

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Registration Form



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).

### 1. Name of Property

historic name First National Bank - Steinmeier Building

other names/site number State Bank of Ansley; Security State Bank; NeHSR # CU02-003

### 2. Location

street & number 624 Main Street

☐ not for publication

city or town Ansley

☐ vicinity

state Nebraska code NE county Custer code 041 zip code 68814

### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this X nomination    request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property X meets    does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

   national    statewide X local

Signature of certifying official Michael J. Ford

Date June 13, 2011

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property    meets    does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official

Date

Title

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

### 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

☒ entered in the National Register

   determined eligible for the National Register

   determined not eligible for the National Register

   removed from the National Register

   other (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper For Edison H. Beall

Date of Action 8.10.11

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## 5. Classification

### Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply.)

☒ private  
☐ public - Local  
☐ public - State  
☐ public - Federal

### Category of Property (Check only one box.)

☒ building(s)  
☐ district  
☐ site  
☐ structure  
☐ object

### Number of Resources within Property (Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	0	<b>Total</b>

### Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

NA

### Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

## 6. Function or Use

### Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

COMMERCE/TRADE: Financial Institution

COMMERCE/TRADE: Specialty Store

HEALTH CARE: Medical Business

### Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

COMMERCE/TRADE: Financial Institution

WORK IN PROGRESS

## 7. Description

### Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE 19<sup>th</sup> and EARLY 20<sup>th</sup> CENTURY REVIVALS:

Italian Renaissance

### Materials

(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: BRICK

walls: BRICK

roof: Thermo Plastic Olefin(TPO)

other: STONE: Limestone (Cornice)

STONE: Limestone (Portico)

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### **Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

#### **Summary Paragraph**

The First National Bank - Steinmeier Building is located in the town of Ansley (pop. 520) in eastern Custer County, Nebraska at the intersection of US Highway 183 and Nebraska Highway 2. Highway 193 follows the original route of the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy (CB&Q) Railroad through the Nebraska Sandhills. Ansley is 145 miles west of Lincoln, Nebraska's state capitol, and about 16 miles southeast of Broken Bow, the county seat of Custer County. Situated almost directly in the center of Nebraska, Custer County is characterized by a diverse physical geography. It is here that the sparsely populated Nebraska Sandhills meets the agriculturally productive lands of the Platte River valley and its numerous tributaries. Ansley was platted in 1886 where the CB&Q Railroad laid its tracks across one of those tributaries, Mud Creek, on its way from Grand Island, Nebraska to Alliance, Nebraska. Cattle ranching and farming remain the prime industries around Ansley.

Ansley's commercial district is found along Main Street, which was platted on the cardinal directions and diagonal to the railroad tracks. It contains both one and two story commercial buildings. Many of these are of masonry construction, but a few are pre-engineered metal buildings. The masonry buildings are consistent with early twentieth century commercial architecture. The street is paved concrete with concrete sidewalks. The First National Bank - Steinmeier Building is at the south east corner of Main Street and Edmunds Street, three blocks east of the rail line and grain elevator. Designed by Lincoln, Nebraska architects Ferdinand C. Fiske and Charles A. Deiman in 1908, the First National Bank- Steinmeier Building is Ansley's most impressive two story commercial building.

### **Narrative Description**

The First National Bank - Steinmeier Building is a two story commercial building built in 1909 for First National Bank of Ansley in the Italian Renaissance Revival style. The building is on a corner site with the south and west facades facing Main Street and Edmunds Street, respectively. The building plan is two rectangles, with the eastern section approximately 12 feet longer than the western section. The walls are brick to the parapet, which hides a low slope roof. The masonry on the primary (south and west) facades are a brown color, while common red brick makes up the north and east sides. Large store front windows face Main Street on the south façade. The base of the building is coursed clay brick masonry. A reveal in the masonry provides the rusticated base. The bank entrance is defined by a limestone portico. The second floor has a series of masonry openings with round arch tops. Originally designed as a mixed use commercial structure, a main bearing wall divides the main level into two bays. The drug store finishes are extant but this bay has been modified. However, the banking lobby is intact and continues to be used for its original function. The upper floor was designed to have its own Main Street entrance for separate businesses on the second floor. Although in poor repair, the original wood double entrance doors from the street to the second floor are still in place. They have a fixed light over a raised panel with a shared transom.

The south façade is divided into three asymmetrical bays on the first story and three symmetrical bays on the second story. Despite alterations, the first story bays continue to reflect the First National Bank - Steinmeier Building's original function as both bank and drug store with second story office space. The entry portico to the banking lobby is located at the south west corner of the building. Doric limestone columns rest on a masonry plinth and a limestone entablature spans the columns. The word "Bank" is carved in the entablature. Immediately to the east is a large rectangular opening that once held a large tripartite storefront window with a prismatic tile transom. However, this has been replaced with aluminum framing and glass. A recessed entry to the central stair and second story divides the bank portion of the building from what was originally Steinmeier's drug store. The east bay retains its original glass prismatic tiles in the transom, but the storefront has been altered significantly. An early photograph shows glass storefronts with a recessed door entry under a prismatic glass transom. At some point the storefront was removed and replaced with a wood frame above a concrete kneewall. The entrance was moved to the east side and now contains a non-historic door.

A limestone corbel terminates the base and becomes the sill for the second story windows. Brick pilasters on the second story separate the façade into three bays. The pilasters extend through the corbelled limestone cornice to



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the roof parapet. End bays contain one window with four equally spaced openings in the center bay. A recessed rowlock course forms the arched head of each window. The arches spring from limestone architraves in the window surrounds, which effectively mimic pilasters. Windows in the central bay share these pilaster-like mullions. Limestone keystones decorate the center of each window arch. A string course of limestone sits just above the keystones. Only one original single hung window remains. The other openings have been filled with plywood. A pattern of square modillions (or exaggerated dentils) is found under the cornice.

The west façade faces Edmunds Street. All decorative motifs—including the cornice, stringcourses and second story fenestration ornament, continue around the corner from the Main Street façade. The first story of this facade contains two groupings of windows. Lighting the banking lobby is a large rectangular window flanked by two elongated windows. To the north is an identical window next to a door at the northwest corner of the building. The door opening was created from what was originally a small square window. Historic image shows fixed windows with transoms, but all windows have been replaced with stationary aluminum glazing. Except for the door, all first story windows do retain their original openings and individual limestone lug sills. The second story is almost identical to that found on the Main Street façade, except the central bay contains five windows that share mullions instead of three. Also, three pilasters extend through cornice and into the parapet in the central bay adding further visual interest to this long façade.

The north and east facades are plain in comparison to the west and the south. The masonry is laid in a simple running bond, with no accent bands, change in bonding or courses. The parapet terminates by a terra cotta cap. Windows on the east side are placed by function to the interior, and have no pattern relationship. On the north façade, windows flank the doors to the exterior. One window in the northwest corner has the same circular topped window as the west and south sides, to allow consistency on the interior of the corner room. All other windows have a semicircular or square top, not a half circle. A shallow arch comprising of three courses of header brick are the only ornament on these two sides. The lower door on the north side has been removed, and replaced with an aluminum storefront door. Two windows on the lower north side have been replaced with fixed pane windows. All other openings on the North and east sides have been boarded up.

#### Interior

The original interior banking lobby is largely extant. All of the following finish materials remain and are in good condition. The flooring is hexagonal ceramic mosaic tile with a contrasting border pattern. There is also a pattern in the field tile. The exterior walls are covered with intensely veined white marble wainscoting bordered by green marble, which matches the banking stations and divisions. The transaction top is a contrasting green marble with a corbel held up by a green marble bracket at the teller stations. Neoclassical square wood columns and glass partitions complete the teller stations. All doors and sidelights are wood with wood trim. Doors are five panel with a glass transom above. The original pressed tin ceiling consists of 2x2 foot field tins with a border tin on the edges. The wall-ceiling transition is a tin cornice molding. Pendant light fixtures in the space are not original but are sympathetic with the bank interior. A new non-conforming opening to the east bay is visible from the lobby. It has wood Corinthian columns and painted wood trim. Other interior rooms on the second floor include wood doors and frames, wood base with quarter round, wood chair rails, four (4) panel wood doors are throughout. In the east bay (Drug Store), the pressed tin ceiling is intact. The hexagonal tile flooring is intact and in good condition. Non-historic, non-load bearing partitions divide the store area into private offices.

The stair from the street entrance to the second floor is intact. The stairs have the original wood tread and risers. The stair has an intermediate landing. The original interior handrail has been removed. The original plaster lining the walls has deconsolidated from the substrate. The original brick bearing walls are exposed. At the top of the stairs, the original wood balusters and handrail are in place. The balusters are a simple turned piece, with a curved piece flanked by square pieces.

The second floor was divided into several offices. Due to water infiltration, the ceilings and wall plaster were removed. On the west side, several of the non-load bearing partitions dividing the offices remain. These will become offices for bank employees, with an open area office on the east.

#### Integrity, Condition and Rehabilitation Plans

The First National Bank - Steinmeier Building retains good historic integrity of design, workmanship, materials, location, setting, feeling and association. Despite some alterations, the building still retains its historic design as a two story,

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multiple-use commercial block along with many original materials including: one prismatic tile transom, double wood doors to the central stair, all of its limestone trim and unaltered fenestration patterns on the main facades. The interior banking lobby has excellent integrity, with the remaining interior spaces retaining several original finishes as well.

Security State Bank, which has owned and occupied the building since 1928, plans to utilize the 20% federal income tax credit to rehabilitate the First National Bank - Steinmeier Building. The exterior masonry is original and in good shape. Minor tuck pointing and cleaning may be required. The exterior windows will be replaced with period sensitive units. In the banking lobby, the floor, ceiling and bank fixtures are to be maintained. The second floor, which was damaged due to water infiltration, will be converted to offices. Many of the partitions dividing offices on the second floor will remain.

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## 8. Statement of Significance

### Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- ☒ A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

### Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- ☐ A Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ B removed from its original location.
- ☐ C a birthplace or grave.
- ☐ D a cemetery.
- ☐ E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ F a commemorative property.
- ☐ G less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

### Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Commerce

Architecture

### Period of Significance

1909 – 1961

### Significant Dates

1909

1916

1928

### Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

### Cultural Affiliation

### Architect/Builder

Ferdinand C. Fiske & Charles A. Deiman

### Period of Significance (justification)

The period of significance lasts from the building's construction in 1909 through 1961, which is 50 years from the present. Throughout its long period of significance the building served as an important commercial center in Ansley as home to both Charles H. F. Steinmeier's popular drug store, and to a series of banks including First National Bank (1909 - 1916); State Bank of Ansley (1916 - c.1928) and finally Security State Bank (1928 - present). Security State Bank played a particularly significant role in the community's history during the Great Depression and into the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century. Significant dates include 1916 and 1928, as well as the construction date of 1909, which represents the building's period of architectural significance.

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**Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary): NA**

**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph** (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria.)

The First National Bank- Steinmeier Building in Ansley, Nebraska is significant at the local level under National Register Criteria A and C. Designed to house both a First National Bank of Ansley and Charles H.F. Steinmeier's drug store on its first story, the building is importantly associated with Ansley's early commercial development and later stability. All three of the banks housed in the building during its period of significance (First National Bank, State Bank of Ansley and Security State Bank) also represent important events and trends in banking in Nebraska and the United States. Furthermore, the nominated property is eligible under Criterion C in the area of architecture. It is Ansley's best articulated example of a two-story commercial building, as well as a good representative of the Italian Renaissance Revival style. The original banking lobby in the building's west bay is also considered a rare and architecturally significant interior, and greatly enhances the building's associative significance under Criterion A in the area of commerce.

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**Narrative Statement of Significance** (Provide at least one paragraph for each area of significance.)

**Criterion A: Commerce**

The Development of Ansley

The town of Ansley was platted in 1886 by the Lincoln Land Company, which was the settlement arm of the Burlington Railroad. Impressed with her love of the Sand Hills and her investments in local real estate, Lincoln Land Company secretary R.O. Phillips named Ansley for Eliza Ainsley. Incidentally, Ms. Ainsley was also a second cousin of Lt. Col. George Armstrong Custer, the namesake of Custer County. Ansley's location along the Burlington Railroad quickly spurred growth. The "boosterist" motto "Push-That's Ansley" referred to the supposed enthusiastic cries of passengers as their train approached town. By 1914 the motto was painted on a shed across the tracks from the Ansley's two story depot.

Ansley had reason to be proud. Ansley Power and Light was founded in 1892, which according to one source made it, "one of the first towns between Omaha and Denver to have a lighting system." By 1895, Ansley also had a fire department and a public water system. By the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, downtown Ansley could boast many businesses including banks, drugstores, barber shops, hardware stores, an opera house, a saloon and even a billiards hall / bowling alley.

Banking in Ansley

Perhaps most important to Ansley's commercial growth during its early year were banks. The First National Bank - Steinmeier Building was built in the Age of Main Street Banking in Nebraska. The banking industry in Nebraska saw incredible growth from the passage of a general banking law in 1889 until about 1920. The State banking law placed requirements on regular examination, capital and reserve requirements. Before that, however, there was very little regulation over banking in Nebraska. Two private banks were organized in Ansley in the late 1880s: the Bank of Ansley (1887) and the Ansley Banking Company (1888). The Bank of Ansley did not survive long in the new climate of regulation, but the Ansley Banking Company was purchased and reorganized as the First National Bank of Ansley by Frank Young, C. Mackey and T.T. Varney in 1902. It seems likely these men were taking advantage of 1900 revision of the national banking law that allowed for the chartering of National Banks in towns of under 3,000 if owners could show at least \$25,000 in capital. The next two decades saw a sharp increase in the number of both national and state banks, checked only briefly by the Panic of 1907. In Ansley, both the First National Bank and the Farmer's State Bank (founded in 1905) were established during this period of expansion, however, only one building from that era still exists: the First National Bank - Steinmeier Building.

First National Bank Builds on Main Street

The site selected by First National Bank for their new building and the design created by Lincoln, Nebraska architects, Ferdinand C. Fiske & Charles A. Deiman, reflect several characteristics prevalent in Main Street banks of this era. First, the building is located on the Main Street in the Central Business District. Secondly, it is situated on a corner site, which at the time was catty-corner from the well-established two-story Ansley Hotel. In



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fact, the intersection of Main Street and Edmunds has long been Ansley's most prominent. With the construction of the First-National Bank - Steinmeier Building it became the town's only intersection to have two story commercial buildings on all four corners.<sup>1</sup> The architectural style selected, Italian Renaissance Revival, was also consistent with banks constructed during the Era of Main Street Banking. In contrast to the heavily embellished banks of the proceeding Gilded Age, architects and bankers leaned heavily on classical styles during the Main Street Era (sometimes called the Progressive Era) to suggest permanence and prudential restraint.

In one way, however, the building constructed by First National Bank in Ansley differed from other banks in similar sized towns with populations under 800. These small towns are classified as "hamlets" in the historic context for banking prepared by the Nebraska State Historic Preservation Office. This context notes that while numerous bank buildings were constructed in hamlets across Nebraska, very few were two-story, multi-use building. While, these types of buildings were common in the Age of Main Street banking, they were found more often in larger communities. For instance, Security State Bank (CU05-066) in Broken Bow—the county seat of Custer County—is only one story. One potential reason for the unusual size and scale of the First National Bank - Steinmeier Building was the promise of a stable tenant in the other storefront in pharmacist Charles H.F. Steinmeier. His drugstore business would remain in the building until the early 1960s (see below).

*Security State Bank Survives and Thrives*

Security State Bank, the building's current occupant, was organized on February 5, 1915 by a group of stockholders with \$20,000 in capital. It was located in another building along Ansley's Main Street. One year later, First National Bank was liquidated and reorganized as the State Bank of Ansley. This move by Ansley's largest bank seemed relatively risk free at the time, but the agricultural depression following the agricultural boom years of World War I would prove otherwise. During the prosperous period prior to and during WWI, however, Ansley's three banks (State Bank of Ansley, Security State Bank and Farmer's State Bank) were all in good shape. In 1919, the State Bank of Ansley was the largest with \$500,000 in deposits. Farmer's State Bank had \$200,000 and Security State Bank had \$244,000.

The 1920s were a more challenging for banks in Nebraska, and across the Midwest. According to the previously mentioned historic context:

When demand [for crops] fell in 1920, farmers were pressed to meet payments on mortgages and loans....As the decade progressed, state banks with assets tied up in real estate and crop mortgages were especially hurt. Nearly 100 banks were forced to close during 1924, 24 in 1926, 19 in 1927, 400 in 1928 and 106 in 1929.

The State Bank of Ansley, a financial institution in the town since 1888 in various incarnations, was one of the 400 Nebraska banks that closed its doors in 1928.<sup>2</sup> Ownership of the First National Bank Building - Steinmeier Building fell to the Nebraska State Banking Department. Difficult times, of course, can also lead to opportunities. Security State Bank was in a more stable position and was able to purchase the building in the fall of 1928. This smaller bank's ability to survive the agricultural depression may have been aided by an influx of capital from Omaha. In 1924, Robert H. Storz of the Storz Brewing Company took over a controlling interest in Security State Bank. Emil A. Storz (a likely relative) had been made the bank's cashier the previous year. By 1930, however, Security State Bank was back under local ownership with T.T. Varney as President. It was a triumphant return for Varney, as he was among the men who organized First National Bank and was treasurer when the building was constructed in 1909.

Ansley's population reached its peak in 1930 with 817 residents, just as the rest of nation was beginning to understand the economic hardships which had already hit Nebraska and the Midwest. The presence of Security State Bank during the Great Depression helped Ansley weather the financial storm. The bank was already in a secure position in 1930 with \$20,000 in capital, \$130,746.91 in deposits and \$95,896 in loans, and it continued to

<sup>1</sup> The First National Bank Steinmeier Building is the only one still standing out of these four buildings, which in 1912 also included general stores on the NW and SE corners and the Ansley Hotel. According to Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, the Ansley Hotel had been converted into a "Cream Station" by 1912 and was already gone by 1920, leaving a noticeable whole on the SW corner of the intersection.

<sup>2</sup> Farmer's State Bank also likely closed in the 1920s, and it is rarely mentioned after WWI.



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grow throughout the decade. In its advertisements during this period, Security State Bank stressed fiscal prudence but not paralysis. For instance one 1933 advertisement suggested clients "try the budget system for awhile." Another advertisement in the *Ansley Herald* encouraged borrowing and paying debts in a timely manner, as "Many an opportunity is let go by for the lack of funds. Many a bank account has been neglected for the lack of stick-to-itiveness." Security State Bank's stability was especially clear when it was one of only 169 banks in Nebraska allowed to reopen with no restrictions after the required "Bank Holiday" in March of 1933. The *Ansley Herald* was understandable proud on the cover of its March 16, 1933 issue:

The local bank was closed only for the reason of the national holiday, because its condition was such that it could carry on despite the present distressing times. They received some gold certificates and some gold but not a great deal. But the most pleasing feature of all was the heavy increase in deposits on Wednesday, the opening day. Hats off to the Security State.

World War II brought prosperity back to Nebraska, and unlike after World War I, it was not fleeting. The 1940s and 1950s saw good rain fall for crops and increased cattle production, with prices reaching new heights for both. Despite a slow decrease in population, Ansley was able to profit from both cattle and crops due to its location at the foot of the Sand Hills. Security State Bank—Ansley's only bank to survive the 1920s and 1930s—was there to assist area residents manage their finances during period of prosperity.

Security State Bank Today

Today Security State Bank still thrives in the 1909 First National Bank - Steinmeier Building and recently added a branch in Omaha's Dundee Neighborhood. The building retains its original banking lobby, the place where countless transactions took place between the public and First National Bank (1909-1916), the State Bank of Ansley (1916-1928) and finally, Security State Bank (1928-present). Security State Bank remains proud of its history with the motto "Same Name, Same Town. Since 1915."

The Steinmeier Drug Store

The first drug store in Ansley was founded in 1886 by Sam Royds. Although Royds passed away in 1888, his wife carried on the business for several years. By 1902 there were three drug stores in Ansley according to a Sanborn Fire Insurance map published that year. In just four years, two of those drug stores would be purchased by Charles H. F. Steinmeier, an enterprising young man and self-trained pharmacist who had just arrived from Grand Island, Nebraska. Mrs. Royds sold her business to Steinmeier in 1906 after he had already purchased a different drug store in 1905 from Charles B. Hare. In 1909, Steinmeier moved his drug store into the east bay of the new building constructed by First National Bank.<sup>3</sup>

Steinmeier was born in St. Paul, Minnesota on November 10, 1883. His parents were German immigrants to the United States. Steinmeier's father was a cigar maker who eventually moved to Grand Island, Nebraska. Charles Steinmeier worked in day stores in Grand Island while still in high school. He left in 1905 for Ansley where he began purchasing existing businesses. His accomplishments are listed as head of the State Rexall Club and he often advertised as the "Rexall Store."

Steinmeier's quickly increased his business holdings, purchasing and operating drug stores in Ravenna, Poole, Berwyn and Chappell. However, by 1919 he had disposed of all his stores except those in Ansley and Chapell. According to one history of the area:

During the 1920's and 1930's, Mr. and Mrs. Steinmeier carried a complete line of school supplies and sold to about 75% of the rural districts in Custer County all their books as well as furniture and equipment. Mr. Steinmeier had a big ice house near the light plant at one time operated by Jim Anderson, who filled it with ice from Lake Ansley. The ice was then used by the Steinmeiers to make their famous ice creams.

<sup>3</sup> Due to his long presence in the building—his store well outlasted the first two banks located there—it has historically been called the alternately the First National Bank Building or the Steinmeier Building. The 1919 *History of Custer County* includes a picture of the building on page 218 with the caption, "First National Bank and Steinmeier Building."

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Steinmeier Drug Store operated until 1963. Currently this portion of the First National Bank - Steinmeier Building has diminished integrity. Offices were created inside the space, with the corridor serving as a street and the offices functioning as "shops". However, the original tin ceiling and mosaic tile floor remain. The Steinmeier Drug Store's long presence and relative success certainly adds to the overall significance of the nominated property under National Register Criterion A in the area of commerce.

In July 2007, Ansley had a population of 473 residents. The community still actively supports a variety of commercial businesses and has plans for a flourishing future.

### **Criterion C: Architecture**

The First National Bank – Steinmeier Building is architecturally significant for three reasons. It is Ansley's best example of a two-story, multi-use commercial building, or as defined by Richard Longstreth in *The Buildings of Main Street*, a two-part commercial block. Secondly, the building was designed by prominent Lincoln Nebraska architect, Ferdinand C. Fiske (along with his partner at the time, Charles A. Deiman) in the Italian Renaissance Revival style. No other commercial building in Ansley matches its level of stylistic articulation. Finally, the building contains a rare example of an early 20<sup>th</sup> century banking lobby.

#### *Fiske and Deiman bring the Italian Renaissance to Ansley*

Minutes from the First National Bank Board of Directors Meeting on November 25, 1908 identify the architects for their building as Fiske and Dieman of Lincoln. Fiske is recognized as a significant architect in Lincoln, Nebraska at the turn of the century. Educated at Cornell University in Ithaca, New York, he worked in 1883 at Goodman and Fiske in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Fiske first moved to Lincoln in 1890, but moved about the Midwest during the following decade, living in both St. Louis, Missouri and Cedar Rapids, Iowa. He was back in Lincoln by 1898 when he formed a partnership with Dieman, who also had his own practice in Cedar Rapids. Fiske designed several buildings which are listed on the NRHP, all in Lincoln, Nebraska. Significant in this list are Barr Terrace (1889-91), the Frank M. Spaulding House (1908-10) and the Arthur Ziemar House (1909-10). The Spaulding and the Ziemar Houses are considered fine examples of the Arts & Craft Movement, while the Barr Terrace—one of the oldest row houses in Lincoln—was designed in the Richardsonian Romanesque style.

Fiske and Deiman's design for the First National Bank- Steinmeier Building possesses all of the salient characteristics of an early twentieth century Italian Renaissance Revival building. The lower elevation has a rusticated base with strong horizontal lines. The second floor fenestration has rounded openings. Limestone detailing on the portico, corbel and cornice are all finely articulated.

#### *The Two-Part Commercial Block*

The Two-Part Commercial Block is a well-documented Main Street style prevalent in the United States. As described by Longstreth, it is the predominate style of commercial buildings constructed during the early 20th century. First National Bank- Steinmeier Building is zoned by function, and has a second level with a separate entrance. The façade treatment designed by Fiske is consistent with the academic work of two story commercial blocks. The detailing is straightforward and restrained. The use of materials and craft is consistent on both levels. Also described by Longstreth, this is a consistent feature of banks in this period.

#### *The Banking Lobby*

It is very rare to find a bank interior with the integrity of the First National Bank - Steinmeier Building. With the turmoil in banking through the Great Depression, several banking entities went out of business. Most of the facilities were converted to other uses after banks failed. When other concerns occupied these spaces on prominent Main streets, the interiors were usually removed or repurposed. Although the current bank is not the original business, the banking hall has been largely unaltered. The banking lobby, designed for First National Bank in 1909, still functions as a commercial bank to this day.

The banking lobby itself is zoned by the teller line into private and public functions. This plan arrangement is consistent with the description of Jennings and Gottfried on small town banks as retail spaces. In plan, the teller line forms a "z" shape which allows for different banking functions and customer privacy.

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Custer County Nebraska Assessor Website, Property Summaries, 431 South 10<sup>th</sup>, Broken Bow, Nebraska 68822. Available online at <http://custerne.taxsifter.com/taxsifter/t-assessor.asp?pid=000902700>

Ertl, Ted. *Biography of Ferdinand Comstock Fiske and Charles A. Dieman.*

Fuhrer, Mary Christine, Rezac, Anne, Sleight, Bret and Scholz, Gordon. *Business Incubator Design Guide for Ansley, Nebraska.* University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Lincoln, Nebraska. 2009

Gaston, W.L., Humphrey, A.R. *History of Custer County, Nebraska.* Western Publishing and Engraving Company, Lincoln, Nebraska. 1919

Jennings, Jan and Gottfried, Herbert. *American Vernacular Interior Architecture 1870-1940.* Van Nostrand Reinhold, New York, New York. 1988.

Longstreth, Richard. *The Buildings of Main Street, A Guide to American Commercial Architecture.* Preservation Press, Washington D.C., 1987.

Olson, James and Ronald C. Naugle. *History of Nebraska* [Third Edition]. University of Nebraska Press, Lincoln, Nebraska, 1997.

Perkey Elton. *Perkey's Nebraska Place Names.* Nebraska State Historical Society, Lincoln, Nebraska. 1982

Poppeliers, John, Chambers, S. Allen. *What Style is it?* Preservation Press, Washington D.C. 1983.

Puschendorf, L. Robert. "Historic Context Report 15.05.02: Early Nebraska Banking," Nebraska State Historical Society, Lincoln, Nebraska, 1989.

Puschendorf, L. Robert. "Historic Context Report 15.05.03: The Age of Main Street Banking," Nebraska State Historical Society, Lincoln, Nebraska, 1989.

Puschendorf, L. Robert. "Historic Context Report 15.05.04: The Nebraska Banking System is Tried," Nebraska State Historical Society, Lincoln, Nebraska, 1989.

Rikfind, Carole. *A Field Guide to American Architecture.* Plume, New York, New York 1980

Security State Bank Archives. *Official Corporate Record of First National Bank of Ansley.* Page 43, from Nov. 25, 1908. Security State Bank, Ansley, Nebraska.

Security State Bank Archives. *History of Security State Bank and Steinmeier Drug Store.* Page 18. Security State Bank, Ansley, Nebraska.

Security State Bank Website. Online at <https://onlinebanking.ssbnebraska.com/Pages/Default.html>. 2010.

### Ansley Herald

Security State Bank Advertisement, 26 January 1933

Steinmeier Pharmacy Advertisement, 2 February 1933

"Banks of Nation Close Last Saturday," 9 March 1933

"Security State Bank Opens with No Restrictions," 16 March 1933

Security State Bank Advertisement, 30 March 1933



First National Bank-Steinmeier Building

Name of Property

Custer County, Nebraska

County and State

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67 has been requested)  
☐ previously listed in the National Register  
☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register  
☐ designated a National Historic Landmark  
☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

☐ State Historic Preservation Office  
☐ Other State agency  
☐ Federal agency  
☐ Local government  
☐ University  
☐ Other

Name of repository: The Architectural Offices  
Omaha, Nebraska

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): CU02-003

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property** Less than one acre

(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 14 468085 457060  
Zone Easting Northing

3 \_\_\_\_\_  
Zone Easting Northing

2 \_\_\_\_\_  
Zone Easting Northing

4 \_\_\_\_\_  
Zone Easting Northing

**Verbal Boundary Description** (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

Approximately the northern 70 feet of Lots 7 and, Block 9, Original Town, Ansley, Nebraska. The southern, eastern and western boundaries all conform to historic and current property lines. The northern boundary runs along the northern side of a concrete walk immediately behind the building.

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

These boundaries include all the property historically associated with the First National Bank—Steinmeier Drug Building. The northern boundary was drawn to exclude property associated with unrelated and largely non-extant telephone exchange building to the south. A small concrete block addition associated with the telephone exchange is still extant.

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Joseph F. Saniuk, AIA Principal

organization The Architectural Offices

date 1 April 2011

street & number 4610 Dodge Street

telephone 402.551.3400

city or town Omaha

state Nebraska zip code 68132

e-mail jsaniuk@thearchitecturaloffices.com

**First National Bank-Steinmeier Building**  
Name of Property

**Custer County, Nebraska**  
County and State

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### Additional Documentation

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Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.

- **Continuation Sheets**
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

---

### Photographs:

---

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

**Name of Property: Security State Bank**

City or Vicinity: Ansley

County: Custer

State: Nebraska

**Photographer: Bryan R. Zimmer, AIA**

Date Photographed: 8-27-2009, 9-24-2010, 12-21-2010

### Description of Photograph(s) and number:

**01 of 10.** South Façade, Aspect: N

**02 of 10.** West Elevation (secondary façade), Aspect: E

**03 of 10.** Rear (north) Elevation and West Elevation, Aspect: SE

**04 of 10.** East Elevation, Aspect: W

**05 of 10.** Detail of Cornice and Second Story Ornamentation, Aspect: N

**06 of 10.** Banking Lobby, Aspect N

**07 of 10.** Built-in Safe, Banking Lobby, Aspect: N

**08 of 10.** Interior of East Bay (former Drug Store), Aspect: NW

**09 of 10.** Interior of Second Story, original six panel door, Aspect: N

**10 of 10.** Interior of Second Story, original interior window surrounds, Aspect: S

First National Bank-Steinmeier Building  
Name of Property

Custer County, Nebraska  
County and State

**Property Owner:**

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Bill Brush, Security State Bank  
street & number 624 Main Street telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
city or town Ansley state Ne zip code 68814

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 460 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.



First National Bank-Steinmeier Building  
Name of Property

Custer County, Nebraska  
County and State

**SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIALS**



First National Bank-Steinmeier Building, Historic Post Card

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY First National Bank--Steinmeier Building  
NAME:

MULTIPLE  
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: NEBRASKA, Custer

DATE RECEIVED: 7/01/11 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 7/22/11  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 8/08/11 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 8/16/11  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 11000527

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N  
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N  
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

☒ ACCEPT ☐ RETURN ☐ REJECT 8-10-11 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in  
The National Register  
of  
Historic Places

RECOM./CRITERIA \_\_\_\_\_

REVIEWER \_\_\_\_\_ DISCIPLINE \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



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First National Bank - Steinmeier Building  
624 Main Street  
Ansley, Custer County, Nebraska  
Photo 1 of 11

NEHRSI #: CU02-003

NE-Custer County-First National Bank-Steinmeier Bld-0001



First National Bank-Steinmeier Building  
624 Main Street  
Ansley, Custer County, Nebraska  
Photo 2 of 11

NEHRSI #: CU02-003

NE-CusterCounty-FirstNationalBank-SteinmeierBld-0002



♿  
HANDICAPPED  
PARKING



First National Bank - Steinmeier Building  
624 Main Street  
Husley, Custer County, Nebraska  
Photo 3 of 11

NeHR81 #: CU02-003

NE-Custer County-First National Bank-Steinmeier Bld-0003



First National Bank - Steinmeier Building

624 Main Street

Ansley, Custer County, Nebraska

Photo 4 of 11

NEHRSI #: C002-003

NE Custer County - First National Bank - Steinmeier Bld - 0004





First National Bank - Steinmeier Building  
624 Main Street  
Aurora, Custer County, Nebraska  
Photo 5 of 11

NeHRSI #: CU02-003

NE-Custer County-First National Bank-Steinmeier Bld-0005



First National Bank - Steinmeier Building  
624 Main Street

Ansgy, Custer County, Nebraska

Photo 6 of 11

NeHR81 #: CMO2-003

NE-CusterCounty-FirstNationalBank-SteinmeierBld-0006





First National Bank -  
Steinmeier Building  
624 Main Street  
Ansley, Custer County, Nebraska  
Photo 7 of 11

Ne HRSI #: U02-003

NE-CusterCo-FBN-SteinmeierBld-0007



First National Bank - Steinmeier Building  
624 Main Street

Ansley, Custer County, Nebraska  
Photo 8 of 11

NetR81 #: CU02-003

NE Custer County First National Bank - Steinmeier Bld - 0008





First National Bank - Steinmeier Building  
624 Main Street

Ansley, Custer County, Nebraska  
Photo 9 of .11

Ne HRSI #: CU02-003

NE - Custer County - First National Bank - Steinmeier Bld - 0009



First National Bank - Steinmeier Building  
624 Main Street  
Ansley, Custer County, Nebraska  
Photo 10 of 11

NEHRSI #: CU02-003

NE-CusterCounty-FirstNationalBank-SteinmeierBld-0010





First National Bank - Steinmeier Building.

1624 Main Street

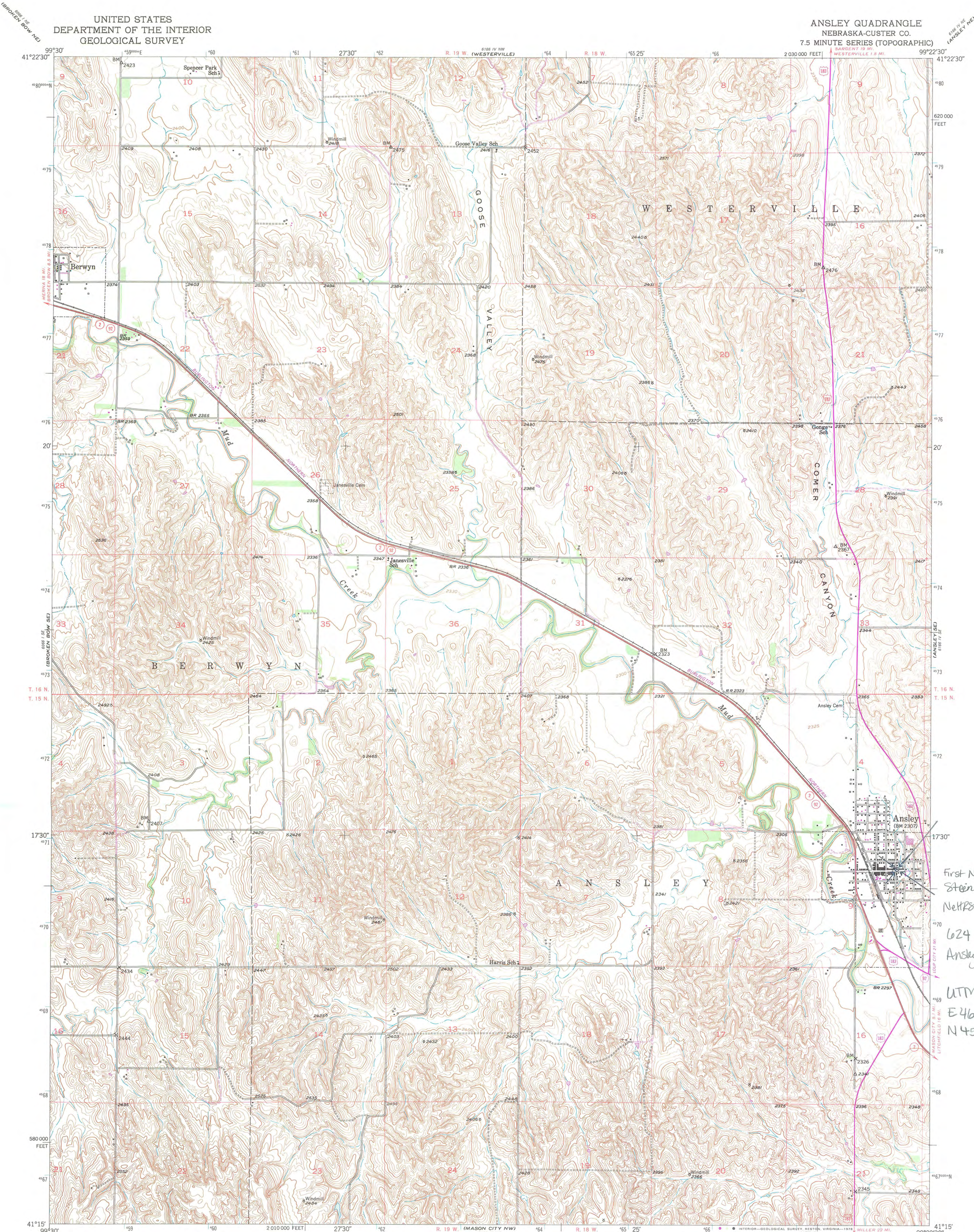
Ausley, Custer County, Nebraska

Photo 11 of 11

NEHRSI #: CU02-003

NE - Custer County - First National Bank - Steinmeier Bld - 0011





Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey as part of the Department of the Interior program for the development of the Missouri River Basin

Control by USGS and USC&GS

Topography from aerial photographs by multiplex methods Aerial photographs taken 1949. Field check 1951

Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum 10,000-foot grid based on Nebraska coordinate system, south zone

Unchecked elevations are shown in brown

1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, Zone 14, shown in blue

Revisions shown in purple compiled from aerial photographs taken 1974. This information not field checked.

Map edited 1978

UTM GRID AND 1978 MAGNETIC NORTH DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET

SCALE 1:24 000

CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET  
DOTTED LINES REPRESENT 5-FOOT CONTOURS  
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092  
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Heavy-duty 6 LANE 6 LANE Light-duty  
Medium-duty 4 LANE 6 LANE Unimproved dirt  
U. S. Route State Route

ANSLEY, NEBR  
N4115-W9922.5/7.5

1951  
PHOTOREVISED 1978  
AMS 6166 IV SW-SERIES 8V85

First National Bank-Steinmeier Building  
NetRst# CU02-003  
624 Main Street  
Ansley, Custer Co.  
UTMs: 14  
E 468085  
N 457060





June 27, 2011

J. Paul Loether  
National Register—National Historic Landmarks Programs  
National Park Service  
1201 "I" Street NW, 8th Floor  
Washington, DC 20005

RE: First National Bank – Steinmeier Building  
Ansley, Custer County, Nebraska

Dear Mr. Loether:

Please find enclosed the National Register of Historic Places nomination form for the above resource. This form has met all notification and other requirements as established in 36 CFR 60.

If you have any questions concerning this nomination, please let me know.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "L. Robert Puschendorf". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

L. Robert Puschendorf  
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

Enclosure

1500 R Street  
PO Box 82554  
Lincoln, NE 68501-2554  
p: (800) 833-6747  
(402) 471-3270  
f: (402) 471-3100  
[www.nebraskahistory.org](http://www.nebraskahistory.org)