

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

For NPS use only

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

received AUG 5 1985
date entered SEP 1 1985

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

1. Name

historic Bank of Long Prairie

and/or common Michael's Cafe

2. Location

street & number 262 Central Avenue N/A not for publication

city, town Long Prairie N/A vicinity of

state Minnesota code 022 county Todd code 147

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<u>N/A</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Michael Sieve

street & number 120 Second Avenue North

city, town Long Prairie N/A vicinity of state Minnesota 56347

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Todd County Courthouse, Register of Deeds

street & number 215 1st Avenue South

city, town Long Prairie state Minnesota 56347

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Minnesota Statewide Historic Sites Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1984 federal state county local

depository for survey records Minnesota Historical Society
Ft. Snelling History Center

city, town St. Paul state Minnesota

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" 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 Bank of Long Prairie is a two story commercial building which occupies thirty nine feet frontage in the center of one of the main commercial blocks of Long Prairie. The stone and brick facade is divided into two unequally-sized bays, reflecting the building's original dual use as a bank and a jewelry store. The second floor contained office space.

The design of the facade freely uses elements from several architectural styles popular at the turn of the century. Rusticated sandstone, laid in a random pattern, is used on the facade up to the height of the second floor window sills. Polished red granite is used on the three squared piers that support the arches. The smaller west arch is semi-circular, and about twelve feet in width, while the east arch is compound-curved. This arch has the same height as the smaller arch but spans approximately twenty-four feet. The voussoirs are rusticated sandstone. Column capitals and keystones, also sandstone, are carved. Capitals feature cherubs set in a pattern of acanthus leaves. Keystones have an acanthus leaf pattern. A dentilled stone course is at the sill height of the second floor windows. Brown pressed brick, laid in a butter joint, is used on the second floor and pediment.

Second floor windows are placed in groups above the first floor arches. Two windows are placed above the smaller bay; the larger east bay has four above. Windows within each group are separated by polished red colonnettes, which have carved Corinthian sandstone capitals. The double-hung operable sash in the lower part of the windows are separated from a fixed light above by smooth stone transoms. Rusticated stone quoins and headers surround the windows.

Two keyed round windows, set in stone frames, are placed above the second floor windows. Above these is a sandstone cornice supported by acanthus leaf-patterned carved brackets. The brick parapet wall above has several recessed panels, one containing the carved dateblock. Three piers, corresponding to the piers at the base of the facade, are topped by shell-patterned finials. The exposed rear facade of the building is undistinguished. Finished in common-grade brick, it is punctuated by segmental-arched window openings.

Despite several minor changes, the exterior of the bank has excellent architectural integrity. The interior has been substantially altered for its present use as a popular cafe. Carpeting, new paint and wall partitions give no hint of a previous richly decorated banking house. The present cafe entrance is through the original jewelry store entrance, which has remained in original, intact condition. The storefront on the east bay has been altered by the addition of brick and a new glazing panel to infill the original recessed entry. Small glass panes above the storefront windows and beneath the arches, and the copper-clad frames and moldings are storefront elements which have been retained. The second floor window sash have been replaced with glass block.

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 type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" 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 1903 **Builder/Architect** Omeyer and Thori, Architects

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Bank of Long Prairie played an important role in the development of Long Prairie and Todd County. Established in 1881, the bank was the first to operate in the county, and was its largest bank for a number of years. In 1903, when a larger facility was needed, the bank's founder and president, William E. Lee, commissioned the St. Paul architectural firm of Didrik A. Omeyer and Martin P. Thori to design a modern banking house that would greatly add to the appearance of Osakis Street, the main commercial street in Long Prairie. Their design is an unusual yet sophisticated mixture of Romanesque and Classical Revival styles popular around the turn of the century.

In 1881 Long Prairie was the only significantly-sized community in Todd County. That year, William E. Lee and Andrew J. Smith decided to establish a bank, the first in the county. Initially operated as a private bank, the Bank of Long Prairie was incorporated under state charter in 1890, with capital of \$25,000. Despite the establishment of the competing First National Bank of Long Prairie and other banks in smaller communities, the Bank of Long Prairie continued to grow and maintain its position as the largest bank.

By 1902 the bank had accumulated capital of \$70,000. That year it decided to build a "modern" facility to house its expanding business. William Lee selected the firm of Omeyer and Thori of St. Paul, which had advertised itself to be skilled at designing "schools, colleges, soursouhouses, churches, banks, opera houses, libraries, stores and residences" (St. Paul City Directory, 1903, p. 182). Lee also hired the firm to design another Long Prairie commercial building, a three story brick building on the southeast corner of Osakis and Third. Upon completion, this building was occupied by the competing People's National Bank.

The construction of the Bank of Long Prairie building incorporated the foundations and sidewalls of the previous bank building. To give the desired image of permanence, stone was used on the street level of the front facade. The two arches at the front were made unequally sized to reflect the space needs of the bank and an adjoining store. The construction contract was awarded to John F. Dimond of Sauk Center in January 1903. Dimond had submitted the low bid of \$10,263. Construction was completed in October, at which time N.C. Clemmenson, a jeweler, moved into the west store. The upper floor offices were rented to law, real estate and insurance firms.

The bank was described upon its opening as "one of the best in Minnesota," a building that "would compare favorably to any in Minnesota, or the Northwest" ("A Modern Banking House," Long Prairie Leader, October 30, 1903, pp. 1, 2).

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than 1 acre

Quadrangle name Long Prairie, Minn.

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A 15 355840 5092670
Zone Easting Northing

B
Zone Easting Northing

C

D

E

F

G

H

Verbal boundary description and justification

The west 39 feet of Lot 9, except alley, Block 15, Original Townsite of Long Prairie

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 Thomas L. Jenkinson and Norene Roberts

organization Historical Research, Inc. date March 1, 1985

street & number 5535 Richmond Curve telephone (612) 929-2921

city or town Minneapolis state Minnesota 55410

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 Russell W. Fridley

title Russell W. Fridley date 7/12/85
State Historic Preservation Officer

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

Melores Byer Entered in the National Register date 9/5/85
Keeper of the National Register

Attest: _____ date _____

Chief of Registration

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Bank of Long Prairie, Long Prairie, MN; Todd County

Continuation sheet Significance, cont'd.

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The firm of Omeyer and Thori practiced in St. Paul from 1888 until the death of Martin Thori in 1907. The firm designed several courthouses in Minnesota, including the Norman County Courthouse, Ada, and the Cottonwood County Courthouse in Windom. College work included Old Main at Augsburg College, Minneapolis, and the Park Region Luther College in Fergus Falls. The firm is also responsible for many Queen Anne style houses in St. Paul.

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Continuation sheet

Bibliography

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"A Modern Banking House." Long Prairie Leader, October 30, 1903, pp. 1,2.

"A Narrow Escape." Todd County Argus, September 24, 1903, p. 1.

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"Buildings for Long Prairie." Long Prairie Leader, December 12, 1902, p. 1.

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Fuller, Clara K. History of Morrison and Todd Counties, Minnesota.
Indianapolis, Indiana: B. F. Bowen and Co., Inc., 1915.

"Long Prairie is Growing." Long Prairie Leader, June 19, 1903, pp. 1, 2.

"New Bank Building." Long Prairie Democrat, December 12, 1902, p. 1.

"New Banking House." Long Prairie Democrat, November 20, 1903, p. 1.

"New Blocks to be Built." Long Prairie Leader, January 30, 1903, p. 1.

"New Lee Buildings Nearing Completion." Long Prairie Democrat, July 10, 1903,
p. 1.

"Opens Next Week." Long Prairie Democrat, December 18, 1903, p. 1.

St. Paul City Directory. St. Paul, Minnesota: R.L. Polk and Co., 1903.