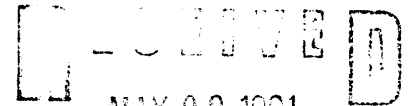


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service



NATIONAL REGISTER

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM

1. Name of Property

historic name: First State Bank, Dowling and Emhoff Buildings

other name/site number: First State Bank, Sears, City Bakery

2. Location

street & number: 300-304, 306-308 Main Street

not for publication: n/a  
vicinity: n/a

city/town: Stevensville

state: Montana code: MT county: Ravalli code: 081 zip code: 59870

3. Classification

Ownership of Property: Private

Category of Property: Buildings

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>  3  </u>	<u>      </u> building(s)
<u>      </u>	<u>      </u> sites
<u>      </u>	<u>      </u> structures
<u>      </u>	<u>      </u> objects
<u>  3  </u>	<u>      </u> Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0

Name of related multiple property listing: Historic Resources of Stevensville, Montana: 1866-1941.

**4. Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination \_\_\_ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register Criteria.

Signature of certifying official Marshall Steffy Date MT SH PO 4-8-91

MONTANA STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property \_\_\_ meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting or other official \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

State or Federal agency and bureau \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_ See Continuation Sheet

**5. National Park Service Certification**

I, hereby certify that this property is:

**Entered in the  
National Register**

Entered in the National Register Helene Byrne 6/19/91  
\_\_ See Continuation Sheet

determined eligible for the National Register \_\_\_\_\_

determined not eligible for the National Register \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_ See Continuation Sheet

removed from the National Register \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_ See Continuation Sheet

other (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

[Signature]  
Signature of Keeper

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Action

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## 6. Function or Use

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Historic: Commerce/Trade: financial, department store  
Funerary: mortuary

Current: Commerce/Trade: specialty store  
Social: civic

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## 7. Description

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Architectural Classification: Other: Vernacular Six-Bay Commercial Block

Materials: foundation: concrete  
walls: concrete  
roof: asphalt  
other: stucco

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Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The First State Bank Building is a triad of connected matching buildings, constructed sequentially during the same year, and skillfully melded into a single facade. The first section, a two-story, two-part commercial block, was built first in 1910. Second to be erected was the adjoining single-story, three-bay, enframed commercial block. And the third southernmost section is a matching two-bay, enframed commercial block. The mass presents an "L" shaped facade, the foot of the "L" oriented north toward Third Street, and the leg west toward Main. The three buildings are constructed from ashlar-faced cast concrete block laid in soldier courses, giving the appearance of rusticated stone.

Beginning with the two-story building on the corner, the original bank entrance is at the canted northwest corner. Here, a pair of fluted columns with decorative egg-and-dart capitals (a variation of Doric) support an entablature over the main entrance. A duplicate set of columns and entablature are placed above the first story entablature. This upper level corner feature has a large single pane window with wood sash and concrete sill and lintel. There is a spandrel of rock faced block between the lintel and the entablature. A concrete entablature with a plain architrave, a raised cast concrete, olive wreath motif (two per block) decorative frieze and cast concrete cornice forms the parapet. Three courses below the entablature there is a cordon of smooth block, and three courses below that another cordon of smooth block. Pilasters rise from the foundation to the lower cordon, which rests on six soldier courses of brick. The original corner entry to the banking rooms has been modified by the installation of a glass door with an aluminum frame. Glass block sidelights have been added on both sides of the door, and the original transom has been filled with a wooden panel. Fenestration at ground level includes a large single pane, flat arch window with a transom on the west side of the entry and three matching windows on the north side of the entry. Originally, a smaller version with a double-hung window was used at the end of each run of large windows. Today, the northeast of these has been converted into a night deposit, and the southwest is a single pane. All first floor windows have been replaced with modern units set within the original openings. On the second story there are symmetrically-spaced, small, matching double-hung windows--five on the north and two on the west. All of these windows are original to the construction of the bank and have concrete sills and lintels.

X See Continuation Sheet

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 7

First State Bank, Dowling and Emhoff Buildings

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Immediately upon completion of the main bank building, two single-story store buildings were constructed in 1910, extending south along Main Street. Although the buildings were built under separate ownership, they were constructed according to the same design. Each store unit is finished with ashlar-faced concrete block to match the original bank building. Like the original building, bands of smooth concrete block trim the parapet; the cornice is trimmed with blocks featuring an olive wreath motif. Each store unit was symmetrically designed, with three storefronts of equal size spaced across the facade of the Dowling Building, and two across the Emhoff Building. Storefront openings are likely spanned by I-beams concealed behind 5 courses of painted bricks, and separated by ashlar-faced cast concrete block piers.

The three storefronts of the Dowling Building between 300-304 Main Street have all been remodeled with modern anodized aluminum windows and doors set within stucco infill. The southern bay now consists of two large aluminum frame double glass windows placed symmetrically about a single aluminum frame glass door. The central bay contains a central entrance with two large, matching windows flanking double doors. The third, northernmost bay contains a large aluminum frame with a double glass window. A night deposit box has been set in this bay, to the north of the window, and replaces the doorway.

The two store fronts on the facade of the Emhoff Building appear to be original, with recessed central doorways set in wood and bronze sash, with glass back to the recessed, wood and glass door. A modern stone veneer finish has been applied on the kick panels below the windows on the southern bay. A modern, wood-shingled awning covers the transom area on both commercial bays of the building.

The east elevation faces the alley to the rear. A small plaza has been built adjacent to the northeast corner, and a modern, concrete block, single-story, drive-up addition has been built onto the banking rooms. South of this is an original, sliding freight door, and a brick, shed-roofed, storage addition on the third section. The south wall abuts another building.

This important commercial block retains sufficient historic architectural integrity to accurately reflect its distinctive use of cast concrete block. Although many of the original doors and windows have been replaced with modern anodized aluminum units, the original openings are consistently visible and restoration of the storefronts would not be difficult. The most immediate improvement to the building that would serve to bring the Emhoff building back to its historic design is the removal of the rustic wood mansard awning from the facade.

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## 8. Statement of Significance

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Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: Locally

Applicable National Register Criteria: A, C      Areas of Significance: Commerce  
Architecture

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): n/a      Period(s) of Significance: 1910 - 1940

Significant Person(s): n/a      Significant Dates: 1910

Cultural Affiliation: n/a      Architect/Builder: Rodgers, W.R., builder

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State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The First State Bank is the oldest financial institution in the Stevensville community, and one of the most dominant buildings in the downtown commercial area. The bank possesses important historic associations with the development of banking and commerce in the Bitterroot Valley. Together with the Dowling and Emhoff buildings, the First State Bank qualifies for listing in the National Register of Historic Places, a distinctive example of cast concrete block construction in the vernacular commercial style.

A survivor of the Great Depression, and other boom and bust economic fluctuations of the 20th century, First State Bank is a symbol of long-term financial commitment to the community. The building is a visual reminder of the stability afforded the community by the institution. The architectural presence of this prominent building dominates the Stevensville streetscape, further enhancing the solid image of the institution.

The First State Bank building is located at the geographic center of downtown Stevensville, and its imposing cast concrete block architecture sets it apart within the framework of the commercial district. The property is one of the most distinctive examples of local cast concrete block construction, and was built during the era when this method became popular for both residential and commercial buildings. The vernacular design is organized into six bays, and relies upon the cast concrete blocks for much of its architectural interest. At the corner, there are references to Neo-Classical architecture in the use of classical columns, pediment and entablatures.

During the first decade of the 20th century, the town of Stevensville enjoyed an era of economic growth. The so-called "apple boom" was underway, land speculation was rampant. Farmers prospered, and the Bitter Root Valley Irrigation Company was building the "Big Ditch." Population grew, the town expanded, and at the turn-of-the-century, two banks were organized to provide financial services to the growing community. The Bitterroot Valley Bank was established by E.O. Lewis in 1901, and the First State Bank was established in 1899 and incorporated in 1908 by Thomas Baird, George T. Baggs, Howard D.Smart, J.F. Bourough, Albert May, L.R. Peck, and J. M. Higgins.<sup>1</sup>

Both banks planned to build new buildings, with the Bitterroot Valley Bank planning to build on this location. During 1910, while construction was proceeding, the two banks

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<sup>1</sup> Stevensville Historical Society, Montana Genesis, (Missoula, Mountain Press, 1971). Stevensville Register, March 18, 1909.

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merged under the name of the First State Bank, and by the end of the year, the newly merged bank was open for business at the Third and Main location, with E.O. Lewis, former president of the Bitterroot Bank, continuing with the new bank.<sup>2</sup>

John Dowling made plans to build a new mercantile and undertaking establishment on the lot immediately south of the new bank. Dowling purchased the lot from John Emhoff, and he and his three sons tore down the Mary Winslett house that occupied the site. Dowling then contracted with W.R. Rodgers, to build his new store as soon as he completed the bank building. By August 22, 1910, Rodgers had completed the store and Dowling moved in.<sup>3</sup>

During this same time, E.O. Lewis contracted with Rodgers to build yet another single-story building which would be sold to John Emhoff.<sup>4</sup> In this way the two south sections were built with one facade, at the same time.

In 1970, first State Bank purchased the Dowling Building, and renovated the interior to increase the size of the banking room. The smaller office on the south end of the complex was kept for tenant office space, and is now (1990) occupied by the Stevensville Civic Club.

The Emhoff building, the third (southernmost) section, is owned by Don and Jean Kammerer; 306 Main is occupied by Sears; and 308 is occupied by the City Bakery.

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<sup>2</sup>Stevensville Register, April 28, 1910, May 12, 26, 1910, December 8, 15, 22, 1910.

<sup>3</sup>Stevensville Register, August 4, 18, September 8, October 13, December 15, 1910; January 5, 1911.

<sup>4</sup>See photo, Montana Genesis, p. 181.

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## 9. References

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Abstract of Title, Stevensville Townsite, Block 22, Lots 19-20.  
Missoula Herald, Missoula, Montana, Special Edition, January 1, 1909.  
Missoulian, Missoula, Montana, December 15, 1912; June 12, 1949; August 14, 1949.  
Northwest Tribune, June 25, 1909; October 1, 16 & 29, 1909.  
Sanborn Map Company, Ltd., "Map of Stevensville, Montana", 1909, 1927 (New York).  
Stevensville Historical Society, Montana Genesis (Missoula: Mountain Press, 1971).  
Stevensville Register, Stevensville, Montana, December 3, 1908; March 11 & 18, 1909; April 8, 1909; June 3 & 10, 1909; July 22, 1909; Special Edition, December 23, 1909; January 13, 1910; March 31, 1910; April 28, 1910; May 12 & 26, 1910; June 16 & 30, 1910; August 4 & 18, 1910; September 8, 1910; October 13, 1910; December 8, 15 & 22, 1910; January 5, 1911.  
U.S. Department of Commerce, Twelfth U.S. Census, 1910, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C.  
Western News, Hamilton, Montana, December 19, 1911.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.  
 previously listed in the National Register  
 previously determined eligible by the National Register  
 designated a National Historic Landmark  
 recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_  
 recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Location of Additional Data:

State historic preservation office  
 Other state agency  
 Federal agency  
 Local government  
 University  
 Other -- Specify Repository:

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## 10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of Property: Less than one acre

UTM References:	Zone	Easting	Northing
	11	723060	5154580

Verbal Boundary Description:

Stevensville Townsite, Block 22, Lots 18-20

Boundary Justification:

The nominated property includes the lots upon which the historic buildings are situated.

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## 11. Form Prepared By

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Name/Title: Frank Grant  
Street & Number: 544 Hastings  
City or Town: Missoula State: Montana

Date: revised October 1990  
Telephone: 406/549-2468  
Zip: 59801