

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

For NPS use only

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

received SEP 12 1985

date entered OCT 10 1985

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic First National Bank

and or common

2. Location

street & number 226 Fifth Avenue South _____ not for publication

city, town Clinton _____ vicinity of

state Iowa code 019 county Clinton code 045

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Dennis C. Heath

street & number 866 4th Avenue North

city, town Clinton _____ vicinity of state Iowa 52732

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. County Clerk's Office

street & number Clinton County Courthouse

city, town Clinton _____ vicinity of state Iowa 52732

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Ronald E. Schmitt
title The Architecture of Clinton, Iowa has this property been determined eligible? yes N/A no

date 1980 _____ federal _____ state _____ county local

depository for survey records Iowa HPO

city, town E. 12th & Grand Ave., Des Moines state Iowa 50319

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

DESCRIPTIVE

The First National bank building (1911-12), located in Clinton, Iowa, is a fine example of Neo-Classical Revival styling. Characteristics of this style, which is primarily based on the Greek architectural orders, are exhibited by the First National Bank building in a number of ways. The main facade is finished with a smooth grey stone, and its features are proportionally large. This facade, organized systematically on a vertical axis, is highlighted by a large, pedimented portico, two large Ionic columns, and four stone pilasters. The facade is topped by a parapet, and a massive base spans the front, visually supporting the columns and pilasters.

Although the number of dimensions of the openings was not changed, much of the windows and transom infill was altered in the 1950's and now features contemporary aluminum frame windows instead of the single-light sash windows that are typical of Neo-Classical buildings. However, the central pair of windows on the second floor display unusually patterned transoms, which are divided into sixteen panes by muntins that radiate from two central points. This patterned transom was typical of all second story windows in the building when it was first constructed.

The recessed portico is flanked by two large, fluted Ionic columns, and the entryway is sheltered by its own stone overhang. Supported by two decorative stone brackets, this overhang is topped by a simple pediment. The word "BANK" is carved in incised letters directly over the entryway.

The large pediment that tops the building features and ornately carved spread-winged eagle grasping a cornucopia and an unfurled flag in its talons. This eagle, within the pediment, is framed by a narrow dentilated border, a motif which is repeated along the width of the building directly under the pediment. Across the front of the building in boldly carved, raised letters are the words "FIRST NATIONAL BANK".

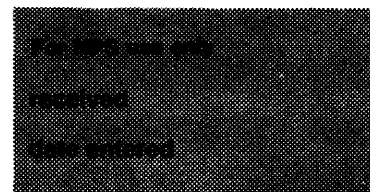
On the interior, several skylights are located over what was the bank's lobby, and are trimmed with dark woodwork. Plaster cornicework is located on the second floor level, and was originally painted gold, cream and federal blue. The marble floor in the building stairways to the mezzanine area remains with its marble treads and elaborate iron railing intact, although it was enclosed in the 1950's.

STRUCTURAL

The First National Bank building is located at 226-228 Fifth Avenue South on Lots 13 and 14 in Block 13 in the plat known as "Town of Clinton" within the city of Clinton, Clinton County, Iowa. The building itself is 50'-0" wide

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Continuation sheet Descriptive

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and 134'-0" in depth. The foundation, part of which is composed of the original foundation of the previous building on the site, is limestone and concrete. The two-story high building is structurally supported by a steel frame with curtain walls; the front being grey dressed stone and the party walls brick. The three level, slightly raked, flat, composition roof includes three saw-tooth shaped skylights on the upper-most level over the main portion of the building. These skylights are hidden from view by the parapet on the false front. A red brick chimney is located at the rear of the main bank building, and was once used by a large fireplace which was in the Stockholder's Room. A unique feature of the building was its self-sufficiency, made possible by the separate free-standing "power plant" at the rear of the lot. Although now incorporated into the building's addition, the small building was connected to the bank underground by a hot air pipe, which provided heat for the bank.

ALTERATIONS

An addition was built at the rear of the building in 1951, filling in the area between the main bank building and the boiler room, covering the original the original rear facade and incorporating the separate "power plant". During the subsequent remodeling in 1952, the tellers' cages and much of the other decorative work on the main floor were removed and discarded. The windows on the front were replaced with aluminum substitutes at that same time. It is also probable that the large front doors and the 5-paned transom window over them were replaced by smaller scaled all-glass doors with a larger single-paned transom window during this remodeling.

In 1968, a large metal marquee was added to the front of the facade. This was removed in 1978, when the First National Bank changed location. Also, when the bank, which was originally "City National Bank", became "First National Bank", the word "CITY" in raised stone letters was removed from the front and replaced with the word "FIRST". Most recently, a second floor was added in the interior above the main lobby area to facilitate a restaurant, while retaining the skylights, plaster work, decorative pilasters and two original brass chandeliers. The lower floor is now a lounge which incorporates the old vaults and the original marble floor. A mezzanine area, which was covered during the 1952 remodeling, is to be uncovered and used as part of the restaurant, although the decorative cast iron railing from the mezzanine has been reworked and is to be incorporated into the first-floor lounge and the restaurant.

PHYSICAL CONTEXT

The First National Bank building is the central structure on the central structure on the 200 block of Fifth Avenue South, which is the heart of Clinton's commercial area. This building is one-half block from the U.S. Post Office, which exhibits similar Neo-Classical styling, although it is highly eclectic. The bank is also one-half block from the Van Allen building, which was designed by architect Louis Sullivan and is an excellent example of his "Chicago School" style of design.

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 type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1911–12 **Builder/Architect** A. H. Morrell, Architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Applicable Criterion, C
Level of Significance: Local

The First National Bank building is a fine local example of Neo-Classical Revival styling, and despite the change in most of the fenestration, has an exterior that is, for the most part, intact. With the exceptions of the Post Office and an 1907 eclectic Second Renaissance and Classical Revival styled building in the Lyons area (which has undergone severe alterations), the First National Bank building is the only commercial Neo-Classically styled building in Clinton, and it is the best example of a building with a street-front facade that was influenced in this manner.

Most of the older buildings in the downtown Clinton area were built in a simplified commercial style, although several examples of Sullivanesque style buildings can be found. The building directly west of the bank is a three-story simplified Italianate style, and across the street from the bank is a six-story Sullivanesque commercial building faced in white terra-cotta. Known as the Wilson Building, it is the tallest building down town and was designed by the First National Bank's architect in 1912-14. The Iowa State Bank constructed a building in the Sullivanesque Style in 1914 which also provides a strong contrast to the formality of the First National Bank building. Because the Neo-Classical First National Bank building offers a style that is not found among its contemporaries in Clinton, its contrasting style and scale make it a central element in the continuum of significance and architectural importance in the downtown Clinton area.

Work on the New City National Bank building (which changed its name to First National Bank in 1961) began in 1911. John Morrell, who moved to Clinton from Chicago in 1903, and his son, A.H. Morrell, were employed as architects of the new facility. The commercial buildings. A.H. Morrell was trained in Chicago, and shared some of the philosophy and the design approach of the Chicago modern movements. Although most of the work designed by A.H. Morrell in Clinton is considered to be Prairie-School inspired, many of the buildings tend to be more formal and traditional than the typical Prairie-School building.

The rich, elaborate interior of the First National Bank, coupled with the imposing temple-like facade, gave the community of Clinton a bank building which could serve as a monument to finance and stability. The bank was housed there until 1978, when it moved to a new location at 405 South Third Street. Since that date, the building has been vacant, although current renovation plans are underway.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Refer to Continuation Sheet 9-2

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one acre

Quadrangle name Clinton-Iowa-Illinois

Quadrangle scale 1/24,000

UTM References

A

1	5	7	3	3	3	7	0	4	6	3	5	7	6	0
Zone			Easting				Northing							

B

Zone			Easting				Northing							

C

Zone			Easting				Northing							

D

Zone			Easting				Northing							

E

Zone			Easting				Northing							

F

Zone			Easting				Northing							

G

Zone			Easting				Northing							

H

Zone			Easting				Northing							

Verbal boundary description and justification

Lots 13 and 14, Block 13, City of Clinton.
Contains only subject building.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Text by Ms. Mary Anne Beecher, Summer Intern
Form prepared by James E. Jacobsen, National Register Coordinator

organization Iowa HPO, Iowa State Historical Department date 19 August 1985

street & number E. 12th & Grand Ave. telephone 515-281-4137

city or town Des Moines state Iowa 50319

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature *Dorell J. Soike*

title Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer date August 27, 1985

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I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

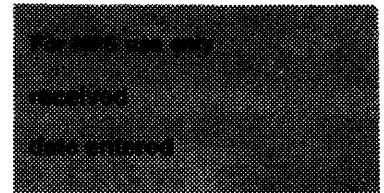
for Delores Byer Entered in the National Register date 10-10-85
Keeper of the National Register

Attest: _____ date _____

Chief of Registration

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Continuation sheet Bibliography

Item number 9

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Sanborn Insurance Maps, Clinton, Iowa. New York: Sanborn Insurance Company, 1885, 1890, 1897, 1902, 1909, 1917, 1925.

Schmitt, Ronald E. The Architecture of Clinton, Iowa. Clinton, Iowa: Department of Community Development, Clinton, Iowa, 1980.

Interview with Ken Kremer, First National Bank, Clinton, Iowa.

Interview with Bill Zickau, First National Bank, Clinton, Iowa.