

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED DEC 20 1977

DATE ENTERED MAR 29 1978

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

People's Savings Bank

AND/OR COMMON

People's Bank and Trust Company

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

101 3rd Avenue SW

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Cedar Rapids

VICINITY OF
CODE

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Second
COUNTY

STATE

Iowa

Linn

CODE

113

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

__DISTRICT

__PUBLIC

OCCUPIED

__AGRICULTURE

__MUSEUM

BUILDING(S)

PRIVATE

__UNOCCUPIED

COMMERCIAL

__PARK

__STRUCTURE

__BOTH

__WORK IN PROGRESS

__EDUCATIONAL

__PRIVATE RESIDENCE

__SITE

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

ACCESSIBLE

__ENTERTAINMENT

__RELIGIOUS

__OBJECT

__IN PROCESS

YES: RESTRICTED

__GOVERNMENT

__SCIENTIFIC

__BEING CONSIDERED

__YES: UNRESTRICTED

__INDUSTRIAL

__TRANSPORTATION

__NO

__MILITARY

__OTHER:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

People's Bank and Trust Company

STREET & NUMBER

101 3rd Avenue SW

CITY, TOWN

Cedar Rapids

VICINITY OF

STATE

Iowa 52406

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

City Assessor's Office

STREET & NUMBER

City Hall

CITY, TOWN

Cedar Rapids

STATE

Iowa

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

HABSI

DATE

__FEDERAL __STATE __COUNTY __LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

| CONDITION | | CHECK ONE | CHECK ONE |
|---|---------------------------------------|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT | <input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED | <input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> GOOD | <input type="checkbox"/> RUINS | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED | <input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> FAIR | <input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED | | |

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The People's Bank in Cedar Rapids was designed in 1910 by Louis Sullivan. It consists of a central banking area, 25' x 50', around which is wrapped a single story of offices and other rooms, giving total dimensions of 50' x 90'. The distinguishing feature is the clerestory, with opalescent glass, above the main banking lobby. Corner chimneys on the clerestory complete the basic design.

The bank is of multicolored Indiana brick laid in common bond, with terracotta decoration. Short brick pilasters flank the stone entrance (originally brick), and appear on the clerestory walls. These are crowned with leonine grotesques. Ornamental panels appear on the chimneys above the clerestory, above the entrance, and flanking the rows of windows at street level.

The interior of Sullivan's bank has been altered to conform with the "decor" of the later addition. Fortunately, many of the original elements were left in place, but hidden by wallboard or other material, and thus may be recovered at some future date.

Sullivan's original interior was characterized by his use of "organic" ornament, which gave prominence to the shape, color and texture of materials. The tellers' counter was of veined Italian marble, flooring of small green and white tiles laid in several patterns. Oak was used for all woodwork. The columns were cast iron, with flat, ornamental abaci. The vault, now partially obscured by a high counter, is a masterpiece in itself, with a circular door over 7 feet in diameter. Other than the vault, and two columns near the entrance, all that is observable of Sullivan's interior are the four murals below the clerestory (which is obscured by a lowered ceiling), the work of local artist Allen E. Philbrick. One is a formal composition detailing the relationship of banking to industry and commerce, the others have agricultural themes.

Expansion programs in 1951 and 1966 resulted in a massive addition to the west side of Sullivan's original structure. In the addition, basic features of Sullivan's bank were repeated in a simplified manner. Sullivan's panelled chimneys are repeated as thick columns on the front facade of this section, with more slender pilasters between them. Although the addition is two stories high, plain one-story pavilions on each side of the entrance attempt to recreate the profile of the earlier structure.

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/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 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 1911

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Louis Sullivan

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The People's Savings Bank in Cedar Rapids was the second of a series of small midwestern banks designed by Louis Sullivan between 1907 and 1919. While not the best example of this group, nor even the best of his Iowa work, it exhibits many of the hallmarks of Sullivan's art as an architect in "bringing the block to life in different ways through geometry and ornament".

According to Gebhard, preliminary drawings for this building were prepared by George Grant Elmslie, shortly before he left Sullivan's office. How much of this basic design was retained by Sullivan is unknown, but the clerestory, a departure from the blocklike form of much of Sullivan's work is noteworthy. Beyond this, however, the People's Savings Bank displays a classic range of Sullivanesque detail. The exterior features expanses of plain surface, the decorative elements concentrated to increase the intensity of their impact. Typically, the exterior functions as a simple envelope for the interior plan, and is defined by it. The interior, which is potentially restorable, featured the same concentration of detail, which served to enhance the perception of materials used: tile, marble, wood, the metal of the supporting piers.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Schuyler, Montgomery, "The People's Savings Bank," The Architectural Record XXXI, #1 (January, 1912), pp. 45-56.
 "The People's Savings Bank, Cedar Rapids, Iowa," The Banker's Magazine, 1912.
 Morrison, Hugh. Louis Sullivan: Prophet of Modern Architecture, New York: W.W. Norton, 1955, pp. 210-213.
 Gebhard, D., "Louis Sullivan and George Grant Elmslie," Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians XIX:2, pp. 62-68.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one

UTM REFERENCES

A

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|------|---|---------|---|---|---|----------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 5 | 6 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 9 | 4 | 6 | 4 | 7 | 5 | 7 | 0 |
| ZONE | | EASTING | | | | NORTHING | | | | | | | | |

B

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|------|--|---------|--|--|--|----------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ZONE | | EASTING | | | | NORTHING | | | | | | | | |

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

| STATE | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |
|-------|------|--------|------|
| STATE | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |

| STATE | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |
|-------|------|--------|------|
| STATE | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Vanessa Batey

ORGANIZATION

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

Coe College

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Cedar Rapids, Iowa

STATE

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

Handwritten signature of Anne D. Anderson

TITLE Director, Division of Historic Preservation

DATE 13 December 1977

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

Handwritten signature of Washburn Cole
 WASHBURN COLE
 DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE 3-29-78
 DATE 3-17-78
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER