

Works Progress Administration (WPA)

Overview/Holland Town Hall

On May 6, 1935, Franklin Delano Roosevelt created the Works Progress Administration (WPA), the largest and by far most comprehensive of the New Deal agencies. The goal of the WPA and other federal employment agencies such as the CCC and the CWA was to provide work for the millions of unemployed Americans during the Great Depression of the 1930s.

Anyone who needed a job could apply, and the hourly wages were the prevailing wages in the area. Over 8.5 million Americans were hired through WPA to work on projects such as building bridges, dams, public buildings, and roads. There were also important cultural works done by the WPA's Federal Arts Program, Federal Writer Project, Federal Music Project, Federal Theater Project, and the Historical Records Survey.

The WPA programs were retired by 1943 because WWII improved employment in the United States, but the legacy of the 8 years of this program remains today in the art and the structures it funded.

In the Town of Holland, the present Town Hall, located at 47 Pearl Street, was constructed by the WPA between 1937 and 1938. The new brick building replaced the former wooden Village School which burned in 1936 due to a painter's blow torch removing paint.

