NPS Form 10-900 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 for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register B 1 4 2018 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: Robinson Hall Other names/site number: 32KD146 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 Location Street & number:118 Main Street City or town:RobinsonState:NDCounty:Kidder Not For Publication:N/AVicinity:N/A
3. State/Federal Agency Certification As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,
I hereby certify that this \underline{x} nomination $\underline{\ }$ 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 \underline{x} meets <u>does</u> does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:
nationalstatewidex_local Applicable National Register Criteria:
$\underline{X}A \qquad \underline{B} \qquad \underline{X}C \qquad \underline{D}$

Chining DIRECTO	2.13.2018
Signature of certifying official/Title:	Date
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal	l Government
In my opinion, the property meets	does not meet the National Register criteria
• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	
Signature of commenting official:	Date

Robinson Hall Name of Property Kidder, North Dakota County and State

4. National Park Service Certification

/ I hereby certify that this property is:

- 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:)

10.

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Signature of the Keeper

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.) Private:

Public - Local

Public - State

Public - Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box.)

Building(s)	x
District	
Site	
Structure	
Object	

Date of Action

Robinson Hall Name of Property Kidder, North Dakota County and State

Number of D ~~~~~ ithin D anont

(Do not include previously lis	1 0	
Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1		Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register _____

6. Function or Use **Historic Functions** (Enter categories from instructions.) Government: City Hall Recreation and Culture

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Government: City Hall Social: Meeting Hall

Robinson Hall Name of Property Kidder, North Dakota County and State

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Rustic, WPA Rustic

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.) Principal exterior materials of the property: Granite fieldstone

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 1937 Robinson Hall is an auditorium building consisting of an original building with three additions located on Main Street in Robinson, North Dakota. It is one of three extant WPA Rustic town halls in the area (Tuttle and Steele), and the building that retains the most integrity. The original building has ashlar field-stone (primarily granite) walls with a clear span auditorium 40'x 90'. A bowstring truss roof design allows the nearly 40' wide clear span in the auditorium below. The foundation is poured concrete, with basement. The original windows are wooden frame multi-lites, which are currently boarded up, with a simple concrete frame. The centered front entry door is steel, which replaced two six lite wooden French doors. Windows and doors provide essential access and light. Windows are grouped singly or in pairs and in an evenly-spaced group of three on the south side of the original auditorium. Minimal ornamentation consists of concrete vertical stripes in sets of three above the front windows. A centered sandstone block completes the design

Kidder, North Dakota

element. The central block has 1936, the year the building began construction. With only one non-historic addition at the rear, original roof configuration, and wall treatments that can easily be removed, the Robinson Hall retains a high degree of historic integrity.

The building consists of four rectangular blocks with the façade on the east end. The original auditorium and fire hall- jail blocks were complete in 1937 with a stage addition completed in 1942 and a Senior Center completed in 1983 at the rear, (see sketch map).

Narrative Description

The fenestration about the Robinson Hall is minimal as the front elevation is at the sidewalk, grass is on the two side elevations and small volunteer trees grow in the space between the Senior Center addition and the Fire Hall. To the right of the entrance is a short flight of steps leading up to a projector room, and to the left of the entrance is a storage room, with a short flight of steps. There is a small ticket booth at the entrance. Proceeding down a wide but short flight of steps is the auditorium, with original oak flooring. In the southeast corner is a small refreshment preparation area, and in the southwest corner are two storage areas, through a single door. A dropped ceiling and chipboard paneling are the interior finishes.

The first addition is the fire hall/city jail on the west end, finished in late 1937, the same year as the building. It is of poured concrete construction with ashlar granite block exterior covering. The quality of the ashlar blocks deteriorates somewhat toward the back of the building. The fire hall has a single bay garage door at the west end, and two large multi-lite windows, visible from the interior. The city jail has two small concrete cells with a barred transom area above the doors, (doors now off hinges). The two prison cells face a large multi-lite window on the south side, visible from the interior. All the windows except those of the Senior Center are boarded.

The second addition, completed in 1942, was constructed to house a stage, dressing rooms, bathrooms, and a showers/utility area in the basement. The second addition is on the long end of the auditorium's north side. It also is of concrete construction with ashlar granite blocks, and a shed roof. There are four multi-lite wooden

Kidder, North Dakota

windows, boarded up, also with concrete frames. The interior continues with the same chipboard wall paneling and dropped ceiling as the auditorium.

The third and final addition was constructed in 1983 at the northwest corner in the el created by the other additions to house a small Senior Center. It is constructed of concrete block and has a mud room entrance on the rear of the building. It has a sliding window facing the west and one facing the north side, and a shed roof sloping to the north.

Originally the Robinson Hall was heated with coal, the furnace was replaced in 1955 and again in 1984 with gas furnaces. The auditorium was constructed before electricity was available in Robinson, and the electric connection at the front stage window now seems odd. Robinson resident Ole Saltness provided some electrical capacity for the city of Robinson and a few neighbors and businesses from a Philco generator, including enough power to run the movie projector.¹ This continued until probably 1949, according to records at Northern Plains Electric Cooperative/Dakota Valley Electric Cooperative.² However, four poles were provided in 1942, offering another date for major electric service to the community.³

The integrity of Robinson Hall remains good as the windows are present behind boards, and the original door opening could be remodeled back to the original. The ashlar field stone construction is the most striking architectural feature that clearly identifies the project as part of the era, and as a local example of a Works Progress Administration (WPA) project. That element remains in good condition, except at the rear of the fire hall. The one non-historic addition is the Senior Center and it is located at the rear. The interior wainscoted wall finish remains available under the chipboard wall covering. Original portions of the ceiling, a chipboard product painted white with 1" x 1/2" wood strips are noted at the entrance and in the projection and storage rooms.

Robinson was incorporated in December 1929, and already in 1934 village discussions included the need for a community hall, with a special election

¹ E-mail from William Bender, current mayor of Robinson, dated October 19, 2017.

² E-mail from Ashton Dewald, System Engineer at Northern Plains Electric Cooperative/Dakota Valley Electric Cooperative, dated October 18, 2017.

³ Diamond Jubilee History, Robinson, North Dakota 1911 - 1986, p. 26.

Kidder, North Dakota County and State

conducted on October 3, 1934 to issue bonds of \$2,000. The village board discussed the project with architect Herman M. Leonhard of Bismarck. This architect designed the building, (with the 40 x 90 foot clear span made possible with the use of bowstring trusses). The building dedication flyer for September 10, 1937 lists architect H. M. Leonhard as presenting the mayor with a key to the building. The building foreman was Pete Koningrud. *The Diamond Jubilee History Robinson, North Dakota 1911 – 1986* mentions that the total cost of the building to the village was \$9,128.10, which includes the 1942 stage addition. WPA provided the labor costs and perhaps some of the building materials, although details are not known.⁴

⁴ Martens, Steven. Federal Relief Construction in North Dakota, 1931 - 1943, PDF pp 17 - 18. Available at

http://history.nd.gov/hp/PDFinfo/MPDF%20Complete%20Rev%2010_2010.pdf Accessed 11/14/17

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Kidder, North Dakota County and State

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.)

- 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.
- 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.)

C. A birthplace or grave

D. A cemetery

- A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- B. Removed from its original location

- 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

Robinson Hall Name of Property

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Social History Architecture

Period of Significance

1936 - 1968

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.) N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Herman M. Leonhard, Architect Pete Koningrud Builder Kidder, North Dakota County and State

Robinson Hall

Name of Property

Kidder, North Dakota County and State

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 Robinson Hall is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places on the local level under Criterion A for its contribution to local social history and Criterion C, architecture, as the most intact example of a WPA Rustic town hall in Kidder County, North Dakota. It meets the integrity guidelines for location, design, materials, and workmanship because the original WPA Rustic style is immediately recognizable and unaltered, with the small non-historic Senior Center addition located at the rear. The setting, feeling, and association remain intact as the Main Street setting in Robinson remains a business district in that block. Additionally, the Robinson Hall meets the Registration Requirements for Government Buildings as set forth in F11-12 of Steven Marten's Multiple Property Documentation Form (MPDF) "Federal Relief Construction in North Dakota, 1931 – 1943." The five applicable requirements include that the building be funded by a federal program (WPA), construction was completed by 1943, it provided a significant resource for multiple public and private functions in Robinson, it is of an identified federally-encouraged style (WPA Rustic), and it retains its historic physical integrity. The period of significance ends at 1968, fifty years ago. The current city administration would like to revive pride in the building and commence minor repairs.

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

Although used by small groups earlier, the social history of the Robinson Hall began with a rousing Dedication Day celebration on Saturday, September 11, 1937 with the Tuttle band playing the afternoon; a presentation of the key for the building by the Architect Herman Leonhard, an address by US Senator Gerald Nye, a baseball game, races, airplane rides and stunts, movies playing inside, and an evening dance attended by almost 300 paying couples.⁵ Its social function continued until around 2000 and includes a comprehensive list of public and social functions. According to Claude Sloan, born 1947 and who grew up in Robinson, the Robinson Hall provided a large meeting space that was appreciated by Robinson residents and outlying towns. Mr. Sloan's favorite memories revolve around student basketball games played in the only local auditorium that allowed the teams and fans full range

 $^{^{\}scriptscriptstyle 5}$ Steele Ozone, September 14, 1937, p. 1

Kidder, North Dakota County and State

to play and watch. Neighboring town facilities had deficiencies such as low ceilings, uneven floor boards, and simply being too small to allow full game movement.

The annual city Sunrise Dance ran for 25 years being held late evening the 3rd of July until sunrise. Student dances were held here, although the proms were generally held in rented locations in larger cities, with Robinson students banding together with neighboring high school students. Drama and plays were favorites from elementary school age to adults, who also used the Robinson Hall for lyceums and as a polling place, also for funerals and weddings.

The rear fire hall addition had its own specialized uses. Claude Sloan's father (also Claude Sloan), was the city's first Fire Chief who used the Fire Hall attached to the back of the building to store a fire truck. The Fire Hall also provided meeting space for local committees. Claude Sloan Jr. states that the jail was only used one time. The city rented the basement to a couple who ran a café there for two decades where locals would meet for cards and to chat.⁶

It is of interest that the village of Robinson was incorporated in December 1929 at the beginning of the Great Depression. Kidder County shared in the misery of this time, with 47.4% of the population on some sort of federal assistance in March 1935, the worst month in North Dakota.⁷ This assistance included animal feed, food for families, and some employment such as building roads and repairing buildings and homes. Assistance rates at the time ranged from 71.8% in Divide County to none in Traill County.⁸

Despite the difficulties of the day, one of the early topics of discussion for the Robinson city board was the desire for a large multi-purpose hall, with bonds approved for \$2,000 to erect a community hall in October 1934. They purchased a lot, which had been the location of the Post Office and Swanson's Store until it was destroyed by fire in 1932.⁹

 $^{^{\}scriptscriptstyle 6}$ Telephone conversation with Claude Sloan, October 19, 2017.

⁷ Relief in Review in North Dakota thru December 15, 1935 (Bismarck, 1936), p. 122.

⁸ Ibid. p. 133.

⁹ Diamond Jubilee History, Robinson, North Dakota 1911 - 1986, p. 26.

Kidder, North Dakota

The Robinson board conferred with Herman M. Leonhard, a 40 year old Bismarck architect who had worked as a draftsman and in the US Army Intelligence during WW I.¹⁰ He was also involved with the local unveiling of the new Federal Housing Administration (FHA) program in Bismarck, designing a \$6000 FHA model home in 1935 that featured what the Bismarck Tribune called "ultra-modern conveniences".¹¹ This was part of a national unveiling of the FHA, a program started primarily to put contractors to work, rather than writing home loans.

Mr. Leonhard designed the Robinson Hall with modern conveniences too, including the much-appreciated clear span hall, a projector booth (novel in small towns), and ample shower and changing room facilities in the basement for sports teams. The 1942 stage addition was built as a WPA project as well. The city's investment in this facility totaled \$9,128.10 in the 1940s.¹² In 1974, a new gymnasium was built at the Robinson school, and the Robinson Hall was remodeled after that to include the kitchen area near the stage. The final addition was built as the Senior Center at the rear of the stage addition in 1983. The Senior Center was also used by the Lions Club.¹³

Under Criterion C, architecture, the Robinson Hall is the most intact example of WPA Rustic Town Hall in Kidder County, North Dakota. Other WPA Rustic stone town halls include halls at Tuttle (Tuttle Public Office, built 1938) and Steele (32KD 53, built 1940, recommended eligible). Steele's city hall has a gabled roof as does Tuttle's.

¹² Diamond Jubilee History, Robinson, North Dakota 1911 - 1986, p. 26.

¹⁰ The Bismarck Tribune, "H. Leonhard, Architect Rites Saturday", January 25, 1974, p. 12.

¹¹ The Bismarck Tribune, "Ground will be broken for City's Model Home Saturday" June 10, 1935, p. 6. (The home is still at 903 N 9th St., and the conveniences, still intact, include a telephone nook, laundry chute, attached garage, an alcove for the bath tub, and a vented stove).

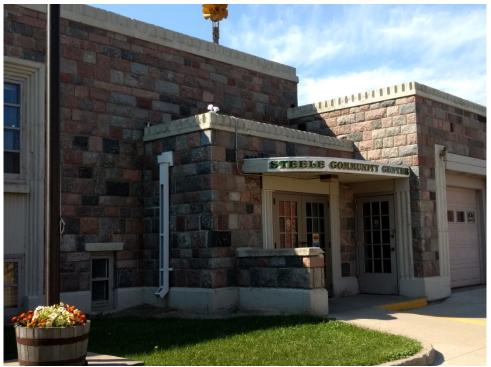
¹³ Email from Bill Bender, October 17, 2017.



Kidder, North Dakota County and State



Tuttle Town Hall, WPA project finished 1938. Photo taken September 2, 2017.



Steele Community Center, WPA, built 1940. Photo taken September 2, 2017.

9. Major Bibliographical References

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

Diamond Jubilee History – Robinson, North Dakota 1911 – 1986

Golden Jubilee Robinson, North Dakota 1911 – 1961

"Large Crowds Attend Dedication of New Robinson Hall" *The Steele Ozone*, Thurs. Sept. 14, 1937, p. 1.

Martens, Steven. Federal Relief Construction in North Dakota, 1931 – 1943. Available at <u>http://history.nd.gov/hp/PDFinfo/MPDF%20Complete%20Rev%2010_2010.pdf</u> Accessed 11/14/17.

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:

- x State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- _____ University
- Other

Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

Robinson Hall Name of Property Kidder, North Dakota County and State

10. Geographical Data	a
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Acreage of Property _____less than one acre____

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927	or	× NAD 1	983	
1. Zone: 14		Easting:	440733	Northing: 5221340

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

Lots 8, 9, 10 & 11, Block 3, Original Plat, Robinson (in T142N R72W Section 3, NW of the SE of the SE)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The nominated property includes the entire parcel historically associated with the Robinson Hall, Lots 8, 9, 10 & 11, Block 3, Original Plat, Robinson.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Susan Quinnell, Review & Con	npliance Coord	linator	
organization: ND SHPO	•		
street & number:612 E. Boulevard Ave			
city or town: Bismarck	state: ND	zip code: 5850)5
e-mail:squinnell@nd.gov			
telephone:701-328-3576			

Robinson Hall Name of Property Kidder, North Dakota County and State

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: Bill Bender, Mayor			
organization: City of Robinson			
street & number:126 Main Street			
city or town: Robinson	state: ND	zip code: 58478	
	state. IND		
e-mail:hansonsbar@icloud.com	State. <u>IND</u>		

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: Robinson Town Hall City or Vicinity: Robinson County: Kidder State: North Dakota

Photographer: Susan Quinnell Date Photographed: September 2, 2017 Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

Robinson Hall
Name of Property

Kidder, North Dakota County and State

1 of 17	Robinson Hall, Camera View West
2	Robinson Hall with bank building, Camera View SW
3	Robinson Hall rear of auditorium and jail/fire hall addition, Camera View NW
4	Robinson Hall rear and Jail/fire hall addition, Camera View NE
5	Robinson Hall Entrance to fire hall and jail, south side, rear, Camera View NW
6	Robinson Hall rear of Jail/Fire Hall, Camera View East
7	Robinson Hall space between Fire Hall/Jail and new Senior Center, Camera
	View East
8	Robinson Hall Senior Center Addition at rear, Camera View NE
9	Robinson Hall Senior Center addition 1982, Camera View NE
10	Robinson Hall 1942 Addition, Camera View SW
11	Robinson Hall 1942 Addition, Camera View SE
12	Robinson Hall with 1942 Stage Addition to right, Camera View SW
13	Robinson Hall interior auditorium original building and stage addition, Camera
	View West
14	Robinson Hall interior auditorium, Camera View SW
15	Robinson Hall interior stage area, Camera View North
16	Robinson Hall interior Jail/Fire Hall addition, Camera View NE

17 Robinson Hall interior Senior Center addition, Camera View SW

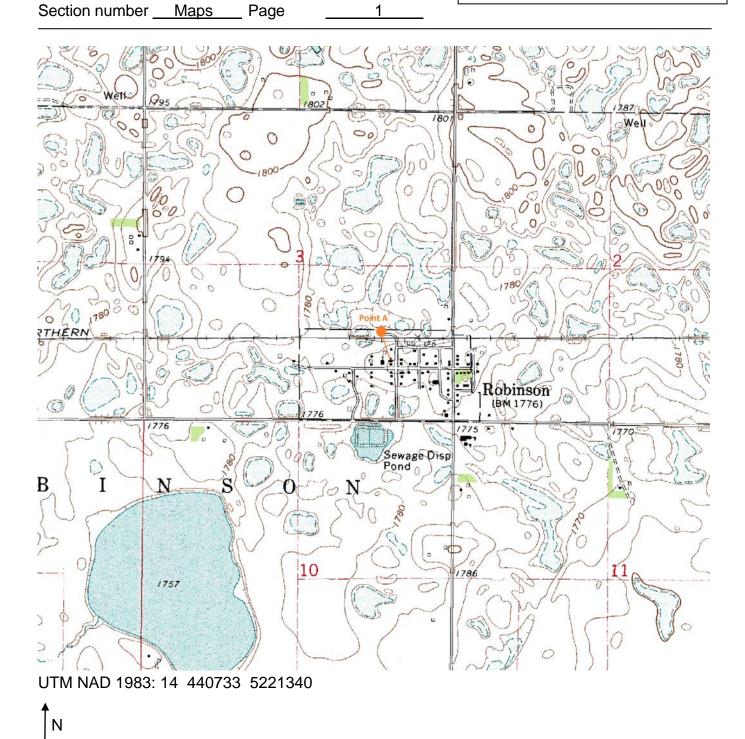
Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain 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.

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Robinson HallName of PropertyKidder, North DakotaCounty and StateFederal Relief Construction in North Dakota,1931-1943Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

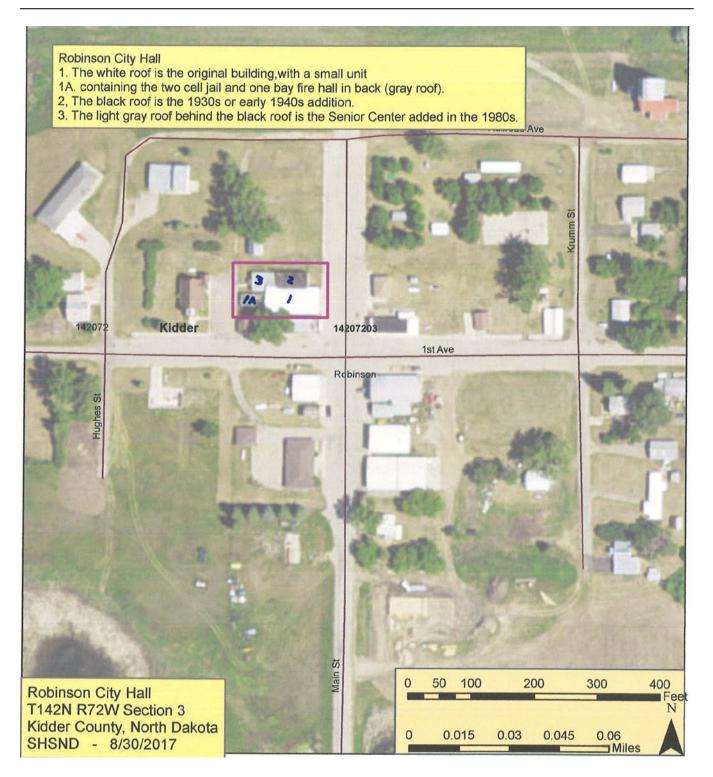


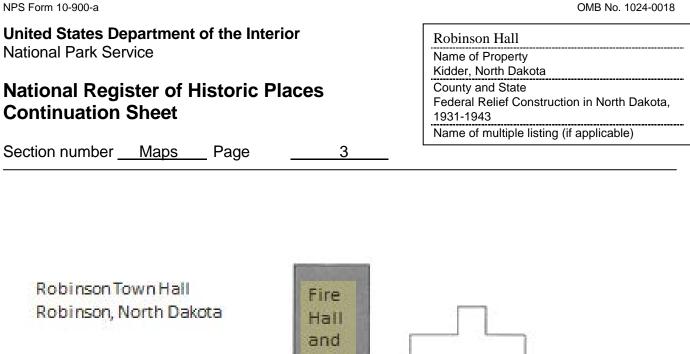
United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

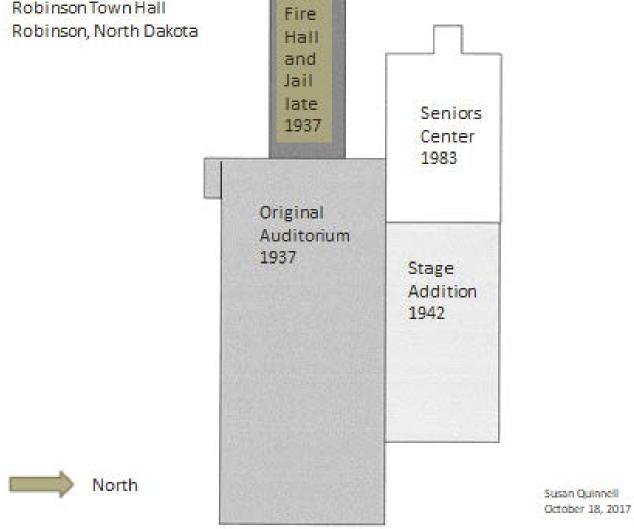
National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number <u>Maps</u> Page <u>2</u>

Robinson HallName of PropertyKidder, North DakotaCounty and StateFederal Relief Construction in North Dakota,1931-1943Name of multiple listing (if applicable)





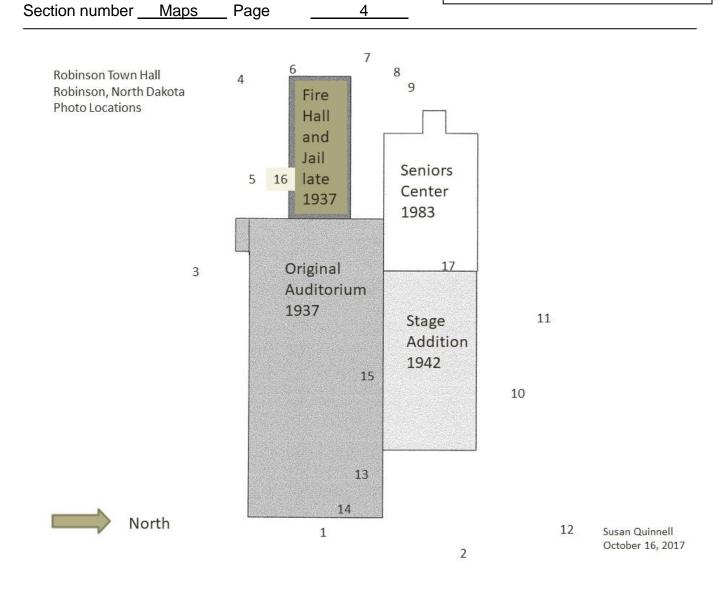


OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Robinson Hall
Name of Property
Kidder, North Dakota
County and State
Federal Relief Construction in North Dakota,
1931-1943
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)





































National Register Information System

Evaluation/Return Sheet For Single/Multi Nomination

		TES DEPARTMENT OF THE IN NATIONAL PARK SERVICE	TERIOR
		L REGISTER OF HISTORIC PL/ ALUATION/RETURN SHEET	ACES
Requested Action:	Nomination		
roperty Name:	Robinson Hall		
luitiple Name:			
tate & County:	NORTH DAKOTA, KI	dder	
Date Rece 2/14/20			Date of 45th Day: Date of Weekly Lis 4/2/2018
eference number:	MP100002253		
ominator:	State		
eason For Review			
Appea	· ·	PDIL	X Text/Data Issue
SHPO	and an or a second second	Landscape	Photo Map/Boundary Period
Waive	r i i i	National	
Resub	mission	Mobile Resource	
Other		TCP CLG	Less than 50 years
X Accept	Return	Reject3/26/	2018 Date
bstract/Summary omments:			
ecommendation/ iteria	A, C		1
eviewer Roger	Reed	Discipline	Historian
elephone (202)3	54-2278	Date	3/26/18
OCUMENTATION	see attached com	ments : No see attached SLI	R:No

<< Back



To:Keeper, National Register of Historic PlacesFrom:Claudia J. Berg/ Lorna MeidingerDate:13 February 2018Subject:National Register Nomination

The following materials are re-submitted on this 13th day of February 2018, for the nomination of the Robinson Hall to the National Register of Historic Places.

National Register of Historic Places nomination form on archival paper
Multiple Property Nomination form on archival paper
Photographs
USGS map(s)
Sketch map(s)/figure(s)/exhibit(s)
Pieces of correspondence
CDs
Signature Page
Other:

COMMENTS:

	Please insure that this nomination is reviewed
	This property has been certified under 36 CFR 67
·	The enclosed owner objections do do not constitute a majority of property owners.
	Other: