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NATIONAL
REGISTER

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Lisbon Post Office
other names/site number same

2. Location

street & number 17 W. Fourth Avenue N/A not for publication
city, town Lisbon N/A vicinity
state North Dakota code ND county Ransom code 073 zip code 58054

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	_____	_____ buildings
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	_____	_____ sites
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	_____	_____ structures
		_____	_____ objects
		_____	<u>1</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing:
U. S. Post Offices in North Dakota, 1900-1940

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register none

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Bragford W. Meador 8-22-89
Signature of certifying official Date
U.S. Postal Service
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

James E. Sperry September 15, 1989
Signature of commenting or other official Date
State Historic Preservation Officer (North Dakota)
State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register. Patrick Andrus 11/1/89
 See continuation sheet. _____
 determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet. _____
 determined not eligible for the National Register. _____
 removed from the National Register. _____
 other, (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)
post office

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)
post office

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

other: Starved Classicism

foundation poured concrete

walls brick

roof copper

other

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

See attached continuation sheets.

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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 1

Multiple Property: U.S. Post Offices in North Dakota, 1900-1940

LISBON, DESCRIPTION:

The Lisbon Post Office faces north and is located on the southeast corner of Oak Street and Fourth Avenue, one block west of Main Street, the primary north-south commercial artery. The immediate area is residential to the north, south, and west. The business section is to the east. Lisbon has no tall buildings. Most structures are one or two stories and either brick or wood. The post office has no direct or indirect impact on other buildings in the immediate area.

The Lisbon Post Office is in excellent condition. The building is clean and well-maintained. The grounds are lawn with plantings and are in good condition. The post office lot is not very deep north to south. The building is set back 15 feet from the sidewalk on Fourth Avenue and 20 feet along Oak Street. To the east is a side yard mostly occupied with a driveway. Deciduous shrubs are at a minimum as foundation plantings and are limited to the four corners of the building. Mature oaks are on the east and south (rear) of the building.

The building is fireproof construction with a brick facing. Face brick is deep red wire-faced laid in American bond. The building is trimmed in limestone at the water table, window sills and headers. Windows are 12 over 12 wood double hung with 12 over 12 matching wood storms. The front steps are polished granite, the only stone trim which is not limestone. The wide Colonial style frieze is wood, as are the front door surrounds consisting of fluted Doric columns and wood entablature. Lettering on the frieze is bronze and the eagle over the front door is cast aluminum according to blueprints, but seems to be covered in gold leaf. Lamp standards are cast iron and front railings are wrought iron. The front section of the roof is copper strips, and the flat rear portion of the roof was a tar and gravel composition material originally. Its material today is unknown. Front doors which were originally panelled wood with a window with six lights in each door are now aluminum and glass, and are a relatively recent alteration.

The interior walls and ceilings are plaster. The lobby walls have a gray polished St. Genevieve Golden Vein marble wainscot. The lobby ceiling is coved and painted white. The lobby floor is terrazzo in two-foot squares with border. New fluorescent box lights have been installed throughout the building. The vestibule inside the lobby doors and other wood trim is oak stained a medium color. The secondary doors in the lobby vestibule

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Lisbon P.O.

are metal and wood, and are alterations. The service windows and counters are original, and of wood. The postmaster's office has oak floors and refinished oak trim stained a medium color. The workroom behind the lobby has oak wainscot up five feet from the floor and a maple floor. Furniture and cabinets are oak. The original coal furnace was converted to oil with hot water and steam radiators.

Some original blueprints, mostly elevations, are on file with the postmaster in Lisbon. The floor plan follows typical floor plans for post offices built 1934-41 under Louis A. Simon, Supervising Architect, but has some variations. The lobby is ell shaped and stretches across the front of the building. The ell is on the east side, as are most of the lock boxes and the door into the workroom. This lobby accommodated 530 lock boxes according to a 1966 description, because did not yet have door-to-door delivery of mail (Lisbon, North Dakota: Community Fact Survey, Lisbon Jaycees and Area Development Department, 1966, p. 32). The postmaster's office is on the west side of the building. The workroom is behind the lobby at the rear of the first floor. The money order and registry section is behind the lobby. The vault is off the postmaster's office, as is the postmaster's toilet (one of the small windows on the west side of the building). In the basement is office space, storage rooms, and fuel and boiler rooms. The carrier swing room and toilets are on the main floor in the southwest corner.

The building is rectangular with a rear ell for the mailing vestibule and platform. Because this lot was not as deep as standard post office lots, the mail vestibule and platform, which are normally located at the rear of the building behind the workroom, had to be built on the east side of the building.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G N/A

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Politics/ Government
Architecture
Economics
Community Planning

Period of Significance

1939

Significant Dates

1939

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

OSA/ Louis A. Simon, Acting Supervising Architect

B: Busboon & Rauch, Salina KS

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

See attached continuation sheets.

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

See attached continuation sheet.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository:

State Historical Society of N.D., Bismarck

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property less than one acre

UTM References

A

1	4
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6	0	1	2	2	0
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5	1	4	3	8	4	0
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 Zone Easting Northing

C

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 Zone Easting Northing

D

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N/A See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

Lots 17 and 18, Block 6, Colton's Addition, City of Lisbon, ND.

N/A See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes all city lots which have been historically associated with the property.

N/A See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Dr. Norene Roberts, President
 organization Historical Research, Inc. date July, 1989
 street & number 7800 Tessman Drive telephone (612) 560-4348
 city or town Minneapolis state MN zip code 55445

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Multiple Property: U.S. Post Offices in North Dakota, 1900-1940

LISBON, SIGNIFICANCE:

The Lisbon Post Office is significant under Criteria A and C on a state and local level as one of a small group of 20 extant federally-built post offices in North Dakota constructed between 1900-1940. Under Criterion A, this post office is associated with various federal policies in post office funding, design, and method of construction in the early 20th century. Under Criterion C, this facility shares the distinctive characteristics of federally-funded post offices as a property type built in North Dakota before the Second World War. The major areas of significance are Politics/Government, Architecture, Economics, and Community Planning. The Lisbon Post Office has exceptionally fine integrity for a facility of its design and age. It has local architectural significance as one of the best designed buildings in downtown Lisbon.

The Lisbon Post Office is one with exceptionally fine integrity. It has a well-executed and consistent style and may be eligible to the National Register. The building is executed in "Starved Classical" style with a symmetrical facade. Its front copper hipped roof is in good condition and is original. As a Class C post office in a second class city, it has limestone on sills and headers on two windows which flank the front entry. The small-paned windows and storms are original. The front entry is well proportioned, with two Doric fluted columns on each side of the front doors supporting a full classical entablature. The masonry opening for the front entry is a segmented brick arch. Into this arch is a cast aluminum eagle over the entablature. A dentilled cornice wraps around the lateral sides of the structure. Three large brick recessed panels on the west side inset with smaller multi-paned windows are original. One of the small windows is the toilet in the postmaster's office; another is the carrier toilet toward the rear. The surrounding brick reveals simply were built to show the rhythm of the window openings. These are not a later alteration.

The building appears to be a Class C post office in a second class city. According to Secretary of the Treasury William McAdoo's 1915 classification system for federal buildings, Class C buildings included post offices with receipts of \$15,000 or over in a second class city. The character of a Class C building included brick faced with stone, fireproof materials, with the interior finish to exclude the more expensive woods and marbles, with public spaces restricted to very simple forms of ornament. Unfortunately, the local paper did not cover the construction

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of the post office very well; for example, the receipts for 1938, when the post office was approved, are not available. Local newspaper coverage of the post office construction seems to have been eclipsed by events in Europe and Germany during the period of construction.

Three times as many post offices were construction between 1930 and 1939 as during the previous 50 years - a total of 1,861 in this 10 years. To erect buildings in these numbers, the designs were standardized and re-used. The architecture of the Lisbon Post Office is common to the period. The design of the Lisbon Post Office is a more elaborate example of the Colonial Revival style than many post offices built 1938-1941 in that it is less "stripped" of detailing commonly associated with the Colonial Revival style. However, it falls into the "Stripped Classicism" rubric of post office design under Louis A. Simon, Supervising Architect, who was by training an engineer overseeing a huge "design mill" of government-paid architects.

In terms of local architectural significance, the Lisbon Post Office compares favorably with other public buildings in town. The imposing Art Moderne Ransom County Courthouse was built in the 1930s, and has excellent integrity. It is located approximately two blocks north of the post office. The post office and the courthouse are the best public buildings in Lisbon. The Soldiers Home federal facility was not visited. The police and fire department building is new. The library is a plain tan brick building probably built some time in the 1950s. These are inferior architecturally to the courthouse and post office. The Lisbon Post Office is significant architecturally on a local level.

Coverage in The Ransom County Gazette of the Lisbon Post Office was sketchy. The war in Europe was in full swing and the local paper devoted most of its attention to the war.

It appears that the construction firm of Busboom & Rauch of Salina, Kansas received the contract to build the post office, since theirs was the low bid. They were one of 32 firms which submitted bids, eloquent testimony to the financial hardships of most construction firms in the region. The fourth lowest bid was submitted by Johnson-Gillander Company of Grand Forks, which had built many of the downtown buildings in that city. Many of the Johnson-Gillander-built buildings of Grand Forks are part of a Multiple Resource Area currently listed on the National Register. Sander

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Johnson of the Johnson-Gillander firm built the post office in East Grand Forks, Minnesota, two years before he bid on the Lisbon Post Office (The Ransom County Gazette, 11/2/39, p. 1).

The Lisbon Post Office was built under the authority of the Construction Program Act approved June 21, 1938 (The History of Lisbon, Lisbon Centennial Committee, 1980, pp. 34, 35). Proposals were advertised for the post office site a month later (The Ransom County Gazette, 7/21/38, p. 7). The building of the Lisbon Post Office proceeded in the usual governmental pattern with no unusual activity connected with its construction.

It appears to have been part of the "building boom" in Lisbon in the later years of the Depression. According to the The Ransom County Gazette, a total of \$575,000 in public and private money was spent 1935-1940 in the city. This sum included a new \$135,000 school building, several commercial building improvements and new homes, the 1937 W.P.A. and P.W.A. improvements to the Soldiers Home, the 1936 sewage disposal and north bridge improvements, some \$6,000 in blacktop for city streets, major remodelling of a local bank, and a W.P.A. park pavillion (RCG, 3/23/39, p. 1; RCG, 4/11/40, p. 1). The post office was part of this general improvement in the city. However, the post office does not appear to have affected the development or community planning of the city, nor did it arouse undue interest on the part of the public.

On December 5, 1940, the new post office was dedicated. Mayor M.O. Satre, Advertising Club president Adolph Thomte, Lisbon businessmen, a local band, and a "small but interested crowd" turned out for the dedication ceremony in the Armory basement. Postmaster J. E. Jones recounted the history of the post office in Lisbon, noting that it had been established there in 1880; that negotiations started in 1935 for a new post office with a questionnaire which was followed a year or two later by another; that the last site of the post office before it moved into the new facility was in the Lucas Building on Main Street; and that the Farm Security Administration was to occupy offices in the basement of the new building as soon as possible (RCG, 12/12/40, p. 1).

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LISBON, BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Lisbon, North Dakota: Community Fact Survey, Lisbon Jaycees and Area
Development Department, 1966, p. 32).

Lisbon Centennial Committee, The History of Lisbon, 1980.

The Ransom County Gazette, July 21, 1938.

The Ransom County Gazette, March 23, 1939.

The Ransom County Gazette, November 2, 1939.

The Ransom County Gazette, December 12, 1940.