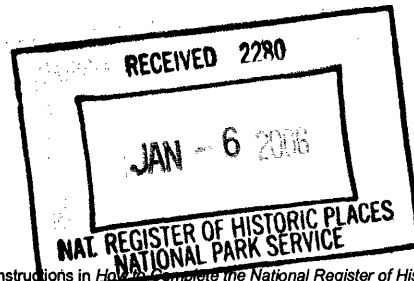


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "X" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable". For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

Historic name Grand Island United States Post Office and Courthouse  
Other names/site number Grand Island Federal Building (NeHBS# HL06-018)

2. Location

Street & number 203 West Second Street Not for publication   
City or town Grand Island Vicinity   
State Nebraska Code NE County Hall Code 079 Zip code 68802

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

[Signature]  
Signature of certifying official  
Deputy SHPO, Nebraska State Historical Society  
State or Federal agency and bureau

8/9/05  
Date

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

[Signature] Center for Historic  
Signature of certifying official/Title 501201445 Date 1/5/06  
U.S. GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION  
State or Federal agency and bureau PUBLIC BUILDINGS SERVICE

4. National Park Service Certification

- I, hereby, certify that this property is:  
 entered in the National Register.  
 see continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register.  
 see continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

Edson H. Ball 2/14/06

[Signature] Signature of Keeper Date of Action

Grand Island U.S. Post Office and Courthouse

Name of Property

Hall County, Nebraska

County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- Private
Public-local
Public-state
X Public-federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- X Building(s)
District
Site
Structure
Object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Table with 2 columns: Contributing, Noncontributing. Rows: Buildings, Sites, Structures, Objects, Total.

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

GOVERNMENT / post office

GOVERNMENT / courthouse

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

GOVERNMENT / government office

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Late 19th and 20th Century Revivals: Neo-Classical

Revival

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Foundation Stone

Walls Brick

Roof Metal

Other

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "X" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- X A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
B Removed from its original location.
C A birthplace or a grave.
D A cemetery.
E A reconstructed building, object, or structure.
F A commemorative property.
G Less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

POLITICS / GOVERNMENT

Period of Significance

1908-1955

Significant Dates

1908

1933

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Taylor, John Knox

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- Preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
Previously listed in the National Register
Previously determined eligible by the National Register
Designated a National Historic Landmark
Recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #
Recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

Primary location for additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
Other State agency
X Federal agency
Local Government
University
X Other Stuhr Museum of the Prairie
Name of repository: Pioneer, Grand Island, NE

Grand Island U.S. Post Office and Courthouse

Name of Property

Hall County, Nebraska

County and State

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of property Less than one

UTM References (place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet).

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
1.	14	555553	4530327	3.			
2.				4.			

[ ] See continuation sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description**

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

**Boundary Justification**

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Erin E. Brasell, National Council for Preservation Education Intern  
organization General Services Administration date May 31, 2003  
street & number 1800 F Street, NW Suite 3341 telephone 202-208-3897  
city or town Washington state DC zip code 20405

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

**Continuation Sheets**

**Maps**

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

**Photographs**

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

**Additional items**

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

**Property Owner**

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name/title General Services Administration c/o Regional Historic Preservation Officer  
street & number 1500 East Bannister Road, Suite 2211 telephone 816-823-4905  
city or town Kansas City state MO zip code 64131

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determined eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, (15 USC 470 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

**Grand Island U.S. Post Office and Courthouse**

Name of Property

**Hall County, Nebraska**

County and State

Section 7 Page 1

The Grand Island U.S. Post Office and Courthouse, situated at the southwest corner of West Second and North Locust Streets, is impressive in both its location and design. Construction began in 1908 under the auspices of John Knox Taylor, Supervising Architect of the Treasury from 1887-1912, this building is noted for its classical style and prominent presence in downtown Grand Island. Originally built to house the U.S. Post Office and Courthouse, the building was extended between 1933 and 1935. The original 1908 – 1910 building is a five-bay, two-story over basement structure. Located to the west is the adjoining, five-bay, two-story 1933-1935 addition. The elevations of the original building are composed of a raised limestone foundation supporting two-stories of buff-colored brick with limestone trim. A dentiled limestone cornice set below a brick parapet wall caps the elevations. The parapet wall shields a low-sloped standing-seam metal-hipped roof.

The materials and detailing of the 1933-1935 addition are a simplified horizontal extension of the original building topped with a flat roof. The site immediately surrounding the building consists of lawn areas, concrete sidewalks, drives and parking lots. Although the building no longer houses the U.S. Post Office and Courthouse today, its importance as a monumental civic building has not been compromised. The Grand Island U.S. Post Office and Courthouse remains an important landmark in downtown Grand Island and a symbol of the continuous federal presence in Hall County.

Although the Grand Island U.S. Post Office and Courthouse was constructed in two separate stages (1908 – 1910 and 1933 – 1935) it reads as a single unified structure. The following exterior description of the building profiles the two sections sequentially.

**Exterior 1908 – 1910**

Located on the corner of Second and Locust Streets, the primary elevation of the Grand Island U.S. Post Office and Courthouse faces Second Street. The entire elevation is capped by a wide limestone entablature composed of an architrave, frieze and dentiled projecting cornice. The building's current name "Federal Building" is stated in metal letters mounted in the frieze over the main entrance. Crowning the entablature is a simple brick parapet wall with limestone pedestals and coping. The wall shields the low-sloped standing seam metal-hipped roof.

The main façade of the original section consists of five-bays with a slightly projecting three-bay central section. The central section features a round-arched doorway flanked by two round-arched window openings and limestone keystones. The openings are set between two-story brick pilasters with stylized limestone capitals. Spandrels surrounding the arches feature bricks set in a herringbone pattern with circular limestone tablets.

The original cast-iron door and window frames remain complete with transoms. The original entrance doors, consisting of a pair of narrow pocket doors at the building face, close across an interior revolving door. The window and transom sash are original while the double entry doors have been replaced. The original door has been replaced with a historically sympathetic wood reproduction door, frame and sidelights. To allow continued ADA accessibility, the opening was fitted with a single door that is slightly wider than the original door. The sidelights are based on the design of the original east entrance door.

The second story windows are set in large square openings behind cast iron balustrades. The openings are topped with brick flat arches and simple, stepped limestone keystones. These windows, and those throughout the rest of the building, are replacement anodized aluminum sash and frames with tinted glazing.

The centrally placed entrance is accessed via a set of concrete steps with modern metal railings. These steps were installed in 1979-1980 replacing the original, three sided limestone stairs. Limestone abutments, part of the original entrance stairway composition, retain original cast iron standards.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> The globes and missing parts for the cast iron posts were replaced in 2000, according to 1910 photographs of the building.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Grand Island U.S. Post Office and Courthouse

Name of Property

Hall County, Nebraska

County and State

Section 7 Page 2

The materials and details of the main façade side bays continue around onto the east elevation of the original building, facing Locust Street. A concrete ramp leads to a centrally located second entrance. This ramp was installed in 1979-1980 and replaced an original limestone stoop and decorative wrought iron railing. Matching sets of limestone steps situated on the north and south sides of the stoop also provided access. The door opening is framed in a limestone surround with a decorative, carved lintel. The floral wreath design of the lintel contains an original cast iron light fixture with a replica of the original glass globe.<sup>2</sup> The southern end of the east elevation is slightly recessed from the rest of the elevation.

The rear (south) elevation of the original building is a symmetrical five-bay design and faces the public alley. While the first floor footprint is basically square, the second floor is u-shaped around an open light court facing south. The original postal workroom was located on the first floor level under the light court. A concrete stairway provides access to the basement towards the west end of the elevation. The first floor features a slightly projecting central section with three brick soldier-coursed arched window openings. The openings have limestone sills and simple, stepped keystones. A carved limestone banding tops the three-bay section. The two side bays contain single window openings on each floor level. The elevations facing into the light court contain flat-arched window openings with simple, stepped limestone keystones. Small paired window openings which provide natural light into the attic, are set into the limestone frieze above the second floor windows. Two original window openings on the south elevation have now been infilled with brick. The building's chimney, clad in brick with a limestone cap, rises from the southwest corner of the building.

**Exterior: 1933 – 1935**

While the materials of the adjoining four-bay 1933 – 1935 elevation facing Second Street match those of the original building, the details are greatly simplified. The raised foundation is composed of brick with two limestone beltcourses. These beltcourses form a continuous sill for the first floor windows above. Both the first and second floor window opening have flat arches without keystones. A plain brick parapet caps the addition with limestone coping set atop a flat limestone beltcourse – a simplified continuation of the architrave on the original building.

The design and materials of the west elevation on the 1933 – 1935 addition match that of the main façade with the exception of a blank first floor window opening and a one-story, brick loading dock addition at its southern end. The first floor of the south elevation originally contained an elevated mailing platform, but it has since been infilled with concrete block. Above the loading dock are brick walls containing flat-arch window opening, limestone beltcourses and copings. One of the window openings has been infilled with brick. In common with the original 1908-1910 portion of the building, the exterior doors and windows of the 1933 – 1935 portion of the building have been replaced with anodized aluminum units.

**Interior**

The most architecturally significant interior spaces of the Grand Island U.S. Post Office and Courthouse at the time of its construction were the entry and the postal lobby on the first floor and the courtroom on the second floor. These spaces were initially not intended to be excessively opulent, but rather to reflect the solid character of the community and the pride held in public facilities. Originally containing postal service windows and lock boxes, the entry/postal lobby spanned the length of the north elevation in the 1908-1910 section. The double-loaded corridor has terrazzo and marble floors and plaster walls with original wood doors and frames. The building's original primary stairway is located at the northeast end of the entry/postal lobby. This decorative cast-iron stair features dark green marble risers and stringer at its base with gray marble treads throughout. An attractive ornate cast iron lamp standard is located at the base of the stairs.

Following a relocation of the post office and courts between 1968 and 1972, the entry/postal lobby was altered to accommodate new office tenants. Reconfiguration of the entry/postal lobby into office space resulted in subdivision of the

<sup>2</sup> This cast iron wall sconce was restored at the same time as the two light posts flanking the Second Street entrance.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Grand Island U.S. Post Office and Courthouse

Name of Property

Hall County, Nebraska

County and State

Section 7 Page 3

spaces into three sections, and an installation of suspended acoustical tile ceiling. All vestiges of the post office were removed. However, much of the original construction is still in place and plans have been initiated to restore the entry/postal lobby to its original spatial volume. Following the removal of partition walls and suspended ceiling, an extensive restoration of the original plaster vaulted ceiling and historic paint color will ensue. Along with the plaster ceiling, the original pilasters and plaster architrave, marble wainscot, terrazzo floors and original wood doors are also extant. Planned removal of the partition walls and suspended ceiling will allow for their full appreciation.

The former U.S. District courtroom is located on the second floor of the building. Historic photographs depict a wood floor surface, panelized plaster walls trimmed with wood wainscot panels and a decorative plaster ceiling featuring a large, naturally illuminated skylight. Since court functions have relocated from the building, the courtroom has been sub-divided to accommodate other tenants and a suspended acoustical tile ceiling has been installed. These alterations have resulted in the loss of the original spatial volume and character of the courtroom. Similar to the entry/postal lobby, much of the historic fabric of the courtroom, although currently concealed, is extant. No plans are currently envisaged to restore the courtroom.

The remaining spaces in the first and second floor levels predominately exist in their original configuration with only minor additive alterations. While these rooms have been carpeted, many still contain their original plaster wall and ceiling surfaces (although now covered with suspended ceilings), wood doors and frames, window trim and baseboard, chair rail and picture rail trim. Similar treatment of the lobby area would reveal the existing original details and materials.

#### Alterations

As detailed in the interior description, substantial alterations were made to the building interior to accommodate new use from a courthouse to general office space. Conducted between 1968 and 1972, these alterations created new office spaces for various federal agencies. Renovation use work between 1979 and 1980 replaced the original wood sash windows with aluminum windows. The original dimensions of the window openings remain.<sup>3</sup> Also at this time, an access ramp and a set of concrete steps with modern metal railings were installed at the Locust Street entrance. Subsequently, further minor modifications have occurred including the installation of an elevator in the lobby.

The inappropriate aluminum door on the Second Street entrance has been removed and successfully replaced with a replica of the original Locust Street door.

Continued rehabilitation to the Grand Island U.S. Post Office and Courthouse is being planned for the near future. These alterations are intended to redress previous inappropriate interventions and will result in the reinstatement of original spatial volumes and the exposure of currently concealed historic fabric. The rehabilitation will allow for a fuller appreciation of the Grand Island U.S. Post Office and Courthouse as an important community landmark.

<sup>3</sup> Two non-operational iron sash windows survive in the arched window openings in the north lobby wall.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Grand Island U.S. Post Office and Courthouse

Name of Property

Hall County, Nebraska

County and State

Section 8 Page 1

The Grand Island U.S. Post Office and Courthouse is significant at the local level under Criterion A in the area of government. This building demonstrates the growth of governmental services at the local level and helps represent an important period of growth and prosperity in Grand Island. From the beginning of its construction in 1908, in addition to providing services in a growing city located along main transportation and trade routes, this building served and continues to serve as a federal presence in Grand Island.

### History

The region that is now Nebraska was acquired by the United States under the Louisiana Purchase in 1803. Nebraska was made a territory in 1854, followed by statehood in 1867. The creation of counties was among the first acts of pioneer arrivals, and Hall County was established in 1858. Early settlement in Nebraska, as evidenced by county formation, began with riverside settlement. Located in the eastern portion of Hall County, along the north side of the Platte River, Grand Island was designated as the county seat in 1868.

From the beginning of Grand Island's formation within Hall County, transportation has played a major role in its development. The Oregon Trail, which passed through Nebraska, was one of the country's most viable trade and transportation routes westward. Hall County prospered as a result of its location along these westward transportation routes.<sup>4</sup>

Grand Island received its name from a nearby island on the Platte historically known by French-Canadian traders as "La Grande Isle." The founding of Grand Island was entrenched in the anticipated development of a railroad hub in the area. Directly following the Civil War, a large influx of homesteaders settled in Nebraska. Between 1860 and 1870, the State population quadrupled, a result of the Homestead Act of 1862. This act heightened efforts of the government and the railroad to entice new residents to particular areas of Nebraska.

Increasing settlement in Hall County grew along the railroad tracks. River valleys provided innate routes for railroad construction, and naturally, Hall County became a focus because of its location along the Platte River. Union Pacific was the first railroad company to lay tracks across Hall County. In 1866, Grand Island was selected as a railroad division point in central Nebraska. By 1870, Grand Island served as a major railroad stop, allowing immigrants to enter Hall County from all parts of the country. As a result, Grand Island grew into a major trading center between 1870 and 1890. Increasing population growth followed increasing trade during these years. Revenue generated from the railroad industry provided the means for construction of Grand Island's schools, homes and prominent civic buildings. Grand Island's community development and growth is similar to that of many railroad towns, with a prosperous commercial center on one side of the tracks and industry with working class housing on the other side of the tracks.

By 1910 Grand Island had grown to be the third largest city in Nebraska and enjoyed a sturdy economic base. In addition to the railroad tracks, viable roadways were important for transporting goods to the commercial centers in Hall County. An early transcontinental automobile route, the Lincoln Highway, greatly affected travel throughout the county. The Seedling Mile program, coordinated by the Lincoln Highway Association, offered free advice and cement to aid in building small section of roadways to encourage the highway's growth. In 1915, the first Seedling Mile in Nebraska was constructed on the eastern edge of Grand Island. The Lincoln Highway generally followed the banks of the Platte River and the tracks of the Union Pacific Railroad, and ran through the heart of the commercial center in Grand Island along Second Street – one block from the central business district.

Grand Island's first post office opened in 1859, just two years after the first permanent settlers arrived at "La Grande Isle." While Hall County continued to prosper throughout the 1860s and 1870s, the post office was little more than a desk

<sup>4</sup> The following historical information on Nebraska and on Hall County can be attributed to: *Hall County, Nebraska Historic Buildings Survey* (Lincoln, Nebraska: July 1995), prepared for the Nebraska State Historical Society and the State Historic Preservation Office by U.S. Research, Inc.



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Grand Island U.S. Post Office and Courthouse

Name of Property

Hall County, Nebraska

County and State

Section 8 Page 2

located in various commercial and retail establishments. From 1883 to 1910, the Grand Island post office obtained ground floor space at the G.A.R. Hall, sharing the space with a cigar factory and a cabinet works. Increasing population growth in the city necessitated a larger facility to house the U.S. Post Office and Courthouse. Grand Island was one of the last cities in Nebraska to secure an appropriation for a new post office and federal building. It was not until George W. Norris was elected as the district's congressman that money was allocated and plans were developed.

In May 1908, plans for the new Grand Island U.S. Post Office and Courthouse were delivered to Postmaster Howard C. Miller for solicitation of construction bids. Government-related buildings in Hall County reflect styles that were common in public buildings of the early twentieth century – quality materials and a display of high-style architecture. Through its architecture, the Grand Island U.S. Post Office and Courthouse reflects the turn of the century concept that federal buildings should be both monumental and attractive, while representing American democratic ideals. The estimated cost of the building was \$108,000 and construction was to be complete by December 31, 1909. The Grand Island U.S. Post Office and Courthouse was not officially opened, however, until November 26, 1910. The first floor housed the Postal Service, while the second floor accommodated the district courtroom and related court offices.

Grand Island's continued growth necessitated the design and construction of an addition for an enlarged postal workspace and additional federal offices. A two-story addition was begun in 1933 and completed in 1935.

Between 1937 and 1939, the U.S. Post Office served as Grand Island's Works Project Administration (WPA) district office headquarters. The Grand Island WPA district office, established in September 1935, was responsible for city-sponsored projects such as curb and gutter installations, county records inventory and a women's professional division specializing in sewing, rug making and quilting.<sup>5</sup> The field office of the WPA closed July 25, 1939 due to a reduction in appropriations by congress and a movement toward centralization of the WPA. Despite reduced funding, county and city improvements continued in Grand Island, including street light improvement, sidewalk construction, building construction, sewer improvement and establishment of power lines.<sup>6</sup>

Another milestone in the growth and development of Grand Island occurred when a newly constructed post office facility was completed and dedicated on September 7, 1968. Following the relocation of the Postal Service from the building, substantial renovations from 1968 – 1972 created new office space in the former postal workroom for various federal agencies. Additional renovation work in 1979 – 1980 replaced the windows, the mechanical systems and the front steps. An access ramp was added on the exterior and suspended acoustical tile ceilings in select area of the interior. Minor modifications have occurred since. Today, the Grand Island U.S. Post Office and Courthouse remains an imposing landmark in Grand Island's central business district.

**James Knox Taylor: Architect**

The Grand Island U.S. Post Office and Courthouse was designed in the Neo-Classical Revival style under the auspices of James Knox Taylor, the Supervising Architect of the Treasury Department from 1897-1912. After receiving his training, Taylor began work as a temporary draftsman in the office of the Supervising Architect in 1895. He was appointed to chief draftsman by 1897 and was appointed Supervising Architect later that same year.<sup>7</sup> During this time, America's interest in classical architecture experienced widespread growth. As Supervising Architect of the Treasury, Taylor headed a group of architects in charge of designing federally funded buildings nationwide. Taylor's office was responsible for the design plans of most small federal post office facilities, while the larger design projects were often contracted to outside, private-sector architects. During Taylor's tenure, the Federal government promoted the concept that government buildings should be monumental and beautiful, and should represent the ideals of democracy and high standards of architectural

<sup>5</sup> "Impressive Exhibit of WPA Training Program" *Grand Island Independent*, 7 November 1938, p.4.

<sup>6</sup> Felton Answers Questions with WPA Inventory" *Grand Island Independent* 16 April 1940.

<sup>7</sup> Antoinette J. Lee, *Architects to the Nation: The Rise and Decline of the Supervising Architect's Office* (Oxford: Oxford University press, 2000) 199.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

**Grand Island U.S. Post Office and Courthouse**

Name of Property

**Hall County, Nebraska**

County and State

Section 8 Page 3

sophistication in their communities.<sup>8</sup> Thus, the Grand Island U.S. Post Office and Court House reflects these turn-of-the-century ideals, representing American democratic values and local understanding of architectural styles.

From the establishment of the Office of the Supervising Architect of the Treasury in the 1850s until the 1890s, the style of Federal buildings tended to follow the favorite style of the incumbent Supervising Architect. Taylor preferred styles derived from classical or early American traditions. Believing Federal buildings should be built to last, he also emphasized the use of high quality construction materials. Civic and federal leaders thought that classical architecture would symbolize authority and culture for their growing cities and towns at the turn-of-the-century. The Neo-Classical Revival style is similar to the much earlier Greek Revival style; however, it differs by its use of elaborate classical detail, usually more permanent materials (brick, stone) and more massive scale. Architects frequently combined elements from Greek, Roman, and Italian Renaissance architecture into one design.

Government, civic institutions, and wealthy homeowners selected the style for public buildings, institutional structures, and larger residences. Businessmen did not often choose the Neo-Classical Revival style for their commercial buildings although banks were often built in the style. The Neo-Classical Revival style is identified by its use of Greek and Roman architectural elements, such as columns, pediments, and round arches. Plans and exteriors are usually symmetrical, with entrances or perhaps wings projecting from the main structure.

The Grand Island U.S. Post Office and Courthouse has served the community in the form of U.S. Post Office, Courthouse and as governmental offices from the time of its opening through present date. The building is a strong, symbolic representation of the federal presence in Grand Island and demonstrates the growth of governmental services in Grand Island. This building is a symbol of the community's development and is a landmark in the downtown commercial district.

<sup>8</sup> Beth M. Boland., *How To Apply the National Register Criteria to Post Offices*, *National Register Bulletin 13* (Washington, D.C., U.S. Department of the Interior, 1994) 3.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Grand Island U.S. Post Office and Courthouse

Name of Property

Hall County, Nebraska

County and State

Section 9 Page 1

**Bibliography**

Nebraska Post Offices which Contain Section Artwork (1938-1942) Multiple Property Submission, 1991.

Building Preservation Plan: Federal Building, Grand Island, Nebraska, NE0018ZZ, Ratio Architects, Inc., 107 S. Pennsylvania Street, Indianapolis, Indiana, 46204, prepared for the U.S. General Services Administration, 1998.

Hall County Nebraska Historic Building Survey, U.S. West Research Inc., La Crosse, Wisconsin, Lincoln, Nebraska, prepared for Nebraska State Historical Society State Historic Preservation Office, July 1995.

"In New Building; New Post Office Now Occupied by Uncle Sam," *Grand Island Independent*. 26 November 1910.

Lee, Antoinette J. Architects to the Nation: The Rise and Decline of the Supervising Architect's Office (Oxford: Oxford University press, 2000).

"Plans are Very Specific; Fine Post Office Building will be Rebuilt, to be Completed by December, 09," *Grand Island Independent*. 1 May 1909.

"WPA District Office Now in Post Office Building," *Grand Island Independent*. 30 June 1937.

"It's Official – The former Post Office Building at 208 West Second has a new sign designating the structure 'Federal Building'," *Grand Island Independent*, June 22, 1973.

'GSA Brightens Grand Island Federal Building', *The Heartland Times*, Vol. 1, No. 4, July/August 2000.

'Public-Private Partnership Unites in Restoration of the Grand Island Federal Building', U.S. GSA News Release, May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2002.

Daly, Leo, Grand Island Federal Building Lobby Restoration, Omaha and Bahr Vermeer Haecker Project Number 9912, 31<sup>st</sup> March 2000.

Buechler, A.F. and R.J. Barr, eds. *History of Hall County Nebraska*, Lincoln, Nebraska: Western Publishing and Engraving Company, 1920, p. 193-4.

A Graphic Review of Grand Island, Nebraska Third City', 1928, p.5 (just shows a photograph of the building)

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

**Grand Island U.S. Post Office and Courthouse**

Name of Property

**Hall County, Nebraska**

County and State

**Section 10 Page 1**

---

**Verbal Boundary Description**

Federal Building

203 West 2nd

Grand Island, NE. 68802 - Legal Description: Original town, LOTS 1 & 2 and EAST 44 FEET of LOT 3, BLOCK 80

**Boundary Justification**

Lots 1, 2 & 3 are the legal parcels of land that are historically associated with the property.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

**Grand Island U.S. Post Office and Courthouse**

Name of Property

**Hall County, Nebraska**

County and State

Section    photos    Page    1

**Photographs**

Grand Island Federal Building  
Grand Island County, Nebraska  
Photos By: Bailey Photography, 218 W. Second, Box 1029, Grand Island, NE 68802  
August 2003  
Negatives held with photographer

Photograph	Description of Photograph
1 of 12	Front (Second Street) Oblique
2 of 12	Front Elevation
3 of 12	Rear (South) View
4 of 12	Rear (South) view of public alley
5 of 12	East Elevation
6 of 12	Detail Second Street Entrance
7 of 12	Detail Locust Street Entrance
8 of 12	Detail of Restored Exterior Lamp Post
9 of 12	Main Interior Stairway
10 of 12	Interior View of Entry, Postal Lobby
11 of 12	Room 2-17, showing original timber window case, door case, picture rail & dado rail
12 of 12	Interior Pedimented Doorway Front (Second Street) Oblique