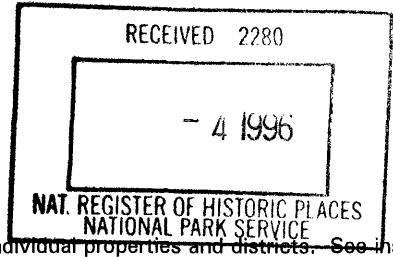


**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**



**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

**1. Name of Property**

historic name Portal State Bank

other names/site number Union Bank of Portal (32BK31)

**2. Location**

street & number 19 Main Street  not for publication N/A  
city or town Portal  vicinity N/A  
state North Dakota code ND county Burke code 013 zip code 58772

**3. State/Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. (  See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

James E. Sperry 8/29/96  
Signature of certifying official James E. Sperry Date  
State Historic Preservation Officer (North Dakota)

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. (  See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

**4. National Park Service Certification**

- I, hereby certify that this property is:
- entered in the National Register  
 See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register  
 See continuation sheet
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

Edson H. Beall 10-5-96  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action  
Entered in the  
National Register

Portal State Bank  
Name of Property

Burke, ND  
County and State

**5. Classification**

<b>Ownership of Property</b> (Check as many boxes as apply)	<b>Category of Property</b> (Check only one box)	<b>Number of Resources within Property</b> (Do not include previously listed resources in the count)	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private <input type="checkbox"/> public-local <input type="checkbox"/> public-State <input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s) <input type="checkbox"/> district <input type="checkbox"/> site <input type="checkbox"/> structure <input type="checkbox"/> object	<b>Contributing</b> <u>1</u>	<b>Noncontributing</b> <u>0</u>
		<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>
		building sites structures objects <b>Total</b>	

**Name of related multiple property listing**  
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National**

0

**6. Function or Use**

<b>Historic Functions</b> (Enter categories from instructions)	<b>Current Functions</b> (Enter categories from instructions)
<u>COMMERCE/TRADE:</u> <u>financial institution</u>	<u>RECREATION AND CULTURE:</u> <u>museum</u>

**7. Description**

<b>Architectural Classification</b> (Enter categories from instructions)	<b>Current Functions</b> (Enter categories from instructions)
<u>CLASSIC REVIVAL</u>	foundation <u>STONE</u> walls <u>BRICK</u> roof <u>ASPHALT</u> other <u>SANDSTONE</u> <u>WOOD</u>

**Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria Areas of Significance**

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

**Period of Significance**

c. 1903

**Significant Dates**

c. 1903

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

UNKNOWN

**Criteria Considerations**

(Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or a grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

**Bibliography**

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

**Previous documentation on file (NPS)**

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local Government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

Mary Sjue

Portal State Bank  
Name of Property

Burke, ND  
County and State

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of Property less than one acre

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

13	6 7 9 3 3 3	5 4 2 9 6 8 7			
1 Zone	Easting	Northing	3 Zone	Easting	Northing
2 Zone	Easting	Northing	4 Zone	Easting	Northing
			□ See continuation sheet.		

**Verbal Boundary Description**

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

**Boundary Justification**

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Mary Sjue and Rolene Schliesman, SHSND Staff

organization \_\_\_\_\_ date July 9, 1996

street & number 107 Prairie Street telephone (701)926-3621  
city or town Portal state ND zip code 58772

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

**Continuation Sheets**

**Maps**

- A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

**Photographs**

Representative **black and white** photographs of the property.

**Additional items**

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

**Property Owner**

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Mary Sjue

street & number 107 Prairie Street telephone (701)926-3621

city or town Portal state ND zip code 58772

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

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**Portal State Bank  
Burke County, ND**

**Description**

The Portal State Bank is located centrally on Main Street of Portal between Railway and First Avenues. Once flanked by other commercial buildings, the bank now stands with open lots on either side. A former gas station is located to the southwest, and a one-story commercial building is located to the northeast. Because the streets of Portal were platted along the southeast-northwest tracks of the Soo Line Railroad, the front elevation of the bank faces southeast. The legal description of the property is Lot 7, Block 1, Original Townsite of Portal, North Dakota.

A rectangular one-story building, the bank rests on its original foundation of undressed stone and concrete mortar. Common yellow brick walls rise from the foundation on the side and rear elevations. Every seventh row is a bond course, laid with headers only exposed to indicate a double wythe brick wall. The front elevation is beige face brick and lighter-colored sandstone detailing. The slight slope of the roof is hidden by a stepped parapet and is covered by tar and gravel roofing. The chimney is visible behind the parapet on the northwest elevation.

Features of the front elevation include a slightly recessed entrance, a large front window, and three sandstone Classical Revival columns supporting a pediment. The pediment spans the full width of the front elevation. Every sixth row of beige brick is recessed from the water table to near the top of the window and entrance. Tall, square, sandstone pedestals carry the load of the smooth Ionic columns, the corbeled architrave, the smooth frieze, and the wooden trim of the pediment above. The volutes appear to be a lighter color than the column, possibly from exposure to the weather. "Portal State Bank" is carved into the frieze. The tympanum is unadorned brick, and wooden dentils decorate the horizontal and raked cornices. Two of the three original metal acroteria accent the peak and the south corner of the roof; the third acroterion is missing from the east corner.

The large front window measures eight-foot by five-foot five-inches, and contains a transom window of leaded glass in a Victorian pattern. Its exterior is protected by a large twelve-lite storm window. The window sill is sandstone. A 30-inch high, concrete water table and a metal coal chute door are located below the large window. Four sandstone steps lead to the entrance and show evidence of heavy foot traffic. The wooden front door was replaced in 1993 by Mary Sjue, the current owner, in order to better match an historic photograph. A series of seven transom windows and side lights surround the door, with a leaded glass transom window directly over the door.

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National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

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**Portal State Bank  
Burke County, ND**

**Description (continued)**

Other fenestration includes a top-hinged two-lite window on the side southwest and a matching window on northeast elevations. The southeast window had been bricked in and Mary Sjue restored the window in 1993. A five-panel wooden door and a double-hung window are located on the rear elevation. A metal security grate covers the rear window. The sole basement window is located directly below the double-hung window. It was blocked with matching brick at an unknown time. The door and four windows each have a masonry jack arch lintel. A small wooden deck and three steps, painted brown, give access to the rear door. Roofing tar remains as evidence of a small rear entrance. According to Mary Sjue, the entrance was not original and was removed during the renovation between 1992 and 1993.

Entering the front of the bank, a small vestibule provides an important windbreak from the elements. The inside door is original oak, with one large beveled lite in the upper half. Similar to the exterior, three large transom windows and two large side lights surround the door. The side window and transom window match the proportions of those around the interior door. The ceiling is covered with pressed metal panels and painted white.

The floor plan consists of a large front room, vault, back room, and a small closet. The front room is divided lengthwise by a non-original teller window counter, with the lobby on left, and the teller/banking area on the right. The walls are of original plaster and the ceiling is covered in pressed metal panels, most of which are original. The original panels were rearranged slightly to cover the central section, and panels from a 1906 building across the street were used as a border. Four cast iron radiators are located throughout the building. They are decorative metal and painted silver.

Small hexagonal tiles in white, black, and dark red, are arranged in a decorative pattern for the lobby flooring. A geometric pattern borders the floor and green tiles were incorporated into the color scheme. Marble baseboards, oak crown molding, and corner guards trim the lobby. A depositor's shelf, made of oak, topped with green felt and a sheet of glass was built into the southwest wall of the lobby.

The flooring in the teller area is 1-1/2-inch oak, worn in places where the tellers stood. Some of the flooring was replaced in 1993 due to water damage. A metal heating stove is located in the teller area along the northwest wall, where it has been located since before 1945. The black stove pipe extends over the vault door into the chimney along the northeast wall. Four handcrafted light fixtures hang by chains from the ceiling, as well as metal fan positioned close to the ceiling.

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**Portal State Bank  
Burke County, ND**

**Description (continued)**

A closet and a vault are located along the northwest wall, off the teller area. The vault is accessed by a heavy gauge steel door. The door has been painted silver, save for a landscape painting in the center. The brick vault was constructed with a low arch ceiling with three iron stay rods. The walls are veneered in concrete and contain the original safety deposit boxes. The closet is small and is accessed by a six-panel wooden door.

A second six-panel wooden door is located at the northwest, through the lobby. This door accesses the back room presumably used for storage when the bank was in operation. A small closet is located in the room. The exit doorway contains two doors for added security and warmth. The interior door is a wooden six-panel as is the closet door. Five-inch wide plank flooring was used as flooring material for this area. The wood baseboards and floor have been painted. The plaster walls were stuccoed to hide cracks in the renovation between 1992 and 1993. The original pressed metal ceiling panels were replaced also with newer pressed metal panels. Roof deterioration and heavy rains caused the original ceiling to rust and fall off.

A small cellar is located under the floor and is constructed of brick and mortar. Currently the only access is through the coal chute in the front elevation of the building. Mary Sjue suspects the floor of the back room may have contained a cellar access. The furnace is the sole item in the basement.

The Portal State Bank has maintained a high level of integrity, changing little since its construction in c. 1903. The building is an excellent example of the Classical Revival style with its simple and elegant Ionic order. The bank remains in good condition due in part to fine quality construction and materials, and to Mary Sjue's care and maintenance. She said, "The building still stands straight and true. I do not know who the builder was, but the quality of the materials and workmanship is evident in the excellent condition of this almost century-old building."

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

## **National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet**

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**Portal State Bank  
Burke County, ND**

### **Statement of Significance**

The Portal State Bank is nominated under Criterion C deriving its significance from its architectural distinction. It is the only commercial example of Classical Revival style architecture in Portal, and is believed to be the best commercial example in Burke County. The bank has maintained a high level of integrity, because the building has not been structurally modified, and has experienced relatively few alterations. The Classical Revival elements of the building are intact.

Through an informal survey method, each town in Burke County was visited: Larson, Columbus, Lignite, Northgate, Flaxton, Powers Lake, Battleview, Coteau, and Bowbells, the county seat. No commercial buildings were found to exhibit the abundance of the Classical Revival elements or the high integrity of the Portal State Bank.

The Classical Revival style was first popular from c. 1800-1840 in the United States. The style is characterized by the widespread use of the Greek and Roman orders and decorative motifs accumulated from the archaeological knowledge of the previous century. The architecture of this period was conscientiously designed to evoke "literary or historical ideas [of] democracy, liberty, republican government, and civic virtue" (Gowans 89). Literate, sophisticated, professional, elegant, and grand may also be added to this list of descriptive words. Classical Revival was again popular c. 1885-1915, and is also known as the Neoclassical style. The resurgence is considered to be "academic," drawing upon the earlier Classical Revival period, examining it carefully, redefining, and perhaps correcting it according to contemporary attitudes. New buildings were designed using the traditional orders and motifs, but accommodated new functions.

Physically the front facades of Classical Revival style buildings are distinguished by a three-part arrangement of base, column, and pediment or cornice. Symmetry and balance are always present. Heavy ornamental detailing of the Beaux-Arts Classicism was simplified into strong geometric designs. Multiple angles and projections were replaced with broad expanses of plain wall surfaces with simplified, applied ornamentation. Granite, sandstone, limestone, marble, and brick were common building materials, selected for their actual and symbolic permanence.

The Portal State Bank has maintained its dignified Classical Revival elements: sandstone base, Scamozzi order columns, and denticular pedimented cornice. The small building is symmetrical with the entrance balanced with the large window. The monotone beige brick and sandstone facade is permanent, fireproof, and presents a solid, successful image ideal for a community bank.



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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Portal State Bank  
Burke County, ND

### Statement of Significance (continued)

#### History

Located in extreme northern Burke County, the city of Portal rests on the international border between Canada and the United States, along U.S. Highway 52/Canadian Highway 39. Portal is one of eighteen ports of entry, originally receiving its name for the fact from Soo Line Railroad officials, whose rail line arrived at the townsite in 1893. And although Pioneers & Progress states "the land was especially adapted to stock growing," the townsite prospered because the Soo Line Railroad joined the Canadian Pacific Railway here, Portal was selected as the division point for the Soo Line, and the U.S. and Canadian Customs Houses were built in the community.

The Soo Line made possible the opening of the surrounding area to settlement. Homesteaders arrived with their families, household goods, livestock, and "whathave you." Portal with its railroad was the 'jumping off' point and the Soo was also a life line for many necessities. Settlers came, not only to settle this area, but many went on into Canada, to Saskatchewan and Alberta, and later even to the gold fields of Alaska. (Pioneers & Progress, 761).

Portal was platted in 1899, incorporated into a village in 1905, and officially became a city in 1914. Portal's population peaked in 1913 with 567 citizens (Wick 157). Currently, the population is 238.

Portal State Bank was started before Portal was a village. On December 15, 1902, Portal State Bank was incorporated, one year after the First International Bank opened next door. Incorporators of the Portal State Bank were Levy Haffie, Galin P. Makee, and Elias Pierson, Portal. Having sold 100 shares at \$100 each, they opened the doors with \$10,000 in capital. In a 1903 advertisement in the local newspaper, Pierson is listed as the president of the bank.

While the exact date of construction of the Portal State Bank is unknown, it may be assumed that construction began in 1903. An advertisement featuring Portal State Bank appeared in the December 4, 1903, issue of The International, Portal's newspaper. This would confirm that the financial institution was in operation but its location was uncertain. Condition of resources and liabilities notices in the newspaper were consulted to see if the "banking house, furniture, and fixtures" increased, indicating the construction of the bank. The first notice appeared in January 29, 1904, with an assessment of \$4,300. This figure remained stable though 1907 when the building was known to already exist.

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Portal State Bank  
Burke County, ND

### Statement of Significance (continued)

In 1903 the Portal community was growing, apparent by promotion of Portal as a Customs Support of Entry and the services of two banks, Portal State Bank and the First International Bank.<sup>1</sup> Along with the banks, these and other business were in operation: a cafe, clothing store, two bowling alleys, a market, livery stable, and drug store. Later, Shanks Telephone Company brought service to Portal in 1904, a water tank and pump house were built in 1906, wells were dug in 1910, and in 1913 census figures showed a peak population of 567 Portal citizens.

Early immigrants came to the United State to improve their lives. Immigrants to Burke County and Portal community were no different; they homesteaded farms and ranches, conducted business, raised children, and created communities for themselves. Life was difficult, money was short, work was very hard, and for farmers trying to raise a crop, weather conditions were not always cooperative. The banking business experienced the drought years in secondary ways. After a few poor years, many homesteaders were forced to borrow money, which could not be repaid. As a result, the First International Bank closed in 1923. And the following year on April 29, 1924, the Portal State Bank closed. In a notice to the creditors dated September 9, 1924, from L. R. Baird, Receiver for insolvent North Dakota banks, creditors were prompted to state their claims against the Portal State Bank.<sup>2</sup>

Three months later in January of 1925, scandal is reported in the Bismarck Capital:

Four former Portal, N.D. bankers were indicted on a total of 16 counts, all alleging receipt of deposits in a bank known by them to be insolvent, by the Burke county grand jury. The men indicted include T. A. Nelson, now of Minneapolis, former president of the Portal State Bank, now closed, Leo Baldwin of Minneapolis, and C. T. Holmes of Portal, also former officials of the state bank, and William E. Metzger of Portal, former official of the First International Bank of Portal.

At the point of closure, a Portal attorney, Charles H. Marshall, realized the need for a financial institution in Portal. Marshall met with area farmers and the townspeople from Portal and North Portal, Saskatchewan,

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<sup>1</sup>A third bank was planned and announced in January of 1906 for a Farmers & Merchants State Bank, however, no charter was recorded by the Department of Banking and Financial Institutions and no further information appeared in the local newspaper.

<sup>2</sup>Receivership involves a complete inventory of the bank's assets and liabilities, including cash and mortgages, liquidating the resources, and paying off the debts of the bank. Depositors are paid first, the creditors second, and the shareholders last, if any resources are left.

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Continuation Sheet

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Portal State Bank  
Burke County, ND

Statement of Significance (continued)

to re-establish a banking facility. Jerry Daley, Joseph Hill, Thomas Ballantyne, Abe and Josephine Hunt, Knute Reite, A. J. Daley, George Fordyce, A. P. Bratsberg, and H. Kramer among others, joined forces and established a new bank. The March 20, 1924, newspaper account of the effort follows:

Mr. Marshall fully convinced every man present that the new bank must be organized. A blackboard was brought in with the names of the subscribers and amounts opposite their names written in large letters and figures. Somebody said, "Ante," and they surely "anted." \$5,600.00 was raised from the twenty odd men present. When the last \$100 was raised it was like a "thrill that comes once in a life time." Every man jumped to his feet and let a yell out of him that could be heard for six blocks. While on their feet the boys gave Mr. Marshall a vote of thanks for the good work he has done, then immediately gave him more work to do, appointing him a committee to put the deal across and giving him power to choose his helpers. The committee, which is a very representative one, consists of C. H. Marshall, chairman, Jos. Hill, L. A. Grant, Len Wheeler, Hugh Roan, Jerry Daley, F. A. Winsor and Dr. I. Myers.

The International announced "Union Bank of Portal to be Opened Soon," and reported, "the capital stock of \$20,000 was raised to open an entirely new bank, the Union Bank of Portal." The new bank was chartered on May 19, 1924. Incorporators were Jerry Daley of North Portal, Saskatchewan, Arthur Kateley of Kenmare, and C. H. Marshall of Portal. Later that year, The International reported, "On Saturday morning, Sept. 27 the Union Bank of Portal opened for business at the old Portal State Bank building." Officers and employees were: Jerry Daley, President; F. M. Ingle, Vice President; K. E. Reite, Vice President; Charles Marshall, Manager and Cashier; C. H. Marshall, Cashier; H. M. Donovan, Assistant Cashier; and M. M. Lowe, Teller. Close supervision came from an advisory board: Joe Hill, H. Roan, George Fordyce, Thomas Jarrott, L. A. Grant, T. Ballantyne, G. Wicks, and J. Maurer.

In January of 1928, The International reported the following news:

Union Bank of Portal Holds Annual Meeting. On Thursday night, Jan. 12 the annual meeting of the stock holders was held at the bank building. A large number of stockholders were present. Cashier C. H. Marshall gave an interesting report of the condition of the bank. Over \$16,000 was the income of the bank during the year just closed. A new profit of \$4,029.10 was realized. Last year a substantial dividend was declared and \$1000 put into the surplus fund. Another substantial dividend was declared by the stockholders this year, the surplus fund increased \$2000 and a large sum left in the undivided profits account. ... Mr. Marshall states that [the bank] has met all of its obligations and will continue to do so in the future. Jerry Daley and F. M. Ingle were re-elected directors and Knute Reite is the new director, taking the place of C. H. Marshall, who declined re-election to the position.

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Portal State Bank  
Burke County, ND

### Statement of Significance (continued)

Eighteen months later, these few lines appeared in the local new column, "The Union Bank of Portal was closed on Friday, August 22, at 2 o'clock P.M. on account of depleted reserve." The Department of Banking and Financial Institutions stated the reason for the closing was not only depleted reserve, but frozen assets. Declared insolvent, the bank went into receivership, again to L. R. Baird. On September 9, Baird was appointed Special Deputy Examiner in Charge, and General Receiver for the closed bank.

Many banks closed during the 1920s and 1930s due to depleted reserves. Intermittent drought conditions, and later the dust bowl days, the stock market crash in 1929, and subsequent Great Depression were all factors in the closings. Baird served as the receiver for 500 insolvent banks across the state, resulting in total assets of \$79,745,447.39 which had to be settled. Under court order on October 24, 1946, Baird was discharged as Receiver for the insolvent Union State Bank.

Tragedy followed the closing of the bank when Charles Marshall apparently took his life in the back room of the bank. On September 30, 1930, The International reported on the front page, "The city and community were deeply shocked when the inanimate body of Charles H. Marshall was found in the Union Bank of Portal on Monday afternoon about 1 o'clock." Marshall was the cashier since the Union Bank opened in 1924. "Mr. Marshall was of a sympathetic nature and he felt personally responsible for the losses sustained by the depositors. He brooded over the matter day and night, until he became worn out in body and mind."

The death of the bank is also accounted in Marshall's obituary:

For several years the institution had paid good returns to the stockholders and a surplus had been paid been built up amounting to \$5,000.00. The light crops of 1929 and the money stringency of 1930 kept the deposits below normal figures. In December of 1929, the final payment on the claims of the closed banks became due. This payment of over \$30,000.00 was met by the bank. Much of this money was not re-deposited on account of the claimants needing the cash to pay their bills. This summer many of the depositors checked out their funds to use in various ways, and as only small amounts of deposits were made previous to the harvest period, the cash reserve could not be kept up, therefore, the only recourse left for the cashier was to close the doors. It was a condition that could not be avoided, and no blame should be placed on the shoulders of the cashier, who did all in his power to keep the institution open.

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National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

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**Portal State Bank  
Burke County, ND**

**Statement of Significance (continued)**

Following its banking service to the community, the building was later rented by the United States government for use as a post office for four to five years. In 1937, Norman G. Jensen purchased the bank and used it for his brokerage office. Later Jensen moved his business out of the building and it sat vacant for some time. World Freight, the Jensen family business, sold the building to the museum society for \$2,000 in 1976. The museum society used the building for bicentennial activities. Following the celebration, the bank sat vacant until 1992 when the roof began to leak and repairs were badly needed. Mary Sjue purchased the building that year and later renovated the building between 1992 and 1993. The building is used as a museum, and is opened occasionally for special events and celebrations.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Portal State Bank  
Burke County, ND

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  14 August 1924, 4.  
  28 August 1924, 1.  
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  2 October 1924, 4.  
  9 October 1924, 4.  
  19 January 1928, 1.  
  23 August 1930, 7.  
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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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### Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property is bounded by the legal description as recorded in the Burke County Register of Deeds Office: Lot 7, Block 1, of the Original Townsite of Portal, North Dakota, southeast quarter of section 25, Township 164 North , Range 92 West.

### Boundary Justification

The boundary of the nominated property includes the building and grounds historically associated with the property.