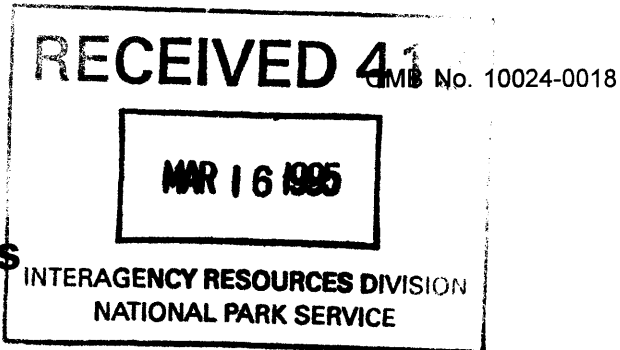


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NPS Form 10-900
(Oct. 1990)



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determination for individual properties and districts. See instruction in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name First National Bank of Douglas County
other names/site number Masonic Building/5DA661

2. Location

street & number 300 Wilcox Street [N/A] not for publication
city or town Castle Rock [N/A] vicinity
state Colorado code CO county Douglas code 035 zip code 80104

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this [XX] 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 [XX] meets [] does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant [] nationally [] statewide [XX] locally.
(See continuation sheet for additional comments [].)

[Signature] State Historic Preservation Officer March 8, 1995
Signature of certifying official Title Date
Colorado State Historic Preservation Office
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property [] meets [] does not meet the National Register criteria.
(See continuation sheet for additional comments [].)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:
 entered in the National Register
See continuation sheet [].
 determined eligible for the
National Register
See continuation sheet [].
 determined not eligible for the
National Register.
 removed from the
National Register
 other, explain
See continuation sheet [].

for
Signature of the Keeper Date
Edson H. Beall 4-14-95
Entered in the
National Register

First National Bank of Douglas County

Douglas, Colorado

Name of Property

County/State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- [XX] private
[] public-local
[] public-State
[] public-Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- [XX] building(s)
[] district
[] site
[] structure
[] object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not count previously listed resources.)

Table with 2 columns: Contributing, Noncontributing. Rows for buildings, sites, structures, objects, and Total.

Name of related multiple property listing.

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register.

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Function

(Enter categories from instructions)

first story: Commerce/financial institution

second story: Social/Meeting Hall

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Social/meeting hall

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Late Victorian

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete

walls Stone, Stucco over brick

roof Asphalt

other

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Name of Property

County/State

8.Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "X" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

[] A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history

[] B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

[X] C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.

[] D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

[] A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.

[] B removed from its original location.

[] C a birthplace or grave.

[] D a cemetery.

[] E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.

[] F a commemorative property.

[] G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Periods of Significance

1904

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person(s)

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above).

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Bettcher, George Louis

9. Major Bibliographic References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

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:

[XX] State Historic Preservation Office

[] Other State Agency

[] Federal Agency

[] Local Government

[] University

[] Other:

Name of repository:

First National Bank of Douglas County
Name of Property

Douglas County/Colorado
County/State

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of Property less than one (1) acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

A. Zone 13 Easting 512 120 Northing 4357 930

B. Zone Easting Northing

C. Zone Easting Northing

D. Zone Easting Northing

[] See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Starr Oberlin, President

organization Castle Rock Historical Society date October 26, 1994

street & number 203 Cantril Street telephone (303)688-6271

city or town Castle Rock state CO zip code 80104

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional Items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Douglas Lodge # 153 AF & AM

street & number 300 Wilcox date _____

city or town Castle Rock state CO zip code 80104

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*).

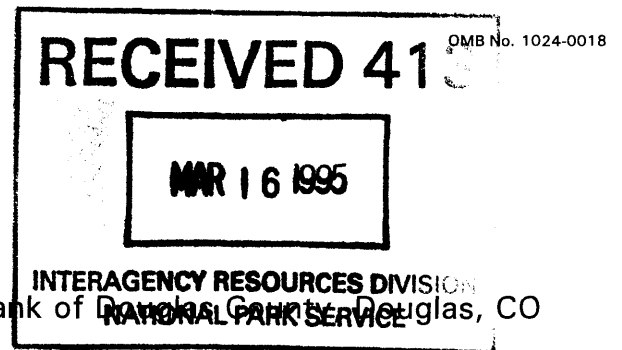
Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 1

First National Bank of Douglas, CO



DESCRIPTION

The First National Bank of Douglas County [Bank] is located in the heart of downtown Castle Rock's commercial district on the corner of Wilcox and Third Streets. Constructed by the Bank in 1904, the foundation of this Late Victorian Two-Part Corner Commercial building is smooth rhyolite stone that has been capped with concrete. The rectangular building is one standard lot or twenty-five feet (25') across on the west side that faces Wilcox and sixty feet (60') on the south side that faces Third Street. The building is constructed of brick with west and south sides faced in rhyolite stone quarried at the Santa Fe Quarry west of Castle Rock, Colorado and the east and north sides are covered with stucco. The rock-faced rhyolite is laid in alternating courses of larger and smaller blocks.

The first story housed the Bank itself. On Wilcox Street, it has two single-pane, rectangular windows with two-pane transoms above them. All of the windows and doors on the south and west sides appear to be original, except for the east window on Third Street which replaced an original door. These windows are evenly spaced across the front with the main entrance on the southwest corner balancing the window on the north end. A stringcourse of narrow stone divides the first and second stories on both sides.

The second story was a meeting hall for several of the town's fraternal organizations. Resting on this course are three double-hung, one-over-one windows that are located directly above the first floor windows and door. The upstairs windows on both street facades are topped with four fan-lights that complete the stone arches.

The Third Street facade has five windows on the first floor with two half-light doors, one door is located slightly off center, between third and fourth windows from the southwest corner, and the second door is located farther east, between the fourth and fifth windows. The second story has six of the same arched, double-hung windows as on the Wilcox side, evenly spaced across the Third Street side. Decorative metal vents are located just below the cornice on the west and south sides. An accentuated decorative cornice with modillions and details dominates the roofline of the building. A simple shed roof is hidden behind the cornice. It slopes east from its west end peak.

The focal point of the building is the southwest corner that is differentiated by design from the main facade, extended only a matter of inches to create a tower. On the first story, two open arches seven feet, nine inches in width meet at the southwest corner and provide a recessed area for the main entrance. The entrance faces the southwest and is a single half-light door with single-pane, side-lights and transoms above. Four (two on each side) decorative iron support-rod nuts, support the second story above the recessed entrance and are visible above the arches. A decorative stone cornice supports the dividing stringcourse on the tower. On each side of the building two stone columns rise from the stringcourse

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

First National Bank of Douglas County, Douglas, CO

Section number 7 Page 2

DESCRIPTION cont.

continuing the vertical lines from the arches. The columns support a more accentuated cornice. On the west and south face, between the columns, a previously described arched window is centered. The building's exterior is highly intact and the woodwork has recently been repainted in a historically appropriate color scheme. An artist's sketch (1904) and a historic photo (circa 1910) show the building much as it appears today with two exceptions. A square, probably wood-frame cupola rose above the roof on the southwest corner and completed the building's tower. It appears to have had the name of the bank painted in the decorative panels beneath the roof. The copula was removed shortly after the Masonic Lodge purchased the building, in 1937.

A third door on the south side was replaced with a window. The door provided access to stairs that went to the second story. Although unclear in historic images, the door appears to have been flanked by stone pilasters that held a small decorative pediment. The time of this alteration has not been identified. Two long time residents of Castle Rock remember the bank with this door to the stairs but do not recall when the door was replaced and the old stairs were removed, or the new stairs were built. The matching quality of the stone and of the replacement window suggest that the change occurred early. The change may have been related to the bank's need to replace a standing safe with a walk-in vault [irregularities in the interior molding also suggest this change (the vault has since been turned into a restroom)]. This being the case, it is unlikely the bank would make this kind of modification after 1929.

It is believed that when the bank door was replaced, a new set of stairs were constructed on the exterior of the east end, above the vault. These stairs were enclosed by the adjacent building. The one-part commercial storefront on 307-311 Third Street was constructed in 1920. Access to the stairs was faced to match the new building. An electric chair was added to these stairs at some point and provides handicap access to the second floor.

A one-story commercial storefront building with mission revival features was built to the north of the bank, facing Wilcox street. They share a common wall. The portion of the brick wall above the adjacent storefront has been covered with stucco. There is no access between these buildings.

The Bank closed in 1933 and the building was vacant for three years until the Masonic lodge purchased it. Modifications have been made to the interior of the building, however, it continues to retain a great deal of the original woodwork and trim. The Masons use the first floor as their dining hall. The marble counters, teller's cage and windows described in a newspaper article on the Bank's opening were removed at some point after the lodge's purchase. The office area in the east end of the floor originally housed the telephone office and had an exterior door. It was converted to a kitchen over thirty years ago and has recently been

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

First National Bank of Douglas County, Douglas, CO

Section number 7 & 8 Page 3

DESCRIPTION cont.

remodeled. Restrooms have been added. The lodge installed an interior stairway at some point which it primarily uses. The stairs begin at the northwest corner, cross the front of the building, and rise to the southwest. The first story retains most of the original molding, wood floor, and wainscotting. A furnace was installed at some point in the northeast corner.

The second floor was always a meeting hall. At the top of the interior stairs, the Masons installed a wall across the west end of the hall (approximately ten feet across from east to west) to create an entry hall/preparation room and enclosed the north end of this room to serve as a walk-in storage closet. By contrast to the bank, the hall appears to have had very little trimwork. A simple chair-rail is still intact. The Masons have added risers, carpeted the floor, and installed a drop ceiling. There is still some evidence of reframing that took place when the original interior stairs on the east end of the building were removed.

SIGNIFICANCE

The First National Bank of Douglas County [Bank] in Castle Rock, Colorado is significant for its architecture. It is an excellent intact example of the Late Victorian design with many elements of Romanesque Revival style. It was designed by Denver architect G. L. Bettcher. The two-part corner commercial building is faced with rock-faced rhyolite stone that was quarried outside of Castle Rock. This building was the second home for the bank and represents economic shifts occurring in the community as the bank sought a more permanent home during a time of community growth and as the bank shifted from out of state "back East" investors to local ownership.

The Bank represents the one of the few known examples of an architect designed, Late Victorian building in Castle Rock. While perhaps not strictly Romanesque Revival, the building contains many elements of the style and is only building in town which reflects the style. It is the only commercial building that employs Rhyolite stone for its primary facades.

George Louis Bettcher (1862-1952)

George Louis Bettcher was born and educated in Jersey City, New Jersey. He came to Denver in 1895 and opened what would be a successful architectural firm designing commercial and residential buildings. He is known for designing several houses in the Denver Country Club as well as the Denver Ternverein at 1570 Clarkson Street in Denver, and the Rossonian Hotel at 2650 Welton Street in Denver. The Ternverein was constructed in 1920. The Mediterrian Revival style building is listed in the Colorado State Register of

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

First National Bank of Douglas County, Douglas, CO

Section number 8 Page 4

SIGNIFICANCE cont.

Historic Properties. The Rossonian Hotel (1912), a Renaissance Revival commercial building has been nominated for listing in the National Register. Bettcher's son George F. joined the practice in the 1915 and they continued to work together until World War II when George F. joined the US Corps of Engineers. George Louis retired in 1948 and died four years later. The bank is the only known Bettcher design in Castle Rock one of the few architecturally designed buildings from this period in the town.

Architecture

Constructed in 1904, the Bank displays many of the characteristics of the Romanesque Revival style, popular in this country during the Late Victorian period. Romanesque Revival style began to be used in the mid-1800s. It gained popularity after work of Henry Hobson Richardson (1838-1886) who began designing Romanesque homes and public buildings in the late 1870s and 1880s.

Richardson used towers, gables, and heavy stonework to emphasize shape in his buildings. Many architects were influenced by Richardson's work and continued to employ Romanesque characteristics to their work into the turn of the century. In Colorado, the Romanesque Revival style tended to be interpreted simply when compared to the more elaborate and decorative high style commonly seen in the eastern U.S. While the Bank has many Romanesque characteristics, it is typical of the simpler Colorado interpretation.

A primary characteristic of the style is the use of arches over doors, windows, and as porch supports. This is seen in the Bank's second story windows and in the compound arches of the southwest corner entrance. The use of the tower is very common in Romanesque Revival. The Bank's square tower in the southwest corner is in character with the style, particularly in Colorado. The removal of the copula reduces the impact of the tower effect on the Bank.

The Bank is the only building in town that displays so many characteristics of the Romanesque Revival style. There are no other identified Romanesque Revival buildings in Castle Rock. The use of rusticated or rock-faced stone masonry is also characteristic of Romanesque Revival. In the case of the Bank, the stone used in the facade takes on an additional significance due to its local origin.

Rhyolite

Similar to granite in appearance and composition, rhyolite is an igneous rock found in the area around Castle Rock, Colorado. According to geologists the rhyolite resulted from an over flow of lava that

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National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

First National Bank of Douglas County, Douglas, CO

Section number 8 Page 5

SIGNIFICANCE cont.

covered the land between what is now Palmer Lake and Sedalia. The unique texture and color of the stone was a result of the flowing of the molten lava. Rhyolite was first quarried by Anglo-Americans in 1872. The construction of rail spurs connected the quarries outside of Castle Rock to the Denver and Rio Grande and the Attison, Topeka and Santa Fe lines. The attractive, hard stone gained popularity for use in construction. In addition to whole facades the stone was commonly used as decorative accents such as foundations, window sills, and door arches.

At the peak of production three quarries were cutting, dressing, and shipping stone to Denver and other front range towns during the boom years of the 1880s and early 1890s. The rhyolite industry had a tremendous impact on surrounding communities including Castle Rock where several quarry owners, builders, investors, and some craftsmen lived. As with most industries in the state, production decreased after the bottom fell out of the silver market in 1893. Although of decreasing popularity, rhyolite continued to be used in the early decades of the twentieth-century.

Over a dozen buildings in Castle Rock used Rhyolite as their primary exterior material. Three of the buildings are already listed in the National Register including the Denver and Rio Grande Depot (5DA216), the Benjamin Hammar House (5DA645), and the Cantril School (5DA342). Constructed in 1890, the school is a fine example of the Italian Renaissance style in Castle Rock and was listed in the National Register in 1984. Only three of the rhyolite buildings (the depot, the Bank, and the Castle Cafe at 4th and Wilcox Streets) in Castle Rock were constructed for commercial use. Of these three buildings, only the Bank was individually designed by a known architect. The bank is one of the last known buildings in town to use rhyolite as its primary facade material.

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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

First National Bank of Douglas County, Douglas, CO

Section number 9 Page 6

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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First National Bank of Douglas County, Douglas, CO

Section number 10 Page 7

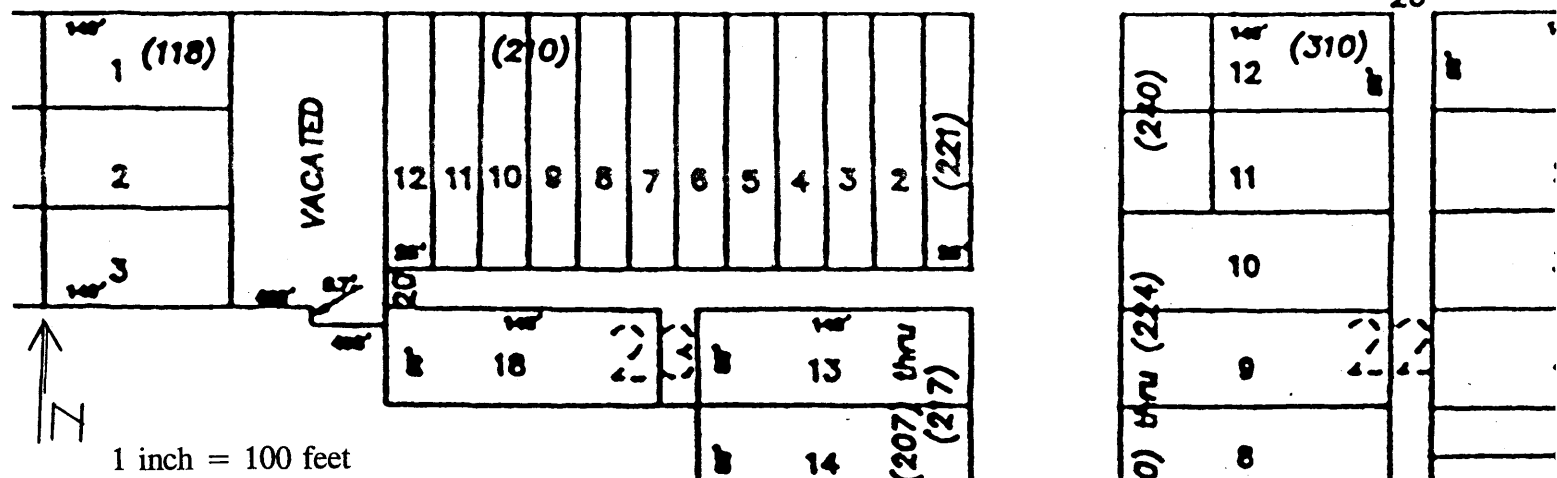
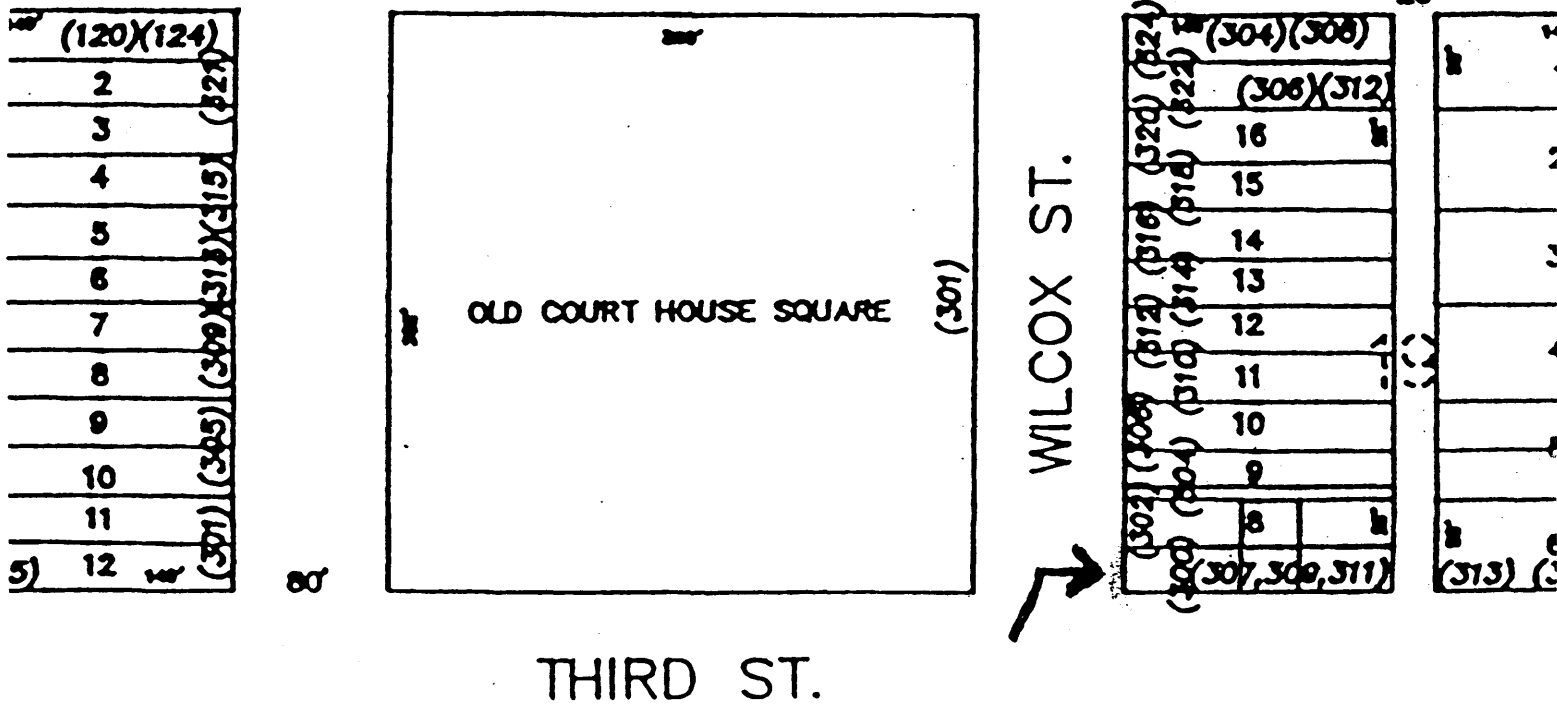
GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Verbal Boundary Description

West 60 feet of Lot 7 of Block 19, Castle Rock, Colorado

Boundary Justification

The boundaries are the historic legal lot lines.



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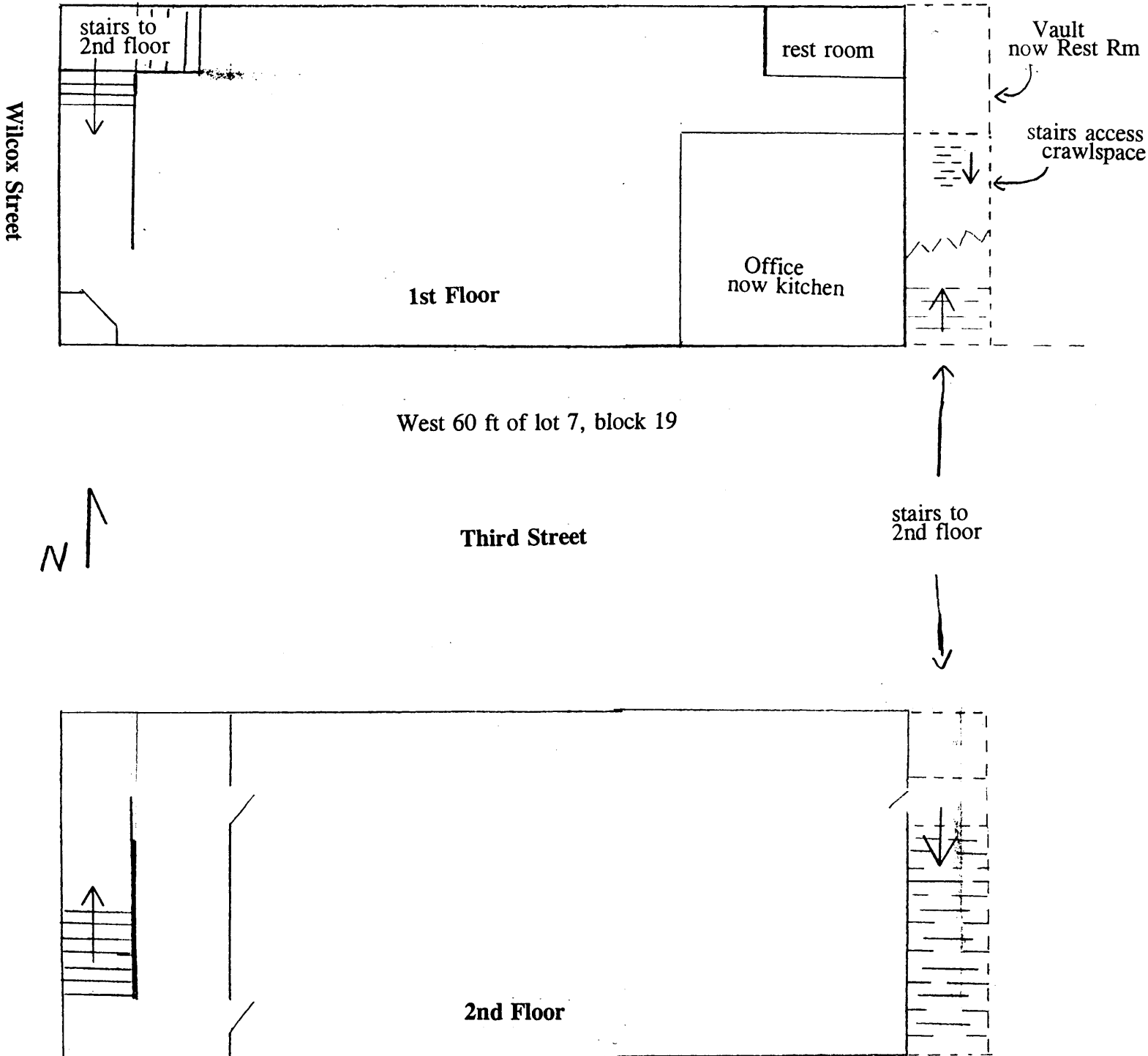
National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

First National Bank of Douglas County, Douglas, CO

Section number 10 Page 8

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Verbal Boundary Description (drawing not to scale)



United States Department of the Interior
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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

First National Bank of Douglas County, Douglas, CO

Section number _____ Page 9

PHOTOGRAPH LOG

The following information is common to all photographs:

Name of the property: First National Bank of Douglas County
Location: Castle Rock, Douglas County, Colorado

<u>Photo No.</u>	<u>Information</u>
1	photographer: Starr Oberlin date: October 1994 negative: Castle Rock Historical Society description of view: Main (west) facade, Wilcox St, veiw to the east
2	photographer: Starr Oberlin date: October 1994 negative: Castle Rock Historical Society description of view: Third St (south) facade, veiw to the north
3	photographer: Dale Heckendorn date: January 5, 1995 negative: Colorado State Historic Preservation Office description of view: Rear (east) facade, veiw to the west
4	photographer: Starr Oberlin date: October 1994 negative: Castle Rock Historical Society description of view: Detail, main (west) facade, veiw to the east

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

First National Bank of Douglas County, Douglas, CO

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Name of the property: First National Bank of Douglas County

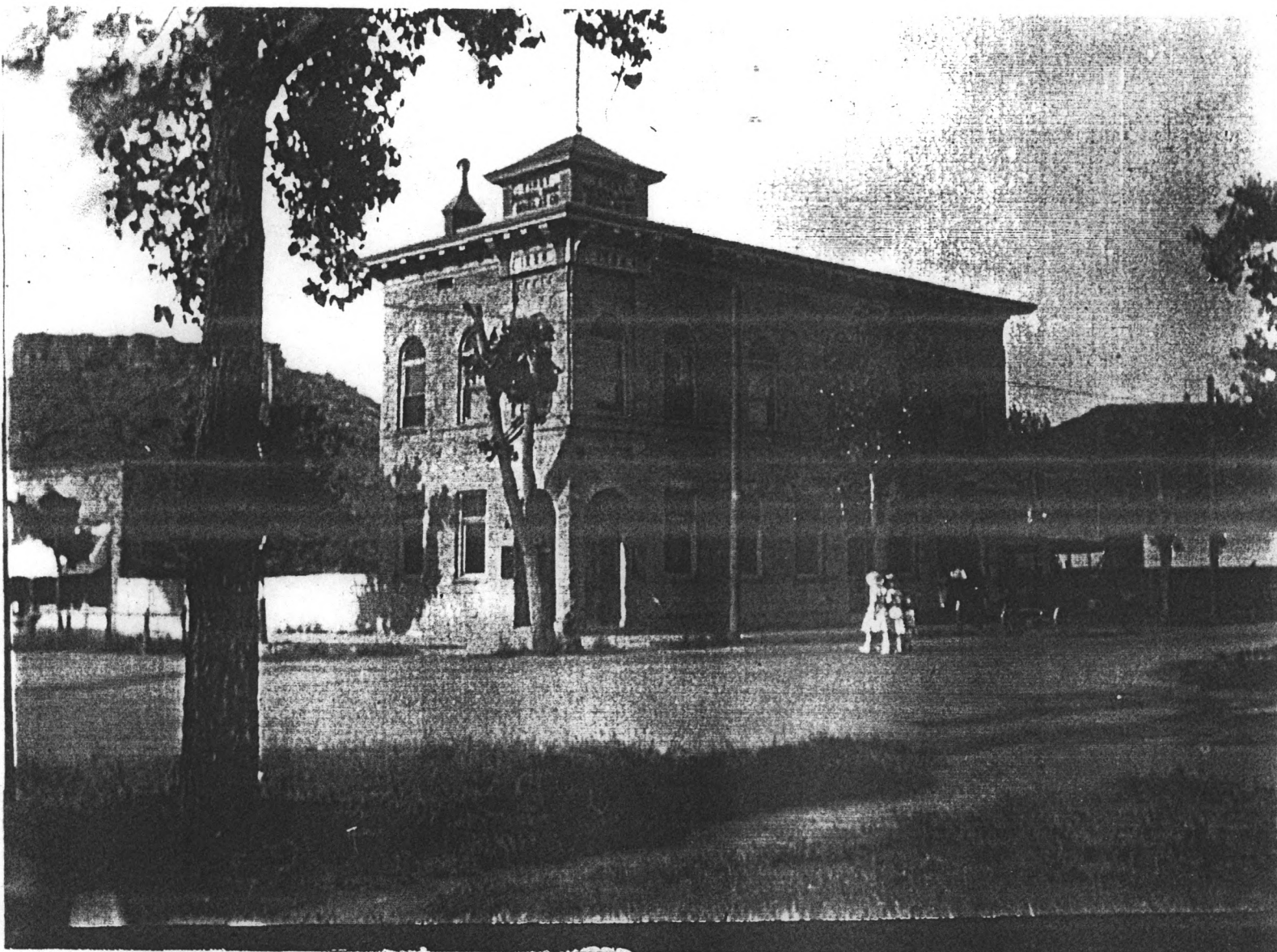
Location: Castle Rock, Douglas County, Colorado

Photographer: Unknown

Date: circa 1910

Negative: Unknown, positive: Castle Rock Historical Society

Description of view: view to the north east



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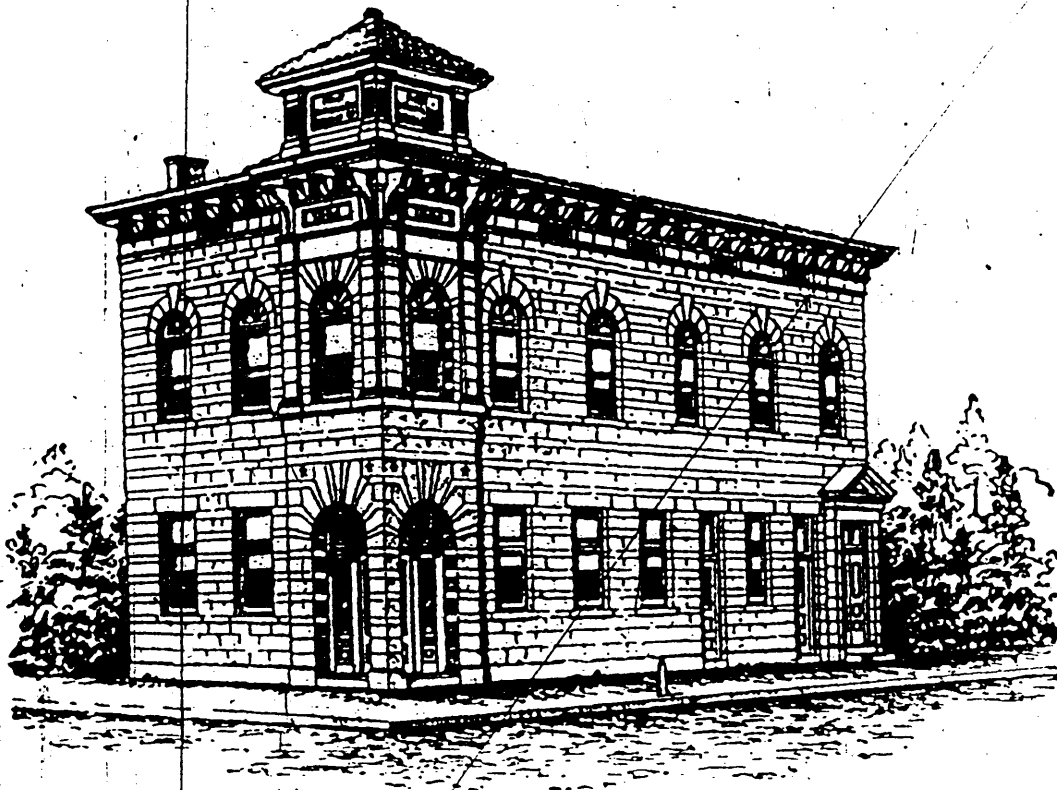
**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

First National Bank of Douglas County, Douglas, CO

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Denver Post, November 6, 1904

CASTLE ROCK BANK MOVES INTO HANDSOME NEW HOME TOMORROW



FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF CASTLE ROCK.

The First National bank of Castle Rock, one of the most stable financial institutions of Douglas county, will move into a new home Monday. A fine two-story structure with an exterior of stone has just been completed at a cost of \$7,000. The plans were prepared by Architect G. L. Bettcher of the Mack block, Denver. The interior finish of the building is of hard wood, the counters are of marble and the railings of wrought iron in a number of beautiful designs. Both

inside and outside the railings everything has been arranged for the convenience and comfort of the bank's employes and its patrons.

Monday night the formal opening of the new building will be observed by a reception to which all the residents of Castle Rock have been invited. There will be music and refreshments will probably be served. R. J. Dobell, well known in financial circles of Douglas county, is cashier of the bank, whose new location is the finest in the town.