

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

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RECEIVED

FEB 12 1996

DATE ENTERED

MAR 14 1996

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

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Havre Post Office & Courthouse

AND/OR COMMON

Havre Main Post Office

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

306 Third Avenue

NA NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Havre

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

2

STATE

Montana

NA VICINITY OF

CODE  
30

COUNTY  
Hill

CODE  
041

**2 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	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
<input checked="" 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)

U.S. Postal Service, Western Regional Headquarters

STREET & NUMBER

850 Cherry Avenue

CITY, TOWN

San Bruno

NA VICINITY OF

STATE

California 94099

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Hill County Assessor's Office

STREET & NUMBER

315 Fourth Street

CITY, TOWN

Havre

STATE

Montana 59501

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

None

DATE

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

## 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input 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 Havre Main Post Office (and former Court House) is a three story structure of reinforced concrete and structural steel construction. The nine-bayed front facade is faced with red brick and detailed by limestone. The building is well-preserved and essentially unaltered in its Neo-Classical design. The otherwise flat front facade is adorned by a slightly projecting portico supported by a Greek Corinthian colonnade of colossal order, which rises to the parapet of the second story. A third story, which was designed after the building was under construction, is set back from the second story parapet. The central section of the third floor is articulated by its slight projection and triangular-pedimented gable roof which is flanked by hipped roof sections.

### PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The basement is constructed of concrete and terra cotta block. The structural steel framing of the above-grade floors is faced with red brick. Limestone is used for detailing and granite for the entry platform. The hipped portion of the roof are covered with asphalt shingles (originally metal clad) and the flat portions are built-up tar composition. Concrete is used for the loading platform. The extension of the loading platform (completed in 1982) is sheathed with T-111.

The building is three stories in height and faced with red brick above the limestone faced basement wall. The front facade (east) is symmetrical in elevation and flat except for the projecting colonnade in the central portion of the building. The original plans for the building provided for two stories. This is evidenced by the parapet which tops the second story. While under construction, lobbying efforts for a federal court led to the addition of the third story to house courtroom. The third story is set back five feet from the parapet and is divided into three sections. The middle section, above the colonnade, projects slightly from the flanking wings, and is topped by a gable roof with Classic triangular pediment with cornice returns.

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The wings are topped by a hipped roof with the elevator penthouse extending above the north wing. The facade is divided into nine bays with emphasis provided to the three central bays by four free-standing limestone columns. The columns rise from flat pedestals to the entablature beneath the balustraded parapet which tops the second story. They are unfluted with an Ionic base and Greek Corinthian (early form) capitals. The entablature is relatively simple with "United States Post Office & Courthouse" carved into the frieze, and simple brackets supporting the cornice. A single entry is centered between the two middle columns. The entry consists of double aluminum framed glass doors. A typical of post office design, the entry is at street level with only a six-inch high granite entry platform (with interior stairs to first floor). A broken scroll pediment of wood rests atop the door head. An 18-light transom window is set behind the pediment. The entry is framed in limestone molding and topped with a triangular pediment. Scrolled ancons support the pediment. Cast iron lanterns affixed to the facade flank the entry.

A single 12-over-8 double hung wood sash window is located in each bay flanking the entry on the first floor level. A carved limestone lintel (fluted with rosette ends) is set above each window with a plain limestone panel set beneath each window. The second story windows, which correspond to the windows and entry, consist of a paired 6-over-6 light double hung wood sash window over the entry and single 6-over-6 double hung wood sash windows in the flanking bays. Limestone panels with a festoon motif are set between the first and second story windows.

Three window bays are located on either side of the entry colonnade. The first floor windows are 12-over-8 light double hung wood sash framed with limestone.

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Molded limestone panels are set beneath the sills, limestone jambs frame the panel and sash, and semi-circular arches top the windows. The space within the arches is adorned with a cartouche and garland motif in the center window and a fan motif in the flanking windows. The second floor windows are 6-over-6 light double hung wood sash with limestone sills and limestone key-stone in the flat brick arch.

The corners of the first two stories are defined by limestone quions which extend to the limestone cornice capping the second story. A parapet rests atop the cornice. The portion over the central colonnade is balustraded (limestone) while that of the flanking wings is solid brick with fluted limestone panels aligned over the window bays. The recessed third floor contains three window bays (6-over-6 light double hung wood sash) on either side of the central portion. The three windows of the central portion are 8-over-8 light double hung wood sash topped by a 5-light fan window framed in a semi-circular arch. A single 4-light fan window is centered in the pediment. A limestone cornice completes the third story wall.

The side facades are identical to each other. They consist of the three-storied main building divided into three bays with a single story wing projecting to the rear. The loading platform extends rearward from this wing. The first floor windows are detailed similarly to those of the front facade. The first floor windows are detailed similarly to those of the front facade. The central window, however, is of Palladin motif with leaded glass side lights. The side lights are topped with a limestone lintel (fluted with rosettes at the ends). Plain ovular panels framed with brick headers are set above the side lights on either side of the central window arched panel. The brick rear wing contains two 12-over-12 light double hung wood sash windows topped by 8-light transom windows. Limestone coping tops the wall.

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Second floor fenestration consists of a flat arched (with limestone key-stone) 8-over-8 light double hung wood sash window flanked by 4-over-4 double hung wood sash side lights aligned over the central palladin windows, and flat arched (with limestone keystone) 6-over-6 light double hung wood sash on the side bays. The second floor is topped by the extension of the cornice of the front facade is slightly indented from the corner line of the first two stories. Solid parapet sections extend from the corners of the second story to the third floor corners. The windows of the third floor are identical to that of the second floor, except that the arch keystones are not included.

The rear facade consists of a rear, single story wing which projects from the main structure. The original loading platform extends from this rear wing. A T-111 enclosed loading platform, added in 1982, extends at an angle from the southwest corner of the original platform. The roofline of the third floor consists of three gables. The original first story consisted of three 12-over-8 light double hung wood sash windows with 8-light transom window on either side of the centered loading platform. The extension of the loading platform covered all but the transom windows on the south section.

The second story, which projects slightly from the facade plane, consists of ten 6-over-6 light double hung wood sash windows. A simple limestone cornice tops the second story. The third floor consists of three sections corresponding to the gables. The central section is brick with three 6-over-6 light double hung wood sash windows, while the flanking sections are stucco. Except for one 6-over-6 light double hung wood sash window on the southern section, the flanking sections are plain. The central gable (or pediment) has a limestone cornice with returns, while the flanking gables have wood cornices. The cornice ends align with a limestone belt course along the central section.

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Interior materials consist of the following: basement rooms and hall--concrete floors, concrete and quarry block walls, and concrete ceilings; lobby (first floor)--terrazzo floors with marble edging, plaster walls with marble wainscotting (4-foot), and plaster ceilings; offices--carpeted floors, plaster walls, and plaster ceilings; workroom--hardwood floors, plaster walls with wood wainscotting (7-foot), and plaster ceilings; and second and third floors--terrazzo floors with marble edge strips in halls with sheet linoleum, carpet, and cork tile floors in offices, plaster walls and plaster (some acoustical tile) ceilings.

# 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      Constructed 1932      BUILDER/ARCHITECT James A. Wetmore, Superv. Architect

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Havre Main Post Office is a well-preserved and unaltered example of a combined post office and U.S. court (court is no longer used). Constructed in the early 1930's, the building represents the end of the Beaux-Arts tradition in federal architecture. With its colonnade of colossal order and finely crafted stonework, the Greek-influenced Neo-Classical building is one of the most imposing in the city. Although the design is standardized, it is unique in the addition of the third story with its projected triangular-pedimented gable roof. The building was the city's first federal building and its construction was a major local event. Further, the building's construction symbolizes the assistance of the federal government during a period of local and national economic emergency.

Architecture

The Havre Post Office is a well preserved example of Neo-Classical design, one of the final representations of the Beaux-Arts tradition before the transition to the modern Starved Classicism mode. In representing this transition as well as being an outstanding example of its design style, the building is locally significant under Criterion C. With the exception of the loading platform extension to the rear, the building has remained unaltered since its original construction. As stated previously, however, it was altered from a two-story structure to three stories during construction. The first two stories with the cornice and parapet are essentially in the form of a completed building. The third story, which is set back from the parapet, adds to the monumental character of the overall building with its central pediment and arched fan-lighted windows. The colonnade of the central section of the building imparts a majestic character to the front facade with symmetry provided by the flanking sections. The fine stonework of the first floor window arches (of the front and side facades), the pediment which frames the entry, and the capitals provide a richness to the facade.

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

1. Sanborn Map: October 1920, sheet 10; May 1939 sheet 10.
2. Floor Plans 1929 & 1931.
3. Havre Daily News, various articles 1929-1932.
4. Rudy, Martha Ann, "Havre, Montana: It's Historical Development" March 6, 1960
5. Lutz, Dennis J., "Mail Call, a Time To Remember" from Grits, Guts & Gusto: A History of Hill County, 1976 pp 87-98.

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 0.59 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A 

1	2	5	9	7	5	4	0	5	3	7	8	2	0	0
ZONE				EASTING				NORTHING						

B 

ZONE				EASTING				NORTHING						

C 

ZONE				EASTING				NORTHING						

D 

ZONE				EASTING				NORTHING						

### VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Lots 1-5, Block 20 of the Havre Old Town plat.  
 The site is rectangular and contains approximately 166 feet of frontage along Third Avenue, with a depth and frontage of approximately 155 feet on Third Street.  
 Site Size = 25,730 sq. ft.

### 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

ORGANIZATION

Institute for Urban and Local Studies

DATE

September 1985

STREET & NUMBER

W 705 1st Avenue

TELEPHONE

(509) 458-6219

CITY OR TOWN

Spokane

STATE

Washington

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

*James T. Cox*

TITLE

Director, Office of Real Estate

DATE

02/06/86

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

*See Continuation Sheet for Listing*

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



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The building, as most all small town post offices, was designed within the Department of the Treasury under the direction of the Supervising Architect. The plans and elevations are patterned from standard designs. The building design and construction period are somewhat transitional in that funding was appropriated in 1928 with design prior to 1930 and construction at the beginning of the Depression Era. The inclusion of the colonnade is representative of the design philosophy of the early 1900's, while the remainder of the first and second story facade is more typical of the Depression Era. The pedimented section of the added third floor is relatively uncommon when compared to other post offices of the Northwest. This may have been a specific design solution to provide space for the federal courtroom (abandoned in late 1970). Another unique feature of the building's design is its street grade entry, noted by the local press as being only one of three such examples in the United States. In most all cases, the entry was raised to provide a symbolic entrance to building of the federal government.

The building is also one of the most imposing structures in the city's central business district. Its demeanor is dignified, as befitting a federal post office, particularly one that was combined with a federal court. The two other imposing buildings of the business district include the Masonic Temple, facing the post office on the opposite side of the street, and the striking white terra cotta Hill County Courthouse, located south of the Masonic Temple. The three buildings combine to form an architectural focal point in the city.

POLITICS/GOVERNMENT

The buildings, originally constructed as the post office and federal court house, represents the monumental symbol of the federal government. It was the first federally constructed post office in Havre

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and represents many years of lobbying efforts on the part of local citizens. As per Criterion A the building also represents the linkage of the local citizens and the "far off" government in Washington D.C. through their elected officials. Bills had been introduced many times for approval of a federal post office in Havre. Until the securing of appropriations in 1928, they all died only to bring renewed effort. So great was the desire for a federal building that a group of local businessmen before an actual appropriation was made, purchased a site to be sold to the federal government. The site was purchased, at no profit to the businessmen, and now contains the federal building. Although the roots of the Havre MPO lie in the late 1920s, its construction during the early 1930s exemplifies the federal effort to aid local economies.

LOCAL CONTEXT

Havre, Montana is the county seat of Hill County and subregional service center serving the Hi-Line area of Northern Montana. With a 1980 population of 13,684, Havre provides a variety of retail and financial services in support of the surrounding agricultural region, Burlington Northern Montana College.

Havre's beginning is attributed to the arrival of the Great Northern Railroad in 1887. Prior to that time, Fort Assinniboine, once the largest military installation in the nation, was established in 1878 at a location eight miles south of Havre. The fort was established to patrol the Canadian border in the era following Custer's Last Stand. In 1887, the Great Northern Railroad reached Fort Assinniboine. In 1890 James J. Hill moved his railroad center from the fort to Bull Hook Bottoms on the main line, which was under construction in its westward extension. Pioneer cattlemen and businessman Ed Broadwater and Simon Pepin donated land to Hill with the understanding that the town would serve as divisional headquarters. Hill, who felt that the name was not well suited to attracting homesteaders, suggested a new name. Havre was chosen in honor of Le Havre, France. The first post office

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was established on October 8, 1890 with William Connors as postmaster. The railroad made the area accessible to settlers and the opening of the area for homesteading by the federal government in 1908 led to a population explosion in 1909 and 1910. By 1910, Havre had a population of 3,624. Havre was designated the county seat of the newly formed Hill County in 1912.

The homestead boom subsided prior to WWI and a short boom followed the war. In 1920 Havre's population had increased to 5,429. By 1924, the devastation of Montana's worst drought between 1916 and 1923 had reversed the economy. Havre suffered bank closures and other business reverses. In 1926, the economy rebounded and through 1930 big construction years were reported. By 1930 the population had grown to 6,372. In 1931, the effects of the Depression hit Havre and building activity dropped off substantially. The decade of the 1930s was Havre's slowest growth, with the 1940 population reaching only 6,427. Since 1940 the population has grown slowly but steadily to 8,086 in 1950; 10,470 in 1960; and 10,558 in 1970.

The Havre Post Office is located at the southern edge of the city's central business district, three blocks south of 1st Street, the main business street. Third Avenue, which fronts the post office, also supports retail and financial uses. Land uses to the north across 3rd Street include a parking lot and the Atrium Shopping Mall (two-story stucco and metal panel) to its north. A pharmacy (one story modern brick and stucco) is located on the opposite corner of the intersection to the northeast of the post office. Various retail structures (one story, various masonry and modern fronts) extend to the east along the north side of 3rd Street.

Uses to the east across 3rd Avenue include the Masonic Temple, with retail use on the street level. (The Masonic Building (1916) with its imposing "Egyptian"

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entrance, is five stories in height with dressed sandstone on the first floor and brick on the upper stories. The upper two stories are accentuated by a diamond zigzag contrasting brick pattern and topped with pronounced projecting cornice.)

Single-storied commercial buildings are located along the south side of 3rd Street to the east of the Masonic Building. The Hill County Courthouse (1915) and associated park are located to the south of the Masonic Building within the same block. The courthouse, which fronts along 4th Street, is four stories in height and constructed of white terra cotta in the Beaux-Art tradition. A modern bank building of native flagstone and glass curtain wall construction is located across the alley to the south of the post office (within the same block). Uses to the west (rear) of the post office and bank include a funeral home (converted single family house in Dutch Colonial style which predates the post office) and several other single family residences.

No comprehensive historic surveys have been completed in Havre, nor are there any designated historic districts or zoning. However, the immediate environs of the post office include three of the most architecturally significant buildings in the city: the Masonic Building, the County Courthouse, and the post office, itself. The post office is a significant element in this triad of structures.

LOCAL PRESS COVERAGE OF THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE HAVRE  
MAIN POST OFFICE

Locally, the construction of the city's federal building was reported in the Havre Daily News. The city was rebounding from the business downturn of 1924, the agricultural outlook was improved and new construction activity was dramatically increasing. In the January 7, 1929 issue of the Daily News, it was

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reported that almost \$390,000 worth of new construction permits had been issued in 1928--more than doubling the 1927 activity. A January 26th issue reported that the Great Northern Railroad would spend \$150,000 locally on improvements; a new Montgomery Ward store would soon be constructed; and the possibility of a new federal building was seen. The post office site, across from the Masonic Temple, had been purchased and "... the dream of years will be realized when this building program is accomplished." The article also reported that the city was in a period of steady growth and development and that development of Northern Montana College was hoped for.

On February 5th, it was announced that the site for the federal building had been accepted by the U.S. The article added that the appropriation for the building (\$200,000) was one of the largest in the U.S. for a town of 10,000 or less. On March 23rd, \$38,000 was appropriated by the Montana Legislature for development of Northern Montana University. Other articles reported the growth in livestock and agricultural production since 1923; the maiden trip of the Northern Pacific's "Empire Builder"; 2,000 visitors for the state Legionnaires convention; and the generally positive outlook for the area.

On January 2, 1931, the paper reported that construction in 1930 topped the \$500,000 mark and surpassed the 1929 building value of \$381,000. Planned construction included the \$200,000 Sacred Heart Hospital, the \$25,000 Farmer's Grain Exchange elevator and a new plant by H. Earl Clack, and the \$200,000 federal building. The post office plans called for two stories and a basement; construction had begun in August of 1930. The contractor, W.D. Lovell of Minneapolis, had halted construction of the roof and was awaiting the outcome of an effort to secure the addition of a third story for housing a federal court. The court had been recommended by the Department of

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Justice and it was expected that an appropriation would be included in a bill carrying out the Federal Building Commission's recommendation. The article also added that the construction of the hospital and federal building "...have been important factors in keeping employment conditions from reaching the low ebb of many other cities."

On February 2nd, the Daily News carried the headlines "Additional \$50,000 for Havre Federal Building". The prospect of the third story seemed assured. Allocations of \$68,764,000 had been made for public construction, of which \$49,515,000 would go to towns outside of the District of Columbia. On February 9th, the Montana Legislature recommended \$232,500 in expenditures for the new college. The February 18th issue was headlined with "Increase for Federal Building Before House". The following day, approval was given to the bill. On February 25th, Senator B.K. Wheeler announced that the \$50,000 appropriation had passed the Senate and assured the immediate construction of the third floor. An article of March 28th announced that bids for the third story would be let and, according to Congressman Scott Leavitt, the drawings were completed.

Articles of May and June reported the upcoming cornerstone laying ceremony. On June 11th, headlines read "Federal Building Cornerstone Laying Friday". An artist's rendering of the building and lengthy article were included. "The ceremony, perhaps unimportant in itself, in its significance is mighty, making growth of the business of the federal government in Havre and the Northeast section of the state until it has become necessary to erect a building to house many bureaus of various departments". The article recounted the effort to obtain the new building and stated that the federal court quarters would be the best in the Northwest. Also of note is the following: "The Havre federal building will be one of three in the U.S. which is located as a business block, straight with the street

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line, saving patrons many needless steps and not breaking the business line of the street".

The article reported that bills had been introduced many times in both the House and Senate by Congressmen Leavitt and Senator T.J. Walsh. The bills died for years until court was authorized to be held here under a bill introduced by Leavitt and approved in 1926. An appropriation for the original building was finally secured in 1928 through the "strenuous efforts" of the Congressman. Previous to that time, a group of public spirited businessmen had secured an option of the present site, finally purchased it, and at length sold it to the government at no profit. The paper also included a full page ad honoring the laying of the cornerstone. The mayor proclaimed a three-hour holiday so that all could attend.

The issue of June 13th was headlined "Cornerstone Laying Program Draws Big Crowd". From 3,500 to 4,000 people attended, with delegations from many northeastern Montana towns. Judge C.B. Elwell recounted the 15 to 16 years of effort required to obtain the building and stated: "...government is somewhat like a rich and tight relative... These buildings don't spring up, there must be some effort preceding..." The early efforts of Senator Meyers and F.A. Buttrey (founder of the nationwide Buttrey retail chain) were praised. Congressman Leavitt, in his speech, stated that the federal building represents the foundation of our government, community feeling, and adds permanence and richness to our lives. The Havre City Band and the American Legion Drum Corps played patriotic music to accompany the ceremony. Several articles of early May (2nd, 7th, 9th, and 14th) reported the opening of the post office after delays in obtaining the furniture and that the federal court term was scheduled with 33 cases set.

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