

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

For NPS use only

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

received **MAR 26 1986**
date entered

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

1. Name

historic Stockgrowers Bank

and/or common Dixon Town Hall

2. Location

street & number Third Street ___ not for publication

city, town Dixon ___ vicinity of

state Wyoming code 056 county Carbon code 007

3. Classification

| | | | |
|---|--|---|---|
| Category | Ownership | Status | Present Use |
| <input type="checkbox"/> district | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied | <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s) | <input type="checkbox"/> private | <input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied | <input 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 | <u>n/a</u> in process | <input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific |
| | <u>n/a</u> 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 Town of Dixon

street & number P.O. Box 986

city, town Dixon ___ vicinity of state Wyoming

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Carbon County Courthouse Land Department

street & number Fourth and Cedar Streets

city, town Rawlins state Wyoming

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Dixon Town Hall/U.W. Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 5/22/80 federal state county local

depository for survey records Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office

city, town Cheyenne state Wyoming

7. Description

| | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|---|---|
| Condition | | Check one | Check one |
| <input type="checkbox"/> excellent | <input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good | <input type="checkbox"/> ruins | <input type="checkbox"/> altered | <input type="checkbox"/> moved date <u> N/A </u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> fair | <input type="checkbox"/> unexposed | | |

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Dixon Town Hall is a single story, canted facade, rectangular building on Lot 20 of Block 4 within the Dixon township plat. The ornamented concrete block structure with fabricated tin cornice markedly contrasts with the deteriorating wood frame structures in close proximity to it. Originally constructed to house the Stockgrowers Bank of Dixon in 1916, the building has continued to function as an important civic center in housing the Town Hall since 1975. The building features a concrete foundation and incorporated basement, ornamented concrete block enclosing four fixed single display windows with transoms and a metal fabricated cornice with egg and dart and floral ornaments. The fixed display windows are prominent and easily dominate the building front. Rock faced ornamented concrete brick of this fashion was popularized by Sears Roebuck and Company beginning in 1909 when they began merchandising block presses and accessories. This style of cladding remained popular until the 1920's when mass produced, plain faced concrete brick could be produced faster and more economically. The canted entranceway includes a sidelight transomed door. An asphalt covered flat roof caps the building. The interior of the building features wood flooring, window sills and lentils on plastered walls. A large centrally located safe room, constructed of coursed concrete, holds a safe which houses the town's documents. The large main room gives way to a second smaller room in the building's back third. Here a small restroom is built off to the northwest corner and entrance to the unimproved basement is provided. The building exemplifies the community's desire to be a commercial focal point for the region. As the Stockgrower's Bank, the building housed probably the single-most important facility for the local economy and now embodies the penchant for stability so commonly desired in pioneer communities. The bank retains integrity of location and setting, comprising one of the general buildings of the small Dixon downtown area. The design and materials are in marked contrast with the other local structures, lending a quality of permanence and solidity to the building and evoking a feeling of trustworthiness that reflects the bank's importance to local commerce.

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 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 checked="" 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 1916 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The demand of pioneer settlers for services fulfilling immediate and basic needs for their continued existence produced a great number of small communities throughout the frontier west. As outgrowths of initial success in settlement these incipient communities produced an entrepreneurial class bent on providing services and making their communities the regional service center. Certain factors dictated whether these communities succeeded or failed: first, obtaining and keeping a post office; second, providing ready access to manufactured goods through mercantiles; third, providing diversion to the otherwise prosaic ranch life and lastly providing a myriad of services which enhanced or insured the continued existence of the economy originally precipitating successful settlement. Certainly the continued success of any community or local economy dictated the access to capital to fuel the burgeoning economy. Banks throughout the rural west, often capitalized by small businessmen in nascent communities, provided basic service to homesteaders. The Dixon Stockgrower's Bank building, now the Dixon Town Hall, materially embodies this process of frontier community formation. Founded in 1911 by E.W. Reade the Stockgrowers Bank served the upper Snake River valley farmers and ranchers by providing capital critical to the growing agricultural economy. Even its demise in 1923 can be directly related to local, statewide, and national economic processes as the post-World War I contraction of the national economy spurred a collapse of overextended rural banks. The inflated prices of agricultural commodities and lands and the wide spread speculation including these resources undermined the rural bank's solvency. The return to "normalcy" brought the collapse of over 100 rural banks in Wyoming between 1920 and 1936. Among these banks was the Dixon Stockgrowers Bank. After the collapse of the bank, the town of Dixon's role in the valley was supplanted by the increasing growth of nearby Baggs. The recession of Dixon's importance within the valley could not solely be related to the bank collapse but to the process of change inevitable with the introduction of automobiles and the formation of centralized regional service centers like Rawlins. The relegation of the bank building to housing the present day town hall has served to once again bring the building into local prominence, physically manifesting the ties between the community and economy of a past epoch. The building continues to epitomize the solidity associated with institutions formed for the public welfare.

(SEE ADDENDUM)

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Addendum

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property Less than 1/2 acre

Quadrangle name Dixon, Wyo.-Colo.

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A 1 3 2 8 16 8 16 10 4 15 4 15 4 8 10
Zone Easting Northing

B
Zone Easting Northing

C

D

E

F

G

H

Verbal boundary description and justification

See Addendum

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

state n/a code n/a county n/a code n/a

state n/a code n/a county n/a code n/a

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Hugh R. Davidson, Historical Preservation Intern

organization Wyoming SHPO

date August 23, 1985

street & number Barrett Building, 2301 Central

telephone 777-6301

city or town Cheyenne

state Wyoming

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

Robert W. Bush

title Director and State Historic Preservation Officer

date 3-18-86

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

for Allora Byers
Keeper of the National Register

date 6-25-86

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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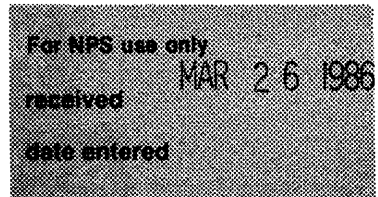
Continuation sheet Dixon Town Hall Item number 8 Page 1

Successful settlement by cattle raising stockmen of the Little Snake River Valley in the 1870's provided the impetus for incipient community formation throughout the Little Snake River Basin. Critical to the survival of these nascent towns was obtaining a post office and other services associated with immediate and basic needs of the frontiersmen like the marketing of mercantile goods or livery facilities. Sometimes local environmental conditions facilitated growth as in the case of communities proximity to mineral deposits or permanent government facilities. All these conditions existed within and around Dixon, Wyoming from its barest beginnings in 1879. Initially Dixon was founded at the location of modern day Baggs, Wyoming, seven miles west of Dixon. Little Snake River inhabitants seeking protection from Utes uprising after the Meeker massacre in the early Fall of 1879, relocated near trapper Jim Baker's Stockade near the present day Dixon township. The previous year mercantilist Charles Perkins had secured the post office contract for the area and located it on his ranch west of Dixon. This post office was later moved to Dixon after its founding in June 1887 when the townsite was selected and laid out by William Baker. The towns proximity to major transport routes to the Hahn's Peak, Colorado crossed goldfield and White River (Ute) Indian agency in Colorado aided in its founding. The Dixon Townsite Company was incorporated by Baker, Napoleon Kinneam, and James Douglas on July 25, 1887 and was captialized at \$4000.00 for selling or leasing blocks and lots within the 45 acre townsite. The townsite location favored it with business from the upper Little Snake River valley and lend to the establishment of a hotel, a mercantile and the stockgrowers bank.

The Stockgrowers Bank was established in 1911. In October of 1911 lot 20 of Block 4 in Dixon was purchased by the bank company for \$1500.00. William Reader and his brother Albert were the primary stockholders in the stockgrowers bank of Dixon. At the banks demise in 1923 William's son Earl, later a prominent Rock Springs oilman, acted as the court appointed reciever for the bank. Earl Reader was also one of the Town's first councilmen when the community was incorporated in February of 1912. The construction of the ornamented concrete block bank building was not accomplished until 1916. The date of construction has been established by a quantitative leap of assessed tax valuation on the bank lot recorded in the Carbon County tax records in 1916. The bank continued to serve area farmers and ranches from this location until 1923 when it went into receivership. The recievership was precipitated by a vast overextension of the banks assets in previous years. The overextension was common among rural banks of the Twenties attempting to reap profits from a post World War I agribultural boom, a boom based on inflated agricultural commodity and land prices. The Stockgrowers Bank, as an example, had cash reserves equaling a little over \$11000 in August of 1923 but debts of more than \$150,000, depts accrued by the speculative practices so common during the period. The state Attorney General recommended dissolution of the corporation, an act that was ordered by the district court in Rawlins August 14, 1923.

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Continuation sheet Dixon Town Hall Item number 8 Page 2

Since the dissolution of bank, the building served as a soda fountain under Carl Woods in the early 1940's; a small mercantile under David Gillespie in the late 1940's, the meeting hall of the local Little Snake River Veterans of Foreign Wars post. (post #10051) and, since April of 1975, the local town hall. As the town hall the building continues to be one of two significant civic centers within the confines of the town, the other being the local seniors center. The town's records are still kept in the old bank's massive safe and the building continues to house the town council meetings. The building has been and continues to be a significant community asset.

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Continuation sheet Dixon Town Hall Item number 9 (Bibliography) Page 1

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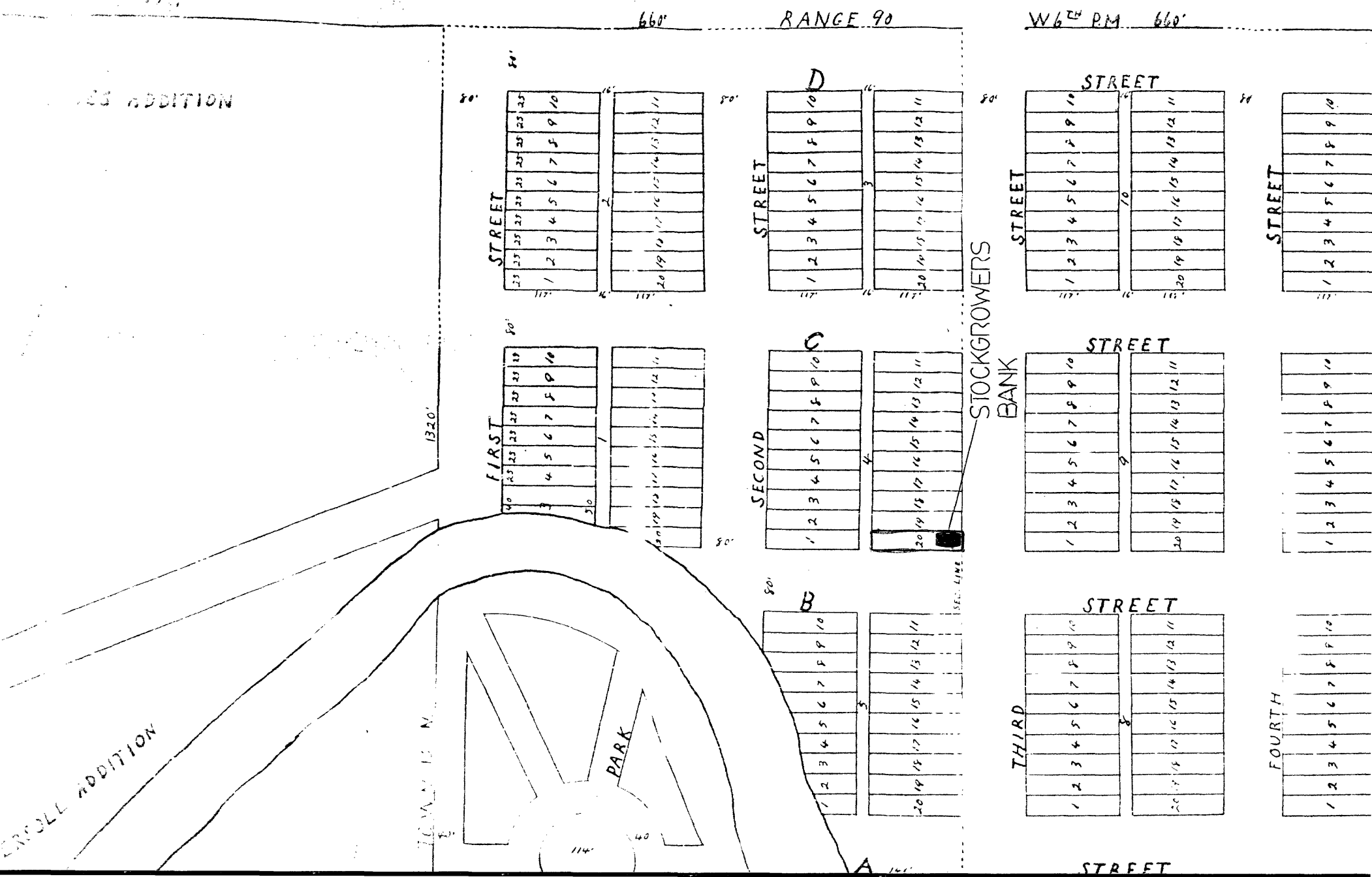
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Continuation sheet Stockgrowers Bank (Dixon) Item number 10 Page 1

The building lies within Lot 20 of Block 4 on the Dixon township plat map on file in the Carbon County Courthouse, Rawlins, Wyoming. The legal location of the lot is in the SE $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$, NE $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$, T12N, R90W, Carbon County, Wyoming. The building stands on the eastern one-half of the lot. The lot is located on the northwest corner of Third and B streets in Dixon and is a single story detached structure currently housing the town hall. The lot boundaries adequately define the historical site boundaries.

OF THE TOWN OF DIXON

CARBON CO. WYOMING.



1888 ADDITION

ENROLL ADDITION

660' RANGE 90

W 6TH PM 660'

TOWN 16 N.

STREET

| | | | | | | | | | |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 23 | 25 | 27 | 29 | 31 | 33 | 35 | 37 | 39 | 41 |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |

STREET

D

| | | | | | | | | | |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |

STREET

| | | | | | | | | | |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |

STREET

| | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|

FIRST

| | | | | | | | | | |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 40 | 42 | 44 | 46 | 48 | 50 | 52 | 54 | 56 | 58 |
| 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 |

SECOND

C

| | | | | | | | | | |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |

STREET

| | | | | | | | | | |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |

STREET

| | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|

THIRD

B

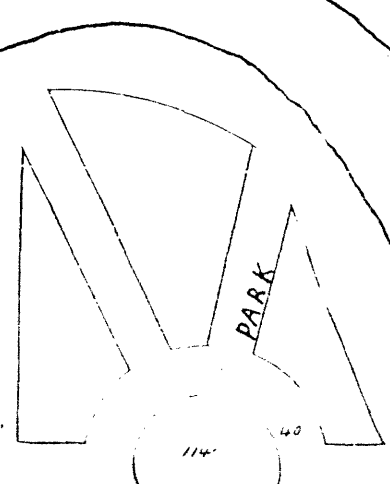
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|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |

STREET

| | | | | | | | | | |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |

FOURTH

| | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|



STOCKGROWERS BANK

100' LINE

STREET