**HISTORY**

As part of the Public Buildings Act of 1926, Congress authorized $1 million for the purchase of 21 parcels of land, mostly consisting of single family residences, in the blocks bounded by Harrison, Brackenridge, Webster and Douglas Streets for the construction of the U. S. Post Office and Courthouse. Negotiations with the property owners failed and in December 1928, the Government submitted a petition to condemn the land, which the District Court eventually granted. Guy Mahurin, a prominent local architect under the consult of a New York architect was selected to draw the plans for the new building. The building's design, a modified Greek Doric, has been dubbed by some authorities to be "Starved Classical Style" given its simplicity. The floors of the vestibules and lobby are of Tennessee marble while the walls were designed out of St. Genevieve marble extracted from quarries in Missouri. The stones constituting the colonnade at the front of the building were quarried in Bedford, Indiana. The exterior is clad in select gray buff limestone with a base of gray granite. The window frames, jambs, and subjams for the building are entirely of aluminum and were designed especially for use of the new building and the use of aluminum for ornamentation was novel at that time. The Indiana State Historic Preservation Office determined the building eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places on May 10, 1987. An extensive renovation was completed in 1988 after the Post Office moved to a new building. A new courtroom, visiting judge chambers, magistrate judge chambers, grand jury assembly room, and new bankruptcy clerk's office were some of the offices added during the renovation. The building is now officially dedicated as the E. Ross Adair Federal Building and U. S. Courthouse.