### UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS US			
OCCEN/ED			

STATE

STATE

FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

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#### **2** LOCATION STREET & NUMBER 2401 Central Avenue NOT FOR PUBLICATION CITY, TOWN CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT Third Kearney VICINITY OF CODE STATE COUNTY CODE **Buffalo** Nebraska **3 CLASSIFICATION** X OWNERSHIP CATEGORY STATUS PRESENT USE X OCCUPIED DISTRICT AGRICULTURE MUSEUM

N.				
LBUILDING(S)	PRIVATE	UNOCCUPIED	COMMERCIAL	PARK
STRUCTURE	вотн	WORK IN PROGRESS	EDUCATIONAL	PRIVATE RESIDENCE
SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	ENTERTAINMENT	RELIGIOUS
OBJECT	IN PROCESS	YES: RESTRICTED	XGOVERNMENT	SCIENTIFIC
	BEING CONSIDERED	X_YES: UNRESTRICTED	INDUSTRIAL	TRANSPORTATION
		NO	MILITARY	OTHER:

## **4** AGENCY

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (If applicable) United States Postal Service

STREET & NUMBER

475 L'Enfant Plaza, SW CITY, TOWN

Washington, D.C. 20260 --- VICINITY OF

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION** 

COURTHOUSE.

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Buffalo County Courthouse STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOW	VN				·····		STA
			Kear	rney	/		Nebraska
6 REPH	RESEN	TA	TION	IN	EXIST	ING SURVE	EYS
TITLE				•	<b>- - - - - - - - - -</b>		

Nebras	ska Historic Buildings	Survey
DATE On-going	(Site #BF05-169)	FEDERAL X_STATECOUNTYLOCAL
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS	Nebraska State Histo	rical Society
CITY, TOWN		STATE
Linco	oln	Nebraska



CONDITI	ON <sup>1</sup>	CHECK ONE	CHECK O	NE
excellent X_good fair	DETERIORATED RUINS UNEXPOSED	UNALTERED X_ALTERED	ORIGINAL	SITE DATE

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	AR	EAS OF SIGNIFICANCE CH	ECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW	
PREHISTORIC	ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	COMMUNITY PLANNING	LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	RELIGION
1400-1499	ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	CONSERVATION	LAW	SCIENCE
_1500-1599	AGRICULTURE	ECONOMICS	LITERATURE	SCULPTURE
1600-1699	ARCHITECTURE	EDUCATION	MILITARY	SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
_1700-1799	ART	ENGINEERING	MUSIC	-THEATER
$\frac{1800-1899}{V}$	COMMERCE	EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	PHILOSOPHY	TRANSPORTATION
<u>X</u> 1900-	COMMUNICATIONS	INDUSTRY	POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	_OTHER (SPECIEV)
		_INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES	1911	BUILDER/ARCHITECT	U. S.	Treasury	Department	
	1911	BUIEDEN/ARCHIICCI	James	Knox Tay	lor	
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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 that 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.

Mr. Rex Helleberg, Architect, Kearney, Nebraska         Dr. Frank Raasch, Dentist and local historian, Kearney, Nebraska         Mr. John Schnidt, Design & Construction Office, U. S. Postal Service         Mr. John Schnidt, Design & Construction Office, U. S. Postal Service         Mr. Harold Asner, Real Estate Office, U. S. Postal Service         Mr. Harold Asner, Real Estate Office, U. S. Postal Service         Mr. Harold Asner, Real Estate Office, U. S. Postal Service         Mr. Harold Asner, Real Estate Office, U. S. Postal Service         Mr. Harold Asner, Real Estate Office, U. S. Postal Service         Mr. Harold Asner, Real Estate Office, U. S. Postal Service         Mr. Harold Asner, Real Estate Office, U. S. Postal Service         Mr. Harold Asner, Real Estate Office, U. S. Postal Service         Mr. Harold Asner, Real Estate Office, U. S. Postal Service         Mr. Harold Asner, Real Estate State Office, U. S. Postal Service, Field Real Estate & Buildings Office         State       Code         Optimum State Historical Sector Property Intermote         State Historical Sector Properties Overlapping State Office         State       Code         State       Code         Optimum State Historical Sector       Date         Ust All States And Counties FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES         State       Code         State Historical Sector	9 MAJOR B	IBLIOGRAPHI				action once	-
Mr. John Schnidt, Design & Construction Office, U. S. Postal Service         Mr. Harold Asner, Real Estate Office, U. S. Postal Service         Mr. Harold Asner, Real Estate Office, U. S. Postal Service         Mr. Harold Asner, Real Estate Office, U. S. Postal Service         Mr. Harold Asner, Real Estate Office, U. S. Postal Service         Mr. Harold Asner, Real Estate Office, U. S. Postal Service         Mr. Harold Asner, Real Estate Office, U. S. Postal Service         Mr. Harold Asner, Real Estate Office, U. S. Postal Service         Mr. Harold Asner, Real Estate Office, U. S. Postal Service         Mr. Harold Asner, Real Estate Office, U. S. Postal Service         Mr. Harold Asner, Real Estate Office, U. S. Postal Service         Mr. Harold Asner, Real Estate State Office, U. S. Postal Service, Field Real Estate & Buildings Office         State       Code         Mark Adams, Realty Management & Acquisition Analyst.       January 30, 1981         ORGAMERATION       U. S. Postal Service, Field Real Estate & Buildings Office         State Mission       Kansas G6/02         CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION       State Mission Kansas G6/02         Mission       Kansas G6/02         CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION       State Mission Kansas G6/02         Mission       Kansas G6/02         CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION VESCANDER OFFICE MISSINGENCONCERCENTER MISSING MICHARDER State Review	Dr. Frank	Raasch, Dentist	and local h	nistorian, Kea		ska	
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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         UIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES         STATE       CODE         STATE       CODE         OBEANIZATION       CODE         OBEANIZATION       Date         U. S. Postal Service, Field Real Estate & Buildings Office         STATE       CODE         OBEANIZATION       Date         U. S. Postal Service, Field Real Estate & Buildings Office         STATE       CODE         OBEANIZATION       State         Mission       Kansas 66202         If FORM PREPARED BY       NONE         NAME/ITLE       January 30, 1981         ORGANIZATION       Date         U. S. Postal Service, Field Real Estate & Buildings Office         STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION         YES				ZONE E	ASTING	NORTHING	 
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STREET & NUMBER       TELEPHONE         5700 Broadmoor, Suite 920       913-262-2965         CITY OR TOWN       STATE         Mission       Kansas 66202         Image: CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION         STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION         YES       NO         NO         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 evaluate level-of-significance with Executive SignAture         FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE	I FORM PR	EPARED BY	CODE	COUNTY	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	co	DE
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# FOR NPS USE ONLY RECEIVED

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

DATE ENTERED SEP 1 7 1981

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

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- Whiffen, Marcus. <u>American Architecture Since 1780</u>: <u>A Guide to the Styles</u>. Cambridge: The M.I.T. Press, 1969.
- Withey, Henry F. and Elsie Rathburn Withey. <u>Biographical Dictionary of American</u> Architects (Deceased). Los Angeles: Hennessey & Ingalls, Inc., 1970, p 592.