

MINNESOTA HISTORIC PROPERTIES INVENTORY FORM

HISTORIC NAME: Federal Post Office Building

COUNTY: Clay

JAN 29 1980

CURRENT NAME: Plains Art Museum

CITY/TWP.: Moorhead

LEGAL DESC.: Lots 1 & 2, Block 45, Original Plat

ADDRESS: 521 Main Avenue

CLASSIFICATION:	CONDITION:	SIGNIFICANCE:	THEME/S:
Building <u>X</u>	Excellent <u>X</u>	Local <u>X</u>	Primary <u>Politics/Government</u>
Structure _____	Good _____	State _____	Secondary <u>Architecture</u>
Object _____	Fair _____	National _____	Others _____
District _____	Deteriorated _____		

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC: Yes X No _____ Restricted _____

PRESENT USE:

VISIBLE FROM THE ROAD: Yes X No _____

Art Museum, social service offices

OCCUPIED: Yes X No _____

DATE CONSTRUCTED: 1915

ORIGINAL USE: Post Office

ORIGINAL OWNER: U.S. Govt.

ARCHITECT/BUILDER: Oscar Wenderoth

OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS: City of Moorhead
Moorhead, MN 56560ACREAGE: Less than one acre X

LOCAL CONTACT/ORG.:

UTM REFERENCE:

14 / 669880 / 5193300

FORM PREPARED BY: Tom Harvey

Fargo South 7.5 quad

DATE: October 1979

DESCRIPTION:

The former Moorhead Post Office is a detached, Classical Revival brick building on a corner lot. The two-story, rectangular plan building sits on a stone raised basement. The main entrance has broad steps leading up to a wide, Ionic columned porch. The doorway is surmounted by an eagle and wreath within a round arch. The side door surround is unadorned pilasters. The semi-circular arches above the windows have circular windows. Side entrance steps lead to an uncovered doorway. The rear service entrance has a projecting, metal entry - a pedimented doorway framed by paired pilasters. The post office has two window types - rectangular with alternating brick and stone voussoir surround heads, and semi-circular arched windows on the rear facade. The metal, truncated hip roof has a metal balustrade around the flat surface.

SIGNIFICANCE:

The Old Moorhead Post Office and Courthouse is significant as a Classical Revival building still standing in downtown Moorhead, as an example of a government designed building for federal purposes, and for its successful adaptive use as The Plains Art Museum. The Post Office was the major construction project of the 1910-1920 period in Moorhead. The Post Office/Courthouse had been planned since 1903. With urban renewal of downtown Moorhead and the demolition of the Carnegie Library across from the post office, the building is a rare reminder of Moorhead's architectural past.

MAY 7 1980

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

for Keeper Melvin Lynn
1/19/89

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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**Note: These changes apply to
Federal Post Office Building in
Clay County, Minnesota.**

REFERENCE NUMBER: 80002015

STATE: MINNESOTA

COUNTY: Clay

RESOURCE NAME (HISTORIC): Federal Courthouse and Post Office

CITY:

VICINITY OF:

ADDRESS:

CERTIFICATION DATE:

REMOVED DATE:

COMMENTS:

Nina M. Archabal

**Nina M. Archabal
State Historic Preservation Officer**

JUN 17 1988

Date