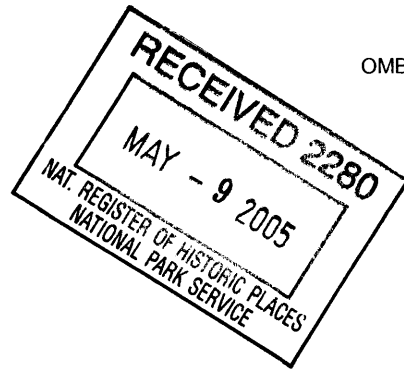


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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**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 How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. 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 entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name First National Bank Building
other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 611 Main Street not for publication N/A
city or town Webster Vicinity N/A
state South Dakota Code SD county Day code 037 zip code 57274

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this 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 meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Jay D. Vogt
Signature of certifying official

04-20-2005
Date

South Dakota SHPO
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

4. National Park Service Certification

- I hereby certify that the property is:
- entered in the National Register.
 See continuation sheet
 - determined eligible for the National Register.
 See continuation sheet
 - determined not eligible for the National Register
 - removed from the National Register.
 - other,
(explain:)

Signature of the Keeper: Edson Beall Date of Action: 6/22/05

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	Buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	Sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	Structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	Objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

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

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Commerce/Trade Sub: Financial Institution

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Work in Progress Sub: _____

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Late Victorian: Italianate

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

Foundation Stone, Brick

Roof Rubber

Walls Sandstone, Brick

Other _____

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

See Continuation Sheets

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.)

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

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture _____
Economics _____

Period of Significance

1903-1924 _____

First National Bank
Name of Property

Day County, South Dakota
County and State

Significant Dates 1903, 1924

Significant Person N/A

Cultural Affiliation N/A

Architect/Builder Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

See Continuation Sheets

9. Major Bibliographical References

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

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 #

Primary Location of Additional Data

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

Name of repository: N/A

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property Less than one acre

UTM References

(place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>14</u> Zone	<u>615942</u> Easting	<u>5020859</u> Northing	3	<u> </u> Zone	<u> </u> Easting	<u> </u> Northing
2	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	4	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)
See Continuation Sheet

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.) See Continuation Sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Jason Haug
organization Historic Preservation Specialist date 7 January 2005
street & number 900 Governors Drive telephone (605)773-6296
city or town Pierre state SD zip code 57501

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

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.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

First National Bank
Name of Property

Day County, South Dakota
County and State

Property Owner

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

name Michael E. Acree
street & number _____ telephone _____
city or town _____ state SD zip code _____

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. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the 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 Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Narrative Description

The First National Bank building is located on the west side of Main Street between First and Second Avenues in Webster, the county seat of Day County, South Dakota. This two-story commercial building was constructed with brick and sandstone in 1903 upon a brick and stone foundation. It is an excellent example of the Italianate style applied to a commercial building. The building is largely unaltered and retains a significant amount of its historic integrity from its period of significance of 1903 to 1924.

The façade, east elevation, is brick with a sandstone veneer. The sandstone on the first floor is rusticated. There is a single door on each side of the first floor. The ground slopes slightly from right to left (north to south) along the façade so the left door has two cement steps while the door on the right only has one. The historic doors have been replaced. Each doorway has a decorative rectangular crown. These crowns have decorative classical brackets on each end. Between the two doors in the center of the first floor is a large display window with a rectangular transom window directly above it. This transom window has purple glazed glass. Directly above each doorway is a smaller rectangular transom window opening. The windows for the smaller transoms are currently missing.

Between the first and second floor is a belt course that divides the floors. On the second level directly above each first-floor door is a one-over-one full-arch window. Each window has a decorative arched hood mold with a keystone at the top. Across the second floor, on each side of the outer windows, are four classical pilasters. In the center of the second level between the two outer windows is a paired window. This center window has two adjacent rectangular one-over-one windows with a half-segmental window above each, creating an arch over both windows. This window has the same decorative hood mold as the outer windows.

Above the second-story windows is a decorative entablature that features a row of dentils below a row of modillion blocks along the frieze below the cornice. The row of dentils features smaller elements closely spaced together while the row of modillions are larger and spaced wider apart. A few of the modillions are missing. The building has a flat roof that slopes slightly toward the back of the building.

The north and south elevations face adjacent one-story buildings. Each elevation is stuccoed brick with no features.

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The back, west elevation, of the building is also stucco-covered brick. The brick is exposed, however, in several places on this elevation. The second story has four tall, narrow one-over-one double hung sash windows that are currently boarded up on the inside. Above each window is a segmental arch. The first story has three tall, narrow windows like those on the second story. All are also currently boarded up. Between the left and center windows is a single doorway. Above this door is a boarded-up transom window. To the left of this door and below the left window is an entry that leads down to the building's basement.

The building's interior retains most of its original woodwork, including doors, windows, and trim, as well as much of the original plaster. The interior doors still have functioning transom windows. The building also has two vaults, one on the main floor and a second in the basement directly below it, with stone walls approximately three feet thick.

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Narrative Statement of Significance

The First National Bank building in Webster, Day County is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for its association with the early economic history of Day County, South Dakota. It is also eligible under Criterion C as it embodies distinctive architectural characteristics of a type and period. It is an excellent representation of the Italianate style in early twentieth-century South Dakota.

Mass European migration into Day County was delayed until the construction of the Chicago, Milwaukee, and St. Paul Railroad in the early 1880s. The railroad, the availability of cheap land, and a sense of security provided by Fort Sisseton located twenty-five miles north of Webster all sparked migration into Day County and most of northeastern South Dakota. The city of Webster was platted along the Chicago, Milwaukee, and St. Paul line in 1881 and became the county seat in 1886. Webster was incorporated as a city in 1895.¹

As the population of Webster and Day County continued to grow into the twentieth century, new businesses were established to meet the needs of the increasing number of residents, and consequently numerous banks were established. The Day County Bank opened in Webster in 1883 and the Security Bank followed, opening in Webster in 1897. Shortly after the turn of the century, a period of economic prosperity led to the construction of numerous banks across South Dakota. By 1910 there were 631 banks in the state.² The nominated First National Bank was constructed in 1903 and opened in 1904.³

¹ Day County Historical Research Committee, *History of Day County* (Aberdeen, SD: North Plains Press, 1981), 17, 829, 852.

² David Erpestad and David Wood, *Building South Dakota: A Historical Survey of the State's Architecture to 1945* (Pierre, SD: South Dakota State Historical Society Press, 1997), 142-148.

³ Donald Dean Parker, *History of Our County and State* (Brookings: South Dakota State College, 1960), 4-6.

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Prior to the stock market crash of 1929, many rural areas like South Dakota were already beginning to fall into an economic depression. As farm and land prices fell, farmers became unable to meet their financial obligations, sparking a banking crisis. From 1920 to 1925, there were 23,000 farm foreclosures in South Dakota, forcing 175 banks to close in the state during that same period.⁴ From 1920 to 1935 there were fifteen bank closures in Day County alone. Prior to this there had only been two in the county, one in 1892 and another in 1915. Two of the fifteen closures from 1920 to 1935 in Day County occurred in Webster. The Farmers and Merchants National Bank closed in October 1931 and the nominated First National Bank closed on January 2, 1924. At the time of the failure, the First National Bank had \$241,585 worth of deposits.⁵ The First National Bank building in Webster is thus eligible under Criterion A as it represents the economic history of Day County and particularly the economic difficulties during the 1920s and 1930s that forced the closure of several banks across the county, state, and nation.

The First National Bank is also eligible under Criterion C as an excellent, intact example of the Italianate style applied to a commercial building. Banks built during the first two decades of the twentieth century were often designed as significant, elaborate buildings that were visual landmarks of a community's downtown. Most were constructed of brick or stone to not only provide physical security for its deposits, but also to communicate a sense of prosperity and power.⁶ In South Dakota, the Italianate style roughly dates between 1870 and 1900.⁷

Characteristics of the Italianate style found in the First National Bank building include a symmetrical façade, a rusticated sandstone first floor, tall narrow windows with arches and elaborate hood molds, decorative crowns above the doors, a belt course dividing the two stories, and classical pilasters on the second story.⁸

⁴ Michelle L. Dennis, *Federal Relief Construction in South Dakota, 1929-1941* (Pierre, SD: State Historic Preservation Office, 1998), 5.

⁵ South Dakota Planning Board and Day County Planning Board. *Economic and Social Survey of Day County* (Brookings, SD: Central Office, 1935), 44-45.

⁶ Erpestad and Wood, 142.

⁷ Stephen Rogers and Lynda Schwan, *Architectural History in South Dakota* (Pierre, SD: State Historic Preservation Office, 2000), 2.

⁸ John J. Blumenson, *Identifying American Architecture* (Nashville, TN: American Association for State and Local History, 1977), 37

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While other two-part commercial buildings are present in Webster, the First National Bank is the most intact example in the city. Characteristic of the two-part commercial block type, the First National Bank is divided horizontally into two distinct zones, commercial space on the first story and office or apartment space on the second.⁹ Historically, in addition to housing the First National Bank on the first floor, the building also housed a lawyer, a dentist, and a doctor's office on the second floor. Other buildings in downtown Webster are either modern one-story buildings designed entirely for commercial use, or historic two-part commercial buildings that have drastically-altered facades. The First National Bank building retains a significant degree of its historic integrity which allows it to convey not only its architectural history but also its early economic history.

The First National Bank building in Webster, Day County is thus eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under both Criteria A for its association with the early economic history of Day County, South Dakota and under Criterion C as an excellent representation of the Italianate style applied to a commercial building.

⁹ Richard Longstreth. *The Buildings of Main Street: A Guide to American Commercial Architecture* (New York: AltaMira Press, 2000), 24-31.

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Section number 9&10 Page # 6

Bibliography

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South Dakota State Planning Board and Day County Planning Board. *Economic and Social Survey of Day County*. Brookings, SD: Central Office, 1935.

Boundary Description

The boundary for the nominated building follows the legal description of the building which is Lot 7, Block 8 of the Original Plat of the City of Webster, Day County, South Dakota.

Boundary Justification

The boundary follows the legal description of the lot historically associated with the First National Bank building.