

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	JAN 29 1980
DATE ENTERED	MAR 13 1980

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC

First National Bank Building

AND/OR COMMON

Security Bank Building

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

502 South Main

__NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Rock Springs

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

__ VICINITY OF

STATE

Wyoming

CODE

056

COUNTY

Sweetwater

CODE

037

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- COMMERCIAL
- EDUCATIONAL
- ENTERTAINMENT
- GOVERNMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MILITARY
- MUSEUM
- PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- RELIGIOUS
- SCIENTIFIC
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Bank Corporation

STREET & NUMBER

502 South Main

CITY, TOWN

Rock Springs

__ VICINITY OF

STATE

Wyoming

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Sweetwater County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Rock Springs

STATE

Wyoming

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Wyoming Recreation Commission; Survey of Historical Sites, Markers and Monuments

DATE

1967 (revised 1973)

__FEDERAL STATE __COUNTY __LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

604 East 25th Street

CITY, TOWN

Cheyenne

STATE

Wyoming 82002

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT
 GOOD
 FAIR

DETERIORATED
 RUINS
 UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The First National Bank Building is a row, non-related, end building that is rectangular in shape. It measures forty feet by one-hundred and forty feet. It has three stories with a full basement present. There are three bays across the main facade.

Three facades (North, South and West), are faced with glazed architectural terra cotta tiles. The fourth facade (East) is composed of brick set in stretcher bond. (Photo 1). The interior bearing walls are of reinforced concrete. Decorative wall treatments include a plinth on the three main facades and terra cotta panels at the third story level. Also included is a belt course at the height of the first floor. The sloping roof is obscured by a parapet with entablature on three sides. On the fourth side the roof meets the wall and the eaves are closed. There is one single stack chimney present that is exterior left. Special roof trim features include a decorated pediment on the north facade (see Photo 2).

The main windows are in a flat opening with decorated trim for a head. This same motif continues for the side surrounds (Photo 3). The windows are two sashed with a mullion, also present is a large transom that is divided into six panes. These windows are fixed. The upper story windows are also in a flat opening but have a plain head and side surrounds. There is a lugsill present on the upper windows. Each upper story window has a single sash pane that is fixed in the middle. This is flanked by two sashed, double hung sidelights. Above this arrangement is a three sashed transom with mullions.

The main door is centrally located on the north facade and is in a flat opening (Photo 4). The head is a double curved pediment. The side surrounds are plain. The architrave has engaged columns, of the same design as the window side surrounds, with an embrasure present. The double leaf main door is not original but it is a single panel door in a aluminum frame. The original doors were double leaf, single panel, that were in a wood frame. These doors were removed in a 1969 remodeling effort.

The only exterior alterations have taken place on the southwest corner of the first floor (Photo 5). The storefront windows were removed and drive-in facilities were installed on the interior. Although this change has altered the facade, in the rear, this portion of the building is restorable.

Historical documents reveal that part of the first floor and mezzanine were used for banking purposes. Two stores, measuring twenty-four by thirty-six feet were located in the rear of the building. The upper floors were divided into thirty-four rooms.

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 checked="" 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	BUILDER/ARCHITECT
1917-present	Walter J. Cooper/D.D. Spanni

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The First National Bank Building (FNB Building) is significant because of its dominance of the architectural heritage of Rock Springs and its association with the commercial development of the city.

The FNB Building, as it is situated on South Front Street, was the dominant building in this town of 11,000. Its importance to the skyline was noted in contemporary reports which said "the building stands as a credit to the town and may be seen for miles from every direction as you come into town". (Photo #6). The architects, Walter J. Cooper of Salt Lake City and D.D. Spanni of Rock Springs chose terra cotta to face the building and for architectural ornamentation. This building represents the most elaborate use of terra cotta in southwestern Wyoming and is significant for that reason.

Walter J. Cooper, architect of the FNB Building, worked with architectural firms in New York City before coming to Salt Lake City in 1910. He was in SLC to supervise the construction of the Boston and Newhouse Buildings and the Newhouse Hotel, all designed by Henry Ives Cobb. In 1911, Cooper formed a partnership with Charles Snead McDonald under the firm name of McDonald and Cooper. Their two most important projects were Keith-O'Brien Building and Walker Bank in Salt Lake City. Other works of Mr. Cooper include residences and mine buildings for Chief Consolidated Mining Company at Eureka, Utah (National Register Historic District nominee), Tracy Loan and Trust Company Building (National Register nominee), Isolation Hospital, Beck Hot Springs Sanatorium, Salt Lake City; Tomahawk Hotel in Green River, Wyoming; and banks in St. Anthony, Idaho, and Manga, Utah.

D.D. Spanni, a local architect, was in charge of construction supervision. Little is known of his work although local newspaper accounts credit the building design to him. J.F. Leefers of Rock Springs was general contractor for the project.

The First National Bank Building is also significant because it housed the first bank in Rock Springs to open under a state charter. Augustine Kendall arrived in Rock Springs on August 1, 1887, with the intention of establishing a financial institution. Mr. Kendall stated about his arrival:

"You could hardly have selected Rock Springs in the year of 1887 as a town in which to start a bank. Its physical aspect was uninviting, its business houses few and all outward inducements lacking. Its latent possibilities were not on the surface but were being uncovered".

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

SEE ADDENDUM

UTM NOT VERIFIED

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY CA 1/2 acre

QUADRANGLE NAME Rock Springs, Wyoming

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24,000

UTM REFERENCES

A 12 6483710 4610517510
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION Lot numbered thirteen (13) and Lot numbered fourteen (14) except the westerly 14.75 feet of said Lot fourteen (14) in Block numbered eight (8) of the original town (now City) of Rock Springs, Sweetwater County, Wyoming.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

James S. Kane

ORGANIZATION

109 North Washington

DATE

November 1, 1979

STREET & NUMBER

109 North Washington

TELEPHONE

303-482-9382

CITY OR TOWN

Fort Collins,

STATE

Colorado 80521

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE X

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

Jan L. Wilson

TITLE

Wyoming State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

1/28/80

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

W. Ray Luce
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

3/13/80

ATTEST: *William H. Braham*
CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

DATE

3.11.80

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The Sweetwater County Bank was open in a converted butcher shop with Mr. Kendall assuming all bank responsibilities. Within a year business had progressed enough to warrant the conversion of the bank into a National bank under the name of First National Bank of Rock Springs.

As the First National Bank grew it became the city's largest banking institution. Improved quarters were needed and they had their present building constructed in 1919.

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