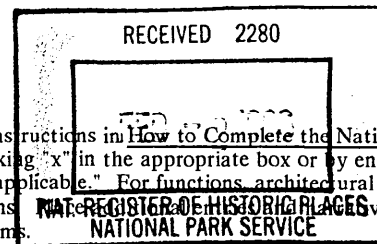


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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. For 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 Old Fremont Post Office
other names/site number Designer Secrets (NeHBS #DD05:E-002)

2. Location

street & number 605 North Broad Street not for publication
city or town Fremont vicinity
state Nebraska code NE county Dodge code 053 zip code 68025

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] Date 1/12/96
Signature of certifying official
Director, Nebraska State Historical Society
State or Federal agency and bureau

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

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

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): _____

[Signature: Edson J. Beall] Date 2/29/96
Entered in the National Register

[Signature] Date of Action
Signature of Keeper

Old Fremont Post Office
Name of Property

Dodge County, Nebraska
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Contributing	Noncontributing	
_____	_____	buildings
1		sites
_____		structures
_____		objects
1		Total

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

GOVERNMENT/post office

COMMERCE/warehouse

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

Richardsonian Romanesque

foundation STONE
walls STONE: Sandstone

roof Asphalt
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)

- 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.)

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 # _____

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions)

POLITICS/GOVERNMENT

Period of Significance
1893-1937

Significant Dates
1893

Significant Person
(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)
N/A

Cultural Affiliation
N/A

Architect/ Builder
Edbrook, W.J.

- Primary Location of Additional Data:**
- State Historic Preservation Office
 - Other State agency
 - Federal agency
 - Local government
 - University
 - Other
- Name of repository:

Old Fremont Post Office
Name of Property

Dodge County, Nebraska
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of Property Less than one acre.

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
1.	14	709000	4589870	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 Greg Miller, Historian

organization Nebraska State Historical Society date November 1995

street & number 1500 "R" Street telephone (402) 471-4787

city or town Lincoln state NE zip code 68501

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 Joan Sorensen and Cameron Cloeter

street & number 1723 Laguna Dr. telephone (402) 721-5598

city or town Fremont state NE zip code 68025

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine 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 (16 U.S.C. 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.

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Old Fremont Post Office

Name of Property

Dodge County, Nebraska

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Section 7 Page 1

Description

The Old Fremont Post Office in Fremont, Dodge County, a community in eastern Nebraska, is located at 605 North Broad Street, one block west of the Fremont Commercial Historic District (listed February, 1995). It is a one-story stone building with a raised basement and an attic. The original sandstone building was constructed in 1893-95 in the Richardsonian Romanesque style. Two historic additions were added in 1910-11 and 1936-37. Although the interior has been altered to facilitate re-use, significant features, especially on the exterior, retain a high degree of integrity. The nomination consists of one contributing building.

The original 1895 Richardsonian Romanesque style building was one-story with a raised basement and an attic. It measured 46 by 75 feet. The building was constructed of rusticated sandstone from Warrensburg, Missouri, granite steps from St. Cloud, Minnesota and had a slate roof.

The main entrance, located on the east side, is a slightly projecting pavilion with an arched doorway. Originally, the entryway had two large oak doors which have since been replaced with aluminum doors. The entrance is flanked on either side by two large rectangular windows (originally double-hung, now a fixed window system) with transoms. Above the doorway are three arched windows (again, originally double-hung, but now a fixed window system). On the south side is a smaller arched entryway for use by the public. It has the same window configuration flanking the door. Above the entrance is a wall dormer with two smaller double-hung rectangular windows.

The entrance on the west side was reserved for postal employees. It has a receiving room with a covered loading dock. On the gabled end above the receiving room are five arched double-hung windows.

The north side has seven rectangular double-hung windows with transoms. Additionally, a large chimney protrudes from the roof line. Finally, four short towers protrude from what were the corners of the original building.

The original building had a hipped roof with gabled dormers. The two additions resulted in a gabled roof extending to the west. Asphalt shingles have replaced the original slate roof.

While the interior of the building has been altered to facilitate re-use, there are some interesting historic features that still remain. The original staircase leading to the second floor remains intact. Located on the south side of the building, the woodwork of the staircase exhibits some very detailed engravings. Also, on the second floor the structural support system of a heavy timber truss sitting atop a steel truss used in the second addition is visible.

Both the 1910 and 1936-37 additions occurred on the west end. The 1910 renovation began with the removal of the west facade up to the outer most windows. The stone for the addition has the same texture as the original, but of lighter color. When completed, the new annex measured 39 by 48 feet. The addition included four large rectangular double-hung windows with transoms on the south side and three on the north.

The west side remained reserved for employees. A partially enclosed loading dock replaced the projected vestibule on this side. On each side of the entrance were two large rectangular double-hung

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Description (continued)

windows with transoms. Located immediately above the dock roof was a transom sized window. At the roof line were three double-hung arched windows. In addition, each side of the gabled roof had a rectangular skylight.

The 1936-37 addition not only extended the west wing, it also widened the north and south sides so they became flush with the original east-west facades. Although additional sandstone was required, it appears that much of the stone from the 1910 remodeling was re-used.

After completion of the addition, both the north and south sides had five large double-hung windows with transoms. The west end had a brick receiving area and covered loading dock added. There was one window on each side of the receiving area and two doors on the west facade. A roof extended past the doors. Above the roof line were five arched double-hung windows.

Statement of Significance

The Old Fremont Post Office, located in Fremont, Dodge County, Nebraska is eligible at the local level under Criterion A for its significance in the area of Politics/Government. Fremont was one of the earliest and smallest communities in Nebraska to receive a federally constructed post office. Politics traditionally played a prominent role in the location and construction of post offices and the Old Fremont Post Office is no exception. As such, this building represents a significant example of a building constructed during a period history when political influence helped dictate community improvements. The period of significance begins in 1893 when construction began and ends in 1937 which marks the last significant alteration to the building.

As in most late 19th century communities in Nebraska, Fremont's first post offices were located where the postmaster lived or worked. In 1885, U.S. Representative George Dorsey (Republican) tried to change this by introducing a bill that authorized \$100,000 for construction of a post office building in Fremont. The Democratic-controlled House of Representatives voted it down. Two years later, Rep. Dorsey again submitted the bill which the House Committee on Public Grounds and Buildings approved. President Grover Cleveland (Democrat) killed the bill stating he would veto any bill for public buildings in cities, such as Fremont, where federal court was not held. In the 1888 election, Republican Benjamin Harrison was elected president. His party also won control of the House and Senate. Dorsey, who was re-elected, quickly reintroduced the post office bill. The committee approved it, but cut the appropriation to \$60,000. The legislation passed without opposition in the House, was approved by the Senate, and signed by the President.

The fact that the post office was funded by the Republican administration is not too surprising. Politics played an integral role in post office operations well into the 20th century. In the late 19th century it lacked even some of the modest controls imposed in later years. Additionally, under this newly elected Republican congress, money was readily appropriated for pork-barrel legislation; and Harrison was more than willing to approve such projects in an attempt to reward his supporters. In fact, money was spent so freely that this session of congress became known as the "Billion-Dollar Congress" (Blum, et al, 1993, p.520).

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Old Fremont Post Office

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Section 8 Page 3

Statement of Significance (continued)

Given the political climate it is not surprising that Dorsey had little trouble getting an appropriation for the new post office. Aside from political considerations, Fremont's population more than doubled between 1880 and 1890; from 3,013 to 6,747, further helping to justify the need for a federal postal facility.

Still, by early 1893, when work began on Fremont's post office, only three other communities in Nebraska had a federal building used specifically as a post office. Lincoln (55,154), Beatrice (13,836), and Nebraska City (11,941), had considerably larger populations than Fremont in 1890. Omaha had a post office in a federal building by 1874, but it also contained other government offices. Construction of Omaha's sole-use post office building did not begin until 1893.

The 1890 census indicates that Hastings (13,584), Plattsmouth (8,392), Kearney (8,074), and Grand Island (7,536) had greater populations than Fremont. Yet none of these communities received federal post office buildings until after the turn of the century.

The initial preparation for the new Fremont post office began on November 20, 1890 when buildings were moved from the proposed site. From that point on, however, progress was slow. Bid proposals for constructing the building were not opened until November 30, 1892. On December 21, 1892, the Fremont Daily Herald announced that William T. White of St. Joseph, Missouri, was awarded the contract for the construction of the building with a bid of \$26,883. (The interior work was a separate contract). To be constructed of Warrensburg (Missouri) sandstone, Minnesota granite for the steps, and a slate roof, the completion date was set for October, 1893.

By late March or early April work had begun on the post office. Once started construction progressed rapidly. By late September plans were made to have a flag raising ceremony to dedicate the new building although it would not be ready for occupancy for some time. The ceremony, held on October 3, featured Rep. Dorsey raising the flag. According to the Fremont Daily Herald (September 27, 1893) this was most appropriate because his "efforts were largely instrumental in securing it to Fremont."

While the exterior of the building was complete the interior remained unfinished. Occasionally, the newspaper questioned why there was such a delay in letting a contract for this part of the construction. Finally, on March 1, 1894, the Fremont Daily Herald reported the bid for finishing the interior went to the firm of Charles W. Guindele of Chicago for \$12,422.

On February 5, 1895, the Fremont Post Office opened for business. The postmaster and his staff had worked through the previous night moving all the equipment and material into the new facility. Once again the Fremont Daily Herald (February 5, 1895), which cited the post office as "the pride of Fremont," indicated that it was a "Monument to the untiring work of Hon. Geo. W.E. Dorsey..."

This same newspaper article also credited the Board of Trade (similar to a Chamber of Commerce), a local merchants group, for their efforts in securing the post office. The article states that the location of the post office would be its "...permanent home until the growth of this prosperous young city has become so great that it will not accommodate it when the only change would perhaps be additions to the present building." This was not just hometown boasting by the local newspaper. Rather, city officials, business owners, and the newspaper realized that a federal post office building in Fremont would solidify the city's position as a major commercial center in the region.

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Statement of Significance (continued)

The new building was indeed a fine addition and served the community well. But Fremont's population continued to increase and this growth taxed the limited space of the post office. By 1910, Fremont recorded a population of 8,718, nearly 2,000 more than in 1890. Just as the Board of Trade had predicted 15 years earlier, the increased workload caused by this increase necessitated an addition to the building.

In the autumn of 1910, excavation began on the new wing of the post office. Located on the west side, the new addition almost doubled the size of the original building. While the work was in progress, the postmaster moved his office to the Morse Block. After completion of the addition at a cost of \$50,000, the post office re-opened on December 11, 1911.

Through the 1920s, Fremont's population continued to grow; and by 1930, it was listed at 11,047. Once again the business community, now represented by the Chamber of Commerce, saw the need to keep pace with its increasing prosperity. In 1931, they initiated attempts to get a new post office building. The Postal Service, however, did not act on the request until 1936. At that time it determined another addition was needed rather than a new building. The final plan called for an addition on the west end. Also, the north and south facades of the previous addition were to be expanded outward so they would be flush with the original building. In August the V. Ray Gould Co. of Omaha was awarded the project for \$72,950. Work started the next month and was completed in May, 1937.

The Old Fremont Post Office is unique given the date of its original construction relative to the size of the town. Only three other federally constructed sole-use post office buildings had been constructed during this period in Nebraska; and all were in communities that had populations that were nearly double that of Fremont's. At the same time, excluding Omaha, there were four other communities larger than Fremont that did not have a federally constructed post office until after the turn of the century. This indicates that Fremont received its post office through political maneuvering, and not because of a recognized need.

Congressman Dorsey had two legislative efforts to construct a post office in Fremont defeated by Democratic administrations. However, when the Republicans came to power in 1888, Dorsey's resubmittal was quickly passed as Congress and the President were anxious to have special interest projects approved to reward their supporters. The prominent role played by Congressman Dorsey in attaining the post office is evident by the fact that on two different occasions the Fremont Daily Herald (September 27, 1893 and February 5, 1895) newspaper recognized him for being "largely instrumental" in bringing the post office to Fremont and, in fact, it was a "Monument to the untiring work...of Dorsey." These facts indicate the role of political considerations in the selection of post office sites in this era. This building is a significant example of the effect politics (and government) had on the site selection of important federally funded projects.

Although it was ultimately Congressman Dorsey, working at the federal level that brought the post office to Fremont, the supporting efforts of the Board of Trade and later the Chamber of Commerce should not be overlooked. Businesspeople realized that having a federal post office building located near the commercial district would certainly translate into an increase in trade. The resulting expansion in pedestrian traffic would help ensure the continued economic growth of the business community and of Fremont itself.

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Statement of Significance (continued)

The Old Fremont Post Office is eligible at the local level under Criterion A for significance in the area of Politics/Government. Given the size of Fremont, the scarcity of Federally constructed post offices in Nebraska and the political atmosphere that existed it appears conclusive politics was a deciding factor in the construction of this building. As such, this building represents a significant example of a building constructed during a period when political influence helped dictate community improvements.

Bibliography

Blum, John, et al. The National Experience: A History of the United States. New York: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1993.

Cullinam, Gerald. The Post Office Department. New York: Frederick A. Praeger, 1968.

Fuller, Wayne E. The American Mail: Enlarger of the Common Life. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 1972.

Scheele, Carl H. A Short History of the Mail Service. Washington: Smithsonian Institution Press, 1970.

Newspapers

Fremont Daily Herald

Fremont Daily Tribune

Verbal Boundary Description

East 22 feet of lot 6, south 126 feet of lots 7 and 8, block 126 of the Original Town.

Boundary Justification

The boundary contains that parcel of land which has historically been associated with the property.