

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only  
received NOV 28 1984  
date entered DEC 27 1984

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

1. Name

historic Bank of Portales

and/or common also Citizens National Bank, Portales News Tribune Building

2. Location

street & number 123 Main not for publication

city, town Portales vicinity of

state New Mexico code 35 county Roosevelt code 041

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: vacant

4. Owner of Property

name David Stone, Portales National Bank

street & number 109 East Second

city, town Portales vicinity of NA state New Mexico 88130

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Roosevelt County Courthouse

street & number Courthouse Square

city, town Portales state New Mexico

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

SR #1111  
title State Register of Cultural Properties has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date October 17, 1984  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Historic Preservation Division, 228 E. Palace Ave.

city, town Santa Fe state NM

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## 7. Description

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**Condition** excellent good fair deteriorated ruins unexposed**Check one** unaltered altered**Check one** original site moved

date \_\_\_\_\_

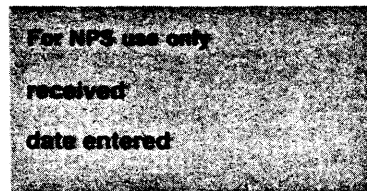
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**Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance**

The Bank of Portales building is a two-story, flat-roofed, rectangular commercial structure, measuring approximately 30' by 60' and located in a block of remodeled and later-built commercial buildings (ill. 1). Adjoining the sidewalk, ten feet from the street curbing, the building is constructed of common bond brick with a projecting brick cornice on the sides and rear, and with brick veneer on the front (ills. 2,4). Second floor windows on both the facade and east side are one-over-one double-hung with brown rusticated sandstone sills and lintels. On the ground floor of the street facade, both the large fixed window and double doors are topped by transoms and sandstone lintels. A corbelled, brick string course topped by short decorative brick piers and a sandstone coping articulates the facade (ill. 3) - (see continuation sheet).

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Continuation sheet

Description

Item number

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In the 1930's a one-story, hollow tile adjacent structure (in separate ownership and use and not included in this nomination) was constructed at the rear and a new exterior staircase was added to the east side (ills. 2,4). Further minor alterations included the removal of the facade's metal awning (however, the armatures remain) and the addition of a stucco finish on the ground floor facade brickwork (ill. 2). Although the first floor interior has been remodeled with easily removable wood partitions, its twelve-foot-high decorative pressed metal ceiling remains intact. The second floor retains its original partitions and door and window framing boards with simple decorative bosses.

## 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** 1902/1903 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Bank of Portales building, built in 1902 or 1903, is significant as the city's last unaltered commercial structure reflecting the brick style with stone ornamentation so common in developing, turn-of-the-century railroad towns of the high plains of eastern New Mexico. It is also closely associated with the development of Portales and the early commerce of Roosevelt County. The Bank of Portales was founded by J. P. Stone, who had earlier opened his first bank in nearby Elida (see continuation sheet).

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property under 1

Quadrangle name Portales

Quadrangle scale 1:62500

### UTM References

A 

1	3	6	5	3	2	7	5	3	7	8	4	0	5	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

Because of adjacent construction, the boundary represents the extent of the building itself: a rectangle, approximately 30' by 60' at the western corner of lot 7 of block 10 of the Original Town.

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

state NA code county code

state code county code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title David Kammer; Chris Wilson, Contract Architectural Historian

organization for St. Hist. Pres. Division date 10-1-84

street & number 219 Cornell, SE telephone 505-266-0931

city or town Albuquerque state New Mexico

# 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 *Chris Wilson*

title State Historic Preservation Officer date 11-2-84

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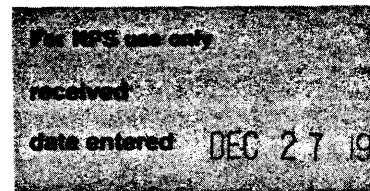
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register Entered in the National Register

*Delores Byers*  
Keeper of the National Register

date 12-27-84

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

Chief of Registration

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National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
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Continuation sheet

Significance

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A commercial district developed quickly with Portales' early prosperity. Of the six block fronts of commercial structures erected by 1909, 55% were of wood frame construction, 25% were brick and 20% cast stone. By 1913, many of the early frame buildings had been replaced and the proportion of brick structures rose to 50%. In early photographs, one sees a local style of brick ornamentation with just a hint, here and there, of the Richardsonian Romanesque and Classical styles. In general, though, this local style was characterized by simple corbeled string courses, projecting piers, recessed panels and stepped parapets, often with stone accents. Soon after its construction, the Bank of Portales building was recognized as a leading example of the city's commercial architecture when it was illustrated in a state promotional book, The Land of Sunshine.

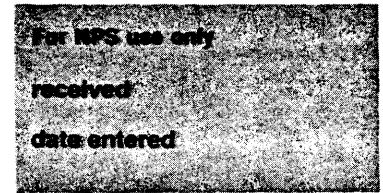
In 1910, when J.P. Stone offered the building to a Roswell, N.M. company seeking to establish a telephone exchange in Portales, he claimed with some pride that, "It is the best built building in the city." Of the early commercial buildings, only a handful remain, and of these only the Bank of Portales has escaped a substantial facade remodeling. It therefore stands as the sole reminder of the local commercial brick style of architecture.

Favored by nearby springs providing a good water supply, Portales grew quickly after the Pecos and Northeastern Railroad reached the area in 1899. With livestock raising and shipping the main industries in early Portales, banking played an important role in the town's early boom years, loaning money to ranchers to increase the size of their herds. By 1902 J.P. Stone, himself a rancher and sympathetic to ranchers' cyclical financial needs, founded the first of three banks to open during Portales' first decade. Along with the town's newspapers and commercial clubs, the early banks played a key role in publicizing and boosting the area for ranching and health. This promotional spirit became particularly important following the drought years of 1909-10 when many bankrupt ranchers left the area. Those remaining sought to find other ways to sustain Portales. The banks, once primarily allied with ranching, became more supportive of diversification, encouraging dairy farming as well as peanut and grain farming.

Typical of many two-story commercial buildings of that period, the Bank of Portales building offered its second floor to tenants. About 1908 it served as the lodge for the local chapter of the fraternal organization, Woodmen of the World. In the mid-1920's J.G. Greaves, publisher of the leading local newspaper, the Portales News Tribune, purchased the building, which served first as a newspaper office and later as a storeroom. In 1983 David Stone, president of the Portales National Bank and grandson of the original owner, purchased the building. Using preservation tax credits, he intends to renovate it for use as offices.

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Continuation sheet      Bibliography      Item number      9      Page      3

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