



PRESERVATION

Bruce M. Van Sickle Federal Building and U.S. Courthouse

100 1st Street SW
Minot, ND

Click here for more info:
[ND Buildings and Facilities](#)
[GSA Historic Buildings](#)



During the period just before World War I, Oscar Wenderoth, Supervising Architect, and Treasury Department officials were pushing to standardize federal construction to reduce time and costs. This directive is plainly evident in Minot and the nearly identical 1917 Federal Building in Lawton, Oklahoma. The plans for the Minot, ND federal building were completed in 1913.

The building was designed in the Italian Renaissance Revival style, distinguished by changes in texture at each of the building's horizontal sections. Broad granite steps lead to the main entrance. The first story is covered in rustic limestone blocks and has tall round-arched windows and door openings. The façade originally had three entrances, but two were later changed to windows. Above the first story, a string course forms a base for the upper levels. Rough-textured, buff-colored brick facing is accented by rectangular windows, which become progressively smaller on each story. Located between the windows, two-story limestone pilasters have Doric capitals. Decorative limestone panels between the second and third stories have double swag relief carvings.

The building was completed in June 1915, with the U.S. Post Office and Federal Courts as the major occupants. By the 1930s, more space was needed for the Post Office and a large addition was completed to the rear of the building in 1940. Supervising Architect Louis A. Simon oversaw the design. In 1962, the Post Office relocated and its former workspace was converted to offices. An exit staircase was added in 1975. The building was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1980. It was named to honor Bruce M. VanSickle in 2002. President Richard Nixon nominated VanSickle to the U.S. District Court for the District of North Dakota in 1971.

Some original features and materials still remain. Original terrazzo floors, pink marble borders, decorative ceiling moldings are intact above the suspended ceilings. The north stairs wrap around the elevator shaft, and have marble treads, wall stringers and cast iron risers. The cast iron newel post on the first floor is decorated with an urn and floral design. The first floor landing has a black and white marble tile floor. The courtroom has original plaster walls, wood baseboard, pilasters, chair rail and doors.

