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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

SEP 19 1989

NATIONAL  
REGISTER

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 Hettinger Post Office  
other names/site number same

2. Location

street & number Lake Street at Adams Avenue N/A  not for publication  
city, town Hettinger N/A  vicinity  
state North Dakota code ND county Adams code 001 zip code 58639

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>	<u>          </u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u> sites
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u> structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u> objects
		<u>          </u>	<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.

Bradford W. Deader 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  
James E. Sperry  
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. Patink 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:)

for Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

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**6. Function or Use**

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Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

post office  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

post office  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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**7. Description**

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Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

other: Starved Classicism  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation poured concrete  
walls brick  
\_\_\_\_\_  
roof composition  
other  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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Describe present and historic physical appearance.

See attached continuation sheets.

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Continuation Sheet**

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

**HETTINGER, DESCRIPTION:**

The Hettinger Post Office is located on the northeast corner of Lake Street and Adams Avenue, facing south toward Adams Avenue. The site, a full five lots, measures 140 feet along Adams Avenue and 150 feet along Main Street. The facility is on a prominent corner in the downtown business district of Hettinger. Adams Avenue is also Highway 12, the principal east-west highway through Hettinger. The Adams County courthouse, 1928-29, is approximately a block east of the post office along Highway 12. Lake Street is the main business street of the town. The majority of the buildings on both sides of Lake Street are from the late nineteenth or early twentieth century. A few of them have their historical integrity intact, but most have been altered. The post office is much more visible in Hettinger than in most North Dakota towns by virtue of its placement at the intersection of two major thoroughfares. Its presence is important in the visual impression of the business district.

The facility is in good condition, but it is marred by "improvements" of low quality. The granite steps and the light standards at the entry are original. The steps are, however, covered in indoor-outdoor carpet that is out of character with the building. The entry doors are metal and glass, and are not original. The site drops away from the building on the south and west, necessitating a set of concrete steps leading up to the entry steps on the south. These steps have recently been replaced, but the concrete is of such poor quality that the surfaces are already badly spalled. The sloping grounds to the west have been landscaped in amateur fashion with wood bulkheads, gravel, and dirt. The wooden bulkheads are used as retaining walls along the sidewalks to the south and west of the facility. They are of poor quality and are already sagging even though they are quite new. The overall visual effect of the recent landscaping is quite unsightly. The exterior windows are badly overpainted. They are the original sash, and in good condition, but they are covered with a thick paint buildup. The original limestone window sills have been painted, and are covered with a thick buildup of paint. The original skylights over the workroom have been filled, and central air conditioning has been added. The boiler was upgraded in 1965. It is gas-fired.

The building is of steel-frame fireproof construction. On the back of historic photos which are on file in the building is the name of the contractor who constructed the facility: Henry Huether, Jr. Its foundation is of poured concrete, with the form marks rubbed out. The

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Hettinger P.O.

exterior walls are of dark red wire-faced brick laid in American bond. Atop the walls is a minimal limestone coping with a slightly molded outer edge. The windows are the original wood double-hung 8 over 12s. The south (front) facade has no storms. The rest of the windows have matching wood storms. All windows are painted white. The front facade is very plain. There is a fan light over the front entry, and a keystone over the fanlight. Above the fanlight is a line of headers in a gentle arch. The window heads are gently arched, with a line of headers at the top. The window sills are limestone, now painted white.

The lobby walls and ceiling are plaster. The lobby is lighted by fluorescent fixtures that are not original. The floor is mixed orange and gray unglazed quarry tile with dark gray grout. There is a red 6" unglazed tile border where the floor meets the walls, which curves up into a 6" red ceramic tile mopboard. The mopboard and floor border are of the same tile. An orange ceramic tile wainscot extends 4' up the wall throughout the lobby. The vestibule which projects into the lobby at the front entry is the original wood and glass. The wood in the lobby is a close-grained birch, stained dark.

The workroom has plaster walls and ceiling with fluorescent fixtures which are not original. The workroom floor is the original maple or birch, finished light. There is a wood tongue-and-groove wainscot around the room.

The main building is nearly foursquare, with the dock extending north from the north wall: 60 feet across the front facade by 58 1/2 feet deep, not counting the original loading dock. The dock is rectangular, with its long axis running north-south. Access to the dock is from the west. The lobby is U-shaped, with the legs of the U extending north away from the south (front) facade. The postmaster's office is at the end of the east leg, and the old finance area is at the end of the west leg. The service window area is substantially original. Behind the lobby is the workroom. The building has a full basement, which holds the boiler, swing room, and general storage space.

**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

Period of Significance

1938-1939

Significant Dates

1938

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

OSA/ Louis A. Simon, Acting Supervising Architect

B: Henry Huether, Jr.

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 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	3
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6	8	3	0	5	0
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5	0	9	16	6	9	0
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Zone Easting Northing

B 

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Zone Easting Northing

C 

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D 

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N/A  See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

Lots 8, 9, 10, 11, & 12, Block 14, Original Townsite, City of Hettinger, 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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## HETTINGER, SIGNIFICANCE:

The Hettinger 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 and Architecture. The Hettinger Post Office is significant at the state level as one of nine post office buildings built during the period between 1932-1940 when most of the current facilities in the country were constructed. It is one of six post offices in North Dakota designed in the "Starved Classicism" style from standard plans emanating from the Treasury Department. While it is not the work of a master, it shares the design attributes of the small group of federally-funded post offices in the state. Locally, it is the only federal building in Hettinger.

The new 1938 Hettinger Post Office was one of 321 post office buildings approved for financing under the \$60 million dollar emergency construction fund authorized in the deficiency appropriation act by the Treasury Department in July 1936. The other North Dakota post office funded under this act was at Langdon (The Adams County Record, July 2, 1936, p. 1). The local movement for a new post office building was begun in the summer of 1935 by the local Lions Club and North Dakota congressmen and was aided by a survey of North Dakota facilities done by the U. S. Post Office Department with data sent to Washington, D.C. In the case of Hettinger, the call for bids on a suitable lot went out only six days after the announcement that Hettinger was to receive a new facility (Ibid.). Although mention was not made in the local newspaper about the role played by the Lions Club, it was noted that postal receipts had been up slightly in the year 1935 as compared to 1934 (The Adams County Record, January 2, 1936, p. 1). A page one article in The Adams County Record on October 1, 1936, announced that the site at the corner of Adams and Main had been selected for the new facility. Blueprints were rapidly put together from standard designs and the call for bids on the construction work was released on June 3, 1937 (The Adams County Record, June 17, 1937, p. 1). The winning bid was submitted by Henry Heuther of Ashley, North Dakota. Although the Treasury Department had estimated \$65,000 for the building, Heuther came in at \$44,800, far below the estimated cost, and was prepared

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to begin construction as soon as his equipment was on the site (The Adams County Record, July 29, 1937, p. 1).

The Hettinger Post Office was completed in a little under twelve months. There is no record in the newspaper of local employment and the contractor may have brought in his own men from Ashley, North Dakota. Workers began pouring concrete on October 25, 1937, because it took two months for two frame houses to be moved from the new post office site. By March, 1938, the new facility was nearing completion and landscaping and site terracing had begun. The dedication for the new building occurred on July 27, 1938 (The Adams County Record, Oct. 28, 1937; March 17, 1938; July 7, 21, 28, 1938).



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The Adams County Record, January 2, 1936.

The Adams County Record, July 2, 1936.

The Adams County Record, October 1, 1936.

The Adams County Record, June 17, 1937.

The Adams County Record, July 29, 1937.

The Adams County Record, October 28, 1937

The Adams County Record, March 17, 1938

The Adams County Record, July 7, 21, 28, 1938.