

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Nebraska	
COUNTY: Otoe	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 71.9.31.0003	DATE 9/3/71

**1. NAME**

COMMON: \* U. S. Post Office

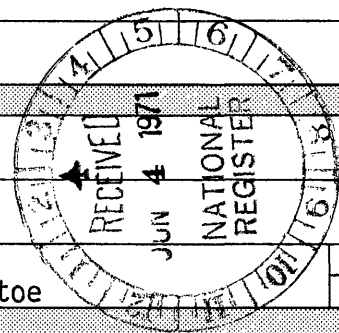
AND/OR HISTORIC: U. S. Court House and Post Office

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER: 202 South 8th Street

CITY OR TOWN: Nebraska City

STATE: Nebraska CODE: 31 COUNTY: Otoe CODE: 131



**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME: G.S.A. for the U.S. Post Office Department

STREET AND NUMBER: U.S. Government

CITY OR TOWN: Washington STATE: D. C. CODE: 11

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Register of Deeds - Otoe County Court House

STREET AND NUMBER: 1021 Central Avenue

CITY OR TOWN: Nebraska City STATE: Nebraska CODE: 31

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY: Historic Preservation in Nebraska - Preliminary Plan

DATE OF SURVEY: October 1970  Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Nebraska State Historical Society

STREET AND NUMBER: 1500 "R" Street

CITY OR TOWN: Lincoln STATE: Nebraska CODE: 31

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Nebraska  
COUNTY: Otoe  
ENTRY NUMBER: 71.9.31.0003  
DATE: 9/3/71  
FOR NPS USE ONLY

\* This nomination is located in the First Nebraska Congressional District

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

In 1885-86 Congress appropriated \$75,000, with a later \$5,000 supplemental appropriation to be used in building the approaches, for the construction of a U. S. Court House and Post Office at Nebraska City. In March of 1886 G. A. Wilcox, a resident of Nebraska City, was appointed Superintendent of Construction and one month later, Harry Wales was awarded the contract for the construction of the building. Initial construction on the building began in the summer of 1886.

The building was designed by W. E. Bell, Supervising Architect of the U. S. Treasury, in a Romanesque Revival style of architecture. It consists of three full floors (the third floor has been used only for storage purposes) and a full basement. It is constructed of locally fired red brick and features impressive, story-high turrets at all four corners of the building and elaborate, half-round arches at the main (or east) and side (or south) entrances.

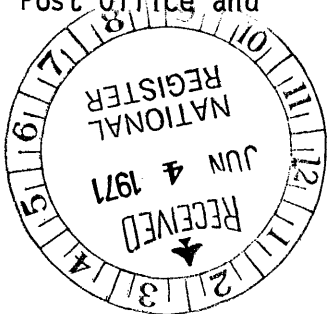
During the construction of the building and shortly before its completion, when it appeared certain more space would be needed, Congress voted a supplemental appropriation (ca. 1867) of \$25,000 to make the building larger. The addition almost doubled the size of the original building and eventually consisted of an extension to the north end of the building, which was patterned after the design of the original south half.

The building, with the addition, was completed for partial use in September of 1888 and became fully functional in late January of 1889.

Since that time only two alterations have been made to the exterior of the building, both of which can be considered as having altered the original 1889 appearance very little. In ca. 1952 a loading dock and additional approach ways were added and in ca. 1959 the original slate roof (along with the cast-iron crestings along the ridge lines), was removed and replaced with asphalt tile roofing.

The interior as well, has remained virtually unaltered. The only changes being the addition of modern heating and air-conditioning equipment and the removal of a part of the original service wall screening.

The building today is still located on Lots 1 through 6, Block 92, Nebraska City proper and is considered "sound" structurally. Since 1888 the Nebraska City Post Office, has served as a U. S. Post Office and still continues to function as such today.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |                                       |  |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century            | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century  | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century |                                       |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |   |  |  |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal                | <input type="checkbox"/> Education              | <input type="checkbox"/> Political           | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric               | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering            | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> Science             | _____                                    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agriculture    | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture           | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture              | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater             | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Military               | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation      | _____                                    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  |  | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation              |   |  | _____                                    |

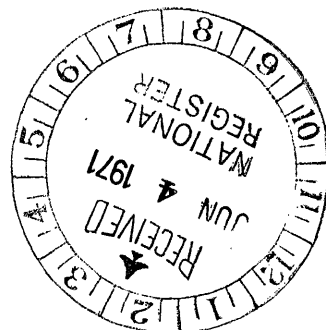
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The U. S. Court House and Post Office building in Nebraska City never actually served as a U. S. Court House. No evidence can be found that a session of the court was ever held in the building. But it has served continually as a U. S. Post Office since its construction in 1889 and is purportedly the oldest federal building continually occupied by the U. S. Government in Nebraska, Kansas, and Oklahoma; and certainly is the oldest in Nebraska.

The Nebraska City Post Office, being the oldest Post Office in continuous use in Nebraska, reflects well the gradual evolution of National Postal Law in Nebraska; the first free mail delivery was established in Nebraska City in ca. 1887-89; the first rural free delivery in this section was authorized July 13, 1901; the Parcel Post Law became effective in 1913. And the Nebraska City Post Office became a First Class Post Office in 1944.

Architecturally, the building is an outstanding example of the Romanesque Revival style of architectural design and is also one of very few such examples that are still extant in Nebraska.

This building assumes a greater architectural significance in the fact that it has remained virtually unaltered during its existence and reflects, with great integrity, the Romanesque Revival style of building.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Nebraska City Centennial, 1954  
Files, Nebraska State Historical Society

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		95° 51' 18"	40° 40' 31"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

NO  
CD

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:  
**Persijs Kolberg, Curator of Historic Sites**

ORGANIZATION: **Nebraska State Historical Society**      DATE: **May 27, 1971**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**1500 "R" Street**

CITY OR TOWN: **Lincoln**      STATE: **Nebraska**      CODE: **31**

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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 National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name: Martin D. Kruett

Title: Director, Nebraska State Historical Society

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Ernest A. Connolly  
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

**SEP 3 1971**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST:  
William J. Montoye  
Keeper of The National Register

Date: **JUL 29 1971**