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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

SEP 19 1989

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

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 New Rockford Post Office
other names/site number same

2. Location

street & number 821 N. First Avenue N/A not for publication
city, town New Rockford N/A vicinity
state North Dakota code ND county Eddy code 027 zip code 58356

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. Hester 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. Patrick Ardus 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

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)

other: Starved Classicism

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation poured concretewalls brick

roof compositionother

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

NEW ROCKFORD, DESCRIPTION:

The New Rockford Post Office is located at 821 First Avenue N. in New Rockford, N.D., on the southeast corner of the intersection of First Avenue North and Ninth Street. The site is one block west of Eighth Street, a major north-south business thoroughfare. While the location is convenient to people doing business along Eighth Street, the Post Office has no major impact on the business district because it is on a side street. Next door to the east sits the combination City Hall/Firehall/Library.

The New Rockford Post Office is well kept and in excellent condition. The original skylight has been filled. A dropped sheetrock ceiling and new lights were installed in the workroom in 1986. The exterior windows were changed out for dark brown anodized aluminum windows in 1986 as well. The windows are fairly harmonious with the historic character of the building. A window at the back of the west wall was bricked up in 1986 to allow the addition of a women's restroom. Another window area in the same wall was bricked up as built to accommodate the finance area. The recently bricked-up window matches the original bricked-up window. The entry has metal and glass doors that are not original. The entry steps have covered in indoor-outdoor carpet that is not in character with the building. Despite the alterations, the building retains most of its historic character. The windows make the building feel somewhat updated, but they do not really violate the historic feel of the building.

The foundation of the building is poured concrete, painted beige. Light wells allow light into the basement windows. The basement windows have their original wood double-hung sash and matching wood storm windows. The exterior walls are of a light tan smooth (not glazed) brick laid in American bond. At the upper edge of the walls is a wide band (approximately 30" wide) of matte finish limestone topped by a limestone molding. The window sills are limestone, with a rounded molding integral to the sill. There are limestone panels under each window.

Above the front entry is an eagle motif with a circular background executed in aluminum bar stock. Behind the eagle is glass block which is probably original. The front steps are poured concrete covered in indoor-outdoor carpet.

The lobby has plaster walls and ceiling, with fluorescent fixtures which are not original. The floor is light tan terrazzo in 2' squares with

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brass division strips. A 4 foot limestone wainscot runs around the lobby. The wainscot appears to have been varnished. The service window area is substantially original. The mural at the east end of the lobby has a plains Indian theme. It was painted by Edward Buk Ulreich in 1941. It is one of the better murals in the state, done by a very successful artist. It is now signed "H.B. Barton 1961". Presumably this is the signature of a restorer. The vestibule in the lobby is original wood and glass. The wood in the vestibule and the rest of the lobby is a close-grained wood, probably gum, and stained light. There is a photo display in the lobby of the building under construction in 1939.

The workroom has a sheetrock dropped ceiling and new flourescent lighting, installed in 1986. The floor is maple or birch with a light finish and is excellent condition. The workroom walls are plaster, with a tongue-and-groove wood wainscot.

The building is foursquare in plan, with the dock extending south from the south wall. The dock is rectangular, with the long axis running north-south. Access to the dock is from the west. The basement of the building houses the boiler, former coal room, swing room, storage, and former rental space. The main floor has an L-shaped lobby. One leg of the L runs along the north wall and one along the west wall. At the west end of the L, along the west wall, is the postmaster's office. The vault is directly south of the postmaster's office along the west wall. South of the vault are the men's and women's restrooms, also along the west wall. The workroom is behind (to the south of) the lobby.

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
Art

Period of Significance
1939

Significant Dates
1939

Cultural Affiliation
N/A

Significant Person
N/A

Architect/Builder
OSA/ Louis A. Simon, Acting Supervising Architect

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

See attached continuation sheets.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See attached continuation sheets.

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:

State Historical Society of N.D., Bismarck

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property less than one acre

UTM References

A

1	4	4	8	9	5	5	0	5	2	8	0	6	2	0
Zone				Easting				Northing						

B

Zone				Easting				Northing						

C

Zone				Easting				Northing						

D

Zone				Easting				Northing						

N/A

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

Lots 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, & 29, Block 17, Original Townsite, City of New Rockford, 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 date July, 1989
organization Historical Research, Inc. telephone (612) 560-4348
street & number 7800 Tessman Drive state MN zip code 55445
city or town Minneapolis

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

NEW ROCKFORD, SIGNIFICANCE:

The New Rockford 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, Community Planning and Art. The New Rockford Post Office is significant as one of nine post offices in the state built between 1932-1940. Architecturally, it is also one of only six North Dakota facilities built in the "Starved Classicism" style before World War II from standard designs by the Office of Supervising Architect, Public Buildings Administration, Federal Works Agency. New Rockford is also one of only three North Dakota post offices with a New Deal mural, the other two being Langdon and Rugby. The New Rockford mural was painted by Eduard Buk Ulreich and completed in 1940 at a cost of \$640 with financing from the Fine Arts Section, Federal Works Agency.

The New Rockford Post Office was funded under the Emergency Construction Program Act of August 5, 1937 with an allocation of \$85,000 (The New Rockford Transcript, hereafter NRT, Oct. 13, 1939). Its history followed the usual policy of post office construction during the 1930s. Local agitation for a new facility began in 1935 and, after inspection, postal investigators supported the application (NRT, Sept. 17, 1938, p. 1). The local newspaper advertised for sites and site selection was decided on the southeast corner of First Avenue N. and First Street W. on January 12, 1938. Title to the two parcels making up the new post office site was vested in the federal government on August 13, 1938. On December 27, 1938, the Federal Works Agency awarded the construction contract to Fred E. Peterson of Aberdeen, South Dakota. Peterson was low bidder at \$52,400, even though the government had allocated \$85,000 for the building and site (NRT, November 3, 1939, p. 1). Construction of the new post office started at the end of March, 1939 with Peterson's supervisor in charge of a local man, Archie Campbell, who was hired to do the 60 x 59 foot basement excavation (NRT, March 31, 1939, p. 1). The post office roof was completed in late July, 1939 and occupancy was predicted by mid-October (NRT, July 28, 1939, p. 1). On schedule, the dedication took place on October 11, 1939 (NRT, Oct. 13, 1939, p. 1).

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The New Rockford mural was painted by Eduard Bok Ulreich for \$640 and completed in September, 1940. The mural measures 12 x 7 feet and is also located in the lobby over the postmaster's door. The title of this mural is "Advance Guard of the West." The composition is fanciful, more abstract than representational, and depicts a grouping of Indians holding spears and in headdress on rearing horses. The predominant colors are delicate blues and pinks against a tan earth. Explaining his choice of subject, Ulreich explained that the group was Dakota Indians from which the state took its name: "I feel that Americans should become more familiar with the beauty and character of the red man. Because the white man wished to justify their greed for land, the Indian, unfairly, was often portrayed in an unfavorable light (NRT, Sept. 20, 1940, p. 1). Ulreich was born in Hungary-Austria in 1889 and grew up in Kansas City, receiving formal training at the city's Art Institute. During the 1930s and 1940s, he painted many Western subjects like that at New Rockford. In addition to the mural for the New Rockford Post Office, he painted murals for post offices in Columbia, Missouri; Tallahassee, Florida; and Concord, North Carolina (Virginia Ulreich, "Eduard Buk Ulreich," 29 page typescript, April 4, 1986. On file with Louis N. Hafermehl, State Historical Society of North Dakota).

The 1939 New Rockford Post Office is significant as one of three major governmental buildings in the city, which is also the seat of Eddy County. It is also the newest governmental building, not including schools. The two story red brick with Second Empire style tower county courthouse was built in 1889 and has excellent integrity. The 1914 Classical Revival style commercial building housing the City Hall and Fire Hall is dominated by recessed bays between brick pilasters and a molded dentilled cornice with prominent consoles. This building has a one-story addition probably built in the last 25 years which houses the city library. It has had some relatively minor alterations. According to original blueprints, offices in the post office basement originally accommodated the Extension Service and Forest Service of the Department of Agriculture. Later these offices were used for the Farmers Home Administration.

Architecturally, the New Rockford Post Office is also one of only six pre-WW II post offices in the state designed in "Starved Classicism" style. The others are located at: Oakes, Hettinger, Langdon, Lisbon, and Rugby and the six were built between 1932-1940. Its design is closest to that of Rugby, but with a flat instead of hipped roof and no cupola. Walls are brick and flat; windows are long and small-paned; the front facade symmetrical. Clearly, both the Rugby and New Rockford post offices were designed and adapted from the same standardized plan.

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NEW ROCKFORD, BIBLIOGRAPHY:

The New Rockford Transcript, September 17, 1938.

The New Rockford Transcript, March 31, 1939.

The New Rockford Transcript, July 28, 1939.

The New Rockford Transcript, October 13, 1939.

The New Rockford Transcript, November 3, 1939.

The New Rockford Transcript, September, 20, 1940.

Virginia Ulreich, "Eduard Buk Ulreich," 29 page typescript, April 4, 1986. On file with Louis N. Hafermehl, State Historical Society of North Dakota).