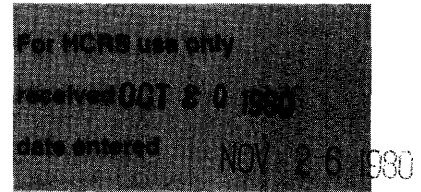


United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

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 Grassy Butte Post Office

and/or common Grassy Butte Post Office

2. Location

street & number off U.S. 85 not for publication

city, town Grassy Butte vicinity of congressional district 1

state North Dakota code 38 county McKenzie code 053

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input 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 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 McKenzie County Historical Society

street & number

city, town Watford City vicinity of state North Dakota 58854

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. McKenzie County Courthouse

street & number

city, town Watford City state North Dakota 58854

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		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Grassy Butte Post Office is a rectangular corner-notched juniper log structure with a wattle and daub exterior finish of milled lath and native clay and straw plaster. In recent times the exterior has been treated with a mixed clay and cement plaster over a web of chicken wire. The juniper roof structure is supported on two log cross beams which in turn support two large ridge poles which span the entire length of the structure. A closed series of rafter poles are then covered by a layer of tin, tar, earth and scoria. The original poplar roof, replaced in 1968, was constructed of similar pole rafters, a layer of tin covered with a mixture of dirt and coal dust for water repellancy, and a final layer of earth. Grass, which sprouted annually, kept the dirt surface in tact. The low pitch of the roof and log poles at the eave lines also served to keep the roof in place.

The Post Office is built on an east-west axis and has two entries on either end. Both entries are flanked by tall double sash windows. A single window punctuates the south facade but the north facade stands unbroken, a common energy-conservation characteristic of Ukrainian architecture. A low bank of earth originally insulated the north and west walls against the prevailing winds and the west-end entry is sheltered by a small frame ante room. Although larger than the original ante room, its shed roof and south side door generally duplicate the original shelter configuration. Historic photographs indicate more than one entry room has been built for the west entry.

The interior of the post office is divided into three spaces by two shiplap wall partitions. The mail room and public post office space is located at the west end and is comprised of approximately 150 mail boxes and a clerks window over a makeshift shelf. The main central interior space is heated with a wood burning stove and is furnished with an easy chair and cupboards. The eastern-most space served as a kitchen area when the post office became combination post office and living quarters for the postmaster and postmistress. The floors are wood plank and the walls are exposed log. Paneled doors and four-pane windows are all original.

In 1966, concrete foundation was laid by the McKenzie County Historical Society in an effort to maintain the building. In 1968, two deteriorating logs were replaced in the walls and the entire roof was rebuilt in cedar. The present structural composition of the roof duplicates the original. At the same time, the original clay/straw plaster with calcimine wash was removed from the interior walls. The central interior square brick chimney was removed and some new floorboards were laid to replace rotted members. The east-end exterior shed entry was removed but not rebuilt, leaving that entry exposed.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1914

Builder/Architect Carl Jagol, John Maruchek, John Huffman

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Grassy Butte Post Office is one of the last known examples of Ukrainian-type log and clay plaster construction in North Dakota. Built in 1914, the post office dates from the main 1890 to 1914 immigration from Ukraine to the United States.

The Grassy Butte Post Office lies within an identifiable Eastern European enclave and its construction represents one of a variety of Old World building techniques duplicated by ethnic groups in North Dakota.

The wattle and daub over log wall construction is one of four Ukrainian building/construction types identified within the state: 1) stone slab and clay plaster, 2) rammed earth and clay plaster, 3) post, wattle and daub and 4) wattle and daub over log walls. The log wall construction of the post office contrasts sharply with the extreme wood-conservative characteristics of the types and may reflect the cultural and geographic variety of the region.

Although the Grassy Butte Post Office is widely recognized as an example of pioneer architecture, North Dakotans are generally unaware of the ethnic origins of the building. The inclusion of the post office in the National Register of Historic Places, as well as other examples of vernacular ethnic architecture in North Dakota will serve to illustrate the diverse contributions of ethnic groups to the rural cultural landscape of the state.

In addition to its architectural importance, the Grassy Butte Post Office is known throughout the area for its 49 years of service as a U.S. Post Office. The Grassy Butte Community has shown interest in the building's preservation since its abandonment in 1963 and the McKenzie County Historical Society presently operates and maintains the structure as a post office museum.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Wm. C. Sherman, Department of Sociology, North Dakota State University, Fargo.
North Dakota.

10. Geographical Data

UTM NOT VERIFIED
ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

Acreege of nominated property 5.74 acres

Quadrangle name Grassy Butte

Quadrangle scale 7.5'

UMT References

A

1	3	6	3	2	3	2	0	5	2	5	0	2	5	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C

Zone		Easting				Northing								

D

Zone		Easting				Northing								

E

Zone		Easting				Northing								

F

Zone		Easting				Northing								

G

Zone		Easting				Northing								

H

Zone		Easting				Northing								

Verbal boundary description and justification

All that portion of the Southwest Quarter of the Northwest Quarter (SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$) of Section Twelve(12) in Township One Hundred Forty-five(145) North of Range Ninety-nine(99) West of the 5th P.M., described as follows: to-wit: Beginning at a point (con't)

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Jackie Sluss, Historical Assistant

organization State Historical Society of North Dakota date August 19, 1980

street & number Liberty Memorial Building telephone (701)224-2672

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature *James E. Sherry*

title ND State Historic Preservation Officer date September 26, 1980

For HCRS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Carol Oschall date *11-26-80*

Keeper of the National Register

Attest: *Carol Oschall* date *11/26/80*

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior
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received OCT 20 1980

date entered NOV 28 1980

Continuation sheet

Item number 10

Page 1

274.8 feet due North (on Section line) and 33.0 feet due East of the West 1/4 corner of Section 12, Township 145 North, Range 99 West of the 5th P.M.; thence due East (parallel to 1/4 line), a distance of 667.2 feet; thence N. $19^{\circ}02'$ W., a distance of 384.4 feet; thence N. $67^{\circ}08'$ E., a distance of 20.0 feet; thence N. $19^{\circ}38'$ W., a distance of 61.4 feet; thence N. $87^{\circ}00'$ W., a distance of 455.0 feet; thence S. $16^{\circ}43'$ W., a distance of 163.0 feet; thence S. $15^{\circ}43'$ W., a distance of 131.0 feet; thence S. $5^{\circ}13'$ W., a distance of 161.0 feet to the point of beginning.

Tract contains 5.74 acres, more or less.