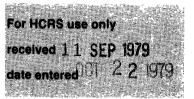
United States Department of the Interior Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

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 0	1d U.S. Post O [.]	ffice							
and/or common									
2. Loca	ation								
street & number	322 Mair	n Ave) 3				not f	or publi	cation
city, town Wi	lliston		V	vicinity of	congressional dis	trict	1		
state Nort	th Dakota	code	38	county	Williams			code	025
3. Clas	sificatio	n	,						
Category district X building(s) structure site object	Ownership X public private both Public Acquisiti in process being conside		Accessit	cupied in progress ble	Present Use agriculture commercial educational entertainme X governmen industrial military	ent	F F F S	nuseum bark private ru religious scientific ranspor other:	esidence S
4. Own	er of Pro	per	ty						
name	City of Willis	ton		<u>an an a</u>	Ĺ				
street & number							··		
city, town Will	lliston			icinity of	s	tate N	lorth [)akota	58801
5. Loca	ation of L	ega	I Des	cripti			<u>in a seconda da seco</u>		
courthouse, regis	<mark>stry of deeds, etc.</mark> County Court		ams Coun	ty Regist	ter of Deeds				
city, town	Williston			<u> </u>		tate	Nonth	Dakati	E0001
	resentati	on i	n Exi	sting			NUPUN	Dakula	a <u>58801</u>
title					perty been determin	ed ele	aible?	·····	
date					federal				
depository for su	irvey records						\	Juny	
city, town					S	tate			

7. Description

Condition		Check one
	deteriorated	X_ unaltered
X good	ruins	altered
fair	unexposed	

Check one _X_ original site ____ moved date __

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

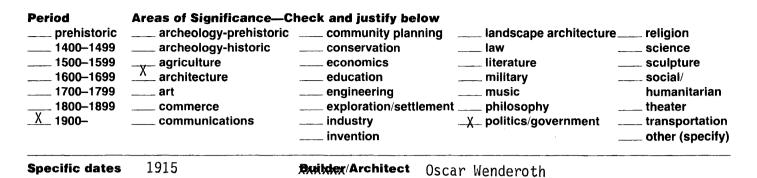
The Williston Post Office is a Neoclassical Revival structure of brick sheathed in limestone block, and features an elaborate entablature and engaged colossal columns. The rectangular two-story structure is five bays wide and four bays deep, with bays separated by colossal pilasters. The three central 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-real, 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 insulting 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



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 distrance 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.

1.25

9. Major Bibliographical References

The Wonder of Williams, A Brief History of Williams County, North Dakota 1805-1910. Benn Inniss Compiled and published by the William County Historical Society.

10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of nominated property <u>less than one ac</u> Quadrangle name <u>Williston Eas</u> t UMT References	re Quadrangle so	cale7.5
A 1.3 6 0 2 2 8 0 5 3 3 3 6 0 Zone Easting Northing	B Zone Easting No	rthing
C	$\begin{array}{c c} P \ \ \\ \ \ \\ F \ \ \\ \ \ \\ H \ \ \\ \ \ \\ H \ \ \\ \ \ \\ H \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ $	
Verbal boundary description and justification Lots 19-24 of Block Seven of the Original	Townsite Plat of Williston.	
List all states and counties for properties overlapp	ing state or county boundaries	
state code	county	code
state code	county	code
11. Form Prepared By		
name/title Kurt Schweigert, Architectural Hi		170
organization State Historical Society of Nor		
street & number Liberty Memorial Building	telephone (701)224-	-2672
city or town Bismarck	state North Dakota	1 58505
12. State Historic Preser	vation Officer Cer	tification
The evaluated significance of this property within the state national state X	e is: local	
As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for tl 665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the N according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the H	ational Register and certify that it has be	een evaluated
State Historic Preservation Officer signature	e.Z. Any	
title N.D. State Historic Preservation Offi	cer date 8	31/1929
For HCRS use only I hereby certify that this property is included in the N Market Market State Keeper of the National Register Attest: William H. Bratham	date /	<u>()-22-79</u>
Chief of Registration	Verte 7.0	