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. Nar	me						
historic	Commercial Bank Building						
and/or commo	n ^(Old) First National	Bank Building					
2. Loc	ation						
street & numb	er Off (1.5. 212		not for publication			
city, town	Dawson	vicinity of	congressional district	6th			
state	Minnesota code	22 county	Lac qui Parle	code 073			
3. Cla	ssification						
Category districtX building(s structure site object	Ownership public s) _X private both Public Acquisition in process being considered	Status X occupied unoccupied work in progress Accessible yes: restricted yes: unrestricted no	Present Use agriculture _X commercial educational entertainment government industrial military	museum park private residence religious scientific transportation other:			
name street & numbe	John M. Tollefson Box 269						
city, town	Dawson	vicinity of	state	Minnesota			
	ation of Lega	l Descripti	on				
courthouse, re	gistry of deeds, etc. Reg	istry of Deeds, La	ıc qui Parle County (Courthouse			
street & numbe	er						
city, town	Madison		state	Minnesota			
6. Rep	resentation	in Existing	Surveys				
ritle No	one	has this pro	pperty been determined ele	gible? yes no			
date			federal state	county loca			
depository for	survey records		·				
city, town			state				

7. Description

Condition X excellent deteriorated good ruins fair unexposed	Check one unaltered X altered interior	Check one X original site moved date	
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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 crennelations. 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

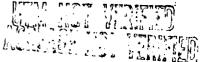
1400-1499 1500-1599 1600-1699 1700-1799 X 1800-1899	Areas of Significance—C archeology-prehistoric agricultureX architecture art commerce communications	•	landscape architectur law literature military music	re religion science sculpture social/ humanitarian theater transportation other (specify)
Specific dates	1892	Builder/Architect C	hristopher M. Anderso	n

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.



			33.	
10. Geographica	<u>al Data</u>			
Acreage of nominated property	ss than l			
Quadrangie name <u>Dawson Qua</u>	ıd.		Quad	rangle scale 7.5
UMT References				
A 1 15 7 3 12 4 18 10 4 19 7 Zone Easting Northin	7 9 1 2 0 ng	B Zone	Easting	Northing
c		D		
		F		
		н 💹		
Verbal boundary description and	justification			
Lot 4, Block 52, Townsi	te of Dawson	L		VC 201
	* *			•
List all states and counties for p	roperties over	lapping state or	county bounda	ries
state	code	county		code
state	code	county		code
11. Form Prepar	ed By			
name/title Charles W. Nelson	, Historical	Architect		
organization Minnesota Historic	cal Society		date Febr	uary 1981
street & number 240 Summit Av	venue		telephone (6	12) 296-9073
city or town St. Paul		:	state ^{Mi}	nnesota
12. State Histor	ic Pres	ervation	Officer	Certification
The evaluated significance of this pro	perty within the	state is:		
national	state	X local		
As the designated State Historic Prese 665), I hereby nominate this property taccording to the criteria and procedur	or inclusion in t	he National Registe	r and certify tha	t it-hgs been evaluated
State Historic Preservation Officer sig			111.	11.
Russell W. Fridley	nature)	ussell,	y. /n.	erey 1
title State Historic Preserv	ation Office	er	da	te 12/10/8/
For HCRS use only				
I hereby certify that this property	y is included in t	the National Registe	er 	/ /
Selver 43	nus	enderte in Estados		e 1/28/82
Keeper of the National Register				
Attest:			da	ta.
Chief of Registration		100	ua .	