

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED APR 28 1975  
DATE ENTERED JUN 10 1975

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

Exchange State Bank

AND/OR COMMON

First American State Bank →

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Northwest corner Main Street at First Street

CITY, TOWN

Grand Meadow — VICINITY OF

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

2nd

STATE

Minnesota

CODE

27

COUNTY

Mower

CODE

099

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 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	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 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:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

First American State Bank

STREET & NUMBER

Northwest corner Main Street at First Street

CITY, TOWN

Grand Meadow — VICINITY OF

STATE

Minnesota

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Mower County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Austin

STATE

Minnesota

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Working drawings

DATE

June 15, 1910

—FEDERAL  STATE —COUNTY —LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Northwest Architectural Archives

CITY, TOWN

Minneapolis

STATE

Minnesota

## 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      DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The exterior of the First American State Bank (originally Exchange State Bank) is little changed from its initial construction. It still retains the simple cubic mass, the unconventional lack of visible corner supports, and the clear demarkation of the building's banking function from its second-floor offices by use of distinctive window areas--large windows on the first floor, partially opaque to cut glare on the southern exposure, a row of second-story windows above the large ones, forming, in Wm. Gray Purcell's words, an "absolutely unbroken and undisturbed march..." The red brown unglazed terracotta floral ornaments and polychrome glass mosaic framing the sign over the main (east) entrance are intact.

The original interior was long ago altered beyond recognition. It featured an open banking room with a main public space and various office alcoves. In place of the traditional metal tellers' grilles, Purcell and Elmslie persuaded their clients to install a counter atop which glass formed the principal barrier between the public and the tellers. As Purcell wrote years later, the design established "More friendly and human relations" between the bank's employees and customers. A large wood panelled indirect light fixture, which was the major artificial light source in the room, has been restored by the current owners as has the stencilled design pattern once carried around the walls.

The interior has once again undergone substantial renovation under the present owners. No attempt has been made to duplicate the original banking room, but rather to capture the feeling of the spaciousness and lighting which dominated the original room. The north wall has been removed and an addition to the bank on that side contains the banking functions. The original room now includes only a vault, small offices, and a check stand, serving principally as the bank's lobby.

This design reappears in modified form in all of the other small bank buildings executed by Purcell and Elmslie. As David Gebhard wrote, "Many of the firm's later banks were more dramatic and perhaps better integrated designs, but they simply elaborated on the design scheme which had been stated by this small building."

# 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      1910

BUILDER/ARCHITECT    William Gray Purcell and  
George Grant Elmslie

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Designed by William Gray Purcell with ornamentation in terra cotta, glass mosaic and wood by George Grant Elmslie, the Exchange State Bank was the first of the firm's small bank buildings to be built. It closely followed, according to David Gebhard, the "basic concept of the earlier Purcell and Feick Atkinson Bank."

The bank represents the first major joint project of Purcell and Elmslie, for the latter joined the firm as a partner while the designs were underway. It stands as an excellent example of the Prairie School style, incorporating as it does the blocky, rectangular elements of the school characteristically personified in brick.

The firm of Purcell and Elmslie was probably one of the most gifted and consistent practitioners of the Prairie School architects. As the first of very few commercial buildings erected by the firm, the Exchange State Bank thus assumes a very high regional and national importance and is clearly a landmark in the history of early 20th century progressive design.

