

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED SEP 17 1981

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

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

United States Post Office

AND/OR COMMON

United States Post Office

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

2401 Central Avenue

— NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Kearney

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Third

STATE

Nebraska

— VICINITY OF

CODE

COUNTY

Buffalo

CODE

**3 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
			<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**4 AGENCY**

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: *(If applicable)*

United States Postal Service

STREET & NUMBER

475 L'Enfant Plaza, SW

CITY, TOWN

Washington, D.C. 20260

STATE

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Buffalo County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Kearney

STATE

Nebraska

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Nebraska Historic Buildings Survey

DATE

On-going (Site #BF05-169)

— FEDERAL  STATE — COUNTY — LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Nebraska State Historical Society

CITY, TOWN

Lincoln

STATE

Nebraska

## 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED    DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Post Office at Kearney is a Neo-Classical Revival building, (simpler in comparison to other styles of the time), completed in 1911. Greek orders were usually used. The building is constructed of stone blocks on foundation stone. Granite stairs lead to the entrances at the west and south sides of the building. The main exterior architectural features of the building are its Heroic Tuscan Columns, parapet wall with balustrade openings above the entablature. A commanding entablature including a cornice featuring modillions and dentils over a plain frieze with the engraved words "United States Post Office". Roof lines are typically flat with no sculpture. No tendency to multiple angles and projections. Plain wall surface is common. Windows and doorways are lintelled rather than arched. First floor windows and doorways have a molded architrave and pronounced lintels with cornice. Doorway lintels are supported by ancones (brackets) on either side. A band of fret work is located above the lintels. Principle interior features are the marble lobby walls, marble stairs and oak rails leading to the second floor, and marble window trim. The main floor has approximately 18' high ceilings. The lobby floor is of terrazzo and marble.

Many changes have been made to the building. The revolving doors have been replaced with modern metal and glass entrance doors. A vestibule has also been installed at the west entrance. The exterior lamp posts now have electric lighting. The original built-in lobby tables have been removed along with the light fixtures which were located above the tables. Original pendulum clocks have been replaced with electric clocks. A major addition to the building was constructed in the mid-1950's. This addition provided more space for a carrier room, new dock, and inspection galleries. The new addition was constructed of brick and block, and it does not match the original materials or architecture. A previous door opening in the original building was closed in with brick and the foundation was changed under the opening.

Only minor architectural changes have been made to the building since its completion in 1911. Major of these is a rather unobtrusive mid-1950's brick addition to the rear (east) which provided space for an expanded carrier room, dock facilities and inspection galleries. Original interior furnishings have been removed and a new entrance-interior vestibule has replaced the original revolving door at the main west entrance.

# 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 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 type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES	1911	BUILDER/ARCHITECT	U. S. Treasury Department James Knox Taylor
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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Post Office at Kearney is an example of Neo-Classical Revival architecture, characterized by symmetrical facade. The building is reported to be the oldest one of its type in the City of Kearney. The building was completed in 1911 at an estimated cost of \$183,843.00. Records show that the building was built by the Northwestern Construction Company of Wahpeton, North Dakota. The Supervising Architect for the construction project was James Knox Taylor, U. S. Treasury Department. A faded cornerstone at the northwest corner of the building bears the name of Mr. Taylor along with that of Franklin MacVeigh, Secretary of the Treasury. The cornerstone also bears the date 1909, which was apparently the year the building construction was approved.

The architecture of this building is of some significance according to a local architect. This architecture has been somewhat spoiled by changes to the building since its original construction, however, the exterior of the building facing Central Avenue generally remains as it was in 1911. The building front offers a good example of the original architecture.

The United States Post Office Building in Kearney is a fine example of the Neo-Classical Revival style which was popular across America during the first three decades of the twentieth century. The style received considerable impetus from the various expositions which were sponsored across the country during this period following a model established by the World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago in 1893. The Kearney example is well-developed if somewhat more modest in scale than the major monuments of the style. Locally, however, the building is a major landmark, a distinctive produce of the style and worthy of preservation.

Additionally, the building is significant for its associations with architect James Knox Taylor (1857 - 1929). Born in Illinois, his education and early practice was conducted in St. Paul, Minnesota. In 1895 he entered the office of Supervising Architect as a senior draftsman and in 1897 became the Supervising Architect of the U. S. Treasury. Taylor was responsible for several fine government buildings in Nebraska during his distinguished career including the completion of the U. S. Government Building for the Trans-Mississippi and International Exposition of 1898 in Omaha.

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES -- See Continuation Sheet**

Mr. Rex Helleberg, Architect, Kearney, Nebraska  
 Dr. Frank Raasch, Dentist and local historian, Kearney, Nebraska  
 Construction Files, Post Office, Kearney, Nebraska  
 Mr. Dave Murphy, Nebraska State Historical Society, Lincoln, Nebraska  
 Mr. John Schmidt, Design & Construction Office, U. S. Postal Service  
 Mr. Harold Asner, Real Estate Office, U. S. Postal Service

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY .358

UTM REFERENCES U.S.G.S. Kearney, Nebr., 1:24,000

A	14	493150	451051210	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: Lots 12, 13, 14 and the west 5 feet of Lot 15, southwest quarter of School Section Addition to Kearney Junction, now the City of Kearney, Buffalo County, Nebraska

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

Diana K. Adams, Realty Management & Acquisition Analyst January 30, 1981

ORGANIZATION

U. S. Postal Service, Field Real Estate & Buildings Office

STREET & NUMBER

5700 Broadmoor, Suite 920

CITY OR TOWN

Mission

TELEPHONE

913-262-2965

STATE

Kansas 66202

**12 CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION**

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

YES  NO  NONE

Marion O. Kinnett  
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 David L. Warner

TITLE David L. Warner  
Federal Preservation Officer

DATE August 12, 1981

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

William A. Braubach DATE 9.17.81

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST: for Acting DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Haynes, James B. History of the Trans-Mississippi and International Exposition of 1898. Omaha: Published under the direction of the Committee on History, 1910.

Howell, Alice (President, Buffalo County Historical Society). "United States Post Office--BF05-169", Nebraska Historical Sites Survey Form, May 23, 1980.

Whiffen, Marcus. American Architecture Since 1780: A Guide to the Styles. Cambridge: The M.I.T. Press, 1969.

Withey, Henry F. and Elsie Rathburn Withey. Biographical Dictionary of American Architects (Deceased). Los Angeles: Hennessey & Ingalls, Inc., 1970, p 592.