

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

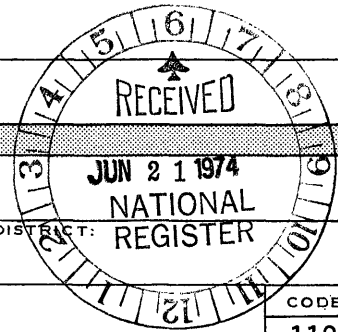
(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: **Nebraska**

COUNTY: **Madison**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY DATE: **OCT 9 1974**



1. NAME

COMMON: **U. S. Post Office and Court House**

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: **125 S. Fourth Street**

CITY OR TOWN: **Norfolk** CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: **1st**

STATE: **Nebraska** CODE: **31** COUNTY: **Madison** CODE: **119**

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 type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<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 type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <input type="checkbox"/> Comments

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

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

STREET AND NUMBER: **Region 6 - 1500 East Bannister Road**

CITY OR TOWN: **Kansas City** STATE: **Missouri** CODE: **29**

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

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

STREET AND NUMBER:

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

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: **Nebraska**

COUNTY: **Madison**

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" 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 1902 Congress appropriated \$100,000 for the construction of a U. S. Post Office and Court House in Norfolk. In January of 1903, the contract for erecting the Norfolk public building was let to the Congress Construction Company of Chicago for a bid of \$83,550. The contract stipulated that the firm must complete the work in sixteen months. George K. Williams superintended the work for the Congress Construction Company and Superintendent James R. Farn represented the government at the building. Blueprints dated in 1902 list James Knox Tyler as the supervising architect. Major work on the building was completed during the summer of 1903; however, the expected occupancy date of the first of June, 1904, had to be postponed until October, 1904, due to delays caused by the late arrival of materials to complete the interior.

By request of Congressman David Mercer, who was instrumental in having the federal money appropriated, the plan of the structure follows that of a government building in Annapolis, Maryland. It consists of three floors and a full basement and is constructed of brick and stone masonry and reinforced concrete. The Second Renaissance Revival style, popular builders' style in the United States between 1890 and 1915, is well illustrated in the building's simplicity and order, as well as in the use of material and in its overall impression of large scale.

The exterior Renaissance flavor reflected in the granite wall surface with pressed brick trim, is extended in the interior, which is decorated with marble, polished oak, and tile. Above the main entrance on Madison Avenue, there stands a large statue of an American eagle carved in stone. The first floor was designed for the post office, with the court rooms and offices on the second floor. The third floor held the federal jail, marshal's quarters, and jury rooms. Storage rooms and the employees' lounging room occupied the basement. The post office was equipped with a vault, solid oak mail boxes, and secret lookouts for the postal inspectors. The floor of the lobby is covered with marble. In the court room the ceiling is decorated with ornamental plasterwork and decorative tile is used in each public room.

In 1930 Congress appropriated an additional \$145,000 to expand the structure to accommodate the increased postal needs. Plans for the addition were prepared in 1928 by Minnesota architect Albert Lea. The addition doubled the size of the original building and consisted of an extension on the south side of the building, which was patterned after the design of the original south half. The Tapager Construction Company of Fremont appears to be the contractor for the addition. All work was completed in 1931.

Since that time, only few alterations have been made to the exterior of the building. The alterations can be considered as having changed the original 1904/1931 appearance very little. Sometime during the last two decades, a loading dock and additional approachways were added to the east and the original tin on the flat portion of the roof, was replaced by a

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(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Nebraska	
COUNTY Madison	
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(Number all entries)

7. (cont.)

composition roof. Over the years interior changes have been made to accommodate the needs of a modern post office and other office needs which have changed the interior integrity of the building significantly.

The building is considered structurally "sound". A new post office was built in 1970 and the present structure abandoned for post office use. Several federal agencies continue to occupy space in the building today. In the near future the structure may be declared "surplus" for federal needs and a new adaptive use found. The city of Norfolk has proposed several alternate uses among which are a library or a museum.



SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input 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 type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

At the turn of the century Norfolk was one of only four designated United States court cities in Nebraska. The others were Lincoln, Hastings, and Omaha. However, due to the lack of a room in which to hold the sittings, federal court had never been held in Norfolk. In 1902, through the efforts of Norfolk citizens, Congressman David Mercer and Senator Joseph H. Millard of Omaha, Congress appropriated the funds needed to build a structure which would serve as a U. S. Court House and Post Office.

Federal court was held in Norfolk for the first time on April 27, 1906. Judge Munger of Omaha presided. The first postmaster in the new Federal Building was John R. Hays, who was first appointed May 19, 1902. During Mr. Hays' term of office, rural free delivery was begun and later the city delivery established.

Architecturally, the building is a fine example of Second Renaissance Revival style and one of few such examples built in Nebraska. When completed in 1904, the Norfolk United States Post Office and Court House was described by several government inspectors as the finest federal building for a city the size of Norfolk in the United States. Both Congressman Mercer and Senator Millard were favorably impressed with the completed structure, as were the citizens of Norfolk, who felt that this building did much to enhance the town architecturally and its reputation among other Nebraska communities.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Files, Nebraska State Historical Society
The Norfolk Daily News, 1902-1973.

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	° ' "	° ' "		42° 01' 54"	97° 24' 40"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: $\frac{1}{2}$ acre

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



UTM
14/340000

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11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Persijs Kolberg, Curator of Historic Sites

ORGANIZATION: Nebraska State Historical Society DATE: 4/24/74

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 Marian E. Kneth

Title State Historic Preservation Officer

Date April 24, 1974

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

AR. W. [Signature]
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 10/9/74

ATTEST:
Charles [Signature]
 Keeper of The National Register

Date 10-9-74