

Site Inventory Form
State Historical Society of Iowa
 (November 2005)

State Inventory No. 29-03658 New Supplemental
 Part of a district with known boundaries (enter inventory no.) 26-03685
 Relationship: Contributing Noncontributing
 Contributes to a potential district with yet unknown boundaries
 National Register Status:(any that apply) Listed De-listed NHL DOE
 9-Digit SHPO Review & Compliance (R&C) Number _____
 Non-Extant (enter year) _____

1. Name of Property

historic name Post Office
 other names/site number Federal Building, Downtown Survey Map # DT-21

2. Location

street & number 300 N. Main St
 city or town Burlington vicinity, county Des Moines
 Legal Description:(If Rural) Township Name _____ Township No. _____ Range No. _____ Section _____ Quarter of Quarter _____
 (If Urban) Subdivision Original City Block(s) _____ Lot(s) 85, 86, 87, 49, 50, 51, 52

3. State/Federal Agency Certification [Skip this Section]

4. National Park Service Certification [Skip this Section]

5. Classification

Category of Property (Check only one box)	Number of Resources within Property		
	If Non-Eligible Property	If Eligible Property, enter number of:	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Enter number of:	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> district	— buildings	<u>1</u>	— buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> site	— sites	—	— sites
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	— structures	—	— structures
<input type="checkbox"/> object	— objects	—	— objects
	— Total	<u>1</u>	— Total

Name of related project report or multiple property study (Enter "N/A" if the property is not part of a multiple property examination).
 Title Intensive Level Historical and Architectural Survey of "East" Downtown Burlington, IA *Historical Architectural Data Base Number* 29-034

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)	Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)
<u>04F: Post office</u>	<u>04F: Post office</u>
<u>04E: Government office</u>	
_____	_____

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)	Materials (Enter categories from instructions)
<u>08: Modern</u>	foundation <u>10B: Concrete/Poured</u>
_____	walls (visible material) <u>03: Brick</u>
_____	roof _____
_____	other _____

Narrative Description (SEE CONTINUATION SHEETS, WHICH MUST BE COMPLETED)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" representing your opinion of eligibility after applying relevant National Register criteria)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> More Research Recommended	A Property is associated with significant events.
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> More Research Recommended	B Property is associated with the lives of significant persons.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> More Research Recommended	C Property has distinctive architectural characteristics.
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> More Research Recommended	D Property yields significant information in archaeology or history.

County Des Moines Address 300 N. Main Street Site Number 29-03658
City Burlington District Number 29-03685

Criteria Considerations

- A Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B Removed from its original location.
- C A birthplace or 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.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

02: Architecture
26: Politics/Government

Significant Dates

Construction date 1958 check if circa or estimated date
Other dates, including renovation _____

Significant Person

(Complete if National Register Criterion B is marked above)

Architect/Builder

Architect Dane D. Morgan and Associates
Builder _____

Narrative Statement of Significance (SEE CONTINUATION SHEETS, WHICH MUST BE COMPLETED)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography See continuation sheet for citations of the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form

10. Geographic Data

UTM References (OPTIONAL)

Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	_____	_____	2	_____	_____
3	_____	_____	4	_____	_____

See continuation sheet for additional UTM references or comments

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kristin Lample and Barb Mackey, volunteers Rebecca L. McCarley, consultant, Davenport
organization Burlington Historic Preservation Commission date December 17, 2012
street & number City Hall, 400 Washington Street telephone 319-753-8158
city or town Burlington state Iowa zip code 52601

ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION (Submit the following items with the completed form)

FOR ALL PROPERTIES

- Map:** showing the property's location in a town/city or township.
- Site plan:** showing position of buildings and structures on the site in relation to public road(s).
- Photographs:** representative black and white photos. If the photos are taken as part of a survey for which the Society is to be curator of the negatives or color slides, a photo/catalog sheet needs to be included with the negatives/slides and the following needs to be provided below on this particular inventory site:

Roll/slide sheet #	_____	Frame/slot #	_____	Date Taken	_____
Roll/slide sheet #	_____	Frame/slot #	_____	Date Taken	_____
Roll/slide sheet #	_____	Frame/slot #	_____	Date Taken	_____

See continuation sheet or attached *photo & slide catalog sheet* for list of photo roll or slide entries.

Photos/illustrations without negatives are also in this site inventory file.

FOR CERTAIN KINDS OF PROPERTIES, INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING AS WELL

- Farmstead & District:** (List of structures and buildings, known or estimated year built, and contributing or noncontributing status)
- Barn:**
 - A sketch of the frame/truss configuration in the form of drawing a typical middle bent of the barn.
 - A photograph of the loft showing the frame configuration along one side.
 - A sketch floor plan of the interior space arrangements along with the barn's exterior dimensions in feet.

State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) Use Only Below This Line

Concur with above survey opinion on National Register eligibility: Yes No More Research Recommended
 This is a locally designated property or part of a locally designated district.

Comments: _____

Evaluated by (name/title): _____ Date: _____

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7. Narrative Description

This post office in downtown Burlington was built in 1958, and it appears largely unaltered since construction. The building massing consists of a two-story red brick section along Main Street on the west and a two-story brick section along Jefferson Street on the south with a taller intersecting limestone section at the junction adjacent to the corner shorter entry section. This massing and design strongly reflects design ideals of the 1950s and 1960s. The corner entry section has a recessed glass wall with aluminum framed windows and glass double-door entry on the south/Jefferson side, and a vertical set of aluminum framed windows on the west/Main side, immediately adjacent to the brick section. Aluminum letters forming the sign on the west/Main side note "Federal Building, United States Post Office, Burlington, Iowa, 52601. The side wall of the recessed entry area has carved "United States of America, Dwight D. Eisenhower, President, 1958." The taller corner section has a vertical band of windows. The two brick sections on the west and south sides are similar in design. The first story has a band of horizontal aluminum windows with limestone between each set of windows and limestone trim around the windows. The west side has a recessed side entry at the north end, also trimmed in limestone. The second story has a shorter band of horizontal aluminum window, also trimmed in limestone with a limestone column between each set. These window bands emphasize the horizontal lines of these sections in contrast with the vertical lines of the corner blocks. The cornice also has a simple limestone band. The north side has a window near the center of each story, and the limestone cornice band continues on this side. The rear of the building is mostly one story, featuring a loading platform with ten roll-up freight doors. The east/rear side of the south two-story brick section has a loading dock on the first story, with a rear entry through a passage with a brick wall. The corner of the building has a vertical band of windows with an entry at the base. The second story of the remaining portion of this section has a band of horizontal windows, 4 by 6. The remainder of the east/rear is one-story brick sections, with additional loading docks across the building.

8. Narrative Statement of Significance

The Post Office, or Federal Building, appears to contribute historically and architecturally to the potential Downtown Commercial Historic District. The post office was historically located within the downtown at Valley and 4th, moving to a new building in this location at Main and Jefferson in 1958. The post office served the downtown businesses for contact with local and out-of-town clients, as well as shipping smaller products. The modern architecture for the building reflected the move in the 1950s to improve the old downtown with modern designs, reflected in new bank buildings built immediately to the west and south of the post office as well. This modern design reflects many classic design ideals of this period, and the integrity appears very high. As such, the Post Office appears likely individually eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C for its modern architectural design. Further assessment of the interior of the building would solidify this determination.

The process of building the new federal building and post office on this site spanned several decades. The new post office was authorized in 1937 to replace the 1896 post office at Valley and 4th streets. The original portion of property for the project (Lot 86, west ½ of alley on east side) was acquired from Joseph Miller by the United States Federal Government in 1941 through a condemnation decree. In

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1942, an article noted that construction of new building was on hold due to the war - "Visions of a beautiful building with proper landscaping on this prominent downtown corner are possible" ("We Couldn't Get Along Without a Post Office," *Hawk-Eye Gazette*, August 4, 1942, sec 1, p 19). The lot was cleared and used for downtown parking for several years. The city expanded the government's lot used for parking at the corner to include the full half block to the east in early 1952, demolishing a gas station. The land was then held for use in the future post office plan ("Parking Space for 112 Cars," *Hawk-Eye*, January 31, 1952, 2). The 1952 Sanborn map shows parking lots through this area.

In 1955, construction of a post office building with federal offices on this site was authorized. Local architect Dane D. Morgan and Associates was hired for the design, which was accepted by the General Services Administration in June 1956. In April 1957, the United States purchased the south 41' 4" of Lot 85 from R.G. & Marjorie Kriechbaum via warranty deed. The northeast fractional part of Lot 85, owned by Albert Wiedemann, was the subject of a "Declaration of Taking" by the U.S. government in June 1958. Other small portions of lots 85, 86 and 87 were acquired during the time of construction and afterward. The architect's plans included a two story section L-shaped along Main and Jefferson, with the remaining one-story section filling in much of the block. The corner would be marked by a two-story tower clad in limestone, housing the stairs and a shaft for a future elevator. The reinforced concrete building would be clad in brick, with limestone trim around the aluminum windows. The design is "essentially functional in character." The post office would occupy the first story with public lobbies along the Main Street side, and several federal offices would be located on the second story – Civil Service Commission and Departments of Agriculture, Defense, Justice, Treasury, and Health, Education, and Welfare. The estimated cost of the project was \$1,328,000 ("Government Okays New Post Office Design," *Burlington Hawk-Eye Gazette*, July 30, 1956, page 1). The contract was awarded and construction spanned over a year. The date on the building is 1958. The first city directory that lists the post office at this location is 1960. In that year, an elevator was installed in the tower, a feature that was planned for in the original design. Kale-Wagner Elevator Service installed the elevator and Carl A. Nelson Co., completed the work at a cost of \$37,998. Both companies were based in Burlington ("Elevator for Federal Bldg.," *Burlington Hawk-Eye*, September 14, 1960, page 1).

The upper story of the building housed federal government offices. The 1963 city directory contains listings at this address for various offices of the Departments of Agriculture, Defense, Health, Justice and Treasury. The 1965 directory added the Department of Labor, Wage and Hour Division. The Federal Bureau of Investigation, General Services Administration and Internal Revenue Service also had offices on the second floor. This remained the location of most of the area's federal offices for a quarter of a century, but by the late 1990s most of these had ceased to exist or had moved to other locations. The upper story of the building is currently used by the postal service for storage and the postal inspection office. The post office for Burlington continues to be located in this building.

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9. Major Bibliographical References

City Directories, Burlington, Iowa, various dates. On microfiche at the Burlington Public Library

Deed records, per transfer books at Des Moines County Auditor's Office.

Downtown Partners, Inc., a Division of the Greater Burlington Partnership, Burlington, Iowa. Collection of collected historic photographs of downtown Burlington.

Newspapers, various titles and editions. Particular special editions utilized:

- Burlington Evening Gazette*, March 24, 1906
- Daily Hawk-Eye Gazette*, September 2, 1938
- Burlington Hawk-Eye Gazette*, August 4, 1942
- Burlington Hawk-Eye*, July 10, 1962
- Burlington Hawk-Eye*, July 4, 1976

Sanborn Map Company. "Burlington, Iowa," Fire Insurance Maps. New York: Sanborn Map Company, 1886, 1892, 1900, 1931, 1952.

Vertical files. Files on business/industry as well as individual businesses. Burlington Public Library, Burlington, Iowa.

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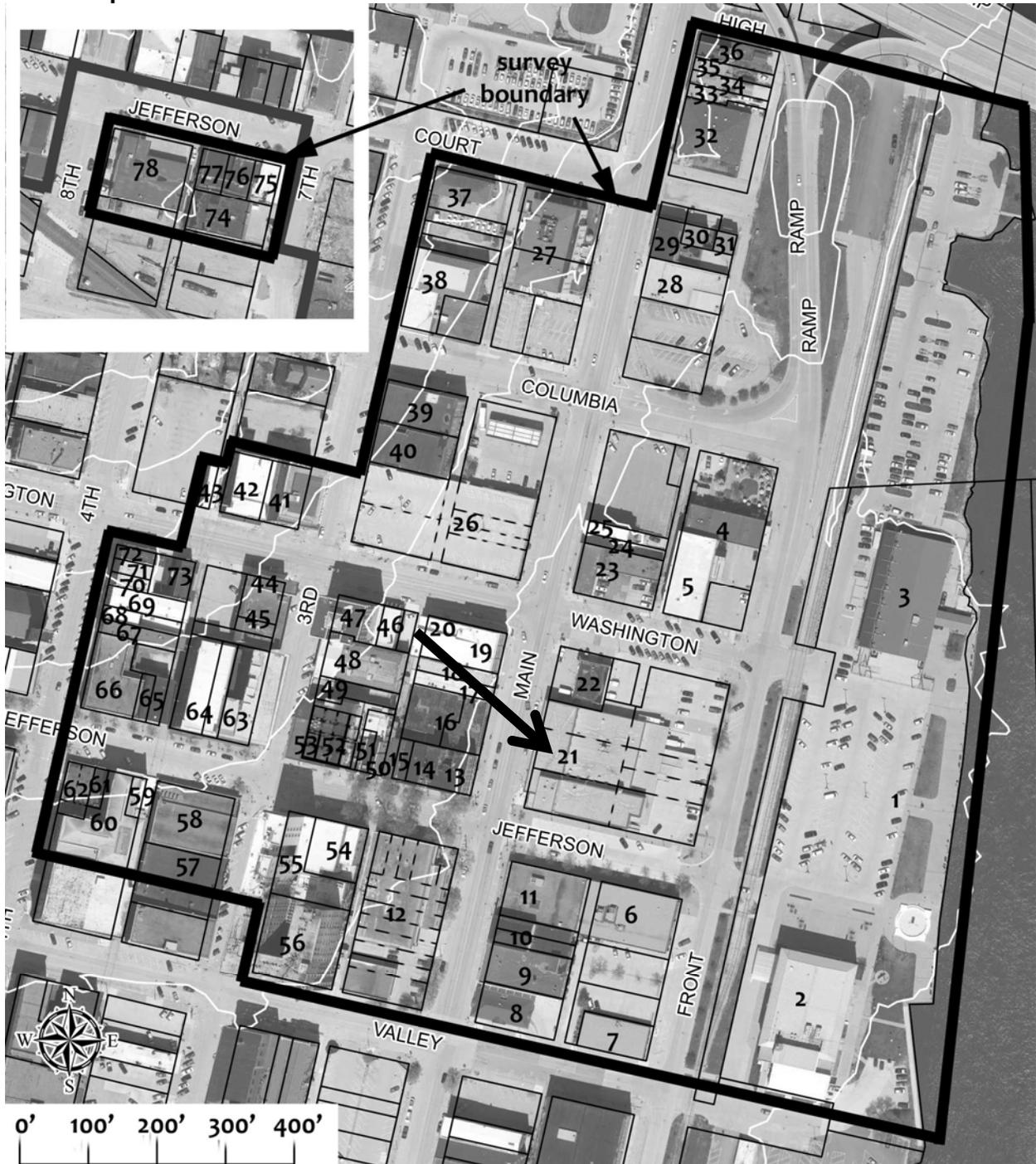
Post Office
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Location map



Base aerial photography by Aerial Services Inc for Des Moines County GIS Commission, March 2010.

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Building plan (from assessor's website)



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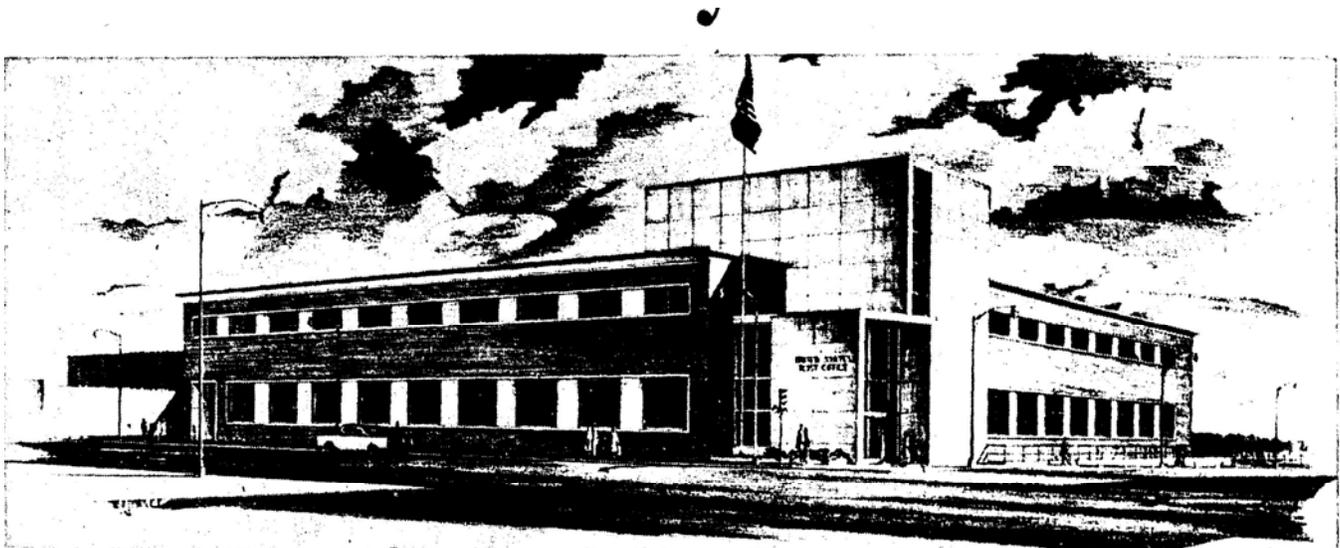
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Historic images



A CONTEMPORARY DESIGN for the new United States postoffice at Burlington has been accepted by the General Services Administration. The architect's rendering of the building shown here was made by Dane D. Morgan and Associates of Burlington who have been engaged as architects for the project. The \$1,328,000 building, authorized under the purchase contract program and approved last year, will be advertised for construction and financing bids soon.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

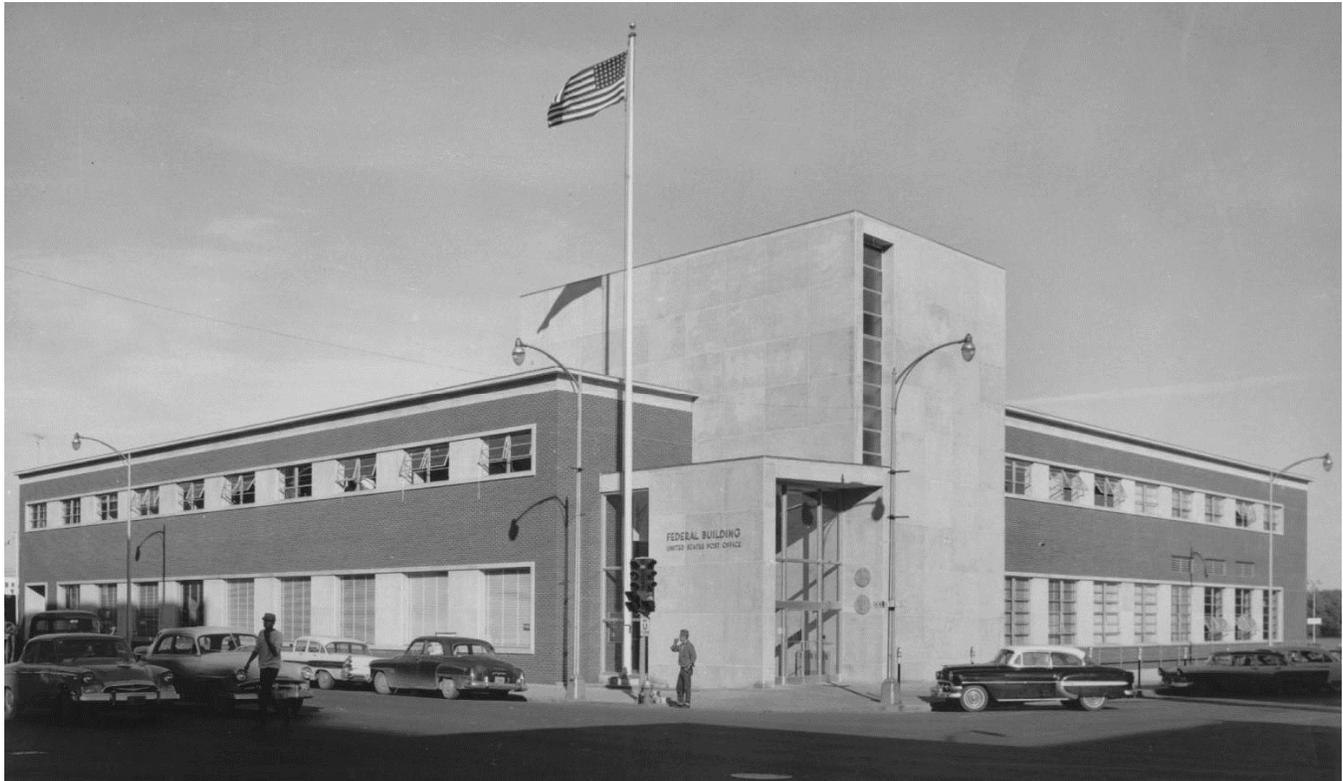
Architect rendering of proposed design (*HawkEye*, July 30, 1956, 1)

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View of building from soon after completion (Downtown Partners collection).

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Digital photographs



Photograph 29-03658-001 – West and south elevations, looking nrotheast (McCarley, June 20, 2012)

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Photograph 29-03658-002 – Detail at entry on south elevation, looking east (McCarley, June 20, 2012)

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Photograph 29-03658-003 – South and east elevations, looking northwest (McCarley, June 20, 2012)

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Photograph 29-03658-004 – North and west elevations, looking southeast (McCarley, June 20, 2012)

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Photograph 29-03658-005 – East (rear) and north elevations, looking southwest (McCarley, June 20, 2012)