

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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**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 Old U.S. Post Office

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 322 Main Ave. _____ not for publication

city, town Williston _____ vicinity of _____ congressional district 1

state North Dakota code 38 county Williams code 025

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name City of Williston

street & number

city, town Williston _____ vicinity of _____ state North Dakota 58801

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Williams County Register of Deeds

street & number County Courthouse

city, town Williston _____ state North Dakota 58801

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title _____ has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date _____ federal _____ state _____ county _____ local

depository for survey records

city, town _____ state _____

7. Description

Condition excellent good fair deteriorated ruins unexposed**Check one** unaltered altered**Check one** original site moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Williston Post Office is a Neoclassical Revival structure of brick sheathed in limestone block, and features an elaborate entablature and engaged colossal columns. The rectangular two-story structure is five bays wide and four bays deep, with bays separated by colossal pilasters. The three central bays of the facade or west side are slightly recessed, and are defined and separated by four colossal Composite Order columns. Windows in the three center facade bays are deeply recessed, and on the second story each bay is divided into three rectangular windows by pilastered mullions.

End bay windows of the facade are set in recessed panels formed by broad flanking pilasters, as are the western-most bay windows of the north and south elevations. Second floor windows of these bays, and the other bays on the north and south elevations, are twelve-pane rectangular with wide center mullions. Ground story windows have double eight-pane casement frames, and a pair of two-pane rectangular windows with wide mullion forms a transom to each bay. The center three bays of the rear facade are set in a protrusion of the wall that corresponds to the recession of the facade. Windows in these three bays are two-over-two or four-over-four double hung, with heavy stone dividers and a four-pane fixed window above. An original classical rear porch entrance at the center of the rear facade has been replaced with a yellow brick single-story loading dock.

The crowning entablature includes decorative banding in egg-and-dart, acanthus leaf, enriched water leaf, bead-and-reel, and bezant patterns. Large dentils course around the structure, except for the central portion of the rear facade, and spaces between dentils are paneled and decorated with raised rosettes. Unadorned medallions project from the entablature above each facade column.

The interior of the structure is finished with chamfered ceilings and terrazzo floors. Surrounds of interior doors include Tuscan columns, pilastered arches, and festooned pediments. Woodwork with egg-and-dart and bead-and-reel decorations is present throughout the building. The first floor, which originally served as public postal facilities, is unaltered except for removal of some mail boxes and installation of a glass insulating wall and wind barrier inside the main entrance. The second story is occupied in office rooms, and the full basement contains electrical, heating, and maintenance facilities for the building. The building is now used as storage space for the Williston school system.

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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
	<input type="checkbox"/> invention			

Specific dates 1915 **Builder/Architect** Oscar Wenderoth

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The former Williston Post Office is significant for its architectural style and detail, and for its impact on the local community. Designed and built under the general supervision of Oscar Wenderoth, Supervisory Architect of the Treasury Department, the structure is a fine example of richly decorated Neo-Classical Revival construction in a large public building. This style of architecture is relatively rare throughout North Dakota, and is especially rare in the western portion of the state where it is seldom employed in buildings of any size or function. In the small, rurally-oriented town of Williston the Post Office is the only example of its style, and therefore it provides a unique sample of architectural diversity to the community. The quality of workmanship and the fineness of detail helped make the building a cultural and artistic landmark in the community, a source of prestige still felt and honored.

The massiveness and colossal columns of the building are also a very visible reminder of the Federal presence and function in Williston, a town isolated by distance from state and national governmental centers. The building housed the U.S. Post Office for 54 years, from 1915 to 1969, and was also occupied by offices of the Internal Revenue Service, Navy Recruiting Station, Soil Conservation Service, and other Federal agencies. Still considered a symbol of governmental authority after its abandonment in 1969, the building is now owned by the City of Williston and will be rehabilitated for occupation as office space of the local government.

