

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	APR 17 1987
DATE ENTERED	MAY 19 1987

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Evanston Main Post Office

AND/OR COMMON

Evanston Main Post Office

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

221 Tenth Street

NA NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

CITY, TOWN

Evanston

NA VICINITY OF

NA

STATE

Wyoming 92930

CODE
056

COUNTY
Uinta

CODE
041

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
<input type="checkbox"/> Thematic Group	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
	NA	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 AGENCY

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (If applicable)

United States Postal Service, Western Regional Headquarters

STREET & NUMBER

850 Cherry Avenue

CITY, TOWN

San Bruno

NA VICINITY OF

STATE

CA 94099

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Uinta County Assessor's Office

STREET & NUMBER

PO Box 667

CITY, TOWN

Evanston

STATE

Wyoming 82930

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Evanston Historic District

DATE

September 1982

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Wyoming State Office of Historic Preservation

CITY, TOWN

Cheyenne

STATE

Wyoming 82202

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<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 <u>NA</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Evanston Courthouse and Post Office is a monumental three story building of dressed sandstone on a raised granite base. The five-bayed main facade is elaborately detailed, strongly articulated, and symmetrically arranged. Massive square piers which support the entablature and delineate the central portion of the facade, and smaller square piers which divide the three central bays create the strong vertical orientation that dominates the building. Architrave-framed semicircular arched bays detail the first floor windows and centered entry. Large windows, extending through the second and third stories, are aligned over the first floor bays. The end wings each contain a single bay with semicircular-arched bays on the first story, triangular pedimented windows on the second story and small, paired flat-arched windows on the third story. The facade is terminated by a plain frieze, projecting cornice supported by scrolled brackets, and solid parapet. With the exception of the addition of an enclosed loading platform which extended the original platform, the building has received no alterations.

PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Evanston Courthouse and Post Office is three stories in height on a raised granite platform. The foundation and full basement consists of concrete and brick. The above-grade floors are framed with structural steel and the exterior is faced with dressed sandstone. Granite faces the exposed basement walls and is used for the entry steps. The roof is built-up tar composition.

The front facade (southwest) is symmetrical in elevation and classically proportioned. Two massive square piers which rise from the granite base and extend to support the buildings entablature, divide the facade into a three-bayed central section and single-bayed end wings. The central section is divided by two square

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 type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES	Site Acquisition	1903	BUILDER/ARCHITECT	Federal Government/James Knox Taylor, OSA
	Building Completed	1908		

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Evanston Main Post Office is a well-preserved example of a combined post office and federal courthouse in the Beaux-Arts tradition of the early 1900s. This Neo-Classical building displays a quality of design and craftsmanship that marks the building as one of the finest examples of its type in the entire state. This quality, coupled with the scale of the building, places it as the most prominent structure in the downtown area. The building is the city's first federal building and was constructed during the city's most significant growth period. Not only does it symbolize the federal presence, it also stands as a legacy to Senator Clarence D. Clark, an Evanston resident, through whose effort the magnificent building was allocated to Evanston.

ARCHITECTURE

The building is an excellent example of the Beaux-Arts design tradition which dominated the Office of Supervising Architect in the first two decades of the Twentieth Century. The scale of the building, the articulation of design, and quality of the stonework combines to create a monumental edifice, one that seems far grander than a town the size of Evanston would warrant. Indeed, the use of entirely stone facades was in most all cases limited to buildings in large cities. The massive stone piers, which impart a strong vertical character and the detailing of the stonework which defines the semicircular-arched bays of the first floor and pedimented window bays of the second floor are unmatched in other federal buildings in the state. Strength, solidity and dominance are conveyed in the execution of the design and its symbolism of the federal government. Accordingly, the building is of state-wide significance under Criterion C.

POLITICS AND GOVERNMENT

As the city's first federal building with the post office, federal courthouse and federal offices, the

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

1. "This Stop Evanston", The Evanston Post, 1983.
2. Star, Eileen and Michael Gorman, "Downtown Evanston Historic District", September 1982.
3. "Buildings of Architectural Significance", WPA MS#1351 (Cheyenne, Wyoming: State Archives, Museums and Historic Department).
4. The Wyoming Press (Evanston) - various articles 1902-1908.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 0.39

UTM REFERENCES

A 12 510,218,80 456,812,00

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

D

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Lots, 13-14, Block 15, Original Town of Evanston

The site is rectangular with 120 feet of frontage along Center Street (western boundary) and a depth of 140 feet with frontage along Tenth Street (northern boundary).

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
NA	NA	NA	NA
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
NA	NA	NA	NA

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

H. J. "Jim" Kolva, Senior Associate

ORGANIZATION

Institute for Urban and Local Studies

DATE

April 1986

STREET & NUMBER

W. 705 1st Avenue

TELEPHONE

(509) 458-6219

CITY OR TOWN

Spokane

STATE

WA 99204

12 CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

YES NO NONE

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

In compliance with Executive Order 11593, I hereby nominate this property to the National Register, certifying that the State Historic Preservation Officer has been allowed 90 days in which to present the nomination to the State Review Board and to evaluate its significance. The evaluated level of significance is National State Local.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

John B. ...

TITLE

Realty Acquisition Specialist, Principal

DATE

2-9-87

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I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

MAY 19 1987

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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pilasters, and flanked by half pilasters set along the inside edges of the piers. Ionic capitals rest atop the pilasters and extend to the entablature.

Three semicircular-arched bays, with a centered, double-door entry, and flanking windows occupy the first story, while the second and third stories are defined by windows extending through both stories. The metal-framed glass entry doors and transom window above are framed by a wooden shouldered architrave which is slightly inset in the stone facade. The architrave, in turn, is framed by slightly projecting flat pilasters which supports a molded semicircular arch with molded keystone. The keystone also functions as a bracket which supports a slightly projecting stone ledge. An ornate metal grill adorns the tympanum. Six granite steps and a granite landing provide access to the double entry doors. Square granite buttresses, upon which rest cast iron lamps, flank the steps. The flanking window bays are also arched and detailed identically to the entry bay. The sash is wood with a four-light fan window above a one-over-one-light double-hung window with one-over-one sidelights.

The bays of the second and third floors consist of large windows which extend through both floors. Slightly recessed in the facade, these windows are topped by flat arches with pronounced triple keystones. Flat, slight projecting sills define the bottoms. Beneath the ends of the sills are triglyphs which flank a slightly recessed unadorned sandstone panel. The windows of fixed wooden sash are divided by molded mullions and transom bars into nine single-light sections. Vertically, the windows are divided into three unequal sections. The bottom section comprises two-thirds of the height while the top one-third is divided so that the middle section is one-half the size of the top section.

The end wings, defined by the massive flat piers which separate them from the central section and a less pronounced flat pier at the corner, each contain a single bay. Three window openings, all of different styles, demark each of the three stories. Those of the

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first story are identical to bays of the central section. The second floor windows are framed by a molded architrave which is topped by a pedimented frontispiece supported by square brackets. Triglyphs, similarly detailed but smaller than those beneath the sills of the window of the central section, lie beneath the brackets. Paired, double-hung wooden sash with one-over-one lights occupy the window opening. Molded architraves also surround the windows of the third story. Although of the same horizontal dimension and configuration of those of the second story, these windows are only one-half of the vertical dimension.

The side facades are detailed similarly to the front facade; however, the number of bays has been reduced in correspondence with the reduced width. With the exception of an entry bay in the northwestern facade (Tenth Street), the side facades are identical. As with the front, two massive flat piers delineate the central section and flanking end wings, and flat piers, slightly smaller in size, define the corners of the building. The end wings are detailed identically to those of the front with the window treatment as previously described.

The central section contains only a single major bay. Flat pilasters topped with Ionic capitals immediately flank the semicircular-arched entry bay (identical to the front) and half pilasters are set inside of the piers. The second and third story windows are identical to those of the end wings (as opposed to the two story windows of the front). Between the full and half pilasters, corresponding to the first, second and third stories, are narrow vertical windows (one-over-one light wooden sash) which decreases in vertical dimension from the first to third stories.

The northeast facade (rear) is divided into five bays. Elements common to the front include the massive piers dividing the central section and wings, the detailing of the end wings, and the detailing of the entablature. The first floor of the central section contains the mail loading platform which occupies the two eastern bays and extends to the northeast. A flat-arched

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window occupies the third bay and consists of one-over-one double-hung wooden sash with one-over-one side lights. A three-light transom window (wood sash) corresponding to sections of the lower portion is set above. The original loading platform is faced with sandstone and rises to the tops of the first floor window bays. A single pedestrian door (metal with a single glass panel) topped by a one-light transom window is located in the northwest side of the platform. This platform has been extended rearward and consists of three loading bays (facing the northwest). The platform is enclosed with buff-colored brick and topped by a built-up tar composition roof. A metal marquee projects over the platform.

The second and third windows are configured identically to those of the side facades. It might be noted, however, that the two piers dividing the central section of the facade are flat and lack the Ionic capitals of the front and sides.

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presence of the building secured the position of Evanston as host to federal activities in the southwestern area of Wyoming. Having been constructed during the city's most significant growth era, the building symbolizes the federal government's recognition of the city's regional importance. The securing of appropriations by Senator Clarence D. Clark and the construction of the building were significant events in the city's growth. The monumental scale and size of the building as well as the use of stone for its exterior, especially in such a small city, testify to the power of Senator Clark, an Evanston resident, in serving his hometown constituents. It is also of note that the magnificently detailed federal courtroom, achieved through Clark's effort, has been rarely, if ever, used for a federal trial. This grand edifice, placed in such a small town, is a clear example of the "pork barrel" approach to federal funding, wherein political influence, rather than operational requirements, seemed to dictate size, ornamentation and cost. Association with Senator Clark and as a symbol of the federal government's recognition of the city's development contribute to the building's local significance under Criteria A and B.

LOCAL CONTEXT

With a 1983 population of approximately 11,000, Evanston is the seat of Uinta County and the business center for Southwestern Wyoming. Production of oil and gas, retail trade and governmental services provide the economic base for the community.

As Union Pacific Railroad crews approached the present site of Evanston in late 1868, Harvey Booth pitched a tent near what is now the front street and opened a saloon and restaurant. Within a few weeks, a railroad boomtown was springing to life. The rails reached Evanston on December 1, 1868, and a depot was established in June of 1869. On February 8, 1870, with Charles I. Deuel as postmaster, the first post office was established. Also, in 1870, Evanston was made the county seat of Uinta County. In the following year, the Union Pacific located its roundhouse and machine

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shops in the burgeoning city. The establishment of the railroad shops and mining of coal (discovered north of Evanston in 1868) contributed to Evanston's permanence and future growth.

Throughout the 1880s and 1890s, the downtown core became more substantial as brick replaced wood and growth continued. Correspondingly, the 1880 population of 1,277 grew to 1,995 by 1890. At the turn of the century, Evanston boasted a population of 2,110. Although the local coal mines of the Union Pacific began to decline after 1900, oil was discovered and the subsequent boom maintained the city's growth. In 1901, the Union Pacific completed its Gothic brick railroad station and the Carnegie Library was constructed in 1905. The Federal building, appropriated in 1902, was finally completed in 1908. Evanston's population rose to 2,583 in the 1910 Census. In 1912, the Union Pacific replaced its original stone roundhouse with a larger brick structure. The town hall was completed in 1915. Growth continued through the late 1920s (population of 3,479 in 1920), however, national and local economic factors brought an end to Evanston's prosperity and by 1930 the population had declined to 3,075.

The Post Office is located in the downtown core and included in the Downtown Evanston Historic District. Adjacent properties include a two-story brick commercial block to the northeast and a single-story brick office building to the southeast. Across Tenth Street to the west is the wood frame Presbyterian Church (1902). The southwest corner of the Tenth/Center intersection is occupied by a two-story frame residential structure (in commercial use). Residences are located to its west and south. A red brick church (circa 1920) is located on the southeast corner of the intersection. Residential structures are located to its rear and a modern single-story brick office building is located to the east.

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LOCAL PRESS COVERAGE OF THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE
EVANSTON POST OFFICE

The progress toward the appropriations for and construction of the Evanston Federal building was reported in The Wyoming Press. First news of a federal building for Evanston was reported on February 1, 1902. Under the heading "Our Public Building", it was announced that a telegram has been received from Senator C. D. Clark. Clark notified his fellow townspeople that a public buildings bill had passed the Senate and there was little doubt that it would pass the House. According to the article such an appropriation would be "hailed with delight" by all of Evanston's citizens.

Good news for Evanston citizens was reported on May 3, 1902. Two telegrams, one from Senator Clark and the other from Congressman F. W. Mondell, had been received and announced that the Public Building bill had passed the House with an appropriation of \$100,000 for a federal building in Evanston. According to the article, The Press bulletin was soon surrounded by a throng of enthusiastic citizens and the news spread over the city like wildfire.

"The shop and engine whistles were blown at length proclaiming the glad tidings, which caused the fire laddies to make post haste for the engine house in contemplation of having to fight a big fire. None regretted the run they had made, however, upon learning the cause of the "false alarm".

The article concluded by stating that "her [Evanston's] citizens are duly appreciative of the glorious victory won by the untiring efforts of their worthy representatives in the halls of congress."

On July 26th, it was reported that thirteen sites had been offered for the new federal building. Also, on the same date the possibility of an Edison Electric Company power and light plant and the discovery of an

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important oil field were reported. The news of oil field discoveries were prominent through September. An article of September 20th reported that the cornerstone of the new high school had been laid. November 29th brought news that the site for the federal building had been selected. The property of Mrs. J. B. Booth, located on the corner of Fifth and Center streets, would be the home of the new building. The site would be purchased for a sum of \$4,000 and the twenty year old Booth & Crocker barn would be removed. "What a great change will take place when the new building is erect and a \$100,000 structure supplants the shack of pioneer days. When that superb building with its majestic walls and mammoth proportions is fully completed it will make a vast difference in the appearance of that section of town."

The year 1903 held little news of the federal building. Other than an article of February 7th, in which it was reported that Laramie and Evanston were each appropriated \$25,000 for their buildings, progress was slow.

News of federal building again appeared on March 12, 1904. A short article accompanied by a sketch of the proposed building noted that construction bids would soon be called. Finally, on July 16th, the contract for construction was awarded to E. Miller of Minneapolis for a bid of \$149,300. An article of October 1, also accompanied by a sketch of the building, reported that Mr. Miller, contractor for the "magnificent structure", was in Evanston to commence excavation.

Progress toward the completion of the federal building was slow. An article of April 29, 1905 reported that the building was slated for completion in July 1906. Excavation work was also being completed on the new Carnegie Library. On July 29th, Evanston's growth was touted. Population has increased by 600 in five years and was now 2,743.

The "Illustrated Industrial Edition" of The Wyoming Press published on May 5, 1906 included a sketch of the federal building and indicated that it would be com-

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pleted by November 1, 1906. Photos of the newly completed Uinta County Public Library, the new Union Pacific Depot and the Union Pacific Ice Plant were also included. The article also boasted of the fine facilities of this progressive and prosperous city.

November 1, 1906 passed to January 4, 1908 before the federal building again made the front page. The January 4th article included a sketch of "Evanston's Magnificent Federal Building" and stated that the \$184,000 building would be open in a few days. The following week (January 11th) an article, captioned "Magnificent Structure", reported that the U.S. land office had taken residence in its luxurious quarters in the new Federal Building. Since there remained interior finish work to be completed it was not expected that the rest of the building would be occupied for several months.

Finally, on April 4, 1908 The Press carried the following news, lauding its new courthouse and post offices.

"Wednesday, April first, was a red letter day for Evanston-an event transpiring which marked an important epoch in the history of this busy and progressive metropolis. ... To boast a structure of such magnificence in a town of Evanston's population is a matter of no small importance, and an opportunity which many larger cities have not experienced the pleasures... The building is no less than a palace, as shown by its cost, but it must be seen to be appreciated, as it is otherwise impossible to judge correctly of its beauty, charm and imposing appearance. Its grandeur appeals to all alike, who are ever eager to give credit to our worthy townsman, to whose untiring efforts and influence it stands as a lasting monument. Senator C. D. Clark of Evanston is no small power at Washington and certainly labored assiduously for this point, but the building is only one of many

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successful efforts he has advanced for western interests. To him the public owes their gratitude and appreciation for an opportunity to step within the walls of such a magnificent edifice in Wyoming's western city - with but 3,000 inhabitants."

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