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Nat. Register of Historic Places
National Park Service

NPS Form 10-900
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

OMB No. 1024-0018

368

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form.* If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

1. Name of Property

Historic name: Zeeland Hall
Other names/site number: Zeeland Town Hall, Zeeland City Hall 32MT362
Name of related multiple property listing:
Federal Relief Construction in North Dakota, 1931-1943
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing

2. Location

Street & number: 211 South Main Avenue
City or town: Zeeland State: North Dakota County: McIntosh
Not For Publication: ☐ Vicinity: ☐

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this x 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 x meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

___**national** ___**statewide** X **local**

Applicable National Register Criteria:

X **A** ___**B** X **C** ___**D**

Claudia Berg	4.25.16
Signature of certifying official/Title:	**Date**
ND SHPO	
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government	

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official:	**Date**
Title :	**State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government**

Zeeland Hall
Name of Property

McIntosh County ND
County and State

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

X entered in the National Register

___ determined eligible for the National Register

___ determined not eligible for the National Register

___ removed from the National Register

___ other (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper

6/14/63
Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

Private:	☐
Public – Local	X
Public – State	☐
Public – Federal	☐

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

Building(s)	X
District	☐
Site	☐
Structure	☐
Object	☐

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1		Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

6. Function or Use
Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

RECREATION AND CULTURE: auditorium

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

RECREATION AND CULTURE: auditorium

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)
COLONIAL REVIVAL

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)
Principal exterior materials of the property: STUCCO OVER CONCRETE, ASPHALT SHINGLES

Narrative Description
(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with **a summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

The Zeeland hall was built in 1936 as a Works Progress Administration project, with M. M. Braun as local sponsor and supervisor for the project. It is a one-story Colonial Revival style building with a modified rectangular plan. The hall measures 58' long on the east and west side, and 98' on the north and south elevations. A front-gable asphalt roof faces Main Avenue featuring a notable bell tower. The walls are poured in-place reinforced concrete finished with stucco, and rest on a concrete foundation. The building is orientated east-west, with the main entrance on the west side set along Main Avenue of Zeeland, in McIntosh County, North Dakota. The hall sits on a .3-acre plot bounded by Zeeland Centennial Park, a café (the Sportsman's Den), and an alley. The Zeeland Hall has retained the majority of its original features throughout the years, but shows some expected signs of age.

Narrative Description

The Zeeland Hall has a rectangular form, with one-story wings flanking the higher central section, with exterior walls of poured in-place reinforced concrete finished with stucco. The most notable feature of the exterior is the west side wooden bell tower, finished with rounded arches on all four sides and capped with a pyramidal roof.

The hall rests on a concrete foundation over a partial basement, located under the stage. The detailing of the building is restrained, comprising a configuration of sash, sunburst, and bullet windows. The choice of architectural style for WPA and PWA projects was the responsibility of the local sponsor, which in this case was M. M. Braun. The Colonial Revival style of the hall was meant to signify local views of democracy, patriotism, and moral superiority.

The central section of the hall is made of a wood-frame construction with a medium pitch front-gabled roof. The wings on either side (north and south) are topped by half hip roofs.

The exterior walls are yellow stucco and are original. The façade is symmetrical with an accentuated front entrance block consisting of a centered-recessed entry with double paneled doors. A fanlight (sunburst) window is above the main entry.

The aligned windows are wood and come in a variety of shapes; an adjacent pair of bullet windows with divided light flank the 4:4 double-hung sash windows centered above the main entry. A pair of 4-light windows also flank the front entrance. The north and south elevations are symmetrical each consisting of thirteen 4-light windows, a single bullet window (situated near the west end of the wall), which has been covered up with wood and painted white to match the trim, and a wooden door (situated near the east end of the wall) with standing wood trim. A cupola functions as a bell tower, which is on-center to the front entry.

An addition was added in the 1946 to the east side of the hall. Less than the full width of the main hall, it is composed of concrete block foundation and walls. The roof is a medium pitch clipped gable roof with asphalt shingles. The room immediately adjacent to the hall houses two jail cells, while the space adjacent to the jail was used to store the fire truck and now acts as miscellaneous storage. There are two doors on the north side, one centered, leading into the storage area, the other off-center to the right, the jail entrance. On either side of the jail door is a barred window. Two sash windows are spaced on the south side of the addition, with another left of center on the north side. A large overhead engine door is on the east end of the addition.

The main floor of the hall has five rooms, including a lobby, kitchen, storage room, dance hall, and stage. The mezzanine contains three rooms, a projection booth with original projectors, and two additional spaces used for storage. The front door opens into a vestibule with a ticket booth to the left and a room for miscellaneous storage. A kitchen is adjacent to the lobby and was added at a later date. There is a large hall area beyond the double wooden swinging doors. A set of stairs is located along the north leading to the mezzanine level. The ceiling and walls are fiberboard panels, some of which have been replaced, but mostly original. The floors are composed of the original maple wood flooring. Wooden bleachers run the length of the main hall on either side. The post and beam construction is visible from the interior of the hall, with the addition of ornamental corner brackets. The back entrance of the main hall is in the east wall, situated near the southeast corner. Here wooden steps ascend to double wooden swinging doors.

The hall maintains integrity of setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, association, and location.

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria
(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- [x] A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- [ ] B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- [x] C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- [ ] D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations
(Mark “x” in all the boxes that apply.)

- [ ] A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- [ ] B. Removed from its original location
- [ ] C. A birthplace or grave
- [ ] D. A cemetery
- [ ] E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- [ ] F. A commemorative property
- [ ] G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Entertainment/Recreation
Architecture

Period of Significance
1936-65

Significant Dates
1936
1946

Significant Person
(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

FOREMAN: WILLIAM J. KUNERT

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Zeeland Hall is locally significant under both Criterion A and Criterion C. Its significance under Criterion C is as a manifestation of New Deal public works (Works Progress Administration) architecture of the 1930s, a Colonial Revival style community hall. This type of significance is in line with categories and criteria established by Steve C. Martens in the context statement, *Federal Relief Programs in North Dakota, 1931-1943*. The significance under Criterion A is two-fold: first, as an example of federal relief construction in a North Dakota community, and second, as a locus of rural community. Newspaper reports as well as town council minutes thoroughly document the status of the Zeeland Hall as a WPA project. Council minutes as well as oral interviewing copiously document the importance of community activities in the hall in the historic period.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

The significance under Criterion C is the hall's Colonial Revival design, a manifestation of the "variety of architectural styles" for city halls and community buildings as a property type noted by Martens (Martens, F-18). The hall is a piece of "architecture and built infrastructure that remains highly visible and useful on the landscape today" (Martens, E-15). The more common style for community buildings built as New Deal public works was Moderne, but as Martens notes, "A third style is reflected in North Dakota relief projects to a minor extent; that is, the American Colonial Revival" (Martens, E-19). Thus the design significance of the Zeeland Hall, constructed as a WPA project in 1936.

The significance under Criterion A is two-fold: first, as an example of federal relief construction in North Dakota, and second, as a locus of rural community.

Martens states that "the WPA was arguably one of the most important works programs of the Depression-era" (Martens, E-63). He further establishes, "All eligible resources associated with this context will be significant under Criterion A. They are important for their direct association with an unprecedented federal initiative to stimulate the nation's depressed economy through an aggressive series of public works and relief programs" (Martens, F-1). Thus, in order to establish the significance of the Zeeland Hall, it is necessary only to document its origins as a project of the WPA.

The *Ashley Tribune* (Ashley, the seat of McIntosh County) on 7 November 1935 rejoiced at the breaking of ground for a community hall, which would answer the long-felt need of Zeeland for a meeting place. The work was "being done under the

supervision of the W.P.A." The hall was to be "absolutely modern in every detail and respect, having running water, lavatorys, cloak rooms, ticket office, dressing rooms and a large stage. Bleachers will line the walls on the two sides of the building." Seven months later, on 11 June 1936, the *Tribune* exulted over the recent (9-10 June) celebration in Zeeland "for the purpose of dedicating the new $20,000.00 community hall, which was constructed under W.P.A. grant of federal funds."

Minutes of the Zeeland council provide authoritative documentation of the partnership of the town with the WPA to build the hall. On 4 March 1935 citizens presented a petition to the Zeeland Board of Trustees to erect a public hall. M. M. Braun took charge of the proposal on behalf of the council. On 9 July he brought in a motion to issue bonds for the town's share of construction costs, with approval coming by unanimous vote. Popular vote affirmed the proposition on 1 August. Thus Zeeland was able to provide the required matching funds for a WPA construction project.

The Zeeland Hall, constructed with federal assistance, immediately established itself as a center of rural community. This began with the community celebration on 9-10 June 1936. According to the council minutes, a man from Ashley agreed with the council on 8 May 1936 to show motion pictures in the hall on Saturdays and Sundays. The following week the council purchased 200 chairs to set up on the floor. The hall was licensed as a dance hall on 5 October, although the first dance was not held until 9 August 1939.

Minute entries only hint at the variety and volume of activities that invested the Zeeland Hall during the historic era. Oral history interviewing, as well as a public forum convened on 15 November 2015, established that the following activities took place in the hall: motion picture showings, roller skating (skates rented on-site), high school basketball, town team basketball, donkey ball games, theatrical productions, weddings (elaborate, all-day-all-night celebrations in the German-Russian style), high school commencements, elections, political rallies, school carnivals, Christmas Santa Claus parties, and of course, dances. The largest activity ever to take place in the hall was the dance played by the Whoopie John Wilfahrt Orchestra 30 October 1951, the occasion of Zeeland's 50-year jubilee—for which 1200 tickets were sold.

The local significance of Zeeland Hall is palpable. It is thus fortunate that, as noted in the Narrative Description above, the integrity of the property remains excellent in all respects. The 1946 jail addition is in the rear, on the alley, not as wide as the original, and so unobtrusive. The only significant interior remodeling is the installation of a kitchen in the southwest corner of the building, opposite the old ticket window and cloak room, which has no adverse effect on the historic feel of the larger interior.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

*Ashley Tribun*e, 1935-36. Microfilm, State Historical Society of North Dakota.

Emmons County Record, 1935-36. Microfilm, State Historical Society of North Dakota.

Herz, Clarence. Notes of an interview with Joyce Scherr, Pius Lacher, and Ray "Buster" Wolf, at the Sportsman's Den. Zeeland, North Dakota, 14 November 2015. Center for Heritage Renewal, North Dakota State University.

Herz, Clarence. Notes of public forum convened at Zeeland Hall. Zeeland, North Dakota, 15 November 2015. Center for Heritage Renewal, North Dakota State University.

Martens, Steve C. "Federal Relief Construction in North Dakota, 1931-1943." Multiple Property Documentation Form, 2010. State Historical Society of North Dakota.

Reitzes, Lisa B. "Moderately Modern: Interpreting the Architecture of the Public Works Administration." PhD Dissertation, University of Delaware, 1989.

Stanley-Brown, R., and C. W. Short. *Public Building Architecture under the Public Works Administration, 1933-1939*. Boston: Da Capo Press, 1986.

Wishek News, 1935-36. Microfilm, State Historical Society of North Dakota.

Zeeland, Village of. Minutes of the Council, 1935-47. In possession of Mayor Pius Lacher, Zeeland, North Dakota.

Zeeland's Golden Jubilee, 1902-1952. [Zeeland], 1952.

Zeeland, 1902-1977. Zeeland, 1977.

Zeeland Centennial, 1902-2012: Zeeland, North Dakota. [Zeeland], 2002.

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 # _____
____ recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

____ State Historic Preservation Office
____ Other State agency
____ Federal agency
____ Local government
_X__ University
_X__ Other
Name of repository: _North Dakota State University, Center for Heritage Renewal

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property _less than 1_____

UTM References
Datum (indicated on USGS map):

[ ] NAD 1927 or [X] NAD 1983

1. Zone: 14N	Easting: 435696	Northing: 5091217
2. Zone:	Easting:	Northing:
3. Zone:	Easting:	Northing:
4. Zone:	Easting :	Northing:

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

Lots 10, 11, and 12, Block 6, Original Town, Zeeland, North Dakota

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

This is the historic location and boundary of the property. Boundary comprises entirety of the property without impinging on properties with contrasting use.

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11. Form Prepared By

name/title: _Tom Isern, Director, Center for Heritage Renewal, with Heather Fischer, Joyce Scherr, Amanda Biles, and Clarence Herz_
organization: _North Dakota State University_____
street & number: _PO Box 1390_____
city or town:_Fargo_____ state: _ND_____ zip code:_58107_____
e-mail_isern@plainsfolk.com_____
telephone:_701-799-2942_____
date:__3/1/16_____

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

Property Owner

name/title: _Pius G. Lacher, Mayor_____
organization: _City of Zeeland_____
street & number: __PO Box 36_____
city or town:_Zeeland_____ state: _ND_____ zip code:_58581-0036__
e-mail_____
telephone:_701-423-5613_____

Photo Log

Name of Property: Zeeland Hall
City or Vicinity: Zeeland, North Dakota
County: McIntosh State: North Dakota
Photographer: Tom Isern
Date Photographed: 11/14/15

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

1 of 9
Front of hall, from west

2 of 9
Southwest corner of hall, from southwest

3 of 9
Southeast corner of hall, from southeast

4 of 9
Northeast corner of hall, from northeast

5 of 9
Northwest corner of hall, from northwest

6 of 9
Front gable of hall, from west

7 of 9
Interior of hall, from southwest

8 of 9
Interior of hall, from east (from the stage)

Photographer: Pius Lacher
Date Photographed: 4/20/16
9 of 9
Showing recent re-shingled roof, from southwest

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).
Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management. U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

1 - Front of hall, from west

2 - Southwest corner of hall, from southwest

3 - Southeast corner of hall, from southeast

4 - Northeast corner of hall, from northeast

5 - Northwest corner of hall, from northwest

6 - Front gable of hall, from west

7 - Interior of hall, from southwest

8 – Interior of hall, from east (from the stage)

9 – From southwest after recent shingle replacement

MAPLE ST
N MAIN AVE
RAILWAY ST
Zeeland
2ND AVE SW
4TH ST W
Zeeland Hall
UTM NAD 1983
14 435696 5091217

ZEELAND HALL
1936

ZEELAND HALL
1936

ZEELAND HALL
1936

ZEELAND HALL
1936

NO SMOKING

ZEELAND HALL
1936