

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 Hebron United States Post Office  
other names/site number TY10-008

### 2. Location

street & number 145 North 15th Street N/A not for publication  
city, town Hebron N/A vicinity  
state Nebraska code NE county Thayer code 169 zip code 68370

### 3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
		Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<u>1</u>	<u>      </u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u> structures
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u>1</u>	<u>      </u> objects
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>2</u>	<u>      </u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: Nebraska Post Offices Which Contain Section Artwork (1938-1942)  
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

### 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.

Bob Paschendorf DSHIPS 4/2/92  
Signature of certifying official Date  
Director, Nebraska State Historical Society  
State or Federal agency and bureau

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting or other official Date  
\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

### 5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register. Entered in the National Register 5/11/92  
 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

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**6. Function or Use**

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Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Government/Post Office

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Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Government/Post Office

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**7. Description**

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Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Moderne

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Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete

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walls Brick

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roof Other: tar & gravel

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other Stone

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**Describe present and historic physical appearance.**

The Hebron United States Post Office is located at the southwest corner of 5th and Olive Streets at the northeast corner of the central business district of Hebron, the county seat of Thayer County, in south-central Nebraska (1990 population: 1,765). The one-story red brick building with Modernistic details is a typical example of a Class C or D small post office built from standardized plans in the 1930's. The nomination includes one contributing object, a flag pole.

The post office is a five-bay symmetrical structure which measures approximately 63 by 48 feet. The raised central entrance features a transom with 4-over-4 paned sash; two pairs of 8-over-8 paned double-hung windows flank the main entrance. The slightly recessed windows with simple stone sills are topped with a stone beltcourse which extends on all facades. Similar fenestration is found on the north and south facades. The flat roof has a composition tar and gravel surface. The building exhibits good integrity; modifications include replacement of the front entry doors and minor interior alterations. Construction began in May, 1937; the building was completed and officially dedicated on December 11, 1937. (The Hebron Journal, Dec. 9, 16, 1937)

A mural entitled "Stampeding Buffalo Stopping Train," by Eldora Lorenzini, is located on the north lobby wall above the postmaster's door which is flanked by wood framed, glass-enclosed bulletin boards. The oil-on-canvas mural, which measures 12 by 4 feet, occupies the typical space for murals commissioned by the Treasury Department's Section of Fine Arts program for a small Class C or D post office. The commission was awarded to Colorado Springs artist Eldora Lorenzini in October, 1938; the completed mural was installed by the artist in November, 1939 (The Hebron Journal, Nov. 23, 1939).

Painted in gold and brown tones, the mural depicts an enormous herd of bison that have halted a train. In the immediate foreground, several bison are resting on the ground, while others still charge; to the right is a newborn calf near an adult. The scene recedes into the distance where the enormous herd swarms over railroad tracks near a steam engine train. The train enters the scene from the right: only a few box cars are visible,

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Continuation Sheet**

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suggestive of space and movement. A group of three men near the front engine fire rifles into the herd; the small figures convey a sense of distance and the vastness of the stampeding herd. The bison extend into the distance where low, treeless hills meet a blue-grey sky.

The lobby interior is in excellent condition and retains its original tile floor, wainscotting, and woodwork. Sometime after the mural was installed, original light fixtures were replaced with enclosed fluorescent lights that are flush to the ceiling. A varnished wooden vestibule projects into the lobby and partially obscures the mural. The vestibule, however, is an original design feature typical of Class C and D post offices built from standardized plans in the 1930's. In 1981 the mural was cleaned and restored by an art conservator under contract with the United States Postal Service; it is in excellent condition.

**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

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)  
Art  
Politics/Government

Period of Significance  
1939

Significant Dates  
1939

Cultural Affiliation  
N/A

Significant Person  
N/A

Architect/Builder  
Lorenzini, Eldora: Artist  
Simon, Louis: Supervising Architect  
Busboom & Rauh: Contractor

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

The Hebron United States Post Office is being nominated to the National Register as part of the Nebraska Post Offices Which Contain Section Artwork (1938-1942) multiple property nomination at the state level of significance under Criterion A for its association with the United States Treasury Department's Section of Fine Arts program (1934-1943) and under Criterion C for the artistic significance of the mural it contains. The mural, "Stampeding Buffalo Stopping Train," was painted by Colorado Springs artist Eldora Lorenzini and was installed in November, 1939.

The oil-on-canvas mural, which measures 12 by 4 feet, is located on the north lobby wall directly above the postmaster's door in the typical space for Section murals installed in Class C or D post offices. The mural is an excellent example of artwork commissioned for new post offices through the Treasury Department's Section of Fine Arts program from 1934-1943. Painted in brown, green, and blue tones, the mural depicts an enormous herd of stampeding bison which have halted a train. The mural's historical theme associated with Great Plains settlement, executed in a realistic style, make it an excellent example of government sponsored Regionalism.

In October, 1938, Colorado Springs artist Eldora Lorenzini received a notice from the Section inviting her to submit designs for the Hebron, Nebraska, mural. In accordance with Section procedures to monitor mural quality and content, Superintendent Rowan cited the commission amount, \$670, and payment schedule. Miss Lorenzini would receive approximately one-third after approval of the preliminary sketches; one-third following completion and approval of a full-size cartoon; and the remainder when the mural was installed and photographed. The letter also included building blueprints with dimensions of the mural space. Miss Lorenzini immediately accepted the commission and notified Rowan of her plans to visit Hebron. In November, 1938, she met with Hebron residents: postal employees and

See continuation sheet

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

Gilbert, Dorothy B., ed. Who's Who in American Art. Vol. IV: 1940-1947. (Washington, D.C.: The American Federation of Art, 1947).

The Hebron Journal, December 9, 16, 1937; November 23, 1939.

Marling, Karal Ann. Wall-to-Wall America. (Minneapolis, MN: University of Minnesota press, 1982).

National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, D.C. Record Group 121: preliminary Inventory of the Records of the Public Buildings Service. Entry 133: Case Files Concerning Embellishments of Federal Buildings, 1934-1943. Box 61: Nebraska.

Whiffen, Marcus. American Architecture Since 1780: A Guide to the Styles. (Cambridge, MA: The MIT Press, 1969).  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 # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

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

Specify repository: \_\_\_\_\_

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of property Less than one acre.

**UTM References**

A 

1	4	6	2	0	1	7	0	4	4	4	7	1	0	0
Zone			Easting				Northing							

C 

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B 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

D 

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See continuation sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description**

The property is described as the east 80' of Lots 1, 4, 5, Block 10, Original Town of Hebron, Thayer County, Nebraska.

See continuation sheet

**Boundary Justification**

The boundary includes that parcel of land which has historically been associated with the property.

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Carol Ahlgren, Architectural Historian date August, 1991

organization Nebraska State Historical Society telephone (402) 471-4773

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"pioneers" who enthusiastically provided photographs and historical information. Lorenzini reported to Rowan that an historical theme had been agreed upon; she also suggested that the project be expanded to three panels, an idea that Rowan immediately vetoed.

In January, 1939, Miss Lorenzini submitted the required pencil sketches of her proposed theme, derived from sketches of the area and historical research. The Section approved the "interesting" theme of stampeding buffalo stopping a train and told her to proceed. Two months later, the required color sketch was reviewed by Section officials who exercised their control over the mural process and informed Miss Lorenzini that the design was not acceptable. For the next several months, she corresponded with the Section and revised her design. Criticism concerned the depiction of the bison, and the proportions and perspective of the entire composition. Miss Lorenzini was urged to consult other Colorado Springs artists such as Frank Mechau and to observe actual animals. She obligingly went to the Colorado Springs zoo to sketch its small bison herd.

The design was finally approved in August, 1939, and the completed mural was installed in November, 1939, for an enthusiastic community. The Hebron Journal praised the "beautiful mural" and claimed that it was "symbolic of the conflict in which the wilderness gives way to civilization" (Nov. 23, 1939). Miss Lorenzini reported to Rowan that her mural "went over big." Postal employees helped with the installation while residents--from school children to adults--expressed their appreciation.

At the time of the Hebron mural commission, Eldora Lorenzini had been employed with the WPA Federal Art Project's Index of American Design. Under the WPA/FAP she painted murals for a school in Greeley, Colorado and collaborated on post office murals in Washington, D. C. and Colorado Springs. She studied at the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center, Colorado State College, and received Bachelor and Master of Fine Arts degrees from Yale University. Lorenzini studied under prominent 1930's Section artists including Boardman Robinson and Henry Vardum Poor.

For additional information, refer to the Nebraska Post Offices Which Contain Section Artwork (1938-1942) multiple property form.