NPS Form 10-900 (Oct. 1990)

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

JUL - 9 2001 JUL 1 6 2001 NAT. REGISTER OF NATIONAL PARA SET

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See in or Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.	the appropriate box or by entering the information functions, architectural classification, materials and
1. Name of Property	
historic name <u>Farmers and Merchants Savings Bank</u>	
other names/site number Union Savings Bank, 23-00997	
2. Location	
street & number 601 Smith Street	[NA] not for publication
city or town Grand Mound	_ [NA] vicinity
state <u>Iowa</u> code <u>IA</u> county <u>Clinton</u> code <u>045</u>	zip code <u>52751</u>
3. State/Federal Agency Certification	

	fessional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property [X] meets [_] ia. I recommend that this property be considered significant
	see contiguation sheet for additional comments).
1 owell .	Soute July 11, 2001
Signature of certifying official/Title	Date
STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY	(OF IOWA
State or Federal agency and bureau	
In my opinion, the property [] meets [] d	oes not meet the National Register criteria. ([] See continuation sheet for additional
comments.)	
Signature of certifying official/Title	
· · · ·	Date
State or Federal agency and bureau	
State or Federal agency and bureau	
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Farmers	&	Merchants	Savings	Bank
Name of P			_	

Clinton, Iowa County and State

5. Classification				
Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply) [X] private [_] public-local	Category of Property (Check only one box) [X] building(s) [_] district	Number of R (Do not include pre Contributing No 1	esources with eviously listed resour oncontributing 0	in Property rces in the count.) buildings
[_] public-State [_] public-Federal	[_] site [_] structure			sites
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Name of related multiple (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a		Number of co listed in the	ontributing res National Regis	sources previously ster
NA		NA		
6. Function or Use				
Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)		Current Func (Enter categories fr		
COMMERCE/TRADE/fina	ancial institution	COMMERCE/T	RADE/financia	al institution
7. Description				
Architectural Classificatio (Enter categories from instructions)	n	Materials (Enter categories fr	om instructions)	
LATE 19 TH C. & EARLY	20 TH C. REVIVALS	foundation <u>CONC</u>	CRETE	
		walls <u>BRICK</u>	14-1	
		TERRA C	OTTA	
		roof <u>ASPHALT</u>		
		other		
Narrative Description				

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

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.)

9. Major Bibliographical 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): Primary location of additional data: [] preliminary determination of individual listing [X] State Historic Preservation Office (36 CFR 67) has been requested [] Other State agency [] previously listed in the National Register [] Federal agency previously determined eligible by the National [] Local government Register [] University] designated a National Historic Landmark [X] Other [] recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey Name of repository: # Central Community Historical Society [] recorded by Historic American Engineering Record

Clinton, Iowa County and State

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance 1923-1951

Significant Dates

1923

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above) NA

Cultural Affiliation

NA

Architect/Builder Lytle Company

Farmers &	Merchants	Savings	Bank
Name of Prop	erty	_	

Clinton, Iowa County and State

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Acreage of Property <u>less than one</u>

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

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Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone Easting Northing
3			4[]][]]]]]]]]]]]]]]]]]]]]]]]]]]]]]]]]]]
			[] 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	Patricia A. Eckhardt - for			
organization	Clinton County Historic Preservation	n Commission	date January 8, 2001	
street & number _	2280 Highway 136		_telephone _ <u>319-574_4189</u>	
city or town	Delmar	_state <u>lowa</u>	_zip code <u>52037</u>	
Additional Doc Submit the following it	umentation ems with the complete 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				
street & number _	123 S. Main Street	telephone	319-678-2660	
city or town	Wheatland	_state <u>Iowa</u>	zip code _ <u>52777</u>	

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.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number: 7 Page: 1

Farmers & Merchants Savings Bank Clinton County, Iowa

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION AND CONSTRUCTION HISTORY

Summary Statement

The Farmers and Merchants Savings Bank is a two-story brick building with off-white terra cotta detailing. It has local and statewide significance as an architectural design by the Lytle Company, of Sioux City, Iowa, designers and builders of small town banks.

Detailed Description

Setting

Farmers and Merchants Savings Bank is located at the most important business corner in town, the Corner of Smith and Clinton Streets. When the Lincoln Highway was routed through Grand Mound, it came west on Clinton Street and turned south at Smith Street. Today, Smith Street remains the focus of business activity. The bank is very distinctive, the only building of its type in town. It is more massive and darker in color, and has more detail than almost every other commercial building.

Exterior

The Farmers and Merchants Bank is a dark brick building with off-white terra cotta moldings and details. It is a two-story rectangular block. The corners of the building have pier-forms that extend from the base to the parapet and give the impression of a fortress or heavily protected building. There is a raised base covered with two colors of terra cotta lining, off-white on the upper portion and gray granite colored below. A broad parapet of brick tops off the building with a pattern created with slightly recessed vertical bands like a balustrade. Recessed designs appear on the corner piers as well. This parapet is outlined with off-white terra cotta stringcourses. The entrance and window bays are recessed and bracketed with pilasters having capitols of palmette design. The windows are filled with mullions that give the appearance of a cage with grillwork surrounded with a heavy frame.

The entrance and many of the openings have been changed. The historic photograph on page 6 shows the original design of openings and mullions. The entrance originally had double doors with crossed-mullioned transom lights above. Today the entrance has a single door with transom and sidelights. The windows on each side of the entrance have a single pane of glass beneath the two cross-mullioned windows. The windows beside the entrance have single horizontal

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

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Farmers & Merchants Savings Bank Clinton County, Iowa

mullions in the applied storm windows. Storm windows have been added to the second floor windows as well with the additional horizontal mullions. The back of the building (north façade) has no windows and only a small door at the northwest corner, which might not be original. The rear of the building has windows that echo those of the south side along Clinton Street, but without any of the terra cotta trim or elaborate mullions. Even the base and the parapet are missing.

Interior

The interior exhibits many original elements of the building and follows the original floor plan. Some customer alcoves have been enclosed. There are marble teller windows and a marble urn at the corner, and a black and white tile floor. The second floor is not used. A suspended ceiling has been placed over the public space open area of the first floor presumably to conserve energy.

Integrity

The exterior of the building has excellent integrity. Only changes to the entrance are noteworthy. The interior has had a number of changes, but most are reversible. One major change is the suspended ceiling over the second floor banking space.

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Farmers & Merchants Savings Bank Clinton County, Iowa





Mary A. Kelly

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

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Farmers & Merchants Savings Bank Clinton County, Iowa



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Farmers & Merchants Savings Bank Clinton County, Iowa

Plan Of The First Floor

Measured and drawn by Floyd Soenksen, December 2000.



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Farmers & Merchants Savings Bank Clinton County, Iowa

Plan Of The Second Floor

Measured and drawn by Floyd Soenksen, December 2000.



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Farmers & Merchants Savings Bank Clinton County, Iowa

Historic Photographs of the Building Under Construction, 1922-1923 Photograph Collection of the Central (Clinton County) Community Historical Society





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Farmers & Merchants Savings Bank Clinton County, Iowa

Historic Post Cards with Photographs of the Farmers & Merchants Savings Bank Photograph Collection of the Central Community Historical Society





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Farmers & Merchants Savings Bank Clinton County, Iowa

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE, Criteria C

Summary Statement

The Farmers and Merchants Savings Bank is has local and state-wide significance under Criterion C as an example of the bank architecture of Lytle Company of Sioux City, Iowa. It reflects the mixture of architectural styles and influences in America in the early 20^{th} century.

Significance and Historical Contexts

Background, Farmers and Merchants Savings Bank

Farmers and Merchants Savings Bank was begun in Grand Mound in 1912 in the Dugan's Saloon building at 516 Smith Street. It has been a part of the thriving business district ever since. Land was purchased for the new building diagonally across the corner in 1919, but plans were not drawn up until 1921.² The building was open by 1923.

Banking was important for the development and maintenance of businesses and farming according to Jan Nash.³ She is correct about this, but banking was not the driving force in the commercial history of Grand Mound, only part of the mix. The land around Grand Mound was fertile and the town of Grand Mound, established by the railroad in 1858 provided transportation facilities and services necessary for the growth of the agricultural economy. According to Nash, America at the turn of the century was in the midst of the Golden Age of Agriculture. Production continually increased and prosperity with it. World War I kept this trend alive until about 1920 when the economy turned noticeably downward. The drop in crop prices in Iowa and other agricultural states probably began the depression which became world wide after the stock market crash of 1929.

De Wit suggests that a 20th century bank's striking modern appearance is attributable to a new attitude in banking, the desire to project the new image of "Progressive Banking."⁴ Presumably

² Nash, Jan Olive, "Intensive Level Architectural And Historical Survey And Evaluation Of Two Bank Buildings Historically Known As The Farmers Savings Bank Of Calamus, Iowa And The Farmers And Merchants Savings Bank Of Grand Mound, Iowa," August 16, 1999, Copy at the State Historical Society of Iowa, Bureau of Historic Preservation.

³ Nash. Ibid. This is an excellent overview of agriculture in this region of Iowa.

⁴De Wit, Wim, Ed. Louis Sullivan – The Function of Ornament. New York: W. W. Norton & Company, 1986, pp 159-166.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

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Farmers & Merchants Savings Bank Clinton County, Iowa

banks were thought of as predatory, but "Progressive Banking" meant that a bank was a help to the community as well as a good business. The architecture of Farmers and Merchants Savings Bank was intended to send this message to the town of Grand Mound, Iowa.

Farmers and Merchants Savings Bank constructed its new building just as the recession was taking effect. By 1926, it was in receivership and was sold to Union Savings Bank of Grand Mound that year. It is now one of a number of small banks owned by First Trust and Savings Bank of Wheatland, Iowa.

The Lytle Company

Farmers and Merchants Savings Bank was designed by the Lytle Company. This architectural and construction firm from Sioux City, Iowa designed a number of bank buildings in the state.⁵ Charles Francis Lytle was not an architect, but an entrepreneur and businessman. He owned contracting companies that built roads, bridges and other civil-engineering structures. His building contracting company, the Lytle Company, contained the architectural practice. According to Shank, the architectural profession at that time did not approve this combination of contracting and architectural design. The Lytle Company under the direction of Jurgen A. Raven constructed and probably designed twenty banks and a few houses between 1913 and 1917. The company continued through the 1920s.

Shank lists the Harlan National Bank in Harlan, Iowa as one example of Lytle Company work. Nash lists banks in Spirit Lake, Casey, Mapleton, Roland, Manchester, Maquoketa, all in Iowa, and an example in South Dakota. She illustrates several of these banks with the one in Mapleton, Iowa illustrated on page 17. There are many similarities between the two designs, but the Grand Mound bank is not a copy of the one in Mapleton.

The Architecture of Farmers and Merchants Bank

Farmers and Merchants Savings Bank resembles many small town banks in Iowa built in the early 20th century. These are invariably brick or stone for security that gives the strong impression that your money would be safe within its walls. The Farmers and Merchants bank has been compared to other architecturally significant small town banks in Iowa such as the Merchants' National Bank in Grinnell, Iowa designed by Louis Sullivan.⁶ While the Grand Mound bank and Sullivan designed banks share some similarities such as similar materials, similar size, and corner location, closer inspection reveals that they express different aesthetics and styles.

⁵ Shank, Wesley I. Iowa's Historic Architects, A biographical Dictionary. Iowa City: University of Iowa Press, 1999, pp. 109-111.

⁶ Nash, Jan Olive, p. 5.

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Farmers & Merchants Savings Bank Clinton County, Iowa

Late 19th century and Early 20th century architecture had two main themes or streams, although each stream was complex and the streams do interact. The Farmers and Merchants Savings Bank of Grand Mound draws from both. The first theme is a conservative stream that draws from the past. The second theme is the development of a new approach, a rebellion against the past that does not depend upon historical reference. This move toward modernism increasingly treats architectural forms as geometric abstractions. Louis Sullivan and Frank Lloyd Wright are part of this stream. Sullivan's bank in Grinnell (illustrated on page 14.) is a good example of this development. It looks like a solid geometric blocks with delicate applied decoration.

But while the modern stream was growing, the conservative stream was drawing to a close. This architectural stream with an academic approach is described variously as Classical Revival, Neo Classical, American Renaissance, and Beaux Arts Classicism. Sometimes Colonial Revival is a part of the mix. This style developed in France at the prestigious Ecolé des Beaux Arts in Paris, but became an international style. It was the style of the Columbian Exposition, the Chicago Worlds Fair of 1893, which inspired American architecture for the next fifty years. The premise upon which this style rests is the idea that current architecture is a continuation of the grand history of architecture, not a new development. Architects of this style used historical architectural forms and details from the entire history of architecture as a language of architecture. They continually used historical elements, but were always trying to arrive at a new version. For a conservative interpretation of the classical style see the Grinnell Savings Bank in Grinnell, Iowa (page 15.). It has the usual columns and heavy classical details. There are some similarities between its façade and that of Farmers and Merchants in Grand Mound (see page 13.). The architecture of Farmers and Merchants Bank in Grand Mound takes inspiration from both the pre-modern architecture and the classical styles, but it uses a freer interpretation of the classical.

We don't know what architect the Lytle Company used for Farmers and Merchants Bank in Grand Mound, but whoever he was, he designed an impressive small bank building. Lytle Company achieved a solid and strong visual appearance for their Grand Mound bank not so much through solid geometry as by creating a strong-looking frame or skeleton. The building's corner pavilions or piers give the impression of strength and solidarity although they are not actually solid. These thick forms remind me of southwestern Pueblo churches such as Ranchos de Taos near Taos, New Mexico in an abstract way. I think they are abstract elements and not consciously Colonial Revival in intent, but architects were interested in Spanish Colonial architecture during this period.

The thick vertical corners are predominant. The horizontal cornice is strong, but less emphasized. These vertical elements are balanced with the strong horizontals of the raised base and the parapet and cornice above the second floor windows. Together, they create a strong visual frame within which are placed various design elements such as pilasters and blocks of windows.

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Farmers & Merchants Savings Bank Clinton County, Iowa

The top of the parapets, the thick cap of the base, and the window frames and pilaster capitols are highlighted with the use of off-white terra cotta tiles. This formalistic composition reflects the modern trends in the architecture of the time.

Other architectural details record Farmers and Merchants Savings Bank's debt to its mixed classical heritage. The main entrance bay with its heavy flat cornice is an American Renaissance interpretation of Renaissance design. The frames around the door are created with moldings and a panel with roundels or disks in it. Above the large windows on each side of the entrance is a transom-like panel with two cross-mullioned windows, and there are cross-mullioned windows at the tops of the entrance doors. These windows were popular detail in American Renaissance or Beaux Arts Classical buildings in America. A façade drawing of the entrance to the Bowery Savings Bank by McKim, Mead and White is only one of many examples of the use of the cross-mullioned windows in a transom location over an entrance. (see page 16.). A second bank by Lytle Company in Mapleton, Iowa has a similar treatment of piers and recessed vertical bands of windows but beneath a heavy classical cornice. This bank uses cross-mullioned windows as well.

Farmers and Merchants Savings Bank can also be compared with the Garden Theatre in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania of 1914 (see page 18.). Rifkind categorizes this building as Beaux Arts Classical. It has a similar big skeleton. The most important detail shared by the two is a similar skeletal structure with rectangular panels in the piers. There are slightly raised rectangular outlines on the corner piers of the bank, but they are hard to see in photographs.

The palmettes at the tops of the pilasters next to the windows take the place of more traditional classical capitols on the front and sides of the Farmers and Merchants Savings Bank. These might have been stock designs at the tile manufacturer rather than designs by the building architect. They are quite an unusual design for a pilaster capitol, and appear to look to ancient Greece as a source; however, variations of the palmette are used extensively in classically inspired buildings.

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Farmers & Merchants Savings Bank Clinton County, Iowa

Farmers and Merchants Savings Bank, Grand Mound, Iowa, 1922 Postcard in the Collection of the Central Community Historical Society



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Farmers & Merchants Savings Bank Clinton County, Iowa

Louis H. Sullivan, Merchant's National Bank, Grinnell, Iowa, 1914. From de Wit, Figure 122, page 158



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Farmers & Merchants Savings Bank Clinton County, Iowa

Hyland and Green, Grinnell Savings Bank, Grinnell Iowa, 1914 From de Wit, Figure 123, page 160



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Farmers & Merchants Savings Bank Clinton County, Iowa

The Bowery Savings Bank, New York, Detail of Architectural Drawing From The Architecture of McKim, Mead and White, plate 66



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Farmers & Merchants Savings Bank Clinton County, Iowa



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Farmers & Merchants Savings Bank Clinton County, Iowa

Garden Theatre, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, 1914 From Rifkind, No. 338, Page 233



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Farmers & Merchants Savings Bank Clinton County, Iowa

SOURCES

Appelbaum, Stanley. The Chicago World's Fair of 1893: A Photographic Record. New York: Dover Publications, 1980.

The American Renaissance, 1875-1917. New York: The Boston Museum, 1979.

Central Community Historical Society. De Witt, Iowa - Photograph Collection

Clinton County, Iowa Assessor's Records.

- De Wit, Wim, Ed. Louis Sullivan The Function of Ornament. New York: W. W. Norton & Company, 1986.
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- Eckhardt, Patricia Ann Lacey, "Proudfoot and Bird, Campus Architects..., PhD. Thesis, University of Iowa, 1990.
- Grand Mound Centennial Book, 1958.
- McKim, Mead & White. The Architecture of McKim, Mead & White in Photographs, Plans and Elevations. New York: Dover Publications, Inc., 1990; originally published in four volumes, New York: The Architectural Book Publishing Company, 1915-1920.
- Nash, Jan Olive, "Intensive Level Architectural And Historical Survey And Evaluation Of Two Bank Buildings Historically Known As The Farmers Savings Bank Of Calamus, Iowa And The Farmers And Merchants Savings Bank Of Grand Mound, Iowa," August 16, 1999, Copy at the State Historical Society of Iowa, Bureau of Historic Preservation.

Property Abstract for Union Savings Bank, 601 Smith Street, Grand Mound, Iowa.

Rifkind, Carol. A Field Buide To American Architecture. New York: New American Library, 1980.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number: 9 Page: 20

Farmers & Merchants Savings Bank Clinton County, Iowa

Shank, Wesley I. Iowa's Historic Architects, A Biographical Dictionary. Iowa City: University of Iowa Press, 1999.

"A Statement of the Condition of the Union Savings Bank," *Grand Mound Record*, October 2, 1941, p. 8 col. 3 & 4.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number: 10 & Addl. Page: 21

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Verbal Boundary Description

The Farmers & Merchants Savings Bank is located at 601 Smith Street, Grand Mound, Iowa. This property consists of the West 45' of lot 8 and all of lot 9, Block 6 in the Town of Grand Mound.

Verbal Justification

This boundary encloses the original property upon which the bank was constructed and still owns today.

PHOTOGRAPHS

All photographs have the following identification:

Farmers and Merchants Savings Bank, 601 Smith Street, Grand Mound Clinton County, Iowa Photographer, Fred Soenksen Date of photographs, December 2000 Negative at the Central Community Historical Society, Dewitt, Iowa

Views:

- 1. West and South Street Facades, looking NE
- 2. South Façade, looking N
- 3. North Façade, looking S
- 4. South and east facades, looking NW
- 5. Detail upper south façade, looking N
- 6. West façade, looking E
- 7. West façade detail, looking E
- 8. Interior lobby, looking E
- 9. Interior lobby, looking E
- 10. Interior lobby, looking W
- 11. Interior, Customer Room, looking NE
- 12. Interior detail, marble urn looking NNE

Farmers & Merchants Savings Bank Clinton County, Iowa