

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

DATA SHEET

RECEIVED

JAN 26 1977

DATE ENTERED

OCT 5 1977

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORMSEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Old Post Office

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Main Street at Third Street

\_\_NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Christine

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

1

STATE

North Dakota

\_\_VICINITY OF

CODE

38

COUNTY

Richland

CODE

077

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

## CATEGORY

 DISTRICT  
 BUILDING(S)  
 STRUCTURE  
 SITE  
 OBJECT

## OWNERSHIP

 PUBLIC  
 PRIVATE  
 BOTH  
**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**  
 IN PROCESS  
 BEING CONSIDERED

## STATUS

 OCCUPIED  
 UNOCCUPIED  
 WORK IN PROGRESS  
**ACCESSIBLE**  
 YES: RESTRICTED  
 YES: UNRESTRICTED  
 NO

## PRESENT USE

 AGRICULTURE  
 COMMERCIAL  
 EDUCATIONAL  
 ENTERTAINMENT  
 GOVERNMENT  
 INDUSTRIAL  
 MILITARY  
 MUSEUM  
 PARK  
 PRIVATE RESIDENCE  
 RELIGIOUS  
 SCIENTIFIC  
 TRANSPORTATION  
 OTHER: art studio**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Mrs. Gilmore T. Schjeldahl

STREET &amp; NUMBER

4436 Marlborough Court

CITY, TOWN

Minnetonka

\_\_VICINITY OF

STATE

Minnesota 55343

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Richland County Courthouse

STREET &amp; 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  LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDSState Historical Society of North Dakota  
Liberty Memorial Building

CITY, TOWN

Bismarck

STATE

North Dakota 58505

# 7 DESCRIPTION

## CONDITION

EXCELLENT  
 GOOD  
 FAIR

DETERIORATED  
 RUINS  
 UNEXPOSED

## CHECK ONE

UNALTERED  
 ALTERED

## CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE  
 MOVED DATE before 1916

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### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Old Post Office in Christine occupies the northwest corner of Main Street at Third Street, on the west end of the business district and across from Nelson's Grocery, also a nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. The yard is planted in grass and trees, with a utility shed in the rear; a garage formerly on the property was sold and removed.

Measuring 25 by 67 feet, the Old Post Office is one and one-half stories high with clapboarding over frame construction. The foundation is cement (there is no basement) and two brick chimneys are located at the ridge of the asphalt-shingled, gabled roof. The apex of the latter rises above a flat-top false front terminating in a modillioned cornice. Supporting the cornice and attached to a frieze are carved acanthus-leaf brackets with pendants. Openings have cornice headings, with that for a sealed door centered between pairs of windows on the second-floor facade being enriched with a dentiled molding above a recessed panel.

In its earlier form, the building had a sidewalk gallery and presumably an entrance (now closed) for an inside stairway on the east end of the facade. The main entrance has also been remodeled, but original elements of the traditional store front remain in the first-floor cornice, carved posts, and paneled bases forming a framework for large windows. A lean-to on the rear has its own small addition: a porch with post-supported shed roof. Probably after the building was relocated, a larger porch with hipped roof and slender columns joined by a balustrade of turned balusters was added on the east elevation. A second-floor entrance on the west elevation has been sealed.

The first-floor interior of the building is divided into a 5-room apartment with bath and the former post office. The latter features plasterboard walls, a wainscoted lobby, and postal fittings, including letter boxes, reputedly dating from the 1920s and considered especially fine examples of the type. The apartment has a decorative wooden arch between the living and dining rooms. The second floor consists of a 6-room apartment with bath which, like the first-floor unit, is occupied.

# 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 checked="" 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		

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SPECIFIC DATES	ca. 1895	BUILDER/ARCHITECT	Probable builders: Hanna, Margaret, and Louisa Ruud
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## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The historic value of the Old Post Office in Christine derives from its identity in the public mind as the local post office for over fifty years. The building itself predates the century and is an expression of the vernacular "Boomtown" architecture typical of North Dakota's earliest years of white settlement. Two men who contributed significantly to the development of Christine are also associated with the structure.

The original site of the Old Post Office was lot 10, block 5, City of Christine (the next block east on Main Street from the present location). Presumably the building was erected there between 1895, when the lot was purchased by the sisters Hanna, Margaret, and Louisa Ruud from Edgar and Julia Gray of Newaygo, Michigan, and 1898. In the latter year, Margaret and Louisa Ruud sold their interests to Louis Amundson, a transaction in which the term building was mentioned for the first time in connection with the property. Two years later, in 1900, Amundson also purchased Hanna Ruud's share.

The Ruud sisters had operated a dressmaking establishment on the second floor of the building, while Mrs. Freda Monson's millinery shop had been downstairs. From the beginning there had also been apartments on each floor. The use of the building presumably continued to be mixed commercial/residential during the ownership of Amundson, who in 1905 sold the property to Dr. Lewis U. Iverson, a major landowner in early Christine who is credited with laying out the town. In 1900 Dr. Iverson had purchased the present site of the Old Post Office, lots 4 and 5, block 4, City of Christine, to which location he moved the building before 1916 and occupied it with his family. According to the recollections of older residents, there had previously been on the site a "blind pig" or speak-easy known as the Red Rooster.

In 1923, when Charles Hanson (d. 1946) became postmaster of Christine, a position he held until 1940, he rented the former Iverson residence, using the front of the building as the post office and the rear as living quarters for his family. He purchased the property in 1929 and it is presently owned by his daughter, Charlene Hanson Schjeldahl (Mrs. Gilmore T.). Hanson was a teacher and school principal for over 30 years and served as Richland County Superintendent of Schools, promoting the upgrading of teacher education, regular classroom attendance for rural children, and compulsory vaccination. He also worked for better 4th class postmaster salaries and urged North Dakota farmers to diversify their crops in order to raise the price of wheat.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Maddox, Dawn. Personal inspection, September 25, 1976.  
 Moe, Mrs. Thomas W. Christine, North Dakota. Personal interview, September 25, 1976, and files on Old Post Office.  
 Schjeldahl, Mrs. Gilmore T. Minnetonka, Minnesota. Telephone interview, November 8, 1976.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than 1 acre.

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,4	6,6,8,1,3,0	5,1,6,0,0,5,0	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

January 11, 1977

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

January 14, 1977

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

*Wm. J. ...*  
 DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
 ATTEST: *Charles ...*  
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE *10/8/77*  
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER  
 DATE *8-21-77*

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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011 3 1977

CONTINUATION SHEET

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Mrs. Ida Wold followed Hanson in the postmastership, serving from 1940 to 1966, and was succeeded by Thomas W. Moe, the present postmaster. In October, 1976, the post office was moved from the building it had occupied for over half a century to new facilities in the recently completed Christine mini-mall. The former post office space was rented as a studio on December 1, 1976, by Trygve Olson, an artist. The owner of the Old Post Office recognizes its relevance to local events and building history and is sympathetic to its preservation as a viable component in the townscape. In that regard, the postal fittings (now the property of the local postmaster) possibly will be purchased so that by their retention in situ, the premises can be opened periodically to the public as a post office museum (an arrangement in which the present tenant has concurred). Restoration of the sidewalk gallery and reopening the door on the second floor of the facade are also being considered.