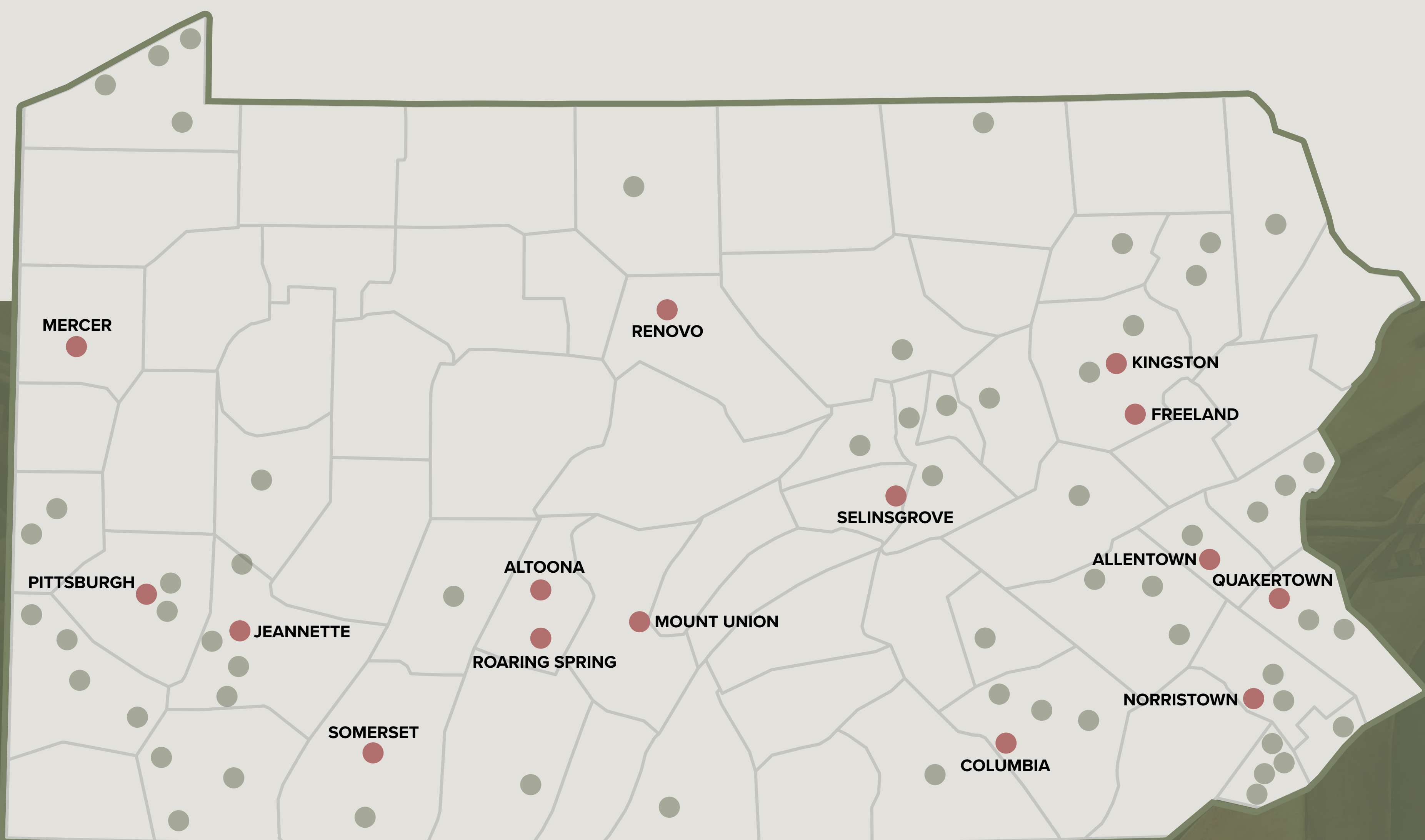


Common Canvas

PENNSYLVANIA'S NEW DEAL POST OFFICE MURALS

In 1933, the federal government under President Franklin Roosevelt embarked on an ambitious program to place murals and sculptures in post offices across the country. The goal was to create original artworks that captured “the American scene” and to make them accessible to all Americans. Between 1933 and 1942, Pennsylvania received 94 commissions, a number second only to New York.

During the Great Depression, the murals in this exhibit celebrated the value of work and the dignity of ordinary Pennsylvanians. Today, these same artworks, which together comprise the largest public art collection in the Commonwealth, shine a light on our shared past through the lens of agriculture, industry and transportation—themes that remain vibrant and relevant in Pennsylvania today.



● Murals featured in this exhibition

About this Exhibit

Independent scholar David Lembeck has been researching Pennsylvania's New Deal post office art for nearly 30 years. This exhibit offers a sampling of Lembeck's multiyear collaboration with architectural photographer Michael Mutmanský to visually document these artworks at their original locations.

All photographs by Michael Mutmanský unless otherwise noted.

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