

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

For NPS use only

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

received FEB 21 1984
date entered

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

1. Name

historic Presque Isle National Bank

and or common Maine Farmers Exchange

2. Location

street & number 422 Main Street

N/A not for publication

city, town Presque Isle, N/A vicinity of

state Maine code 23 county Aroostook code 003

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

4. Owner of Property

name Lawrence Thibodeau

street & number County Road, Route #1, Box 224

city, town Presque Isle, N/A vicinity of state Maine 04769

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Aroostook County Registry of Deeds

street & number

city, town Houlton, state Maine

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title N/A has this property been determined eligible? N/A yes ___ no

date ___ federal ___ state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

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

This two story brick block is part of a row of late nineteenth and early twentieth century commercial buildings on Presque Isle's Main Street. The principal facade is divided into three sections with a central staircase entry to the second floor flanked by two stores. The first story consists of brick piers supporting a granite lintel with wood and plate glass display windows. The entries to the stores and to the upper level are recessed.

The second story has tripartite segmental arched sash over each store with granite muntins and sills. These windows consist of double-hung sash surmounted by a fixed sash with small-paned lights. This elevation is delineated by four brick pilasters linked above the windows by a decorative belt course and at the roof line by a heavy corbelled cornice. In the center is a granite date block with the numbers "1887".

Alterations to the building include remodellings of the store-fronts and entries, the addition of steps necessitated by lowering the grade of the street, and the addition of a pitched roof to solve water leakage problems.

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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1887 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The entire commercial center of Presque Isle was destroyed by a major fire in 1884. Rebuilding included the construction of the National Bank block in 1887. This structure is the most architecturally important commercial block in northern Maine above Houlton.

One-half of the bank block was financed by the stockholders of the bank and the other half by a local businessman, C. F. A. Johnson. The new bank opened on January 2, 1888 with a capital of \$50,000. The bank, a victim of the Depression, closed in March, 1933.

This building's importance as a center of commerce centers on its period of occupancy by the bank between 1887 and 1933. These years were the most important period of development for Aroostook county, which is known as a major agricultural region in the state. Specifically, Aroostook County is important for its potato industry, both as a crop for export and in the manufacture of starch. The Presque Isle National bank was critical in financing development during these prosperous years. Indeed, C.F.A. Johnson, one of the principal share holders, was known as the "starch king". Also significant is the fact that the local newspaper, The Northern Star, occupied half the building for a number of years.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Edward Wiggin, ed., History of Aroostook. Presque Isle, 1922.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property $\frac{1}{2}$

Quadrangle name Presque Isle

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

1	9	5	7	5	2	9	0	5	1	6	9	9	0	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

Assessor's Map 11, Lot 134

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

state code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Frank A. Beard, Historian/Roger G. Reed, Architectural Historian

organization Maine Historic Preservation Commission date January, 1986

street & number 55 Capitol Street, Station #65 telephone 207/289-2132

city or town Augusta, state Maine 04333

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 *Eula S. Stettinwood*

title S.H.P.O. date 2/19/86

For NPS use only

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

Patrick Andrus date 7/31/86
for Keeper of the National Register

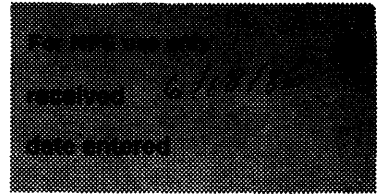
Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior
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PRESQUE ISLE NATIONAL BANK (MAINE FARMERS EXCHANGE)

Continuation sheet

Item number

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Although roof and storefront alterations detract from the building's integrity, this structure is the only architecturally distinctive nineteenth century block to survive in the northern half of the county, an area which includes the small cities of Presque Isle, Caribou and Fort Fairfield. Much of the pre-1900 building stock in this region was replaced in the first quarter of the twentieth century or has been demolished. A search of local records, including newspapers, has not turned up information on the architect of the bank building.