

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED NOV 14 1979
DATE ENTERED JAN 17 1980

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC

State Bank of Ladysmith

AND/OR COMMON

Old Pioneer Bank Building

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

102 West 2nd Street

___ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Ladysmith

___ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
7th

STATE

Wisconsin

CODE
55

COUNTY
Rusk

CODE
107

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Jerry and Marilyn Kulibert

STREET & NUMBER

Rt. 2 Box 89

CITY, TOWN

Ladysmith

___ VICINITY OF

STATE

WI 54848

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Rusk County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

311 Miner Avenue East

CITY, TOWN

Ladysmith

STATE
Wisconsin 54848

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Wisconsin Inventory of Historic Places

DATE

1975

___ FEDERAL STATE ___ COUNTY ___ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

State Historical Society of Wisconsin

CITY, TOWN

Madison

STATE
Wisconsin 53706

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 State Bank of Ladysmith is a two-story, red granite-faced ashlar building located in the heart of the Ladysmith business district. Built in 1912, it is designed in the Neo-Classical Revival style.

The exterior of the 40' by 66' building is distinguished by its entrance portico, supported by paired, polished granite columns and embellished with stone dentils and a granite balcony. The dentils are repeated in the cornice which is topped by a stone parapet. The roof is flat. The granite block faces the two street sides of the building, while red brick is used on the rear wall; its northern wall is common to an adjacent building.

Because of the slightly recessed windows, pilasters are suggested at the corners and horizontal spaces between windows, while paneled spandrels separate first and second story windows. The heavy stone foundation emphasizes the building's granite massing and, according to early advertisements, suggests "the strength and stability of this bank."¹

Red and white-striped canvas awnings now cover the windows, and the original carved panel over the entrance has been removed. Otherwise, the exterior is identical to dedication photographs of 1912.

The shell of the first floor banking space remains intact, although the mahogany counter and iron tellers' cages have been removed and replaced by temporary wallboard office partitions. White marble wainscoting still covers the lobby walls, and the door and window woodwork is original. Plaster egg and dart molding lines the recessed panel ceiling, and nearly all the leaded glazed panels on the first floor windows remain. The white tile floor has been covered by linoleum.

The second floor was originally divided into office suites, and the wood and glass partitions remain. Entrance to this level is through a stairway in the adjacent Dimrock Drugstore building, constructed at the same time. The fully excavated basement was used for storage and still contains one of the two bank vaults. Since the Pioneer Bank moved out in 1964, the building has been rented as office space, with very minor changes to the original structure. It now stands largely vacant.

¹Ladysmith News-Budget, State Bank advertisement, August 23, 1912.

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 1912¹ BUILDER/ARCHITECT W.E. Maddux Contractors²

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The State Bank of Ladysmith is significant for its historic associations with the development of Ladysmith, particularly its banking and commerce. It is significant for its excellence in design, craftsmanship, and detailing.

Founded in 1886, Ladysmith grew slowly at first, having a population of only 150 in 1900. By 1913 the size had swollen to 3,200 (its present population is 3,700) and the town was called the "Crescent City of the Northwest" because of its site on a bend in the Flambeau River. From 1900 to 1915 much of the present downtown was constructed, with the State Bank Building being "the finest business structure in the city, with no exception,"³ according to a local newspaper. Area newspapers and proud citizenry acclaimed the building's rugged grandeur at its dedication. One western Wisconsin paper later noted that it was "one of the finest bank buildings in this part of the state."⁴

The State Bank was chartered in 1903 and it was decided to build a permanent office building in 1912. The new building's first floor contained bank offices, while the second was leased for office space. The first tenants included two lumber companies, a doctor, an insurance company, and the district attorney. Subsequent tenants were generally doctors and lawyers. The State Bank eventually closed, and the Pioneer Bank moved into the building in 1927, staying until 1964.

Little expense was spared on the bank building. Originally it was to be built of corn-colored brick with imposing marble columns, but bank officers later settled on the stronger image of red granite. Marble, mahogany, and expensive tile were used in the interior. The building's architect, is unknown.

The stone was quarried at Lohrville in Waushara County, an area famed for its durable red granite. Due to a quarry strike, the stone was cut to size on site. The paired entrance columns are polished granite rather than marble.

1. cornerstone

2. Ladysmith News-Budget, July 26, 1912.

3. Ladysmith News-Budget, July 26, 1912.

4. Rusk County Journal, March 1913

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Ladysmith News-Budget, January 26, July 26, August 23, 1912 and March 7, 1913.

Rusk County Journal, "Letters to the Editor," March 1913.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

UTM NOT VERIFIED

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 0.09

QUADRANGLE NAME Ladysmith, Wisconsin

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A	1 5	6 4 8 3 6 5	5 0 3 6 0 8 0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C			
E			
G			

B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
D			
F			
H			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The property is located in the south half of Lot 8, Block 4, Plat of Flambeau Falls, City of Ladysmith, Rusk County, Wisconsin. Located in the Northeast 1/4 of the Northwest 1/4 of Section 3, Township 34 N, Range 6 W.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE	<u>James Peters, Project Surveyor</u>	
ORGANIZATION	<u>Northwest Regional Planning Commission</u>	DATE <u>August 21, 1978</u>
STREET & NUMBER	<u>302 Walnut Street</u>	TELEPHONE <u>715/635-2197</u>
CITY OR TOWN	<u>Spooner</u>	STATE <u>Wisconsin 54801</u>

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL STATE LOCAL X

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 *Richard Murray*

TITLE Director, State Historical Society of Wisconsin DATE 10/16/79

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER	
<i>W. Ray Luce</i>	DATE <u>1/17/80</u>
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER	
ATTEST: <i>Emma Jane Sae</i>	DATE <u>1/16/80</u>
CHIEF OF REGISTRATION <i>Regional Coordinator</i>	

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DATE ENTERED

17

State Bank of Ladysmith, Ladysmith, Rusk County, Wisconsin

See

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER below PAGE 1

8. Architecturally the building is a local adaptation of the Neo-Classical Revival, a style that thrived in the United States during the first decades of the 20th century. The bank's unbroken roofline, flat door and window lintels, pilasters, and other classical details are major evidences of this architecture, although traces of the more elaborate Beaux Arts style can be found in the paired columns and heavy engaged ballustrade. The Neo-Classical style was often used in bank buildings as a symbol of the institutions' strength and sound business practices, and this local manifestation of the style is characterized by the use of rough cut stone.

11. Barbara Wyatt, Nominations Specialist, Historic Preservation Division

State Historical Society of Wisconsin

April 2, 1979

816 State Street

608/262-8904

Madison

Wisconsin 53706