

## Byron G. Rogers

Born in Greenville, Texas, Rogers moved with his parents to Oklahoma in April 1902. During the First World War, he served as a private in the Infantry, United States Army. He attended the University of Arkansas in 1918, the University of Oklahoma from 1919-22, and the University of Colorado in 1923 and 1924. He earned his LL.B. at Sturm College of Law, University of Denver and commenced the practice of law in Las Animas, Colorado.

Rogers served as city attorney of Las Animas from 1929-33. He was a member of the Colorado House of Representatives from 1932-35, serving as speaker in 1933. He served as County Attorney of Bent County, Colorado in 1933 and was later on the legal staff of Agricultural Adjustment Administration and National Recovery Administration, Washington, D.C., in 1933 and 1934. He served as Assistant United States Attorney for Colorado from 1934-36, and Attorney General of Colorado from 1936-41. He was a public member War Labor Board from 1942-45.

Rogers was elected as a Democrat to the eighty-second and to the ten succeeding congresses (1951-71). He was a resident of Denver, Colorado until his death on December 31, 1983. He was interred in Mount Lindo Cemetery near Tiny Town, Colorado.

The Byron G. Rogers Federal Building and United States Courthouse was named in his honor in 1984.



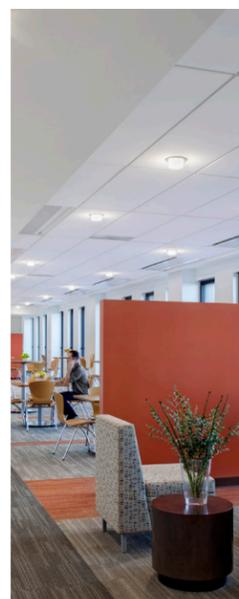
lobby



entrance



second floor cafe



open use space

## The Byron G. Rogers Federal Building and U.S. Courthouse

Welcome to the Byron G. Rogers Federal Building and U.S. Courthouse. The Byron G. Rogers Federal Building and U.S. Courthouse is located in the central business district of downtown Denver and is the cornerstone of today's Denver Federal District, including the Alfred A. Arraj U.S. Courthouse, Byron R. White U.S. Courthouse and the U.S. Custom House.

Its history began in the years following World War II when the population of Denver grew rapidly as numerous federal agencies relocated to the city. The existing federal building could no longer accommodate growing space needs and the government began planning for a new complex to house the U.S. District Court and the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit.



## A Brief History

In 1959, the U.S. General Services Administration (GSA) selected the accomplished Denver architectural firm James Sudler Associates as the lead designer, with another skilled Denver firm, Fisher & Davis, assisting. James Sudler designed numerous Modern buildings in the Denver area, including the exuberant Church of the Risen Christ and the Denver Museum of Art (with Gio Ponti).

In 1961, GSA purchased the downtown Denver site for \$687,000. Officials appropriated an additional \$20 million in 1962 for the construction of the complex, with the groundbreaking occurring the same year. The first occupants moved into the building in 1965.

In 1984, the complex was named to honor Byron G. Rogers (1900-83), who represented Colorado in the U.S. House of Representatives from 1951-71. Rogers was instrumental in securing the original funds for the courthouse.

The trial of Timothy McVeigh, the bomber responsible for the 1995 attack on the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City, was held at the Byron G. Rogers Federal Building and U.S. Courthouse in 1996 and 1997. To find an impartial jury, the court moved the case to Denver where McVeigh was tried and convicted.

## Upholding the Building's Historical Significance

The building's facade and site plaza are an excellent representation of mid-Twentieth century Formalist style architecture.

The first floor elevator lobby design honors the building's Modernist interior aesthetic, including a simple ceiling design with luminous cove lighting and the restoration of marble panels.

The building features a series of installations titled "Field Pattern" by Tsehai Johnson (pictured right). This work is part of the GSA Art in Architecture program which oversees the commissioning of artworks for new federal buildings nationwide. These artworks enhance the civic meaning of federal architecture and showcase the vibrancy of American visual arts.



## Modernization



The federal government has a goal to design, construct and operate high performance sustainable buildings. In 2009, GSA got one step closer to making this goal a reality when it received \$137 million through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) to modernize the 18-story 494,156 sq.ft. Byron G. Rogers Federal Building. The primary goal of the modernization project was to upgrade all of the major building systems. This included the replacement of mechanical, electrical and plumbing systems. For this project, the design constructor was Mortenson Construction and project architects were Bennett Wagner & Grody Architects and HOK.

Given the project's complexity, GSA integrated a design-build approach to deliver a high-performing building that costs less to operate and maintain, uses less energy, will lead to greater occupant satisfaction and upholds the building's historic significance while complying with federal mandates.

The building's new HVAC system utilizes a high efficiency natural gas boiler system and Active Chilled Beam (ACB) technology. This unique chilled beam cooling system uses chilled water fed through beams throughout the building. The system allows the building to store unused energy and utilize it in areas that need it the most throughout the day.

Other energy-saving improvements included increasing the R-value of walls behind the historic pre-cast panels, improving the thermal performance of windows and maximizing daylighting to much of the workspace. Daylighting improves thermal comfort which reduces the mean radiant temperature within a space.

All lighting in the building was replaced with energy-efficient LED bulbs. Advanced lighting control systems are linked with luminaires, photo sensors, occupancy sensors and wall switches

Destination dispatch elevator technology groups passengers going to the same or nearby floors. Grouping passengers reduces the number of elevator stops while increasing speed and ultimately, improving elevator efficiency.

In addition to the improvements in the tower, ARRA funds were utilized to upgrade the energy efficiency of the courthouse windows.

**1959** GSA selects James Sudler Associates as lead designer for new federal complex.

**1965** First occupants move into the building.

**1984** Complex is renamed to honor Byron G. Rogers.

**1996** Timothy McVeigh's trial is held at Byron G. Rogers Federal Building.

**2009** GSA receives \$137M in ARRA funds to modernize the building.

**2013** First occupancy of the newly renovated building.