

PH 368466

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED JAN 5 1977

DATE ENTERED OCT 5 1977

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

****** HISTORIC

Nelson's General Store

AND/OR COMMON

Nelson's Grocery (Preferred)

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER Main and Third Streets
Post Office Box 56

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Christine

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

1

STATE

North Dakota

CODE

38

COUNTY

Richland

CODE

077

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Hilbert and Haldis Nelson

STREET & NUMBER Post Office Box 56

CITY, TOWN

Christine

VICINITY OF

STATE

North Dakota 58015

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Richland County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER Post Office Box 909

CITY, TOWN

Wahpeton

STATE

North Dakota 58075

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE North Dakota Historic Sites Survey

DATE

1976

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS State Historical Society of North Dakota
Liberty Memorial Building

CITY, TOWN

Bismarck

STATE

North Dakota 58505

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Nelson's Grocery is a free-standing, 2-story, 40 by 70-foot frame structure without attic or basement. The foundation is granite, currently needing repair to correct sagging of the walls. The roof has a 2-foot slope and was covered with composition material in the summer of 1976. Accentuating the roofline is a projecting cornice supported by two sizes of carved brackets which are attached to a frieze. The walls, sheathed in metal stamped to simulate stone blocks, are opened up on the second story by wooden-sash, double-hung, 1 and 2 over 1 windows with cornice head casings.

Two bays of plate glass on the first-floor facade (north) and a double window on the east elevation are supported in a framework of paneled bases, carved posts, and bracketed cornice. Two additional facade bays were sealed in the early 1940s when the corresponding portion of the store interior was converted to a 4-room apartment. Stained-glass transoms are still in place in all the bays but are covered by sheets of plywood. The recessed corner entrance features double doors flanked by single plate-glass windows on paneled bases. Spanning the diagonal above the four openings is a series of six windows (two rectangular ones between pairs with arched heads), providing visual emphasis to the facade.

In the tradition of the general store, the sales area on the first floor has been operated as a single large unit stocked with mixed merchandise, rather than being separated into different departments. The west side of the interior was diminished for a depth of 20 feet when the apartment was put in. In the rear of the building is a locker plant (also installed in the 1940s) which local residents rented before the use of home freezers was widespread, but which is no longer utilized. The second floor is a single unfinished space, now vacant but intended originally for the storage of large items such as furniture.

Built into the rear (south) elevation of the structure is a pre-1901 former general store moved to the site to serve as a warehouse. The 30 by 40-foot frame building is covered with brick-patterned asbestos siding and has a gabled roof. The wood-shingled apex of the latter rises as a pediment above a false front topped by a bracketed cornice. On the interior a straight-flight open stairway leads to the second floor of the main building. In the rear yard is a small gabled-roof smokehouse completely sheathed in stamped and corrugated metal. The store property occupies the southwest corner of the intersection at the west end of Christine's block-long business district, directly across Main Street from the Old Post Office, a contemporary of Nelson's Grocery and also a nomination to the National Register of Historic Places.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES ca. 1905

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Austin Johnsgaard (Builder)
Peter Fredeen (Contractor)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Nelson's Grocery, an institution in the business life of Christine for over 70 years, belongs to a rapidly disappearing architectural and commercial genre which once promoted the growth of small towns throughout North Dakota. The location of the store, lots 10, 11, and 12 of block 8, City of Christine, was originally owned by Edgar L. and Julia E. Gray. The Grays in 1896 deeded the property to John B. Bisbee, who is remembered locally as the owner at one time of the quarter section of land on which Christine was built. In 1900, Bisbee conveyed the future store site to John S. Johnson and Dr. Lewis U. Iverson, both of whom owned a large number of vacant lots in the town they are credited with laying out.

Austin Johnsgaard purchased lots 11 and 12, block 8, from Johnson and Dr. Iverson in 1901, and three years later he obtained lot 10 from Johnson. Presumably shortly thereafter, or ca. 1905, Peter Fredeen, a local contractor, erected a general store on the three lots, and Johnsgaard opened for business with his partner, Aslag Benson. Prior to 1901, the two men had taken over another general store a block east on Main Street (lots 11 and 12, block 7), and the building was subsequently relocated to the site of the new store for use as a warehouse. Johnsgaard eventually ran the second store alone for a time until his four sons grew up, after which they joined their father intermittently in its operation. The last Johnsgaard son to be in the business was Ortley, who built the apartment now occupied by the present owners of the store, Hilbert and Haldis Nelson. In 1949, Ortley Johnsgaard and his wife, LuVerne, sold the property to the Nelsons, who have managed the store continuously to the present time.

In earlier years, reflecting the practice of the times, the line of merchandise carried in the store was extensive, including furniture, but it now consists chiefly of groceries and some items of clothing and hardware. Accordingly, the name of the establishment has been modified in popular usage from general store to grocery. The approaching retirement of the owners and the recent opening of a supermarket in the new Christine mini-mall place the future of the business, as well as the period structure which has always housed it, in doubt.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Maddox, Dawn. Personal inspection, September 25, 1976.
Moe, Mrs. Thomas W. Christine, North Dakota. Files on Nelson's General Store/
Nelson's Grocery.
Nelson, Hilbert. Christine, North Dakota. Personal interview, September 25,
1976. Telephone interview, November 13, 1976.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre.

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,4	66,80,15	5,16,00,0,0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Dawn Maddox, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION

State Historical Society of North Dakota

DATE

December 29, 1976

STREET & NUMBER

Liberty Memorial Building

TELEPHONE

(701) 224-2666

CITY OR TOWN

Bismarck

STATE

North Dakota 58505

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

James E. Sherry

TITLE N.D. State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE December 29, 1976

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER