

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**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 Commercial Bank Building
and/or common (Old) First National Bank Building

2. Location

street & number 044 U.S. 212 not for publication
city, town Dawson vicinity of _____ congressional district 6th
state Minnesota code 22 county Lac qui Parle code 073

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name John M. Tollefson
street & number Box 269
city, town Dawson vicinity of _____ state Minnesota

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Registry of Deeds, Lac qui Parle County Courthouse
street & number _____
city, town Madison state Minnesota

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title None has this property been determined eligible? yes no
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
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed	interior	date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The First National Bank Building (formerly the Commercial Bank Building) is a two story brick structure embellished with brownstone and polished granite. It is three bays in width and is symmetrical in its arrangement of openings and detailing. Stylistically the building subscribes to the popular Richardsonian Romanesque. It was constructed in 1892.

The bank rests upon a foundation of coursed ashlar which extends above grade approximately two feet and is punctuated by two rectangular windows. It is separated from the brick of the first story by a dominant watertable.

With the exception of the central entrance portal, large plateglass windows play a major design role in the appearance of the street facade. There are two rectangular, high windows on each floor; each is capped with a massive, rusticated stone lintel. The central bay of the second story is occupied by a prominent semi-circular arched multi-paned window.

The central bay of the bank facade projects slightly from the main mass of the structure. It is highly articulated with a variety of design elements, including polished granite columns and colonettes, massive stone lintels, organic (foliate) carving, incised name and date, dentils, and modillions.

The entire facade is terminated in a prominent brick corbelled cornice, accentuated by crenellations. Globe-like finials formerly occupied the tops of the corner piers; however, these have been removed.

The First National Bank Building in Dawson has retained near-total exterior integrity, including original fenestration. It is in a good state of preservation, and, although no longer serving its original bank function, has been adapted for use as offices.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input 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 1892 **Builder/Architect** Christopher M. Anderson

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The former First National Bank building in Dawson is significant both as a well-preserved example of a nineteenth century Richardsonian Romanesque style bank, (and one of the most substantial structures in the community) and for its association with Christopher M. Anderson, early Lac qui Parle County pioneer and incorporator of Dawson. Anderson, an enterprising, and self-educated man, played a major role in the early history of the county as educator, county treasurer, newspaper promoter, banker, and real estate entrepreneur. The construction of the imposing, and architecturally distinctive, Commercial Bank building (later First National Bank) attested to the turn of the century prosperity of Dawson, and to the commitment of Anderson to its stability and future promise.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Dawson Sentinel, Friday, June 19, 1959.

NOT PRINTED
MAY 1981

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property less than 1

Quadrangle name Dawson Quad.

Quadrangle scale 7.5

UMT References

A

1	5	7	3	2	4	8	0	4	9	7	9	1	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

Lot 4, Block 52, Townsite of Dawson

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 Charles W. Nelson, Historical Architect

organization Minnesota Historical Society

date February 1981

street & number 240 Summit Avenue

telephone (612) 296-9073

city or town St. Paul

state Minnesota

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

Russell W. Fridley

Russell W. Fridley

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date

12/10/81

For HCRS use only

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

Delores Byers

Entered in the
National Register

date

1/25/82

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

for factoring