

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections



**1. Name**

historic Webster City Post Office

and/or common

**2. Location**

street & number 801 Willson Avenue  not for publication

city, town Webster City  vicinity of congressional district 3

state Iowa code 19 county Hamilton code 079

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational <input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>NA.</u> <input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property**

name Prem Sahai

street & number 709 White Post Drive

city, town Webster City  vicinity of state Iowa

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Recorder's Office

street & number Hamilton County Courthouse

city, town Webster City state Iowa

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title U. S. Postal Service D.O.E. has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1979  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records U.S. Postal Service

city, town Mission state Kansas

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## 7. Description

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<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

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### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The building sets on the southwest corner of Willson Avenue and First Street (First Street runs north and south). It is set back from both streets with a grass strip between building and sidewalk on both sides. It is a totally detached, one-story building, square in shape.

The building's architecture is Beaux-Arts. The foundation walls are exposed to the waterline sill of the building; the material is cut stone with curved edges. The walls above the waterline sill are cut and planed, square-edged stone, set running bond. The stone frieze, cornice, and solid railing around the Mansard roof is nondescript regarding style and ornamentation. The window openings are stepped in and ornamented across the head and one third down each side with carved stone scrolls of grape leaves wrapped with ribbons. Stone window stools are supported with cut stone scrolled brackets separated by a plain stone tablet. Asphalt shingles on the hipped portion of the Mansard roof were installed in 1962. (Originally the material was slate.) This portion of the roof is broken with lucarnes. The main entrance, located at a diagonal cut at the northeast corner of the building, faces the street intersection. The arched stone plaque above the door has eagle, acanthus wreath, olive branches, furred flags and batons. The stone opening for the entry door is carved with reeding with acanthus leaves at the corners.

The lobby is "L"-shaped with vaulted ceiling at the center. The ceiling, about 15'+ high, is plaster, the walls are paneled marble, and the floor is marble. Woodwork is stained hardwood. The workroom is spacious with a 15'+ ceiling height. The walls and ceiling are plaster. A tongue and groove wood wainscot 7'+ high exists on all walls. Other rooms are offices and service areas for the function of this facility. This building has a full basement, with an eight-foot ceiling, plus or minus. Light fixtures throughout the interior of this building are replacements and not in keeping with the character of the architecture.

The general condition of the building is good. It has been altered very little. A later-built enclosed dock at the rear detracts very little.

## 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

**Specific dates** 1909–Present      **Builder/Architect** James Knox Taylor

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The building is a fine example of a small town Federal building of its period, one of not too many of its type left in the State, and an excellent example of Beaux-Arts Classical Architecture.

This building was designed by the U.S. Treasury. The drawings are dated April 19, 1907. The supervisor-in-charge was James Knox Taylor, and the Chief Electrical and Mechanical Engineer was J.E. Powel. The contractor was Charles E. Atkinson, and the building was completed in 1909. The enclosed dock was constructed in the 1950's

This was the first permanent Post Office for Webster City. Previously, several store-front type buildings along Seneca Street had been leased from private citizens. The location switched as often as the political fortunes of that era.

UTM NOT VERIFIED

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Appraisal of the United States Post Office, 801 Willson Avenue, Webster City, Iowa, dated November 25, 1974, prepared by Forsythe Appraisal Service, 9621 Parker Street, Omaha, Nebraska.

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property .341 acre

Quadrangle name Webster City

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

### UMT References

A 15 432650 4701900  
Zone Easting Northing

B           
Zone Easting Northing

C         

D         

E         

F         

G         

H         

### Verbal boundary description and justification

See Continuation Sheet for specific legal description

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N.A. code county code

state code county code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Ralph J. Christian, Architectural Historian

organization Division of Historic Preservation date January 8, 1981

street & number 36 East Market Street telephone 353-6949/353-4186

city or town Iowa City state Iowa

# 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature William H. Graham

title Director date April 16, 1982

For HCRS use only	
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register	
<u>William H. Graham</u>	date <u>7.6.82</u>
Keeper of the National Register	
Attest:	date
Chief of Registration	

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 1

Commencing at a point, being the North East corner of Lot numbered Five (5) in Block numbered Eighty Eight (88) of the original plat of West New Castle, according to the recorded plat thereof, the same now being known and called Webster City, thence West One hundred and fourteen (114) feet to a point Eighteen (18) feet East of the North West corner of Lot numbered Four (4) in said Block Eighty Eight (88); thence South One hundred and thirty two (132) feet to the North line of the Alley as laid out according to said recorded plat on the South side of said Block Eighty Eight (88); thence East one hundred and fourteen (114) feet to the South East corner of said Lot Five(5); thence North to the place of beginning, the same being all of said Lot numbered Five (5) and the East Forty Eight (48) feet of said Lot numbered Four (4) in said Block numbered Eighty eight (88) above described.