

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 APR 17 1987

DATE ENTERED MAY 19 1987

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

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Lander Main Post Office & Courthouse

AND/OR COMMON

Lander Main Post Office

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

177 North Third Street

NA NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Lander

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

NA VICINITY OF

NA

STATE

Wyoming 82520

CODE

056

COUNTY

Fremont

CODE

013

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

**CATEGORY**

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT
- Thematic Group

**OWNERSHIP**

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED
- NA

**STATUS**

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

**PRESENT USE**

- AGRICULTURE
- MUSEUM
- COMMERCIAL
- PARK
- EDUCATIONAL
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- ENTERTAINMENT
- RELIGIOUS
- GOVERNMENT
- SCIENTIFIC
- INDUSTRIAL
- TRANSPORTATION
- MILITARY
- OTHER:

**4 AGENCY**

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: *(if applicable)*

United States Postal Service, Western Regional Headquarters

STREET & NUMBER

850 Cherry Avenue

CITY, TOWN

San Bruno

NA VICINITY OF

STATE

California 94099

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Fremont County Assessor's Office

STREET & NUMBER

Box 2

CITY, TOWN

Lander

STATE

Wyoming 82520

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Lander Downtown Historic District

DATE

April 4, 1984

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

City of Lander/183 South 4th Street

CITY, TOWN

Lander

STATE

Wyoming

## 7 DESCRIPTION

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

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

Characteristic of the Second Renaissance design style and nonumental in scale, the Lander Post Office and Courthouse is symmetrically arranged with a three bay central salient flanked by single bay wings. Center-pointed radiating voussoired arches of brick frame the centered entry and flanking window bays of the central salient. Two-story semicircular-arched windows, aligned over the first floor bays, provide a strongly vertical emphasis to the front facade. The end wings contain single window bays on each of the floors - a center-point radiating arch on the first, a flat-arched window vertically-emphasized on the second, and a smaller flat-arched square window on the third. Horizontal rustication of the first floor, rusticated corners on the central salient, and a projecting molded cornice topped by a balustraded parapet provide additional detail. The roof is flat, built-up tar composition. With the exception to the addition of an enclosed stairwell (brick) to the south facade and the enclosure of the rear loading platform, the building is unaltered.

### PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Lander Post Office is three stories in height on a raised basememt. The basement is constructed of concrete and brick. Structural steel and concrete frame the upper stories. Exterior facing includes buff-colored brick with granite, limestone and terra cotta detailing. The roof is flat, built-up tar composition.

The front facade (east) is symmetrical and dominated by a slightly projecting central salient. Three bays divide the facade's central salient, while the flanking wings each contain a single bay. The exposed basement wall is faced with granite which, in turn, supports a limestone belt course. Buff-colored brick, rusticated horizontally, faces the first floor. A molded belt course of limestone divides the rustication of the first floor and the flat brick face of the second and third floor. The corners of the central section are defined by rusticated brick quoins which are exaggerated in their horizontal extension. A plain brick frieze with wrought iron grille insets aligned over the window bays is delineated by upper and lower molded limestone belt courses. The projecting limestone cornice which

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

SPECIFIC DATES Site Acquisition - 1907  
 Building Completed - 1912

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Federal Government/James Knox Taylor, OSA

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Lander Post Office and Courthouse is an outstanding example of a combined post office, U.S. court and federal office building in the Second Renaissance Revival mode. True to the Beaux-Arts design philosophy of the Office of Supervising Architect in the early years of the century, the monumental building is richly detailed and finely crafted. As one of the most imposing buildings and the only example of its design type in the city, the Lander Post Office is a dominant downtown landmark. The city's first federally constructed post office, it also symbolizes federal recognition of the towns growth and regional importance.

### ARCHITECTURE

The building is a well-preserved example of the Beaux-Arts design philosophy of the federal architects of the first two decades of the century. Although the design is typical of the period, it is well-executed in detailing and craftsmanship. And, in the context of Wyoming, it is the only example of its design type in a post office. The formalism of the rigid symmetry and monumentalism of the projected central salient provide a dignified and imposing demeanor befitting a building that houses federal courts. The building is the only example of the Second Renaissance Revival design in the city as well as being the most prominent building in the downtown business core. Finally, it is the one of the few remaining public buildings from Lander's early growth period. Because of its design type and quality, the Lander Post Office is locally significant under Criterion C.

### POLITICS AND GOVERNMENT

As the city's first federal building, it secured the position of Lander as a host to federal activities in the west-central area of Wyoming. The building came during the city's most significant growth period and is a legacy of the federal government's recognition of the city's regional importance. The securing of appropriations for the build-

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

1. Webber, Nancy A.P., "Lander Downtown Historic District", April 30, 1984.
2. Ault, Aleta, Lois Ewers, Pearl Gee and Edwin Henderson, "Lander", Fremont County and Its Communities. 1952. pp. 81-89.
3. The Wyoming State Journal (Lander), various articles 1908-1912.

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 0.47

UTM REFERENCES

A	12	61851490	471441670	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Lot, 1,2,3,4, & 5, Block 16, Original Town Of Lander

The site is rectangular with 150 feet of frontage along Third Street (eastern boundary) and a depth of 150 feet with frontage along Lincoln Street (northern boundary).

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
NA	NA	NA	NA
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
NA	NA	NA	NA

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

H.J. "Jim" Kolva, Senior Associate

ORGANIZATION

Institute for Urban and Local Studies

DATE

April 1986

STREET & NUMBER

W. 705 1st Avenue

TELEPHONE

(509) 458-6219

CITY OR TOWN

Spokane

STATE

WA 99204

## 12 CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

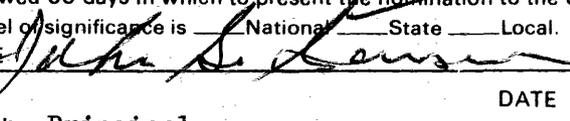
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_ NONE \_\_\_\_\_

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



TITLE

Realty Acquisition Specialist, Principal

DATE

2-5-87

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

DATE

MAY 19 1987

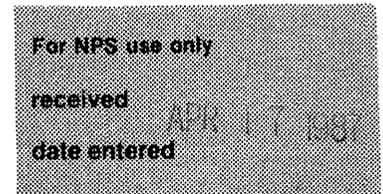
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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terminates the facade is supported by block modillions of terra cotta. A brick parapet with balustraded sections rests atop the cornice.

The central section of the building with its rusticated first floor and arched window bays, which span the second and third floors, imparts a monumental character to the building. Over each of the three bays of the first floor is a center-pointed radiating voussoired belt course that divides the first and second stories. Centered in the facade, the entry bay consists of double aluminum-framed (natural) glass doors (original doors replaced). Flat pilasters surround the doors and support the simple, flat door head. A wood-framed 3-light segmentally-arched transom window is set atop the door head. The entry is approached by a straight landing. The steps narrow to six granite steps with straight and lateral runs to a granite approach landing. Flat, sloped concrete buttresses flank the concrete steps, and front square granite buttresses upon which rest cast iron lamp standards.

The flanking window bays consist of a wooden framed 4-light sash (fixed casement with side lights) topped by 3-light segmentally-arched transom windows. Vertical emphasis is provided the second story (originally housed courtroom) by extending the semicircular-arched window bays into the third story. The windows are set in an arched niche and are framed by a slightly projecting brick arch with a molded limestone keystone. A limestone sill which extends horizontally to the edges of the niche supports the arch. Recessed marble panels, rectangular in shape, are inset above the arched bays. The sash is wood with a 6-light center section flanked by 3-light side lights. Semicircular-arched 5-light transom windows are set above the molded wooden transom bar dividing the lower sections. As stated, rusticated brick quoins with horizontal exaggeration mark the corners of the combined second and third stories.

The end wings each contain a single centered window bay. As with the center section, the first floor differs from the second and third floors by horizontally rusticated brick. The first floor window bays are topped with center-pointed radiating voussoired rusticated brick arches. Thickened

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wooden sash frames the 2-light lower section and 2-light segmentally arched transom. Framed in brick, the second floor windows are topped with flat voussoired brick arches. Molded sandstone keystones complete the arches. The sash is identical to that of the first floor except that the transom is flat-arched. Smaller in vertical dimension, the third floor windows are also framed in brick. Flat, projecting sandstone sills mark the bottoms. A molded limestone course marking the bottom of the frieze frames the tops. The windows are wood sash with two lights.

The facade of the north side is flat and treated similarly with respect to detailing and materials as the front facade. As with the front, the first floor is defined by the use of rusticated brick, a limestone belt course dividing the floors, and a flat brick surface on the second and third floors. Three bays divide the facade vertically. Between the bays are rectangular brick niches (the third story niche to the right of center contains a fixed 2-light wood sash window).

The first floor bays are treated identically to those of the first floor of the front facade. Double aluminum-framed glass doors are located in the bay of the west corner. A molded wooden door head which supports a 2-light segmentally-arched transom window is set above the doors. Cast iron lanterns topped with milk glass globes are affixed to the walls on either side of the entry. The first floor window sash is identical to the end wings of the front facade. The window bays and sash of the second and third stories are identical to those of the corresponding windows of the front. As with the front facade, wrought iron gilles aligned over the window bays are set in the frieze. The cornice and parapet are treated identically to the front facade with the balustraded sections corresponding to the window bays.

The facade of the south side, with the exception of the stair tower (added in 1961) is essentially the same as the north side. The tower projects southward approximately six feet and its brickwork and detailing duplicate that of the original building. Placed to the rear of the east corner window bays, the tower covers over the original center bays.

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The rear facade (west) is symmetrical and essentially flat with the end wings articulated by projecting them slightly. Additional emphasis is also added to the end wings by maintaining first floor brick rustication and the cornice projection of the front and sides, and including balustraded sections (aligned over the window bays). The cornice of the central section is reduced in its projection, devoid of modillions and the parapet is solid. The window bays of the end wings are identical to those of the front facade.

Three bays on the first floor and six bays (paired bays aligned over first floor bays) on the second and third floors define the central section. The horizontal deleted. The first floor bays are framed in brick and topped with a flat lintel. The three lower lights and three transom lights of the bays are divided by thickened mullions and transom bar. The second floor windows are sized identically to those of the end bays and consist of 2-over-2 double-hung wood sash separated from a 2-light transom by a thickened transom bar. The third floor windows are smaller in vertical dimension with 2-over-2 light double-hung wood sash.

A loading platform extends from the southern half of the facade (added in 1965). Solid brick walls enclose the north and south sides and the rear is open. A flat metal roof with projecting marquee covers the platform.

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ing, site acquisition, and construction were significant events in the city's progress. These activities involved the action of local citizens and their elected representatives in Washington. Local business groups and interested citizens worked diligently by writing letters and sponsoring petitions to input their desires in how the building should be constructed. The building is locally significant under Criterion A.

**LOCAL CONTEXT**

Lander, with a population of approximately 9,100, is the county seat of Fremont County in west-central Wyoming. Agriculture, oil, and natural gas production, iron milling, and retail trade comprise the major sectors of the local economy.

The area was first traversed by early explorers and fur traders. In the 1860s, gold miners began inhabiting the area in small mining camps. In 1868, Colonel Lander (for whom the town of Lander was named) secured a treaty with the Shoshone Indians. Fort Auger was established in 1869 and was later renamed Camp Brown, then moved to the Indian Reservation in 1871. Cattlemen and settlers entered the area to homestead. The first post office was established on March 18, 1875 with James I. Patten as postmaster; however, it was not until 1883 that B. Franklowe and Peter P. Dickinson laid out the Lander townsite on their homestead land. When Fremont County was formed in 1884, Lander was named county seat after winning the election over Milford.

When incorporated in 1890, Lander claimed 525 residents. Growth was slow until the Chicago-Northwestern Railroad reached and established its terminal point in the town in 1906. By 1910, the population reached 1,812 and the city's growth and development were underway. Many of the buildings in the downtown core were constructed during this period. In 1920, the census indicated a population of 2,133 in the city. However, in 1930, Lander lost population with a total of 1,826. After 1930 the town grew steadily but slowly and reached 4,182 in 1960. With the development of the Geneva iron mill at Atlantic City in the 1960s, the population of Lander increased significantly to 7,125 in 1970.

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The Lander Post Office is located in the center of the downtown area, one-half block north of Main Street, the primary business street. (It is included in the proposed Lander Downtown Historic District.) The structure occupies the southwest corner of the Third/Lincoln streets intersection. Adjacent to the west (rear) of the post office is a vacant lot with a one-story brick garage (U.S. Forest Service) to its west. Adjacent to the south is a one-story stone building (pre-dates post office) and to its south on the corner of Main Street is a two-story brick retail/office building (pre-dates post office).

The block to the north of the post office, across Lincoln Street, contains a one-story office building (modern) on the corner and to its east a parking lot, one-story brick building, and the senior citizens center (1909). Single story commercial uses are located diagonally from the post office on the northeast corner of the Third/Lincoln intersection. Across Third to the east is a single story frame residence, two single story commercial buildings to its east, and the three-story brick Noble Hotel on the corner of Main.

**LOCAL PRESS COVERAGE OF THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE LANDER POST OFFICE**

The efforts to secure appropriations for and the construction of the Lander Federal building were reported in The Wyoming State Journal between 1908 and 1912. On January 10, 1908, the Journal reported that senator Clarence D. Clark was working to obtain a federal building for Lander. Clark had introduced a bill for building appropriations and promised to make every effort to secure its passage. An article of February 28th indicated that the prospects for the federal building looked bright. Representative Mondell was supporting Clark's bill. On July 17th, it was reported that Lander stone might be used for the federal building. The Public Affairs Committee of the Lander Club had written to the Supervising Architect and informed him that the Lander area had marble, granite, and sandstone that could be used in the federal building.

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The efforts to obtain a federal building carried into the following year. It was reported on February 5, 1909, that J.H. Sharp of the local Public Affairs Committee had received a letter from Senator Clark which provided assurances that "Lander's interests are being looked at very carefully". A site had been acquired in April of the previous year and the Supervising Architect expected that plans and specifications would be completed in the spring. The following week (reported on February 12th), Clark notified the local citizens that as a result of the great work load of the Supervising Architect's office, work on the plans would be delayed. The September 10th issue of the Journal included a sketch of Lander's proposed federal building. Postmaster Bucher received the plan and specifications in October. According to an article of the 22nd, "the building is modeled after all of Uncle Sam's post offices and is very much like the federal building in Cheyenne, except on a smaller scale".

On November 12th, the Journal extolled the virtues of the Lander Valley and its leading city: "No other town in the United States is blessed with a greater variety of resources surrounding it." The area possessed oil and coal deposits which were being actively worked, the lands were fertile with abundant water, and range for livestock was limitless. Lander possessed a fine school system, a \$15,000 hospital. At least \$300,000 would be spent on public buildings, and \$200,000 for stores and residences in the next year. The city had provided fine cement sidewalks, a water system, and sewer system.

The plans for the new federal building were received by Postmaster H.A. Bucher in April of 1910. They showed a "splendid building that will be the pride of the town for years to come". The cost was estimated at \$108,000. An article of May 20th reported that Tom Lovell of Denton, Texas, had received the construction contract with a low bid of \$99,343. It added that G.A. Starr, former owner of the federal site, was in the process of clearing the buildings from the site. On June 24th, the Journal announced that construction would begin soon. The site had been cleared and sewer lines laid.

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In October carloads of Vermont granite began arriving. In all, eight carloads would be required. Sam Jensen, a Lander resident, was working on the \$10,000 plumbing contract. In December (reported on the 9th) and additional appropriation of \$15,000 was requested for the federal building. The purpose of the added amount was to purchase furniture and fixtures. Local citizens were urged to lobby the authorities for a badly needed elevator (a shaft had been constructed, but no provision was made for the elevator) before the appropriations were exhausted.

Work on the building progressed through 1911 without much word in the local press, save for a photo of the new \$150,000 building in the December 8th issue. Finally, in March of 1912, the building was completed. A lengthy article of March 8th reported that the building would be turned over to Postmaster Bucher on April 1st. The article described the "beautiful structure of granite and brick" in detail. It enumerated the carloads of Vermont granite, Bedford limestone, Denver brick, Chicago terra cotta, Philadelphia structural steel, Oregon lumber, and barrels of white Portland cement imported from France.

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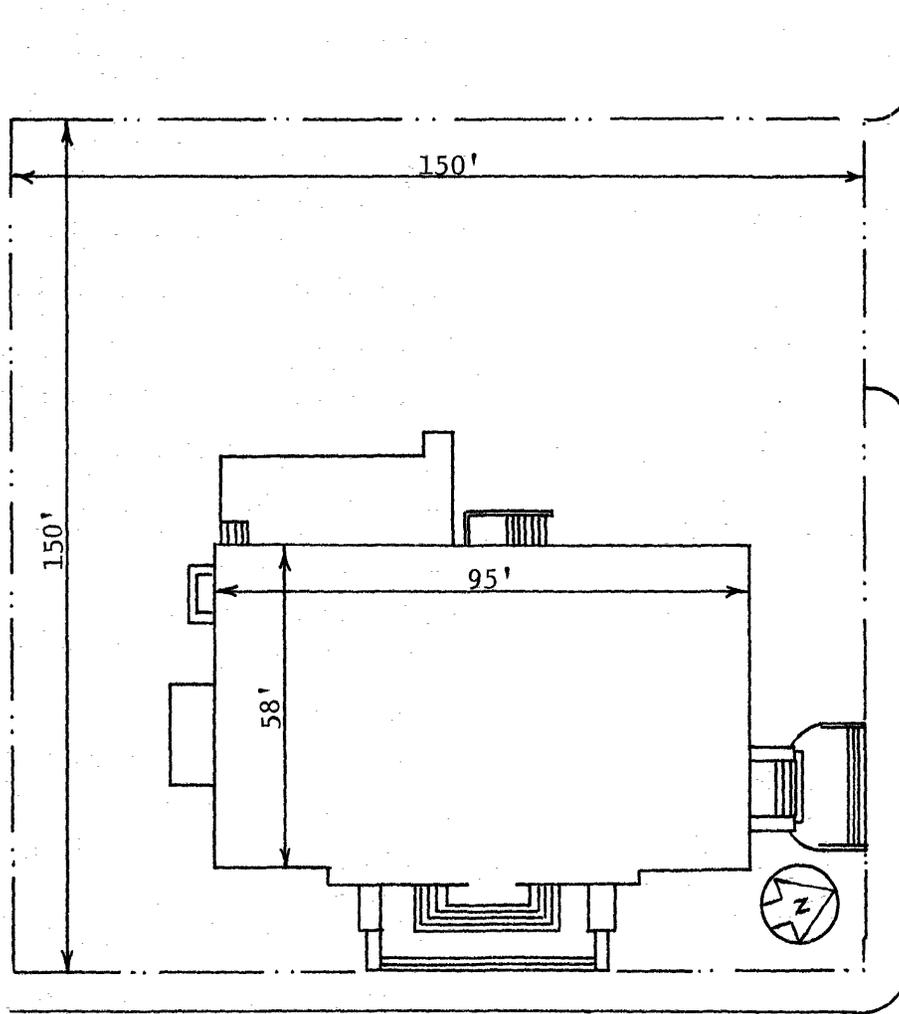
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Third Street

Lincoln Street