

PH0008309

STATE:	INDIANA
COUNTY:	KNOX
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE	OCT 9 1974

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON: Old State Bank - State Memorial
AND/OR HISTORIC: Second State Bank, Vincennes Branch

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: North 2nd Street			
CITY OR TOWN: Vincennes		CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: 8th	
STATE Indiana	CODE 18	COUNTY: Knox	CODE 83

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) Art Gallery
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

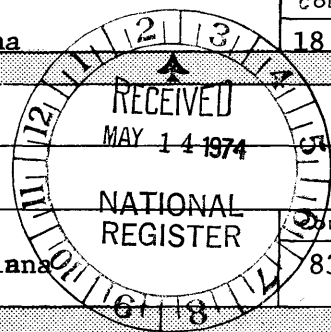
OWNER'S NAME: State of Indiana, Dept. of Natural Resources, Div. of Museums & Memorials		
STREET AND NUMBER: 202 North Alabama Street, Heritage Square		
CITY OR TOWN: Indianapolis,	STATE: Indiana	CODE 18

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Knox County Courthouse		
STREET AND NUMBER:		
CITY OR TOWN: Vincennes	STATE: Indiana	CODE 83

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: Indiana Historic Preservation Survey and Plan		
DATE OF SURVEY: 1972	<input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local	
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Department of Natural Resources		
STREET AND NUMBER: State Office Building - 100 North Senate		
CITY OR TOWN: Indianapolis	STATE: Indiana	CODE 18



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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated
(Check One)		(Check One)	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

As originally designed and built, the Second State Bank Branch in Vincennes was a 2 1/2 story brick building in the Greek Revival Style in the middle of the block between Busseron and Broadway Streets facing east onto Second Street. The outside dimensions of the building are 48' by 36' and there is a 12' X 36' portico with four two story, sectioned, smooth, sandstone pillars of the modified doric style.

The bank is built of local hand-made brick. It has decorated boxed cornices with return and decorated friezes constructed of several different odd-sized bricks with rounded, shaped, or beveled ends. Long 14-inch bricks are used for protruding ornaments below the cornices. The bricks of the front facade and ornamental cornices and friezes are covered with plaster to give the appearance of ornamental cut stone.

The main doorway of the building is recessed with six plain wooded panels on each side. Each of the double doors is built of wood and has twelve plain recessed panels. All windows in the building are two-sash with six panes in each sash.

The double-doored entrance of the Bank opens into the "Main Banking Room" with interior dimensions of 26' X 31'. This room has six large brick columns that extend two stories and are covered with plaster to give them a fluted effect. The columns are surmounted by a huge iron ring on which the large bell dome rests. On top of the dome is a small cupola that contains six windows and provides natural light for the room. The north and south walls of the room each contain one tall rectangular window. The east wall contains two doorways to the "Traders and Trappers Room" and one to the vault.

The vault is located in the northwest corner of the building. It has internal dimensions of 9' X 8' and walls 2 1/2 to 5 feet thick. The vault is made of hand-riveted steel, and its heavy steel doors are believed to have been build in France.

In the southwest corner of the building is the 16' X 20' "Traders and Trappers Room". The room has its own outside entrance in the north wall, and the north and west walls each have one window. A steep wooden staircase rises from the "Trader and Trappers Room" to a 16' X 20' second floor room at the west end of the building. There are two tall rectangular windows in both the north and south walls of this room. From the second story room another steep staircase rises to a "hidden" room surrounding the dome of the third floor.

After 1858, when the Second State Bank's charter expired, the building was used for several different purposes and many changes were made in the building's internal and external appearance. In 1965 the State of Indiana restored the Old State Bank to its original appearance. Most of the structural material in the building (including most bricks, columns, and flooring) are original. Non-original material conforms as nearly as possible to the original.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|---|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

In 1834 the Indiana General Assembly chartered the Second State Bank with headquarters in Indianapolis and twelve branch banks around the state, including one in Vincennes. The Vincennes branch began operating in temporary rented offices almost immediately after receiving its charter late in 1834. In 1838 its permanent building, now known as the Old State Bank, was completed on North Second Street, and the Bank operated from this building until its charter expired in 1858.

The Old State Bank in Vincennes is one of the oldest existing bank structures in Indiana. It was designed and built by John Moore, a local contractor and civic leader who for over 30 years was the builder of most of the principal public and private buildings in the city. The front facade, cornices, and "Main Banking Room" columns of the building are excellent examples of the frontier building practice of covering brick with plaster to give the appearance of ornamental stone. Due to the extremely high cost of ornamental stone this was a very common building practice on the frontier, and the Old State Bank is one of the finest examples of this method still remaining in the Vincennes area.

The fortress-like construction of the Old State Bank building and the original function of many of its rooms vividly exemplify the additions and modifications forced on the more "civilized" institutions of the time by the frontier's harsh realities. For example, the Second State Bank maintained the "Traders and Trappers Room" at the rear of the bank where their "lower class" customers could exchange their goods for gold without mingling with the more "gentile" clients in the "Main Banking Room." The Directors Room" on the bank's second floor was used as a meeting room by bank officers, but it also served as sleeping quarters for the clerks, all of whom were required to live in the building in order to increase nighttime security. The "hidden" room on the third floor was originally intended to house a military garrison in times of invasion and civil insurrection.

The charter of the Second State Bank was carefully drawn to insure the soundness of the bank and its currency while at the same time providing a means for economic expansion and improved government services in the State. The financial soundness of the bank was established beyond question during the panic of 1837. At the height of the panic the Second State Bank was still making a clear profit, and while virtually all other bank notes in the country were worthless, its notes were at a discount of only 5% outside the State. During the panic it was the only bank in the entire U.S. possessing government deposits that offered or paid specie to the Federal Government. It was the only bank west of the Alleghenies not to fail during the panic.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Funk, Arville L., Old Vincennes State Bank, Indiana's Newest Memorial, Outdoor Indiana, August, 1964, pp. 16-21
Old State Bank Revives Vincennes' Rich History, The Daily Herold Telephone (Bloomington, Indiana) January 22, 1971 P.8.
 Esarey, Logan, History of Indiana, Dayton Historical Publishing Co. (Dayton, Ohio), 1924 Vol. I pp. 447 to 463
 Esarey, Logan, Indiana State Banking
 Buley, R.C. The Old Northwest
 John D. Barnhart and Donald F. Carmony, Indiana From Frontier to Industrial Commonwealth

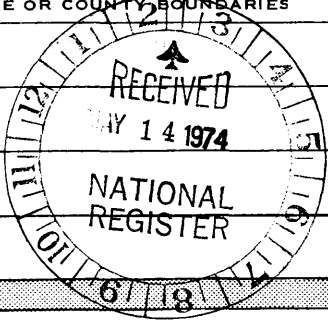
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		38 ° 40 ' 50 "	87 ° 31 ' 52 "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: Less than (1) acre

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Thomas Gross, Memorials Field Officer

ORGANIZATION: Division of Museums & Memorials DATE: May 2, 1974

STREET AND NUMBER: 202 North Alabama Street, Heritage Square

CITY OR TOWN: Indianapolis STATE: Indiana CODE: 18

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name: Joseph P. Caland

Title: Indiana State Historic Preservation Officer

Date: May 2, 1974

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

AK Wortsch
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 10/9/74

ATTEST:

Charles A. ...
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: 10.8.74

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(Continuation Sheet)

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(8) SIGNIFICANCE CONTINUED

The second State Bank provided much of the capital for the internal improvements and commercial and industrial expansion in Indiana from 1837 to 1858. Just before and again just after the Panic of 1837 the bank saved State Government from bankruptcy by assuming state debts and suspending the State's payments to the bank as they fell due. In addition, the State's stock in the Second State Bank provided a profit of \$2,500,000. This profit was used to pay most of the State's operating expenses from 1837 to 1858 and left a large enough surplus to establish the State's school fund.

