

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only
received **MAY 1** 1984
date entered

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

1. Name

historic State Savings Bank

and/or common Old Savings Bank

2. Location

street & number 509 West Broadway _____ not for publication

city, town Council Bluffs _____ vicinity of

state Iowa code 019 county Pottawattamie code 155

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" 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 checked="" 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
	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name State Investment Company

street & number 532 First Avenue

city, town Council Bluffs _____ vicinity of state Iowa 51501

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. County Clerk's Office

street & number Pottawattamie County Courthouse

city, town Council Bluffs _____ vicinity of state Iowa 51501

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title N/A has this property been determined eligible? _____ yes _____ no

date _____ federal _____ state _____ county _____ local

depository for survey records

city, town _____ state

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 Savings Bank Building (1946-47) is a very late example of the Art Deco architectural style. The building's interior is of special interest and remains relatively intact. The bank at the time of its construction included one of the earliest drive-through banking windows in its plan.

The State Bank Building, is rectangular on plan (132' by 50') and consists of a single story with a shallow attic parapet. A high ceilinged lobby with floor to ceiling windows occupies two-thirds of the plan, being sandwiched between two two-story office areas, that in the rear includes the vault on the first floor.

The building exemplifies the Art Deco style in terms of its small scale, the slightly stepped effect caused by the setback of its parapet walls, the plain yet large scale chamfered entrance portal, the large straight-headed windows and the window pattern itself, the mixture of exterior veneers, the inscribed name above the front entrance and the fine inscribed design work on the exterior. A hint of the Art Moderne is to be found in the slightly rounded corners on the veneered exterior, as well as in the large scale use of aluminum in the windows and the entrance. Inside, the original Art Deco bank design survives nearly intact. The rectangular thrust of the lobby is accentuated by the counters, the recessed central ceiling panel, the line of six large round light apertures with four identical circular patterns on the floor. Marble veneer covers the counters and terrazzo the floor. At the rear, a central marble partial wall contains the vault. The second floor side walls enclose a balcony or mezzanine level above the vault. First floor areas on either side of the vault are open to the lobby. On the opposite end, a plain wall is pierced only by the central entrance, and does not reflect the presence of offices in that end (possibly reflects the 1967 remodeling).

The exterior has two finished facades veneered in gray limestone, and a short wrap-around continuation of that treatment on the front of west side. That partial finished end is a mirror image of its counterpart on the east side. Most prominent is an inscribed harvest motif, which composition includes a muscular nude male holding a large wagon wheel, sycle, with associated sheaves of wheat and a dog. The motifs are again mirror images, each being oriented to the north end of the building. Below these scenes a short narrow rectangular window has a projecting square cut lintel supported by triangular brackets. A longer identical window in the rear of the first floor has the same scale and surround. A three foot tall dark marble water table is below the limestone veneer. The latter consists of alternating courses of square and narrow rectangles of stone. Fenestration on the long sides reflects the interior division of spaces, and is therefore dominated by the five full length straight edged windows with their geometrical light scheme. Two rows of ceramic tile inserts, alternating in color, are centered above each window bay. A molded continuous lintel traces the tops of the five windows. A stepped back parapet wall consists of alternating horizontal short panels and vertically fluted posts. A shorter three paneled parapet is on the north end.

The building's front consists of a large chamfered portal with vestibule, and flanking full length windows. The same lintel and parapet wall are continued on this end. The bank's original name "STATE SAVINGS BANK" is inscribed above the lintel line and below the

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 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 1946–47

Builder/Architect W. G. Knoebel/Bank Bldg. & Equip. Corp.

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The State Savings Bank Building (1946–47) is a very late example of the Art Deco architectural style and the only example of that style in Council Bluffs. The building's interior is of special interest and remains exceptionally well preserved. The bank at its construction incorporated one of the earliest drive-through service.

Exceptional significance, required for a building constructed less than fifty years ago, is merited by this property in light of the following facts. First, it is the only Art Deco commission in Council Bluffs, a major Iowa urban area. Second, as an example of its style, its late-date execution reflects the persistence of the style's acceptability in Council Bluffs long after it had been superseded elsewhere. Thirdly, the specific application of the style to a bank building use survives both inside and out in a well preserved state. Lastly, exceptional components include the decorative panel and the exterior drive-in service window, the latter being a notable local innovation, reflecting changing post-war consumer habits.

The State Savings Bank was founded in 1889, and was located across the street from the subject property. In mid 1941 negotiations for a new building site began and a new firm, State Investment Company was organized to actually build and own the new building. A lease for the new bank was actually signed on June 1, 1946. The bank retained its original title until 1967, when it became "State Bank & Trust." The bank occupied the building until 1978. Following five years of vacancy, the State Savings Bank is now being restored and adapted to house the owner firm, State Investment Company, and other office uses.

Architect W. G. Knoebel was commissioned to design the State Savings Bank Building, probably by the builder, the Bank Building and Equipment Corporation of America, which was based in St. Louis. Knoebel's plans are dated September 10, 1945. Views of the completed interior and of the bank, including the drive-through teller window, appeared in the builder's advertising along with a note of appreciation by State Savings Bank president Clyde A. Blanchard. Blanchard complimented the firm, stating "Your knowledge of bank planning is apparent in the functional efficiency and arrangement of our new quarters. Our bank building is a thing of architectural beauty. Your organization's interpretation of various banking appointments, modern equipment and facilities has given us a bank that operates as beautifully as it looks.!"

The current owner believes that the drive in teller booth was the first to be constructed in the state, but documentation is not provided to substantiate that belief. At any rate the local newspaper noted this unique feature and lauded the new building. The Council Bluffs Nonpariel stated "...Plans for the stone and steel building will include all the latest innovations, including patented drive-in teller's windows which will permit patrons to use the bank's facilities without leaving the seat of their automobiles... the booth featured bullet proof glass, revolving change transfer, and a supervised parking lot for quick parking by bank customers." The bank also featured a night depository box. According to the same source, the building construction would be completed by October or November of that year.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Refer to Continuation Sheet 9-2

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property ~~less than one acre~~

Quadrangle name Council Bluffs

Quadrangle scale 1/24,000

UTM References

A

1	5	2	6	1	2	0	0	4	5	7	1	4	2	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

The north 152' of the east 62' of Lot 1, Block 7, Plat of the City of Council Bluffs. This includes the building proper, the driveway along the west wall, and 20' across the south end of the lot. It excludes the ^{part of the} drive-in canopy ^{that} continues beyond the Lot 1 boundary

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

(Revision per 5/15/84 phone call to Jim Jacobsen of SHPO office) 54

state	N. A.	code	county	code
state		code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title James E. Jacobsen, National Register Coordinator

organization Iowa SHPO

date 23 April 1984

Historical Building

street & number E. 12th & Grand Ave.

telephone 515-281-4137

city or town Des Moines,

state Iowa 50319

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

title Executive Director Iowa State Historical Department

date 4/24/84

For NPS use only

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

date 6/4/84

Keeper of the National Register

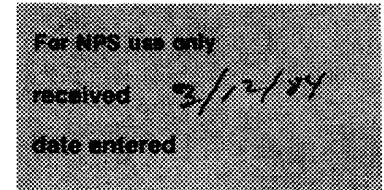
Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior
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Continuation sheet Physical Description

Item number 7

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cornice. The street name is inscribed on the northeast corner of the building.

The remaining walls are brick faced with an American bond coursing. Rowlock courses are slightly darker on the west side, creating a horizontal banding effect, and consist of alternating light and dark bricks on the south end. The south end or rear of the building is devoid of fenestration, and the original plan indicates that this was due to the possible eventual need to expand the building. The large windows and first floor windows on the west side are filled with block glass (part of the original plan). The drive-in teller booth with chamfered side walls is located in the fourth window bay on the west side.

Alterations are minimal. Major exterior structural changes are limited to the addition of a covered series of drive in service booths to the west (1960), and the addition of a main floor entrance to the rear of that same side in 1967. Inside, the 1967 modernization eliminated some Art Deco solid brass railings, damaged the terrazzo floor by adding asbestos tile, and some mahogany woodwork was lost. Other changes are reversible. Originally the building has specially designed Art Deco furnishings. The current owners are currently restoring the building's interior.

The building is located one block north of Bayliss Park in the downtown area. Additional land to the west allowed for bank parking, and as other parcels were acquired, the drive in area was added.

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Continuation sheet Bibliography

Item number 9

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Bibliography:

Council Bluffs Nonpareil, 10 January 1946, 17 January 1984, 10 May 1983.

Advertisement, undated, Bank Building and Equipment Corporation of America, St. Louis.

Floor Plan and interior sketch, State Savings Bank, Council Bluffs, W. G. Knoebel,
architect, dated 10 September 1945.